



## Marcia Melnyk to Speak on "Overcoming Brick Walls"

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The next RIGS Members Meeting will be held January 26th at the Newman Congregational Church in Rumford. Marcia Melnyk will speak on "Overcoming Brick Walls."

All genealogists will eventually encounter "brick walls" and other obstacles to further research. How you approach the problem can make the difference between success and frustrating failure. Looking at the research from a different angle, making sure that you have gleaned all the information from the records you already have, and determining which records or data you have missed can make a big difference. Learn some of the many successful strategies that can turn your "brick wall" into an open gate.

Marcia Iannizzi Melnyk is a professional genealogist who has taught beginning and advanced genealogy courses for more than 15 years. She is the author of *The Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research, Fourth Edition*, *The Weekend Genealogist: Timesaving Techniques for Effective Research*, *The Genealogist's Question and Answer Book* and *Family*

### RIGS MEMBERS' MEETING

**Saturday, January 26  
1:00 pm**

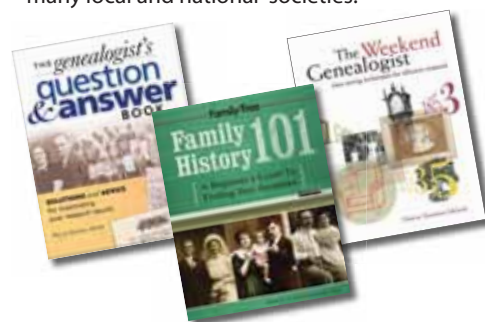
### Newman Congregational Church

100 Newman Avenue  
Rumford, RI 02916

### AGENDA

- Brief Business Meeting
- Speaker: Marcia Melnyk

*History 101.* Marcia is President, and a founding member, of The Italian Genealogical Society of America, a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), former executive board member of the New England Regional Genealogical Conference (NERGC) as well as many local and national societies.



## RIGS Member Honored



RIGS has just gotten about the biggest genealogical honor possible in that the editor of RI Roots, Cherry F. Bamberg, has been elected a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists. This is an honorary association limited to 50 living genealogists. Cherry's hard work and high standards in her genealogy, her genealogical articles, her lectures, and the high quality of RI Roots have made her an obvious choice for this honor. Please join me in congratulating her on this extraordinary honor.

— John Sterling

*Note: At its annual meeting in Salt Lake City on October 13, 2007, the American Society of Genealogists elected four Fellows, among them, Cherry Fletcher Bamberg, a graduate of Brown University and of Linacre College, Oxford University. She has been editor of Rhode Island Roots since 2002. In 1998 she began publishing books and articles dealing with early Rhode Island genealogy. Also elected were Frederick C. Hart Jr., CG, Thomas W. Jones, PhD, and William Wyman Fiske, MD (son of Jane Fletcher Fiske, who is also a Fellow).*

## Request For Book Donations

All genealogists and family historians have reference material (books, maps, CDs, etc.) that they no longer use and are gathering dust on their bookshelves. Just maybe, however, that same book or CD contains the information that another genealogist may need.

The RIGS Board of Directors has undertaken a program whereby those unwanted items can be recycled, in a manner of speaking. Any unwanted reference materials can be donated to RIGS, which will then place them in Rhode Island libraries. The Greenville Library currently houses the RIGS collection; new material will be sent there as a first choice. If the donated material is a duplicate, RIGS will see that it is provided to another library. In return for their donation, members will have their name listed in an upcoming issue of the RIGS Reporter, our societies' newsletter.

For further information, or to make a donation, contact Tom Wilber at [tomwilber140@msn.com](mailto:tomwilber140@msn.com)

## Greenville Public Library

573 Putnam Pike, Greenville

401-949-3630

Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 10am - 8pm

Fri. and Sat. 10am - 5pm

Sun. 1 - 5pm

(Sept-May)

## Valerie Bolt Felt Collection

Valerie Bolt Felt was a long time member of RIGS and an excellent genealogist. After she passed away last year, her daughter donated quite a collection of her mother's books and papers to RIGS. They have been in storage until recently when our book committee did an inventory and is in the process of taking them to the Greenville Library where they will be available for all to use. Valerie had lots of South County families. Attached is a list of the books (in addition to various periodicals) which will be going to the Greenville Library to add to the RIGS collection.

- *Histories & Genealogies of the Potter Family in America* by Charles Edward Potter
- *Cemeteries in South Kingstown* by Pettaquamscutt Historical Society
- *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record Vol. LXXI no 3* by New York Genealogical and Biographical Society
- *Reynolds Family History* by J. Montgomery Seaver
- *The Historical Story of Charlestown, Rhode Island 1669-1976* by Frances Wharton Mandeville
- *Bermuda Settlers of the 17th Century* by Julia E. Mercer
- *British Aliens in the United States during the War of 1812* by Kenneth Scott
- *Mayflower Families through Five Generations Vol. 3* George Soule by General Society of Mayflower Descendants
- *American & British Genealogy & Heraldry 1982-2985 Supplement* by P. William Filby
- *American & British Genealogy & Heraldry third edition* by P. William Filby
- *Rhode Island 1782 Census* by Mack Hollbrook
- *Notes on Little Compton* by Benjamin Franklin Wilbour
- *The History of East Greenwich, Rhode Island 1677-1960 with Related Genealogy* by Martha R. Mc Partland
- *The Daughter of Time* by Josephine Tey
- *Roger Williams of Providence, Rhode Island Vol. II* by Bertha Williams Anthony
- *The Diary of Capt. Samuel Tillinghast of Warwick, Rhode Island 1757-1766* by Cherry Fletcher Bamburg
- *American Passenger Arrival Records* by Michael Tepper
- *Mayflower Ancestral Index Vol. I* by General Society of Mayflower Descendants
- *Polish Roots* by Rosemary A. Chorzempa
- *Richard Warren of the Mayflower* by Robert S. Wakefield & Janice A. Beebe
- *Genealogical Research Directory National & International 1993* by Keith A. Johnson and Malcolm R. Saintry
- *Locating Lost Family Members & Friends* by Kathleen W. Hinkley
- *How Healthy Is Your Family Tree A complete guide to tracing your family's medical and behavioral history* by Carol Krause
- *Nemesis At Potsdam The Expulsion of the Germans from the East* by Alfred M. De Zayas
- *The American Kenyons* by Capt. Howard Kenyons
- *The Thomas Lamonts in America* by Corliss Lamont
- *Creative Rubbings* by Laye Andrew
- *Gravels to Gravestones Seven Middle School Activities* by Robert L. Stevens
- *The Accounts of Daniel Jenkes 1758, 1759, 1760 One of the Council of War of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations during the French and Indian War* printed for Edwin Alyswoth Burlingame
- *Plantation in Yankeeland* by Carl R. Woodward
- *The Colonial Experience 1607-1774* by Clarence B. Carson, PH.D.
- *Newport 1639-1976 An Historical Sketch* by C.P. B. Jefferys
- *Searching For Your Ancestors* by Gilbert H. Doane
- *The Connecticut Guide by State Planning Board comp* by Edgar L. Heermance
- *Mayflower Families in Progress Stephen Hopkins* by John D. Austin, CG, FASG
- *Mayflower Families in Progress George Soule* by John E. Soule, Col. USA, Ret., M.C.E. and Milton E. Terry PhD
- *Kemp Family History* by American Genealogical Research Institute
- *Tanner Family History* by American Genealogical Research Institute
- *Mayflower in Progress Francis Cooke* by Robert S. Wakefield, FASG and Ralph Van Wood, Jr
- *A Graveyard Preservation Primer* by Lynette Strangstad
- *Cite Your Sources a Manual for Documenting Family Histories and Genealogical Records* by Richard S. Lackey
- *Nicknames Past and Present* by Christine Rose, CG, CGL, FASG
- *Past Imperfect How Tracing your Family History can Save Your Life* by Carol Daus
- *Finding Your Roots* by Jeane Eddy Westin
- *Exeter Tax Book 1900*
- *Exeter Tax Book 1904*
- *North Kingstown Tax book 1871*
- *Exeter Tax Book 1920*
- *South Kingstown Tax Book 1933*
- *Strolling Through Kingston (formerly known as Little Rest)* by Louise Mac Kenzie
- *Historical Main Street Wakefield* by South County Museum
- *Through the Woods and Across the Fields to Narragansett Pier The Sea View Rail Road* by G. Edward Prentice
- *The Renaissance Man of England* by Charlton Ogburn
- *Genealogical Research in Rhode Island* by Jane Fletcher Fiske
- *The Pilgrim Story* by William Franklin Atwood
- *Official Guide book to Plymouth, Massachusetts* by William Franklin Atwood
- *Northern Baroque Painting & Drawings* from Collections of Mr and Mrs Henry H. Weldon
- *List of Germans from the Palatinate Who Came to England* by John Tribbeko and George Rupert
- *German Family Research Made Simple* by J. Konrad
- *History of Little Compton*
- *Early American Life* by Early American Society
- *250th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of East Greenwich RI*
- *1900 Federal Population Census* by National Archives Trust Fund Board
- *Federal Population Censuses 1790-1890* by National Archives Trust Fund Board
- *Guide to Records in the National Archives-New England Region* by National Archives and Records Administration
- *Researching Your Family History at Massachusetts Archives* by William Francis Galvin
- *Now and Then on the List*, reprinted from the Green Light
- *Peckham Brothers Quarry Middletown, RI* by Phillip Michael O'Shea
- *Newport Historical and Social* republish 1969
- *Long Island in the American Revolution* by Myron H. Luke and Robert W. Venables
- *Index to Wills in RI Genealogical Register* by Robert S Wakefield, FASG
- *Don't Cry Timber* by Prudence Groff Michael
- *A Profile in Dedication, Sarah Harris and the Fayerweather Family* by Carl R. Woodward (Reprint in The New England Galaxy, Vol. XV, No. 1.)
- *Pettaquamscutt Perspectives* by Betsy Mc Ilvaine and Nancy Willis
- *Sketches of Hudson 1862* by Stephen B. Miller
- *Simon Kenyon of Hopkinton* by Kenneth E. Kenyon
- *Death Comes Once But A Cemetery Is Forever -The Search For Middletown's Lost Graveyards* by Mike O' Shea
- *A list of New England Bibliographies* by T.D. Seymour Bassett
- *Handy index to the Holdings of Genealogical Society of Utah* by Mary J. Brown
- *Ahnenafel of Marjorie Webster Schunkle* by J.A. Bradley
- *My History is America's History* by National Endowments for the Humanities
- *Rhode Island 1777 Military Census, transcribed* by Mildred Mosher Chamberlain
- *Index of RI Town Records of Beaman and James N. Arnold*
- *A Census of Rehoboth 1775* by Robert Sheldon Trim
- *A Guide to Census Material in the Rhode Island State Archives*
- *Rubbing Craft* by Cecily Barth Firestein
- *Old Historic Cemeteries of South County Narragansett Plantations and Farms*
- *Ancestry of Jeremy Clarke of Rhode Island and Dungan Genealogy* by Alfred Rudolph Justice
- *History of Quidnessett Allens of Prudence Island, Spinks, Goulds of Quidnessett Genealogy of the Hills* by Daniel Gould Allen
- *Descendants of Thomas Wait of Portsmouth RI* by John Cassan Wait
- *Index of Nailor Tom's Dairy* by Joseph W. Blake
- *The Hills of Matunuck* by Carder H. Whaley
- *The View from Swamptown Vol.1 & 2* by G. Timothy Cranston
- *South Kingstown Tax Book 1969*
- *Harris Cemetery Records* with Majorie Webster Schunke's help correlated with *Pettaquamscutt Historical Notes* - correlated by Jean Bradbury and Valerie Felt
- *Fundamentals of the Research Papers* by William Leahy
- *Cherokee Connections* by Myra Vanderpool Gormley

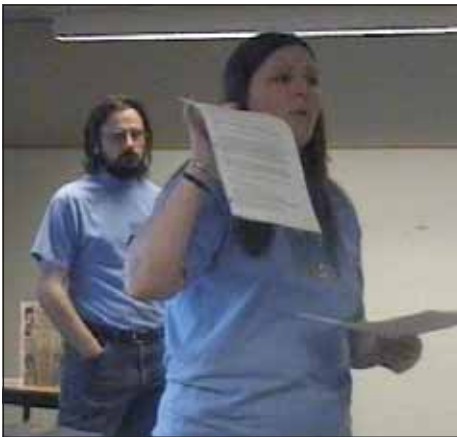
## RIGS Genealogy Workshops a Success!



*Sheila Peckham presentation on familysearch.org*



*Pat Sager busy running the computer for us*



*Pat Long showing examples and passing out examples*

A genealogical workshop was held at West Warwick Library on Nov. 12 and Nov. 26th. Rhode Island Genealogical Society sponsored this event, so that beginning genealogists can get help to organize their research, know the good free websites, and how to navigate them. They also learned where to go in RI to find information on their ancestors. They got clues on where to find their ancestors in other countries. They got an overview of the census records and the information they contain. They were shown examples of various records, so they would

have a working idea of how they looked and what information could be gotten out of them. We covered obituaries and Cemetery records in the first session.

The second session covered good subscription sites, military records, immigration records, passenger manifest, and naturalization records. Different genealogy software was explained, to download your information. Also presented were probate records and land evidence, historical and genealogical societies.

We are lucky to have Pat Long set up and organize these workshops with the libraries and to add the information to the booklet hand-out. We were blessed to get Andrew D. Boisvert, archivist from Old Colony Historical Society, and Sheila Peckham, who works at the LDS library in Old Mystic/Groton area, to present these lessons and programs to the workshop attendees. We are equally blessed to get Pat Sager to run the computer for us at these workshops. We are happy to have Trish Harmon, who stuffs these booklets, snaps the pictures at the workshops, runs errands, and sets up tables. RIGS is blessed to have such great people helping them.

More libraries are lined up to host these workshops. RIGS will release further information when dates are set. ▲



*Andrew D. Boisvert's presentation*

## Thank You, RIGS Reporter Volunteers!

*It may not take a village, but it sure takes a lot of RIGS volunteers to get this newsletter to you each month.*

**Helen Smith** provides the upcoming meetings summaries.

**Dorothy Chase** provides tips & tidbits and others stories, and edits.

**Neil Dunay** coordinates the story inputs and edits.

**Rachel Peirce** does the layout and graphics.

**Otis Wyatt** has the newsletter printed and later handles the mailing.

**Pat Long** prints the mailing the labels.

A great team folds, tapes, and affixes labels and postage:

**Doris Blaney; Letty Champion;**

**Pat Chappell; Geri Clarke;**

**Charlotte Dumas; Sally Hilton;**

**Mary Jean Johnson; Helen**

**Leeming; Pat Long; Marie**

**McShane; Mary Ostiguy;**

**Rachel Peirce; Pat and**

**Oti Wyatt.**

## Recap: October 27th RIGS Members' Meeting

The October RIGS meeting was held at the Wickford Baptist Church. Prior to lunch, two guest presentations were held.

Janice Duffy presented the first program, titled "Finding Your Ancestral Home". She works at the Massachusetts State Archives and has done extensive Irish genealogy. During this program, Janice gave steps to follow in tracing Irish ancestors by giving examples from her own family research. If you were unable to attend, visit the website of The Irish Ancestral Research Association at <http://www.tiara.ie>.

The second presentation and slide show was by RIGS member, Jeff Howe. He spoke about the "Old Barrington Road," which ran from East Providence to the white church in Barrington. Jeff clued us into many of the families that first settled in this area and showed us slides of many original homes. He has completed a book based on "The Story of the Trail" and a second book on researching land evidence records.

After lunch, members were welcome to participate in a hands-on demonstration of genealogy computer programs Family Tree and Legacy. The meeting included a swap meet—members traded or bought genealogical items from each other.

## TIPS & TIDBITS

**The Touro Synagogue**, located at 85 Touro Street in Newport, in 2008 is celebrating the 350th Anniversary of the arrival of Jews to Newport. Tours will be held through April 30th on Fridays at 1pm and Sundays from 11am to 3pm. Additional tours will be held January 21st and February 18th from 11am to 3pm and on April 22nd, 23rd and 24th from 1 to 3pm. Admission is \$5.00.

The Synagogue was designed by Peter Harrison with a Georgian influence and was dedicated in 1763. For more information, call 401-847-4794 or visit [www.tourosynagogue.org](http://www.tourosynagogue.org) where event updates will be posted.

To learn more about the history or research of the Jews of Rhode Island visit the website of the RI Jewish Historical Association [www.rijha.org](http://www.rijha.org) or visit the Jewish Genealogy Site at [www.jewishgen.org](http://www.jewishgen.org)

### Family History Fair

"Show Me the Nation's Records" is the title of the National Genealogical Society's Conference in the States and Family History Fair, to be held May 14-17, 2008 in Kansas City, Missouri. The conference is set to feature record types from across the country. For more information about the various workshops and conference registration visit: [www.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org).

### FGS Conference

The "Footprints of Family History" conference is being held by The Federation of Genealogical Societies, at the Pennsylvania Convention Center, in Philadelphia, PA, from September 3-6, 2008. For information, visit [www.fgs.org](http://www.fgs.org).

### Museum of Irish History

The Museum of Newport Irish History traces the chronology of Irish immigration and settlement in Newport County. They have a small library of books, photos, magazines, letters, documents and articles of historical interest. Their website contains current books available, newsletters and links to Irish places and people of interest in Newport; visit website [www.newportirishhistory.com](http://www.newportirishhistory.com).

The Museum may be contacted by postal mail: The Museum of Newport Irish History, P.O. Box 1378, Newport, RI 02840, by calling 401-848-0661 or via email to Vincent Arnold at [VA4466@netzero.com](mailto:VA4466@netzero.com)



*The Touro  
Synagogue  
photo by  
Alexey Sergeev*

ID	SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS of the RHODE ISLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY	Price	Quantity	Total
CD30 <b>NEW!</b>	<b>Thirty Years of Rhode Island Roots, 1975-2004 (CD)</b> <i>Four more years and an improved user interface!</i>	NonMember Price: \$39.95 Special to Members: \$31.00	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
CLE <b>NEW!</b>	<b>Thomas Clemence of Providence, R.I., and some of his descendants to the year 2007</b> Jane Fletcher Fiske for Roberta Stokes Smith (hardcover, 434 pp)	NonMember Price: \$35.00 Special to Members: \$31.00	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
GL2 <b>NEW!</b>	<b>GLEANINGS from Rhode Island Town Records: Providence Town Council Records, 1789-1801</b> <i>Special Bonus Issue of Rhode Island Roots, 2007, by Linda L. Mathew (softcover, 150 pp)</i> <i>Price includes Shipping (no need to add additional shipping on this item)</i>	\$12.00	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
GL1	<b>GLEANINGS from Rhode Island Town Records: Providence Town Council Records, 1770-1788</b> <i>Special Bonus Issue of Rhode Island Roots, 2006, by Linda L. Mathew (softcover, 150 pp)</i> <i>Price includes Shipping (no need to add additional shipping on this item)</i>	\$12.00	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
TIL2	<b>The Tillinghasts in America, The First Four Generations</b> Wayne G. Tillinghast (hardcover, 788 pp)	NonMember Price: \$39.00 Special to Members: \$35.00	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
TIL1	<b>The Diary of Capt. Samuel Tillinghast of Warwick, Rhode Island, 1757-1766</b> Cherry Fletcher Bamberg (hardcover, 528 pp)	NonMember Price: \$29.00 Special to Members: \$25.00	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
GOR	<b>Elder John Gorton &amp; the Six Principle Baptist Church of East Greenwich, RI</b> Cherry Fletcher Bamberg (hardcover, 630 pp)	NonMember Price: \$36.00 Special to Members: \$29.00	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
ELM	<b>Elm Grove Cemetery of North Kingstown, Rhode Island</b> Althea H. McAleer (hardcover, 392 pp)	NonMember Price: \$35.00 Special to Members: \$27.00	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
NBG	<b>North Burial Ground Providence, Rhode Island Old Section 1700-1848</b> John E. Sterling (hardcover, 480 pp)	NonMember Price: \$39.00 Special to Members: \$31.00	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
SOK	<b>South Kingstown, Rhode Island Historical Cemeteries</b> 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"/>
STD	<b>Daniel Stedman's Diary, 1826-1859</b> Henry Clay Oatley, Jr. (softcover, 424 pp)	NonMember Price: \$37.00 Special to Members: \$32.00	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
NKG	<b>Graveyards of North Kingstown, Rhode Island</b> Althea H. McAleer, Beatrix Hoffius, and Deby J. Nunes (softcover)	NonMember Price: \$19.95 Special to Members: \$17.95	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
HUL	<b>Huling Genealogy: Descendants of James &amp; Margaret Huling</b> Esther Woodworth Barnes (hardcover, 692 pp)	Special Offer: \$30.00	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

**Order subtotal:**   
**Rhode Island addresses add 7% state sales tax:**  
**Shipping: \$4.50 for first item, \$1.00 each additional:**  
**TOTAL ENCLOSED**

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**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO RIGS AND MAIL TO:**

**RIGS Books**  
 PO Box 433  
 Greenville RI 02828

Or, order directly on our website: [rigensoc.org](http://rigensoc.org)

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR ORDER!**

- Do not use member price if you are not a member.
- Make sure you add \$4.50 for postage for first item and \$1.00 for each additional item.
- All RI residents must pay 7% sales tax.

*Books will not be shipped until the correct amount is received!*

## RIGS Events Calendar in Brief

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>January 12</b> (Sat) 10:00am - 1:00pm	<b>RIGS Board Meeting</b> Peacedale Library
<b>January 26</b> (Sat) 1:00pm	<b>RIGS Member Meeting</b> Newman Congregational Church, Rumford (see page 1)
<b>February 23</b> (Sat) 10:00am - 1:00pm	<b>RIGS Board Meeting</b> Peacedale Library
<b>March 5</b> (Wed) Time TBA	<b>RIGS Sponsored Bus Trip to Hartford, CT</b> Connecticut State Library and perhaps one other research facility
<b>March 29</b> (Sat) Time TBA	<b>RIGS Member Meeting</b>
<b>April 5</b> (Sat) 10:00am - 1:00pm	<b>RIGS Board Meeting</b> Peacedale Library
<b>May 18</b> (Sun) Time TBA	<b>RIGS Annual Meeting</b> First Baptist Church, Wickford



**RHODE ISLAND  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**  
PO BOX 443  
GREENVILLE, RI 02828

