

RIGS REPORTER



Newsletter of the Rhode Island Genealogical Society

May 1, 2009 Volume XI, Issue 5

Contents

April Meeting Recap	2
Book Announcement	3
Tips, Tidbits, Reunions	4
RIGS Book Orders	5
RIGS Events Calendar	6

RIGS Annual Meeting to be Held on May 17th

The members of the Rhode Island Genealogical Society will join together on Sunday, May 17, 2009, at 1:30pm, for our Annual Meeting, which will be held at the First Baptist Church, Main St., in Wickford. The meeting will begin with a brief business meeting and election of officers.

Our first guest speaker will be Richard Roberts, Unit Head of History and Genealogy at Connecticut State Library, in Hartford. He will be making a presentation on the resources and services available at their library, a favorite of many RIGS members.


Andrew Boisvert, RIGS member and archivist, will give us an update on the holdings at the Old Colony Historical Society, in Taunton. The society is a great resource for looking up Massachusetts ancestors, as well as, Rhode Islander's and other New Englander's.

The meeting will include a choice of computer seminars for your participation. You may choose to learn more about computers and looking up ancestors by using a Rhode Island cemetery database. Cherry Bamberg will be on hand for assistance. Another choice will be a computer seminar on genealogy websites, with live demonstration if an internet connection is achieved. A final seminar choice will be based on using the census records, available for free online.

Those attending the meeting are asked to bring along one brick wall dilemma, regarding a Rhode Island family. Please type or write the information on a piece of paper, including what you are looking for and all you know about the person. Be sure to add your name, address, telephone and email address.

Members are encouraged to bring along information on upcoming family reunions and events of interest so we may post them at the meeting. Also, members are welcome to bring along and exchange (or sell) books, charts, CD's or other items of interest you might like to trade. You may put a price tag and your name on it or just offer it for free.

Please join us and bring a non-member friend. In addition, bring along your family charts and books—let's help each other fill in those blank spots. As always, the Hospitality Commit-

tee will be baking up a storm and there will be lots of goodies. Who knows, there may even be another surprise or two. See you there! 

RIGS MEMBERS' MEETING **Sunday, May 17th** **1:30 pm**

LOCATION

First Baptist Church
Main Street, Wickford, RI

AGENDA

- Election of Officers
- Speakers: Dick Roberts & Andrew Boisvert
- Computer Seminar
- Refreshments by the Hospitality Committee

MEETING DIRECTIONS

At the intersection of Routes 1 and 102 (traffic light, Shell Gas Station), follow Route 102/1A (Phillips St) toward Wickford. At the first stop sign, turn left onto Brown Street.

When the road bears to the left, turn right onto Main Street. The church is about 100 yards on the left (set back, white historic church). Turn left into the parking lot (34-44 Main Street).



Upcoming RIGS Events

Fall Meeting

The first meeting of the fall will be held on Saturday, September 26th and will most likely be held at the Newman Congregational Church, in Rumford. Members and friends should plan to bring a camera as there will be someone teaching us how to photograph gravestones in order to get the clearest picture. There will also be a talk on DNA and how it can help in your genealogical research. Other speakers are anticipated, to be announced. This will be an all-day meeting with lunch.

Fall Bus Trip

There will be a fall bus trip to Boston offering stops at the New England Historic Genealogical Society, the Boston Public Library and the Massachusetts State Archives. If you have not taken the time to check out their web sites, you will be amazed at what is available. The Boston Public Library has newspapers from many other cities available—even old Chicago City Directories. You do not have to be looking for folks in Boston for the Library to be a great asset in your family research. The Massachusetts State Archives is also filled with all sorts of wonderful things—check out their website prior to your visit so your material will be made available. Watch for the September newsletter to learn more about the details, including the date of this trip.

RIGS April 2009 Meeting Recap

The members and friends of the Rhode Island Genealogical Society met in the afternoon of April 4th, 2009 at Harbor House, in Newport.

Barbara Carroll spoke to us on researching Italian genealogy, telling us that knowing the family location in Italy would be your most important key to finding records. If the location is not known, you may look for family resources like the census, vital records or naturalizations to see if a location is mentioned



Barbara Carroll

or if other family members are listed.

Barbara distributed a hand-out to members that explored some of the best Italian genealogical resources. One example from the hand-out is a suggested internet search engine for passenger manifests called www.stevemorse.org.

When you seek out passenger lists, civil records and Parish records, keep in mind that women used their maiden names. In addition, many men arrived in America to work, but continued to sail back and forth.

Draft military records are available starting with 1855 and beyond through the state archives. The Rhode Island Historical Society holds the DeSandro papers, containing files with letters, etc.

For any correspondence you send to Italy

in request for records, it must be written in Italian; ask them to bill you, do not send cash. You would need to know the name of your great grandparents and their siblings in order to make family contact.



Robin Porter

Our second guest speaker was Robin Porter, who ten years ago purchased the Gardiner House for \$1.00. This is an 18th century farmhouse, listed on the Historic Register. The home was built in 1735 by Ezekiel Gardiner and

had been located in North Kingstown. At the time of the purchase, the house had been threatened with demolition. Robin had the house dismantled, numbered and has had it stored since that time, all the while seeking an appropriate location for re-construction.

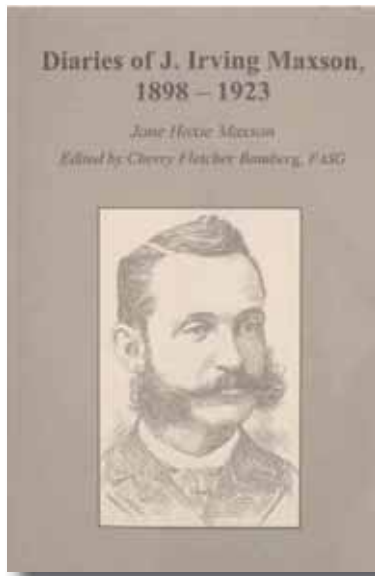
Mr. Porter is seeking an organization to get involved and an appropriate site location to have this historic home rebuilt, preferably in the North Kingstown area. He would like to see a re-established Gardiner Homestead be used for educational purposes.

Members were provided with hand-outs listing detailed genealogy information for the Gardiner family of North Kingstown.

As always, the hospitality committee provided us with a generous supply of homemade goodies. ▲



New Book Announcement



Diaries of J. Irving Maxson, 1898-1923, by Jane Hoxie Maxson, ed. by Cherry Fletcher Bamberg, FASG. Soft cover, 368 pages, 2009. \$19.95. Available from Jane H. Maxson, 55 Wild Goose Rd. Wakefield, RI 02879 (jhm2727@cox.net) or RIGenSoc.org.

This careful transcription of the diaries of J. Irving Maxson opens the door for researchers to a new era – the early twentieth century – and a new part of Rhode Island – Westerly. The diaries are the only survivors of fifty years of diary-keeping, the rest having been lost in the 1938 Hurricane. A descendant of the Maxson family which had lived in Westerly for two hundred years, J. Irving Maxson was deeply involved with the family building company, Maxson & Co. of Westerly, which built many of the grand houses, public buildings, and hotels in southern New England. He was deeply rooted in his family, community, and church. A prominent man, he took a leading role in his community, representing Westerly in the General Assembly and serving on innumerable boards. He and his

family worshipped and socialized with a large group of friends and relations from the Pawcatuck Seventh Day Baptist Church in Westerly. Travel, summers at the beach, yacht racing, vaudeville – J. Irving really enjoyed life, never imagining how easily his security could slip away.

The shifting economic tides of the early twentieth century and some questionable partners brought down Maxson & Co. by 1910. The company sold, J. Irving set out to reinvent himself and did it over and over for the rest of his life. Most diaries are like a play performed with only one set and a very limited cast, but not this one. To find work J. Irving traveled to Cuba, New Jersey, New York, and Connecticut, moving his family and dwindling possessions with him. He ran a fruit plantation in Cuba, managed shipyards during World War I, skippered a steamer between Connecticut and Rhode Island, and captained a crippled ship in the Caribbean. In each of these places he was meeting new people and writing about them in his diary. Whatever misfortunes he suffered, he never gave up. It is a story of bravery and love.

A thoughtful introduction sets the scene and provides readers with an understanding of the family structure. Much patient research went into identifying many individuals named, and complete name index makes it easy to find references. Genealogists will be particularly interested in the ties that linked Sabbatarians from Westerly with those in New Jersey, Wisconsin, and upstate New York. Best of all, many unique family photographs make the people and times come to life for the reader.



Jane Hoxie Maxson was one of the founders of the Maxson Family Association and has served as its secretary and historian. An inveterate collector of family lore and memorabilia, she has patiently transcribed these remarkable diaries from her family collection, illustrating them with unique photographs. Cherry Fletcher Bamberg, editor of Rhode Island Roots, enjoyed helping her put it all together. ▲

Purchase Books at Annual Meeting

RIGS publications will be available for purchase at the Annual Meeting, including the new *Diaries of J. Irving Maxson, 1898-1923* by Jane Hoxie Maxson.

History of Family Online Degree

University of Limerick, Department of History, is offering a new course that may interest experienced or professional genealogists. According to the brochure, the online MA degree in the History of the Family is a one-year, full time or two-year, part-time post-graduate degree program. There is no other program of this type offered in the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland. This degree is also offered completely Online.

Upon completion of the program, a successful participant will have:

- Acquired a knowledge of a range of key issues in the history of political, social and economic development particularly as might be applied to the historians of families and communities its family, community, local and regional context.
- Developed advanced skills in identifying, locating, assessing and interpreting appropriate primary and secondary sources.
- Acquired the skills necessary as a foundation to conduct historical research at doctoral and post-doctoral level.
- Developed the skills necessary to present the results of historical research to publication standard.

Further details of the program, application forms, and contact information are online at <http://www.history.ul.ie/online/histfamily>.

Note: This item was originally published in UpFront with NGS: The Online Newsletter of the National Genealogical Society (NGSgenealogy.org/upfront.htm).

Tips, Tidbits, Reunions

Websites of Interest

Have a connection to the Hayes family? Then you may be interested in "The Hayes Family History Site" at website: hayesfamily.us. Allied families listed are: Tierney, Lewis, Beattie, Sheehan, Yerks, Condos and Smith.

The following websites may be useful to RIGS members in researching family history: Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild, www.immigrantships.net; Jewish Genealogy Site, www.jewishgen.org; UK and Irish research, www.genuki.org.uk; Federation of Eastern European Family History Societies, www.feefhs.org.

RI Judicial Archives Notice

The Rhode Island Judicial Archives at 5 Hill St., Pawtucket is an important resource for Rhode Island genealogists seeking information on their litigious ancestors. A project is being undertaken this spring that will greatly help researchers in the long run – microfilming of many early volumes – but may cause inconvenience for some time. The books involved are the Providence Supreme Court Record Books 1-4, Newport Supreme Court Record Books A-G, and Newport Court of Common Pleas A-K. All these volumes have been sent out of state to be filmed. The project is expected to take several years.

Historical Cemetery Commissions

The *RI Historical Cemetery Commission* was created to study the location and condition of historical cemeteries, in addition to taking inventory.

The Commission is always looking for volunteers for cemetery clean-ups, to record stones, conduct research on the computer, research deeds at city hall, take GPS readings, survey plat maps, and take pictures.

The website for the RI Historical Cemetery Commission is: historicalcemeteries.ri.gov. For information, contact Evelyn Wheeler at: 401-789-3503; via email at: eviewhee@verizon.net.

The Friends of Cranston Historical Cemeteries has recently formed the *Cranston Historical Cemeteries Commission*. They are seeking assistance to locate any unknown historical cemeteries in Cranston that might be located on private property. Please contact the Friends with your name and address of the cemetery so it may be recorded and possibly cleaned up. Contact may be made via the Cranston Historical Society, 1351 Cranston St., Cranston, RI 02920 or phone 401-944-9226. To learn more, visit website: cranstonhistoricalsociety.org and scroll down to the link for the Cranston Historical Cemeteries Commission.

Rochambeau Biscuit Day Tea

On June 18th, the Joy Homestead, will be the setting for a strawberry biscuit candlelight tea, from 6 to 8 pm. The Homestead is located at 156 Scituate Ave, in Cranston. The event is sponsored by the Cranston Historical Society. The cost is a donation of \$5.00.

The event is celebrating the March for Liberty, which took place during Revolutionary times when 5000 French soldiers marched through Rhode Island on their way to Yorktown. For more information contact the Cranston Historical Society at 401-944-9226 or via email at: joyhomesteader@verizon.net.

NGS ITEMS

Please Note: The following four items were originally published in UpFront with NGS: The Online Newsletter of the National Genealogical Society (NGSgenealogy.org/upfront.htm).

Gottscheer Heritage and Genealogy Assoc

The Gottscheer Heritage and Genealogy Association will hold its annual meeting on June 26 and 27, 2009 at the Lukan's Farm Resort, in Haw-

ley, PA. The program consists of a Board of Director's meeting on Friday, June 26th and the annual meeting on Saturday, June 27th. The annual meeting agenda will include presentations on Gottscheer history and a Genealogy Workshop. The region of Gottschee was a Germanic linguistic island in Slovenia that was first settled in the 1300's and was dissolved in 1941. Gottscheers have emigrated to the United States and Canada since the 1860's. For information visit website: gottschee.org or contact Elfriede Stonitsch via email at: stonitsel@aol.com.

Hubbell Family Historical Society

The 15th Biennial Reunion of The Hubbell Family Historical Society (THFHS) will be held in Mystic, CT, from May 31st through June 4th, 2009. Richard Hubbell came to the New Haven Colony in present day Connecticut from Bewdley, Worcestershire, England, in the 1640s, and nearly every Hubbell/Hubble/Huble in North America today is his descendant. Trips to Richard's grave site, regional tours, and get-togethers with cousins will be featured throughout the reunion, and all cousins are welcome.

For information, visit website: hubbell.org or contact Hilbert R. Hubble via email at: hubble@comcast.net.

Soule Kindred Annual Reunion

The Soule Kindred Annual Reunion will be held June 24-28, 2009 at the Luxe Hotel on Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills, CA. Our major presenter will be Louise Walsh Throop, who is the compiler of the Mayflower-Families-In-Progress series on George Soule and a leading figure in Soule family research. Join us for the workshop, visit with your cousins. There is something for everyone! For details, visit website: soulekindred.org.

NARA Genealogy Conference

The Friends of the National Archives and Records Administration, Northeast Region, in Pittsfield, MA, will hold its annual full-day genealogy conference titled *Life in the Past Lane VI* on Saturday, September 19th, 2009, at the Williams Inn, in Williamstown, MA. The Inn's website is: williamsinn.com. Details and registration forms will be posted, under the Calendar of Events, at website: narafriends-pittsfield.org. For additional information, please call 413-236-3600. ▲

ID	SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS of the RHODE ISLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY	Price	Quantity	Total
CD30 NEW!	Thirty Years of Rhode Island Roots, 1975-2004 (CD) <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 NEW!	Thomas Clemence of Providence, R.I., and some of his descendants to the year 2007 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"/>
GL3 NEW!	GLEANINGS from Rhode Island Town Records: East Greenwich Town Council Records, 1734-1774 <i>Special Bonus Issue of Rhode Island Roots, 2008, by Cherry Fletcher Bamberg (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"/>
GL2	GLEANINGS from Rhode Island Town Records: Providence Town Council Records, 1789-1801 <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	GLEANINGS from Rhode Island Town Records: Providence Town Council Records, 1770-1788 <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	The Tillinghasts in America, The First Four Generations Wayne G. Tillinghast (hardcover, 788 pp)	NonMember Price: \$39.00 Special to Members: \$35.00	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
TIL1	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"/>
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"/>
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"/>
NBG	North Burial Ground Providence, Rhode Island Old Section 1700-1848 John E. Sterling (hardcover, 480 pp)	NonMember Price: \$39.00 Special to Members: \$31.00	<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"/>
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"/>
HUL	Huling Genealogy: Descendants of James & Margaret Huling 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

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO RIGS AND MAIL TO:

RIGS Books
PO Box 433
Greenville RI 02828

Or, order directly on our website: 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!

**Rhode Island
Genealogical Society
Officers & Board of Directors**

President

Thomas H. Wilber
860 376 3800
tomwilber140@msn.com

Past President

Robert Allen Greene

1st Vice President

Patricia Chappell

2nd Vice President

Helen Smith

Treasurer

Otis C. Wyatt

Assistant Treasurer

Doris Blaney

Recording Secretary

Tom Clarke

Corresponding Secretary

Marie McShane

Director – Term 3 Years

Letty Champion
Geraldine "Geri" Clarke
Lois Sorensen

Director – Term 1 Year

Andrew Boisvert
Charles Carpenter
Patricia Woodard-Harmon

RIGS Events Calendar in Brief

May 17, 2009 (Sun)
1:30pm

RIGS Annual Meeting
Wickford Baptist Church
See Page 1 for details

Sept. 26, 2009 (Sat)

RIGS First Fall Meeting
Newman Congregational Church,
Rumford (location unconfirmed)

Fall (date TBA)

Boston Bus Trip
Choice of NEHGS, Boston Public Library,
or Mass State Archives

Purchase Books at Annual Meeting

RIGS publications will be available for purchase at the Annual Meeting, including the new Diaries of J. Irving Maxson, 1898-1923 by Jane Hoxie Maxson.



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



The RIGS Reporter

*Published five times a year
with program*

Editors

Dorothy Chase

darpt@cox.net

Neil Dunay

ndunay@gmail.com

Graphics

Rachel Peirce

Membership

Pat Long

patricia.long@cox.net

Website

rignsassoc.org