

RIGS REPORTER



Newsletter of the Rhode Island Genealogical Society

October 2, 2009 Volume XII, Issue 2

RIGS November 14th Meeting

Please note change of location

Contents

September Meeting Recap	2
RIGS October Bus Trip	3
Potter Family Bible	4
Mellor, Bennett Photos	5
Tips, Tidbits, Events	6
RIGS Book Orders	7
RIGS Events Calendar	8

We will be holding the next RIGS meeting on Saturday, November 14th, 2009, beginning at 1:00pm, at the Wakefield Baptist Church located at 236 Main Street, in Wakefield. (Note: this is a change in location from the announcement in the September "RIGS Reporter".)



Kirsten Hammerstrom

We are hosting two speakers. Our first speaker will be Kirsten Hammerstrom, Deputy Director for Collections at the Rhode Island Historical Society. She will give us an update on what is happening at the Rhode Island Historical Society Library and what plans they have for the future.



D. Joshua Taylor

Our second speaker will be D. Joshua Taylor who is a Research Services Coordinator for the New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston. His topic will be "Mapping Your

Success: Employing Maps for Genealogical Research". We will have the opportunity to learn how to go beyond the basic "political map" for genealogical research. We will explore maps—tracing boundary changes, religious groups, political districts, migration routes, and more. Those who heard Josh speak at the NERGC Conference in Manchester know what an interesting, exciting speaker he is. Bring your maps and questions....there will be time to discuss them with Josh after his talk.

We welcome non-members, be sure to attend and bring along a friend or two.

RIGS MEMBERS' MEETING
Saturday, November 14th
1:00 pm

CHANGE OF LOCATION!

Wakefield Baptist Church
236 Main Street, Wakefield, RI



AGENDA

-- Speakers: Kirsten Hammerstrom & D. Joshua Taylor

CHURCH DIRECTIONS: If following Route 1 South, bear right onto the ramp for the Wakefield exit, turn right onto Old Tower Hill Road and then you will be heading west; travel almost ½ mile to the large intersection with Route 108 (Kingstown Road); continue straight and the road now becomes Main Street, travel almost another ½ mile passing the intersection with Columbia Road (Italian Village Restaurant will be on your right) and the Wakefield Baptist Church will be on your left as the road makes a sharp left bend.

Boston Bus Trip



Reserve your seat! Join us on the next RIGS Bus Trip to Boston (Oct. 14). See details on page 3.

September Meeting Recap



Photo by Midge Frazel

Civil War historian Robert Grandchamp chats with RIGS 1st Vice-President Pat Chappell.

On September 26th, 2009 our first RIGS meeting of the fall was held at the Newman Congregational Church in Rumford. The all-day event hosted guest speakers Jeff Howe, Cherry Bamberg and Shellee Morehead.

Jeff Howe spoke about the Warren brothers and showed photos and clippings of the ship they sailed on. He mentioned how his research had been sparked by a query from a woman in Australia. Watch for his article in the new *Roots*.

We learned about the RI Census from years 1774, 1777 and 1782 from Cherry Bamberg. She noted how fortunate the Rhode Island Genealogist is to have these records available. They have all been published but Cherry mentioned how they are lacking in certain ways. For example, the Bartletts 1774, is missing a lot of data which can be found in the original about blacks and Indians. *Roots* is re-doing the 1774 Census, watch for it in an upcoming issue. The 1777 Military Census is a great source of information on males; however, there are some towns missing, such as Newport, since it was

occupied by the British at the time.

Cherry provided those attending with a hand-out that is also available on our RIGS website at: <http://www.rigensoc.org/ricensus.htm>.

Shellee Morehead, Ph.D., gave a fabulous talk, in layman terms, on DNA testing for genetic genealogy. She taught us that there are two types of testing that are useful for the genealogist; the Y-DNA which follows the male line and Mitochondrial DNA for Maternal lines. The Y-DNA can be used in Surname studies and only males can be Y-DNA tested. Both males and females may be Mt-DNA tested.

Ms. Morehead emphasized that if you are searching a line and do not have a relative to test, pull out your pedigree chart and look at another generation, bring it down from there to see if your ancestors siblings had a descendent who would be viable for the test (a DNA cheek swab). For example, your grandfather's brother's son or grandson may be a candidate for a Y-DNA test or your grandmother's sister's children Mt-DNA testing—the more markers that match

up, the closer the common ancestor. She mentioned that her brother's Y-DNA test found a relative but it was at least 12 generations back. The Mitochondrial DNA test may determine your female ancestry line of origin, such as Europe, Asia, etc.

The Hospitality Committee served a very nice lunch.

During the afternoon, a group was led outside with Letty Champion to get a lesson on getting the best photos of gravestones. She taught the group that using a mirror to reflect the light onto the stone makes a great difference in the quality of the picture. Letty also showed ways of dealing with differing shooting conditions, such as too much sun. For this example she brought an umbrella to shade the stone and used the mirror to reflect onto the lettering at an angle, making the letters really pop out.

The remaining members had the opportunity to learn about joining lineage organizations such as the Mayflower Society and the DAR.

The meeting had something for everyone and was great from start to finish! 🚩



Photo by Midge Frazel

Letty Champion showing the technique of angling a single mirror to reflect the sunlight onto a gravestone to photograph.

RIGS Bus Trip To Boston October 14th

Join us on a RIGS sponsored bus trip to Boston, on Wednesday, October 14th, 2009. The fee is \$22.00 per participant. Members are encouraged to bring a non-member friend. Once again, we recommend that you bring your own bag lunch, this will save time for your research.

Your choice of research facilities are as follows: the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), the Boston Public Library, or the Massachusetts State Archives. You do have the option to split your time between two locations and have the bus take you between the Archives and NEHGS/Boston Public Library in the middle of the day. The distance between NEHGS and Boston Public Library is about two blocks, so that would be a walk-able distance.



For those who choose to visit the NEHGS and are not members, there will be a library charge of \$10; members of NEHGS are admitted free. To learn more about using the NEHGS library, or to search their holdings in advance, visit their website at: newenglandancestors.org. Once on their homepage, mouse over to "our library" and a drop down menu will appear with several choices. If you select "visit NEHGS" you can learn more about the library and at the bottom

of the page that loads you will have the option to download "library guides". From the same "visit NEHGS" drop down menu, you can also select choices of "manuscripts", "library catalog" and "collection guides".

You may want to consider a visit to the Boston Public Library, admission is free. Plan ahead by visiting their website at: bpl.org and from their homepage mouse over to "research and specialized services" and then from the drop down menu choose the "rare books department" and then select on "collections". If you wish to visit their rare books department during your in-person visit, it is located on the third floor of the McKim Building of the Central Library location. The Library also has a Genealogy and Family History Resources area located on the second floor of the McKim Building, view details at their website by clicking the arrow next to "quick links" near the top of the homepage and scrolling down and selecting "genealogy resources" then click the "go" box.

If you should choose to visit the Massachusetts State Archives, you will need to present an identification card and fill out a researcher registration form, admission is free. You will receive a Reader's ID card that must be worn in the Reading Room. Holdings of the Archives date from the year 1628 and document the settlement of lands in Maine and Massachusetts, the arrival of immigrants by ship in the port of Boston only (1848-1891), and the development of state government. Public records are not in the holdings of the Archives. The Archives holds the registration books of births, marriages, and deaths for all Massachusetts cities and towns, 1841 through 1915. Vital records indices, dating 1841-1910, are also available on the Massachusetts Archives website: sec.state.ma.us/arc. The Archives also holds state census schedules prepared in 1855 and 1865. Documentations found at the Archives cover a wide range of topics of interest to genealogists: land grants; early records of divorces and contested estates; legislative papers

relating to towns, including petitions and remonstrance; military records from 1643 through 1775; records of mercantile affairs; and tax valuation lists, 1738-1786. Since Maine was part of Massachusetts from the early colonial period through 1820, there are many records in the Archives pertaining to the settlement and settlers of Maine. Although an appointment is not necessary to use Archives materials, a phone call may save you time or an unnecessary trip. If you are hoping to find specific documentation through the Archives, we highly suggest you call them in advance at (617) 727-2816. Reference staff can answer questions, refer you to appropriate materials, or help you plan your research visit.

On the morning of our trip, the bus will depart from Warwick Mall at 7:00am, *(Please note: Conway now picks up at Pole C3 which on the back side of Target)* and the bus will also pickup at the East Providence Park and Ride, located on Rte. 44, at 7:20am. On the return trip, the bus will be departing from the Boston area at 5:00pm and will arrive in RI around 7:00pm.

Reservations should be made in advance. Please return the mail-in form with an enclosed check of \$22.00 per participant, made payable to: RIGS. Remember to include your choice of pick up location and research facility you will be attending. Please mail your response to: Helen Smith, 530 West Reach Drive, Jamestown, RI 02835. For further questions, call Helen at 401-423-0442 or send her an email at HHSCTC@aol.com. Additionally, Marie McShane may be contacted at 401-826-0463. ⚠

BOSTON BUS TRIP

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

CHOICE OF FACILITY: _____

PICK UP WARWICK: _____

PICK UP EAST PROVIDENCE: _____

NGS Family History Conference 2010, Salt Lake City

The 2010 NGS Family History Conference will be held at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, April 28-May 1, 2010. The theme for the Conference is: "Follow Your Ancestral Trail". Online registration will begin November 1, 2009.

Hotel conference reservations are now available at four hotels, including the Radisson Hotel Salt Lake City Downtown, Salt Lake Plaza Hotel, Shilo Inn Suites Hotel, and Crystal Inn Hotel & Suites. Details including rates and amenities can be found at <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org> by clicking on Conferences & Events and then Annual Conference, and finally Accommodations. The Radisson Hotel is the main conference hotel and is adjacent to the entrance of the Salt Palace Convention Center where the NGS Conference will be held. Make your hotel reservations early!

The conference flyer is available for download at <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org> by clicking on Conferences & Events and then Annual Conference, and finally For the Media.

For questions, please contact the Conference Manager at: conference@ngsgenealogy.org.

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



Potter Family Bible

The following piece, along with the photo, was submitted by RIGS member Pat Long

This story might be best subtitled "It's a Small World" or "Only in Rhode Island"!

Andrew Boisvert and I were recently at the Rhode Island State Archives, bugging Ken Carlson with our research requests. Andrew was on the microfilm machine, searching for a death certificate. On the next machine, some researchers were looking at a death certificate but were commenting that information on the decedent's occupation was not provided. Andrew recommended they try the town records directly. He inquired about the town and family they were researching. Much to his surprise, they said they were looking for Amos Potter, son of Christopher, who lived in the Scituate/Cranston area. Their line connected through a Henry Wade Potter.

You see only weeks ago Andrew had purchased a Potter family bible at the Kingston Book Store, which had acquired it from the Baptist Church in Shannock. The bible records were for the precise Potter family members they were researching! Not only did it contain information about their direct Potter ancestors, it also provided

additional records to them about a Keech family line from which they descended.

So we made arrangements to have our new friends, William Potter and Fran Potter, come to our apartment to get the records that I had downloaded into my Potter family tree. William and Fran are from Florida and were here for two weeks to research their Potter ancestors. Andrew advised them to go to Foster. I advised them to go to the South Kingstown library to consult one of the Potter genealogies there. After a delightful three hours of genealogical chit chat, we finally called it a night.

Imagine our surprise when we ran into them again at Foster Town Hall, where they were researching vital records with the Clerk. Andrew pulled out the land records and found a Christopher and Charlotte Potter they were researching

Thanks to RIGS *Roots* editor Cherry Bamberg, the Potter family bible has been added to the collection of the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), where it will be widely available for researchers and descendants, like William and Fran. ▲



Andrew Boisvert, William Potter (of Florida) and Pat Long.

RIGS Seeking to Match Photos to Family

Shelly Cardiel of Washington state sent RIGS President Tom Wilber three photos of Rhode Islanders from the late nineteenth century. She writes:

I've "rescued" two old photographs belonging to the MELLOR Family of Rhode Island. The first is a photograph of Eva Mabel MELLOR which was taken at the Halloran Bros. Studio in Pawtucket, RI. The photograph appears to have been taken in the 1890's with Eva appearing to be in her teens at that time. The second photograph is one of James MELLOR and was taken at the W. T. Hunter Studio in Pascoag, RI. This second photograph was likely taken in the 1880's with James appearing to be in his 20's at the time.



I am hoping to locate someone from their families so that these wonderful old photographs might be returned to their rightful place with family.

The third photo is identified as Judge Edmund Bennett. If you think you are descended from these individuals or have more information, please contact Tom Wilber at tomwilber140@msn.com. ▲

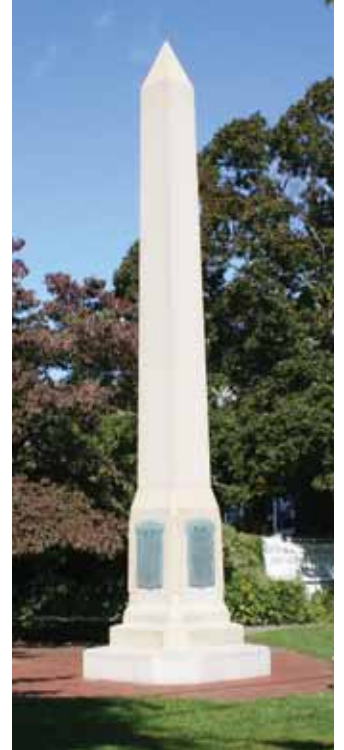
Judge Edmund H. Bennett: The First Mayor of Taunton, was born in Vermont and later died in Taunton, Mass., in 1898.



Based on limited research I was able to gather the following information regarding this family. Eva MELLOR b. about 1881 in RI married William Baxter ARNOLD (b. 22 Jun 1879 in Pawtucket, RI) and together they had 2 children, Kenneth J. ARNOLD b. abt 1914 and Walter M. ARNOLD b. about 1916, both in RI. Eva MELLOR ARNOLD died in 1959 in Pawtucket, RI and is buried there.



QUERY



North Kingstown history author, G. Timothy Cranston who writes a weekly column for the North East Independent Newspaper entitled "The View from Swamptown" wrote: *I'd like to be able to do a story on three ladies who are listed on North Kingstown's WWI monument as veterans: **Beatrice C. Brown & Elizabeth M. Preble** who served in the Navy and **Elsie L. Haywood** who served in the Army. I am having trouble tracking down anything on them. So far all I've found is that Beatrice was the daughter of William and Dolores Brown who lived on Main St. in Davisville and that Elizabeth was the daughter of Charles & Julia Preble.*

swamptown@msn.com

Tips, Tidbits And Events

NERGC Conference 2011

Mark your calendar for the next NERGC Conference coming up April 6-10, 2011 in Springfield, MA. Watch for further details, yet to come.



Hale House Restoration Project Annual Tour of Grounds

Sponsored by the Pettaquamscutt Historical Society, this annual event will take place on Sunday, October 11th, 2009 from 2:00 to 4:00pm, at the Edward Everett Hale House which sits at the foot of the Matunuck hills in South Kingstown, specifically located at 2625A Commodore Perry Hwy., (Route 1), in the Matunuck/Perryville area. The event is free and is open to the public.

Since 2006, the house and grounds have been entrusted to the care of The Pettaquamscutt Historical Society. Research since then has revealed a rich legacy of paintings and letters that tell us about the famous American author and clergyman from Roxbury, Massachusetts, and his talented brood of fine artists.

For more about this event and the Hale House Restoration Project, contact the Pettaquamscutt Historical Society at 401-783-1328 or via email at: pettaquamscutt@yahoo.com. You may also learn more about the society and their research library through their website at: <http://www.pettaquamscutt.org>.

Smith's Castle Colonial Harvest Festival

Smith's Castle will hold its annual Colonial Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 17th. The festival will celebrate fiber arts. Artisans will be demonstrating their crafts and selling their one-of-a-kind handmade items. The festival will also feature re-enactors demonstrating colonial activities and cooking. Live entertainment will include the Musicians of Updyke's Rose and the Yankee Volunteers Fife and Drum Corps. Tour the c1678 house and enjoy the seaside grounds and colonial garden. Open 12-4; rain date Sunday, October 18. For information, call 401-294-3521 or visit www.smithscastle.org.

Host Library Hours

The Greenville Library and the Portsmouth Library each host a collection of genealogical books from the Rhode Island Genealogical Society (RIGS).

Greenville Library is located at 573 Putnam Pike, in Greenville. Their hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10am to 8pm; Friday and Saturday from 10am to 5pm; and they are open on Sundays during the months of September thru May from 1pm to 5pm. The phone number to the Greenville Library is 401-949-3630.

Portsmouth Free Public Library is located at 2658 East Main Road, in Portsmouth. Their hours during the months of September thru June are Sundays from 1pm to 5pm; Monday thru Thursday from 9am to 8pm; Friday and Saturday from 9am to 5pm. The phone number to the Portsmouth Library is 401-683-9457.

Cemetery Searches

RI Historical Cemeteries Website

The current online address for the Rhode Island Historical Cemetery Website is: <http://rihc.info/index.php>.

If you are searching for a veteran, this site now has the ability to search for graves by specific war. Additionally, you may browse or search by town to find historical cemeteries. The site allows you to search by specific name to find a gravesite.

This website is designed to be a resource, posting available records online. They have made the records easy to search online.

RI Cemeteries Database

The online address for the Rhode Island Cemeteries Database is: <http://ricemeteries.tripod.com/index.html>

This database makes it possible to search for an ancestor buried anywhere in the state. The pre-20th century data is now almost complete. Data is arranged and stored by town. The cemeteries listed are viewed in natural order so you might search for other relatives buried nearby. The database also allows you to search by maiden name.

The Master Name index is now available online, allowing you to find names listed in the database, as well as, cemetery locations and descriptions.

If you do not have a computer, the database is located at several area libraries, including the following:

- *RI Historical Society Library*, 121 Hope St., Providence; open Wednesday-Friday, from 10am to 5pm, and 2nd Saturday of the month from 10am to 5pm; 401-331-8575
- *Coventry Public Library*, 1672 Flat River Road, Coventry; open Monday-Thursday from 9am to 8pm, Friday-Saturday from 9am to 5pm and on Sunday 12noon to 4pm; 401-822-9100.
- *East Greenwich Free Library*, 82 Peirce Street, East Greenwich; open Monday-Thursday from 10am to 8pm, Friday-Saturday from 10am to 4pm; 401-884-9510.
- *Warwick Public Library*, 600 Sandy Lane, Warwick; open Monday-Thursday from 9am to 9pm, Friday-Saturday from 9am to 5pm, Sunday from 1pm to 5pm (Sept-May); 401-739-5440.
- *West Warwick Public Library*, 1043 Main Street, West Warwick; open Monday-Tuesday from 9am to 9pm, Wednesday-Friday from 9am to 5pm, Saturday from 10am to 2pm; 401-828-3750.

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS OF THE RHODE ISLAND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Rhode Island Genealogical Society pursues an active program of publishing source material for the study of Rhode Island families, such as diaries, cemetery transcriptions, compiled genealogies, and transcriptions of original papers. We are proud to offer the following books published by RIGS and classic sources by society members. All are well illustrated and carefully indexed. Prices are shown for members of Rhode Island Genealogical Society (M) and nonmembers (NM). Your purchase supports the publication of future books.

RIGS SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS ORDER FORM



The Diaries of J. Irving Maxon, 1898-1923

Jane Hoxie Maxson, ed. Cherry Fletcher Bamberg, FASG.
Soft cover, 368 pages, 2009.

SPECIAL: \$19.95 _____

Thomas Clemence of Providence, Rhode Island and his descendants to the year 2007

Jane Fletcher Fiske, FASG. Hard cover, 433 pages, 2007.

NM: \$35.00 M: \$31.00 _____

The Tillinghasts in America, The First Four Generations

Wayne G. Tillinghast. Hard cover, 788 pp., 2006.

NM: \$39.00 M: \$35.00 _____

Daniel Stedman's Journal, 1826-1859

Henry Clay Oatley, Jr., ed. Cherry Fletcher Bamberg, FASG.
Soft cover, 464 pp., 2003.

NM: \$37.00 M: \$32.00 _____

Cemeteries of South Kingstown, Rhode Island

John E. Sterling and James L. Wheaton, IV,
ed. Cherry Fletcher Bamberg, FASG. Hard cover, 653 pp., 2004.

NM: \$39.00 M: \$35.00 _____

North Burial Ground Providence, Rhode Island Old Section 1700-1848

John E. Sterling. Hard cover, 480 pp., 2001.

NM: \$39.00 M: \$31.00 _____

Elm Grove Cemetery of North Kingstown, Rhode Island

Althea H. McAleer. Hard cover, 392 pp., 2001.

NM: \$35.00 M: \$27.00 _____

Huling Genealogy: Descendants of James and Margaret Huling of Newport Rhode Island and Lewes, Delaware

Esther L. Woodworth-Barnes, ed. Jane Fletcher Fiske, FASG.
Hard cover, 692 pp., 1984.

SPECIAL: \$30.00 _____

Elder John Gorton & the Six Principle Baptist Church of East Greenwich, Rhode Island,

Cherry Fletcher Bamberg, FASG. Hard cover, 630 pp., 2001.

NM: \$36.00 M: \$29.00 _____

The Diary of Capt. Samuel Tillinghast of Warwick, Rhode Island, 1757-1766,

ed. Cherry Fletcher Bamberg, FASG. Hard cover, 528 pp., 2000.

NM: \$29.00 M: \$25.00 _____

Rhode Island Roots, 1975 to 2004 (CD)

NM: \$39.95 M: \$31.00 _____

Gleanings from Rhode Island Town Records

(Special Bonus Issues of Rhode Island Roots)

Providence Town Council Records, 1770-1788

Linda L. Mathew. Soft cover, 152 pp., 2006

Providence Town Council Records, 1789-1801

Linda L. Mathew. Soft cover, 150 pp., 2007

East Greenwich Town Council Records, 1734-1774

Cherry Fletcher Bamberg, FASG.

Soft cover, 152 pp., 2008



East Greenwich Town Council Records, 1775-1800

Cherry Fletcher Bamberg, FASG.

Soft cover, 152 pp., 2009

SPECIAL: \$12.00 EACH, POSTPAID

Subtotal

R.I. residents 7% tax _____

S & H \$4.50 first item, _____

\$1.00 each additional: _____

TOTAL: _____

To order, please fill out this form, and send it with a check made payable to RIGS:

**RIGS Books
P.O. Box 433
Greenville RI 0282**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____

E-mail address: _____

(in case of questions about the order)

Total enclosed \$ _____

Please allow three to four weeks for our volunteers to process and ship your order.

Books and CDs may also be ordered online at the Rhode Island Genealogical Society website, RIGenSoc.org.

**Rhode Island
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RIGS Events Calendar in Brief

Oct. 14, 2009 (Wed)
7:00am

RIGS Bus Trip to Boston (see page 3)
The New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS),
the Boston Public Library, or the Massachusetts State Archives

Nov. 14, 2009 (Sat)
1:00pm

RIGS Member Meeting (see front page)
Wakefield Baptist Church, 236 Main Street, Wakefield

Board Meeting Dates

Oct. 31, 2009; Jan 16, Feb 27, April 2, and May 8, 2010.
Peace Dale Library, 1057 Kingstown Road, Wakefield



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The RIGS Reporter

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