



Coastal Georgia

Genealogical Society

News & Reviews

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Amy Hedrick, Editor

14 November 2004 Meeting will be held at the College Place United Methodist Church on Altama Ave. at 2 p.m. This will be the last meeting of the year. Our program will consist of bringing in your oldest family or history related photograph, and sharing the story behind how it came into your life. Also, share your tips on handling and storing your photos.

Since this is the last meeting of the year, we would like for everyone to bring a special treat. Don't bring too much, as not very many people will show, as it is close to Thanksgiving. We would like to make this our holiday party, end of year bash.

Also, bring ideas for next year's agenda! We would like to see a great turn out! Remember, you don't have to be a member to attend.

29 August 2004 Meeting was a "show and tell" forum where members discussed their brick walls, or their success stories. We were also handed our membership directories with the surnames that our members our membership are researching. These handy books were compiled by Bill Smith, our acting president.



October is Family History Month!

A resolution by Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah in 2001 brought attention to this passion of ours--family history research.

What will you be doing this month for family history month? Well, I personally did not have anything planned, but fate brought something my way.

A few of you may have recalled me telling you about a "cousin" of mine who has helped me with some research. He is a second cousin, twice removed. His claim to fame is that he has researched one of his family lines

back to 600 B.C., yes B.C.

I will be meeting this gentlemen for the first time, ever on October 8th and 9th, and I will be sure to ask him how he managed such an amazing feat, and if this is part of my family too!



THE BRICK WALL

By Amy Hedrick

Just recently I have uncovered an interesting story, finally, in my own family research, and would like to share it with you. This story unfolds a few centuries ago, on the dawn of a new age. My father's family come from a long line of Quakers, his dad's side married into Quakers and so did his mother's side. This is about one such family, leaving their native country to find peace in a new world.

Many folks would like to trace their family back to the Mayflower, one of the first settlers to the "New World." My dilemma is along those lines, however, my family did not arrive on the Mayflower. It is unknown by me what ship they arrived on, nor when they actually arrived in America per se.

The Symons family left their home in England to engage in a life free from oppression, to live life according to the bible. Their first stop was Massachusetts. Their next stop was to become one of the first inhabitants of a new town. However, life may not have been what it appeared to be in this new town, as the family soon removed far south, to the wilds of North Carolina.

William Symons was most likely one of the first settlers of East Hampton, Suffolk County, New York. You will find his name listed among many prominent men of the time. His name was spelled Simons, Simonds, Symons, etc. However, what you will not find, is who he married. One marriage record has been found, that of a Judith Haward on 18 January 1643 in Middlesex Co., Massachusetts. But according to family histories abounding on the internet, he married a Mary Conkling on this date..

Of course we can not always trust what we read on

the internet. Only one court record, so far, has been uncovered that mentions William Symons' wife, and that is a 1657 trial of Goodwife Garlicke being tried for witchcraft in which Goody Simons was a witness. Nothing came of this trial, as the conduct of Goodwife Garlicke was not such as to disarm and quiet suspicion. Upon her examination it was, among other things, proved that she had used various herbs to bewitch with; that she had said she had no objection to be thought a witch, and had said she "had as good please the Devil as anger him."

What I can not understand is how in all this recorded history, we have the names of Goodwife Garlicke, who was Elizabeth. Her husband was Joshua. She was accused of bewitching Elizabeth Howell, daughter of Lion Gardiner. And the wife of William Simons, Goody Simons, was a witness. Yet we do not have Goody Simons' first name.

The Symons family first settled in Lynn, Essex Co., Massachusetts. Their first four children may have been born there. The last three were born in New York. They were a devout Quaker family, that moved from New York to North Carolina, where William Symons died. Thomas wrote letters back to New York directing members of the Conkling family to sell the family property. This is what leads us back to the Conkling family.

Many histories have been written on these first families of New York, the Fithians, Gardiners, Garlickes, Osbornes, and more. Thomas writes back to New York to David Gardiner instructing him on sales to Jeremiah Conkling, and telling David to remember him to his, Thomas', Uncle Fithian. But who were these people in relation to the Symons family? If we can not even figure out who William's wife really was?

The Conkling family have a rich history, but all that is online is a list of brothers, no sisters. Because the Conklings who settled in East Hampton would have to have had a sister or one of them would have had to have left a widow for William to have married, but we know that did not happen, but then again, just maybe, she could have been a daughter, that no one knew about.

Ananias Conkling and his brother John were born in Kingswinford, Staffordshire, England. Ananias about 1600, John maybe 1598. On 24 January 1625, John married Elizabeth (Mylner) Allseabrook at St. Peter's Parish, Nottingham, England and supposedly had four children, John, Timothy, Jacob, and Elizabeth. Mary could have been a child of John Sr.'s.

John and Ananias Conkling were in Salem by 1640 as glassmakers, they were supposedly the first glass makers in America. They made window glass and bottles. By April 1650 they had removed to Southold, New York.

Ananias Conkling married on 23 February 1631 to Mary Lauder/Launders at St. Peter's Church, Nottingham,

Nottinghamshire, England. Mary was his second wife. Their son Jeremiah married Mary Gardiner, a child of Lion Gardiner. Ananias married too late, I think, to have fathered a bride for William Symons. Plus, he did not leave a widow for William either.

There were supposedly two more brothers, a Cornelius and maybe a Jacob. But what about sisters? I have yet to find any other records online.

William Fithian may have been the uncle that Thomas was writing about to be remembered to, William was one of the first settlers of East Hampton as well. He was the only Fithian in the record books anyways. A native of Wales, he was purported to be a member of Cromwell's Army, a witness to Charles the First's execution and therefore had to flee England before Charles the Second was in place.

He came to Boston, then Lynn, then New Haven, and finally Easthampton where he lived out his life. He supposedly had three children, Martha, Enoch, and Sarah. His wife's name was Margaret, but we don't know her maiden name. How is she related to the Symons? Is she related? Is this the Fithian that is related? Or is "uncle" just a term of endearment?

As you see, all of these families, have rich stories to tell, including mine, until I get to William, and even he has some stories. On 3 October 1655 William was ordered to pay 5 shillings for his provoking speeches to 3 men in authority during their proceedings. Wonder what that was all about?

There is even speculation about who William's first son, Thomas married. Many online researchers have him marrying Rebecca White, daughter of Henry and Rebecca Arnold. After some recent searching, I have found that, one, this mother is incorrect, and two, that maybe she isn't his wife.

There are some records to suggest that his wife may have been a Rebecca West. According to estate records of the White family, there was no Rebecca White.

Thomas Symons was one of seven known children born to William and Mary Conkling(?) Symons. His birth date is unknown but a guesstimate puts it at about 1648 in Lynn, Essex, Massachusetts. His marriage to Rebecca is unknown. He could have married her anywhere from New York along the way to North Carolina. All of their seven children were born in Pasquotank Co., North Carolina according to Quaker records.

From my family records and Quaker records, I have the family documented up to Thomas, with exception to his marriage. What if Thomas' father isn't even the William Symons we think he is? We know he was in New York, but what if he was never in Massachusetts?

So, how are all these folks related to me? Thomas Symons is my 8th great-grandfather. And how do we get to

him? Let's start with me:

- Amy Hedrick [1975] then we go to my father
- Paul Hedrick [1940] his father
- Wordner Hedrick [1903] his mother
- Flora (Allen) Hedrick [1868] her father
- William Allen, Jr. [1843] his mother
- Sarah Symon [1813] her father
- Nathan [1786] his father
- Jesse [1755] his father
- Jehosaphat [1705] his father
- Peter [1685] his father
- Thomas [1648]



INTERNET

<http://www.usgennet.org/usa/topic/newengland/savage/>
"A Genealogical Dictionary Of The First Settlers of New England Before 1692" by James Savage, online book.



Cemetery Project

--by Amy Hedrick

Fall and winter will soon be upon us, and this year I would like to take care of a few cemetery transcribing projects out in the Pennick and Clayhole area.

I have enlisted the help of one Mrs. Evelyn Gray, who is a descendant of those interred at the Bull Island Cemetery. She has agreed to help with naming those in unmarked graves. I will also have the help of Mrs. Essie Mungin, who grew up in the Clayhole area. She is now in her 80's and is a wealth of knowledge.

Where is the Clayhole you say? It is a small community that was established after the Civil War, out past Sterling, off of Hwy. 341 towards Jesup. You turn off onto Old Jesup Road, after you pass Hwy. 99. Then you turn right onto Pennick Road and keep driving until it turns to dirt.

Eventually you will come to a church, the Sheffield United Methodist Church and its cemetery, this is the Clayhole Community, hardly anyone lives here now. But not long ago, many families could be found here. They came down from McIntosh County, newly freed slaves, and newly freed soldiers from the war. Some carpetbaggers looking to cash in, others just looking to escape the city.

Most people like to think that this was a big plantation area, but it wasn't, most of the families here came from other areas. They were mainly African-

American, they did their shopping in Darien, as it was the closest town. A boat would take them across the Altamaha River into town.

This fall, I would like to enlist the help of a few folks, with these cemeteries. A couple of them are quite large and some will need cleaning so that stones can be read. Nothing major, just some brush cutting with hand clippers. Depending on what happens with the hurricanes, that is.

So, let me know if you can help, when the weather cools off a bit, I will be getting in touch with Mrs. Gray and Mrs. Mungin and we will be setting up some times to go out there. Mrs. Mungin wants to take a tour of her old haunts, she is full of stories, so if any of you want a history lesson, you may want to bring a video recorder!



UPCOMING EVENTS

7 October 2004 Thursday Patricia Barefoot talks about her latest book on Cumberland Island at the Charlton County Library in Folkston at 7 pm.

16 October 2004 Saturday Candlelight tours at Fort King George. See the fort come to life as the garrison engages in nighttime activities, from firing of the cannons, to baking of bread [refreshments will be shared]. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors 62 & older, \$2 for students 6-18. Children under 5 admitted for free. Call (912) 427-4770 or email ftkgeo@dariantel.net for more information. Tour held from 7-10 p.m.

22 October 2004 Friday Author Fred Whitehead will present a slide show and talk about his book, "The Seasons of Cumberland Island", at 7 p.m. at the Brunswick Public Library. Located at 208 Gloucester Street. Call (912) 267-1212 for more information.

29 October 2004 Friday Meredith Hanak takes you on a ghostly tour of downtown Brunswick's most famous haunts. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Fee \$20 before October 25th, after that date it will be \$25. Supplies needed will be walking shoes and a flashlight. You will meet at the Old City Hall on Newcastle Street. This program is a course provided by the Coastal Georgia Community College and Continuing Education.



PUBLICATIONS

From the Allen Co., Indiana Public Library

“Ship, Rail and Wagon Train Series”

--by Delia Cothrun Bourne

Lists of immigrants into the United States are common and highly prized by genealogists. Not so easily found are lists of emigrants who traveled across the country to the western states. Often, single people or families would head west with little fanfare. Louis Rasmussen and the San Francisco Historic Records published the Ship 'n Rail Series (later the Ship, Rail and Wagon Train Series) to provide names for some of the thousands of settlers and visitors to California.

Volume 1 of Railway Passenger Lists of Overland Trains to San Francisco and the West (Colma, CA: San Francisco Historic Records, 1966-68. 2 volumes; 929.11/R18R) includes newspaper accounts of railroad passengers arriving in Oakland and San Francisco, California in 1870 and 1871.

Volume 2 lists those passing through Carlin, Nevada and Ogden, Utah in 1871 and 1872. These entries will provide the emigrants' names, often including other family members as "wife" or "family," home (sometimes city but often just state), and the date of arrival or passing. Each volume is indexed by name, hometown or state, and subject.

San Francisco Ship Passenger Lists (Colma, CA: San Francisco Historic Record, 1965-70; 79.902/SA519R, volumes 1-4) covers arrivals from 1850-January 6, 1853. The information was taken from newspaper accounts and journals, and arranged chronologically. It lists ship name, type, captain, port of origin, length of passage, passengers, and cargo. This material was gathered to replace the official port records that were destroyed by fire in 1940. No lists from Asian ports were included in this series. There is a name index and a geographic and subject index.

The last entry in this series, California Wagon Train Lists, April 5, 1849 to October 20, 1852 (Colma, CA: San Francisco Historic Records, 1994; 979.4/R18C) lists wagon trains leaving from St. Joseph, Missouri or passing through various cities along the way west. Many of these are just lists of passengers and supplies, but occasionally there are notations of deaths by disease or violence. The entries are chronological, but there is an every name index.

It is important to remember that although most passengers on the ships and wagon trains were people migrating to the west, many on the trains were visitors, either California residents returning after a trip, or easterners traveling on business or pleasure. Whatever the reason for your ancestor's experience, knowledge of travel

experiences can add depth to his or her life.



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Annual membership to the CGGS is only **\$15** for one person or **\$18** for a family. Membership extends from 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004.

Remit payment to our treasurer:

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