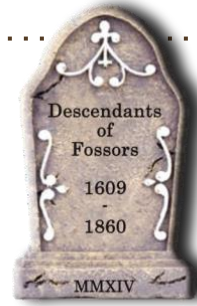


Rest in Peace



Newsletter of Descendants of Fossors, 1609-1860

Issue 2 — February 2019

Dear Members

First let me thank you for your support and encouragement as we began this little adventure! To me, the best thing about joining one of the “niche societies” is the hunt! I hope you enjoyed your “hunt” to find an ancestor to fit our criteria. And, I hope you will continue to honor your ancestors with supplementals as they come your way.

In June, 2019, we will be FIVE years old! We have 52 members! In addition, we have 56 supplementals approved! I personally know of two folks working on their applications, and April generally brings a burst of interest.

Please feel free to “talk up the group” when you are at meetings that allow such conversations! We are always looking for membership activity.

As you will see elsewhere in the newsletter, we will be including a new group with our meeting. The Legion of Vikings and Valkyries needed a space for their first Board meeting. This will be scheduled at the end of our membership meeting. Please stay and join the group. This is not a closed Board meeting, but more one to acquaint everyone with the society.

Please feel free to “talk up the group” when you are at meetings that allow such conversations!

We are always looking for membership activity.

RIP:

On a sad note, we have lost one of our members, Camille Redfearn Lowery. She was a driving force in many of our groups and will be missed by all of us. ONCE MET, NEVER FORGOTTEN...

THANK YOU to my Board! Kathy Deegan left the board due to illness, however, I visited with her last fall and her heart is still with us! Patricia



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Wasilik --- oh my! What can anyone say about a Registrar who is so “on it” and helpful to our prospective members? She’s just great! Alex Bannerman designed the certificates which are just _____, (I don’t have a word!) and our insignia.

If that little tombstone doesn’t start a membership conversation, we are doing everything wrong! Melissa Fischer is the one to thank for the wonderful meeting places – even the catacombs! WOW. Jan Downing is just an excellent Recording Secretary and Donna Parker has been on top of our Chaplain duties. A huge THANK YOU to each of these folks for making this society happen.

And THANK YOU to each of you as members for your support, enthusiasm and assistance. We couldn’t have done it without you!

And THANK YOU for this opportunity to serve. It has been a great time and I am looking forward to the future success of our organization.

What we keep in our memory is ours unchanged forever,

Jane

Jane Routt Power
Chief Coroner

From the Keeper of Epitaphs New Members

- 043C - Mary Robin Towns - *James Redfearne*, Sexton (Maryland)
044C - Camille Rycroft Lowery - *James Redfearne*, Sexton (Maryland)
045C - David John Stringfellow - *Humphrey Turner*, Coroner’s Jury (MA)
046C - Ann Fields Bridges - *Zachariah Bailey*, three acres donated (SC)
047C - Eric Allan Koch - *Randal Malin*, Coroner’s Jury (PA)
048C - Sonja Jean Hayes - *Nathaniel Woodward*, Coroner’s Jury (MA)
049C - Nancy Helen Cobos - *Nathaniel Bacon*, Coroner’s Jury (MA)
050C - Beverly J. J. Nelson - *Ann Blunt*, Coroner’s Jury (MD)
051C - Sandra June Ešty - *William Collier*, Coroner (MA)
052C - Myron Crenshaw Smith - *Bray Rossiter*, Coroner (CT)



Descendants of Fossors 2018 Membership Meeting

The second membership meeting of the National Society of Fossors was held April 11, 2017 at 1250 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, in a conference room, Suite 200. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Director General Jane Power. With no objection, the reservation list served as Roll Call with a quorum of seven established. Six guests and 16 members were in attendance. Invocation was given by Mary Russell.

Officers present were introduced:

First Deputy Coroner – Melissa Fischer
Stone Engraver – Jan Downing
Caretaker – Kathy Deegan

Leslie Reynolds and Kathy Carey were appointed to approve the minutes.

Reports of the Officers:

The Director General Power thanked Melissa Fischer for arranging the brunch and providing the coffee and goodies and Patricia Wasilik on her efforts with our new members. The last number issued was 42. Members were asked to take cards to recruit and pass out to interested researchers. Director General Power also thanked Heather Miller who administers our website at www.fossors.org. The best news was that non-member Larry Casey made it his project to obtain and pay for the approval of Fossors as a 501(c)(3), effective 8 Feb 2017. It was agreed, that Mr. Casey will be offered a gratis membership to Fossors for his efforts.

The Minutes of the 14 April 2015 Meeting were read by Stone Engraver Downing and approved as read.

First Deputy Coroner Fischer reported that the previously reported field trip was cancelled, as it would have taken all day.

New Business:

Although no yearbook was produced this spring, Robin Towns volunteered to take the lead on a yearbook, and Deborah Hicks volunteered to help if she becomes a member.

A nominating committee was appointed by Director General Power for elections in 2019 for a six-year term to include: Sandra Staley, Nancy Stringfellow, and Camille Lowry.

After the benediction by Mary Russell, the meeting was adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Lewis Downing, Stone Engraver

Approved by: Lesley Reynolds and Kathy Carey



Wing Ring Cemetery

Wayne, Maine

“The Wing Ring Cemetery in Wayne, Maine” sounds a bit contrived but it is true. After the Revolution, many old Plymouth Colony families moved to the old Pejepscot Patent in Maine. “New Sandwich” was founded and petitioned for township and, because Massachusetts always knew better, it was incorporated as Wayne (after Gen. “Mad” Anthony Wayne). One of the families moving there was the prolific, industrious, and innovative Wings.



Google maps satellite view

From here, it is best to quote a description of the cemetery.

[It was] laid out in 1867 and constructed in a circular configuration...The center of the burial ground contains a 12-foot-high granite obelisk, the focal point of an elevated circular mound of earth 14 feet in diameter, which is in turn surrounded by a three-foot-deep dry moat. On the monument's octagonal base, facing the entrance walk and gate, is inscribed the name “WING” and the date 1871. On the other seven sides facing the lots are inscribed the names of the original seven brothers who came to Wayne in the 1780s. Going around the monument from the right they are: Simeon, Allen, Ebenezer, Aaron, Moses, Thomas, and William. Circling this impressive center are concentric rings of stone and grass containing the graves of succeeding generations of the Wing Family. Each ring is separated by graveled walks and curbed with cut granite which serves as a base for the headstone thus assuring they are arranged in a perfect circle. (Eloise R. Ault, *Wayne Historical Society Research Paper 2:4* (March 2006))



Google drive-by of the cemetery

Much of the history of the cemetery was lost, even its architect was unknown when it was placed on the National Register of Historical Places in 1991. Local historians did their best to gather information but it wasn't until someone from nearby Livermore Falls gave the Wayne Historical Society “a plastic garbage bag” full of documentation, which filled in many of the holes.

In 1867, Alonzo Wing, who had moved to Wisconsin, designed and laid out the cemetery. An Executive Committee was formed of Samuel W. Frost, Llewellyn Wing, and Thomas Wing. They



assisted in purchasing the existing family plot, setting up a corporation, exhuming 39 bodies for later reburial into the new design, and selling plots within the area of the purchaser's ancestor-founder for \$37 each.

Each of the committee members are buried in the cemetery. After a successful career and public service (regent of the University of Wisconsin and serving in the Wisconsin legislature), Alonzo would return to Maine. Later, he was buried in Ring 2 next to his his baby daughter and wife.

The number of occupied plots number as follows: Ring #1 – 30, Ring #2 – 32, Ring #3 – 62. There are also four corners with grave sites: Corner A – 3, Corner B – 3, Corner C – 8, Corner D – 2.

The Wing Ring Cemetery is on Pond Road and is searchable within Google maps. A vacation destination!

Sources:

Ault, Eloise R., *Wayne Historical Society Research Paper* 2:4 (March 2006).

Correspondence from Douglas Cutchin, Fairfield, Maine.

Kelly, Freda, *Wing Cemetery, Wayne, Maine* (no date).

Kennebec Journal, Section C (October 4, 2009).

Shameless Plug: Wing Family Association

The Wing Family Association (WFA) was founded in the late 1800s and incorporated in 1902. It was created for the descendants of Deborah, wife of Reverend John Wing. (Although many in the genealogical world believe that Deborah was the daughter of Stephen Bachiler (or Bachelder), there is not enough proof for the current leadership of the WFA to agree to that.)

John and Deborah's son, Stephen, built in 1643 a fort house in Sandwich, New Plymouth colony, which remained in the family until purchased by the WFA in the last century.

The WFA has yearly reunions, alternating venues between the fort house in Sandwich, Massachusetts, and one of the WFA's 13 area districts.

It publishes a yearly journal, *The OWL* [Our Wing Lineage], which has had continuous pagination. The latest issue was 80 pages long and ends with page #6878!

For more information go to their website: <https://www.wingfamily.org/>



Thank You, Gladys Kravitz

Anyone who grew up watching “Bewitched” on TV back-in-the-day will remember Mrs. Kravitz, the nosy neighbor. She was always noticing weird things at the house (of the witch) across the street, but like Cassandra of Troy, no one would believe her.

Ah, what wonderful pre- and post-colonial Gladys Kravitz’s we have who wrote genealogical items down in their journals, which come down to us today! Many of these are buried in scholarly journals. I’d like to highlight three, but many of you have problem run across them in your own research.

The first appeared originally in *The Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society* 2nd ser., Vol. 7 (January 1892), 144-171. It was also created as an offprint *Diary Kept by Capt. Lawrence Hammond, of Charlestown, Mass. 1677-1694*, ed. Samuel A. Green. The dates do not seem to be inclusive of 1677-94 but there are more details of the events between 1677-1678 and 1687/8-1692. Besides the fires, weather reports, witch trials, politics, native depredations, natural remedies for illness, ships coming to and fro, and the devastating earthquake at Jamaica, you will find scores of birth and death records (smallpox raged throughout the area during this time).

The second appeared in *The Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society* 2nd ser., Vol. 14 (March 1900), 13-34. It was also created as an offprint *Extracts from John Marshall’s Diary: January, 1689 – December, 1711*, ed. Samuel A. Green. John Marshall lived in Braintree, Massachusetts. Here you have pages and pages of deaths nicely laid out (pun intended) usually with the cause of death “a hogshed of sugar falling on him,” “the canoo ouerset, and they weer 3 of them drowned,” “the centinell takeing him to be an enemy shott him down.” It was here that I found the son of Rev. Samuel Williard (after he was examined and approved for Harvard *at the age of 13*) went swimming and drowned.

The third and last appears in the *New England Genealogical and Historical Register*, Vol. 103 (1949) and later transcribed for the *Vital Records of Scarborough, Maine* (2011). It was a record of deaths in the first parish that was kept by a father and son in the Libby family of Scarborough, Maine, from 1795 to 1873. My hometown was notorious for not reporting on the deaths of many people to whom I am related! This helps fill many of the gaps with a little sleuthing. Far more narrowly defined, there are no wind directions or earthquakes, just gruesome, commonplace, or sad stories of death - as this relates, which speaks to generations:



Aug. 2 [1817] Charles McKenny who has lived with me 8 years the 16 day of last June went into the Rush marsh with me about 4 o'clock P.M. on Saturday to begin to mow we mowed about one hour then he went in a swimming unbeknown to me he went across the river and back again and came on the bank as I supposed to dress himself he went in again how I do not know the first I herd of him was choaking in the water he was under and on top of the water until he was no more Not knowing how to swim I called for help & help came he was taken up in about three fourth of an hour he went away in health brought home a corpse he has been an obedient boy and I believe a well minded youth I warn all who read this to be careful how they go into deep water and Be also and always preparing for Death for we know not the day nor the hour that death will come. He was drowned in Nonesuch River August 2d 1817 near Mr. Thomas Libby he was 17 years old the 27th of last March. A likely and blooming youth cut down in a moment how short the time from the cradle to the grave.

New England Genealogical Historic Society Poll

August 29, 2018

Last week's survey asked if you or your family members have any funeral or mourning documents, photographs, or artifacts for your ancestors. 3,907 responses were received. More than one answer could be selected. The results are:

78%, Yes, we have a prayer card or program from a funeral service.

57%, Yes, we have a guest book from the funeral.

49%, Yes, we have condolence cards.

20%, Yes, we have a post-mortem photograph.

18%, Yes, we have a type of funeral or mourning document or artifact not mentioned above.

17%, Yes, we have a photograph of an ancestor's coffin.

15%, Yes, we have a lock of hair or hair art made from a deceased ancestor's hair.

10%, No, we do not have any funeral or mourning documents, photographs, or artifacts for our ancestors.

4%, Yes, we have a mourning ring or other mourning jewelry.

3%, Yes, we have a needlework, painting or other funerary art.

2%, I don't know.





Mom's Wedding Quilt made from casket cloth

My mother's uncle worked at a casket factory. When my mother got married she received a quilt from her aunt. It was small hexagon shapes made from various pastel colors of left over casket cloth. Since the fabric was delicate and fine, much of it has deteriorated over the more than 50 years since it was made.

— Linda Mizzel

Officers

Chief Coroner

Jane Routt Power

First Deputy Coroner

Melissa Fischer

Second Deputy Coroner

Alexander Bannerman

Stone Engraver

Jan Downing

Justice of the Inquisition

Annelies Mouring

Caretaker

Kathy Deegan

Keeper of the Epitaphs

Patricia Wasilik

Sexton

Donna Parker

Editor

Sumner Gary Hunnewell

The best dressed men belong to the Descendants of the Fossors

The Descendants of the Fossors biennial meeting

In conjunction with The Legion of Vikings and Valkyries

9 April 2019, 10 a.m.

Quaker Meeting House, 2111 Florida Avenue NW

Please remit \$12 per person. Checks made to "Descendants of Fossors"

Slate of officers

Coroner: Melissa Fischer

1st Deputy Coroner: Robin Towns

2nd Deputy Coroner: Alex Bannerman

Stone Engraver: (Recording Secretary): Sandra Staley

Justice of Inquisition (Corresponding Secretary) : Nancy Stringfellow

Caretaker (Treasurer) : Nancy Cobos

Sexton (Chaplain): Linda Kay White

Keeper of the Epitaphs (Registrar): Pat Wasilik

Rest in Peace, the newsletter of the Descendants of the Fossors, is edited by

Articles within the scope of the Society are gratefully accepted.

