



Anchor and Pine Tree



Newsletter of the Order of the First Families of Maine March 2022

President General's Message

Officers 2021-2023

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Honorary Presidents General

The Rev. Robert Todd Giffin 2003-07
Dixon Barr 2007-09
Karen Avery Miller 2009-11
Kimberly Ormsby Nagy 2011-13
Timothy Christopher Finton 2013-15
LTC Larry King Casey, Jr. 2015-17
Janet Lewis Downing 2017-19
Sumner G. Hunnewell, Jr. 2019-21,

It's hard to believe that, as I write this, we've just passed the second anniversary of the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. Our beloved in-person April meetings were cancelled in 2020 and 2021, and this year about half of them were again cancelled, including ours. We just weren't certain we would be able to meet without mask and vaccination restrictions, and we didn't think we would be able to get a critical mass for our meeting. This is as disappointing for your society's officers as it is for you. As Honorary President General Sumner Hunnewell noted last year, our ancestors weathered an ocean crossing, famine, war, disease, fire, and flood. We will weather this pandemic as well. And I am confident that we will be able to celebrate together in person next year! Meanwhile, we will have a virtual Zoom meeting on Tuesday, April 12, at 3 p.m., our usual meeting time.

I know that most new presidents talk about how hard it is to replace those who came before them, but this is definitely true in my case. Sumner Hunnewell is a native-born Mainer while my closest connection is that my sister lives in Boothbay Harbor, Maine – and I've visited her! Sumner has devoted a lot of his time and talent to our organization and continues to serve it as registrar. Not only that, but he updated the OFFME website (<http://NewEnglandSocieties.org/OFFME.htm>) which entailed hand-coding HTML code. Thank you for all your hard work, Sumner! We are still looking for someone would be willing to continue to update and modernize our website.

Spring is my favorite time of year, when the air is starting to warm and flowers are peeking up from the ground. My favorite flowers are daffodils! This is a time of renewal. It's also a good time for family histories, with February designated as Black History Month and March as Women's History Month. I hope all of you will renew your commitment to your genealogy and family research. I encourage you to reach out to friends and family to join our group. And don't forget to submit supplemental applications for other qualifying ancestors.

Nicki Peak Birch, CG[®]
President General

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Order of the First Families of Maine

2021 Annual Meeting

Minutes

The joint Zoom meeting of the Order of the First Families of Maine 1604–1652 (OFFME) and the Order of the First Families of New Hampshire 1622–1680 (OFFNH) was called to order by OFFME President General Sumner Gary Hunnewell, Jr. on March 28, 2021, at 2:04 p.m. EDT.

The invocation was given by OFFME Chaplain General Sandra June “Sandi” Esty.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by OFFME Treasurer General Douglass Mather “Tim” Mabee. The American’s Creed was led by OFFNH Deputy Governor General Kathryn Thompson Carey.

OFFNH Governor General Gregory Ormand Bodge introduced the distinguished guests, welcomed presiding officers of other societies and today’s speaker, George J. Hill, MD.

OFFME Chaplain General Sandi Esty and OFFNH Chaplain General Pat Hugar conducted the memorial service. Seven members were listed in the Call to Remembrance.

OFFNH Governor General Gregory Bodge called their meeting to order at 2:18 pm and introduced officers’ reports, and old and new business matters.

President General Sumner Hunnewell then began the Fifteenth Annual Meeting of OFFME.

The 2019 and 2020 minutes had been posted online. Gregory Bodge moved to accept them and Nicki Birch seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Officer Reports:

President General Hunnewell reported: Our Order showed an increase in membership, despite the pandemic, and Treasurer General Tim Mabee said our finances improved with new members and insignia orders. He welcomed the new members and thanked the officers for their help. He reminded the members that the Maine Historical Society has allowed us access to their members-only webpages and to contact him for access information.

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President Hunnewell resolved the out-of-date website by personally hand coding the data in HTML. He hopes we will move to a new website jointly with the New England societies in the future. He hopes to see many of our members at the planned New England meeting in Vermont in October. He briefly introduced the Sir Ferdinando Gorges Society, open to officers who have served four terms. He thanked everyone who sent cards and notes on the death of his father last October.

1st Vice President General Nicki Peak Birch reported she has maintained the Membership Database for 2019-2021 and attached a list of changes from the past year to her report.

2nd Vice President General Laura Ramsay was not present due to a family obligation.

Secretary General Marsha H. Masone noted that her report had been sent to the membership and that she had sent numerous communications from President Hunnewell to the same.

Treasurer General Mabee presented his report, noting that OFFME has total assets of \$26,251.41 as of Dec. 31, 2020. He noted we had unexpected income from 22 new members, 13 supplementals, and insignia orders. He noted we show little profit from insignia orders through City Pride. Sandi Esty made the motion to accept the Treasurer's report and David Grinnell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Registrar General Eloise Brooks did not file a report.

Chaplain General Sandi Esty reported appropriate cards and letters were sent and asked members to let the Chaplain know of anyone who might welcome expressions of concern.

Historian General Laura Ann Kearney Schenk had no report.

There was no Unfinished Business. Under New Business, Historian General, Laura Schenk made the motion to donate \$1,150.00 to the Maine Historical Society Brown Library. The motion was approved.

The Executive Committee recommendation to change the Standing Rules to include presenting membership and a pin to the newly created Sir Ferdinando Gorges Society was open to discussion. The award is to be retroactive and the pins paid for from OFFME funds. The motion was made by Laura Ramsay and was approved.

Election of Officers:

Marsha Masone, member of the Nominating Committee, reported that she, Janet Downing and

Laura Ramsay, were pleased to present the proposed slate of OFFME officers for 2021–2023:

President General – Lucy Nicol “Nicki” Peak Birch, VA

1st Vice President General – Douglass Mather “Tim” Mabee, NY

2nd Vice President General – Melissa Anne Harrison Fischer, MD

Secretary General – Marsha Hauschild Masone, VA

Treasurer General – Sandra June “Sandi” Esty, VA

Registrar General – Sumner Gary Hunnewell, Jr., MO

Chaplain General – Daryl Monroe Brummett Masone, CT

Historian General – Laura Ann Kearney Schenk, MS

Since there were no nominations from the floor, President Hunnewell declared that the officers were elected by acclamation. The new officers were installed by outgoing President General Hunnewell.

Newly installed President General Birch thanked Sumner Hunnewell for leading the Society for the past two years and noted the next meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 12, 2022, at The Army and Navy Club, Washington, D.C., at 3:00 pm.

Treasurer General Esty moved that Past President Sumner Gary Hunnewell, Jr. be made an Honorary President General. It was seconded by Sharyn D.K. Worrell and the motion passed.

Chaplain General Daryl Masone gave a blessing and the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

President General Birch introduced guest speaker George J. Hill, MD, Past Governor of OFFNH. His topic was “Look to the Mountain: A Family Story about New Hampshire” and Other Good Books about the Granite State.

Attendees were treated to slides and drawings about the area where the fiction book by LeGrand Cannon, Jr. was set. Dr. Hill noted that the families in the story had a number of coincidences of dates and places with his own ancestors, or perhaps the author had interviewed or researched members of Dr. Hill’s family.

After the presentation, Governor Allen Gray brought greetings from the Order of First Families of Vermont, 1609–1791. He extended an invitation to all present to attend the New England Societies’ Meetings which is expected to be held at Middlebury, Vermont on October 1–4. .

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha H. Masone, Secretary General



Order of the First Families of Maine

Treasurer's Report

1/1/2020 - 12/31/2020

		2019		2020
INCOME:				
New Members:	14	\$ 3,360.00	22	\$ 5,320.00
Supplementals:	4	100.00	13	325.00
Medals		453.15		777.10
Donations		<u>150.70</u>		<u>25.00</u>
Total Income		\$ 4,063.85		\$ 6,447.10
EXPENSES:				
City Pride		\$ 335.10		\$ 827.10
Misc. rev. 2x entry				240.00
Maine Historical Society		1,150.00		1,150.00
Maine's 1st Ship		750.00		750.00
Direct Mail Printers		1,180.25		
Postage & Sec. State		<u>48.62</u>		<u>\$159.79</u>
Total Expenses		\$ 3,463.97		\$ 3,126.89
Net		\$ 599.88		\$ 3,320.21
BALANCE				
Beginning		\$ 22,331.32		(\$ 22,931.20)
Ending		<u>\$ 22,931.20</u>		<u>\$ 26,251.41</u>
Net		\$ 599.88	\$	3,320.21

IRS 990N was filed and accepted for the 2018 Calendar year ending 3-31-2018.

OFFME Instagram Account

One action accomplished this past year was the creation of an Instagram (IG) account for OFFME.

Our “handle” is [first_families_maine](#) but OFFME will also find us. If you're familiar with IG and spend any time there, you might already follow IG users who make historically-oriented posts and may already have good ideas for how we can use ours to reach cousins who would join our ranks.

We've started posting to the account, but we need more stories. Nothing elaborate, just something short about your favorite founding-era ancestors. We don't want to limit these to just 1604-1652, so we're starting with the Colonial period and including up to 1783.

We want stories that you think are worth sharing with the world. These can be unadorned accounts or stories of intrigue, intrepidity, influence, injustice, or

inspiration (and so on; you get the idea!) that preserve the memory of those first families and their descendants. Additionally, if you have paintings or photos to pair with the story, send those to us at [<mainefirstfamilies@gmail.com>](mailto:mainefirstfamilies@gmail.com). Include your IG screen name so that we can tag you in them, making it easy for you to re-gram and share with your family and friends.

New Members & Supplementals

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to membership in the OFFME:

Linda Carol Walker, member 251, whose ancestor, Nicholas Bully, Jr, was in Saco by 1650.

James Reed Campbell, Jr, member 258, whose ancestor, Thomas Page, was in Saco by 1636.

Diane L. Coleman-Horne, member 261, whose ancestor, John Alden, conducted business at Kennebec in 1627

Charleen Anne Mullenweg, member 262, whose ancestor, Rev. Joseph Hull, was in York before 1643.

Peter John Williamson, member 263, whose ancestor, William Hammond, was in Cape Porpoise, later

Wells, in 1645.

Kenneth Percy Bannister, member 264, whose ancestor, Rev. Stephen Batchiler, was at Kittery in 1644

John Lucius Buttolph III, member 265, whose ancestor, Gov. William Bradford, was in Kennebec in 1629.

Richard H. Bouchard, member 266, whose ancestor, John Alden, conducted business at Kennebec in 1627.

Stephen Robert Renouf, member 267, whose ancestor, Edmund Littlefield, was at Wells in 1643.

We are also pleased to congratulate the following members who have established supplemental memberships::

Linda Carol Walker, member 251,

whose ancestor, Nicholas Bully, Sr, was in Saco in 1650.

Linda Carol Walker, member 251, whose ancestor, Robert Booth, was in Wells in 1647.

David Lawrence Grinnell, member 147, whose ancestor, Stephen Flanders, was in York about 1649.

David Lawrence Grinnell, member 147, whose ancestor, John Richmond, conducted business at Saco in 1637

James Reed Campbell, Jr, member 258, whose ancestor, Thomas Page, was in Saco in 1636

If you have relatives or friends with Maine ancestors, please invite them to join the OFFME.

Order of New England

The Order of New England was established to recognize those in the Hereditary Society Community who are descended from ancestors who settled in all six of the New England colonies, and who have established membership in all six of the New England first families Orders:

The Hereditary Order of the First Families of Massachusetts, The Order of the First Families of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, The Order of

First Families of Maine, The Order of First Families of Connecticut, The Order of the First Families of New Hampshire, and The Order of First Families of Vermont.

The Order of New England is a recognition-only organization. There are no dues.

Requirements for recognition are:

- You must be of good moral character;

- You must have established membership in all six of the above-listed first families Orders; and

- You must be proposed by an individual already holding membership who already has been recognized by in the Order of New England.

Contact Alex Bannerman for details at alexbannerman@gmail.com.

How a Single Historical Document Can Affect Today's World

by Edwin A. Churchill

There are moments in time that a single document or even a single word can change history. Such was the case in the 1980s, when the Maine Supreme Judicial Court (or the Maine Law Court), agreed in response to a case dealing with land at Moody Beach in Wells, not only that coastal landowners owned to the low water mark, but that those landowners could also, with very limited exceptions, take vigorous trespass actions against anyone venturing on their property without permission. This decision, dramatically reversing the common practice of generally unencumbered public access to Maine's beaches, was based on the second part of a "Liberties Common" Massachusetts Act of 1641-1647 (since dubbed as "The Colonial Ordinance"). The two key sections read [1] "*no man shall come upon another's propriety without their leave,*" and [2] "*the Proprietor of the land adjoining [the sea] shall have propriety to the low water mark.*"¹

Interestingly, this whole issue rests on the definitions, over time, of two words, "propriety" & "trespass," in the "Colonial Ordinance." And it is here that history impacts on present-day events. The definition of "propriety" is, in fact, fundamental to the question of whether the intertidal zone (and often the broader beaches) belongs to the towns and the public or to the adjacent upland owners.

The present situation described above derives specifically from an 1810 lawsuit, *Woodbury Storer v. Nathaniel Freeman*, involving tidal lands in Cape Elizabeth. Judge Theophilus Parsons declared that "propriety" meant fee simple ownership, or free-and-clear title possession. The legal profession has followed that definition since.²

However, Judge Parsons was flat wrong, as were all those jurists who cited his conclusions as precedence right up to the Moody Beach case and beyond. The definition of "propriety" is first revealed in the Boston Town Records in the 1640s and 50s. On September 25, 1643 the town government agreed that "Thomas Clark, late of Dorchester, hath liberty to wharfe before his propriety in Milfield against the sea." Two days later it was announced that "The like liberty of wharfing is granted unto Valentine Hill before his *propriety* in the milfield" and "William Tynge, Treasurer, hath like liberty of wharfing before his *propriety* in the marish, neere John Lowe's house. The point is clear. "Propriety" meant that the proprietor of the property fronting the coast needed permission for the liberty to wharf out over the intertidal zone, shore or flats. It did not give him title to that property; it was a license or an easement to use town-owned lands.³

Similar examples appear in early Maine. On June 23, 1680, George Felt, Sr. of Casco Bay "gave, granted, sold, aliened, infeafed, conveyed & Confirmed. . . . to Walter Gyndell. . . . One hundred Acres of upland lijng & being on the Westward side of Geo felts ould House in Cascoe bay about Eighty rodd from sd house, beginning at a three forked bla[ck] Oake tree neare the high way being marked on both sides, & so down to ye water side and then to rune upon a square untill the whoole hundred Acres bee fully Completed, & accomplished with priviledg & full *propriety* & benefit of the sea Down to Low water marke breath of his Tract of Land." The concept was still viable forty plus years later when on October 19, 1721 Theodo-

sius Moor of Bridgewater, Massachusetts sold John Smith of Boston 100 acres of upland in North Yarmouth "beginning at a three forked black Oak Tree near the high way Being marked on four sides, and So to run down to the water side and then to run upon a Square until the whole hundred Acres be fully completed and accomplished with all the priviledges benefite & full *propriety* of the Sea down to the low water Mark the full breath of this Said Tract of Land."⁴

The more generalized meaning of "propriety" as a right or easement relating to property one did not own was exemplified in a December 9, 1653, sale by Edward Rishworth of property in York in which he indicated "these following libertys, & *proprietys* only excepted." The first was "all the propriety of pines" on fifty acres "wch are fitt for the use for ye usse of sawing or otherwise, only said Pearce [the buyer] or his assigns hath liberty to saw by hand what pines he or they shall have occasion to sell or make use of." Many more examples could be provided of the specific coastal or more general use of "propriety" as an easement. It should be noted further that not a single grant, indenture or deed has come to light in early Maine land records in which "propriety" was equated with a "fee simple deed."⁵

A key question remains. Why did Justice Pierce get things so wrong in 1810 when he decreed that "propriety" was the same as a fee simple deed? In fact, the answer is simple. Over time terms and related concepts can fall out of use—they become obsolete. Such was the case with "propriety." The term,

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as used above, essentially disappeared by the mid-eighteenth century. A jurist, Judge Pierce did not have historian's tools to trace back for the true original meaning of the term and he had little reason to question contemporary usage of "propriety." An example is the 1788 "*Perry's Royal Standard English Dictionary (being the First Work of the Kind printed in America)*"⁶ in which the term was defined as "exclusive right." The 1804 *A Critical Pronouncing Dictionary and Expositor of the English Language* used the identical description.⁷

A second word in the Colonial Ordinance, "trespass," was intricately tied to the word "propriety" and was also a victim of historical ignorance in its judicial usage. An examination of Maine courts in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries reveals that, without exception, when the reason for the charge of trespass or action on the case was recorded, the issue always involved damages. In the same period, there was not a single case in which the charge was that someone crossed or stood on an individual's property. When Massachusetts codified its trespass laws in 1698 with a law titled "An Act for Preventing Trespasses," the listed charges for trespass were unequivocally equated with physical damages. The whole act revolved around such actions as cutting someone's hay, robbing gardens or orchards, pulling down or stealing fence rails, and so on, and then penalties prescribed. When the statement in the 1641 - 1647 Colonial Ordinance that "*no man shall come upon another's propriety without their leave*" is read according to the contemporary meaning of trespass, it becomes evident that the intent was to restrain an outsider from establishing a structure or economic operation within the landowners' "propriety" which of course would have had negative eco-

nomic consequences or damages. In the 1822 volume of *Laws of the State of Maine* and an 1829 manual digesting Maine laws for Justices of the Peace, the sections on "Trespass" might well have been written in 1698 as every example in both concerned damages; not one addressed someone simply crossing or being on someone's property.⁸

Between 1829 and 1840, a significant addition was made in Maine's trespass laws. *The [1840] Report of the Commissioners Appointed to Revise the Public Laws of the State of Maine* included a new "Section 12" which read that "If any person shall wilfully enter and pass over or through any garden, yard or other improved field, after having been expressly forbidden so to do, by the owner or occupant thereof, he shall be punished by a fine not exceeding five dollars, or imprisonment in the county jail, not more than ten days." The new section was included in the 1842 manual for Maine Justices. What is clear at this point is that the Maine Supreme Judicial Court Justices in the 1980s had a totally erroneous understanding of the 1641-1647 Colonial Ordinance that served as the foundation for their decision. First, they were unaware that in seventeenth century "propriety" was essentially an easement, not a fee simple deed. Second, they also did not realize that prior to the 1830s "trespass" did not include the concept of crossing or standing on someone else's property if warned off by the owner. As the law prohibiting individuals from a property when forbidden by the owner was in place by the 1840s, the Maine Law Court Judges would have had a legal basis to utilize the modern standard despite its irrelevance in the seventeenth century. However, as "propriety" was an easement and did not confer to a coastal landowner's title to the low water mark, the only entity that could charge individuals with trespass would be the towns, the true owners of

Maine's beaches.⁹

This is a crucial point. Before 1652-8, when Massachusetts usurped Maine, the earliest Maine communities were designated as plantations with all lands, including the beaches under control local proprietors. With the Bay Colony's takeover, the plantations were designated as Massachusetts-type towns with freemen, selectmen and all other related administrative elements. All undivided and undistributed lands, including the beaches, was unceremoniously taken from the proprietors and put under the control of the towns. It was that historical reality that 370 years later was finally recognized in the October 3, 2019 judgment of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court in *Robert F. Almeder et al v Town of Kennebunkport et al* that the town of Kennebunkport owns from the sea wall to the low water mark.¹⁰ The next question will be "How will historical facts impact the status of the rest of the Maine coast?"

NOTES

1. "Acts Respecting Liberties In Common, As to Flats, &c. to Pass Over Lands, and to Remove out of the Colony," *The Charters and General Laws of the Colony and Province of Massachusetts Bay*, Boston: T.B. Wait and Co., 1814, 148-149 (quotation). Hereafter cited as *Charter and Laws of Colony and Province of Massachusetts*. The court case in question is: Edward B. Bell et. al. v. Town of Wells, et. al. Maine Supreme Judicial Court, 510A.2d 509 (1986) & 557.2d 168 (1989). Hereafter, this court case is referred to as the Moody Beach case.
2. The 1810 case is: "*Woodbury Storer v. Nathaniel Freeman*," *Reports of Cases Argued and Determined in the Supreme Judicial Court of the Common-*

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wealth of Massachusetts, Vol. IV (Newbury, MA, 1911), 435-441.

3. “Boston Town Records,” *Second Report of the Board of Commissioners of the City of Boston* (Boston, MA, 1877), 76; other examples can be found on pages 78-80, etc. Emphasis for these and the following examples of “propriety” have been added by the author.

4. *York Deeds*, 18 vols. in 19, Portland and Bethel, Maine, 1887-1910, III, 76 (first quotation); XI, 89 (second quotation). Hereafter cited as YD.

5. YD I(i), 59.

6. Perry’s *Royal Standard English Dictionary (being the First Work of the Kind printed in America) Intended to Fix a Standard for Pronunciation of the English Language . . . in Great Britain and the United States*, Worcester, Massachusetts: 1788, p. 415.

7. *A Critical Pronouncing Dictionary and Expositor of the English Language*, New York: 1804.

8. *Province and Court Records of Maine*, 6 vol. (Portland, ME, 1928-1975). For the impact of the 1698 law see: *The [1692] Charter Granted by Their Majesties King William and Queen Mary, to the Charter And Laws of Colony and Province of Massachusetts Inhabitants of the Province of Massachusetts Bay in New England [and all] Acts and Laws of His Majesty’s Province of Massachusetts Bay in New England [from 1692 to 1726]* (Boston, MA, 1726), Chapter V, 98-99 (1698); *Charter and Laws of Colony and Province of Massachusetts*, Chapter 52, 311-313. For the interpretation in the 1820s see: *Laws of the State of Maine* (Hallowell, ME, 1822), 107-109, 141, 452-453; Jeremiah Perley, *The Maine Justice; Containing the Laws Relative to the Powers and Duties of Justices of the Peace* (Hallowell, ME, 1829), 300-305.

9. *The Report of the Commissioners*

Appointed to Revise the Public Laws of the State of Maine, Title (Augusta, ME, 1840), Chapter 162, 42-45 (quotation); H. K. Baker, *The Maine Justice; or Powers and Duties of Justices of the Peace . . .* (Hallowell, ME, 1842), 392-394.

10. Justice Wayne R. Douglas, *Final Judgment of Almeder v. Town of Kennebunkport*, April 6, 2016, p.273.

About the author

Edwin A. Churchill received his BS (1965) and MST (1969) at the Wisconsin State University at River Falls and his PhD at the University of Maine in 1979. He was employed by the Maine State Museum from 1971 to 2007, retiring as Chief Curator. Churchill has co-authored or co-edited *Maine: The Pine Tree State* (1995), *American Beginnings: Exploration, Culture and Cartography in the Land of Norumbega* (1995), and *The Great Land Grab: Maine Beaches Ripped from the True Owners: The Towns’ Inhabitants* (2019). He has also authored *Simple Forms and Vivid Colors: An Exhibition of Maine Paint Decorated Furniture, 1800-1850* (1983; reprinted 2007) and *Hail Britannia: An Exhibition of Maine Pewter and Silverplate, 1828-1941* (1992). Churchill has twice been awarded the James P. Baxter Award for best writings in Maine History (1979 & 1986) and the Neal Allen Award for outstanding Contributions in the fields of Maine History and Genealogy (1995). From 1985 to present, he has done extensive research on the question of whether Maine beaches were privately or publicly owned and served as an expert witness in several state trials regarding that matter.

Churchill is presently developing a manuscript on English and Penobscot interactions between 1713 and 1786 and is continuing research on Maine’s coastal land patterns from 1640 to present.

Edwin A. Churchill’s article “How A Single Historical Document Can Affect Today’s World” was published in the Spring 2021 issue of *Maine History*, Volume 54, No. 1, pages 60-63. *Maine History* is a publication of the Maine Historical Society and the Department of History of the University of Maine.

The Maine Historical Society granted the OFFME permission to reprint Mr. Churchill’s article in the *Anchor and Pine Tree*.

2022 Gathering of the New England Societies



Some say the third time is a charm. Let's hope so. Once again, the Order of the First Families of Vermont is hosting the 2022 New England Societies' Annual Gathering the weekend of September 30 through October 2. We will gather at Middlebury, Vermont in the great Champlain Valley the weekend of October 1. While there is no guarantee, the fall foliage should be gorgeous with the Adirondack Mountains to the west and the Green Mountains to the east. During our special annual weekend gathering, we will explore historic sites and experience Vermont culture.

Middlebury is a small historic community of about 8,600 people. Chartered in 1761, its first settlers arrived in 1766 after the end of the French and Indian War.

The Marriott Courtyard at 309 Court Street will be our headquarters for the weekend and the location of First Family meetings. Registration will begin shortly before noon and run through the afternoon. Dinner tickets, admission passes, our itinerary, maps, and the schedule of society meetings will be available at registration. If there is interest, we will schedule a walking tour of Middlebury for the afternoon.

Our Welcome dinner will be at the historic Middlebury Inn. We will be called to a buffet dinner by the fiddle of Adam Boyce, a 10th generation Vermonter and a lifelong student of music and history. Adam is also an OFFVT member.

On Saturday, we drive about 30 minutes to His Majesty's Fort of Crown Point Fort which was the terminus of the Crown Point Road. The Crown Point Road ran from Fort Number 4 on the Connecticut River at Charleston, New Hampshire to Lake Champlain. We will enjoy a presentation on the Fort's history and an opportunity to visit its museum and ruins.

After another 30-minute drive, we arrive at Fort Ticonderoga with its tours, demonstrations, museum, and views of the Champlain Valley. While at the Fort, we will have a private tour by one of the Fort's historians. Our visit coincides with Fort Ticonderoga's Annual Heritage, Harvest and Horse Festival with its farmer's market featuring local foods, beverages, and crafts. Lunch will be on your own and available from either festival vendors or at the Fort Café.

The return to Middlebury can be either by the route followed to get to Fort Ticonderoga or by the Fort Ti cable ferry which is reported to be one of the oldest ferries in North America. The Fort Ti ferry is presently not operating; however, we are hopeful it will be back in operation by October. Regardless of the route, the return to Middlebury will take about an hour.

Various New England societies will hold their meetings at the Marriott Courtyard before dinner on Saturday afternoon. Unlike previous gatherings, no meetings will be held during meals. A schedule of society meetings will be available when you register on Friday, September 30.

Dinner will be at Rosie's Diner in Middlebury on Saturday evening. This is a plated dinner. You need to select your choice of entrée on the attached Registration Form.

Sunday morning, we will drive 30 minutes north to Shelburne, Vermont where we will visit the Shelburne Museum. The Museum is "the largest art and history museum in northern New England." The museum sits on a 46-acre campus with 39 historic buildings to explore. Its buildings and art collection are reported to be outstanding. We will enjoy a box lunch at the museum. For the young at heart, a vintage carousel operates near the museum's Circus Building. We are going to have fun.

At the end of the day, we will again gather at the Middlebury Inn for a farewell buffet dinner. Prior to dinner, members of the Children of the American Revolution will treat us to a musical interpretation of Vermont history.

Ours will be a great autumn weekend of Vermont history and culture.

For our weekend gathering, room blocks have been secured at both the Middlebury Inn and the Marriott Courtyard. The hotels are located approximately a mile apart. If you plan to attend our gathering, you should make your room reservation as soon as possible. Our meeting occurs during the "leaf peeping" season, and rooms may be unavailable if you wait too long. You can always cancel your reservation if your plans don't work out.

We have secured a room block of 21 rooms at the Middlebury Inn. There is a three-night minimum. The rooms in this block are as follows:

	Occupancy	Rooms	Nightly Rate
Annex Building	D	3	\$208.82
Annex Deluxe	D	4	\$225.82
Deluxe	D	1	\$234.32
Family Style Suite	D	1	\$251.32
Luxury	D	9	\$242.82
Standard	D	1	\$217.32
Suite	D	2	\$251.32

The above rates do not include State and City taxes. A three-night minimum is required of all guests. For reservations at the Middlebury Inn, call (802) 388-4961 or (800) 842-4666. Be sure to mention that you are with the “Order of First Families of Vermont room block group”.

We also secured a block of rooms at the Marriott Courtyard. The hotel is offering the OFFVT a special group rate of \$179.00 per night plus taxes for the period from Thursday, September 29, through Monday, October 3. Double click on the following link to make your reservation: Book your group rate for “Order of First Families of Vermont” (<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1634676766528&key=GRP&app=resvlink>). Paste the link in to your browser to access.

If you run into any reservation-related issues, please call Sandy Button, the OFFVT Secretary, at (802) 989-7055.

The next page is your registration form for the OFFVT October gathering. Please complete this form and return it with your check to the OFFVT’s Treasurer, Ken Button. **Registration forms and checks received after August 15 will not be honored and will be returned.**

Ken’s mailing address is as follows:

Kenneth R. Button
352 Halladay Road
Middlebury, VT 05753-9157

Please note that during our event we will follow all COVID-19 protocols including masking and vaccinations that may be in force at the time of our gathering.

I look forward to seeing you in Vermont.

V. Allen Gray, Governor
Order of First Families of Vermont

Registration Form -- New England Societies' 2022 Gathering

Gathering Headquarters
Marriott Courtyard, 309 Court Street, Middlebury, Vermont 05753

Member: _____ Guest: _____

I am a member of the following: VT MA CT NH ME PHS RI&PP ODAHAC CC&I NY WS.

Address: _____

Telephone (cell): _____ Email: _____

I/We will arrive on _____ and are staying at the Middlebury Inn ____, Marriott Courtyard ____,
other _____ or ____ live in the area.

____ (number) I/We will not have a car and need shared transportation to and from events.

____ I/We can provide rides for ____ additional people.

____ I/We have the following food allergies _____.

I/We will attend the following events – **note the total number of attendees in your party for each item:**

Friday, September 30

____ (attending) Meeting Registration Fee @ \$15.00 / pp Total \$ _____

____ (attending) Welcome Buffet Dinner, Middlebury Inn @ \$58.00 / pp Total \$ _____

Saturday, October 1

____ (attending) Crown Point/Fort Ticonderoga Tour @ \$30.00 / pp Total \$ _____

Saturday, October 1 - continued

____ (attending) Rosie's Vermont Fall Classic Plated Dinner @ \$33.00 / pp Total \$____
 Select your entrée: Prime Rib ____, Baked Salmon ____,
 Baked Haddock ____, Roast Pork Loin ____, Maple Dijon Scallops ____.

Sunday, October 2

____ (attending) Shelburne Museum Tour & Box Lunch @ \$34.00 / pp Total \$____
 Select your sandwich choice: Ham ____, Turkey ____,
 Roast Beef ____, or Veggie ____.)

____ (attending) Farewell Buffet Dinner, Middlebury Inn @ \$58.00 / pp Total \$____

Total amount enclosed: \$____ (\$228.00 / pp if participating in all events)

Enclosed is my check number ____ dated ____ for \$____ (\$228.00 / pp if attending all events) payable to **First Families of Vermont. YOUR CHECK MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN AUGUST 15.**
 Send your registration form and check to: Kenneth R. Button, 352 Halladay Road, Middlebury, VT 05753-9157.

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Please keep a copy this form for your future reference.