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# FALES FAMILY ASSOCIATION NEWS

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Volume 8, Issue 1

June 2002

## President's Message

*By Allen Fales*

With the extensive communication in genealogy nowadays, particularly on the internet, and specifically concerning the Fales name, it seems that there would be a more organized and cohesive effort to organize nationwide and thus pool efforts to establish our ancestral history. We should be challenged by the verbal exchanges taking place and what they could represent as a collected entity.

We hoped for years that other family groups would choose to form, in any sections of the country where more than one Fales family can be found. We in Florida developed, in 1986, what we believe is the first organized Fales family group in 1986, specifically for the purpose of Fales family research. This group has met regularly every other year to disseminate information, and to plan genealogy activities. As you know, John T. (yojohn1234@aol.com) has been diligent and successful in developing a database of family genealogy. As John has told us, this database is

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## News Of Note

### New Addition!

Lisa (Fales) Willson and Doug again welcomed a Willson son. Born Nov. 30, 2001, Jacob Douglas joins older brother David Robert in the Willson's home town of Beaver Falls, PA.

Lisa is the daughter of members Robert and Demetra Fales, and is the grand daughter of Allen and Kay Fales. Jacob is the second grandson of Robert and Demetra' and the third great grandson of Allen and Kay. We are all pleased to welcome this new family member.

### Fales Family Reunion:

Please join in on the Fales Family reunion being held in Swine Creek Park, in Middlefield Ohio - Geauga County (about 30 miles east of Cleveland Ohio). There are camping grounds and hotel rooms close by. The reunion is scheduled for June 30, 2002. For more information you can contact: Elizabeth Ely Fales - [enrfales@nls.net]

always expanding, but one person, or one localized group, cannot do it all. We have envisioned for some time a national Fales family genealogical organization, with chapters across the country. Of course the Florida group would be one of these chapters. It is not difficult to imagine what a similar chapter in Arizona, Michigan, Utah, Colorado, or wherever, could do to supplement what we already know about our ancestors.

We do know of several groups which have met occasionally (John T. and the Long Island families), or perhaps annually (the Georgia/Waycross families). Certainly there are others. We do not believe however, that these were organizations for the explicit purpose of documenting family genealogy. We in Florida have many members from other states, and have had non-Florida visitors as well, and have encouraged them to return home and organize. So far that has not happened to any large degree, if at all.

Organizational help is available in the many brochures and pamphlets provided by The Federation of Genealogical Societies, and almost any library will have useful literature. It only takes a few people to get a society chapter started, and the rewards are unlimited.

We would welcome anyone interested in or related to Fales (even indirectly), to form a new chapter of the Fales Family Association, and join with us in this great ancestral search.

And a reminder that in the spring of 2003, we in the Florida chapter of the FFA will be gathering for our next reunion. Place and date will be forthcoming, and word will appear here in this newsletter in appropriate time. We hope you'll ALL come.

*In our visit to Long Island in June this year, we had an opportunity to visit a nice lady I had met on the Internet, Kathy Litwin. Kathy is one of the hardest working genealogists I have ever met, and it was a pleasure to meet her, her husband, Bob, and their son, Ryan Fales Litwin. Not only did Kathy share her beautiful collection of family "stuff" including very old photos and a "diary" of Sarah Vose Fales Shaw, now she is sharing with all of us, her joyful experience in leaping back in time to live with, as it were, for a few brief moments, the lives of some of her, and our, ancestors. I think you will enjoy this visit with a Fales family of Brooklyn almost a century and a half ago.*

*(John Thomas Fales)*

## **"Sincerely, Sarah"**

**By Kathy Litwin**

It was a warm spring day in 1998, a little over a year after my beloved mother-in-law, Jean, passed away. Genealogy just didn't seem the same without her. She had been the "keeper" of the family "stuff", and had given me boxes of family items, pictures, heirlooms that she wanted us to have, and a large black trunk, now falling apart at its seams.

She sat with me for hours during her last years, happily relating family stories to me, and glad to have someone so interested to hear them. I was happy to hear the stories, and I knew that generations to come would be all the more happy that we both took the time to relate and record them for our family genealogy book. What wonderful stories they were too!

Jean was a joy for me to have known in my life. Over the years, she repeated to me how wonderful her childhood had been and how she loved her family so. They were, "the best people in the whole world", she said, and I envied her. Family was important to Jean, and I knew it had to be so for the many generations that came before her. She was handing down a legacy of love, and I was now the "keeper" of the family "stuff".

For some unknown reason, I was drawn to the black trunk that warm spring day in 1998 to see what it held for me. Jean had been on my mind a lot of late. She was not only my mother-in-law and a special friend, but also a devoted partner in my search for family. As I opened the trunk, I realized, in one glance, what treasures it held! There was a huge black feather; one that I recognized had to have belonged to Aunt Emma, Jean's mother's sister. I'd seen a picture once before, circa 1900s, with the feather atop the stylish hat she wore. There were photos of tin, some warped, others scratched. Blank faces stared back at me

from these dark, metal pictures, and I was at a loss as to who they might be. There were paper pictures of stately gentlemen in all their best clothes. There were old letters, certificates, death notices, old deeds, key chains, medals, and more.

In a corner of the trunk, under the black feather, there lay a stack of small, dusty leather cases. They were wrapped in a thinning, dirty rubber band, and, from the looks of it, were barely holding together. As I freed the cases, I found many of the hooks broken, and pieces started separating in my hands. They were old pictures, older than any I had found before. Each small case was, I believe, made of wood, covered in embossed leather. Each case opened like a small book, and inside, sitting in red velvet, and surrounded by a shiny oval band of gold-like metal, were some amazing pictures. They were the faces of our family from long ago, I was sure, but I had never seen them before. The surface of each image shown like a mirror, and as I tipped the picture back & forth, the mirror robbed me of the image, then gave it back to me in an instant.



Sarah Vose Fales, 1832-1869

**OUR FALES FAMILY ANCESTORS**

- 1 James Fales (1632 – 1708) + Ann Brock (1635 – 1712)
- 2 James Fales (1656 - 1741/42) + Deborah Fisher (1661 – 1742)
- 3 Nathaniel Fales (1696 – 1737) + Elizabeth Atwood (1700 – 1782)
- 4 David Fales (1733 – 1822) + Zibiah Partridge (1760 – 1830)
- 5 George Fales (1791 – 1835) + Mary Crouch (1794 – 1873)
- 6 Sarah Vose Fales (1832 – 1869) + Seth Padelford Shaw (1828 – 1906)
- 7 Ella Rose Shaw (1852 – 1882) + John Willis Ackerman (1843 – 1922)
- 8 George Shaw Ackerman (1880 – 1964) + Grace Marion Keefe (1880 – 1960)
- 9 Jean Willis Ackerman (1915 – 1997) + Charles Jerome Litwin (1913 – 1972)
- 10 Robert George Litwin (1946-) + Kathleen Joan Gianninoto (1947-)
- 11 Ryan Fales Litwin (1984 -)

I grew excited as I picked the cases up, one by one, to examine their contents. There were pictures of young children, each sitting with an expression on their face to say, “May I go now?” There was one of a pre-pubescent girl in a high-bodice dress, another of a stern old lady in a bonnet, and yet another of a regal gentlemen standing expressionless, but dapper in his finest attire. One case was slightly larger than all the rest, and I saved that one for last.

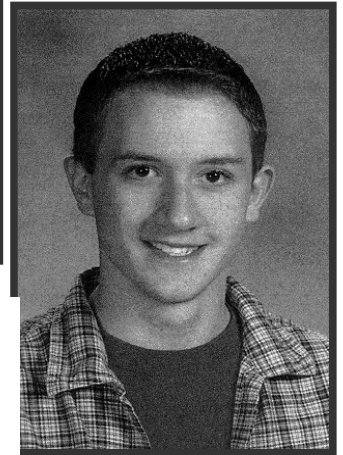
When I opened the last picture case, I found the face of a sweet young girl, probably about twenty years old, staring back at me. Her eyes were happy, and her smile was like the smile worn by someone with a secret to tell, but happily keeping it to herself. She was sitting in a chair, dressed in a floor-length, patterned dress, with her hands folded in her lap. On her hands she wore gloves, and clutched a small purse to her lap. She wore a bonnet on her head, and its sash wrapped the bonnet and tied under her chin. Her hair was parted in the middle, and ringlets hung freely from the border of the bonnet on either side. It seemed to recognize this girl’s face, but quickly dismissed it as recognizing instead a “family look”, the colored eyes, the aquiline nose, and the square chin. These were features of the Shaw and Ackerman

descendants I had seen many times before. But as I stared again into the sweet face, I realized that I *did* know who this young woman was. She was Sarah Vose Fales, my children's 3<sup>rd</sup> great-grandmother, on their father's side of the family. I knew her face, I realized, because I had another paper picture of her taken in her later years, which was one of the very first family pictures Jean had shown to me and let me keep.

I had just been getting into the family genealogy back then when Sarah's first picture was given to me, and the picture inspired me to find out so much more than a name, date and place for the ancestors in my genealogy. I wanted to connect a face to the name, if I could, and tell a story about them that would bring them to life again, not only for me, but also for their many descendants still waiting to come into this world. In my newfound excitement, I carefully put Sarah's new



Left:  
Robert & Kathy Litwin



Right:  
Ryan Fales Litwin, 11th  
Generation Descendant of  
James and Anne (Brock)  
Fales

picture aside, and stacked the rest of the cases atop one another, fastening a new rubber band around them to keep them as they were. I turned to Sarah's picture, opening it once again to see her image staring back, and thought about her life. Who was Sarah, this pretty young girl? What kind of life did she have? Could she realize then that so many years later, this picture would be so carefully saved as to be here now for me to see? ...*Continued in the next issue!*

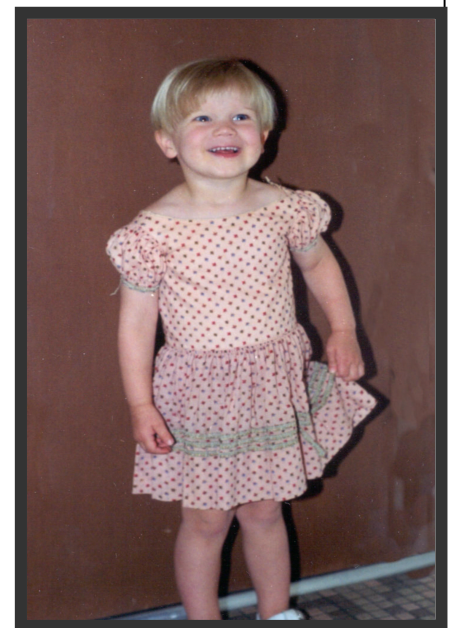
## AMELIA ANNE POWELL IN FALES CHILDHOOD DRESS

By Jane Fales Roney

"Picture taking" in both the baby dress and childhood dress of their ancestors has become a very significant tradition among the descendants of Frederick Augustus Fales<sup>8</sup> (1857) and his son Franklin Augustus Fales<sup>9</sup> (1894).

When little Amelia Anne Powell<sup>12</sup> reached the age of two years on March 27, 2001, that made her eligible to fit into the childhood dress of her great-grandfather, Franklin Augustus Fales. Her picture here was taken in July 2001 while she, her brother, Wesley, and her parents, Ellen (Fales)<sup>11</sup> and Paul Powell were visiting Amelia and Wesley's grandparents, Clifford<sup>10</sup> and Georgiana (Shaw) Fales in Denver.

Before Amelia, ten little girls in this family were photographed in the dress, including her mother, eight cousins, and her great-aunt. Stories about all can be found in *Fales Family Bulletin*, Vol. V, No. 2, May 1987 and Vol. VII, No. 2, May 1989; also *Fales Family Association News*, Vol. IV, No. 3, November 1998/March 1999 and Vol. V, No. 2, November 1999. Although the little dress is showing signs of age deterioration, this family hopes yet to capture on film more of its 12<sup>th</sup> generation. (P.S. Another little girl is expected in June; watch for her picture in future issues!)



ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
FALES FAMILY ASSOCIATION  
January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001

**Balance on hand, January 1, 2001** **944.46**

Receipts - Donations

2001 Reunion Registration, Luncheon & Misc Donation	237.50	
New Members (11)	110.00	
2002 Renewal Memberships (5)	50.00	
FFB Back Issues	<u>76.75</u>	
<u>Total Receipts</u>		<u>474.25</u>

Total Available Cash 1418.71

Disbursements

2001 Reunion Expenses		
Refunds (illness) – (Cks. #1034 & 1036)	32.5	
Food & FFA Notepads (Cks. #1032, 1033 & 1035)	<u>129.31</u>	161.81
FGS Dues – 2001 & 2002 (Cks. #1031 & 1039)		70.00
FFAN Publication – Vol. 7, Issue 1 (Ck. #1037)		154.99
Administrative Expense – Phone, copies & Postage (Ck. #1038)	<u>46.96</u>	

Total Disbursements 433.76

Balance on hand, December 31, 2001 \$984.95

Please note: Effective January 2002, the responsibilities of treasurer were shifted to Allen R. Fales. This was by action of the Executive Board of our Fales Family Association when, regretfully, it became necessary for me to request leave from these duties. Our Fales Family Association account in Orlando was closed and the December 31, 2001 balance was forwarded to Allen. He opened a Genealogy Society Account. All checks should now be made payable to Allen R. Fales, Treasurer.

Jane Fales Roney, Treasurer  
Fales Family Association  
as of 12/31/01

**SYMPAYTHY**

*We are saddened by the news that Bob Roney (Husband of Jane Fales Roney) passed away on February 12, 2002, after a long battle with Olivopontocerebellar degeneration. He was 80 years of age. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jane and her family.*