



**Special points of interest:**

- Newsletter Format Unveiled
- Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 16th
- "Unearthing Your Roots" - A Genealogical Workshop for Beginners
- Membership Passes 100

# Penobscot Roots & Connections

## The Art of Reading Old Handwriting

**Wednesday, April 16th, 6:00 pm**

**Lecture Hall, Bangor Public Library**

Have you ever found that document you needed in old town records, census records, or even a family bible only to be stymied by the handwriting? It is true that handwriting has evolved over the decades. At our meeting this month we will look at some techniques and hints to decipher handwriting at different points in the past. The presentation will include samples of handwriting (both alpha and numeric) and common abbreviations that will be encountered.

Leading this discussion will be Cheryl Patten. Cheryl is a seasoned genealogist who has a special way of making this presentation fun and interactive—a unique opportunity for you to test your ability to decipher. When the meeting wraps up you will definitely have picked up some useful hints. The only factor left to provide challenge to reading old handwriting will be, shall we say the sloppy and messy handwriting of our forebears. Alas, challenge is good!

## President's Message

I would like to take a moment this month to encourage everyone to get involved with a genealogical project. It is through sharing the information that each of us possesses that the greatest strides can be made in our research.

As a USGenWeb volunteer for the Town of Greene, I have made connections with folks from afar that have a common tie to an old ancestral home, often distant cousins. Genealogists tend to be a sharing bunch and it is very reward-

ing when you can help give them a piece of information that can help in their research.

I have also recently added my family information to the WorldConnect database at rootsweb.com. I have had several contacts in just a very brief time—one actually helped me get past a brick wall I had been facing.

Knowledge is useless unless it's shared.



## Newsletter Format Revised

We are experimenting again! Beginning this month we have migrated the newsletter to an Adobe Acrobat .pdf file. This is a universal file type that can be easily opened by Adobe Acrobat Reader. This should also make printing the newsletter easier.

If you do not have Adobe Acrobat Reader on your computer, you can download this free program at [www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readermain.html](http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readermain.html).

Prefer to receive your newsletter via US Mail? Please contact Patti at [mepcgs@yahoo.com](mailto:mepcgs@yahoo.com)

### Inside this issue:

Queries	2
Sites to Surf	2
Genealogical Highlights from Across the State	2
"Unearthing Your Roots" - A Workshop for Beginners	3
Membership Tops 100 mark	3
New Members	3
Cemetery Project	4



## Queries



**Black** Seeking to share info on ancestry and descendants of Charles Edward BLACK (b. 22 Jan 1871 Dedham, d. 29 Nov 1941 East Orange NJ) and Louise ELDRIDGE (b. 8 May 1874, d. 14 Jun 1940 East Orange NJ). They m. 21 Jun 1897; had dau. Edith Louise BLACK, who m. Theodore PACKARD. Alan Wright [e-mail wrightab@earthlink.net]

**Bradford** Need info abt. William BRADFORD, m. to Isabelle BOODY. Their son Charles Warren BRADFORD b. 9 Jun 1840 Bangor, d. June 1895 Waterville. Charles was m. to Ashsa FOSTER. Arleen Fairchild [e-mail henrychopp@aol.com]

**Burke** In this time of war, we had a timely request for information on the family, siblings or descendants of T/ Sgt. Ernest A. BURKE of Bangor, crew chief, 100th TCS, 441st TCG, Troop Carrier Command, who died in a plane crash 13 Apr 1945 near Altenbeken, Germany. His father was Earl G. BURKE. If you have information to share on this family, contact bartsmeetsxxx@hotmail.com.

**Clark** Seeking info on Jephtha CLARK, 1770-1775 in Maine, presumably Bangor area. Family moved to Washington Co., OH in 1817. Known children are Anna, b. abt 1804, and Isaiah, b. abt. 1806. There were at least 2 more sons and possibly 2 more daughters. Jephtha may have also been listed as Zebster on the 1810 census in Hancock County. Sheila J. Gurr [e-mail SheGurr@comcast.net]

**Clendenin/Stratton** Searching for my g-g-grandparents.

David CLENDENIN who d. 1882 probably in Chester Maine. His wife, Sarah A. STRATTON was b. 1809. They had son Andrew who served in the Civil War, enlisting at age 16 for 3 years, wounded at the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, discharged on 10 Jun 1865. Need help verifying marriages, military service, etc. Paul Wyman [e-mail Conde123@msn.com]

**Harper** Looking for more info on family name as I would like to change my name back to what it should be. Looking for history on Albert Henry HARPER, d. Feb 1963. Dan Harper [e-mail jackufaltrades2001@yahoo.com]

**Mitchell** Seeking info on William Ross MITCHELL who m. Rocinda FARRAR of Harmony. They lived in Carmel—1890 Census for William reads that he was born in 1817 in Maine, as were his parents. Cheryl [e-mail phloors@suscom-maine.net]

**Wollerscheid** Seeking info on Harry and/or Flora. Harry d. 6 Jan. 1968, bur. Harts Cemetery, Holden. Flora E., d. 21 Jan 1988. They operated Wollys Cabins in Bangor area 1940-70s. Obits or other info appreciated. Jay Galvin [e-mail jwgalvin@peoplepc.com]

**York** Looking for info on York family of Bangor (late 1800s-early 1900s), any ancestors of Charles Arthur YORK (s. of John YORK Jr. and Mary MESERVE) and Lunette (CATES) YORK (dau. of Daniel CATES and Sarah CLARK. Lunette was school teacher in elementary school on Cottage Street in Bangor. Karen Q. [e-mail kdzsquigley@aol.com]

## Sites to Surf ... Recommendations for Internet Research

Rhea Cote-Robbins, our March speaker, encourages you to visit the website of the Franco-American Women's Institute at [www.fawi.net](http://www.fawi.net).

Other Franco-American sites that might be of interest include:

Maine Franco-American Genealogical Society & Fr. Leo E. Begin Library in Auburn. Its website is at [www.avcnet.org/begin/](http://www.avcnet.org/begin/).

The American-French Genealogical Society's site is at [www.afgs.org](http://www.afgs.org).

The American-Canadian Genealogical Society has quite a listing of related links, visit [www.acgs.org](http://www.acgs.org).

And Fogler Library hosts an online guide to selected Franco-American resources that are located in the Special Collections Department. You'll want to visit <http://library.umaine.edu/speccoll/Guides/francoamerican.htm>.

Let us know your favorite genealogical websites. E-mail [mepcgs@yahoo.com](mailto:mepcgs@yahoo.com).

## Genealogical Highlights from Across the State

The Silence Howard Hayden Chapter of the DAR is hosting its 2nd Annual Genealogy Conference on Saturday, May 3rd in Oakland. Selected topics include Researching in Aroostook County, Researching your Loyalist Ancestors, Researching the Registry of Probate and a DAR Lineage Workshop. For more information e-mail [shhdar@gwi.net](mailto:shhdar@gwi.net) or call Carolyn at 465-2278.

Maine Genealogical Society's Fall Annual Fall Conference is scheduled for Saturday, September 6th in Fairfield. More info will be coming on this.

The Hancock County Genealogical Society meets

on the 3rd Saturday of each month—2:30 p.m. at the Ellsworth Public Library.

The Greater Portland Chapter of the MGS meets on the 1st Saturday of each month-1:00 p.m. at the Thomas Memorial Library in Cape Elizabeth.

Looking for ancestors in Franklin County? Try posting a query in the "Roots & Branches" column of the *Franklin Journal*, written by Nancy Porter. Mail them to her at PO Box 666, West Farmington ME 04992 or e-mail them to [njporter@tdstelme.net](mailto:njporter@tdstelme.net).



## “Unearthing Your Roots”

### A Workshop for the Beginning Genealogist

On Saturday, April 5th, Penobscot County Genealogical Society is pleased to host its first workshop. This workshop is designed to help those who are just beginning the road of family research, or may have ideas for those a bit more seasoned.

The workshop will begin with a look at how to best record your research findings—an explanation of the pedigree chart and family group sheet. Then we will look at the actual documents used that provide the source for your entries—specifically, the birth, marriage and death records. Federal census records also contain a wealth of information so we will explain how those fit into your research. Then there are published genealogies and town histories, cemetery listings and a host of other resources—we will explain how those can be beneficial. And don't worry, we will let you know where you can locate all of these various records.



The internet is becoming an increasingly important tool in genealogical research. We'll walk you through the pros and cons and give some suggestions on how to use this vast resource to your best advantage.

The workshop will wrap up with small work groups that will explore topics of more individual interest, such as New Brunswick research, genealogical software, tour of Bangor Public Library genealogy holdings, as well as a group devoted to just your basic genealogy questions. This workshop will run from 9:30-12:00 on Saturday, April 5th, in the 2nd floor lecture hall at the Bangor Public Library. It is open to the general public and is free. Bring your friends and get them on the right path to UN-EARTH THEIR ROOTS!

*“It is important for the society to focus on its programs and offerings to ensure it is providing the membership with the types of benefits they expected...”*

### Membership Tops 100 Mark

The announcement was made at the March meeting that the membership in Penobscot County Genealogical Society has topped the 100 mark.

Dale recalled that when he initially thought about forming this group he had a goal of 25 members to make it successful. It is evident that there is a much greater interest in genealogy in the local area than he anticipated.

With the strong membership numbers, it is important for the Society to focus on its programs and offerings to ensure that it is providing the membership with the types of benefits they expected when joining the group.

The workshop on April 5th is the beginning step in this process, a response to the many members and prospective members who have commented that they were just beginning to undertake the process of family research and were a little hesitant about it.

The cemetery project is another benefit previously unavailable to Penobscot County researchers.

If you have ideas on projects, please share them with us.

### New Members

This month we welcome the following new members:

Marilyn E. (Welch) Cronin  
RR 3 Box 660, Holden ME 04429 (Summer)  
88500 Overseas Hwy, Tavernier FL 33070 (Winter)

Alice M. Hawes  
8 Short Wharf Rd, Hampden ME 04444-1629

Marlene Libby  
25 Bates Rd, Holden ME 04429

Keith Lunt  
93 Co. Rt. 23, Hartford NY 12838

Edward Parks Jr.  
PO Box 242, Green Harbor MA 02041-0242

Patricia Smith Ranzoni  
289 Bucksmills Rd, Bucksport ME 04416

Karen Tarr  
40 Pond St, Bucksport ME 04416

Charles Young  
PO Box 2791, San Bernardino CA 92406

Richard H. Wyman  
9015 Armendown Dr, Springfield VA 22152-2137



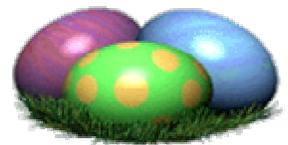
Penobscot County Genealogical Society  
185 Norfolk Street  
Bangor ME 04401

Phone: 207-942-9375  
Email: [mepcgs@yahoo.com](mailto:mepcgs@yahoo.com)



#### Officers

**President: Dale Mower**  
**Vice-President: Annette Roberts**  
**Treasurer: Phil Getchell**  
**Secretary: Beth Davis**  
**Newsletter Chair: Patti Mower**  
**Program Chair: John Nelligan**



---

## The Penobscot County Cemetery Project

Interest is still keen in this project as we continue to add more information.

This month we have added additional databases to Corinth and Levant cemeteries. Thanks to the generous support of Sharon Buswell and Jenni Buswell, we have complete listings of those buried in several cemeteries in these towns. They are currently working on Charleston cemeteries.

A lot of people have inquired what this project is all about. The vision we have is really basic. An important part of genealogical research for many is being able to locate the final resting places of their ancestors, not to mention that gravestones often provide important information (not just dates, but family connections as you view who else is buried in the same grave lot.) Often times, cemeteries are off the beaten path or hard to locate. We felt it would be of great benefit to identify and provide locations (and directions to) all the cemeteries within Penobscot County so fellow researchers would know where to find them. It may be you are researching a particular town and you visit the most visible cemetery located on the main road and can't find your ancestors. Wouldn't it be great if you knew that there was another

cemetery in town that was harder to locate so you would be able to visit that as well? That's the primary purpose.

Any information above and beyond that—such as the detailed information from Sharon and Jenni—is just that much more that we can provide and share.

Take a moment to look at our cemetery listing on our website. If you can add any bit of information, please do.

One of the premier resources of cemetery information in Maine are the transcriptions of the Maine Old Cemetery Association (M.O.C.A.). These are available on microfilm at the Bangor Public Library. It is an ongoing project. Visit their website at [www.rootsweb.com/~moca](http://www.rootsweb.com/~moca). For more information about M.O.C.A., contact Dale Mower who serves as Director for that organization.

