



**Special points of interest:**

- Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 21st
- Genealogical Volunteers come forward
- Executive Committee meets
- Maine Genealogical Society welcomes its newest chapter

## A Look at Probate Records

with

### Susan Almy, Penobscot County's Register of Probate

**Wednesday, May 21st, 6:00 pm**

**Lecture Hall, Bangor Public Library**

The genealogical treasure of probate records lies beyond the actual legal word. You can gain an insight into the life and relationships of your ancestors through wills, estate inventories and guardianship documents. But where wills by themselves are steeped in the legal terminology and process, many of us shy away, fearing the thought of getting lost following the testamentary trail.

Susan Almy, Register of Probate for Penobscot County, will join us this month to help alleviate our worries. Her overview of the probate office will educate us on the entire probate process—which encompasses more than just wills. We will also look at some of the basic terminology and lingo you will need to know, what types of records you can expect to encounter, and how best to start your probate research.



There will be ample time for questions, so make sure to bring yours.

### President's Message

Greetings and Happy Spring to all our members!

On Saturday, April 5th, we hosted our first workshop "Unearthing Your Roots." To revisit that date, there was a mini-blizzard that hit Bangor and roads were a tad slippery as a combination of snow, sleet and rain fell. However, a dozen brave souls ventured out and attended, and from the comments I received, the workshop was a success. We were able to run through the presentations on beginning genealogy, running a little over on time, but otherwise it seemed to go without a hitch. Sometimes the smaller groups work best with this type of presentation. Needless to say, plans are to rerun the workshop at a later date, so stay tuned in if you were unable to attend the first one.

The Chapter is steadily growing and has been officially welcomed into the Maine Genealogical Society fold. I will be looking for a few members that want to get a little more involved in our group. The success we have experienced can only be maintained if we have a strong core of members pitching in. You'll see in the summary of the Executive Committee meeting that we are looking to expand and add a few positions. This is primarily in response to the rapid growth and increased activity we are experiencing with our internet connections all over the world. If you would like to become a more involved member, please talk to any of the officers or give me a call at 942-9375.

*Dale*

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## Queries

Our first query this month comes to us with Greetings from New Zealand!

**Burns** It is possible that my 2nd great-grandparents, John and Elizabeth BURNS, could be buried in a local Bangor cemetery—unfortunately I have no idea when they died. The only info I have to go on was that their son, my great-grandfather, was b. in Bangor abt. 1859. Would love to find out more about my BURNS family from Bangor. Dianne Butterworth [e-mail: jimbut@ihug.co.nz]

**Black/Robinson** Seeking to share info on the ancestry and descendants of Perley True BLACK (b. 24 Mar. 1872 in Dedham, d. 12 Dec. 1942 in Bangor) and Nellie A. ROBINSON (b. 15 Mar 1874 in Bangor, d. 10 Aug. 1946 in Camden). They m. 17 Nov. 1896 and had 4 children: Doris R., James A., Dorothy E. and Marjorie. Alan Wright [e-mail: wrightab@earthlink.net]

**Black/Trask** Seeking to share info on the ancestry and descendants of Arthur Henry BLACK (b. 25 Feb. 1876 in Dedham, d. 18 Jan. 1945 in Bangor) and Bertha E. TRASK (b. 6 Mar. 1878 in Woodhull NY, d. 22 Apr. 1959 in Bangor). They m. 10 Jan. 1899 and had one dau., Ruth Emma BLACK who m. Ralph Leonard BROWN. Alan Wright [e-mail: wrightab@earthlink.net]

**Brown/Palmer** Seeking info on Hannah C. BROWN who m.

Charles H. PALMER abt. 1860. She was b. 1835 in Brooklyn, New York; d. 1902. Her husband, Charles Palmer was b. 13 Nov. 1835, d. 1926. Both are bur. Exeter Mills Cemetery. Anyone know her exact date of death as this would help in getting her death certificate? Anyone have info on her parents, William and Sarah BROWN? William was b. in Massachusetts; his wife, Sarah, was b. in New York. William BROWN served in the Navy during the War of 1812, but there appears to be no official record from the period. His ship was captured and he was taken to England as a Prisoner of War. His wife was of “Knickerbocker lineage.” Andrew Hendricks [e-mail: drh@carolina.net]

**Clark/Lancaster** Looking for whereabouts of Clark’s Mills, possibly near what was near or part of Condukeag Stream Settlement or possibly near Black Stream, Penobscot County. Also looking for name of the owner of Clark’s Mills (any CLARK or LANCASTER in the area). My ancestors were Ichabod CLARK who m. Mary LANCASTER in Bangor, 1796. Ichabod may have had a sister named Thankful who m. Richard LANCASTER. [e-mail PegJacBru@aol.com]

**Dearborn/Sinclair** Seeking info on ancestry of Harriet Louise SINCLAIR (b. 31 Aug. 1861 in Brewer, d. 14 Dec. 1939 in Bangor). She m. Charles Thompson DEARBORN on 6 Nov. 1877 in Bangor. He was b. 19 Sep. 1852 in Bangor and d. 5 May 1945 in Bangor. Both are bur. Mt. Hope Cemetery. Harriet was dau of Samuel SINCLAIR and Delina (or Dorinda) STEVENS, supposedly of Brewer. Samuel was b. 1823-26 and d. 29 Nov. 1886 in Exeter; m. Delina on 19 Sep. 1853 in Brewer, div. 1869 and had 4

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



We’ve been linked. I encourage everyone to take a visit to the Penobscot County GenWeb site which has links to a variety of sites of interest to research in our area. It’s on the web at [www.rootsweb.com/~mepenobs/mepenobs.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~mepenobs/mepenobs.htm).

Did Cheryl Patten’s talk last month leave you still baffled on reading old handwriting. There are a couple of good websites where you can delve a little deeper. USGenNet has a site entitled America Writes Home, which is a look at handwriting of the 17th, 18th & 19th centuries. It’s still under construction, but what they have there at this point is very good and they have some great examples to look at. It can

be found at:

<http://genealogy.about.com/cs/handwritingus/>.

On another vein, have you ever run up against an ancestor’s occupation that you just couldn’t figure out. The most extensive list of archaic occupation titles can be found at

<http://cpcug.org/user/jlacombe/terms.html>.

Share your favorite site with us. E-mail [mepcgs@yahoo.com](mailto:mepcgs@yahoo.com).

## Genealogical Highlights from Across the State

Taconnet Falls Chapter of the MGS has set up a Genealogical Library in the old Winslow Public Library building on Lithgow Street in Winslow. They have a varied selection of materials and resources available—a great place to snoop around and see what you can “unearth.” The library’s normal hours of operations are every Wednesday and Saturday afternoon. Their library chairperson, Thelma, will surely be there and is extremely helpful.

The Maine Old Cemetery Association will be having it’s Spring meeting on Saturday, May 31st at the Maine State Building in Poland, Maine. The meeting includes a presentation by John Nelson of Maine Noninvasive Geophysical, as well as a presentation by Elliot Levy, Executive Director of the Poland Springs Preservation Society. And naturally followed by a cemetery tour. For more info, visit <http://www.rootsweb.com/~memoca/moca.htm>.

## On Dale’s Bookcase...

A quick plug for a recent novel based on Bangor in the mid-1800s. **Bangor**, written by Gardner Patterson, is a delightful romp through Bangor’s past. It’s a story of Chris O’Boyne, an Irish mariner, who decides to give up his seafaring ways, settle down and plant roots in Bangor. He falls in love with a singer at the Bangor House where he stays for a while, eventually marries a lumber baron’s daughter. The book follows his travels as he heads to the north woods to become a successful lumberman himself, as he fights in the Civil War, and as he then becomes entangled with the political scene of Bangor. There are a lot of historical references woven throughout.

## Maine Genealogical Society Welcomes PCGS

**Maine  
Genealogical  
Society “warmly  
welcomed  
Penobscot County  
Genealogical  
Society into it’s  
organization.”**

Dale attended the Executive Committee of the Maine Genealogical Society on Saturday, April 26th, as the representative of PCGS, the newest chapter of the Maine Genealogical Society. He reported to the Committee of the success of our group here in Penobscot County and recounted the meetings we have held and the ongoing activities the Chapter is involved in. The members of the Committee warmly welcomed Penobscot County Genealogical Society into it’s organization.

A special thank you to the following members of PCGS who had signed the petition for Chapter status during our organizational period: Roxanne Moore Saucier, Celia Gray, Bernice Heath, Annette Roberts, Phyllis Bishop, Peter Chase, Lorraine McQuarrie, Ruth Gray, Phil Getchell and Dale Mower. These 10 members are also members of the MGS.

**A special call to action:** Dale reports that he was selected as the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee for MGS and is looking to fill 2 directorships—which will be announced and voted upon at their September annual meeting. Directors serve a 3 year term and assist the Executive Committee. Dale would like to fill at least one of these positions with one of our members to get representation in the group from our area. If you have an interest or would like more information, please give Dale a call at 942-9375.



## Members Volunteer Their Assistance

As you can see from this month’s query listing, requests for help are coming in fast and furious from all over the world. We would like to recognize a couple of members who have volunteered their time and assistance .

Norma Stymiest has offered to do lookups at the Corinth, Kenduskeag and Levant town offices.

Karen Lane Rush Faulkner lives in the Winn area and has volunteered to look up gravestones in the Lincoln, Burlington, Winn & Sherman area, as well as provide digital photos.

It’s a great feeling when you can help someone else, no matter how insignificant the information may seem. Ask our member Ruth Millner. She has been able to provide info to a couple people that had posted queries relating to Hampden residents.

A small commitment to help can give BIG results.

Consider offering your assistance in any way possible—whether it’s looking up vital records or tracking down graves in your home town or locating information at the Bangor Public Library for out of state researchers.

## New Members

Cecil G. Abbott  
979 Essex St, Lot 46, Bangor ME 04401

Molly Alley  
PO Box 96, Eddington ME 04428

Leslie C. Bradley  
PO Box DD, Hagatna, Guam 96932

Lisa Burnham

Melvin N. Corson  
55 Merryman Rd, Glenburn ME 04401

Jeanne Finley  
292 Old Alfred Rd, Hollis ME 04042

Chris Landes  
10465 Hwy PP, Otterville MO 65348

Phyllis O’Guin  
PO Box 1041, Ore City, TX 75683

Mary Ranlett Mossman  
60 Montgomery St, Bangor ME 04401

Ruth McBride Reed  
144 Bennoch Rd, Orono ME 04473

James G. Sargent  
RR 2, Box 7285, Carmel ME 04419

## Executive Committee News

The Executive Committee of the PCGS met on Wednesday evening, May 7th, at the Bangor Public Library. In attendance were:

Dale Mower, President  
Annette Roberts, Vice-President  
Phil Getchell, Treasurer  
Beth Davis, Secretary  
John Nelligan, Program Chair



Phil reported that the Chapter has \$434.31. Dues collected to date amount to \$590.00, with expenses of \$155.69. Expenses included postage, speaker gifts, supplies and refreshments for the April workshop.

The Committee reviewed the current structure of the Executive Committee to ensure that responsibilities of existing positions were in place, as well as discussing the need to add additional positions in response to the tremendous growth the Chapter has experienced. It was agreed that we should add a Nominating Committee Chairperson, a Research Help Coordinator, and a Cemetery Project Coordinator. In addition, it was determined that the Chapter should set up a Research Committee.

The summer meeting schedule was discussed. With the summer hours of the Bangor Public Library, it will be necessary to find an alternate meeting place for the summer months, unless the meeting time was changed. It was decided to investigate other places where the group could meet. Topics were discussed and potential speakers will be contacted. There was also discussion regarding increasing the publicity of our meetings, through TV and other media.

Dale presented a revised PCGS Brochure which will be distributed in the Bangor Room, as well as at the MGS & other genealogical conferences.

Dale also reported that an official PCGS logo was in the design stages and hopefully be ready to be

unveiled soon.

It was decided to make the Chapter newsletter available to only members, as it is one of the primary benefits of membership. The version which is available on line will only be able to be accessed with a link that is included in the monthly e-mail each month. There was only a small amount of feedback on last month's format change, so we are hoping that the change to an Adobe format worked well for our members.

The Chapter wants to donate a bulletin board to the Bangor Public Library which will be used to post genealogical information, queries and other related material. We are scouting out possible donors prior to committing Chapter funds.

The Chapter will be purchasing a copy of the video "Reading Early American Handwriting" by Kip Sperry. This tape was recommended by last month's speaker Cheryl Patten. It will be available for members to borrow. Based on the success of this, the Chapter may consider increasing it's "lending library" of genealogical resources not readily available at local public libraries.

The issuance of membership certificates was discussed and approved.

There was discussion about whether the Committee felt we were meeting the membership's needs and expectations, as well as ideas on how to make the monthly meetings "less stiff" and get members more familiar with each other.

The Committee briefly discussed the possibility of hosting the 2004 Annual Conference of the Maine Genealogical Society in September, 2004. Before final decision will be made, Dale will talk with MGS and do some research on what is necessary, etc.

## The Penobscot County Cemetery Project

Believe it or not, this month's news comes to us from our former Program Chair, Shawn Weisser. It's great to hear from her and know that she is still following our activities!

Shawn wanted to make sure that I passed on that the Bangor Public Library has manuscript information regarding the Jewish cemeteries in Bangor. You'll need to ask Bill or Sue as they are in the manuscript section of "the cage" in section 296.65.B222m.



Also, Shawn is looking for people to work on the Penobscot County Transcription for the US GenWeb project, which as many of you know is a free service dependent upon volunteers. If anyone is interested, please drop Shawn an e-mail at [shawngenweb@usa.com](mailto:shawngenweb@usa.com).

## Queries (continued)

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children: Nellie, Charles, Frank and Harriet). Samuel then m. Amanda STEWART on 8 Apr. 1877 in Exeter and had a son, John Abbott SINCLAIR. Alan C. Wright [e-mail: wrightab@earthlink.net]

**Dyer** Seeking parents of Benjamin DYER, b. 1810 in Corinth, d. 1896 in Corinth, and bur. in Corinth. Caroline [e-mail: CRBCC@aol.com]

**Foster** Looking for info on Georgia FOSTER who d. 1 May 1917 ae. 69 in Bangor. She had a dau Nellie FOSTER, not sure of her married name, but she had a dau that m. Henry A. WOOD.

Georgia lived in the Orono area for awhile before moving to Bangor. Keith Lunt [e-mail: ilihny@adelphia.net]

**Gray** Seeking info on Athena B. GRAY, who was from Orrington in 1914-19 when she attended the Eastern Maine Conference Seminary in Bucksport. I don't know who her parents were, but I believe she m. Jason R. TIBBETTS of Columbia Falls on 17 Jan. 1925. I think Jason, b. 22 Nov. 1897, d. 7 Nov. 1985 in Belfast. I would love to hear from a direct descendant of Athena B. GRAY. Penny-Jo Ames [e-mail: Pennyjo123@aol.com]

**Hartery/Roach** Looking for info on family of Anne Marie HARTERY of Brewer, dau of Bernard HARTERY and Annie ROACH. Bernard HARTERY came from Miramichi, New Brunswick. Annie ROACH is believed to have come directly from Ireland at age 14 with her parents. Ed Smith [e-mail: esmith5@maine.rr.com]

**McGann** Trying to trace a John MCGANN who was living in Bangor in 1895, believed to have been born in 1830s. According to his mother's obit in New Brunswick, 1895, he was living in Bangor. He was b. in Ireland. Shirley Williams [e-mail: gswil.rrr@sk.sympatico.ca]

**McMahon** Seeking info on the McMAHON name. My grandmother was a McMAHON who m. Benjamin ROWE. Her father was Gustovis McMAHON, supposedly of Eddington, possibly bur. there. I would like any info about that family. Aubrey Knowlen [e-mail: aknowlen@maine.rr.com]

**Pickard** Looking for info on marriage of Daniel PICKARD and Ann (last name unknown). They are listed in the 1837 special census in Hampden. I believe Daniel was b. 15 Dec. 1778 in Rowley, Essex Co., Massachusetts and d. 2 Sep. 1837 in Penobscot Co., according to Abstracts of Penobscot County Maine Probate Records 1816-1866. It is possible that they were m. in Rowley, but this is unknown to me as well as data on Ann, except that she was b. 1780-1790 from the 1830 census record. Jonathan PICKARD/PICKETT, Daniel's father was in Maine by at least 1800 and possibly 1790 so I think that Daniel may have m. in Penobscot Co. between 1800-1810. Patricia Lanning [e-mail: planning@aol.com]

**Rankin** Searching for info related to my father's family. His name was Howard Crosby RANKIN, b. 27 Jan. 1921 in Eddington, m. 9 Jan. 1941 to Irene BAMBER. They had one dau, Donna RANKIN, b. 1942. Howard had one brother, Harry RANKIN, b. 15 Feb. 1916, and 3 sisters: Inez b. 15 Aug. 1918, Myra b. 13 July 1922, and Barbara. [e-mail: KatsMan2384@aol.com]

**Reed(Read)/Smith** Seeking info about the family of Draper P. REED (b. 1802) and his wife Betsy SMITH (b. abt. 1812); they married in 1833 and lived in Old Town and Milford through 1890. Draper was the son of Benjamin and Mary REED of Orono, and Betsy SMITH was from the SMITH family of Orrington. I am interested in learning about any SMITHs living in Orrington in the early 1800s. Amy Cook [e-mail: aecookmi@yahoo.com]

**Rich** Seeking info on the family of James P. RICH, b. 1808 in Bangor. He m. 16 Feb. 1837 Susan H. BESSICK (or BOSSICH) and had 4 children b. in Bangor: James F. b. 1838, Charles T. b. 1840, Frederick August b. 1845, and Angelina b. 1846. Frederick m. Anna E. COLSON (b. 1851 in Verona, d. 9 Oct. 1914 in Bangor). Robert Oakes [e-mail: robert\_oakes@hotmail.com]

**Roberts** Looking for info on Mark ROBERTS of Dexter. He was b. in Dexter, m. Mary LAWRENCE. He was a barber in Dexter for many years. Had 2 sons: Mark Jr. and Dana. Would like to know the name of his parents and if he had siblings. RoseMarie Carter [e-mail reallyrosey@panax.com]

**Smith** Looking for any info on Harriet Newell SMITH, her parents or any background. She is living with Nahum WARREN in 1850 census in Bangor. He, Nahum, is the one who marries Harriet and William C. JONES in May, 1851. Harriet was b. 10 Oct. 1832 in Maine (not sure if Bangor area or Kennebec County where Nahum WARREN was also to have been about 1834. William C. JONES was child of Apollos JONES and Nancy Howard CLARK (dau of John Taylor CLARK and Mary TOURTELLOTTE). Phyllis O'Guin [e-mail: p.oguina@worldnet.att.net]

**Smith** Looking for anyone researching Benjamin SMITH/Elsie WOODMAN SMITH (family of New Hampshire and Maine. Son Isaac, b. 1800 in Belfast, m. Harriet HUTCHIN(G)S, b. 1801 in Bangor, dau of John HUTCHIN(G)S and Lydia. Nancy Cunningham [e-mail: cunninggb@flash.net]

**Wall** Looking for any information on my GGGrandmother, Mary Elizabeth WALL, b. 2 Apr. 1835, in Bangor. Jim Standerfer [e-mail: jnsbls@aol.com]

**Young/Cleveland** Looking for any info on Elias T. YOUNG m. Sarah CLEVELAND. They had a son, Fred M. YOUNG, b. 7 Apr. 1863 in Exeter, d. 14 May 1949 or 21 Oct. 1946 in Dexter. Fred m. Minnie Frances BUTTERS, b. 19 Jan. 1862/3 in Exeter, d. 21 Oct. 1946 in Dexter. Charles Young [e-mail: cfy50@adelphia.net]



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#### Officers

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

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## ***“Telling Their Stories”* A Genealogy Conference**

On Saturday, September 6th, the Maine Genealogical Society hosts their annual conference. This year it will be held in Fairfield.

The featured speaker is Patricia Law Hatcher, CG, FASG. She is a professional genealogist specializing in problem solving whose articles have appeared in over a dozen publications. A popular lecturer and instructor, she has spoken at many national conferences and institutes. Her experience as a genealogist is extensive—prior to 1800 her oft-migrating ancestors lived in all of the original colonies and 17 other states, presenting her with a highly varied research problems and forcing her to acquire techniques and tools that help solve tough problems. Her sessions will include topics such as producing a quality family history, useful documentation, adding historical context to family data, and the importance of reexamining your files.

Additionally, our own Phil Getchell, Roxanne Moore Saucier and John Battick will be conducting breakout sessions!

The conference fee is \$25.00 (\$20 for MGS members) if you register and prepay prior to August 23rd. After that, and you can register at the door, it's \$30.00.

More information and registration forms will be available at our meetings, they are available in the Bangor Room at the Bangor Public Library, on-line at [www.rootsweb.com/~megs/MaineGS.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~megs/MaineGS.htm). Or you can call Dale at 942-9375.

#### **Selected Conference Topics**

Getting Started with genealogist Phil Getchell

Researching with Newspapers with Bangor Daily News columnist Roxanne Moore Saucier

This Blank Book Before Me: The Diaries of Mary Pride Knight and Persis Sibley  
with historian Jean Hankins

Westward Journey of Osborne Libby with costumed storyteller Marian Novak

Maine Families in 1790 with a panel of MGS published submitters

Windows to the World: Card Catalogs with reference librarian Susan McCarthy

Seafaring Family Links: Births, Marriages and Deaths under Unusual Circumstances with historian & genealogist John Battick