



Special points of interest:

- Next meeting: Wednesday, January 21st
- A discussion of Internet Mailing Lists
- Cemetery Project Update
- Review of our first "Research Social"

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Penobscot Roots & Connections

PENOBSCOT COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Editor: Patti Mower, 185 Norfolk Street, Bangor ME 04401 Phone: (207) 942-9375 E-Mail: Kruznmama@aol.com

Penobscot County Probate with Susan Almy, Penobscot County Register of Probate

Wednesday, January 21st, 6:00 pm
Lecture Hall, Bangor Public Library

This program was originally slated for May, 2003. However, due to circumstances beyond our control, Susan Almy was unable to make that meeting. In response to numerous requests from members, we have rescheduled her appearance.

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

Happy New Year!! I hope this newsletter finds all members healthy and happy; and with a few unanswered questions about your family tree,. After all, without a couple of those, would our addiction hold?

Speaking of questions, make sure to look at our first query this month. It comes to us from Washington State and concerns possible Native American records. I've directed Shari to the Penobscot Indian Nation, but I'm not sure what they have for vital records. Other queries keep arriving at a fast clip from around the states, all with Penobscot County as a common link. It was exciting when one of the queries that landed this past month actually linked in to one of the branches on my family tree! Alas, I didn't know the answer to the query, but I'm still working on that.

If you see a query that piques your interest, why not see what you can dig up and help someone out? That's what genealogists do best.

If you have any questions about how you can help with a query, contact John Albertini, our Director of Research.

Dale



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Queries

SAGAWINIA It was said that "sagawinia" came from Orono, Maine, was born between 1890 & 1915. Could he have come from a Native American town near there? My blood grandfather died in 1953, Gloucester, Massachusetts. There was no information at all about him or his family when he was buried. There are many rumors about him that I did not put on my web site—that he was Italian or Portuguese or Native American. I do not care what race, I just want to know. There is the only picture I have of him on my website. I have researched City, State, Federal, Mormon, DMV, SS, all to no avail. Would love to hear from anyone that might have information on my blood Grandfather. Please see my website:

<http://hometown.aol.com/danishpb/LeRoysagawinia.html>

Shari [e-mail: Danishpb@aol.com], PO Box 717, Burley, WA 98322

COWING My great-great-grandfather Calvin COWING, died in Glenburn 18 Oct. 1865, at the age of 84 (this was recorded in the top margin of a page in the town records, so I surmise it was entered at a later date). His wife, Deborah (COOMBS) COWING subsequently lived with their son Benjamin COWAN/COWING and apparently died sometime between the census of 1870 and 1880, but I did not find a record of her death in town records. The daughter-in-law, Matilda COWAN/COWING (d. 1852) and granddaughter Rachel COWING (d. 1864) are buried in the Lakeview Cemetery, but I have been unable to find any gravestone or cemetery record for either Calvin or Deborah COWING. Does anyone have any suggestions as to where I might find a record of Deborah's death or of both of their burials? For example, would there be any church or funeral home records for the Glenburn area in the 1865-1880 timeframe?

Leigh Cowing [e-mail: lecowing@atlantic.net]

HORNE My wife's grandfather was Alphonso Wilson HORNE (HORN), b. 29 Mar. 1849 in Old Town, Maine. We have been unable to locate his birth certificate. He may have been the son of Henry and Mahitable HORN. They had a daughter, Marietta and a son Alphonso. According to our information, Marietta was b. 24 Apr. 1855. Alphonso married at least 3 times. Their names were Genjuard JOHNSTON, Nancy (last name unknown), and Georgia Alma LITTLEFIELD. He married Georgia in Somerville, Massachusetts. In Maine, Alphonso was a cooper. He moved to the state of Washington where he became a steamboat captain. We have most of the family information from his marriage to Georgia, but would appreciate any confirmation of his ancestry.

Ed Stoermer [e-mail: estoermer@aol.com]

McKENNEY/LANCASTER While the *Lincoln Chronicle* was being published (1905-1915), it periodically carried historical articles based on interviews with some of the older citizens of the area. Does anyone know where I could locate paper or microfilm records of this newspaper? I have seen references to two particular articles that I am interested in: one on William McKENNEY of Carroll (my great-great-grandfather) and one on Samuel B. LANCASTER of Chester, West Enfield and Lincoln.

Leigh Cowing [e-mail: lecowing@atlantic.net]

E-Mail your queries to: mepcgs@yahoo.com

PERKINS Looking for information regarding my grandparents' divorce. My maternal grandmother was Dorcas Margaret PERKINS. She was the daughter of Orlando and Annie May (GOWER) PERKINS. Dorcas PERKINS married James Alan POOLE on 22 Dec. 1921. At that time, they lived in the Woodland/Calais area. They had five children, one who died at age one. Some time in the early 1930s Dorcas and James POOLE separated. I can not find a record of divorce. My grandmother moved to Baltimore, Maryland, for a while, and then to Connecticut. My grandmother later re-married. Her second husband was John Walter CYR, who came from northern Maine. I have not found a record of their marriage. John Walter CYR was the son of Herbert CYR. James POOLE had several siblings: Guy, Donald, Dorothy, and Owen. Any information on their families would be appreciated also.

Patsy (Lawlor) Husson [e-mail: Lawgirl47@aol.com]

ROBERTS Seeking info on any of the ROBERTS families that lived in the village of Mattimiscontis, across the river from South Lincoln. Great-great-grandfather Jonathan ROBERTS was an early settler there. He married twice, second wife was Florilla SPENCER. Probably buried in a small and disappearing cemetery in the Mattimiscontis area. Great-grandfather Jonathan Jr. married Helen CURTIS and lived there with several brothers on adjoining lots. He eventually moved to South Lincoln and is buried in the South Lincoln graveyard.

Bob & Joan Egan [e-mail: egan@montana.com]

THAYER Looking for info on my ancestor Lindley M. THAYER. I am trying to tie him to Spencer THAYER in the Maxfield, Maine, area. I am hoping they are father and son, Spencer being the father. I cannot locate wills for either, and cannot locate Lindley's death certificate.

Judy Nelson [e-mail: JKNelson@comcast.net]

WARD/McKENNEY Please, any information AT ALL about grandparents Alexander WARD, died ca. 1915/16, buried in Dexter, Maine; married Cora McKENNEY 1904. Also, info as to the location of his grave in Dexter and also his daughter Ella (died 15-17 years old) also buried in the same location in Dexter. Any info for Cora McKENNEY also welcome. Alexander's town is listed on the 1904 marriage certificate as Corinth. We know he had at least some relatives in the surrounding areas of Newport, Skowhegan, Palmyra, etc., perhaps Bangor, at least into the 1940s-50s. We believe he had a brother John. Alexander and Cora's children are: Walter, Ella, Frank, Wilbur and possibly Norman. All deceased. If you are a WARD or have elderly WARD relatives still living, please ask them if they remember any of these names.

Keith Ward [e-mail: ReverendWard@adelphia.net]

WILSON Looking for the birth info and parents (and siblings) of Samuel WILSON who was born in Maine about 1794. He was in the military and was part of a garrison sent from Maine in 1817/18 to Fort Gratiot, St. Clair County, Michigan. He remained in Michigan, married, had family and died there.

Clair Lucas McDonald [e-mail: gcmcd@comcast.net]

A Brief Look at Genealogical E-Mailing Lists

Vice-President Annette Roberts has forwarded some information from mailing lists she subscribes to which might be of interest to members, prompting a discussion of the value of mailing lists in genealogical research.

For those members not familiar with this area, let's take a quick look at this beneficial corner of the internet. The web is home to thousands and thousands of different mailing lists that anyone can subscribe to. The basic premise is that a mailing list is a way to bring together individuals around the globe to discuss a particular topic—whether a geographical area, historical event, surname, religion, or other common theme. A general open forum if you will. They are free and can occasionally be of great benefit. The operation is simple. You will need to subscribe (which usually just requires sending a simple email to the list administrator). Then all list participants can send e-mails, which are then viewable by all other list participants, also known as “postings”.

A couple caveats. The first being that some lists have a lot of activity, so receiving each posting as an individual e-mail may be easily overwhelmed. Most mailing lists have the option to receive daily digests where all postings for a particular day are delivered in one combined e-mail. The second is that some mailing lists are “moderated” while others are not. A moderated list just means that someone is watching the content in the e-mails to the list; which helps to insure that all postings are on topic.

The key is to find the right mailing list that hits your interest. You can subscribe to as many lists as you want. They are just as easy to unsubscribe from as they are to get on, so don't be afraid to try one—if it turns out not to be helpful, unsubscribe and try another. You can also search the archives of mailing lists which can give you a good feel for the amount and type of activity the mailing list has.

RootsWeb.com has more than 27,000 different mailing lists you can subscribe to; for a complete list go to lists.rootsweb.com. This is a good place to start your exploration of mailing lists. It is a very easy site to navigate, simply click on choices to narrow down choices to find a selection of interest to you. Rootsweb.com does host a mailing list for Penobscot County genealogy!

An alternative site with over 67,000 mailing lists is Isoft.com. To search their lists, go to <http://www.isoft.com/catalist.html>. A simple search using the keyword “genealogy” brought up 59 hits.

If you have questions about using mailing lists, feel free to fire them off to Dale. [e-mail: dale@mower-family.com]

GenBytes... sites to surf on the Internet

Who doesn't like a good bargain? Annette Roberts has found the ultimate—genealogical freebies available on the internet. From free forms to free online books to free translators (especially helpful to those of us researching French-Canadian roots). A sampling of the online books include James Savage's **A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England, before 1692, Vols. I-IV**; William Elliot Griffis' **The Pilgrims in Their Three Homes: England, Holland, America**; and the Essex Institute's **Vital Records of Essex, Massachusetts, to the end of the year 1849**; and S. H. Whitney's **The Kennebec Valley** (devoted to the early history of Maine's Kennebec Valley). The sight also has a free graphics for those members that might be working on their own website. It's well worth a little time to surf around and see what strike's your fancy. Visit it at www.genealogysearch.org/free/

Update on the Cemetery Project

The Cemetery Project has been quiet lately, but it is alive and well and going strong. With the efforts of Theresa Brown, we will be working on updating the website with more exact locations and contact information for many of the cemeteries in Penobscot County.

Update on the PCGS Website

Dale wants everyone to know that he did get behind on updating the website for recent activity. But it is now current, so if you have sent in a query and it's not showing on the site or if you are a member and your name is not included on the member list, please let us know. You can e-mail mepcgs@yahoo.com

New Members

Linda K. Jemmett, Mount Vernon, Ohio

Researching: Mayo, Gregory, Clark, Fowler, West, Payson, Noyes

Richard “Rick” E. McCafferty Jr., Riverview, Florida

Researching: McCafferty, Kilbride, Trott, McGibney, Daggett, Murchison, Bartlett, Hanscom, Edwards, Frost, Briggs, Colford, Nelson, Staples, Tucker, Dunham, Craft, Chase, Gorham, Young

Susan O'Connor

Researching: McKenney, Giles, Ford, Cates, Trott, Barnard, Spofford

William A. Osborne, Old Town, Maine

Researching: Osborne, Edgerly, King, Sirois

Penobscot County Genealogical Society

185 Norfolk Street
Bangor ME 04401

Phone: 207-942-9375

E-Mail: mepcgs@yahoo.com

On the web: www.rootsweb.com/~mepcgs

Officers

President:: Dale Mower
Vice-President: Annette Roberts
Treasurer: Phil Getchell
Secretary: Beth Davis
Director of Programs: John Nelligan
Director of Newsletter: Patti Mower
Director of Research: John Albertini
Director-at-large: Celia Gray

Genealogy
It's not a hobby, it's an obsession

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**Saddam Hussein Genealogy
Revised**

The Iraqi Genealogy Authority has deleted the name of Saddam Hussein from the list of noble offspring whose lineage stretches back to the Prophet Muhammad. It seems that Saddam had forced a number of genealogists to create a family tree for him to claim that he had a noble pedigree. The descent from Muhammad was published, even though proof seemed to be lacking. With Saddam now safely removed as a threat, the genealogists are now rejecting the genealogies published when the dictator was in power.

Our First Research Social a Success

For many of the members and guests that were able to attend our first "Research Social" in December came away with a feeling of success.

Although the meeting had no strict topic and no speaker, it gave everyone a chance to direct the conversation towards areas they wanted to discuss and learn more about. It's a great opportunity to pick the mind of others who have more experience or who have knowledge in other areas than we do.

Phil Getchell gave a great overview of some of the reference materials in the Bangor Room, and we were delighted to have Bangor Public Library's Local Historian/Special Collections Librarian Bill Cook join us to further enhance our knowledge of available resources.

If you missed this, stay tuned as we will be having more in the future. Because, believe it or not, we were not able to answer everyone's genealogical question! Although speakers are beneficial, this type of forum allows us to get to know one another better and delve into topics that otherwise might not come up.