



Penobscot County Genealogical Society
Penobscot Roots & Connections

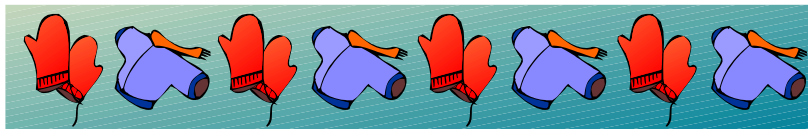
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Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, December 20th
Open Research night will give those who may need some help to get it from others in the society and/or time to explore the shelves and micro-film at the library.

Wednesday, January 18th, 2007
Roxanne Moore Saucier will give a talk on the Sprague Journals and what can be gleaned from them in the way of information.

Wednesday, February 21st 2007
Open Research Night at the LDS Family History Center on Grandview Ave.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all our members!

It is an honor to be back once again serving as your president.

It has been said, and it really is true, that it seems like only a few months ago that we were working on getting this society organized. We have explored many areas of genealogical research over the past few months – from probate to military records to census records. We've talked about not only researching archives of old documents, but explored the benefits of researching electronically. We've learned where records are located. We've tossed around ideas on how to break through brick walls.

While our individual skills have been honed, we've also met new friends and new cousins. We've developed a network of like-minded individuals suffering from the same addiction that understand what it's like to locate a lead on a long ago ancestor.

This is what I hope to continue in the coming year. My two primary goals are (1) to improve communication and (2) to encourage sharing of information. Let me talk briefly about these two areas.

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Articles accepted for publication must be of genealogical nature.

Share your research experiences (your successes and your disappointments) or information about your Penobscot County ancestors.

Submissions should be forwarded to the Newsletter Editor.

All meetings will be held at the Bangor Public Library at 6:00 p.m. unless noted otherwise.

November Meeting

by Dale W. Mower

We had 34 people in attendance to listen to Archivist Jeff Brown of the Maine State Archives. Jeff has been with the Archives for 26 years, and the state is indeed fortunate to have someone with not only his experience, but with his genealogical knowledge and interest.

Jeff discussed some of the many resources available in Augusta that contain stuff of genealogical interests – not just names and dates, but information that can help put flesh on the bones of an ancestor. He reminded us all that it is important to look beyond the basic data and gain an understanding of what the world was like at the time of our ancestors' existence.

Some of the many resources he discussed (beyond the vital records) included census records, military records and legislative records.

The Federal Population census that we all work with is the post popular one among us. But don't

forget that other census records can provide information. The Archives has available the 1798 Direct Tax Census which lists acres of land owned, etc. There was an 1837 Surplus Revenue Census (only surviving schedules of this are Bangor, Portland and unincorporated towns). And don't forget to consider the Agricultural Census (1850-1880), Industrial Census (1850-1880), the Mortality Census (1850-1880) and the Census of Defectives in 1880.

The Archives holds an extensive collection of Military Records from the Colonial and Indian Wars up through World War I. In researching a Civil War ancestor, you might want to see if you can find his Enlistment Papers (these might not be included in a Military Pension file obtained from NARA).

Legislative Records include copies of laws and petitions for laws – many of these were dealt with private matters and related to specific individuals.

And if that is not enough, a visit to the Archives will also uncover Courts documents, Executive Council actions, Land Office records and County Deeds and Probate Records.

AN AMAZING STORY

Last fall I received an advertisement for Reminisce, a magazine that focuses on the "good old days." I thought this might be a Christmas gift idea for an elderly relative but I wanted to see a copy before I purchased it. While I was considering this I visited a neighbor, who never reads for pleasure, but there on her table was a whole stack of magazines someone had given her and the top one was Reminisce! When I explained my interest she told me to take the magazine, she would probably never get to it anyway. A few days later I was looking at the reader-submitted photos on the center page. At the top was a photo submitted by Art Ray of Sidney Maine. (Hmmm! Ray is a family name.) He stated that he thought these folks were probably from the Cathcart family. (Another family name!) Then he states that an old obituary mentions a James A Cathcart who lived in St Paul MN. (OK, now this is getting creepy. I know James A Cathcart from St Paul, Minnesota is mine!) I decided to write to Art, surely someone subscribing to this magazine would be interested in family history. About a week later he called me and we talked a couple hours! His great grandmother and my great grandmother were twins! And they had married brothers! So we are double cousins! Over the past year we've exchanged photos, documents and ideas greatly enriching each other's family history. I am so thrilled to have stumbled on that particular issue of the magazine. You just never know where you're going to find the missing piece, so stay alert!

Ofhmhe@aol.com

Queries

To post a query, email mepcgs@yahoo.com
NOTE: Nowadays it is difficult to have an e-mail account and not receive SPAM. To help filter the queries from SPAM please type the word *query* at the beginning of the subject field. Thank you!

HARRIMAN HOTEL

Looking for info on the Harriman Hotel, named in the 1870 census for Bangor, West Side Kenduskeag Stream. Jesse E Harriman was the keeper of this hotel in 1870.

k12tj3t@midmaine.com

TAGGETT/TAGGERT

Seeking information about my ggrand-mother's line Sarah Annie Taggett/Taggert - b.2/14/1863 Fredricton, NB - m. Timothy Donovan 7/3/1888 in Ellsworth, ME (marriage cert says she was from Old Town at this time) - d. 5/7/1949 Camden, ME. buried in Gardiner, ME. Father was William Taggert/Taggett/Taggart b. abt 1826 in New Brunswick, mother Ellen ? b. abt 1838.

I believe that I (with a great deal of help) found the family in the Houlton Village census of 1880. Siblings were - Frank 22, William 21, Mary 19, Alice 12, Frederick 9 & Buchon (?) 4. Same family in the 1870 census of Topsfield enumerated Ellen (wife) 32 & Catherine 14.

Thanks in advance for any help you can give.

Craig Donovan, RRT
craigdonovan@hotmail.com

DANCER

Richard Dancer was my grandfather. He was born Between 1895 and 1897, in New Jersey. He married Erma Lona Kinght of Dexter Maine, on March 14, 1923. Richard and Erma Dancer had three children:

Frances, Harold, and Merle. I know Erma Dancer died April 28, 1992 and is buried in Maplewood Cemetery in Garland, Maine, and on her headstone is Wife of Richard Dancer, but there is no mention of where Richard Dancer died, or is buried. Any help would be appreciated.

Sharon Dancer Pearce.
mombo24@msn.com

M McNARRIN

James McNarin/McNarrin b 1804 Scotland is recorded in 1850, 1860 and 1870 census in Old Town. His wife Eliza A b 1807 Mass is with him. Their listed children all b Maine: James 1845, Harriet 1836, Jane 1839, Caroline F 1843. James is died in Gilroy, CA January 09, 1878, where he is buried in the family plot of Charles Curtis Beal b May 17, 1825 Dexter, ME, d July 26, 1889 Gilroy and wife Elizabeth B June 01, 1832 of Penobscot, ME, d May 20, 1909 Gilroy. Information on this family is requested. Is Elizabeth B a daughter of this family? Many thanks, Frances Kimball

fkimb30@hotmail.com

WRIGHT BETTS

Looking for clues to parents of James Wright Betts, born Canada 11-1861. Moved to Maine late 1800's. Purchased land on Old Thayer Road (now Betts Road) Orrington ME. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.
 Patricia Betts-Levine
pattybetts@sbcglobal.net



President's Message continued... Communication is essential to the success of a society. All too often, we join an organization and then we rarely hear from them. We do a great job with our Newsletter, however that is only published on a bi-monthly basis. Often times one of us may become aware of limited-time offers, etc., but we don't because the offer will be expired by the time the next newsletter comes out. I have set up a email list for all members that have shared their email address with us. This list will be used for contacting members with meeting reminders and details on time-sensitive information. If you are interested, please make sure your name is included – you can email me to make sure. The first such email was sent out on November 12th which shared the free access Ancestry.com was offering for their Immigration database through the end of November.

As for sharing, isn't that really what genealogy is all about? We have a wealth of unique experiences and knowledge among our membership. One doesn't need to be a professional genealogist to have knowledge worth discussing. Often it's the simple story of how a brick wall was knocked down that can give someone else an idea to try or even the encouragement to continue their quest. I will be trying to sway each member to share their experiences –whether it's a procedure or a resource they've discovered.

Our newsletter is a great way to connect with others – whether asking for help or offering to help. Consider writing a brief article for inclusion. Let your fellow members know what you are working on, what resources you are finding useful, or explain where you are stuck. Share a bio of one of our ancestors. You never know when the information you put to paper may link up with another members' own research. *Dale*

A genealogical conundrum from one of our members.

Sorting out the Stanleys

My wife, Deborah Warren Techentin, had two paternal grandfathers who were prominent businessmen in Bangor. Ara Warren had a pharmacy just up the road from many are interred in Mt. Hope Cemetery. With an excellent family history in the Bangor Library, tracing the generations of Robinsons has been easy.

James Robinson who had a large haberdashery and tailor shop in the Wheelwright and Clark block. The Robinsons lived in Corinth and Ban-

gor for a long time and The Warren line is also well documented in a book by Orin Warren, but I ran into problems trying to get background on Ara's wife, Sara Stanley. Family legend had it that she was from Belfast, so we headed for the Belfast Library, where we found an excellent genealogy room with many resources on Belfast, the state and beyond.

We quickly found many Stanleys who had lived in Belfast in the early 1800s, including one generation of 14 whose father was alternately named Col. Nathaniel, Nathaniel or Nathan. To further confuse the issue, two girl Stanleys were identified as having been born in 1804: Mary in China and Sophronia in Belfast. The more we dug up information, the more it seemed likely that Col. Nathaniel/Nathaniel/Nathan had two different families in the same town! A bigamist!

This didn't seem likely, because the Colonel was a prominent citizen. He earned his rank commanding troops who were sent to Wiscasset in 1812. He built a grist mill shortly after arriving in town and subsequently was a tavern keeper and proprietor of the Maine Hotel.

We started tracing the Colonel's roots in Winthrop and discovered the family secret, something that will totally discombobulate any genealogist. His father, another Nathaniel Stanley, and his wife, Abigail (Hall) started a family of three children in Winthrop in the 1770s: Nathaniel, b. 4/7/1772, Patty, b. 21/11/1775 and NATHAN b. 13/4/1777. The brothers married, had children, moved to Belfast at different times and lived in different parts of town at the same time. I have seen many instances of a name being recycled within a generation, but only after the first child died, As "Lil Abner put it, "It sure is confuzzen but not amuzzen." Has anyone else run across this situation?

At least, I now have the Stanley line straight back to a Samuel Stanley, born about 1656 in Topsfield, Essex, Massachusetts. There were some Stanleys who were original settlers of Whethersfield, CT, but I cannot work out dates to make a connection between the two.

Dan Techentin
dan@techentin.net

GenBytes

by Dale Mower

Last month I discussed some recent successes I had at Ancestry.com. Well, I had a member contact me and express dissatisfaction with the search engine at that site. I was so excited about the information I located that for me the benefits outweighed the cons of the sites. But it brings up a good point that I typically always espouse – before subscribing to any genealogical database website, do your homework! Not only make certain of what you are going to receive for your dollars, but surf the net to see what others have for comments about the site. You can do this surfing the net to various message boards or talk to other members at a Society meeting – or in the case of Ancestry.com, remember that the service is free at the Bangor Public Library so it may be worth taking an hour and checking it out yourself.

And always, always, make sure you have looked to see if any information you are considering paying for on the Internet is not available for free somewhere else. That doesn't rule out subscribing to a site – convenient access and availability to digitized images of original sources are worth something.

Are you looking for a magazine to help keep you up to date on the technology side of genealogy. Digital Genealogist may be for you. It is a new electronic publication that is worth a peek. The first issue is currently available at their website, www.digitalgenealogist.com. It is in a .pdf format that you can either read online, download and save it your computer or print it out to read.

And don't forget to take a look at Internet Genealogist. The Society subscribes to this magazine and it can be found in the Bangor Room at the Bangor Public Library.

Do you have a website you really like that others should know about? E-Mail your recommendations to me at dale@mower-family.



Our 2006-2007 membership year has started off with a bang! We are into our second month of our fifth year and as of the 18th of November we are at 83 members strong. If you have not submitted your membership dues and would like to continue to receive the PCGS newsletter please send your dues as this is the last newsletter to non-renewing members. ☺

Individual Membership: \$10.00 and Family Membership: \$15.00

Penobscot County Genealogical Society
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Glenburn, ME 04401

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.rootsweb.com/~mepcgs
e-mail: mepcgs@yahoo.com
or contact

President Dale Mower, PCGS
145 Harlow Street
Bangor, ME 04401

Note: Send dues to the address above



OUR COOKBOOKS HAVE ARRIVED!

The PCGS Cookbook Committee is pleased to announce that the Penobscot County Genealogical Society Family Cookbook is now available for purchase. A great Christmas/birthday/anytime gift, the cookbook, with its eye-catching cover and favorite family recipes, is priced at \$8 plus \$2 to cover shipping and handling for each book ordered. To order your copy/copies, please send the attached order form along with your check or money order to PCGS, c/o Bangor Public Library, 145 Harlow St., Bangor, ME 04401. A copy of the cookbook will be on display at the Bangor Public Library with a sign-up sheet for orders. The cookbook may also be purchased by contacting us at pcgscooks2@msn.com or 207-862-4785. Arrangements can be made to pick up your order at the library at a specified date and time thereby eliminating shipping costs. It will also be available at regular PCGS meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Bangor Public Library.

