

Penobscot Roots & Connections

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Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, December 19th
Bangor Public Library, Bangor Room, 6:00 pm
Open Research & Help Night

Wednesday, January 16th
Bangor Public Library Lecture Hall, 6:00 pm
“Moving from Paper to Digital”
presented by John Albertini

Wednesday, February 20th
Bangor Public Library Lecture Hall, 6:00 pm
“Organizing Your Info: Contrasting Views”
Presented by Phil Getchell & Dale W. Mower



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays!!

With the start of the holiday season and Thanksgiving just having passed, I would like to wish everybody Happy Holidays which include Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and a Merry Christmas.



In our November's meeting we had a Turkey Raffle with three lucky winners: Norma Binan, Annette Roberts and yours truly. (The one I got will be donated to a person who can really use it.) We auctioned off a three volume set of “The Great Migration, and sold the rest of odds & ends of the New England Historical Registers gathering in \$168.00 for the Treasury.

Our speaker John Van Dyke gave a presentation of the Master Genealogist computer program. He showed how this database can aide those who may want to use it, organize and create their family history. The program is along the lines of Family Tree Maker with more bells and whistles which he outlined in his talk.

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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.

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To post a query, email mepcgs@yahoo.com

NOTE: Nowadays it is difficult to have an email 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!

MORTON

I have been searching since 1979 for parents/siblings of Ithamar D. Morton, born ~ 1821-23 in Maine. He was married to Mahala Elizabeth Russell on 8/24/1845 in Brighton, Maine by Stephen Russell. Their children: Paulina & Hermann born between 1845-47; Charles Edgar & Edwin b. 6-18-1851 in Old Town; Henry Allston b. 11/24/1856; Ella Elizabeth & Cora Maria b. 6/22/1859 in N.B. Canada; Herbert Ithamar b. 9/20/1861.

They were running a boarding home in Old Town when Ithamar enlisted in the Civil War. K.I.A May 19, 1964 Pension papers only list wife and children. Can anyone help me??

Larry and Nancy Nation
Vandalia, Missouri
larrynation@webtv.net

MOODY

I have some letters found in a box that was bought at an auction. The letters are addressed to Dana B. Moody and his wife, Jennie, dated 1923-1924, with one letter to Dana dated 1915, which was the year Dana B. Moody married Jennie A. Barker. Are there any relatives of Dana or Jennie who would like to have the letters? They apparently lived in Troy after they married, and spent winters in Florida.
Jeanne Finley
jefinlay@tds.net



It is with sadness that I include the following obituary. Diane was the wife of John Van Dyke, our society's Program Director. John, I express, on behalf of PCGS' members, our deepest sympathies on your loss of Dianne. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

DIANNE E. VAN DYKE

Wednesday, November 14, 2007 - Bangor Daily News

BREWER - Dianne Elizabeth Van Dyke, 65, passed away Nov. 12, 2007, at her residence, after a tough battle with declining health. She was born Oct. 6, 1942, in Meriden, Conn., the daughter of Cleon Moses and June Elizabeth (Burrill) Smith. I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. Dianne was the proud cus-



todian of Pumpkin Farm, Corinna for 11 years. She loved her time at the farm, caring for her wonderful horses and all the great family gatherings. Dianne had a vast knowledge and was an avid reader of books, with Morgan horses her favorite. Once she over came her fear of flying, she enjoyed traveling all over the world to places such as Saudi Arabia, England, Paris, France and Las Vegas. Dianne will be dearly missed and was a beloved wife, mother, sister, grandmother, aunt and a friend to many. She is survived by her husband of 43 years, John Van Dyke of Brewer; three daughters, Rhonda Tomah and husband, Harry, of Wells, Traci Miller and husband, Brian, of Wells, and Karen Van Dyke of Dover, N.H.; a son, Douglas Benway and wife of Fairfield, Calif.; a dear sister, Ellen Smith Thomas and companion, Gordon Engstrom, of Bangor and Dover Foxcroft; a brother-in-law, Ronald E. Thomas of Franklin; grandchildren, Philip and Ashley Tomah, Joshua Van Dyke, Lara and Morgan Miller; very special nieces, Heidi Dorr and Ami Simbari; great-nieces and great-nephews, Gabby and Izzy Simbari, and Connor Dorr; several aunts and uncles, and many friends too numerous to mention. She was also survived by her two favorite horses that will miss her immensely, Punkin and BJ; her dog, Number 9; and her cat, Lucy. Friends are invited to call 1-2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 16, at Brookings-Smith, Clark-Piper Chapel, 55 South Main St., Brewer, with a celebration of life service to begin 2 p.m. with the Rev. Grace Bartlett, pastor of First Congregational Church of Brewer, presiding. Those who wish to remember Dianne in a special way may make gifts to the Bangor Humane Society, 693 Mount Hope Ave., Bangor, ME 04401. Condolences to the family may be expressed at www.BrookingsSmith.com.

Below is an edited version of an email that Elizabeth Stevens sent me. I laughed out loud - laughing with her not at her mind you - over her "novice" blunder that many of us can relate to in our own research experiences. Then I got to thinking that other members might appreciate Elizabeth's self-deprecating humor whilst describing her genealogical toils and troubles. And Elizabeth has graciously agreed to be a regular contributor to our *Penobscot Roots & Connections* newsletter! Please thank her when you "locals" see her at our meetings. I can't wait for her next trip up...uhhhh I mean her next uh trip of research! Yup. That's it. *Jacque*



Gen Tripper *by Elizabeth Stevens*

I have limited genealogical research experience. To make matters worse, I have made assumptions that I had progressed further in my research than I actually had, only to retract my statements later.

Sadly, I shared my seemingly great news, that I may in fact be a member of the DAR, with seasoned genealogists only to learn (to my embarrassment and mild horror) that my ancestor actually fought in the "colonial" war, not the "Revolutionary" one. Oops! Such blunders may seem amusing to an experienced genealogist, but not to the one whose hasty conclusions have invited the label of "novice."

I do not expect to have any time for serious genealogy until after the holidays. I feel frustrated not to find more time to find more family history. I find that whenever I research my genealogy, I really can't imagine stopping for the day. I just want to find more!

I would like to become experienced in conducting online research. I suppose that I would get further in my research if I would use the internet more. I mean, I've heard of cases where distant relatives have invited their American kin to the mother country. One fellow that I know has actually visited his ancestral home in Ireland! Okay, so I don't expect to traipse throughout Europe. I'd be happy to correspond, and get some documentation before committing another genealogical faux pas!

Let's help get the next generations hooked on this wonderful hobby! John Nelligan is working with the Bangor Public Library to arrange a **GENEALOGY FOR KIDS DAY** event sponsored by PCGS. Members get involved! Join the planning committee by contacting John via email at jnell79gr@verizon.net or let him know at the next meeting.

President's Message continued...

In December's meeting, we will be having an Open Research Night and hope we all can assist other members with any problems they may have. This will be a great time to bounce any new ideas or sources we may have found these last months.

There will also be refreshments to help celebrate the Holiday Season and we can all wish each other Happy Holidays. Oh and don't forget, we have some last minute Stocking Stuffers which John Nelligan will be happy to sell you. We have the Mouse Pads, Travel Mugs, 15 Generation Charts and the Penobscot County Genealogy Society Cook Book. John will have a table set up early just for you to be able to check these items out.

*Best Regards & Happy Holidays Everyone,
Phil*



GREAT GIFT IDEAS FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

The Penobscot County Genealogical Society Family Cookbook. \$8.00 plus \$3.00 shipping.

PCGS Mouse Pads: \$6.00 each for members, \$7.00 each for non-members plus \$1.50 shipping

15 Generation Charts: \$4.00 ea for members, \$5.00 ea for non-members plus \$1.00 shipping

We also have **stainless steel travel mugs** available for \$8.00 each plus "an undetermined shipping cost" [Peeps "from away": if you are interested email Phil and he'll let you know the S&H. ;)]

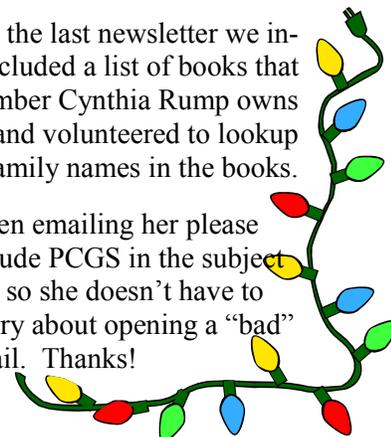
To order please send check or money order to:
PCGS, c/o The Bangor Public Library, 145 Harlow St,
Bangor, Maine 04401
Or items can be purchased by contacting pcgscooks2@msn.com or check out the table at the December meeting!



Also our society still needs a secretary for the Executive Committee. If anyone is interested, please contact Phil at towncrier2@yahoo.com

In the last newsletter we included a list of books that member Cynthia Rump owns and volunteered to lookup family names in the books.

When emailing her please include PCGS in the subject line so she doesn't have to worry about opening a "bad" email. Thanks!



GenBytes

by

Dale W. Mower

I want to talk a little about blogs, as it's the newest area of the Internet that I have decided to tackle. It's hard to define a blog, short for "web log." In basic terms, it's an online journal or diary. Does it have genealogical implications? Sure! It's a great venue to publish your genealogical research online for others to read and comment on, making it a collaborative effort. Blogs can also be a resource as others publish research information or announcements, etc. The appeal of blogs is the ease of setting them up and using them – much easier than getting a website established. For information on getting started, I suggest going to www.blogspot.com, one of the major players in the field.

I recently created a blog for the Maine Genealogical Society. My purpose was to more efficiently communicate information to our members. I receive quite a bit of correspondence on upcoming events or news that without the blog would not get communicated to our members, it eliminates the timing and space limitations that printed newsletters have. I invite you to visit that blog at <http://mainegenealogical.blogspot.com>. There are other genealogical blogs that may be of interest as well: Dick Eastman's at <http://blog.eogn.com>, George Morgan's "Along those Lines..." blog at <http://ahaseminars.livejournal.com>, or Maureen Taylor's "The Photo Detective" at <http://photodetective.blogspot.com>.

But blogs can also be used for recording your personal road in researching your family roots. For an example, I invite you to the personal one I have started at <http://dalemower.blogspot.com>. Using a blog is great as you can post information on whatever family line you are working on, postings don't need to follow any particular order. You have the ability to label each post so if someone only wants to see only posts on my site that deal with my Gibbs line, they can click on that label and see just those posts. My blog is based loosely on the highly acclaimed one by Stephen Danko, which you can visit at www.stephendanko.com.

The information you post on your blog will be picked up by the major search engines, so fellow researchers interested in your work will be able to find you. If they have comments about your postings, they can quickly and easily enter those right on your blog. You don't need to have your email address floating around. And you have the option of requiring that all postings be moderated – allowing you the option of reviewing and approving them for publication to the blog, thereby keeping unwanted material off your site.

You can easily keep track of new postings to the blog through the use of an "RSS feed." Don't be intimidated – RSS stands for Real Simple Syndication. Safari, Firefox, Internet Explorer 7.0, and many other web browsers allow receipts of feeds from their tool bar using *Live Bookmarks*, *Favorites*, etc. At the bottom of the blog's home page, you'll see an option to subscribe to posts. If you click on that, it should quickly guide you through adding the blog's feed to your favorites for your particular web browser.

As another option, I am currently using iGoogle as my home page on the Internet (there are other Internet-based customizable homepages that you can use). I can customize this to include feeds from various blogs that I want to subscribe to. After setting up a Google account (basically requires only a valid email address and a password) and logging in, you should see a link for iGoogle. It brings up a page with a sampling of different types of material you can include on that page - you can delete any you have no interest in or rearrange how they appear. If using iGoogle, there is a link to "add stuff." If you click that, on the left of the next screen you'll see a link "Add RSS feed." Click on that and enter the URL for the blog: <http://mainegenealogical.blogspot.com> and you'll see it appear on your iGoogle page with the latest 3 posts listed. You can then directly access one of the posts or by clicking on the title shown in the top bar you will be directed to the home page of the blog.

So I encourage taking a look at blogs and seeing if they fit into you research and how you share that research.

