

Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, April 16th

Bangor Public Library Lecture Hall, 6:00 pm
Roxanne Moore Saucier will join us to explain all those cousin relationships - first, second, third, etc., as well as those "removeds".

Please check out our Society's website for upcoming programs and events.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~mepcgs>



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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.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HAPPY SPRING!!

Happy Spring All! Well I hope its spring, says so on the calendar, but looking out my window, it's telling me a different story. I still have a good three to four feet of hard packed snow in my yard, but then again, it is Maine and March so hopefully as April approaches, that white stuff will slowly disappear and the nice green grass will replace it. By June anyway!

Our last meeting in March proved to be a hit. We had Michelle Thomas, who compiled the Bangor Vital Records before 1892, Births and Deaths, updated the Gray Family Genealogy and is now starting a new project. She gave us a talk on that project, "The Devil's Half Acre in Bangor Maine". Her delivery of the subject matter was very animated and her knowledge of the area from her brief 8 months of research proved very interesting as well. We hope to have her back again after she has complied more on the subject to update us on her findings.

John Nelligan, Pete McClaire and I, staffed a table at the Bangor Mall on Saturday 22 March during their Community Day.

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QUERIES

To post a query, email mepcgs@yahoo.com

PLEASE NOTE:

We are getting an overwhelming amount of SPAM in our email account each month. To make sure a legitimate query is not missed please type the word QUERY at the beginning of the subject field. Thank you!

MOODY

I am looking for information/records for Edward Moody, sometimes known as Edward Gordon Moody, who was born Oct 1757 in Brentwood, NH son of Jonathan and Elizabeth Gordon and married to ___ Sanborn then Mehitable Brown. He is said to have died in 1834 in Corinna. I would like to locate a will or probate record. For Penobscot Co. does anyone know the address to write to?

Thank you.

Barbara Baker

bdocbaker@comcast.net

TRAIN WRECK IN MASSACHUSETTS

I am looking for any information on a train wreck that occurred in Uxbridge, MA around the years 1915-1920. It involved two freight trains that collided head on and it happened near the old shoddy mill on Chocolog Road.

Thanks

Bob

grbob@charter.net

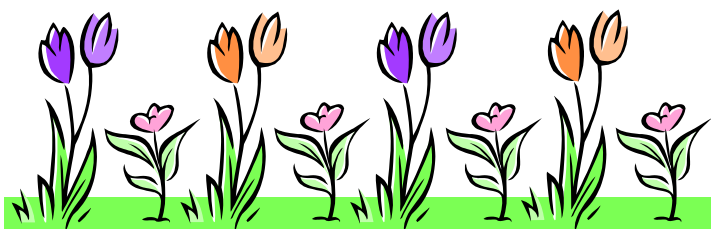
The Gen-Tripper

Before sharing, I feel that I should preface what I am about to say by sharing something of the common knowledge shared by any good genealogist: asking relatives to share information about one's family history may be a good place to begin a genealogical quest, but we cannot rely upon one person's recollection to provide us with all the facts. By the same token, as we learned from Norma, we must not place too much trust in written sources. After all, fallible human beings record such items. As I keep telling my readers, we all make mistakes. It's not just Elizabeth here folks!

If anything, the most important lesson to be learned from Norma Binan's account is that although one must understandably consider as suspect any family-derived "facts," we should never dismiss them altogether when more "authoritative proof" appears to give us all the answers. Remember, as I stated above - fallible human beings record items of genealogical interest. One need only examine census records to realize that official sources often leave much to be desired! I cannot stress enough the importance of gathering information from many different sources, and carefully cross-referencing them to discover the "real" family story.

One humorous example of the interplay between facts and family fiction would be my supervisor's account of his great-aunt's stories. It seems that Aunt Grace felt fiercely proud of her family's Revolutionary heritage. Not surprisingly, she decided actively to seek membership in the DAR, only to learn to her horror that she was descended from a Loyalist! Clearly, she had been grossly misinformed by those relatives who had passed down this erroneous family tale. If only she had known about the Colonial Dames!

The fact of the matter is that family stories can be important sources of knowledge in their own right. They are not so much meant to list facts, as to convey and share meaning. Specifically, they communicate what it "means" for a person to belong to a particular family. For example, what do my readers learn about Aunt



Grace from the above account? About Bill? Based upon their own attitudes and reaction to this story, about themselves? In my personal opinion, most genealogists are seeking more than the facts when they spend countless hours sifting through mountains of papers, documents, and vital records. Maybe, we bookish-types are really only searching for an easier way to make an informed decision about who we really are.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth

Maine Genealogical Society hosts a Spring Workshop:

Finding Your Ancestors in Courthouse Records

featuring Diane Rapaport

Saturday, April 19, 2008
at the Augusta Civic Center

- ◆ Court records offer a wealth of information for genealogists tracing their ancestors, but the valuable resources remain under-utilized.
- ◆ Learn how to find and use court records, from the 17th through the 20th centuries, in courthouse, archives, books, microfilm, and the latest digital/electronic sources.
- ◆ With this all-day workshop format we have a great opportunity to go into depth learning about these records.
- ◆ Diane Rapaport is the author of the highly acclaimed *New England Court Records: A Research Guide for Genealogists and Historians*.
- ◆ For more information and to download the brochure with registration form, visit www.maineroots.org.

So There's The Answer

A little girl asked her mother, 'How did the human race come about?' The mother answered: 'God made Adam and Eve and they had children and so all mankind was made.'

Two days later she asks her father the same question. The father answered: 'Many years ago there were monkeys, and we developed from them.'

The confused girl returns to her mother and says: 'Mom, how is it possible that you told me that the human race was created by God and Papa says we developed from monkeys?'

The mother answers: 'Well dear, it is very simple. I told you about the origin of my side of the family.'

President's Message continued...

We spoke to several people who showed interest in our society and all took applications with them as they went on their way. We also managed to sell a Cook Book and a Family

Chart or two while there. I want to take this moment to thank both John and Pete for their time volunteering and remind our membership that this is how we survive - through volunteers! It is my hope to have more of you become involved in the coming months.

The next two months, April and May will be the last two meetings at the library. Our June meeting will be held at The Hose Five Fire Museum, our annual Cookout Social. July and August are still in the planning stages. We're hoping to get a trip to the Fogler Library at the University of Maine, Orono for a tour of the Special Collections and Micro-Film areas. So keep an eye out in upcoming newsletters and on the home page for the upcoming events.

Best Regards

Phil

TRIVIA TIDBIT...

Old Ship Church in Hingham, Massachusetts was raised July 26-28, 1681 and is the oldest church building in the United States in continuous use as a house of worship. <http://plymouthcolony.net/>



GenBytes by Dale Mower

Well, the year thus far has been so busy that my personal research, and hence web surfing, is pretty much non-existent, so I haven't discovered any exciting websites of late. I was asked to lead a couple different sessions on internet research for those just catching the genealogical bug. As I was updating my presentation, I did take a few minutes to revisit out at RootsTelevision, and wow – if you haven't surfed onto that site recently I strongly recommend you do so.

RootsTelevision, easily found at www.rootstelevision.com, is a collection of a host of varied genealogical videos. Think of it as a free cable television package offering a wide assortment of "channels" of genealogical interest. We are talking channels devoted to such areas of interest as British Roots, Preserving the Past, Genetics, Military, various Ethnicities, and of course one of my favorites – Cemetery Research. The individual programs available on each of these channels come from a number of sources – some are videos produced exclusively for the site, others are videos from a variety of conferences, while others are professional, such as clips from the acclaimed PBS Ancestors series.

I **always** recommend this site when talking with beginning genealogists as there is a fantastic channel dedicated to "How-To" which features great discussions on research methodology and introduction to various resources. It's also great as a refresher!

The videos are short in durations so you can catch one while taking a little break from your online research. New videos are being added to the offerings all the time so you'll want to check back often to see what's new!

And I would be remiss in not mentioning a couple ties that RootsTelevision has with Maine Genealogical Society.

First, if you visit the "Dearly Departed" channel, you'll see a video entitled *Down Under: Florida* you'll see the popular lecturer George Morgan. Many will remember him for the 2007 conference.

And second, gearing up for the MGS 2008 conference where our featured speaker will be Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak. Well, Megan is one of the founders of the RootsTelevision. If you scout around the site, you'll see her in several videos. What a great opportunity to get to know her before she arrives in Maine in September.

Let me know what websites you are finding useful in your genealogical research. Email me at dale@mower-family.com.

Dale



The PCGS is sponsoring a
Genealogy for Kids Day Saturday May 24th 11:00 A.M.
in the Story Room of the Bangor Public Library.

Children between the ages of 8 and 14 are invited to learn about the
exciting hobby of genealogy.

A free lunch will be served and prizes will be awarded!

Guest Instructors include Roxanne Saucier, Dale Mower, Phil Getchell

More information will be forthcoming in the BPL Newsletter and The Bangor Daily News