



Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, August 20th
Visit to Fogler Library
Orono Maine, 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 17th
Maine Men in Andersonville Prison
Presented by Debbie Roberge
Bangor Public Library
Bangor, Maine, 6:00 p.m.

Please check out our Society's website for updates & changes
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.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

SUMMER TIME

Well it appears all went well at the Mount Pleasant Cemetery Tour from John Nelligan's report. I was unable to attend due to having a bit of a Family Reunion of my own that weekend. Yes, I had four of my 3rd cousins, a 1st cousin and his three sons or 2nd cousins out to the house. Well I think that is how it goes of 1st cousins, 2 and thrice removed, Darn, where is Roxanne Moore Saucier when you need her when it comes to COUSINS! Oh well I'll get it straightened out one day. Anyway back to John Nelligan and his report.

"It was a beautiful morning with a large group of society members and guests that joined us for a tour of the Irish Section of Mt Pleasant Cemetery let by John Frawley. We meet at Cassidy Hill and John explained about the Cassidy Moslem and how expensive it was to build. At one time electricity was run to the

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!

WALKER

Philbrick A. (Allen) Walker married Jane E. Walton of Orville in Old Town, 26 Nov. 1855. Where was Philbrick born? -was it Bangor around 1835? Who was his father and mother? Philbrick died May 31, 1857, he was injured in a railroad wreck at Upper Stillwater and died a few days later. Where is he buried (maybe Orono)?

He had one daughter Mary "Esther" Walker. was she born in Bangor Dec. 9, 1856?

Any info on this family would be appreciated!

Colleen G. Reed
colleenprp@juno.com

HERSEY

I would like very much to get the obituary of: Estella B.(D.) Lewis HERSEY, wife of Charles G. Hersey, born 18 Dec 1862 in Pittsfield, Somerset, daughter of George Washington LEWIS and Devina GRACE (Flagg?) LEWIS. Estella died: 10 Dec 1886 in Veazie, Penobscot and was buried in the Fairview Cemetery. It was thought that she might have died in childbirth but any info. about her is desired. Would be happy to contribute something to your society if needed. By the way, just recently found a book at my library called "The Hersey Family: Tracing the Descendants of William Hersey of Hingham, Mass., 1635-1954" It was

a wonderful book which traced the Hersey family of Veazie back 10 generations into England. Assume that your society has a copy of this book. Anyway, would appreciate any help in getting this obituary. Thank you very much.

Renee Harris

THE GEN-TRIPPER

I hope that all you Penobscot County Genealogical Society members are enjoying this lovely summer weather. As I gaze at the beautiful scenery near my home on Bangor's east side, I often lament the fact that I do not carry a camera 24-7 to record these beautiful images. Perhaps, our ancestors felt the same way. It seems that few family photographs have survived, if they were ever taken, to make their way down the line of descent into my eager little hands.

Those of you who possess old family photographs rejoice! I wish that I could share in your ability to "see" your ancestors' features. I hope that you truly appreciate, protect, and preserve these precious heirlooms. Remember to take care of them, treasure them, and make them available to other family members. Although the old adage may sound a bit cliché, "a picture is worth a thousand words." Maybe, that's why patron after patron comes to our library in the forlorn hope of locating a treasured photograph of that Bangor resident of yesteryear.

What genealogical sleuth doesn't dream of finding some image of their ancestors? What family member doesn't look for some similarity, some resemblance of themselves, within the face of those relatives who came before us? Often, we see some feature in ourselves as having been passed down from our patriarchs, and matriarchs. Maybe, this search stems from our need for belonging, or understanding, of our world. Nature or nurture aside, the study of genetics proves that certain attributes are indeed passed down from one generation to the next. If you dispute this logic, just take a look at a photograph of my maternal grandmother, Agnes (Monroe) Ham, before meeting my sister Robin, her spitting image!

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Sadly, I have not one picture of my paternal grandmother, Eleanor Keith. I imagine, and I must, that in her youth she must have been a stunning woman to look upon. Like a good genealogist, I will begin the process of piecing-together an image of her out of my memories. I can testify that even in her old age, Grammy possessed a quiet strength, and an almost regal bearing. A living testimony to her Swedish ancestry, from which she derived an enduring sense of pride, Eleanor stood tall, her bright blue eyes dancing merrily as she chortled over her granddaughter's silly notions, and antics. Perhaps, my opinion is somewhat biased given my great love, and admiration for the woman. However, I believe that I do not exaggerate when I say that my grandmother possessed a rare beauty both inside, and out.

It is not my intention to romanticize her life, or to smack sentimental. Not by any stretch of the imagination could I say that Eleanor had lived a charmed life. Raised by adoptive parents from Enfield, Maine, Eleanor spent many of her formative years living in Bangor where her adoptive mother worked as a domestic servant for the privileged. Like her mother before her, Eleanor divorced from her first husband at a young age at a time when few women risked the taboo status of divorcee. She later married my grandfather, who offered her, little in the way of material comforts prized by most people.

As a child, I recall visiting my grandparents' winter home, a small trailer in "Perryville," - a trailer park in Lincoln, Maine. Summers found my grandparents living on the grounds of my family's ancestral farm where they grew vegetables, and raised chickens, without the benefit of such taken-for-granted utilities as electricity and indoor plumbing. Their residence reflected their lack of opportunity. My grandfather worked in the local paper mill, while my grandmother raised eight children, two children from her first marriage, five children from her second marriage to my grandfather, and also her granddaughter, "Sandy," the child of her eldest daughter. In addition to the usual demands of domestic duties, and child rearing, Eleanor worked to supplement her family's income by taking-in ironing jobs pressing shirts for the town's businessmen. Even in her later years, this industrious woman worked by selling Avon products door-to-door.

Surprisingly, my grandmother's face held little sign that she had endured a life of difficult circumstances, or laborious effort. Unlike images of careworn faces that attest to lifelong toil, and hardship, I found that my grandmother actually looked quite splendid, even youthful, in spite of her circumstances. So, naturally, I never really understood her aversion to having her picture taken. We children would make a game out of tricking her into having a snapshot taken, with the expected result of finding her hands held over her eyes in the developed photograph. Today, few photographic images of her seem to exist. I may never find that longed-for snapshot that depicts her when she was "my age."

I have determined to adopt my grandmother's attitude in order to overcome my disappointment. Eleanor voiced frustrations, and confronted problems, seemingly without a hint of fear, or regret. I do not mean to suggest that my grandmother was perfect. However, I do not exaggerate when I contend that Eleanor Keith possessed a remarkable strength, and rare compassion. More than any other person that I have known, she embraced the simple pleasures of life, and found humor in difficult situations. For example, while most people lament the process of growing old, Eleanor spoke little of it. Maybe, for her it represented little more than the expected cost of living in this world, or at the very least, as a fun opportunity to "plague" this granddaughter. On the occasion of my eighteenth birthday, I recall how Grammy wasted no time in telling me, "NOW, you're older than me!" Technically, she was correct. You see, she had been born on the Leap Year. Can't you just picture her?

My genealogically inclined friends, when you feel frustrated by the price of gasoline, and the lack of breakthroughs, remember to take out those memory-pictures. Dust them off, and examine them carefully. I guarantee that you will feel much better!

Elizabeth

GenBytes by Dale Mower

I was reminded the other day of the value of old newspaper articles in helping to capture the lives of our ancestors. Interestingly enough, I was reading a current Bangor Daily News at the time. Wayne Reilly's column on historic Bangor is always worth reading every Monday, along with Roxanne's. A recent article was discussing early theaters in Bangor, and he noted that a Whitfield Gilbert was arrested for spitting in one of the theaters – well, he happens to be Patti's great-granduncle (she wasn't impressed).

There are some good sites on the Internet now that host digital images of early newspapers from all around the country. While most of the sites are subscription based, you often times can search for free and see what types of "hits" you have.

I do a lot of research in the Bangor Whig & Courier where my family roots in Bangor go back 6 generations. Both Ancestry.com and NewEnglandAncestors.org have historic newspaper collections that contain that particular newspaper. Both require membership to access (but remember Ancestry can be used free at the Bangor Public Library). Both of the sites have different search engines so I always run a search on both sites and often come up with different hits. The search engines use OCR so it's not 100% accurate. In fact recently I did a search that came up empty, but then I browsed dates near when I thought the event occurred and voila! There it was. My success in searching my Mower surname came in at about 60 articles in total. It seems my 3rd-great-grandfather Martin Mower was a local expert on cow manure, specifically whether it should be boiled or not.

A couple other sites that offer access to historic newspapers are GenealogyBank.com and Footnote.com. GenealogyBank lets you search for free and see brief snippets of the images with results, they offer a monthly subscription. Footnote.com also has an impressive newspaper collection. Footnote offers a free 3-day trial, a low monthly subscription, and the site also contains a lot of records that you can access free of charge – so it's worth a trip over there to check them out anyway!

If you can't locate a newspaper online, don't forget you can always post a query. At Genforum.com and similar sites, there are electronic bulletin boards specific to a certain geographical area – post a query there and perhaps someone has access to a microfilm copy at their local library.

So don't overlook newspapers as a great resource to maybe find those family stories that weren't repeated and passed down, or learn more about your ancestors lives. As for me, I've come away with a better understanding of manure!

Dale

Moslem to keep it warm to protect it from the elements. Only the direct line of the Cassidy's can be buried. No spouses. John also pointed out other gravestones of some well know Irish men."

Our August meeting on the 20th at 6 PM and will be at the Fogler Library at the University of Maine in Orono. We should meet there around 5:30 - 5:45 P.M. so that the librarian assigned can get us up to the Special Collections Room first and show what they have available and then downstairs to the Microfilm area and Vital Records/ Census files on film. If rides are needed we'll get a car pool and those doing so should meet at the Abbot Square Parking Lot across the street from the Bangor Public Library between 5 PM and 5:20 PM. John Nelligan and I will be able to take 4 to 8 people. Those going up on their own, parking will be at the Lord Hall Visitors Parking Lot on campus. Need directions or a ride, contact me at towncrier2@yahoo.com.

Best Regards

Phil



New Database Available Online - Census of Canada, 1881

The following announcement was written by Library and Archives Canada:

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) is pleased to announce the launch of a new online database, Census of Canada, 1881. Through this online database researchers can access digitized images of original census returns featuring the name, age, country or province of birth, nationality, religion, and occupation of Canada's residents at the time of the 1881 Census. This includes notable figures such as Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Timothy Eaton, and Alexander Graham Bell.

The database is available at: www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/census-1881

Happy searching!