

Penobscot Roots & Connections

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Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, October 15th

Mower's Internet Show (see page 4 for details)
Bangor Public Library, 6:00 pm

Wednesday, November 19th

Fran & Guy Grant speak on 1st White Settler in
Penobscot County: Lt. Joshua Treat
Bangor Public Library, 6:00 pm

Wednesday, December 17th

Research Night
Bangor Public Library, 6:00 pm

*Please check out our Society's website often to stay
current with meetings and events.*

<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

Well, has it been 7 years already? It seem just like it was yesterday when Dale Mower, a former student of my Introduction to Genealogy class at Bangor Adult Education came to me and asked.....

“Hey Guy, do you think a genealogy group would work here in Bangor? There hasn't been one for some time that I can see.” Or something like that. My thought on the subject was something like, “Well ask and we'll see.” So Dale got something together in the way of an announcement / open invitation to meet at the Bangor Public Library, he and I waited. About 35 folks showed up one evening in the lecture hall of the Bangor Public Library, we discuss the possibilities and to see who was interested. All those who came agreed and signed up. In that first year, after the group had formed and had a few meetings, the word got out, the 35 grew to over 150 from Bangor to other towns around Penobscot County, the state and even the country. For the last 6 years we have had a core group of 25 to 35 members come to the monthly meetings and have maintained around 100 plus around the state and country.

Now we are starting our 7th year with a full slate of activities between now and next summah (grin).

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!

KEENE

Regarding: William A Keen(e), born about 1838, died during the U.S. Civil War, 19 Oct 1864, most likely during the Battle of Cedar Creek, Frederick Co, VA. Present in Chester, Penobscot Co, ME, as a 24 yr old farmer. Can someone tell me if he is buried in Chester or elsewhere in Penobscot Co? Does anyone have any genealogical details, photos of this person?

Thank you.

Alex Magocsi

us_civil_war@magocsi.org

WALKER

Philbrick A. (Allen) Walker married Jane E. Walton (of Orville) in Old Town 26 Nov 1855. Where was Philbrick born? Was it Bangor about 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. Possibly born in Bangor Dec. 9 1856?

Any info on this family would be appreciated

Colleen G. Reed

colleenprp@juno.com

HOGAN ROAD?

I am wondering if you can tell me who Hogan Road was named after?

Thank you.

Mitzi Paul

mepaul1@verizon.net

SEAVEY

My Grandmother is Mary Constance Manhan I would like to find out who my grandfather and great-grandfathers are. Grandma Mary said she may have been adopted.

Thank you,

Tina Velasquez

tinavelasquez08@yahoo.com

THE GEN-TRIPPER

Having just returned from my vacation, I have had little time to search out Gen-tips provided to me by other genealogists. In fact, I couldn't even make this month's meeting! So, I decided to draw upon my limited experience here at the library to consider some topic of interest. Because my work on the long-term project of archiving the H.H. Price Collection beckons to me, I find it difficult to concentrate on the task at hand.

For the uninitiated, the writer Harriet (or H. H.) Price has lived in Maine for over thirty-five years. Perhaps, she is best known for co-authoring the book, *Maine's Visible Black History*. Throughout the 1990s, Ms. Price worked tirelessly to legitimize Maine's role in the Underground Railroad. Through her extensive research, writing, speaking engagements, and political advocacy, Ms. Price has helped to recover an important aspect of our ancestors' history. Maine citizens, both black and white, willingly placed themselves at great risk by helping their neighbors escape to Canada through this clandestine operation, and in the process reclaimed our nation's promise of freedom, and equality for all citizens.

Inspired by her work, specifically through reading numerous notes, and articles as I create a finding-aid for researchers who wish to access to these materials, I decided to speak briefly on the topic of African American Genealogy. However, I found my limited knowledge woefully inadequate. So, I checked our resources here at the Bangor Public Library in a keyword search of "African American Genealogy." Surprisingly, only

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seven selections came up, and even more disconcerting, Alex Haley's epic work *Roots* was not listed among them. So, in response, I altered my search. I won't bore you by spewing forth minutia as I discuss the play-by-play account of my catalog quest. However, I will take this opportunity to caution readers to search the library catalog, and holdings thoroughly (oh, by all means ask a librarian if you should need any help whatsoever), and also to share a little of what I reflected upon as I perused some of our holdings.

First, I took our copy of *Finding a Place Called Home: A Guide to African American Genealogy and Historical Identity* by Dee Parmer Woodtor, Ph. D. from the Bangor Room shelves. I scanned it briefly until I found a section where the author spoke of "troubled silence" as being part of the African American collective memory. Dr. Woodtor explains that in the past the African American genealogy began with the first generation to live in freedom. Today, genealogists delve deeper, and in the process of this search release their ancestors from oblivion, and ultimately redefine their family memory, and our collective memory.

Perhaps, I need to clarify my point. When I was a child, my paternal grandfather, Alvin Keith instilled a sense of kinship, and belonging in me by sharing some of his early experiences with me. He spoke about his life and times as a boy growing up on Lincoln, Maine's Half Township Road in the early 20th century. His history became part of my history. This family memory, in the words of the academic, provided me with a reference point, and a self-concept from which to engage the world. Just as a child stands, wobbles, and falls before taking that first step to enter into the world; we listen, learn and develop our stories before taking them out to share with the world. In the process of our interaction with others, and others ideas, we learn that we have much in common despite obvious differences.

Genealogists dig even deeper than most individuals in search of minute details about their family that once learned, ironically deconstructs the previous conceptions that first inspired this search. I personally find that genealogists' endeavors invite them into a perpetual state of cognitive dissonance, or perhaps really a more radical awareness of our collective memory. At times, this mindset develops slowly, as when the

awareness dawns upon us that our relationship to our family, and our world has changed somehow. We wonder, "when...where... did this event take place?" as though we could actually single out a moment of epiphany. At other times, some event serves as a catalyst of awareness, or one of those pivotal, memorable watershed moments. However we experience this awareness, we find that our sense of "family" grows beyond, or breaks through, all previous boundaries between time and space, then and now, us and them.

In 1977, when I was a senior at Mattanawcook High School, and rightfully should have been reading for my English class, I instead sat on my living room couch in front of the television screen, unable to pull myself away from agonizing over the fate of Kunta Kinte. Given the phenomenal success of the television miniseries, *Roots*, I would say Alex Haley's family memory struck a universal chord in all who watched, or read his book. How many untold stories await we eager genealogists?

Elizabeth

The Last Word...

In a Ribbesford, England cemetery—

Anna Wallace

*The children of Israel wanted bread,
and the Lord sent them manna.*

*Clark Wallace wanted a wife, and the
Devil sent him Anna.*

In a cemetery in Harscombe, England—

*On the 22nd of June, Jonathan Fiddle
went out of tune.*



- ◆ **October 2008 Dale Mower and his Internet Show**
- ◆ **November 2008 Fran and Guy Grant speaking on the First White Settler in Penobscot County, Lt. Joshua Treat, Revolutionary Soldier**
 - ◆ **December 2008 Open Research Night**
 - ◆ **January 2009 Show & Tell/ Bring a Guest Night**
 - ◆ **February 2009 Richard Shaw: Topic TBA in News Letter**
 - ◆ **March 2009 Roxanne Moore Saucier: Topic TBA in News Letter**
 - ◆ **April 2009 Jack Battick: Topic TBA in News Letter**
 - ◆ **May 2009 Cheryl Patten: Grave Stone Cleaning**
- ◆ **June 2009 Annual Cook out Hose Five Fire Museum State Street Bangor**

We had a wonderful talk on Maine Men at Andersonville Prison during the Civil War from Debbie Roberge at our September meeting. She spoke about her research of all those from Maine who ended up at that prison camp and what happened to them.

So I hope to see as many as possible at our start of a new year on 15 October 2008 at the Bangor Public Library, 6:00 PM. There will be cake and other refreshments to help celebrate our 7th year! Oh and don't forget, DUES are due for the 2008-2009 year; \$10.00 for a single membership or \$15.00 for a Family Membership.

Best Regards

Phil



eGenealogy: 2008

Being presented by Dale W. Mower on October 15, 2008

Last October we visited some great websites and discussed not only how to research on the Internet, but looked at how to share on the Internet as well. With the ever-increasing amount of information being added every day, it's always worth taking this journey again. This year, we'll once again hop on to the Internet live and explore some sites that can be of benefit to genealogists. Many genealogists think only in terms of the big genealogical database sites. These provide a wealth of information, but represent only the tip of the iceberg.

Maine Genealogical Society President Dale W. Mower will lead this discussion. He is a frequent lecturer about Internet research; a strong proponent and advocate of utilizing the power of the Internet for family history research. Along with doing his research on the Internet, he also maintains a personal website and blog, is a USGenWeb volunteer, and webmaster for a number of websites for genealogical and historical societies. He will be bringing some of his favorite sites as well as some he has stumbled upon over the past year. Attendees are encouraged to bring their favorite sites as well – the goal here is to share some tips for Internet research and to showcase types of websites you can discover.

GenBytes by Dale Mower

One of the rewards of writing an ongoing column such as this is when someone approaches you and thanks you for suggesting a website or research idea and shares the success they had from exploring it. It points out the need for all of us to share our thoughts and knowledge – not just names and dates of relatives, but research techniques and journeys.

In preparation of the October meeting where we will take our annual trip out to the Internet to explore a variety of sites, I like to ask everyone to share with me those sites that you have relied on over the past year or new sites that you may have stumbled upon recently. When you first think Internet – Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org are the main sites that first come to mind, but there are many, many more that are worth exploring.

For another presentation I am working on, I would also love to hear from anyone who is actively using and enjoying one of the social networking sites, such as geni.com – I'd like to know what you like about these sites and what you don't.

Now lets talk about some sites. The first is a site that I was recently reminded of. It was my honor at the recent MGS conference to present the 2008 Award of Excellence in Genealogical Service to Bob Chenard. Among the many projects he has been involved in, was a website he has had available for many years. Bob's specialty is Franco-American research, specifically as it relates to Maine families. If you discover you have similar ethnic connections in your family's past, you really should visit his website "The French Connection" at <http://homepages.roadrunner.com/frenchcx>. The site has a host of info, both genealogical and historical, and many links to help you connect with the surname you are researching.

I've had a couple sites recommended in the last week. The first is from Paula Toothaker and it looks like a great free resource – the Massachusetts Vital Records project is at www.ma-vitalrecords.org. Think the Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850 books we all use. Most are transcribed, but they are in the process of adding images of the pages online. You have the option of searching by town or surname. A quick search for my Mower name indicates that name appears in 19 towns. Each town lists whether there are birth, marriage or death records. This is a work in progress, I noted that Charlton was listed and my Mowers were there for a time. This site is definitely worth bookmarking!

John Nelligan recommends International Genealogy Sleuth, perhaps for those Irish links! But there are a number of links to websites to not just places, but different topics and ethnicities. It's worth a visit, found at www.progenealogists.com/genealogysleuthi.htm.

Come to the October meeting and we'll look at a few more!

Dale

