



Penobscot County Genealogical Society
Penobscot Roots & Connections

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Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, October 21st
Guest Speaker: Mr. Gerry Palmer
Bangor Public Library, 6:00 pm
See page 3 for additional information

Please check out our Society's website for up-to-date information on events and programs
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mepcgs/>



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Upcoming Programs	1
Gen-Tripper	2
Queries	3
Gen Bytes	4

Articles accepted for publication must be of genealogical nature. Submissions should be for-



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well I hope everybody had a great summer and is ready to begin our 8th year! Yes it will be the start of our 8th year with the October 2009 meeting. I am happy we have grown to provide assistance and share our knowledge of this fascinating hobby of Family Research.

I saw many of you at the Maine Genealogy Society's Fall Conference on September 26th. For those of you who were unable to attend you really missed a great event. The Society had some top-notch speakers and topics. A conference of this type is always a great place to find new ways of researching your family. It also gives you a chance to talk with some very interesting folks who have been doing this for a long time and get great tips on where and how to look into the past. And to continue with the learning opportunities—there will be a workshop in April 2010, at the Spectacular Events building on Griffin Road in Bangor. The topic will be *Researching in the British Isles*. Additional information will be shared during upcoming meetings and in our newsletters.

Last month we had the honor of having Jeff Brown, an Archivist from the Maine State Archives, give a talk of what he and the Archives can provide in the way of information not found out there in cyberspace. An area of interest to me and I'm sure others was on Maine Civil War Soldiers, Muster Cards, Grave Registration Cards, Enlistment Papers (Originals) can not only give one a glimpse of where someone was from but who their next of kin may have been and a description of what the person looked like. In some cases, even where someone was buried, with the Grave Registration Cards. There were other documents available, old court records from all over the state, land records, some immigration records, the list went on.

This month we will have Gerry Palmer the Mayor and historian of Bangor give a talk about the shire town. We have had others speak about Bangor, but Gerry offers a different perspective and it should prove interesting so I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

In November, we hope to have James Neptune of the Penobscot Nation speak about Native American History. This will be a follow up from the August field trip the society

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued from page 1

took. So I'm crossing my fingers that we will make the connection with him.

As this is the beginning of a new year, I want to remind everyone that the 2009-2010 dues are due. They are still \$10.00 a year for an individual membership and \$15.00 for a family. When you pay your dues I am once again asking you to including your email address(es) so I can confirm, via email, that I have received your dues. Last year I got a lot of emails back undeliverable. Just this weekend, after recording the ones received at the MGS Conference, I got half of them back as undeliverable. So please take a moment to fill out the information page when submitting your dues. For those who have already paid, would you please do the same? It helps me and our Treasurer if we have questions. If for some reason you wish not to share your email just indicate and a separate confirmation will be sent. Thank you.

Also we will be voting on the offices: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Program Director, and the At Large position. If anyone is interested in one of these positions, please email me your interest and the matter will be taken up at the meeting in October. I can't emphasize enough that service in this group is a wonderful thing to try out. So think about it and let me know before or after the meeting.

Lastly, I would like some input from any and all as what they would like to see in the upcoming year for topics we can get speakers for or places we can visit for our summer meetings. If there was a favorite speaker in the past you'd like us to get back, or if there is somewhere you'd think the group would like to travel to in July or August 2010, let me know in an email or bring it up at the meeting.

I want to close by thanking one and all for your continued support of the society over the past 7 years. The funds we have gathered from dues and other means has helped the Bangor Public Library's Bangor Room expand its resources through buying new history books, updating reference books and subscriptions to Genealogy Magazines. Also money donations to different historical places that have been nice enough to have the group visit their facilities.

I'll be looking forward to see many of you at our next meeting.

Phie

The Gen-Tripper

I made it to the Maine Genealogical Society's annual conference after all thanks to some generous friends, who offered me their ticket when a death in the family made attendance impossible for them.

Initially, the days events unfolded as they might at any other conference: I arrived early without having first drunk a cup of coffee at home; however, something strange and new happened on September 26, 2009. Instead of spending most of my time conversing with other genealogically-astute friends, who were eager to share their newfound insights and research pointers, I discovered that my favorite pastime of the day was actually listening. The conference was that interesting!

The climate in the Bangor Civic Center was absolutely intoxicating for all of us genealogy addicts. After a refreshing and relaxing time over coffee and conversation, participants were delighted to find that the day's events got even better. Keynote speaker, Marcia Melnyk, did not disappoint the crowd. In fact, I found her candid, personal stories to be enthralling and quite moving. Melnyk urged her listeners to examine "the dash" in order to learn all the important aspects of what has been passed down to us. Our ancestors' lives mean so much more than some superficial listing of one date connected to another to indicate the span of their lives. If we merely perceive that our ancestors' lives "begin" and "end" here, then we will never learn how their experiences continue to shape our lives.

Marcia Melnyk shared a story about her father's dying wish to see his half-brother one more time only to be refused by the later, who wanted no such reunion. Years later, Melnyk had the opportunity to speak with her uncle, now her captive audience, as he languished on his nursing home bed. At first, he hesitated to say much to his late brother's daughter. Undaunted, Melnyk persisted to visit him week-after-week in search of the reason why this man had chosen to rebuff her father's sincere gesture of reconciliation. She visited her uncle many times before breaking through the wall of silence that he had built in an effort to protect him from the awareness of his own vulnerability. Though his relationship with his late brother could never be restored, Melnyk's uncle found some relief in opening up to his niece,

Gen Tripper continued to page 5

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!

CLARK

I am looking for the parents of my g.g.grandfather David Ring Clark, b. 7 Oct 1820 (Penobscot, ME?) He married Alice Ruth Mitchell, b. 14 Nov 1820 Stetson, ME., the daughter of Joseph Atwood Mitchell and Mary Veazie. They married 3 Oct 1841 Penobscot, ME. The 1850 census has them living in Hermon, Penobscot, ME with three children: Sara Augusta, b. 1842; Frederick A., b. 1844; and David W. (my g.grandfather) b. 1848. About 1855 they moved from Bangor to Illinois and then on to Tipton, Iowa where David R. and David W. fought in the Civil War and are members of the G.A.R. They are buried with their families in Tipton, Iowa .

Thank you in advance for any information someone may have. I have hit the proverbial "brick wall" on David R. Clark.

Best regards,
Diane Moore
drmoore47@sbcglobal.net

KEEZER

I'm searching for the family of Sewell William Keezer: my Great, Great Grandfather Sewell William Keezer was born in Penobscot Co. Maine. No date when he was born but he passed away on April 12th 1909. The only information I have is that his son, Henry Harry Keezer (Great Grandfather) moved to Minnesota . Henry passed away on August 20th, 1928 one day after my dad was born. Not sure if the name was Kezar and got switched to Keezer some where down the line. Not sure of

the other brothers' names, one might be Frank.

Harriet Keezer-Thompson
dove@arvig.net

AMES

I am looking for any information on Joseph Ames, who lived in Blakesburg/Bradford in 1820-1830 and had several children:

A Joseph Ames was constable and assessor there [Bradford] in 1823, and James Kenniston was school agent for the south ward that year. Joseph Ames' children listed at Bradford are: Sopha (b. 27 Nov 1817), John Forbes Ames (b. 10 Mar 1820), James Kenniston Ames (b. 2 Feb 1822) and Lidia Wilson Ames (b. 22 Dec 1823).

James K. Ames is my GG grandfather, and married Louisa L. Mcpheters (d. of Warren Mcpheters and Mary Coam) in 1865 in Lowell.

I have a reasonably good handle on Louisa's background but have hit a brick wall on Joseph. The 1830 census seems to imply that he was between 50 and 60 yr at that time, and other family "data" suggests that Joseph was born in NH.

Any help much appreciated!
David A. Drabold
University of Cambridge
drabold@ohio.edu

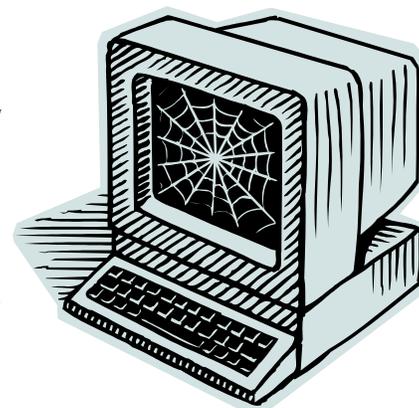
OCTOBER PROGRAM:

Mr. Gerry Palmer, a lifelong city resident and respected historian of Bangor and Mayor, plans to talk about the famous guests at the Bangor House. In addition, a bit of Mount Hope Cemetery history along with some of the famous people buried there. Also, the story of Seth Noble, how Bangor received its name, and Al Brady.

If time permits there will be a question and answer period.

GenBytes by Dale Mower

We had recently talked about uploading your own genealogical information to RootsWeb as an effective way to connect with others. Many of us visited their WorldConnect Project (which is the same database as Ancestry World Tree) for hints or clues while researching our family tree.



I heard from fellow member Dave Flewelling about his experience. He has had his database online for a little over a year and as a result he has had some very nice ongoing correspondence with others who have common ancestors. He writes that the majority of individuals have NY State ties, but there are branches that have included ties to New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Quebec, Canada. Others spent time in the Poland and Portland area. And one branch originated in Litchfield, Maine.

Specifically the Flewelling branch originated in Long Island NY, moved through the Hudson Valley, then to New Brunswick with the Loyalists and then one hundred years later back to New England and New York.

The Bentley branch started in Rhode Island through Connecticut to the Hudson Valley and then to Central New York.

The Tarr branch started in Maine and eventually ended up in New Hampshire.

The Knight branch probably started in the Hudson Valley and moved with the Loyalists to Lower Quebec, where they started spreading to Northern VT and Poland and Portland, Maine, and thence to Bartlett, NH.

I show these lines and their movement to reinforce how widespread our ancestors activities typically were. Through generations they touched many places and left behind many pieces of information. Just as widespread as their migration are their descendants. It is virtually impossible to discover and obtain every piece of information on our own, so it can be beneficial to connect with others researching common ancestors and share the information each finds. The more info that surfaces, the more complete picture we can form of our ancestors.

And in that vein, Dave would be glad to correspond with others who have similar trails and common ancestors to research. His database may be found by typing in beflkn in the database search on the WorldConnect page of RootsWeb.

Dale

President, Maine Genealogical Society



Anna Hopewell's grave in Enosburg Falls, VT:
 Here lies the body of our Anna,
 Done to death by a banana.
 It wasn't the fruit that laid her low,
 But the skin of the thing that made her go.

Continued from page 2

and she in turn, could forgive him for building defenses that ultimately became self-defeating. The wall that he had erected to keep out the pain, had in reality served to keep him focused on past slights and indignities, and prevented him from reaching out to his brother. Melnyk utilized this tragic tale as an illustration of why our elders may be unwilling to share their oral histories with us.

Melnyk admitted that without exception she knew of no one who did not regret squandering their opportunity to interview their relatives while they were still alive. She invited audience members to consider which ancestor they would most like to speak with were it possible, and asked them to make a list of the questions that might comprise such an interview of this person. She then told us to review these questions in order to make sure that our questions covered all useful points. "Then," she challenged, "answer these questions about yourself for your children and their children." Melnyk's holistic view of genealogy places us at the center of our own story. Through it, we act as a member in our family process. We must not live as though we are powerless to change past events that now determine our fate, but must acknowledge our ancestors' experiences as a way to better understand, and learn from their lives. We need not merely record the "sins of the father" (or mother for that matter) as though we have no power to resist the consequences of what has come before, but must appropriate the past for our present lives, and for our part in the future of our family. To accomplish this task, we must seek to understand why our ancestors behaved and responded to the world as they did. We must ask, what societal conventions and social mores, what unjust laws kept them in their place, or kept them from achieving happiness? We must also ask, what contemporary standards we impose on our ancestors given their different perspectives, both historical and perceptual? We owe it to ourselves, and to those who come after us, to record our own narrative as we understand it. How many of us really stop to consider that we are an important part of our own family tree?

So, for those of you who could not attend this year's MGS Conference, don't despair. Just get out your pen, and begin to write your own story.

Elizabeth

MGS Chapter Representative Needed

As a chapter of the Maine Genealogical Society, we have the opportunity to have a voice on their Executive Committee. This position serves as a liaison between the PCGS and MGS, and also helps to direct the focus and activities of MGS. This is an exciting time as there are many great projects underway.

This is a great opportunity to get involved with genealogy on a state level. Chapter Representatives must be members of MGS in order to vote on business. The Executive Committee meets about 4 times a year.

If you are interested, please contact MGS President Dale W. Mower
(email dale@mower-family or phone 942-9375)