



Penobscot County Genealogical Society
Penobscot Roots & Connections

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Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, April 21st

Guest Speaker: Gail Hill

Bangor Family History Center will be discussing how the library can assist people with their genealogical research and the various resources and materials available there.

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Guest Speaker: Dale W. Mower

President of the Maine Genealogical Society, will be discussing online census research (tentative)

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



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Articles accepted for publication must be of genealogical nature. Submissions should be forwarded to the Newsletter Editor.

Upcoming Programs...

Genealogy For Kids

The next Genealogy For Kids Day (Gen4Kids) will be Friday, April 23rd, between the hours 11:00 - 12:30 in the Children's Story Room at the Bangor Public library.

It is open to all children between the age of 8 - 14. A Bangor Public Library staff member will provide a guided tour of the "Bangor Room", to see what is available, how to use the microfilm, card catalog and how to start climbing their "Family Tree" to preserve memories for the future. Registration may be made at the "Children's Desk" or by calling 947-8337, Ext.110. Refreshments will be served

Genealogical Research into England, Scotland and Wales

with George G. Morgan

A Full-Day Workshop presented by Maine Genealogical Society on
Saturday, April 17, 2010 at the Spectacular Events Center.

For all the details, visit www.maineroots.org.

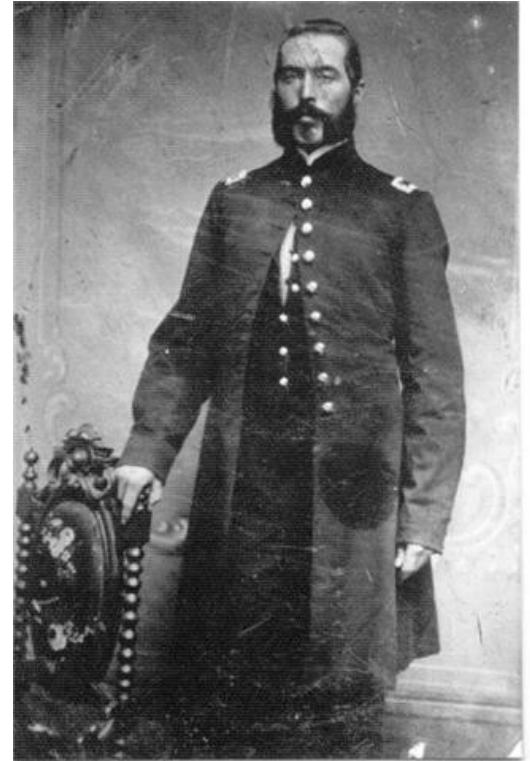
The Gen-Tripper

Gary Rich has been a patron of the Bangor Public Library as long as I've worked here. His insatiable curiosity and engagement with the world have always impressed me. So, it came as no great surprise when he approached me a year ago to tell me that was currently enrolled in Bangor High School Adult Education's Genealogy Class, taught by none other than our own PCGS President, Mr. Phil Getchell. In consideration of the strides with which Gary has climbed his family tree, I now regret not having taken advantage of past opportunities to sign up for Phil's class in order to learn more about genealogy research methods.

No opportunity to learn more about researching genealogy has been lost to Gary Rich, who yearned for many years to learn details about his father's ancestors. Because his parents had separated when he was young, Gary knew very little about his Rich family history. Not surprisingly, his mother shared familiar stories about her own kin, the Donovan's of Ireland. Consequently, Gary knew very little about the gentleman, whose tintype image had been passed down to him. However, once Gary possessed the genealogical research tools to undertake this task, he quickly solved the mystery of Capt. James Dudley Robie. Taking Phil's advice, Gary searched for references to his ancestor in Google Books to learn that his paternal grandmother's maternal grandfather had been born in Monmouth, Maine on January 20, 1834. He also discovered that Capt. Robie's parents had come to Maine from New Hampshire, and that Gov. Frederick Robie of Maine, was a cousin of the Captain.

James Dudley Robie continued to reside in Monmouth into his adulthood, but worked as an overseer of the woolen mill at Lewiston, Maine. He left his position there to enter service in Company B of the 28th Maine, and began his commission in the rank of 2d Lieutenant. Internet sources tell us that Robie primarily served near New Orleans and in Florida, and later took command of the company. According to sources, Capt. Robie returned to Lewiston after the war, but around 1870 decided to

move to Miller Station, Minnesota, where he worked in a shingle mill and served as postmaster until 1881. He later moved to Superior, Wisconsin, where he conducted a lumber business and dealt extensively in real estate to become one of that locality's foremost citizens. By 1888, Capt. Robie would build a large home on the Nemadji River that has been regarded as perhaps the most substantial residence in Superior. More impressive than his obvious material success would be Capt. Rich's legacy as a man "noted for his strict integrity, his kindly disposition, his benevolence and his untiring energy in whatever he undertook."



Encouraged by the above research success, Gary sought information about other paternal ancestors. His efforts led him to an online announcement for Northeast Folklore publications, which included one of particular interest entitled, "Joshua Gross Rich (1820-1897): the life and works of a western Maine pioneer and wildlife writer," compiled and written by University of Maine Professor of Wildlife Ecology, William B. Krohn. He learned that his Great-great-great-grandfather, Joshua Gross Rich, is still regarded as one of Maine's most notable early woodsmen. After settling in the Rangeley Lakes area in the early nineteenth century, this ancestor devoted much of his time and energy to recording his experiences in the woods, and his observations about Maine wildlife.

Sources indicate that, in 1844, Joshua Gross Rich left his seafaring way of life, and home in Roxbury, Massachusetts, to forge a new life for himself, his wife, and his young son. His

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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!

POWERS

Seeking burial site of my great-great-grandfather, Nelson A. POWERS, Sr. d 14 April 1905, Medway, Maine. He married Nancy M. FLETCHER who d. 27 July 1894 at Medway where she was interred. He is not there with her or with his second wife, Mary Jane DE GRAS, who is buried with her first husband. Grandfather Nelson is a Civil War veteran and, having served with the 16th Maine regiment (Infantry), is entitled to a US Government grave marker. I'm seeking his final resting place to provider that marker if needed.

Bob Chandler

RVChandler@aol.com

750 Cedar Knoll Drive, S.

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adventurous spirit lead him first to Mooselookme-guntic Lake, then to Metalluck Point on Lake Molly-chunckamunk, before settling at last at Umbagog Lake, now Upton, where sources tell us that he, “kept a store, hunted, and guided sportsmen for seventeen years.” At this location, he opened the first public camp in the lake region, called Angler’s Retreat.

One could easily regard the life and times of Joshua Gross Rich as one of Maine’s earliest rags-to-riches stories. When he first entered the woods, his entire capital consisted of only thirteen steel traps and eighty cents, but by the time he moved to Upton, he possessed twenty-five hundred dollars to his credit. Though impressive, this gain likely was short-lived

due to the exponential increase in the size of the Rich family: fourteen children were sprung from his loins. I dare say that Joshua must have spent a good portion of his earnings to support his burgeoning family’s needs.

Joshua accumulated much more than money during his career in the woods. An avid hunter, “he killed seventy-three bears, about fifty moose and fifty caribou, hundreds of deer, over two hundred Canada lynxes, and hundreds of beaver, otter, fisher, sable and mink.” One interesting, but little-know fact about the above ancestor might be his decision to procure, and collect, over three hundred specimens of Maine animals that are now located in the Agassiz Museum at Harvard University, where members of the public (including destined-descendents so it would seem) may come to admire this lasting tribute to Joshua’s career in the woods. In an example of *Déjà vu*, Gary recalls having seen this exhibit when he was only eight, or nine, years old. As a child, Gary regularly visited many museums in New York and Massachusetts with his family. His parents often asked their son to provide them with particular requests, so that they could choose destinations that held a personal interest for him for the purpose of stimulating his young mind. So, Gary had viewed his ancestor’s collection at the Agassiz Museum without even realizing his own connection to this exhibit!

Gary’s ancestor, Joshua Gross Rich made his final home in Bethel, Maine, where he lived for a number of years. He served as Trial Justice and conducted the Bethel Pension Agency, and wrote many contributions for the Bethel Journals from 1886 to the year of his death in 1897. His many writings endure as testimony to his adventurous life in the Maine woods.

Gary Rich’s genealogical bounty stands as a testament to the importance of learning new research methods that may enable us to enter into the, as of yet, undiscovered world of our ancestors. Though Gary regularly searches through many written sources, he remains an enthusiastic proponent of Internet genealogy research. Our fellow researcher deserves special praise not only for his willingness to share his personal research experiences with others, but also for providing us with an inspiring example of how open-minded inquiry can help us to unlock the secrets of our ancestral past.

Elizabeth

GenBytes by Dale Mower

Spring is in the air, so it has me thinking spring cleaning. In this case, we're talking my email folders. So I'd like to share with you some links that have come in to me over the past year that you might find useful for your research. We may have touched on a couple of these before, but a new visit is always a good thing to check if new information has been added.

First up – an alternative to Google. Paula writes that she prefers the iWon search engine, sharing that she typically finds three times as many genealogy-related hits there as she does using Google. It appears that iWon shares the ask.com search engine. You can check iWon out at <http://home.iwon.com/iwon-homepage/home.jhtml>.

Make sure to check in at www.maine-genealogy.net. This is a portal website that includes many, many links to Maine resources. In addition to links to outside sites, you will find an awesome collection of old photographs, a selection of diverse groups you can join, and much more.

Another portal site you might want to take a look at is www.GenealogyLinks.net. It has been listed in ProGenealogists top 50 websites. It contains over 50,000 links to free sites, arranged by state, county, etc. It includes not just U.S. links, but some worldwide links as well. One to keep in mind when your family history takes you across state and country lines.

Have Canadian ancestry or connections? Visit the Canadian Headstone Project at www.canadianheadstones.com. The mission of this project is to capture the digital images and the complete transcription of the headstones of our ancestors – an important undertaking we all recognize as the effect age and weathering has on many of the older stones. Even without that Canadian connection, it's a good site to play stalker. You can also submit photos. The project uses the same platform as the earlyMaine.org gravestone project. I found some of my photos of some of my Grant ancestors posted there!

Census resources? If you would like background information, have a better understanding of what questions were asked on each census or some tips to using the census, make sure to visit the National Archives site. The link www.archives.gov/genealogy/census/ will take you right to the home page for their census section.

Still with me? We'll wrap up this edition's column with a selection of Irish links for researching old Irish newspapers that comes via John Nelligan and Carol Nelligan McDonald. These would include: Ireland Newspaper Abstracts (www.irelandoldnews.com); Immigrant Ships Transcriber Guild's Maritime Abstracts from Ireland 1700-1819 (www.immigrantships.net/newsarticles/ireland1700_1819.html); Nick Reddan's Newspaper Extracts from 1720-1865 (members.webone.com.au/~nickred/newspaper/index.html); Irish Newspaper Archives (www.irishnewsarchive.com/)

Dale

President, Maine Genealogical Society

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Another link submitted by our member, Cynthia Rump, is for free genealogy research tutorials. These classes, found on the Family Search website, show the best places to look for finding ancestry information. The U.S. research classes are at the bottom of the page. You will need to install the Microsoft Silverlight plug-in to view them. This is a quick, free and safe download. Go to www.familysearch.org, and click on [Free Online Classes](#) under the [Family History Library Section](#). Happy Searching!