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Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, June 16th
Annual BBQ
Hampden Historical Society, 6:00 pm

Check out the Society website for the
summah schedule.

<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.

WHAT: Annual B-B-Q

WHERE: Hampden Historical Society,
83 Main Rd S, Hampden

WHEN: Wednesday June 16th, 6:00 pm

Kick off the summer and
join other members for
great food and conversation!

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

A number of published databases have reported that Andrew Powers (1828-1899), son of Charles and Frances Proctor Powers of Medway, married Marie Ireland. I am seeking for any information that would corroborate that, or otherwise; and any dates or links to the Ireland family.

I am also seeking information on the burial site of Mary Jane Howard Powers (born c. 1832). Mary Jane was the daughter of Medway residents James Howard (b. 1805) and Marie Boyd Howard (b. 1813) of Medway. Mary Jane married Andrew Powers (b. 1828) c. 1851. Mary Jane and Andrew had children: Frances, Izora, Alonzo, and William. Mary Jane died in Medway in 1864. Andrew remarried to Julia Garnett, moved to Wisconsin.

Willard Burce
wburce@wwt.net
 Eau Claire, Wisconsin

The Gen-Tripper

Elizabeth Stevens has done a great job these past couple of years reciting her own trials and triumphs of family research. In addition she has interviewed other willing members to help translate their successes and surprises of family research into wonderful accounts for our newsletter —as shown with the excellent example in our last newsletter.

But the willing members are few and the column was never intended for Elizabeth to continually write about her own experiences—as enjoyable as they have all been!

And I am perplexed. When I attend genealogy meetings or events I find most genealogists love to share: stories, strategies, and skeletons! And I would think that the PCGS members have plenty to share. So please, if you are interested in having Elizabeth help you tell your story contact me at jacquerump@gmail.com.

Don't forget to check out maineroots.org for information on the *2010 Annual Family History Conference* on September 25th in Northport!



Genealogy for Kids Day—GEN4KIDS

- © **WHEN:** Friday July 16th
- © **TIME:** 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- © **THEME:** Water Under The Bridge
- © The program is for children between the ages 8 - 14. If you know any children who are interested in learning about the exciting hobby of genealogy, please call or visit the Bangor Library's Children's Desk, # 947-8337, Ext 110. Registration is requested.
- © Volunteers are needed for the GEN4KIDS Day committee. Please contact John at jnell79gr@roadrunner.com if you are interested or would like more information.

GenBytes by Dale Mower

At the May meeting I talked about online census research. For the benefit of those that weren't able to attend (or chose not to because of the speaker!), I am thinking it might be nice to rehash some of the discussion here.

The first and loudest criticism I hear about doing census research is the obvious errors that make it difficult to use the indexes. We have to remember that part of the fun of genealogy is the need to be creative and think outside the box. And we also have to remember that errors are not always a result of the indexing process but may be contained in the actual census. So it is a two-fold hurdle we have to jump. We have to bear in mind, that even when we are looking at an actual census image, even it is a transcription – copies were made for the federal, county and sometimes local governments. Add to that the unknown factors of how accurate the enumerator was or how accurate in fact the person providing the information was, and you see what you are up against. But overall, censuses contain a wealth of great information and like any source, the information needs to be weighed against other sources and a determination made as to its accuracy – remember it needs to make sense in light of other source information.

In exploring online census information, you might consider a portal site. These are sites that contain links to other web pages that contain the data (typically to transcribed information that volunteers have posted up on the internet). The portal site organizes these pages by location (not so easy if you are not sure where your ancestor lived). However, a good resource. The major portal sites are Census Finder (www.censusfinder.com), Census-Online (www.census-online.com), Census Diggins (www.censuseddiggins.com), and Cyndi's List (www.cyndislist.com/census.htm). Be warned that where the internet is a continually changing entity, you may encounter that frustrating "page not found" message, as these sites don't always keep up with web address changes. Another thing to bear in mind, where these sites direct you to pages that were posted by volunteers, that alone should tell you that it will be hit or miss whether or not you find something for a particular area you are researching – it all depends on whether someone else interested in that same area took the time and effort to transcribe information to share with others on the internet.

When looking at transcribed census images, definitely surf over to the USGenWeb Census Project (www.usgenweb.com). Again, any info you find there is all volunteer.

When you feel the need to look at the actual census images (which should be always), there are four major players: Footnote (www.footnote.com), Ancestry (www.ancestry.com), HeritageQuest (through a participating library) and FamilySearch (<http://pilot.familysearch.org>). The first 2 are subscription sites, the latter 2 are free sites. Not all the sites have all the census images or all the years indexed. Each has its own unique set of images and its own unique index – so if you can't read an image or find someone at one site, try another. And remember, although Ancestry is a subscription site, you can access it through a participating library.

And lastly, here are a few tips that you might consider if you are having a difficult time locating someone in an index. As I mentioned above, try a different site's index. Search using different spellings (I always say that one of the best genealogical tools you can use in knowing how to misspell your name). Think nicknames, middle names and initials as you don't know how that person may be listed. Skip the surname and search on just the given name. Be wild and omit the name entirely – search based on age or birthplace.

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GenBytes continued

Search for children or other family members that should be in household. Search for in-laws. Identify who their neighbors were and search for them, often times groups migrated to new locations. Still stumped? Grab a cup of coffee, you mouse, kick back and browse through the locations where you think your target might be living. And finally, bear in mind that indexes, like the internet itself, are constantly evolving and being enhanced – so your ancestor might not be listed today, but will be next week. Happy hunting!

Dale

President, Maine Genealogical Society

The Future of PCGS

As I sit and ponder where the Society has been since I worked to organize it what seems just a short time ago, I have to say wow, we've had some great meetings and good times, we've met a lot of great friends, and learned a lot of valuable information.

We're at a crossroads and we need your assistance to keep the group alive and moving forward. Over the course of its life, PCGS has only had 2 presidents – myself and Phil Getchell. Phil has been at the helm for the past few years and has done an extraordinary job, but he has announced, and rightly so, that he plans to retire from that post, he has done more than his share for the Society. With commitments already overflowing on my plate, I am not in a position to assume that presidency. So we need to reach out to the membership and encourage everyone to consider stepping forward and offering a little time serve the Society. With fresh blood comes fresh ideas and fresh energy which is essential to keeping any organization thriving.

I think it is vitally important to keep a genealogical society alive here in the Bangor area, particularly where it is an active community and we have such tremendous local resources – the Bangor Public Library, Fogler Library and the LDS Family History Library. The membership base is strong, the logistics are all pretty much in place – the ship just needs a captain to make sure it steers in the right direction.

I encourage each of our members to consider

getting involved at a higher level. Your involvement will reap benefits, not just for you but for the Penobscot County genealogical community. Thanks, Dale



My mom, Cynthia Rump, gets an email from the "Kim Komando" show called Download of the Day. She forwarded me one that may be of interest for online genealogical research.

"iCyte—You use textbooks differently than you use other books. You highlight important passages. You dog-ear pages you want to return to. You scribble notes in the margins. It would be nice to use the Web in the same way. iCyte lets you do just that. Treat the Web like your personal textbook.

That would make the Web infinitely more useful. It would give you control over the largest research tool ever made.

iCyte is an add-on that works with Firefox and Internet Explorer. And it's just what you need. It saves snapshots of any Web page to your online account. You can organize these 'Cytes' into different projects. They're stored forever—even if the original page is deleted!

You can highlight the important text within Cytes. You can even attach helpful notes to them. You'll always know why you chose a specific page. And you can jump right to the passage you need."

Cost: Free

Link: www.icyte.com