



## Upcoming Meetings

**Wednesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM**  
Lecture Hall, Bangor Public Library  
Webinar: Military Records: Revolutionary War

**Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM**  
Lecture Hall, Bangor Public Library  
Speaker: Roxanne Saucier,  
Family Ties columnist for the Bangor Daily News  
"My great-great-grandmother's scrapbook --  
when did they die?"

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

## Message from Our Presidents

*Greetings to all our PCGS members!*

*Annette and I hope all of you feel as positive about 2011 and the society's meeting and newsletter plans as we do. We are delighted with the energy and cooperation we have felt this fall from society members.*

*After five years as editor of our Newsletter, Penobscot Roots and Connections, Jacque Rump has found it necessary to step down from her position. Jacque has done an excellent job of pulling together all the material sent to her and arranging it beautifully into the attractive and informative newsletter that we all have been receiving. She has done this from the other side of the country which has meant getting all the material for each edition via email from several different contributors. You can imagine that this effort is like "herding cats." But Jacque met the deadline and got it done. Thank you, Jacque. We here in Bangor appreciate your efforts for the society.*

*We wondered if anyone would be willing to fill the position of editor of the newsletter. We are pleased to announce that Jody Chasse, who just joined the society this fall, has stepped forward and agreed to take over as editor. Jody has experience editing newsletters and preparing the parishioners' music booklets for the services at her church. She has had experience with the Publisher software and accepted the job with enthusiasm. Thank you, Jody.*

*As always, our own Irish expert and Program Director, John Nelligan, began the year by helping Annette and I find some interesting speakers for two future meetings, March and April. We will be speaking with each of them about their plans for talks. We will finalize these plans with the Executive Committee before our January meeting.*

*We got an excellent start to the year this fall beginning in October and hope to*

*(Continued on page 2)*

*continue in 2011 with meetings you will find interesting and helpful.*

*Julie Strong, an Accredited Genealogist with a degree in family history from Brigham Young University, was our speaker for the October meeting. Julie is an expert on researching families in the British Isles. Julie shared many resources for finding information using a PowerPoint presentation with handouts so everyone could follow along and take their own notes. She ended by giving us a list of websites to use to find information, answered questions and also talked about an array of books she had brought that members might be interested in purchasing or that the Bangor Room might want to procure.*

*At our November meeting, we sat in a circle to enhance discussion as we talked about the barriers we were meeting in searching for our ancestors. Annette started the meeting by discussing one of her brick walls. There was quite a bit of give and take among members as individuals responded to Annette and also to several other members with suggestions. People were able to look at a chart Annette made of "brick walls" members had given at the October meeting. In at least one situation two people were searching for the same family. Some collaboration between our own members may be possible to help each family resolve some obstacles. Most attendees seemed to like the circle style of seating for a meeting when there would be brainstorming and conversations among the whole group. Theater style seating would be best for speakers or other types of presentations for the whole group.*

*At our January meeting, we plan to show a webinar from Familysearch.org about researching Revolutionary War military information. Discussion and sharing of experiences with this part of history will expand the webinar information with our own personal experiences.*

*As always, Roxanne Moore Saucier will continue to announce our meetings in the "Family Ties" column she writes for the Bangor Daily News and she has agreed to be our speaker for our February meeting. She will talk about her own experiences of trying to step around brick walls. She informed us that her topic would be "My great-great-grandmother's scrapbook -- when did they die?" It should be encouraging for all of us to hear from a professional like Roxanne who has much experience that there is always another way to find information and there are always other researchers who have ideas to help us.*

*In March, we will hear another familiar speaker, Dana Lippitt, who is Curator of the Bangor Historical Society. Dana will talk about a largely Irish section of Bangor that was such a rowdy area it was called the "Devil's Half-Acre." This talk, of course, will coincide nicely with St. Patty's Day.*

*Nancy Dymond has agreed to speak at our April meeting. She will talk about another ethnic minority in Bangor when she speaks on black history in Bangor. Nancy is a teacher in the Bangor Public Schools and is an expert on black history here in the Queen City.*

*Thanks to John Nelligan for doing the "footwork" to set up the speakers for March and April. Hearing about the lives and difficulties of two different ethnic groups at different points in history in Bangor may shed some light on ways to find ancestors that we had not considered.*

*We are still finalizing meetings for later in the year. But Annette and I are very pleased with the expertise of our speakers and their enthusiastic acceptance of a request to speak at our meetings.*

*We look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 in the Lecture Hall of the Bangor Public Library.*

*Janet Spencer*

# The Gen-Tripper

## GenTrip or Trip-up?

Sandra Burke asks PCGS members if they agree with her conclusions about her Fourth Great-grandmother. The evidence follows:

Mount Hope Cemetery records list Rosanna D. Holden, as the wife of Prescott P. Holden, who died in Bangor on 4/6/1905 at the age of 93 years, 6 months, and 14 days. She had been born in Bangor.

Penobscot County Vital Records lists the marriage of Prescott P. Holden to Rosanna D. Parmiter, on 20 May 1833.

Bangor Vital Records lists the birth of daughter, Rosanna, who was born 23 Sep 1811, to Stephen and Elizabeth Parmiter.

The US Army Register of Enlistments indicates that Stephen Parmeter enlisted in the 21<sup>st</sup> Infantry, under Captain Joseph Treat, on 5 Mar 1813 from Bangor, and discharged 5 Mar 1818.

The 1830 US Federal Census lists a certain Eliza Parmeter, as head of household with 1 female in the age bracket of 10-15, and 1 female in the age bracket of 15-20.

A death certificate issued by the City of Bangor for Rosana Holden indicates that she died 6 Apr 1905, and lists her parents as Stephen Parmeter and Eliza Dangin(?). The City Clerk felt compelled to insert this question mark, as she couldn't quite decipher the spelling.

At this point in her research, Sandy felt frustrated by one troubling question: "who was Eliza (Elizabeth)?" It seems that the old arch-enemy of genealogists everywhere, the formidable Brick Wall, stood in the way of Sandy's success. Curses!

Fortunately, time and additional research can wreck havoc on such masonry. Several months later, Sandy came across an interesting tid-bit of information whilst researching her Revolutionary War grandfather, William Dugans/Duggins of Orono. When DAR officials asked her to provide additional information as part of the application process, Sandy searched for marriage information known for all of her ancestor's children, not just information about her particular line. After some sleuthing, she learned that William's eldest daughter, Rosanna Duggins, had married John Treat.

After following-up with an examination of the Treat genealogy, Sandy found a listing of this couple's children, which happened to include the couple's youngest daughter by the name of Rosanna PARMETER Treat! What's more, it seems that John Treat had served in his brother Joseph's Regiment with none other than Stephen Parmeter. Immediately, Sandy realized that these men must have known one another. Now, she asked herself, "Were they friends, or family (specifically bothers-in-law)?"

Determined to solve this new mystery, Sandy made a second trip to the Bangor City Clerk's office. This time, the clerk brought the actual book out of the vault for Sandy to read. The office staff present unanimously concurred that the earlier spelling was a misreading: what earlier passed as Dangin was likely the name, Durgin. Sandy had long since learned that Durgin is a common mispronunciation of Dugans, and has often found the resultant misspelling in official documents, even in Revolutionary War pension files. Those selfsame imperfect pension files also list Eliza as Hopkins in 1839.

So now, Sandy asks, "Was Eliza Duggins/Dugans/Durgin the Eliza Parmeter of 1830, and also the Eliza Hopkins of 1839? Does the 'D' in Rosanna Parmeter Holden's middle name stand for Duggins/Dugans/Durgin?" Please let her know if you think that she has successfully dismantled her problematic Brick Wall. You may reach her at [petsan.burke495@gmail.com](mailto:petsan.burke495@gmail.com). Thank you to all who respond.

## FINDING VANISHING ANCESTORS

By Juliana Smith

(Excerpted by Janet Spencer from the January 25, 2010 Ancestry Learning Center)

Don't you just love those ancestors who vanish for no apparent reason? You're cruising along finding him consistently where he's supposed to be, and wham! Suddenly he's gone without a trace. While you might be tempted to just note in your files, "Abducted by aliens" or "Joined Witness Protection Program," neither excuse is going to satisfy you in your mission to locate them. Let's look at some techniques that can help us locate ancestors with a disappearing act.

### Look at Historical Events

By looking at historical events around the time your ancestor disappeared, you may also find some clues. The promise of gold and silver in the West prompted many to seek their fortunes in California, Alaska, and other points west. Most failed to get rich and either moved on to other gold fields or settled in the new cities that sprang up. Many returned home and resumed their lives where they left off.

Other reasons for leaving may have included a search for work during economic downturns, wars, epidemics, droughts, floods, or other natural disasters. Local histories may shed light on events that caused an ancestor to leave the area for a short time or permanently.

### Look at Popular Routes

Our ancestors didn't have the sophisticated transportation systems that we have, but they did typically travel on established routes. You may find reference to popular roadways in local histories.

Consult maps that show waterways that your ancestors may have used to travel as well. Look at geographic features like mountains, swampland, and other natural features that may have made a roundabout route more appealing. Ancestry has a large collection of maps and gazetteers that can be helpful in learning more about the areas in which your ancestor lived.

The Library of Congress also has detailed railroad maps that may be useful in identifying what direction your ancestor went during the railroad years. Also, bear in mind that your ancestor may have left for a short time to earn some extra money working on the railroads, particularly during economic downturns.

### Make Sure He's Really Gone

Before you call out the search party, make sure your ancestor is really gone. If you can't find him in the census, try city directories or alternative sources. He may just be hiding behind a misspelled or mis-transcribed name, or perhaps the enumerator missed him entirely. Until 1920, the majority of Americans lived in what was classified as a rural environment, and in 1850, 84.6 percent of the population was in those rural areas. This meant that in many areas enumerators couldn't just zip up and down the street gathering names. They had some serious ground to cover, and it's not a stretch to think that they probably missed some remote residences.

If you haven't already, create a chronology, or timeline, for the ancestor with an entry for each record you've collected, along with his location at that time. As you track them year by year, you may get a better feel for exactly when they disappeared and maybe even where they might have gone.

### Widen Your Horizons

Just a decade ago, your chances of locating an ancestor with wanderlust were much slimmer than they are these days. With the ability to search the entire country – or even abroad – it's much easier to find ancestors who turn up in unexpected places. Try a global search without including a location, but instead including other factors that will narrow the search to your ancestor – things like age, birthplace, race, and in some cases, even the names of other household members.

### Family Stories and Correspondence

Family stories and correspondence can also hold clues as to your ancestor's whereabouts. Look for even the smallest clues in stories told by older relatives. Even if the story seems a bit far-fetched and might not even be something you can prove, there might be a kernel of truth to the tale. Examine family correspondence for more hints at a location, particularly if you have an envelope or postcard with a postal stamp and return address.

## Websites Mentioned for Researching the British Isles

For our members who were not able to attend our October meeting or who live in other areas of the country, here are some websites our speaker, Julie Strong, shared on finding information on British genealogy.

<http://www.genuki.org.uk>  
<http://www.cyndislist.com> <http://www.1911census.co.uk>  
<http://www.1901censusonline.com>  
<http://www.freebmd.org.uk>  
<http://www.bmdindex.co.uk>  
<http://www.ukbmd.org.uk>  
<http://www.ancestry.co.uk> <http://www.british-genealogy.com>

<http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk>  
[www.ukcensusonline.com](http://www.ukcensusonline.com)  
<https://beta.familysearch.org>  
<http://www.ancestry.com>  
<http://www.findmypast.co.uk>  
<http://www.familyrelatives.com>  
<http://www.thegenealogist.co.uk>  
[www.gro.gov.uk](http://www.gro.gov.uk)

## “BOOKS WE OWN”

Unfortunately, Dale was not able to contribute a GenBytes column for this newsletter. It is our hope that he will be able to submit an article to our next newsletter in March.

At our November meeting, I shared a brick wall that I have. Members at the meeting were helpful in offering me direction, which I truly appreciated. Later one of our members, Edith Cushing, emailed me and has continued to send me some things she has found about the person and his family who may be the ancestor I am seeking. When I see her name on an email, I am quick to see if she has found something else for me to check out as a possible record. I was also talking on the phone to another member, Sarah Bridges. She shared how she likes to check out the “Queries” we have to see if she can find information to help the enquirer. I have recently found a website that does this sort of sharing on a national and international level. The site is called “Books We Own” and can be found at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~bwo/>. This site can be used by those seeking information from a particular book or by those willing to look up information for others. If the book you need information from is listed, you email the owner and ask the person to look up what you need. If the information is found, the person can scan the page(s) and the pertinent source information to a file and email it to you. You can do the same with information from your own library by uploading the titles you are willing to share to the website. Just follow the simple instructions on the site.

I began by asking a person with a book I needed information from if she would look up something for me. She was just leaving for a trip to Ireland, but she promised to do the lookup as soon as she returned from her trip. True to her word, she did. I was most grateful for her help. Because of this, I was inspired to place the titles of three books I own on the website. Some weeks later, I was contacted for information that I might have in one of the books I listed. I looked it up and sent the lady the requested information. I enjoyed being able to help this person from Georgia whom I will probably never meet.

I hope you will check out this site for information that you need as well as consider providing information from your library to others. Networking is the new buzzword today and it certainly applies to genealogy. Sharing our knowledge, time and efforts with each other can be very rewarding. I know when I find something for someone, I am as excited as if I had found information on my own ancestors.

Happy hunting! Isn't this a great time of year to hunker down at home and seek out some new information via your computer while keeping warm and toasty inside?

Annette Roberts

**Maine State Offices Closed**—Please note that the state offices, Library, and Archives will be closed near the dates of national holidays. The state website lists the following dates:

Friday, January 14, 2011

Tuesday, February 22, 2011

Friday, March 18, 2011

Tuesday, April 19, 2011

Friday, May 27, 2011

## QUERIES

To post a query, email

[mepcgs@yahoo.com](mailto: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!

### CANTER

Seeking information on one John Canter, aged 40, listed on the 1850 census for Bangor as born in Ireland. Household included wife Lucy (born Maine) and many children. Any additional information on this family, including more information on John's birthplace or immigration record, would be much appreciated!

Kate Maynard

[hpuppet@frontier.com](mailto:hpuppet@frontier.com)

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/canterhistory/>

### REA/ CROSS/ PROUTY

Am looking for information on William Moore Rea b. 3 NOV 1871 in Logan County, Ohio, wife Mary Frances Cross, b. 29 SEP 1878 in East Providence, RI, who was the daughter of Alcander H. Cross b. 31 OCT 1849 in Albany, Maine and Martha A Prouty, b. 01 MAY 1846 in Civil, La-Grange, Penobscot County, Maine, who was the daughter of Asa Prouty and Sabrina who also lived in Penobscot County, Maine.

William and Mary Frances Rea (Ray) were listed in the 1930 federal census for La Grange, Penobscot County, Maine. May have purchased the farm from Mary's family (Prouty).

Contact: Jeff Schilling

[jeffsch3@frontier.com](mailto:jeffsch3@frontier.com)

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

### ROLLINS/DEARING(DEERING)

I am looking for information on Charles Deering and Hattie Rollins from Wytopitlock. I know that Charles ran the town store at one point and that they are buried at Santa Claus Hill. I can't find who his parents are. Also I am trying to find out how they died. They were both young and died within a year of each other. They left 2 children. Gorham and Jennie (who was my grandmother). Jennie went to live with Florence Jane Dearing Bickmore and Abiel Bickmore in Old Town. I think Gorham went to live with someone else. I also think he owned the Home Private hospital in Old Town. I am not sure if Florence was Charles sister but they shared a name. Jennie was Florence Jane Deering also. It says on her marriage license that it was her second marriage, but I cannot find out who was her first husband. She married Frank Shea and had one child, my mother. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

[lisbondeer@yahoo.com](mailto:lisbondeer@yahoo.com)

### SCHMIDT

Looking for Mary Schmidt b. 1845 in Prussia. Arrived in Chicago 1847, family moved to Kenosha, WI 1858. Father Nicholas Lauer, mother Catherina Jung Lauer. I only find her on the 1850 census in IL. She is listed as a dau in her father's probate record and as a sister in Brewer, Maine in her bro's obit, 1905. I don't know her husband's 1st name. I have 2 pictures of children one from Brewer, 2 boys, names look like Burton and Justin, the other from Bangor, name Arthur Chapman on back. Pictures probably late 1800's. Family stories are Mary lived in Portland. The family was of the Catholic faith. Thanks for any help.

Bonnie Hegleson

[bonnie1958@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bonnie1958@sbcglobal.net)

*~Spring Event~*

USING FEDERAL RECORDS  
IN GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH  
With John Philip Colletta

Saturday, April 23, 2011  
8:00 AM-4:00 PM

Please note new venue:  
Winslow VFW  
Veteran Drive  
Winslow, ME

For more information and registration,  
visit [www.maineroots.org](http://www.maineroots.org)