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Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, March 16th

Lecture Hall, Bangor Public Library 6:00 p.m.
"Devil's Half Acre" Speaker: Dana Lippitt, Curator,
Bangor History Museum and Center for History

Wednesday, April 20th

Lecture Hall, Bangor Public Library 6:00 p.m.
"Bangor's African American Community"
Speaker: Nancy Dymond

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Upcoming Programs	1
Presidents' Message	1, 2
Queries	2
Gen-Tripper	3
Random Acts	4, 5
MGS Workshop	5, 6

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

Message from our Presidents

Greetings to all of you fellow genealogists!

They say that spring is just around the corner. We all know what that means – cemetery traipsing! It is time to get the camera ready, the sheets to record the data about the cemetery and likely the hip boots. We ought to be ready to go soon. Before we head out, let me remind you of the upcoming programs we have planned for you this spring.

First of all, I want to encourage you to attend the MGS Workshop set for Saturday, April 23rd in Winslow at the Winslow VFW Banquet and Conference Center, 175 Veteran Drive. **John Philip Colletta** will be coming to speak on "Using Federal Records in Genealogical Research." Perhaps you too heard him speak at the MGS conference in Portland a few years ago. He is well worth the drive to Winslow to hear him speak. Worried about high gas prices? See if any other members or friends are planning to go and carpool! You will hardly feel like you have left Bangor when you arrive there. Genealogists never seem to run out of topics to discuss. As Dale has often said, "Genealogy is about sharing."

Now to tell you a little about the next two meetings we have lined up: On March 16th, Dana Lippitt, curator of the Bangor History Museum and Center for History will be talking about the "Devil's Half Acre." At our April meeting, we will welcome Nancy Dymond. Nancy, a teacher in Bangor, will talk to us about the African American community in Bangor, thus expanding our look at ethnic backgrounds.



Continued on Page 2

QUERIES

To post a query, email mepcgs@yahoo.com

PLEASE NOTE: type the word QUERY at the beginning of the subject field. Thank you!

BROWN I am trying to get information on Thomas W. BROWN and wife Drusilla (don't know her maiden name) They are in the 1900, 1880, 1870, 1860 and 1850 Censuses in Newburgh, Penobscot, Maine. I believe Thomas's father was Benjamin and his mother Rachel and they came from Greene, Maine. If you have ANY information on this family, I would be most grateful. Marriage record? death/ obituary? ANYTHING!!! Thank you Joan McGovern jvmcgovern@optilink.us

CHESLEY Looking for any info on CHESLEY family, 1800-1850 in Lincoln, ME.
Larry Baker lh baker99@localnet.com

CROSBY I am trying to find information regarding Abner CROSBY who lived in Penobscot, Maine in 1790. There were quite a few with the last name of CROSBY-Simon, John, Timmothy, Ebeneazer, etc. All have been traced by genealogists with the exception of Abner. Judy Hazlett Starsinic judy.starsinic@gmail.com

GOODWIN Raymond Ernest GOODWIN, born 1900, adopted by uncle, Silas Frank Goodwin, Port Elgin, New Brunswick Canada. Ray worked for Jackman Lumber prior to 1926. Ray started work at McLean's camp, Grand Brook, Millinocket, ME in November 1933 and was to drive team November 26 1933. He was never heard from again. Cal Goodwin cegood@tbaytel.net

STEVENS

We are seeking information on the parents of Howard Matthew STEVENS living in Charleston, Maine during 1820's. Howard Matthew STEVENS died in Charleston, Maine in 1881. We think possibly that his parents died before 1830 because Howard Matthew STEVENS was head of household in the 1830 census when he would have been 21 (b 1809 Maine) We think his parents might possibly have been Benjamin STEVENS and Sarah HAZELTINE. Supposedly they moved to Charleston from Starks, Maine with their children, Hannah, Howard, John, Harriet, Jane and Nancy. Elizabeth Stevens Winship glizma2@comcast.net
3434 Sea Marsh Rd, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

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, March 18, 2011; Tuesday, April 19, 2011;
Friday, May 27, 2011



Please check out our Society's website for up-to-date information and events:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mepcgs/>

Don't forget to check out **maineroots.org** for information on the *2011 MGS Fall Conference* on September 24th in Bangor!

The featured speaker is Mel Wolfgang.

Message from Presidents continued from page 1

After these speakers, we are looking to have someone speak on cemetery research and the brick walls we can face there. I hope you got the email I sent out about the trip to NYC that John Nelligan is inviting us to consider going on in late June. He spoke about it at our February meeting. It sounds like a very interesting trip where the driving is left to someone else and we can just enjoy the sights and the time away. July 20th will be our annual picnic. We hope you will be able to attend this social event. More details about this will be in the next issue of the newsletter.

At our executive board meeting prior to the last meeting, we authorized the spending of about \$1000 for books for the Bangor Room at the Bangor Public Library. Once these have been purchased and arrive, Bill Cook has agreed to take some time at our meeting to show them to us.

Janet and I look forward to seeing you at our March meeting. Continue to enjoy your research on these remaining winter days!

Annette Roberts

THE GEN-TRIPPER

By Elizabeth Stevens

*All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players:
they have their exits and their entrances; and one man in his time plays many parts.*

William Shakespeare (from As You Like It)

I'm sure that most Penobscot County Genealogical Members (PCGM) readily agree with William Shakespeare's contention, that "all the world's a stage." For those skeptics, who doubt the Bard's wisdom, keep reading about how Dave Flewelling's research uncovered the interesting tale of Fred Mace, a man who proves that "one man indeed plays many parts," though perhaps, not quite as many as one might suppose.

For one brief moment, leading to days of sleuthing on the internet and elsewhere, it seemed as though Dave Flewelling's research had unearthed a scoundrel hidden in his wife's family chart, a man who seemingly had kept an "undocumented wife" secret from his Mace Family relatives back home in Readfield, Maine. "What more could one expect from a man, who gave up laughing gas for the limelight," one might ask?

Certainly, it seemed a bit out of character that young Fred, the son of Elijah Mace and Mary Sheridan, would ever turn out this way. His father had served in the Civil War, married, and became a railroad fireman eventually working his way up to the position of engineer. The loving couple had five children together, a girl and four boys. Of the boys, two were doctors, one became a railroad fireman like his dad, but sadly died at the age of twenty, while young Fred became first a doctor, a dentist, and then in what must of have a mind-boggling career move for his kin, an actor!

Fred's nontraditional career began, after he decided to go into the dental profession, and moved from Philadelphia to Erie, Pennsylvania. There, he got involved in theater once his musical talent and excellent singing voice became well known. He associated with the likes of the famous, Mack Sennett, and found himself cast as the Mayor in many of the Keystone Kops segments. He spent a few years working in that venue before striking out on his own with his own production companies, centered in New York and Hollywood. After success eluded him in both the great metropolis, and the land of dreams, he returned east to rejoin the Sennett cast. On February 21, 1917, his career came to a tragic end when he died of apoplexy at the age of thirty-eight.

Intrigued by this gentleman's well-documented public life, Dave sought to find out more about Fred Mace's personal life, and was shocked to learn that Josephine Gertrude Johnson may not have been Fred's one-and-only heart throb when he found the name, Phyllis Haver Mace, listed in the Mack Sennett "girls" line-up. Dave eagerly researched the name Phyllis Haver to learn more about her relationship to Fred Mace, but found no connection whatsoever.

Frustrated, and discouraged, Dave decided to review the article where he had first come across the Haver-Mace connection only to find that a small grammatical error was the source of his problem! Now, he could plainly see that two different sentences had not been properly separated by a period: it had not been placed after the first sentence that ended with Miss Haver's name, while the following sentence, that listed Mack Sennett ensemble members, had begun with the surname Mace. Consequently, the name Phyllis Haver Mace was no more real than the fictitious characters portrayed by members of the Sennett cast. So much for a scintillating scandal to record in his wife's family chart!

So, PCGS members take Dave's advice: be careful in your research, so that you interpret material in the correct manner, especially when it has been erroneously recorded in the first place. Otherwise, you may find yourself dealing with some time-consuming mistake, or worse, recording a family history whose show cannot go on.

For those who like a happy ending, remember what Dave learned, albeit the hard way: Fred Mace remained true blue under those glittering lights of the stage, and then, exited this world in peace.

Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness (RAOGK)

(by John Albertini but largely extracted from the RAOGK web site: www.raogk.org)

I have often mentioned "Random Acts" at meetings so Annette has asked me to fill everyone in on what it is and how it works. Quite simply RAOGK is a global volunteer organization with over 4,000 volunteers in every U.S. state and many international locations. The purpose of RAOGK is to help others obtain copies of documents, pictures of tombstones, etc., that can not be obtained easily by those who do not live in the area of their ancestors.

Volunteers agree to do a free genealogy research task at least once per month in their local area as an act of kindness. The areas are broken down by county and can be further narrowed by geographic area or type of assistance that they can offer. For example, I am currently listed like this:

Penobscot

John Albertini

Still photos of tombstones and Public Records lookups and copying.

My name is actually a link that is clickable to go to the web form that the requester fills out. I then get an email from RAOGK with the request details and contact information for the requester.

Looking for a volunteer?

While the volunteers of Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness (RAOGK) have agreed to donate their time for free, you **MUST PAY** the volunteer for his/her expenses in fulfilling your request (copies, printing fees, postage, film or video tape, parking fees, etc.). You are **NOT** to be charged time. (Please note: Volunteers may now charge up to 50 cents per mile for travel expenses due to high fuel prices.) I don't *usually* ask for any reimbursement since my out of pocket expenses are normally quite minimal so I consider it part of my random act but that will vary by volunteer.

The staff has put together a list of [Guidelines for making requests \(www.raogk.org/faq-requesters.htm\)](http://www.raogk.org/faq-requesters.htm) for you to view and read before making any requests. A link to the volunteers will be provided after you have read the FAQ's.

The biggest error folks make is not providing enough detail to guide the volunteer. Saying you "think he died in the 1850s" is not much to go on and I usually can't help without better leads.

Would you like to volunteer?

Please read the [Frequently Asked Questions for Volunteers \(www.raogk.org/faq-vols.htm\)](http://www.raogk.org/faq-vols.htm) before doing so. Ideally, you should reside in the area for which you volunteer, since this is a site where volunteers do the legwork for others. You are expected to reply to a new request between 48 hours and 2 weeks of receipt. This lets them know you have received the request and whether you can honor it or not. Your reply should also advise if there will be any reimbursement of costs that may occur and a general idea of that total. You need to give them a time frame within which you feel you can accomplish their request. If you cannot honor the request you need to let them know this as well, so they can move on to another volunteer. Staff members review requests daily to cull out duplicate requests sent to more than one volunteer in the same area. We would like for you to wait 48 hours before acknowledging receipt of any request you receive in order to give these staff members time to find and notify the requesters and volunteers involved.

Continued on page 5

Random Acts continued from page 4

Volunteers are subscribed to a **mandatory** mailing list. RAOGK-ANNOUNCE is the method of communicating all at once with all of the volunteers. This newsletter is sent once a month and contains news of site improvements, changes in policy or any other information that you may need to be made aware of.

That is all there is to it in a nutshell. If you need help in a locale you are unable to visit see if there is a RAOGK volunteer there who might be willing to help. If you have some free time and would enjoy helping others please consider joining the ranks of RAOGK volunteers. The only requirement is to take on ONE request once a month. Of course, if you want to do more that is fine, also, but not necessary.

By the way, I am currently the ONLY RAOGK volunteer listed for Penobscot County! Hancock County has two volunteers, Waldo County one, Somerset two, and Piscataquis and Washington Counties none! Unfortunately there are not enough hours in the day or days in the week for me to honor every request I receive so some go unfulfilled. I usually get between one and three per month, occasionally more, and I try to do all I can but never get to them all. So please consider volunteering. I don't mind sharing the best reward of all - the joy of having helped someone in the search for their ancestors!



Using Federal Records in Genealogical Research

Saturday, April 23, 2011

**Winslow VFW Banquet & Conference
Center**

**A Maine Genealogical
Society Workshop**

with John Philip Colletta

John Philip Colletta is one of America's most popular genealogical lecturers. Entertaining, knowledgeable and experienced, he is based in Washington, D.C., where for 20 years he conducted workshops for the National Archives and taught courses for the Smithsonian Institution.

Today he lectures nationally, teaches at local schools, and is a faculty member of the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research at Samford University (Birmingham, AL) and the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (Salt Lake City). He has also been an instructor and course coordinator for the National Institute on Genealogical Research (Washington, DC), the Genealogical Institute of Texas (Dallas), and the Genealogical Institute of Mid-America (Springfield, IL).

His publications include two manuals -- *They Came in Ships: A Guide to Finding Your Immigrant Ancestor's Arrival Record* and *Finding Italian Roots: The Complete Guide for Americans* -- and numerous how to articles.

Dr. Colletta has appeared on local and national radio and television, is featured in Episode Four of "Ancestors," the ten-part KBYU-TV series, as well as its sequel aired in 2000. He has received many honors in his field including fellowship in the Utah Genealogical Association and distinguished service awards from the Dallas Genealogical Society and the National Society, Daughters of Colonial Founders and Patriots.

Continued on Page 6

Workshop Continued from Page 5

Our Workshop will be held at:
Winslow VFW Banquet & Conference Center
175 Veteran Drive, Winslow Maine

Directions

From I-95, take Exit 127. From North, turn left onto Kennedy Memorial Drive. Travel 1.7 miles. Turn slight right onto ME-137 (Carter Memorial Drive). Travel 1.6 miles. Turn right onto ME-32 (Cushman Rd). Take 1st left onto Veteran Drive. Travel .5 mile, Winslow VFW will be on your right.

Hampton Inn

425 Kennedy Memorial Drive, Waterville ME

A limited number of rooms have been set aside for Friday and Saturday nights (4/22 & 4/23) for workshop attendees. The rate is \$95.00 per night for either a king or double queen room. Room rate does not include taxes. For reservations, call either 1-800-HAMPTON or the hotel directly at (207) 873-0400. Mention the group code of MGW or the group name of Maine Genealogical Society. The reservation deadline for this rate is April 9, 2011.

Using Federal Records in Genealogical Research - Schedule

8:00 - 9:00 Workshop Registration Arrive early and reunite with friends over coffee and refreshments.

9:00 - 10:00 Arriving in America: Passenger Arrival Records This lecture discusses the U.S. passenger arrival records, 1820-1957.

10:45 - 11:45 Becoming an American: Naturalization Records This lecture explains the U.S. naturalization process and describes the records that resulted from it.

12:00 - 1:00 Luncheon Buffet

1:15 - 2:15 Dealings with the Federal Government: Lesser-Used Records Discussion includes: 1) passport applications, 1791-1925; 2) homestead files, beginning 1862; 3) Civil War Income Tax records, 1862-1872; 4) Appointments of Postmasters, 1789-1971; 5) Legislative Records, 1789-1877; 6) Civil War draft registration records, 1863-1865.

2:45 - 3:45 Family Drama: Federal Court Records This lecture provides an overview of the federal court system, from its founding in 1789-1911.

Workshop Registration

Registration Fee*:

Registrations must be postmarked by April 9th, 2011
 MGS Members (Member Number: _____) \$40.00
 Non-MGS Members \$50.00

*Fee includes buffet lunch

 Name

 Street Address

 City, State, Zip

 E-Mail Address

Make Check Payable (in U.S. Funds) **to:**
 Maine Genealogical Society

And mail to:
 Celeste Hyer
 69 Loop Road
 Otisfield ME 04270-6456

*Not currently a member of
 Maine Genealogical Society?*

Send in your dues and application with your conference registration and take advantage of the member discount. Membership application is available on our website or for more information: www.maineroots.org

