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Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, May 18th

Lecture Hall, Bangor Public Library 6:00 p.m.
Civil War Research Webinar: How to find and access
Civil War records

Wednesday, June 15th

Lecture Hall, Bangor Public Library 6:00 p.m.
"The Value of City and Town Reports in Genealogical
Research" with Melvin Johnson

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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

Hello Members! Welcome spring!

We just need to see the rain stop and the sun come out for us to get ready to head outside for our genealogical pursuits. It is time to think about family reunions too, a great time to record all the family stories that relatives love to share about days gone by. I hope you will enjoy my article in this issue on having a family get-together of relatives who never knew one another until they became interested in genealogy and family history.

We were pleased to have so many of you attend our last meeting. Nancy Dymond did a wonderful job sharing Black history and all of the family connections there are in Bangor. We hope you are planning to attend our next meeting. Since we are celebrating 150 years since the start of the Civil War, we wanted to try to help you with research you might be doing on your own ancestors who fought in those battles. We have a webinar we found online with helpful information on where records might be to give additional information on your ancestors.

Since we last sent out our newsletter, some of us were lucky enough to attend the daylong workshop in Winslow with John Philip Colletta. What an amazing man! He gave four hour-long talks, packed with great information. I am sure that the nearly 100 others enjoyed hearing him as much as Janet and I did. It was a nice day to renew friendships, chat with other folks interested in the same things you are and bounce ideas off others to see if they had any ideas you had not tried. And of course, it gave Janet and me two hours of uninterrupted time to chat about genealogical matters as well. That is always a treat!

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QUERIES

To post a query, email mepcgs@yahoo.com
PLEASE NOTE: type the word QUERY at the beginning of the subject field. Thank you!

CARPENTER My ancestor, Asa S Carpenter shows up on census records in Charleston, Penobscot, Maine. I cannot find any record of parents for him. Supposedly, he was born in either New Hampshire or Maine in 1808. First wife was Sophia Young. Second wife was Sussana Wasgatt Young, sister of Sophia. I have a very detailed history of all descendants, but cannot find parents. Any information would be greatly appreciated. David Carpenter thecarpenters@clearwire.net

MCMANUS Some information on Hugh and Cecelia follows: I have a very large family Bible which belonged to Hugh and Cecelia MCMANUS of Bangor, ME. I am looking for any family member, relative or organization that might be interested in having this family treasure. This Bible was purchased in 1966/7 at a garage sale in Bangor. It is actually in very good condition, considering its age. (Some of this information is hand written in the Bible) Hugh F. McManus b. Aug 1859, m. 1885, d. Oct. 26, 1916, Cecelia S. Royan or Rogan b. Dec 1860, m. 1885, d. unknown. They were married at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Their Children: Alice K. b. Mar 1887, Annabel b. Dec 1888, Mary E. b. Jun 1891, d. Jun 1968, Francis J. b. Oct 1892, Hugh H. b. May 1894, Edward b. Jun 1898, d. Mar 1978, Joseph B. b. Aug 1896. I will donate/ give this Bible to any relative or organization that may want it free of charge and pay the shipping. I am located in Naperville, IL and may be contacted via email at cjowens15@gmail.com

MILLS I have a question about colleges in and around Bangor in the 1800s. My gg grandfather is called a physician, with MD behind his name. Now I really don't think he is an MD like we know now. Preserved Brayton MILLS, MD. I know that neuropathy was really 'coming on' in the 1820s, but does the history have any inkling of education of any kind. He was very active in the Bangor City business, had a fire insurance company, owned lots of woods which he sold of course...but nothing can I find that hints of any kind of internship, study or college. Of his 8 children with Jane Lunt, two survived to adulthood and were well educated and successful. But where can I go to find out if he was a student locally. Even website links would help a lot. Thanks so much. Sally Mills Montgomery Issaquah, WA montysm@comcast.net

Maine State Offices Closed—Please note that in addition to national and state holidays, the state offices, Library, and Archives are closed on the following date: Friday, May 27, 2011



Message from Presidents continued from page 1

Now that Janet has finished teaching her two genealogy courses, she and her husband, Al, are in England with other family members to see what new information they can unearth as they travel that country. That is why I am putting this newsletter together this time. Janet will be back before our meeting on the 18th of May. You might want to ask her some questions about their trip.

In this issue, we will list all of the upcoming meetings for the rest of the membership year. We hope you will find them interesting and informative. We have worked hard to find a balance of topics and formats to share with you. We are looking to have a 10th anniversary celebration in October. This is a special milestone for our society.

We also have a number of queries you might be able to help others solve. The newest one is from a man who has a Bible he would like to return to a Bangor family. What a great acquisition if it relates to your family! We hope to find someone who can lead this gentleman in the right direction.

Remember our meeting dates, places, and times. We want to see all of you there. Our next meeting is the third Wednesday, May 18th, at 6 PM at our usual spot in the Lecture Hall of the Bangor Public Library. We meet there 9-10 months of the year. Since they are not open in the evening in the summer, we adjust our plans for our annual picnic and trip to the Family History Center at the LDS Church on Grandview Avenue in Bangor.

Annette Roberts

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GenBytes by Dale Mower

It's been a couple of issues since we've connected. It was a long winter in many respects and my work load has managed to severely limit my genealogical time. But I'm finally beginning to pick up where I left off and am trying to see what's new.

One of the major online additions over the winter was the addition of the digital images of the Maine Birth, Marriage and Death records from 1892-1922, as well as many returns from prior years to Ancestry.com. Having access to these from home (or from the Bangor Public Library) is a definite plus for me. I have played with the index and located additional family members searching by just a parent's first name. The images are clear (and some are a definite improvement over those stretches of drastically faded images on the microfilms). For those not subscribing to Ancestry.com, there is an indexing project currently underway by familysearch.org for these records as well. This ongoing growth of available digital images of original documents makes me tingle with excitement!

But let me tell you about another little tool that I've recently had success with. Most of us probably read the obituaries every day. I was online looking for one on the Bangor Daily News website, and noted the link for "Free Obituary Alerts" under the list of the current day obits. Clicking on the link to sign up, brings up a screen where you can create an alert using any keywords you choose. You can have it look at specific newspapers or leave it wide open. You can also have it search for the keyword in full obituary text or just the surname/maiden name of the deceased. Creating an account, you can have as many different alerts as you wish. To test drive it, I created an alert for "Mower".

Now every day, I get an alert every day in my email. It's fun. It seems a lot of people have strong relationships with their lawn mowers. There was one lady who would be remembered for her love of chasing black snakes with her mower. But then, the obit came in for William Walter Harding of Waterville. His obit was in the Kennebec Journal which I don't regularly check. Highlighted in his obit was his mother's maiden name - Mower. Had to be connected - I accepted the challenge to myself to tie her in. Using the online Maine records and census records, I was able to tie Dorothy Ellen Mower into my tree - she being a 6th cousin. A Google search actually found a transcript of her obituary online. It was interesting as it was through a line I hadn't tackled. I had her father in my database as "Son" Mower as his name, Lermond Edward Mower, was not included on his Maine birth record.

Bottom line, this alert is a simple tool that may just give a prompt or clue to get you climbing a new branch on your family tree. It is a quick exercise to review the daily emails and decide to keep or send to "deleted items." And I say daily as the word mower does seem to show up in some obituary every day - perhaps a less common surname will generate less frequent emails.



Gathering the Family

By Annette Roberts



*William Burnell Small
m Rebecca Morse Riggs,
5 March 1845*

Last February, I had a few days to devote to genealogical research in the Portland area. I went excited to have the time to poke at my leisure and see if I could come up with anything new. I can't say I had a real plan in mind, which probably led to my disappointment in making little progress on the trip. I did a lot of driving around old haunts, but the places I wanted to visit were not readily available to me. I returned home feeling disillusioned and discouraged. After arriving home, I sat watching a movie when the telephone rang. Not really wanting to be disturbed, I listened as the person started to leave a message. She told me her name and asked if I was related to Flora Belle Small. Immedi-

ately I grabbed the receiver to speak with the person, as she was asking about one of my paternal great grandmothers. We talked for about 45 minutes and then exchanged email addresses and promises to keep in touch. Needless to say, I was delighted and encouraged to continue my search for whatever I might be able to find.

We continued to email and occasionally talked on the phone. I told her I was planning another trip to the Portland area for a conference that my husband was planning to attend at the end of March and I would like to get together with her to share more family information. She set about inviting another "cousin" of hers to come so we could meet. I told her about two "cousins" I had met after being told about one by a member of our society. They were invited to come as well.

On the last Saturday in March, eight descendants of William Burnell and Rebecca Morse (Riggs) Small gathered in Gorham for an exciting day of sharing and getting to know one another. Bill and Rebecca Small had 9 children, my great grandmother being the youngest of the 9. She had a sister, Helen Virginia, two years older. A great, great grandson and a great, great, great granddaughter from that branch of the tree came. Our hostess is the great, great granddaughter of their fourth child and second son, John Augustus. Also there was one of her brothers and a first cousin of theirs who brought her granddaughter, and another cousin, also a great, great, great grandson of Bill & Rebecca and of course, me.

Most everyone brought something to share, but no one knew quite what to bring. A big hit were family pictures. All of us were delighted to have the opportunity to meet the others and share stories and pictures of family. For over five hours, we all talked and shared as though we were relatives who knew one another well. It was a gathering I shall not soon forget, nor will any of the others. Hopefully, we will gather again to do more sharing.

Why share this with you? First of all, I want to share the excitement of bringing so many descendants together. Secondly, I want to encourage you to consider such a gathering of your relatives. Since then, I have made contact with another great, great, great granddaughter from the branch of the 3rd child, the oldest son. If we do this again, which I hope we do, we can expand our scope and include some new descendants. Were all of them interested in genealogy? No, but they all have some interest in the Small Family history.

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Gathering the Family continued from page 4



#4 John Augustus Small



#8 Helen Virginia Small



#9 Flora Belle Small

Children of William Burnell & Rebecca Morse (Riggs) Small



Cookie and Melissa



Pete



Annette

Great, great grandchildren of William B. and Rebecca M. Small
Great grandchildren of their respective children

QUERIES continued from page 2

O'DONNELL I live in the Washington DC area and am researching the O'DONNELL family in Maine in the 1850s and early 1860s. There are three marriages in Penobscot County (Bangor area) that I would like to know who the witnesses or other participants to the marriage were (other than the officiant, whose name I have from the Maine Genealogical Society's Publication No. 17). The three marriages are: (1) Jacob Lord married Catharine O'DONNELL (both of Bangor ME) 27 Sept 1852, George W. Snow performed the ceremony. (2) Hezekiah H. Lane married Sarah J. O'DONNELL (both of Bangor ME) 27 Feb 1855, Rev. George B. Little performed the ceremony; and (3) John Davis married Julia E. O'DONNELL (both of Bangor ME) 28 Sep 1864. Again, I am interested in finding out who the witnesses or other participants to the wedding were ... I believe that Sarah O'DONNELL in particular would have been under age (she is age 12 in 1850 on the Federal Census) so I'm hoping that some form of parental permission might be noted. But I'll take any info about witnesses for any of these three marriages! Can you refer me to someone who might be able to help? Thanks, Ann Fourt
afourt@verizon.net

TAYLOR Looking for information on William J TAYLOR of Springfield ME also A John TAYLOR. My direct ancestor was a William J TAYLOR of Springfield ME moved to Lynn MA. Married Elizabeth Obrien. Thanks in advance for any help you can give me. Are there records of the Mills Springfield Cemetery? Somewhere I found a William J TAYLOR buried at Mills Cemetery. Art
sixats@roadrunner.com

WATSON In 1854, my great grandmother, Agnes Jane WATSON and her brother, Frederic Eugene WATSON were sent to live with relatives, because something happened to their parents, Samuel Newell and Eliza Ann (or Ann Eliza) (nee Pierce) WATSON. The family was listed in the 1850 Federal Census for the City of Bangor. I believe Samuel Newell WATSON was born on 27 March 1821 in North Yarmouth and his mother's first name was Hannah. I believe Eliza Ann (or Ann Eliza) was born in Hancock, ME in 1822. Samuel and Eliza were married in March 1845 in Bangor. I am trying to locate their grave sites and any other information that I can find out about them. Tom Sollenbarger <tomgilbert94949@yahoo.com>
Buckeye, AZ



Upcoming Meetings (Continued from page 1)



Wednesday, July 20, 2011:

Annual Cookout (Details to be announced)

Wednesday, August 17, 2011:

Annual Field Trip to the Family History Center,
LDS Church, Grandview Avenue, Bangor

Wednesday, September 21, 2011:

Cemetery Research (Details to be announced.)

Wednesday, October 19, 2011:

Special 10th Anniversary Celebration, Jack and Nancy Battick, speakers.

Jack: Benefits of Membership in the Maine Genealogical Society

Nancy and cousin, Peter: Using Divorce Records to Get Around Brick Walls



State of Maine Observed Holidays

Memorial Day	Monday, May 30, 2011
Independence Day	Monday, July 4
Labor Day	Monday, September 5
Columbus Day	Monday, October 10
Veterans Day	Friday, November 11
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 24
Thanksgiving Friday	Friday, November 25
Christmas Day	Monday, December 26

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.



My roots are in Maine!

