



Penobscot County Genealogical Society
Penobscot Roots & Connections

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Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Speaker: Sandra Burke "The Penobscot Expedition"
6:00 p.m., Bangor Public Library

Wednesday, June 20, 2012

Lynn Johnson will not be available for this meeting. An email will be sent to members when a speaker for June is finalized.
6:00 p.m., Bangor Public Library

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Annual BBQ
6:00 p.m., Hampden Historical Society, 83 Main Rd., S

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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,

Happy Spring! It seems that it really is that season or at least my fingers are crossed and I am enjoying the bird sounds and flowers.

The February meeting of PCGS highlighted one of our favorite speakers, Roxanne Moore Saucier. As usual, there was a large group waiting to hear her. I am always amazed when she starts to talk. She is so thoroughly well versed in all the local genealogical sources and finding aids. Members are always pleased with her talks and delighted that she always accompanies them with handouts filled with information and places to search locally. Roxanne did not disappoint us. We got two pages of names of places to visit locally or to search online. She went through each area and explained what could be found there. She also talked about resources in nearby states and she offered some Canadian sites.

In March, Bill Miller came to the Society to talk about Jewish Genealogy. His friend, also well known to many members, Norman Minsky, came with him and they shared the time, switching off between them to talk about different time periods and different families. They especially focused on their own ancestors who settled in the Bangor area. But they also covered immigration of Jews from Europe (including Russia) and the Middle East. They talked about the strong focus in Jewish families on education and how that has always affected Jewish culture and the success of Jews in the occupations they choose. The also explained why most American Jews do not know a lot about their family's ancestors.

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In part, of course, pogroms such as the Holocaust destroyed records and tore apart families. But, as Bill said, most American Jews prefer to think of themselves as Americans and they try not to focus on the past. Naturally, there was a lot of banter back and forth between the two speakers which lightened the evening's very informative presentation. At the end of the talk, there were lots of questions.

At our April 18th meeting, we were pleased to have one of our own members, Anette Rodrigues, speak about the Hessian soldiers who came to fight in the Revolutionary War alongside the British. She told the story of the soldiers who came here and added lots of interesting pictures and comments about how those Germans saw the new world. She gave us a glimpse into the lives of the 30,000 Hessian soldiers (which might have been almost half the total military power of the allies, the British) who fought in the War "against" Independence of the American Colonies. She told stories and straightened out some facts told by others as only a true genealogist would. As many as 5,000 of the original Hessian soldiers stayed here after the war ended. Anette explained some of the surprising reasons for the willingness of many to stay. Some saw opportunities for making money, one man was actually related to George Washington, some were invited by colonists to join their towns or churches, some saw lots of good available farm land, and some just plain dreaded getting on a ship and facing the trip by sea back to their homeland. And then, Anette warned us that for many reasons it is difficult to find their descendants now. One major stumbling block is one that many of us hit and that is name pronunciations that are difficult for other people to understand and pronounce. Many of those names got changed either by accident or by design.

I am sure everyone in our Society has been anticipating the unveiling of the 1940 U.S. census. Apparently, you are not alone. People from all over the world were eagerly waiting and jammed the site at the National Archives in search of their ancestors. Since the information is not indexed, many genealogists have to figure out how to find the exact Enumeration District to search for their ancestors. EDs changed with each decade of census enumeration so knowing the ED from 1930 probably will not help with 1940. You can easily find Enumeration Districts in 1940 for many cities by going to stevemorse.org. He has a free list of all the major cities (not only very large ones) and with a little information about where the person might have lived you can keep eliminating EDs until you are right in the area. To find the exact spot in order to get a cross street you can use an address if you have one. Check city directories for street addresses for you ancestor for the years leading up to 1940. Once you have a street number, use Google Earth to find your ancestor's exact location. At least, if you narrow the search to just a few EDs or maybe even one, you will be able to browse through it and find the person you want with a little more ease. And, if you are of a mind to be helpful, you can donate some time to indexing through the National Archives (NARA), findmypast.com, familysearch.org, or ancestry.com.

Annette and I look forward to seeing you at the next Society meeting on May 16.

Janet



GENMATES



Names: John and Bonnie (Snow - Johnson) Van Dyke

Email: jdvandyke@roadrunner.com

Phone: 207-989-9034

Will you tell a little bit about yourself and family? Where do you live? Bonnie and I are on our second marriages. We both lost our first spouses. Bonnie was married to Neal L. Johnson (died June 2007) for 41 years and I was married to Dianne E. Smith (died November 2007) for 43 years. We currently live in Brewer, Maine.

Where were you married? Do you have children? Grandchildren? Bonnie and I slipped off to Huntington, New York, October 2009, and were married in a restaurant. It was a first ever for the restaurant. Bonnie has two girls, Melissa and Cassandra. I have three girls, Rhonda, Traci and Karen. Bonnie has four grandchildren: Cole and Megan Beaton, Mikele (Reynolds) Bouchard and Abigail Rogers. I have five grandchildren: Philip Tomah and Ashley Tomah, Joshua Van Dyke, Lara Miller and Morgan Miller.

Where did you grow up? Bonnie grew up in the Sedgwick, Brooksville and then Stonington, Maine area. I grew up on Long Island, New York.

How long have you been searching your family history? Bonnie is quite lucky when it comes to her genealogy. Her uncle, Walter A. Snow, did a very in-depth research of "The Snow Genealogy". He had a 306 page book published in 1980. One of which is in the Bangor Room. In addition, Walter wrote or co-wrote books about Brooksville, Maine, "The Gray Family of Hancock County"; and "The Grindle Family of Hancock County". I caught the genealogy bug about 2005. It started with my deceased wife's ancestors and exploded from there. I now have found so much information, it surprises me. There were many things I didn't know about my mother until after her death.

How far have you gotten with your family? How many lines have you searched? Family surnames? On the Van Dyke side, with the aid of previously published books, I go back to 1652. For my deceased wife's side, I have it back to the Mayflower. I have been a "work in progress" on four lines. However, I find myself stretching out on many branches. Van Dyke, Denton in the New York area and Bäcklund and Åberg in the New Jersey and Sweden areas. In Maine, Burrill in the Dedham area and Smith in the Marion, Dennysville and Pembroke area.

What sources have you found most useful in your search? Together, Bonnie and I have found visiting county courts to be very interesting. Reading wills, and land deeds can be very informative. In addition, online access to the Registry of Deeds, Ancestry.com and Google Book search has also been great tools. Find A Grave.com is just outstanding for headstone, monument requests. Plus, the great people you meet doing research in the same lines as you.

Do you have other hobbies or interests? During the better months of the year we enjoy "grave hopping". Addition, looking for Find A Grave photo requests, and just wandering through cemeteries we discover as we travel through Washington County.

Work experiences? Bonnie, in her earlier years was devoted to raising her two children. In her later years she traveled with Neal as he worked as a salesman. Her travels took her through Washington County and Bangor north. I dedicated 29 years service to the U. S. Air Force. Then, for six years, worked (sub contracted) for Boeing Peace Sentinel in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Travel experiences? Bonnie is a real country gal. Her travels have been limited to the Sedgwick, Deer Isle, and Stonington area. After her marriage to Neal, they lived in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Within our first month, I asked Bonnie to fly to New York with me for my brother's daughter wedding. It was the first time ever in an airplane. (Once in a while, I have to remind her of her words, "I'll do ANYTHING with you".) My travels have taken me to many places in the U. S. This included upstate New York, Omaha, Nebraska, Las Vegas, Nevada, Northern and Southern California. In addition, Iceland, Thailand, Wake Island, Germany, England and Saudi Arabia.

GENSOURCES

Thoughts from Annette...

We thought it wise to choose an area that some of you may be researching and try to give you some ideas of sites to check out to see if you can find any useful information for your family research. If you have any other information on this same subject, please feel free to send it along to us so we may share with other members.

The area we decided to start this column with is Canada, particularly French and Acadian French. I always thought I had little French Canadian heritage. From my research, that is from where much of my ancestry can be traced. The most useful books I ever purchased were a two volume set of marriage records, which our society also purchased for the Bangor Room last spring. I happened upon them about 10 years ago when I called the editor to see about ordering his books on census records. I had seen those books when I went to Fredericton to the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick. He told me he had a 2 volume publication coming out soon. I asked him to send the marriage record books as soon as they were published. I have mentioned them when we have shared some of the acquisitions we have purchased for the Bangor Room. The title is Marriages of Northwestern New Brunswick, Canada for Madawaska, Restigouche (partially), and Victoria Counties 1792-2001.

I mentioned the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick in Fredericton. You can use their website as well at <http://archives.gnb.ca>. They will also do inter-library loan of microfilm, which I have done in the past with good results. Take a look at their site and see what is available. If you get an opportunity to go there, you will find the staff very helpful and the amount of material on microfilm amazing.

Another site has oral histories that may be interesting to you. It is francoamericanarchives.org. This is at the Franco-American Center at UMO. There are directions on the site if you would like to go there personally. Also while you are there, you may want to visit Fogler Library and its many offerings, including Special Collections with its Franco-American holdings.

The Bangor Public Library has access to Ancestry.com if you do not have access to it from home. The Drouin Collection on Ancestry is a very valuable resource for baptism, marriage and death records. Since the Bangor Public Library is so accessible for us, you can certainly find a wealth of information there without having to travel far!

Here are a few other things you might want to check out: <http://www.acadian-cajun.com/genlink.htm>; <http://www.francogene.com/genealogy/>; <http://francegenweb.org/>



QUERIES

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

HENDERSON Am looking for EDMOND HENDERSON who may or may not have been born in Bangor or Penobscot County in 1820s or 1830s or thereabouts...only hard evidence I have of his origins are of his son, Christie P. Henderson born in Bangor (or somewhere in Penobscot County and registered in Bangor?) in June, 1853.

Thank you, Susan Trigila strigila@yahoo.com

DELANO/COLE Looking for information on the adoption of a girl named Sarah by George Asbry DELANO and Harriet B. COLE in Penobscot County in the late 1860s. Would be appreciative of any information and/or direction on where to write to see if the adoption papers still exist.

Thanks! Margot Dudewicz

margotmdudewicz@yahoo.com

SAVE THE DATE!

The annual Maine Genealogical Society **Fall Conference** is scheduled for Saturday, September 22 in Brewer. The featured speaker is Ted Steele.

2012 State of Maine Holidays

Memorial Day	<i>Monday, May 28</i>
Independence Day	<i>Wednesday, July 4</i>
Labor Day	<i>Monday, September 3</i>
Columbus Day	<i>Monday, October 8</i>
Veterans Day	<i>Monday, November 12</i>
Thanksgiving Day	<i>Thursday, November 22</i>
Thanksgiving Friday	<i>Friday, November 23</i>
Christmas Day	<i>Tuesday, December 25</i>

IT'S HERE!

The 1940 U.S. Federal Census was released on Monday, April 2, 2012! The seventy-two year wait is over!

Online go to 1940census.archives.gov and check it out.

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

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

SEE WHAT'S ON TV!

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

Season Three of *Who Do You Think You Are?* continues/Fridays 8 p.m. From Irish Civil War to the American Revolution, and from the African nation of Cameroon to the Republic of Bulgaria, Season 3 takes us all over the world and inside the fascinating family histories of Martin Sheen, Marisa Tomei, Blair Underwood, Reba McEntire, Rob Lowe, Helen Hunt, Rita Wilson, Edie Falco, Rashida Jones, Jerome Bettis, Jason Sudeikis, and Paula Deen. Can't always watch on Fridays or missed some? Episodes are available on demand at www.nbc.com/who-do-you-think-you-are/

FINDING YOUR ROOTS

Henry Louis Gates, Jr. newest series airs on Sundays at 8 p.m. on MPBN through May 20. Using a full range of genealogical tools, he explores the roots of Kevin Bacon, Kyra Sedgwick, Angela Buchdahl, Rick Warren, Yasir Qadhi, Samuel L. Jackson, Condoleezza Rice, Ruth Simmons, Maggie Gyllenhaul, Robert Downey, Jr., Sanjay Gupta, Margaret Cho, Martha Stewart, John Legend, Wanda Sykes, Michelle Rodriguez, Adrien Grenier, Linda Chavez, Branford Marsalis, Harry Connick, Jr., John Lewis, Cory A. Booker, Barbara Walters, and Geoffrey Canada. Episodes are available on demand at mpbn.net or at <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/finding-your-roots/>