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Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, November 21, 2012
No Meeting due to Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday
Happy Thanksgiving!

Wednesday, December 19, 2012
Traditionally No Meeting – Happy Holidays!
See you in January 2013!

Wednesday, January 16, 2013
Panel discussion on the use of faith-based records
6:00 p.m., Bangor Public Library

*Look for announcements about future meeting
topics/speakers in the January newsletter.*

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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

Dear Members,

We have had some very interesting meetings over the past several months. In August, we went to the LDS Family History Center on Grandview Ave. as we traditionally do when the library closes early for the summer months. This year the meeting was a little different than it usually is. Our speaker was Julie Strong and we met in a conference room at the Center that many of us had not seen before. The setting was very comfortable and we had quite a good crowd that night. And, no wonder: Julie, who we know as an excellent and knowledgeable speaker gave us a wonderful review of the newest additions to the FamilySearch.org website.

Probably the most exciting news Julie shared with us is that the entire 1940 Census has been indexed on FamilySearch. This is an incredible accomplishment completed by many hard working volunteers over the past months since April. We are all in their debt. When you think of all the work that went into deciphering handwriting, figuring out writing on wrinkled or torn pages, working around smudges, figuring out odd spellings and unusual names . . . Well, you know all those issues and more! We are certainly grateful to those who worked so hard to make important genealogical material more accessible to all of us.

Julie shared information about the FamilySearch website that will be invaluable to our research. For example, did you know that if you have

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trouble reading a census entry try clicking on the name of any family member? You will then get to see details about that person. Did you know that the Family History Center has all the census records from 1850 to 1930 on microfilm? Sometimes, microfilm is easier to read than the electronic image. You can also take pictures of the microfilm with a digital camera and download it to your computer where you will be able to "play with the image" to make it easier to read.

In September, Steve Burrill, Superintendent of the Mount Hope Cemetery shared information about the history of the cemetery, its layout, and some of the people who are buried there. Steve's father and grandfather were Superintendents at the cemetery before him. He started out working there for his Dad while he was still in school. He thinks he will retire in two years. So, Steve has done his job for many years and still enjoys it. He has spent years developing and keeping the cemetery website up to date. You can probably see the information from a burial within a day or two after the interment.

Steve showed us how to use the website and shared some facts about the information we would find there. All of the cemeteries in Bangor bury deceased individuals or their ashes in the winter months. At Mt. Hope this is important because as a garden cemetery, they have to be ready in the spring to begin with the upkeep of the grass and plantings in a huge area. Bodies of deceased individuals from other neighboring towns are often stored for the winter at Mt. Hope until interment in the spring and summer in those towns.

Steve answered many questions from society members. I was amazed at the number of thoughtful and unusual questions the society members asked.

I was unable to attend the meeting on October 17th but I heard from at least two members that the talk by Dr. Charles Scontras was excellent. I am asking Jody Chasse to please include her notes from the meeting which she sent to me for our GenSources page of this newsletter. As I read them I could not help thinking about my maternal grandmother who worked as a young girl in the collar turning factory of the mill in Cohoes, New York and of my paternal great grandmother who worked in the woolen mill in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. My grandmother did not get to finish school and started working in the mill as a teenager. My great grandmother was able to attend school probably until at least the age of twelve because her family had an elderly grandfather and an eighteen year old stepsister who could stay at home and care for younger children.

I also recalled touring the mill in Woonsocket Rhode Island. The workers there always wondered why the day seemed so much longer in late spring, summer and early fall. There was no clock in the mill so they always worked dawn to dark starting and stopping at the sound of the bell that called them from home and notified them to close down their machines and go home. One day the church across the river put in a bell tower with a huge clock on the side of the tower which could be read from the mill. That's when the mill workers were finally able as a group to confront their bosses about the situation.

Phil Getchell and I look forward to seeing you at the next Society meeting on January 16.

Janet



GENMATES



Name: John Albertini

PCGS Vice President

Email: johna@mainstream.us

John has been researching his family for thirteen years and has traced them back to 1600.

He has searched all of his family lines. Surnames include: Albertini, Cramblitt, Maurer, Koepf, Junge, Kaltmaier, Huls, Stettner, Wynne, Randall, Brown, Chew, Ayers, Hagemeyer, Reuber, and Eisfelder.

His family has lived mainly in Anne Arundel, Maryland; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and New York City, New York. He is the only member of his family who has ever lived in Maine.

His ancestors originated from Germany, Italy, England, and Wales. They emigrated to this country in 1620, 1680, but most came between 1860 and 1890. Their primary port of entry was New York but some arrived through Maryland and Philadelphia.

His most valuable resources for genealogy have been found on the internet.

He lives in Charleston. He is married. His wife's family (surnames: Buelling, Scholl, Kaiser, Wehofer, Huber, Lovranits, Pattermann) immigrated between 1900 and 1925 to New York City. Her family is from Germany, Austria, and Hungary. He grew up on Long Island, New York. He worked in New York City for 15 years and lived in Brooklyn. They first moved to Dexter, Maine and then to Charleston. He and his wife have a cat and a dog. He enjoys camping, hiking, golf, and sports on TV.



Name: Norma Fortin

PCGS Chapter Representative to the Maine Genealogical Society

Email: Nfortin207@gmail.com

Norma started to research the ancestry of her mother shortly after she died in 2007. She knew that her father's sister had done an enormous amount of research into their family line, but she had never heard her mother speak about her ancestry.

She has information on most of her father's family back to 1649, which her aunt found. On her mother's family, she has traced the Oakes family back to 1646, the Pooler family back to 1850, but she have found very little so far about the Roy family.

Her aunt researched the Fortin, Morin and Duquette families and Norma has most of her data. Norma has been researching four lines on her mother's side.

Family surnames include: Fortin, Duquette, Daniels, Morin, Oakes, Roy, Pooler, and Merrow.

The families have lived in Quebec, New Brunswick, Massachusetts, and Maine (Waterville, Winslow, St. John Plantation, Exeter, and Sangerville.

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GENSOURCES

Maine's Labor History: Notes from a Presentation by Dr. Charles A. Scontras

By Jody Chasse

Dr. Charles A. Scontras began his presentation at the October PCGS meeting with a bit of family history. His parents emigrated to Maine from Greece. They moved from a tradition-bound rustic village to the United States yet they adapted. His father did shoe repair and his mother worked in the textile mills of Biddeford. When Dr. Scontras began to study labor history, he reflected on the different languages and cultures that came together to work. Many came from rural areas where time was calculated very differently than in an industrial setting. The pace of life was very different. Their cultural heritage with many festivals and family gatherings was often not compatible with factory life. Oh what that change must have been like! Often ethnic groups formed ghetto-like communities which provided security and enabled survival. He also realized that there was a real lack of knowledge about labor history in Maine – even labor officials didn't know their own history.

Do you know that the first strike in what would become the United States was in Portland in 1636? Fishermen, carpenters, and indentured servants were among those who voiced concerns about their treatment. In those early days, servants complained about being fed too much lobster. It was not seen as the delicacy that tourists can't wait to eat.

There was much labor turmoil in the United States in the nineteenth century with about 23,000 strikes between 1881 and 1900. The first labor union in Maine was the Farmers' and Mechanics' (those who work with their hands) Union which formed in 1831 in Bangor. But it is not until the 1880s that things really start to happen. Small shops gave way to large factories. The number of work-related injuries and deaths are not really known but working conditions were very poor. Locked doors, no fire escapes, lack of adequate toilet facilities, centralized heat, or proper air circulation, availability of water to drink, no privacy when women changed their clothes, and other issues of worker safety were prevalent. One's pay would be docked for taking time to get a drink of water on a hot day. Workers could be fined for work infractions or accidental breakage. They were required to purchase goods from a company store which often put them in a cycle of debt and dependence to the employer. Many of these immigrant workers were Catholics. When the Knights of Labor was organizing in Maine, Bishop Healey threatened to deny the sacraments to any Catholic who joined. He stated that Catholics shouldn't strike. There was one Maine work site that never had a strike. SD Warren, a man ahead of his time, provided hospital beds and other help for his employees.

There is a romantic image of Maine that is usually presented to tourists and to ourselves about lighthouses, lobsters, the mountains and the sea. We export this image to sell Maine. But, Dr. Scontras asked: where is the balance? When will we learn about our own history of labor unrest and organizations that formed to improve the working conditions of Mainers? Dr. Scontras described a practice in the lumber industry. Recruiters would falsify the nature of the work and have workers sign contracts. If laborers attempted to leave when the reality of the work became known, they would be imprisoned. That practice was finally eliminated by a Supreme Court ruling. We take the secret ballot during elections for granted but it was not always that way. At one time it was very easy for employers to oversee voting.



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The Oakes line came from England. All of her other ancestors came from France and then to Quebec. The Oakes line came to North America in 1646. The Fortin line came to North America in 1649. She is still researching the other family lines.

She does not know what ports were their final destinations in North America.

Dave Flewelling helped her greatly with the Oakes family when she was first starting. Then she found a book about the first three generations of the Oak, Oaks, Oakes family. She used Ancestry.com at the Bangor Public Library. She has had a great time finding information on the Pooler family, including that her first Pooler relative coming to Waterville from Quebec fought in the Civil War.

Norma lives in Bangor but, she grew up in Winslow, Maine. She graduated from the University of Maine. Her first job was in Framingham, Massachusetts and she lived in Boston for three years. Next, she took a job in health planning in New Mexico and lived in Albuquerque for three years. She then came back to Maine and has lived in Damariscotta, Houlton, Augusta, Hampden and Bangor. She lives with her 21 year old son who is in college working on a major in graphic design. She loves to read and she loves to drive to places she either has never seen or has not been to in a long time.

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Dr. Scontras donated books that he has written to the Penobscot County Genealogical Society. They include: Organized Labor in Maine: War, Reaction, Depression and the Rise of the CIO 1914-1943; In the Name of Humanity: Maine's Crusade Against Child Labor; Organized Labor in Maine: Twentieth Century Origins; Samuel Gompers and the American Federation of Labor vs. Maine's Congressman

Charles E. Littlefield; Collective Efforts Among Maine Workers: Beginnings and Foundations, 1820-1880; The Socialist Alternative: Utopian Experiments and the Socialist Party of Maine 1895-1914; and Labor in Maine: Building the Arsenal of Democracy and Resisting Reaction at Home, 1939-1952. Dr. Scontras' goal is to translate his books into study guides that could be used in Maine schools.

He closed his presentation with a reflection. He visited the Maine Marine Museum and viewed the paintings of many ships' captains. When he thinks about Maine's maritime history, however, he asks: who cut the timber, who built the ships, who made the sails, and who manned those ships and loaded and unloaded cargo? We don't seem to celebrate the ones who actually did the building or understand the hardships that they endured.



The 12th New England Regional Genealogical Conference

**-WOVEN IN HISTORY-
THE FABRIC OF NEW ENGLAND**

**RADISSON HOTEL
MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE
17-21 APRIL 2013**

Visit www.nergc.org for more information.

This conference promises to be a wonderful opportunity. The brochure is quite long but loaded with information about speakers, workshops, and special sessions. Just looking at the sponsoring organizations gives you an idea of the types of information that will be available during those five days in April. To get a look at the possibilities, go to <http://nergc.org/program.html> Under the program cover photo is a place to click to download the whole program.

QUERIES

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

MAINE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL SPRING WORKSHOP

Mark your calendars now! On **Saturday, April 13, 2013** at the **Augusta Civic Center**, Helen A. Shaw, MA, CGsm will present a special one-day workshop, *Census Research, Exploring the U.S. Census Records*. Here's an opportunity to increase your understanding of census records and how to obtain maximum value from them for your genealogical research. Helen will walk through an introduction to the types of census records, where to find them, and some little things to watch out for. She will provide means to finding your people in the federal census, touching on how to organize what is found and how best to cite and document those discoveries. Learn about the various non-population censuses—mortality, agricultural, social statistics, and industrial/manufacturers schedules, and the 1880 Dependent, Delinquent and Defective Classes. Then there are the special federal censuses—slave, 1890 census of Union Veterans of the Civil War and Widows of Union Veterans, and the 1840 listing of all persons receiving a pension for Revolutionary War service. Registration details will follow soon.

Really like to plan ahead—mark your calendars for **Saturday, September 21, 2013** for the **MGS Annual Fall Conference** at Jeff's Catering in Brewer. It will feature Laura Prescott of New Hampshire.

Stay in touch with the Maine Genealogical Society. Check out their website at www.maineroots.org, follow their blog at <http://mainegenealogical.blogspot.com> and join the Maine Genealogical Society group on [Facebook](#).

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

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

OUR CONTACT INFORMATION

The email address for the Penobscot County Genealogical Society is: mepcgs@gmail.com.

REMINDER: October 1 was the start of a new year at PCGS. It's time for members to pay their dues for 2012-2013—\$10 for individuals and \$15 for family membership. With no meeting until January 2013, please send a check to Phil Getchell, c/o Bangor Public Library, 145 Harlow Street, Bangor ME 04401. See the form below. This will be the last newsletter sent to members with paid dues for 2011-2012. Don't miss any 2013 newsletters and meeting announcements, renew your membership now!

PENOBSCOT COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY DUES FOR 2012-2013

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email address: _____

Surnames researching: _____

\$10 for individuals, \$15 for couples

Please remit check payable to PCGS to:

Phil Getchell
 Bangor Public Library
 145 Harlow Street
 Bangor, Maine 04401