

Winter



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Upcoming Meetings

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

Wednesday, February 20, 2013
Open Research Night with Assistance
6:00 p.m., Bangor Room, Bangor Public Library

Wednesday, March 20, 2013
Possible Speaker: Researching Northern Ireland TBA
6:00 p.m., Bangor Public Library

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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,

Well, Happy New Year to one and all. Here we are into our 11th year in 2013 and I have come back to assist Janet Spencer in the duties of heading up the Society. I have been taking a breather from this post to give someone else a shot and they both, Janet and Annette have done a wonderful job. Annette is tired and I agreed to come back to help Janet out. We are working hard to make our meetings interesting and informative for all who do attend and those who would like to if the right subject matter comes up. We have had one meeting so far and have come up with a few ideas, nothing set in stone so if any of you have an idea or a subject you would like to hear about or a person who would like to share their experiences in Family Research, please let Janet or myself know.

I am excited to see you at our first meeting of the New Year on the 16th of January 2013 at 6 P.M., Bangor Public Library at 145 Harlow Street in Bangor Maine. For any new members we run about an hour, maybe a little more and this will be our second meeting in our 11th year of being around.

Best Regards and Happy New Year!

Phil Getchell



GENMATES

Janet Spencer, Co-President, Penobscot County Genealogical Society

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I have been researching my family for about 40 years. I started by interviewing relatives to learn as much history as living relatives knew. Then, I went to city and town halls, churches, etc. to get documents. I love research so I was hooked. Through the years there have been gaps of time when I was either stuck or did not have the time to work on genealogy. My first actual genealogy course came after we moved to Maine in 1995. I took Phil Getchell's evening adult ed. class at Bangor High School. Armed with information, ideas and lots of materials, I started anew to move the research along.

I started serious research on my maternal grandfather's family. Surprisingly, I am the furthest along with that search. The Barito (Bariteau) family goes back in Quebec Province, Canada to about 1650. My paternal grandmother's family also goes back pretty far on this continent. I have good proof of two branches going back to the late 1700s and quite likely further but I cannot prove it yet. All the rest of my lines seem to have come to America in the 1840s and 1850s. I don't have anyone "over the pond" yet but I have some good hints for where to look.

I have researched nine branches of the family, four on my mother's side and five on my father's side. The maternal family surnames are: Bariteau, Giroux, McCarthy, and Rea (perhaps MacRae). Paternal family surnames are: Hyland, Kearney, Livingston, Bunce, and Flansburgh. My ancestors are mainly French, Irish, Scottish, and Dutch.

My ancestors all seem to have arrived in the Northeast and pretty much remained here for generations. They are mainly in New York State and New York City, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Jersey. Only two of my maternal grandmother's brothers moved south, one to North Carolina and one to Virginia. Through a recent connection on Ancestry, I communicated with a cousin I did not know in North Carolina and got a lot of information about that branch. I shared information about northern relatives with her. Most of my ancestors seem to have come into this country through either Quebec or New York City.

The resources I have found to be most useful in recent years are online. I started using Ancestry and Family Tree Maker in the early 1990s. I have learned a lot through census records but did not even know about them until about ten years ago. I still like the "real documents" so I try to get Vital Records or at least church or cemetery records. One of my newest endeavors is to photograph as many ancestor's grave markers as possible and record directions and GPS coordinates to find them.

I live with my husband, Al (Alfred) in Glenburn. As of last June 21st, we are both retired. I am fortunate to have a spouse who also enjoys genealogy. And, both of our sisters are also resolved to record as much family history as possible. We have two children, Charles (Chuck) who lives in Massachusetts and Lisa who lives in Berlin Germany. Lisa is the mother our only granddaughter, Christine who just turned three last week.

About six or seven years ago I began taking courses with the National Genealogical Society. I have found them exceptionally helpful. I originally planned to attain certified genealogist status. Now, I think that what I am still learning is very helpful for all that I would like to do. I belong to several genealogical societies besides PCGS. I am a member of MGS, NEHGS, NGS, New York Genealogical and Biographical Society and Northern New York Canadian American Society.

I was born and grew up in Schenectady, New York. I was originally a teacher of mostly elementary grades. Then I worked for twelve years as a Research Coordinator in Epidemiology at the Harvard School of Public Health. That position brought Al and I to Maine.

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GENMATES

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In my last seven years of work, I was director of the Healthy Maine Partnership in Bangor (one of the sites established in the state by Maine's share of the Tobacco Settlement funds).

I really enjoy research, reading, travel, gardening and hiking in nice weather. My favorite exercise is yoga. I have traveled through a good bit of the U.S., some of eastern Canada, the South Pacific area (Hawaii, the Philippines, Japan, Okinawa, Korea), England, Spain, and Germany.

Phil Getchell, Co-President, Penobscot County Genealogical Society

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I have been researching my family for about 24 years and have gone back to the first Getchells or back then Gatchells who settled here in the new world in 1636, in Salem, MA. For the most part the Getchell Family (with various different spellings) has pretty much stayed in New England and the Maritimes of Canada. The whole line started with two brothers, John and Samuel Gatchell settling in Salem MA around 1636 and then moving to Marblehead MA, coming from Monkton West, Taunton, Somersetshire England.

Seems that John's family stayed pretty much in MA and Samuel's beginning to move north into N.H. and then ME staying here or heading to Canada around the third generation. Later one see some lines heading west settling in MN and other states along the way to CA for the Gold Rush. Our Maine Roots are very deep as there are a lot of Getchells, Gatchells, Gitchells or Gotchells in this state as well as in New Brunswick Canada. In fact one line of Getchells of St. Stephen N.B. Canada.

Sources I have used in researching my family lines were at first the good ol' town records, found on microfilm at the Maine State Archives and now at the University of Maine in Orono. They both have the records from 1892 to 1955. Back in the day when I first started I used the State Archives as they had older town records before 1892 and in some cases back to the 1700s. Those are selected towns not all. I also did a lot of letter writing and made many Queries in the Bangor Daily News and the Portland Press Herald and received a lot of responses. Of course with each response the materials were double checked against town records to prove them out. After 1840 the use of Census Records was really important as not only did they name the head of household but all who lived there.

After having my direct line pretty much laid out, I want to help others and began teaching Genealogy for Beginners at Bangor Adult Ed, doing that for about 15 years or so, finally having to stop as it was becoming too much as I still work a full time job. With the teaching there came a chance to start a Genealogy Group in the Bangor area when a former student asked if I thought one could get one going. Told that gentleman (Dale Mower) only way to find out is try. That was 10 years ago and the society is still going strong.

I have been married for 29 years and when I took up genealogy, so did my wife. We have had one heck of time researching our families, traveling all around Maine, New Hampshire and MA, the Canadian Maritimes and even taking a few trips across the "POND" hoping to find the origins but only finding beautiful country sides in England, Scotland and Ireland.

Safe Driving to
All This Winter!



GENSOURCES

Using Religious Records in Genealogical Research

By Janet Spencer

Religious records can be a very helpful resource for family research and are probably not used as much as they could be. Before civil Vital Records were registered, religious records may provide the genealogist with important dates in the life of an ancestor as well as names and relationships of family members and friends.

Finding a death record is a good place to start since it is important in family research to start with information from the present and back-up through the lives of your family generation by generation. Burials were historically officiated by a member of the clergy and are recorded by this person, sometimes just in a record book kept by that denomination or with a certificate for the family.

After the Reformation in Europe, many countries established their own state religion. In the United States during the Colonial period, some of the colonies had an established state church. This often followed the country of origin of the earliest settlers in that colony. For example, in New York where many people of Dutch heritage settled, it is not surprising that New Netherland (Manhattan and Brooklyn) had the Dutch Reformed Church as the established church.

In New England (except Rhode Island) the Congregational Church was the established church while the Church of England was the established church of many of the more southern colonies.

In the mid to late 1700s, 30% of the religious population of the colonies were Congregationalists, 26% were members of the Church of England, 22% were Presbyterians, and 15% were members of the Lutheran or Reformed churches. Other religious groups with smaller numbers of members were Quakers, Baptists, Catholics, Methodists, and Jews.

After the Revolutionary War the Constitution put the separation of church and state in place. The Church of England was removed as the established church in many states. In the early 1800s, most of the New England states removed the Congregational Church as an established church.

Keep history in mind as you think about faith based records. By 1890, 30% of those U.S. citizens who were enrolled in a faith were Catholics (think potato famine and religious persecution in Europe), slightly over 22% were Methodist, 18% were Baptist, 6% were Presbyterian, 6% were Lutheran, 3 ½ % were Disciples of Christ, 2 ½ % were Episcopalian, 2 ½ % were Congregationalist, 1 ½ % were Reformed, and a little over 1% were United Brethren.

These are important facts to keep in mind when researching in the earlier years of our country when no civil records of life events were kept. If you are not lucky enough to have a family bible that has a carefully kept record of life events for your family (written by someone present at the time or who would be in a position to know the facts such as a parent), you will need to refer to any religious records you can find. If you do not know an ancestor's faith, you may be able to start by guessing based on where the family lived and their country of origin if you know it.

At the Society meeting on January 16th, we hope to have a panel of speakers representing several religious faiths who will speak briefly about the types of records available in their faith and how to request them.

Note: Some statistics in the above article are taken from the National Genealogical Society's lesson on church records. For the sake of ease of writing I have approximated several of the percentages.

ANCESTRY DAY WITH NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

**Saturday, March 2, 2013
at the Sheraton Boston**

New England Historic Genealogical Society is again partnering with Ancestry.com for a special day-long genealogy event, which will take place on March 2, 2013, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Sheraton Boston hotel in the Back Bay.

This program is open to the public. You do not need to be a member of NEHGS or a subscriber to Ancestry.com to attend.

The program will offer you a chance to discover and celebrate your family history. Classes and sessions throughout the day will help you get the most out of your research using Ancestry.com and NEHGS resources. Full day admission to this special event is only \$30.

As an added offer, on Friday, March 1, 2013, one-on-one consultations with members of our expert staff will be available. Space is limited! While here, you can also learn more about using the NEHGS website AmericanAncestors.org.

MAINE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL SPRING WORKSHOP

Mark your calendars now! On **Saturday, April 13, 2013, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.** 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.

To register send you name, address, email address and a check payable in US funds to: Maine Genealogical Society (\$30/members—include membership number, \$40/non-MGS members) to Celeste Hyer, 69 Loop Road, Otisfield, ME 04270-6456. The registration fee includes lunch. Not currently a MGS member? Send in your dues and membership application (available on MGS website) with your conference registration and take advantage of the member discount.

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](https://www.facebook.com/MaineGenealogicalSociety).

The 12th New England Regional Genealogical Conference

-WOVEN IN HISTORY- THE FABRIC OF NEW ENGLAND

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

This conference promises to be a wonderful opportunity. To get a look at the possibilities, go to <http://nergc.org/program.html> or, better yet, our Chapter Representative to the Maine Genealogical Society, Norma Fortin, will have brochures for this event at our January meeting.

MAINE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

Saturday, September 21, 2013 at Jeff's Catering in Brewer. The conference will feature Laura Prescott of New Hampshire.

QUERIES

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

GULLIF(V)ER I am looking for info on Clark GULLIF(V)ER who married Mary A. PIERCE; they had 5 children, two died at birth, Edgar born 1856, Alice born 1864 and Flora born 1851 all in Penobscot Maine. Clark's parents were Peleg GULLIFER and Sarah STANLEY. He was also married to Nancy THURSTON. Mary's parents were Simeon PIERCE and Sarah DEAN. Thanks for any help, Bruce Timms katnbru86@aol.com

RICH Looking for parents of Nancy J. RICH b. 1825 in N. Bangor (according to death certificate) Married 1843 to John P. OAKES b. 1822 In Exeter ME. They are my gr gr grandparents. Have not been able to find her parents anywhere. Thought at one time she may be dau. of Hosea RICH, MD but not so sure. Any help would be appreciated--I have looked everywhere. Thank you, Mike Weston, Cape Porpoise ME westcon3@roadrunner.com

My roots are in Maine!



ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE BANGOR FAMILY HISTORY CENTER— Come to our next public class at 10 a.m. on Saturday, January 12, 2013: **British Research** presented by Julie Strong, an Accredited Genealogist who specializes in British Research. The center is located at the corner of Essex Street and Grandview Avenue in Bangor.

OUR CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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

MAINE STATE LAW AND LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY

The Law and Legislative Reference Library in Augusta, Maine is a public library that would like to serve you whether you choose to visit in person or contact them from another location.

Hours and closings: 8 AM - 5 PM, Monday - Friday; Irregular night and weekend hours when the House or Senate is meeting. Closed all state and federal holidays, as well as mandated legislative shutdown days. See table below.

2013 State of Maine Holidays

Event	Dates Closed	
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Mon.	Jan. 21, 2013
Washington's Birthday/President's Day	Mon.	Feb. 18, 2013
Patriots Day	Mon.	Apr. 15, 2013
Memorial Day	Mon.	May 27, 2013
Independence Day	Thur.	July 4, 2013
Labor Day	Mon.	Sept. 2, 2013
Columbus Day	Mon.	Oct. 14, 2013
Veteran's Day	Mon.	Nov. 11, 2013
Thanksgiving Holiday	Thur.- Fri.	Nov. 28-29, 2013
Christmas Day	Wed.	Dec. 25, 2013

