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Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, April 17, 2013

Bill Sawtelle – The History of Swedish Migration to
Brownville & Brownville Junction, Maine
6:00 p.m., Bangor Public Library

Wednesday, May 15, 2013

Roxanne Moore Saucier – Military Records and
Materials Available at the Cole Museum
6:00 p.m., Bangor Public Library or Cole Land Transportation
Museum, 405 Perry Road, Bangor

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Betsy Paradis – Using the Internet to Do
Genealogical Research
5:30 p.m. (note earlier start time), Bangor Public Library

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Upcoming Meetings	1
Presidents' Message	1,2
GenMates	3,4
GenSources	5,6
Announcements and Queries	7

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

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

Message from our President

Dear Members,

I guess most of you know by now that Phil Getchell has had to step down as Co-President of our Society due to increased work obligations. Joyce Elaine has generously offered to help out in any way she can. Thank you, Joyce!

If you were able to attend the February meeting, you have already received your new membership card designed by Joyce Elaine and printed in collaboration with Annette Roberts. They look beautiful and everyone at the meeting was delighted to get one. Members who were not able to attend the February meeting may receive their cards at the April meeting.

The February meeting was held in the Bangor Room for research night and it was a little different this year. First of all, the roof leaks have affected the Bangor Room dramatically. Many of the materials in one whole section have had to be moved to another area. But, as usual, Elizabeth cheerfully greeted us, led several members to the materials that were moved and helped others with research. When the meeting was over Elizabeth marveled that this had been the biggest group she ever remembered seeing at a research night.

One group of five or six members had been having an animated and exciting discussion of Franco-American ancestors before the meeting which continued off to one side through much of the meeting. They seemed to be learning a lot from each other.

Continued on page 2

It occurred to me that some others might be interested in learning from John Nelligan and Pete McClarie about their trips to Ireland to research their families. So, that group moved out to the area between the Bangor Room and the Lecture Hall. They were excitedly talking about a lecture on March 26th at AAA about travel in Ireland. Others began working on the computer, looking through microfilm or searching the rows of material still located in the Bangor Room. In addition, two members had ideas for topics at future meetings. Always welcome! All in all, it was a very successful meeting. Thank you to Elizabeth and all members who helped other members find information.

We regretted having to cancel the March meeting due to a storm. You would think by March 20th Mother Nature would have given up the snow routine but no, one more dumping was needed. Our member, Al Banfield, who was our scheduled speaker for that meeting has graciously agreed to speak at our November meeting.

For our meeting on April 17th, we are very fortunate to have Bill Sawtelle, author and expert on the migration and settlement of the Swedes to Maine, in particular to the Brownville and Brownville Junction areas. That promises to be a very enlightening and enjoyable meeting.

In this issue you will find a copy of our calendar of meetings for the rest of 2013. It has taken a little extra work this year but I think you will enjoy our speakers.

Please note as well that there is information in this issue about the April 13 MGS Conference in Augusta. Helen A. Shaw will be the main speaker and she will be talking about using the US census records. I know she will have some neat little tricks for getting information and in particular about using the pre-1850 records to advantage. I am looking forward especially, to that part.

See you in April (when it will really be spring?),

Janet Spencer



SPEAKERS FOR PCGS MEETINGS 2013

April 17: **Bill Sawtelle** – The History of Swedish Migration to Brownville & Brownville Junction, Maine

May 15: **Roxanne Moore Saucier** – Military Records and Materials available at the Cole Museum (Possibly meet at Museum)

June 19: **Betty Paradis** – Using the Internet in Genealogical Research

July 17: **Annual Cookout** at the Hampden Historical Society yard

August 21: Annual meeting at the LDS **Bangor Family History Center** with possible speaker

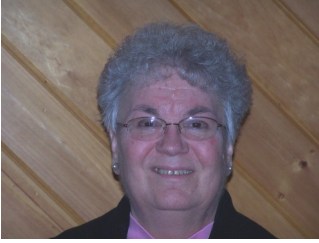
September 18: **Robert Chenard** – Maine Franco-American History and Genealogy

October 16: **Jack Battick** on understanding 18th and 19th century disease names and finding family history information from that era

November 20: **Al Banfield** – Researching the Westward Movement of Ancestors

December 18: No meeting in December

GENMATES



Name: Annette Roberts

Treasurer, Penobscot County Genealogical Society

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How long have you been researching your family history? I began in earnest in 1999, although I had asked my mother many questions before that time. My dad used to tell me lots of family connections. He went to visit his extended family and cemeteries. I often tagged along. After I got started researching, I was able to connect with some first cousins I never knew. We worked on things together. We have another more distant cousin who had done much research for many years. She helped us a great deal. She is a stickler for details and citations. Occasionally I am able to connect with others who are researching the same family lines.

How far back have you gotten with your family? One of the lines on my father's paternal side goes back to the Mayflower. John Alden and Priscilla Mullins are my 8th great grandparents. I can go several generations back on one branch of my father's maternal side, but the paternal side has not been accessible so far. That is the brick wall area. On my mother's side, I can go back to France with one branch and to Wales with another. Much of my mother's family was from northern Maine and New Brunswick.

How many lines have you searched? I have searched as many as I can find. I like to delve into the rest of the clan, just to see who they are and how they connect. I am not content with direct lines only. They are too narrow and need to be fleshed out.

Family surnames? On my maternal side, surnames are Oakes & Roberge. Both are large families, especially the Oak, Oaks, Oakes lines. There is lots of intrigue in some of these lines and stories. On the paternal side, surnames are Flynn, Small, Riggs and Delano, Anderson and Libby. These are fun for me, because they take me back to where I grew up. I like to go to the cemeteries and the library to see what else I can find.

Where have they lived in North America? Most of my ancestors came to New England and New Brunswick. I have lived in Maine all of my life. My parents were both born in Maine, although in quite distant parts of the state.

Where did your ancestors originate from? Ireland, England, France and Wales

Approximately when did they emigrate to North America? As I mentioned, some came on the Mayflower. Others came later from Ireland.

Do you know what port they entered? I have not been able to find that information yet.

What resources have you found most useful in your research? Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, a number of books in my personal collection

Where do you live? I live in Glenburn. We have lived here for almost 40 years.

Will you tell a little bit about yourself and your family? I am married to Bruce W. (Bob) Roberts. We have been married for nearly 45 years. We were high school sweethearts and married during our senior year in college. We do not have any children. We settled in the Bangor area after college. I was a teacher in Bangor for 38 years, before retiring almost 6 years ago. I grew up in Portland and South Portland. My father's family all came from that area of the state. Over the years, we have always been involved in some volunteer project, most especially Engaged Encounter, which is a marriage preparation program through our church. We were heavily involved in various capacities for about 20 years. A few years after I retired, Bob and I began running a food pantry in Bangor, which we continue to do.

Continued on page 4

GENMATES

(continued from page 3)



Name: Jody Chasse, Newsletter Editor, Penobscot County Genealogical Society

Email: jcjlrij@aol.com

How long have you been researching your family history? I began asking my mother and father questions nearly 40 years ago and have dabbled through the years. I took Phil Getchell's class a few years ago and am finally becoming more organized and deliberate in my research.

How far back have you gotten with your family? I can trace some families back to the late 1700s but for most it is the time of their immigration in the 1840s.

How many lines have you searched? I have attempted all of my lines but reach brick walls quickly as I do not know the towns or even counties of origin in Ireland for many of them. The Leeman line probably connects with families traced by others but I need to do some further research to be sure.

Family surnames? Leeman, O'Donnell, Hurley, McCluskey, Dunn, Leary, Carey, Higgins, Sullivan, Welch, Coffee, and Mulligan

Where have they lived in North America? On my father's side, both of his parents were born in New Brunswick, one in Westmorland County and the other in St. John County and then migrated to Maine. On my mother's side, both of her parents were born in Maine. The O'Donnells first arrived in Pennsylvania from Ireland and then moved to Washington County in Maine, living in Trescott and Machias. The Learys and Sullivans came from County Kerry, Ireland and settled in Whitneyville (Washington County), Maine. Hugh McCluskey settled in Hampden, Maine and came from Ireland apparently via the Province of Quebec. Welch/Mulligan family also settled in Hampden and came from County Mayo, Ireland.

Where did your ancestors originate from? All are from Ireland except the Leemans who are from England.

Approximately when did they emigrate to North America? Those from Ireland emigrated about the time of the great potato famine. The Leeman family emigrated in 1774 to Nova Scotia.

Do you know what port they entered? Not definitively. I need to do further research.

What resources have you found most useful in your research? I have done quite a bit of research using Ancestry.com. The online resources of the New Brunswick Provincial Archives have also been very helpful. My mother, however, really started me in the right direction. She was able to remember many family details that have greatly assisted my efforts. My father had fewer details but he too provided good starting information. Connecting with cousins who are searching the same family lines has also been a big assist.

Where do you live? I was born in Bangor and have lived here all my life.

Will you tell a little bit about yourself and your family? I grew up in Bangor, surrounded by extended family, and proud of my Irish heritage. My parents and all my aunts and uncles are now deceased. I have two brothers and many cousins who still live in this area. My husband, who was originally from Madawaska, died nearly 15 years ago. I have two children, three step-children, three grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. Most live out-of-state. I attended the University of Maine, received an MSW from Michigan State University and a certificate in pastoral ministry from Loyola University, New Orleans. I am now retired but I served as a pastoral associate at St. Mary's Church in Bangor for several years. I remain involved at the church as a cantor and choir member. I have always loved to sing. For several years, I have sung in the annual Rotary Show that raises money for local non-profit organizations. I do love to travel. I have been to Ireland three times. I especially enjoyed taking my two children there for a two week visit a few years ago. I have also traveled to Canada, Puerto Rico, England, Scotland, Greece, Guadalupe, Germany, Belgium, and France. I have also enjoyed trips to California, Florida, and Maryland to visit my family.

GENSOURCES

Letter to Ireland Answered – 28 Years Later by Megan Smolenyak



Not long ago, I received a response to a letter I wrote to a stranger in Ireland -- in 1984. Making the experience more peculiar still is the fact that the gentleman I contacted had passed away in 1990. Perhaps I should explain.

I've been obsessed with genealogy since the sixth grade, so back when other kids were saving up allowance to buy record albums, I was squirreling away my quarters for the next death certificate. Each certificate secured only served to further fuel my quest, so like many genealogists, I found my innocent dabbling morphing into a lifetime pursuit. But these were pre-Internet days, so what did you do when you got to the point in your research where you had to cross the pond to pursue your roots in the old country? You (*gasp!*) wrote a letter. Seriously. That's what we used to do.

And so, that's what I apparently did back in September of 1984.

Taking advantage of the fact that I lived in the Washington, D.C. area, I had turned to one of my favorite hidden stashes in the Library of Congress -- their collection of overseas phone books. In this instance, my target was anyone in Ireland who shared the surname of one of my immigrant great-great-grandmothers, Ellen Nelligan. Luckily for me, I found a listing for a gentleman named Daniel Neligan who owned a bakery and confectionary in Castleisland, Ireland, and wrote him a letter wondering on the page whether he might be related or could tell me anything about Ellen's family.

Fast forward 28 years. You probably won't be surprised to hear that I had completely forgotten this letter -- that is, until an unexpected email materialized:

"Hi Megan,

Charlie Nelligan here. Just received a letter today which you sent to my late father Daniel back in Sept 1984. It was locked away in a drawer somewhere for safe keeping. In the letter you were enquiring about Ellen Nelligan, your great-great-grandmother whom you said came from Ireland, born 1836. If by chance you haven't found her over the past 28 years, here goes -- Ellen Nelligan was born in Duagh, County Kerry on 1st June 1832 to Maurice Nelligan and Catherine Curtin . . ."

Charlie went on to detail the names and birth dates of Ellen's assorted siblings. I was gobsmacked.

As it happens, I had learned more about Ellen over the intervening years, but I was stunned that a complete stranger had taken the trouble to respond to a letter posted to his father almost three decades ago -- not to mention, find the answers to my questions.

I immediately replied, rewarding his kindness with another round of questions. Was he Charlie Nelligan, the well known football player? Did he still own the bakery? Back came the response: "Yes, I am the former Kerry Football Goalkeeper and owner of Bakery shops. The football has finished, but the Bakery shops are still surviving. In fact my son Daniel has taken over the Castleisland branch. He is the third generation Neligan in the bakery trade, so you can still send your letters to Daniel Neligan (Bakery and Confectionary)."



This triggered a memory and I went digging through old vacation photos and souvenirs. Among them was a photo of one of Charlie's bakeries that I had visited perhaps a decade ago. In fact, I was so tickled to see an ancestral surname adorning the shop that I bought some bread just to save the

Continued on page 6



colorful wrapping.

The event he was speaking of was last year's, but anyone with Kerry heritage (particularly anyone with Brosnan ancestry) should consider a visit to this year's [East Kerry's Roots Festival](#), as it's part of [The Gathering](#), Ireland's massive, yearlong, homecoming initiative to welcome descendants of the worldwide Irish diaspora back to the land of their forebears.

Attached to the message were images of my letter -- a piece of my past that had been tucked away in a biscuit tin in County Kerry all these years. How surreal it was to see my younger, inquisitive self in the questions I had penned in the loopy, but far more legible, handwriting I once had. It was, I

suspect, the closest I'll ever get to a message-in-a-bottle experience, and it was worth the wait.

So is Charlie my cousin? I'm not sure yet, but he treated me as if I were:

"I have had lots of Neligan "cousins" call to my shops over the years and we have all left each other with a smile, photograph, shake hands, and of course, "you look very like my Dad -- it's the nose." I love it when the cousins drop in. If you ever decide to visit our area, there are plenty of spare rooms in our house. My wife and I would be delighted. No need to bring an umbrella -- we have plenty. Regards, Charlie"

And there, wrapped up in this entirely unexpected experience, was the very heart of The Gathering. Irish hospitality at its effortless finest. 2013 is the ideal time to visit for the first time or return for the seventeenth. No need to bring an umbrella -- they have plenty.

Worried that I was pushing my luck now, I still couldn't resist asking whether Charlie might be willing to share a copy of my letter to his father, and graciously, he scanned and sent it, explaining how it had come to his attention:

"My father used to keep all his personal letters in a biscuit tin beside a safe in his bedroom. He died in 1990. My mother never opened the tin box and she passed away in 2001. My brother T.J. handed me the box last week as he knew that the Roots festival was coming up and there were letters in it which might be of interest to somebody. That's when your letter surfaced."

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Reprinted with permission of Megan Smolenyak.

Megan Smolenyak is a Genealogy Expert and Author of "Hey, America, Your Roots Are Showing" & "Who Do You Think You Are?"

Thank you to PCGS member, John Nelligan, for bringing her blog post to our attention.

MAINE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL SPRING WORKSHOP

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*.

Schedule for the Day

8:00-9:00 Workshop Registration

9:00-10:30 Introduction To The Census

Census schedules are a valuable resource for information about your ancestral families. This talk will cover the history of the federal censuses, the types of censuses that exist (in general), and where and how to locate census schedules of various kinds and in various formats. There will also be a discussion of what information and clues are to be found in censuses and why it is important to find all possible censuses for your ancestors and their extended families.

10:45-11:45 Finding Your People In The Census

When there is no index for a census or your people are not (obviously) in the index, how do you find them? Resources and techniques which can be used to narrow and refocus the search for people in census schedules will be discussed. Tips for searches using on-line indexes will be presented. These tips and techniques can be used for any census year, be it 1790, 1900, 1930, or censuses yet to come.

12:00-1:00 Luncheon Buffet

1:15-2:30 Federal Non Population & Special Censuses

From 1850 to 1880 the federal government collected data in four broad categories of non-population schedules: agriculture, mortality, industry (a/k/a manufacturing), and social statistics. In 1880, a fifth series of schedules was added; data was collected on seven groups of people under the general heading of "Dependent, Delinquent, and Defective Classes."

The Federal special censuses include the 1850 and 1860 Slave Schedules and the 1890 Census of Union Veterans of the Civil War and Widows of Union Veterans. The 1840 population census includes a listing of all persons receiving a pension for Revolutionary War service.

2:45-4:00 Census Analysis

Case studies will be used to show how to formulate and test hypotheses based on information in census records. The talk starts with two simple problems and moves to more complex cases, one of which uses pre-1850 censuses.

You may sign up for the workshop online at <http://conference.maineroots.org>. Not an MGS member? That's okay. All are welcome. But members get \$10 off the registration fee.

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.

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.

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>.

BANGOR FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

– Upcoming class schedule: **Saturday, May 11**, 10-11 a.m., "Google Your Family History" presented by Gail Kill; **Saturday, June 8**, 10-11 a.m., "Canadian Research" presented by Roxanne Moore Saucier; and TBD, "Using FamilySearch Family Trees." The center is located at 639 Grandview Avenue in Bangor (at corner with Essex Street).

QUERIES

To post a query, email mepcgs@gmail.com

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