



Penobscot County Genealogical Society
Penobscot Roots & Connections

Editor: Jody Chasse 138 Eagle Ridge Road Brewer, ME 04412 E-Mail: mepcgs@gmail.com

Upcoming Meetings

Hospitality Half Hour begins at 5:30 p.m. each month
(Bangor Public Library meetings only)
Coffee, Tea, Refreshments, and Conversation

Wednesday, July 16, 2014
Hampden Historical Society Visit and Tour
6:00 p.m., Kinsley Home 83 Main Road South, Hampden

Wednesday, August 20, 2014
Brewer Historical Society Visit and Tour
6-8:00 p.m., Clewley Museum, 199 Wilson Street, Brewer

Wednesday, September 17, 2014
6:00 p.m., To Be Determined But
It Will Be Worth Your Attendance

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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

I hope this message finds you all well and in the midst of some great genealogical discoveries. I am happy to say I have uncovered a couple of fun bits of family history over the past couple of months.

In the midst of pondering what to say here, Ancestry.com went down for several hours as the target of a DDoS attack. Ancestry.com seems to be the website that a lot of people love to hate - so you can imagine the firestorm of comments on the internet about the outage. Comments ranged from understanding sanity into the realm of total ridiculousness - yes, some had very valid concerns. But, yet, I found myself actually being thankful that I have a life, as some people obviously don't. But the site is back up, and in retrospect, maybe there are a couple of lessons to be learned or thoughts revisited (if I touch on any nerves, I apologize as I rarely get up on my soapbox and these are the views of my humbleness, not of the society).

First, more than a few people were expressing concern that Ancestry.com had lost ALL of their YEARS of research. Seriously? You have all of your research ONLY on a website? To begin with, BACK UP your data. Wherever you are maintaining your genealogical information, you need to safeguard against disaster - whether it is paper files in your house or bytes of info on a computer. Fires, theft, viruses, bad sectors, etc. are all potential harbingers of doom.

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I recommend backing up your data and never have it all in just one place. If you back up your computer files, don't have the backup sitting next to your computer or even in your house, take it offsite. Have one of your backups be in up in the cloud - note I said "one." The point is, if you lose your originals or one of your copies, you still have those years of research.

Second, I am not a proponent of having all of your work only online. I know there are many options for building family trees online. It is a great tool. However, if that is the only place you are building your tree and attaching electronic documents, etc., please realize that you are also passing off the responsibility for maintaining that information. Don't give up total control over your work. If the website goes out of business, if the website is purchased by another company, if the website updates its programming and you no longer find it friendly to use, if, if, if. What then happens to all of your work? Take the time to learn your options for protecting your work - make it your responsibility. Know the ramifications for when the "if" happens.

Third, if you are ONLY using Ancestry.com to research your family, you really are missing out. There are many other websites with so much more varied information. From familysearch.org to others that are just too darn numerous to mention. One website going down for a few hours (or heck, even a week) should not equate to the genealogical apocalypse. And remember, even if the world wide web is down, we still have libraries, people, and other resources we could connect with.

Fourth, Ancestry.com is a subscription resource. You have the option to subscribe or not. To not politicize this, you have this option with all subscription websites. It's a personal decision whether the website has the type of material that makes the subscription worthwhile. I have subscribed to some that proved very beneficial, I have subscribed to some that proved to not live up to my expectations. I really have no qualms about a company charging for access to material that it has expended resources to make available - I realize there is a tremendous cost to digitizing, indexing and make available the vast number of records being added each day. I have accessed material that I never would have been able to otherwise - not just from a money and time standpoint, but from just not knowing where to find that darn elusive document. Sure, we can gripe a little about the price if we want, and we can gripe about their customer service at times; but that's where I draw the line as I do think it's only fair to give them a return on their investment. I value their contributions to my research. And don't just say there are no options - explore the internet and see what you can find for free, there's LOTS of good info out there. And don't forget to also explore what sites and databases are available through agreements with your local libraries and family history centers.

Remember, these are all just my opinions, and I thank you for making it through the rant. Now let's all get back to the fun side of research. Happy hunting!

Dale Mower



Welcome New Members: a Summary for the Current Period April, May and June 2014

We have just a few new members to welcome this period, in addition to renewals.

April: Jean Boynton Holden, ME
 Virginia Greene Old Town, ME

May: Walt & Vicky Holman Bangor, ME

June: Welcome the end of a long Winter, a quick Spring and an early Summer!

Reminder: We do not publish contact information for members for privacy considerations so please post to and study postings on the Facebook Members page; and in our newsletter and web-site queries.

In addition to membership dues, we are pleased to report new donations from enthusiastic members and appreciative researchers in the amount of \$13, along with miscellaneous counter sales of \$7.

Thanks and welcome to all; share your findings and “brick walls;” learn by sharing.

Jim Beckett, Treasurer

Penobscot County Genealogical Society Officers for 2013-14

President – Dale Mower

Vice-President – Chris Johnson

Secretary – Wendy Asher

Treasurer – Jim Beckett

Newsletter Director – Jody Chasse

Program Committee – Elizabeth Stevens, Chair, and Sandy Burke, Al Banfield, Mary Banfield

Research Coordinator – Dave Flewelling

Hospitality Committee – Norma Fortin, Mary Banfield, Chris Johnson

Webmaster – Dale Mower

Historian / Archivist – open

Maine Genealogical Society Representative – Al Banfield

Call for Assistance

Do you have an interest in serving on the Society's board? Whether you just want to stick a toe in the water or take a big plunge, there's always something that you can offer to help the society run smoothly. Being on the board opens a new door to interaction and relationships. We'll be coming up on Election of Officers in just a couple of months – a great time to join. If you have an interest and would like to know more, please contact either Dale or any officer. It's your society, come join the fun!

GENMATES



Name: Julie Shepardson Brownie

E-mail: jsgbrownie@yahoo.com

Telephone: (Day Mon-Wed 947-2592)/Home 296-2866

How long have you been researching your family history?

How far back have you gotten? I have been researching for about 13 years and have gotten back to 1550 on one line, my father's paternal line, Shepardson.

How many lines have you researched? Family surnames? I have researched 3 lines: Shepardson, Rand and Haskell.

Where have they lived in North America? My roots are deep in New England. The Shepardsons and Haskells came to New England in the 1600s. I have not researched the Rands back that far, so that is a story yet to be discovered by me.

Where did your ancestors come from? The Shepardsons came specifically from Brimsfield, England and the Haskells are from England.

What port did they enter? The Shepardsons came through Salem, Massachusetts.

What resources did you find most useful in your research? Town records have been very helpful and I love doing the legwork – seeing the original hand writing in the log books and sitting in the grass next to the gravestones. I am fortunate that my ancestors all lived in New England and these resources were readily available to me.

Where do you live? I live in Stetson on 136 acres that has been in my family for 7 generations. It came to me through the Haskell line – my father's maternal line. I especially like the fact that the land came down to me from my grandmother who received it from her mother and her mother before that. We have placed the land in an easement with the Maine Farmland Trust so that it will remain as farmland in perpetuity.

A little about myself: I grew up in Milo, Maine and I am married to Dale Brownie and we have a cat, Lucy. I am a medical laboratory scientist and have worked in clinical laboratories for 45 years. Dale is an engineer and a retired NAVY Chief and works at Pease Air Force Base, and yes, we have a commuter marriage. He lives in Rollinsford, New Hampshire during the week and comes home on weekends. We met in Saudi Arabia where I worked for 4 years as the Transfusion Service Supervisor for the King Faisal Specialist Hospital in Ryadh and he worked for Northrop Grumman. I have traveled to some 43 countries – but never to England! So, I need to get that organized so I can visit Brimsfield. We like to read history books, hike, snowshoe, ski, garden and we both play musical instruments. I play the clarinet and Dale plays clarinet, cornet and trombone in various bands.

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GENMATES

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Name: Pam Beveridge

How long have you been researching your family history? More than 30 years

How far back have you gotten? Depends on how much of a stickler for the facts I'm being at the time – Actually I don't spend much time on my own genealogy.

How many lines have you researched? Family surnames? Turner, Young and

Hansen

Where have they lived in North America? New England and the Maritimes

Where did your ancestors come from? Mostly Great Britain and Ireland

When did they emigrate to North America? 1600s-1700s

What port did they enter? Halifax, Boston and Eastport

What resources did you find most useful in your research? Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org and Google Search

Where do you live? Near Bangor

A little about myself: I am retired. Mostly I'm too tied to scanner and computer for travel but I enjoy the genealogy voyage of discovery. I am looking forward to bus tours of the St. John Valley during the Acadian World Congress!

Dale's Thoughts on GenMates

For what it's worth – I had heard about connections being made. And then it happened to me. We all gather but we really don't always take the time to figure out everyone's lines of research. My GenMate was in the last newsletter (stellar reading, hope you enjoyed it!). They come in pairs, so then I read Jim Beckett's profile. I noticed he was talking about the Tidd family and suddenly the name "Catherine Emma Estabrook" popped off the page. She's in MY family tree. Catherine's sister, Cordelia Flora Estabrook, is my great-grandmother. Small world! Connection made. You never know. Share the info about your ancestry.... GenMates is a good little tool to do some of that!

A note from Jim Beckett on Dale's thoughts on GenMates

Yes, Dale Mower and Ken Tidd are 3rd cousins; yet neither would have realized it had Dale not read and followed through on the Genmates article. Catherine Emma Estabrooks is Ken's great grandmother. She was born in New Brunswick and married Andrew Harrison Tidd in Hodgdon, Aroostook, ME. The Tidds came from Digby, Nova Scotia to Hodgdon by 1830. Small world indeed!

Navigating the Past: Sailing into the Future

What about a trip to Rhode Island to attend this April 2015 conference!

The New England Regional Genealogical Consortium, Inc. (NERGC) invites you to the thirteenth genealogical conference **15-19 April 2015** at the Rhode Island Convention Center in Providence, Rhode Island. The Convention Center offers outstanding facilities, amenities, and service in an easy-to-reach location in the heart of historic Providence. Check out website:

www.nergc.org/Conference-Home-Page.html

The conference theme, "*Navigating the Past: Sailing into the Future*", has strong nautical connections, in keeping with the distinctive flavor of Rhode Island, while also focusing on methodology with "navigating the past" and looking towards the changes of the future (technology, passing on information, and getting kids involved in genealogy)

Mail Chimp?

In an effort to improve the delivery of Society emails to our members - whether the newsletter, meeting reminders, or other info - in June we set up an account using the services of Mailchimp.com. It's a free service based on the size of our group. The hope being that the emails would get through spam filters better than the emails from the gmail account.

One advantage we do have with this service is that we are able to see if the emails are opened. Our initial contact had a 72% open rate and we can pull a report to see which members did not open the email. We'll be monitoring that as we try to increase the success rate and identify problem areas. We hope you enjoy the new look of the email and extend patience as we continue to tweak and improve. If you have any questions or comments, please direct those to our President Dale... he's at dale@mower-family.com.



My roots are in Maine!

2014 State of Maine Holidays

Event	Dates Closed	
Independence Day	Fri.	July 4, 2014
Labor Day	Mon.	Sept. 1, 2014
Columbus Day	Mon.	Oct. 13, 2014
Veterans' Day	Tues.	Nov. 11, 2014
Thanksgiving Day	Thur./Fri.	Nov. 27/28, 2014
Christmas Day	Thur.	Dec. 25, 2014

GENSOURCES

By Dave Flewelling, Research Coordinator

During the past few months the research has been quite interesting. In some cases I have hit on areas that others have found, but if the inquiry wasn't made, I wouldn't have had the pleasure of the hunt and sometimes the glory of the find.

Araana T. asked if we could find pictures of her great great grandfather, Lewis A. Gilbert. We didn't but we have certainly tried.

The story is very interesting. Lewis grew up in Baltimore and as a young man came to Maine. He first worked as a fireman on the European & North American railroad. That railroad line is the one from Bangor via Mat-tawamkeag to Vanceboro and on to St. John, NB. Later, he moved over to the Maine Central Railroad where he was promoted through the ranks from fireman, to engineer and then to traveling engineer. It was in that capacity that he was riding in the cab of the Knickabocker Limited on Saturday Aug. 20, 1906.

The train was an hour late and it was trying to make up time to get the passengers to Bangor and Bar Harbor. As it rounded the bend about a mile south-west of the Pittsfield Station the crew saw two boxcars on the mainline track. The train was traveling at a speed of 55 to 60 miles an hour and was unable to stop before coming in collision with the errant cars. The engine and tender telescoped into the box cars. The baggage car was thrown off the tracks. The dining car was stripped of its front trucks, but stayed upright off the tracks. The first Pullman was stripped of its forward trucks but stayed on the tracks. It was quite a mess! Several people were injured both crew and passengers and the only fatality was Engineer Lewis Gilbert.

His funeral was conducted from his home at 84 Summer St and he is buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery. If any one has pictures of members of the Odd Fellows, the New England Order of Protection, or the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers members around 1905-6 look and see if Lewis is identified in them.

Hugh C. presented an interesting quest. His great great grandfather, George Wentworth Campbell was born April 9, 1826 in Argyle, Penobscot, Maine. According to the History of San Joaquin County, California (1923) George and his father left Boston for California in the late 1840s. The father died on the voyage and his body was brought back to Maine for burial.

I was able to discover that George's father, Henry, was quite a guy. I believe that he was born in Orrington, probably the portion that later became Brewer. He married Temperance Blackman, the daughter of Bradley Blackman, July 1822. At that time Henry lived in New Charleston and was something of a land agent for the State of Maine as parcels were being sold there. Soon thereafter he moved to Argyle and did the same. From there he moved across the river and settled in Greenbush for quite a while. He still did some property transfers but was better known for keeping an inn there. He left Greenbush around 1844 and made his way to Winterport with his family.

About 1848-9 he and George set out for California, but unfortunately on the long voyage he died. His death was recorded in San Francisco and his son George accompanied his body back to Maine. At this time I do not know where he was interred. It is interesting to note that both Henry and George appear on the 1850 census of Winterport, but they were at sea at the time. Poor Temperance, she had no idea that her husband had died at sea when the census was taken. Later in the 1850s Temperance moved back with one of her children to Greenbush and later to Wisconsin where she died. George and another son Charles moved to California in the 1850s.

Very interesting times and family stories.

MAINE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY'S 2014 ANNUAL FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE

with featured speaker

THOMAS JONES, PhD, CG, CGL

"Can a Complex Research Problem Be Solved Solely Online?"

Jeff's Catering
15 Littlefield Way, Brewer, Maine

Saturday, September 13, 2014

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

In addition to the keynote address, the day includes three sets of breakout sessions, vendors and exhibitors, a query board, the MGS annual meeting, great door prizes, and time to mix and mingle over lunch – look for topic tables!

Breakout sessions include:

#1 – a. *Solving Problems with Original Sources* with Thomas Jones **OR b.** *Genetic Genealogy* with Nancy Lecompte

#2 – a. *Debunking Misleading Records* with Thomas Jones **OR b.** *Adventures in Atlases, Agent Reports, and Alumni Records: Resources Available at the University of Maine's Fogler Library* with Desirée Butterfield-Nagy, MA, MLIS

#3 – a. *Five Ways to Prove Who your Ancestor Was (Some Reliable and Others Not Reliable)* with Thomas Jones **OR b.** *Risking It All: Genealogical Research in the United States Life-Saving Service* with Michael Strauss, AG

Conference Registration Fee (*must be postmarked by September 1*):

\$40 for MGS members

\$50 for non-members (send in dues with registration and receive member discount)

\$15 for luncheon

Make check payable in US funds to **Maine Genealogical Society** and mail with registration to: Celeste Hyer, 69 Loop Road, Otisfield, ME 04270-6456.

To stay up-to-date on all conference activities or learn more about MGS,
visit their website at: www.maineroots.org
or email them at: mainegenealogicalsociety@gmail.com.

QUERIES

To post a query, email mepcgs@gmail.com

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

No new queries for this newsletter—got any brick walls—someone else may have just the clue you need to break through. Send that query.

WEBSITE HIGHLIGHT

www.pengen.org

Did you know that we have numerous Penobscot County and Maine genealogy-related links on our website? If you click on the Research Help tab, you'll see a heading "ADDITIONAL LINKS." Click on that and it will bring up a page with quite a few different links to other websites, all there to help make your research a little easier. We're always on the prowl for new links, so if you find a great website that you feel should be added, please hit "CONTACT US" and send it to us. As the website develops, we'll probably add other categories as well, such as General Research, Canadian Research, etc. Let us know what you would like!



Have you heard the news?

Penobscot County Genealogical Society is now on Facebook. That's right! We have joined in with the social media community to allow more interaction between our members and friends. It's a good connection to have - keep updated on meetings and other events in the area, share news about exciting resources you've discovered that might help others, ask questions whether about general research or more specific brick walls you are banging your head against, or just say hi and let us know what you are working on. It's also a great opportunity to meet and connect with our members that live a bit afar and can't always make our monthly meetings.

We are closing in on 100 members in the group (we might be there by now!). Let's all join in and continue to make this a great cyber meeting spot. You can search for us on Facebook or go directly to www.facebook.com/groups/pgenealogical/.

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: www.pengen.org and join our open group on Facebook (www.facebook.com/groups/pgenealogical/). There is also a link to the Facebook page on our website; look for the Facebook logo in the upper right corner.

MAINE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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.

FAMILY HISTORY DAY 2014

The New England Historic Genealogical Society announces Family History Day 2014 on Saturday, August 2, 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the University of Massachusetts Amherst Campus Center Auditorium. Fee: \$40 per person by July 18, thereafter \$80 per person, optional lunch \$18. See their website: www.americanancestors.org for more details.

BANGOR FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

Upcoming Class Schedule

Saturday, July 12, 10:15-11:15 a.m., "Scrapping Your Family Tree" with Pam Waite

Saturday, August 9, 10:15-11:15 a.m., "Tips and Techniques for Effective Use of the Bangor Family History Center" with Gail Kill

September - no class

Saturday, October 11, 10:15-11:15 a.m., "Irish Genealogy" with Nina Brawn

The center is located at 639 Grandview Avenue in Bangor (at corner with Essex Street). Hours: Tues., Wed., & Thurs. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and 6-8 p.m., Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Be sure to ring the buzzer and someone will come to open the door. Closed: Bangor school snow days, holidays and holiday weekends and during church conferences.

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? returns for a new season on TLC beginning Wednesday, July 23 at 9:00 p.m. Celebrities include Cynthia Nixon, Valerie Bertinelli, Kelsey Grammer, Lauren Graham, Jesse Tyler Ferguson, Rachel and Kayleen McAdams.