

Winter



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Upcoming Meetings

Hospitality Half Hour begins at 5:30 p.m. each month
Refreshments and Conversation

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

*Melissa Gerety, Executive Director/Bangor Historical Society:
Bangor's Historic Homes, their builders and residents*
6:00 p.m., Bangor Public Library, 145 Harlow St., Bangor

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

Presenter: Kay Retzlaff
6:00 p.m., Bangor Public Library, 145 Harlow St., Bangor

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

Presenter: Annette Rodrigues
6:00 p.m., Bangor Public Library, 145 Harlow St., Bangor

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

Message from our President

Greetings everyone,

Well, I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season, and that this year brings you much happiness, and contentment. As I pen these words, however, my head still spins with dreams of sugar plums.

Please do not expect me to talk about my "New Year's Resolution." I seem have a lot of trouble with this concept. Forget about keeping resolutions, why I never even manage get to the point of making them. For example, I really think that I need to reorganize my closet, and maybe spend less money on chocolate candy at some point in time, but have no hope of magically accomplishing it in January 2017. That is not to say that I never resolve to take any appropriate action. Soon and very soon, my closet will contain so many clothes (the ones that fit me now, and the ones that I hope to get back into one day) that I'll need to transport some to my spare closet, the one with enough room for stocking up on multiple boxes of half-priced candy after the holidays. So, if I don't

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stop eating so much chocolate, then chocolate-loving- me will take up more space which will deprive me of the space needed to keep my chocolate. So, I resolve to do something, but what? I desire to reduce chocolate intake in order to enable me to consume more chocolate! It's a bit of a quandary, isn't it? Now perhaps, you understand why I don't make resolutions!

Turning from my difficulty with "resolution" to the topic of inspiration, I feel better able to offer my readers some promise of hope for the future year. Last month, I visited with my cousin Rebecca, who shares my Lombard-Mahar family line. I no sooner had I jumped into her car than she whipped out her ancestral chart, and requested that I provide her with names, marriages, and birthdates of certain members of my mother's clan. Her questions seemed easy enough, but I found that not only did I fail to remember one cousin's birthday, but also could not even recall in which month her daughter was born! Before parting that day, I promised Rebecca that I would work on it.

I'd been so busy gathering information on my ancestors from the past that I didn't even stop to think about how important it was for me to record current vital statistics, and other taken for granted information. Friends, today's world is much more complicated than the one we experienced only a generation back. Think about it. While more and more records are closed, the day may come when our family-record provides invaluable information to enable our descendants to maintain their family connection. What's more, the rapid transformations in this Information Age ironically makes some information less accessible to retrieve: for example, with so many people opting to use a cell phone plan, rather than the land-lines of the past, our children will not find ready information listed in past issues of the telephone directory. Social mores have changes as well to complicate relationships, and obscure the line of descent: How will our children trace the path back if couples chose not to marry, or if our daughters should retain their maiden name, or decide upon a hyphenated hybrid of it? These future problems can be avoided by carefully recording our genealogy with our future descendants in mind. I think that I can safely say that most of us regret omissions of the past, like not recording family stories when we were younger. Then let us not regret another lost opportunity by minimizing the importance of information that we so easily take for granted. If this work seems a bit arduous at times, then I know where you can still buy some holiday chocolate to keep you going.

Elizabeth Stevens



Penobscot County Genealogical Society Officers for 2016-2017

- President** – Elizabeth Stevens
- Vice-President** – Carole Ruhlin
- Secretary** – Wendy Asher
- Treasurer** – Sandy Burke
- Program Committee Chair** – Pam Beveridge
- Hospitality Committee Chair** – Mary Gibouveau
- Newsletter Editor** – Jody Chasse
- Research Coordinator** – Dave Flewelling
- MGS Representative** – Pam Beveridge
- Webmaster/Social Media Administrator** – Dale Mower

We are always looking for assistance and would welcome any member willing to serve on the following committees:

- Programs** – helping schedule topics/speakers
- Research** – assisting with responding to queries
- Hospitality** – the fun part of meetings – refreshments, greeting members and visitors
- Co-Webmaster/Social Media Administrator** – helping get the good word out to our community

If you are interested, please feel free to talk to any of the members outlined above.

**Haven't renewed your membership?
This may be your last newsletter!
Please renew today!**

October 1, 2016 signaled the start of a exciting new year at Penobscot County Genealogical Society. Dues for 2016-2017—\$10 for individuals and \$15 for family membership. See the form below. Don't miss any 2017 newsletters and meeting announcements, renew your membership now!

PENOBSCOT COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY DUES FOR 2016-2017

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email address: _____

Surnames researching: _____

\$10 for individuals, \$15 for couples

Please remit check payable to PCGS to:

Sandra Burke, PCGS Treasurer
Bangor Public Library
145 Harlow Street
Bangor, Maine 04401

OR

See Sandra at the next PCGS meeting.



News from a previous monthly meeting presenter, Dana Murch

New Book On The Murch Family And Related New England Families

ANNOUNCING the publication of *From Water to War – A Murch Family History*

This is not the story of a family of statesmen, captains of industry, or famous people. Rather, this is a history of a family of soldiers and sailors, fishermen and farmers, mothers and mistresses and midwives, block-makers and blacksmiths, carpenters and cordwainers, sawyers and ship captains – and with a baseball player thrown in for good measure! (From the Preface to From Water To War)

The product of over six years of research by 11th-generation Murch descendant and MGS member Dana Murch, Part One of *A Murch Family History* revisits the genealogy of the earliest generations of the family and then continues through the author's line of descent, with special attention being paid to the connections of all family members and their ancestors to water and to war. Part Two includes the complete genealogy of the ten Murch spouses and one Murch paramour known to have *Mayflower* ancestry. The work includes transcriptions of many probate records and obituaries from 1620 to the present; copies of deeds, court records, and numerous other historical documents beginning in the early 18th century; and photographs from the 19th and 20th centuries. Also included are the ancestries, where known, of all spouses in this family line, as well as a brief history of each Maine town where a Murch ancestor or descendant lived. This work will be of special value to those interested in Belfast history or in the early settlers of York, Biddeford, Gorham, Unity, Hampden, Castine, Waldoboro, and Islesboro.

The publication consists of an 819-page hardcover book; a CD-ROM of appendices, including over 400 related family charts; and a 179-page softcover supplement titled "Chronology of Immigrant Ancestors." Printing limited to 100 copies. Price is \$45 for the entire publication, with a discounted price of \$25 for all Murch descendants. Available from the author, Dana Paul Murch, 7 Cedar Street, Belfast, ME 04915. Contact danapmurch@gmail.com for more information.



My roots are in Maine!

GENSOURCES

By Dave Flewelling, PCGS Research Coordinator

This fall has seen a lot of genealogical activity. So between the requests for local research, my skiing and geocaching activities, DNA matching in my family tree and Family gatherings during the Holiday Season I have been quite busy.

I did find time to interview one family member just after Thanksgiving, and I tell you, if one is not an easy conversationalist, it is difficult to get much more information from them than one might get from the dry facts of official documents. These family vignets are what make genealogy interesting so keep trying and maybe some of your family cohorts will be able to elicit more information from that same person, based on the pathway you have created.

Keep the information avenues open for new opportunities. In several conversations with my interviewee, he had mentioned that a neighbor of his and I share the same last name. Were we related? My answer to that is that all the Flewellings in the northeast are related since there was only one back in 1693 on Long Island, NY. So using the information he provided, I put together a chart of the neighbor's pedigree and my pedigree and sure enough, we are fifth cousins. We had never met, but we had an enjoyable few minutes that evening when I presented him with the chart.

Speaking of keeping avenues open, Mary Gibouleau and I were talking at the last Genealogical Meeting. She said that she and her husband, Ray, were having trouble finding records in Ray's home town. So I suggested that she look at Fultonhistory.com. This is a free website created by Tom Tryniski of Fulton, NY. He has scanned millions of pages of old newspapers from upstate NY predominately, but which also include some of the Brooklyn Eagle and the Poughkeepsie Journal publications. In Mary's case I was able to find Ray's school average when he was in junior high. Also, as Betsy Paradis posted, the online publication of the Old Town newspapers is a great source for Old Town, Orono, Milford, Bradley and Stillwater news from the 1880s forward.

Mary also talked to me about the need to keep family secrets alive and vital as we ourselves age. We need to think about the best family member to keep the intrigue and lore and to keep the details intact. In many instances the stories are part of which keeps the cohesiveness going. If you and your selected confident are good conversationalists, the rest of your inner circle will love you for your selection.

So now on to some new research cases:

George Henry Douglass

We received a request from New Mexico, asking for information about George Henry Douglass. I seems that the requestor has information that he was born in Penobscot County, Maine. Well, I thought that there might be a bit more information in the requestor's hands so we talked back and forth. I immediately found a family in the Gray, Cumberland, Maine area but of course it didn't fit in. The clue that was provided is that he was married to a Lottie Marvin in 1858. She is buried with him in Hotchkiss, Delta, Colorado. So with the information that was now provided from George Henry down to the present, I was able to create my own family tree for G H Douglass.

In doing this I picked up the fact that he applied for a Civil War Pension in 1889 and started collecting benefits in 1890. At the time he was in Kansas. By 1900 he was in Hotchkiss where he spent the rest of his life. He enlisted in the 5th Wisconsin Infantry Sept. 1st 1864 and was released on June 20th 1865. Hopefully, more information will be forthcoming regarding his military records. I do know that he was affected by disease and nothing is said of any battle sustained injuries.

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Next I looked for Douglass families in Penobscot County around the 1850s. I found one in Lee which did not pan out. I next found a family in Burlington. This family had potential. I looked for any probate records and found none. Then I found several property transfers in the Great Falls area of Burlington on the Mattawaumkeag River. First George and his brother, William, transferred property in 1868. Then George and his wife Emma bought property. In 1874 Emma sold the property by herself indicating that George was not in the picture. So now I had a picture of a man that went to Wisconsin from Maine prior to the Civil War, then returned to Maine, then left his family and went back to Wisconsin. Hmmm. Possible but not too likely. So I went back to the internet and tried chasing down George's wife's family. I found them living in New York state in 1855 in a town named Hastings, Oswego County. I then looked for Charlotte in 1860 and wow! There she was in 1860 married to George in Albion, Wisconsin. Ok George Douglass of Burlington is not the same person as George Douglass of Wisconsin based on the fact that he, George of Wisconsin, was married to Charlotte prior to 1860. Furthermore, there was a 9 year old boy living with them, who definitely is not their child. George was shown to be 21 and Charlotte 19. Therefore, the child, William Douglass born in Wisconsin, indicates that George Douglass left Maine some time between 1838 and 1851. Most likely in the 1840s since I have not found him in the 1850 census. Maybe the family was one of the families looking for gold and traveling west overland. Also William Douglass of Burlington was born in 1830, not 1851 so our tie in is not the Burlington Douglass family.

So if you are missing some Douglass's in your tree I may have put my finger on them in Wisconsin. Let me know about them.

Shaw-McHugh

We received a request concerning the grandmother of the requestor. The family thought that there might be native Americans in their family tree. They had not had much success tracing their family. Unfortunately, that was about all that I was given to work with. On the other hand, when I explained what information I needed to start the search, she quickly filled me in with the information which she knew and I picked up her lines quickly.

So it was not a very difficult task to follow back to the late 1700s on most of the lines. No where did I find any one of the members whom I would suspect were adopted or came from the indigenous American population. From my experience and also repeated by articles I have read, very few of family stories of marriages to native Americans are found to be true. The original story may have been a statement that you look like or act like one, but has no more basis in fact.

Final Note

There are mixed reviews about the results of autosomal DNA being used to determine where one's ancestors came from. My feeling is that it is nice to know but unless it is backed up by proof that ties one to a certain group, it may be just another question in one's background.

State of Maine Holidays



Presidents' Day	Mon.	Feb. 20, 2017
Patriots' Day	Mon.	Apr. 17, 2017
Memorial Day	Mon.	May 29, 2017
Independence Day	Tue.	July 4, 2017



GEORGE FINDLEN, CG, CGL, IS COMING TO MAINE

The Franco-American Center at the University of Maine

co-sponsored by the Penobscot County Genealogical Society

Presents George Findlen, CG, CGL, Monday, May 1, 2017

George Findlen, a native of Van Buren, Maine, is a retired academic administrator who became a certified genealogist in 2005. He researches and publishes articles on Acadian and French-Canadian families in Eastern Canada, the Canadian Maritimes, and New England. His articles have appeared in the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* and genealogical society journals in New England, Louisiana, New Brunswick, and Québec. He volunteers at the Wisconsin Historical Society Library and Archives where he helps patrons. In addition, he gives talks to genealogy groups in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. He also leads groups through skill-development exercises for the Wisconsin Historical Society Library and Archives.

His presentations will include:

Using Standard Histories to Find Elusive Relatives

In this presentation, he will tell the story of Michael Findlen. Living Findlen elders know only that he just left town. Period. Traditional genealogical documents (vital records and census records) helped to track his movements from Maine to British Columbia to Montana to Washington and finally to Alberta. However, state histories, industrial histories, and local histories all proved useful in helping him explain why he moved and pin down exactly when he moved. In one local history, he even found a photo. Without these histories, he'd only have a set of footprints, not a story. Hopefully, Michael's story will inspire listeners to turn to this rich resource more often than before.

How to Tell if Your French-Canadian Ancestors Include Acadians

The talk is a how-to presentation of the steps researchers should follow in order to ferret out which French-Canadian ancestors descend from Acadians (the original European settlers of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick).

Finding What Can't Be Found: A Case Study in Whole Family Research

*This talk describes all the reference works used by Acadian and French-Canadian researchers in an effort to identify the parents of a woman who is well documented as a mother. The point of this segment of the talk is that reliance upon secondary sources and on baptismal and marriage entries in parish registers often leads to dead ends. The talk then describes an effort to examine the baptismal and marriage records of every one of the woman's children and every one of her nephews and nieces as well as the marriage records of all the woman's possible brothers and sisters. The talk finishes by illustrating how genealogists can use indirect evidence to establish a firm link between two generations. The talk is pure how-to and is aimed at an audience of French-Canadian researchers willing to go from intermediate skill to advanced. The talk is based on an article published in the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*.*

Using the 1917 Code of Canon Law to Understand Odd Entries in Catholic Parish Registers

*Researchers who work a lot with microfilmed Catholic parish registers come across an odd entry from time to time which is not the standard formula. Whenever that happens, the Code of Canon Law is an easily accessed and inexpensive resource which can explain what is going on. Examples taken up include an explanation for why a burial was never entered into the parish register, why a practicing Catholic went over 100 miles away to marry before a Justice of the Peace, why a bishop ordered punishment for a young couple seeking to marry, why a couple had to repeat their vows several years after they had married, and why a priest would refer to an illegitimate child as the product of "incestuous commerce" between a widower and the sister of his deceased wife. The talk helps those who work a lot with microfilmed Catholic parish registers to learn about a resource which explains what is in those registers that most of us never notice, must less come to understand. This talk best meets the needs of French-Canadian researchers who work extensively with microfilmed copies of Catholic parish registers. The talk is based on an article published in the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*.*

QUERIES

To post a query, email mepcgs@gmail.com

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

PCGS WEBSITE HIGHLIGHT

www.pengen.org

Old editions of *Penobscot Roots & Connections* are available on the website. The quarterly editions from the 2015-2016 membership year are now being added. You can access these from the Newsletter tab from the main menu. An added advantage of having the newsletters on line is that it then makes them searchable. The search box at the top of any page to the right of Penobscot County Genealogical Society only searches with the [pengen.org](http://www.pengen.org) website. Those results will include items from all our newsletters.

And what's this "BLOG" tab for? Well, not a lot comes up when you click that. Maybe we should delete it? Or perhaps one or two of our members would like to volunteer to pen an occasional blog post about current events or news that would be of interest to PCGS members and friends. Consider it – if this might be you, go ahead and "CONTACT US" now.



Have you heard the news?

Penobscot County Genealogical Society's Facebook community continues to grow by leaps and bounds. Facebook has proven to be a great site for making genealogical connections. You can search for us on Facebook or go directly to www.facebook.com/groups/pcgenealogical/.

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. There is 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.

BANGOR FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

FHC Portal This center has access to the Family History Center Portal page which gives free access in the center to premium family history software and websites that often charge for subscriptions. Currently, these websites include 19th Century British Library Newspaper Digital Archive, Access Newspaper Archive, Alexander Street Press - The American Civil War, Ancestry.com, ArkivDigital Online, Find My Past, Fold3 (formerly Footnote), Legacy Stories, Paper Trail, and World Vital Records.

Upcoming Events at the Center

TBA

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.