

Winter



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Upcoming Meetings

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

Wednesday, January 21, 2015

Organizing Your Genealogical Research presented by Phil Getchell
Bring a sample of your filing system; help brainstorm!
6:00 p.m., Relief Society Room, Bangor Family History Center
639 Grandview Ave., (at corner with Essex St.) Bangor

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

The Why and How of Online Newspaper Research
presented by Dale Mower
6:00 p.m., Relief Society Room, Bangor Family History Center
639 Grandview Ave., (at corner with Essex St.) Bangor

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Irish Genealogy presented by Nina Brawn
6:00 p.m., Relief Society Room, Bangor Family History Center
639 Grandview Ave., (at corner with Essex St.) Bangor

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Upcoming Meetings | 1 |
| President's Message | 1,2 |
| PCGS Officers, members | 3 |
| GenSources | 5,6 |
| Announcements and Queries | 3,4, 7,8 |

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

Happy New Year Everyone!!

And you know what that means - it's time to make those resolutions (and for a few days believe we may actually follow through on them). So in that spirit, I've been tossing around my own resolutions related to genealogy for a few days. Perhaps if I put these to paper I'll have a better shot of success in following through with them. Or perhaps I'll connect with others with similar resolutions that can offer me suggestions.

First - organizing photographs. I have several albums, envelopes from back in the day before digital photography, old family scrapbooks, shoeboxes full of photos borrowed from my parents, and random individual photographs that keep appearing in different piles and locations in the house. When someone asks for a photo, I end up spending hours in total frustration, and often have to admit failure. I do have a great scanner, so there's really no excuse not to be getting those digitized. The more labor intensive part of this project will be to then organize those files with proper names and identifying information, as well as tagging everyone in the photos. My goal is to provide enough digital information so I can effectively pass those photos along to others.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

Second - tame the paper beast (admittedly this is probably appearing for the tenth time and I've learned not to put it as #1 on the list). Seriously, I love finding the genealogical information, but am absolutely horrid when it comes to sourcing this information and filing it for easy retrieval. I end up with 2 or 3 copies of things, and really have no idea of what I do have. I have boxes full of paper - photocopies of book pages, census forms, obituaries, vital records. Does this sound familiar? I would hate to think I'm the only person with this issue. I'm drowning in piles. It's time to decide how I'm going to tackle the paper. Every time I start in, I find myself going in several different directions. If I try to work on just one family, I find myself just spending all my time looking for paper copies of what I think that I have for back up to that line. I guess this is where I should just stand up and say "Hi. My name is Dale and I'm a Paper-holic." Do I file the paper? Scan it and go paperless? 2015 is going to be the year where I decide what the heck I'm going to do (hopefully).

Third - reconnect. I've been neglectful in staying in contact and answering emails from distant cousins (heck, for that matter, answering any email). I need to be more considerate and mindful of the value of these relationships moving forward.

Fourth - I have been wanting to kick start a blog I began years ago. I do believe there is value to blogging - it helps connect to others researching the same lines. More importantly, it forces you to write about your ancestors or your research. Moving outside the less-thought provoking arena of data entry to the more challenging world of actually composing a written blog post forces you to look at your information and sources in a different way - and can help identify pieces of information you may be missing.

Ambitious goals. But these are my resolutions for 2015. Now if only my energy and focus lasts.....

I encourage everyone to pop into our **Facebook** group and let us know what your genealogical resolutions are.

Dale Mower



Penobscot County Genealogical Society Officers for 2014-15

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| President | Dale Mower |
| Vice-President | Chris Johnson |
| Secretary | Wendy Asher |
| Treasurer | Jim Beckett |
| Newsletter Editor | Jody Chasse |
| Research Coordinator | Dave Flewelling |
| Programs Chair | Elizabeth Stevens |
| (Acting) Hospitality Chair* | Chris Johnson |
| Webmaster | Dale Mower |

*Please note that the society could use a helping hand with the Hospitality Committee. This is the committee charged with having name tags available at meetings, welcoming members and guests at meetings, refreshments – those tasks that make attending meetings an enjoyable experience. Please consider helping us out – talk to any current officer for details.

Maine Masonic Records Now Available Online

A few months back, Ed King presented an interesting talk on Masonic records at our monthly meeting. He indicated that the Grand Lodge of Maine has membership cards for are available for genealogical research – going back to 1820. For those that have a Mason in their family tree, those membership cards have been digitized and are available online. Not only do the cards contain information and dates related to membership, but some have obituaries included.

The Grand Lodge of Maine's website is at <http://www.mainemason.org/index.htm>. Scroll down to where you'll see: ATTENTION GENEALOGISTS. Then click to access the alphabetical card listings. Choose the group you want and scroll through the digital images – which are high quality and very legible.

WELCOME NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS JANUARY 2015

Crystal Gwinn – Holden
 Michael Clark (CA)
 Norma Fortin
 Phil & Carole Getchell
 John & Bonnie Van Dyke (& daughter, Rhonda Tomah)

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)

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

2015 Southern Maine Genealogical Conference

Sponsored by the Greater Portland Chapter of Maine Genealogical Society
 Saturday May 30, 2015, Portland, ME
 featuring Keynote speaker Margaret Dube, CG.

Maine Genealogical Society Fair

Saturday, July 11, 2015, Cultural Building, Augusta, ME
 (Home of the State Library, Archives and Museum)
 Free admission. Visit with genealogical and historical societies from around the State

2015 Maine Genealogical Society Annual Conference

Saturday, September 19, 2015, Jeff's Catering, Brewer, ME



My roots are in Maine!

2014-2015 State of Maine Holidays

| Event | Dates Closed | |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| M.L. King Jr. Day | Mon. | Jan. 19, 2015 |
| Presidents' Day | Mon. | Feb. 16, 2015 |
| Patriots' Day | Mon. | April 20, 2015 |
| Memorial Day | Mon. | May 25, 2015 |
| Independence Day | Fri. | July 3, 2015* obs. |
| Labor Day | Mon. | Sept. 7, 2015 |

GENSOURCES

By Dave Flewelling, Research Coordinator

A GENEALOGICAL STUDY

Like many people with an interest in their heritage, I have posted my family genealogy on Ancestry.com . From time to time people have contacted me, with questions about what I have posted or with clues leading to more distant relatives. Some times I have added more information to my tree and other times those others have expanded their tree.

Recently a person contacted me looking for his first cousins of whom he had lost track. This is what I had to work with: **Robert and Myrtle Johnson** *My Uncle & Aunt I'm looking for there children Bobby and Carol my 1st cousins*

Fortunately, I had only a few family members with his sir-name. So I started expanding my tree on the end that was my wife's first cousin once removed. I had a few hits and waving leaves from Ancestry and was able to construct an intersecting family tree. It turned out that the husband of my person had five siblings and by identifying their descendants I wound up with 7 first cousins and 2 siblings related to the requestor. The problem then is complicated because Ancestry does not intentionally divulge personal information of living persons. They do, however, publish public domain information such as city and telephone directories. They also publish some obituaries that are fairly recent.

So once I had identified the cousins on my chart, I set out to find where they are now. Using an educated guess, I figured that they were born about 20-30 years after their parents. I was able to find one of the cousins listed on the 1940 census. Since his sister was not listed, I surmised that she was born in the next 5 years. And she was. I then used other family trees on Ancestry and with the living individuals blanked out I was able to find an ancestor and get the sir name and the sex of the children married to my subject. In some cases *Find A Grave* published an obituary that gave the names of the living siblings and children. In my case I had the sir name of the wife of the subject. She then popped up in a current obituary. Turns out her sister-in-law used to live less than 4 miles from me.

Next I started using *Google* and *Facebook* to find other family members. These sources help to understand the family relationships.

In this case, I decided to find the local family member. I found her address in a tax roll for the town. When I reached the address, no one was home, but a neighbor told me that the property had been sold 2 years ago. So I went to the town office and received the property transfer information. I then sent a letter requesting the address of the cousin. Three days later the letter was returned to me because the forwarding time had expired. However, the old forwarding address was on the label so I re-sent the request and this time received a very good and welcome response.

The sister-in-law of the cousin's wife made a call to the cousin and he was overjoyed to find that his cousin was looking for him. He was eagerly awaiting the call from his cousin. My contact called me, letting me know that it would be a welcome call. I then notified my requestor.

Tonight I received a very emotional call. Everyone is just too ecstatic! After 50 years both cousins are looking forward to the families getting together and I am looking forward to meeting my wife's second cousin when they are in the area this summer.

Mission accomplished!

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

GENSOURCES

By Jim Beckett

Names & Places of Interest: Sowing vs. Reaping

My inspiration for posting Family Names and Places of Interest came out of my membership in the New Brunswick Genealogical Society. I posted six names of Families and Counties which are in our direct research lines, about which we know much yet, have related brick walls. Members can post, anyone can view; and inquiries are forwarded blind to the posting party for elective response.

This past Sunday evening I received an e-mail about one of my postings. It was from a person exploring what she hoped would be a common line. She provided the name of her grandfather, 2 of his sisters and their parents, with year of birth for each; along with the name of the family she expected was hers. She had been misled. In trying to follow her trail I noticed too many factors that did not fit. The net result was that I searched a few of my more familiar haunts and within 3 hours e-mailed her a birth certificate for her grandfather, a marriage record for her great grandfather, and a death record for her great grandfather; a link to the cemetery where 4 generations of her ancestors are together; a recommended census trail; links to Provincial Archives of New Brunswick (PANB) and New Brunswick Genealogical Society (NBGS) for her new county (not mine); a transcription of her great grandfather's 1881 HH with all siblings that would be critical to finding the only readily available family vitals – knowing that you never find all records without a broader search; a list of Google sites for the History of her Parish and further trails back to MA and Ireland.

Sometimes you get lucky. It's not that I am all that smart; just that I put it out there, she inquired because she thought it was her County, and I was familiar enough to know what didn't fit. Her good fortune was to have come from a family that settled in New Brunswick in 1762, and remained in the same community (a few still live there today). PANB, NBGS and Genweb provide access and opportunity. My initial thought was that it would be unfair to re-direct someone without a document or two – how was I to know she came from a stable family?

What I gained, in addition to the satisfaction of making a difference, was a fifth cluster by the name of interest along the Fundy Coast; all 5 of which came from Tyrone and Armagh to MA and on to NB, ranging from 1740 through 1850. I have 7 families that came to my hometown about 1850; so far we have confirmed 3 were siblings, and I hope to one day nail all 7 – along with our mysterious MA connection. Then, we can look to Ireland.

No story would be complete without a tie to the Mower/Tidd line. Her family was among the "Planters" or pre-Loyalists who settled Westmorland County in 1762. A neighbor and fellow-founder was Valentine Estabrooks, first cousin to "our" Elijah Estabrooks who settled with that wave on the St. John River. This connection was one I would not likely have found otherwise.

Dave Flewelling has had several similar experiences through Queries. I hope more will be inspired to post our greatest interests and expand the value of our local group. It's the neighborly thing to do!

FACEBOOK FOR GENEALOGISTS



Mention of the value of Facebook has been brought up at the last couple of meetings of the Society. We realize that many do not want to be involved with Facebook for various reasons. We suggest you consider it as another research tool. It is possible to be on Facebook, avoid a lot of the social interaction with “friends,” etc. and use it only as a genealogical tool. There are a number of pages and groups devoted to genealogical interests. These can be dedicated to specific topics – such as The Organized Genealogist, Technology for Genealogists, Social Media for Genealogy – or specific areas – New Brunswick Genealogy, Maine Genealogy – or specific families – Robichaud & Acadian/Cajun Family Genealogy. In addition, many genealogical and historic societies have Facebook pages. All of these provide a great opportunity to ask a question to a target audience.

There are also a series of “You knew you grew up in ...” groups. Bangor has one. You might not at first see the connection here to genealogy, but many of these groups post historic photographs and post card images related to the town. There is also a lot of dialogue. Another great resource to learn about the places your ancestors might have lived.

There is a “Genealogy on Facebook” list – a .pdf file – at <http://socialmediagenealogy.com/genealogy-on-facebook-list/>. The list is 120 pages long – so you can see there are a LOT of possible places to connect on Facebook. It’s organized by state and by country. And I can attest that it is not a complete list.

So before you write off Facebook, you might want to reconsider its potential as a genealogical resource. And if you join the Facebook community, make sure to join the Penobscot County Genealogical Society group.

GENEALOGY ON TV

Genealogy Roadshow: Tuesdays, January 13 through February 24, 8 p.m. on PBS stations. The program will visit New Orleans, St. Louis and Philadelphia during its second season.



REMINDER

It’s not too late for new and renewing members to pay their dues for 2014-2015—\$10 for individuals and \$15 for family membership. See the form below. Don’t miss any 2015 newsletters and meeting announcements, renew your membership now!

PENOBSCOT COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY DUES FOR 2014-2015

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email address: _____

Surnames researching: _____

\$10 for individuals, \$15 for couples

Please remit check payable to PCGS to:

Jim Beckett, PCGS Treasurer
Bangor Public Library
145 Harlow Street
Bangor, Maine 04401

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

One of the benefits of connecting with other genealogists is the help everyone is willing to extend to others. This is very important, particularly for those long-distance members and friends, who are trying to locate a resource. There is a page on our website designed to help connect to the right people who have volunteered to help out. But unfortunately at this point, there are very few people listed (as of 9/30/14, only one in fact!). If you click on the Research Help tab, you'll see heading "LOOK-UPS." If you have access to specific records, books or other resources and are willing to look up information in those for others, please drop us a line at mepcgs@gmail.com and get yourself added to the list.

PENGEN'S LIST

Do you have genealogical books or other resource material that you no longer want or need. Are you looking to downsize by weeding out some of your personal holdings that you just don't use, but would like to see those in the hands of a fellow genealogist?

We're starting a new column in our newsletter. It's like a Craig's List within our society. It's a place to connect to try to sell, swap or buy genealogical overflow.

Send in your listing today - it's free. Simply send the listing of the books, CDs or other material you are looking to find a new home for, along with your contact information. In contrast, if you are looking for something genealogical, post that as well and perhaps a fellow member may share or do a look-up for you.

Submit listings to mepcgs@gmail.com - use "PenGen's List" in the subject line.

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/pcgenealogical/). 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.

BANGOR ADULT AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLASS

Heritage Albums presented by Tracy Hosmer

Have you ever picked up a really nice coffee table book of photos and wished you could have one of those with your family history? In this class, you will learn how to design books like a pro and have a beautifully bound book to share for generations to come. Heritage Albums are a beautiful way to preserve and share those memories.

Monday, March 2 and 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Bangor High School, Cost: \$59, Online registration: www.bangoradulthood.org or phone 992-5522.

BANGOR FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

Upcoming Class Schedule

Saturday, April 25, 2015 - 2015 Bangor Family History Fair featuring video presentations from the **RootsTech** Conference held February 11-14, 2015 in Salt Lake City plus live classes. During the first hour, we will also hear James Shupe play his fiddle and tell ancestor stories. His presentation in April, 2014, was very enjoyable and we expect it will be in April, 2015, as well. This event will be free (as are all our events).

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.