

Old Broad Bay Family History Association Newsletter

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The Old Broad Bay Family History Association,
On the web at: www.rootsweb.com/~meobbfha/ – Editorial comments & queries to obbeditor@earthlink.net

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Upcoming events

The Maine Genealogical Society will hold an all day workshop on federal census records at the Augusta Civic Center on **Saturday, April 13**. Four talks will be presented by Helen Shaw, CGSM:

1. Introduction to the Census
2. Finding Your People in the Federal Censuses
3. Federal non-population and Special Censuses
4. Census Analysis

Registration (\$30 for MGS members and \$40 for non-members) is due by April 4th. Make check payable to Maine Genealogical Society and mail to Celeste Hyer, 69 Loop Road, Otisfield, ME 04270-6456. For more information and a MGS membership application go to the MGS website: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~megs/

The 12th New England Regional Genealogical Conference (NERGC) will be held **April 17-21** in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Programs for librarians and teachers are featured on Wednesday, April 17. New this year will be “Tech Day” which will also be held on Wednesday. The primary program starts Thursday morning with a first timers session from 9:00 to 9:30 A.M. and the opening session from 10:00 to 11:15 A.M.

OBBFHA will have a table at the Society Fair Thursday evening from 5:15 to 7:00 . Helen Shaw, CGSM will present a talk Saturday morning at 8:30 on *Broad Bay: The German Settlement of Maine*, sponsored by the Maine Genealogical Society. Visit www.nergc.org for more information on the conference and registration material.

Vital records update

Unfortunately, there has been little movement on creating rules to implement the “new” vital records law. A rule making coordinator, Theresa Roberts, was hired late last fall. This editor sent her a copy of the proposed changes to chapters 4, 7, & 8 of the rules which were originally sent to

Elena Jellison (the now retired rule making coordinator) in November 2011. In early December (2012) Ms. Roberts sent this editor a draft of these chapters as revised by the Office of Data, Research and Vital Statistics. This draft combines chapters 4 & 8, resulting in much confusion about which rules apply to which category of vital records (open versus closed).

As of today (January 17) no meeting date has been set for the rule making committee. For complete information on the law and how to access vital records, please go to the Maine Genealogical Society website [www.maineroots.org] and click on the link to the document *Accessing Vital Records in Maine*.

Veterans' graves inventory update

Senate president Kevin Raye submitted a resolve last legislative session (LD 1630): To Establish a Stakeholder Group for the Development of a Plan for the Inventory and Proper Care of Veterans' Graves.

The committee was formed in early September and met four times over the next four months. This editor, as legislative liaison for the Maine Old Cemetery Association and vice president (now president) of the Maine Genealogical Society, was a member of the committee.

The report of the committee is in its final draft stage and will be presented to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government in the next few weeks. In summary, this report makes the following recommendations:

1. "Adopt a uniform maintenance standard for veterans' graves"
2. "Adopt a uniform minimum standard for the inventory/recording of veterans' graves"
3. "Clarify the fine assessment, collection and disbursement of fines for veterans' graves not properly maintained"
4. "Establish an education campaign on:
Proper care for veterans' graves
Standardized inventory/recording of veterans' graves
ordering VA headstones/medallions"

MOCA asks for two cemetery bills

At the request of the Maine Old Cemetery Association, Senator Thomas Saviello (R, Franklin County) has submitted two bills for the 126th legislative session. The first, co-sponsored by Representative Joan Welsh (D, Rockport), is titled *An Act to Prohibit the Placement of Political Signs Within 25 Feet of a Cemetery or Burial Ground*. The second bill has a tentative title of *An Act to Preserve and Protect Ancient Burial Grounds*. Neither bill has an LD number assigned, but that should happen shortly after the deadline to submit bills (January 18).

The bill on Ancient Burying Grounds may be controversial with possible push back from the Maine Municipal Association calling it an unfunded mandate. A publicity drive with supporting calls to legislators will be organized after the LD number is assigned. Anyone wanting more information about either bill or who is interested in helping support the Ancient Burying Ground bill should contact Helen Shaw at obbeditor@earthlink.net or at 77 Pascal Avenue, Rockport, ME 04856.

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