



Special points of interest:

- Next meeting: Wednesday, September 17th
- Executive Committee Meeting: Monday, September 22nd
- Open Positions on the Executive Committee
- Information on Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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Penobscot Roots & Connections

PENOBSCOT COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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An Evening with Ruth Gray

Wednesday, September 17th, 6:00 pm

Lecture Hall, Bangor Public Library

We are fortunate to count Ruth Gray among our members, perhaps one of the most noted and avid genealogist in the state. With over 50 years of experience and interest in the many facets of genealogy, Ruth's name invariably comes up in any detailed search of state records. She was instrumental in the publication of the *Maine Families in 1790* series of the Maine Genealogical Society, selflessly doing much of the research and editing the first three volumes. Other publications by Ruth include *Abstracts of the Probate Records of Penobscot County, Maine, 1816-1833* (Camden: Picton Press, 1993), *Marriage Returns of Penobscot County, Maine Prior to 1892* (Camden: Picton Press, 1994), and *Vital Records of Old Town, Maine Prior to 1892* (Camden: Picton Press, 1997).

The focus of our evening with Ruth Gray will include an exploration of hurdling genealogical brick walls. Ruth will present a real-life example and take us through the steps she used to break through one of her barriers.

This is an evening not to be missed. It is a rare occasion when we can learn from a fellow genealogist of Ruth's expertise, and we indeed lucky that she is so willing to share her knowledge and insight with us.

President's Message

Greetings! A couple notes on happenings,

First, I neglected to properly thank member Janiece Enriquez for her efforts in affording us the opportunity to meet in the historic Ballroom of the Bangor House last month—Thank you!

Second, you have heard me say that sharing is one of the most vital activities genealogists can do to help one another. This month we have as our speaker, Ruth Gray, who exemplifies this. Her insights should help each and everyone of us get over a brick wall we have in our family history, or at least give us a few ideas on new places to look.

Third, as fall approaches, some of you may have noted that we didn't come through with a gravestone rubbing workshop. Although we were able to locate an excellent presenter and in fact scheduled an outing, I wasn't able to get the publicity and information in a time frame that I felt was needed, hence this has been postponed for another year.

And finally, please consider helping out with the executive committee, a minimum of time can help dramatically.

Dale



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Queries

CRIPPS/SHEDD Looking for information on the background of Sarah E. Cripps who married William Harrison Shedd. William was the son of Nathan Shedd and Celinda Ann Black. They were married 19 Sept 1871 and both lived in Mattawamkeag. [e-mail: RChipper65@aol.com]

DONLIN I am trying to find out information concerning our relative Thomas H. Donlin (b. 23 Jul 1852 in Bangor, ME) I also would like to find out what his parents names are. Helen Connelley [e-mail: Helenblue@att.net]

FREES/CHAPMAN I am looking for info on my father's side of the family. All I know is that Retire W. Frees and Clara J. Chapman were both from Maine. Clara born in Old Town (date and parents unknown). Retire, only info is that he lived there and married Clara in Maine. I think they had two children in Maine. All together they had nine children. I'm trying to find out info for my three girls for school. Can you help? Lisa [e-mail: laf8889@yahoo.com]

FROST/BRAWN Looking for info on Melissa Brawn born Orono abt. 1840, she had a daughter named Ida Frost (father was Granville or George) who married Charles McLaughlin 1893 Old Town. I think Ida was born out of wedlock but unsure. Roxanne Sage [e-mail: rsage@maine.rr.com]

GOULD Seeking info on Nathaniel Gould. He was born on 12 April 1813 in Springfield. However parents not listed on Town Office records. Nathaniel married Elizabeth Higgins on 3 May 1835 in Penobscot County. Their children were Mercy, Benjamin, Lydia, Ira and Jacob. My grandfather was Ira. The only clue I have is from the 1850 Census of Springfield which shows that an 80 yr old man named Daniel Gould lived with Nathaniel. I am assuming it was possibly his father. Any info would be appreciated. Sandra Olson [e-mail: sandraloson@hotmail.com]

KELLEY Seek information about George L. Kelley, born near Bangor circa 1917. May have died in Belfast 1993. George was married to Ida Webber later divorced in 1947. Seek information about him and his family. Theresa Webber [webbeth@mmc.org]

HATCH/WOOD Seeking birth info on John Hatch, son of Lemuel Hatch and Eunice Wood. May have been born Daniel P. Hatch, 9 July 1859, Penobscot County. Had a younger brother named John Wood Hatch. Any info on this family much appreciated. Lisa Burnham [e-mail: jfsgirl@msn.com]

MENGES Seeking any information regarding Edward Menges-Bangor, Maine. Captain of the "City of Bangor." Diane Hamako [e-mail: Dhamako@aol.com]

PRACHT/WAGNER Looking for info on John Frederick Pracht (Prock, Praught) and his wife Susannah Wagner, thought to be from Waldoboro, ME. He was a member of "The King's Rangers" a loyalist unit that fought for England during the Revolutionary War. The unit was garrisoned at Fort George prior to relocating to Halifax, NS and later to Charlottetown, PEI Canada where they settled in 1783. Edward Kelley [e-mail: ek387@sbcglobal.net]

SLEEPER/CONANT My great-grandfather was E. (Enoch) Howard Conant, born in Orono. His parents were Emeline (Sleeper) and Enoch H. Conant. The 1850 census for Orono lists a household of Emeline Conant; Franklins Conant, 8; Enoch H. Conant, 4; Elisha Sleeper, 50; and Jane Sleeper 18. Think that both Emeline Sleeper and Enoch Conant were from N.H., but worked and died in Orono. Would like information about Conant and Sleeper families. Sarah B. Bridges, HC 31 Box 660, Ellsworth, ME 04605 [E-mail: srabridg@panax.com]

GenBytes...Recommendations for Internet Research

PCGS member Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter has moved to www.eogn.com. A couple interesting technological tidbits from a recent newsletter regarding new genealogical products and services:

GenFolder is a new online backup service tailored for genealogists. GenFolder can make online backups of your genealogy database, family heirloom photographs, correspondence, notes, or just about anything else that you want to protect. The backups can be done automatically as a background application so that it operates in a "set it and forget it" mode. The first time the service is used, a full (and lengthy) backup is made. After that, incremental backups of changed files are made at any time interval the user specifies. In their booth at the FGS conference, the company owners were making automatic backups every five seconds while using a wireless modem! That seems a bit extreme, but it does nicely illustrate the capabilities of the software. I suspect that most users will want to back up every few hours or perhaps once a day. All information is encrypted using Blowfish encryption before being sent across the Internet and stored on GenFolder's servers. Nobody else can see your data, not even the systems folks at GenFolder! In case of disaster, all data can quickly be restored to a repaired or new computer. This service also is a great method of copying data from an old computer to a newly-purchased system. You can read more about this at: <http://www.genfolder.com>

MyFamily.com/Ancestry.com recently launched "My Ancestry," an online personal work area of information that can be customized and saved by each user. Each person can establish a list of "People I am Looking For." Not only does this new feature search existing databases, but it also searches again and again in the future, looking for newly-added information. If it finds new matching entries, the service sends an e-mail to the user, notifying him or her of the new data. The user can then [continued on page 4]

On Dale's Bookcase

In the spirit of the Maine Genealogical Society's conference "Telling Their Stories" on September 6th, I have recently finished reading *The Same Great Struggle: The History of the Vickery Family of Unity, Maine 1634-1997* by Andrea Constantine Hawkes (Gardiner: Tilbury House, 2003).

First, you're probably saying "Wait, Unity isn't in Penobscot County" to which you would be correct. However this book is derived from the voluminous research of Bangor's own local historian, James Berry Vickery III, who died in 1997.

My grandmother was a Vickery, hence the reason for my picking up a copy. But what this book does, and does it very well, is the weaving of genealogical data into the social and historic context of the times. As it traces down through ten generations of Vickerys, it gives enlightening details of what life was like for each generation and the reasons why the families migrated. Through an easy-flowing story style, a new perspective is added to each generation.

Although not a complete family genealogy in terms of all descendants of George and Rebecca (Phippen) Vickery, it is an inspiring and great example of a quality family history, well worth taking a look at if you have aspirations of writing your family history.

Picton Press Releases Books of Interest to Penobscot County Research

Vital Records of Bangor, Maine Volume 2: Deaths by Michelle E. Thomas. The vital records contained are compiled from six different sources, but the primary source being the city's original books of death records from 1777 to 1892.

Dixmont, Maine Vital Records by Linda A. Strauss and Richard E. Spinney. Dixmont was incorporated in 1807, however here you will find birth records as early as the 1760s for the parents recorded in the family registers. The vital records set out in this volume are recorded verbatim and the order of the entries in each section has remained intact as well.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee will be meeting on Monday, September 22nd at 6:00 at the Bangor Public Library to work on the program schedule for the upcoming year, as well as discussing frequency of meetings and dues.

All members are welcome at Executive Committee meetings. This is a good chance to visit a meeting and see what we're all about and find out if you would like to join. It takes a lot of effort to make sure the Society runs smoothly, usually this is accomplished with 3-4 actual meetings during the year, with a lot of the follow-up and scheduling being done in the interim.

For more info, contact Dale at 942-9375 or DWMower@aol.com

SUVCW Information

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is a continuation of the GAR (Grand Army of the Republic).

The Daniel Chaplin Camp #3 of the Sons of Union Veterans of Civil War is active in Bangor, with current membership coming Eastern, Central and Northern Maine, as well as Maritime Provinces.

The Chaplin Camp has been in existence since 1883, being the third camp in Maine. In 1974, it saw its numbers drop off to almost non-existence, mainly as a new generation appeared to show an indifferent view to the Civil War, causing a temporary suspension. The 1990s saw a renewal of enthusiasm and interest in the Civil War, and the Chaplin Camp was reestablished in 1997. The Camp continues to be a vital link for many of us with, as well as without, ancestors that served in that war.

The Daniel Chaplin Camp holds monthly meetings and participates in a variety of historic, educational and community affairs.

For more information, contact:

Ryan King, Camp Commander

Daniel Chaplin Camp #3

78 Columbia Street #7

Bangor ME 04401

[E-Mail: rking@mpbc.org]



New Members

C. T. "Skip" Hodgdon
PO Box 80, Minot, Maine

Karen Jensen
1219 N. Center, Joliet, Illinois

Mike Langley
123 Crogan Road, Hermon, Maine

Betsy Paradis
407 Fourth Street, Old Town, Maine

Penobscot County Genealogical Society

185 Norfolk Street
Bangor ME 04401

Phone: 207-942-9375
E-Mail: mepcgs@yahoo.com



Officers

President: Dale Mower
Vice-President: Annette Roberts
Treasurer: Phil Getchell
Secretary: Beth Davis
Newsletter Chair: Patti Mower
Program Chair: John Nelligan
Nominating Chair: Janiece Enriquez



Open Executive Committee Positions

We are still working on filling the empty chairs on our Executive Committee. Please consider joining-this is an opportunity to increase your networking and feel a more integral part of the Society. Positions still needing to be filled:

Vice-President This position works closely with the president to ensure that the Society is meeting member needs and expectations, assists with planning and serves in the President's place should he/she be absent.

Cemetery Project Chairperson This position will continue to expand the information the Society has as to locations and contact information for Penobscot County cemeteries and work with interested members to set up a network for answering queries related to gravestones in Penobscot County towns.

Directors These positions will provide assistance to the Executive Committee as needed.

For more information, please contact Dale Mower [e-mail: DWMower@aol.com] or Phil Getchell [e-mail: towncrier@yahoo.com]

GenBytes (continued)

[continued from page 2] go to the "My Ancestry" section and click on links found there to view the records referenced, such as census entries, Ancestry Family Tree information, and more. The new service is available to everyone free of charge. Free users can store up to 15 people in the database, and periodic searches are made for each of the fifteen. Paid subscribers to Ancestry.com's other services can store essentially unlimited people in the "search for" section. More details may be found at <http://www.ancestry.com>.

The **Godfrey Memorial Library** continues to expand their catalog of books available online. They now have quite a list in the "Digital Book Collection." The library also offers access to ProQuest's HeritageQuest Online products as described earlier. You can join the library for \$35.00. While I expect to write more about their offerings in a future newsletter, you can see the list today at <http://www.godfrey.org>

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