



Special points of interest:

- Next meeting: Wednesday, February 18th
- Reflection on the NERGC Genealogy Fair
- The Counties of Maine
- Lineage Links...a new project

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Penobscot Roots & Connections

PENOBSCOT COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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Research Social

Wednesday, February 18th, 6:00 pm
Lecture Hall, Bangor Public Library

In the midst of gray and dreary winter days, what better way to escape than to immerse yourself in the stacks in the Bangor Room, seeking out that well hidden genealogical clue that will help mend a branch on your family tree?

We're having another social to do just that! This is an excellent opportunity to not only field your research questions with other members, but perhaps offer some help and encouragement as well. We all have different research skills and levels of experience, so by combining forces we can learn of different resources or ways of looking at things.

We'll be starting off in the Lecture Hall and migrate towards the Bangor Room. Refreshments will be available. And remember, questions are always a welcome and integral part of our research socials, so bring yours. We may not be able to answer, but some clue may fall out during the discussion.

President's Message

I hope this newsletter finds all our members healthy and warm. The round of colds and flu that has been circulating this season has been particularly nasty.

You'll see on Page 3 that we are going to try to put together a database on which genealogy organizations our members belong to. On the application form, one of the most requested topics tends to be lineage societies. Our philosophy is that if we can put a member in contact with a member already belonging to a particular group we are offering a "local" service to our members. My main thrust has always been that knowledge that is shared is the only knowledge of value. So please, if you belong to another group, drop an e-mail and let us know.

On another front, I want to tell of my recent surprises resulting from postings I have out on the internet. I still strongly support this resource as invaluable in connecting with others researching the same lines as you are. I recently received a phone call from a distant Mower cousin in Lynn, Massachusetts—where my immigrant ancestor actually lived back in the 1600s. We will be figuring out our degree of relationship, but compared notes on our immigrant ancestor and his English origins. Then, a few days later I received a call from Albuquerque, New Mexico, from the husband of a very distant relative with information concerning my Tyler ancestors from Corinth, Maine. What a small world it really is. Thanks to him I am now exploring my descent from one of the jurors at the Salem Witch Trials!

The importance of sharing your information with others. . .



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Dale

Queries

E-Mail your queries to: mepcgs@yahoo.com

AMES We are trying to locate information on the father of Arthur AMES. The father is believed to have lived in the Bangor area and served as a drummer during the Civil War. He married a lady, given name Mary, from Pennsylvania after the war and lived in New York City. We would appreciate any information that can be given. According to the 1910 census Arthur was born about 1889 and his siblings were Alice, b. 1880, and Mary, b. 1883.

Dale & Linda Bennett [e-mail: dbenn@bright.net]

CARTER Looking for info on Benjamin CARTER, b. 1824 and married Amanda Jane CARTER. He d. 1851. They had two children, Alphonso b. 1851 and Elizabeth Charlotte, b. 1853.

CF [e-mail: phloors@suscum-maine.net]

DAVIS Seeking info on Elizabeth Fitzgibbon DAVIS, who married Percy Allie DAVIS, on 4 July 1881, in Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. Percy DAVIS is the son of Charles and Sarah DAVIS of Garland, Maine.

Stephen Schreiter [e-mail: sfs@execpc.com]

McCLAY/MACKIE/SHANNON I am researching the McCLAY, MACKIE and SHANNON families of the 1800s, all Irish immigrants, possibly through New Brunswick.

Paul McClay [e-mail: McPandT@aol.com]

McMAHON Seeking info on my great uncle, Denis McMAHON of, I believe, East Millinocket, born July 24, 1876 in Bartibogue, New Brunswick, Canada; m. Julia Elizabeth SHEEHAN, August 20, 1907, in New Brunswick. Julia McMAHON d. December 19, 1965 at age 94 as per Maine State records. They had a daughter Madeline, who was organist at the Roman Catholic Church. Madeline never married. Assuming Denis was employed in the wood industry—known for his carpentry skills as was his father. Denis had a younger brother, Ambrose, b. June 1883, who, it seems, lived in Boston area. Any and all information on any member of this family would be very greatly appreciated.

Pat Tozer [e-mail: fred.tozer@sympatico.ca]

HARRIS I am researching the Hezekiah B. HARRIS family of Orono, Maine. He was killed in the Civil War, as was his son, Hezekiah F.(Franklin?). His wife was Phebe Ann GRINDLE?, DAVIS? OR CHURCHILL?, b. 1809 in Castine or West Brooksville and said to have been at least part Indian. Would be happy to have any scrap of information regarding this family.

Louise [e-mail: LouiSi2@aol.com]

ROBINSON Seeking burial places of William ROBINSON, b. Ireland ca. 1800, and wife Loriania (Larania) KIMBALL, b. Hermon Maine. Son is William ROBINSON, b. 1820 Carmel Maine, d. 1908, buried in Pine Grove Cemetery, Bangor. Also, wish to locate book "History of the Robinson Family", by Lewis ROBINSON of Carmel Maine. Thank you.

Veronica Robinson [e-mail: dsrrunnuh@aol.com]



Reflection on the **NERGC** Genealogy Society Fair

A report by PGCS member Cheryl Patten

As with so many projects there are always last minute glitches and the *New England Regional Genealogical Conference's Society Fair* held on Thursday evening November 6, 2003, at the Seacoast Resort & Conference Center in Falmouth, Massachusetts, was no exception. Dale Mower from Bangor, Jack and Nancy Battick from Dover-Foxcroft, and Cheryl Patten and helper husband, Bruce, from Smithfield had agreed to represent MGS and all the various chapters, as well as MOCA - the Maine Old Cemetery Association - at that Fair. We had planned what we hoped would be eye-catching visual displays and would need quite a bit of time to get everything all set up. The Society Fair is an opportunity for various nonprofit groups to have displays and present information about their group/society for several hours on the first evening of the conference. There is no charge to have a presentation and what is especially nice is that the Society Fair is held before the vendor area opens, so it is unopposed by any other sessions or events that would tend to draw folks to other venues. It had been a number of years since MGS had participated in this session and it was exciting to be able to have so many currently active chapters who had prepared brochures and materials for handouts/display. This was going to be a great opportunity for MGS and for the chapters.

The Fair was to be from 5:00 PM until 7:30 PM (first glitch since the information we received initially was that the Fair was for two hours) and we were to be ready and in attendance 30 minutes before that. No problem. The first sessions of the conference were to begin at 1:30 and we planned to set up most things before that first session. Second glitch - the folks at Seacoast Resort were still working in the area setting up tables and signs and no one was allowed into the area until they were done. We brought in our materials and waited - I wish I could say patiently - but can't. It became obvious that some of us would miss the first session at 1:30 if we wanted to set up first. Eventually the area opened, we worked diligently to set up all the displays and handouts, and departed to our respective second session (5 choices for the time slot of 2:45 - 3:45). Third glitch - attending the third session of the day (five presentations from 4:00 until 5:00) would not allow us to be at the Fair by 4:30 as required. Helper husband to the rescue. Bruce wasn't registered for the conference so he was able to arrive in time to set up the lap top and uncover and reset the rest of the displays and we were in business.

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The Counties of Maine—Part I

Information taken from Maine Register 1966-67 and
 "Maine Towns and Counties; What was What, Where and When"
 by Michael J. Dennis (published 1981)

YORK

Organized 20 Nov 1652

County Seat: Alfred

Originally called New Somersetshire, it extended from the Piscataqua River to the Kennebec in 1638. In 1639 the name of the Province was changed to Maine and in 1658 when Massachusetts assumed her jurisdiction over the territory to the western line of North Yarmouth, the name was changed to Yorkshire and the territory was extended by charter in 1691 over what is now the whole State of Maine. The territory comprising York County contained the present state from 1691 until 1760 when the Counties of Cumberland and Lincoln were taken from it and separately incorporated.

Records at the York County Courthouse in Alfred include all existing records of the entire state prior to 1760; as well as records for sections of the present-day Oxford County until 1805. Many of the records have been published as York Deeds.

LINCOLN

Organized 01 Nov 1760

County Seat: Wiscasset

Incorporated from York County. Washington and Hancock formed from Lincoln in 1789; Kennebec 1799; Waldo 1827; Androscoggin and Sagadahoc in 1854; and half of Knox in 1860.

Lincoln County records are located in Wiscasset. Records prior to 1760 are in York County. The Lincoln County records includes parts of present-day Androscoggin and Franklin counties and records of all others (except York, Cumberland and Oxford) for the 1760-1789 period, as well as Kennebec records to 1799.

CUMBERLAND

Organized 01 Nov 1760

County Seat: Portland

Incorporated from York County. Originally contained Androscoggin and Franklin and parts of Oxford, Kennebec and Somerset.

Cumberland County records are located in Portland. Records prior to 1760 are in York County. Cumberland County records include portions of present-day Oxford and Androscoggin Counties.

HANCOCK

Organized 25 Jun 1789

County Seat: Ellsworth

Incorporated June 25, 1789 from Lincoln County. Portions taken in 1816 to form Penobscot County and in 1827 to form Waldo.

Records between 1760 and 1789 are in Lincoln County; and before 1760 they are in York County. Records in Ellsworth also contain those relating to present-day Penobscot and Waldo Counties, and parts of Knox and Aroostook Counties) prior to the organization of those counties.

LINEAGE LINKS

A NEW "Members Helping Members" PROJECT OF THE PCGS

One of the most frequent topics that new members say they are interested in relates to membership in lineage societies. The Mayflower Society seems to be the most common, but there are so many other lineage societies, from DAR to Flagon and Trencher-Descendants of Colonial Tavernkeepers.

To aide with this, we'd like to start of registry of what lineage or genealogical organizations members belong to, and that they would be willing to share information with others as to requirements, necessary documentation, and the organization as a whole, i.e. local meetings. This registry will help us put inquiring members in touch with other members who might be able to answer some basic questions and give some help with the application process.

To enter your name in the registry, send an e-mail to mepcgs@yahoo.com and Patti will set up and maintain a database for the members use.

If you are looking for help with a lineage or other genealogical organization, you can e-mail us and see if we have another member listed that we can put you in contact with.

New Members

Ruth B. Beal, Wilton Maine

Researching: Burrill, Peavey, Howard, Whitman, Atherton, Clark

John Chandler Clement, Denver Colorado

Researching: Clement, Chandler, Blanchard, Banks, Bartlett

Catherine Cook

Gary B. Gravelle, Seattle Washington

Researching: Gravelle, Messer, Ferris

Sylvia LaVallee, Hampton New Hampshire

Paul McClay

Researching: McClay, Shannon, Mackie, Barry

Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Merry, Bucksport Maine

Researching: Mellows, Wiggan

William Whitham

Researching: Whitham, Witham

Penobscot County Genealogical Society

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Officers

President:: Dale Mower
Vice-President: Annette Roberts
Treasurer: Phil Getchell
Secretary: Beth Davis
Director of Programs: John Nelligan
Director of Newsletter: Patti Mower
Director of Research: John Albertini
Director-at-large: Celia Gray



NERGC Genealogy Society Fair

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As folks entered we had a very visible spot and as many of you know, we're not a bashful group. We corralled folks to hear about MGS and MOCA. (They might really be interested and just not know!!) Nancy Battick's family photos printed out on a poster size family tree and the Maine map showing the various MGS chapters were very eye catching and once folks had stopped they were "in our web". Materials, brochures, but especially information and enthusiasm, were dispensed to one and all. The handouts for "How to Prepare and Submit a Sketch" to be published in the MGS award winning series, "Maine Families in 1790", were prominently displayed and handed out frequently.

In any case - glitches and all - it turned out to be a great experience and we met some wonderful folks who hopefully have discovered that Maine has good resources, some active chapters, and enthusiastic folks ready to help one and all.

You've learned how to turn on your computer.....now what?

Are you looking for some assistance with learning how to use a new computer or need a hand getting past that "fear factor"?

Well, Phil Getchell reports there is help! He wants everyone to know that Bangor Adult Ed offers a computer course. And if you think that means an evening course—wrong, they offer one during the day time hours! If you would like more information, give the Bangor Adult Ed office a call at 941-6310.

Also note—Bangor Seniors pay ONLY the lab fee.