



## Upcoming Meetings

**Wednesday, April 15th**  
Guest Speaker: Jack Battick  
Bangor Public Library, 6:00 pm

**Wednesday, May 20th**  
Cheryl Patten: Grave Stone Cleaning  
Bangor Public Library, 6:00 pm

**Wednesday, June 17th**  
Annual Cook out Hose  
Location: TBA

*Please check out our Society's website for up-to-date information on events and programs*  
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mepcgs/>

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Articles accepted for publication must be of genealogical nature.

Share your research experiences (your successes and your disappointments) or information about your Penobscot County ancestors.

Submissions should be forwarded to the Newsletter Editor.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ahhhh, I think Spring has sprung as the snow is slowly going away. We had our first sighting of some woodland friends on Sunday, about 6 deer came out of the woods to graze on the newly exposed moss and grass. We had a few adults along with a yearling and a smaller one out in the back yard. Nice to see them healthy this year.

The February meeting was one not to have been missed as Richard Shaw packed them in on his slide show of Bangor. There wasn't an empty chair and we had a number of folks standing up in the back and out into the hallway. Dick shared his knowledge of Bangor in its years gone by, showing some very nice slides of the city before and after the Great Fire of 1911 and before and after Urban Renewal telling us all his wonderful stories of this fair city. Many thanks to Dick for his great presentation.

In our March meeting, Roxanne Moore Saucier, our *Bangor Daily News* connection who writes the "Family Ties" column spoke about internet sites for finding information on ones family history. She pointed out the IGI site along with the use of Google as a research aide. There were words of caution as what to believe on these sites and when entering information to reference your sources.

Our Editor, Jacque, has requested members who would like to share something about themselves and/or what they are working on/

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Faithful readers, did I not tell you in our last PCGS Newsletter that I always get a nasty winter cold? Alas, my predictable ailment has taken hold time and time again, as I keep relapsing into laryngitis! A cruel fate indeed talk (No

# THE GEN-TRIPPER

given that I just LOVE to

Phil, it's not funny). So now, I will attempt to write a few thoughts that hopefully come together in a remotely lucid manner despite the fact that I'm barely awake!

I might begin by contextualizing my plight. I have had little opportunity to compose anything much this morning even though it's nearly noon. My 5:00 looms before me as I attempt to open myself to any inspiration offered by well-meaning Bangor Room patrons. Unfortunately, my curious probes have unleashed a flood of words from one patron that promise to submerge me in some sort of anti-genealogy diatribe. I turn to the next patron, who offers me little more to work off. Although he holds his fingers three inches apart to indicate the thickness of the extensive genealogical record that he has amassed, I can only extract a minimal amount of specificity from this gentleman. What do I have to share with my readers? Only the words, "I feel proud." That proclamation may not be all he wrote, but sadly, that's all he'll say. The custodian will only vigorously shake his hands at me to shoo me off, and say, "Don't ask me about my family history. I don't care where I came from!"

So my genealogically inclined friends, I'm not sure just what I can offer you this month. Suffice to say that a blank slate is a far bigger problem than a brick wall. I should know. Hey, I've got it! Maybe, I could just talk a little about myself. Heaven knows I've had enough practice! Besides, to be perfectly honest I'm not sure just how long I can keep this torrid of words bottled-up. I mean, I just feel ready to burst! I never promised to be interesting, okay? Now, don't moan. You must be used to it by now. Just think about all those television personalities that you are routinely subjected to. Case in point!

Common knowledge should have already informed you of my minimal genealogical research progress. It's sad but true. I just cannot work my way back. I keep spreading out into this tangent and that tangent, and loving it all the while. I'm beginning to think that I'll never get any further back than the nineteenth century. What can I say? I'm just too easily distracted. I guess that for now, Phil Getchell can tenaciously cling to denial until I take the time to prove that we must be related through Scotland's Munro clan. The time WILL come laddie!

For now, I will only be able to share a small example of distraction. It began with a reference to my ancestors in the book, *History of the Town of Lincoln, Penobscot County, Maine, 1822-1928* written by Dana Willis Fellows. At first, I felt disappointed that I could only find a measly reference to the fire that destroyed the house of my Great-grandfather on March 28, 1903. Why, I already knew that story. "But...wait," I thought, "I did not previously know the date!" I ran into the Micro-film Room faster than you could say, "Bangor Daily News," in search of an article about this tragic event.

I discovered that on that fateful Sunday evening, Leslie F Keefe lost a house, shed, and barn. The flames were fed, so to speak, by six tons of hay, eighteen bushels of buckwheat, twenty bushels of oats and about five cords of wood. Items that had been previously brought out to safely were soon

*President's Message Continued from page 1*

struggling with concerning their family tree to step up! Take this opportunity to involve other members with your insights or pitfalls or request for help. If interested send her an email at *notamorningperson@msn.com*.

As I have said in my last couple of messages the Renewals have been coming in wonderfully and I have tried to tell all who have email addresses "Thank You for your continued Support in the Society." In a lot of cases I am getting the messages back as the email address I have in the file is no longer good. So I am requesting from all who read this to send me your email address, if you have one, regardless if you have had a change in the last 7 years or not. That way I can update the information on my system and pass it on to the Treasurer, keeper of our backup list. I can be reached at *towncrier2@yahoo.com* so I hope to hear from one and all.

I hope to see as many as possible at our 15 April 2009 meeting at the Bangor Public Library, 6:00 PM. with Jack Battick.

*Happy Spring Everyone!*

*Gen Tripper Continued from Page 2*

enveloped by the hungry inferno after the wind suddenly shifted, almost as rapidly as my ancestors' fortune. In only twenty minutes these buildings were a mass of flames! Irish luck may not have spared my ancestors' earthly possessions, but came it did play a part in saving the lives of the family including four small children, the oldest six years and youngest ten months, and my eighty-year-old Great-great-grandfather. I may not know much about my family, but I feel certain that they must have been strong people to have endured such hardship. Now, if I can only get through this bout of laryngitis!

**Recap of March's Program**

Some highlights from Roxanne's "Fighting the Internet Follies" for March's program:

IGI: ancestral files submitted by other people so keep in mind the quality and accuracy will vary. IGI is best for the information copied from town records. It is more reliable. At the bottom of the page should state whether data is from town records or submitted by individuals.

LDS: has census records - 1880 covers entire country and in 1881 all of Canada. Find name, check household as well as previous and next households listed because you may find family members living around the main household you are researching.

Family search.org: great site with general forum - just put in a surname and you may get several hits. Checking the message boards may also yield results.

With Ancestry.com you trace other family trees which is an advantage of web sites. Data base-chase down a family through indexing

A few notes on census records - draw backs include copies that are faint, census taker handwriting hard to read and may not be familiar with local names.

Social Security death index gets high marks. It is quite accurate because it is connected to money. When a person dies they stop receiving a check. This could list last town where person received pay-

## QUERIES

To post a query, email [mepcgs@yahoo.com](mailto:mepcgs@yahoo.com)

### PLEASE NOTE:

We are getting an overwhelming amount of SPAM in our email account each month. To make sure a legitimate query is not missed please type the word QUERY at the beginning of the subject field.

Thank you!

### TOWN OF GREENBUSH

I am interested in learning more about the early history of Greenbush, formerly Township #2, Old Indian Purchase. I am interested in learning when this purchase was made, who were the parties involved, and the early settlers.

I descend from Benjamin Stanley. Benjamin is said to have moved to Twp. #2, OIP before 1818. He was the first person listed in both the 1820 & 1830 Federal Censuses. In 1820 there were 4 families: Benjamin "Stanty", Herriman Pratt (who married Benjamin's daughter, Louisa), Solomon Littlefield, & Elijah Spencer (who married Benjamin's daughter, Elizabeth).

I am interested in learning more about Benjamin Stanley. According to the 1880 Census record of his daughter, Ruth, both of her parents were said to have been born in Massachusetts.

*Raymond T. Wing*  
Genealogist, Wing Family of America, Inc.  
[WFA] [www.wingfamily.org](http://www.wingfamily.org)

### DWELLEY/SNOW

Margaret Dwelley b 1832 in Hermon, Maine; the daughter of William Dwelley (1795 - 1856 Veazie Maine) and Clarissa Snow. (d 1889 in Veazie, Me). I would like as much information on this family as I can receive.

Thank You!

*Elaine Goode*  
[mag1938@aol.com](mailto:mag1938@aol.com)

### DAVIS/PROUTY

I need help with Sarah Jane Davis, b 7 Nov 1817 maybe in Bangor? She married on 9 Oct 1844 in Bangor to Jonas Prouty. She died 4 March 1869 in Veazie, Maine. I have a Mary Jane Davis (b 1844 Bangor) but she married a Cowin. Can someone please help me, I have spent 30 years on this.

Thank You!

*Elaine Goode*  
[mag1938@aol.com](mailto:mag1938@aol.com)

### CROCKER

Looking for names of parents of Jacob Crocker of Corinth, Maine born about 1783. The first book, Corinth, Maine states Jacob's wife is Methabel Dennets of Bangor, married June 12, 1818 and his son James Monroe Crocker born Feb 17, 1822.

Thank you and God bless you,

*Mark Anthony*  
[16prescott@earthlink.net](mailto:16prescott@earthlink.net)

Paula Toothacher submitted the following internet link:

CROUSEVILLE PIONEER CEMETERY  
Old Parsons Road—Crouseville, Maine

Pioneer families came up the Aroostook River, mostly from New Brunswick, and settled in the area that is now known as Crouseville, Maine.

Check out information at the link below—

[http://www.rogue-publishing.com/Crouseville\\_Pioneer\\_Cemetery.html](http://www.rogue-publishing.com/Crouseville_Pioneer_Cemetery.html)

## GenBytes by Dale Mower

Springtime wishes to everyone. I missed the last newsletter, too many irons in the proverbial fire and time just got away from me. As I sit to talk about exciting websites worth visiting, I'm finding myself a little out of ammunition not having had a chance to do much research in the last few weeks. Fortunately, Paula Toothaker and a few others have shared some of their favorite sites with me, so let me share those.

Do you have an early ancestor that died in Essex County, Massachusetts? You might take a look at Essex County Wills. It contains transcription of some early wills – I was able to locate a couple of my ancestors included and recognized many of the names of individuals indirectly connected. The web address is <http://essexcountyma.net/Wills/index.html>.

If your ancestor died in Maine from 1640-1760, you might take a peek at the transcriptions of several wills from the York County Probate Records. These can be accessed at [www.maineancestry.net/maine\\_wills.asp](http://www.maineancestry.net/maine_wills.asp). Although too early for most of my ancestors, these early wills do make for some interesting reading.

When researching family history, don't forget to search for local historical and genealogical societies in the area where your ancestors lived – expand the search from beyond the town to the county. Many of these societies have databases or photos included on their websites. When researching my Mower lineage in the town of Greene, I expanded my search and surfed on into the Androscoggin County Historical Society's website. It is here that I learned of an unusual arrangement involving my distant-uncle Marshall Mower. It seems that he provided "fathering" services to his neighbors who were having problems conceiving. Payment for the services was to be a cow, delivered after the birth of the child. The arrangements must have been satisfactory, as Uncle Marshall was re-hired to help provide a second child. This info was included in an old newsletter from 1996 included on the website. Androscoggin Historical Society's website is at [www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~meandrhs](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~meandrhs).

So keep searching and find the juicy stuff to help make your family history come alive. And don't forget, with spring means the start of cemetery hopping season. Make sure to visit those grave sites we talked about a few months ago – and volunteer to take gravestone photos for those non-Mainers trying to connect.

### Dale



#### Save the Date!

The 2009 MGS conference will be on Saturday, September 26, 2009, and is going to be held at the Bangor Civic Center. Yea!! Stay current with all the details by visiting [www.maineroots.org](http://www.maineroots.org)