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Genealogy Notes from Emily, August 2013

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Genealogy Notes from Emily

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Websites to Remember:

- MSL Genealogy - www.maine.gov/msl/services/genealogy/index.shtml
- Vital Records Researcher Card - www.maine.gov/dhhs/forms.shtml
- MSL Classes - www.maine.gov/msl/services/classes.shtml
- Maine Genealogical Society - <http://maineroots.org>

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www.maine.gov/msl

GOOGLE for Genealogical Research

GOOGLE can be an amazing search tool for those doing genealogical research! For instance, have you ever just tried searching for your own name? It's almost scary! Even more happens when you add words in the search string (*keyword phrase*) like "genealogy" or "family" or a place name. When searching for an individual, don't forget to put quotation marks around the person's name to give you the most relevant results. Another tip: an asterisk can be used in place of an initial; 2 asterisks can replace 2 initials, etc.-this is called the wildcard feature., and must be used inside quotation marks.

With Google you needn't worry about case sensitivity, unless you want to add or omit a search term (i.e. OR, AND). You may also place a negative sign next to a word, without a space between, to leave a word or concept out of the results.



Let's make friends with Google!

Ever wondered what that funny squiggle right under the Esc key does? It's called a *tilde*, and for Google it acts as a cue to find similar words, though not just synonyms. Again, use no space between the tilde and the word.

Not enough excitement yet? Let's take a look at the "Advanced Search" feature. This option doesn't appear until the results of a query appear; scroll down to the bottom of the page, where you'll also find "Search Help" and links to other pages. Once you click on "Advanced Search", the first sec-

tion begins "Find pages with...", and fill in the blanks as instructed. The use of these options is completely at your discretion: all words, exact phrase, any words or none (remember to use the minus sign here). There's even a blank for entering a range of numbers. The second part allows you to narrow the results by language, region, format, and last update of the online source. You can specify where you would like your terms to appear: anyplace on the page, the title, web address or within a link. Degree of relevance is always a good option. Google has also added reading level, file type and licensing restrictions.

For more information, do an online search for Google search tips, and check out Daniel M. Lynch's [Google Your Family Tree](#). Find this at MSL, on the shelf at: 025.069291 L987g 2008.

2013 Maine Genealogical Society Conference!

This year's conference will be featuring Laura Prescott, past president of the Association of Professional Genealogists, as well as a researcher and speaker. She will begin the day with her keynote address, "How the Internet Makes Us Sloppy Genealogists". She will also be on tap

to give the following presentations during the course of the day: "Timelines: Placing Your Heritage in Historical Perspective", "Finding Your Military Ancestors on Fold3", and "Treasures Within the Ivory Tower: Finding Family in Academic Archives". Other

speakers will be Pamela Egleston on divorce records; Carol McCoy, early Maine town records; and Judy Reitze, using FamilySearch.

Mark your calendar: Saturday, September 21, 2013, 8AM to 5PM, Jeff's Catering, Brewer