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## Genealogy Notes from Emily May 2017

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## Genealogy Notes from Emily



### Websites to Remember

- MSL Genealogy - [www.maine.gov/msl/services/genealogy/index.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/msl/services/genealogy/index.shtml)
- Vital Records Researcher Card- [www.maine.gov/dhhs/forms.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/forms.shtml)
- MSL Classes- [www.maine.gov/msl/services/classes.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/msl/services/classes.shtml)
- Maine Genealogical Society- [www.maineroots.org](http://www.maineroots.org)
- Maine State Archives- [www.maine.gov/sos/arc](http://www.maine.gov/sos/arc)

Maine State Library  
64 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

Hours  
M, W and Th: 9-6  
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Tel. 207-287-5600  
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## How About RootsWeb?

It's always nice to make a new online acquaintance, and this was of the nonhuman variety. I had not used RootsWeb, and was quite unfamiliar with it, so I thought it was time to see what it's all about. Turns out it has a lot to offer. RootsWeb is part of the "Ancestry.com Community", and many times the user is referred to Ancestry. The basic purpose of the site is to allow users to post family trees and other types of family information, and to foster communication between possible relatives. One can utilize mailing lists and message boards; you can link your website and even contribute your entire database to the cause. (See "user-contributed databases"). Surnames can be searched and messages can be posted to those seeking information on individuals. If you don't have a website already, you are invited to create one with assistance from the online editor. There are even volunteer projects to work on!

Probably the best link to begin with is "Getting Started at RootsWeb", which gives a good overview of the site and its reason for being. Also in the "Getting Started" category is their guide to tracing family trees. I'm looking

for more on my several greats' grandfather, who served briefly in the War of 1812 and captured an enemy ship off the coast of Maine, among other things. His testimony to Congress relating the incident reads like a movie script! Anyhow, from this first step I clicked on "Military Records", then "War of 1812", and got to an article in *Prologue*, a publication of the National Archives, which tells all about the records that are available. The notes at the end led me to a small booklet which we have at the State Library, and an interesting lead to other material nearby to explore. Like I'm always saying, one thing leads to another! Searching the message boards is a real hit-or-miss proposition; you can't plug in given and last names and expect to find them together, even with quotation marks. For example, I tried my guy, "Noah Miller", and got 1,967 messages. It would take forever to go through them all, but could be useful if you hit on the right family, of course.



There is an archives which offers previous posts or what they call "threaded mail". Also offered are previous issues of their newsletter "RootsWeb Review"; the last date I could find was December 14, 2011. According to a message in the issue, it was discontinued to allow for "newer means of communication"... (I have e-mailed to ask about that.) I had the very best luck when using the WorldConnect Global Search, which allowed me to find my Noah, along with his wives. The search points to other leads, which may or may not be useful. In my case, the contributor's e-mail will be invaluable. When I clicked on it, the statement popped up that I could contact this person if I was an Ancestry subscriber; luckily I am! I'm positive there's a connection as even this person's address gives another family name that is familiar! So I'm off!

The basic principles with RootsWeb are sharing and communicating; share your genealogy with others, and you'll find new cousins coming to you! Have fun!

### 2017 Maine Genealogy Fair Saturday, July 8, 9AM to 2PM, State Library, Museum and Archives Building, Augusta, ME

Mark your calendars! Our building will be abuzz with all things genealogy on Saturday, July 8th, with Maine Genealogical Society's second Genealogy Fair! We're hoping for another huge crowd! We'll have representatives from historical

and genealogical organizations from around the state, along with a couple of interesting presentations. We've also invited more vendors this time, so you'll have more useful products to choose from! There will be 7 professional genealogists

available to help you with your brick wall sticking points, by 15-minute appointments. We're also adding some door prizes to make the day even more fun! So, be sure not to miss this major event in July, right after the 4th! See you all then!