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Genealogy Notes from Emily, November 2012

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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 - www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~megs/index.html

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November is Native American Heritage Month!

Fall-or is it winter-is upon us once again-a good time for thoughtful contemplation of our lives and who made us who we are today...

Many of us believe we have Native American blood, but the difficulty lies in proving it. At the State Library we have a number of how-to books which can help with the process. Search in the catalog; <http://ursus.maine.edu> using the term "Indians of North America-Genealogy", and that will point you in the right direction. A few of the more useful titles include *Native American Genealogical Sourcebook* edited by Paula K. Byers (1995); *A Student's Guide to Native American Genealogy* by E. Barrie Kavasch (1996); *How to Research American Indian Blood Lines* by Cecilia Svinth Carpenter (1999); and *Who's Looking for Whom in Native American Ancestry* by Laurie Beth Roman (2004). These do seem a bit dated, but the sources and methods remain valid. Directory-type information does require double-checking, as



you would expect.

The Internet has much to offer. Take a look at Ancestry.com, and FamilySearch.org. The latter has a wiki that's really helpful; just click on the Learn tab, then "American Indian Genealogy". Cyndi's List has a Native American section as well. The National Archives has some tips to guide you in using their records: www.archives.gov. Online mailing lists are found at <http://bigfile.rootsweb.ancestry.com>.

And, do check out "Native American Research" at: <http://nativeamericanresearch.blogspot.com>. The Bureau of Indian Affairs has a tribal directory arranged by state, under the "Who We Are" area: www.bia.gov. Another good site is: www.nativeamericanheritage.com, which has a genealogy section. The last website I will mention now is through Access Genealogy: www.accessgenealogy.com/native. This includes some information on records, rolls and individual tribes, in addition to instruction.

For contacts to Maine's local tribes, do stop to see us at the Reference Desk, write or give us a call. We're happy to help you find your roots in whatever way we can!



What Are We Doing to the Second Floor of MSL?

Believe it or not, we're trying to arrange our collection to make it easier to use! The really good news for genealogy people is that everything we have will be closer together. No more going to the other end of the library to use microfilm! Just take a left at the bottom of the stairs; film and

machines will be right there! We will also have a special Genealogy Reference section, which will be followed by how-tos, family histories, town histories and vital records for Maine and New England. Up next will be Canadian materials, if all goes as planned. The

rest of the collection is getting a shakedown as well. The Reference Desk and that area of materials will be shifted far more to the right. (We're also hoping to obtain a real historical desk to go along with our new look!) So, stay tuned and watch out for all the changes! We can't wait!