Genealogy Notes from Emily October 2015

Emily Schroeder
Reader and Information Services, Emily.Schroeder@maine.gov

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Hi, all! I thought you might like to know about a few of our more recent acquisitions, and hope that they’ll be helpful in your research.

First up is William Dollarhide’s Maine Name Lists-Published and Online Censuses and Substitutes. 1623-2012 (G Ref 929.374 D665m 2015). It is a “list of lists” that are available online and in print, and includes the most reliable databases for Maine’s federal and state censuses, directories, histories, military and tax lists, vital records and voter lists. This section is followed by a national bibliography, 1600s to the present: federal censuses, immigration, military, veterans, pensions, land records and U.S. vital records. There’s a historical timeline, and the State Archives, State Library and Maine Historical Society each get some descriptive paragraphs. U.S. maps give a progression of statehood. The whole thing is arranged chronologically and there is no index, but it’s easy to follow (and interesting!). Mr. Dollarhide has covered 19 other states in similar fashion, including our neighbors Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Our second featured title is: A Guide to Massachusetts Public Records-Parishes, Towns, and Counties, compiled by Carroll D. Wright (929.1 W948r 2014). It was originally published as the “Report on the Custody and Condition of the Public Records of Parishes, Towns and Counties: 1889”. It’s indexed in the front, and the subjects include laws, proprietors records, church records and denominations, extinct churches (more interesting…), town records by county, court and county records. The information is presented in chart format with the years covered by the item, whether or not it’s indexed, its location and condition. The last two most likely have changed, but still good to know at the time. Entries are supplemented with lots of notes. The only drawback is the relatively small print. When you take a look at this one, feel free to ask us for a magnifying glass!

The third title is by Robert Charles Anderson, director of the Great Migration Study Project, sponsored by New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston. For those unfamiliar, this effort was begun in 1988 with the ambitious goal of creating accounts of those who had immigrated to New England from 1620 to 1640. Mr. Anderson has authored The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620-1633 (3 vols.), and The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England, 1634-1635 (7 vols.), as well as The Great Migration Newsletter (1990-2011). His latest publication is The Great Migration Directory: Immigrants to New England, 1620-1640: A Concise Compendium. Though his volumes are indexed, this directory gives more details on each individual, such as where they came from and when, the ship if known, and a variety of references, not just to the project books. I was able to find my 8th great grandfather, Ralph Farnum, who came from Kent, England in 1635 on the “James”, and found the pages referenced right away that had more details–so I can continue on the dusty trail once again! You’ll find the Compendium, on the shelf at 929.3 A549g-d 2015, next to its “brothers”! This is a wonderful series for those who can go back to the 1600s.

**Did You Know About [www.maine genealogy.net](http://www.maine genealogy.net)?**

Mainegenealogy.net is a fun website, which I highly recommend, and it’s free to use! You are welcome to contribute funds, however, for its maintenance. There are forums, links to current obituary pages in the state, blogs, and an archives, which includes maps, plans and other interesting items. At the top are a couple of options I wanted to point out in particular: network, where you can post photos and/or join a group of like-minded individuals; and databases, a wealth of links. In the vital records category, where you’ll find the indexes to Maine marriages from 1892-1966 and 1977-2009; divorces, 1820-1903; and deaths, 1955-2009. Other goodies: military records (even war casualties); census records; court and government records (wills, name changes, etc.); passenger and immigration records; burials, and a host of items in their Maine Genealogy Archives. Have fun!