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# Genealogy Notes from Emily September 2016

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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](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

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## Finding Sources for the History of Your House!



Surely you've asked yourself "who lived in my house before I did, and what the heck did they do to it?!" The first place to start on the paper trail is with your deed; by tracing further back you can establish a "chain of title", and construct a timeline of property ownership.

Deeds may or may not include descriptions of the buildings on the land, but with some translation of surveying terms you can get a good concept of the physical dimensions. In general, it's advisable to have an idea of what other houses in the town looked like—both historically and in the present; find a good history with lots of pictures! You may also wish to locate a book or two on architectural styles, which will help to date your abode if there's no reference to it on the deed. Interior decoration is equally as important as exterior style; if you're about to renovate and have an older home, look for names and dates written on walls and framing, and even dates on newspapers that have been stuffed in walls for insula-

tion...Check the local historical society to see if your home is part of an architectural survey. It could even be on a postcard; prior to 1950, houses were popular subjects! It's also highly likely that your home is on a Sanborn Fire Insurance map, if it's located in one of the 12,000 US towns and cities this company covered from 1867 to 2007. They're a great resource which details the street location, windows and doors, building materials, fire walls, natural features and local public buildings. There are more map types to consider: cadastral, which labels homes and provides the owner's names; and bird's eye or aerial views. Other records to look into include those for road construction, surveyors,

the court, and aerial photo collections. Now for the "who" part: we humans leave a trail, in spite of ourselves. Deeds do have the names and addresses of the seller and buyer, and may include references to a will or court case. The original images in the population Census connects names and addresses. The agricultural schedule could be helpful if your property was ever used as a farm during the years 1850, 1860, 1870 or 1880. In urban and suburban areas building permits were issued beginning around 1890. Other suggestions: city directories, obituaries and social registers. \*For more information, check MSL's catalog under the subject: "dwellings-history" or "historic buildings-United States-research..." AND CyndisList, "House and Building Histories", at [www.cyndislist.com/houses/general](http://www.cyndislist.com/houses/general). Happy hunting!

**It's Not Too Late to Register for Maine Genealogical Society's  
2016 Annual Conference!**

Please join us for inspiring presentations by the keynote speaker, Judy Russell, "The Legal Genealogist", whose introductory talk will be: "Staying Out of Trouble-the Rights and Responsibilities of Today's Genealogists". She will also discuss generations, widows and orphans, and

willis. Other speakers scheduled are Fr. Robert Parent, Liam Riordan and Cheryl Willis Patten. There will be some surprises during the day as MGS celebrates its 40th anniversary! Be sure not to miss this one! Check out the website: [www.maineroots.org](http://www.maineroots.org)



Date: Saturday, September 17th  
Time: 8AM to 5PM  
Place: JEFF'S CATERING  
15 Littlefield Way, Brewer, ME  
Or, see Emily Schroeder