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Genealogy Notes from Emily January 2017

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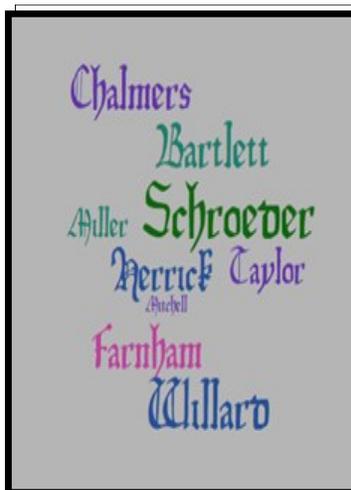
Genealogy Notes from Emily

What's in a Name? Plenty!



Ever wondered what your family name means, and where it originated? Then do your own one name study! There is definitely a connection between name and place! Often this aspect of family research becomes most evident with DNA results.

There are several types of names to consider.. For example, **locative**: Massey (person from Massey, northern France), and other "froms": Crosby, Barlow, Houston (not necessarily Texas), Rochester and Salisbury. Another type is **topographical**: Hill, Lake, Lamontagne (mountain), Cross (crossroads), Knott (lives by a hillock), Flood (lives by a small stream), Then there is **occupational**: Dyer, Fuller, Taylor, Baker, Carpenter, Weaver, Carver, Brewer, Fletcher (arrowmaker), Meade (brewer or seller of mead). We continue with **patronymic** or **matronymic**: the given name plus "son" or "s", Matthews (son of Matthew), Donaldson (son of Donald), Sanders (son of Sander)-you get the drift.



There are the "Mc" and the "Mac" folks that fall in this category, the Irish and Scots. Another type is more **descriptive** and pinpoints a person's /family's dominant characteristic or physical appearance, i.e. Heller is actually a medieval German nickname for a small person. Foot or Foote indicated a deformed foot, Donner: again German, for a loud or bad-tempered individual; Crump, cripple or

markable forearms; Buck, resembling a male goat; Sherlock, fair-haired, The last category here uses the forename and makes it **diminutive** : the given name is changed so that it can be used as a surname. My maiden name, Herrick, comes from the Old Norse personal name Eiríkr or Eric. Other examples: Sorin (Yiddish, Sarah plus "in"; Hammond (Norman Hamo(n) plus "d"; and, Ulrich (German, Odal-prosperity, plus "ric", power. Obviously, this is a very interesting part of genealogy and deserves much more study! You can do that online through the Guild of One-Name Studies , at: <http://one-name.org>; the Name Meanings Database <http://ancestrynames.com>; The Internet Surname Database, found at www.surnamedb.com; CyndisList's category for surnames, at www.cyndislist.com/surnames , plus The Surname Society, <http://surname-society.org>. Maine State Library has a number of books on the subject as well, and I'd be happy to specify what I used here!!

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.maineroots.org
- Maine State Archives— www.maine.gov/sos/arc

Maine State Library
64 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Hours
M, W and Th: 9-6
Tues: 9-7
Fri: 9-5
Sat: 9-2

Tel. 207-287-5600
Website:
www.maine.gov/msl

2017 MAINE GENEALOGY FAIR!

Plans are currently underway for Maine Genealogical Society's second genealogy fair, to be held in the atrium and lobby of the LMA Building, (that's the State Library, Museum and Archives) right where the first one was, in the heart of Augusta! We

will have representatives from historical and genealogical societies located around the state, as well as our group of brick wall bustlers, available to help with sticky genealogy questions. We also will have doorprizes

for attendees, and we're working on some surprises as well, so mark your calendars! The date is: **Saturday, July 8th, 2017, 9AM to 3PM, LMA Building, 230 State St., Augusta Me.** For more information, check back on the MGS site!