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Genealogy Notes from Emily, July 2017

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Maine State Library

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Digital Maine Library



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

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Online library of Maine community
and State Government collections

 MSL
Digital Maine is a service of the Maine State Library



Greetings and Happy Summer to all those genealogists out there! I'm here to remind you of a wonderful resource sponsored by our own Maine State Library, and available to everyone: the Digital Maine Library! It's growing in leaps and bounds as a remarkable variety of materials are downloaded daily. I started with a basic search using the word "genealogy", and got 141 results! That included copies of this newsletter, along with some genealogies and vital records. Next I tried entering my hometown, "Thomaston, Maine", and got 595 results-wow! That included South Thomaston as well, but there is a 1795 plan of the town, land grants, geology and individual alien registrations (for 1940). I even found a letter, dated 1836, announcing the death of one of my ancestors, a member of Congress, with such

phrases as "fallen in a duel", "slumbering in the arms of death" and "lost his life a martyr to the liberty of speech"! Wow, again! One can narrow their search by discipline, keyword, publication year, type, publisher and file type. I had better luck when using the advanced search feature, which expands to include all the library's repositories, not the least of which is the Maine State Archives! When using advanced searching, you need to be as specific as possible. For example, when I plugged in "South China", I really needed to add "Maine" as I was retrieving materials which had nothing whatsoever to do with my adopted town. (Charles Brewster's wedding gifts, and items about the country of China...) Employing the keyword function was a better option; I found the "Windsor Scrapbook" covering 1920 to 1975-what fun!

For family names, I tried both the surname with the word "family", but got better results when I simplified and typed in only the last name. I discovered that there is a Herrick cemetery in Lewiston-the plan for it is part of the library-and there are some family histories as well.

This collection is certainly worth exploring for genealogical materials, and its potential for this type of research can only expand. Staff are also working on establishing an affiliation with the Digital Public Library of America, so the sky's the limit! Be sure and check out Digital Maine on a regular basis! You'll be glad you did! It's on the MSL website, www.maine.gov/msl, or www.digitalmaine.com.

MGS Conference Coming Up Soon!

This year's Maine Genealogical Society conference will be on September 16th at Point Lookout Resort in Northport! The keynote speaker is David Allen Lambert, Chief Genealogist at the New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston. During the day we will learn about New

England military records, probate and deeds, digital newspapers and Native American research, among other topics. We are also having an "expert panel" for help with any sticky issues you might be having with your



family history research! If you register before August 15th, you'll be eligible to win a \$100 gift card from LL Bean! The day begins with sign-in at the door at 8AM, and ends with a selection of door prizes! This will be a day not to be missed! For more, go to: www.maineroots.org.