



Please join us for the second annual

Southern Maine Genealogy Conference



Saturday, May 30, 2015 • 9am - 4pm

Keeley's Banquet Center, 178 Warren Avenue, Portland, ME
Sponsored by the Greater Portland Chapter of the Maine Genealogical Society

We have a great day full of educational and entertaining lectures planned covering a variety of topics, interests and experience levels. We start with our keynote speaker, Margaret Dube, and continue with three sets of workshops. There will be vendors and exhibitors on hand. You will be able to purchase MGS special publications at the conference and save on shipping. A delicious lunch and tasty snacks are all included in the registration price of \$55. And some lucky attendees will bring home door prizes ranging from jewelry to books to memberships! Be sure to sign up now.

A Home Among Yankees: *turn of the century immigrants on the Maine coast.*

Join with Margaret Dube as she delves into the lives of immigrants who, at the turn of the last century, settled in seacoast Maine. Learn the challenges involved in studying those who ventured far from home and forged a new life.

Through typical and not so typical genealogical resources, Margaret has knit together rich details about Italian, French-Canadian, Japanese, and other immigrants in their adopted communities. She'll share these stories, along with her research pitfalls and rewards.



Keynote Speaker:
Margaret Dube , CGSM

Conference Registration

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|------------------|
| Name |
| Street address |
| City, State, Zip |
| Phone |
| Email address |

This conference takes place on May 30, 2015 from 9am to 4pm at Keeley's Banquet Center, 178 Warren Ave. in Portland, ME. Registration includes lunch and snacks served by Keeley's.

Registration fee: \$55.00

**To pay by credit card or
Paypal account, please go to
www.gpcmgs.org.**

If you wish to pay by check, you may make your check payable to **Greater Portland Chapter Maine Genealogical Society** and mail check and this completed form to:

Diane Holden
496 Hodsdon Rd
Pownal, ME 04069-6405

The Conference Program

8:30-9:00

Registration and vendors area open

9:00-9:15

Opening and welcome remarks

9:15-10:15

Keynote Address by Margaret Dube: A Home Among Yankees: turn of the century immigrants on the Maine coast.

- Margaret Dube will delve into the lives of immigrants who settled in seacoast Maine at the turn of this century. Learn the challenges involved in studying those who ventured far from home to forge a new life.

10:45-11:45 - Workshop I

a. Nancy Lecompte: Getting Started in Genetic Genealogy - The cost of DNA testing has fallen to \$99. These tests can help us break brick walls, confirm existing research, explore our ethnicity, and find distant cousins. Nancy will cover different types of DNA tests and how to use them, compare the main testing companies, and offer strategies for solving family mysteries with DNA. Whether you are just curious or have a specific problem, this is a good day to start your genetic genealogy journey.

b. Rev. Fr. Robert A. Parent: Franco-American Genealogical Resources: A Bountiful Crop! - This presentation will go over the major resources available in researching ancestors from New France including their French-Canadian, Acadian, Cajun, Creole and French-Canadian-American descendants. The connection between the sources and the history that created them will also be briefly touched upon.

c. Craig Siulinski: Walking the Talk: Valuable Insights from Location Research - This presentation will show how online clues and networking were used to structure a research trip. From walking the pavement of my great grandparent's hometown, the precise location of where my ancestors came from is revealed along with a bonus discovery.

12:00-1:00

Lunch and vendor time

1:00-2:00 - Workshop 2

a. Margaret Dube: A Closer Look at Immigration Records - In this workshop, we'll examine passenger lists, naturalization documents, alien registration records, and other documents created for our immigrant ancestors. This workshop will cover

searching, reading and interpreting immigration records. Participants are invited to email Margaret (Margaret.dube@comcast.net) with specific questions prior to the workshop.

b. Gail Kill: Organizing your genealogy files - Learn how to set up data files to store pictures, birth certificates, etc. that will help you find them quickly when needed. Take pictures from microfilm, book pages, or photo albums, and add to data files easily. Document your research so you can pick up where you left off, saving time and duplication. Keep research logs in surname data files on portable flash drives. Fun tips to speed up research.

c. Lynne Holland: Italian Genealogy - Often the language barrier and true "foreignness" of Italy makes research seem difficult. This session will cover how to begin your search and what unique situations you might encounter. It will also show what tools and information is available without a trip to Italy. You may find you want to make that trip, though, because "In Italia siamo tutti di famiglia" (In Italy we are all family)!

2:30-3:30 - Workshop 3

a. Michael Connolly: "Changing Their Sky: The Irish Arrive in Maine" - Large numbers of Irish arrived in much of Atlantic America, following the Great Famine of the 1840s, and even more from 1880-1920 when economic and political disruption in Ireland occurred simultaneously with opportunities for work in America. This workshop will focus on the "push" factors forcing emigrants out of Ireland, as well as, the "pull" factors attracting them here. It will look primarily at areas of Irish settlement in Portland and Maine around the turn of the 20th century.

b. Carol McCoy: Using Deeds in Genealogy - A Goldmine of Information - Deeds and land records can provide useful clues to our ancestors. This is especially true where Probate Records have been destroyed. Deeds can help you find ancestors who have escaped the census taker and can provide information on family relationships, migration patterns, wealth, neighbors and more. Learn how to find them, how to read them, and how to use them in your genealogy.

c. B J Jamieson: Genealogy in Scotland: Getting Started - Have you traced an ancestor to Scotland? This presentation will outline the basic resources available to genealogists for research in Scotland, highlighting vital records and census returns, and detailing learned from these resources.

3:45-4:00

Closing remarks, Drawing of door prizes



Conference Facilities: Keeley's Banquet Center, 178 Warren Avenue, Portland, ME
Conveniently located near Morrill's Corner in Portland, ME. Parking is available in their private lot

Directions:

From Maine Turnpike I-95: Traveling north or south, take Exit 48. Turn right onto Riverside St. At second light, turn right onto Warren Ave. Keeley's is one mile down on the right.

From I-295: Traveling north or south, take Exit 6B. Follow Forest Ave. north for 2.5 miles. You'll see McDonald's on your left. At the next light, turn left onto Warren Ave. Keeley's is 1/4 mile further on the left.

Need more information? Interested in a vendor table?

Please visit the official conference Web page at www.gpcmsg.org/SMEConference.html

Or contact Paul Doucette, our president, at pdoucette3@gmail.com or (207) 899-9640.

If you are interested in a vendor table, contact Diane Brakeley at diane@brakeley.net or 767-3391.