

# Old Broad Bay Family History Association Newsletter

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The Old Broad Bay Family History Association,  
On the web at: [www.rootsweb.com/~meobbfha/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~meobbfha/) – Editorial comments & queries to [obbeditor@earthlink.net](mailto:obbeditor@earthlink.net)

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## SSDI access limited

One consequence of the Bipartisan Budget bill passed by Congress in December, 2013, is closure for three years of the Master Death Index, known to genealogists as the Social Security Death Index. According to information posted at <http://www.ntis.gov/products/ssa-dmf.aspx>, “The provision, “Restriction on Access to the Death Master File” (Section 203), directs the Secretary of Commerce to establish a fee-based certification program for all persons desiring access to DMF data for any deceased individual within three years of death. Section 203 is scheduled to take effect 90 days from the date of enactment of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, in March 2014.”

It has been reported on the APG list serve that as of January 9 Ancestry.com has pulled SSDI listings for the past three years. Further postings on the list serve indicate information is there for some people, but not others. In their informational material about the SSDI Ancestry states that the social security number has been redacted for all persons who died within the past 10 years.

In the past information was posted to the SSDI about three months after a person died. That has changed, at least for the public version; “new” material will not be posted until three years after the death. For more information about the SSDI closure and other vital records issues go to the website of the Records Preservation and Access Committee (RPAC) at <http://fgs.org/rpac>.

## Upcoming events

Maine Genealogical Society Spring Workshop, **Saturday, April 5**: an all day workshop featuring Maureen Taylor, The Photo Detective, at the Elks Club, 397 Civic Center Drive, Augusta. This workshop has support from the Maine Historical Society so MHS members are eligible for the

discount registration along with MGS members.

Registration (\$40 for MGS & MHS members; \$50 for non-members) includes lunch and must be postmarked by March 28. Make the check payable to Maine Genealogical Society and mail to Celeste Hyer, 69 Loop Road, Otisfield, ME 04270-6456. For more information and a MGS membership application go to the MGS website [[www.maineroots.org](http://www.maineroots.org)]; for the Maine Historical Society go to [www.mainehistory.org](http://www.mainehistory.org).

Southern Maine Genealogy Conference, **Saturday, May 31**, at Keeley's Banquet Center, 178 Warren Ave, Portland. The conference is being organized by the Greater Portland and Pejepscot chapters of the Maine Genealogical Society. Joe Anderson, editor of the *Maine Genealogist*, will be the featured speaker. The registration fee will include lunch. For more information contact Paul Doucette at [pdoucette3@gmail.com](mailto:pdoucette3@gmail.com) or (207) 899-9640.

MGS Annual Meeting & Conference: **Saturday, September 13**, at Jeff's Catering in Brewer. The keynote speaker will be Tom Jones, Ph.D., CG<sup>sm</sup>, CGL, FASG, FUGA, FNGS.

## **Vital records rules**

Stakeholders for vital records access met on December 12, 2013, to work on revisions to the rules for accessing vital records in Maine. The second draft of the revised rules has been sent to stakeholders and a conference call to discuss it is scheduled for January 30. Once the rules have been revised and approved, the document *Accessing Vital Records in Maine* will be updated and re-posted on the Maine Genealogical Society website [[www.maineroots.org](http://www.maineroots.org)].

## **Ancient burying grounds**

An unforeseen consequence of the bill to better preserve and protect ancient burying grounds is current caretakers deciding they don't want to be caretakers anymore. Word has been received second hand by this editor that a group of caretakers went into the Waldoboro town office and said the town was now responsible for taking care of the cemetery the group had been taking care of. Unfortunately what cemetery and who the folks were was not part of the information received.

The intent of the bill was to make towns the last bastion of protection. The intent of the bill was that cemetery associations, families, and others who have been caring for cemeteries would continue to do so until infirmity or other obstacle prevented them from continuing. At that point the town could step in to take up care of the cemetery or assign some other group to care for it. The bill also allows the town to step in at any time to prevent abuse and desecration of the final resting places of our ancestors.

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