

Genealogy Pointers 06-14-11

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Bargain Books for June

The following eight books, published in the past year, are on sale for the balance of June. Are you looking for immigrant ancestors in Scotland, France, Germany or Eastern Europe? Did your forebears ever live in New York, Kentucky, Missouri, or Alabama? Do you know for a fact that they observed the Catholic faith, at least before they came to America? Could they have served in the American Revolution? Is it possible one of your relatives attained a knighthood in Great Britain? Whichever the case, be sure to scroll down and to learn if the book you need is 25% off today!

[Dekalb County, Alabama Wills and Estates, 1836-1929. Volume I: Estates A-J, Volume II: Estates K-Z](#)

The work at hand, abstracted by Dorothy S. Duff and arranged in two volumes, each with its own index, encompasses the genealogical essence of all extant Dekalb County wills and estates. The arrangement of these abstracts follows the organization of the originals themselves: alphabetical according to estate record name. For each record Mrs. Duff provides the name, box number, file number, year of probate, and all other names in the will or estate. In many cases the abstracts designate the status of persons named in the probate records--for example, widow, deceased, minor, administrator, bondsman, creditor, attorney, apprentice, and so forth. In all, this groundbreaking work names more than 30,000 individuals who appear in the wills and estates of Dekalb County during nearly its first century of existence.

Was \$59.95 Now \$44.95

[Scottish Catholics at Home and Abroad, 1680-1780](#)

The repression of the Scottish Catholic Church has left the genealogist with few official records for identifying Scottish Catholics of this period. With the repeal of the penal laws in 1793, Catholic parish registers began to be kept; however, only four Catholic parish registers pre-date 1780 (Braemar from 1608, Kirkconnel from 1730, Ballater from 1769, and St. Mary's Edinburgh from 1777). This dearth of parish registers convinced David Dobson to mine other sources in search of Catholic identities. Working from the Hudson Bay Records Archives, the National Archives in London and Edinburgh, the Scottish Catholic Archives in Edinburgh, various European archives, and a number of other repositories, Dr. Dobson has prepared an alphabetical list of about 2,000 Catholics who lived in Scotland between 1680 and 1780. In each case the compiler cites the individual's occupation, locality, a date and the source, and in many cases, the name(s) of parents, spouses, or children, where educated, and so on. At the end of the

alphabetical sequence of native Catholics, researchers will find a second section of Scottish ships' passenger lists that identify Catholics whom we know immigrated to North America.
Was \$19.50 Now \$14.50

[The Knights of England. A Complete Record from the Earliest Time to the Present Day of the Knights of All the Orders of Chivalry in England, Scotland, and Ireland . . .](#)

This is the standard reference work on the knights of England, Scotland, and Ireland, with references to more than 10,000 historical personages. The work describes the ten official Orders of Knighthood. With each Order, starting from the earliest time, the knights are listed in chronological order of succession, with details setting out the full name and title of the knight, beginning with the date of his appointment, and generally containing the exact date of installation, and date, place, and cause of death. The second volume contains a chronological list of the largest Order--the Knights Bachelor--and contains over 7,000 entries. This is followed by a superb 253-page index.

\$110.00/set \$99.95/set

[French Colonists and Exiles in the United States](#)

The focus of this volume, published originally in 1907, is to gather together accounts of the various French pioneers and settlements established in the United States during the latter part of the 18th and early 19th centuries. The chapter on French Louisiana, for example, recounts the arrival in 1785 of a number of French Acadians whose transit was subsidized by the King of France. This comprehensive work includes entire chapters on French soldier-settlers; the Huguenots; French travelers and their memoirs; the Bonapartes and other famous exiles; French settlements in Kentucky, Indiana, and Iowa; and so forth. Appended to the text, which places hundreds if not thousands of French emigrants in the United States at a particular moment in time, are an annotated bibliography, a list of French place names in America, and an index to names and subjects.

Was \$24.95 Now \$17.50

[Contents and Addresses of Hungarian Archives. With Supplementary Information for Research on German-Speaking Ancestors from Hungary. 2nd Edition](#)

This volume contains up-to-date addresses of some 70 Hungarian archives--national, county, religious, and special--as well as a listing of genealogical holdings of various archives as noted in the *Guide to the Archives of Hungary* published by the Archival Board of the Hungarian Ministry of Culture in 1976.

Was \$19.50 Now \$14.50

[Western New York Land Transactions, 1804-1824. Extracted from the Archives of the Holland Land Company](#)

This present work is an index to the records, the Land Tables, of the Holland Land Company from their inception in 1804 until the year 1824. Also covered are the land transactions in Morris' Reserve and a tract of land known as the 40,000-Acre Tract, both east of the Purchase. Touching on some 40,000 individual land transactions, the extracts given here provide the purchaser's name, the location of the purchase, the date of the transaction, the type of transaction, and a citation to the original source and microfilm. The area covered in this work extends from Genesee County west to the counties of Erie, Chautauqua, and Cattaraugus, covering such towns

as Buffalo and Batavia.

Was \$42.50 Now \$31.95

[Revolutionary Soldiers in Kentucky](#)

In addition to a roll of the officers of the Virginia Line who received land bounties in Kentucky, this work includes a roll of the Revolutionary pensioners in Kentucky, a list of the Illinois Regiment that served under George Rogers Clark in the Northwest Campaign, and a roster of the Virginia Navy, amounting in total to about 6,500 individuals. The important roll of pensioners, alphabetically arranged under each county, contains about 3,000 names, with rank or grade, the state in which they served, character of service, the act under which they were beneficiaries, the date they were placed on the rolls, and their ages.

Was \$24.00 Now \$17.95

[A History of the Pioneer Families of Missouri](#)

Besides the narrative sketches and anecdotes devoted to the settlement of Missouri, over half of this volume consists of genealogical histories of more than 800 families from the five early Missouri counties of Audrain, Callaway, Montgomery, St. Charles, and Warren. One of the authors, Robert Rose, personally visited one or more members of each family whose genealogy appears in the work.

Was \$45.00 Now \$31.95

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"Old Houses: What Stories They Could Tell . . .," by Carolyn L. Barkley

(This article originally appeared on our blog, www.genealogyandfamilyhistory.com, on 3/19/09.)

Ever since I was a young girl, I have loved touring historic houses. I try to imagine what living in a house would have been like and I wonder about the people who lived there. Each house has its own peculiar ambience. Some houses look as if the occupants have just stepped out for a minute; others feel more like show-pieces in which it is difficult to imagine living one's life. Even empty houses, like Drayton Hall outside of Charleston, South Carolina, provide an atmosphere that teases the visitor with images of the events, both tragic and joyful, that must have occurred there. If only the walls could speak . . .

A house history, developing a "pedigree" for a house, is rewarding research. If you are facing one of those proverbial brick walls in your family research, learning about the history of your house, or the house of an ancestor or relative, offers an enjoyable change of pace – and your research just might uncover some information to help breach your brick wall. Sally Light's *House Histories: A Guide to Tracing the Genealogy of Your Home* (Golden Hill Press, 1989) is a basic resource. In addition, many localities provide house history guides for their areas including "Your House Has a History" in Chicago; "Alexandria House Histories" in Alexandria, Virginia; "How to Research the History of Your House (or Other Building) in New Orleans;" and "House Histories: How to Trace a House Genealogy" in Pittsburgh.

This article outlines a series of steps to follow in researching your house history, covering both

“bricks and mortar,” and the people who lived within its walls.

1. The Physical House. You will want to learn all you can about the house itself.

a. Locate photographs of the house in family photo albums or picture collections. Arrange your photographs in chronological order and note any changes that occurred, such as the addition of porches or rooms. Describe the architecture used in designing and building the house. What interior elements point to a certain time period for construction? To help you answer the question, you may want to refer to books such as *A Field Guide to American Homes*, by Virginia and Lee McAlester (Knopf, 1984) or *What Style Is It? A Guide to American Architecture*, by John C. Poppeliers and S. Allen Chambers (rev. ed., Wiley, 2003).

b. Depending on the age of the house, talk to neighbors who may be able to provide you with anecdotal information about the house and the neighborhood. Read Joe Brickey’s article “Adding Another Dimension to Your Genealogy.” Draw a floor plan of your house and use it as a stimulus for discussion.

c. Is there an historic survey for houses in your locality? Survey information can be found in historical societies, state libraries and archives, or through state preservation department such as the 110,000-site database maintained by Virginia Department of Historic Resources. These surveys may include both pictures and a physical description of the house, as well as information about the owner. In addition, check to see if the WPA included the house in its inventory of structures in your community.

d. Has a history of your neighborhood been published? Even if your house is not included in such a history, carefully note the resources used by the author and consult them for additional background information. Historical societies as well as local and state libraries may have photograph collections that will snapshot your neighborhood at various times.

e. Visit the local registry of deeds and trace the chain of title for the house. Make a list of the names of owners, including the value of the property for each sale and the property description. If the price of the property changes significantly from one sale to the next, it may signal a renovation or addition to the structure. You may need to refer to mortgage books, wills, and estate papers to create a complete chain of title. In addition, check to see if there are plat maps from the time of the town or city’s establishment, as well as maps showing any changes to the plat in later years.

f. Visit the local tax office to review tax assessments for the property. Once again, a change in the assessment may indicate the addition to the structure.

g. Visit the local building permit office. Using the information you discovered at the registry of deeds and the tax office, search for building permits for the house, either for its initial construction, or for any later additions. A building permit will provide the dimensions of the original building and any additions, as well as the type of construction. It may also provide the names of the owners, builders, and architects.

h. If the house is located in a city or large town, consult Sanborn Fire Insurance maps that may be available through your public or state library. These maps can be very helpful, providing lot size and building outlines, as well as information about neighboring houses or businesses. You can trace changes to the building and neighborhood by consulting several editions of these maps.

2. Occupants. You may also want to learn more about the people who lived in your house.

a. In a city or larger town, a review of city directories will be able to provide you information about owners. Search first by address, noting the names of owners in each year’s directory. Once you have created the list of owners by year, check the directories by the owners’ names for

additional information. Depending on the year and the directory, you may find places of employment, or the names of wives and adult children still living at home. This search may occasionally yield vital records information (usually deaths) as well as the designation of “widow” or “widower.”

b. Search for each of the owners in appropriate census enumerations. Note the children in each family and their relative ages, as well as other individuals who may have also lived in the house.

c. Search local newspaper indices for any articles about the owner of your house and his family. This search may provide obituaries for members of the household, marriages, calamities such as fires, legal entanglements, community involvement, etc.

d. Search all vital records to which you have access for the owner of your house and his family. Once you have collected information about the physical house and the people who lived in it, create a chronology of your house that integrates both house and occupant events, documenting the source of each entry. Add pictures from your family’s or another collection. When you have completed the chronology with all of its attached documentation, you may just hear what the walls have been trying to whisper in your year.

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Three Mainstays of Native-American Genealogy

[Tracing Ancestors Among the Five Civilized Tribes. Southeastern Indians Prior to Removal](#)

Rachal Lennon's groundbreaking book is designed to eliminate speculation and to help you determine the truth about your possible links to the Cherokees, Choctaws, Chickasaws, Creeks, or Seminoles. It focuses on the toughest period to research--the century or so prior to the removal of the Southeastern nations to Indian Territory (the point at which records were regularly maintained). It provides the cultural, genealogical, and historical background needed to turn family stories into proved lineages. And it outlines a method of research that will take you as far back as the colonial and early federal periods and forward to the mid-to-late 19th century.

[History of the Cherokee Indians and Their Legends and Folklore](#)

Emmet Starr's work is the classic account of the early Cherokees, their constitution, treaties with the federal government, land transactions, school system, migration and resettlement, committees, councils and officials, religion, language and culture, and a host of other topics. More than half of the book is devoted to genealogies and biographies, of which there are several hundred. The biographies in particular--each averaging a paragraph or more--are noteworthy for their focus on the genealogical events of birth, marriage, and death over a period of several generations.

[The Indian Tribes of North America](#)

John R. Swanton's definitive one-volume guide to the Indian tribes of North America covers all Native American groupings, such as nations, confederations, tribes, subtribes, clans, and bands. Formatted as a dictionary, or gazetteer, and organized by state, it includes all known tribal groupings within the state and the many villages where they were located. The text includes such facts as the origin of the tribal name and a brief list of the more important synonyms, the linguistic connections of the tribe, its location, a brief sketch of its history, its population at different periods, and the extent to which its name has been perpetuated geographically.

Genealogy in Old Newspapers

Like their present-day counterparts, old newspapers are a great source of marriage and obituary notices. In fact, early newspapers are sometimes the ONLY source of genealogical information for a particular county or city at a particular point in time. Since 18th- and 19th-century newspapers have not come down to us with their own indexes, it's daunting to contemplate scouring them--whether in the original or on microfilm--for their "buried" genealogical content.

Fortunately, a number of dedicated genealogists have taken on the assignment of sifting through the complete run of various early newspapers to find these buried genealogical nuggets. In the majority of cases, their efforts have yielded book-length collections of marriage, death, or other vital records; they've also yielded lists of passengers, public officials, college graduates, members of committees of correspondence, and addressees of unclaimed letters, as well as other items of genealogical value. Below you'll find a dozen publications featuring genealogical information extracted from newspapers in North America and the British Isles. If you haven't turned up that missing ancestor in other sources, you may just discover him or her up in one of the following collections:

[Kentucky Obituaries, 1787-1854 from the Register of the Kentucky Historical Society](#)

These 5,000 obituary notices give, for the most part, the name of the deceased, place of residence, name(s) of wife or husband, parents or other survivors, date of death, and other genealogical details.

[Marriages and Deaths from Baltimore Newspapers, 1796-1816](#)

Seventeen Baltimore newspapers were drawn on in the making of this compilation. The text consists of some 7,500 abstracts, identifying, at the very least, an additional 5,000 persons, mainly brides, parents, and relatives. Entries throughout are arranged in alphabetical order by the name of the deceased or the bridegroom. There is a surname index to brides and others mentioned in each entry. Each entry is keyed to a specific source, a code for which may be found at the beginning of the volume.

[Genealogical Data from Colonial New York Newspapers](#)

This work consists of abstracts of genealogical data from four of New York's earliest newspapers--the *New-York Gazette* (1726-1744) and the *New-York Weekly Journal* (1733-1751), the two earliest city papers, and the *New-York Mercury* and the *Weekly Mercury* (1752-1783). The abstracts yield information concerning marriage, birth, death, age, status, place of residence, and place of origin covering the years 1726 through most of 1783. The abstracts refer to colonists from New Jersey, New England, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, as well as New York.

Index to Marriages and Deaths in the *New York Herald* [1835-1876]. In Four Volumes

The *New York Herald* began publication in May 1835 and ran almost continuously for the next 90 years. As a newspaper at the heart of the most vibrant metropolitan area in the U.S., its news features were of wide-ranging interest. Its announcements of marriages and deaths were equally

so, for news about vital events in people's lives was a highly valued commodity in the age before advanced communications.

Recognizing that the "Herald" would be a likely source of vital records for the city's growing Irish Catholic enclave, genealogist James P. Maher set about to compile an index to the marriage and death notices from that newspaper, spanning the period 1835 to 1876. The fourth and final volume of Mr. Maher's index (1871-1876) brings the total number of notices abstracted in this series to 52,850 marriages and 232,325 deaths.

(Through Volume III, researchers will be interested to learn, these transcriptions contain references to the birthplace of 15,349 individuals of Irish origin, 2,849 Englishmen, 1,113 Scots, and 833 Germans. Moreover, the transcriptions contain all of the information found in each marriage or death notice. Persons seeking a fuller description of one or more ancestors found in these indexed volumes should contact the author, whose address is given in each volume.)

[Volume I: 1835-1855](#)

This first volume indexes roughly 38,000 death notices and 14,000 marriage notices. The extensive notices refer to people up and down the East Coast as well as to Midwesterners and persons from as far west as California. The index is divided into two sections--one for marriages and one for deaths. Each section furnishes the names of the brides and grooms or the deceased as well as the exact date of issue of the newspaper.

[Volume II: 1856-1863](#)

This second volume contains 97,000 death notices and 13,000 marriage notices. Like all volumes in this series, the index is divided into two sections, one for marriages and one for deaths.

[Volume III: 1864-1870](#)

Volume III encompasses about 15,500 additional marriage notices and a phenomenal 68,500 death notices. The index is arranged in the identical manner as in the other volumes in this series.

[Volume IV: 1871-1876](#) (Temporarily out of stock)

The fourth and final volume contains 28,825 death notices and 10,350 marriage notices. This volume also possesses a number of new or interesting features. Appended to the back of the data from the *Herald* are about a thousand death notices from the Fenian Irish newspaper, the *Phoenix*, for the period June 4, 1859, to August 10, 1861. In many cases the death notices indicate, besides the decedent's name and date of death, his/her age and state of death, city and county of birth, and, sometimes, the names of his/her survivors. Among the *Herald's* death notices from states other than New York, 6,300 notices reference New Jersey, where many New Yorkers relocated during this period.

[Irish Relatives and Friends. From "Information Wanted" Ads in the *Irish-American*, 1850-1871](#)

The *Irish-American*, a weekly newspaper published in New York City for the edification of the Irish immigrant population, began publication in August 1849, at the height of the great exodus from Ireland. The paper's classified ads appeared in a column entitled "Information Wanted," and because of their genealogical value they have been transcribed in their entirety for this publication. The ads are of particular importance to the genealogist because they usually indicate

the Irish county, townland, or parish from which an immigrant came. The ads frequently also mention places of residence in the U.S., provide names and relationships of family members, give dates of departure from Ireland and arrival in the U.S., indicate ships' names, and sometimes specify ages and occupations. Altogether, some 8,500 names appear in the Personal Names index alone; and there are references to several thousand place names.

[Genealogical Data Relating to the German Settlers of Pennsylvania](#)

This is a compilation of abstracts of articles, advertisements, and paid notices that appeared in the five principal German newspapers published in Philadelphia and Germantown from 1743 to 1800. The data covers death notices, advertisements for runaway servants, notices of arrival and removal in the Pennsylvania area, and notices placed by persons seeking news of relatives and friends.

[Index to Obituary Notices in *The Religious Herald*, Richmond, Virginia, 1828-1938](#)

This work contains 19,000 references to persons who were either members of or connected to Baptist churches in Virginia. The notices are arranged alphabetically by surname and thereunder by given name. All the notices give the decedent's date of death, and some indicate whether the decedent was married, give the name of a spouse, or indicate military or other professional rank.

[Local Newspapers, 1750-1920 in England and Wales, Channel Islands, Isle of Man: A Select Location List](#)

In the mid-18th century the provincial press in England began to carry news of local events, including news of births, marriages, and deaths. Such papers are of obvious value to the genealogist, and the author of this work, Mr. Jeremy Gibson, has produced a fine location list to these publications.

[American Data from the *Aberdeen Journal*, 1748-1783](#)

In this book David Dobson has extracted and noted all the genealogical references to the Americas made in "Scottish" sources appearing in the *Aberdeen Journal* between 1748 and 1783. By "Scottish," Mr. Dobson refers only to sources within Scotland and not to data that the *Journal* published from English or colonial sources. The period covers the years when the Chesapeake tobacco trade was under the control of Glasgow merchants, and Scottish immigration to the colonies was becoming significant.

[Scots in the West Indies, 1707-1857](#)

In the compilation of this volume, David Dobson combed archives and libraries in Scotland, England, and Denmark to yield the first listing devoted to Scottish inhabitants of the West Indies for the period between 1707 and 1857. While the full impact of Scottish settlement in the West Indies has yet to be fully researched, Mr. Dobson has clearly broken new ground where immigration source material is concerned. Arranged alphabetically by surname, many of the entries in this volume were culled from Scottish newspapers, such as the *Aberdeen Journal*, in which notices would appear seeking to employ managers and servants. In all, nearly 3,000 Scotsmen are identified by full name, island inhabited, date, source of the information, and, sometimes, by occupation, parent(s) name(s), and education.

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Blog: Release of the 1940 Census

As most genealogists know, since the 1850 U.S. federal census, enumerators have tallied ever-more information about American householders. Are you aware of what changes you can expect when the 1940 census is released? Carolyn Barkley is. Be sure to read our blog, www.genealogyandfamilyhistory.com, for her preview of what you might uncover once the next census enters the public domain.

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