

Genealogy Pointers (01-31-12)

In this issue:

New Book by Peter Wilson Coldham Now Available!

48-Hour Savings on Two Classic Reference Sets

The 'Big Four' Irish Online Databases for the Family Historian

Best of Our January Releases

Blog: Did Your Ancestor Go to College?

New Book by Peter Wilson Coldham Now Available!

For over thirty years Peter Wilson Coldham has compiled and published information on more than 50,000 English convicts who were transported to the American colonies. Recently, using an online index to runaways in 18th-century newspaper advertisements, Mr. Coldham has been able to add a final chapter to this body of work, which is presented under the title [Maryland and Virginia Convict Runaways, 1725-1770: A Survey of English Sources](#).

Based on newspaper advertisements placed in the *Virginia Gazette* and the *Maryland Gazette*, this fascinating account of over 1,000 runaway convicts contains personal information not likely to be found in any other record, and includes colorful descriptions of the runaways themselves and details of their original offenses. Information furnished in the advertisements was meant to identify the runaway so he could be apprehended and returned, and it runs the gamut from physical descriptions to assessments of personal behavior. Consider the following illustrations:

Thomas Able . . . landed from the Thornton in Anne Arundel Co., VA [*sic*] in Jul 1771 having a red face and very rotten teeth, a great talker pitted with smallpox.

John Avery . . . sentenced for stealing a linen sheet and transported to VA in Sep 1767 by the Justitia. Scotch convict servant, cunning and artful, recently flogged.

Noticeably different from the dry records of the English Assize courts (the source of most information previously published on transported felons), this listing of runaways from newspaper advertisements is as interesting as it is informative, and is a brilliant conclusion to Mr. Coldham's lifetime ambition to bring this little-known episode in American history to light.

For more information or to order, visit the following URL:

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=1089

48-Hour Savings on Two Classic Reference Sets

(Offer Expires at 11:59 p.m. EST, Wednesday, February 1, 2012.)

We recently reprinted two sets of important genealogy reference books that had been out of print for a long time. You can purchase these paperback classics at substantial savings if you order before the stroke of midnight tomorrow.

[Barbados Records: Marriages, 1643-1800. Two Volumes](#)

Many of the early settlers of Barbados eventually moved to the mainland and settled in Virginia, Georgia, the Carolinas, and other colonies, with the result that many families in America today can trace their origins in the New World first to Barbados. Joanne Sanders was a leading authority on the colonial records available on the island of Barbados. Her two-volume collection of marriages is arranged by Barbados parish and thereunder chronologically. A typical entry shows the date of the marriage and the names of the bride and groom. This extraordinary collection of source records is the preeminent work on its subject.

Normally \$90.00 Now \$69.95

[English Origins of New England Families from *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*. 2nd Series](#)

The first series of English Origins of New England Families (3 vols., 1984) contained all immigrant origin articles published in *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* under the aegis of the Committee on English and Foreign Research. The second series completes this major consolidation project and contains all immigrant origin data in the 137 volumes of the *Register* published independently of the Committee on English and Foreign Research. The more than 650 articles and notes in this second series were compiled by over 100 contributors, including many of the foremost scholars in American genealogy. The articles in this series treat between 750 and 1,000 immigrants (some of them covered by two or more articles), and a sizable number of other articles treat either clusters of nearly related immigrants or all settlers with a given surname.

Normally \$215.00 Now \$189.95

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"The 'Big Four' Irish Online Databases for the Family Historian," by Brian Mitchell

Irish genealogy has been totally transformed in the past couple of years with the availability of online databases of important Irish record sources such as the 1901 and 1911 census; mid-19th-century Griffith's Valuation; indexes to Irish civil birth, marriage, and death registers; and last but not least, the very significant county databases of church and civil records built up over the last three decades. Thus, to get the most from their hobby Irish family researchers must be guided to the Internet and shown how to use online databases. Following are links and capsule descriptions of "the big four" online Irish databases for your consideration.

1. www.census.nationalarchives.ie - Search, for free, the 1901 and 1911 census returns, which include images of original documents for all counties in Ireland. These returns, arranged by townland and parish in rural areas and street and town in urban areas, detail--for every person--his name, age, religion, education, occupation, marital status, and county or city of birth, or country (if born outside Ireland).

2. www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation - Search, for free, by family name and place name, the mid-19th-century Griffith's Valuation for all Irish counties, which includes images of original documents and maps. Griffith's Valuation was a survey carried out for every parish in Ireland between 1848 and 1864, detailing every rateable head of household and occupier of land in Ireland by townland or street address.

3. www.familysearch.org - Search, for free, the indexes (21 million entries) to Irish civil birth, marriage, and death registers by clicking on "Europe" or "All Record Collections" and then selecting from country list, which is in alphabetical order, "Ireland, Civil Registration Indexes, 1845-1958." In Ireland, all births, marriages, and deaths were subject to civil registration from 1864 (1845 for non-Catholic marriages).

4. www.rootsireland.ie - Search, for free, the indexes to 18 million births, marriages, and deaths extracted from civil and church registers for 27 of Ireland's 32 counties, with option to purchase, on a pay-per-view basis, any selected record. You can either search across all counties or search a particular county.

Brian Mitchell
Derry Genealogy Centre
www.derry.rootsireland.ie

Editor's Note: Brian Mitchell is the author of [A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland. 2nd Edition](#), one of the most important finding aids in all of Irish genealogy.

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Best of Our January Releases

[QuickSheet: The Historical Biographer's Guide to Cluster Research \(the FAN Principle\)](#)

Here Elizabeth Shown Mills introduces the researcher to the concept of "Cluster Research" based on the FAN principle, the idea being that to prove identity, origin, and parentage individuals must be studied in the context of their FAN club--family, associates, and neighbors. Historical information, Mills says, is like real estate: the true value of any piece of information is unknown until it is put into community context.

[QuickSheet, The Historical Biographer's Guide to Finding People in Databases & Indexes](#)

The contention of this *QuickSheet* is that while databases and indexes are valuable tools for research, they can actually impede the research process. We all know that databases and indexes can shortcut the process of discovery, and many search engines offer wildcard and Boolean options, as well as phonetic indexing systems to help researchers contend with clerical carelessness and data-entry errors. But historical records involve vagaries that defy technical formulas. Databases and indexes then become obstacles that actually block discoveries. Enter Elizabeth Mills who in this *QuickSheet* shows how to adopt proactive strategies to overcome this problem and thus get the full benefit of databases and indexes.

[QuickSheet: The Historical Biographers Guide to the Research Process](#)

The third of Mrs. Mills new *QuickSheets* advances four specific models for the science of genealogy: The Research Process Model, The Research Analysis Model, The Identity Triangulation Model, and The Reliability Model. If the objective of research is to reach conclusions and establish proof, this *QuickSheet* will get you to your goal with absolute confidence.

[Genealogy at a Glance: English Genealogy Research](#)

Paul Milner's *English Genealogy Research* focuses on the basic record sources underlying all English research, namely (1) civil registration, (2) parish registers, (3) diocesan records, (4) probate records, and (5) census records. *English Genealogy Research* also provides guidance to the best printed sources in the field, references to the principal online genealogy databases, and web addresses of all the most important record repositories and institutions in the field of English genealogy.

[First Métis Families of Quebec, 1622-1748. Volume 1: Fifty-Six Families, by Gail Morin](#)

The term Métis originally referred to the offspring produced from the intermarriage of early French fur traders with Canadian Native Americans. Later, there were also Anglo Métis (known as "Countryborn")--children of Scottish, English, and other European fathers and indigenous mothers. This new work, the first in a purported six-volume series, traces the descendants of the 56 original Métis families for up to three generations. Future volumes will concentrate on subsequent generations of those Métis families whose progeny settled in western North America in the 20th century.

[Applications for Enrollment of Creek Newborn—Act of 1905. Volume VII](#)

This projected twelve-volume series by Jeff Bowen transcribes the *Applications for Enrollment of Creek Newborn*, National Archive film M-1301 (Act of 1905), as described in the National Archives publication *American Indians*. The Dawes Commission ultimately approved the applications of 1,171 Creek claimants. Besides the names of all parents and "newborns," Mr. Bowen's transcriptions include the names of doctors, lawyers, midwives, and other Creek relatives who attended to the Creek Nation before and during this time in history. Researchers will find about 2,500 additional Creek connections in the name index to the newly transcribed Volumes VII.

[Abstracts of the Testamentary Proceedings of the Prerogative Court of Maryland. Volume XXXIV: 1765-1767. Libers 41 \(pp. 194-end\), 42 \(pp. 1-173\)](#)

The Prerogative Court was the focal point for probate in colonial Maryland, and it was also the colony's court for equity cases—resolution of disputes over the settlement and distribution of an estate. This series of Prerogative Court transcripts by Vernon L. Skinner Jr. is arranged, with a few exceptions, chronologically by court session. Volume XXXIV refers to nearly 7,000 colonial inhabitants of the Province of Maryland. For the most part, the transcriptions state the names of the principals (testators, heirs, guardians, witnesses, and so forth), details of bequests, names of slaves, appraisers, and more. For detailed descriptions of all the volumes published to date in the series, please visit our website at www.genealogical.com.

[Yarmouth, Nova Scotia Genealogies. Transcribed from the *Yarmouth Herald*](#)

Published between 1896 and 1910, George S. Brown's columns in the *Yarmouth Herald* focused

almost exclusively on New England families who migrated to Nova Scotia around the time of the Revolutionary War, many of them descended from *Mayflower* colonists. In article after article Brown traced these families from their earliest known origins in the Old World down to the end of the 19th century. This work contains as complete a collection of articles as possible. These 186 articles name as many as 60,000 individuals.

[Colonial Families of the Southern States of America. A History and Genealogy of Colonial Families Who Settled in the Colonies Prior to the Revolution](#)

This classic work on colonial Southern families by Stella P. Hardy contains hundreds of genealogies giving names; dates of birth, marriage, and death; names of children and their offspring, with dates and places of birth, marriage and death; names of collateral connections; places of residence; biographical highlights; and war records. Over 12,000 individuals are referred to in the text, all of them easily located in the alphabetical index.

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Blog: Did Your Ancestor Go to College?

College applications and other educational records are far less consulted than the census, vital records, wills, and other mainstream genealogical sources. Yet, when researchers hit a brick wall, they should certainly make use of college records (including transcripts, yearbooks, and so on) for the family connections they can divulge. You can get your introduction to college records today if you read Carolyn Barkley's latest posting on our blog, www.genealogyandfamilyhistory.com.

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To order other than online, you can:

1. Order by mail: 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 260 - Baltimore, Maryland 21211-1953
2. Fax your order to 1-410-752-8492
3. Call toll-free to our sales department at 1-800-296-6687