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Genealogy Pointers (11/17/2009)

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Free! 2009/10 Complete Catalogue of 1,500 Titles

Genealogical Publishing Company and its affiliate, Clearfield Company, are proud to announce their [2009/10 combined catalogue](#). The catalogue is 72 pages long, illustrated, and features indexes to authors and subjects. In all, the catalogue refers to upwards of 1,500 books and CDs. Without a doubt, it encompasses the single best collection of genealogical publications in existence.

We are delighted to offer a free online copy of the new catalogue to our "Genealogy Pointers" subscribers. To download your copy, just click on the following link: http://genealogical.com/upload_images/Catalogue2009.pdf. Now get ready to browse descriptions of the best genealogy reference books available.

Bargain Books for November

(Sale Prices Expire 12/22/09)

[American Militia in the Frontier Wars, 1790-1796](#)

This book is a transcription of the muster rolls and pay rolls of the state militia troops who were paid to protect the frontier or who fought alongside federal troops in the various frontier campaigns. Based on records of the Adjutant General's Office located in the National Archives, the work covers Georgia, Kentucky, New Jersey, Ohio Territory, Pennsylvania, Southwest Territory (modern Tennessee), and Virginia. Named in these records, with dates of enlistment, rank, and other items of information, are militia troops participating in St. Clair's defeat in the Northwest Territory, Anthony Wayne's expeditions, the Whiskey Rebellion, the Battle of Fallen Timbers, and a host of other campaigns in areas north of the Ohio River, in Tennessee, along the Oconee in Georgia, and elsewhere.

Was \$38.50 Now \$29.50

[Maryland Genealogies. A Consolidation of Articles from the Maryland Historical](#)

[Magazine. In Two Volumes](#)

This two-volume set contains all the family history articles published in the *Maryland Historical Magazine* from its inception in 1906 through 1976, nearly 100 articles in all, naming some 15,000 persons from all parts of the state. Most of the articles begin with the first member of the family in Maryland and trace descendants in the male line down to the early 18th century.

"The scholarship of these articles is high, and GPC is to be congratulated for bringing these articles together in a single publication"--National Genealogical Society Quarterly (Sept. 1980)

Was \$110.00/set Now \$75.00/set

[Catholic Families of Southern Maryland. Records of Catholic Residents of St. Mary's County in the Eighteenth Century](#)

St. Mary's residents played a key role in the development of the Catholic Church throughout the whole of America, providing the spearhead of the westward expansion of Catholicism. In 1785, for example, the first of many Catholic families from St. Mary's crossed the mountains to find land in Kentucky, while a few years later, driven by economic necessity, others migrated to Georgia, Missouri, Louisiana, and Texas. This book contains many of the earliest surviving records of the Catholic families of St. Mary's County, Maryland.

Was \$21.00 Now \$14.95

[English Duplicates of Lost Virginia Records](#)

This work contains transcriptions of numerous historical documents and provides a great deal of out-of-the-way information pertaining to Virginians of the 17th and early 18th centuries, much of it discovered at England's Public Record Office. Among the documents copied here are lists of colonial officials, naval and militia officers, petitions, French refugees (1700-1702), ships leaving and arriving at Virginia ports.

Was \$38.50 \$27.50

[The Albemarle Parish Vestry Book, 1742-1786 \[Virginia\]](#)

The original Albemarle Parish Vestry Book begins with November 16, 1742, some four years after the parish's formation, and runs to 1786. Like most vestry books, Albemarle Parish's recounts parish business, such as payment and exemptions of levies, appointment of collectors, processions of land, construction of churches, and so on. While it does not contain many references to blood relationships, it has the virtue of placing individuals in Albemarle Parish in the 18th century. Given the scarcity of Sussex County records for the period under investigation, researchers should welcome the opportunity to investigate the roughly 6,500 Surry/Sussex county inhabitants identified in this meticulously transcribed and indexed work.

Was \$39.50 Now \$28.50

[Genealogical and Historical Notes on Culpeper County, VA](#)

This work consists of a reprint of Dr. Philip Slaughter's *History of St. Mark's Parish* and a genealogical history of the county itself. The latter includes an important section entitled "Notes for Genealogists," which contains marriage records (1781-1825) and

abstracts of wills (1749-1821). The book further includes numerous genealogies--many worked through five generations--colonial military lists, Civil War musters, and a great variety of miscellaneous information, all indexed in one alphabetical sequence.

Was \$32.50 Now \$22.95

[Caswell County, NC, Marriage Bonds, 1778-1868](#)

This is a collection of all 5,700 extant marriage bonds for Caswell County from 1778 to 1868. Each entry identifies the bride and groom, date of the bond, and name of the bondsman or witness.

Was \$21.50 Now \$14.95

[Mecklenburg County, NC. Abstracts of Early Wills, 1763-1790 \(1749-1790\)](#)

While the length and contents of these abstracts vary, most of them provide the name of the testator, date of the will, names and relationships of all heirs to the estate (sometimes with ages given or inferred), contents of the estate, names of executors, and, usually, the date of probate.

Was \$17.50 Now \$12.95

[South Carolinians in the Revolution with Service Records and Miscellaneous Data; Also Abstracts of Wills, Laurens County \(Ninety-Six District\) 1775-1855](#)

Assembled in this work are the names of the men and women who rendered Revolutionary service in South Carolina, with proof collected from various sources and brought together for the first time by a competent compiler, Sara Sullivan Ervin. The abstracts of Laurens County wills run 40 pages, name thousands of persons, and are arranged alphabetically by the name of the testator.

Was \$24.00 Now \$16.95

[People and Professions of Charleston, SC, 1782-1802](#)

This work contains all the names and other pertinent genealogical information that can be found in the Charleston city directories of 1782, 1785, 1790, 1794, 1796, 1801, and 1802 and in the federal censuses for Charleston for 1790 and 1800. In the case of the city directories, the names of inhabitants are followed by their occupations and addresses; for the censuses of 1790 and 1800, only the names of the heads of household appear. While this work cannot claim to include every resident of Charleston for the period under investigation, it nonetheless identifies more than 13,000 persons who lived and/or worked there between 1782 and 1802.

Was \$19.50 Now \$14.50

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Author Spotlight: Elizabeth Shown Mills

Genealogy audiences on three continents have dubbed Elizabeth Shown Mills "The SuperGenie," "The Pied Piper of Family History," "The Mother of Modern Genealogy," and "the genealogist who has had the greatest impact on American genealogy in the post-ROOTS era."

For a quarter century, Mrs. Mills has pushed the cutting edge of research methodology, standards, and quality, serving as president of both the Board for Certification of Genealogists and the American Society of Genealogists, as well as an officer or trustee of other major organizations.

During her 16 years as editor of the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, Mrs. Mills transformed that journal into the leading forum for the teaching of research methods and principles. For even longer, her Advanced Methodology Track at Samford University's Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research has been a rite of passage for serious family historians.

GPC is proud to be the publisher of perhaps her best-known books: (1) [Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian](#), (2) [Professional Genealogy: A Manual for Researchers, Writers, Editors, Lecturers, and Librarians](#), and most recently (3) [Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace](#), now available in a new 2nd edition. These three marvelous publications are considered "absolute essentials" for genealogists of all skill levels.

As a matter of fact, the April 15, 2008, issue of the national trade magazine *Library Journal* selected [Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace](#) as one of its "Best Reference of 2007" selections. To quote *Library Journal*:

"Tracing your family history has become a passion for many people. Mills, an acknowledged expert on archival research, guides you through thousands of different kinds of sources, from archives, cemetery records, local and state records to national government records and web sites. She discusses the fundamentals of analyzing evidence and provides authoritative guidance in citing sources. Every library needs a copy."

If you don't own copies of Mrs. Mills's books or her two *QuickSheets*, there is a gaping hole on your genealogy bookshelf. Read on and learn why.

[Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian](#)

This work provides the family history researcher with a reliable standard for both the correct form of source citation and the sound analysis of evidence. In successful genealogy research, these two practices are inseparable, and Mrs. Mills's treatment of this little-understood concept is nothing short of brilliant. To quote her purpose in writing the book:

Evidence! tries to strip away much of the confusion that researchers experience in this adventure. It offers a road map for beginners, who hope to avoid mistakes, and guideposts for the advanced, who already appreciate the need to map their own course precisely....

Evidence! provides guidelines and explicit models for documentation that are tailored to genealogists and to the original sources they commonly use--including Internet sources--

but "cannot find discussed in *The Chicago Manual of Style*, the *MLA Handbook*, or similar manuals aimed at a broader market.

[Professional Genealogy: A Manual for Researchers, Writers, Editors, Lecturers, and Librarians](#) (*Temporarily out of print*)

This work is a manual by professionals for everyone serious about genealogy. For family historians who want to do their own study, reliably, it describes the standards. For hobbyists, attorneys, and medical scientists who seek professional researchers, it's a consumer guide that defines quality and facilitates choices. For librarians who struggle to help a whole new class of patrons, it provides a bridge to the methods, sources, and minutiae of "history, up-close and personal." For established genealogy professionals, it offers benchmarks by which they can advance their skills and places their businesses on a sounder footing. For all those who dream of turning a fascinating hobby into a successful career, *Professional Genealogy* details the preparation and the processes. *Professional Genealogy's* 29 chapters, written by two dozen scholars, cover the following topic areas: research skills and the analysis of evidence, writing and compiling genealogical research, the core genealogy library collection, genealogical ethics and standards, editing and publishing, and topics bearing on the profession of genealogist.

"Professional Genealogy is a landmark--the field's most significant publication since 1960, when the American Society of Genealogists introduced 'Genealogical Research: Methods and Sources.' In a sense, though, its title belies its greatest value: it offers priceless guidance to the many amateur family historians who want to ensure that their work is of high quality and enduring value."--Thomas W. Jones, Ph.D., CG, CGL, President, Board for Certification of Genealogists.

[Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace](#). Second Edition

This is a comprehensive desktop reference book that addresses almost all record types and research issues. It is specifically designed for the serious researcher who uses many types of records, both U.S. and international, and who wants to understand those records, as well as the principles of research, data correlation, and evidence analysis.

The new second edition of *Evidence Explained* includes updates to numerous websites, new models for electronic sources such as blogs and online forums, and new model citations to traditional and non-traditional genealogical sources, thus continuing its role as the single-most comprehensive style manual for genealogical writing and publishing.

[QuickSheet: Citing Online Historical Resources Evidence! Style](#). First Revised Edition

The perfect companion to *Evidence!* and *Evidence Explained* (both described above), Elizabeth Mills's *QuickSheet* provides a template for citing historical sources on the Internet. It also lays down rules to help you judge the reliability of these sources. Published in the form of a laminated folder, the *QuickSheet* contains a series of sample citations showing the correct way to identify online sources such as databases, census images, and digital books and articles.

[QuickSheet: Citing Ancestry.com Databases & Images](#)

Ancestry.com is the largest and most widely used genealogy site on the Internet. As an Ancestry.com user yourself, you've looked at databases with billions of names, so now you want to be sure you can get back to a specific record or lead others to the same record; and you need to identify your sources, to verify and cross-check them for accuracy, using the correct citations to Ancestry's online databases and images. Help is at hand with Elizabeth Mills's fabulous *QuickSheet*, which provides rules and models for citing the myriad databases and images you use on Ancestry.com. With this new *QuickSheet*, you'll know instantly how to cite databases that include census records, vital records, passenger lists, city directories, and family trees; and how to cite images that include manuscripts, maps, newspapers, and online books and articles.

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Having Fun with Genealogy – A Look at Genealogical Humor, by Carolyn L. Barkley
(*This article first appeared in the September 4, 2008 posting on our blog,*
www.genealogyandfamilyhistory.com.)

I'm a firm believer that genealogy should be fun. If we lose sight of the enjoyment of solving puzzles and discovering new information, genealogy simply becomes work. To me, having fun while researching takes many forms: talking to myself (statements like "well, it's about time, there he is!"), pumping my fist enthusiastically into the air when the elusive bit is found on an almost unreadable microfilm reel, and finding that three hours have passed in the blink of an eye.

I often look around me to observe other researchers to see if they too are having fun....This article is for all of us who have been too serious--lighten up! It's also for those of us who love what we do and have fun while we do it. Here are some ways to leaven your passion with some humor.

The following example [slightly edited due to space limitations] came to me from a friend. The attribution is unknown, but I think it provides a humorous confirmation that there are forces in the universe that appear to converge to make our genealogical research challenging (challenging is a fun way to say difficult).

It is New Year's Eve 1852 and [ancestor's name redacted to protect the not-so-innocent] sits at his desk by candlelight. He dips his pen into the ink well and begins to write his New Year's resolutions:

1. No man is truly well-educated unless he learns to spell his name at least three different ways within the same document.
2. I resolve to give the appearance of being extremely well-educated in the coming year
3. I resolve to always alternate my kids' and wife's first and middle names when the census taker comes and to call my children by odd names which he is unable to spell incorrectly.

4. My age is no one's business but my own. I hereby resolve to never list the same age or birth year twice on any document.
5. I resolve to have each of my children baptized in a different church – either in a different faith or in a different parish. Every third child will not be baptized at all or will be baptized by an itinerant minister who keeps no records.
6. I resolve to move to a new town, new county or new state at least once every ten years – just before those pesky enumerators come around asking silly questions. I also resolve that I shall be absent on the night of the census, or if unable to be absent on census night, I shall endeavor to be enumerated twice.
7. I will make every attempt to reside in counties and towns where no vital records are maintained or where the courthouse burns down every few years.
8. I resolve to join an obscure religious cult that does not believe in record keeping or in participating in military service.
9. When the tax collector comes to my door, I'll loan him my pen which has been dipped in rapidly fading blue ink.
10. I resolve that if my beloved wife Mary should die I will marry another Mary.
11. I resolve not to make a will. Who needs to spend money on a lawyer?
12. I resolve to not clutter up good farm pastures with headstones that will just get broken or fade with time anyway.
13. I resolve to come from Ireland (where there are no records or if there are, they can only be examined by visiting the exact village, pleading with the local clergyman – who is hostile to anyone not of his belief – you) and/or require you to hand over a fee equal to or exceeding your yearly income, for one hour's research which may not find anything.
14. I resolve that not only shall I not die in my country of birth, but neither shall my children (yea verily) unto the sixth generation.
15. I resolve that I and most of my family shall die suddenly just before death certification is established, in a parish where easy access to the records ceases the previous year.
16. I resolve that when I die, my children/wife are instructed to give the wrong details for my death certificate.

Sound familiar? Like the Hawkeye and B. J. on MASH, we must see the humor of the situation or we will lose our minds.

Sometimes the humor is found in the records themselves – you can tell by the giggles at the microfilm readers. The General Register House of Scotland web site includes genealogical gems from old parish registers. For example: “George Something lawful son to what-ye-call-him in Mains of Barskimming was baptized April 9th 1704.” (Ochiltree, 1704 OPR 609/1. page 9) Another register provided the following written exchange: [Note by Session Clerk:] “Any person that wants a child's name in any of the three preceding pages may scarcely expect to find it in the proper place. They being wrote by Mr King, late schoolmaster depute here without any regularity or order.” This observation was followed in different handwriting and ink by: “The above ill natured ungentlemanlike observation was written by Mr James Whyte and stands as one mark of his own distinguished Idiotism.” (Dunning, 1764; OPR 3510/1, Fr 124)

Needless to say, genealogical humor abounds on the Internet. [Cyndi's List](#) provides links to a variety of sites including a genealogical chart for Barbie, Donald Duck and various studies of the genealogies of Disney characters. An entire mailing list is devoted to genealogical humor. Subscribe to the mail version at genhumor-l-request@rootsweb.com or to the digest version at genhumor-d-request@rootsweb.com and your mailbox will soon be full of good - and not-so-good - examples of genealogical humor. One site that I particularly enjoy is [My Elusive Ancestors](#) as it includes a variety of humor and trivia including several lists: how to tell if you're addicted to genealogy, top ten genealogical one liners, towns with unusual names (how about Lizard Lick, North Carolina, or Idiotville, Oregon), county names most commonly used (Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, Jackson and Lincoln), states with the most counties (Texas with 254, Georgia with 159, Kentucky with 120, North Carolina with 100 and Virginia with 95) and those with the least (Delaware tops the list with only three). The site also provides an extensive group of links to other genealogical humor sites which lead to even more sites and links. Want even more? Check out the following:

* [Collecting Dead Relatives](#) by Laverne Galeener-Moore (Genealogical Publ. Co., 1987, repr. 1998.)

* [Further Undertakings of a Dead Relative Collector](#) by Laverne Galeener-Moore (Genealogical Publ. Co., 1989, repr. 1998)

* [Sunny Side of Genealogy](#) by Fonda D. Baselt (Genealogical Publ. Co., 1999)

Have fun!

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Over the years, we have published hundreds of collections of Virginia source records and compiled genealogies--books like Lyon Tyler's massive five-volume *Encyclopedia of Virginia Genealogy*, John Gwathmey's definitive *Catalogue of Revolutionary Soldiers and Sailors of the Commonwealth of Virginia*, and Clayton Torrence's celebrated index, *Virginia Wills and Administrations, 1632-1800*. Today, you'll find the Tyler, Gwathmey, and Torrence volumes PLUS 40 other titles (many of them multi-volume works) on the four CD-ROM publications included in our [Virginia Genealogy Records](#) CD bundle. With these CDs, you can acquire a virtual collection of Virginia titles at a fraction of the cost of the books imaged and indexed on them.

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Virginia Genealogy Records

[http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=7137
&NLC-GenPointers1](http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=7137&NLC-GenPointers1)

Was \$79.95 Now \$69.99

Blog: Historical Markers and Registers

This week Carolyn Barkley extols the benefits of state historic resources for your genealogical research. Whether it's Barbara Fritchie to Burma Shave, Carolyn clues you in on the uses of historical markers artifacts for family historians. You can read her article on our blog, www.genealogyandfamilyhistory.com.

Note: This newsletter includes time-sensitive special offers previously announced only to e-mail subscribers of Genealogical.com's Genealogy Pointers. To sign up for this free weekly newsletter, [click here](#).

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