

Genealogy Pointers (11/09/10)

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What Your Relatives Can Tell You about the Great Depression

As Emily Anne Croom writes in her book [Unpuzzling Your Past. The Best-Selling Basic Guide to Genealogy](#), "Collecting family history also means trying to fit the family into the history of the community, county, state, and nation. You can find the political, economic, and social history of these areas in books and contemporary newspapers, but only family members can share their personal reactions to the public events. . . ."

For example, if your elders are 80 or over, they will have lived through the worst of the Great Depression of the 1930s. They can tell you about the challenges of living through economic crisis—one considerably more severe than the one the world finds itself in right now. How did their parents and other loved ones cope with financial disaster? How long did family members go without work? What do they recall adults saying about the politicians of the time, like FDR, Herbert Hoover, or Huey Long? Did one of their elders work for the Civilian Conservation Corps or one of the other temporary federal agencies created to put people back to work?

If you do have octogenarian relatives, don't let their stories of the 1930s slip away before you have taken the time to add them to your family history. Besides, it's a lot easier than you might think. All you need is a tape recorder--or a pen and legal pad--along with a list of questions, already prepared for you by Ms. Croom, concerning the trenchant events of that era, and you are on your way. The following "Questionnaire for the Great Depression and the 1930s," comes from pages 70-72 of [Unpuzzling Your Past](#), and they represent just one of the many checklists, tools, and techniques that proliferate throughout that award-winning book for genealogy researchers. (The same chapter contains similar lists of questions for the 1920s, the 1940s and World War II, the 1950s and 1960s, and 1970s and after.) For more information or to buy a copy of *Unpuzzling Your Past*, please visit the following URL:

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=1222

Questionnaire for the Great Depression and the 1930s

1. To what extent did the Depression change your habits, way of life, school, plans? Did you "feel" the Depression? Did you observe a difference in the way the Depression affected people living in cities and people living in the country or small towns?

2. Did the family move during this decade? Why? How frequently? Where? What household conveniences did you have or lack: electricity, telephone, indoor plumbing, others?
3. Which family members had jobs? Doing what? Were they paid in cash, goods, or scrip? How much was rent? Was it difficult for the family to find housing or jobs?
4. At the time, what did you or the family think of Presidents Hoover and Franklin Roosevelt? Have you changed your opinion since then? Whom did the family support for president in 1928 (Hoover or Smith), 1932 (Hoover or Roosevelt), 1936 (Roosevelt or Landon)? Why? How effective were Hoover and Roosevelt as presidents?
5. Did any family member work for one of the New Deal agencies, such as the CCC, the WPA (Works Progress Administration), or the PWA (Public Works Administration)? If so, who? Which agency? Doing what? How long? Where?
6. Did the family raise, hunt, can, or preserve any of its own food? If so, what? What food items did you find to be scarce or plentiful? Did you live on a farm, in a small town, or in a city? Did you observe or experience any difference in the availability of food in rural and urban areas?
7. Did you experience the "Dust Bowl" that damaged so much of the middle of our country?
8. What sacrifices did you or your parents make during the Depression? Why?
9. Did the family have a car? What make or model? How much did it cost? How much did gasoline cost? Did you or the family limit driving? Did you or the family have to give up the car during the Depression? If you did not have a car, on what kind of transportation did you rely?
10. Did you or the family have money in a bank before or during the Depression? If so, did you lose any of it because of the Depression? Did you or the family lose money in the stock market crash?
11. Did the family make any of its clothes during the Depression? If so, what?
12. Did you hear Orson Welles's "War of the Worlds" on radio on 30 October 1938? What did you think of it at the time? Did you fall for it? Why or why not? How did other family members react?
13. What was it like to go to silent movies? What was your reaction to your first talkie or your first color movie? Explain.
14. How have your experiences during the Depression affected your attitudes of the present?
15. What further recollections and stories can you share about your experiences during the 1930s?

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Clearfield Reminders at 25%-30% Below Retail

When we established Clearfield Company in 1989, we gave it two missions. One was to publish original and out-of-print genealogy titles possessing a narrower focus than the how-to and general reference works produced by its big sister, Genealogical Publishing Company. The other mission was to remainder books, that is, to buy publishers' overruns at substantial discounts and pass them on to our customers at reduced prices (though not quite as reduced as the buys in our bargain basement, the "Genealogy Warehouse").

The following eight books fall into the Remainder category. Each remainder is available at 25%-30% below its original selling price. Many of these remainders are among the most valuable sourcebooks in genealogy. Scroll down, and you might just find the book that contains the clue you've been looking for--*at bargain prices!*

[Encyclopedia of German-American Genealogical Research](#)

This is still the best book on German-American genealogy, emphasizing German genealogical research in America, with special focus on immigration records, German ethnic and religious bodies in America, and manuscript and published source materials, both in America and Germany. An important section on the "Locations of German-Speaking Congregations in the United States, 1906" is based on a federal religious census of the time. This census gives considerable data on a number of the larger German-speaking denominations, enabling the genealogy researcher to establish the county in which German congregations were located. The authors also include a section on genealogy in Germany, with emphasis on land records, state vital records, court records, census records, municipal records, and church records.

Was \$45.00 Now \$32.95

[The Jacobite Peerage. Baronetage, Knightage & Grants of Honour](#)

Between 1688 and 1784, James II of England (VII of Scotland) and his successors in exile (Bonnie Prince Charlie, etc.) retained the plenary authority to bestow nobiliary and chivalric honors. The first part of this volume contains an alphabetical list of all titles known to have been bestowed between December 11, 1688, and November 4, 1784, the date of the last title conferred by Charles III. A biographical and genealogical account is given for each peer and baronet, together with the names of their children. The second part, dealing with court appointments and chivalric honors, contains lists of the knights created by the Stuarts; persons to whom certificates of noblesse were granted; household, diplomatic, and consular appointments; Catholic archbishops, bishops, and vicars-apostolic nominated by James II (VII) and by James III (VIII); and those who received naval and military commissions.

Was \$40.00 Now \$29.95

[Early Families of Eastern and Southeastern Kentucky and Their Descendants](#)

This massive compilation by William C. Kozee contains genealogies of the early families of eastern and southeastern Kentucky, the section originally encompassing the counties of Clay, Floyd, Greenup, and Knox. The genealogies refer to approximately 12,000 individuals, many of them worked through seven generations. The main families, a number of them of Scotch-Irish descent, are listed alphabetically starting with the progenitor of the Kentucky line and continue chronologically thereafter according to the succession of children.

Was \$48.50 Now \$35.95

[Genealogical Register of Plymouth \[Massachusetts\] Families](#)

This work, compiled by William T. Davis, is the most comprehensive register of Plymouth families ever assembled. It contains the names of thousands of *Mayflower* and sister ship passengers. The data is based largely on records of the town of Plymouth and draws on all marriage and birth records to the last quarter of the 19th century. It also contains material from other town records, family Bibles, probate records, and the Registry of Deeds.

Was \$30.00 Now \$21.95

[Cavaliers and Pioneers. Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants, 1623-1666. Volume One](#)

The best-known work in Virginia genealogy, this book by Nell Marion Nugent contains abstracts of land records dating from 1623 to 1666. In paragraph form, under the full name of the patentee or grantee, it records the earliest Virginia land grants and patents, giving the number of acres in the grant or patent, locations and dates of settlement, and names of family members. It further includes references to marriages, wills, and other legal instruments. Moreover, it provides the names of some thousands of persons who were transported or brought over by the early settlers as "headrights." A comprehensive 200-page index contains the names of the 20,000 persons referred to in the text.

Was \$50.00 Now \$36.95

[Pierce's Register. Register of the Certificates Issued by John Pierce, Esquire, Paymaster General and Commissioner of Army Accounts for the United States, to Officers and Soldiers of the Continental Army Under Act of July 4, 1783 \(from 17th Report of the Nat'l. Soc. D.A.R., 1915\)](#)

This work is based on official Paymaster records, and, with its 93,000 names, it is very nearly a complete roster of the officers and soldiers of the Continental Army. The work consists of an alphabetical list of names showing the payment number and the amount owed the combatants. With the general index, the researcher is able to determine the state and in some cases the regiment of the men whose names appear in the REGISTER. The work is complete for the Continental Army, but it does not include militiamen (who were paid by their respective states); nor, owing to the peculiar relations existing between South Carolina and the federal government, does it include any of the names of men from South Carolina.

Was \$38.50 Now \$28.95

[30,638 Burials in Georgia](#)

Jeannette Holland Austin copied headstones and markers in 600 cemeteries located in nearly 100 Georgia counties to create this list of burials. Arranged alphabetically by surname, entries include some or all of the following information: birth and death dates, names of parents and/or spouse, county, name of cemetery, and miscellaneous remarks such as armed forces affiliation. The author also provides the locations of the cemeteries at the time she made the transcriptions. While the work does not cover all Georgia cemeteries--major city cemeteries were largely ignored because of their easy accessibility--this work is an essential contribution to Georgia genealogy.

Was \$50.00 Now \$36.95

[Maryland Revolutionary Records](#)

This work, compiled by Harry Wright Newman, derives from more than 3,000 Revolutionary War pension claims and bounty land applications. Part I, "Maryland Revolutionary Pensioners," gives the name of each veteran, date of birth, rank, name of the group in which he served, and the name of the pension applicant (the widow, for example). Part II, "Maryland Federal Bounty Land Grants," gives the name of each soldier, his rank, acreage received, date the warrant was issued, and the warrant number. Part III is a list of Maryland soldiers who did not receive pensions but whose service has been established through records. Part IV is a list of marriages proved through Maryland pension applications, and Part V is a list of soldiers whose Revolutionary service was in states other than Maryland.

Was \$20.00 Now \$14.95

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Keeping Up with Vernon Skinner's Maryland Prerogative Court Records Series

As the colonial period grew to a close, the Province of Maryland had amassed thousands of probate records. Before the various Maryland county courts assumed responsibility for the administration of probate, the provincial Prerogative Court in Annapolis performed that function. (In fact, even after the county takeover, some records related to probate continued to be filed with the Prerogative Court.) The Prerogative Court was also the colony's court for equity cases--resolution of disputes over the settlement and distribution of an estate.

Until very recently, the records of the Prerogative Court were inaccessible to researchers because they lacked an index and were bound in volumes (libers), the dates of whose contents sometimes overlapped. Fortunately genealogist Vernon L. Skinner has made it his mission to abstract the contents of these crucial 17th- and 18th-century records. Since 2004 Mr. Skinner has compiled--and we have published--a prodigious twenty-seven volumes of those transcriptions, including six in 2010 itself. Thanks to his diligence, the entirety of this extremely valuable but obscure record group will soon be within the grasp of all Maryland researchers.

Skinner has combed through administration bond, will, inventory, administration account, and final balance entries to produce this collection. The abstracts are arranged chronologically by court session, and in every instance they give the names of the principals (testators, heirs, witnesses, administrators, and so forth). In many cases we also learn the details of bequests, names of slaves and appraisers, and more. Following is a list of the 2010 titles in the series, with links to the corresponding book descriptions:

Abstracts of the Testamentary Proceedings of the Prerogative Court of Maryland. Volume XXVII: 1753, 1750-1751. Libers 33 (pp. 126-end), 34, 35 (pp. 1-114):
http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=9503

Abstracts of the Testamentary Proceedings of the Prerogative Court of Maryland. Volume XXVI: 1749-1750, 1752-1753. Libers 32 (pp. 257-end), 33-1 (pp. 1-217) & 33-2 (pp. 1-126):
http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=9502

Abstracts of the Testamentary Proceedings of the Prerogative Court of Maryland. Volume XXV: 1746-1749). Liber 32 (pp. 23-256):
http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=9501

Abstracts of the Testamentary Proceedings of the Prerogative Court of Maryland. Volume XXIV: 1744-1746. Libers 31 (pp. 489-679), 32 (1-22):
http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=9963

Abstracts of the Testamentary Proceedings of the Prerogative Court of Maryland. Volume XXIII: 1741-1744. Liber 31 (pp. 252-488):

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=9998

Abstracts of the Testamentary Proceedings of the Prerogative Court of Maryland. Volume XXII: 1739-1741. Liber 31 (pp. 33-251) :

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=9960

Angus Baxter & Ernest Thode: One-Two Punch for German Researchers

According to the late Angus Baxter, "After the Second World War, approximately 13 million Germans left their homes in other European countries and found refuge in the Fatherland. Since the unification of Germany and free emigration from the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, there has been a huge influx of ethnic Germans. Nearly 400,000 came in 1989, followed by more than 200,000 annually between 1991 and 1995.

"The Germans in Kazakhstan may number as many as a million--some descended from the Germans who originally settled in the Volga Basin at the invitation of Catherine the Great, and others who were exiled from Ukraine by Stalin.

"If you know you have German relatives in the former Soviet Union, Poland, or Romania you may be able to make contact through the International Red Cross or the Federal Ministry of the Interior in Bonn."

The relatively recent migrations by German-speaking peoples are relatively small beer when you consider the movements brought on by religious wars, movements across the multiplicity of political jurisdictions prior to German unification, emigration to the Americas, etc. Mr. Baxter explains all of these migrations and other salient features of German history upon its genealogy in the first chapter to his exceptional book, [In Search of Your German Roots](#). Other equally informative chapters cover German-Jewish records, the German records of the LDS Church, the archives of Germanic genealogy, the Germans in the U.S. and Canada, record holdings in Germany, and much more.

If you have German ancestors, it's only a matter of time before you will have to contend with documents written in German and, if you go back prior to 1945, the German fraktur style of writing. You won't find all the thousands of specialized terms that arise in German genealogical source documents in a standard German-English dictionary. You WILL find them in Ernest Thode's masterful [German English Genealogical Dictionary](#). Since 1992, Mr. Thode's *Dictionary* has established itself as the most valuable desktop tool for translating German genealogical documents.

Scroll down to learn more about the Baxter and Thode works referred to here; they comprise the best one-two punch for Germanic genealogy available in print.

[In Search of Your German Roots. Fourth Edition, Updated \[2008\]](#)

This guide is designed to help you trace your German ancestry not only in Germany but in all the

German-speaking areas of Europe. First, it discusses the LDS Church's International Genealogical Index (IGI), which contains hundreds of thousands of entries from German parish registers. Then the narrative takes the reader back to the old country, where sources and archives are discussed in detail, especially Evangelical and Catholic Church records and records of state and city archives. Finally, Mr. Baxter presents a list of family archives, a list of genealogical associations in Germany, a list of German genealogical associations in the U.S., and a bibliography. The 2008 update to the fourth edition includes many websites for these records.

[German English Genealogical Dictionary](#)

Ernest Thode's *Dictionary* is designed for the family researcher who has little or no knowledge of German but who nevertheless needs to make a translation of German-language documents. The *Dictionary* covers thousands of German terms and defines them in single words or brief phrases. Among the many categories of entries included in the *Dictionary* are family relationships, days of the week, map terms, legal terms, cardinal and ordinal numbers, roman numerals, signs of the zodiac, coins, liquid and dry measures, measures of length, place names, historical territories, geographical terms, occupations, titles, military ranks, types of taxes, illnesses, calendar days, male and female given names, heraldry, abbreviations, books of the Bible, and common genealogical words from Danish, Dutch, French, Latin, and Polish. In conjunction with a standard German-English dictionary, the user of this work should be able to make a word-by-word translation of any German document and understand it.

Of related interest:

[German-American Names. Third Edition](#)

This third edition of *German-American Names* by Prof. George F. Jones is longer than the earlier editions and has several thousand more entries. Like its predecessors, it attempts to explain the meaning of names borne today by Americans that derive from the German language or its dialects. Moreover, it deals with the Americanization of some of those names, explaining the social and historical phenomena that contributed to the distinctive character of German-American names. It deals as well with names many of us would never have thought of as German.

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What's New at the Genealogy Warehouse for November

For November, we have added two titles to our [Genealogy Warehouse](#): (1) An authoritative account of 18th-century Swiss emigrants to North America, and (2) A scarce monography documenting the colonial transportation between the Bahamas and the North American colonies

The [Genealogy Warehouse](#) is our bargain basement for genealogy books. Every one of the roughly 200 titles in the Warehouse has been discounted by 40%, 50%, or more below its original selling price. Since we are always adding new titles to the Warehouse, you may want to get in the habit of checking it on a regular basis--especially since many of these books are in short supply.

If neither of our two November additions strikes your fancy, we've highlighted thirteen other low-in-stock Warehouse books. In all cases fewer than twenty copies remain in stock, and some titles are showing as few as five copies. When these books go out of print, they will either stay out of print for some time or revert to print-on-demand at the full retail price.

If you still don't see a book you need, why not browse our complete collection of Genealogy Warehouse titles at:

http://www.genealogical.com/content/products_warehouse.html&NLC-GenPointers1

****New!****

[Lists of Swiss Emigrants in the Eighteenth Century to the American Colonies](#)

This is the authoritative work on Swiss emigration to the Carolinas and Pennsylvania in the 18th century. Volume I identifies approximately 2,000 emigrants from the Canton of Zurich during the period 1734-1744, most references comprising such useful data as age, date of birth or baptism, trade, name of wife, names of children, and place of origin and destination. Volume II extends the scope of investigation to Bern (1706-1795) and Basel (1734-1794) and surpasses Volume I in the quantity and variety of assembled data.

Was \$45.00 Now \$25.95

****New****

[The Early Settlers of the Bahamas and Colonists of North America](#)

Persons searching for Bahamian ancestors will want to study the various lists of names that appear in this book, including the census of inhabitants for New Providence in 1671, a mid-17th-century list of the first settlers of Eleuthra, a list of some 800 Loyalists who fled to the Bahamas from East Florida in 1784, a 1791 census of lot owners on Harbour Island, and various lists of Bahamian officials. The book also includes biographical sketches of descent for more than 200 contemporary Bahamians of distinction.

Was \$26.50 Now \$19.50

**** Genealogy Warehouse Titles with 20 or Fewer Copies Remaining****

[Cumberland Parish, Lunenburg County, Virginia 1746-1816 \[and\] Vestry Book 1746-1816](#)

Cumberland Parish was coextensive with Lunenburg County from its inception in 1745, and Landon Bell's history of the parish and transcription of its oldest vestry book are of the first importance. The vestry book itself is replete with records of birth, baptism, marriage, and death, as well as an abundance of land transactions. To this, Mr. Bell has added extensive genealogical sketches of families who furnished vestrymen to Cumberland Parish.

[The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records. Volumes 2, 8, 25, 27, 30, 37 & 51](#)

Covering 137 Connecticut towns and taking up more than 14,000 typed pages in manuscript, the "Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records" was the life work of General Lucius Barnes Barbour, Connecticut Examiner of Public Records from 1911 to 1934. Our 55-volume published edition of the Barbour Collection refers to a staggering 1.75 million settlers who took up residence in Connecticut between the mid-17th century and mid-19th century. For a complete

list of the towns and dates of coverage in this colossal series, please access the following link:
http://www.genealogical.com/upload_images/BarbourCollection.pdf

The following volumes in the Barbour Collection are now in the Genealogy Warehouse:

[Volume 2: Barkhamsted, 1779-1854; Berlin, 1785-1850; Bethany, 1832-1853; Bethlehem, 1787-1851; Bloomfield, 1835-1853; Bozrah, 1786-1850](#)

Was \$25.00 Now \$14.95

[Volume 37: Rocky Hill \(1765-1854\), Roxbury \(1796-1835\), Salem \(1836-1852\), and Salisbury \(1741-1846\)](#)

Was \$30.00 Now \$21.95

[Volume 51: Weston \(1781-1850\), Westport \(1835-1850\), and Willington \(1727-1851\)](#)

Was \$23.50 Now \$12.50

[Scots in Latin America](#)

Emigration from Scotland to Latin America began in earnest following the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815. In this volume on Scottish emigration, David Dobson enumerates those emigrants. Mr. Dobson's findings are based on primary sources in Scotland, especially documents in archives, newspapers, and cemetery transcriptions. While there is considerable variance from description to description, each entry identifies the passenger by country (and sometimes city) of origin, a date when the immigrant was known to have resided in Latin America, and the source of the information. Mr. Dobson's Scotsmen turn up in a number of Latin American countries, including Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, British Guiana, Chile, Colombia, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

Was \$14.95 Now \$7.95

[The History of Haverhill \[Massachusetts\] from Its First Settlement, in 1640, to the Year 1860](#)

This narrative history is richly interspersed with genealogical and biographical essays of prominent citizens, lists of voters, militia companies, signatories to various documents, tax lists, householders in 1798, etc.

Was \$62.95 Now \$36.50

[The Early Records of the First Presbyterian Church at Goshen, New York, from 1767 to 1885](#)

This transcription of births, marriages, and deaths from the records of the First Presbyterian Church is of importance because no public vital records exist for Orange County before the mid-19th century. Goshen, the county seat, was founded only two generations after the county's inception.

Was \$25.00 Now \$14.95

[Directory of Repositories of Family History in New Hampshire](#)

This publication provides a list of the major genealogy and local history collections throughout the state of New Hampshire. For each of New Hampshire's ten counties the compiler gives the addresses and phone numbers of the Registrar of Deeds and Registrar of Probate, and usually the

community's date of foundation, mailing address and phone number of the city or town clerk, prior names for that community, and a succinct listing of the city/town's principal genealogy repositories.

Was \$16.50 Now \$11.95

[Baptisms and Burials from the Records of Christ Church, Philadelphia, 1709-1760](#)

Christ Church was established in 1695 and was the first Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. For a number of years it served the entire Anglican community. By 1760, when St. Peter's was split off from it, more than 10,000 baptisms and burials had been recorded in its registers.

Was \$30.00 Now \$21.95

[The Early Settlers of Nantucket \[Massachusetts\]](#)

This highly regarded social history of Nantucket also consists of histories of some thirty founding families.

Was \$39.50 Now \$22.50

[The Reconstructed 1790 Census of Georgia](#)

The compilers of this work extracted data found in wills, deeds, tax digests, court minutes, voters' lists, newspapers, and other contemporary records--records roughly contemporaneous with the 1790 federal census--and they have identified about 15,000 Georgians who were living at the time of that census. Counties covered include all of those formed before 1790, i.e. Burke, Camden, Chatham, Effingham, Franklin, Glynn, Greene, Liberty, Richmond, Washington, and Wilkes, as well as Columbia and Elbert counties, which were formed just after the census was taken.

Was \$28.50 Now \$16.95

[Index to the United States Census of Georgia for 1820](#)

This census index identifies about 30,000 heads of families, alphabetically arranged, along with their counties of residence.

Was \$26.50 Now \$16.50

[Pioneers and Makers of Arkansas](#)

This work covers the history of the settlement of the state from its formation down to the latter half of the 19th century. In addition to numerous biographical sketches containing considerable genealogical data, this history contains extensive genealogies of dozens of founding families.

Was \$42.50 Now \$24.95

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Blog: Native American Research

We continue to be amazed at Carolyn Barkley's ability to pull together vital information on a whole host of genealogy issues--week after week after week. Carolyn's latest posting on our blog, www.genealogyandfamilyhistory.com, takes on Native American research. Whether you are a descendant of one of the Five Civilized Tribes, a Sioux, Blackfoot, or another Native American group, you will want to visit our blog and get the benefit of Carolyn's research while

you can.

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CONTACT US

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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