

GENEALOGY POINTERS (12-11-07)

In This Issue:

Catching Up with Scots & Irish Immigration Authority, David Dobson
Headley Goes the Extra Mile for Northern Neck, Virginia, Marriages
"The 1752 Calendar Change in North America," by William Dollarhide
Dick Eastman Gives a Thumbs Up to "The Ricker Compilation of Vital Records of Early Connecticut" CD
Past issues of "Genealogy Pointers" Now Online

CATCHING UP WITH Scots & Irish Immigration Authority, DAVID DOBSON

Before this year is out, we will have published 16 books by immigration authority David Dobson, both new titles and reprints. Following are brief descriptions, with links to full ones, on some of the best titles researchers can hope to find on their Scottish or Irish origins.

Scottish Highlanders on the Eve of the Great Migration, 1725-1775: THE NORTHERN HIGHLANDS

In 2005 Clearfield Company launched a new series of books by David Dobson designed to identify the origins of Scottish Highlanders who traveled to America prior to the Great Highland Migration that began in the 1730s and intensified thereafter. The first three volumes in the series covered Scottish Highlanders from Argyll, Perthshire, and Inverness-shire.

This latest volume pertains to the people of the Northern Highlands, an area that includes the counties of Caithness, Sutherland, Ross, and Cromarty. The main clans traditionally associated with the Northern Highlands were: Mackay, McLeod, Sutherland, Sinclair, Gunn, Munro, Ross, and Mackenzie, all of whom are represented in this volume. While the present volume is not a comprehensive directory of all people living in the Northern Highlands during the mid-18th century, it does pull together references to more than 2,100 18th-century inhabitants. In all cases, Mr. Dobson gives each Highlander's name, a place name or county within the Highlands, a date (of birth, residence, etc.), and the source. In the majority of cases, we also learn the identities of relatives, the individual's employment, vessel traveled, or other defining characteristics. Among the primary sources Mr. Dobson consulted were the Northern Highland militia lists naming the participants who opposed the Jacobites in 1745-1746.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=9819&NLC-GenPointers1

Scottish Highlanders on the Eve of the Great Migration, 1725-1775: THE PEOPLE OF

ARGYLL (Temporarily out of print)

This is the first volume in this series of books by David Dobson designed to identify the origins of Scottish Highlanders who traveled to America prior to the Great Highland Migration that began in the 1730s and intensified thereafter.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=9888&NLC-GenPointers1

Scottish Highlanders on the Eve of the Great Migration, 1725-1775: THE PEOPLE OF HIGHLAND PERTSHIRE

While the present volume is not a comprehensive directory of all the inhabitants of Perthshire during the mid-18th-century, it does pull together references on more than 1,200 18th-century inhabitants. Coverage extends to all regions within Perthshire. In all cases, Mr. Dobson gives each Highlander's name, a place within Perthshire (birth, residence, employment, etc.), a date, and the source. In some cases, we also learn the identities of relatives, vessel traveled on, and so forth.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=9896&NLC-GenPointers1

Scottish Highlanders on the Eve of the Great Migration, 1725-1775: THE PEOPLE OF INVERNESS-SHIRE (Very low in stock)

This volume covers Highlanders from the county of Inverness, a location from which many of the pioneer emigrants who settled in colonial Georgia, Pennsylvania, upper New York, Jamaica, and the Canadian Maritimes originated. Inverness-shire is also the county where the Fraser's Highlanders regiment (which played a prominent part in the French and Indian War and in the settlement of Canada) was raised. This volume references more than 2,100 18th-century inhabitants of Inverness-shire. In all cases, Mr. Dobson gives each Highlander's name, a place within Inverness-shire (birth, residence, employment, etc.), a date, and the source. In some cases, we also learn the identities of relatives, vessel traveled on, and so forth.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=9814&NLC-GenPointers1

AMERICAN VITAL RECORDS from the "Gentleman's Magazine," 1731-1868

The "Gentleman's Magazine" was founded in London in 1731. The first publication of its type, it featured a broad mix of news, essays, poetry, parliamentary debates, book reviews, and antiquarian notes. From the beginning the magazine published notices of births, deaths, and marriages, enabling people throughout the English-speaking world to keep abreast of friends and relatives at home and abroad. About 6,000 of these notices relate to persons in North America and the West Indies, and these have been extracted for

this compilation. Included are notices relating to the deaths of American Loyalists in England and to marriages and deaths in America of "younger sons" of the English gentry and nobility.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=1484&NLC-GenPointers1

SCOTTISH-GERMAN LINKS, 1550-1850

The majority of Scots who were found in the various German principalities during the early modern period arrived as soldiers of fortune, especially during the Thirty Years' War. Students also were attracted by the educational opportunities available in Germany and Wurzburg; Ratisbon in particular attracted the sons of Catholic Scots families. Immigration traffic also flowed in the other direction, to a lesser extent. While the contents of these transcriptions vary considerably, each one of the roughly 1,200 entries nonetheless identifies a Scots-German by name, date, city of residence, and source of the information. In many cases, we learn something about an individual's parentage, spouse, vocation, or more.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=9815&NLC-GenPointers1

SCOTS-IRISH LINKS, 1575-1725. Part Four

This is the third volume (and fourth part) in a series compiled by Mr. Dobson to identify the Lowland Scots who migrated to the Plantation of Ulster between 1575 and 1725-- many of whose progeny may have emigrated to America. Typically, Mr. Dobson provides the name, occupation, place of residence, a date, and the source for an additional 1,250 mostly Lowland Scots who re-settled in Ulster.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=9855&NLC-GenPointers1

SCOTS-IRISH LINKS, 1575-1725. Part Five

The fourth volume (fifth part) in this series identifies an additional 1,700 Lowland Scots who migrated to Ulster between 1575 and 1725. A special feature of this volume is the inclusion of a number of shipmasters from Ulster who traded with western Scotland ports. (It is highly likely that they were residents of the port to which the ship belonged and that the skipper owned part of the vessel.)

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=9895&NLC-GenPointers1

SCOTS-IRISH LINKS. 1575-1725. Part Six

The final volume in this series provides the migrant's name, occupation, place of residence, a date, and the source. In all, Mr. Dobson enumerates an additional 1,500 Lowland Scots who re-settled in Ulster. Perhaps a majority of the individuals identified in Part Six were ordered into military service, including "Patrick McClelland, mustered with a sword and snaphance, in the barony of Raphoe, Donegal, 1630."

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=9816&NLC-GenPointers1

THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND, 1600-1699

This work draws on primary sources, such as published government records, together with references found in Irish, English, Scottish, and Dutch archives. The single most important source used in this volume is the Calendar of State Papers relating to Ireland.

The aim of this work is to provide information on ordinary people throughout Ireland--with the exception of people of Scottish origin who have been dealt with in Mr. Dobson's "Scots-Irish Links, 1575-1725" series (see above). Thus, the people listed here are predominantly of native Irish and immigrant English origin, as well as a handful of Huguenot and Dutch immigrants. Mr. Dobson here provides sketches of about 1,400 inhabitants of Ireland in the 17th century, such as "McManus, Terelogh, Bodkin, from Sligo aboard the *John of Sligo* 18 tons bound via Spain to the West Indies on 24 July 1699, on a voyage of piracy."

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=9818&NLC-GenPointers1

SCOTTISH TRANSATLANTIC MERCHANTS, 1611-1785

Based on primary sources found in Scotland and in America, this work identifies about 2,500 Scottish expatriate merchants and factors throughout the Americas. In all cases, Mr. Dobson presents the individual's full name, location in the Americas, a date, and the source of the data. Sometimes we are given quite a bit more, as in the case of William Woodrup, "a merchant in Nevis, 1675; merchant from Glasgow who settled in St. Kitts, died there in 1867," or the case of Robert Aitkin, "born in 1734, a merchant from Paisley who settled in Philadelphia during 1769, died there in 1802."

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=9817&NLC-GenPointers1

DIRECTORY OF SCOTS in the Carolinas, 1680-1830 [Volume 1]

This work is based on a systematic extraction of data from the archives of North and South Carolina. David Dobson here presents, for the first time, a comprehensive list of Scottish settlers in the Carolinas from 1680 to 1830. In general, the details provided include age, place and date of birth, and, often, names of parents, spouse, and children,

occupation, place of residence, and date of emigration from Scotland. About 6,000 Scots are identified in this book, about 90% of whom are not listed in Mr. Dobson's many other publications.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=1483&NLC-GenPointers1

DIRECTORY OF SCOTS in the Carolinas, 1680-1830. Volume 2

Publication of David Dobson's "Directory of Scots in the Carolinas, 1680-1830" in 1986 (see above) was the first attempt to build a comprehensive list of Scottish settlers in that region. Since 1986, Mr. Dobson has gathered an overwhelming amount of new information on another thousand early Scottish emigrants to North and South Carolina based on his research in Scotland, England, and the U.S., but especially at the National Archives in Scotland. Similar in scope and arrangement to the original, this sequel to the 1986 volume contains those additional findings.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=9811&NLC-GenPointers1

MORE SCOTTISH SETTLERS, 1627-1827

Scottish Court of Session records now available at the National Archives of Scotland (NAS) in Edinburgh, other original sources newly found at the NAS, and contemporary documents located in England, Holland, the U.S., and Canada comprise the basis for MORE SCOTTISH SETTLERS, 1627-1827, a sequel to David Dobson's seven-volume series, "Directory of Scottish Settlers." Information given for the 2,000 emigrants listed alphabetically in this volume includes each traveler's full name, a place of origin in Scotland, one or more associated dates, occupation, destination, and source of information.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=9883&NLC-GenPointers1

THE SCOTTISH SURNAMES of Colonial America

Genealogist David Dobson has compiled a list of Scottish surnames of the estimated 150,000 Scots who settled in the American colonies. Many of the same surnames, of course, apply to the even greater number of Scots-Irish colonists whose forebears had originated in Scotland before re-settling in the province of Ulster. Mr. Dobson identifies Scottish names, provides explanations of their meaning and significance, gives examples, and, where applicable, names the clan to which the surname is linked.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=9790&NLC-GenPointers1

SEARCHING FOR SCOTCH-IRISH ROOTS in Scottish Records, 1600-1750

(Temporarily out of print. Available January 2008)

This groundbreaking book refers to source material in Scottish libraries and archives that could enable people of Scotch-Irish ancestry, otherwise known as the Ulster-Scots, to trace their Scottish roots. As Mr. Dobson explains, "there is a finite amount of evidence scattered throughout manuscripts and some published works held in libraries and archives throughout Scotland, especially in the southwest of the country." The author divides these records into five main categories: Church Records (probably the most valuable), Burgh (Town) Records, Court Records, Miscellaneous Government Records, and University Records, providing a detailed chapter on each that spells out exactly which records exist and where they can be found. Buttressing the text itself are a glossary, lists of family history societies and libraries, bibliographies of Scottish family histories and local histories of Southwestern Scotland, an index to the contents, and more.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=9813&NLC-GenPointers1

HEADLEY GOES THE EXTRA MILE for Northern Neck, Virginia, Marriages

From time to time, we have marveled at the lengths to which some authors go to make their books comprehensive. For instance, how Dorothy Ford Wulfeck, in her multi-volume "Marriages of Some Virginia Residents, 1607-1800," and Charles Hughes Hamlin, in "They Went Thataway" and its sequel, "Virginia Ancestors and Adventurers," scoured a mountain of records to track the movements of settlers into and out of Virginia.

With the exception of Quaker records of removal, migration records as such do not exist. As Wulfeck and Hamlin demonstrated, the genealogist must reconstruct the pattern of migration from related sources, such as marriage records, deeds, and so on.

Migration is just one example of how conscientious researchers have compiled records where there appear to have been none. Piecing together the records of an entire county is exactly what Polly Cary Mason faced when she undertook to compile the genealogical records of Gloucester, County, Virginia, nearly 60 years ago. This was a tall order since Gloucester had suffered the loss by fire of all of its court records prior to 1865. Undeterred, Mrs. Mason spent 10 years among the records of neighboring counties, the Virginia State Archives in Richmond, the College of William and Mary, and additional repositories in Virginia and other states and abroad to salvage the genealogical heritage of Gloucester and Mathews counties.

In the tradition of Dorothy Ford Wulfeck and Polly Mason, contemporary author Robert K. Headley, Jr., is no stranger to genealogical thoroughness. Each of his two earlier titles for GPC--"Wills of Richmond County, Virginia, 1699-1800" and the landmark "Genealogical Abstracts from 18th-Century Virginia Newspapers"--required that he be resourceful in finding alternative sources for missing records and in tracking down other widely scattered sources.

From this standpoint, Mr. Headley's most recent book, **MARRIED WELL AND OFTEN: Marriages of the Northern Neck of Virginia, 1649-1800**, may be his most ambitious effort to date. As the book's subtitle states--"Marriages and Marriage References for the Counties of Lancaster, Northumberland, Old Rappahannock, Richmond, and Westmoreland"--the volume encompasses all the licenses and bonds for the aforementioned counties. It ALSO includes every reference to a Northern Neck county marriage that Headley could discover in wills, deeds, order books, and Bibles in both published and unpublished sources. The end result is a book that not only lists 7,000 marriages but also boasts an additional 16,000 index entries--making it far more than a simple marriage book.

In fact, **MARRIED WELL AND OFTEN** is a work with many unusual features. Besides the names of brides and grooms and the dates of marriage, entries may contain the names of parents, grandparents, former spouses, children of previous marriages, and other relations, as well as names of persons connected with the marriage, such as securities for the groom, guardians, and clergymen. In addition, parent and child relationships are spelled out, as are sibling relationships. There is also a wealth of incidental detail concerning illegitimate children, places of birth and residence, putative marriages, dates of death of one or more parents, exact spellings of names, and precise dates of marriage.

Obviously, if you have even a glimmer of interest in the Northern Neck of Virginia prior to 1800, this exhaustive work is bound to satisfy you. If you want to learn what a model of genealogical scholarship looks like, you have another reason to study Mr. Headley's book or one of the others described below.

MARRIED WELL AND OFTEN: Marriages of the Northern Neck of Virginia, 1649-1800

This work contains a list of 7,000 marriages and boasts an additional 16,000 index entries. Starting with marriage license bonds for the counties of Lancaster, Northumberland, Old Rappahannock, Richmond, and Westmoreland, the author added marriages from scattered licenses, fee books, ministers' returns, family Bibles, and notes in various volumes of court records, finalizing his research in the will books and deed books for the aforementioned counties, as well as in standard publications.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=2654&NLC-GenPointers1

Of Related Interest:

RECORDS OF COLONIAL Gloucester County, Virginia. In Two Volumes

This work is the result of Polly Cary Mason's prodigious effort to reconstruct the records of Gloucester County from other sources. Volume I cites a variety of land ownership or tax lists relating to Gloucester County, while the second volume focuses on the

movement of Gloucester residents into neighboring counties, as evidenced in abstracts of deed books from those counties.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=9225&NLC-GenPointers1

MARRIAGES OF SOME VIRGINIA RESIDENTS, 1607-1800. In Two Volumes (Very low in stock)

This landmark two-volume work by Dorothy Ford Wulfeck not only contains records of approximately 40,000 marriages with references to about a quarter-million individuals found in such traditional sources as parish registers, ministers' returns, and marriage bonds, it also derives from Bible records and references found in wills, deeds, court suits, and orphans' court records as well. Brides and grooms are listed in a single alphabetical sequence, and all other persons mentioned in the records are indexed separately. As a rule, the marriage records relate to three categories of people: (1) those who married before settling in Virginia, (2) those who married in Virginia, and (3) those who married after moving from Virginia to another colony or state--essential information for tracking the colonial origins of ancestors who removed to states like Kentucky, the Carolinas, Georgia, Tennessee, Missouri, and Indiana.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=6513&NLC-GenPointers1

THEY WENT THATAWAY

Composed almost entirely of abstracts of wills, deeds, marriage records, powers of attorney, court orders, church records, cemetery records, tax records, guardianship accounts, etc., this unique work by Charles Hughes Hamlin provides substantive evidence of the migration of individuals and families to Virginia or from Virginia to other states, countries, or territories. Each record provides prima facie evidence of places of origin and removal, irrefutably linking individuals to both their old and their new homes, and incidentally naming parents and kinsmen, all of whom (close on 10,000) are listed in the indexes.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=2500&NLC-GenPointers1

=====

"THE 1752 CALENDAR CHANGE in North America," by William Dollarhide

Genealogically, dates are critical in confirming that a person lived at a certain time, fathered children at a certain time, or was born, married, or died at a certain time. Therefore, if a date cannot be trusted, the genealogical event may not be valid. For example, if you have evidence that a man had died 10 months before a certain child was born, it would seem to exclude that man as the father of that child. But, if the calendar dates changed during the man's lifetime, you must be very precise in determining the

exact date of death--and he may qualify as the father after all. Therefore, an understanding of the change from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar is important to genealogists.

If you had ancestors living under British rule in 1752, you need to be aware of the calendar change that took place that year. The dates you find on documents around 1752 and later might be different from what you would expect--in fact, you might discover that a date was off by several months.

By an act of Parliament, the British government adopted the Gregorian calendar, effective September 1752, and the change was implemented in all of the British colonies in North America. The British were one of last of the European countries to adopt the calendar change, which had been in place in most of Europe since 1582. In that year, Pope Gregory XIII decreed that the new calendar would be followed thereafter, and the change took place in all of the Catholic countries of Europe.

1582 Changes--Julian to Gregorian Calendar:

Three significant calendar changes took place in 1582 as a result of Pope Gregory XIII's decree:

1. Drop 10 days from October 1582, to realign the Vernal Equinox with March 21st. The Julian calendar, first adopted by Julius Caesar for the Roman Empire in 45 BC, had an annual error factor of .00636 days. From 45 BC to 1582 AD, the correct day of the Vernal Equinox using the Julian calendar fell behind by a full 10 days.
2. Reduce the number of possible leap years. In the Julian calendar, a leap year occurred every four years. By reducing the number of leap years, the Gregorian calendar was able to more closely align the Vernal Equinox over centuries. The change was to make leap years for years ending in "00," but only if the number could be divided evenly by 400. The year 2000 was a leap year ($2000/400 = 5$), while the year 1900 was not ($1900/400 = 4.75$).
3. Change the first day of the year from March 25th to January 1st. This was the most dramatic change from the Julian to Gregorian calendar. Traditionally, the new year was determined by the beginning of the four seasons, and through several centuries the first day of Spring in the Julian calendar was on or about March 25th.

The Protestant countries of Europe did not go along with Pope Gregory's decree in 1582. The lowland regions of Belgium (then part of Holland), and the northern German states, for example, were made up of Protestant Palatines, Calvinists, or Lutherans. These groups did not adopt the Gregorian calendar until 1700.

The British Adopt the New Calendar:

By the time the British finally adopted the new calendar in 1752, the correction needed to

bring the Vernal Equinox back into alignment was 11 days. Britain's parliament chose to drop 11 days from the month of September, 1752, eliminating days 3 to 13. Thus, the first week in September 1752 jumped from Wednesday 2nd to Thursday 14th. They also declared that the first day of 1753 would be January 1st, making the English year of 1752 its shortest in history, only 280 days long.

George Washington's Birthday:

Today, we use the Gregorian calendar to determine George Washington's birthday, which took place in Westmoreland County, Virginia, on 22 February 1732. But at the time of his birth the Julian calendar was in effect, and the first day of the year was March 25th, not January 1st, so he was born 22 February 1731. His mother, Mary Ball Washington, lived her entire life believing her son was born on 22 February 1731. (She was living at the time of her son's inauguration as President in April 1789, but died later that year.)

Double Dating:

Right after the calendar change took place in British territory, people began writing dates between January 1st and March 25th both ways, reflecting the "Old Style" (O.S.) and the "New Style" (N.S.), which genealogists may find indicated in old records from September 1752 forward. George Washington may have indicated his date of birth in a letter written after September 1752 by writing February 22, 1731/2, or "double dating."

Double dating applies to a date between January 1st and March 25th. As a genealogist, any date you find in old records before 1752--and between January 1st and March 24th, inclusive--should be expressed as a double date. The authors of the documents did not do it for you in most cases. There may have been some anticipation of the calendar change in the British North America before 1752, but in most cases, finding a date written as 22 February 1731/2 is rare. What was written was the Julian date of 22 February 1731. After 1752, the use of double dating was widespread in the old documents.

Check the Dates!

For genealogists researching in British North American records before 1752, any date found on a document and dated January 1st through March 24th is one year off. Let's say you find a will for your great-great-great-grandfather, dated 12 March 1734. But by being a good genealogist, you find another will, or codicil, which changes the first will. Your ancestor left two documents, one giving everything to his five sons. But the second document was dated 27 March 1735, and you think you have learned that your ancestor died after the second document was signed, or about a year after the first will. The fact is, the documents were signed only 15 days apart. The 12 March 1734 document was signed before the first of the new year, which occurred on March 25th. So, March 27th was in 1735, but only 15 days later than March 12, 1734.

In the Julian calendar, March 24, 1734 was followed by March 25, 1735. March was also identified as the First Month, so a date may be expressed in records before 1752 in

various ways, such as 1st-3-1734, 3-1st-1734, or even 3-7ber-1734 or 3-8ber-1734 for September and October.

The Latin names for some months relate to their position in the Julian calendar, not the Gregorian calendar. Thus, October, which is a word based on the Latin number eight (octo), makes sense in the old Julian calendar but not in the current one, where October is the 10th month.

Exceptions in North America:

Genealogists should be aware that certain groups in early America may have adopted the Gregorian calendar before 1752, even in British-controlled territory. Thus, when a Reformed Church record in a German settlement in America is used for genealogical research, the date needs to be confirmed--were those Germans using the Gregorian calendar or Julian calendar? For example, the Protestant Palatine Germans had adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1700, well before their migration to America.

Other non-British ethnic groups settling in America before 1752 may have already adopted the Gregorian calendar. Dutch settlers along the Hudson River in New York and northern New Jersey were already using the Gregorian calendar when they came to America. After 1660, when the English took over the Dutch settlements, the civil and church recorders of the Dutch towns continued to use the Gregorian calendar, even though the British governed their settlements and had not yet adopted the Gregorian calendar. Since most of Holland had been using the new calendar since 1583, it had become their standard for calendar dating long before they came to America.

Quaker Dates:

The English Quakers who migrated to the Delaware Valley from about 1675 to 1725 left good indications of the Julian calendar in their Meeting records. In keeping with the Quakers' desire to divest themselves of any practice of the Church of England, they did not like to use the names of the months (which were mostly named after pagan gods by the Romans). So the Quakers created their own way of expressing a month, as the 1st month, 2nd month, 3rd month, and so on.

In written Quaker Meeting records, a date was almost always shown in the order of year, month, and day, e.g., 1732, 3rd mo, 24th day. What is interesting is that some Quaker records before 1752 show double dating, e.g., 1746/7. Why the Quakers were double dating years before 1752 is not known, but it clearly means they were recognizing both the old style and new style dating. Therefore, before September 1752, when any Quaker date includes a reference to a month by its numbered position, genealogists must count the months in the Julian calendar, not the Gregorian, e.g., 1746, 3rd mo, 28th day, would translate to 28 May 1746 in the Julian calendar. After September 1752, the Quakers, like other Americans, began writing their dates based on the Gregorian calendar, but adding double dates for the year, e.g., 1755/6, 3rd mo, 22nd day, which would be the same as 22 March 1756.

In some cases, confusion about whether a Quaker date is Julian or Gregorian needs to be confirmed by looking at many dates recorded in the same record book. For example, if a genealogist finds a Quaker date expressed as the 7th month, 31st day, you would know that it refers to July, the 7th month in the Gregorian calendar, which indeed has 31 days; while an indication of the 7th month in the Julian calendar would represent the month of September, a month with 30 days.[End of article]

=====

DICK EASTMAN GIVES A THUMBS UP to "The Ricker Compilation of Vital Records of Early Connecticut" CD

Esteemed genealogy columnist Dick Eastman reviewed our CD-ROM publication, THE RICKER COMPILATION of Vital Records of Early Connecticut, in the September 20, 2006, issue of his weekly newsletter. Dick's assessment of THE RICKER COMPILATION CD can be summed up in the following comment, "If you have Connecticut ancestry, you want this disk!"

We have reprinted excerpts from Dick Eastman's review below. To read the review in its entirety, please access the following:

http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2006/09/the_ricker_comp.html

This week I had a chance to use a brand-new CD-ROM disk with a long title: THE RICKER COMPILATION OF VITAL RECORDS OF EARLY CONNECTICUT Based on the Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records and Other Statistical Sources, compiled and edited by Jacquelyn Ladd Ricker. The disk was just released within the past week or two by Genealogical Publishing Company. After using this Windows and Macintosh disk for a couple of hours, I am very impressed.

If you have Connecticut ancestry, you will be pleasantly surprised by the resources on this disk. It contains more than 1.5 million records of Connecticut residents prior to 1850. The records include:

From the Barbour Collection:

- 1.2 million records of births, marriages, and deaths from over 135 Connecticut towns
- 300,000 records from cemeteries, probate records, tax records, and family Bibles

In addition to the Barbour Collection, this disk also contains:

- Vital statistics from several Connecticut towns not included by Barbour
- Information gleaned from lists of source records, Bibles, and church records held in the Connecticut State Library at Hartford
- Tombstone transcriptions from over 400 cemeteries which were originally published in "The Connecticut Nutmegger," a publication of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists formerly edited by Jacquelyn Ricker

THE RICKER COMPILATION CD contains records of most individuals in Connecticut from approximately 1633 through 1850 or so, when the state started recording statistics. Most of the records came from town clerks or registrars, although there are other records written by justices of the peace, doctors, clergymen, acquaintances, and family members. Still more records were extracted from baptism, burial, probate, court, and tax records. Finally, this compilation also contains entries from private diaries, family Bibles, church records, personal letters, and more.

I found that I could "page down" through the records, one page at a time, looking for information. However, the disk's built-in search engine is the best method of finding information quickly. You can type in any name or phrase and the search engine will search the entire disk for all occurrences of your search terms.

For instance, I did a search of my own surname. I already knew that many people of that name lived in colonial Connecticut, although none of them were my ancestors. I have never spent much time investigating these families in the outer twigs of my family tree. Yet I simply entered my surname and clicked on SEARCH, and about five seconds later I was reading a list of 196 references to people of that name; each reference listed where the information came from. Not bad for a five-second effort!

Unlike many genealogy CD-ROM disks, I found that it is easy to copy information from THE RICKER COMPILATION on CD-ROM. You can then paste that information into almost any genealogy program or word processor.

Likewise, printing information from this disk was also simple: select FILE, then select PRINT and then select the pages to be printed. One selection is "current page," which probably will be a common chore. Beware of one thing: the default setting is to print all 14,465 pages on this disk. I suspect you will want to change that before clicking on OK!

All in all, THE RICKER COMPILATION CD is an excellent example of the use of technology for researching your ancestry. It contains the equivalent of 14,465 printed pages of very high-quality and well-researched genealogy information. If printed on paper, this information would cost more than \$1,000.00 because of the printing expenses of all the volumes plus another couple of hundred dollars just for a bookcase to hold all this. THE RICKER COMPILATION CD-ROM disk gives you exactly the same information on a half-ounce plastic disk, plus it provides a better method of finding information quickly. All of this is available for \$59.99, much less than the cost of just the required bookcase for printed books. If you have Connecticut ancestry, you want this disk!

THE RICKER COMPILATION CD-ROM will operate on Windows or Macintosh computers of modest computing power. It sells for \$59.99 and is available directly from Genealogical Publishing Company's safe and secure online shopping cart system. http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=7535&NLC-GenPointers1

PAST ISSUES OF "GENEALOGY POINTERS" Now Online

Are you a new subscriber to "Genealogy Pointers" who would like to see what you have been missing? Or, if you've been receiving our e-newsletter for a while, are you receiving every weekly issue? Does your Spam Filter sometimes intercept "Genealogy Pointers"? Have you ever wished you hadn't deleted a back issue? Would you like to have access to some of the excellent how-to articles by the likes of Gordon Remington, William Dollarhide, David Dobson, Martha McCartney, Gary Boyd Roberts, Brent Holcomb, and Virginia Davis that have appeared in past issues?

Regardless of which situation applies to you, you may find a solution at the "Genealogy Pointers" Archives on our website. Our Archives include the text of our most recent "Genealogy Pointers" e-newsletters, minus the special sales and offers available weekly only to subscribers of our free e-newsletter. At any given time, you will find a full year of issues in the "Genealogy Pointers" Archives. All you need to read them is Adobe Acrobat Reader, which can be downloaded off the Archives. It's that simple.

To get your copies of past issues of this e-newsletter, just click on "View Recent Articles" in the middle of our home page at www.genealogical.com.

CONTACT US

www.genealogical.com is the online home of Genealogical Publishing Company and its affiliate, Clearfield Company. For general information about our companies and their products, e-mail us at info@genealogical.com. To order on-line, you may e-mail us at sales@genealogical.com.

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