

GENEALOGY POINTERS (02-20-07)

In This Issue:

"Dollarhide's Genealogy Rules," by William Dollarhide
February CDs Include a Large Collection of Loyalist Records
Plantagenet Ancestry of American Colonists
Featured Books for February

"DOLLARHIDE'S GENEALOGY RULES," by William Dollarhide

Bill Dollarhide has prepared the following 45 amusing pointers for genealogy researchers. While each aphorism is intended to produce a chuckle or two, each contains an important element of genealogical truth as well. Consider Tip #17: "Finding the place where a person lived may lead to finding that person's arrest record." The point of #17: researchers must keep an open mind. No one knows what is around the next bend in one's ancestral road.

We will refer to these "Rules" from time to time in later issues of "Genealogy Pointers." For now, enjoy them and take them to heart.

1. Treat the brothers and sisters of your ancestor as equals, even if some of them were in jail.
2. Death certificates are rarely filled in by the person who died.
3. When visiting a funeral home, wear old clothes, no make-up, and look like you have about a week to live. The funeral director will give you anything you ask for if he thinks you may be a customer soon.
4. The cemetery where your ancestor was buried does not have perpetual care, has no office, is accessible only by a muddy road, has snakes, tall grass, and lots of bugs--and many of the old gravestones are in broken pieces, stacked in a corner under a pile of dirt.
5. A Social Security form SS-5 is better than a birth certificate because few people had anything to do with the information on their own birth certificate.
6. The application for a death certificate you want insists that you provide the maiden name of the deceased's mother, which is exactly what you don't know and is the reason you are trying to get the death certificate in the first place.
7. If you call Social Security and ask where to write for a birth certificate, tell them it is for yourself. They won't help you if you say you want one for your great-great-great-great-great-great grandfather who died in 1642.

8. When you contact your home state's vital statistics office and ask if they are "online" and they respond, "on what?" you may have a problem.
9. An 1850 census record showing all 12 children in a family proves only that your ancestors did not believe in birth control.
10. Work from the known to the unknown. In other words, just because your name is Washington doesn't mean you are related to George.
11. With any luck, some of the people in your family could read and write--and may have left something written about themselves.
12. It ain't history until it's written down. (See #19.)
13. A genealogist needs to be a detective. Just gimme da facts, Ma'am.
14. Always interview brothers and sisters together in the same room. Since they can't agree on anything about the family tree, it makes for great fun to see who throws the first punch.
15. The genealogy book you just found out about went out of print last week.
16. A good genealogical event is learning that your parents really were married.
17. Finding the place where a person lived may lead to finding that person's arrest record.
18. It's really quite simple: first, you start with yourself, then your parents, then your grandparents. Then you QUIT--and start teaching classes in genealogy.
19. If it's not written down, it ain't history yet. (See #12.)
20. In spite of MTV, computer games, or skate boards, there is always a chance that your grandchildren will learn how to read someday.
21. "To understand the living, you have to commune with the dead, but don't commune with the dead so long that you forget that you are living!" (From "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" by John Berendt.)
22. It is a known fact that St. Peter checks all your Family Group Sheets for accuracy before you are allowed to enter the Pearly Gates.
23. Locating the county where your ancestor lived is the first step in finding records about the time he was hauled into court for shooting his neighbor's dog, threatening the census taker with a shotgun, or making illegal corn whiskey behind the barn.

24. A cousin, once removed, may not return.
25. When going to another town for genealogical research, you will always find information on the ancestor for whom you brought no notes.
26. When in a courthouse miles from home, you will always find the breakthrough court record at 4:55pm on Friday afternoon.
27. Research in one county that leads you to information in another county will only be revealed on the last day of your vacation.
28. The tombstone you want to find is always located in the extreme opposite corner of the cemetery from where you started your search.
29. The page on the census where your ancestor's town was enumerated has no page number.
30. That cemetery in Missouri where your great-grandparents were buried is now called Interstate 70.
31. The 1892 newspaper article describing your ancestor as a child winning the grade school spelling bee will misspell her name.
32. Your ancestor will be featured in the county history because he was the first prisoner in the new jail.
33. Your ancestor moved frequently and sold all of his property to his children before he died to avoid probate.
34. The query you found in an old magazine was placed by an unknown cousin--who died two years ago.
35. The courthouse containing the information crucial to your research is always closed for renovation on the day you arrive.
36. The roll of microfilm you need for county research is the only roll in the drawer that has been sent out for repair earlier that day.
37. The post office shown on the census page where your ancestors are listed is for a town that does not appear on any known map ever published.
38. The oldest living person in the county has never heard of your ancestor, who lived there years ago.
39. Genealogy is the examination of the maximum amount of data in the maximum amount of time for a minimum result.

40. If you find a query in an old periodical giving two related names for which you are searching, it will be a query that you placed yourself four years ago and forgot about.
41. You always receive more e-mail about your ancestors the day before you are scheduled to go on vacation.
42. If you took family group sheets to the last wedding you attended, you are probably an addicted genealogist.
43. If you can remember your ancestors' marriage dates but not your own, you probably are an addicted genealogist.
44. Genealogy is an addiction with no cure and for which no 12-step program is available.
45. I'm crazy about genealogy, but not necessarily yours.

=====

FEBRUARY CDs Include a Large Collection of Loyalist Records

LOYALISTS IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Historians estimate that at the outset of the Revolutionary War in 1775 one-third of the American population were Patriots, one-third were neutral, and one-third actively supported the British Crown. The term "Loyalist" is generally applied to this last group of colonists. Also called "Tories," Loyalists came from all social classes and occupations and--whether they fought alongside British regulars, or German mercenaries, or worked behind the lines to abet the Redcoats--are reckoned to have played an important role in hobbling the Patriot effort. If you are on the trail of a Revolutionary-era ancestor but have not as yet found him/her, you may wish to consider the possibility that he/she was a Loyalist.

The 13 volumes of records produced in this Family Archive CD comprise some of the most useful works ever published on Revolutionary War Loyalists, varying from land records to pension records, from orderly books to diaries, from recruitment lists, muster rolls, and pay lists to biographies and lists of United Empire Loyalists. These volumes variously provide the following information: name, country or place of origin, occupation, names of family members and friends, location and value of confiscated property, civilian service rendered during the war, military service (rank, company, regiment, place of service, dates of enlistment and discharge, etc.), date of migration, place of settlement, certificates, petitions and claims for compensation, evidence of character, statements of witnesses, and a host of other details that could lead the researcher to a Loyalist ancestor.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=7144

Those of you who prefer to do your research with CD technology can also choose from four other terrific products this month. These CDs consist of images of the pages of multiple reference works representing the best sources on their subject(s). Coverage extends to the British or Irish origins of American colonists, genealogies of pioneering North Carolina families, and hard-to-find biographies of New Jersey antecedents. Each of these products is searchable and fully indexed, and every one represents a terrific savings over the cost of its component volumes.

IRISH IMMIGRANTS to North America (Low in stock)

This Family Archive CD is composed of 10 volumes of Irish passenger lists naming approximately 60,000 immigrants, the earliest list dating from 1735, the latest from 1871. The majority of these lists derive from homegrown Irish sources. In fact, the Irish generally did not maintain emigration records, so prior to the 1890s such information is woefully spare. It is highly unlikely that the researcher would have access to all of the information found on this CD, which is here presented at a fraction of the cost of the books upon which it is based.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=7257

ENGLISH ORIGINS of New England Families

This Family Archive CD contains hundreds of articles that were originally published in "The New England Historical and Genealogical Register" and subsequently collected and reprinted by GPC in six volumes under the title, "English Origins of New England Families." Treating over 1,500 families and referencing 150,000 individuals, this work contains all the immigrant-origin data published in the first 137 volumes of the prestigious "Register." It is interesting to note that almost all living Americans with colonial Yankee forebears descend from several of the 1,500 immigrants covered in this work.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=7181

EARLY NORTH CAROLINA SETTLERS

Comprising a basic library of North Carolina genealogy, this Family Archive CD consists of numerous volumes of marriage records, death records, land records, historical sketches, and biographies, and it names some 200,000 individuals who lived in North Carolina during the 1700s and 1800s. Combining personal recollections and biographies with source records and local histories, this CD contains a perfect blend of genealogical records and family history easily accessed by a single electronic index. Among the unique resources assembled here is the famous periodical edited by James Hathaway, the

"North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register," which contains 2,000 pages crammed with data on North Carolina's Old Albemarle region.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=7524

NEW JERSEY BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX

This Family Archive CD contains the "New Jersey Biographical Index" by Donald A. Sinclair, a comprehensive finding-aid for 100,000 New Jersey biographies. The INDEX includes biographical information from 237 collective sources, such as encyclopedias, histories with biographical components, certain annual reports and other serials, selected periodicals, and other collective biographical sources.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=7190

=====

PLANTAGENET ANCESTRY of American Colonists

The Plantagenet line of English kings began in 1154 with Henry II. The grandson of Henry I, Henry Plantagenet was the son of Matilda of England (the elder Henry's daughter) and the powerful French prince, Geoffrey Plantagenet, fourth Count of Anjou. It was Henry II who introduced the 12-man jury system of justice, thereby dispensing with the practice of trial by ordeal. He is perhaps better known for his conflict with former friend Thomas a Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury appointed by Henry and allegedly killed by Henry's assassins. The early Plantagenet kings are associated with the medieval Crusades (Richard I, d. 1199), the signing of the Magna Charta (John, d. 1216), the development of English common law, and the ruinous 100 Years War with France (Edward I, Edward II, and Edward III). Following the death of Edward III in 1377, the Plantagenet line divided into the warring houses of York and Lancaster. These "Later Plantagenets" vied for power until 1485, when Henry (Tudor) VII ascended to the throne following his defeat of Richard III (of Shakespearean fame) at the conclusion of the Wars of the Roses.

Would you like to learn if one of your ancestors was descended from the Plantagenets? If so, the first place to look is our book, **PLANTAGENET ANCESTRY: A Study in Colonial and Medieval Families**, by Douglas Richardson.

Mr. Richardson's contribution to royal genealogy documents lines of descent (legitimate and illegitimate) for approximately 185 17th-century North American colonists from the dynasty that ruled England from 1154 to 1485. It features hundreds of biographical sketches as well as more than 14,000 citations to published materials, making it the most documented sourcebook of its kind. **PLANTAGENET ANCESTRY** also features scores of remarkable discoveries that are certain to change the ancestry charts of many living Americans.

Mr. Gary Boyd Roberts, an expert in royal and noble genealogy in his own right, has described PLANTAGENET ANCESTRY as the "genealogy book of a century" and the "base on which all future scholarship in the field must rest." The successor to a 1996 publication with a similar title by the late David Faris, Mr. Richardson's massive work (8 1/2" x 11," 946 pages, hardcover) has to be seen to be believed!

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=4894

=====

FEATURED BOOKS for February

Our February releases include an important new book by Peter Wilson Coldham, "North American Wills Registered in London, 1611-1857." Mr. Coldham has consolidated all references to several thousand English persons who relocated to North America and whose wills were proved before the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in London between 1611 and 1857.

Native American researchers will be pleased to learn that Jeff Bowen has begun a new series of transcriptions based on a census of Eastern Cherokees conducted between 1923 and 1929. Volume I, covering the years 1923 to 1924, comes on the heels of Bowen's earlier four-volume series on the Eastern Cherokees spanning the period 1915 to 1922. Two extraordinary works of Native Americana are back in print this month as well: John Swanton's classic survey, "The Indian Tribes of North America," and the all-important two-volume "Final Rolls of Citizens and Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes in Indian Territory," based on the findings of the Dawes Commission.

Other February reprints of standard genealogy references include Elizabeth Mills' unimpeachable textbook for serious researchers, "Professional Genealogy," three volumes pertaining to Virginia ancestors, a scarce book on early settlers of the Bahamas, Donna Irish's authoritative collection of Pennsylvania-German marriage records, and still other works on Mohawk Valley [NY] ancestry, Washington County, Ohio, marriages, Irish settlement in North America, and a number of southern pedigrees.

Following is a complete list of our featured titles for February. Immediately below is a link to the page on our website where you'll find short descriptions of each:

http://www.genealogical.com/content/products_new_genealogy.html

North American Wills Registered in London, 1611-1857

Professional Genealogy: A Manual for Researchers, Writers, Editors, Lecturers, and Librarians

The Final Rolls of Citizens and Freedmen of the Five Civilized Tribes in Indian Territory [and] Index to the Final Rolls

The Indian Tribes of North America

Eastern Cherokee Census, Cherokee, NC, 1923-1929. Volume I

Huguenot Emigration to Virginia

A History of the Irish Settlers of North America

A Key to Southern Pedigrees
John Smith's Map of Virginia
Early Settlers of the Bahamas & Colonists of North America
The Book of Names, Especially Relating to the Mohawk Valley
Pennsylvania German Marriages
Washington County, Ohio Marriages, 1789-1840
A Place Apart: A Brief History of the Early Williamson Road and North
Roanoke Valley

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 online, 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