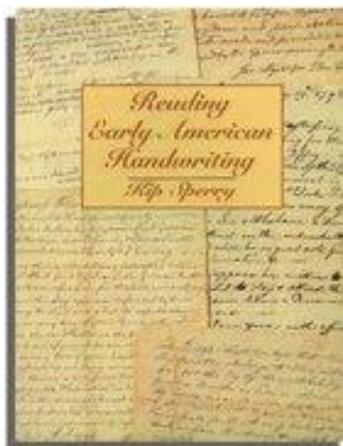


## IN THIS WEEK'S ISSUE:

- ***Deciphering Old English Handwriting***
- ***Adventurers of Purse and Person. Three-Volume Cutting Edge of Colonial VA Genealogy -- Save big on the E-Book Version through 2/8/18***

### Deciphering Old English Handwriting



Just about anyone who takes genealogy seriously is destined to face the challenge of reading original (or microfilm copies of) records written in an unfamiliar cursive style. If your research takes you back to at least the 19th century, you'll encounter census records, wills, deeds, and multifarious other records that you'll strain to decipher. Records from the colonial period will elicit a double-take if you've never seen them before. You'll run into "ff" where you might expect an f," and an "f" will actually stand for "s." The ancient abbreviation "Maps" should be read as "Mass" for Massachusetts. The letters "U" and "V," as well as "u" and "v," were used interchangeably. On the whole, the following lowercase letters are most difficult to read, especially in 17th-century documents: "c," "e," "h," "r," "s," and "t."

Once you've figured out what the letters are, you'll need to bone up on old abbreviations for terms in common usage today. For instance, "o.s.p." is short for "died without issue." "Yt" stands for "that." "Als" signifies an "alias." "D.v.m." means "died while mother was living," while "d.s.p." also means "died without issue." Did you know that "B.L.W." means bounty land warrant, or that "do" was short for "ditto, or the same as above," a notation you'll encounter repeatedly in census records?

The challenges don't end there. One has to learn to decipher numerals as well as letters. Even after you get familiar with a certain era's lettering, you may find that what was conventional in 1700 is unrecognizable 50 years earlier. Then, of course, there is the problem of individual styles of writing.

For the novice, decoding early handwriting can be an intimidating task. If you are a beginner, you may wish to get your hands on Kip Sperry's excellent handbook, [\*Reading Early American Handwriting\*](#), the best tool we know of for teaching you how to read and understand the handwriting found in documents commonly used in genealogical research. This guide explains techniques for reading early American documents, provides samples of alphabets and letter forms, and defines commonly used terms and abbreviations. Perhaps best of all, the volume presents numerous examples of early American records for the reader to work with. Arranged by degree of difficulty, from the relatively easy-to-read documents of the 19th century to those of the 17th, the documents showcase examples of handwriting styles, letter forms, abbreviations, and

terminology typically found in early American records. Each document--there are nearly 100 of them at various stages of complexity--appears with the author's transcription on a facing page, enabling the reader to check his/her own transcription. This strategy allows the researcher to attain proficiency in reading the documents at a natural rate of progression.

Listen to what the experts have to say about [\*Reading Early American Handwriting\*](#): "The further back in time our research takes us, the more 'plain English' looks like a foreign language. That's why Sperry's 'plain English' guide to not-so-plain English writing is an absolute basic book for every genealogical shelf," says Elizabeth Shown Mills, CG, FASG. According to the "National Genealogical Society Quarterly," "'Reading Early American Handwriting' is a timeless reference whose value will increase as more early-American documents become available to researchers of many disciplines."

If you're planning to consult original records of the 19th, 18th, or 17th century, or earlier, we encourage you to let [\*Reading Early American Handwriting\*](#) be your guide.

[View "\*Reading Early American Handwriting\*"](#)

***Adventurers of Purse and Person***  
***Three-Volume Cutting Edge of Colonial VA Genealogy***  
**Save a Bundle on the E-Book Version**  
Sale prices expire 11:59 PM, EST, Thursday, February 8th, 2018

Membership in the Order of First Families of Virginia, which is by invitation, is limited to lineal descendants of someone who aided in the establishment of the first permanent English colony--Virginia, 1607-1624/5. All such members are in the direct line of either (1) stockholders in the Virginia Company who came to Virginia between 1607 and 1625 and had progeny, or did not come to Virginia but had grandchildren who did; or (2) immigrants to Virginia between the years in question who left descendants. The first group is referred to as "Adventurers of Purse"; the second, "Adventurers of Person." A grand total of 109 individuals have been authenticated in both categories.

Since its establishment in 1912, the Order of First Families of Virginia has striven "to promote historical, biographical, and genealogical researches concerning Virginia history during the period when she was the only one of the thirteen original colonies." The Order has collected genealogical information on an ongoing basis; however, its principal mechanism for disseminating this early 17th-century Virginia genealogical scholarship has been through its book, *Adventurers of Purse and Person, 1607-1624/5*. First issued in 1956, this work had gone through three editions by 1987. In 2007, to mark the 400th anniversary of the founding of colonial Jamestown, the Order asked John Frederick Dorman, its official genealogist and the leading authority on colonial Virginia ancestry, to prepare a fourth edition.

While the first three editions covered four generations of Virginia founding families, the fourth edition expands the coverage to six--a monumental achievement. The sheer scope of the new edition required that it be published in three large, indexed volumes.

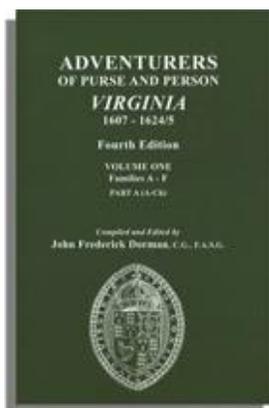
The foundation of *Adventurers of Purse and Person* is the famous "Muster" of January-February 1624/25--essentially a census taken by the Royal Commission, which succeeded the Virginia Company, to determine the extent and composition of the Jamestown settlements. The Muster, which is reproduced in entirety in Volume One, names about 1,200 persons, of whom approximately 150 are shown in this work to have left descendants to the sixth generation. In addition to the Muster, this work builds on the investigations of dozens of scholars, correcting, revising, and supplementing the best genealogical scholarship of the past half century. New discoveries, newly available information, and a further reevaluation of evidence concerning previously accepted relationships have led, in some instances, to wholesale changes in the accepted genealogies.

Whereas Volume One concerned 52 families from A through F, Volume Two covers 51 families, beginning with letters G through P, that were established either by settlers of Virginia prior to 1625 or by members of the Virginia Company whose descendants came to Virginia later. Volume Two identifies 7,684 individual descendants resident in Virginia (or subsequently in other states), and its index contains 20,000 name, place, and subject entries. Volume Three focuses (G-Z) concentrates on 46 main families possessing about 6,500 individual descendants, and boasts an index of 20,000 names.

Suffice it to say, if you are into 17th-century Virginia ancestry, it doesn't get any better than *Adventurers of Purse and Person*. Genealogical Publishing Company is honored to be the publisher of this fourth edition of a work that is nothing less than the bedrock of colonial Virginia genealogy.

Even better, we have dropped the price on each volume in this collection more than 50% below the price of the printed version. Moreover, you can access any of these books from your computer, tablet, or mobile phone anytime and anywhere you want. **You will never see *Adventurers of Purse or Person* priced this inexpensively. Sale prices expire in 72 hours, at 11:59 PM EDT, this Thursday, February 8, 2018!**

**For more information about *Adventurers of Purse and Person* and this terrific e-book offer, please scroll down!**



### ***Volume One, Families A-F***

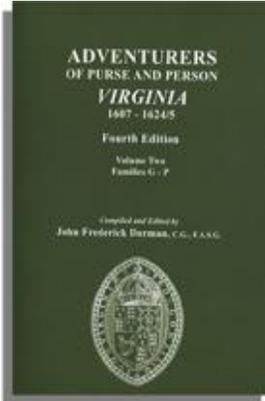
The first volume covers founding families alphabetically from A-F and includes the following: Andrews, Bagwell, Baley-Cocke, Barkham-Jenings, Barne, Bates, Bayly, Beheathland, Bennett (Edward), Bennett (Samuel), Bennett-Chapman, Bernard, Bibby, Bickley, Bland, Boyce, Boyle-Mountney, Branch, Buck, Burwell, Bush, Calthorpe, Calvert, Carsley, Carter, Chaplaine, Chew, Chisman, Claiborne, Clay, Clements, Cobb, Codrington, Cole, Cope, Cox, Crew, Croshaw, Crump, Curtis, Davis, Dawson, Delk, Digges, Edloe, Epes, Evelyn, Farrar, Fisher, Fleet, Flood, and Freeman.

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### ***Volume Two, Families G-P***

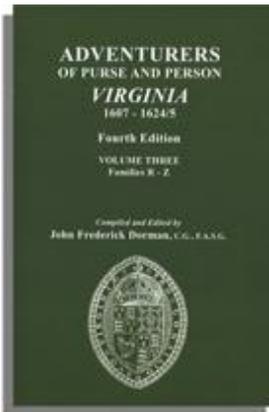
Volume Two covers the families: Gaither, Gaskins, Gilbert, Gookin, Gosnold, Granger, Graves, Gray Grendon, Gundry, Hallom, Hampton, Hansford, Harris (John), Harris (Thomas), Harwood, Holt, Hooe, Hopkins, Johnson-Travis, Jordan (Samuel), Jordan (Thomas), Kent, Kingsmill, Knott, Laydon, Lloyd, Lovelace-Gorsuch, Lukin, Lupo, Macock, Martiau, Mason, Mathews, Menefie, Montague, Moone, Moore, Offley, O'Neil-Robins, Osborne, Pace, Parramore, Pead, Peirce, Peirse, Perry, Pierce-Bennett, Price, Price-Llewellyn, and Purifoy.

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### ***Volume Three, Families R-Z***

The third and final volume covers the families: Reynolds, Robins, Rolfe, Rookings, Royall, St. Leger, Salter-Weld, Savage, Scarborough, Sharp, Sharp-Baugh, Sheppey, Slaughter, Smith (Arthur), Smith (Richard), Smith (Roger), Southey-Harmar-Littleton, Spencer, Stephens, Strachey, Swann, Tatum, Taylor-Cary, Thorowgood, Tooke, Townshend, Trussell, Utie, Utie-Bennett, Vassall, Waters, West, West (Anthony), Whiting, Wilkins, Williams, Willoughby, Wood, Woodhouse, Woodliffe, Woodson, Woodward, Wroughton, Wyatt, Yeardeley, and Zouche.

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