

Genealogy Pointers (04-05-11)

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New Releases and Featured Titles for April

This month we are announcing new books by some of our most prolific authors. Vernon Skinner has prepared, would you believe, Volume XXX in his series of abstracts from the Testamentary Proceedings of the Maryland Prerogative Court, taking the records up to 1758. The records of the Scottish Episcopal Church, for the most part, did not survive its disestablishment and the 100 years of persecution its members faced following the Glorious Revolution. Fortunately, Dr. David Dobson has now come forward with surrogate records for at least 2,000 Scots-Presbyterians for that period. The industrious Jeff Bowen has transcribed the Delaware Roll of 1898, which identifies the nearly 1,000 Delaware claimants and their families living on Cherokee land in Oklahoma at that time. Finally, Lizabeth W. Papageorgiou continues her efforts to make available the scarce sources for Orange County, Virginia, with her study of constables and tobacco planters from 1735-1769.

Probably the most noteworthy aspect of our April reprints is the number of multi-volume works we have put back to press. Besides the superb five-volume *Genealogies of Virginia Families from the Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* and Samuel Lewis' two-volume *Topographical Dictionary of Ireland*, readers can choose from multi-volume titles pertaining to Bucks County, PA; the Upper Monongahela Valley, WV; Lunenburg County and Southside, VA; and Wilkes County, Georgia. Still other reprints concern Vermont soldiers of the War of 1812, Pennsylvania marriages prior to 1790, the history of Kentucky, and Virginia and Virginians.

Following is a complete list of our featured titles for April. 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

- [Scots Episcopalians at Home and Abroad, 1689-1800](#), by David Dobson
- [Complete Delaware Roll of 1898](#), by Jeff Bowen
- [Abstracts of the Testamentary Proceedings of the Prerogative Court of Maryland. Volume XXIX: 1755-1758. Libers 36 \(pp.208-end\), 37 \(pp. 1-144\)](#), by Vernon L. Skinner, Jr.

- [Constables and Tobacco Planters in Orange County, Virginia, 1735-1769](#), by Lizabeth Ward Papageorgiou
- [State of Vermont: Roster of Soldiers in the War of 1812-14](#), by Herbert T. Johnson
- [A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland](#), by Samuel Lewis
- [Pennsylvania Marriages Prior to 1790. Names of Persons for Whom Marriage Licenses Were Issued in the Province of Pennsylvania Previous to 1790](#), by John B. Linn & William H. Egle
- [A Genealogical and Personal History of Bucks County, Pennsylvania](#), by William W. H. Davis
- [Genealogical and Personal History of the Upper Monongahela Valley, West Virginia](#), by Bernard L. Butcher
- [History of Kentucky Embracing . . . Incidents of Pioneer Life, and Nearly Five Hundred Biographical Sketches of Distinguished Pioneers, Soldiers, Statesmen, Jurists, Lawyers, Surgeons . . . Etc.](#), by Lewis Collins and Richard H. Collins
- [Genealogies of Virginia Families from the Virginia Magazine of History and Biography](#)
- [The Old Free State. A Contribution to the History of Lunenburg County and Southside Virginia](#), by Landon C. Bell
- [Virginia and Virginians](#), by Robert Alonzo Brock & Virginia A. Lewis
- [Early Records of Georgia: Wilkes County](#), by Grace Gillam Davidson

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**"Revolutionary War Pension Records Restored, Consolidated, and Explained. Part One,"
by Lloyd de Witt Bockstruck**

Editor's Note: Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck's groundbreaking new book, [Revolutionary War Pensions Awarded by State Governments 1775-1874, the General and Federal Governments Prior to 1814, and by Private Acts of Congress to 1905](#), identifies and recreates the Revolutionary War pension files generated prior to the disastrous fire in the War Department on 8 November 1800, and a second and even more disastrous fire on 24 August 1814 with the British invasion of Washington. Mr. Bockstruck has not only identified many of those pensioners whose files are commonly believed to have been lost but also reconstructed in varying degrees their contents. More than 16,500 pensioners are featured in this work. The Introduction to Mr. Bockstruck's book is a bibliographical essay that both explains the legislative and archival history of the Revolutionary War pensions and identifies the existing sources--primarily the pension records of the Original Thirteen States and various Congressional sources—that the author utilized in this massive attempt at evidentiary reconstruction. This article, published in two parts, is excerpted from that Introduction. Be sure to read the April 12th issue of "Genealogy

Pointers" for the conclusion to the article.

Revolutionary War Pensions Awarded by State Governments 1775-1874, the General and Federal Governments Prior to 1814, and by Private Acts of Congress to 1905 is an attempt to identify and recreate the Revolutionary War pension files generated prior to the disastrous fires of 8 November 1800, and 24 August 1814, during the British invasion of Washington, D.C. The second fire effectively eliminated all of the pension files from 1776 to 1814. Despite these record losses, it has been possible not only to identify many of those pensioners whose files are commonly believed to have been irretrievably lost but also to reconstitute in varying degrees their contents.

Among the largely overlooked sources used to do so were the pension records generated by the governments of each of the Thirteen Original States. The state governments had their own programs and in varying degrees preserved many of their pension files. The private acts of Congress are another major source utilized to recreate the missing pension files. Both of these sources may supplement or complement the records in the regular Revolutionary War pension series, micro-publication M804, *Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land-Warrant Applications Files*, 2,360 rolls.

The earliest authorization for Revolutionary War pension files was by the resolution of 26 August 1776 of the Continental Congress. Because the Continental Congress was without money and any real executive power, it had to rely upon the individual states to implement and fund the pension programs. Congress could do no more than make the recommendation. Each state was responsible for determining eligibility and for granting final approval of each applicant from within its borders. The amount of the pension was either half-pay for life or during the disability of the officer, soldier, or sailor who had lost a limb or had been disabled in the service so as to be rendered incapable of earning a livelihood.

At the national level *The Papers of the Continental Congress, 1774–1789*, micro-publication M247, 204 rolls, and *Miscellaneous Papers of the Continental Congress, 1774–1789*, micro-publication M332, 10 rolls, include a significant amount of material pertaining to individual pensioners. John P. Butler's five-volume index, *The Papers of the Continental Congress, 1774–1789* (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration, 1978) provides access to these records. In addition the thirty-four volume set, the *Journals of the Continental Congress 1774–1789* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1904–37) is equally valuable. Access to the latter is provided by Kenneth E. Harris and Stevens D. Tilley's *Index: Journals of the Continental Congress 1774–1789* (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration, 1976).

Central Treasury Records of the Continental and Confederation Governments Relating to Military Affairs, 1775–1789, micro-publication T1015, 7 rolls, contains important financial records anent Revolutionary War pensioners. On the last roll are the ledgers of pension payments made to Revolutionary War invalids, widows, and orphans of Pennsylvania for the period 1785–1804.

The eight-volume set *Documentary History of the First Federal Congress of the United States of America, March 4, 1789–March 3, 1791* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1972 ff.) is also useful. *The Public Statutes at Large of the United States of America* (Boston: Charles C. Little and James Brown, 1848) I, 454–58, giving the names, ranks, and percentage of pensioners paid by the Secretary of War in 1796, expands the list of identifiable pensioners.

Veterans and their next of kin unable to qualify under statutory authorized pensions resorted to private acts by Congress. *Unbound Records of the U.S. House of Representatives, 10th Congress, 1807–1809*, micro-publication M1711, 10 rolls, contains a number of petitions of that ilk.

Supplementing the published sources is the online database *Papers of the War Department, 1784–1800*, created by the Center for History and New Media at George Mason University by bringing together 55,000 documents from more than 200 depositories and 3,000 collections. The documents have been digitized. It does suffer from some misinterpretations of forenames and surnames.

There were a number of pension acts after the one of 1776. The next was that of 15 May 1778, which authorized

half-pay for seven years to all officers who remained in Continental service to the end of the war. It did not apply to foreign officers or officers above the rank of colonel. It also provided a gratuity of \$80 to every enlisted man who served to the end of the war. The states were to make the payments on account with the United States. The act of 24 August 1780 extended the half-pay provision to widows or orphan children of officers who had died or would die in the service.

Following the resignation of 160 officers between January and October 1780, Congress addressed the problem of a lack of pensions. By the Resolve of 21 October 1780, all officers who continued to the end of the war should be entitled to half-pay for life. Congress did not, however, make any funds available to implement the program. On 23 April 1782 soldiers who were sick or wounded and were reported unfit for duty in the field or garrison were to be pensioned at the rate of \$5 per month. The states were to dispense the funds annually and to draw upon the Superintendent of Finance for the money advanced. On 22 March 1783 Congress authorized full-pay for invalid officers for no more than five years or half-pay for life.

After the war, on 7 June 1785, Congress provided half-pay pensions for commissioned officers so disabled as to be wholly incapable of earning a livelihood. Non-commissioned officers and privates were to receive \$5 per month. Each state was to appoint officers to examine the evidence of the claimants, admit claims, and make the pension payments. The amounts expended were to be deducted from each state's quota. Each state was to transmit annually to the Secretary of War a listing of each invalid, pay, age, service, and disability. On 11 June 1788 Congress imposed a time limit of six months for people to apply and produce the requisite certificates and evidence.

With the creation of the federal government in 1789, Congress provided that the federal government—rather than the individual states—should bear the responsibility of paying the pensions under the Resolve of 26 August 1776. The law was valid for a year, but it was later extended. It should be noted that there was not a complete transfer of pensions from the states to the federal roll. On 23 March 1792 applicants for invalid pensions could submit their requests directly to the federal government except for the state of South Carolina. The Palmetto State's position was unique. It was not until 1803 that the federal government paid pensions to South Carolinians. There were 1,472 invalid pensioners of whom 1,358 were noncommissioned officers and privates.

On 3 March 1805 Congress extended benefits to those with wounds received in military service and who had become and continued to be disabled and unable to procure a subsistence by manual labor. This was the first time that disabilities and ills later in life were the result of wounds claimants received in the service. The most generous pension legislation came on 10 April 1806 when Congress repealed all previous acts and extended coverage to all classes of claimants including volunteers, militia, and state troops. Disability had to be due to wounds received in the line of duty and must have rendered the applicant wholly or partially unable to procure a subsistence by manual labor. Desertion was a bar to a claim.

On 25 April 1808 Congress directed the Secretary of War to place all persons on the federal pension list who remained on the pension lists of any of the states in consequence of wounds received in the war. It was not possible for someone to claim a pension from both a state and the federal government. Recognition of this situation is indicated by the oath required of every applicant that "He hereby relinquishes every claim whatever to a pension or annuity, except the present, and he declares that his name is not on the Pension Roll of any Agency in any State, or (if any) only that of the Agency in the State of ____." Federal pensions were larger than those paid by the states so any informed veteran sought to be transferred to the federal roll when he could demonstrate eligibility. A number of those who transferred to the federal rolls were later stricken from the rolls. Finding themselves in much distress, they were forced to reapply to their home states for the resumption of their state pensions. The states were seemingly more understanding of their plight and were less stringent about the burden of proof on the part of the applicant.
[End of Part One]

For more information about *Revolutionary War Pensions Awarded by State Governments 1775-1874, the General and Federal Governments Prior to 1814, and by Private Acts of Congress to 1905* please go to the following URL:

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=492

Another Important Revolutionary War Source by Lloyd Bockstruck

[Revolutionary War Bounty Land Grants Awarded by State Governments](#)

After the Revolutionary War, nine state governments awarded land bounties to their Revolutionary War veterans (or their survivors) in return for their military or other service. The nine states that awarded bounty lands in their western reserves or on their western borders (directly affecting the future states of Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Ohio, and Tennessee) are Connecticut, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Virginia. Unlike the federal bounty land records, however, these state records are not centralized; instead, they are found in the various states in the form of manuscript records and printed books and are all but inaccessible to the researcher. The nine state governments created a patchwork of records, and it was therefore no easy task to create this master index. Typically, however, each entry in this index contains the name of the claimant, who is usually the veteran, the state of service, the rank held, the date of the record, and the acreage. Altogether about 35,000 names appear in the index, including duplicates. While the arrangement of matter is strictly alphabetical, there is also a separate index to heirs, representatives, and other assignees mentioned in the records.

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Sale on Three CDs that Might Pleasantly Surprise You!

You can save \$15 apiece on the following CDs until 11:59 p.m. EDT, Thursday, April 7, 2011. Like all the CDs in our collection, these feature indexes to the tens or hundreds of thousands of names found thereon. In each case the CD is composed of the page images of the core reference books that make it up. What is somewhat unusual about these CDs is that they have the potential to enable researchers to vault the brick wall standing between them and their ancestor(s). Read on for details, but remember to act before these great sale prices expire.

[American Source Records in England](#)

We'll assume that you're hoping to bridge the Atlantic with your colonial immigrant ancestor. You've looked at countless collections of ships' passenger lists (and if you haven't, you should check our extraordinary collection at http://www.genealogical.com/search_gen.asp?Cat_ID=IM), only to come up empty-handed. Now you're wondering if there is any hope of tracing your British ancestry without the passenger record. Fortunately, CD collections such as this one hold out some hope. Most of the dozen or so books included on this Family Archive CD deal with wills and administrations of people who either died in America leaving property in England, or who are mentioned in a will that was proved in an English court. During the colonial period in particular, thousands of Englishmen who had immigrated to America died while still in possession of assets in England. While several books included on this CD deal with church records or ships' passenger lists, the ones that treat wills and administrations demonstrate that American connections abroad could help you establish proof of relationships between England and America, thereby closing the gap between continents and generations.

Was \$39.99 Now \$24.99

[Loyalists in the American Revolution](#)

Suppose family legend has it that your missing ancestor was living in America around the time of the Revolution. After searching among Revolutionary War service records, you come up blank. Your next step might be to look for him in Loyalist records, including those deposited in Canadian and British archives. By some estimates Loyalists (persons who took the side of George III) made up as much as one-third of the colonial population, and their cause was strongest in Georgia, the Carolinas, Pennsylvania, and New York. The thirteen volumes of records produced on this Family Archive CD cover a broad spectrum of information pertaining to the identification of individual Loyalists. These volumes variously provide the following information: name, country or place of origin, occupation, names of family members and friends, civilian service rendered during the war, military service, date of migration, place of settlement, claims for compensation, and a host of other details that could lead the researcher to a Loyalist ancestor.

Was \$39.99 Now \$24.99

[English Settlers in Barbados, 1637-1800](#)

This Family Archive CD contains images of the pages of six volumes of Barbados baptisms, marriages, and probate records. Naming some 200,000 individuals of English origin, it is very likely that the majority of persons residing in Barbados between 1637 and 1800 are identified here. One of them might be your missing ancestor. (Please see the next article in this issue for an explanation of Barbados's importance for North American ancestry.)

Was \$39.99 Now \$24.99

Tracing Barbados Ancestors

Barbados is the easternmost of the Caribbean islands. When the first English explorers landed there in 1625, they found it to be uninhabited, having been abandoned by its Native American settlers a century earlier. England settled Barbados in 1627 and, owing to the success of the sugar industry there, would continue to rule it until 1966.

By the 1650s, sugar had made the island the wealthiest colony in the British Empire. Fortunes were to be made there, and a variety of immigrants arrived--from sons of the wealthy to indentured servants. Convicts and political rebels were dispatched to Barbados, and the insatiable need for labor on the island's plantations gave rise to a profitable Atlantic trade in African slaves.

Not everyone who settled or was born in Barbados was destined to live his/her entire life there. Throughout the colonial period, for example, owing to the slave trade, tropical climate, the fortune-hunting mentality behind much of its settlement, and other factors, many of Barbados's early settlers grew disenchanted. Farmers, former servants, and Africans and African Americans (by virtue of the slave trade) found their way to other Caribbean islands and the Americas--sometimes without mention of their origins. The foundation of the South Carolina rice industry, after mid-century, was built on the importation not only of slave laborers from Barbados but the colony's very own slave code. Other islanders immigrated to New England or the middle colonies, responding to opportunities created by the triangular trade between North America,

Europe or Africa, and the West Indies, as well as by the promise of cheap, abundant land. A century later, no less a figure in American independence and early governance than Alexander Hamilton was born in Barbados. Following full emancipation in Barbados in 1838, thousands of former slaves headed for Trinidad, British Guiana, Suriname, and Panama. By the 1920s the U.S. had become the most popular destination.

These aspects of Barbadian emigration, compounded by the difficulty in locating certain kinds of records, have created the need for a comprehensive guide to Barbadian genealogy, a need now met by genealogist Geraldine Lane's book, [Tracing Ancestors in Barbados: A Practical Guide](#).

Tracing Ancestors in Barbados covers all segments of Barbadian society, from the planter families to indentured servants and the tens of thousands of Africans brought in as slaves. It is designed to guide the reader through the many types of records and published sources that chronicle the lives of the people of Barbados. Ms. Lane's book runs the gamut of genealogical sources, including: records of birth, baptism, marriage, death, and burial; Catholic, Jewish, and non-conformist records; census records and other lists of people; wills, letters of administration, and inventories; gravestones and cemetery records; newspapers and directories; deeds and powers of attorney; plantation and land ownership records; military records; immigration and emigration records; slave records; secondary sources such as *The Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society* and *Caribbeana*; and much, much more. Ms. Lane also discusses the impact of the Internet and DNA evidence on Barbadian family history.

In short, here is expert work that will ground the novice in the basics of Barbadian family history AND enlighten the experienced researcher about sources he/she has never considered. Illustrated, complete with a glossary, appendices and index, and modestly priced, *Tracing Ancestors in Barbados* is the one tool you will need to discover those elusive forebears from Barbados.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=3282

Of Related Interest:

[Genealogies of Barbados Families](#)

Records of Barbados families exist in a variety of places. Indeed, a great many were published in the turn-of-the-20th-century journals *Caribbeana* and *The Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society*. This present work contains every article pertaining to family history ever published in these journals. The combined articles, reprinted here in facsimile, range from conventional genealogies and pedigrees to will abstracts and Bible records, and they refer to some 15,000 persons, all of whom are listed in the index.

[Omitted Chapters from Hotten's *Original Lists of Persons of Quality*](#)

Based on parish registers, censuses, and militia lists found in the Public Record Office in London, this work identifies 6,500 immigrants who settled on Barbados before planting new roots on the North American mainland and who are not listed in John Camden Hotten's classic work, *Original Lists of Persons of Quality*.

[Barbados and Scotland Links, 1627-1877](#)

Drawing upon a wide range of manuscript and published sources originating in Barbados, Scotland, England, the Netherlands, and the U.S., the author here identifies about 2,500 Scots or their progeny who made their way to Barbados. Most of these emigrants left Scotland in the 17th and 18th centuries. Since vital records comprise a large number of the sources for this book, most Scots are identified by name, date/place of birth, baptism, marriage, or death; name of spouse or parents; and, sometimes, occupation, reason for transportation, ship, religious or political persuasion, miscellaneous pieces of information, and the source.

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Blog: Scrapbooking Your Genealogy

Scrapbooking and genealogy are natural partners. Scrapbooks provide an opportunity for you to tell your family's story and bring people, events, and places to life, preserving them for your entire family through many generations. This week Carolyn Barkley discusses the potentials of scrapbooking your genealogy in our blog, www.genealogyandfamilyhistory.com. Be sure to check it out!

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