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GENEALOGY POINTERS (05-27-08)

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"DESCRIBING YOUR ANCESTORS' SETTING," by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack

[Editor's Note: The following article is excerpted from Sharon Carmack's book, **YOU CAN WRITE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY**. In this article, the author gives you a few simple pointers for writing a family history that brings to life the time in which your ancestors lived. This article describes the many considerations that go into making a good family history narrative and how any one of us can produce one with the aid of a book like Ms. Carmack's.]

I was born in Port Chester, New York, in 1956. That's enough information, right? That's all you need to know about the time and place into which I was born. From that information alone, you know exactly what Port Chester is like and what the year 1956 is all about. No? You need more information? From reading some family histories, you'd think that's all a writer needed to do to give the story its setting. Ah, if only it were that simple.

Where does your family history take place? What's the time period? You'll need to know a lot about both to describe them for your reader, but, as Noble says in "Writing Dramatic Nonfiction," "the emphasis is on 'sense,' not place." If you state in your narrative that an ancestor lived in Philadelphia, you have identified the place, but you haven't conveyed a "sense" of it. What was it like to live in Philadelphia in your ancestors' day? If you write, "The year was 1850," you've identified the time period, but not a sense of what life in 1850 was like.

Instead, describe what Philadelphia in 1850 looked like. Remember, your readers may have little or no knowledge of the way people lived then and how the city looked. Also, bare dates lend a dry, academic textbook style that you are trying to avoid. Show us the time period through the typical clothing people like your ancestors wore, the forms of lighting used in houses and on city streets, the types of furniture people had in their houses, and the modes of transportation--the social details.

Don't overwhelm your reader with description, however. When we tour Philadelphia, we don't have a bird's-eye view; we see the city piece by piece. Show readers the setting little by little in your narrative. Readers don't want a geography lesson or to feel like they are reading an almanac. Let the reader visualize the setting by describing social life in detail:

"Philadelphia was a bustling metropolis when, by 1849, the Zesingers made the area their home. The city was in a state of constant change during the mid-nineteenth century. Philadelphians were tearing down old buildings and replacing them with imposing new structures made of red sandstone, granite, and iron. More than one hundred miles of gas lines fed the city's 1,718 street lamps. Iron water pipes replaced wooden ones, so that indoor plumbing was commonplace for better housing. In poorer districts, families received their water supply from public hydrant pumps. The only way in which Philadelphia lagged behind other urban areas was in its transportation. Citizens were not in favor of introducing streetcars for fear of 'increased congestion, noise, and accident hazards.' In the 1850s, people traveled by hacks, cabs, and horse-drawn omnibuses. During deep winter snows, people used large, open sleighs drawn by four-horse teams."

IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS

Remember those county and local histories I suggested you revisit back in STEP 6 [of YOU CAN WRITE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY]? To describe the setting, you'll be using the notes you took on topography, climate, buildings, and community. Here are some items to consider adding to your narrative:

- place (describe the countryside, town, community; topography)
- time and season (describe the climate and seasonal appearance)
- architecture (describe the interior, exterior, and landscaping of homes, public buildings and outbuildings)
- artifacts (describe household furniture and objects)

If the story involves a setting where you have never been, the best case is to visit it and walk the streets, fields, and neighborhood. If that's not possible, research it. Interview someone who has been there. Remember, you don't need to break a leg to know that it would hurt; likewise, you don't need to visit an area to be able to write about it. But you do need to do thorough enough research to make sure you have accurate information. Some things you just can't experience first hand--like crossing the Atlantic in the 1600s on a sailing ship from England to America--yet you can still convey the sense of the experience by researching historical accounts of people who were there and experienced the things you want to write about.

You'll find many sources beyond county histories that will give you the type of material you need to give your readers a sense of the time period and place:

- historic photographs of the area in local history collections and in the vertical files of libraries and archives

- genealogical sources (land and tax records, city directories, agricultural schedules, manufacturing schedules, family stories)
 - social histories
 - travel guidebooks that offer historical information
 - books on historic homes, architecture, and antiques
 - books on an area's geography and topography
 - maps (Sanborn fire insurance maps, topographical maps, bird's-eye view maps)
 - farmer's almanacs
 - newspapers
- [END OF ARTICLE]

For more information about Sharon Carmack's book, *YOU CAN WRITE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY*, please access the following link:
http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=886&NLC-GenPointers1

COLONIAL NATURALIZATION RECORDS

During the colonial period, according to law, an Englishman was a person of English descent born on English soil. The English colonies qualified as "English soil," so an Englishman who emigrated to the colonies could transfer his citizenship to his offspring. (On the other hand, the son of an Englishman born in Holland, for example, was not a citizen and had to be naturalized in order to acquire realty and to transfer it to his heirs.)

After the Crown opened up its colonies to foreign-born immigrants in order to increase the colonial labor supply, the issue of naturalization became increasingly important. Why? Because, although naturalization did not confer political rights upon naturalized persons, it was critical for property ownership and the conferring of property rights to one's offspring. For this reason, thousands of Palatine Germans, French Huguenots, Scots, and Irish as well as Dutch, Spanish, Danes, Norwegians, and other immigrants availed themselves of the opportunity to be naturalized.

There were two avenues available to foreigners who desired to become English subjects: (1) naturalization per se was conferred by act of Parliament or colonial legislature; (2) denization was conferred by the king or his agent, the colonial governor.

As a body of records, naturalization and denization records are of considerable value, but, until recently, they were very difficult to access. At a minimum, these records provide the person's name and the date and colony of naturalization. In many cases, they also state the person's county of residence, date of birth, country of birth, occupation, religion (mostly for Jews), or the name of a family member. Despite their value, colonial naturalization records have been under-used because they are so widely dispersed. Thanks to genealogist Lloyd Bockstruck, this problem is rectified.

In his book, DENIZATIONS AND NATURALIZATIONS in the British Colonies in America, 1607-1775, Mr. Bockstruck has assembled every reference to a colonial naturalization or denization known to exist. The result is an alphabetically arranged list of about 13,000 naturalizations compiled from published sources and expanded and improved by the examination of source material not previously available to scholars. Researchers should also consult the index to the volume, which lists all persons mentioned in the records other than the new citizens themselves. Following is a list of colonial jurisdictions that yielded the naturalization or denization records included in the volume: England, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida (East and West), Georgia, Jamaica, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Nova Scotia, Pennsylvania, Quebec, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, South Carolina, and Virginia.

We would be remiss, finally, if we did not mention the book's excellent Introduction. In it, the author describes the twists and turns in naturalization law and policy during the colonial period. Also found in the Introduction is a comprehensive bibliography of the naturalization literature itself. These features round out a book that is destined to become synonymous with research in colonial naturalization records. (Published in 2006, DENIZATIONS AND NATURALIZATIONS is available in short supply.)
http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=489&NLC-GenPointers1

Of Related Interest:

GUIDE TO NATURALIZATION RECORDS in the United States

State by state, county by county, city by city, this guide identifies all repositories of naturalization records, systematically indicating the types of records held, dates of coverage, and the location of original and microfilm records. The guide also pinpoints the whereabouts of federal court records in all National Archives facilities, and it identifies every piece of information on naturalizations that is available on microfilm through the National Archives or the Family History Library System, including the call numbers used by each institution.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=5177&NLC-GenPointers1

LOCAL HISTORIES--Hidden Genealogical Treasures

As Sharon Carmark reminds us, local histories (histories of counties or towns) are terrific sources of information on the settings of our ancestors' lives. By the end of World War I, thousands of local histories had been published in the U.S. at the town or county level.

Many researchers may not be aware that most of these publications also contain source record information that is vital to genealogists. Antiquarian authors considered it to be a

natural part of their (a)vocation to delve into the origins of their contemporary luminaries or the family histories of illustrious founders. This was the case, in large part, because these authors were writing for a local audience or for individuals who had subscribed to the publication. Sometimes they took it upon themselves to write full-blown genealogies or, at least, sketches of numerous families. In other cases, they visited courthouses and transcribed marriage, death, or other records in order to make the raw material of genealogy available to readers who might want to compile their own family histories. Because of this, the family historian is bound to find some hidden genealogical treasure within the pages of a county or town history.

Featured below are 15 representative local or regional histories--some of them reduced in price by 40%, 50%, or more--in our "Genealogy Warehouse." These titles pertain to counties or towns in Connecticut, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Virginia, and West Virginia. For each title listed here, you will find two or three additional local histories in our collection that are also in print--and many more than that awaiting reprinting. We trust that these publications convey something of the importance of local history as an important element in your genealogical investigations.

HISTORY OF ANCIENT WOODBURY, CONNECTICUT

From 1,500 manuscript volumes of church, state, town, and society records, and from many thousands of rare manuscripts consulted during the course of seven years' labor, Mr. Cothren succeeded in developing an exhaustive chronicle of the persons, places, and events that most accurately characterized Woodbury's history up to the middle of the 19th century. Where the book succeeds to an unusual degree is in the portions devoted to biography and genealogy, which occupy one-half of the text. The genealogies, of which there are some 85, are a flesh-and-blood inventory of the families most intimately linked to the rise and progress of the town of Woodbury. They begin with the immigrant ancestor and continue through several generations in the direct line of descent, not uncommonly naming scores upon scores of progeny.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=1160&NLC-GenPointers1

THE BIG SANDY VALLEY [Kentucky]. A Regional History Prior to the Year 1850

This excellent regional history is crammed with lists of early settlers, heads of families, and Revolutionary pensioners. It deals with the region (mostly in eastern Kentucky) known as the Big Sandy Valley, which today encompasses all or part of 16 counties in Kentucky, Virginia, and West Virginia.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=3008&NLC-GenPointers1

A HISTORY OF MUHLENBERG COUNTY [Kentucky]

Otto A. Rothert's coverage focuses on the ante-bellum period. It contains more than 200 photographs and ranges over such topics as John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg (for whom the county was named), the intrepid first-comers, county boundaries and boundary changes, courts and courthouses, life in the olden days, old houses and other county landmarks, education in Muhlenberg County, Muhlenberg in the Civil War, slavery, local writers and the local press, the tobacco and coal industries, and much more. Genealogists will appreciate the various lists of county inhabitants throughout the work, such as Muhlenberg men in the War of 1812, as well as the discussions of county pioneers like Jesse McPherson, Jonathan Hunt, Henry Rhoads, James Weir, Edward Rumsey, Charles Wing Fox, and Simon Bolivar Buckner, and their families, which are integrated into the historical narrative.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=9415&NLC-GenPointers1

OHIO COUNTY, KENTUCKY, in the Olden Days

This important miscellany consists, in the main, of recollections of Ohio County, Kentucky, replete with genealogical data on early families and 2,500 marriage records before 1840.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=5715&NLC-GenPointers1

HISTORY OF CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND and the Early Settlements Around the Head of Chesapeake Bay and on the Delaware River, with Sketches of Some of the Old Families of Cecil County

This is an exhaustive study of the county from its infancy to the middle of the 19th century, with chapters on the early settlements and towns, churches, schools, businesses and industries, and sketches of the county's participation in the Indian Wars, the Revolutionary War, and the War of 1812. Genealogists will be delighted with the coverage given to a number of early families.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=3040&NLC-GenPointers1

ACROSS THE YEARS in Prince George's County [Maryland]

Part One of this landmark work is a personal history of Prince George's County, based on reminiscences. The genealogical section designated Part Two deals with the following county families, many of them allied in one generation or another: Addison, Beall, Berry, Bowling, Brooke, Calvert, Clagett, Clark, Clarkson, Clements, Contee, Darnall, Digges, Dulany, Dyer, Fenwick, Graham, Gwynn, Hall, Hill, Hilleary, Keene, Lee, Lowe, Magruder, Marbury, Murdock, Plummer, Rozer, Sewall, Sprigg, Waring, and Young.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=625&NLC-GenPointers1

A HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF CONCORD, Middlesex County, Massachusetts (Low in stock)

Lemuel Shattuck's history will delight students of the American Revolution and genealogists alike. The author recounts Concord's beginnings in considerable detail, including descriptions of early settlers, efforts to convert the Indians, divisions of the town, and King Philip's War. There are, of course, dramatic chapters on the Revolution and its aftermath. Genealogists will be glad to learn that throughout the volume are biographical notices and lists of Concord's residents. The Appendix contains many genealogical and biographical notices of early Concord families.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=9729&NLC-GenPointers1

HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF DUXBURY, Massachusetts with Genealogical Registers

Duxbury was founded by migrants from the town of Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1632. Justin Winsor's venerable history of Duxbury commences with chapters on the settlement and incorporation of the town; boundaries, roads and landmarks; first settlers; schools and education; and early contact with the Indian population. Subsequent chapters are concerned with lists of 17th-century town officers, Duxbury in the colonial wars, the American Revolution and the War of 1812, and the history of the Congregational Church in Duxbury. Of greatest interest to researchers, more than one-third of the volume is devoted to genealogical notes and sketches.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=9591&NLC-GenPointers1

GENEALOGIES OF HADLEY [Massachusetts] Families Embracing the Early Settlers of the Towns of Hatfield, South Hadley, Amherst and Granby

This work was originally published as an appendix to Sylvester Judd's flawless "History of Hadley." It contains several hundred genealogies arranged alphabetically by the surname of the founder of the Hadley line. Every person mentioned in the genealogies is cited in the index, which contains 7,500 references.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=595&NLC-GenPointers1

THE HISTORY OF CAPE MAY COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

The standard history of Cape May County, New Jersey, this book's appeal to genealogists is found in the sketches of colonial inhabitants of Cape May; the locations of their

properties, some birth, marriage, and death records; Cape May County participants in the Revolution, War of 1812, and Civil War; and more.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=9566&NLC-GenPointers1

THIS OLD MONMOUTH OF OURS: History, Tradition, Biography, Genealogy
Relating to Monmouth County, New Jersey

Originally published as a series of newspaper articles by William S. Hornor, this book is a mine of information on the history and genealogy of Monmouth County. Genealogists should delight in the author's treatment of nearly 100 Monmouth County families, from Ackerson to Yard.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=9145&NLC-GenPointers1

TWELVE VIRGINIA COUNTIES Where the Western Migration Began

This is a scholarly and informative account of the origin and settlement of the counties of Albemarle, Augusta, Caroline, Essex, Gloucester, Goochland, Hanover, King and Queen, King William, Louisa, New Kent, and Orange and of the people and events associated with their history. Woven throughout the narrative, author John H. Gwathmey gives descriptions of the homes and homeowners, lands and landowners, and enthralling tidbits of lore and legend, not to mention biographical sketches of notable countians and lists of civil and military officers, histories of churches and other institutions, and much, much more.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=2435&NLC-GenPointers1

FAUQUIER DURING THE PROPRIETORSHIP. A Chronicle of the Colonization and Organization of a Northern Neck County [Virginia]

This work consists, in the main, of abstracts of land grants and patents for land from 1606 to 1800. Genealogists will delight in the extensive footnotes identifying many of the early settlers of the Northern Neck and their families.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=2410&NLC-GenPointers1

HISTORY AND COMPREHENSIVE DESCRIPTION of Loudoun County, Virginia

This is an historical, statistical, and descriptive history of Loudoun County, Virginia, from its first settlement through Reconstruction. With sections on the various wars and

lists of members of the various militia units, Committees of Correspondence, and government officials and representatives, it is still the standard work on Loudoun County. http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=2650&NLC-GenPointers1

GREENBRIER [West Virginia] Pioneers and Their Homes

The author Ruth Woods Dayton recounts the history and descriptions of nearly 100 homes, schools, taverns, and farms in Greenbrier County from their erection until the middle of the 19th century. While the genealogical coverage of the buildings' inhabitants varies, in most cases the author gives the names of the original head of household, names of spouse and children; names of subsequent owners and their families; years occupied; something of the residents' lives and/or careers; and more.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=9164&NLC-GenPointers1

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PRICES REDUCED on Selected Vital Records CDs (Sale prices in effect until 11:59 PM, EDT, Monday, June 2, 2008)

Vital records commemorating the important times in our ancestors' lives--births, marriages, deaths, etc.--are extremely valuable to researchers because they often contain information not found anywhere else. Following are vital records collections on CD-ROM for the following states: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. Each CD contains hundreds of thousands--in some cases over one million--records. A great value at any price, for the next seven days, you can purchase these mammoth CDs for one-third or more below their regular selling price.

Each CD is conveniently indexed and searchable by means of AncestryView technology. With AncestryView, you can search by name, date, place, or any other keyword or phrase. AncestryView returns results instantly and lets you switch from offline to online research with ease.

The minimum system requirements for AncestryView CDs are:

- 486/33 processor (Pentium recommended)
- Windows 95 or better
- 16mb RAM, 15mb hard disk space
- 2X CD-ROM
- Monitor with 800x600 pixel display, 16 bit color or higher

ALABAMA VITAL RECORDS: Marriages 1808-1920

With data collected from parts of 54 of the 67 counties of Alabama covering more than 100 years, this resource is a must for the researcher seeking relatives in the heart of Dixie. The CD contains more than 162,000 records from 54 of Alabama's 67 counties.

Was \$16.95 Now \$11.95

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=7088&NLC-GenPointers1

ARKANSAS VITAL RECORDS: Marriages (Low in stock)

With more than 277,000 records culled from five separate marriage record databases, this CD gives the researcher access to more than 700,000 names. The marriages span the period 1793 to 1910, with 90% of the records found between 1850 and 1900. Most of the records provide the names of the bride and groom, marriage date, and county of marriage--all indexed to allow quick, accurate information retrieval.

Was \$16.95 Now \$11.95

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=7289&NLC-GenPointers1

CONNECTICUT VITAL RECORDS: Marriages & Deaths, Selected Years

If you're looking for marriage records for your pre-1800 progenitors or death records for 20th-century Connecticut inhabitants, this CD is a great place to begin your search. The contents include: 1,315,000 records from eight Connecticut counties (Fairfield, Hartford, Litchfield, Middlesex, New Haven, New London, Tolland, and Windham Town); marriages to 1800; and a death index covering 1949 to 1996.

Was \$16.95 Now \$11.95

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=7087&NLC-GenPointers1

GEORGIA VITAL RECORDS: Marriages 1775-1900 (Selected Counties)

This CD contains records from five databases of Georgia marriage records, roughly spanning the years 1775 to 1900. Each record contains at least two names, making this CD a valuable aid to researchers with Georgia ancestors.

Was \$16.95 Now \$11.95

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=7151&NLC-GenPointers1

ILLINOIS VITAL RECORDS: Marriages 1791-1900

This CD contains more than 271,000 marriage records found in 78 of Illinois' 102 counties.

Was \$16.95 Now \$11.95

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=7308&NLC-GenPointers1

INDIANA VITAL RECORDS: Selected Counties and Years

This CD contains more than 220,000 marriage and death records collected from parts of 84 of Indiana's 92 counties, including marriages up to 1850, Jasper County marriage index, 1850-

1920, and Jasper County deaths, 1921-1977.

Was \$16.95 Now \$11.95

[http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=7093
&NLC-GenPointers1](http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=7093&NLC-GenPointers1)

NORTH CAROLINA VITAL RECORDS: Marriages, 1744-1900 (Selected Counties) Very low in stock

This CD contains records from two databases of North Carolina marriages that roughly span the years 1744 to 1900 and represent 44 of the state's 100 counties. Since North Carolina did not officially require the keeping of marriage records until 1741 and many counties did not issue formal marriage licenses until the mid-1800s, it is fortunate that any marriage records for this time period exist at all. These 137,000 records include details about the bride and groom, their parents, witnesses, bond applications, and more.

Was \$16.95 Now \$11.95

[http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=7971
&NLC-GenPointers1](http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=7971&NLC-GenPointers1)

OHIO VITAL RECORDS: Marriages--Selected Counties (1800-1900)

This CD contains 149,636 records with 302,430 names from 14 of Ohio's 88 counties. The CD also includes birth and death records for Knox and Morrow counties from 1755.

Was \$16.95 Now \$11.95

[http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=7288
&NLC-GenPointers1](http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=7288&NLC-GenPointers1)

TENNESSEE VITAL RECORDS: Marriages (Selected Counties & Years)

Three databases of marriage records have been combined to produce this searchable index of 168,272 names from 36 of the 95 counties in Tennessee. Each entry provides names, marriage date, and county where the marriage took place. The databases include Tennessee marriages to 1825 (48,678 names); Dickson County marriages 1850-1870 (3,442 names); and Tennessee marriages 1851-1900 (116,152 names).

Was \$16.95 Now \$11.95

[http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=7235
&NLC-GenPointers1](http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=7235&NLC-GenPointers1)

TEXAS VITAL RECORDS: Marriages 1824-1900

This CD contains the records of Texas marriages from 1824 to 1900--some even predating Texas statehood! The CD encompasses marriage records from 90 of 256 counties in Texas. Taken from microfilm copies of original county documents, each record provides spouses' names, marriage date, and county of residence. Overall, this CD contains 73,660 records with the names of 147,290 men and women.

Was \$16.95 Now \$11.95

[http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=7011
&NLC-GenPointers1](http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=7011&NLC-GenPointers1)

VIRGINIA VITAL RECORDS: Births (1656-1896)

This CD contains more than 317,000 records from 21 counties, giving details on the children's families, residences, and more. All entries are searchable by names, dates, locations, etc.

Was \$26.95 Now \$16.95

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=7109&NLC-GenPointers1

VIRGINIA VITAL RECORDS: Deaths (1660-1896) (Selected Counties)

This CD contains more than 73,000 records from 10 counties. All entries are searchable by names, dates, and more.

Was \$26.95 Now \$16.95

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=7106&NLC-GenPointers1

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GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH in Washington, D.C.

Do you like to take quizzes? Answer the following questions either True or False:

1. No genealogical research is ever complete unless original source records have authenticated it.
2. Salt Lake City is not the site of the greatest collection of accessible genealogical records in the U.S.
3. The National Archives in Washington, D.C., is only one of many genealogy record repositories to be found in the nation's capital.

If you answered false to any of these statements, you should read on. Why? In the first instance, it is an axiom of genealogy that all family research must be validated against original sources (or facsimiles of those sources on microfilm, etc.). How else can a researcher ever know that his/her data wasn't derived from a mis-copied record, or that a lineage published in a book is simply incorrect?

Second, Washington, D.C., with its scores of repositories and thousands of collections--NOT Salt Lake City--is the center for genealogical research in the U.S. Notwithstanding the vast holdings of the LDS Family History Library in Utah, the District of Columbia is the central repository of the nation's primary source records and the very center of genealogical activity. The unique holdings of the National Archives alone--from census, Revolutionary War, and immigration records to naturalization, Native American, and Civil War documents--are enough to challenge LDS holdings.

Third, Washington is also the home of the Library of Congress, the D.A.R. Library, and many more repositories of genealogical records. For example, to do military research, you may need to consult the holdings of the departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs,

and the Interior, as well as the National Archives itself. For that matter, the Archives' holdings are at two locations--on Independence Avenue in Washington, D.C., and nearby at College Park, Maryland.

Because only a portion of the records in Washington are available on microfilm at libraries or archives around the nation, serious researchers, at one time or another, may need to make a research trip to our nation's capital. When your time comes, you will want to get your hands on Christina K. Schaefer's excellent reference book, *THE CENTER: A Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Capital Area*.

THE CENTER is the undisputed genealogist's guidebook to the national capital area. It identifies all resources in the Washington, D.C., area that can aid family historians in tracing their ancestors. In meeting that goal, it shows you what records are available, repository by repository. This liberally illustrated volume even provides driving directions into the Washington area and around the Capital Beltway. In short, if you're planning to do research in the greater Washington area, *THE CENTER* is the one book you won't want to leave home without.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=5175&NLC-GenPointers1

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BLOG: NGS Conference Highlights

If you were not able to attend last week's National Genealogical Society (NGS) Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, then Carolyn Barkley's observations on conference highlights is your next best thing. The annual NGS meeting allows vendors to network and to show off their latest wares. We had some productive strategy sessions with other genealogy providers, to be sure. We were also glad to learn that Elizabeth Shown Mills' book, *EVIDENCE EXPLAINED*, which came out after the 2007 conference in Richmond, won yet another award. There were also interesting developments at www.FamilySearch.org, www.FamilyLink.com, the New England Historic Genealogical Society, and other major players in the field of genealogy. Be sure to read Carolyn's article on our Blog site:

www.genealogyandfamilyhistory.com for all the details.

Note: This newsletter includes time-sensitive special offers previously announced only to e-mail subscribers of Genealogical.com's Genealogy Pointers. To sign up for this free weekly newsletter, [click here](#).

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