

Genealogy Pointers (05/03/11)

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Comparison of Leading Genealogy Computer Programs

Karen Clifford's popular book [The Complete Beginner's Guide to Genealogy, the Internet, and Your Genealogy Computer Program](#) is a cross between a genealogy how-to book and a carnival. Written by one of the most experienced teachers in the field, to be sure *The Complete Beginner's Guide* certainly introduces you to the ageless principles of genealogy research AND the application of modern technology to its practice. To leave the book's description there, however, would be like calling Ben Franklin or Oprah Winfrey "versatile." As a matter of fact, *The Complete Beginner's Guide* is replete with illustrations, maps, screen shots, checklists, glossaries, charts (both blank and filled in), facsimile documents, and on and on. Each chapter features assignments you can complete in order to determine if you have absorbed the contents. Finally, since it is a book about genealogy and computers, it presents a comparison chart summarizing the attributes of the leading software programs on the market when the volume went to press in late 2010. We have transcribed the contents of the chart for this issue of "Genealogy Pointers." To see the chart, go to the URL [http://www.genealogical.com/upload_images/Genealogy Computer Program Comparison Chart.pdf](http://www.genealogical.com/upload_images/Genealogy_Computer_Program_Comparison_Chart.pdf).

For more information about *The Complete Beginner's Guide to Genealogy, the Internet, and Your Genealogy Computer Program*, please check out the following product page: http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=1047

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New Releases and Featured Titles for May

We are happy to report that May is another banner month for new books, with five original works making their appearance. The latest book from the dean of Baltimore genealogists, *Biographical Data From Baltimore Newspapers, 1817-1819*, is a snapshot of the people and daily life in the Monumental City in the years between the conclusion of the War of 1812 and the onset of the Panic of 1819. Mrs. Sonia Murray, who last year, transcribed the earliest Parish register for the country of Belize, has now transcribed the Second Parish Register, vital records from the oldest newspaper, and a batch of early census records. Hardly a month goes by without a book from either Jeff Bowen or David Dobson. For May, Mr. Bowen has come up with more

Cherokee findings from the Guion Miller Applications that do not appear in his earlier series, *Eastern Cherokee by Blood*. Dr. David Dobson latest book, on the other hand, is *Scots-French Links in Europe and America*. Finally, we are happy to be the distributor for John Anderson Brayton's collection of deed records for Beaufort County, in the North Carolina Tidewater.

If your ancestors lived in the mid-Atlantic region, you are in luck in May. This month's reprints include titles devoted to New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. forebears. We are continuing to reprint multi-volume collections of family histories and source records in May, including sets covering New York, Pennsylvania, Ireland, and Virginia. Still other works cover Illinois census records, early settlers of Maine and New Hampshire, and Irish wills.

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

- [Biographical Data from Baltimore Newspapers, 1817-1819](#), by Robert W. Barnes
- [The Second Parish Register of Belize, 1813-1827, with the First Newspaper: the Honduras Gazette, 1826-1827; the 1826 Census, Pages 209-236; the 1829 Census of Belize](#), by Sonia Murray
- [Abstracts of Beaufort County, NC, Deed Book 2: 1729-1748](#), by John A. Brayton
- [Cherokee Descendants East. An Index to the Guion Miller Applications, Volume I](#), by Jeff Bowen
- [Scots-French Links in Europe and America, 1550-1850](#), by David Dobson
- [Indexes to Irish Wills](#), edited by William P. W. Phillimore & Gertrude Thrift
- [Irish Settlers in America. A Consolidation of Articles from the Journal of the American Irish Historical Society](#), by Michael J. O'Brien
- [The Pioneers of Maine and New Hampshire, 1623-1660](#), by Charles Henry Pope
- [Historic Homes and Institutions and Genealogical and Family History of New York](#), by William S. Pelletreau
- [New York Marriages Previous to 1784](#)
- [Colonial and Revolutionary Families of Pennsylvania](#), by John W. Jordan
- [Settlers of Maryland, 1679-1700](#), by Peter Wilson Coldham
- [Index to District of Columbia Wills, 1801-1920](#), by Dorothy S. Provine

- [Illinois Census Returns, 1810 \[and\] 1818](#), by Margaret Cross Norton
- [Illinois Census Returns, 1820](#), by Margaret Cross Norton
- [Genealogies of Virginia Families from the *William and Mary College Quarterly*](#)

Revolutionary War Pension Records for Three States

Editor's Note:

In the April 5 and April 12 issues of "Genealogy Pointers," we excerpted parts of the Introduction to 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](#). The Introduction 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. Although space constraints prevent us from reprinting the balance of the Introduction in our newsletter, here are three illustrations of the policies and consequent records generated by the states with respect to their pensioners. (As was noted previously, Mr. Bockstruck undertook his efforts of restoring over 16,500 pension records owing to the destruction caused by 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.) For more information about *Revolutionary War Pensions*, please visit the following URL:

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

Massachusetts

On 15 March 1777 Massachusetts provided for a Commissary of Pensions. John Lucas became Commissary. Commissioned officers, noncommissioned officers, private soldiers, and seamen wounded in the service of the United States from 19 April 1775 were entitled to pensions according to the Resolve of the Continental Congress of 26 August 1776. *Muster Rolls of the Pensioners of the Navy of the United States of America from 31st December 1786 to 31 December 1787 Inclusive*, and *Muster Rolls of the Pensioners of the Army of the United States of America Made up to 31 Dec. 1787 Conformably to a Resolve of Congress of 11th June 1788* exist for Massachusetts. Nearly three dozen Revolutionary War pensioners are identified in the seventeen-volume set *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War* (Boston: Wright and Potter Printing Company, 1896–1908).

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts provided for one-time cash payments under the Resolve of 5 March 1801, which provided for the awarding of \$20 in lieu of the 200 acres offered to noncommissioned officers and soldiers who had served three years and had been honorably discharged. If the veteran was dead, the children were the heirs. If there were no children, the widow was the heir. Applications had to be made within six years of the passage of the act.

In the manuscript collections of the New England Historic Genealogical Society are the *Massachusetts Revolutionary Pensioners' Receipts 1799–1807, 1829–1837*, giving the name of each pensioner, the amount of the pension, and the period for which payment was received. These financial records contain few biographical details.

At the Massachusetts State Archives is the finding aid *Pensions*, arranged by surname, forename, rank, regiment, residence, dollar amount of bounty, and remarks showing the lot number and location as well as the name of the widow of the veteran receiving the said land. It is a good finding aid.

New Jersey

Names of New Jersey pensioners taken from the accounts of Isaac Southard, State Treasurer from 1837 to 1843, appear in the *Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society*, New Series, XVI, 28–29. In “Revolutionary Pension Records of Morris County,” *Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society*, New Series, I (1916), 89–99, 49–59, and II (1917), 27–32, 98–177, are thirty-nine state pensions.

State Pension Payments, Books A, B, & C are three manuscript volumes containing accounts of payments made to Revolutionary War pensioners, veterans and/or their next of kin authorized by the state legislature between the years 1821 and 1870. Veterans of other wars are interspersed in the records. Russell Bruce Rankin prepared an index of abstracts from the legislative acts in his article “Revolutionary Soldiers Pensioned by the State of New Jersey,” *The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey*, VIII (1932–33), 74–81 and a correction, IX (1936), 136. He based his work on the *Index of Colonial and State Laws: Between the Years 1663 and 1903 Inclusive*, by John Hood (Camden, N.J.: Sinnickson Chew & Sons Company, 1905), 818–1820. His abstracts were limited to the name of the pensioner, county of residence, and the amount of the pension. He included three one-time relief payments. *New Jersey State Archives—Revolutionary War*, microfilm reel 187, contains pension accounts for the years 1777–1783 by John Stevens, Jr., State Treasurer.

“Half-pay to Hunterdon County Families of the Revolution, 1780–1796,” *Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society*, XIII (1928), 190–99, and “Essex County Half Pay Applications for Revolutionary War Soldiers,” *Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society*, LXVI (1948), 183–93, are early pension records authorized by the New Jersey legislature on 10 June 1779 in compliance with the 26 August 1776 Resolve of the Continental Congress.

Three very valuable micro-publications for New Jersey state pensions are *Registers of Payments, 1821-1870 Including Books B & C of State Pensions, 1837-1870*, Archives Reel 1-0236, *State Treasurer's Accounts, 1777-1783 Adjutant General's Compiled Rosters, New Jersey Militia & Continental Line, ca. 1776-1814*, Archives Reel 187, and the *Revolutionary War Manuscripts, New Jersey Numbers 1-10811*, Family History Library—particularly reels 10289, 10290, 10292, and 10293.

North Carolina

The General Assembly of North Carolina passed a pension act in 1781. A second act followed in April 1784 and was amended in October following. It provided that at the first county court in the new year the justices were to receive pension applications and determine the sum necessary for relief for one year. The justices had the power to levy taxes for the funds needed to underwrite the cost of the pensions. The justices were required to submit triennial reports of their receipts and expenditures to the public treasurer, who in turn was to lay the accounts before the General Assembly. The amount of a pension was based upon rank, length of service, and severity of wounds. On 21 November 1800 the General Assembly passed a resolution to maintain those pensioners who had been unable to transfer to the pension rolls of the United States.

Many of the records of North Carolina are included in the *Treasurer's and Comptroller's Papers, Military Papers, State Pensions to Invalids and Widows, 1784–1808*, which are contained on three rolls of microfilm in alphabetical order with appropriate references to applications pertaining to two or more veterans. State pension accounts, 1802–1829, are in book 69. Others appear in the legislative papers and in courts of pleas and quarter sessions minutes of individual counties.

A list of those receiving pensions from North Carolina first appeared in *North Carolina Genealogy*, pp. 679–84. It represented those who were transferred to the United States pension rolls the following year. Another version is that by Mark Vopelak, “Revolutionary War Pension Records at the North Carolina State Archives,” *The North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, XXVIII (2001), 295–300. Ransom McBride’s “Revolutionary War Gems from the N.C. General Assembly Papers to 1800,” *The North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, XXVIII (2002), 76–81, includes some state pension petitions. Jo White Linn and B. R. McBride prepared abstracts from the Delamar transcripts of entries from the North Carolina legislative papers for economic relief, land, and pensions following the Revolutionary War. Their series, “Private Petitions in the North Carolina Legislative Papers: Revolutionary War Service-Related Benefits,” provides details for reconstructing and supplementing the state pension files. The abstracts appear in *The North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, I (1975), 141–68; II (1976), 39–47, 108–16, 148–53, 198–203; III (1977), 84–89, 160–65, 222–28; IV (1978), 40–45, 102–7, 171–76; V (1979), 24–30, 100–04, 158–64; VI (1980), 9–16, 100–06, 175–77, 236–40. Ransom McBride’s “Revolutionary War Gems from the General Assembly Papers up to 1800,” *The North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal*, XXVIII (2002), 76–81, featured abstracts from the legislative session records that had not been previously published.

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48-Hour Sale on Two Recent Virginia CDs

Two of our most recent CDs are on sale today and tomorrow. If you act before 11:59 p.m. EDT on May 4, 2011, you can acquire either/both of these wonderful collections of fully searchable Virginia genealogy reference works at more than 40% off the retail price.

[Shenandoah Valley Settlers](#)

Virginia's storied and spectacular Shenandoah Valley has been the subject of intense historical and genealogical interest. This CD contains the imaged, indexed pages of the following four major reference books pertaining to early settlers of Virginia's Shenandoah Valley: J.E. Norris's *History of the Lower Shenandoah Valley Counties of Frederick, Berkeley, Jefferson and Clarke; Virginia Valley Records: Genealogical and Historical Materials of Rockingham County, Virginia and Related Regions*, by John W. Wayland; *Shenandoah Valley Pioneers and Their Descendants: A History of Frederick County, Virginia from Its Formation in 1738 to 1908*, by T. K. Cartmell; and *A History of the Valley of Virginia*, by Samuel Kercheval.

As should be apparent, the combined books contain thousands of genealogical and biographical sketches and feature abstracts of vital records, church records, and lists of early settlers, soldiers, and pioneer families for the entire Shenandoah Valley. In the aggregate, these books total about 2,500 pages and command a price of upwards of \$200.00 on the used- or new-book markets. Now Shenandoah Valley researchers can access the contents of these fine books at a fraction of the cost on this CD from Clearfield Company.

Was \$39.99 Now \$22.99

[Settlers of Augusta County, Virginia](#)

The parent county of Bath, Botetourt, Frederick, Highland, Rockbridge, and Rockingham counties, Augusta County, Virginia, is a magnet for genealogists because thousands of otherwise nameless pioneer families passed through this county en route to the West. Focusing exclusively on Augusta County after it was created from Orange County in 1745, the four books included in this CD offer a detailed examination of the people, places, and history of the county and include genealogies and biographies of hundreds of families who planted roots in the area or left extensive records there. In addition to family histories, these four books dwell on the early explorations and settlement of the county, colonial and Indian wars, the Revolution, the Civil War, local politics, early churches, militia, courts, migrations to and from the county, and other milestones in the county's history. But most unforgettably these books embody irreplaceable narratives, memoirs, and records pertaining to the people and families of a unique Virginia county that at one time encompassed a large percentage of the western portion of the colony/state of Virginia.

The contents of this invaluable CD are as follows:

- Settlers by the Long Grey Trail*, by J. Houston Harrison
 - Early West Augusta Pioneers*, by George W. Cleek
 - History of Augusta County, Virginia*, by J. Lewis Peyton
 - Annals of Augusta County, Virginia*, by Jos. A. Waddell
- Was \$39.99 Now \$22.99**

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Visit Us at the NGS Conference in Charleston, SC, May 11-14

The 2010 National Genealogical Society Conference takes place at the Charleston Area Convention Center May 11-14, 2011. If you are planning to attend this year's NGS shindig, please stop by the Genealogical.com exhibit (Booths 428 & 329). The conference as a whole is a learning extravaganza, with classes every day on genealogy software, technological developments, and virtually any state or region of genealogical interest known to humankind, plus a large exhibit area crowded with vendors of every stripe and description. Speaking of exhibitors, we'll have a large selection of our most recent and popular titles on U.S. and world genealogy. To learn more about the conference itself, visit the NGS website at: http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/conference_info.

Here are just a few of the highlights of our 2011 NGS exhibit:

1. Be among the first to purchase a copy of the 2011 revised edition of Karen Clifford's guidebook [The Complete Beginner's Guide to Genealogy, the Internet, and Your Genealogy Computer Program](#). This perennial favorite trains the researcher in the methodology of modern genealogy—the infrastructure of computers and websites—while adhering to the established principles of proven genealogy methods.
2. You may also want to have a look at two three other new titles/series published in the last year. Lloyd Bockstruck, author of [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](#) (see the Introduction to to this book featured below), will be autographing copies of this groundbreaking and comprehensive reconstruction of Revolutionary War records destroyed in fires about 200 years ago. Nova Scotian genealogist Terrence Punch, who last summer completed the final volume in his series, *Erin's Sons: Irish Arrivals in Atlantic Canada*, has now produced the first volume in a new series of [Scottish Arrivals in the Maritimes](#).
3. Check out our two growing series of inexpensive, portable, laminated research aids: *QuickSheets*, by Elizabeth Shown Mills; and *Genealogy at a Glance*, by various authors. The *QuickSheet* series now numbers four products, including new guides for citing sources from Ancestry.com and African-American sources, as well as an extremely popular one for genealogical problem analysis. We already have *Genealogy at a Glance* guides for Scottish, Irish, and French-Canadian research, and new guides on English, German, African-American, French, and Revolutionary War research are well underway.
4. In case you missed it last year, [A Who's Who of Your Ancestral Saints](#) was published just before the Salt Lake City conference. For the first time, the lives of 275 early European saints are retold and accompanied by lineages connecting those saints to twenty-four of the great men and women of medieval Europe. Today, those twenty-four men and women have hundreds of millions of living descendants.
5. We have recently published new editions of three of the best reference books in American genealogy: the [International Vital Records Handbook](#) (5th ed.), by Thomas J. Kemp; the [Genealogist's Address Book](#) (6th ed.), by Elizabeth Petty Bentley; and the [County Courthouse Book](#) (3rd ed.), by Elizabeth Petty Bentley. Each of these books has been completely overhauled, so we strongly encourage you to have a look at them. One or more of them deserves a place on

your personal genealogy reference shelf.

6. We will have hundreds of other titles on display in Salt Lake (including continuing books in series by Vernon Skinner, Jeff Bowen, and David Dobson), and you are welcome to browse them at our exhibit. Naturally, we hope you'll want to purchase books or CDs at our display; however, if you don't see what you are looking for there, you can order any book or CD in our catalogue for just 1 cent (i.e., a penny) above the cost of the products themselves. To qualify for this special offer, just say the magic words, "Genealogy Pointers" to one of our staff members (Joe, Karen, or Carolyn), and they will see to it that you are charged the cost of the items plus a penny for shipping--no matter how many books or CDs you order.

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Blog: Research Opportunities in Charleston, SC

When she's not helping patrons at our NGS booth in Charleston, Carolyn Barkley will be making the rounds of the libraries and archives in South Carolina's most famous city. Be sure to read her current article on our blog, www.genealogyandfamilyhistory.com, to learn about the best places to hunt for your Palmetto State ancestors during NGS, or whenever you decide to visit Charleston.

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2. Fax your order to 1-410-752-8492
3. Call toll-free to our sales department at 1-800-296-6687