

Genealogy Pointers (06-28-11)

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New Research Aid for Tracing Ellis Island Passenger Arrivals

An astonishing 40 percent of Americans living today are related to immigrants who arrived at Ellis Island (previously called Oyster Island) between 1892 and 1957. While the records they created are vast and complex, the latest installment in our series of laminated research aids, [Genealogy at a Glance: Ellis Island Research](#), by professional genealogist Sharon Carmack, offers instant guidance through the millions of documents they left behind.

During the peak years 1892 to 1924, over 22 million passengers entered New York through Ellis Island, leaving behind a body of records that are crucial in bridging the gap between the old country and the new. And these records are absolutely unique, providing information that can't be found anywhere else.

Examples of this information include the passenger's last place of residence, final destination in the U.S., if going to join a relative, the relative's name and address, personal description, place of birth, and name and address of closest living relative in the native country. The records containing this information are available on National Archives microfilm and online in two principal databases, but the key to their location and use is right here in this “At a glance” publication.

[Genealogy at a Glance: Ellis Island Research](#) also fills you in on the port of embarkation's history and what to do when you encounter difficulties finding ancestors. For example, Mrs. Carmack punctures the myth that families changed their names upon arrival in New York. By contrast, as she explains, the individual interviews conducted by the Ellis Island registry clerks would prove to be of great importance for the immigrant's entry. The author shows you how to widen your search of the Ellis Island database when your first efforts do not bear fruit, how to access the records of detained aliens, and what other sources, both online and in print, you may need to turn to next.

In short, in just four pages--laminated for heavy use and convenience--Ellis Island records become intelligible and accessible, and along with a handy list of books for further reference and a list of online resources, research in this massive body of records can now be accomplished at a glance.

For more information, visit the following URL:

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=882

Other Research Guides in this series . . .

[Genealogy at a Glance: Irish Genealogy Research](#)

The inaugural publication in this "how-to" series, written by respected Irish genealogy expert Brian Mitchell, tells you succinctly about the sources used in Irish research, where to find them, and how to use them. In a few deft sentences Mitchell provides all the basic instruction you need, focusing on key record sources and materials for further reference, and finishing with a summing up of record repositories and online sources.

[Genealogy at a Glance: Scottish Genealogy Research](#)

In less than a handful of pages (specially laminated for heavy use), renowned Scottish genealogist David Dobson provides an overview of the facts you need to know in order to begin and proceed successfully with your research, allowing you to grasp the basics of research at a glance. These may be the best four pages you'll ever read on Scottish genealogy.

[Genealogy at a Glance: French-Canadian Genealogy Research](#)

In keeping with the "Genealogy at a Glance" theme, the four specially laminated pages of this work are designed to give you as much useful information in the space allotted as you'll ever need. Focusing on key record sources and materials for further reference, author Denise Larson first provides history and context, then deals with the unique aspects of French-Canadian research such as Acadia and Quebec before moving on to traditional record sources, record repositories, and online sources.

[Genealogy at a Glance: African American Genealogy Research](#)

In just four pages, author Michael Hait, lays out the basic elements of African American research, boiling the subject down to its essence and allowing you to grasp the fundamentals of African American research at a glance. For example, he offers step-by-step guidance on finding and using records that are crucial in African American research, such as Freedmen's Bureau records, Freedman's Bank records, records of the Southern Claims Commission, and voter registration lists. In addition, before ending with a helpful list of websites focusing specifically on African American genealogy, Hait offers tips and guidance on researching slave ancestors.

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National Institute for Genealogical Studies Makes *Social Networking for Genealogists* Required Reading for Online Course

The National Institute for Genealogical Studies, a leader in genealogy education since 1997, has chosen [Social Networking for Genealogists](#), by Drew Smith, as the required textbook for its online course, "Social Media for the Wise Genealogist." The National Institute for Genealogical Studies--in affiliation with the Continuing Education, University of St. Michael's College in the University of Toronto--provides web-based courses for both family historians and professional genealogists. To support the needs of both amateur family historians and aspiring professional

genealogists, they have designed a series of courses (basic, intermediate, advanced, and electives) leading to various certificates in Genealogical Studies.

“Social Media for the Wise Genealogist” is a six-week course for students who are interested in learning how social networking can help them as genealogists. Among other things, this online course discusses the methodology behind using social network sites. For a detailed description and a course outline, go to <http://www.genealogicalstudies.com>.

Social Networking for Genealogists describes the wide array of social networking services that are now available online and highlights how these services can be used by genealogists to share information, photos, and videos with family, friends, and other researchers. Each chapter guides you through a unique category of social networking services using genealogy-related examples. From blogs and wikis to Facebook and Second Life, author Drew Smith shows you how to incorporate these powerful new tools into your family history research. For more information, visit the following URL:

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=5446

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Top Ten New Books or Classic Reprints for June

[Married Well and Often: Marriages of the Northern Neck of Virginia, 1649-1800](#)

This work contains a list of 7,000 marriages and boasts an additional 16,000 index entries. Starting with marriage license bonds for the counties mentioned in the book's subtitle, the author added marriages from scattered licenses, fee books, ministers' returns, family Bibles, and notes in various volumes for court records, finalizing his research in the will books and deed books for Northumberland, Lancaster, Westmoreland, Old Rappahannock, and Richmond counties, as well as in standard publications. Besides the names of husband and wife and the date of marriage, entries may contain the names of parents, grandparents, former spouses, children of previous marriages, and other relations, as well as names of persons connected with the marriage such as securities for the groom, guardians, and clergymen.

[The Royal Descents of 600 Immigrants to the American Colonies or the United States Who Were Themselves Notable or Left Descendants Notable in American History. 1 vol. in 2](#)

Once again Gary Boyd Roberts has assembled all recent royal descent research, some yet unpublished, and produced an authoritative, up-to-date compendium. In this 2008 edition, he has added twenty-eight new immigrants, so that with a few disproofs (Curwens/Corwins of Massachusetts and New York, Byes of Pennsylvania, and Edwardses, one Evans and Hugh Jones of Pennsylvania), the total covered is now 688.

[Ancestors in German Archives: A Guide to Family History Sources. 2 vols.](#)

This work identifies the records of German emigrants by cataloguing the relevant record holdings in all the public and private archives in the Federal Republic of Germany. Under the supervision of Professor Raymond Wright, approximately 2,000 national, state, and local government archives, as well as private archives, were surveyed. The result of this massive survey, published here, is an exhaustive guide to family history sources in German archives at

every level of jurisdiction, public and private. Anyone searching for data about people who lived in Germany in the past need only determine which archives today have jurisdiction over the records that were created by church or state institutions.

[Annotated Transcriptions of Currituck \[NC\] Wills \[to 1760\]](#)

Working in the Norfolk and Princess Anne County probate records, as well as in those of Currituck itself, compiler John Brayton limited his attention to wills signed before 1760 or found among the loose papers of the North Carolina Secretary of State. Of perhaps greatest interest, throughout the volume Mr. Brayton annotates the contents of the wills with genealogical commentary about testators or others mentioned therein, or with cross-references to other documents in the volume. *Annotated Transcriptions of Currituck [NC] Wills [to 1760]* refers to upwards of 4,000 early Currituck County forebears.

[Abstracts of the Testamentary Proceedings of the Prerogative Court of Maryland. Volume XXX: 1758-1761. Libers 37 \(pp. 145-end\), 38 \(pp. 1-106\)](#)

The work at hand marks the third volume in this continuing series to be published in 2011, and the thirtieth in all. The series is arranged, with a few exceptions, chronologically by court session. Volume XXX consists of testamentary abstracts for the balance of 1758 through 1761. In all, the latest book in this distinguished series refers to an additional 7,000 colonial inhabitants of the Province of Maryland. For the most part, the transcriptions state the names of the principals (testators, heirs, guardians, witnesses, administrators, and so forth), as well as details of bequests, names of slaves, appraisers, and more.

[Cherokee Commission Dockets. Volume V: 1880-1884 & 1887-1889](#)

This volume, the fifth and final in a series, concerns the rulings of the Cherokee Nation Commission on Citizenship (a creation of the Tribal Council) on cases of citizenship. (It should be noted that the Dawes Commission of 1893 subsequently scrutinized the Cherokee Commission dockets in making its final determinations on citizenship for members of the Five Civilized Tribes.) Volume V consists of abstracts of Dockets 1,841-2,281 of the Commission. Besides giving the names of the applicant and presiding commissioners and the date of the determination, in most instances the transcriptions identify the names of family members and their relationship to the person(s) filing the application. In all, researchers will find references to more than 4,000 Cherokee claimants in the concluding volume, bringing the total identified to date to more than 20,000.

[Genealogical Gleanings in England. Abstracts of Wills Relating to Early American Families. 2 vols.](#)

Henry Waters' opus consists largely of copies of lengthy abstracts of wills in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury that bear some relation to early American families. In addition, it contains genealogical notes and pedigrees, maps, tabular charts, illustrations, and an index of 30,000 names as well as a fifty-one page index of places, with details of where many of the early families settled. Furthermore, as John T. Hassam noted in the Introduction to the work, "These pages contain wills relating not only to New England families, but to those of Virginia, Maryland, South Carolina, New York, Pennsylvania, and the West Indies."

[Genealogies of Rhode Island Families from *The New England Historical and Genealogical*](#)

[Register. 2 vols.](#)

Genealogies of Rhode Island Families contains all the articles on Rhode Island families that were published in *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* since its inception in 1846 through 1989. With the exceptions of articles pertaining to the immigrant origins of Rhode Island families, which have been published elsewhere, it includes many of the best genealogical articles of the past 140 years, and includes important contributions by leading 19th- and 20th-century genealogists. Indexes to the two volumes contain a total of 40,000 entries.

[Genealogies of Virginia Families from Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine. 4 vols.](#)

This multi-volume work on Virginia genealogies consists of material from *Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, a notable periodical that contained a large number of genealogies that will be of help to the researcher. A four-volume set, it has all of the family history articles, about 350, that appeared in the magazine from its inception in 1919 until its demise in 1952. This is a significant body of genealogical material, and many of the contributors were leading Virginia researchers. For convenience the articles are arranged throughout the four volumes in a single alphabetical sequence. Since each volume has its own index, the genealogist need only consult the particular volume required for his research.

[Historic Georgia Families](#)

Notable features of this work are its alphabetically arranged lists of the early settlers in the neighborhood of old Queensboro and in the territory now embraced by the counties of Grady, Decatur, and Seminole, as well as a partial list of the early settlers of the Province of Georgia compiled from various printed sources. *Historic Georgia Families* features genealogies of the following families: Blewett, Burkhalter, Griffin, Harrison, Hawthorne, Hicks, Powell, Poulk (Paulk), Trulock, Coram, Mitchiner, Butler, Nobles, Ware, Watson-Swann, Frederick, Brunson, Swann, Wamble, Rigsby, Little, Dunlap, McElvey, Clay, Greene, Lea, David, Harrell, Zachariah, Frith, Everett, Richmond, Robinson, Otken, Etheridge, Wadsworth, Kilpatrick, Hatcher, Wynn, Harris, Hester, Jones, Lewis, Fountain, Hints, Taliaferro, Berryman, Lingo, Ivey, Chamblis, Chappell, Porter, Pruitt, McCrary, Bunker, Franklin, Brunson, Reynolds, Hardin, Blair, and Lindley.

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“Banishment from Scotland to Colonial America,” by Dr. David Dobson

Banishment means exile from one’s hometown or country and has long been used as a punishment for political, religious, or criminal offences. From the 1620s convicts were shipped from England to the American colonies and from 1660s from Scotland. During the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries transportation or banishment to the colonies was controlled by the governments of England and Scotland. In Scotland the Privy Council had the sole right to banish people from the country until 1671, when the High Court of the Justiciary--which also had such powers-- was established.

Initially banishment and transportation was restricted to serious crimes such as rebellion, rape, or murder, but later was used for petty crime such as theft. Banishment could mean exile from a

specific burgh or locality, but generally it included transportation to the colonies and sale there into indentured servitude for a period of years. For example in 1684, John Nicolson and Margaret Sherriff were cohabiting in Liberton, a parish near Edinburgh, though both were married to others; consequently John was banished and transported to East New Jersey, while his partner Margaret was banished from the "three Lothians," i.e. the neighborhood of Edinburgh.

During seventeenth and eighteenth centuries a trickle of felons were shipped in chains across the Atlantic, possibly a few hundred in total. Initially merchants with shipmasters bound for America would approach the Privy Council and offer to take felons from the tollbooths or jails of Scotland whom they would sell as indentured servants to merchants or planters in the colonies. For instance, William Trent, a Quaker merchant in Leith, was allocated prisoners in Edinburgh Tolbooth and the Correction House for shipment from Leith to Barbados in 1663.

The vast majority of Scots found in the Americas during the seventeenth century arrived there as prisoners of war, who as rebels were transported. This started during the Wars of the Three Kingdoms, 1638-1651, when Scots captured by the Cromwellian forces, especially at battles such as Preston in 1648, Worcester in 1650, and Dunbar in 1651, were transported and sold as indentured servants in New England, on the Chesapeake, and in the Caribbean. The Cromwellian transportees were all shipped from ports on the River Thames. Similarly, the attempts by the Stuart monarchs to impose Episcopalianism on Lowland Scotland, which was overwhelmingly Presbyterian, eventually led to armed uprisings by the more militant Presbyterians known as Covenanters. The Covenanter Risings were quelled by government forces and a number of prisoners, considered rebels, were banished to the American Plantations or colonies. In 1679 one particular shipload of Covenanter prisoners bound for Jamaica, on board the *Crown of London*, was wrecked off the Orkney Islands with most of the prisoners drowning. On a couple of occasions Covenanter prisoners were released from jail and taken to America by emigrants groups. In 1685 Scots Quakers, bound for East New Jersey, were allocated Covenanter prisoners, as was the Scottish Carolina Company when it sent emigrants to Stuartstown, South Carolina, in 1684.

The political union of Scotland and England in 1707 opened up the former English colonies in the Americas to Scottish trade; consequently, the opportunity to ship prisoners there increased. The first occasion occurred in 1715-1716, with a Jacobite Rebellion when about 600 prisoners were shipped to the colonies for sale as indentured servants. Later in 1746, in the aftermath of the final Jacobite Rebellion, about 1,000 men, women, and children prisoners were transported.

The British Parliament's Transportation Act of 1718, officially "The Act for the Further Preventing Robbery, Burglary and other Felonies, and the More Effectual Transportation of Felons," allowed courts to sentence convicts to 7 years transportation to America. This statute was modified in 1720 to authorize payment to merchants to ship convicts. During the eighteenth century several hundred non-political or non-religious felons were shipped from Scotland bound for the American Plantations, though they represented only a small fraction of those shipped from contemporary England or Ireland. Some felons in the jails or tollbooths of Scotland applied to be transported to America rather than rot in jail. After 1783 the British Government, no longer able to banish people to the Thirteen Colonies, increasingly used Australia as a destination for felons and political prisoners.

Dr. David Dobson Compiles New Edition of Scots Banished to the American Colonies

As Dr. Dobson noted in the above article, between 1650 and 1775 many thousands of Scots were banished to the American colonies for political, religious, or criminal offenses. In 1984 Dr. Dobson first endeavored to account for the individual Scots who took part in this forced emigration--the ancestors of thousands of Americans living today. Genealogical.com published his findings in the first edition of the book, *Scots Banished to the American Plantations, 1650-1775*.

In the more than twenty-five years since then, Dr. Dobson has established himself as the undisputed authority on Scottish immigration to the New World. In the absence of official Scottish passenger lists for the period, he initially derived his information from the records of the Privy Council of Scotland, the High Court of Justiciary, Treasury and State Papers, and prison records, the sources of the majority of extant information available on the Scots who were banished to the colonies prior to 1775. His initial success, however, did not stop him over the intervening years from hunting in ever more obscure sources in North America and the UK--sources such as the *Aberdeen Journal*, *Caledonian Mercury*, the Dumfries and Galloway Archives, Justiciary Records of Argyll, Calendar of Home Office Papers, and more. Dr. Dobson's tireless efforts have produced this new second edition of the [Directory of Scots Banished to the American Plantations, 1650-1775](#), containing fully 30% more convict passengers than in the original.

For each person cited in this directory, some or all of the following information is provided: name, occupation, place of residence in Scotland, place of capture and captivity, parents' names, date and cause of banishment, name of the ship carrying him or her to the colonies, and date and place of arrival in the colonies. The exact number of Scots banished to the Americas may never be known because records are not comprehensive; moreover, some Scottish felons sentenced in England were shipped from English ports. The contemporary English judicial system was harsher than in Scotland, which explains why the Hanoverian government had the Jacobite prisoners taken south to England for trial.

The first edition of this work has been enlarged by the addition of fresh material, particularly from American sources but also from more obscure sources in Scotland. Dr. Dobson has made some modifications as well; for example, some men who were thought to have been Covenanters are now classed as rebels and English transportees have been omitted, while the references used have been enhanced to facilitate further research. In total, somewhere between 4,000 and 5,000 Scots were banished to the Americas during the Colonial period (whereas England transported around 50,000 and Ireland in excess of 10,000), all of whom contributed to the settlement and development of Colonial America.

For more information, visit the following URL:

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=9804

Other recent titles by David Dobson . . .

[Scots Episcopalians at Home and Abroad, 1689-1800](#)

For this book genealogist and historian Dr. David Dobson has surveyed a variety of primary and secondary sources for the purpose of assembling a list of baptism, marriage, and death records in the absence of official registers. Many records are in original manuscript form in churches or diocesan libraries, some are in typescript or manuscript sources in the National Archives of Scotland, while a handful of others have been published in full or in part. All of Dr. Dobson's entries identify the Episcopalian by name, location, a date, and the source. Many attest to the individual's confirmation, spouse or other relative, occupation, and even destination in the colonies.

[Ships from Scotland to America, 1628-1828. Volume IV](#)

Like the three earlier volumes in this series, the fourth and concluding volume is designed to identify ships plying their trade with North America between 1628 and 1828. Volume IV is based records found in the Acts of the Privy Council Colonial series (London), the *Canadian Courant*, *Greenock Advertiser*, *Montreal Gazette*, Register of the Privy Council of Scotland, *Virginia Gazette*, and a dozen other sources. Typically, these sources identify each vessel by name, its captain(s), the dates it sailed, and ports of origin and destination, and sometimes references to the number of passengers onboard, miscellaneous information, and the source of each entry. Researchers will also benefit from Dr. Dobson's Introduction summarizing the Scottish shipping trade and the concluding chronological list of sailings spanning the period under investigation.

[Scots-French Links in Europe and America, 1550-1850](#)

This work identifies about 1,200 emigrants and their family members who migrated from Scotland to France, or vice versa. Working from a number of archives, libraries, and secondary sources in Scotland, Dr. Dobson invariably gives the name of each emigrant, his/her occupation, a location or destination, and a source. On occasion, we also discover the name(s) and relationship of family members, vessel traveled on, and so forth.

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Blog: Masonic Records

A number of fraternal organizations—including the Masons—have kept very detailed records about members and their families. In this week's new article on our blog, www.genealogyandfamilyhistory.com, Carolyn Barkley has prepared an excellent background piece on Masonic records, including the excellent collection in the possession of the Boston-based New England Historic Genealogical Society.

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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