

Genealogy Pointers (06-07-11)

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Blog: Society of Genealogists, London

Featured Books & CDs for June

In June we are featuring sixteen new or classic works in American genealogy. Three of them involve new volumes in continuing series. Vernon Skinner has reached Volume 30 (1758-1761) in his series of Maryland colonial testamentary abstracts, putting him on the home stretch in that series. Jeff Bowen has produced the fifth and final book in his series *Cherokee Commission Dockets*. And John Brayton has sent us not one but two new titles for June: Volume 11 in his series of transcriptions of Surry and Isle of Wight County, Virginia, records; and a new collection of Currituck County, North Carolina wills.

The reprint side of the ledger for June is very full as well. We have one classic work apiece on the English origins of early American families, the origins of Scottish surnames; and Huguenot refugees in England and Ireland. If you are still working on this side of the Atlantic—and who isn't—you can choose from nine other publications covering the following colonies or states: Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Georgia. The subject matter covered in the aforesaid works ranges over census records, local histories, compiled genealogies, naturalization records, land lotteries, and more.

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

- [Colonial Records of Surry and Isle of Wight Counties, Virginia. Volume 11: Transcription of Isle of Wight Co., VA Deed Book 1, 1688-1705](#)
- [Annotated Transcriptions of Currituck Wills \[to 1760\]](#)
- [Abstracts of the Testamentary Proceedings of the Prerogative Court of Maryland. Volume XXX: 1758-1761. Libers 37 \(pp. 145-end\), 38 \(pp. 1-106\)](#)
- [Cherokee Commission Dockets. Vol. V: 1880-1884 & 1887-1889](#)
- [The Huguenots: Their Settlements, Churches, and Industries in England and Ireland](#)
- [The Origin and Signification of Scottish Surnames](#)

- [Genealogical Gleanings in England. Abstracts of Wills Relating to Early American Families](#)
- [Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790: Massachusetts](#)
- [Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790: Virginia](#)
- [Genealogies of Rhode Island Families from *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*](#)
- [Early New York Naturalizations. Abstracts of Naturalizations Records from Federal, State, and Local Courts, 1792-1840](#)
- [The Monongahela of Old, Or, Historical Sketches of South Western Pennsylvania to the Year 1800](#)
- [Old Times in Old Monmouth. Historical Reminiscences of Old Monmouth County, New Jersey](#)
- [Genealogies of Virginia Families from Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine. In Four Volumes](#)
- [The Cherokee Land Lottery. Containing a Numerical List of the Names of the Fortunate Drawers in Said Lottery, with an Engraved Map of Each District](#)
- [Historic Georgia Families](#)

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18th-Century Maryland Runaways to the Genealogist's Rescue

Have you traced your ancestor to the second half of the 18th century, or a bit later, only to have the trail grow cold? Does it seem like he/she faded into thin air at that point in time? If so, Joseph Lee Boyle may be able to help you. Here's why.

By one estimate, between 350,000 and 500,000 colonists came to America as compulsory laborers. Some came as indentured servants, others as convicts. The transportation of servants into Maryland, in particular, reached its height in the middle of the 18th century, while convicts arrived there in ever-increasing numbers prior to the onset of the American Revolution. For the investors who underwrote the transportation of forced labor—brokers, ships' captains, landowners—the risks to their investment included death in passage, injury, chronic maladies, and running away. Out of necessity colonial newspapers carried ads offering rewards for the apprehension of runaways and/or notices about their capture. So, if your ancestor was a runaway and fled to another colony, you would not find an earlier reference to him/her where you now find him.

In November 2010 Genealogical.com published the later (chronologically speaking) of Joseph Lee Boyle's two volumes pertaining to Maryland runaways identified in contemporary newspaper ads. The compiler drew "[Drinks Hard, and Swears Much](#)" [White Maryland Runaways, 1770-1774](#) from a half-dozen Maryland and Pennsylvania newspapers and twenty colonial newspapers overall. The *Maryland Gazette* alone named "fugitives from Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, New York, and even one from St. Vincent in the Caribbean." Mr. Boyle has just finished the prequel (first) volume, *When Drunk is Very Bold. White Maryland Runaways, 1763-1769*, and we will publish it in August or September 2011.

As Mr. Boyle writes in his informative Introduction to "*Drinks Hard and Swears Much*":

The runaway ads provide a first-hand view of history, as well as valuable demographic information with the age, sex, height, place of origin, clothing, occupation, speech, as well as physical imperfections, etc. They often display attitudes of the owners, and personality traits of the runaway, such as a common affection for alcohol. Some ads give extensive vignettes of individuals with their perceived idiosyncrasies. They provide a bonanza of information for the social historian. Those interested in tracking their ancestors will also find a goldmine of details.

In all, "*Drinks Hard and Swears Much*" refers to more than 2,500 persons named in the runaway ads. Besides the carefully transcribed ads themselves, researchers have the benefit of Mr. Boyle's Introductory history of the convict trade and indentured servitude in Maryland, as well as an extensive bibliography and a comprehensive name index. We expect similar things from the 1763-1769 companion volume.

For more information, visit the following URL:

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=9076

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"Strategies[and Sources] for Using Tax Records," by Emily Anne Croom

"He was excited. Excited and happy, like a dog which has followed a cold trail for a long time, and suddenly finds it a hot one."--Nurse Detective Hilda Adams about Inspector Patton 68

Research in tax records has produced this reaction of excitement for many genealogists and has resulted in many "hot trails." A number of states and towns have preserved tax records that date to their early years; others have not been so diligent. Nevertheless, the genealogist needs to use them whenever they exist. They are particularly valuable for research in Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Virginia, and early West Virginia when it was part of Virginia. The surviving records are usually found in county courthouses or in state archives. Many have been microfilmed and are available from the Family History Library.

Tax records are kin to land records because residents paid taxes on land they owned, as well as on slaves, horses, cattle, oxen, personal property, and luxury items such as clocks and carriages. In some cases, specific items were taxed in a given year, such as certain items of furniture, mirrors, and window curtains in Virginia in 1815. Sometimes, as in Virginia, the land tax records and personal property tax records are separate. People who owned no land could still have paid

poll taxes (head taxes) on themselves, slaves, or sons of taxable age. Widows were not normally taxed except on their land and slaves, although men of taxable age in their households were taxed.

Following the existing tax rolls for a given ancestor over a period of years can give the researcher quite a bit of information. Yet, each state had its own laws, forms, and lists of taxable property. Free men could begin being taxed when they became 16 or 18 or 21 years old, depending on the state and the time period. Slaves were often classified in the tax rolls in age groups, such as those under 12, 12 to 16, over 16, or 16 to 55. These categories also varied from place to place and year to year. Usually, the tax laws designated an age after which a person was exempt from certain taxes.

Information Sometimes Found in Tax Records:

What kind of information, in general, may be shown in these records? Below are some of the standard column headings, but these vary from state to state, even from year to year:

1. Name of the person charged with the tax, usually the head of household
2. Names of free men of color being taxed
3. Number, and sometimes names, of taxable free white males in the household
4. Number of acres of land owned, sometimes with location information--adjoining neighbors, watercourse, distance from the courthouse, or district number
5. Name of original grantee of land
6. Number of slaves in the household each year, sometimes with their names
7. Rent received on rented property
8. Number of horses, oxen, or cattle owned
9. Value of land, slaves, or other taxable property
10. Amount of tax paid

What other information might the genealogist glean from studying some tax rolls?

1. Relationships, either expressed, deduced, or suggested
2. Suggestions of birth order among sons in a family, depending on when they first were named or became a head of household
3. Suggestions of death year or moving, when someone no longer was listed, when an estate was listed, when someone was named as guardian of the children or administrator of an estate, or when someone is taxed for the property formerly belonging to another person
4. Occupations, expressed or implied by paying license fee
5. Suggestions of family groups of slaves, when, over the years, the same slaves were named in a household; sometimes, slaves' ages
6. Changes in a person's net worth or lifestyle, expressed in changes in the number of slaves, livestock, and luxury items
7. Preliminary identification of neighbors by studying adjoining landowners and watercourses, or when the tax collector dated each entry and it appears that he visited the households in person. [END]

The foregoing article was excerpted from our recent reprint of Emily Anne Croom's excellent manual, [The Sleuth Book for Genealogists: Strategies for More Successful Family History Research](#). *The Sleuth Book* is brimming with wonderful checklists, case studies, and novel approaches for using any number of genealogical source records. For more information about this research guide, please access the following:

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=1221

Of Related Interest:

[The Beginner's Guide to Using Tax Lists](#)

This guidebook is Cornelius Carroll's primer for making the best genealogical use of tax lists. At the outset, the author differentiates between tax lists, quit rents, tithables, militia lists, censuses, and similar records and the laws that applied to them. Then, by focusing on the tax lists of Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky, and Tennessee, he demonstrates how tax lists can be used for determining parentage, birth and death dates, indentured servitude, slavery, manumission, and racial status. In conjunction with other records, tax lists can be used to help determine the parentage of a female, the date of a marriage, migration routes, and the accuracy of family traditions. Mr. Carroll provides a number of sample tax lists in order to introduce researchers to the legal and other factors affecting the ages and classes of people who were taxable at any given time.

[Early Ohio Tax Records. Reprinted with "The Index to Early Ohio Tax Records"](#)

This is the first collection of records the researcher should turn to in any genealogical investigation in the Buckeye State. Taking the place of pre-1820 census records, this work presents a county-by-county list of Ohio settlers and residents from about 1800 to 1825. Along with the 1801 tax list of the Virginia Military District, it contains the names of taxpayers listed in various county tax rolls. It also contains lists of original proprietors and settlers (taken from other sources), names of holders of military warrants, voters' lists, householders' lists, occasional lists of Revolutionary soldiers, and lists of resident proprietors. The work is arranged by county, with multiple tax lists arranged chronologically thereunder. There is at least one tax list given for each of the 75 counties covered, the combined lists naming about 50,000 taxpayers.

[Early Kentucky Tax Records](#)

The roughly 12,000 tax records included in this work, showing county and date of assessment, are Campbell County (1795), Christian County (1799-1800), Fayette County (1788), Floyd County (1790), Franklin County (1795), Hart County (1819), Henderson County (1799), Jefferson County (1789), Knox County (1800), Lincoln County (1789), Logan County (1795), Madison County (1788, 1792), Mercer County (1789, 1795), Montgomery County (1797), Nelson County (1792), Shelby County (1795), Washington County (1792), and Wayne County (1801).

[Virginia Tax Records](#)

This is primarily a compilation of articles pertaining to colonial tax records--a term used rather freely to permit inclusion of such records as personal property tax lists, tithables, poll lists, land tax lists, and rent rolls. Like census records, tax records have the distinction of placing people in

a particular location at a definite time and identifying them in relation to their households and property, thus providing irrefutable evidence of their existence and places of habitation.

[North Carolina Taxpayers, 1701-1786 \[Volume 1\]](#)

This work lists the names of the taxpayers resident in about half of the North Carolina counties formed before 1786. Most of the data came from tax lists microfilmed at the North Carolina State Archives in Raleigh, and they are supplemented with names from the periodical *North Carolina Genealogy*, which includes persons owning headrights and landrights. The names of the taxpayers are listed alphabetically with the county of residence and date, and in some cases additional data is supplied. In all, there are about 28,000 names.

[North Carolina Taxpayers, 1679-1790. Volume 2](#)

This sequel continues the work begun in *North Carolina Taxpayers, 1701-1786* (the preceding entry). With the exception of a few lists, which were identified as redundant, it includes all the remaining North Carolina tax lists prior to the first federal census of 1790. The two volumes can therefore be used in place of an earlier census to identify individuals in relation to a specific time and place.

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What's New at the Genealogy Warehouse for June

Would you like to know more about the history and pioneers of Muhlenburg County, Kentucky? No Kentucky connections? Maybe your forebears settled in Georgia during the early days of the new republic, in which case you will want to get your hands on surrogates for the missing 1790, 1800, and 1810 Georgia censuses. If so, you need look no further, as we have added a book on both of these subjects to our [Genealogy Warehouse](#) this month.

The Genealogy Warehouse is our bargain basement for genealogy books. Each of the roughly 160 titles in the Warehouse has been discounted by 40%, 50%, or more below its original cost. You will discover books on all aspects of genealogy, so make it a habit to visit the Genealogy Warehouse every month to learn if our newest bargains have a bearing on your research.

If you scroll down, you will find brief write-ups pertaining to the two titles mentioned above, as well as a list of thirteen volumes of Connecticut vital records from the distinguished Barbour Collection already in the Warehouse. If you still don't see something you want among the aforementioned works, you can browse the complete collection of Genealogy Warehouse titles at the link immediately below:

http://www.genealogical.com/content/products_warehouse.html

****New****

[Some Early Tax Digests of Georgia](#)

In the absence of the 1790, 1800, and 1810 censuses of Georgia, these early tax lists are a godsend. The counties for which tax records are provided, with their years of coverage, are as follows: Camden 1794 and 1809; Chatham 1806; Glynn 1790 and 1794; Hancock 1812; Lincoln

1818; Montgomery 1797, 1798, 1805, and 1806; Pulaski 1818; Richmond 1818; Warren 1794, 1805, and 1818; and Wilkes 1792, 1793, and 1794. Each tax list generally gives the name of the taxpayer, the name of the adjoining property owner, and the name of the original grantee of land. In addition, the tax lists identify the number of slaves attached to the property, the watercourses, the acreage, and the value of the land.

Was \$60.00 Now \$35.95

****New****

[History of Muhlenburg County, Kentucky](#)

This work covers the antebellum period in Muhlenburg County, boasts of 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, old houses and other county landmarks, education, slavery, the tobacco and coal industries, and discussions of county pioneers.

Was \$47.50 Now \$27.95

****[Connecticut] Barbour Collection Titles in the Genealogy Warehouse****

[The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records](#) [55 volumes]

Covering 137 Connecticut towns and taking up more than 14,000 typed pages in manuscript, the Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records was the life work of General Lucius Barnes Barbour, Connecticut Examiner of Public Records from 1911 to 1934. Our 55-volume published edition of the Barbour Collection refers to a staggering 1.75 million settlers who took up residence in Connecticut between the mid-17th and mid-19th centuries. The thirteen Barbour books listed below are available at terrific savings from the Genealogy Warehouse.

[Volume 2: Barkhamsted, 1779-1854; Berlin, 1785-1850; Bethany, 1832-1853; Bethlehem, 1787-1851; Bloomfield, 1835-1853; Bozrah, 1786-1850](#) (Low in stock)

Was \$25.00 Now \$14.95

[Volume 6: Canton, 1806-1853; Chaplin, 1822-1851; Chatham, 1767-1854; Cheshire, 1780-1840; Chester, 1836-1852; Clinton, 1838-1854; Diary of Aaron G. Hurd, Clinton, 1809-1878](#)

Was \$30.00 Now \$17.95

[Volume 9: Durham, 1798-1852; Eastford, 1847-1851; East Haddam, 1743-1857](#)

Was \$38.50 Now \$21.95

[Volume 31: Newtown, 1711-1852; North Branford 1831-1854; and North Haven 1786-1854](#)

Was \$25.00 Now \$14.95

[Volume 33: Orange, 1822-1850; Oxford 1798-1850; and Plainfield 1699-1852](#)

Was \$25.00 Now \$17.95

[Volume 34: Plymouth, 1795-1850 and Pomfret 1705-1850](#)

Was \$30.00 Now \$17.95

[Volume 36: Portland, 1841-1850; Prospect, 1827-1853; Redding, 1767-1852; and Ridgefield, 1709-1850](#)

Was \$30.00 Now \$17.95

[Volume 39: Sherman, 1802-1850 and Simsbury, 1670-1855](#)

Was \$25.00 Now \$17.95

[Volume 40: Somers, 1734-1850; Southbury, 1787-1830; Southington, 1779-1857; and South Windsor, 1845-1851](#)

Was \$30.00 Now \$21.95

[Volume 41: Sterling, 1794-1850, and Stratford, 1639-1840](#)

Was \$25.00 Now \$17.95

[Volume 42: Stamford, 1641-1852](#)

Was \$35.00 Now \$25.95

[Volume 46: Thompson, 1785-1850](#)

Was \$40.00 Now \$24.00

[Volume 51: Weston, 1787-1850; Westport, 1835-1850; and Willington, 1727-1851](#)

Was \$23.50 Now \$12.50

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Blog: Society of Genealogists, London

The Society of Genealogists, based in London, is one of the top two or three repositories for genealogy in the British Isles. If you plan to look for your English, Welsh, Scottish, or Irish forebears abroad, you will certainly want to plan your trip to the Society beforehand. This week's new article on our blog, www.genealogyandfamilyhistory.com, addresses this rich collection, as well as alerts you to which of its resources can be accessed on its website.

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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