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Genealogy Pointers (07/21/09)

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SURNAME RESEARCH, by Carolyn Barkley

(This article originally appeared in the June 13 installment on our blog, GenealogyandFamilyHistory.com)

Over 20 years ago, I agreed to be the Clan Barclay International’s genealogist. I was suddenly plunged into the world of surname research and one-name studies. In those days, one-name studies were a time-consuming process of extracting “all” entries of a particular surname and its variant spellings from such things as census enumerations, telephone books, indices of all kinds – literally any listing that could be found. Needless to say, this work created lots of piles of extracted information.

The universe of surname research has changed greatly in the intervening years as technology has either made the job much easier or eliminated the need for it altogether. I thought I would share some background information about surnames as well as point out some helpful sites. Why should we be interested? Simply put, because by researching a large number of individuals with the same surname, particularly in key geographical areas, we may eventually be able to tear down whatever brick wall we might be facing in our research.

When the world seemed a much smaller place in which most people didn’t venture over the next ridge line, surnames were superfluous. It was enough to add a label or modifier to someone’s given name to differentiate him from the next person with the same given name: Piper John or Tailor John, or Eric the Red, or Richard the Bald. These attributions were not passed down from father to son. As time passed, these names began to look more like the surnames of today, although they still were not necessarily used by succeeding generations. In Europe they tended to fall into one of four categories: place names (Richard Whiteacre or Joseph Bridges), patronymics (Llewellyn ap Llewellyn, John McIver, or Paul Sorenson), occupations (John Saddler or Albert Fletcher), or

descriptions (James Little or David Lawless). To oversimplify, as time passed these names became identified with a specific family, rather than a specific individual, and were passed down the generations as the surnames that we know today.

Genealogical research offers us many opportunities to become “stuck,” unable to document earlier generations of a family or identify matrilineal lines. In-depth research of a particular surname may help resolve the problem. I recommend learning first about surnames in general and then about the surnames in your specific geographical interest in particular. Print titles offering such information include George Redmond’s *Surnames and Genealogy: A New Approach* (New England Historic Genealogical Society), Elsdon Smith’s [American Surnames](#), George F. Black’s *The Surnames of Scotland* (New York Public Library), Charles Wareing Bardsley’s [A Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames](#), Edward MacLysaght’s *The Surnames of Scotland* (Irish Academic Press), Lyman D. Platt’s [Hispanic Surnames and Family History](#), George F. Jones’s [German-American Names](#), and Sheau-yueh J. Chao’s [In Search of Your Asian Roots: Genealogical Resources on Chinese Surnames](#).

It is also important to know the geographic distribution of a particular surname. If you’ve located your ancestor but don’t know where to look for his origins, targeting areas that are most likely to have families with the given surname will focus your research. I recommend several websites to assist you in learning about surname distribution.

[Hamrick’s U.S. Surname Distribution Maps](#) provide four snapshots of surname distribution in the United States, based on data from the 1850, 1880, and 1920 censuses and from 1990 telephone books. The site not only provides a color-coded map indicating density of the surname across the country but also allows you to see changes over time due to population growth and migration. One caveat is that you need to be able to recognize a state by its shape as there are no mouseovers. I always have a problem remembering which Midwestern state is which, and I imagine that researchers in different parts of the country have corresponding knowledge gaps. The maps can be captured and entered into newsletters or other printed documentation.

In Great Britain, [the National Trust](#) sponsors a project, “National Trust Names,” based at University College, London. The site provides maps of distribution of surnames in Great Britain, both current (1998 from a variety of sources) and historic (1881 census). Mouseovers are available to help identify the various districts. The site indicates that it will soon have a world surname profiler available, although it currently provides some distribution data (not map) for surnames in Australia, New Zealand, and the United States. For example, a search for the surname “Duncan” indicated that Aberdeen, Scotland, had the highest concentration in the U.K., with Keith as the top postal code; in Australia, the Northern Territory was the top state; in New Zealand, Nelson was the top province; and in the United States, Arkansas was the top state. It was the 169th most common name in the U.K. in 1881, but only 205th in 1998. If I had a Duncan brick wall in Scotland – which I do and have had for years – it would appear that Aberdeenshire would be the best place for me to concentrate my research.

Other countries, such as Italy, have similar sites. [The Italian site](#) provides a less artistic map than do the previously mentioned sites, but some time spent on the site will yield at least two varieties of maps illustrating surname (cognomen) concentrations.

Finally, [the U.S. Census Bureau](#) provides statistical information based on the 1990 census. By using this site, I learned that the surname “Barkley” ranks 2,584th in frequency among surnames in the U.S., possessed by .005% of the population, while “Moore” ranks 9th, possessed by .312%.

The Internet is rife with sites for specific surnames. In [a previous blog](#), we discussed DNA surname research projects, and I recommend searching to see if one exists for your surname. They contain a wealth of information and possibilities for connections to relatives. In addition, sites such as [cyndislist](#) and [GenealogyForum](#) provide surname centers with links to information about surnames, GEDCOMs from researchers in your surname, message board links, and much more.

Be very careful in choosing the surname site. I found some that spelled “genealogy” wrong and even included the word (shudder) “sirname,” or offered bogus family coats of arms. Choose a site with active and current links, accurate grammar and spelling, and a reputable sponsor or author. One example of such a site is England’s [Guild of One-Name Studies](#). You can search their site to see if anyone has registered a study concerning your surname of interest, or join and register your own study.

You will always find sites that surprise you. As I’m the Clan Barclay genealogist and maintain the Clan Barclay Genealogical Database, I was surprised to discover that the [Surname Genealogy Website](#) (online since 1996) included a Barclay Surname Resource Center which was, I felt, remarkably incomplete as it didn’t include any reference to my database. Clearly I have my work cut out for me – but at least it’s better than copying entries out of phonebooks!

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One-Week SALE on North Carolina CDs & Books

(Sale prices expire 11:59 PM EDT, July 27, 2009)

In 1663 England's King Charles II ceded the Carolinas to Anthony Ashley Cooper and seven other proprietors who had supported the Stuarts in ending the Cromwellian Revolution and returning Charles II to the throne. (In point of fact, a group of Virginians established North Carolina's oldest settlement along the Albemarle Sound in 1653--a full decade before the installation of the Lords Proprietor.) The Crown divided the Carolinas in 1691, although North Carolina would not receive its own governor for another 20 years. British, Huguenot, German, and Swiss settlers populated the North Carolina tidewater during the first half of the 18th century. New Bern, established primarily by German immigrants under the leadership of Christopher de Graffenried, would become the largest settlement in the young colony. Large numbers of Scots Highlanders and

Scots-Irish, many by way of the Great Wagon Road through Pennsylvania and into the Shenandoah Valley, populated the western part of the colony. Eighteenth-century North Carolina was also noteworthy for its large Quaker population and for Wachovia, a Moravian settlement in Forsyth County.

Are you researching ancestors in North Carolina? Our CDs and books pertaining to North Carolina settlers are chock-full of valuable source records and compiled genealogies from the colonial period to about 1900. Even better, you have until 11:59 PM EDT, July 27, 2009, to purchase each of these products at a savings of 25% or more off the retail price. Please scroll down for details.

[NORTH CAROLINA WILLS, 1665-1900 \(CD\)](#)

The four titles reproduced on this Family Archive CD name approximately 135,000 individuals who are cited in wills, administrations, and inventories recorded in the probate records of North Carolina between 1665 and 1900. Probate records are among the very best genealogical sources because they provide "proof" of family relationships.

Was \$39.99 Now \$29.99

[EARLY NORTH CAROLINA SETTLERS \(CD\)](#)

Comprising a basic library of North Carolina genealogy, this Family Archive CD names some 200,000 individuals who lived in North Carolina during the 1700s and 1800s. It contains numerous volumes of marriage records, death records, land records, historical sketches, and biographies. Combining personal recollections and biographies with source records and local histories, this CD contains a perfect blend of genealogical records and family history easily accessed by a single electronic index. Among the unique resources assembled here is the famous periodical edited by James Hathaway, the *North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register*, which contains 2,000 pages crammed with data on North Carolina's Old Albemarle region.

Was \$39.99 Now \$29.99

[ROSTER OF SOLDIERS FROM NORTH CAROLINA IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION](#)

The most complete military roster for the state, this monumental work contains the names of approximately 36,000 soldiers from North Carolina who served during the Revolution. Service records include such information as rank, company, date of enlistment or commission, period of service, combat experience, and whether captured, wounded, or killed.

Was \$52.50 Now \$37.95

[DIRECTORY OF SCOTS in the Carolinas, 1680-1830. Volume 1](#)

This work is based on a systematic extraction of data from the archives of North and South Carolina. David Dobson here presents, for the first time, a comprehensive list of Scottish settlers in the Carolinas from 1680 to 1830. In general, the details include age,

place and date of birth, and, often, names of parents, spouse, and children, occupation, place of residence, and date of emigration from Scotland. Mr. Dobson here identifies about 6,000 Scots, about 90% of whom are not listed in his many other publications.

Was \$29.50 Now \$21.50

[DIRECTORY OF SCOTS in the Carolinas, 1680-1830. Volume 2](#)

Publication of David Dobson's *Directory of Scots in the Carolinas, 1680-1830* in 1986 (see above) was the first attempt to build a comprehensive list of Scottish settlers in that region. Since 1986 Mr. Dobson has gathered an overwhelming amount of new information on another thousand early Scottish emigrants to North and South Carolina based on his research in Scotland, England, and the U.S., but especially at the National Archives in Scotland. Similar in scope and arrangement to the original, this sequel to the 1986 volume contains those additional findings.

Was \$25.00 Now \$18.50

[FAMILIES OF CABARRUS COUNTY, North Carolina, 1792-1815](#)

This book is a systematic presentation of all known information on Cabarrus County, North Carolina, families from its inception until the end of the War of 1812. The author, Kathleen Marler, extracted her findings from the 1790 Mecklenburg County census, the 1800 Cabarrus census, court records, Mecklenburg County deed records, marriage records, wills, and newspaper obituaries. The volume identifies 2,000 early families in Cabarrus County and perhaps five times as many persons overall.

Was \$24.50 Now \$17.95

[CASWELL COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, Marriage Bonds, 1778-1868](#)

This is a collection of all 5,700 extant marriage bonds for Caswell County from 1778 to 1868. Each entry identifies the bride and groom, date of the bond, and name of the bondsman or witness.

Was \$21.50 Now \$15.95

[Marriages of WILKES COUNTY, NC, 1778-1868](#)

This work contains abstracts of all marriage bonds issued in Wilkes County from shortly after it was erected from Surry County to 1868. The 5,000 marriage records abstracted here refer in total to some 15,000 persons, including bondsmen. As is the convention, the data are arranged throughout in alphabetical order by the surname of the groom, and each entry contains the name of the bride, the date of the bond, and the name of the bondsman.

Was \$28.50 Now \$19.95

To view the rest of our North Carolina titles, please access the following link:

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=products_state&state=North%20Carolina&NLC-GenPointers1

"CORE ELEMENTS of Online Source Citation," by Elizabeth Shown Mills

Online sources are publications with the same core elements as print publications. Most websites are the online equivalent of a book. Thus, we cite the

- (1) author/creator/owner of the website's content (if identifiable)
- (2) title of the website
- (3) type of item (as with a book's edition data)
- (4) publication data
- (5) place (URL)
- (6) date (posted, updated, copyrighted, or accessed--specify which)
- (7) specific detail for that citation (page, section, paragraph, keywords, entry, etc.)

If the website offers multiple items by different creators, it is the equivalent of a book with chapters by different authors. That calls for citations of two additional items:

- (8) title of database, article, set of abstracts, or image collection
- (9) name of creator of the database, etc.

Within this architecture, a website is not a repository. Conceptually, the repository is the Internet or the World Wide Web. The distinction matters. When a citation template within our data-management software asks us to identify a repository, we invoke [this] basic rule: in published citations, repositories are cited only for manuscript material exclusive to the repository where we used it. Repositories are not cited for published sources. To enter a website's name as our repository would be to say that the website's name is not an essential part of the citation. Therefore, the software might automatically omit it in printing out reference notes.

Identification of authors, creators, and website titles may require careful scrutiny of not only the relevant page but also its root pages. At each site we use, we should thoughtfully consider its construction and meticulously record every piece of information that might help us or someone else relocate the material in the event of a broken link. When we cite material that is available at multiple websites, we should consider which provider is likely to be the most permanent.

IMAGES vs. DATABASES vs. ESSAYS

Web providers of historical content typically offer digital material in three forms: (a) images of original records; (b) databases that compile historical data from the original images or other sources; (c) essays and other writings that interpret this material. The three types do not carry the same weight on any scale by which evidence is appraised. Thus our citations to websites should specifically state the type of digital file we are using, if the title itself does not state that information.

MULTIPLE OFFERINGS AT ONE SITE

Websites that offer multiple items (articles, databases, etc.) by different individuals are the online equivalent of books with chapters by different authors. Thus, our citation needs to cover not only the website and its creator and publication data but also the (1) author/creator of item (when identifiable) and (2) title of item.

PUNCTUATION

Punctuation in online citations follows most rules for books and their chapters, or journals and their articles:

- * Website titles (like book titles) appear in italics.
- * Database titles (like article and chapter titles) appear in quotation marks.
- * Publication data such as the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) and date of posting or access are the equivalent of publication data for books. Logically, they should appear in parentheses within the reference notes. (Note: Angle brackets around URLs were recommended in the early days of the Internet. However, as electronic citations have evolved, the use of angle brackets has been discouraged because it conflicts with their use in HTML coding.)
- * Citations to specific details such as paragraph numbers (like page numbers in a book) appear after the parentheses that enclose the publication data.

WEB ADDRESSES (URLs)

Identification of a website's address--its URL--can be tricky. Long URLs typically represent dynamic pages created on the fly when we enter a search term. We may find a long URL reusable so long as we do not clear our computer's browser cache. However, it likely will not work for others or for us at a later time. An alternative is to cite the website's home page, along with keywords in the path that takes a browser to the proper site. That method is not more permanent, however. The reorganization of a website could eventually make our cited keywords and path unworkable. By recording the access date, we may have a reference point usable at some Internet caches to retrieve the material.

Capitalization:

Many URLs are case sensitive. We should copy a URL exactly, with no corrections of capitalization or alteration of style. When a URL appears at the beginning of a sentence, immediately following a period (as in most bibliographic entries), we should not capitalize the first letter.

Hyphens, Tildes & Underlines:

We should take special care in reproducing hyphens (-), tildes (---), and underlines (_). Each has a distinct coding and one cannot be substituted for the other.

Line Breaks & Punctuation:

When it is necessary to break a URL at the end of the line, we should not hyphenate the line break. If a URL contains a hyphen, we do not break the line immediately after the hyphen. A break may be made between syllables or after a colon, slash, or double slash. However, if we need to break the line near any other embedded punctuation mark, then we place the punctuation mark at the start of the next line.

In Evidence Style citations, URLs are followed by a space and a colon, then the appropriate date. This practice serves two purposes: (1) it follows the practice already used in library cataloging of books, whereby the publication place is followed by a space, then a colon, then a space before information on the publisher and date; and (2) the space between the URL and the colon creates a clear and finite break between the URL and other punctuation that might follow it in the sentence under present or future protocols.

[The preceding article is excerpted from Chapter Two of Mrs. Mills' acclaimed textbook, [EVIDENCE EXPLAINED: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace](#). Chapter Two lays the foundation for the more than 1,000 citation examples found throughout the volume. For more information about EVIDENCE EXPLAINED, please visit the following URL: http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=3843&NLC-GenPointers1.]

FAREWELL GATEWAY PRESS, HELLO OTTER BAY BOOKS

When we ran the two-part history of Genealogical.com earlier this month, we intentionally omitted one important detail: Gateway Press. Do you have a family history or other book inside of you? The market for your project may not qualify for the bookstores but would, nonetheless, interest relatives, friends, colleagues, and a small segment of the general public. If so, you can benefit from the services of a subsidy publisher. Gateway Press functioned as the subsidy publishing arm of our business for almost forty years.

Gateway Press was established to help fledgling authors navigate their manuscripts through the book production and the printing process so that the end result would look the way authors expect it to when they sell and/or give it to its target audience.

Over the course of its existence, Gateway Press became America's most honored subsidy publisher of family histories. Gateway has over 2,000 satisfied customers to its credit, many of whom have gone on to win coveted awards for their books. Gateway also published memoirs, military histories, poetry, and church histories. Hundreds of Gateway Press publications, primarily family histories, have been incorporated into our online catalogue, so patrons can request copies from the authors.

While Gateway lives on through its authors, the company will not publish any more books. Rather, given the current economic climate, Ann Hughes and her assistant, Kate Boyer, will be accepting clients under Ann's personal imprint, Otter Bay Books. For more information about Otter Bay's services, please call Ann at 410-467-1898, or Kate at 410-274-1092.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all Gateway Press authors for their patronage. We will be contacting them again in the near future to discuss a new way of keeping their books available on a perpetual basis.

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NEW BOOKS FOR JULY

This month [Genealogical.com](http://www.genealogical.com) has released thirteen short-run editions of useful reference works. These include a new volume of Cherokee records from Jeff Bowen, Volume XX in Vernon Skinner's series of testamentary records from the Maryland Prerogative Court, and the second volume in Dr. David Dobson's *People of Ireland* series.

You can also choose from a host of reprints in July. For example, the three-volume *Pennsylvania-German Church Records* is back in print--at a special introductory price. So is Denise Larson's groundbreaking work on the pioneers of Quebec, *Companions of Champlain*. We have also reissued a number of Pennsylvania, Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia, and other southern works, any one of which merits shelf space in the serious genealogist's personal library.

Read on for a thumbnail description of each of our July books, or click on the link to the following page on our website where you'll find short descriptions of each:
http://www.genealogical.com/content/products_new_genealogy.html&NLC-GenPointers1

[EASTERN CHEROKEE CENSUS, CHEROKEE, NORTH CAROLINA, 1923-1929, Taken by Agent James E. Henderson. Volume III \(1927-1929\)](#)

This is the third and concluding volume in a series of transcriptions of census material for the Eastern Band of Cherokees between 1923 and 1929. This series concerns the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians from Cherokee, North Carolina, living on the reservation known as the Qualla Boundary, and marks the first time the 1923 to 1929 Eastern Cherokee data has been made available as a publication. Individuals enumerated in the Indian Agent censuses are descendants of the Cherokees who were not removed to Indian Territory during the period 1838 to 1839 in the migration known as the "Trail of Tears." Information provided in the census almost invariably gives each person's name, family relationship, date of birth, and sex--information that is critical in any genealogical research.

[THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND, 1600-1699. Part Two](#)

This work draws on primary sources, such as published government records, together with references found in Irish, English, Scottish, and Dutch archives. The single most important source used in this work is the published Calendar of State Papers relating to Ireland. Published in London between 1860 and 1910, these volumes contain a storehouse of genealogical information for the period 1509 to 1670. The aim of *The People of Ireland*, now in its second volume, is to provide information on ordinary people throughout 17th-century Ireland--with the exception of people of Scottish origin who have been dealt with in Dr. David Dobson's *Scots-Irish Links, 1575-1725* series. Thus, the people listed here are predominantly of native Irish and immigrant English origin, as well as a handful of Huguenot and Dutch immigrants. For *Part Two*, Dr. Dobson provides sketches of about 1,800 additional inhabitants of Ireland, bringing the grand total so far uncovered in the series to 3,200.

[ABSTRACTS OF THE TESTAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS of the Prerogative Court of Maryland. Volume XX: 1734-1736. Libers 29 \(pp. 393-479\) & 30 \(pp. 1-207\)](#)

Compiler Vernon Skinner has completed the 20th volume of *Abstracts of the Testamentary Proceedings of the Prerogative Court of Maryland*, a series of books based upon this important source for Maryland genealogists. The series is arranged, volume by volume, chronologically by court session. *Volume XX* identifies an additional 7,500 inhabitants of the Province of Maryland in the years just prior to 1736. For the most part, the transcriptions state the names of the principals (testators, heirs, witnesses, administrators, and so forth) as well as details of bequests, names of slaves, appraisers, and more.

[COMPANIONS OF CHAMPLAIN: Founding Families of Quebec, 1608-1635. Revised Edition](#)

Author Denise Larson produced *Companions of Champlain* to honor the 400th anniversary of the founding of Quebec City and to enable North Americans on both sides of the border to appreciate more fully their French-Canadian heritage. Although Champlain and his wife, Helene Boulle, did not have children, his companions did. The original eighteen pioneer families who inhabited Quebec during Champlain's lifetime formed the nucleus of French-Canadian culture from which a new society sprang. They are the focal point of this work. Other important features include maps, an illustration of Champlain's 1603 astrolabe, references, five appendices, lineage and pedigree charts with citations, and a comprehensive index.

[PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN CHURCH RECORDS of Births, Baptisms, Marriages, Burials, Etc., from the Pennsylvania German Society Proceedings and Addresses. In Three Volumes](#)

Here in three volumes the genealogist has access to all of the church records ever

published in the "Proceedings and Addresses of the Pennsylvania German Society." Before the Society ceased publishing church records, it had succeeded in preserving the records of a great many key churches in southeastern Pennsylvania--Lancaster, York, Lehigh, Montgomery, and Northampton--the heartland of Pennsylvania-German country. In these three volumes are births, baptisms, marriages, and burials, the records that identify people and their relationships to one another--not only parents and children, husbands and wives, but witnesses and sponsors as well. A staggering 125,000 persons are mentioned in these records, and every one of them is cited in the new indexes, which have been painstakingly compiled especially for this publication.

[MERION IN THE WELSH TRACT. With Sketches of the Townships of Haverford and Radnor. Historical and Genealogical Collections Concerning the Welsh Barony in the Province of Pennsylvania Settled by the Cymric Quakers in 1682](#)

This is the history and genealogy of the Great Welsh Tract in Pennsylvania granted by William Penn in 1682. Detailed genealogies or extensive genealogical notes can be found on some twenty-five main families, many of which figured prominently in the history of colonial Pennsylvania.

[VIRGINIA MIGRATIONS--HANOVER COUNTY. Wills, Deeds, Depositions, Invoices, Letters, and Other Documents of Historical and Genealogical Interest. Volume I \(1723-1850\) & Volume II \(1743-1871\)](#)

The authors succeeded in extracting those documents pertaining to Hanover County that survived the burning of Richmond in April. The surviving materials consist of a great many deeds, wills, inventories, accounts, letters, depositions, etc., pertaining to Hanover County for the colonial and early Federal periods. Many of the suits, in particular, stem from the period prior to the French and Indian War. One of the richest sources examined by the Glazebrooks were the files of the United States District Court at Richmond. With references to nearly 5,000 early inhabitants of Hanover County, this hard-to-find sourcebook will unquestionably be in great demand among researchers.

[EARLY VIRGINIA FAMILIES ALONG THE JAMES RIVER. Volume III: James City County & Surry County](#)

This is the third volume in a series by Mrs. Foley. The purpose of this book is to assist the researcher in finding colonial and immigrant ancestors in James City County and in that part of James City County south of the James River that was cut off to form Surry County in 1652. To accomplish this, Mrs. Foley abstracted the land records from the fourteen volumes of Patent Books for the period 1623-1732 that are now located in the Virginia State Archives. The main body of the text consists of a chronological series of abstracts giving the name of the James City County or Surry County patentee, the location and acreage of the patent and date of settlement, and, most important, the names of the thousands of settlers brought over as "headrights."

[THE FIRST SEVENTEEN YEARS--Virginia, 1607-1624](#)

In the first half of this book, the author follows the key events leading to the settlement and survival of the Virginia colony from 1607 to 1624. The second half pinpoints the spread of population in short essays about the founders and founding of some fifty early 17th-century settlements.

[GUIDE TO COUNTY RECORDS AND GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES IN TENNESSEE](#)

Based largely on the Tennessee county records microfilmed by the LDS Family History Library, this book is an inventory of extant county records and their dates of coverage. For each county the following data is given: formation, county seat, names and addresses of libraries and genealogical societies, published records (alphabetical by author), W.P.A. typescript records, microfilmed records (LDS), manuscripts, and church records. There also is a comprehensive list of statewide reference works.

[ALABAMA AND MISSISSIPPI CONNECTIONS: Historical and Biographical Sketches of Families on Both Sides of the Tombigbee River](#)

Mrs. Jacobson here focuses upon families who settled along the Tombigbee River, an area that today occupies all or part of the Alabama counties of Marion, Fayette, Lamar, Tuscaloosa, Greene, Pickens, and Sumter; and the Mississippi counties of Lee, Itawamba, Monroe, Webster, Clay, Choctaw, Oktibbeha, Lowndes, Winston, and Noxubee. She covers the founding of each of the seventeen counties comprising the Tombigbee River area, with references to the region's indigenous Creeks, Choctaws, Chickasaws, and Cherokees; the phases of French, Spanish, and British settlement; and the consolidation of the region under U.S. control following the War of 1812. Doubtless of greatest interest to researchers will be the author's genealogical and biographical essays on twenty-two pioneer families of the region.

[A GAZETTEER OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA: Embracing a Particular Description of the Counties, Towns, Villages, Rivers, etc. and Whatsoever is Usual in Geographies and Minute Statistical Works . . . Third Edition](#)

Roughly half of the volume is devoted to detailed descriptions of places in Georgia of every conceivable size and shape--counties, towns, villages, post offices, rivers, streams, creeks, mountains, ridges, peninsulas, islands, missionary stations--many of which are no longer in use but are likely to crop up in a genealogical investigation. Preceding the gazetteer itself is an excellent overview of Georgia history and an account of the institutions and living conditions in evidence at the time of the book's original publication in 1837. Included are chapters on the founding of Georgia, the state's role in the American Revolution and thereafter, and lists of federal and state officials.

[RECORDS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, GEORGIA](#)

County residents are listed under one or more of the following categories: headrights and

bounty grants (important because Washington County was one of only two Georgia counties where bounty grants were made to soldiers of the Revolution); 1805 lottery registrants; 1832 lottery fortunate drawers; 1820, 1830, 1840, and 1850 censuses; surveyors' records; military records; marriages; poor school records; tax defaulters; and early settlers.

BLOG: THE CLAYTON LIBRARY (Houston, Texas)

The Clayton Library in Houston, Texas, is one of the great genealogical treasures of the Deep South. Whether or not you have Texas forebears, you will want to read this week's posting on our blog, by guest columnist Sue Kaufmann, director of the Clayton Library. Check out genealogyandfamilyhistory.com today!

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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To order other than online, you can:

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