

Genealogy Pointers (08-16-11)

In this issue:

Inventory Liquidation Sale

What Does That Mean? A Look at Dictionaries for Genealogists

Huge 48-Hour Savings on Pennsylvania Genealogy CD Bundle

Blog: Researching Royal Lines

=====

Inventory Liquidation Sale

As we announced in yesterday's e-mail, Genealogical.com is in the midst of a week-long summer inventory clearance sale. Every day this week you will receive an e-mail containing 7 noteworthy volumes (and/or CDs) priced to sell at 35% off their retail price. Sale prices will remain in effect all week.

In addition, each day's e-mail will contain a Bonus Book--one of our best-selling publications available for 48 hours only at an even further reduction. Today's bonus publication is Carl W. Schlegel's four-volume *American Families of German Ancestry in the United States* (see below for details).

Be sure to open your Inventory Liquidation Week e-mails each day this week to stock up on the best genealogy books on the market, at the lowest prices.

Today's Bonus Book! [Schlegel's American Families of German Ancestry in the United States. In Four Volumes](#)

It's a paradox of German-American genealogy that the single greatest source in this field is barely known to researchers! The work in question is Carl W. Schlegel's four-volume *Schlegel's American Families of German Ancestry in the United States*, published between 1916 and 1926. Each of Schlegel's four volumes was limited to 200 numbered and registered copies; consequently, only a dozen or so sets can be located today. Unlike other great compendia, *Schlegel's American Families* doesn't just start out with the immigrant ancestor; rather, each family history usually begins two or three generations earlier, examining the family in its historical setting before bringing it forward to the immigrant ancestor and then four or five generations of his/her descendants in America. Altogether, the family studies in these four volumes name thousands of related family members.

Was \$175.00 Now \$99.95

[Early Kentucky Householders, 1787-1811](#)

This is a consolidated list of approximately 34,000 names that appeared in the annual tax lists for Lincoln County, Kentucky, between 1787 and 1811. (Forty-six of the fifty-four Kentucky counties that existed in the year 1811 are mentioned in the descriptions of landholdings claimed by Lincoln County householders at that time.) Author James Sutherland's "householders" are heads of household who do not necessarily own the land on which they and their families lived. Taxpayers (i.e., householders) recorded in the annual tax lists between 1787 and 1811 are listed

here in alphabetical order along with the date of the tax list, the number of the tax book, the page number of the original entry, and an enumeration of all other persons living in the household. This is a superb research tool!

Was \$26.50 Now \$16.95

[Ohio Wills and Estates to 1850: An Index](#)

This is probably the single most important collection of Ohio source records in print, for it references no fewer than 72,000 testators named in the will and estate records for all Ohio counties up to 1850. Since will records are the richest source of family relationships, researchers can use this index to access a potential treasure trove of information concerning their families. Each entry gives the name of the person referenced, the nature of the record (will or estate), year of the record, county where the record is filed, and the source of the original record wherein more information may be found. In addition to the index itself, researchers will find a list of abbreviations used in the entries, a glossary of terms common to inheritance records, a county-by-county breakdown of inheritance record holdings, and the individuals responsible for indexing them for the publication.

Was \$55.00 Now \$34.95

[A Topographical Dictionary of England. In Two Volumes](#)

This historical gazetteer describes every county, city, borough, market town, post town, parish, chapelry, township, hamlet, tything, and hundred in England at the time of the book's original publication in 1831. For example, with respect to counties, information includes situation, extent, and population of each county; statistics and history of all civil and ecclesiastical jurisdictions; and accounts of the courts of assize and quarter sessions. With respect to cities, boroughs, and market towns, information includes situation and bearing from nearest county town; population and local institutions; and markets, municipal government, courts, and religious establishments.

Was: \$105.00 Now: \$68.25

[The History of New England from 1630 to 1649 by John Winthrop, Esq., First Governor of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay from His Original Manuscripts with Notes. Revised Edition. In Two Volumes](#)

"James Savage's Edition of Winthrop's Journal," as this work is usually referred to, was inspired by the discovery in 1816 of a third part (manuscript) of Winthrop's *History of New England*. James Savage completed his transcription and collation of the manuscript in time for an 1825 publication, adding his own learned annotations about the men, women, and events Winthrop referred to, yielding a work perhaps twice as long as the original journal. *The History of New England* is arranged, journal-entry-by-journal-entry, from the patriarch's arrival in Massachusetts Bay in 1630 until 1648, the year before his death. Savage's notes on any given entry appear on the same page in smaller type. For example, when Winthrop refers to a fire in the house of John Page, Savage's notes tell us that Page was one of the first freemen admitted to the Massachusetts General Court.

Was \$87.50/set Now \$55.95/set

[A Genealogical History of the Dormant, Abeyant, Forfeited, and Extinct Peerages of the British Empire](#)

This work sets forth, alphabetically, the lineage of each of the nearly 2,000 noble houses that had

succumbed to extinction up to 1883. Each article begins with the exact date of the patent's creation and proceeds to the lineage, which commences with the first known representative of the line and carries through successive generations up to the time of the extinction of the title.

Was \$69.95 Now \$45.50

[Tombstone Inscriptions of Orange County, Virginia](#)

The work in hand records tombstone inscriptions in 150 cemeteries, 33 church cemeteries, and some half-dozen proprietary cemeteries, resulting in the enumeration of perhaps as many as 3,000 Orange County inhabitants, giving dates of birth and death and frequently specifying family relationships. To keep the data within practical limits, the author recorded the inscriptions of persons who either died before 1900 or were born before 1850.

Was \$17.50 Now \$10.95

[Genealogical Encyclopedia of the Colonial Americas](#)

Until the publication of this remarkable book, no single source could be used to identify and locate the records of the various countries of the western hemisphere. This book offers a systematic examination of the records of the colonial period in the western hemisphere to show the researcher where to find the most important genealogical records of the period and how to access them.

Was \$24.95 Now \$16.95

=====

What Does That Mean? A Look at Dictionaries for Genealogists, by Carolyn L. Barkley

(This article originally appeared in the April 23, 2009 edition of our blog,

www.genealogyandfamilyhistory.com.)

Did you receive a dictionary as a high school graduation gift? Dictionaries remain important resources, not only for students, but also for lifelong learners. Our shared experiences in defining unknown words or concepts are expressed in the pervasive use of idiomatic expressions such as "Look that up in your Funk & Wagnall's," or "Google it." For genealogists, dictionaries are essential as the working vocabulary or lexicon changes we encounter with each time period that we research or with each new subject we undertake. Here is a small selection of dictionaries that can help you in your research.

1. General definitions: When you read original documents, you always encounter words or phrases whose meanings are unknown. Rather than assume meaning from context, consulting a genealogical dictionary will enable you to interpret and analyze the document accurately. Good sources for your home library include *What Did They Mean by That: A Dictionary of Historical & Genealogical Terms Old & New* by Paul Drake (Heritage Books, 2000, reprinted 2007), its companion *More What Did They Mean by That* (Heritage Books, 2006), and Barbara Jean Evans' *The New A to Zax: A Comprehensive Genealogical Dictionary for Genealogists and Historians*, 2nd ed. (Evansville Bindery, 2000). These titles offer definitions and derivations for words and phrases both obscure and familiar, encompassing a wide range of topics. Are you wondering what your ancestor was doing when the record states that he was "processioning"? He really wasn't addicted to parades, but instead, was "walking the boundaries of private lands

within the parish" in order to verify their accuracy and resolve any boundary dispute that might have been brought to the vestry's attention. Was your ancestor described as a "cordwainer"? (He was a shoe or boot maker.) Wondering what being a "Gold Star Mother" meant? (The individual was a member of a patriotic and service-oriented organization of women whose sons were killed during American wars). General genealogical dictionaries are particularly good if you can purchase only one or two titles for your collection.

2. Medical terminology. Death certificates or diary entries about illnesses can be confusing as the terms for diseases and conditions used in past centuries are often different from those used today. What may look like a reference to a disease may even turn out to be something else entirely. For example, Charlton Rhodes Barkley died as a prisoner of war in General Hospital No. 1 in Frederick, Maryland, just after the battle of South Mountain (September 1862). One of the carded entries in his military record noted that he had died due to "vulnus sclopet." Despite my three years of high-school Latin, I was unable to determine the meaning of this phrase. While I knew "vulnus" meant wound, what part of the body was a "sclopet"? In the Periodical Source Index (PERSI), I located a list of medical terms used during the Civil War and discovered, much to my chagrin, that "vulnus sclopet" meant nothing more than a generic "gunshot wound." Closer reading of Charlton's record later identified the actual cause of death as typhoid (although I'm still looking for a record to describe the site of the gunshot wound). One very good website for this topic is [Rudy's List of Archaic Medical Terms](#). This site is a "collection of archaic medical terms and their old and modern definitions" whose "primary focus . . . is to help decipher the Causes of Death found on Mortality Lists, Certificates of Death and Church Death Records from the 19th century and earlier." You can either search for a specific term, or you can choose from headings in the left hand navigation bar. Initial choices include English, French, German, and International. The "English" selection presents an alphabetical list of diseases as well as topical headings for heart and stroke, miner's diseases, occupational diseases, poisons, and treatments. If you select "International," you may then choose from a list of twenty languages, including Latin. You will find that "accession" means seizure in Latin as does "anfall" in Swedish; "falecimento" means death in Portuguese; "zpaljenje pluca" means pneumonia in Croat, and the apt "yuck" means scabies in Scottish slang. Look for links to additional information. For example, at the end of the Croatian list of medical terms, there is a link to a separate URL that provides a glossary of medical terms found in [Croatian vital records](#).

3. Legal terminology. It is important to understand the terms found in legal documents such as wills, estate papers, court suits, etc. Although a modern law dictionary may help, historical terms or nuances may be missing, making it important to locate a law dictionary published as close to the time period of the record as possible. Many academic libraries, as well as large public libraries, own older editions of the standard, *Black's Law Dictionary*. The first (1891) and second editions (1910) are also available on a CD from Archive CD Books USA. Your state or local law library may also be able to assist you or you can look up the term in a comprehensive dictionary such as the *Oxford English Dictionary* (OED), as such references often provide historical definitions.

If you are translating foreign records, locate a legal dictionary from the appropriate country, preferably an edition contemporary with the document, or an edition including historical definitions. A. G. M. Duncan's *Green's Glossary of Scottish Legal Terms* (3rd ed., 1992) was

very helpful in deciphering Scottish inheritance terminology. In addition, books called “formularies” are helpful as they provide the full text of commonly used legal forms beside their full-text translations. Formularies for various countries, including Peter Goulesbrough’s *Formulary of Old Scots Legal Documents*, are listed in the [Family History Library catalog](#).

4. Foreign languages. In addition to foreign language medical terms as discussed above, you may need to understand genealogical terms in a foreign language so that you can accurately identify the important information in an original record. The [foreign language word lists](#) available at [FamilySearch.org](#) are very helpful. Fifteen guides are available covering Czech, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Hungarian, Icelandic, Italian, Latin, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish and Swedish. Some are available to download as PDFs; others can be searched on line by clicking on the name of the guide. The Icelandic guide, for example, provides information about language characteristics, alphabetization and spelling rules; key words in Icelandic, such as the words for parents, marriage, parish, year, etc.; and a general word list that includes Icelandic words for occupations, illnesses, causes of death, days of the week, months of the year, numbers, seasons, and times of day.

Published dictionaries specific to a foreign language, such as Ernest Thode’s [German-English Genealogical Dictionary](#) (Genealogical Publ. Co., 2008), are also available. Intended for use in conjunction with a standard German-English dictionary, Thode’s book includes thousands of words, symbols and abbreviations used in church records, civil registration records, family correspondence, genealogical journals, ships’ passenger lists, and emigration records.

These four categories of dictionaries represent only a small fraction of the wide array of dictionaries that can help you in your genealogical research. Check [Cyndi’s List](#) under “dictionaries” for an extensive list of dictionary sites, articles, and mailing lists about dictionaries and their uses in supporting your genealogical research.

=====

Huge 48-Hour Savings on Pennsylvania Genealogy CD Bundle

Whether your Pennsylvania ancestors were Quaker, Scots-Irish, Pennsylvania-Dutch, or other ethnicity, you will want to get your hands on our new collection of Pennsylvania CD-ROM publications. Now joining our collection of Virginia, New England, New York, and Ohio bundles, the four-CD [Pennsylvania Genealogy Bundle](#) packs the punch of a small library of stellar reference books for Pennsylvania genealogists.

The [Pennsylvania Genealogy Bundle](#) consists of the following data-packed Pennsylvania CD-ROMs:

- Pennsylvania Vital Records, 1700s-1800s
- Genealogies of Pennsylvania Families
- Pennsylvania German Church Records, 1729-1870
- Egle’s Notes and Queries of Pennsylvania, 1700s-1800s

When purchased individually, these four fully searchable CDs would cost a total of about \$160.00. These CDs are already terrific bargains in their own right in that they contain the imaged, indexed pages of nine 1,000-page volumes of Pennsylvania genealogy source records and compiled genealogies—each of them painstakingly extracted from thousands of issues of periodicals—plus the complete twelve-volume set of William Henry Egle's *Notes and Queries*.

After this Thursday, August 18th, you can buy the equivalent of several shelves of Pennsylvania genealogy books for just \$99.99 plus postage and handling. At that price, you would be getting many of the best reference books in all of Pennsylvania genealogy for, literally, pennies on the dollar. BUT, if you place your order online by 11:59 p.m. EDT this Thursday night, you can get this spectacular four-CD Bundle for just \$84.99, a savings of another \$15.00. To order, visit the following URL:

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=7160

If you are a CD user with Pennsylvania roots, don't hesitate before taking advantage of this great opportunity. To learn more about the contents of this bundle, read the following brief descriptions of the component CDs, or click on the link below each description for more details.

Pennsylvania Vital Records, 1700s-1800s

Referring to more than 87,000 individuals, this CD is one of the largest bodies of Pennsylvania source materials ever produced. It includes all of the birth, baptism, marriage, and death records ever published in the *Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine* and *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=7172

Genealogies of Pennsylvania Families

This CD reproduces the pages of all three volumes of *Genealogies of Pennsylvania Families* from "The Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine" as well as the single volume *Genealogies of Pennsylvania Families* from "The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography." The four volumes together contain several hundred family history articles and Bible records, which reference approximately 74,000 individuals from Pennsylvania and the Delaware Valley.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=7163

Pennsylvania German Church Records, 1729-1870

This CD contains images of the pages of all three volumes of *Pennsylvania German Church Records*, originally published by Genealogical Publishing Company. The volumes include all the church records ever published in the *Proceedings and Addresses* of the Pennsylvania German Society. The records refer to approximately 91,000 individuals and include births, baptisms, marriages, and burials. They identify people and their relationships to one another--not only parents and children, husbands and wives, but witnesses and sponsors as well.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=7130

Egle's Notes and Queries of Pennsylvania, 1700s-1800s

This CD offers unprecedented advantages and savings to anyone undertaking research in central Pennsylvania. Containing the twelve volumes of William Henry Egle's celebrated *Notes and Queries*, it is the most important multi-volume work on the genealogy, biography, and history of

central Pennsylvania ever published. Included in its nearly 5,000 pages are a vast number of genealogies, family sketches, and biographies, as well as extensive lists of early settlers and soldiers of the various wars, including the French and Indian War, the Revolutionary War, and the War of 1812. In addition, the work encompasses an impressive array of genealogical source records--early wills, church records, marriage and death records, tax lists, and lists of early immigrants and frontiersmen.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=7019

=====

Blog: Researching Royal Lines

We are always running into people who claim that they are related to William the Conqueror, the Hapsburgs, or some other royal house—but what resources are *really* required to make a bona fide connection to royalty. If you go to our blog, [www.genealogyandfamilyhistory](http://www.genealogyandfamilyhistory.com), and read editor Carolyn Barkley's latest posting, you can find out today.

=====

CONTACT US

www.genealogical.com is the online home of Genealogical Publishing Company and its affiliate, Clearfield Company. For general information about our companies and their products, please e-mail us at info@genealogical.com. To order online, please e-mail us at sales@genealogical.com.

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