

Genealogy Pointers (08-02-11)

New! *Genealogy at a Glance: Revolutionary War Genealogy Research*

Mother's Milk of Virginia Genealogy on Sale for Two Days

"Patronymic Naming Practices Linked Generation to Generation but Can Throw Modern Family Historians for a Loop," by Denise Larson

Featured Titles for August

Blog: Recap of NEHGS' Albany, New York, Research Weekend, July 13-17

New! *Genealogy at a Glance: Revolutionary War Genealogy Research*, by Craig R. Scott, CG

Tracing descent from a Revolutionary War ancestor is a lofty goal, and this *Genealogy at a Glance* publication will give a much-needed kick-start to your research, setting you on the correct course by guiding you through all the major record sources and online resources you're likely to need in establishing Revolutionary War ancestry.

Designed to cover the basic elements of genealogical research in just four pages, the *Genealogy at a Glance* series attempts to give you as much useful information in the space allotted as you'll ever need. In less than a handful of pages (specially laminated for heavy use) it provides an overview of the facts you need to know in order to begin and proceed successfully with your research. It boils the subject down to its essence and allows you to grasp the basics of research at a glance!

In this instance, Revolutionary War expert Craig Scott provides step-by-step guidance to the standard Revolutionary War sources such as pension records, compiled service records, and records of lineage societies, explaining how they can be used and where they can be found. And he brings you quickly up to speed on the important records of the militia, state troops, and Continental troops, including muster rolls, pay rolls, bounty land records, and settled accounts.

From the beginning, Scott is at pains to help you find your Revolutionary War ancestor, and he never loses sight of this goal, most importantly providing crucial information about National Archives microfilm records, citations to the standard works on Revolutionary War genealogy, and references to all major online resources. In the end, this is a work that can be read at a glance and used with total confidence.

For more information on *Genealogy at a Glance: Revolutionary War Genealogy Research*, visit the following URL:

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=5210

Craig R. Scott, CG is a national lecturer who specializes in the military records of the National Archives. He is a member of The Company of Military Historians and has authored several books and finding aids relating to National Archives research. He is the owner of Heritage Books, Inc., a genealogical publishing company.

Mother's Milk of Virginia Genealogy on Sale for Two Days

Thanks to our new print-on-demand program, all the family history articles ever published in the three great periodicals of Virginia genealogy are now available indefinitely. Over the course of their publishing histories, the *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, *Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*, and the *William and Mary College Quarterly* published hundreds of volumes and over a thousand individual issues devoted to the pioneering families of the Cavalier state. During the 1980s Genealogical Publishing Company gathered up these articles, arranged them alphabetically by family, indexed all the names, and published the contents in three multi-volume sets. Now available as paperback reprints, these three works contain hundreds of thousands of clues to origins of families that inhabited Virginia as early as the 17th and 18th centuries. Without a doubt, these fifteen volumes are the perfect addition for any researcher with significant numbers of Virginia forebears. Even better, if you purchase one or more of these amazing sets by 11:59 p.m. tomorrow, August 3, 2011, you can save 25% or more off the retail price. Scroll down for a capsule description of each of these remarkable products, or click on their titles for a more detailed description.

[Genealogies of Virginia Families from the *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*. In Five Volumes](#)

From 1893 until the apparent decline in this trend in the 1950s, the *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* (VMHB) was the leading journal in the field of Virginia family history, and it is no wonder that today its family history articles are the most sought after by the Virginia researcher. This five-volume work, nearly 5,000 pages in all, contains all the family history articles to have appeared in VMHB from 1893 through 1977. The assembled articles--hundreds of them--touch on families from all parts of the Old Dominion, and the majority trace lines of descent through as many as seven or eight generations, the data covering a period of three or four centuries or more. Upwards of 100,000 Virginians are treated in these pages, each of whom is cited in the specially prepared indexes at the back of the volumes.

Was \$350.00/set Now \$299.95/set

[Genealogies of Virginia Families from *Tyler's Quarterly Historical and Genealogical Magazine*. In Four Volumes](#)

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.

Was \$275.00/set Now \$199.95/set

[Genealogies of Virginia Families from the *William and Mary College Quarterly*. In Five](#)

[Volumes](#)

These five volumes contain every family history article published in the *William and Mary Quarterly* from the commencement of the 1st Series in 1892 until the completion of the 2nd Series in 1943, at which point genealogical contributions to the *Quarterly* ceased. No fewer than 500 genealogies were published--nearly one-third of them in multiple installments--and these, together with a substantial number of Bible records, are reprinted here in entirety. With these five volumes, the researcher has within reach a comprehensive collection of family history articles with accompanying indexes to the 100,000 persons mentioned (marking the first time complete-name indexes have been published). Each volume is separately indexed.

Was \$350.00/set Now \$299.95/set

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"Patronymic Naming Practices Linked Generation to Generation but Can Throw Modern Family Historians for a Loop," by Denise Larson

Patronymics is the use of the name of the father in the construction of the full name of sons and daughters. It was a common practice in many countries, including Scandinavia, Russia, and Wales. The construction of the patronymic varied with the culture, some using suffixes, others conjunctions to signify "son of" or "daughter of." By the modern age, with increased mobility and a surge in world population, many governments demanded that citizens select a permanent surname and stop the use of a changing patronymic. Most complied, but a few continue the tradition with a modern twist.

Scandinavians used suffixes to form patronymics

Before permanent surnames were required by law in the twentieth century, the Scandinavians had the practice of identifying a father and his children by combining the father's name with a suffix to form the patronymic family name for a child. The suffix for a male child was -son or -sen. For daughters, the suffix was -dotter or -datter. For example, the son of Asvald Ulfsson was named Thorvald Asvaldsson (not Ulfsson). Thorvald named his son Eric Thorvaldsson, aka Eric the Red. Eric's son was called Leif Ericsson. A daughter would be Ericsdatter or Ericsdotter.

If a family stayed in the same location for generations — not the case for the above family of explorers — occupational names might be tacked on to differentiate two men of the same name. Thor Olssen the blacksmith might in time be called Thor Olssen Smith and his offspring might be called Smith. Or a personal characteristic might be tacked onto a man's name to identify him, as in the case of Eric the Red.

If a family branched out to different farms or villages, that branch might take on the name of the village or farm, which was a common practice in Norway. Eric Olssen of Lund might in time be called — and sign himself — Eric Lund.

Watch for both patronymics and locator names when searching Norwegian records

The digital archives of Norway, <http://www.arkivverket.no/eng/Digital-Archives>, is a tremendous resource for searching parish, real estate, emigration, and other records and databases. Its collection includes scans of all Norwegian parish records preserved in the regional state archives. The oldest "kirkebok," i.e., parish register, is dated 1623. Regular use of parish record books became common ca. 1720. When using Arkivverket, remember to make note of farm names. They will probably come in handy when tracing later generations.

Make a plan before fishing around on the 'Net for ancestors

On the flip side of the vastness of the Internet is the actuality that there's so much genealogical data out there that if you don't have a good grasp of what you are looking for and what you are looking at, you can drown in data or get lost and follow the wrong lead or family line. Standard, tried-and-true references are the best starting points and guides to where to search and how to do it. Having and following a logical research plan might make the difference between success and failure to find an elusive ancestor.

Russians retain use of both patronymic and family name

The Russians have their own way of forming and using patronymics. Peter G. Larson, PhD, visiting lecturer in Russian Studies at Indiana University, explains Russian usage this way:

"All Russian patronymics are formed by adding -ovich/-evich to the father's name for males, and -ovna/-evna to the father's name for females. There are spelling rules that determine which one; it all depends on the last letter of the father's name."

Though the patronymic follows a person's given name and precedes the family name, "(t)he patronymic should not be regarded as analogous to the Western European middle name."

"The patronymic is used in the polite form of address. Since Russian has no equivalent of Mr. or Ms., when addressing a person in polite form, one uses the first name followed by the patronymic."

For example, Tolstoy's father was Nikolay, so the full name of the author of War and Peace is Lev (Leo) Nikolaevich Tolstoy.

Nearly 300,000 persons of Russian nationality emigrated from Russian territories to the United States 1875-1891. Passenger lists made by U.S. Customs and shipping lines provide each person's name, age, sex, occupation, country of origin, place of residence, and destination. The information from the lists have been compiled by Ira A Glazier and published in *Migration from the Russian Empire*. Genealogical research in Russia and its former republics still has many stumbling blocks, but finding an immigrant family group would be a great starting point. Keep in mind the importance of the patronymic when searching records.

Welsh patronymics used a conjunction between names

In the Welsh patronymic system, which was derived from its Celtic language origins, the word mab/map was used to denote “son” and was placed before the father’s name. In time the designation was shortened to ab or ap, e.g., Madog ab Owain, the name of the twelfth-century Welshman who is said to have sailed to the New World. In time even the shortened form dissipated. The ab/ap was either eliminated or combined with a name. For example, Madog ab Owain might have become Madog Bowen.

Daughters would use ferch/verch after their first names and before their father’s. For example, Gwenllian verch Gruffydd (ca. 1100-1136) was the daughter of Gruffydd ap Cynan, king of Gwynedd.

When permanent surnames were adopted in the eighteenth century or later in Wales, they were adaptations of a patronymic or from a location, occupation, or characterization of a person or persons in the family. Many were anglicized after the Act of Union in 1536 for social and political reasons. The double “dd,” which appears often in the Welsh language, was spelled as it sounded, i.e., that of “th.” Other double letters were dropped to a single letter.

Like the Scandinavians, the Welsh often named their children in honor of the father or grandparents, so one name could travel through the generations of one family. Some of the most common Welsh surnames were derived from names popular in a family: Davies (from David, in turn from Dafydd), Evans (from Ieuan), Hughes (from Hugh), Jones (from John), Lewis (from Llywelyn), Morgan (an ancient Welsh name), Thomas (from a saint’s name), and Williams (from William, in turn from Guillaume).

Guides to Welsh ancestry can shorten the search

The National Library of Wales, located in Aberystwyth on the west coast, is considered the center of Welsh genealogical research, but if you can’t squeeze in a visit and would like to start the search yourself, [The Surnames of Wales](#) by John and Sheila Rowlands will point you in the right direction. The challenge is to link your family line to one carried in Thomas Nicholas’s work, [Annals and Antiquities of the Counties and County Families of Wales](#), first published in 1872. Nicholas was in turn following in the footsteps of a first millennium AD Welsh king, Hywel Dda, who hit upon the idea that landholders in Wales should be able to trace their lineage back nine generations. Linking family lines back to the days of Hywel Dda is the holy grail of Welsh genealogy.

Sources:

“Leeks and St. David - A Look at Welsh Research,”
<<http://www.genealogyandfamilyhistory.com/?p=454>> Carolyn L. Barkley, 11 Nov 2010.

Downloaded 27 May 2011.

“Welsh Names and Surnames,”

<<http://www.users.uswest.net/%7Ebutchmatt/WelshNames&Surnames.htm>>, J.B. Davies, 2000. Downloaded 27 May 2011.

“Welsh Patronymics,” <<http://www.welshleigh.org/genealogy/welshnames.html>>, Derek Williams, March 2006. Downloaded 26 May 2011.

For more help with patronymics and related naming issues, consider the following titles:

[What's in a Name? Everything You Wanted to Know](#)

[Our Italian Surnames](#)

[American Surnames](#)

Featured Titles for August

David Dobson, Terrence Punch, Jeff Bowen, and Vernon Skinner continue to plug away on their various projects, so we have three new books to show for them in August. Dr. Dobson, who has compiled earlier titles on Scots in Barbados and elsewhere in the West Indies, has now produced a collection on Scottish émigrés to Jamaica between 1655-1855. Dr. Punch has identified several thousand additional Scots in the second volume of the series *Some Early Scots in Maritime Canada*. Mr. Bowen, who previously compiled an index to the Eastern Cherokees found in Guion Miller Applications has now completed the project with two additional books on the Western Cherokees named in the Miller rolls. Also in August, we are pleased to announce the 31st volume in Vernon L. Skinner's *Abstracts of the Testamentary Proceedings of the Prerogative Court of Maryland*, spanning the years 1761-1762.

If these new publications fail to coincide with the target of your research, you can still choose from among a number of August classic reprints. Now available, for instance, is the excellent collection of Scottish genealogies, *The Great Historic Families of Scotland*, Second Edition, by James Taylor. If your research is sending you to New Jersey records, you may be glad to know that the multi-volume *New Jersey Index of Wills, Inventories, Etc. in the Office of the Secretary of State Prior to 1901* is back in print. Still other summer reprints cover records or compiled genealogies from Pennsylvania; Buckingham Co., VA; Currituck and Old Macon Cos., NC; Roane and Claiborne Cos., TN; as well as the oldest register of Anglo families to have settled in Texas.

Following is our entire list of August 2011 featured CDs and books, brief descriptions of which can be found at the following link:

http://www.genealogical.com/genealogy_books/genealogy_cds.asp

- [Scots in Jamaica, 1655-1855](#), by David Dobson
- [Some Early Scots in Maritime Canada](#). Vol. II, by Terrence Punch
- [Cherokee Descendants West. An Index to the Guion Miller Applications, Volume II \(A-M\)](#) and [Volume III \(N-Z\)](#), by Jeff Bowen

- [Abstracts of the Testamentary Proceedings of the Prerogative Court of Maryland. Volume XXXI: 1761-1762. Libers 38 \(pp. 107-end\), 39 pp. 1-160\)](#), by Vernon L. Skinner, Jr.
- [The Great Historic Families of Scotland, Second Edition](#), by James Taylor
- [Abstracts from Ben Franklin's Pennsylvania Gazette, 1728-1748](#), by Kenneth Scott
- [Names of Persons Who Took the Oath of Allegiance to the State of Pennsylvania Between the Years 1777 and 1789, with a History of the "Test Laws" of Pennsylvania](#), by Thompson Westcott
- [New Jersey Index of Wills, Inventories, Etc. in the Office of the Secretary of State Prior to 1901](#), with a New Foreword by Kenn Stryker-Rodda
- [Buckingham County, Virginia Surveyor's Plat Book, 1762-1858. Second Edition](#), by Eric G. Grundset
- [Records of Old Macon County, North Carolina, 1829-1850](#), by Barbara Sears McRae
- [Marriages of Roane County, Tennessee, 1801-1838](#), by Edythe Rucker Whitley
- [Marriages of Claiborne County, Tennessee, 1838-1850 & Campbell County, Tennessee, 1838-1853](#), by Edythe Rucker Whitley
- [Stephen F. Austin's Register of Families](#), by Villamae Williams 6415

Blog: Recap of NEHGS' Albany, New York, Research Weekend, July 13-17

From time to time, the esteemed New England Historical Genealogical Society sponsors weekend research trips to key genealogical libraries and other repositories. The most recent one took place at the NY State Library and the NY State Archives in Albany, New York. If you have New York forebears or have ever wondered about the value of attending one of the NEHGS research weekends, be sure to read guest writer Kathy Merithew's new article on our blog, www.genealogyandfamilyhistory.com, today!

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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.

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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