

GENEALOGY POINTERS (08-21-07)

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DICK EASTMAN REVIEWS "Emigrants in Chains"  
[Excerpted from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, July 5, 2007]

Genealogical Publishing Company has republished one of the more popular books of the past decade or two. The full name of the book is, EMIGRANTS IN CHAINS: A Social History of Forced Emigration to the Americas of Felons, Destitute Children, Political and Religious Non-Conformists, Vagabonds, Beggars and Other Undesirables, 1607-1776, by Peter Wilson Coldham. A 2007 reprint is now available that appears to be unchanged since the last printing in 1994. I had a chance to read the book this week.

Anyone who has researched ancestry back to the years 1607 through 1776 in North America or the Caribbean has an excellent chance of finding ancestors who were "transported" from England to the colonies. Indeed, the British government saw the colonies as a great place to dump convicts and other undesirables. The undesirables included those whose "crime" was a disagreement with the official church of the time and others who simply were poor.

The new lands needed population, and Great Britain had thousands of people deemed unworthy of remaining in the old country. The result was easy: move the felons, destitute children, political and religious non-conformists, vagabonds, beggars, and other undesirables to the new colonies. More than 50,000 were forcibly moved to North America, Jamaica, Nevis, Barbados, and Antigua. Most were sold into apprenticeships or forced labor in near-slavery conditions in the New World. One report in the book lists prices ranging from £8 to £25 each for seven years' labor. Many of the transportees survived and raised families, and today they have millions of descendants.

NOTE: Prisoners were not transported to Australia until 1788, and those years are not covered in this book.

EMIGRANTS IN CHAINS is not a list of people who were transported. Instead, it is a history book that describes how much of the labor of North America was supplied through the emptying of English jails, workhouses, brothels, and houses of correction. Some Scottish "undesirables" were also forcibly transported to the New World. Peter Coldham describes the processes involved and the men charged with administering the

transportation system or engaged in transportation as a business. He describes the prisons and the courts of the time. He also describes the lives of typical transportees and their reception in the colonies.

EMIGRANTS IN CHAINS does have a list of all known ships used to transport these people, along with the dates and destinations of each ship and, in most cases, the name of the captain of each ship. If you know the date--even the approximate date--of your ancestor's arrival in the New World, you may be able to deduce which ship he or she sailed on.

Chapters in this book include:

1. The Convicts and Their Background
2. The Prisons
3. The Dispensers of Justice
4. The State Monopoly - Early Days
5. The Age of Contractors
6. Transportation as a Business
7. The Scottish Experiment
8. His Majesty's Seven-Year Passengers
9. The New Immigrants
10. Some Thumbnail Sketches
11. The Twilight Years

The book also contains nine detailed appendices and an extensive bibliography.

This book is fascinating as one tries to imagine the conditions under which these people lived and suffered. Transportation to the Americas was difficult for them, and many traveled while chained together in cargo holds without heat, dry clothes, or decent food. In fact, many slave ships were re-routed from their African routes to transport English men and women to the colonies. Most of these people traveled in the same manner as slaves from Africa, usually in chains. It is difficult to imagine the inhumanity of transporting slaves or captured prisoners of war. It is even more difficult to understand how loyal Britons could do the same to their own countrymen.

Some of the forced immigrants did not survive long in the colonies, but thousands of others eventually became upstanding citizens, raised families, and contributed to the growth of a brave new continent. The descendants of these "undesirables" include Presidents of the United States as well as all sorts of politicians, authors, poets, athletes, inventors, and industrialists. While Great Britain saw this as a method of getting rid of "undesirables," many of us today are thankful that our ancestors made this trip, survived, and prospered. EMIGRANTS IN CHAINS is their story.

Peter Coldham's style of writing is typical of history books: heavily loaded with facts. He describes page after page of human misery in a reserved manner without dwelling on the more unsavory details. However, it is obvious that he is describing extensive human misery.

EMIGRANTS IN CHAINS: A Social History of Forced Emigration to the Americas of Felons, Destitute Children, Political and Religious Non-Conformists, Vagabonds, Beggars and Other Undesirables, 1607-1776, by Peter Wilson Coldham, is a 196-page paperback book that sells for \$18.95 plus shipping and taxes, if any. It is available via a safe and secure online shopping cart system on Genealogical Publishing Company's web site at

[http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main\\_page=product\\_info&item\\_number=1109&NLC-GenPointers1](http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=1109&NLC-GenPointers1)

I suspect it will be available on other online bookstores and can be ordered in traditional bookstores if you specify ISBN: 9780806317786.

[N.B. Researchers who may be on the trail of a specific "convict" ancestor who arrived in America before 1789 should also consult Peter Wilson Coldham's definitive CD-ROM collection of bonded passengers to the New World described below.]

#### BRITISH EMIGRANTS IN BONDAGE, 1614-1788 (CD)

This CD-ROM is the definitive record of 48,000 felons carried from the jails of England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland to help populate colonial America. For this CD, Peter Wilson Coldham, England's foremost authority on 17th- and 18th-century emigration to America, abstracted from every surviving record the names and histories of all those sentenced in England and Ireland to be transported to America for their alleged crimes. Also included on this CD are a separate section on transported Irish felons and runaways; a history of the British transportation system; an exhaustive account of the records used in this work; and a complete list of convict ships that sailed to America between 1671 and 1788.

[http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main\\_page=product\\_info&item\\_number=7012&NLC-GenPointers1](http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=7012&NLC-GenPointers1)

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"GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH in Southside Virginia," by John W. Pritchett

The purpose of this article is to summarize some unique genealogical aspects of Southside Virginia, which generally encompasses the area on the south side of the James River, bounded by the Blue Ridge Mountains on the west and the Hampton Roads region on the east. Effective genealogical research in Southside Virginia requires a knowledge of county creation, why they were created, what records are available at courthouses and elsewhere, and how to interpret those records.

The social and economic development of colonial Southside was influenced primarily by the pursuit of the profitable production of tobacco, a labor-intensive crop that drove the acquisition of land and the growth of the population--both slave and free. Because tobacco was more easily transported along waterways, planters first staked out land along the James River, the largest river in southern Virginia, and then westward up the

Appomattox, Blackwater, Meherrin, Nottoway, Dan, and Roanoke rivers and their tributaries. Land patents and grants, the abstracts of which have been published, reveal the pace of land acquisition. In our day, platting software is being applied to the patents of many Southside counties for identifying precisely where an individual lived and who his/her neighbors were.

The Englishmen who founded Virginia brought with them their devotion to the laws and principles of their mother country and their affection for the Anglican Church. Consequently, they duplicated the concepts of a county and parish as they existed in England, as we shall see below.

The 26 contemporary Southside counties evolved from all or part of four of the eight original Virginia counties or shires: Charles City, Henrico, James City, and Warrosquyoake. As more individuals settled permanently at considerable distances from their county courthouse, the General Assembly chartered new counties to accommodate them. Once the new court was established, records of the new county would be housed in the new courthouse, while earlier records for the residents of the new county, such as wills and deeds, would remain in the old courthouse. For example, a family settled in present-day Nottoway County may have left records in the courthouses of Charles City until 1703, Prince George until 1735, and Amelia until 1789.

For purposes of this article, we include in Southside (from east to west) the present-day counties of Isle of Wight (renamed from Warrosquyoake in 1637), Surry (founded in 1652 from James City), Sussex (founded in 1754 from Surry), Southampton (founded in 1749 from Isle of Wight), Prince George (founded in 1703 from Charles City), Dinwiddie (founded in 1752 from Prince George), Chesterfield (founded in 1749 from Henrico), Brunswick (founded in 1732 from Prince George), Greenville (founded in 1781 from Brunswick), Amelia (founded in 1735 from Prince George), Cumberland (founded in 1749 from Goochland), Powhatan (founded in 1777 from Cumberland), Nottoway (founded in 1789 from Amelia), Lunenburg (founded in 1746 from Brunswick), Mecklenburg (founded in 1765 from Lunenburg), Prince Edward (founded in 1654 from Amelia), Buckingham (founded in 1761 from Albemarle), Appomattox (founded in 1845 from Buckingham), Charlotte (founded in 1765 from Lunenburg), Halifax (founded in 1752 from Lunenburg), Bedford (founded in 1754 from Lunenburg), Campbell (founded in 1782 from Bedford), Pittsylvania (founded in 1767 from Halifax), Franklin (founded in 1786 from Bedford), Henry (founded in 1777 from Pittsylvania), and Patrick (founded in 1791 from Henry).

Unless your Southside research is confined to Isle of Wight County, you must contend with "burned counties" that have lost some or all courthouse records. Of the four original shires that encompassed Southside, all but Warrosquyoake, now Isle of Wight, have lost records: Henrico to the British during the Revolution and Charles City and James City counties during the Civil War. Another significant loss is that of the pre-Civil War records of Prince George County, the predecessor of 16 of today's Southside counties. Dinwiddie and Buckingham lost their pre-1865 records; Nottoway lost many records; and the courthouse of Appomattox County burned in 1892. Although other Southside

courthouses have avoided major catastrophes, missing volumes and gaps in the records are not unusual.

Each county clerk kept transcriptions of wills and deeds, bonds of several varieties including guardian and marriage bonds, ministers' returns of marriages performed, court orders, etc. I wish I could report that abstracts of the key extant records of all Southside counties have been published, but it is just not so. Thanks to some diligent compilers, most marriage records into the early 19th century have been published, but wills and deeds are incomplete.

County records now housed in Richmond are described in "A Preliminary Guide to Pre-1904 County Records in the Virginia State Library and Archives" by Suzanne Smith Ray, Lyndon H. Hart III, and J. Christian Kolbe (Richmond: Virginia State Archives, 1994). Although some early county records remain in their respective courthouses, microfilm copies of those originals are located at the State Archives as well. The good news for researchers is that they can obtain microfilm copies through interlibrary loan (<http://www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwehave/local>). As a resident of Dallas, Texas, I can enter a request for a particular microfilm reel at the website of the Dallas Public Library and have it within two weeks. If you are looking for wills and estates, Wesley E. Pippenger's "Index to Virginia Estates 1800-1865" is indispensable in determining which reel to order. Volumes 3, 5, and 7 include Southside counties.

Despite the destruction of so many records, a large number of Southside Virginia tax lists, fortunately, are extant. For example, the quit rent list of 1704 identifies Southside land owners. A few tithable lists, depicting the heads of households and names of men and slaves of a taxable age, remain for Amelia (1736-57, 1761-64), Buckingham (1773-74), Chesterfield (1756, 62), Cumberland (1758, 60, 68), Halifax (1755, 70-71, 80), Henrico Southside (1747), Lunenburg (1748-52, 64, 69, 72-76), Mecklenburg (1748-52, 64), Nottoway (1771), and Surry (1668-1703) counties. Most real and personal property tax rolls identifying Southside heads of household from 1782 are available even for "burned counties."

Partial surrogates for the 1790 federal census, destroyed during the War of 1812, are the 1782-85 state enumerations, which have been published as "Heads of Families at the First Census, 1790." Found here are enumerations for Amelia (1782, 1785), Charlotte (1782), Chesterfield (1783), Cumberland (1782, 1784), Greensville (1783), Halifax (1782, 1785), Isle of Wight (1782), Mecklenburg (1782), Pittsylvania (1782, 1785), Powhatan (1783), Prince Edward (1783, 1785), Surry (1782, 1784), and Sussex (1782) counties and Richmond City (1782). "Virginia Tax Payers, 1782-87" (available from [www.genealogical.com](http://www.genealogical.com)) supplements this publication with selected personal property tax lists--generally the 1782 list--from counties for which no enumerations remain, including the Southside counties of Bedford, Brunswick, Buckingham, Campbell, Dinwiddie, Henry, Lunenburg, Prince George, and Southampton.

In "The Virginia Genealogist," John Frederick Dorman has published the 1800 personal property tax lists for most of Southside, which serves as a surrogate for the now-missing

1800 federal census. There is nothing unique to Southside Virginia when it comes to researching federal censuses for 1810 and beyond. Nor does Southside require any unusual knowledge of military records.

For ecclesiastical purposes, each Southside county was divided into one or more Anglican parishes, which methodically registered baptisms and funerals and recorded minutes of vestry meetings. Portions of colonial registers and vestry books of Bristol (Prince George and Dinwiddie), King William (Powhatan), and Albemarle (Surry and Sussex); the registers of Tillotson (Buckingham) and Bath Parish (Dinwiddie); and the vestry books of Antrim (Halifax), Camden (Pittsylvania), Cumberland (Lunenburg), Henrico (Henrico), Southam (Powhatan), Newport (Isle of Wight), St. Patrick's (Prince Edward), and St. Andrew's (Brunswick) parishes are available.

If your family members were Southside Quakers, you are in luck because William Wade Hinshaw abstracted the records of the Virginia Society of Friends in "Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy," Volume VI. Southside Friends were members of the Chuckatuck, Black Water, Upper, Henrico, Cedar Creek, South River, or Goose Creek monthly meetings.

Marriage and death notices in Richmond newspapers to 1853, published by the Virginia Genealogical Society, include many Southside names. Several Southside counties have published county histories, which often contain sketches on particular individuals and families. I am most familiar with the histories of Amelia, Bedford, Brunswick, Chesterfield, Cumberland, Halifax, Lunenburg, Nottoway, Prince Edward, and Surry. Of course, published genealogies are available on many Southside families as well.

[N.B. Persons conducting research on Southside families are encouraged to consult Mr. Pritchett's extraordinary CD collection, published in 2006, SOUTHSIDE VIRGINIA GENEALOGIES. For more information about this CD, see the link below. When you arrive at the URL, you will discover that you can read a detailed description of this CD, scroll through its table of contents, examine sample pages, and--perhaps best of all--check the entire CD index to learn if your ancestor can be found there. SOUTHSIDE VIRGINIA GENEALOGIES is our first product to offer these "View Inside this Book" features. Patrons can expect to see more of them throughout our website in the weeks and months to come.]

[http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main\\_page=product\\_info&item\\_number=7540&NLC-GenPointers1](http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=7540&NLC-GenPointers1)

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"SO YOU THINK YOU CAN'T READ GERMAN," by Ernest Thode

You, the family genealogist, have a dilemma. You have discovered that your ancestry is German. Those old family letters in your possession are written in some kind of hen scratching that no sane person could possibly interpret, even though you have a vague feeling that those Germans of a century or two ago may have been successfully

communicating with one another. To top it off, now you have researched back to your German-speaking immigrant ancestor couple. You can't even read the pre-printed part of that form you found in the attic that you think might be a passport and tell what letters of the alphabet they represent, let alone the hand-written words that fill in the blanks. Why, for all you know, that passport might not be a passport at all, but a graduation certificate or a marriage license.

What do you, the designated family historian, do now? You don't know German other than "Gesundheit" and "Auf wiedersehen." You face a daunting task, probably an impossible task, or so it would appear to any reasonable person. Even though you have traced your English lines back to the 1600s with much satisfaction at your genealogical prowess, you are practically ready to abandon your German immigrants prior to the moment they set foot on American soil at Castle Garden in 1881 because of the "language barrier."

Actually, if you have half as much courage as that immigrant whose genes you so proudly bear, you are about to embark on an adventure into a new and different world, just as your ancestors did. After all, they had to learn a foreign language, an unfamiliar way of writing, and a new set of customs. If they were willing to take the plunge, you should be at least half as willing to learn how to read the documents that chronicle their lives. Believe it or not, you will learn to read German!

Fortunately, there is help. Even though I had the advantage of at least knowing the German language as I did my research, I became frustrated by the many different reference books I had to look through to find explanations of the words I found in genealogical documents. I had surname books, given-name books, gazetteers for place names, German genealogical guides and word lists, Latin word lists, French word lists, lists of weights and measures, lists of diseases, and guides to the old script. With such a plethora of aids, I saw the need for a "one-stop" German-English genealogical dictionary that could be used in conjunction with a basic German-English dictionary.

For nearly a decade, I pored through records that I had translated, genealogical periodicals, passenger lists, village chronicles, and historical documents, gleaning words and definitions, exhausting numerous German genealogical word lists. Finally, I compiled a reference book that I actually still use myself. You should see the notes in my desk copy! My reference book, the GERMAN-ENGLISH GENEALOGICAL DICTIONARY, includes the genealogy-related words that regular dictionaries either miss or don't define in a way that applies to genealogy. There are no etymologies, pronunciation guides, parts of speech, etc.--just pure meanings for somebody translating, literally, word by word. It is just what someone needs to make sense out of a German genealogical document.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Ernest Thode is manager of the Local History and Genealogy Department of the Washington County Public Library in Marietta, Ohio. His research interest is German-Americana. He is a lecturer on the topic and the author of several books, including the "German-English Genealogical Dictionary" and the "Address Book

for Germanic Genealogy." His award-winning genealogy column, "Family Tree," appears in "The Marietta Times." Another column, "Ask Ernie," appears as a feature in "The Palatine Immigrant," the quarterly publication of Palatines to America.

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## GERMAN-ENGLISH GENEALOGICAL DICTIONARY

As Mr. Thode explained above, his GERMAN-ENGLISH GENEALOGICAL DICTIONARY is designed for the family researcher who has little or no knowledge of German but who nevertheless needs to make a translation of German-language documents. The DICTIONARY covers thousands of German terms and defines them in single words or brief phrases. Mr. Thode chose all words, symbols, and abbreviations in the DICTIONARY on the basis of their association with genealogy, having been used in church records, civil registration records, family correspondence, genealogical journals, ships' passenger lists, and emigration records.

Among the many categories of entries included in the DICTIONARY are family relationships, days of the week, map terms, legal terms, cardinal and ordinal numbers, roman numerals, signs of the zodiac, coins, liquid and dry measures, measures of length, place names, historical territories, geographical terms, occupations, titles, military ranks, types of taxes, illnesses, calendar days, male and female given names, heraldry, abbreviations, books of the Bible, and common genealogical words from Danish, Dutch, French, Latin, and Polish. In conjunction with a standard German-English dictionary, the user of this work should be able to make a word-by-word translation of any German document and understand it.

[http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main\\_page=product\\_info&item\\_number=5758&NLC-GenPointers1](http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=5758&NLC-GenPointers1)

As an added boost, read what the experts have to say about Ernest Thode's GERMAN-ENGLISH GENEALOGICAL DICTIONARY:

"The book is well organized; easy to use; a valuable addition to the library of anyone researching their German ancestry."--"Der Ahnenforscher," p. 3.

"Even the person who has a strong knowledge of the German language will find a number of cultural and historical novelties which enhance hi/her knowledge of things German. The many references to standard German abbreviations and acronyms also prove quite helpful, whereas the list of suffixes and the dictionary make fascinating reading and reference for those with linguistic or genealogical interests."--"The New England Historical and Genealogical Register," Vol. 151, pp. 109-110.

"Thode's compilation is recommended for everyone dealing with Germanic documents."--"National Genealogical Society Quarterly," Vol. 82, No. 1.

"Ernest Thode has put together one of the best German genealogical dictionaries

available. The brief introduction to the dictionary is concise and complete. Anyone who researches German manuscripts, letters, or documents will find this dictionary extremely useful."--"Association of Professional Genealogists Quarterly," Vol. 8, No. 2.

"Researchers who wish to translate documents on their own will find this book invaluable."--"Federation of Genealogical Societies Forum," Vol. 5, No. 1, pp. 21-24.

"Mr. Thode has carefully organized this book and has written a good introduction to explain its use."--"The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record," Vol. 123, No. 4.

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#### FEATURED BOOKS for August

Our most important new title for August is EVIDENCE EXPLAINED: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace by Elizabeth Shown Mills; it is also our most significant general reference title for 2007. We will have more to say about it in the weeks ahead.

Also among our August publications is David Dobson's entirely new source of Scottish connections, "Scottish Transatlantic Merchants, 1611-1785." And we've just published two more volumes (Six and Seven) in Jeff Bowen's series, "Indian Wills, 1911-1921." We've also released another volume in the late Clifford Neal Smith's series of hard-to-find German passenger records (this one covering passengers from Baden-Wuerttemberg, Rheinland-Pfalz, and a number of other cities in Germany). We have also reprinted four other volumes in the series pertaining to immigrants from Hamburg, Saxony, Hessen-Hanau, and Fuerstenberg. Speaking of series, if you have North Carolina ancestors, you will be glad to learn that all four volumes of Worth S. Ray's "Lost Tribes of North Carolina" are back in print this month. Finally, we have also reprinted a collection of Virginia vital records that first appeared in the three great magazines of Virginia genealogy.

Following is a complete list of our featured books for August. 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&NLC-GenPointers1](http://www.genealogical.com/content/products_new_genealogy.html&NLC-GenPointers1)

#### BOOKS:

- Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace
  
- Scottish Transatlantic Merchants, 1611-1785
  
- Indian Wills, 1911-1921: Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Books Six and Seven

- Nineteenth-Century Germans to America: A Consolidation of Six Pamphlets Identifying Emigrants from Baden-Wuerttemberg, Bremen, Hamburg, Nordrhein-Westfallen, Rheinland-Pfalz, and Schleswig-Holstein
- Reconstructed Passenger Lists for 1850: Hamburg to Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, and the United States, Parts 1, 2, 3 & 4
- Emigrants from Saxony (Grand Duchy of Sachsen-Weimar-Eisenach) to America, 1854, 1859
- Emigrants from the Principality of Hessen-Hanau, Germany, 1741-1767
- Emigrants from the West-German Fuerstenberg Territories (Baden and the Palatinate) to American and Central Europe 1712, 1737, 1787
- Worth S. Ray's "Lost Tribes of North Carolina"  
Part I: Index and Digest to Hathaway's North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register  
Part II: Colonial Granville County [North Carolina] and Its People  
Part III: The Mecklenburg Signers and Their Neighbors  
Part IV: Old Albemarle and Its Absentee Landlords
- Virginia Vital Records from "The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography," the "William and Mary College Quarterly," and "Tyler's Quarterly"
- Early Records, Hampshire County, Virginia, Now West Virginia
- Index to the 1820 Census of Kentucky

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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