

Genealogy Pointers (08-23-11)

In this issue:

Genealogy Warehouse Clearance

“What Our Ancestors Died of,” by Terrence Punch

More Print on Demand Books Now Available

What’s New in the Genealogy Warehouse for August?

Blog: Some Thoughts - and Resources - on Scottish Research

Genealogy Warehouse Clearance

(Prices in effect for 48 hours only!)

Listed immediately below are eight Genealogy Warehouse books pertaining to the mid-Atlantic states Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York. Ordinarily each one is on sale at 40% below its original retail price. For the next 48 hours, however, we have dropped the prices on each of these books to 60-75% below the original retail price. These dramatic rollbacks will remain in effect until 11:59 p.m. EDT, Wednesday, August 24, 2011.

(Not currently on the trail of a mid-Atlantic forebear? Try browsing the complete list of Genealogy Warehouse titles at: http://www.genealogical.com/content/products_warehouse.html.)

[Landholders of Northeastern New York, 1739-1802 \(Low in stock\)](#)

This work forms a directory of all participants in all land sales and mortgage agreements in northeastern New York between 1739 and 1802. The area covered includes all land within the present-day counties of Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Warren, and Washington. The first part of the volume identifies original grantees, persons awarded land in the area between 1739 and 1775. The second part, and by far the largest, identifies about 9,000 landholders--grantees, grantors, mortgagees and mortgagors--whose land records were filed between 1772 and 1802 in the deed and mortgage books of Washington, Clinton, or Essex counties.

Was \$24.00 Now \$8.25

[The Burlington Court Book: A Record of Quaker Jurisprudence in West New Jersey, 1680-1709](#)

In 1676, shortly after the English seized the territory from the Dutch, New Jersey was divided into the colonies of East and West Jersey. Organized by a group of Quaker proprietors in London in 1676/7, West Jersey was settled by Quakers and was, in fact, the first Quaker colony in America, preceding Pennsylvania by six years. The minutes of the Burlington court contain the day-to-day minutiae of Quaker temporal life. The majority of the court minutes concern property rights; civil suits; grievances involving slaves, servants, and Indians; and all manner of domestic complaints. Many of the cases brought before the court--such as inquests, petty civil suits, and criminal cases--give the names of spouses, children, and other related individuals. Since the majority of the persons named in this work were Quakers, researchers may be able to profit even further from clues it contains by probing among New Jersey Quaker meeting records for the same period.

Was \$40.00 Now \$9.95

[Maryland Genealogies. A Consolidation of Articles from the *Maryland Historical Magazine*. In Two Volumes](#)

This work contains all the family history articles published in the *Maryland Historical Magazine* from its inception through 1976. Since 1906 the *Magazine* has included articles on families from all parts of the state, nearly 100 articles in all, naming some 15,000 persons. Most of the articles begin with the first member of the family in Maryland and trace descendants in the male line down to the early 18th century. Since these articles have been largely inaccessible to the researcher, we have excerpted them in entirety and rearranged them in this comprehensive two-volume work, adding personal name indexes and an introduction by a noted Maryland genealogist.

Was \$110.00 Now \$35.95

[Free African Americans of Maryland and Delaware from the Colonial Period to 1810](#)

Paul Heinegg has here assembled genealogical evidence on more than 300 Maryland and Delaware black families (naming nearly 6,000 individuals). The work contains copious documentation from the federal censuses of 1790 to 1810 and colonial sources consulted at the Maryland Hall of Records, county archives, and other repositories. His documentation proves that most of these free black families descended from mixed-race children who were the progeny of white women and African American men. While some of these families would claim Native American ancestry, Mr. Heinegg offers evidence that they were, instead, the direct descendants of mixed-race children.

Was \$41.95 Now \$ 9.95

[The Provincial Councillors of Pennsylvania Who Held Office Between 1733 and 1776](#)

This work covers many of the leading families of the mid-Atlantic region and includes the entire progeny of the councillors, including daughters of daughters of daughters, sons of sons of sons, cadet branches who moved west, and English, French, German, and other foreign descendants.

Was \$45.00 Now \$14.95

[Central Pennsylvania Marriages, 1700-1896](#)

The bulk of this work is composed of marriage records of Union and Snyder counties in Pennsylvania. Other sections of the book include miscellaneous marriage records from other central Pennsylvania counties, 1700-1896. In all, about 15,000 brides and grooms are identified.

Was \$10.00 Now \$2.50

[Index to the 1850 Census of Delaware](#)

This work is divided into three sections for the Delaware counties of Kent, New Castle, and Sussex, with heads of household arranged alphabetically. Researchers will find information regarding the age, place of birth, and the census sheet number from the manuscript census for every person enumerated in Delaware (for the first time in U.S. census history this includes all household members). Names more than 92,500 persons.

Was \$32.50 Now \$12.95

[An Index of the Source Records of Maryland](#)

The major part of this work is an alphabetically arranged and cross-indexed list of some 20,000

Maryland families, with references to the sources and locations of the records in which they appear.

Was \$28.50 Now \$9.95

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“What Our Ancestors Died of,” by Terrence Punch

Some genealogists collect only ancestors, that is, people from whom they are personally descended. When traced out on a sheet of paper or a spreadsheet you have a pattern resembling an inverted Christmas tree, wide at the top and pointed at the bottom. Others take a great deal of trouble to track down collateral relatives, the siblings of ancestors and their descendants. If they began with a couple of progenitors, the result will tend to spread more widely with the passing of the generations.

This is not always the case. One couple had eleven children, sixteen grandchildren, but just four great-grandchildren, all four of whom grew to adulthood, two of them married and none of them had children. Within three generations a large family had completely died out. Imagine the original matriarch, dying in 1883 leaving eight children and nine grandchildren, and in 2003 her last descendant died, childless.

One of the reasons why people try to compile genealogies linking collateral relatives as well as direct ancestors is to produce a health history of their wider family circle. They ask questions about age at death, causes of death, conditions that appeared to run in the family, handicaps, tendency to accidents and mishaps, even towards suicide.

A circumstance that interferes with this effort is that records, if they exist, often fail to reveal people's cause of death. Another snag is that the deaths were attributed to conditions and ailments with unfamiliar names. We really do have to wonder who made the diagnosis written down as the cause of death. We can understand “drowned”, “typhoid” or “pneumonia”, but what did someone mean by “senile decay”? Had the patient become moldy with age? And what did the sexton mean when he entered “senility” as the reason that a three-year-old died? To allege “premature ageing” would be ridiculous. Since the same man gave that cause of death to more than one child, we can assume that he did not understand the word.

Whenever possible, learn whether there were outbreaks of epidemic disease in an area about the time your relative died. If a child died while a smallpox outbreak ravaged the vicinity, consider that may have killed your family member too. Halifax had smallpox at the turn of the nineteenth century, as well as cholera epidemics a few decades later. There was a visitation of the mis-named “Spanish” influenza after the end of World War One.

Nor should we forget disasters such as the Halifax explosion of 1917, or mine disasters. In coastal communities several men may have perished in a marine mishap. Diphtheria wiped out households of children, as did scarlet fever and so forth. In doing a genealogy, be alert to these group deaths, as they may signify the presence of contagious disease or some tragedy, such as a house fire. Not to be morbid, but the media tended then, as now, to cover such events. Victorian

papers seem to have revealed in headlines such as “Melancholy accident,” “Tragedy at sea,” etc.

Here are some examples I’ve seen in records:

ague - any of several feverish conditions, e.g., malaria (not so odd when you remember how many seamen

visited tropical ports in the age of sail, and contracted illnesses)

bad blood - euphemism for venereal disease, especially syphilis

bilious fever - any of hepatitis, malaria, typhoid (caused by bacteria salmonella)

bladder in the throat - diphtheria

carbuncle - large boil (not usually fatal); skin cancer (then often fatal)

consumption - tuberculosis

cramp colic - appendicitis, peritonitis; also simply "colic"

debility - lack of energy or movement, probably due to an unrecognized illness

dentition - teething (hard to imagine this as fatal in itself; probably other complications)

dropsy - congestive heart failure; also noted as "hydrothorax"

falling sickness - epilepsy

flux - diarrhea; hemorrhage

gleet - inflamed membrane in the urethra

green sickness - anemia

horrors - delirium tremens

infantile paralysis - poliomyelitis

jail fever, ship fever - typhus (caused by bacteria rickettsia)

king’s evil - tuberculosis in the neck and lymph glands; also called **scrofula** (until Queen Anne, monarchs

actually touched the afflicted; popular belief was that the king’s touch cured it)

milk fever - children contracted this bacterial disease from milk from cows having brucellosis

mortification - gangrene (common before antiseptics)

nostalgia - homesickness; the belief that immigrants died pining for their native land

old age - applied to people as young as 55 (making some of us positively "ancient")

palsy - paralysis; also uncontrollable jerking of limbs; also entered as "fits"

screws - rheumatism

senility - advanced old age; perhaps Alzheimer’s; wrongly applied to young people

visitation by God - many sudden deaths due to natural causes, e.g, strokes, were called this

Two websites for those who want to see a list of obsolete diagnoses:

<http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/index.shtml>

<http://www.homeoint.org/cazalet/oldnames.htm>

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More Hot-Off-the-Press Books

We have just reprinted five classic works; most of them previously out of print for a period of

years. Did your ancestors lived in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Kentucky, or Arkansas? Could they have served in the American Revolution? Might they have earned their way to America by working as an indentured servant? If so, the below titles could help you in your family research.

[Pioneers and Makers of Arkansas](#)

This work covers the history of the settlement of the state from its formation down to the latter half of the 19th century. In addition to numerous biographical sketches containing considerable genealogical data, this history contains extensive genealogies of dozens of founding families.
http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=5340

[Official Register of the Officers and Men of New Jersey](#)

This is the authoritative roster of the officers and soldiers of New Jersey who served in the Revolutionary War, containing upwards of 15,000 names arranged according to organization and rank. In addition to name and rank, the rosters usually indicate the soldier's county of origin and sometimes date of discharge or death and service record. Researchers may also wish to purchase the separately published Index to [Stryker's Register of New Jersey in the Revolution](#).
http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=5640

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

The author lists 17,000 "landholders" whose names appeared in the annual tax lists for Lincoln County, Kentucky, between 1787 and 1811. These "landholders" claimed land but did not necessarily occupy the land they owned. Landholders 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, the amount of acreage, the nearest watercourse, and the name of the prior assignee.
http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=5681

[Runaway Servants, Convicts, and Apprentices Advertised in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, 1728-1796](#)

In this work, Prof. Farley Grubb has extracted all relevant details on 6,000 runaways who had been advertised for during this period. Data presented, for example, includes colony or county of residence, national origin, age, occupation, circumstances of employment, date of escape, height and physical features, place and time of arrival in America, and a variety of specialized information.
http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=2415

[Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. A Study in Foundations and Founders](#)

Old Somerset once included all the territory that is now Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties. In addition to the deeds, wills and commissions, the genealogical material contained herein includes extensive, documented lists of early settlers with considerable biographical data.
http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=5805

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Blog: Some Thoughts - and Resources - on Scottish Research

Our blogger-in-chief Carolyn Barkley has just returned from a Scottish vacation, which inspired her to update her previous article on the basics of Scottish genealogy research. The links and the bibliography are up-to-date, so if you have Scottish forebears, you will want to get your fingers on it today at www.genealogyandfamilyhistory.com!

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3. Call toll-free to our sales department at 1-800-296-6687