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Genealogy Pointers (08/25/2009)

In this issue:

What's a Palatine? by Henry Z Jones, Jr., Fellow, American Society of Genealogists
24-Hour Sale on Selected German Genealogy CDs & Books
Planters of Early New England: A Sketch of Roger Mowry Mann's Seventeenth-Century Ancestors
Prison Life of Bonded Passengers to America
30,000 Newspaper Abstracts for Early New York State Vital Records
Blog: Back to the Land – Again

What's a Palatine? by Henry Z Jones, Jr., Fellow, American Society of Genealogists

Probably the question I'm asked most frequently at a genealogy gathering is, "What's a Palatine?" Is it a surname, like "Harriett and Irving Palatine," or what?

"Palatine" is, indeed, a term that we often hear when climbing the family tree. In fact, I've been immersed in chronicling these so-called "Palatines" for some 40-plus years now. Basically, here's who they were: If you were a German-speaking immigrant to colonial America in the early- to mid-18th century, you would have been called a "Palatine" by those already here in the New World. It was sort of a generic term, the roots of which come from the word given to the area in southern Germany called the "Pfalz" or "Palatinate" where so many of these early settlers originated. Many American Palatines also came from other regions outside of the borders of today's Palatinate, however: Isenburg, the Kraichgau, Hessen, the Westerwald, Wurttemberg, and Siegen, for example.

The first burst of emigration from Germany began in the 1680s and then reached full thrust in 1709/10, with large settlements in Ireland and colonial New York and North Carolina. Later groups went to Pennsylvania, Maryland, and other colonies. But, sadly, the new arrivals in America weren't simply known as "Palatines"; they were a hyphenate and called "Poor Palatines," which denoted the economic and social status in the Europe they had left behind. It was a derogatory term, and, unfortunately, it endured for a few decades.

However, upon their arrival, the Palatine immigrants to colonial America found a wilderness ready to be tamed and transformed into livable communities by perseverance and hard work. Their story is a tribute to their fortitude and quality of character, which enabled them to find the inner strength to meet the terrible difficulties they faced in their new life in a new land. They "took the risk" and succeeded!

Over the years, I have written several books documenting these hearty emigrants and their origins, including *The Palatine Families of New York, 1710*, *More Palatine Families*, *The Palatine Families of Ireland*, *Even More Palatine Families* (with Lewis B. Rohrbach), and *Westerwald to America* (with Annette K. Burgert); all are available at my website www.hankjones.com/. Annette's many books on Pennsylvania Palatines and their origins are the best volumes covering that state's "Pennsylvania Dutch"; they are available from her at AKB Publications, 691 Weavertown Rd., Myerstown, PA 17067. In addition to these books, it would be a wise decision for any descendant of these colonial Germans to join and network with the members of Palatines to America-German Genealogical Society (<http://palam.org>).

Genealogical Publishing Company, of course, has also published quite a few books on the Palatines. A number of them are on sale right now, as described in the next article. Good hunting!

24-Hour Sale on Selected German Genealogy CDs & Books

(Sale prices are in effect until 11:59 PM EDT, tonight, August 25, 2009.)

[German and Swiss Settlers in America, 1700s-1800s \(CD\)](#)

This CD includes the earliest passenger arrivals at Philadelphia in 1683, the Swiss and Rhineland arrivals at Philadelphia from 1727 onward, the Palatine immigrants in New York in 1710, the Salzburgers in Georgia in the 1730s, the Texas-Germans of the 1840s, and a host of other groups. As many as 300,000 German and Swiss immigrants and settlers are identified in a score of authoritative books published by Genealogical Publishing Company, all of which appear on this CD.

Was \$39.99 Now \$24.99

[Early Georgia Settlers \(CD\)](#)

Six of our best Georgia titles are imaged and indexed on this CD. Based on census and immigration records and on family histories, this CD is especially important because it covers a period of time prior to the keeping of official vital records, and it incorporates many of the earliest records pertaining to Georgia as both colony and state. Among the important record sources included are the earliest surviving censuses for the state of Georgia and a comprehensive list of the first settlers of Georgia.

Was \$39.99 Now \$24.99

[Early Nineteenth Century Palatine Emigration](#)

This outstanding book lists the names of about 12,000 Palatine settlers, together with the names of persons in their families and the dates of emigration. Their major destinations and places of settlement were Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and the Hudson and Mohawk Valleys of New York.

Was \$35.00 Now \$21.00

[Early Families of Herkimer County, NY. Descendants of the Burnetsfield Palatines](#)

In 1723 a number of Palatine families were allowed to take up lands in the Mohawk Valley of New York. Those settling in the bounds of the present county of Herkimer were known as the Burnetsfield Patentees, after the name of the grant made by New York Governor William Burnet, and they are the subject of this formidable work. This book deals with the families established in the area before the Revolution, and it gives detailed genealogies for almost 100 of them.

Was \$37.50 Now \$22.50

[The Early Germans of New Jersey](#)

For more than a century, Hermann Chambers' Early Germans has been the standard reference for genealogical research on families of northwestern New Jersey. In spite of its title, it is as useful for families of English, Scottish, or Dutch origin as for German. The bulk of the work is devoted to genealogies of families from the counties of Hunterdon, Morris, Sussex, and Warren and to genealogies of the early settlers of old Roxbury Township from Southold and Southampton.

Was \$59.95 Now \$35.95

[Pennsylvania German Immigrants, 1709-1786. Lists Consolidated from Yearbooks of The Pennsylvania German Folklore Society](#)

These lists, compiled by Don Yoder, attempt to identify German emigrants in their homeland as well as in Pennsylvania. Thus, emigrants are cited with reference to manumission records, parish registers, passports, and other papers of German and Swiss provenance. They are cited again, where possible, with reference to an equivalent range of Pennsylvania source materials, notably church records, wills, and tax lists in southeastern Pennsylvania. The German records often give the emigrant's date of emigration, occupation, dates of birth and marriage, and places of birth and residence, as well as the names of family members--sometimes to three or four generations.

Was \$38.50 Now \$22.95

[The German Immigration Into Pennsylvania Through the Port of Philadelphia from 1700 to 1775, and the Redemptioners](#)

This important historical study deals with the background of German immigration, especially that of the

Palatines, the causes, migration patterns, leading figures in the movement, and disposition of the immigrants. Much of the book deals with the redemptioners--those who bound themselves to service as payment for the voyage to America.

Was \$38.50 Now \$22.95

[The Book of Names. Especially Relating to the Early Palatines and the First Settlers in the Mohawk Valley](#)

This classic work listed for the first time the names of the early Palatines of New York State, the original settlers of the Mohawk Valley. The estimated 20,000 names are classified, combined, and otherwise arranged to enable the researcher to identify Palatine immigrants in relation to specific categories of records.

Was \$27.50 Now \$16.50

[A Collection of Upwards of Thirty Thousand Names of German, Swiss, Dutch, French and Other Immigrants in Pennsylvania from 1727 to 1776](#)

This book is concerned mainly with early Palatine immigration and contains 319 ships' passenger lists with a total of 30,000 names. The arrangement is chronological according to date of arrival, listing the names of the ships on which the passengers arrived and the places from which they emigrated. In addition, the appendixes list over a thousand early settlers who landed at some port other than Philadelphia but who later migrated to Pennsylvania from New York, North Carolina, and Georgia.

Was \$40.00 Now \$29.95

[Palatine Church Visitations, 1609: Deanery of Kusel](#)

The district of Kusel was situated in the western part of the German Palatinate, an area from which many early emigrants to America originated. Considering the almost permanent residence of the Palatines in a given area prior to emigration, the occurrence of a particular name in an early visitation--such as those listed in this book--is almost sufficient evidence of the linkage between the emigrant and his/her forebears--a full century before the great period of emigration.

Was \$21.50 Now \$12.90

Planters of Early New England: A Sketch of Roger Mowry Mann's Seventeenth-Century Ancestors, by Bruce Butler

Roger Mowry arrived in Providence, Rhode Island, in or about 1653. His home also housed one of the first taverns in the town. The handsome new book [Planters of Early New England: A Sketch of Roger Mowry Mann's Seventeenth-Century Ancestors](#) is a detailed genealogy of 162 known or presumed ancestors of Roger Mowry who were living in New England as of 1652. At the same time, [Planters of Early New England](#) portrays day-to-day life and important historical watersheds in the first fifty years in Massachusetts Bay. It is thus about the convergence point of genealogy and history, and will appeal to both kinds of readers.

The 113 direct ancestors of Roger Mowry who arrived during New England's Great Migration (1630-1639) settled in 14 of the original 19 towns of Massachusetts Bay Colony. Many of them were among the founding fathers of the towns of Salem, Roxbury, Concord, Rowley, Sudbury, Newbury, Chelmsford, Marlborough, Mendon, Bradford, and Hadley. Some of these same ancestors went on to found the towns of Providence, Portsmouth, and Warwick, Rhode Island; as well as Wethersfield, Milford, and possibly Guilford, Connecticut. Author Bruce Butler furnishes the historical context for these ancestors' lives, including many events that figured in the establishment of Massachusetts Bay, Connecticut Colony, and the Colony of Rhode Island

Genealogists, of course, will find ample references to the Mowry Mann ancestry. For example, two important and influential participants in the Massachusetts Bay Colony who figure prominently in this book are John Johnson and Hopestill Foster. The author covers their efforts and contributions in considerable detail. Another chapter is devoted to the pedigree charts of eleven great-great-great-great-grandparents of Roger Mowry Mann. Finally, researchers will find documentation for the pedigree charts of the more than

250 direct ancestors of Rober Mowry Mann, along with an index of these early planters.

Also of interest to genealogists, 34 Mowry Mann ancestors were direct forebears of the following U.S. presidents: Franklin Pierce, Abraham Lincoln, James A. Garfield, Chester A. Arthur, William Howard Taft, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Gerald R. Ford, George Herbert Walker Bush, and George Walker Bush.

We are pleased to be the distributor of *Planters of Early New England: A Sketch of Roger Mowry Mann's Seventeenth-Century Ancestors*. To order a copy of this important New England family history, please click on the link below.

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=9931&NLC-GenPointers1

Prison Life of Bonded Passengers to America

(Adapted from *Emigrants in Chains*, by Peter Wilson Coldham)

Great Britain made wholesale use of its prison population to build a white labor force for the American colonies. We now know that nearly 50,000 British and Irish, male and female, prisoners were removed from jails, workhouses, brothels, and houses of correction and transported to America, mostly to work in the tobacco-growing colonies of Maryland and Virginia. Many, though not all, of these "bonded passengers" were petty thieves or people down on their luck. A great many had been imprisoned for indebtedness. However onerous their initial exposure to the colonies might become, as the following paragraphs indicate, emigration to the Americas was bound to be better than life in a British prison.

This article is excerpted from Peter Wilson Coldham's amazing book [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, 1607-1750](#). It offers the reader a glimpse of conditions in London's prisons during the era of forced emigration.

"By the middle of the 18th century Henry Fielding was able to comment that 'there are few, if any, nations or countries where the poor are in a more scandalous, nasty condition than here in England.' The abundance of the poor and of draconian laws to protect property combined to ensure that prison populations were maintained at a high level. William Blackstone estimated that in his time there were 160 offences meriting the death penalty, and this number was to be increased substantially in ensuing years.

"London alone boasted 14 prisons of which the most ancient and notorious was Newgate. Dick Whittington, three times Lord Mayor of London between 1397 and 1420, bequeathed money for its repair and, in commemoration of his gift, his cat was carved upon the outer gate. Through this gate some 20,000 felons passed on the first step of their long journey to America. In 1754 it was described as:

"a large prison and made very strong the better to secure such sort of criminals which too much fill it. It is a dismal place within. The prisoners are sometimes packed so close together, and the air so corrupted by their stench and nastiness, that it occasions a disease called the Jail Distemper of which they die by dozens, and cartloads of them are carried out and thrown into a pit in the churchyard of Christchurch without ceremony; and so infectious is this distemper that several judges, jurymen and lawyers etc. have taken it off the prisoners when they have been brought to the Old Bailey to be tried, and died soon after. And to this wretched place innocent people are sometimes sent, and loaded with irons before their trial, not to secure them but to extort money from them by a merciless jailor; for if they have money to bribe him they may have the irons as light as they please. Sweet herbs are strewed in the court and passages of it to prevent infection; and the snuffing up of vinegar, it is said, is the most likely way to preserve the healths of those that are obliged to attend trials.'

"To Londoners Newgate was known, with reason, as 'hell above ground.' Fees were extorted by the jailers for almost every service, and it went hard with those unable or unwilling to pay. If prisoners required

bedding it could be hired from the turnkey, otherwise they shared the filthy straw strewn over the stone floor. Other London prisons imposed similar exactions. One inmate of the Fleet who was confined for debt in 1729 and who refused to pay his fees 'had irons put upon his legs, which were too little, so that in putting them on his legs were like to have been broken. He was dragged away into the dungeon, where he lay without a bed, and loaded with irons so close rivetted that they kept him in continual torment and mortified his legs.' In the following year the prison chaplain reported that he had visited an inmate whose legs and feet were so swollen from his irons and from the great cold that he was unable to rise, and died a few days later.

"After arrest by the parish constable, a suspect would be carted to the 'hold' at Newgate where all prisoners, convicted or awaiting trial, were kept. This room, dark and with a floor of stone, was entered by a hatch measuring 15 by 20 feet. Inside the 'hold' was one wooden barrack bed on which, according to a description given in 1707, 'you may repose yourself if your nose suffer you to rest.' Around the room were ring bolts to which prisoners considered to be disorderly were chained. The fee for securing removal from here to more salubrious quarters was two shillings and six pence. As soon as prisoners entered the jail, heavy iron manacles were clapped on their hands and feet unless they were prepared to buy 'easement' from the turnkey.

"To add to their own physical and mental sufferings, Newgate prisoners could scarcely avoid witnessing the even grosser brutalities inflicted on others. From here women were dragged away to be burned alive for murdering their husbands or, until as late as 1753, for clipping coins. For this same offence of coin-clipping, the sentence for men, until 1670, was hanging, drawing and quartering, after which their remains, including their heads, were boiled and salted in that part of the prison known as Jack Ketch's Kitchen.

"Thomas Ellwood, a Quaker friend of John Milton and William Penn, who was thrown into Newgate in 1662 for attending a Friends' service, described the prison as hell on earth, being a large and round prison, having in the middle a stout oak pillar which held up the chapel above. At night the prisoners fastened their hammocks at one end to this pillar and, at the other, to the wall in three tiers up to the ceiling until there was no further space. Then on the stone floor a fourth layer was stretched out with rough beds being provided for the sick and weakly:

"When we first came into Newgate there lay in a little place like a closet in the room where we were lodged, the quartered bodies of three men who had been executed some days before for a real or pretended plot, and the reason why their quarters lay there so long was that the relatives were all that while petitioning to have leave to bury them; which at length, with much ado, was obtained for the quarters but not for the heads, which were ordered to be set up in some part of the City. I saw the heads when they were brought up to be boiled; the hangman fetched them in a dirty dust basket out of some by-place, and setting them down among the felons, he and they made great sport with them. They took them by the hair, flouting, jeering, and laughing at them; and then, giving them ill-names, boxed them on the ears and checks. Which done, the Hangman put them into his Kettle and parboiled them with Bay-salt and Cummin-seed--that to keep them from putrefaction and this to keep off the fowls from seizing on them. The whole sight was both frightful and loathsome and begat an abhorrence in my nature.'

"As the law then stood, a person convicted of theft was liable to forfeit his possessions to the Crown, so that some courageous spirits, accused of this offence, refused to plead in order to protect their families. Until this law was amended in 1714, such foolhardiness could be punished by 'peine forte et dure': offenders were taken to Newgate where their bodies were stretched by ropes while large stones and heavy weights were laid upon their bodies, thus slowly crushing all life out of them unless or until they changed their minds. Even after this barbaric means of persuasion was overtaken by more humane legislation, prisoners who refused to plead could still be coaxed to another view on application of a whipcord thumbscrew."

Editor's Note: The foregoing excerpt merely scratches the surface of Mr. Coldham's essay on prison life during the age of exploration and colonization. [Emigrants in Chains](#) also discusses the convicts' backgrounds, British justice and judicial corruption, the business of transportation, the kidnapping and

forced emigration of Scottish Highlanders, thumbnail sketches of emigrants, and much more. It's an extraordinary story and MUST reading for anyone who hopes to appreciate the conditions of forced servitude in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Of Related Interest:

[British Emigrants in Bondage, 1614-1788 \(CD\)](#)

Since 1974 Peter Wilson Coldham has worked to identify the names of all persons who were part of this diaspora. This CD supersedes all of Mr. Coldham's previous works on the subject of BONDED passage. Besides the records of the 48,000 felons identified here, the CD contains an exhaustive breakdown of the records used in the compilation of the CD and a complete list of convict ships that sailed to America between 1671 and 1788. Any student of the colonial passenger trade from Great Britain to North America will want to own this remarkable CD. Adobe Acrobat Reader is needed to access this CD.

30,000 Newspaper Abstracts for Early New York State Vital Records

Not until 1847 did New York state require local jurisdictions to record the birth, marriage, or death events of its inhabitants. This glaring omission in the official genealogical record makes consulting unofficial sources--such as church records, family Bibles, and, in particular, newspaper archives--of great importance in New York state research.

Genealogist Fred Q. Bowman was among the first researchers to take a systematic approach to this problem where old newspapers were concerned. Bowman divided the Upstate portion of the Empire State into three regions. He then identified all the papers that published birth, marriage, and/or death notices within those regions and, one by one, extracted every "vital record" notice he found in 34 newspapers published in 23 communities.

The end result of his efforts was publication of three books:

- (1) [10,000 Vital Records of Eastern New York, 1777-1834](#) draws on the "Daily Albany Argus" and the "Plattsburgh Republican"
- (2) [10,000 Vital Records of Central New York, 1813-1850](#) incorporates the "Utica Western Recorder" and the "Corning Weekly Journal"
- (3) [10,000 Vital Records of Western New York, 1809-1850](#) makes good use of the "[Batavia] Republican Advocate" and the "Jamestown Journal" among others.

For more information about the component volumes in Mr. Bowman's 10,000 VITAL RECORDS series, please read the brief summaries that follow or access the link to the full description that follows each summary:

[10,000 Vital Records of Eastern New York, 1777-1834](#)

This volume focuses on the interior county of Otsego and on the 300-mile strip comprising the easternmost counties of Clinton, Essex, Saratoga, Rensselaer, Albany, Columbia, and "Old Dutchess," which, prior to 1812, included the territory of present-day Putnam County.

[10,000 Vital Records of Central New York, 1813-1850](#)

These 10,000 vital records were drawn from the marriage and death columns of various central New York newspapers published before 1850, specifically those published in the section of the state between Geneva and Utica. In the absence of "official" vital records for the area, it stands as an almost perfect substitute.

[10,000 Vital Records of Western New York, 1809-1850](#)

The 10,000 vital records in this work were drawn from the marriage and death columns of five western New York newspapers published before 1850: the "Republican Advocate" of Batavia, the "Steuben Farmers Advocate" of Bath, the "Geneva Gazette," the "Jamestown Journal," and Palmyra's "Wayne

Sentinel." All persons who were subjects of death notices are listed in alphabetical order, marriage officials are identified in the appendix, and all others mentioned in the text are listed in the index.

Of Related Interest:

Persons hoping to find a New York City marriage or death record for the same or slightly later time period should consider the following abstracts from the "New York Herald" transcribed by James P. Maher:

Index to Marriages and Deaths in the New York Herald [1835-1876]. In Four Volumes
(Through Volume III, researchers will be interested to learn, these transcriptions contain references to the BIRTHPLACE of 15,349 Irish, 2,849 English, 1,113 Scots, and 833 Germans.)

[Volume I: 1835-1855](#) (Temporarily out of print)
This volume indexes roughly 38,000 death notices and 14,000 marriage notices. The extensive notices refer to people up and down the East Coast as well as Midwesterners and persons from as far west as California. The volume is divided into two sections--one for marriages and one for deaths--furnishing the names of brides and grooms (or the late deceased) and the exact date of issue of the newspaper.

[Volume II: 1856-1863](#)
This volume contains 97,000 death notices and 13,000 marriage notices. Like all volumes in this series, it is divided into two sections, one for marriages and one for deaths.

[Volume III: 1864-1870](#)
This volume contains about 15,500 marriage notices and 68,500 death notices. It is arranged in the identical manner as in the other volumes in this series.

[Volume IV: 1871-1876](#)
The final volume contains 28,825 death notices and 10,350 marriage notices. Among the "Herald's" death notices from states other than New York, 6,300 notices reference New Jersey, where many New Yorkers relocated during this period. This volume also possesses a number of new or interesting features. Appended to the back of the data from the "Herald" are about a thousand death notices from the Fenian Irish newspaper, the "Phoenix," for the period June 4, 1859, to August 10, 1861. In many cases the death notices indicate, besides the decedent's name and date of death, his/her age and state of death, city and county of birth, and, sometimes, the names of his/her survivors.

BLOG: Back to the Land – Again

This week's article on our blog, www.genealogyandfamilyhistory.com, explores metes and bounds, state deed recordation formats, and other ins and outs of land research. In it you will find references to two earlier land research articles by Carolyn Barkley, as well as an incisive essay by Bill Dollarhide about the virtual certainty of a deed any time someone owned land.

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