

Genealogy Pointers (09-28-10)

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Three Days Left to Save on Four Outstanding CDs

The periodical *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* is a storehouse of carefully researched genealogies pertaining to early (17th- and 18th-century) families of the Cavalier State and their descendants. Ordinarily you would have to flip through hundreds of issues of this distinguished magazine to find every possible link to your ancestors. Thanks to our CD *Genealogies of Virginia Families from The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, you can search *The Virginia Magazine* with a click of your mouse and at a fraction of the time and expense of combing through the original. This magnificent CD is one of four not only featured on our site this month but also available at \$10 below its regular cost. (See the third article in this newsletter for more great CDs based on genealogy periodicals.)

Did your ancestors inhabit another part of Dixie than Virginia? Maybe Alabama, Arkansas, or Mississippi? Could they have been Huguenots (French Protestants) who fled religious intolerance before the end of the 17th century? We are featuring three additional CDs this month, and they touch on one or more of these subjects. As with our Virginia CD, we have lowered their prices by \$10 apiece. Read on for more details about these popular CDs, BUT be sure to place your orders no later than Thursday, September 30, 2010, to take advantage of the reduced prices.

[Genealogies of Virginia Families from *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*](#)

This CD contains all five volumes of *Genealogies of Virginia Families from The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, originally published by the Genealogical Publishing Company in 1981. The five volumes together contain all the family history articles that appeared in *VMHB* from its inception in 1893 up to 1977.

Was \$39.99 Now \$29.99

[Southern Genealogies](#)

This blockbuster CD contains two classic works on Southern genealogy: John Bennett Boddie's 23-volume *Historical Southern Families* and Zella Armstrong's six-volume *Notable Southern Families*. The combined works deal with hundreds of Southern families and provide information on approximately 150,000 individuals.

Was \$39.99 Now \$29.99

[Huguenot Settlers in America, 1600s-1900s](#)

This CD, which consists of page images of 16 separate Huguenot publications, not only chronicles the story of this great Diaspora but also preserves the identities of thousands upon thousands of Huguenot emigrants to the Americas and beyond. Fully searchable via its electronic index, this CD provides the equivalent of a comprehensive library of Huguenot history and, quite possibly, just the link you need to your own Huguenot ancestors.

Was \$39.99 Now \$29.99

[The Deep South: Genealogical Records of Alabama, Arkansas, and Mississippi, 1700s-1800s](#)

This Family Archive CD covers the core genealogical works dealing with the Deep South. Altogether, some 150,000 individuals are named in a wide-ranging collection of census returns, probate, marriage, military, vital records, and family histories--all brought together in this one CD with a single, integrated index.

Was \$39.99 Now \$29.99

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"Why a Family Group Sheet?" by William Dollarhide

DOLLARHIDE'S RULE No. 22: It is a known fact that St. Peter checks all of your family group sheets for accuracy before you are allowed to pass through the Pearly Gates.

A family group sheet is the basic form to record the genealogical events of a family. If you are a parent, the first family sheet should be of your family, showing yourself, spouse, and children. If you are a grandparent, you may want to begin family sheets for your son or daughter, their spouse, and children. In any case, creating family group sheets is how you record the details about the brothers and sisters of your parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and so on.

A family group sheet normally identifies all members of a biological family with a father, mother, and all of their children listed, in order of birth. The form does not include foster children, or children by a different mother or father. Therefore, for each family grouping a separate form needs to be completed. For example, if a mother were married earlier and had children with another spouse, that family needs to be identified as another group. This may seem unfair to those who were raised in families that included step-sisters or half-brothers, but it is important to identify the members of a family by their blood relationships. What is recorded on the family group sheet is a master vital statistics arrangement. Although you are permitted to guess at dates and places, you are not permitted to lie--this is the most important record you will create in your genealogical endeavors.

In some cases, a family group sheet can add names of adopted children, but if this is done, it should be clearly shown on the form that these children are not the biological offspring of the father and mother shown on the form. In other words, write "adopted" next to a child's name so that it is clear.

A family group sheet has space for the basic genealogical events for each person, including dates and places of birth, marriage, death, and burial for each family member. For each child on the list, a name of a spouse can be given, along with the date and place of the marriage.

The date of a genealogical event needs to be spelled out so that it is clear. A date written as "Dec. 8th '56" is not clear, since we may be dealing with centuries, not decades, in recording dates. A good date is one that is in the military style: "8 Dec 1956." When recording a place, start with a smaller jurisdiction and move to a larger one, such as "Harrison Township, Wayne County, Indiana."

DOLLARHIDE'S RULE No. 1: Treat the brothers and sisters of your ancestor as equals, even if some of them were in jail.

A family group sheet and a pedigree chart are the basic worksheets for recording the results of your genealogical research. Although a pedigree chart identifies your direct ancestry and could be considered the culmination and presentation of your work, the family group sheet is how you get there.

The identification of each member of a family is essential to the success of your genealogical work. This means that brothers and sisters of an ancestor need to be given the same status as your ancestor. You need to identify the brothers and sisters by their full names; full birth information, including dates and places; complete marriage data, including the names of their spouses and dates of marriages; and death and burial information.

Seems like a lot of extra work doesn't it? But guess what. If you treat the brothers and sisters as equals, you will have many more ways to find your own ancestors. The children or later descendants of the brothers and sisters of your ancestors are your relatives--people who are sources to you for information about your own ancestor. For example, the birth certificate for my uncle gave the names of his parents and grandparents; while the birth certificate for my father did not name his parents at all.

Involve Your Relatives

To create family group sheets you need to enlist the help of your close relatives. A method to involve your relatives is to send each of them a copy of an incomplete family group sheet on which they appear as a child or parent. Along with the form, send a sweet, folksy letter, one which reminds them that they are your favorite relatives. If you have any photographs of their family, or anything that you can share with them relating to their genealogy, send them copies. In other words, try to engage them in the process so they will respond to you.

In making this contact, ask your relatives to add information to the family group sheets you send them and then return a copy back to you. Do this even if the last time you saw these people they were threatening to sic their dog on you. Contact them again to let them know that you plan to include them in your family history.

If Your Relatives Don't Respond

Some of your relatives will try to ignore you. If they don't return a corrected family group sheet, then you may have to resort to bribery or some other ploy to get them to respond. For example, if

you are not having success in getting your cousin Martha to return the family group sheet you sent to her, try this: send Martha another group sheet, only this time indicate a bogus date of birth on the form, making her at least 10 years older than she really is. Add a post-it note that says, "Did I get these dates right?" When Martha sees that incorrect date, she will have to correct it! Expect a phone call from Martha within minutes after she reads the wrong date for her birth. If you are truly desperate, you could make Martha's date of birth two months before her parents' wedding date. Now, when Martha complains about your terrible recordkeeping, you can come back with, "but can you PROVE that wasn't your date of birth?" You might even get a copy of Martha's birth certificate in the mail after that one.

Visiting Relatives in Person

DOLLARHIDE'S RULE No. 24: A cousin, once removed, may not return.

All kidding aside, the best way to involve your relatives in your genealogy project is to visit them in person. See what family heirlooms they may have, and what they can contribute to your knowledge of the family's history. For example, first cousins share the same grandparents. Since you are the same number of generations removed from a common ancestor, the potential exists for you to locate the same types of family records in your cousin's home as can be found in your own home. As you progress back in time, identifying more distant cousins is the technique genealogists use to add more knowledge about their own ancestors.

For each relative you can contact, go through the same homework you would do with your own immediate family members. Conduct interviews, ask about family photos, memorabilia, and so on. The only difference in doing this work with a relative is that you will do it on their time and with deference to them as the host. Ask for copies of photographs, documents, etc., and be willing to share information and copies of materials with your relatives. Who knows, you may find that these people are as human as you are!

A note to our readers: Mr. Dollarhide has included a blank Family Group Sheet, Pedigree Chart, Family Data Sheet, and other genealogy forms--all designed for making photocopies as needed--at the back of his newest book, *Getting Started in Genealogy Online*. For more information, visit the following URL:

http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=1499

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A Review of Our CDs Based on Genealogy Periodicals. Part Two

Genealogical.com has produced 17 CDs based entirely on genealogy periodicals. They represent the equivalent of 60 published volumes, each about 1,000 pages long, and they represent thousands of issues of the magazines themselves. Each CD costs between one-fourth and one-tenth the cost of the books on which it is based. The CDs are an even greater savings over the cost of the original, unindexed magazines--assuming you could get your hands on them. The savings in time required to reconstruct the information found on these CDs, of course, is incalculable.

Last week we cited brief descriptions of 9 of these 17 CDs. (You can still read them if you go to our [Genealogy Pointers Archives](#).) We invite you to study the descriptions of the remaining 8 CDs today to see if you, too, couldn't profit from having genealogy periodicals in your library.

[Genealogies of Rhode Island Families](#)

This CD contains *Genealogies of Rhode Island Families*, a two-volume work published by the Genealogical Publishing Company from articles culled from *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*. It features many of the best genealogical articles of the past 140 years, and it includes important contributions by leading 19th- and 20th-century genealogists, such as the formidable G. Andrews Moriarity. Contains references to 46,000 individuals!

[Genealogies of Kentucky Families](#) (Temporarily out of stock)

This CD contains images of the pages of the 200 family history articles published originally in *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* and *The Filson Club History Quarterly* and subsequently collected and reprinted by the Genealogical Publishing Company in three volumes under the title *Genealogies of Kentucky Families*.

[Genealogies of Long Island Families](#)

Composed of articles originally appearing in *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, this Family Archive CD contains references to 60,000 individuals from the present-day counties of Suffolk, Kings, and Queens. Information in the articles varies, but typically the records include genealogies, censuses, newspapers, town records (including marriages and deaths), Bible and family records, wills, and deeds. Many of the genealogies establish the English or Dutch origins of a family.

[Ohio Vital Records #1, 1800-1850](#)

This CD consists of a fully indexed and searchable version of the erstwhile Ohio genealogy magazine *Gateway to the West*, which was published by Anita Short and Ruth Bowers from 1967 to 1978. From common pleas court records, guardianships, naturalizations, and deed abstracts to the more conventional births, marriages, deaths, cemetery records, and wills, *Gateway* offered a range of genealogical source material spanning 76 of Ohio's 88 counties. This terrific CD covers 93,000 Ohio settlers from the first half of the 19th century--every one of whom is searchable by means of the CD's electronic index. Compared to the original \$125.00 selling price of the bound book version, this CD is a genealogist's bargain.

[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 the Genealogical Publishing Company. The volumes include all the church records ever published in the "Proceedings and Addresses" of the Pennsylvania German Society. The records, which refer to approximately 91,000 individuals, include births, baptisms, marriages, and burials, and they identify people and their relationships to one another--not only parents and children, husbands and wives, but witnesses and sponsors as well.

[Genealogies of Virginia Families from *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*](#)

This CD contains all five volumes of *Genealogies of Virginia Families from The Virginia*

Magazine of History and Biography, originally published by the Genealogical Publishing Company in 1981. The five volumes together contain all the family history articles that appeared in *VMHB* from its inception in 1893 to 1977. (This CD is currently on sale. See the first article in this issue of "Genealogy Pointers.")

[Genealogies of Virginia Families from Tyler's Quarterly](#)

This Family Archive CD contains images of the pages of all four volumes of *Genealogies of Virginia Families from Tyler's Quarterly* and the multi-volume *Virginia Colonial Abstracts*, by Beverley Fleet. The four-volume collection from *Tyler's Quarterly* contains all 350 family history articles published in the magazine from its inception in 1919 until its demise in 1952. Fleet's abstracts contain some of the earliest Virginia records known to exist, such as vital records of birth, marriage, and death, tax lists, court orders, militia lists, wills, and deeds.

[Virginia Vital Records](#)

This Family Archive CD contains images of the pages of the following six books, which were originally published by the Genealogical Publishing company: (1) *Virginia Vital Records*, (2) *Virginia Marriage Records*, (3) *Virginia Will Records*, (4) *Virginia Land Records*, (5) *Virginia Military Records*, and (6) *Virginia Tax Records*. Altogether, the articles refer to 130,000 individuals.

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Featured Titles for September

We are pleased to announce a handful of new books for September. If you are following Vernon Skinner's series of Maryland Prerogative Court abstracts, you will be pleased to learn that the 26th volume in that series is hot off the press. Also bearing the Genealogical.com imprint for the first time--and in English, not the original German--is Don Heinrich Tolzmann's translated and edited edition of *The German Element in the Northeast*, by Gustav Koerner. The family of the late Gayle K. Blankenship has asked us to reprint three collections of her popular anthologies of families of North Carolina and Virginia. You will find them listed among our new offerings this month as well. In addition to these new books, we have reissued a eleven classic reference works spanning the length and breadth of genealogy in September.

Following is a complete list of our featured titles for September. 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

[Abstracts of the Testamentary Proceedings of the Prerogative Court of Maryland. Volume XXVI: 1749-1750, 1752-1753. Libers 32 \(pp. 257-end\), 33-1 \(pp. 1-217\) & 33-2 \(pp. 1-126\)](#)

In all, the latest book in this distinguished series by Vernon L. Skinner, Jr., refers to an additional 7,000 colonial inhabitants of the Province of Maryland. For the most part, the transcriptions state the names of the principals (testators, heirs, guardians, witnesses, administrators, and so forth), as well as details of bequests, names of slaves, appraisers, and more.

[Some Families of Bedford and Washington Counties, Virginia and Orange County, North Carolina. Families of Bright, Buford, Cash, Crawford, Crews, Davis, Downs, Early, Foster, Franklin, Gray, Huddleston, Lawhorn, McGeorge, McNew, Parker, Perrott, Pendergrass, Poindexter, Powell, Quarles, St. Clair, Scoggins, Shrewsbury, Smith, Tyler, Warren, Watts, and Wiggenton](#)

The thread running through this volume is the connection to author Gayle K. Blankenship's brother-in-law, Terry St. Clair. The author develops the lines starting with the oldest known ancestor, who is frequently a 17th-century individual. Interweaving transcriptions of original sources within each pedigree narrative, she cites her sources throughout and embellishes the narrative where historical evidence permits.

[Virginia \[and WV\] Families of Louisa, Hanover, and Monroe Counties. Families of Archey, Corker, Durvin, Greene, Hall, Hudson, Higginson, Kersey, Shirey, Sifford, Stanley, Strong, Tate, Ward, Wash, and Watkins](#)

Mrs. Blankenship's goal in this volume was to document the ancestry of her husband, Charles Philip. In doing so, she not only uncovered the allied families named in the subtitle of the work, but also traced his family's migration patterns from South Carolina to Monroe County, West Virginia; from Pennsylvania to Botetourt County, Virginia; from New Kent County, Virginia to Louisa and Hanover Counties, Virginia; and from Henrico County to Prince Edward County in Virginia.

[Families of Warren, Franklin, and Granville Counties, North Carolina. Families of Blackwell, Dowtin, Harris, King, Pope, Shearin, Tharrington, Timberlake, Wilson, and Winston. Revised Edition](#)

The focus in this volume is on the ancestry of author Gayle Blankenship's father, Otis Gardner King, M.D., whose roots were firmly established in Warren County, North Carolina. Exhaustively researched, this volume traces her Warren, Franklin, and Granville families to the following Virginia counties: Brunswick, Charles City, Essex, Elizabeth City, Greenville, Hanover, Henrico, Isle of Wight, James City, Lancaster, Lunenburg, Middlesex, Nansemond, New Kent, Northumberland, Old Rappahannock, Prince George, Rappahannock, Richmond, Surry, Sussex, Westmoreland, and York.

[The German Element in the Northeast: Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey & New England, by Gustav Koerner. Translated and Edited by Don Heinrich Tolzmann](#)

In 1880 Gustav Koerner (1809-96) published a comprehensive history of Germans in America entitled *Das deutsche Element in den Vereinigten Staaten von Nordamerika, 1818-48*. For the work at hand, Don Heinrich Tolzmann translated and edited selected chapters from Koerner covering the states of Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and New England. Dr. Tolzmann has added extensive annotations that further explain the text and provide references to additional sources as well.

[The Original Lists of Persons of Quality Who Went from Great Britain to the American Plantations, 1600-1700. Localities Where They Formerly Lived in the Mother Country, the Names of the Ships in Which They Embarked and Other Interesting Particulars](#)

This is the most famous of all ships' passenger lists and historically the most important single-volume list of English-speaking immigrants of the colonial period ever published. Transcribed

from the records of the British State Paper Office, it contains the names of over 11,000 immigrants with their ages, former places of residence, and the names of ships in which they embarked.

[Where to Look for Hard-to-Find German-Speaking Ancestors in Eastern Europe. Index to 19,720 Surnames in 13 Books, with Historical Background on Each Settlement. 2nd Edition](#)

In this work, Bruce Brandt and his father, Edward, furnish us with the surname of every German-speaking individual who appears in thirteen authoritative histories--eleven of them written in German--that document the massive immigration of Germanic individuals to Eastern Europe. In all, this work lists 19,720 surnames of German-speaking ancestors who immigrated to Russia, Poland, Romania, and elsewhere in Eastern Europe.

[The Massachusetts Bay Company and Its Predecessors](#)

The Massachusetts Bay Company's claim on New England was preceded by those of two other joint stock companies. The first of these was the Dorchester Company, organized by the Anglican minister John White. When it went out of existence in 1626, the company's claim was transferred to a new organization, the New England Company, led by John Endecott. Endecott would ultimately found the town of Salem, Massachusetts, in 1628. Endecott's shares and those of fifty-six other New England Company investors would soon be absorbed into those of the Massachusetts Bay Company in 1629. Author Frances Rose-Troup ably recounts the fortunes, intrigues, and shifting allegiances of these formative companies, listing members or investors wherever such information has survived. Of great interest to genealogists are the sketches of 125 Adventurers (investors) in Massachusetts Bay.

[Early Settlers of New York State--Their Ancestors and Descendants](#)

This is a consolidated, edited version of a scarce and very important periodical, *Early Settlers of New York State*, edited by New York genealogist Janet Foley. The magazine's purpose was to collect, publish, and preserve church records, tombstone inscriptions, and family records--first from western New York, then from all of New York State. By the time the magazine had suspended publication (after nine volumes had been issued), Mrs. Foley had compiled reams of Bible records, marriages, obituaries, and the other primary genealogical sources referred to above.

[The Goshenhoppen Registers, 1741-1819](#)

The Goshenhoppen Register of baptisms, marriages, and deaths contains the sacramental records of the Catholic mission at Goshenhoppen, now Bally, in Washington Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania. Beginning in 1741, the year the mission was founded, and extending, with some gaps, to 1819, these include sacraments administered at Goshenhoppen and outlying missions in southeastern Pennsylvania, particularly in the counties of Berks, Bucks, Northampton, Montgomery, Lehigh, and Lebanon, an area containing much of the early Germanic population of the state.

[County Cork, Ireland, a Collection of 1851 Census Records](#)

Only fragments of the 1851 census of Ireland are known to survive, and most such fragments are for County Antrim, in the north. However, a little-known census fragment for County Cork also survived the destruction, and it is here transcribed and published for the first time. It deals

exclusively with the parishes of Kilcrumper and Kilworth in County Cork and parts of Leitrim and Macronev in the Union of Kilworth. For each householder the following information is provided: surname, given name, age, relationship to the head of the household, townland, parish, page number of the original transcription, and, on occasion, remarks such as "widow," "gone to America," and so on.

[Ancient Long Island Epitaphs from the Towns of Southold, Shelter Island, and Easthampton, New York](#)

Over the period 1877-1890, author Edward Doubleday Harris visited all public and church cemeteries, as well as some private or family burial grounds, in the towns of easternmost Long Island, New York, that had been in use prior to 1800. The vast majority of the roughly 1,000 inscriptions refer to individuals of English birth or descent, many of whom had migrated to Long Island from New England. The epitaphs alone ordinarily give the deceased's full name, date of death, and age of death. Many of them also indicate the name(s) and relationships of surviving family members.

[Free Black Heads of Households in the New York State Federal Census, 1790-1830](#)

This work by Alice Eichholz & James M. Rose is an alphabetical listing of all free African-American heads of household listed in the five U.S. censuses for the State of New York taken between 1790 and 1830. In all, there are 15,000 references to freedmen, many of whom appear in more than one census.

[A History of the Valley of Virginia](#)

Samuel Kercheval's *History of the Valley of Virginia*, published originally in 1909, describes this region from 1732 through the Revolutionary War. The work also examines life on the frontier, especially housing, furniture, and diet; the establishment of towns like Strasburg, Staunton, Romney, Harper's Ferry, and Morgantown; the inception of religious denominations, topography, and natural landmarks; and medicinal springs and other remedies.

[They Went Thataway](#)

Composed almost entirely of abstracts of wills, deeds, marriage records, powers of attorney, court orders, church records, cemetery records, tax records, guardianship accounts, etc., this unique work by Charles Hughes Hamlin provides substantive evidence of the migration of individuals and families to Virginia or from Virginia to other states, countries, or territories. Each record provides prima facie evidence of places of origin and removal, irrefutably linking individuals to both their old and their new homes, and incidentally naming parents and kinsmen.

[South Carolina Baptists, 1670-1805](#)

Leah Townsend's history of the development of the Baptist Church in South Carolina emphasizes the growth of the Church in the Low-Country, the Peedee Section, Charleston, and the Back Country. It also gives a county-by-county breakdown of the various churches, with statistics of members, dates, and names of ministers. Of interest to genealogists are the membership lists of the various associations and congregations, which are interspersed throughout the narrative, many of which supply genealogical data of the first rank.

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Blog: Passport Records

This week's posting on our blog, www.genealogyandfamilyhistory.com, concerns passport records. Did you know that passport records are a critical, and oftentimes the only, source for tracing an individual who lived in an American territory or an area under foreign (British, French, or Spanish) control in our nation's past. Carolyn Barkley discusses this and other uses of passport records on our blog. You can read it for free right now.

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