In Memoriam--Virginia Lee Hutcheson Davis

Virginia Davis, prominent genealogist of Tidewater, Virginia, died on August 18, 2007. Virginia was the author of a number of books and, from May 1992 through March 2004, the publisher and editor of the periodical, "Tidewater Virginia Families: A Magazine of History and Genealogy."

Mrs. Davis was dedicated to the preservation of the history and records of the Tidewater area. Her 1989 magnum opus, the book version of her periodical--"Tidewater Virginia Families: The Families of Bell, Binford, Bonner, Butler, Campbell, Cheadle, Chiles, Clements, Cotton, Dejarnette(att), Dumas, Ellyson, Fishback, Fleming, Hamlin, Hampton, Harnison, Harris, Haynie, Hurt, Hutcheson, Lee, Mosby, Mundy, Nelson, Peatross, Pettyjohn, Ruffin, Short, Spencer, Tarleton, Tatum, Taylor, Terrill, Watkins, Winston, and Woolson"--was a masterpiece of family and social history. Covering an incredible 375 years, this book sets forth the story of nearly 40 families whose roots are not only in Tidewater Virginia but also whose lives mirror the social development of Virginia itself. This work garnered for her the National Genealogical Society's "Award of Excellence." In 1998, Mrs. Davis produced a sequel, "Tidewater Virginia Families: Generations Beyond," adding the families of Alsobrook, Bibb, Edwards, Favor, Gray, Hux, Ironmonger, Laker, Southern, Taylor, and Woolfolk.

Virginia Davis was a great advocate for the preservation of historical records. She was an active member of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA), which she designated to be the recipient of all memorial contributions in her name. She devoted many installments of her magazine to the transcription of unpublished original sources. In 2005, she and collaborator Andrew Wilburn Hogwood transcribed for publication, "Albemarle Parish Vestry Book, 1742-1786, Surry & Sussex Counties, Virginia," the last unpublished colonial Virginia vestry volume. In case studies for her magazine, she was quick to illustrate the importance of parish vestry books, and other less consulted genealogical sources for the solution of thorny genealogy research problems.

Virginia Davis' final book was "Jamestowne Ancestors." This book features an alphabetically arranged list of 1,000 persons who were known to have owned land or
resided on Jamestown Island between 1607 and 1699. Each Virginia settler is identified by his/her known dates of residence in Jamestown, official position in the colony, and place of origin or county of residence. Mrs. Davis dedicated herself to making a definitive list of Jamestown inhabitants available for the 400th anniversary celebrations held in May 2007. She not only achieved that objective but also left us with a guide for future generations to use in establishing eligibility for membership in a number of hereditary societies that require proof of descent from an early Virginia ancestor.

Speaking of lineage organizations, Mrs. Davis was a member of the Order of the First Families of Virginia, The Jamestowne Society, the James City Company, Order of Descendants of Ancient Planters, Order of First Families of North Carolina, Colonial Dames of the 17th Century, the National Genealogical Society, and numerous other historical and genealogical societies.

Virginia Davis was a great friend to Genealogical Publishing Company. She selected good publishing projects, held herself to a high standard, was hard-working, adhered to production deadlines, and helped to promote her books. Nor was she one to mince words. With Virginia, "What you saw/heard, was what you got." She was a wonderful role model for anyone who chooses to remain active into her 70s and 80s. We shall miss her.

"SAMUEL APPLETON AND JUDITH EVERARD: Volume III of Marston Watson's Series, 'Americans of Royal and Noble Ancestry'," by Gary Boyd Roberts

[This article is adapted from Mr. Roberts' Foreword to the aforementioned book.]
Dudley work and the Marbury second volume of this series appeared in 2004. I am pleased to welcome this third book as well. (Readers will find brief descriptions of all three volumes at the end of this article.)

My interest in Mr. Watson's new book is related, in part, to my own research on the Appletons. I discussed the royal descents of the immigrant Appletons, from Henry I, King of England, for Samuel, and from Robert I, King of France (or possibly Hugh Capet or Louis IV, also kings of France) for Judith, in my introduction to "Massachusetts and Maine Families in the Ancestry of Walter Goodwin Davis" (Genealogical Publishing Company [GPC], 1996). I covered major notable descendants of the Appletons in #64 of my Internet column, "Royal Descents, Notable Kin and Printed Sources," at www.newenglandancestors.org. I outlined these royal descents, or repeated them, in "Ancestors of American Presidents" (1st ed., 1995) and "The Royal Descents of 500/600 Immigrants" (GPC 1993, 2004, 2006). I noted as well the connections to Welsh hero Owen Glendower (an ancestral uncle of Samuel) and the Tudors, and paid tribute to the superb work by W.G. Davis on Appleton's maternal forebears, "The Ancestry of Mary Isaac" (1955). For Samuel's descent from the Woodville ancestors of the Tudors, see Colonel Charles M. Hansen in "The New England Historical and Genealogical Register" 147:3-10 (1993).

To this Appleton literature, Marston Watson has added his volume--the descendants of Samuel and Judith (Everard) Appleton for five, or, in effect, six generations. Mr. Watson's work is a vast expansion of the truly minimalist 1873 and 1874 agnate-only efforts by William Sumner Appleton, with no details beyond dates, and the very partial later work, including the popular family biography, "The Appletons of Beacon Hill" (1973), by Louise Hall Tharp. As with his first two volumes, Mr. Watson has combed scores of available online sources (especially the huge corpus of colonial and 19th-century newspapers among new Internet material), digitized and printed vital records, journal articles and compiled genealogies, but does not abstract wills or deeds. Vital records are most often cited because hereditary societies prefer them, and providing proof of eligibility for groups honoring royal or Mayflower descent or colonial or Revolutionary War service is one of Mr. Watson's major aims with this series.

I also wish to call the reader's attention to this book's length, especially compared to the Dudley and Marbury volumes in the series. This length often reflects much greater detail-from obituaries and Revolutionary service Compendia--and more, too, on other royal descents and society eligibility. Many Appleton descendants will much appreciate these additions. I very much hope that future editions of the first and second volumes likewise expand and that both Marston Watson and GPC continue this series through a proposed Pelham-Avery-West book and possibly other royal descent projects. [End of article]

ROYAL FAMILIES: Americans of Royal and Noble Ancestry. Volume Three: SAMUEL APPLETON AND HIS WIFE JUDITH EVERARD and Five Generations of Their Descendants
As he did for volumes one and two in this series, Mr. Watson combed scores of colonial and 19th-century newspapers, vital records, journal articles, and compiled genealogies to assemble what amounts to the most comprehensive treatment of the Appleton line ever undertaken. Anyone hoping to establish a royal/noble connection through Samuel and Judith Appleton must begin with this book.


Volume Two: REV. FRANCIS MARBURY and Five Generations of His Descendants Through Anne (Marbury) Hutchinson and Katherine (Marbury) Scott

Anne (Marbury) Hutchinson, the 17th-century Puritan heretic and co-founder of Rhode Island, died in an Indian attack with several of her children only nine years after she arrived in America. Her surviving four children and the children of her sister Katherine (Marbury) Scott produced many descendants with royal or noble ancestors. For example, their American descendants are in the line of King Edward I of England (d. 1307). Through the Marbury connection to Sancha de Ayala, Marbury descendants are related to Ferdinand of Aragon, who with his wife, Isabella of Castille, completed the reunification of Spain in the late 15th century and sponsored the expeditions of Christopher Columbus. All of the later kings of Spain, Holy Roman and Austrian emperors, kings of Prussia, and Russian czars starting with Alexander I are distant cousins as well, as are most of the later English and French kings. The Marburys are also related to John Dryden, Jonathan Swift, Horace Walpole, and the wives of the poet Edmund Spencer and the diarist Samuel Pepys.

Notable 18th-century American descendants of the Marburys include Mrs. John Singleton Copley, wife of the great American portrait painter; Thomas Hutchinson, Jr., the last colonial governor of Massachusetts; Nicholas Gilman, Jr., a signer of the Constitution; and Nicholas Brown, Jr., whose family founded Brown University.


According to Gary Boyd Roberts, who wrote the Foreword to Volume One, "Over 650 immigrants to the American colonies have carried royal ancestry to their descendants. More than 165 of them settled in New England, and 387 came here in the colonial period. Of these latter immigrants, moreover, 180 left 10 or more descendants who were notable in American history. Not only does Massachusetts Governor Thomas Dudley (1576-1653) belong to these groups of 650, 165, 387, and 180; Dudley was also among the more than 650 immigrants of royal descent, the forebear of the largest and most distinguished royal descent and the forebear of the largest and most distinguished progeny. His descendants may even compose the largest illustrious progeny of any
immigrant in American history, and a reasonable estimate of contemporary American
descendants might well lie between 10 and 30 million."
&NLC-GenPointers1

BARGAIN BOOKS for November

GENEALOGIES OF NEW JERSEY FAMILIES from the "Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey." In Two Volumes

This work brings together hundreds of the compiled material (genealogies, biographies, etc.) and Bible records published in the "Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey" from its first issue in 1925 through the end of Volume 65. This set consists of two massive volumes, each numbering over 1,000 pages, and name indexes containing over 70,000 names!
Was $165.00/set  Now $119.95/set
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MISSISSIPPI TERRITORY in the War of 1812

Mrs. Rowland's detailed historical narrative discusses all the major conflicts in the Mississippi theater, commencing with the Battle of Burnt Corn in July 1813 and the massacre at Fort Mims--which resulted in Andrew Jackson's assumption of command--through the Battle of Horseshoe Bend to the legendary Battle of New Orleans. Of greater genealogical interest, however, is the book's "Rolls of Mississippi Commands in the War of 1812," a 76-page section giving the names and ranks of upwards of 7,500 soldiers and officers.
Was $27.50    Now $19.95
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A HISTORY OF CAROLINE COUNTY, VIRGINIA from Its Formation in 1727 to 1924 to Which is Appended "A Discourse of Virginia" by Edward Maria Wingfield, First Governor of the Colony of Virginia

Marshall Wingfield's HISTORY is the definitive genealogical sourcebook on its subject, containing numerous lists of names as well as genealogies and biographical sketches of the county's prominent citizens and early inhabitants. Included are: Revolutionary soldiers from Caroline County; officers in the militia during the Revolution; land grants, 1728-1793; First Survey Book, 1729-1762; obituary notices, 1800-1838; clerks and
officials; Caroline County estates; church members; Committee of Safety; and marriage
bonds.
Was $44.50  Now $31.50
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AMERICAN DATA from the "Aberdeen Journal," 1748-1783

In this book, David Dobson has extracted and noted all the genealogical references to the
Americas made in "Scottish" sources appearing in the "Aberdeen Journal" between 1748
and 1783. By "Scottish," Mr. Dobson refers only to sources within Scotland, and not data
that the "Journal" published from English or colonial sources. The period covers the years
when the Chesapeake tobacco trade was under the control of Glasgow merchants, and
Scottish emigration was becoming significant.
Was $15.00  Now $8.95
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EARLIEST TENNESSEE LAND RECORDS and EARLIEST TENNESSEE LAND
HISTORY

Once in a generation someone compiles a genealogy reference work that instantly
becomes a standard in its field because it brings together a vital collection of records in
one place, explains how those records originally came to be, and, in the process, promises
to save its users hours of toil. This work, by Irene Griffey, is such a book. In the first
portion, Mrs. Griffey explains why the various county land offices were established, the
six-step process for obtaining a land grant, the differences between military and other
types of land grants, and, of course, how to use early Tennessee land records.

The bulk of this remarkable volume, however, consists of abstracts of some 16,000 of the
earliest Tennessee land records in existence, arranged in a tabular format. For each
record, Mrs. Griffey gives the name of the claimant, file number, name of the assignee (if
any), county, number of acres, grant number, date, entry number, entry date, land book
and page number, and a description of the stream nearest to the grant.
Was $45.00  Now $22.50 (sale price in effect through December 27, 2007)
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