"Pennsylvania-German Records," by Don Yoder
(The following article is excerpted from Professor Yoder’s Introduction to the three-volume collection Pennsylvania German Church Records of Births, Marriages, Burials, Etc. From the Pennsylvania German Society Proceedings and Addresses.)

The Pennsylvania Germans (or "Pennsylvania Dutch") themselves are the descendants of emigrants from Europe in the seventeenth, eighteenth, and early nineteenth centuries. From 1683, when the first German settlement in the New World was planted at Germantown, through the late 1700s a varied procession of emigrants arrived from West Germany, East Germany, Switzerland, and France (Alsace-Lorraine), with contingents of emigrants from Silesia (now in Poland) and Moravia (now in Czechoslovakia) and indirectly from Austria and other areas of Central Europe.

The Pennsylvania Germans were divided in religious adherence between the so-called "church people" (Kirchenleute) and the "sectarians" (Sektenleute). The former were comprised of the two major Protestant denominations from the continent of Europe, the Lutherans and the Reformed. The latter were made up of the Mennonites, the Amish, and the Brethren. A third category of religious adherence was the communitarian groups, represented by the Ephrata Society, the Moravian Brethren, and the Harmonites.

The records included in [Pennsylvania German Church Records of Births, Marriages, Burials, Etc. From the Pennsylvania German Society Proceedings and Addresses] are those of selected Lutheran and Reformed congregations in colonial Pennsylvania, plus one Moravian record. All three of these groups kept excellent, careful registers of their membership. Let us look at one of these churches, to see what types of help its records can offer to the genealogist.

St. Michael's and Zion's Lutheran congregation in the city of Philadelphia was the leading German Lutheran congregation in the Colonies, and its twin churches formed a kind of joint Lutheran cathedral. Its clergy were among the great spiritual and intellectual leaders of eighteenth-century America.

Among the first fruits of the genealogical program of the Pennsylvania German Society was the translation of the early records of St. Michael's and Zion's congregation, including baptisms, marriages, and burials beginning in 1745 and ending in 1762.

What is particularly valuable about these records is the great care with which they were kept by
the early ministers. Sponsors at each baptism were carefully noted and illegitimate births were as fully reported as possible (important for genealogists!). In the marriage records, locations of the residence of bride and groom, if not from Philadelphia, were sometimes noted; the religion of the marriage partners, if not Lutheran, was mentioned; and the place where the wedding took place is noted, whether in the church in the presence of wedding guests, in the parsonage, or in private homes.

In addition to parishioners who lived in Philadelphia, the records include some persons from up in the country, or over the Delaware in New Jersey, particularly in the marriage record, since it was probably fashionable for country folk to come to Philadelphia to get married and to honeymoon.

Among the illegitimate children listed were the offspring of temporary unions of German women with Irishmen, Englishmen, indentured servants, soldiers, and other putative fathers. If the parents married shortly before or soon after the birth of the child, the pastors charitably considered the births legitimate. And here at least the pastors did not, as was the case in some German records I have studied in Europe, pretentiously reverse the book and inscribe illegitimate births upside down.

Occupations are given too, in some cases. We read, for example, of Anthony Dashler the saddler, Jacob Roht the potter, Johan Christian Luprian the tailor, Johan Georg Ott the bookbinder, Johan Peter Buchner the locksmith, Tobias Bube the carpenter, and others.

In an age when confessional lines were more precisely drawn, the pastors were careful to note non-Lutherans. For example, among the surprising number of Roman Catholics mentioned were Baltzer Smith, Diedrich Holtzhauzin, Philip Eyler, Stephen Swermer, Anthony Ottman, Charles Alexander duBo (duBois?), Cathrina Spergler, Casper Kastner, Johann Paul Essling, Jurg Hirt, Niclas Holtzlander, and Peter Walter. There are even a few Mennonites mentioned in the records, some free Negroes, and many "servants," i.e., white indentured servants, whose masters' permission was required when they married.

Occasionally the pastors noted down the European origins of their parishioners, often in the case of marriages, and even more so in the burial record. For example, in the family record of Wolfgang Unger and his wife, Anna Maria nee Zimmermann, the husband was from Flinspach in the Electoral Palatinate, beyond Heidelberg; the wife was from Nussloch near Heidelberg. On occasion a sponsor was listed from abroad, as in the case of the birth in 1747 of a son of Johann Heinrich Keppeles. The godfather was a man from Heilbronn in Württemberg, whose place at the baptism was taken by a proxy. The Keppeles were among Philadelphia's German merchant aristocracy, and Henrich Keppele was later to become the first president of the German Society of Pennsylvania, founded in 1764.

Among these notations of the European origins of the early members, there is a high proportion from Lutheran provinces of Germany such as Württenberg. The Philadelphia congregation appears also to have had a higher proportion of members from North Germany than some of the country churches. Examples from the baptismal record include Johan Just Bothmann and Georg Wilhelm Rehburg from Hannover, Johan Thomas Koen from Hamburg, and Johan Peter Bogner
Of especial interest are the notations about the emigration of the parishioners. Several children were baptized with the note that they were born on the ocean. Sometimes parents of baptized children were described as "newcomers," i.e., recently arrived immigrants. For example, in 1754, Magdalena Rohn was baptized, daughter of Henrich Rohn. The godfather was (Tans Ernst Mumbauer from Egypt [Northampton County]). Both father and godfather arrived at Philadelphia on the Halifax, September 28, 1753.

Of the Reformed Church records in [Pennsylvania German Church Records of Births, Marriages, Burials, Etc.], those of the First Reformed Church in Lancaster begin in 1736. Like most of the Reformed congregations in colonial Pennsylvania, and to a certain extent all Pennsylvania German churches, the membership formed very much a potpourri of German regional backgrounds. There were, for example, Reformed families from the Palatinate and other Reformed provinces of Germany, including the pastors Hendel, Bohme, Faber, and Helfenstein, and such families as the Weidmanns, Trauts, Gensemers, Schreibers, and many others. There was also a large Swiss contingent, since the German-Swiss cantons of Bern, Zurich, and Basel were also Reformed. These Swiss families came to Pennsylvania either directly from Switzerland, or, more commonly, indirectly via the Pfalz or other areas in Germany; examples include the Dieffenderfer, Brunner, Buhler, Altdorfer, Schaffner, Rudisill, Stauffer, Dunkel, and Brenneman families. In addition, there were French-Swiss families like the Gallatins, and many Huguenot families from the Rhineland, including the Williars and Fortines (Fortineux) of Otterberg and adjoining parishes in the Palatinate; the Bushongs (Beauchamps), LeFebres, and others. From Hessen, Rheinhessen, etc., came the Bausmans, the Strenges (Christian Strenge, the Lancaster County fraktur artist), the Hurds, and others.

Pennsylvania's Moravian tradition is represented in this work by Augustus Schultze's "Guide to the Old Moravian Cemetery of Bethlehem, Pa, 1742-1910." The Moravian Church, which was planted in America by Count Zinzendorf and his associates, was one of the most active of the spiritual forces in colonial Pennsylvania. The core of its membership had come from Czechoslovakia and Eastern Germany, but in Pennsylvania its converts included Englishmen, Danes, Norwegians, Swedes, and other Europeans, as well as converts from Pennsylvania's Lutheran and Reformed churches, plus Negroes from Africa and the West Indies, and even American Indians. It was a cosmopolitan crowd indeed. Furthermore, the Moravians, because of their missionary drive, sailed back and forth from Europe to America, to the West Indies, Greenland, Guiana, and other mission stations, bringing new ideas and talents to the colonial scene.

The persons buried in the old "God's Acre" at Bethlehem, on the quiet hill behind the church, represent this rich blend that was colonial Moravianism. An additional plus for genealogists is the fact that the Moravians, engaged as they were in heroic far-flung mission endeavors, made much of written biography; hence many colonial Moravians wrote spiritual autobiographies, giving the outward facts of their passage through life plus a careful recording of their inward progress in religion. It is these autobiographies, preserved by the thousands in the Moravian Archives in Bethlehem, that Dr. Schultze used in preparing the brief biographical sketches of those buried at Bethlehem. Particularly exciting for genealogists are the precise notations of the
birthplaces of the European emigrants. And even in these short sketches one senses something of
the excitement of belonging to the Moravian world in the heroic period of its missionary
expansion.

**Publisher’s Note:**
Researchers can read the balance of Professor Yoder’s Introduction or search for their
Pennsylvania German ancestors in the recently reissued paperback edition of *Pennsylvania
German Church Records* (see below).

Sale on Pennsylvania German Church Records (three-volume paperback set)

Here in the three volumes Professor Yoder refers to above, the genealogist has access to all the
church records ever published in the “Proceedings and Addresses” of the Pennsylvania German
Society. These records are indispensable to anyone interested in Pennsylvania-German origins.
The records include a great many key churches in southeastern Pennsylvania, notably in the
counties of Bucks, Philadelphia, Lancaster, York, Lehigh, Montgomery, and Northampton--the
heartland of Pennsylvania-German country. What we have in these volumes is the mother’s milk
of genealogy--births, baptisms, marriages, and burials--records that identify people and their
relationships to one another, not only parents and children, husbands and wives, but witnesses
and sponsors as well. A staggering 125,000 persons are mentioned in these records and every
one of them is cited in the indexes, which have been painstakingly compiled especially for this
publication. If you purchase this three-volume collection before 11:59 p.m. EDT, Thursday,
March 31, 2011, you can save a full $50.00 to boot! For more information, visit the following
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Our Top Picks for March

We have published five major new publications this month and brought back into print another
fifteen classic works concerned with American origins. Here are our picks for the best of the
March bunch.

*Revolutionary War Pensions Awarded by State Governments 1775-1874, the General and
Federal Governments Prior to 1814, and by Private Acts of Congress to 1905*

This book is an attempt to identify and recreate the Revolutionary War pension files generated
prior to the disastrous fire in the War Department on 8 November 1800, and a second and even
more disastrous fire on 24 August 1814 with the British invasion of Washington. Fortunately,
Lloyd Bockstruck has not only identified many of those pensioners whose files are commonly
believed to have been lost but also reconstructed in varying degrees their contents. More than
16,500 pensioners are featured in this work. Among the many sources used to reconstruct these
records, two in particular stand out: (1) pension records generated by the governments of each of
the original thirteen states (state governments had their own programs and in varying degrees preserved many of their pension files); and (2) acts of Congress that created reports of pensioners receiving pay for service or disability, or widows and orphans receiving benefits, mostly issued as government publications between 1792 and 1840. In the end we have an alphabetical list of over 16,000 pensioners with an index containing the names of a further 15,000 individuals mentioned in the text. Each entry contains the name of the pensioner, his state of service and place of residence, details of his service such as dates and places of engagements and wounds received, date of death, and names and relationships of surviving family members, especially widows.

Some Early Scots in Maritime Canada. Volume I
Only after 1770 did the Maritime Provinces of Canada begin to attract Scots settlers, mainly but not exclusively from the Scottish Highlands. More numerous than the New England planters and Loyalists who preceded them, and outnumbering the contemporary Irish immigration, the Scots put their stamp on Cape Breton Island, the eastern mainland of Nova Scotia, much of Prince Edward Island, and coastal regions of New Brunswick from Restigouche in the north to the shores of the Bay of Fundy to the south. Terrence Punch, who has compiled four volumes of similar data on Irish immigrants to Atlantic Canada, here presents the first volume of a series devoted to Scottish immigrants. In records ranging from newspaper announcements of marriages and deaths to cemetery records and censuses, and from rare passenger lists to probate records, this initial volume is a unique collection of fugitive records on Scottish immigrants to the Maritime Provinces, naming several thousand people in the context of major life events who might otherwise go undetected in family annals.

*The Ultimate Search Book* provides “how to” search tips and resources--for free and for fee--for legally accessing information and for locating anyone in the U.S. and 200 other countries. The first five chapters of the new edition lay out Ms. Carangelo’s blueprint for successful searching. Chapter One identifies the major categories of databases that a researcher is likely to consult (DMV records, voter registrations, etc.). Chapters Two and Three home in on missing children, old loves, war buddies, child support deadbeats, and so on. Chapter Four treats missing persons whose names you may or may not have (birth children, foster care records, missing person locators), while Chapter Five concentrates on the principal websites for finding missing persons. The bulk of the book the leads the reader, U.S. state by state, and then--in less detail--country by country, through the specifics of successful searching. For example, in the case of Idaho state, we are given the addresses, phone numbers, and websites of the vital records office, DMV, state archives, and central adoption agency; the coverage and dates of the available records; and the adoption disclosure statute(s) currently in force. But that is not all. Ms. Carangelo also provides contact information for Idaho adoption search/support groups, as well as sample letters that readers can use to address their own concerns to the appropriate agencies and/or testimonials from state- or country-specific searchers. *The Ultimate Search Book* is a great starting point for tracking down a missing loved one.

The two volumes at hand, the third and fourth in a series, concern the rulings of the Cherokee Nation Commission on Citizenship (a creation of the Tribal Council) on cases of citizenship. (It should be noted that the Dawes Commission of 1893 subsequently scrutinized the Cherokee Commission dockets in making its final determinations on citizenship for members of the Five Civilized Tribes.) Cherokee Commission Dockets. Volumes III and IV: 1880-1884 & 1887-1889 consist of abstracts of Dockets 719-1,343 and 1,344-1,840, respectively, of the Commission. Besides the names of the applicant and presiding commissioners and the date of the determination, in most instances the transcriptions identify the names of family members and their relationship to the person(s) filing the application. In all, researchers will find references to about 4,000 Cherokee claimants in each volume, bringing the total identified to date to about 16,000.

Social Networking for Genealogists
This book describes the wide array of social networking services that are now available online and highlights how these services can be used by genealogists to share information, photos, and videos with family, friends, and other researchers. Each chapter guides you through a unique category of social networking services using genealogy-related examples. From blogs and wikis to Facebook and Second Life, author Drew Smith shows you how to incorporate these powerful new tools into your family history research.

Tidewater Virginia Families
Covering an incredible 375 years, this book sets forth the genealogical history of some 37 families who have their roots in Tidewater Virginia. Starting with the earliest colonial settler, the origins of the following Tidewater families are presented: Bell, Binford, Bonner, Butler, Campbell, Cheadle, Chiles, Clements, Cotton, Dejarnette(att), Dumas, Ellyson, Fishback, Fleming, Hamlin, Hampton, Harnison, Harris, Haynie, Hurt, Hutcheson, Lee, Monds, Mundy, Nelson, Peatross, Pettyjohn, Ruffin, Short, Spencer, Tarleton, Tatum, Taylor, Terrill, Watkins, Winston, and Woodson.

Tidewater Virginia Families: Generations Beyond
In this supplement the author added 11 new families to the Tidewater Virginia families treated in the original volume described above: Alsobrook, Bibb, Edwards, Favor, Gray, Hux, Ironmonger, Laker, Southern, Taylor, and Woolfolk. In addition, this supplement includes vignettes and anecdotes of family life, descriptions and locations of family homes and burial sites, extensions of sibling lines, identification of neighbors, county maps, a place-name index, and, where necessary, corrections and updates to the original volume. As in the original publication, all families tie in with the earliest Hutcheson, Peatross, Butler, and Lee settlers in the colony of Virginia, and in each instance the family history, its vital statistics, and the events of the time are reported.

History and Genealogy of the Families of Old Fairfield [Connecticut]. In Three Volumes
Donald Lines Jacobus's History and Genealogy of the Families of Old Fairfield is the ultimate authority on the ancestry and relationships of approximately 50,000 residents of Fairfield County, Connecticut. Each family history commences with the original 17th-century settler and is brought down, in most cases, to the early decades of the 19th century. The accumulated data is
further enhanced by abstracts of land and probate records, the effect of which is to add still more weight to the already overwhelming evidence. Families are arranged alphabetically, and children are carried forward as heads of families in leap-frog fashion. Everyone mentioned whose name does not occur in normal sequence under the appropriate family history is identified in the index.

**Biographical Sketches of Loyalists of the American Revolution, Two Volumes**
The work contains three quite distinct parts: a balanced historical essay of some 150 pages; biographical sketches, alphabetically arranged, comprising the vast bulk of the work; and some 120 pages of "Fragments"--brief notices of approximately 1,500 Loyalists not covered in the biographies. The sketches variously contain references to dates and places of birth and death, residence, occupation, military service, wives, children and other family members, an indication as to whether the subject was banished or proscribed or had land confiscated, and miscellaneous references to incidents and events of biographical significance. Part of the work's enduring popularity is explained by the fact that Sabine had access to Loyalist family papers, memoranda, church and cemetery records, as well as the more conventional public records.

**The Register of New Netherland, 1626-1674**
This work identifies the name, location, and date of service of every Dutch official to serve in New Netherland until the last trace of Dutch authority was removed in 1674. The book opens with a helpful chronology of the life of New Netherland, commencing with the colonization of 1623.

**White Servitude in Pennsylvania. Indentured and Redemption Labor in Colony and Commonwealth**
A comprehensive treatise on the causes and conditions of white servitude in Pennsylvania in the 18th century, this book covers the demand for redemptions, the home supply of indentured servants, the sources of the supplies of British and German servants, and the conditions of transportation from recruitment abroad, through the trans-Atlantic voyage, to the role of the immigrant-aid societies in Pennsylvania.

**Early West Augusta Pioneers**
From its establishment in 1745, Augusta County, Virginia, served as a haven for Scotch-Irish, German, and, to a lesser extent, English immigrants who failed to find economic opportunity or religious freedom in the colonial settlements along the Middle Atlantic coastline. This little known but important work contains detailed genealogies of the twenty families mentioned in the title of the work, who settled in that region of "old western Augusta" that today encompasses Bath and Highland counties, Virginia. In addition to the family histories, the compiler has provided introductory chapters on the history of German and Scotch-Irish settlement to the region; a table of family members who fought in the Colonial, Revolutionary, and Civil Wars, and a full name index with approximately 10,000 entries.

**The Vestry Book of Kingston Parish, Mathews County, Virginia, 1679-1796**
The compiler of this work transcribed the earliest known records of Kingston Parish, Mathews County, Virginia. The contents of *The Vestry Book* are the standard fare; namely, they are minutes of the business meetings of the parish. As such they concern the payments for services to various individuals, levying or collection of tithes, appointment of vestrymen, etc. Appended
to the transcription is a list of Kingston Parish clergy arranged in chronological order of earliest date of service. Rounding out the book are a topical index and a name index to some 2,000 persons found in the volume and, therefore, known to have lived in Kingston Parish during the more than 100 years covered.

**A History of Anson County, North Carolina, 1750-1976**

Anson County at its formation in 1750 encompassed all of central and western North Carolina and portions of South Carolina. The work at hand is the only comprehensive history of Anson County. The narrative spans more than 225 years of the county's growth from a vast wilderness to a thriving industrial and agricultural community.

Beaufort, NC Records Are the Subject of John Anderson Brayton’s Latest Transcription

The coastal North Carolina County of Beaufort (formerly Archdale) was created from Bath County in 1712. Beaufort was itself the parent county, in whole or in part, of Pamlico and Pitt counties. Beaufort, as a seaport, was a great crossroads of migration from the Northeast. For example, Boston is mentioned many times in county records as a place of origin. The North Carolina counties of Perquimans, Pasquotank, and Currituck, as well as the Virginia county of Norfolk, also contributed to Beaufort's migrational base.

Beaufort County records are the subject of the latest work from genealogist John Anderson Brayton, the author or transcriber of scores of books and articles pertaining to the early families of North Carolina and Surry and Isle of Wight counties, Virginia. This volume, *Abstracts of Beaufort County, NC, Deed Book 2: 1729-1748*, is derived from original Land Record Books 12 through 20. Arranged chronologically, these record abstracts consist of (1) instruments of sale from grantor to grantee, (2) deeds of trust based on collateral, (3) decrees issued by courts in which a debtor's property must be sold off to pay a debt, (4) deeds of gift (similar to indentures), and (5) straight sales of Negro slaves from one person to another. In all, the instruments refer to about 1,500 inhabitants of Beaufort County between 1729 and 1748, each of whom can be found in the name, location, or slave index at the conclusion of the volume. For more information, visit the following URL: [http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=9424](http://www.genealogical.com/index.php?main_page=product_info&item_number=9424)

2010 Books by John Anderson Brayton

**Colonial Families of Surry and Isle of Wight Counties, Virginia, Volume 10: Bridger of Godalming, Surrey; Slimbridge, Gloucestershire; and Virginia**

This is Volume 10 of John Brayton's series *Colonial Families of Surry and of Isle of Wight Counties, Virginia*. The central figure in the study is Col. Joseph Bridger of Gloucestershire, England, and Isle of Wight, Virginia, who died in 1686 and whose provenance had puzzled researchers for most of the 20th century. This new work, which features Mr. Brayton's usual fastidious research, presents the Bridger ancestry with the author’s trademark interspersing of genealogical descents, transcribed source records, and historical commentary.
Lower Norfolk County was established in 1637. It was the parent county of Norfolk and Princess Anne counties, which today have been superseded by the metropolises Chesapeake City and Virginia Beach. John A. Brayton's newest series involves the transcription of Lower Norfolk County's extant colonial records. Whereas the inaugural volume (see Volume One: Wills & Deeds, Book D, 1656-1666 below) was primarily a verbatim accounting of the county's oldest extant wills and deeds, Volume Two is more wide-ranging. According to Mr. Brayton, this book is a complete documentation of the activities of the county court, encompassing wills, deeds, court minutes, and court orders. Included are the usual tales of drunkenness and cruelty, of voyages to parts beyond the seas, of servants’ attempts to escape their masters, and of a number of accounts of inhabitants “who had enjoyed the benefits of marriage with their partners before the fact of the sacrament itself.” Besides the records themselves, Mr. Brayton provides a key to handwriting peculiarities of the era, a list of abbreviations and their meanings, and two indexes—the first a name index to the roughly 5,000 individuals mentioned in the documents, and the second an index to all places, vessels, and slaves contained therein.

The inaugural volume is a verbatim transcription of the county's oldest extant records, Wills and Deeds, 1656-1666—and quite a treasure it is. As a matter of fact, in addition to wills, deeds, and other land records, Volume One contains hundreds of depositions, orphans' court proceedings, dispositions of widows' estates for second and third husbands, law suits resolved and unresolved, punishments for moral offences such as bastardy and truancy, powers of attorney, petitions of every fathomable variety, assignments of county precinct officers, announcements of travel "out of the county," lists of Quakers, and edicts from the Crown conveyed by Governor Berkeley. There are even some court records from Nansemond and James City counties and announcements of forthcoming marriages.

John Anderson Brayton's abstracts of the earliest extant deeds for Carteret County tell us a great deal about the origins and identities of its pioneering families. Many of them flowed in from Beaufort, Craven, Pasquotank, and Perquimans counties, North Carolina, and Norfolk County, Virginia. Mr. Brayton has extracted everything from these early deeds possessing a kernel of genealogical value, including the date, names of all parties noted in the deed including prior owners, terms of sale, name and geographical markings of the property, and the names of witnesses. The abstracts identify upwards of 3,000 inhabitants of Carteret County, as revealed in the volume’s name index. To expedite the research process further, Mr. Brayton has also added a location index, and index to slaves, and a list of his previous publications.

Blog: Movin’ on Down the Road

Books like The Great Wagon Road, by Parke Rouse, Jr., chronicle the creation and usage of the roads, canals, and railroads that played such an enormous role in the growth of America, and in
particular, in our citizens’ migration across the continent. They also help to add background and context to our family histories, as you will see if you read this week’s article on our blog, www.genealogyandfamilyhistory.com, by Carolyn Barkley.

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