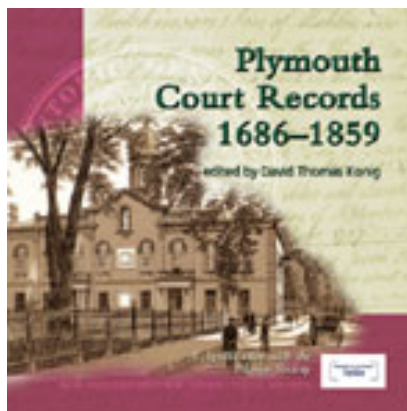




Review:

Plymouth Court Records

By Allin Kingsbury



Ordinarily, we would not bother mentioning a publication containing local records, but the CD-ROM, *Plymouth Court Records 1686-1859* is something that has not been available to family historians until now. It is significant for several reasons. First, Plymouth County, Massachusetts is one of the earliest places in the United States settled by Europeans and many individuals are descended from the early residents of Plymouth County. Second, court records are an underutilized record for family history research, and the approach taken to present the data on this CD-ROM is a great help to genealogists and hopefully, is a pattern that will be followed for court records elsewhere in the country. There are several reasons court records are not used by more family historians:

1. The records usually are not indexed making them tedious to use.
2. The older records are handwritten.
3. Although there is the occasional legal fight over a will or family assets, most court records contain little that would help the family historian with birth dates, marriages, deaths, or family relationships.

Court records do offer a lot of information about the individuals that appear in the records. The records will tell you if an individual was an upstanding citizen if he appears in court

records as a juror or as a witness, attorney, or other professional associated with the justice system. If an ancestor was on the other side of the Law, you may have some colorful stories to spice your family history. If he was involved in a legal dispute, the record will tell you about the persons character and perhaps about his business or personal affairs.

What is in the Records?

Plymouth Court Records 1686-1859 contains abstracts of records from civil and criminal courts of Plymouth County, Massachusetts. The abstracts are taken from more than 35,000 cases in the court records. The records come from the Plymouth County Court of Common Pleas and the Court of General Session. The Court of Common Pleas handled civil litigation's while the Court of General Sessions handled administrative and minor civil matters.

These records do not contain matters dealing with serious crimes, insolvencies, divorces, probate, and equity. These cases are handled by other courts. An exception to this statement, which we see in these records are a few disputes contesting wills or the

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Ask Dr. PAF

by Dr. Cornelius D. PAF



"I Give No Answers Before Their Time!"

GEDCOM Files

Q. When I try to open a GEDCOM file, my computer insists that I need Family Tree Maker. What do I do?

A. You **IMPORT** a GEDCOM file, you don't open it. From an open PAF file you import the data in a GEDCOM file. The command to import is found in the "File" menu, or in the tool bar icon with an arrow pointing to the computer. A GEDCOM file is not a program that can be opened by itself. It is a database in a format that can be read (imported) by a genealogy program that can then put the data into its required structure.

Q. Is there any way to look at a GEDCOM file before I import it into my database?

A. A GEDCOM file is a text file and can be read by Word Pad (when it isn't too big) or a word processor. It is quite difficult to make sense of a text GEDCOM file that way. The standard procedure has been to import the GEDCOM file into a new, empty PAF file and look at the data in the new file. That is still a good way to see whether you agree with the data entry techniques used by the originator of the GEDCOM file.

Q. What should I look for in the file created from the GEDCOM file?

- A.** Try these:
- Look for names of places (Use Place Name list). Are they complete and not abbreviated?
 - Look for names of people: are the titles in the proper place, suffix

titles after the name and titles used before the name in the "Title (prefix)" field? (Look in Individual View)

- Look for words in the name field that are not names: unknown, child, twin, boy (Also look in the Individual View).
- Look for illogical dates: burial before death, birth after mother's death (Use Possible Problem List).
- Look for odd capitalization. Are the surnames entered in lower case or in all capital letters? To quickly check, go to "Tools/Preferences," click on the "Names" tab and then on "capitalize surnames on screens and reports." Then go back to the "Individual View" screen; the names with all capitals are shown as entered. They can be changed by going to the "Tools" menu and to "change names to mixed case."

Splitting a History in Notes

Q. I am not sure I am entering my notes correctly. I found a family history story that my mother wrote about her parents. I want the part about my grandfather to be in his notes and the part about my grandmother to be in her notes. I also would like to have the whole story in my mother's notes because she starts out telling a little about herself. What I don't want is to have too much duplication when I print a book. How can I stop printing all of the story that is in my mother's notes?

A. You are correct in putting in stories about you grandparents in their notes. I would put the story about your Grandfather in his notes and about your grandmother in her notes. Be sure to list the source as a document from your mother, with the date, or approximate date, when she wrote it. I understand your wanting to keep the story intact but not have too much duplication in your book. You could mark the duplicate part of your mother's notes as confidential, at least when you print your Ahnentafel book. You mark the notes as confidential by putting a tilde (~) in front of the note tag, or in front of the first line of the note if you don't use tags. This will make confidential all the lines of the note until there is a blank line. If you want a blank line in the note, put another tilde in front of the first line after the blank line. It would be good to test it out before sending it to an Ahnentafel book. Create an Ahnentafel with just your mother and

her parents and look at the Preview to determine whether the results are what you want.

- For other printed reports you can mark the option in the "Ahnentafel Book" screen to include confidential notes if you want.
- Remember that you can use the Windows copy and paste features in PAF notes. Enter the document in your mother's notes first, then highlight and use Ctrl-C to copy the part to go to another's notes and then Ctrl-V to paste it in the appropriate note. •

Plymouth Court Records

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execution of an estate settlement where a civil suit is filed in court.

A number of cases involving paternity and child support where there was no marriage clear up the parentage of most of the individuals born out of wedlock. Working mothers could not support and care for a child, and unless the father willingly provided for support, the courts decided the issue of child support. In some cases, the court appointed a legal guardian for the child. In all such cases, the name of the child and the mother appear as well as the name of the person named as the father.

Many cases involved personal disputes. They contain no genealogical information other than indicating the individuals are alive at the time. However, they often do provide insight into the character of the persons mentioned and often indicate the occupation and/or business affairs of an individual. These court cases are often about settlement of debt, forfeiture of bonds, and breach of contract. When a person is noted as plaintiff or defendant, his residence is noted, which helps the genealogist create a time line for the individual and clear up confusion where there is more than one individual with the same name.

The court records lists individuals, usually prominent and respected citizens, selected on grand juries, trial juries and other appointed positions such as constables. These entries indicate the place of residence of the individuals at the time, and can help narrow the time for a possible death date if the actual date cannot be found. The court records also list those

licensed as innkeepers and those licensed to sell wine and hard liquor.

The Court Records

The abstracts of records of these courts were published in book form, taking up eighteen volumes, but without an index. This was between 1978 and 1981. The records are brief. They were written in cursive handwriting before the typewriter and court stenographer appeared as standard courtroom fixtures. The conversion from handwritten records to abstracts in electronic text was done by the Pilgrim Society, and undoubtedly was a lot of painstaking work requiring a special expertise in legal terminology and old handwriting.

The records on the CD-ROM can be browsed. A table of contents helps find the session and court that you may want to browse. The actual power of the CD-ROM comes from the search capability. A search for a name will find every instance of the name. Each instance can then be reviewed in the text of the court record. The instances which are of interest can be bookmarked for later study. The search looks for exact spelling. Wild cards can be used to find variant spelling, which is a common occurrence in the records. Searches can be for any term, or set of key words. The advanced search uses Boolean operators, searches for words in close proximity or exact phrases.

PC and Mac Support

Plymouth Court Records 1686-1859 runs with Windows 95, 98, NT or 2000. Required are a minimum of 2Mb hard disk space, 4X CD-ROM or higher; SVGA monitor with 800x600 pixel display; 32 bit color or higher. The CD-ROM will also run on a Macintosh computer using System 7.5 or higher (The search engine will not run on System OS X), and with 40mb RAM. You can install the complete database on your hard drive for faster performance if you have a large drive or you can read the data from the CD-ROM drive.

Ordering

Plymouth Court Records 1686-1859 can be purchased from the New England Historic and Genealogy Society for \$35.99. To order, go to: www.newenglandancestors.org/rs0/articles/electronic_publications/?page_id=676&attrib1=1&seq_num=9 •

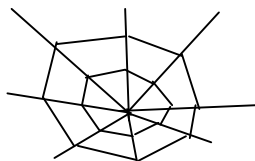
SV-PAF-UG Needs You Utilities for PAF

We started a list of computer programs that add functions to PAF as part of a project for the year, 2004.. Several of these programs have been reviewed in the PAFinder, but we want to find all we can and list them under one title. To make this list of utilities meaningful, we request that those of you who have used any of them, please e-mail, or mail, your experiences with them. We also would like to know the purpose for using the utility, how it satisfied your needs, and any problems you may have had. We also need to know how to get the program, and the cost, if any.

We will print this list in PAFinder and put the list on our Web site, early in 2004.

e-mail to mlharline@aol.com
Post Office mail to
SV-PAF-UG
P. O. Box 23670
San Jose CA 95153-2670 •

Spider Webs



Canadian Genealogy Centre Naturalization Database

The Canadian Genealogy Centre, the Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal, and the Jewish Genealogical Society of Ottawa announce the release of a new database created by the Jewish Genealogical Societies of Ottawa and of Montreal. The database contains the names of immigrants to Canada who became naturalized citizens between the years 1915 to 1951. The Web site is already receiving more than 750,000 hits a month. It was named as one of 101 best family history Web sites by Family Tree Magazine based on appeal to a wide audience, ease of use, available resources and clear design. To view the Canadian Naturalization database, go to:
http://www.genealogy.gc.ca/01/010203_e.html

The National Institute for Genealogical Studies

The National Institute for Genealogical Studies and the University of Toronto offered their first online genealogy course on October 4, 1999, which was a genealogy course called Methodology-Part 1. It was a beginners course offered to a handful of students. The program has been in operation for four years. A total of 91 courses have been offered and there has been a total of 16,500 course registrations. For more information about the program or to enroll in one of the classes, go to: www.genealogicalstudies.com

Hayes Presidential Center Obituary Index

President Rutherford B. Hayes was an avid genealogist and even served as honorary vice-president of the New England Historic Genealogical Society from 1879-1889. The 2003 Technology Excellence Award from NEHGS was awarded to the Hayes Presidential Center for their online obituary index which currently includes about 300,000 people from Northwest Ohio. Most of the individuals have several citations, often listing sources like probate cases, history books, and funeral home records. The Obituary Index has been expanded geographically since it went online, with the recent addition of obituary information supplied by 12 libraries in the Northwest Ohio Library District. More than nineteen Ohio cities are included in the index. The Hayes Library, which created the Web site, has one of the largest collections of genealogy research materials in Northwest Ohio. For more information or to use the index, go to: www.rbhayes.org •

Software of Interest

Family Tree Maker 11

Version 11 of Family Tree Maker® is now available. Family Tree Maker has been available for more than ten years and has more than 5 million copies sold. New features in the program include:

- new trees and templates to display and share charts, reports and photos
- the ability to save and share trees as a PDF file
- back up of Family File to CD-ROM

- a getting started tutorial
- access to resources at the Genealogy.com Web site one-click search on the Internet
- a preview of Your Family Book before printing
- merge two files or import new data into a file
- copy and paste individuals, family branches, or an entire tree from one file to another.

The suggested retail price of Family Tree Maker \$49.99 which includes data CDs and three months' free access to Genealogy.com's World Family Tree Collection. The Deluxe version 11 sells for \$69.99 which includes three months' free access to the U.S. Census Collection on Genealogy.com. The Family Tree Maker Collection's Edition sells for \$99.99, which also includes three months of free access to World Family Tree Collection on Genealogy.com.

The Family Tree Maker program requires Windows 98/ME/XP Home Edition, a 90 MHz or faster Pentium, 16 MB RAM, 125 MB free hard disk space, a 2x or faster CD-ROM drive, a 640x480 monitor, 256 colors. Internet access is required to use the online data features. For more information, go to: <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com>

HEREDIS Mac X

HEREDIS Mac X is the Macintosh OS X version of a program previously available for Windows and Macintosh OS 9.1. The program is produced in France and is very popular there. The English version of the program is not a big seller yet, but is regarded as an excellent program.

HEREDIS comes in three versions. The standard version, HEREDIS 7.2, is available for download free. The HEREDIS 7.2 Premium Edition for Windows has the full compliment of features. HEREDIS Mac X can be downloaded from the Web site for \$39 as an introductory offer. For more information, go to: www.myheredis.com A complete tutorial can be viewed online at: www.myheredis.com/download/tutorial_mac.pdf and a demo version of HEREDIS MAC X can be downloaded from: http://www.myheredis.com/index.asp?page=http://www.myheredis.com/discover_macx.htm •

News for Genealogists

New University Campus to be Bureau of Land Management Computers Off Again

In 2001, an order by U.S. District Judge Royce C. Lamberth ordered the Secretary of Interior, Gale Norton to shut down the computers and servers which gave the public access to individual Indian trust data. Apparently the constitutionally-guaranteed "right to privacy" which is not mentioned in the Constitution supercedes the Freedom of Information Act. As a result, the computers were disconnected and the Indian Trust Data was blocked from access. Three months later, the records on the computers went back online.

Now the computers have been shut down as a result of a new legal tactic. A new Memorandum Opinion and Preliminary Injunction was issued by Judge Royce C. Lamberth of the U.S. District Court for Washington, D.C., which again orders the computers to be shut down. This time the argument is that there is inadequate security.

Adjacent to Family History Library

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints plans to build the Salt Lake Center of Brigham Young University in downtown Salt Lake City. The site was the Medals Plaza during the recent Olympic Games. The new campus will be adjacent to the Church's Family History Library. For more details, go to the KSL-TV Web site at: <http://tv.ksl.com/index.php?nid=5&sid=52031>

Recently Published

Oxfordshire Monumental Inscriptions

The Oxfordshire Family History Society has had an ongoing project to record monumental inscriptions in the county's churchyards. These monumental inscriptions are being published on CD-ROM. Each CD has the following:

- a selection of photographs of the church
- at least one photograph of each monument, whether situated inside or outside of the church

- a transcription of each monument
 - an indexed plan of the churchyard
- A list of CDs that are completed and for sale, and how to order them is found at: www.ofhs.org.uk/CDsales.html

It is hoped that the program will spread to other counties in the United Kingdom. To further this end, the author of the program, Paul Gaskell, has prepared a series of templates and macros to enable any researcher with a digital camera to produce a CD-ROM in HTML format which records the headstone inscriptions in their local churchyard. He also has a forty page manual in Microsoft Word format, which explains how to prepare the CD-ROM. Details are on the society Web site at: www.ofhs.org.uk

Your Family Tree Magazine



Your Family Tree, a genealogy magazine published in England, appears to be having success. After publishing the third issue as a bimonthly magazine in September, they announced that there will be an issue published each month. Each issue has had a CD-ROM with genealogy programs for the readers to use. Articles in the magazine have discussed family research topics for England and Scotland.

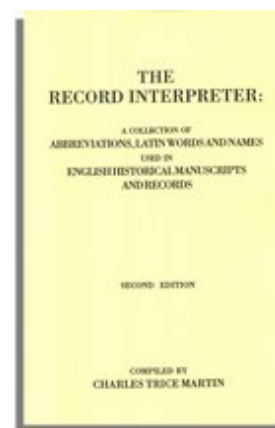
Your Family Tree magazine normally costs £45.40 for one-year (U.K. subscribers) or £46.99 to mailing addresses in the U.S. and Canada. For more information, go to: <http://www.yourfamilytreemag.co.uk>

Related to a Hollywood Celebrity?

The "now" generation probably would relish a distant cousin who made it as a celebrity in Hollywood rather than an ancestor who fought in the revolutionary war. To help you find

some names that you can drop as your relations, Millisecond Publishing Company, Inc. has a CD-ROM called *Family Forest Hollywood Relations*. The thirty-four Hollywood stars and celebrities on the CD-ROM include Bing Crosby, Cecil B. deMille, Clint Eastwood, Humphrey Bogart, John Wayne, Marilyn Monroe, Ronald Reagan, and Walt Disney. Kinship Reports for those on the CD are from one hundred to over seven hundred pages long, and most people are likely to find one or more family ties if they can trace their ancestral pathways back to the 1600's. See: www.familyforest.com.

The Record Interpreter



The Record Interpreter: A Collection of Abbreviations, Latin Words and Names Used in English Historical Manuscripts and Records, Second Edition, by Charles Martin, answers the questions for researchers when they find Latin and French abbreviations in English historical manuscripts. Mr. Martin was the assistant keeper of public records in London, and is well-qualified in answering these questions. Before the 19th century, many British and European records were written in Latin or they were sprinkled with Latin or French abbreviations. Using this guidebook, researchers will be able to understand most texts with help from an ordinary dictionary. The book has the following sections:

- abbreviations of Latin words used in English records
- abbreviations of French words used in English records
- a glossary of Latin words found in records and other English manuscripts
- Latin names and places in Great Britain and Ireland

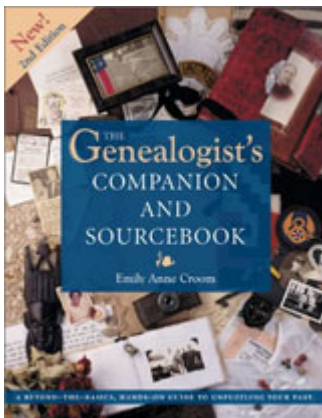
- Latin names of bishoprics in England
- Latin names of bishoprics in Scotland
- Latin names of bishoprics in Ireland
- Latin forms of English surnames
- Latin given names with their English equivalents

The Record Interpreter: A Collection of Abbreviations, Latin Words and Names Used in English Historical Manuscripts and Records, Second Edition is 464 pages and sells for \$37.50. For additional information, go to: http://www.genealogical.com/item_detail.asp?ID=3730

Directory of Professional Genealogist

The Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) has updated their *Directory of Professional Genealogists*, with more than 200 pages on finding and hiring professionals around the world. More than 1,400 members throughout the United States, Canada, and 20 other countries, are listed alphabetically with available biographical information. They are indexed by geographic locations, geographic specialties, research specialties, and related services. An online version of the directory is updated daily, and can be found at: www.apgen.org A printed directory may be purchased through the publications section of the APG Web site for \$20 plus postage.

The Genealogist's Companion and Sourcebook



The Genealogist's Companion and Sourcebook by Emily Anne Croom is now on its second edition. This 454-

page book lists the public sources for genealogical research in the United States, has examples of the genealogical information found in many kinds of sources, and provides tips for using and interpreting these sources. Some of the records discussed include county records, court records, local sources, state records, federal records, special collections, libraries, African-American records, American Indian records, and immigration and naturalization records. An index helps find discussion topics quickly.

Emily Croom is an accomplished genealogist and author of *Unpuzzling Your Past*, *Unpuzzling Your Past Workbook* and *The Sleuth Book for Genealogists*. She is also a co-author of *A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your African-American Ancestors*. She also teaches and lectures about genealogy.

The Genealogist's Companion and Sourcebook, 2nd edition, sells for \$19.99. It can be ordered online from the publisher at: www.familytreemagazine.com/store/display.asp?id=70599 or can be ordered at your favorite book store (ISBN 1-55870-651-8).

Waking the Dead

By Lesly Klippel

I recently visited my daughter in Las Vegas and as usual, the conversation turned to genealogy research. Since they have DSL, I tackled my son-in-law's Norwegian line which has been stalled for the last twenty years. All he knew about his great-grandmother was her name, birth date and place and her parents' names. From the 1920 census, we found that she had come to the U.S. in about 1901. I knew that there were Norwegian census records online, so we started searching. The 1801, 1865, part of the 1875 and the entire 1900 censuses are fully searchable by name and even by farm name. You only need to type the first three letters of the name and up comes a list of possible matches. Such fun! We were able to find her in the 1900 census under the name she used in the U.S. Then, on a hunch, I put her last name in the farm name field and there was her father listed as an inhabitant on the farm! As did many Norwegians, she had used the farm name as her surname

instead of her patronymic surname. Since the censuses state relationships, we were able to learn his parents' and siblings' names. Then we found a volunteer who would look in the village history book and we sent her an e-mail. The next day we had an answer from her with two more generations, including siblings and the link to the family in the 1801 census. On the Digitalarkivet web site, we found her emigration registration which listed the name of the ship and her destination in the U.S. Not bad for a few hours work on the Internet! As a sidelight, when I returned, I mentioned the experience to a friend who has Norwegian ancestry. She has since spent every spare minute using those censuses and has had multiple breakthroughs on her lines, adding a entire four generation pedigree chart to her records.

E-mail Addresses to Fight Spam

If you are tired of disclosing your e-mail and getting on a dozen spam e-mail lists, there is a strategy to short circuit the spam. A new service named Mailinator features a no-signup, instant mail service. You can create a new address each time you give out your e-mail address. Once you receive your reply, you move on and abandon the account. When the address is sold to any and all who want to send you unsolicited ads until the end of the computer age, you are done with the account and nobody is home.

You can give out the address before you open the e-mail account. Messages are held on the servers for a few hours and then deleted. To open the e-mail account, there are no questions to answer, no commitments to be made and no fee to pay. The account is automatically created when a message arrives with a new address.

There are no passwords and no security with Mailinator service. Anyone can view your mail if they use your address. However, the address can be up to 15 characters long. This produces an almost infinite number of possible addresses that you can use. The message is read by going to <http://www.mailinator.com> and you can read your messages by specifying the e-mail address that you have chosen.

Copying a Directory to a Spreadsheet

By Allin Kingsbury

If you are keeping an archive record of files such as scanned pictures on a CD-ROM, you probably want a list of these files with information about the contents, origin, and characteristics of the files. Microsoft seems to think Windows Explorer is all you need for this purpose. There is no way to copy and paste information from the Windows Explorer screen to a word processor or spreadsheet program. You can go to the DOS Prompt and use a directory command to write the directory to a file. The job of importing the file into a spreadsheet is also complicated because the file format is not compatible. For many, learning to do this is equivalent to learning how to write a computer program. Even for the computer expert, the process is user unfriendly if you use the tools available on your PC that came from Microsoft.

Fortunately, there is a free program, called *Karen's Directory Printer*, to do the job. It can be downloaded from <http://www.karenware.com/powertools/ptdirprn.asp> along with a companion program called Visual Basic Runtime V. 6.0. The two files will require almost 2 megabytes of disk space. The program will print the file names and, if selected, the date and time of the last modification, and file attributes. All of the files on a drive or in a directory will be included. If requested, the contents of all sub-directories will also be printed. This 32-bit version of DirPrn supports long file names under Windows 95, Windows 98, Windows NT and Windows 2000.

Once the two files are downloaded, execute the downloaded file, vbrun60-setup.exe. Then execute ptdirprn-setup.exe. The installation is automatic.

When you run the program, there is one screen that presents all the options for printing the directory. On the left, you choose the drive or folder that you want. The other options are to select the information to be included in the directory. You have many options for sorting the file names such as by date created, file name, extension, or file size. Other options are for print format including margin size, fonts, and highlighting of certain files. If you want

to import or copy the data into a spreadsheet or word processor, click on "Save to Disk." You will have the opportunity to name the file and specify the directory where it will be stored.

Once the file is created, you can import the file contents into an Excel spreadsheet (or into most other programs). Open the file as a Notepad file. Select all the contents of the file by dragging the mouse from the beginning to the end of the data. Copy the data (Control+C). Then go to a blank spreadsheet and click on the cell that you want to be the upper left corner of the directory. Then paste the data (Control+V). The data will be in rows and columns. You can add titles at the top of each column, add a title and date at the top, and format the sheet as you like. You can then add additional columns and title them for such information as date of the original picture, individuals in the picture, location where the picture was taken. Then you can enter the information that is needed to complete the table. You will then have a list of all your archive files which you can include on the CD-ROM or DVD with all the archive files. Hopefully it will have all the information that you will want about each of the files in your archive. •

News of the Weird

Mausoleum for Sale

For \$250,000 you can buy a mausoleum in a beautiful setting at the Mountain View Cemetery in Oakland, California. As with other prime real estate, location is everything. From this mausoleum, you have an prime view of downtown Oakland and San Francisco across the bay. It is a key stop when tours of the cemetery are given. You could not ask for more prestigious neighbors. Nearby on "millionaires row" are mausoleums for the Ghirardelli family (the chocolate fortune), and the Bechtel family (the engineering company). The only unusual feature of this mausoleum is that it currently houses 7 occupants, but they are not for sale.

John Schiffelor is the last of the line from his grandfather, George Wintergate, a prominent San Francisco physician who died in 1939. Being the only living family member, John is the owner of the mausoleum. John lives in

Carmel Valley, and is a championship bridge player and Chinese scholar. He says of himself, "I am a gentleman, but even gentlemen need to have money."

John first tried a sign on the mausoleum advertising its sale. Cemetery workers were incensed that someone could be so uncaring about their ancestors. The attorney advised against the removal of the sign, citing the complicated details of cemetery law. Only children may re-bury remains of family members. The occupants include John's parents, grandparents, aunt, and uncle. Should a buyer be found, John will bear the expense of re-burial of the seven occupants (\$8000 each) plus \$15,000 to remove the names inscribed on the Mausoleum and a poem inscribed in the marble to commemorate the death of one of the occupants.

The cemetery is opposed to the sale. They feel it is their responsibility to protect the wishes of John's grandfather, who paid for the site with expectations of having a permanent resting place for the family and a suitable memorial.

John claims, "The mausoleum is not doing me any good. I am trying to be practical about this." He feels that the mausoleum is a waste of real estate. His grandfather may convince him otherwise should John die and meet him at the pearly gate. It is certainly an unsettling story for anyone planning to buy a burial site for themselves.

Need Your Death Certificate?

The Multnomah County, Oregon, Web site says, "If you need a certified copy of your death certificate, you should contact the Certification Unit of the Oregon Center for Health Statistics." I do not know if I will die there, but if they have my death certificate, I can certainly find out and plan accordingly.

Need a Title?

You can get a coat of arms by send in a fee to a less-than-reputable organization which looks up your surname and sells you a coat of arms attributed to the surname. Now you can buy a title over the Internet that may come with a legitimate coat of arms. If you have spent years looking for a noble ancestor, this may be better for you than winning the lottery.

The Nobility Title Consulting Service has a Web site that advertises legitimate titles for individuals who possess a certain grade of professional, social and ethnic distinction and want to substantially increase their current status by acquiring a legitimate noble, diplomatic or academic title of the highest possible standard.

The Web site is actually owned by GVS Consult Inc., a U.S.-based company owned by Baron Ger von Staetten. They offer their discreet services in procuring a title of some kind for you. They do not sell titles, but provide consulting services to help you obtain a title. The site has information on obtaining knighthood, German nobility titles (which have can legal status since 1919), Lord of the Manor (an English title that may be legally bought and sold), a Scottish feudal barony, appointment as an honorary consul, or an honorary doctorate degree from any of a number of universities. If you want something better than an honorary degree, a full Doctor of Philosophy or Doctor of Economics degrees are also offered by an unnamed U.S. church. A thesis of 30 pages must be written in order to obtain one of these doctorate degrees.

The Web site does not mention costs. However, if you become an Independent Registered GVS Representative, GVS Consult will pay a 25% commission for any business that you refer to them. •

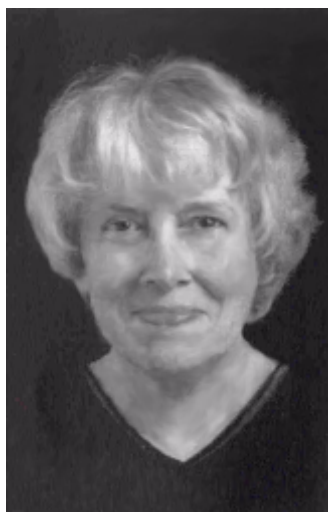
Who is Buried in Amherst?

Renovation work at the Amherst Town Hall in Amherst, New Hampshire, screeched to a halt as workers uncovered part of a human skull. Just the thought of human remains on a building site and bring horrible nightmares to a building contractor. Work was stopped as the coroner's office was called. An archaeologist was also called in, which is required under New Hampshire state law. The granite foundation of the two-story brick town hall was erected in 1825 next to what may be the oldest public burial ground in the state of New Hampshire. The skull proved to be that of an adult male, probably in his 20s, who was buried in a coffin that had disintegrated long ago.

The nearest marked graves in the cemetery next to Town Hall date from the 1790s to early 1800s. The officials concluded that this skeleton is older than the other grave sites, and had lost the marker, and had been long forgotten by 1825 when Town Hall was built over the grave.

Officials plan to learn the skeleton's identity. They hope someone will have a genealogy listing the individual. Further digging is planned after the soil stabilizes. If you have ancestors from early Amherst, you may want to get in on solving this mystery. •

May Seminar:



Beth Uyehara: Keynote Speaker

For the May SV-PAF-UG meeting we will hold an all-day genealogy seminar. Beth Uyehara, a newspaper columnist and author of *The Zen of Genealogy*, will be the keynote speaker. Following the keynote, there will be five class periods and a choice of six to eight classes on family history research topics such as finding and using census records, using probate records, doing research in colonial New England, British Isles Research, and much more. Other class topics will include preserving and sharing old family photos, publishing family history, using the Internet for genealogy, choosing and using computer software for genealogy, documenting your sources, publishing genealogy on the Web and more. Watch for pre-registration information to choose the classes you wish to take. A syllabus containing information and

sources for the classes can be ordered as you pre-register. This event is sponsored jointly by the Silicon Valley PAF Users group, and the Santa Clara Historical and Genealogical Society, an organization dedicated to the preservation of local history and genealogy. Admission is free. Proceeds from the sale of the syllabus will be used to add genealogy material to the collections at the Santa Clara Family History Library and the Genealogical Collection at the Santa Clara City Library. Those who have Beth's book can meet the author and have their book signed. •

Quotable Quote

There is no pleasure in having nothing to do; the fun is in having lots to do and not doing it..

Mary Wilson Little
American Photographer

Classes ~

January 10, 2004

PAF 4 & 5 Classes

- Getting Started Using PAF
- Beginning Data Recording
- Using PAF Companion

Macintosh Class

- General Capabilities of PAF on a Mac

General Classes

- Documenting Your Family History Data
- Overview of FamilySearch.org
- Uploading Data to PRF and other Sites
- Research Class (TBA)



Genealogical Quote

If you want to know how old a woman is, ask her sister-in-law..

Edgar Watson Howe 1853-1937
American Journalist

Spiderwebs

New Godfrey Memorial Library Online Resources

The Godfrey Memorial Library, located in Middletown, Connecticut, opened in 1951, and has become a great genealogical library, especially for those with New England ancestors. The book collection contains about 16,000 volumes comprised of: family genealogy, local history, and biography. The library now offers remote access to a number of genealogy sources. Among them are ProQuest's HeritageQuest Online, and the New York Times from 1851 to 1999. HeritageQuest Online is a collection of about 8,000 family histories and 12,000 local histories. You can search every word on every page of these books. Also included are all the US census for 1790 through 1820, 1860, 1870, and 1890 through 1920.

The library site also has published the American Genealogical-Biographical Index, or AGBI which consists of biographical index citations. The AGBI database lists millions of individuals with biographical data in printed genealogical records and family histories. The staff also collects citations which list biographical sketches and obituaries published in professional journals which are not covered by Ancestry, Heritage Quest, PERSI, and similar genealogical indexes.

The African American Biographical Database from ProQuest and Chadwyck – Healey is another feature of the Godfrey Web site. It contains biographical information, photographs and illustrations of many African Americans, both the famous and not famous.

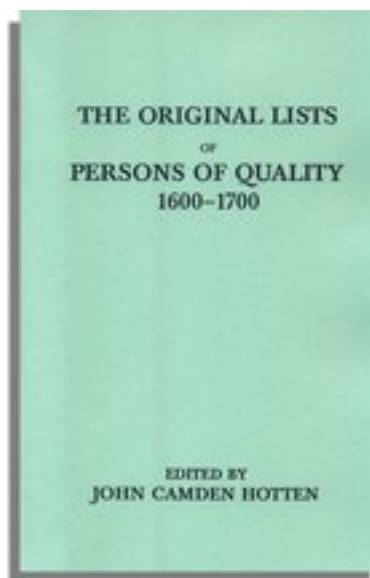
The staff to maintain this Web site and the resources available at the site costs money, and although the Godfrey Library Web site is not

free, the fee to use this Web site is inexpensive. The annual fee for using the Web site is \$35. For more information about the Godfrey Memorial Library and its Internet resources, go to:

<http://www.godfrey.org>.

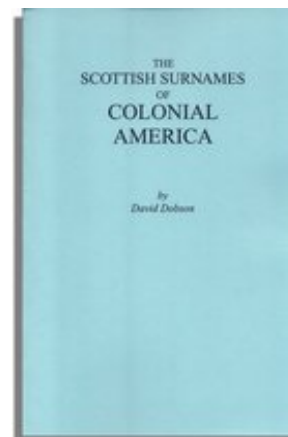
Recently Published

The Original Lists Of Persons Of Quality



The Original Lists Of Persons Of Quality (Hotten List), transcribed from the records of the British State Paper Office, is the most famous of all ships' passenger lists and is the most important single-volume list of English-speaking immigrants of the colonial period. It contains the names of more than 11,000 immigrants, and gives their ages, former places of residence, and the names of ships on which they sailed. *The Original Lists Of Persons Of Quality* is 580 pages and sells for \$45.00. For more information, go to: http://www.genealogical.com/item_detail.asp?ID=2870

The Scottish Surnames Of Colonial America



The Scottish Surnames Of Colonial America, by David Dobson, contains a list of Scottish surnames of the estimated 150,000 Scots who settled in the America colonies. Many of these surnames also apply to an even larger number of Scots-Irish colonists from Ireland, but whose ancestors originated in Scotland before re-settling in the province of Ulster. Mr. Dobson identifies about 1,000 Scottish surnames with their derivatives and lists one or more Scots in America before 1776 with that surname. *The Scottish Surnames Of Colonial America* is 159 pages and sells for \$20.00. For more information, go to:

http://www.genealogical.com/item_detail.asp?ID=9790.

News of the Weird

Do We Choose Our Destiny?

It has been fifty years since scientists discovered that each individual possesses a unique DNA code which governs the development of the mind and body. This is what makes all of us unique. Since this discovery, many have asked if there are genes that govern our social behavior and make us do things, or can we control our destiny. Now the US courts are being asked to answer the question.

The lawyer of a murderer waiting on death row wants to save his client by pleading that he inherited the murder gene and is therefore not responsible for what he did. Many think the courts lack the knowledge to answer the question, but predict that the courts will do so anyway.

Who owns a Burial Site?

A few American tribes have used the courts to prevent desecration of sacred burial sites. The Caucasians who came to America have not seemed to care when their burial sites are threatened. A situation in Charlotte, North Carolina may set a new course for sanctity of burial sites. You be the judge.

A controversy arose between descendents of persons buried in an all-white cemetery (until 1969) in Charlotte on the one side and city officials and the Federal Transit Administration on the other side. The city and the Federal Transit Administration have announced that they will dig up about 950 of the 45,000 graves, some from as early as 1853, to make room for a commuter rail line. Relatives of the deceased hold legal deeds to the land where deceased family members are buried. The government agencies plan to move the bodies to make room for a proposed \$371 million, 10-mile light-rail track. Relatives of the deceased claim that this is desecration of sacred burial sites. The city says they own the cemetery. Individuals that own the burial plots say they own the land and the city has no right to take the land. There is no room for compromise. Among those buried in the cemetery are Annie Alexander, the first female doctor south of the Potomac; the actor, Randolph Scott; Ben Douglas, a three-term mayor of Charlotte; textile pioneer D. A. Tompkins; Uriah Crayton, a thrice-wounded Civil War veteran who served under Robert E. Lee; W. W. Smith, Charlotte's first important

black architect; and Gov. Cameron Morrison of North Carolina.

Descendants and relatives of some of Charlotte's most prominent residents have joined forces to battle the city and Federal Government, who seem to have unlimited taxpayer dollars at their disposal to wage war in the courts.

There is a lot at stake for the government side. Progress has increased the population of the Charlotte area to more than 500,000, which is projected to increase another 345,000 by 2025. A \$2.9 billion investment in mass-transit is at stake. The Federal Transit Administration has announced that plans for the first of the proposed system's five rail lines have met federal environmental standards. The Federal Government will pour in \$185 million of the \$371 million cost of this project. Local officials seemed reluctant to say the cemetery decision is done fearing how the voters will react in future elections. City Council members met to pass a recommendation to designate the cemetery as an historic landmark, but a few are not convinced that the special designation will stop the railway through the cemetery.

We are reminded of the quote from William Gladstone, "Show me the manner in which a nation cares for its dead, and I will measure with mathematical exactness the tender mercies of its people, their respect for the laws of the land and their loyalty to high ideals."

News of Demise Premature

A message posted on the GENCMP-L mail list of rootsweb.com said, "My understanding is that Dick Eastman passed away and the software is no longer available." The Dick Eastman who writes the weekly genealogy newsletter seems to be alive and well. As Mark Twain would have said, "The news of his

death has been greatly exaggerated." •

Events

The events listed here are some of the major events that may be of interest to our members who may be travelling or vacationing, live nearby, or who may want to travel to attend an event.

GENTECH 2004

The National Genealogical Society and the St. Louis Genealogical Society will hold the GENTECH 2004 conference in St. Louis, Missouri on January 22-24, 2004. www.stlgs.org/gentech2004/

A free electronic newsletter will be distributed to those interested with information about the conference, genealogical research facilities in St. Louis, and other fun things to see and do in the St. Louis area. To subscribe, send an e-mail with the single word "subscribe" in the body of the message to: NGS-GENTECH-Conference-L-request@rootsweb.com.

Florida Seminar

The Pinellas Genealogy Society Annual Seminar on January 24, 2004, at Largo, Florida will feature Dr. John Colletta. For details, go to: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flpgs>

San Luis Obispo Seminar

The San Luis Obispo County Genealogical Society will hold a day-long seminar on February 7, 2004 at-San Luis Obispo, California. For details, go to: <http://www.kcbx.net/~slogen/>

German Research Workshop

The Germanic SIG of the Genealogical Society of Sarasota will hold a workshop by Dr.

Roger P. Minert about Germanic Genealogy on February 28, 2004, in Sarasota, Florida. For details, go to: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flgss>

Arizona Seminar

The Lake Havasu Genealogical Society, Inc, will host a seminar featuring Janna Bennington Larson at Lake Havasu City, Arizona on March 13, 2004.. For details, go to: gloharr@raz.net

Vancouver, Washington Seminar

The Clark County Genealogical Society is hosting a seminar on March 20, 2004 at Vancouver, Washington which features Dr John Philip Colletta. For details, go to: <http://www.ccg-wa.org>

Genealogy Tour of Ireland

A one-week research trip to Dublin, Ireland, for serious researchers sponsored by Celtic Quest, LLC will be held March 20-27, 2004. Richard M. Doherty, Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens, CGRS, CGL, and Marie Varrelman Melchiori, CGRS, CGL, experienced researchers will hold introductory classes to the local repositories on Sunday and Monday, and then be strategically located at repositories to assist researchers. Registration information is found at www.celticquest.net or you can request a brochure by e-mail at: marie@celticquest.net

Irish Research Trip

A Week of Research in Ireland beginning March 28, 2004 in Dublin, Ireland will be accompanied by Nora Keohane Hickey, Sally Warren and Jana Black. For details, go to: <http://www.websweweave.net/IrishResearch>

Elizabeth Shown Mills Seminar

An all-day seminar sponsored by the Sonoma County Genealogical Society will be held on April 24, 2004 at Rohnert Park, California. For details, go to: www.rootsweb.com/~cascgs/mills.htm

Toronto Seminar

The Toronto Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society will host an annual seminar on May 27-30, 2004 in Toronto, Canada. The theme is "The 3 R's of Family History: Resources, Research, Results." There are three streams of interest available:

- Methodology
- Technology
- Toronto, Ontario, and Canadian research

plus topics such as Society Management, genetics/DNA, and others.

www.ogsseminar.org

National Institute on Genealogical Research

The National Institute on Genealogical Research is an event to be held at the newly renovated National Archives building in Washington D.C. and in College Park, Maryland on 11-17 July 2004. It provides an on-site and in-depth look at the common and less-known federal records found there. This is an opportunity for experienced genealogists and for archivists, historians and librarians interested in using federal records for genealogical research. Attendees will spend a day at Archives II in College Park, Maryland, with presentations on records there, and for an opportunity to conduct research there. Other sessions will discuss census and records for African American, military, land, Native American, legislative and cartographic research. Lectures on less-frequently-used sources and sessions on naturalization,

citizenship, and immigration documents are also scheduled. Evening sessions at the Local History and Genealogy Room of the Library of Congress and the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Library are optional. Enrollment is limited and will fill quickly. Tuition is \$325 for applications postmarked on, or before, 15 May 2004. For details, or an application brochure, go to: www.rootsweb.com/~natgenin; or e-mail: NatInsGen@juno.com •



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Articles contributed by readers are welcomed. Articles may be submitted as a text file on PC compatible disk, CD-ROM, or as an e-mail attachment. The editors reserve the right to accept, reject, or otherwise edit articles for publication. Articles are not returned.

Silicon Valley PAF Users Group

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Leslyk@earthlink.net

SV-PAF-UG meets monthly, except December, on the second Saturday of the month from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints building, 875 Quince Avenue, Santa Clara, CA. We offer classes and sponsor guest speakers at meetings to help family historians with computer technology and research techniques. Membership dues are \$15 per year (\$20 for Canada and \$25 for other international). Members are offered classes at meetings, mentor help, *PAFinder* (a monthly newsletter published each month there is a meeting), and occasional publications by the group.

Please Contact:

| | |
|----------------|--|
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| Classes | Leland Osburn 408 243 8348 |
| Questions | Dr. PAF mlharline@aol.com |

The following can be ordered from www.FamilySearch.org or at 1-800-537 5950:

| | |
|---|---------|
| Personal Ancestral File 2.3.1 Macintosh (diskette or CD version) | \$10 |
| Personal Ancestral File 3.01M MS-DOS (diskette version) | \$15 |
| Personal Ancestral File 4.0.4 Windows (CD version) | \$6 |
| Personal Ancestral File 5.1 Windows (CD version) | \$6 |
| Personal Ancestral File Companion 5.0 Windows (CD version) | \$13.50 |
| Personal Ancestral File 4.04 and 5.1 downloaded from www.FamilySearch.org | free |

The following can be ordered from SV-PAF-UG:

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|---|--|
| <i>PAFinder</i> back issues if available, per issue | \$1 (order by mail or purchase at meetings) |
| Videos of classes | see www.svpafug.org for titles and prices |
| <i>Family History Documentation Guidelines</i> | \$10 (see www.svpafug.org for volume price) |