

CENTRAL FLORIDA GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

102 Primrose Drive  
Longwood, Florida

Vol. IV, No. 5 AUGUST 1973

Telephone  
831-3728

Marion Schmecken - President  
Joyce Ford - Vice President  
Bonnie Hinely - Recording Sec.

Eleanor Castleman - Corresp. Sec.  
Marcus Rankin - Treasurer  
Mary Jane Knisely - Historian, Editor

Councilors: Betty Hughson - Alice Rupe

MESSAGE

Neither the president nor the vice-president can be reached as we go to press. Hence we have no message from the president. We will settle for a message from Ye Ed.

The nominating committee turned in their report at the last meeting. The nominees are:

President:	Alice H. Rupe
Vice President:	Joyce Ford
Rec. Sec.:	Bonnie Hinely
Corres. Sec.:	Eleanor Castleman
Treasurer:	Margaret Holbrook
Historian:	Mary Jane Knisely

Voting on these candidates is scheduled for our August meeting - 7:00 P. M. August 30, in the auditorium at the Orlando Public Library.

Eleanor Castleman is preparing notices, which will be sent out soon. Those of you who cannot come to the meeting can vote by proxy.

It was not possible for us to attend our last meeting. The word is that Mr. Hinnenach presented his own practice or organizing his genealogical data, and that it is a very good method.

Don't forget ROM - the "big show" at Exposition Hall scheduled for November 3 and 4. Volunteers will be needed to make our display as successful as it was last year.

Never forget that this is "OUR" Society. We need participation of all of our members. YU are important. Our meetings and programs continue to improve as our organization grows older. It must be our goal to keep upgrading our projects, while taking pride in past accomplishments. Bring your suggestions to the meetings, contribute to projects agreed on by the membership, and please - let us pray that none be petty. Our forefathers argued among themselves when they set up the government of the 13 colonies. But they agreed on and worked on the prime objectives - thus setting an example for all the progress that has made this the greatest nation on earth. It is an example for every organization with a goal. That means US, as well as a Chamber of Commerce or a County Commission.

-- M. J. Knisely

DEFINING

August 30

September 27

October 25

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES IN THE STATE OF DELAWARE.  
(A continuing series of societies in the states)

Delaware Dept. of Historical & Cultural Affairs,  
Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware 19901. (Archives, mss., books).

Lewes Historical Society,  
Lewes, Delaware 19958. (Library)

Milford Historical Society,  
501 N. W. Front St., Milford, Delaware 19963 (Newsletter)

Duck Creek Historical Society,  
Smyma, Delaware 19977. (Library, mss., books).

Eleutherian Mills-Hagley Foundation, Inc.,  
Wilmington, Delaware 19807. (Library) (Archives, Mss., books).

Fort Delaware Society,  
Box 1251, Wilmington, Delaware 19899. (Archives, Mss., books)

Historical Society of Delaware  
505 Market St., Wilmington, Delaware 19801 (Library, Mss., books)

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Biographical and Genealogical History of the State of Delaware, J. M. Runk  
& Co., published 1899 - OPL/RD75.1 R, in 2 volumes.

This book contains much good material concerning the Eastern United States, the early settlers and emigrants. Some amazing family lines are given, sometimes for several pages. One note of interest, pps. 69-70 reflects information on one CHARLES POLK, who became a Delaware governor; "The family name, which was Scotch, was originally POLLOCK..." (Vol. 1)

These books are not indexed in a manner that will provide easy access to the information. Such index as there is, is contained in Vol. II, but much information is inserted as to the antecedents of the wife or ancestors of the husband which can only be found by checking page by page. Many, many of the people named, or their fathers, came from the country of origin, due to its having been written so long ago, so this is highly beneficial to the researcher.

- Contributed by Alice Rupe.

## I HEREBY BEQUEATH.....

If you think your ancestors made a strange will, just read these two, copied from "Curiosities of the Search Room", by Julia Clare Byrne:

"A rector of a Yorkshire (England) parish, who died in 1804, left a considerable property to his only daughter under the following conditions:

1st. That she should not marry unless with the consent of his two executors.

2nd. That she should dress with greater propriety than heretofore. This clause worded: "Seeing that my daughter Anna has not availed herself of my advice touching that objectionable practice of going about with her arms bare up to her elbows, my will is that should she continue after my death in this violation of the modesty of her sex, all the goods, chattels, moneys, lands and other that I have devised to her for the maintenance of her future life, shall pass to the oldest of the sons of my sister Caroline. Should anyone take exception to this my wish as being too severe, I answer that license in dress in a woman is a mark of a depraved mind."

The second will is as follows; A Mr. Jonathan Jackson, of Columbus, Ohio died a few years ago leaving orders to his executors to erect a cat's house, the plans and elevation of which he had drawn out with great care and thought. The building was to contain certain dormitories, a refectory, areas for conversation, ground for exercise, and gently sloping roof for climbing, with rat-holes for sport, an "auditorium" within which the inmates were to be assembled daily to listen to an accordin, which was to be played for an hour each day by an attendant, that instrument being the nearest approach to their natural voices. An infirmary to which were to be attached a surgeon and three or four professed nurses, was to adjoin the establishment. No mention seems to have been made of a chapel or chaplain!"

- Contributed by Mrs. Willis

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MORE FREE QUERY COLUMNS

HUNTING FOR ANCESTORS - by Mildred W. Steltzner. Address her at 6037 Tanglewood Trail, Chesapeake, Virginia 23325.

EARLY FAMILIES OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY, KENTUCKY by Harry W. Mills. Address 5227 81st Lake, North, Bldg. 14, Apt. 8, St. Petersburg, Fla. 33709. Published in THE ADVOCATE, Mt. Sterling, Kentucky (Suggested lengths 25 to 50 words),

TRI-STATE-ANCESTRY by Malinda Newhard. Address News-Sentinel, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802. (Confined to northern Indiana and Ohio and Southern Michigan), (40 words or less).

"SHAKIN' THE FAMILY TREE" by Mrs. William L. Hanks, Rt. 7, Box 215, Poplar Bluff, Missouri 63901. Published in OZARD BEACON. Complimentary copy if you place a query.

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A new form is now available for requesting copies of passenger list entries from passenger arrival records in the custody of the National Archives: GSA Form 7111. Central Reference Division, Washington, D. C. 20408

- Contributed by Betty Hughson.

adm., admin.: Administrator (of an estate)  
 acct.: account, usually report of executor or administrator.  
 ae, eat: of age or aged.  
 armiger: entitled to armorial bearings.  
 bp.: baptized  
 bur.: buried  
 c., ca., cir., circa: about (used in connection with dates)  
 ch.: children  
 chr.: christened  
 da., dau.: daughter  
 d.: died  
 dec., or dec'd.: deceased  
 d.s.p. (decessit sine prole): died without issue.  
 d.v.p. (decessit vite patris: died in his father's lifetime.  
 d.v.m (decessit vite matris): died in his mother's lifetime.  
 dies: day of burial  
 d/p: daughter of  
 ead., eadem; in the same way.  
 codem: to the same - place or purpose.  
 et ux., et uxor, et uxoris: and wife  
 ex., exec.,: executor  
 exx., exox.: executrix  
 f., fol., folio; page  
 gdn.: guardian  
 H. S.: Hic situs: Here is buried  
 ibid., ibidem: The same (In a reference, it refers to the last one above).  
 IMP., imprimis: in the first place (used in wills).  
 in loc. cit., in loco citata; in the place cited. (a previous reference)  
 intestate: died without having made a valid will.  
 inv.: inventory (of decedent's estate)  
 J. P.: Justice of the Peace  
 l., lib., liber: book  
 M. G.: Minister of the Gospel  
 M. M.: Monthly meeting of Society of Friends (Quakers)  
 n.d.: no date  
 n. p.: no place  
 nunc., nuncupative: oral will.  
 ob., obit: record of death  
 O. S., Old style: The old or Julian Calendar (used before 1752).  
 op. cit., opere citata: in the work cited.  
 p/a, p.p.a.: power of attorney - per power of attorney.  
 pro., prob., prov.: probated or proved (will)  
 R. I. P., Requiescat in pace: Rest in peace.  
 sine die.: without date (in court or meeting, indefinite adjournment),  
 s.l.g., sine legit.: without legitimate issue  
 s.p., sine prole; without issue  
 s.p.s., sine prole supersite: without surviving issue.  
 t., temp., tempore: in the time of  
 ux, uxor, uxoria: wife  
 v., vidi.: see.  
 V.R.: Vital Records  
 V.D.M, voluns Deus: Minister  
 /: in early records a slant across the lower part of a P often indicates  
 omission of er or ar  
 -: a line over a letter often indicates a contraction or omission of a letter,



Family Bible Records, Vol. 3 - RD 975.9 Dau  
 Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy Vol. VI. Virginia - RG 289.6 Hin  
 Federal Land Series Vol. 1 1788-1810 RG 333.16 Smi  
 Brierfield Plantation Home of Jefferson Davis RU 917.62 Eve  
 Immigration of the Irish Quakers into Pennsylvania 1682-1750 RG 974.8 Mye  
 William Penn and the Dutch Quaker Migration to Pennsylvania RG 974.8  
 The Virginia Historical Register Vol. 1-6 RG 975.5 Vir  
 Virginia Soldiers of 1776 Vol. 1-3 RG 975.5 Bur  
 Point Lookout Prison Camp for Confederates RU 973.772 Be  
 History of Summit County, Ohio RD 977.136 Per

New additions to the "Microfilm Colony" are the following census reports:

ARKANSAS	1850 complete	OHIO	1850 complete
ILLINOIS	1850 complete	PENNSYLVANIA	1850 complete
MICHIGAN	1850 complete	TENNESSEE	1880 complete
FLORIDA 1850 Slave Schedules (1 reel)			

When an "X" is placed on a legal document, it does NOT indicate the individual could not read and write. It merely means that the person named confirms, and thereby assents to the document. Even when the word "his or her mark" appears above or below it, it does not necessarily mean that that person could not sign his name. Some documents did not require signatures, and the "X" indicated the person assented to and sealed it. It is very possible that other documents will be found on which the same individual did sign his name.

IT WAS BAD IN THOSE DAYS, TOO: "Norfolk, Va. April 8, 1771. On Friday last, about four in the Afternoon, we had one of the most dreadful Storms of Hail, accompanied with Thunder and Lightning, that has ever been known here. The Hail that fell measured from five to seven Inches around. We are in Hopes, however, that it has not extended a great Way into the County; and the principal Damage it has done in this Town is to our Gardens and Window Glass, both which have suffered extremely. In Window Glass alone, it is computed we have sustained at least seven Hundred Pounds Damage. Some say a Thousand. Two of the Hail Stones put into a Scale, weighed two Ounces. Mr. Newton had three Hundred and sixty five Panes of Glass broke, Mrs. Cann lost two Hundred and fourteen Panes; many fifty, sixty and a Hundred. Not a House escaped." - Virginia Gazette.

NEW FOR THE TARTAN-TAM-O-SHANTER PEOPLE; A book "In Search of Scottish Ancestry," by Gerald Hamilton-Edwards, pub. by Geneal. Pub. Co., 521-23 St. Paul Place, Baltimore, Md. 21202. \$10.00. 260 pages; map, pedigree charts, Civil Registration, Parish and Nonconformist Registers, naming customs, testaments, the Sasines Register, Registers of Deeds, Other Court Registers, Taxation lists, University and professional records, navy, army and East India Company, Scottish Record Office, Societies and Libraries, and other matters, including a Glossary of terms found in Earlier legal and other Documents. A Clan Map shows where the clans lived.

ENGLISH RECORDS PERTAINING TO EMIGRANTS,  
Being a description of material available in the London Records Office

The Public Records Office, London, has a great many documents concerning emigrants, and of course a great many of these concern emigrants to the American colonies. The great bulk of this material is classed as; COLONIAL OFFICE RECORDS. A lesser number are to be found in record classifications such as: HOME OFFICE, BOARD OF TRADE, TREASURY.

Some of these records have been published - such as Nugent's Land Grants, the 1704 Quit Rents of Virginia, Louis des Cognet's English Duplicates of Lost Virginia Records.

The Records Office has "bundles" of early records, which contain short lists, letters to and from Immigrants and miscellany. But one would either have to hire a researcher to go through such papers, or go there himself.

I. THE COLONIAL OFFICE.

A. 38 volumes of records pertaining to colonial, American and West Indian colonies covering a period from 1574 to 1737. This includes Board of Trade Minutes from 1675 to 1704.

Journals of the Commissioners for Trade & Plantations 1704-1782  
General Papers to 1688.

B. American and West Indies original correspondence (Business dealings covering letters, entry Books, Acts, Sessional Papers, Miscellany) for various colonies.

(Kraus Reprint Corporation, New York has re-published Public Records Office Handbook No. 3 - The Records of the Colonial and Dominion offices. Lists and Indices No. XXXVI).

(Congressional Library, Washington, D.C. has "Guide to the Materials for American History to 1793 in the Public Record Office of Great Britain - Part I, the State Papers. (pub. 1912) Part II Departmental and Miscellaneous Papers) (pub. 1914).

II. THE EXCHEQUER, KING'S REMEMBRANCER'S DEPARTMENT.

Licenses to pass beyond the Seas.

Passengers going to New England, Barbados, Maryland, Virginia and other colonies between 1634 and 1639, and in 1677.

(J. C. Hotten has published part, but not all of these records. C. B. Jewson published Transcript of 3 registers of passengers from Great Yarmouth to Holland and New England 1637-1639 - Norfolk Record Society, Vol. XXV)

III. EXCHEQUER AND AUDIT DEPARTMENT

American Loyalists claims, Series I 1776-1831. Series II 1780-1835. These are colonists loyal to the British Crown and entitled to compensation. Series I is lists of claimants, Series number, original claims and papers in support of them, examinations of claims, Records of the Treasury, Paymaster's Office, Exchequer and Audit Dept. of Board of Trade (1802-1837).

IV. THE HOME OFFICE

Convict Transportation Registers 1787-1871. Ships lists of convicts, usually by departure date. Gives full names of convicts, term, date and place of conviction.

Criminal Register. Series I and II. Names of all persons charged with indictable offenses and sometimes personal information about prisoners. Series I - names, A to Z year by year 1791-1849, Middlesex only. Series II includes all other counties of England and Wales from 1805-1892.

V. PRIVY COUNCIL

A. Registers, with several gaps, from 1540 to present day. Numerous entries concerning the colonies, petitions and letters of people going there or already resident. Period of 1613 to 1783 has been printed in ACTS OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL OF ENGLAND, Colonial Series, pub. London 1908-12. 5 volumes.

B. Plantation Books 1678-1806. Commissions, instructions, orders and letters issued to Governors.

C. Unbound papers - 4,570 bundles. Few documents before 1700.

BOARD OF TRADE

A. Passenger Lists, outward. Furnished by masters of ships to Port officers of the Ministry of Transport, and sent to the Board of Trade for statistical purposes. No lists before 1890 are extant.

B. Registers of Passenger Lists from 1906. Before Oct. 1907 relate only to Southampton, Bristol and Weymouth.

VII. THE TREASURY

A. Treasury Board Papers - 1557. Calendar of Treasury Papers 1557-1728 (6 vol.). Calendar and Books 1729-1745 (5 vol.). A considerable amount of Colonial business handled by Treasury and references to people in or going to colonies.

B. Out Letter Books, General. Treasury letters from 1668. Minutes from 1667. Kings Warrants from 1667. Warrants relating to money from 1667. Order Books from 1667. All contain references to the American colonies.

C. Registers, Various. Details of emigrants from England and Wales to the New World and other places 1773-1776. Name, age, occupation, reason for leaving, last place of residence, date of departure, destination. Also emigrants leaving Scottish ports for America 1774-1775.

D. Documents Relating to Refugees. Compensation and pension lists for American Loyalists 1780-1835. Includes East Fla., ceded to Spain 1783 - East Fla. Claims Commission.

- E. Warrants relating to money. Felons transported 1719 and 1744.  
(M. & J. Kaminkow's Emigrants in Bondage pub. Balt., Md. 1967.)

#### VIII. MISCELLANY

- A. Scraps of information about persons going abroad for periods of service of one kind and another or settle in over seas lands. (Impractical - but "last ditch" potential).
- B. Admiralty. Transport Dept. Records relate to transport by sea of military forces to various parts of the world, 1773-1917.
- C. Assize Records. Indictments, Depositions, Crown Minute Books. Reprieved death sentences for transportation to colonies 17th and 18th centuries.
- D. Audit Office. Pensions and allowances paid to emigrants, loyalists and others in the colonies 1779-1827. Also list of names enrolled at Edinburgh for settlement to Canada 1815.
- E. Chancery. Patent rolls. Grants of offices and lands in America and elsewhere. Hotten has published the period of 1606-1702. Proceedings in Chancery Suits 14th century to mid 19th. References can be found to settlers in the colonies, but arranged under plaintiffs name only. Relates to grants of land in East Fla. 1765-1783. Estates in New Jersey and wills of persons in Philadelphia 1775.
- F. Foreign Office. Passport registers 1795-1898. Names, intended destinations, names of people recommending applications. 1851-1862 and 1874-1898. Date and serial number.
- G. Ministry of Health. Poor Law Union Papers 1834-1890. Parish assisted emigration under Poor Law of 1834. Aylsham Poor Law Union, Norfolk 1834-1837. Names, occupations, destinations - mainly Canada.
- H. Treasury Solicitor. West New Jersey Society Records 1675-1921. Tracts of land in West and East New Jersey, Pa., New England and elsewhere - Society formed about 1691. Names, original correspondence, Minute Books, registers of transfer of shares, original deeds, papers about claims.
- I. War Office. Service of Officers and soldiers. Old series. Measures for relief of poor pensioners and encouragement of emigration.

Photostats and microfilm copies of many of these records are available at Library of Congress, and to a smaller extent in some State Libraries among collections of historical papers. Also, some copies of published material in Public Record Office can be obtained from H. M. Stationary Office, York House, Kingsway, London W. C. 2 - also British Information Service 845 Third Ave., New York 10022.

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THE LIBRARY OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS on Parr Avenue will not have evening hours during August. The day time hours are 10 to 3 the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month; 10 to 2 on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. Every Thursday 10 to 2. Every Saturday 10 to 12 and 1 to 3:30.



The great advance in genealogy in recent times has been the premise that "you have to prove it." Modern searchers have discovered so many errors in old records that many of them are not acceptable any more. It has been said that we, as an educated society, have a phobia that if it is in print, it is true. What a falty! On the other hand, it has been pointed out that even the bible has been corrected several times.

At the top of the list of dubious references is "the old relative's story." The relatives are almost always old, and therefore held to be an oracle. But memories are sometimes faulty, and sometimes deliberate falsifications were made. (I'm so old now, and who will know the difference? I'll make it sound good). Handed down as a tradition, stories gather detail in the re-telling. Between exaggeration, omission and falsification, "the old relative's story" can only be used as a guide line.

One of our members had as a family tradition that "Aunt So-and-So married 'John Doe'." Yes, it can be proved she did. She also buried 5 husbands during her lifetime! But this was primly omitted. In another instance, court records showed that a husband had gambled away his whole substance, then his wife's dowery, and went home and put a bullet through his head. The wife's brother went to court to retrieve the dowery for the penniless widow and fatherless children. This story was concealed in the family tradition.

Only last month I "put the lie" to a bible record - one thing that is usually considered documentary. The bible showed that \_\_\_\_\_ Erwin married Doll \_\_\_\_\_ and had 10 children. The oldest boy died in recent times, and his obit showed his parents as the above. Documentary? Well! \_\_\_\_\_ Erwin had married 1. Lula \_\_\_\_\_ in West Virginia, and she was the mother of the oldest boy. The divorce is on record in Kentucky, as well as the record of Erwin's second marriage to Doll. The date of birth of the boy, as given in the bible and the obit, indicates his mother was Lula - not Doll. Seemingly the siblings are not aware that he was only a half brother. This is one of the ways errors creep in. A 100 years from now, who is going to look beyond the family bible for data? Probably the first son will be set down as illegitimate, being born before his parents were married!

The second area of dubious reference, is the history book. Many older books were compiled from family tradition, and somebody's "Say-so." Let us say a book was published in 1860 or 1870. Twenty or thirty years later, someone else writes a book incorporating new data, but harking back for reference to the older book. Now, in the 1970's, a searcher finds the story in 2 books - and therefore believes it must be true! But is it?

In my own lineage, there is the case of Wharton Dickenson, styled Professor of Genealogy at New York University in the 1880's. His works have been widely published and repose in widely distributed places, such as the Library of Congress and the Archives of Salt Lake City. It was so far regarded as documentary that Leila Dickenson spent 26 years trying to prove her descent from Henry Dickenson, Emigrant. I'm sorry she died before I took up genealogy. I proved that Henry Dickenson, Emigrant never existed.

Recently I read a very scholarly and well documented book on the Medici family of Florence. In it the statement was made that Cosimo was assisted in building a navy by Sir Robert Daudley of England, who was the son of the Earl of Leicester by a marriage previous to that of his union with Amy Robsart. Actually the Earl (who was not an Earl when he married Amy Robsart) was 17 when he married Amy 4 June 1550. This so called Sir Robert Dudley was the son of Lady Sheffield, born in 1574 - later declared to be a bastard of Leicester by the English courts. Which was why he was living abroad in the first place. This statement was not documented - and well it should have been.

On the other hand, a newer book may state that the old story is not true, though no investigation was made. It just didn't sound true to the author. An example is shown in Bodie's histories of Virginia families. The story was that the Jennings family had been willed 80 million dollars in England. But communications were poor in colonial times. The old English bachelor, who lived to be 96, had no surviving relatives except the children of his nephew in Virginia. So he designated them his heirs. Close friends of the bachelor put forth their claims, and did succeed in obtaining the whole of this estate, without making any attempt to notify the true Virginia heirs. The English government was reluctant to see this sum of money leave the country. And there the matter stood until a Virginia heir, visiting England many years later, discovered the fraud.

Bodie arbitrarily states that this is fiction, and the Jennings were only victims of a "will fraud" such as has been perpetrated in the case of Sir Walter Raleigh. Yet the will itself is on file in England, together with the legal proceedings unsuccessfully instigated by the Jennings family, which were pursued as late as 1935. The court records show the names of the people who successfully confiscated the estate - George Augustus Curson and Lady Andover. I know because the Jennings are my forebears and I have reason to investigate. I know that Bodie did not investigate, and made a wild statement that some will believe because it is in print.

A third pitfall for the searcher is accepting the older rolls of organizations without checking the data. The older records of the DAR contain many errors. Before documentation was required (as it is now), members were taken in on their own "say-so." Many of these were no doubt correct, and some were "honest guesses." But the organization printed them, and there the record stands. You cannot use it for documentary - you must prove it.

The Compendium of American Genealogy is a record of the same kind. These data were handed to the printer as given by the family, and never checked for authenticity. For example, the Compendium tells us:

Henry Thompson (1736-92) dry goods importer, N. Y., patriot in the American Revolution married Cornelia, daughter of Charles Dickinson, Officer American Revolution.

Henry Belknap (1736-1792) married Cornelia, daughter of Charles Dickinson, Officer American Revolution.

Henry Rensun (1736-92), Dry Goods Importer, married Cornelia Dickinson, daughter of Charles Dickinson (1744-1816).

Can you believe 3 different men, born and died the same year, married Cornelia? How did she get to be a widow before 1792?

Wurt's Magna Carta is another publication that did not check data turned in for printing. It too has its errors.

For example, Wm. Dickenson is said to be the son of Thomas Dickenson of Cambridge and Judith, daughter of Wm. Cary, a descendant of King Alfred the Great, David I and Malcolm III, Kings of Scotland. However, the records show that all of Judith's children were Coopers, sired by her first husband. She married Thomas late in life, and had no more children. Moreover Thomas did not live in Cambridge. He had a good business as a Draper in Bristol - where he married Judith at her home, and where his will is filed.

The Visitations, widely quoted as documentary in the old days, were composed of data handed in by the family. No check was made as to whether it was correct or not.

These examples should show us that even though there maybe errors in court records and church data, they are the back bone of genealogical research. "Second hand" material can be used only as a guide. If you can prove it, all well and good. Many times it is not too hard to disprove it!

In past generations, the zeal to find one was descended from a king, lead people to guess, falsify and purposely ignore existing records. So blatantly were these genealogies heralded that many people today do not take up genealogy because they do not think a lineage can be traced unless the line stemmed from a king, a Lord, a Governor or some dignitary. And they just suppose they are not so descended.

What satisfaction can there be in claiming descent from some famous person if it is not true? Ebenezer Dickinson could tell Wurt he was descended from Alfred the Great and the Kings of Scotland - but he can't tell me and get away with it! Sooner or later somebody will "give you the lie" if you falsify or guess. Or use dubious "documentation." Like Wharton's Dickinson's work, it may be re-published in three dozen books, but that does not make it so.

Our aim should be to uncover the truth - no matter if it is "palatable" or not, and cite our proof. Proof is not what two or a dozen books say. Nor what grandmother said. Search out the records themselves.

Don't give up because the court house burned down. For example, source material will tell you there are no records in Giles County, Tennessee because the court house burned down. When I found in the court house a plethora of old records back to the establishment of the County, I spoke to the Clerk about this. He said yes, the court house burned, but not the records! Supposedly there are no records of many Virginia counties in the 1600s. But by digging in the Minutes of the Council of Virginia, I found "the difference between Tho. Wilkinson as marrying the relict of Griffith Dickenson, and Wm. Towne is referred to the next court...28 May, 1673"- I have learned that Griffith died before 1673 and the name of a second husband and probable son-in-law. It is my belief that some place there is some kind of record. It just takes digging.

- Mary Jane Knisely,

Genealogy and history are twins. When you find one, the other is there. Genealogy is a history of people in a family, and families make history. The history of the families of our nation have made the history of our nation.

- Contributed by Betty Hughson.



We have often heard genealogy searchers declare that their ancestors have always been in a certain state. That, obviously, is not a possibility if they or their families have ventured further inland than the port states where they arrived, and most of them did. There had to be an immigrant ancestor, and searches of the immigrant lists of the port states often will give the name looked for, as an immigrant landing in such and such a year. Naturalization and oath of allegiance lists of these various states may also turn up the information desired.

For instance, two of our Society members have found their family names on the list of the first settlers of Jamestown, Virginia, who came in the same ship with Captain John Smith in 1607, and therefore preceded the Mayflower group by thirteen years! One of these members had not believed at first that her research would lead her into Virginia. The sons of these families, however, had adventurous spirits, and hearing reports of better and cheaper land beyond the mountains, gathered groups of family or friends and left Virginia, or other states, and made their way to adjoining areas or other parts of the country.

So, if one finds names that they knew were originally in the same area where they last knew of their ancestors being, it would be well to check carefully there, and neighboring localities, to see if their elusive family might also have settled nearby. This is where a knowledge of old maps and migration trails can be very helpful.

Many states have published lists of their early residents who have removed to other states. I have made copies of a few of these lists, and will be glad to share them with anyone interested.

- Leona Likens Henkel,

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THE CASE OF THE FORTUNATE ACCIDENT,

The Genealogy Librarian in West Palm Beach had a fortunate accident. She had traced her ancestors back until they completely disappeared from the records of the area. She realized they must have gone some place - but where?

She was engaged to do research for someone else whose family had been traced to another state. Checking the census, she found this family before going very far on the microfilm. But she did not re-wind at that point, though her task was completed. That was the great day we all hope for! On down the list, she came upon her own forebears! She had no inkling they were in the area.

This is a chance with many odds, but it does point up the fact that no problem need be hopeless. Random searches without any real clues is not without possibility. Browsing, even if not fruitful, can be enormously fascinating.

The 1790 census has now been completely alphabetized. It takes very little time to find whether your ancestors were "any place in the country" in that period. More and more census reports are being alphabetized. But of course - maybe we can't wait that long. (I personally have to do the 1850 census for every county in Pennsylvania).

To have a "lucky accident," there is nothing for it but to "dig, dig dig" in likely and unlikely places.

-- MJK