

EVIDENCE, PROOF AND BURDEN OF PROOF IN GENEALOGY: A JUDICIAL PERSPECTIVE

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GENEALOGIST GENERAL

NATIONAL SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
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INTRODUCTION

The terms "evidence", "proof" and "burden of proof" are terms used in the field of genealogy, but often are confused. Each word or phrase has a distinct and sometimes different meaning. This book article will attempt to define the legal and genealogical concept. It will also serve to elaborate on the kinds of evidence and types of proof. This brief treatise will also attempt to rank the reliability of each.

The rules for evaluation of genealogical evidence come to us from the law. As we discuss evidence, proof, and burden of proof, I will attempt to show the connection between the law of evidence as used in the courts and the rules of evidence used in genealogy. Genealogists would be wise to consider how the law treats certain evidence, which has been tested in the courts over the years.

The amount of proof necessary in genealogy varies depending on for what purpose the evidence will be used. The amount of proof needed to put together an informal family history for a family reunion, will not necessarily be enough to obtain admission in the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR).

Whether the reader is the DAR chapter genealogist; the SAR State Registrar, the membership department application Examiner at the Society of the Founders and Patriots of America, or an applicant for membership in the Society of Colonial Dames, the one rule above all else in examining genealogical documents is to use common sense!

Finally, in the last chapter, examples of documents that can be used to prove events such as birth, marriage, death, burial, military service, property ownership, etc. are outlined.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Judge Edward F. Butler, Sr. brings together two disciplines that gives him a special insight into the fields of genealogical evidence, proof, and burden of proof.

Judge Butler was a Regional Scholar at the University of Mississippi, where in August, 1958 he obtained a Bachelors Degree, with a major in political science, and minors in English and sociology. He attended Vanderbilt University School of Law as a Ford Foundation Scholar. He was awarded his Juris Doctor Degree with honors in June, 1961. At the University of Memphis he completed all of the class work and the comprehensive examination for a Masters Degree in Criminal Justice in June, 1984.

The author practiced law in Memphis, Tennessee from September, 1961 until being appointed to the federal bench as a United States Administrative Law Judge in 1991. During that time he held numerous part time and short term judicial positions. He served as a city, county and state judge before going on the federal bench. He presided over civil, criminal and administrative law cases. In Tennessee he also served as the Chief Judge of the West Tennessee Medical Malpractice Review Board.

In the academic arena, he has served as adjunct professor in the fields of political science and criminal justice at The University of Memphis; the University of Texas at Brownsville, and community colleges in both Tennessee and Texas. As an adjunct professor of law at the University of Memphis, one of the courses he taught was Legal Research and Writing. As full professor of Law at the Reynaldo Garza School of Law on the campus at Pan American University, he was responsible for Continuing Legal Education for the members of the bar association in South Texas.

For the past 20 years or so Judge Butler has become a prolific writer. Among his several books, three are family histories, one of which in 1997 won the "Best Family History Book Award" of the Dallas, Texas Genealogy Society.

He is the author of Texas Litigator's Handbook, and is co-author of another law book. He has published a book about his early travels, and has two more travel books in press. In an attempt to help the chapter genealogists in the Texas Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), he authored the Texas Genealogist's Handbook.

He has authored scores of articles in medical and legal journals; state, local and national genealogical magazines, and newspapers. He is also a frequent after dinner speaker at SAR, DAR and other lineage groups and service organizations. He has also served as chairmen of several genealogical seminars, and is a frequent seminar speaker.

In the field of genealogy, he has been a member of the SAR since 1986. In July 2004 he was elected Genealogist General of the National Society of the SAR. Before that time he served as registrar/genealogist of his San Antonio SAR chapter and later held forth as Texas SAR State Genealogist. He has also performed as the registrar/genealogist of the SAR International Society; the Texas Society of the War of 1812; and the Texas Society of Colonial Wars.

Judge Butler was elected President of the Texas Society of the War of 1812, in March, 2004. In October, 2004, he was elected Governor of the Texas Society of Colonial Wars. He has been active in several other lineage organizations, serving at the national level in two other organizations. He served two years as Judge Advocate General of the Society of the Descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge, and one term as Deputy Judge Advocate General of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars. He is particularly proud of his two terms as Camp Commander of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and his tenure as chapter president of the Military Order of the Stars and Bars.

Judge Butler has served on the genealogy committee of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution for the past five years.

CHAPTER ONE: RANKING THE RELIABILITY OF RECORDS

Legal Evidence and genealogical records are very similar. In each there are three types of records: primary, secondary and tertiary. A Successful genealogist will understand the difference.

Primary Records or Sources: These are documents or entries created at the time of the event by someone who was present with a special knowledge (for example, birth or death certificates, by the doctor who attended the patient). These types of records are considered reliable and most likely accurate. Note however that each has information, such as the father's place of birth that is not within the doctor's knowledge of the doctor. Thus, even in primary records, some of the information may be less reliable. In the above example the information may have also come from the father, who would have been listed as an "informant" on the certificate. All official records such as marriage licenses, divorce decrees, adoptions, etc. are considered primary records.

Secondary Records or Sources: Records that were recorded after the fact by someone who was familiar with the fact, such as an autobiography, memoirs, or a family history based on personal knowledge. Some professionals consider Federal Census' as secondary records.

Tertiary Records or Sources (Third Party): Records that were recorded on hearsay by someone who wasn't there and based on something other than a document. Obituaries and newspaper articles are examples of documents that can be either secondary or tertiary records (depending upon who wrote the article). If, however, the obituary was written by a family member it would be considered secondary. The problem for the genealogist is that you have no way of knowing who prepared the obituary. Accordingly, you must give it less weight, unless it is filled with facts about the deceased and his family. In that case it can be presumed to have been written by a family member and a Secondary Source.

Mixed Records: In the military records and pension records that can be obtained from the National Archives, part of the documents will be primary, such as muster rolls, official correspondence, etc. The sworn affidavits to obtain pensions are filled with "to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief", etc. Clearly these affidavits are less reliable, and secondary evidence; although, there may be parts of the affidavit that are clearly within the knowledge of the affiant. Affidavits may be a secondary record in part and a tertiary record in part.

Experts tell us that when doing research, we should go to the primary records first. Obviously, first-hand information is always better than second-hand information or hearsay. A birth record is better than a census, and

secondary sources are better than third party records.

Junk Genealogy: When reviewing applications for the Sons of the American Revolution, there are some documents that can only be described as “Junk”. These include family group sheets, information from the International Genealogical Index (IGI) from the Mormon Church, and non resourced family histories. The latter are junk unless there are documented footnotes, endnotes, or within the body of the book the author reveals that he obtained the information from census records, wills, guardian records, deeds, tax records, etc. To the extent that the source of the information is revealed, the fact documented is reliable. If the book is well documented, facts for which there is no citation specifically given, may be considered reliable.

CHAPTER TWO: DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN EVIDENCE, PROOF AND THE BURDEN OF PROOF

See Black's Law Dictionary

CHAPTER THREE: EVIDENCE

The following is an alphabetical compilation of the many types of evidence that may be discussed from time to time in both legal and genealogical settings. The serious genealogist should make himself or herself aware of the various forms of evidence and how to distinguish among them.

Admission An admission is sometimes known as an admission against interest. It is an out of court statement by a person who is not under oath. The statement is made to a third party witness. It is trustworthy because the person making the admission usually has nothing to gain.

Ambiguous Evidence In the area where you are researching there is a John Jones, James Jones, Jonah Jones, and a Julius Jones. In a census report a “J Jones” is enumerated. That entry is ambiguous evidence. On a pre 1850 census, the listing of a male child of the correct age is ambiguous evidence, if you are trying to prove that the child mentioned is a particular person.

Ancient Writings There is no hard and fast rule about how old a document must be to be classified as “ancient”. To be an antique, furniture must be 100 years old. The older the document the more reliable it may be viewed about the facts contained in it.

Authenticating Evidence What makes a piece of evidence more valuable than the contents of the document itself? The document become more credible with the oath of the affiant attached to it. The document also become more solemn and therefore more reliable when it has been witnessed. If the witnesses are disinterested, and do not stand to gain from being a witness, additional credibility attaches to the document. The epitome of authentication to a will or deed. is the signature and Seal of a Notary Public, who is bound by law to follow certain formalities designed to add to the trustworthiness of the document. Authentication can also be by a U.S. Embassy or Consular official; and before a county or public official.

Best Evidence Black's Law Dictionary defines “best evidence” as “Primary evidence, as distinguished from secondary; original as distinguished from substitutionary; the best and highest evidence of which the case is susceptible This means that an untouched original is better than a copy, but if it is shown that the original was destroyed, the copy becomes the best evidence available. A birth certificate is the best evidence of the birth of a child. A militia muster roll showing that a soldier was present at a battle is the “best evidence” of military service, when compared with a notarized affidavit of a fellow soldier.

Biological Evidence Biological evidence is a form of scientific evidence. Usually this involves blood type, rh factor and DNA. DNA is currently of two varieties, one slightly more reliable than the other.

CAR Applications “Record Copies” of the application for membership into the National Society of the Children of the American Revolution (CAR) is used as evidence of descent from a Revolutionary War patriot by both the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and the Sons of the American Revolution. More recent applications contain check marks which indicate that the CAR membership department employee who reviewed the original application was satisfied that the proof submitted adequately verified both the dates and places of birth, marriage and death listed in each of the several generations between the applicant and the Revolutionary War Patriot. These marks are also used to verify that the Revolutionary War service of the patriot ancestor were sufficiently proved. Perpendicular marks on the application are used to confirm that adequate

documentation has been provided to connect each of the generations listed on the application. A Record Copy can be obtained from the national office of the CAR. It will have the words "Record Copy" stamped on the top of the first page.

Character & Habit Evidence In supporting affidavits for Revolutionary War veterans seeking a pension, the affiant generally would state that the soldier was a man of good moral character, and that the sworn statements of the soldier should be believed. This is one form of character evidence. If a person has a long record of criminal convictions, that is evidence of bad character. This type of evidence might help a genealogist distinguish between two people in the same county with the same name.

Circumstantial Evidence Black's Law Dictionary defines circumstantial evidence as "all evidence of an indirect nature." It also states that "the existence of principle facts is only inferred from circumstances." Stated differently, Black asserts that "When the existence of the principal fact is deduced from evidence by a process of probable reasoning, the evidence and proof are said to be presumptive." Multiple pieces of circumstantial evidence and/or evidence of low reliability, when taken together can build a compelling case.

The fact that a son was not mentioned in his father's will is circumstantial evidence that he was not the son. However, the failure to list the son may have been because the son predeceased the father or because the father had already provided for that son through a prior transfer of property or cash settlement. The son's absence from mention in the will could also be because the son had been disinherited by the father.

The pre 1850 U.S. census or early tax lists reflecting of a child of the correct sex and in the correct age group is circumstantial evidence that a father - child relationship exists between two people. The use of the suffix "Jr." is circumstantial evidence of a father-son relationship, but in some communities if there were two men of the same name, although not related, the younger became "Jr."

Compelling Evidence Computer Generated Evidence Copies of pages of books, census or other documents, which if copied from a book or the original document, may be copied from online sources on the Internet.

Conclusive Evidence

Conflicting Evidence

Confusing Evidence

Contradictory Evidence

Credible Evidence

DAR Applications

Deductive Evidence

Derivative Evidence Any evidence that is not direct evidence is derivative evidence. A copy of a document is derivative evidence, whereas the original is direct evidence. Possibly the duplicate is the only copy and the "best evidence". Yet, the person introducing the copy should explain why the original is not available. In genealogy, this is accomplished by executing a sworn affidavit and attaching the document to it. It should be remembered in this digital age, that documents, even photographs can easily be altered. Transcripts are widely used, especially when dealing with records originally written in a foreign language. The better practice is to submit a copy of the original. Transcribe the original in the original language, then translate the document in English. If applying to DAR or SAR or some other group, submit copies of all three. Many county record books contain only a transcript of the court proceedings entered in the book by the court clerk. There is a presumption of correctness of the transcription. Histories written about a city, county or state are a compilation of facts, with perhaps some conclusions thrown in. These histories are derivative evidence. Derivative evidence would also include compilations of records and abstracts of books, records and documents. In Simpson Co., KY, the courthouse burned. The clerk asked all local residents to come into the clerk's office and refile their land deeds, etc. The deed is the best evidence of the transaction. The original recording in the courthouse was derivative evidence. If the deed was still available, the second recording was just as trustworthy as the first recording.

Direct Evidence This is generally testimony or a statement by a person with actual knowledge of the facts in question. When an individual writes his family history, at least as to his immediate family his statements are direct evidence.

Documentary Evidence Written evidence.

Evidence Beyond a Reasonable Doubt

Evidence of low reliability Even evidence of low reliability can be used in conjunction with other evidence to build a case that will satisfy the preponderance of the evidence rule. Each piece of evidence is like a piece of the puzzle. Expert Opinion Genealogists would be wise to consider how the law treats certain evidence, which has been tested in the courts over the years. Thus far, I have not witnessed any SAR applications being submitted with the expert opinion of a professional genealogist. Who better to analyse the proof available and render a professional opinion whether A is the child of B; or whether from the proof one can reasonably conclude that C was the correct Revolutionary War militiaman mentioned in the muster rolls? Expert opinion would be welcome especially in the hard cases.

Family Histories

Founders and Patriots Society Applications

Handwriting Evidence

Hearsay Evidence & its Exceptions Exceptions are:

- Admissions
- Business Records
- Declarations against interest
- Dying Declarations
- Family Bible
- Former Testimony
- Records of Past Recollection
- Official Written Statements
- Spontaneous Declarations
- Statements & Reputation as to pedigree & family history
- Tombstone and family and county histories

Hereditary Evidence Color of hair and eyes, baldness, height, build, blood type, blood disease, deformities, physical features.

Implied/Inferential Evidence

Indirect Evidence

Inexplicable Evidence

Insufficient/Inadequate Evidence

Irrelevant Evidence

Judicial Notice - By Operation of Law

Junk Genealogy

Mayflower Society Applications

Official Records Birth, Marriage, Divorce, Adoption and Death Records. Even official records may contain incorrect evidence. The widow will certainly know the decedant's age, birthdate, date of death, occupation and the place they were living at the time of death. But she may not know the place of birth. Without a birth certificate, she may have been misled about the place or date of birth. My grandfather Butler's death certificate states that he was born in Ireland. Yet, a census report in Tennessee when he was one year old, reflects that he was born in

Arkansas. I asked my father about this discrepancy. He told me that people in the South around the turn of the century were very distrustful of government official and government records. They had been abused for decades by carpetbaggers. Many families had lost their farms during Reconstruction and most near bankruptcy, if not actually bankrupt. The revenueurs tried to keep them from making whiskey and the TVA had stolen their land, then flooded part of their heritage. The only revenge of the average person was to tell them a lie.

Opinion Evidence

Overwhelming Evidence

Parole Evidence Rule Can't vary the terms of a written document by oral testimony, except to prove fraud in the inducement.

Pattern Evidence

Presumption

Primary Evidence

Professional Opinion Evidence

Questionable Evidence Any document that was created by a person who might have a bias or a motivation to discolor the truth should always be subject to question. For instance, when a militiaman filed for a Revolutionary War pension, he was required to submit the sworn affidavit of two men to confirm that he served. Is there other evidence of a marriage other than her affidavit in the file? Did they have children? Has a marriage date been changed to reflect that a child was born during wedlock, when in fact the child was conceived or born before marriage.

Recorded Documents

SAR Applications

Secondary Evidence

Scientific Evidence

Scientilla of Evidence

Tertiary Evidence

Undocumented Evidence Even an undocumented family history with no footnotes, endnotes or mention of the sources from which the family information was learned has some value. The writer should be presumed to know the correct information about his direct family, parents, children, and siblings. Moreover, the probabilities are that the writer also had reasonably good information about his own grandparents and grandchildren. So, the information about five generations is probably correct. Such family histories can be buttressed with census and other primary evidence.

Unreliable Evidence

Untrustworthy Evidence

CHAPTER FOUR: PROOF

PROOF (a combination of all the evidence relating to a certain issue; or a combination of two or more pieces of evidence.

Ambiguous - either/or

Biological - Blood type, DNA, unique blood disease

Circumstantial

Compelling
Conclusive
Conflicting
Confusing
Contradictory
Direct
Documentary
Inexplicable
Insufficient/Inadequate
Junk Genealogy
Opinion
Overwhelming
Preponderance of the Evidence
Proof Beyond a Reasonable Doubt
Questionable
Recorded
Scientific
Scientilla
Some

CHAPTER FIVE: BURDEN OF PROOF

In law, the burden of proof in a civil case is quite different from that required in a criminal case. The burden lies with the individual who seeks action by the judge or jury. In a civil case the plaintiff must submit only a preponderance of the evidence, whereas in a criminal case, the prosecutor must prove the defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt - to a moral degree of certainty. The proof in any case, civil or criminal, is the sum total of the evidence submitted by all parties, and any logical deductions that can be drawn from the evidence. To assist the reader in understanding the difference, picture a football field with goal lines at either end of the field and lines across the field every five yards.

Some Proof - The football is somewhere between the teams' own goal line and the 50 yard line depending on the amount of proof.

Preponderance of the Evidence - The football has the nose of the ball across the 50 yard line. This is enough to sustain a verdict in a civil case.

Compelling Evidence - The football is somewhere in the red zone, between the opponent's 20 yard line and his goal line.

Clear and Convincing Proof - The ball is on the opponent's 5 yard line

Proof Beyond a Reasonable Doubt - The ball is on the opponent's 1 foot line.

Conclusive Proof - No Doubt Touchdown!

Currently the SAR rules require "Conclusive Proof" of patriot service. I am sure that the members of the genealogy committee who inserted this standard were not aware of its technical, legal meaning. "Conclusive Proof" is a higher standard of proof than that required to convict a defendant in a criminal proceeding. In criminal court the prosecutor must prove that the defendant was guilty "Beyond a reasonable doubt - to a moral degree of certainty". Prosecutors tell juries every day that this doesn't mean that some doubt exists.

The "best evidence" that John Doe is a descendant of Sgt. David Doe would be DNA blood evidence. Yet, even DNA evidence mutates about every 30th generation, and it is not 100% accurate.

I would propose that the rule requiring "Conclusive Proof" be changed to require "compelling proof". This standard is more in tune with the actual proof that has been required over the past several years. For instance, if the military muster rolls of Pvt. David Doe, who enlisted in the county militia are presented, and proof that the applicant is descended from Pvt. David Doe is acceptable, that should be sufficient. But that is not conclusive proof. Conclusive proof would require that the applicant submit negative evidence that there were no other privates in that

militia by the same name, or through some other evidence, prove that the Pvt. David Doe in question was the only person of that name who could be the applicant's ancestor; and further, that Pvt. David Doe did not at some later time give his loyalty to the English.

CHAPTER SIX: APPLYING FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AND THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

OLD DAR APPLICATIONS

If you are applying to become a member of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) based on an old Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) application you must first obtain a "Record Copy" of the old DAR application from DAR.

Currently under DAR rules based upon privacy concerns, if the person applying for "Record Copy" is not a DAR, SAR or CAR member, the two most recent generations will have all information blacked out. If the person seeking the "Record Copy" is a member of DAR, SAR or CAR, and places their respective membership number on the application form, the record copy, minus the cover page will be sent.

When you receive the "Record Copy", look to see if there are check marks (sometimes called "tick marks") indicating that the DAR membership department verified each birth, marriage and death even. There should also be perpendicular marks connecting each generation, indicating that the DAR membership department has verified the connection between the generations in question. If your old DAR application has both the perpendicular lines and the check marks you are almost home. If there are no lines or check marks, then you must submit documentary proof for each generation.

Older DAR applications did not have a blank for the applicant to insert the place of each birth, marriage and death. If your application doesn't show the place for each event, you must submit proof for each place.

Under current SAR rules, only one proof is required for each generation. Suggested proofs include census reports, deeds, wills, tax lists, family Bibles, family histories, county histories, mortality census, special census, slave census, military pension application files, church records, obituary, burial records, tombstones, newspaper clipping, transcription of old newspaper articles, etc. Even census records before 1850 which list by name only the heads of household offer proof that a child of the right sex and age group lived in the family.

If you submit a family Bible, always include a copy of the Bible cover sheet reflecting the publication date, owner, etc. Newspaper clippings should contain the name of the newspaper, the date and page number where the article can be found. Sometimes you come into possession of a transcription of a newspaper clipping, obituary, etc., and don't know when or where it appeared in print. If you have a family Bible or a newspaper article or clipping my suggestion is that you prepare a notarized affidavit in which you would describe the Bible or article; tell how and when it came into your possession; who transcribed it if you know, giving as much detail as possible. Attach a copy of the information in question to the affidavit. If the family Bible has valuable genealogical information, I would record the sworn affidavit with a copy of the Bible pages attached to the affidavit.

Applications with one set of tick marks, usually down the middle of the page, will be presumed to have been completely verified, and no further information about that information will be required.

OLD SAR APPLICATIONS

SAR Applications with one set of tick marks, usually down the middle of the page, will be presumed to have been completely verified, and no further information about that application will be required.

All the documentation from old SAR applications was either lost or trashed when the SAR moved its office from Washington D.C. to Louisville, KY. Many of the old SAR applications do not contain either the check marks or lines connecting the generations discussed under the OLD DAR APPLICATIONS section above.

The question then arises is it fair to deny membership to the son, grandson, nephew or great nephew of a SAR member without the applicant being required to reprove the information that was submitted to the SAR by the applicant's ancestor. Some past Genealogist Generals have taken the view that obtaining the documentation is

easy, since by and large the old SAR application lists the proof that was originally provided. They say that all the applicant has to do is go get copies. But it is not that easy.

Copies of ancient books, family Bibles, obituaries, newspaper clippings, that at one time were in the family may no longer be in existence. Gathering genealogical evidence is both time consuming and expensive. Should the applicant be forced to reinvent the wheel, or should the SAR be responsible for its negligence in losing the original records, or for the deliberate destruction of these records.

It is the opinion of this writer that the National Society has an institutional memory, and that facts once proved to it should not be demanded before a legacy applicant is granted approval. The NSSAR Genealogy Committee and the Genealogist General hold the conscience of the society, and I submit that it is unconscionable for the society to withhold membership until the applicant is required to find and submit documentary evidence that the society once had and lost through either its negligent or willful act.

CHAPTER SEVEN: EVIDENCE OF SPECIFIC EVENTS

BIRTH

- Birth Certificate - Normal, Delayed or Substitute
- Birth Announcement Cards
- Newspaper Notice of Births at Hospital
- Newspaper Birth Announcements
- Physician and Clinic Records
- Medical Records of the mother
- Medical Records of the infant
- Church Baptismal Records
- Church Christening Records
- Family Bible Entries
- Family History
- Medical Insurance Records
- Social Security Application
- Kindergarden & Day Care Records
- School Records
- Military Records
- Employment Records
- Federal Census
- State Census
- Life Insurance Company Change of Beneficiary Forms
- Federal Income Tax Returns
- State and Local Income Tax Returns

MARRIAGE

- Marriage License
- Marriage Certificate
- Marriage Bond
- Family Histories
- County Histories
- Military Draft Registration
- Application for Deferment of Military Service.
- Selective Service Registration Card
- Military Induction
- Military Retirement
- Revolutionary War/Civil War Pension Application Files
- World War I Draft Registration Cards
- Real Estate Tax Records
- Federal Income Tax Records
- City Directories
- Newspaper Engagement Announcement
- Newspaper Engagement Announcement
- Newspaper Marriage Announcement

Church Marriage Records
Church Sunday School Records
Church Financial Contribution Records
Petition for Annulment
Annulment Decree
Divorce Petition
Divorce Summons
Divorce Decree
Separate Maintenance Agreements
Death Certificate
Tombstone photos
Obituaries
Family Bible
Property Settlement, Child Custody and Support Agreements
Federal Census
State Census
Life Insurance Company Change of Beneficiary Forms

DESCENDANTS

Obituary
Funeral Home Card
Last Will and Testament
Living Trust Agreement
Testamentary Trust Agreement
Petition for the Appointment of an Administrator / Executor
Order Opening Estate
Personal Representative's Fiduciary Bond
Administrator's / Executor's Inventory and Appraisal of Estate
Administrator's / Executor's Annual or Final Accounting
Order Closing Estate
Administrator's / Executor's Deed
Inheritance Tax Returns
Federal Estate Tax Returns
Federal Gift Tax Returns
Census Records
Life Insurance Policies
Federal Census
State Census
Pension and Profit Sharing Plan Records
Life Insurance Company Designation of Beneficiary Forms

DIVORCE AND ANNULMENT

Petition for Annulment
Annulment Decree
Divorce Petition
Divorce Summons
Divorce Decree
Separate Maintenance Agreements
Newspaper Legal Notice of the Filing of A Divorce Petition
Newspaper Legal Notice of the Granting of A Divorce
Bible Records
County Histories
Family Histories
Federal Census
State Census
Life Insurance Company Change of Beneficiary Forms

ADOPTION

Petition For Adoption
Interim Decree of Adoption

Final Decree of Adoption
Federal Census
State Census
Life Insurance Company Change of Beneficiary Forms

HOME OWNERSHIP

Real Estate Listing Agreement
Contract for purchase or sale Real Estate
Warranty Deed
Mortgage Trust Deed
Trust Deed Note
Real Estate Title Insurance Commitment
Real Estate Title Insurance
Real Estate Title Abstract
Real Estate Appraisal
Real Estate Surveys & Plats
County Real Estate Tax Assessment
County Real Estate Tax Receipt
City Directory
Federal Census
State Census

CHURCH AFFILIATION

World War I Draft Registration Cards
Military I D Cards
Military Enlistment Records
Military Retirement Records
Church Baptismal Records
Church Christening Records
Church Directory
Church Death Records
Church Bulletins and Newsletters
Church Histories
Census
Obituary
Funeral Card
Family Bible
Family Histories
County Histories
Record of Ordainment
Missionary Records

OCCUPATION / PROFESSION

Employment Records
Professional License
Occupation Tax Receipt
Bar Association Directory
Medical Society Directory
Other Professional Directories
Bar Association Records
Medical Society Records
Other Professional Group Membership Records
Passport and Visas
Federal Census
State Census
Obituary
Biographical Directories (Who's Who, etc.)
Advertisements

MILITARY SERVICE

- Photos in Uniform
- Military Service Records
- Military I D Card
- Muster Reports
- Militia Records
- History of Military Units
- Military Pension Records
- Obituary
- Funeral Card
- Commission Certificate
- Promotion Certificate
- Discharge Certificate
- Certificate of Qualification for Military Specility
- Troop Movement / Assignment Orders
- Fitness/Efficiency Reports
- Military Passport and Visas
- Military Awards and Commendations
- Military Orders
- Letters of Commendation or Appreciation
- Membership in Military Affinity Groups (American Legion, VFW)
- Application / Certificate for Security Clearance
- Veterans Administration Records
- TRICARE ID Card
- Military Reserve Retirement Point Certificate

DEATH / BURIAL

- Death Certificate
- Hospital Records
- Physician Records
- Cemetery Records
- Funeral Home Records
- Funeral Card
- Church Records
- Tombstone
- Family Bible
- Family History
- County History
- Labor Union Records
- Obituary
- Newspaper Death Notices
- Newspaper Notice of Internments
- Fraternal, Professional and Lineage Society Records & Memorials
- Petition for the Appointment of an Administrator / Executor
- Order Opening Estate
- Personal Representative's Fiduciary Bond
- Administrator's / Executor's Inventory and Appraisement of Estate
- Administrator's / Executor's Annual or Final Accounting
- Order Closing Estate
- Administrator's / Executor's Deed
- Inheritance Tax Returns
- Life Insurance Policies
- Petition For the Appointment of A Minor's Guardian
- Order Appointed Guardian For Minor
- Federal Census
- State Census
- State Mortality Census

MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS

- High School Diploma
- Trade School Diploma

Community College Associates Degree
College Degree
Postgraduate Degree
Master's Degree Thesis
Doctor's Degree Dissertation
Certificates of proficiency
College and Graduate School Transcripts
Academic Honorary Society Certificate
Election Certificate as City, County, State or Federal Official
Appointment Certificate as City, County, State or Federal Official
Drivers License; Pilot's License: Boat Captain's License
Merchant Marine Certificate
Business License (Barber, Beautician, etc.)
Professional License (Doctor, Lawyer, Nurse, Architect, etc)
Voters Registration Card
Union Dues Card
Employment ID Card & Records
Selective Service Registration Card
License Tax Receipts (Barber, Cosmetologist, Plumber)
Fraternity or Sorority Membership Certificates
Membership Certificates Fraternal Orders (Rotary, Kiwanis)
Membership Certificates in Lineage Societies
Membership Application Forms in Lineage Societies (DAR, SAR)
Medals and Awards Certificates
Business and Professional Awards
Books, Poems and Articles Written
Paintings, Sculptures and other Art Forms Created
Patents, Copyrights and Trademarks Granted
Music written or recorded
Significant Civic Awards
Qualification Certificates (Scuba Diver, First Aid)
Special Licenses (Railroad Engineer, Paramedic)
Newspaper & Magazine Clippings Marking Significant Events
Social Security Earnings Record
Social Security Card

CHAPTER EIGHT: CAVEAT EMPTOR - CAUSE IT AIN'T NECESSARILY SO

In recent years the Internet has been burning up with a heated discussion about documenting one's sources. A new breed of genealogist relies almost entirely upon CDs purchased from one of many commercial family history enterprises and then tries to find his ancestors online by surfing the various Web sites and family e-mail lists. Many of these people are propagating "junk genealogy".

When I was the editor of "Texas Genealogy", a Web page attached to the San Antonio Express News daily newspaper, I received many e-mails. I wish to share my response to one of those writers who felt it wasn't necessary to go to the source.

In response to our fellow researcher who wants to collect his family tree in front of his computer and rely upon the work of others; it is my studied opinion that one can never trust the work of another genealogist. Think about why pencil makers always install an eraser - people make mistakes!

Shortly after I began researching my family tree, I foolishly accepted the ancestry of my great-great-grandfather provided to me by a studious gentlemen. He advised me that he had been working on the family for more than 40 years. Subsequently, after more than ten years of researching that line, including several trips to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah; and payment of several thousand dollars to researchers in North Carolina and Maryland to research and copy information from the two state archives, etc., I discovered that this old sage, like many others, had mistakenly assumed that the Elias Butler in Rutherford County, Tennessee, who came from Montgomery County, North Carolina, was our Elias. He was flat wrong. A prominent college professor had also made the same mistake in his book about our family.

As it turned out, there were three Elias Butlers in Montgomery County, North Carolina, two of whom moved to Tennessee. This was easy so far, because we knew our Elias' father was named Christopher. However, both Tennessee Eliases had fathers named Christopher, and both of them were from Montgomery County, North Carolina. The only way to determine which was mine was a meticulous reading of all deeds in the county by any of them. My Tennessee Elias named the water flowing through his property after Brushy Creek, the water that had flowed though his old homestead in Montgomery County. By comparing the deeds of those Elias and Christopher Butler living on Brushy Creek in Montgomery County, I am 95% sure I got the right guy - but maybe I'm wrong.

Never accept the genealogy of any other researcher without replicating his work. That rule of science is applicable in genealogy. Often I find inverted dates, misinformation, and valuable information that was not included.

Recently, one of my cousins sent me the printout from one of the commercial CDs that purported to be the latest word on my family ancestry. It showed that one of my great-great-grandfathers was sired by a nine year old. I have even seen attributed to those long since departed frm this life.

Many books in the Family History Library purport to link their ancestors with the first man, Adam. Hundreds of bogus books claim their family to be descended from Emperor Charles the Great, or many of the European kings based upon nothing more than "family tradition".

Recently I read an e-mail message from an irate computer researcher who didn't think that documentation was important. She was only interested in getting the family line (and no doubt sharing it with her family, who would not have known any better). There is an abundance of junk genealogy out there.

Many books can be borrowed from the National Genealogical Society by its members. It would take a lifetime to look at all the books the society has. Serious genealogists will be glad to copy and mail you copies of their sources if you will send them a self-addressed stamped envelope and reimburse any other costs. Your library can obtain for your review books from distant libraries on "inter library loan". Family name, county, state, and regional genealogical societies have a wealth of information.

So, there is no excuse for relying solely upon what is on the Internet or the information contained in commercial CDs. If you generate and publicize an incorrect genealogy you compound the problem, just making it more difficult for the next person who comes along.

Early judicial opinions in England adopted a fine principle of law that has been incorporated into the judicial system of the United States. That principle is known as caveat emptor, which is Latin for "buyer beware".

My recommendation to everybody is to accept the work of any other genealogist graciously. Many are well documented. As to those that are not documented, use them as a clue - a starting point for your independent research on that family line. Try to prove what was given to you. If you can't prove it, don't publish it. Here "publish" is used in its widest sense, meaning don't share it with anybody, except as an undocumented opinion. As the comedian Dennis Miller says, "I could be wrong, but that's my opinion".

CHAPTER NINE: PAPERWORK IN GENEALOGY

If you have been involved in researching your family history for any appreciable length of time you will have accumulated a mass of paperwork. It is imperative that a genealogist have his evidence organized. The purpose of this chapter is to help you get organized in a workable fashion.

GETTING STARTED

The first thing you must do is organize you documents. Whether you use a computer genealogy software program like Personal Ancestry File, Family Tree Maker, or The Master Genealogist, it is important that as you enter the information in the family group sheets, that you document your sources when the information is entered. Some commercial family group sheets have a circle after each date and place for you to insert a footnote number. At the bottom of the form there is a place to identify your source, such as birth certificate of, 1860 Shelby County, TN census, etc.

Once you have entered your information into the computer you should print out all of your family group sheets and your pedigree charts.

ORGANIZE THE INFORMATION YOU HAVE

You should organize the birth, marriage and death certificates, obituaries, information from family Bibles, census reports, tax lists, military, church and cemetery records, deeds, wills and probate records. I suggest that you separate them by family names. By gathering all these documents you will probably find that you are missing some vital records, census reports, etc.

DETERMINE HOW YOU WILL KEEP YOUR RECORDS

Every genealogist has his or her own system. Some keep their records in three ring binders, while others maintain their records in manila folders. Others, like me, use a combination of these two systems.

I maintain four three inch heavy duty three ring binder notebooks. Two contain information about my father's family lines and the other two are dedicated to maintaining information about my mother's family. Inside each notebook is a printout of my father's pedigree and mother's pedigree, respectively.

Inside each notebook I have placed a divider tab with the family name of the ancestors contained in that section. Behind each name tab I have printed out the family group sheets of that family. In each section I have placed birth, marriage and death certificates, obituaries, information from family Bibles, census reports, tax lists, military, church and cemetery records, deeds, wills and probate records. These documents have been placed in a three ring vinyl sheet protector. These binders are very handy to take to the library with you when you are researching.

Bulky documents like military pension records, excerpts from family history books, print outs of e-mails and correspondence are maintained in manila folders filed alphabetically in my filing cabinets. Sometimes I have so much information about a given individual or family group, that I have established a separate manila folder for that person or family.

Often there is a fine line between your genealogy books and research. For instance, I have belonged to the International Butler Society for many years. Periodically, the Butler Society had distributed both pamphlets about family lines and newsletters. Generally, those pamphlets are maintained on my book shelves along with other books relating to the Butler family. The newsletters are kept in a three inch plastic book shelf holder with the books. When there is an article that directly relates to my family line, I photocopy it and place it in either the manila folder or the three ring notebook.

I maintain separate three ring binders and manila folders for my wife's family.

MAINTAIN A SET OF FORMS TO KEEP YOU ORGANIZED

When I go to the library to research, I also take with me what I call my "genealogy notebook". In it I maintain one each of the forms I am likely to use at the library. At the library I photocopy the number of forms that I will need. The forms in my notebook include the following:

Family Group Sheets

Pedigree Charts

Census Forms (*1790, *1800, *1810, *1820, *1830, *1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890, 1910, 1920 and 1930. The list marked with an * list only the head of household by name, then report the number of males and females in differing age groups. Most of the 1890 census was destroyed by fire, but tax lists and some state census reports have been used as a substitute).

Census Locator Forms

Family Census History Forms

Deed Abstract

Will Abstract

Research Abstract To abstract names, dates and facts from other significant events or legal documents such as powers of attorney; adoption; bill of sale; apprenticeship; guardianship; inventories of estates; civil and criminal court proceedings and judgements; land grants, surveys and warrants, military records; pensions; pedigrees, visitations; church records, etc.

PREPARE A SET OF FORMS TO FOCUS YOUR RESEARCH

Either purchase forms to assist you in your research or make them up from scratch. I use the following forms, and carry copies of each in my "genealogy notebook":

Index to Courthouse Records

Research Log This lists the books I want to review by library call number. Microfilm I intend to look at is listed by library microfilm number. The log has a place for results. Even negative results should be logged. This should keep you from reviewing the same source twice.

County Tax Lists

BE A BOY SCOUT - BE PREPARED!

In my "genealogy notebook" I also keep with me those items that might be useful to me when I am researching my family history. This information includes the following:

U.S. Maps from the time periods you are researching

State maps of the area you are researching

County maps where you ancestors lived - Preferably with the waterways noted.

District maps of the county

Maps showing the development of the county

Maps of England or other countries from which your ancestor migrated to the Colonies or the United States

Information about when each county was formed and from which parent counties.

Copy of the Dewey Decimal System used by your library.

Genealogical Definitions

Nicknames list

Family History Library Research Outline for each state you are researching.

Family History Library Research Outline for Finding an IGI Source

Floor plan of the library you are using

Land and Property Research Tools, such as "Section Graphing Guide"

Township Numbering Guide

Land Measurement Guide (converts chains, poles, links, rods, perches, furlongs to miles)

Sheet of yellow acetate to ease eye strain while reviewing old documents

Ruler, compass and highlighter

Soundex Census Information

Definitions of Latin terms used in genealogy.

Other lists, charts, maps or publications that you refer to frequently in your research.

PROBLEM ANCESTORS

When I run into a brick wall on a given line, I have found it helpful to prepare a Chronology of Events of all family members. This would include all significant events such as any time any member of the immediate family is listed in a census, births, marriages, tax lists, deaths and other known facts. In the first column put the date. In the second column put the name of the family member. The third column will contain the event, while the last column will reflect the county where the event occurred. Be mindful that the county may change several times while the family has remained in one place.

The following sample is illustrative of the value in preparing a chronology:

CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS WHICH HELP DETERMINE THE HISTORY AND GENEALOGY OF THE DESCENDANTS OF JOHN LOVELACE OF CHARLES CO., MD FROM 1698 TO 1838

* The following 3 items with an "*" refer to Maryland records dated Feb. 1768, which yield the birth year of **Samuel; ***Luke Lovelace & #John

@ 1698 John Lovelace born in Charles Co., MD

abt 1717 -1718 John Baptist Lovelace and Eleanor _____ married in Charles Co. or Frederick, MD (IGI)

*25 Dec 1721 John Lovelass, tenant in possession of land holds a MD lease on the life of John Lovelass

abt 1724 Luke Lovelace born to John Baptist Lovelace (IGI)

abt 1728 John Lovelace born to John Baptist Lovelace (IGI) at Zachrian', Chrls., MD

abt 1730 Samuel Lovelace born to John Baptist Lovelace (IGI) at Zachrian', Chrls., MD

abt 1730 Samuel Loveless, b. of Zachrian', Chris., Maryland (IGI film #5382411, p. 58, ref. # 12673.

**1732 Samuel Lovelace born (based upon lease)

1734 -1737 Benjamin Lovelace and Abraham Lovelace were residents of Charles Co., MD. Both were listed as debtors to an estate in Charles Co., MD

*** 1736 Luke Lovelace born (based upon lease)

7 Sep 1737 John Lovelace, so of Charles Lovelace christened at North Farnham Parish, Richmond, VA (IGI)

1739 John Lovelace receives a certificate for 12 acres of land in Charles Co., MD called "hickory Thicket"

1740 John Lovelace received a certivicate for 90 acres of land in Charles Co., MD known as "Lovelace's Addition". (see sale in 1780)

1741 Issac Lovelace born in Prince George Co., MD

*25 Dec.1741 John Loveless, tenant in possession of land holds a MD lease on the lives of Samuel and Luke Lovelass. At that time Samuel was age 36 (e.g. born @ 1705) and Luke, age 32 (born @ 1709)

*20 Aug 1745 John Lovelass, tenant in possession of land holds a MD lease on the leves of Samuel Lovelass, age 36, and Luke Lovelass, age 32.

1745 Samuel Loveless in recods of MD

13 Dec 1745 Charles Lovelace, a Charles Co., MD planter purchased 125 acres of "Batchelors Forest".

1747 Barton Loveless born in Frederick Co., MD

Nov. 1753 Charles Lovelace dead. His widow, Elanor Lowlis rents above 125 acres in Charles Co., MD

25 Jul 1761 Archibald Loveless born to John Baptiste Loveless and w. Eliner in Prince George Co., MD, p. 261

8 Nov. 1763 John Loveless of Charles County and Ellenor Loveless of Prince George Co., MD sell the 125 acres known at "Batchelors Forest". John's wife, Jane, waived her dower rights. The assumption is that John was the son of Charles and Ellenor/Elanor Lowlis/Loveless was the widow of Charles.

1766 Young Lovelace born in Pr. Wm Co., VA

21 Dec 1768 Bill of Sale of crop of tobacco from "We, John Lovelace, Thomas Lovelace and Luke Lovelace" in Charles County, MD

2 Sep 1774 Una Loveless born to Luke Loveless and wife, Mary Ann at Broad Creek, Pr. George Co., MD, p 386

1775 Charles Co., MD Record Book X, No. 3 1774-1778 contains records of Samuel Loveless & William Loveless listed.

1775 One researcher thinks Samuel died in MD in 1775. Another says after 1787 in MD, after living in Pr. Wm. Co., VA.

1776 Charles Co., MD - Will of John Lovelace, who died in Charles Co., MD in 1775. Will Book CXXIV, p. 19.

1778 MD Census - Charles Lovelace in Port Tobacco, Charles Co., MD

1776-1783 Pvt. Samuel W. Loveless of Chambersburg, fought in PA Reg. G, Comp. 7 in Rev.War.

28 Mar 1780 Ann Lovelace, of MD, sells 3 tracts of land: 90 acres of land in Charles Co., MD, known as "Lovelace's Addition" !! "Except for 39 acres that John Lovelace, deceased. gave his son John Baptist Lovelace!!" Ann also sold the tract called "Hickory Thicket". Thus, Ann was John's widow and John was the father of John Baptiste Lovelace.

1782 Nancy supposedly remarried to Reuben Rosson in Culpeper Co., VA

abt 1783 Samuel Lovelace (who moved to KY before 1830) born (IGI)

1782 -1787 VA Tax papers: James Lovelace - Culpeper Co John Lovelace - Culpeper Co. Thomas Loveless - Loudon Co

(One researcher thinks Samuel's wife was Nancy Jane & they had a daughter Nancy who was b. in Culpeper Co., VA in 1761; also thinks that their son John Lovelace, was the John in Campbell co., KY in 1801-02. Another contends John was the fa. of Samuel, who ma. Mary Jane).

Tax lists for Prince William Co., VA:

1783 Samuel

1785 Samuel, Elias, Pin (?)

1787 Samuel, Samuel, Jr., Pryor, John

1790 Samuel, Pryor, John

1792 Samuel, Pryor, John

1794 Samuel, Pryor, John, Young, Elias, Rhodam

1795 Samuel, Pryor, John,

1796 Samuel, Pryor, John, Rhodam

1797 Samuel, Pryor, John

1798 Pryor, Young (one thinks that YOUNG was b. in Pr. Wm Co. in 1766)

1799 Samuel (Is this Samuel Sr.? Was he missed in 1798, or did he die and Samuel Jr., is now just Samuel?)

Search for Will or Estate of Samuel.

Also:

1787 - Thomas Lovelace - Halifax Co., VA

John Lovelass - Bourbon Co., VA

1787 Census of VA:

Elizabeth Lovelace

Thomas Lovelace

John Lovelass

Edyi Loveless/lasse

James Lovelace

John Lovelace

Noor Lovelace

Phillip Lovelace

Prior Lovelace

Samuel Lovelace

Samuel Lovelace, SR.

1789 Samuel R. Lovelace born

1790 NC Census:

Arche Loveless - Wilkes Co

John Loveless - Wilkes Co

Charles Loveless Iredell Co. also in Salisbury Dist of Guilford Co. with 2 white males under 16 and three white females inc. wife.

Elias Loveless Rowan Co also in Salisbury Dist of Guilford Co., with 2 white males under 16

and 6 white females.

8 Jan 1800 Elias Loveless of Orange Co., NC sold 120 acres of land on Stoney Creek in Caswell Co., NC, to Aaron Simpson adjacent to the Orange County line

1800 NC Census:

Archibald - Wilkes County
Elias - Caswell County
John - Wilkes County
Thomas - Iredell County
Young - Rockingham County
Rhodam - Rockingham County
Erasmus - Iredell County

24 Apr 1805 Samuel R. Lovelace married Charity Cross in Orange Co., NC

1810 NC Census:

Lovelace Archibald - Wilkes
Cassy - Iredell
Erasmus - Iredell
Issac - Rowan
Pryor - Caswell (age 45+)
Rhodam - Caswell (age 45+) sources differ on whether he was in census
Sally - Iredell
Samuel - Orange (our guy for sure. age 16-26)
Thomas - Iredell

1810 NC Census:

Lovlass
Samuel Rockingham (not our guy. Age 45 +, with one female 26-45)
Young Rockingham (age 26-45)
Loveless Elias Rockingham (age 45+)
Lovlass James - Surry

1810 VA Census:

Archibald Lovelace - Fairfax Co
Luke Lovelace - Fairfax Co.
Phillip Lovelace - Fairfax Co.

25 Jan 1811 Caswell Co., NC Deed from Jos. Scott to Roadham Lovelace. 25 Apr 1811- Caswell Co., NC Deed from Alexandr Paschal to Roadham Lovelace 12 Mar 1812 - Caswell Co., NC Deed from Peter Elmore to Roadham Lovelace. James Lovelace, witness.

23 Apr 1815 John Henry Thomas Loveless christened at St. Johns Parish, Pr. Georges Co., MD. Father - John Loveless (IGI)

1820 NC Census:

James - Caswell Samuel (age 26-45)- Caswell
Rhodam -Caswell George - Caswell
Pryor - Caswell Elias - Rockingham
Young - Rockingham

1820 VA Census:

Archibald Lovelace - Prince William Co
Atkesson - Halifax Co.
Jermiah - Russell
Nathaniel - Charlotte
Rhody - Fairfax
Tabitha

Thomas - Pitts
Thomasa - Loudon

3 Jul 1834 Samuel Lovelace of Pendleton, KY (who was born in VA abt 1783), married Elizabeth "Betsy" Kidwell of Pendleton, KY (IGI). Not our guy!

CHAPTER TEN: DOCUMENTING YOUR SOURCES

As mentioned earlier, undocumented family histories are usually nothing more than "junk genealogy". If you have found your ancestor in a census or a tax list, use a footnote to list your source. List that source in such a manner that another genealogist can readily find it at the library.

Lawyers and other professionals have strict guidelines for documenting their respective sources. When I was in Graduate School there was some agreement that the Publications Manual of the American Psychological Association, Washington D. C., was an acceptable guide.

Patricia Law Hatcher, a certified genealogist and a noted genealogy speaker and writer has a helpful book out entitled Producing a Quality Family History. The scope of this book is far beyond documenting your sources, but it gives practical advise in writing your family history book.

Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian, by Elizabeth Shown Mills is a helpful tome for both analyzing and documenting your genealogical proof.

If you choose not to follow the strict rules for sighting your sources, you should at least list enough information that will enable another genealogist to find the source.

For books, always list the following:

- Title
- Author
- Publishing Company
- City in which the book was published
- Date in which the book was published
- Inclusive page numbers.

Some genealogists find it helpful to list the repository where the book was located and the Dewey Decimal System number on the spine of the book

For microfilm, you should at a minimum reflect:

- The Series (Civil War Interviews)
- Sponsor of the Series (WPA)
- Microfilm number
- Microfilm Carton number
- Page number in the Microfilm

If you are citing a microfilm copy of a book, you should list all of the information required for the book and the microfilm repository where the microfilm was found

When citing a magazine article, always note the following:

- Title of the article
- Author
- Name of the Magazine
- Name and address of the publisher
- Volume and number of the magazine
- Edition (January 2003; Fall 2004, etc.)
- City where published
- Page numbers where the article is found.

CHAPTER 11: A BASIC GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

Craftsmen, artists and professional alike, to be effective must have some basic tools. For the genealogist the basic tools after a computer, computer software and printer are books. The following is a suggestion for a basic genealogical library:

1. A World Atlas
2. A large map of each county and state where you will be conducting genealogical research.
3. An Historical Atlas
4. A Dictionary
5. An Encyclopedia of American History (such as Mapping America's Past, A Historical Atlas, Mark C. Carnes, et. al, Henry Holt & Co., NY)
6. The Handy Book For Genealogists, most recent ed., Everton Pub. Co., Logan UT
7. Ancestry's Red Book, American, State, County and Town Sources, Edited by Alice Eichholz. This book provides county and town listings by state, and the District of Columbia. It contains a listing of the holdings of each county.
8. The Source, A Guidebook of American Genealogy, Edited by Arlene Eakle & Johni Cerney. The publisher claims that this book is "the definitive guidebook of American genealogy.
9. Genealogical & Local History Books In Print, Family History Volume, 5th ed., compiled by Marion Hoffman, Gen'l Pub. Co., Baltimore
10. Genealogical & Local History Books In Print, General Reference & World Resources Volume, 5th ed., compiled by Marion Hoffman, Gen'l Pub. Co., Baltimore
11. Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1920, William Tharndale & William Dollarhide, Gen'l. Pub. Co., Baltimore
12. The Library, A Guide to the Family History Library, Edited by Johni Cerney. A definitive guide to the main FHL in Salt Lake City and the 2,500 or so branch libraries around the world.
13. A printed list, microfiche or computer access to the holdings of the genealogical library you will be using for research.
14. Genealogical Source Handbook, George W. Schweitzer, Knoxville, TN. A 100 page primer on all major and many minor sources of genealogical information.
15. The Timetables of History, A Horizontal Linkage Of People and Events, Bernard Grun, 1946. English language edition in 1977, Simon and Shuster, NY. Beginning with the year 5000 BC, this work lists the principal events in history, politics, literature, theater, religion, philosophy, learning, the visual arts, music, science, technology, growth and common events in daily life throughout the early centuries; and on a yearly basis from the year 501 AD through 1978. Indexed. A wonderful way to place your ancestor in the midst of his surroundings at any given time.
16. Hereditary Society Blue Book, Robert L. Davanport, Editor, 1994, Gen'l. Pub. Co., Baltimore, MD. A must if you intend to apply for membership in a society.

CHAPTER 12: USEFUL BOOKS FOR SPECIALIZED GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

If you plan on conducting frequent research into the events surrounding the American Revolutionary War, The War of 1812, or other wars, or if you intend to spend a large amount of time researching in a particular state, there are specialized books that may be of interest to you. The following are presented for your consideration:

17. Civil War Genealogy, George W. Schweitzer, Knoxville, TN. Sources for tracing your ancestors; Civil War events; military unit histories; with instructions.
18. War of 1812 Genealogy, George W. Schweitzer, Knoxville, TN. Sources for tracing your ancestors; War of 1812 events; military unit histories; with instructions.
19. Revolutionary War Genealogy, George W. Schweitzer, Knoxville, TN. Sources for tracing your ancestors; Revolutionary War events; military unit histories; battle ground sites & museums; with instructions.
20. Georgia Genealogical Research, George W. Schweitzer, Knoxville, TN. List of sources; records available and instructions.
21. Kentucky Genealogical Research, George W. Schweitzer, Knoxville, TN. List of sources; records available and instructions.
22. North Carolina Genealogical Research, George W. Schweitzer, Knoxville, TN. List of sources; records available and instructions.
23. Pennsylvania Genealogical Research, George W. Schweitzer, Knoxville, TN. List of sources; records available and instructions.
24. South Carolina Genealogical Research, George W. Schweitzer, Knoxville, TN. List of sources; records available and instructions.
25. Tennessee Genealogical Research, George W. Schweitzer, Knoxville, TN. List of sources; records available and instructions.
26. Virginia Genealogical Research, George W. Schweitzer, Knoxville, TN. List of sources; records available and instructions.
27. The Handy Book To English Genealogy (3rd ed.). Rachel Mellen, 1986, Heritage Books, Bowie, MD. A good book for getting started.
28. Migration, Emigration, Immigration, Principally To The United States And In The United States, Olga K. Miller, 1974, Everton Publishers, Logan, UT. A good introduction to the migration patterns; religious groups and waves of migrants; Heraldry & Sources.
29. Netting Your Ancestors, Genealogical Research On The Internet, Cyndi Howell, 1997, Gen'l. Pub. Co., Baltimore. An introduction to using the Internet to search for your ancestors, including mailing lists; news groups; and using the world wide web.

CHAPTER 13: GENEALOGICAL COMPENDIA

Should you wish to add a little depth to your genealogical library, you should consider one of the following compendia.

Great Britain

30. The Commoners Of Great Britain And Ireland, Vols. I, II, III and IV, John Burke, 1834-1838, London; reprinted in 1997, Gen'l Pub. Co., Baltimore. The Pedogrees of several thousand families with British and Irish roots. Includes coats of arms.

Colonial Families

31. Colonial Families of the United States of American, (7 Vols.), George Norbury Mackenzie, (1912); Edited by Nelson Osgood Rhoades, 1966, Gen'l. Pub. Co., Baltimore. An every name index; genealogies of thousands of the leading families, with charts; armorial crests; coats of arms.

Connecticut

32. The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records (17 Vols.), various compilers, Gen'l. Pub. Co.

Virginia

33. Virginia Historical Genealogies, John Bennett Boddie, Clearfield Pub. Co., Baltimore. Listing of descendants of many of the leading families of colonial Virginia.

34. American Families With British Ancestry, Sir John Bernard Burke, 1939, London; reprinted in 1996, Gen'l Pub. Co., Baltimore. The Genealogy of some 1600 American families with British roots.

35. Cavaliers And Pioneers, Abstracts Of Virginia Land Patents and Grants, Vols. 1-7, Marion Nell Nugent. An every name index to the early records of the state: warrants, surveys, grants, deeds, wills, court docket books, and passenger lists.

36. Chronicles Of The Scotch-Irish Settlement In Virginia, Lyman Chalkley, Vols. I, II and III, 1912, Reprinted 1999 by the Gen'l. Pub. Co., Baltimore.

Tennessee

37. History of Tennessee, Illustrated, Goodspeed Pub. Co., Nashville. A series of books grouped by counties. A history of the development of each county; its commerce; involvement in the War for Southern Independence; the genealogy of early civic leaders, elected officials, military officers, clergy, judiciary and members of the bar.

38. Tennessee Cousins, A History of Tennessee People, Worth Ray. 1950; reprinted by Gen'l. Pub. Co., Baltimore. An every name index to the genealogy of the early settlers and leaders of each county. Emphasis on east Tennessee, but some good coverage of the balance of the state. Caution, it (like most genealogical books) contains many errors.

39. Tennessee Genealogical Records; Records of Early Settlers From State and County Archives, Edythe Rucker Whitley, 1980, Gen'l. Pub. Co., Baltimore. An every name index to the early records of the state: warrants, surveys, grants, deeds, wills, court docket books, early petitions; pension applications and reports, and lists of soldiers. Also includes the genealogy of about 20 early Tennessee families.

North Carolina

40. The North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register, Vols. I, II and III, J. R. B. Hathaway, Editor, 1903; Reprinted 1979, by Clearfield Pub. Co., Baltimore, MD. A corucopia of genealogical information, which is unfortunately not indexed.

Kentucky

41. Petitions Of The Early Inhabitants Of Kentucky To The General Assembly of Virginia, 1769-1792, James Rood Robertson, 1914, Louisville; Reprinted by the Gen'l. Pub. Co., Baltimore.

Maryland

42. The Early Settlers of Maryland, Gust Skordas, 1968; reprinted in 1995 by the Gen'l. Pub. Co., Baltimore, MD. A genealogical compilation of over 25,000 settlers, including almost all of those settling in the first 50 years.

43. Settlers of Maryland, 1679-1783 (5 Vols.), Peter Wilson Coldham, 1996, Gen'l. Pub. Co., Baltimore, MD. These books continue the work of Gust Skordas, above.

Pennsylvania

44. Index to Pennsylvania's Colonial Records Series, Dr. Mary Dunn, 1992, Gen'l. Pub. Co., Baltimore, MD. An index of ancestors with references to the state publications in which their respective names appear. An excellent reference work.

Texas

45. Genealogical Records In Texas, Imogene and Leon Kennedy, 1992, Gen'l. Pub. Co., Baltimore, MD. In text and with maps it describes the legal and historical background of the state; the origin of each county and the location of pertinent county records, with a notation of the specific records available in each county, the Texas State Library, The Texas State Archives and the Texas General Land Office.