



None of us will ever accomplish anything excellent or commanding except when he listens to this whisper which is heard by him alone.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1803-82

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## 1930 Federal Census To Be Released

Locating your ancestors on the 1930 census won't be easy. If your ancestors lived in small towns, you will have to search "line by line, page by page." If they lived in a large city, look now for city directories. The more you know about the family you're seeking, the more useful these tools will be. At a bare minimum, you'll want to know the names involved and the state and county in which they lived.

All of this is going to be important in using the 1930 census. Unless you're searching in a very small town, it's going to take a lot of time to locate those ancestors. Anything you can do now to prepare yourself will make that search much easier.

[Editor's note: National Archives will release the entire 1930 census (population

schedule) on 1 April 2002. Microfilm copies of it will be available at the National Archives in Washington, DC, and at its 13 regional facilities.

There are Soundexes (indexes) for 12 Southern states. Knowing the surname and spelling variants of it, plus the state and county where the family resided in 1930 will be helpful to your search. Ancestry.com plans to make the images available to its subscribers (see below), plus full-color maps of enumeration districts. Visit <http://www.ancestry.com/search/io/main.htm> for weekly updates. For more information about the 1930 federal census in general, see: <http://www.nara.gov/genealogy/genindex.html#regional/> Also see "Finding Answers in U.S. Census Records," a new book by Loretto Dennis Szucs

and Matthew Wright, (\$16.95)

See also: RootsWeb's Guide to Tracing Family Trees: Census Records, Soundexes, Indexes and Finding Aids: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~rwguide/lesson9.htm>]

Ancestry.com is obtaining copies of the microfilms as soon as they are released and will rush the films back to Utah where they will be scanned 24 hours a day/6 days a week on state-of-the-art scanners until the project's completion. These images will then be posted online.

As soon as the films are scanned, trained and experienced data-entry operators will begin the massive indexing project, which will aid family historians in locating their ancestors more easily in this valuable census.

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## Probate Records, Part II Donn Devine, CG, CGI

*Editor's Note: Today's column is a continuation of "Probate Records: An Underutilized Source," originally published in the May/June 1994 issue of Ancestry Magazine. This article provides a research situation that illustrates the researcher's use of probate records. I found an example in searching the published New York Historical Society's Abstracts of Wills for a father and son both named Abraham de Revier. At least one was literate, because the clerk who in 1715 began the*

first record book of the Old Dutch Church at Sleepy Hollow, Tarrytown, New York, credits Abraham de Revier with keeping the memoranda and membership lists he used to compile the church's earlier history.

I didn't find that name, but the index did list an Abraham de Reinere that was too close to ignore. The abstract showed a will dated 24 April 1716 and proved 22 June 1716, listing "children Hannah and Mary

by my first wife and John, Rachel, Letitia and Isaac by my second wife." It appeared to belong to Abraham Jr., since Abraham Sr. had only one known child, and the listed children partially matched known children of Abraham Jr. The accuracy of the abstract transcription was suspect from the start, however, because it listed, in place of Sophia/Zophya and Janitje,

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# MESA DWELLERS

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Annual Dues: \$10 Singles; \$12 Family. Membership period is March 1st to April 30th. Those with **UNPAID DUES (after April 30th.)** will not receive the Newsletter. **Send a SASE to receive a current membership card if you do not attend regular meetings.**

Contributions of neatly typed or written stories, requests for/or giving information, queries, or other information of importance to the membership are welcomed.

The Society disclaims responsibility for statement of fact or opinion made by contributors and will not accept material with obvious errors

The Mesa County Genealogical Society was established in 1980 as a non-profit organization to promote an interest in genealogy. A Newsletter is published in March, June, September, and December. **Note: All Society meetings are held at the Museum of Western Colorado 7:00 p.m., on the second Thursday of each month.** Visitors are welcome. The Museum is located at 4<sup>th</sup> and Ute. The meetings are held in the conference room located in the Whitman School Building.

## Up Coming Programs

14 March 2002 Dr Steve Schulte from Mesa State College will talk about American Western History concentrating on Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century including recent research on Rep. Wayne Aspinall.

11 April 2002 Carol McManus will present: *Ida, Her Labor of Love: Breathing Life into Your Ancestors.*

9 May 2002 Whitman School Building. 7:00 pm

13 June 2002 Whitman School Building. 7:00 pm

11 July 2002 Whitman School Building. 7:00 pm

8 August 2002 Annual Potluck Picnic 6:00 pm

*Annual Family History Genealogy Fair at the Family History Center is Scheduled for the first Weekend of March, 2001. The dates are Friday March 1st and Saturday March 2nd.*

## Try This Next Time

When you have exhausted all other means and methods of research, and you do not know where to turn next, make what is known as a "circular search." Get a map of the pertinent area and, using the earliest known residence of your ancestor as the center, draw, with a compass, a circle at a radius of about five miles. Then search all the sources in all the towns included in this area. If this fails to produce information, extend the radius another five miles and again go through the records of every town. You can continue this indefinitely. It very seldom fails

Make a note of every book you search in - especially if you find nothing in it. This activity is called "negative research." You did not find what you were looking for, but you know that what you are looking for is not in those books.

If you have listed their titles (preferably on some small cards or even a spreadsheet), you will have a "works consulted" file which will tell you instantly what works you have already examined. It is a system that can save much duplication of effort



## Genealogy Classes Online

### National Genealogical Society Online

Since 1981, more than 6,000 students have enrolled in the NGS home study course, American Genealogy: A Basic Course. In March 1999, it launched a new, online course, Introduction to Genealogy: An Online Course. American Genealogy is designed

### 1930 Federal Census

*(Continued from page 1)*

These indexes should be available within a few months after the films are released and processed. In addition, Ancestry.com is working to make available online several finding aids such as maps and descriptions of enumeration districts.

for "all those who want to do genealogical research more effectively and efficiently." Its 16 lessons provide an introduction to each of the major record groups used in American genealogical research — census records, vital records, probate records, land and tax records, military and veterans records, immigration and naturalization records, and church and cemetery records. Hands-on work is a requirement. Enrollment is 18 months and the course is accredited by the Accredited Commission of the Distance Education and Training Council. The current program cost is US \$295 for NGS members and US \$375 for non-members. Says Shkolnik, "My greatest learning so far is the impor-

ance of documentation. And I've gained an increased appreciation for genealogy as a discipline and for someone who has achieved some level of certification in genealogy." Just because this is a home study course doesn't mean it's a piece of cake. Says Shkolnik, "The NGS course has very high standards. There have been two or three assignments that were returned to me to redo and re-submit. When that happens, your grade for that lesson is dropped one letter. Knowing that has made me work even harder."

NGS's Introduction to Genealogy six-lesson, online course teaches the basics while also making the best use of web-based resources. Humphrey says, "There's more to re-searching online than searching

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Doing genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts but, instead, breathing life into all who have gone before.

## THE STORY TELLERS

We are the chosen. In each family there is one who seems called to find the ancestors. To put flesh on their bones and make them live again, to tell the family story and to feel that somehow they know and approve. Doing genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts but, instead, breathing life into all who have gone before. We are the story tellers of the tribe. All tribes have one. We have been called, as it were, by our genes. Those who have gone before cry out to us. Tell our story... So, we do.

It goes beyond just documenting facts. It goes to who am I and why do I do the things I do. It goes to seeing a cemetery about to be lost forever to weeds and indifference, and saying I can't let this happen. The bones here are bones of my bones and flesh of my flesh. It goes to

doing something about it. It goes to pride in what our ancestors were able to accomplish. How they contributed to what we are today. It goes to respecting their hardships and losses, their never giving in or giving up, their resoluteness to go on and build a life for their family.

It goes to deep pride that the fathers fought and some died to make and keep us a Nation. It goes to a deep and immense understanding that they were doing it for us. It is of equal pride and love that our mothers struggled to give us birth, without them we could not exist, and so we love each one, as far back as we can reach. That we might

be born who we are. That we might remember them. So we do.

With love and caring and scribing each fact of their existence, because we are they and they are the sum of who we are. So, as a scribe called, I tell the story of my family. It is up to that one called in the next generation to answer the call and take my place in the long line of family storytellers.

That is why I do my family genealogy, and that is what calls those young and old to step up and restore the memory or greet those whom we had never known before.

unknown author





# Online Genealogy Education

(Continued from page 3)

surname databases. There are procedures and ways of doing things. This course is for those who want to get beyond basic online research." The first lesson is free. Throughout the course, instruction is one-on-one. If you're just starting out, NGS recommends you begin with the online course and then move on to American Genealogy. The cost of Introduction to Genealogy is US \$35 for NGS members and US \$50 for non-members. It is also accredited by the Accrediting Commission of the Distance Education and Training Council.

## FamilyTreeMaker.com

### Online University

Family Tree Maker offers several online genealogy classes so you can enhance your skills with just a point and click of your mouse. Instructors include well-known genealogists Karen Clifford and Marthe Arends. Courses include: Beginning Genealogy: Your Great Ancestral Hunt; Beginning Genealogy II: Record Groups as Building Material; Tracing Immigrant Origins (several courses, each covering a different time period); and Internet Genealogy.

**Ancestry.com and Norwich University**

Taught by Certified Genealogist Alice Eichholz, the 10-week online course co-offered by Ancestry.com and Norwich University focuses on research basics. You can either earn three Continuing Education Credits or undergraduate credit from Norwich University. In this course, you'll develop a family diagram, use census records, deeds and probate records, analyze three "problems" in online discussion seminars, visit at least one library, historical society, or archive, and complete a family project that places your family in historical context. For CEUs, this project entails providing details about a particular part of the family

and a research strategy to fill in the gaps. For undergraduate credit, you'll need to complete one of the following: a genogram with an essay on family behavior patterns; a compendium of family history pictures, documents, and memorabilia with an essay that puts the family into context; or a three-to-four generation genealogy report using source citations and a discussion of the family's context. The seminar begins every month. The CEU program is US \$495 and the undergraduate course is US \$600.

## Noteworthy.....

Thu, 21 Feb 2002

Rumor has it that the BLM is now reconnected to its web pages. It may be a few more days before GLO records pages are up and running.

*The 1880 Census not only lists the birth place of the individual but also where they thought their parents were born. This could give you a whole new locale to search.*

## The Editor's Musings and peeves

I have recently begun a dialogue with my cousin back in Ohio, his Genealogy bug after being dormant has suddenly began to urge him on. In his last letter to me he wrote:

*"I forget now how I got into the ancestry thing but it sure has piqued my interest.*

*Like, it would be neat to have a time machine and go back to the days when our Great great great great great (don't know how many) grandparents came to Ohio. I'd love to know the things that influenced them to settle there in Cedarville. Some of the day to day happenings. Their kids and where did they scatter to?? As time goes on here, I'm going to see if I can't map out all the Turner men and where they went to. I'd like to build some kind of a story as to their lives."*

His note tied in with the article 'The Story Tellers' that my wife had run across in one of her newsletters. If we

do nothing but research, all we end up with is list after list of data, facts, and statistics. This, of course, is enough to ensure that anyone and everyone will rush to read your work... yeah, right. What makes our work or rather our passion, worthwhile is not the facts, but the way we weave history into our facts. The insight into our ancestors to know "the things that influenced them...the day to day happenings" If facts are the heart of what we do, then what we weave into those facts is the soul of our endeavor. This is what we should pass down and leave to our descendents in our writings. This, is how we insure that we will have future genealogists. To capture the things that caused our ancestors to move from Ohio to Iowa, to leave all they knew and had, and embark on a journey to a new land and be willing to start all over. As my journalism instructor used to drill into my brain, the

who, what, where, when, WHY, and how, these are the things that makes genealogy alive.

On another note, I was recently perusing one of the surname message boards and was struck by the number of people who seemed to be more interested in finding their families Crest or Coat-of-Armor than their family lineage. Now perhaps it was the time of the day or not enough coffee, but if all you are interested in is the family crest..... What good is a family crest? No one cares if your family has a crest, plus the fact that just because your family surname has a crest doesn't mean you're entitled to it. The whole thing just rubbed me the wrong way.

*The above is entirely the opinion of the editor and are not the viewpoints of the Mesa County Genealogical Society*



# FAMILY HISTORY FAIR 2002 CLASS SCHEDULE

## Take with You Schedule

### FAMILY HISTORY FAIR 2002 CLASS SCHEDULE - FRIDAY

	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Library 4	Room 5
5:00 pm - 5:55 pm	Ellis Island Immigrants Preston Owens	Digital Photography Tools & Technology Adam Cochran	PAF 5 for Beginners James Hardy		Genealogy for Grandparents & Grandchildren Kathy Macdonald
6:00 pm - 6:55 pm	Writing Personal & Family Histories Taylor Macdonald	Digital Photography Tools & Technology Adam Cochran	Familysearch.org Website Dorothy Roper		
7:00 pm - 7:55 pm	Immigration & Naturalization Records Preston Owens	Federal Land Patent Searches on the internet Dennis Jenkins	PAF 5 for Advanced James Hardy	Hispanic Genealogy Cindy Espinoza	Successful Family Reunions Jessie M. Clawson
8:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Writing Personal & Family Histories Taylor Macdonald	United States Census Research Dennis Jenkins	So You Want to Plan a Trip to the SLC Library Dorothy Roper	Hidden Treasures In The Family History Center Evaline Robinson	

### FAMILY HISTORY FAIR 2002 CLASS SCHEDULE - FRIDAY

	Room 6	Room 7
5:00 pm - 5:55 pm		
6:00 pm - 6:55 pm	Earn a Genealogy Merit Badge Michael Klaich	The Church Affiliations of the Original Thirteen Colonies - Part 1 Vera Gale
7:00 pm - 7:55 pm	Earn a Genealogy Merit Badge Michael Klaich	The Church Affiliations of the Original Thirteen Colonies - Part 2 Vera Gale
8:00 pm - 9:00 pm		Copyright Basics For The Genealogist Judy Prosser-Armstrong



### FAMILY HISTORY FAIR 2002 CLASS SCHEDULE - SATURDAY March 2, 2002

	Room 1	Room 2	Room 3	Library 4	Room 5
9:00 am - 9:50 am	Genealogical Research at the National Archives Eric Bittner	Digital Photography Tools & Technology Adam Cochran	US State Records on the Internet Rick & Dianna Sheldon		Successful Family Reunions Jessie M. Clawson
10:00 am - 10:50 am	Part 2-Genealogical Research at the National Archives Eric Bittner	Digital Photography Tips & Tricks Adam Cochran	Familysearch.org Website Dorothy Roper	Hispanic Genealogy Cindy Espinoza	
11:00 am - 11:50 am	Ellis Island Immigrants Preston Owens	Federal Land Patent Searches on the Internet Dennis Jenkins	US County Records on the Internet Rick & Dianna Sheldon	Hidden Treasures In The Family History Center Evaline Robinson	Genealogy for Grandparents & Grandchildren Kathy Macdonald
12:00 - 12:50	Lunch Hour - Visit Focus Exhibit	Lunch Hour - Visit demonstrations	Lunch Hour - Visit displays	Lunch Hour	Lunch Hour
1:00 pm - 1:50 pm	Writing Personal & Family Histories Taylor Macdonald	PAF 5 for Beginners James Hardy	So You Want to Plan a Trip to the SLC Library Dorothy Roper	Hispanic Genealogy Cindy Espinoza	Successful Family Reunions Jessie M. Clawson
2:00 pm - 2:50 pm	Immigration & Naturalization Records Preston Owens	United States Census Research Dennis Jenkins	US State Records on the Internet Rick & Dianna Sheldon	Hidden Treasures In The Family History Center Evaline Robinson	
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Writing Personal & Family Histories Taylor Macdonald	PAF 5 for Advanced James Hardy	US County Records on the Internet Rick & Dianna Sheldon		Genealogy for Grandparents & Grandchildren Kathy Macdonald
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm					

### FAMILY HISTORY FAIR 2002 CLASS SCHEDULE - SATURDAY March 2, 2002

	Room 6	Room 7
9:00 am - 9:50 am	Earn a Genealogy Merit Badge Michael Klaich	Copyright Basics For The Genealogist Judy Prosser-Armstrong
10:00 am - 10:50 am	Earn a Genealogy Merit Badge Michael Klaich	The Church Affiliations of the Original Thirteen Colonies - Part 1 Vera Gale
11:00 am - 11:50 am	Lunchroom	The Church Affiliations of the Original Thirteen Colonies - Part 2 Vera Gale
12:00 - 12:50	Lunchroom	Lunch
1:00 pm - 1:50 pm		Copyright Basics For The Genealogist Judy Prosser-Armstrong
2:00 pm - 2:50 pm	Earn a Genealogy Merit Badge Michael Klaich	The Church Affiliations of the Original Thirteen Colonies - Part 1 Vera Gale
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Earn a Genealogy Merit Badge Michael Klaich	The Church Affiliations of the Original Thirteen Colonies - Part 2 Vera Gale
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm		



# HINKLE'S FORT

(Germany Valley, Pendleton County, VA/WV)

Hinkle's Fort, built 1761-62, was located in Germany Valley, near Riverton. It was built by John Justus Henckel, Sr. (1706-1778), who came in 1760 from North Carolina with most of his twelve children, some with families, in search of a new home where Indians were less hostile and the soil more fertile. After a journey of weeks, they caught sight of their "promised land" when they reached the top of North Fork Mountain. Three sons, Abraham, Sr., John Justus, Jr., and Isaac, and three Teter son-in-laws were with him. John Justus, Sr. son of Rev. Anthony Jacob Henckel, had immigrated to America in 1717 with his parents who settled near Philadelphia, PA. He later moved to North Carolina. The fort was built as a protection against the Indians not only for the Hinkle family but for other settlers in the area. The settlement became known as Germany Valley because the families, all of German descent, conversed in their native German. Unlike Fort Seybert and Fort Upper Tract, Hinkle's Fort was spared de-

struction.

During the Revolutionary War, Hinkle's Fort became the only outpost in Pendleton County for the patriot forces. John Justus Henckel, Sr. had been officially recognized for his services as commander of the fort and in furnishing supplies to the troops (detachments of the Virginia Militia) quartered there. The fort was headquarters and training grounds for the North Fork Military Company which had been organized by settlers early in the Revolutionary War and whose first captains were son-in-laws and sons of John Justus Henckel, Sr. After the Revolutionary War and when danger of Indian raids was past, the fort was torn down and some of the timbers used to build a large house on the site.

The family of John Justus Henckel, Sr. became a leading one in the early settlement and history of Pendleton County. Most of his sons and grandsons served in county offices. Isaac Hinkle and his nephew, Moses Hinkle, were two of eleven justices commissioned by the governor of Virginia to organize the new county of Pendleton, 1788. Eleven years earlier, Isaac Hinkle had been similarly commissioned to assist in the

formation of Rockingham County, VA.

Markers at the site of the fort and at the graves of John Justus Henckel, Sr. and wife were dedicated on September 19, 1936 at a Henckel family reunion with several hundred descendants from throughout the United States in attendance who came to pay a lasting tribute to the memory of one of their patriarchs.

Written and submitted by Sarah Hinkle Warner  
From Pendleton County, WV Past

The settlement became known as Germany Valley because the families, all of German descent, conversed in their native German.



## So You're Related to ?

Presidential Ties.....

George Washington, known as the father of his country, did not father any children. Washington is, however, related to four of his successors: Franklin Roosevelt, Calvin Coolidge, George Bush, and George W. Bush. They all descended from a 15th-century English couple, Henry SPENCER and Isabella LINCOLN.

The five U.S. presidents you

are most likely to be related to are: Richard Nixon, Franklin Roosevelt, Millard Fillmore, Rutherford Hayes, and William Howard Taft. Anyone with early New England ancestry is probably related, though perhaps distantly, to five or six of the presidents. However, you never know where those twisted roots and branches will go. For example, former President Jimmy Carter and Elvis

Presley are sixth cousins once removed -- both descendants of 1709 Palatine (German) immigrants Valentine PRESLAR and his wife, Anna Christiana FRAMSE

*Research is the act of going up alleys to see if they are blind.*

—Plutarch, 45-125 AD



## Court: Proclamation listing Chester County Inhabitants Accused of High Treason (1778): Chester County, PA

May 13, 1778 The Pennsylvania Packet A PROCLAMATION By the SUPREME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL of the Common Wealth of Pennsylvania WHEREAS the following named persons, late and heretofore inhabitants of this State - That is to say Enoch Story, late merchant; Samuel Garrigues, the elder, late clerk of the market and trader; James Stevenson, late baker; Abraham Carlisle, house carpenter; Peter Deshong, miller; Alexander Bartram, trader; Christian Hook, attorney at law; Peter Miller, scrivener; Lodowick Kerker, butcher; Philip Marchinton, trader; Edward Hanlon, cooper and vintner; Alfred Clifton, gentleman; and Arthur Thomas, breeches maker; all now, or late of the city of Philadelphia; And Thomas Livizley, late of the township of Roxborough, miller; John Roberts, late of the township of Lower Merion, miller; Robert Iredale, the younger, and Thomas Iredale, both late of the township of Abingdon, blacksmith; John Knight, tanner; Isaac Knight, Husbandman; Albinson Walton, late of the township of Biberry, husbandman; John Smith, late gauger of the port of Philadelphia; and Henry Hugh Ferguson, commissary of prisoners for General Howe, all late of the county of Philadelphia; and Samuel Biles, Esquire, late sheriff of the county of Bucks; Walter Willey, late of the township of Southampton, husbandman; Richard Hevenden, late of the township of Newtown, trader; and William Moland, late of the township of Warminster, husbandman; all late of the county of Bucks; And HENRY SKYLES, Thomas Bull, and DAVID

DAWSON, husbandmen; Jacob James, late of the township of Goshen, inn keeper; Joseph Thomas, (heretofore sub sheriff) yeoman; Nathaniel Vernon, junior, labourer; and JOHN SWANCICK, late of the custom house, Philadelphia; all late of the county of Chester..... WE the Supreme Executive Council aforesaid, by virtue of certain powers and authorities to us given by an Act of General Assembly, entitled, "An Act for the attainder of divers Traitors, if they render not themselves by a certain day, and for vesting their estates in this Common Wealth; and for more effectually discovering the same; and for a certaining and satisfying the lawful debts and claims thereupon," ..... from and after the said twenty fifth day June next, stand and be attainted of High Treason to all intents and purposes, and shall suffer such pains and penalties, and undergo all such forfeitures as persons attainted of High Treason ought to do. And all the faithful subjects of this State are to take notice of this Proclamation, and govern themselves accordingly. GIVEN, by order of the Council, under the Hand of His Excellency the President and the Seal of the State, at Lancaster, this eight day of May, in the year of our Lord One Thousand seven hundred and seventy eight. By order of Council. THOMAS WHARTON, Junior, President. GOD SAVE THE COMMONWEALTH. Attested by order of Council. T. MATLACK, Secretary.

Contributed for use in USGenWeb Archives by Sandra Ferguson.

Both the handwritten will record books and the original wills were available on LDS Family History Library microfilms.

### Probate Records

who were known from church records, a Letitia and Isaac who appear nowhere else. There was no indication of how the will was signed (NY Wills 2:171). Both the handwritten will record books and the original wills are available on LDS Family History Library microfilms. The will book transcribed the name as Abraham Dekeinere (Liber 8:490, noted as copied from Old Liber: 419, FHL Microfilm 874,517). When I went to the original

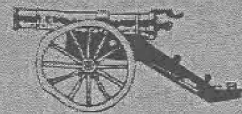
wills, the source for the error in the published abstracts was immediately apparent—DeReinere was the misread name on the jacket in which the will was filed, but the name in the will was plainly "DeReivere." The will itself, however, was that of Abraham de Reivere Sr. Unlike the "my" for the first and second wives in the abstract, it lists children Hana and Mary "by his first wife," although there is no antecedent to which this refers, and then "by the second wife" John, Rachel, Saffra, and Jane. Even more telling was this tidbit omitted from the abstract: "and as for my

dofter-in-law she have had what she is to have." It was signed with an X, showing that he himself could not write, and explaining the difference from the spelling of the name in his literate son's memoranda, as copied into the church records (Will 530, FHL Film 501144; Rev. David Hall, translator, *First Record Book of the Old Dutch Church of Sleepy Hollow Yonkers, N.Y.*: Yonkers Historical and Library Assn., 1901, reprinted Rhinebeck, N.Y.: Palatine Transcripts, 19867). Later the death of Abraham Jr. before 1716 was con-

(Continued on page 10)



# Revolutionary War Sources



One of the most valuable collection of records for this conflict is the Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land-Warrant Application Files

Revolutionary War Sources  
- Kip Sperry Ancestry.com  
7/10/2001 - Archive

The American Revolution, a major military conflict between the Thirteen Colonies and Great Britain, began in 1775 and ended with the Treaty of Paris in 1783. As a result of the Revolutionary War, also known as the American War of Independence, many historical and genealogically-related records were created. This column overviews some of the major records.

One of the most valuable collection of records for this conflict is the Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land-Warrant Application Files which consists of some eighty thousand military application files. Service is based on participation of American military, naval, and marine officers and enlisted men in the Revolutionary War. Bounty land warrants were granted by the federal government to veterans who served in the Revolutionary War, or were granted to their heirs. The collection has been microfilmed by the National Archives (microfilm M804, 2,670 rolls) and is available at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and the Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah. Records are arranged alphabetically by surname. See the Family History Library Catalog (FHLC) for microfilm numbers. [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) Other records for the Revolutionary War are housed at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in Washington, D.C. **Some Additional Resources of Interest:**

Compiled Service Records of Soldiers Who Served in the American Army during the Revolutionary War (NARA M881, 1,096 rolls)

General Index to Compiled Military Service Records of Revolutionary War Soldiers (NARA M860, 58 rolls)

## Printed Sources: A Selected List

There are many indexes and printed sources for this war. Here is a selected listing:

Bockstruck, Lloyd DeWitt. *Revolutionary War Bounty Land Grants Awarded by State Governments*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1996.  
Hatcher, Patricia Law. *Abstract of Graves of Revolutionary Patriots*. 4 vols. Dallas, Texas: Pioneer Heritage Press, 1987-88.  
National Genealogical Society. *Index of Revolutionary War Pension Applications in the National Archives*. Arlington, Va.: National Genealogical Society, 1976.

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. *DAR Lineage Books*. 166 vols. Washington, DC: NSDAR, 1890-1939.

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. *DAR Patriot Index, Centennial Edition*. 3 vols. Washington, DC: NSDAR, 1994.

Neagles, James. *U.S. Military Records*. Orem, Utah: Ancestry Publishing, 1994. Reprinted with new index.

White, Virgil D. *Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files*. 4 vols. Waynesboro, Tenn.: National Historical Publishing Co., 1990-92

**Internet Sites: A Selected List**  
American Revolution, 1775-1783, on the Internet  
[www.lineages.com/military/Links.asp?war=rw](http://www.lineages.com/military/Links.asp?war=rw)

A Virtual Museum of the Revolutionary War  
[home.ptd.net/~revwar/museum.html](http://home.ptd.net/~revwar/museum.html)

The War for American Independence

[home.ptd.net/~revwar](http://home.ptd.net/~revwar)

Major Repositories: A Selected List  
Family History Library  
[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

Library of Congress, Washington, DC

[lcweb.loc.gov](http://lcweb.loc.gov)

National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC  
[www.nara.gov](http://www.nara.gov)

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Washington, DC  
[dar.library.net](http://dar.library.net)

National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, Louisville, Kentucky  
[www.sar.org](http://www.sar.org)

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Ancestry Magazine 14 (May/June 1996).

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firmed by a newly discovered family record showing his widow's remarriage by 1712. (N.Y. Geneal. & Biog. Rec. 112 (July 1989):134).

Despite the perils of relying on published abstracts, they have one great advantage—an every-name index to all the people mentioned. The probate court indexes seldom list anyone but the decedents, or sometimes minor children for whom formal guardianships were established. It is this lack of complete indexing that probably deters many family historians from making greater use of probate records. Without any every-name index, you must first have the names of ancestors before you can use their probate records.

Other than the will and affidavits of the witnesses, probate records may include the petition of the proposed personal representative, inventories, accountings of receipts and disbursements, and distribution lists. In more recent years, you may find a death certificate (perhaps unobtainable from a vital records office under new

restrictive policies). You should check everything that is available. Some probate records, in addition to wills, may have been copied into will-record books, but in other jurisdictions they will remain as loose papers in probate files or packets. Each type of probate record offers different insights about the relatives, economic status, and lifestyle of the deceased. The will is especially useful for the relationships it states, and for clues to unstated relationships from the identities of the witnesses, executors, and heirs. From names omitted, or included without a stated relationship, a genealogist experienced in a particular locale might make assumptions on which a hypothesis can be based, to be tested by further research, or might draw conclusions that strengthen or weaken earlier hypotheses. Be careful, however, not to draw unwarranted conclusions from usages with which you are unfamiliar, like "son-in-law" meaning a stepson, or "my sister" meaning a member of the same religious group. The omission

of a known child could mean that the person had died before the will was made, or that the child had already received its portion, like a daughter who had a dowry at marriage. The petition will usually state the date of death, which may not appear anywhere else. If it does not appear, the death date can be approximated between the date of the will and the date of probate. For appointment of an administrator, the petition will name all those who are of the same or a closer relationship to the decedent as the proposed administrator, and show that they have renounced their rights to serve. Inventories and accounts will tell you much about a person's economic status, occupation, and lifestyle. Distribution lists, particularly for intestate estates, can suggest previously unknown relationships that you can attempt to verify from other sources. Probate records are often the key to opening previous dead ends in family history research. The closer you can come to viewing the original documents, the less likely that you'll be misled by other people's errors.

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