

Roots & Branches Newsletter

Quarterly Publication of the Roots & Branches Genealogical Society

Volume 3 Number 4

DeLand, Florida

December 1994

On to Richmond

by Walter Pounds

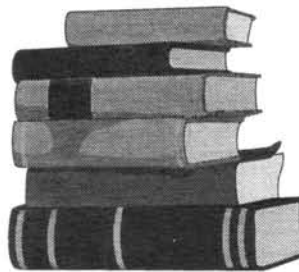
This recently concluded genealogical conference held at Richmond, Virginia was a veritable smorgasbord for genealogists. The five-day conference was so filled with lectures by expert genealogists in specialty fields that the first-time attendee really didn't know how to divide himself (herself) into enough parts to get to hear all the lectures. So they solved that problem by repeating most speeches on later days and times, as well as taping most all the lectures for those interested who couldn't come to the conference. The list of taped speeches is in the genealogy room.

One of the major benefits of attending a national genealogical conference is the acquisition of ideas. For example, many of you are contemplating writing your family history. In order to answer a potential question from a publisher such as; "what is compelling and unique about this family history that would make anyone want to buy it?", you might weave into the fabric of your family history some relationship to a significant social event of the era. That is grandfather was born 2 days before the end of World War I; or great aunt Tillie died the same day as the Louisiana Purchase. I, personally tried something unique (at least I had never seen it done before) which was to make each "stand-alone" so that if that entry was quoted by itself without reference to preceding text, then the reader could still have an understanding of the rest of the family and I did it like this: The third child and second daughter of husband and maiden-named wife [which tells you immediately that the three children of the family were comprised of two girls and one boy]. I felt that in this way there would be no misunderstanding of how many children were in that particular family and what sex they were. Another thing I did was indicate how many generations these families had lived in America, which I feel indicates a certain sense of continuity and maybe will help instill some greater patriotism when they realize how long their family has been in this country.

Of course, it is also delightful if your attendance at a genealogical conference coincides with some personal research in the area and at Richmond, which has the archives of the state of Virginia (now named the Library of

Virginia and a new building is under construction on Broad Street), I had my first encounter with an on-line catalog. Most of the references you might want are in closed stacks and you call in your request on a computer terminal in the reading room. Out-of-state requesters can not take any material out of the reading room, so you try to make the most of your time there.

Apart from the speeches and research, one of the most popular attractions was an exhibit hall where there must have been at least a hundred exhibitors of all things genealogical that you could think of, such as computer programs, charts, books, forms, just anything! One of my benefits was to meet a fellow networker, and we exchanged data on some similar research. She works at the Library of Congress as a cataloger and took some time off to go to this conference. So, if any of you members ever gets the chance to attend a regional or national genealogical conference, especially newer members, I say GO FOR IT!



Gift Books
See Listings
on Pages 2 & 3

An Example For All Counties

by C.L. Baker

In New York State the county of Ontario has in place an archives that serves the County and genealogists alike. It is an example of organization that all counties in all states should adopt.

States have Archives, usually in the state Capitols and are important resources for genealogists and researchers of all professions. However, many county records continue to rest (die) in dark, damp, dusty basements of county buildings.

Continued on page 4

These gift books have been added to our collection by Louise Caccamise, since the last newsletter was published. The following books and computer software were given in memory of Eden C. Booth. (This represents about half of the materials we will be receiving.)

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF LOYALISTS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

LOYALISTS AND LAND SETTLEMENTS IN NOVA SCOTIA

VIRGINIA GENEALOGIES

THE LOYALISTS IN ONTARIO

IN SEARCH OF YOUR EUROPEAN ROOTS

IN SEARCH OF YOUR GERMAN ROOTS

IN SEARCH OF YOUR BRITISH & IRISH ROOTS

NEW HAMPSHIRE MARRIAGE LICENSES AND INTENTIONS, 1709-1961

THE HISTORY OF WARREN COUNTY, OHIO (2 VOL.)

MARYLAND MARRIAGES - 1801 TO 1820

The following is computer software: (Will be processed in Daytona)

INDIANA MARRIAGES - EARLY TO 1825

INDIANA MARRIAGES - 1826 TO 1850

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA MARRIAGES - EARLY TO 1825

GEORGIA MARRIAGES - EARLY TO 1800

GEORGIA MARRIAGES - 1826 TO 1850

TENNESSEE MARRIAGES - EARLY TO 1800

TENNESSEE MARRIAGES - 1801 TO 1825

ALABAMA MARRIAGES - EARLY TO 1825

ARKANSAS MARRIAGES - EARLY TO 1850

The following books were given in memory of Henry R. Winter, by Leah Winter. (Several more will be coming.)

PASSENGER SHIPS ARRIVING IN NEW YORK HARBOR, 1820-1850, V.1

GENEALOGICAL AND FAMILY HISTORY OF CENTRAL NEW YORK By Cutter (3 vol.)

EARLY SETTLERS OF NEW YORK STATE, THEIR ANCESTORS AND DESCENDANTS (2 vol.)

GUIDE TO RECORDS IN THE NEW YORK STATE ARCHIVES

NEW YORK: ATLAS OF HISTORICAL COUNTY BOUNDARIES

NEW YORK GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

INHABITANTS OF NEW YORK, 1774-1776

WISCONSIN ATLAS & GAZETTEER

NATIONAL SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY, 1993 (Gift of DeLand SAR)

MUNIMENTS OF THE ANCIENT SAXON FAMILY OF WINGFIELD (Gift of Mrs. Robert H. Wingfield)

TENMILE COUNTRY AND ITS PIONEER FAMILIES (Gift of Thomas H. Calvin)

DESCENDANTS OF JOHN AND SARAH TWITCHELL OF DERBY, CONNECTICUT 1699-1991 - (Gift of Philip G. Twitchell of Novato, Ca)

ARKANSAS 1830 CENSUS (Gift of Malcolm & Bette Lane)

ARKANSAS 1840 CENSUS (Gift of Malcolm & Bette Lane)

RELATED ROYAL FAMILIES (Vol II) (Gift of Malcolm & Bette Lane)

THE LINDSAYS OF AMERICA (Gift of Patricia K. Smyth)

HIGHT-HITE FAMILIES OF SUSSEX AND SURRY COUNTIES (Gift of the author, Robert E. Wallace)

THE FAMILY OF SAMUEL W. WALLACE (Gift of author, Robert E. Wallace)

THE WRIGHTMAN ANCESTRY (Gift of Wade C. Wrightman, compiler)
HISTORY AND GENEALOGY OF SAMUEL CLARK, SR. & HIS DESCENDANTS (Gift of Betty Ann Weiss)
FLORIDA BICENTENNIAL TRAIL: A HERITAGE REVISITED (Gift of Robert B. Burnaman)
YANKEE DESTINIES - THE LIVES OF ORDINARY NINETEENTH CENTURY BOSTONIANS (Gift of Irene Styffe- DAR)
AMERICAN ANCESTRY AND COUSINS OF THE PRINCESS OF WALES (Gift of Irene Styffe - DAR)
THE ROYAL DESCENT OF 500 IMMIGRANTS TO THE AMERICAN COLONIES OF THE UNITED STATES (Gift of Irene Styffe - DAR)
VITAL STATISTICS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE TOWNS -1887 to 1938 -compiled by Robert J. Duchano (18 Vol.) (Gift of Irene Styffe - Colonial Dames)
MARYLAND MARRIAGES, 1778-1800 (Gift of Irene Styffe, Peacock Chapter, U.S. Daughters of 1812)
FOUR FAMILIES IN AMERICA - PATCH - PAYNE - CAMP - MCNABB, 1979 (Gift of authors John Robert Camp & Emily Patch Camp)
HISTORY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, vol. II, 1926, (Gift of Ruth Thomas - Colonial Dames)
QUAKER MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES- PASQUOTANK, PERQUIMANS, PINEY WOODS, AND SUTTONS CREEK MONTHLY MEETINGS, NORTH CAROLINA, 1677-1800, compiled by Gwen Boyer Bjorkman (Gift of Shirley Bishop)
SURVEY OF CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS BURIED IN VOLUSIA COUNTY, 1994 (Gift of United Daughters of the Confederacy, Stonewall Jackson Chapter)
DESCENT FROM GLORY, FOUR GENERATIONS OF THE JOHN ADAMS FAMILY (Gift of Doreatha Cottingham)
THE 115TH INFANTRY REGIMENT IN WORLD WAR II (Gift of D. L. Gentry, Co. I, 115th Infantry, 29th Division)
29 LET'S GO! - A HISTORY OF THE 29TH INFANTRY DIVISION IN WORLD WAR II (Gift of D. L. Gentry)
THE ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE MORICHES BAY AREA (Gift of Mary and Van Field, authors)
LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK, GENEALOGIES FOR TERRY, KETCHAM, FIELD, GORDON, YOUNG, PENNY, ETC. (Gift of Mary & Van Field)
AFRICAN AMERICAN BIOGRAPHIES (Gift of Amy Jean Hanscom)
STETSON UNIVERSITY - THE FIRST 100 YEARS (Gift of G. Robert Fox)
REMINISCENCES OF HUDSON, OHIO FOR 100 YEARS (Gift of Dr. G. Robert Fox)
CONFEDERATE CEMETERIES IN OHIO (Gift of Joseph McCann)
LETTERS FROM OUR PALATINE ANCESTORS, 1644-1689 (Gift of Joseph McCann)
RECORDS OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE JOHN STAUFFER MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION (Gift of Joseph McCann)
A MOUNTAIN TOWNSHIP (Gift of Joseph McCann)
THE PALATINE FAMILIES OF NEW YORK: A STUDY OF THE GERMAN IMMIGRANTS WHO ARRIVED IN COLONIAL NEW YORK IN 1710 (2 vol.) (Gift of Joseph McCann)
ONEIDA COMMUNITY, 1851-1876
GENEALOGICAL DATA FROM INVENTORIES OF NEW YORK ESTATES, 1666-1825
ANCESTRAL KEY TO THE PEE DEE (Gift of Jean Allread)
MINUTES OF 203RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY, JANUARY - DECEMBER 1991, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
AMERICAN NATURALIZATION PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES, 1790-1985 (Gift of Louise Ball Caccamise)

Counties continued from page 1

While the records are public property they are often hard to locate, not indexed and the building personnel are often uncooperative when approached for help.

What Ontario County has done is to provide an archives building where old records are taken for filming, filing restoration and indexing. The Ontario Archives holds the following type of records:

Deeds 1789-1915
Mortgages 1789-1926
Assessment Roles 1790-1985
Surrogate Court 1789-1926
Guardianship Records 1789-1929
Naturalization Records 1803-1954
Military Records War of 1812,
Civil War, & W.W. I
Militia Records 1789-1822
County Court Records
Marriages 1908-1935
Federal & State Census
Maps from 1859

Ontario County originally included all or part of what is now 14 separate counties including the Phelps and Gorham Tract. Its extent was from the Pennsylvania line to Lake Ontario, and from Seneca Lake to Lake Erie.

If you visit the Archives you will be most welcome. You can view all the records now on film-but they are still working on many. Do not worry, the original records are kept in a large temperature and humidity controlled room. You must use the white cotton gloves when handling originals, but these are provided to you.

Photocopies are 50 cents each but as there are only records, not historical books, the number of copies you will make are modest.

The Archives will do research for you at \$12.00 per hour.

The address is: Dept. of Records & Archives
3869 County Rd. #46
County Complex at Hopewell
Canadaigua, NY 14424
Phone: (716) 396-4376

ALL counties nationwide should be encouraged to follow Ontario County, New York.



If you are not a member of Roots & Branches and would like to be, please fill out the registration form on the back page of this newsletter.

Umbilical Lines and the mtDNA Project

(Originally appeared in the NGSQ)
Contributor: Thomas H. Roderick Ph.D.

The umbilical line refers to a single, very specific, matrilineal line--that is, the mother's mother's mother's, ad infinitum. In an ancestral table, it comprises individuals numbered 1, 3, 7, 15, 31, 63, 255, 511, etc. It is analogous to the sequentially paternal line that follows a specific surname over generations. Although genealogists have long been obsessed with patrilineal-surname research, increasing attention has been given to umbilical lines since the early 1970's.

Each human inherits equal portions of nuclear DNA (deoxyribose nucleic acid, the "building blocks" of life) from his or her mother and father. But there are exceptions. One is the tiny but very important mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA), which lies outside the nucleus and is usually transmitted only through the umbilical line. Both males and females inherit it, but only females pass it on. This fraction, vitally important to life, is now the subject of considerable genetic research.

While all humans ultimately derive their mtDNA from the most recently known common umbilical ancestress--dubbed Eve in the popular press--slight changes have occurred through time. Thus, most modern individuals have slightly different mtDNA. Distinctions can be precisely described using today's technology, through analysis of the mtDNA's molecular structure. One aspect of interest to geneticists--one that has not been precisely understood or measured--is the relative change (mutation rate) of mtDNA over generations. Present knowledge suggests a mutation rate low enough that any person should have the same mtDNA as a relative with the same umbilical ancestor as far as fifteen to twenty generations removed.

Genealogists have much to offer in mtDNA research. Long and well-documented umbilical lines, coupled with small blood samples from living individuals with connected lines, can begin to provide information on mutation rates or the rate of change of mtDNA over generations and over time.

Another understandable and fascinating aspect is that, through time, specific changes have developed in specific wedges of Eve's tree of descendants--that is, in racial and ethnic groups. Thus, the mtDNA of racial groups is different, and much information is now being accumulated to describe these ethnic differences. So, for the genealogist, an analysis of the mtDNA of anyone living would reveal the racial and perhaps ethnic background of his or her umbilical line, information well before the time of printed records. A particularly interesting example is that of a woman from

Continued on next page

Umbilical Lines and the mtDNA Project (Cont. from page 4)

Yorkshire who has mtDNA similar to that in some Middle East countries. A significant genealogical and population genetic question would be "How prevalent is this type of mtDNA in Yorkshire or elsewhere in England, and what does it imply about early migrations and admixture?"

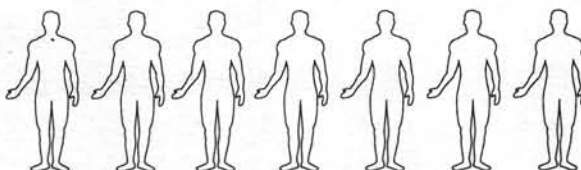
A project is underway to help the geneticist with mutation and ethnic studies and to help the genealogist verify umbilical-line research and determine ethnic origins of umbilical ancestors. Well-documented umbilical lines, eight or more generations in length, will be the most useful; but those of lesser length may also be valuable, depending on the nature of other submissions.

Contributors will be asked to have a small portion of blood taken professionally for analysis, if the line can be shown to connect with another contributed line or if it presents an ethnic origin of interest. DNA analysis will, through the study of similarities, show with high probability whether the ancestral research is genetically valid and will, through the study of differences, provide data on mutation rates. Ethnic origins can be determined in most cases, this is valuable to both the geneticist and the genealogist. Participants will be kept fully apprised of the study as it progresses.

This program began in 1992. Thus far, nearly three hundred pedigrees have been submitted. Most are of New England origin, but a significant portion treats French Canadian background. As of this writing, one solid connection in Massachusetts in the 1600's has been made between two umbilical lines, and blood samples have been drawn for analysis. Another connection linking two people to an umbilical ancestor in early Quebec is under study. Also, several umbilical lines have been established to Priscilla (Mullins) Alden of the Mayflower, and efforts are being made to obtain blood samples.

Individuals interested in assisting with this project should submit their documented umbilical lines to the following address:

mtDNA Project
Center for Human Resources
Municipal Building, P.O. Box 770
Bar Harbor, ME 04609-0770



CURT WITCHER

GENEALOGIST

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY • FT. WAYNE, IND.

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The Council of Volusia County
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The Riverview United
Methodist Church
2253 John Anderson Drive
Ormond By The Sea, FL

COST INCLUDING LUNCH
\$20.00 before 12/24
\$25.00 after 12/24

SATURDAY
JANUARY 28, 1995
9 A.M. - 2:45 P.M.

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM (DEADLINE: JANUARY 15th)

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

To pre-register, send check or money order made payable to:
Roots & Branches Genealogical Society P.O. Box 612, DeLand, FL 32721-0612



**Roots & Branches Genealogical Society
Membership Application**

Family / Single \$10.00

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BEWARE of persons professing they're descendants

of these presidents: James Buchanan, Warren Harding, Andrew Jackson, James Madison, James K. Polk, and George Washington. These six presidents of the United States have no descendants.



UPCOMING SPEAKERS

January 5th:
Tony Provost will be speaking to us on Native Americans.

February 2nd:
Marjorie Heaney will speak to us on New England Ancestors.

**Roots & Branches
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P.O. Box 612
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