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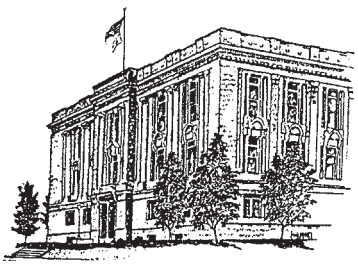

NEWSLETTER

Volume 41 Number 3 Fall 2021

This is the last Stalker that will be printed for 2021. We have printed about three years of Stalkers in the past eighteen months. We are going to start with a clean slate in 2022, so the next Stalker we are going to print will be Spring 2022.

MCGS is going to resume having meetings in 2022. The meetings for January and February will be conducted using Zoom. This will do away with any problems driving at night or with bad road conditions. You can find a link to the Zoom meetings on the MCGS website.

We will, hopefully, begin having our meetings in the Edwardsville Library Community Room starting in March 2022, assuming there are no more restrictions on public meetings indoors.

Check the MCGS website or Facebook page for upcoming meeting topics.

**** NOTICE ****

Dues for 2022 were delinquent December 31, 2021. If you no longer wish to be a member of the MCGS, please contact Robert Ridenour at *rwridenour566@gmail.com* so we can remove your name from our membership list. Otherwise, send your renewal checks to: *Madison County Genealogical Society, Box 631, Edwardsville, IL 62025-0631.*

If you have not paid your 2022 dues by the end of March 2022, you will be removed from the Stalker mailing list.

Mystery Photos

We have been asked about some place to post unknown photographs where they can be viewed by others and perhaps the subject(s) can be identified. We have added a "Mystery Photographs" link to the MCGS home page. It is on the left side of the page. If you can identify any subject in any photograph, please send an e-mail to the address given with that photograph.

If you have any photographs you would like to have added to the "Mystery Photographs" pages, please send them to me at **rwridenour566@gmail.com.**

The Madison County Genealogical Society has a varied list of publications for sale. That list is on the last page.

Death of a Member

William Scott Delicate
Lynchburg, Virginia
October 8, 1931 - December 26, 2021

William Scott Delicate of Lynchburg, Virginia passed away on December 26, 2021, at the age of 90.

Scott was a longtime member of the Madison County Genealogical Society and edited the Society's quarterly *The Stalker*, from 2009 until 2021.

He is pre-deceased by his wife Marcia MacArthur Delicate, his father William Ernest Delicate, his mother Helen Scott Delicate, and four brothers-in-law, George Wagner, Donald MacArthur III, Richard Speicher, and A. Truman Terrell III.

He is survived by his children Jane (Elton) Wright, Betsy (David) Bangley, Mary Delicate, and William Scott (Amy) Delicate Jr, his sister Ann Delicate Wagner, his sisters-in-law Mary MacArthur Terrell and Linda Jorg MacArthur, his brother-in-law John MacArthur (Rhonda), and, 9 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, 11 nieces and nephews, and 14 great nieces and nephews.

A private memorial service will be held. For online condolences, please visit ***https://diuguidfuneralservice.com/***

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church, 5810 Fort Avenue, Lynchburg, VA 24502 or to a charity of your choice.

September Meeting

On September 9, 2021, the Madison County Genealogical Society held a meeting — its first meeting since February 2020 — in the community room of the Tri-Township Library in Troy, Illinois. The presentation was Ancient Native American Culture of Illinois by Cherie Kuhn.

Ms. Kuhn graduated in 1968 from Livingston High School. She worked at SIUE Lovejoy Library for 28 years. Her hobbies are horses, playing piano, travel, reading, genealogy, and hunting arrowheads. She is a member of the Silver Creek DAR Chapter, Archaeology Society of Illinois, and Cahokia Mounds Society. Her presentation follows.

I am going to talk about the Illini Indians first. The women worked in gardens and they did quillwork, beadwork, and embroidery; and the men did two things – they hunted and went to war, that was it; the women did all the work. The Illini started the fur trade with the French. They went on buffalo hunts in the summer; they made dugout canoes; they painted their faces for different occasions, and they had tattoos. The tribes lived in long houses – 24 x 60 – in the summer, and wigwams – 12 x 24 – in the winter. Reed mats covered the floor and the roof. A long house would hold ten families and a wigwam would hold two families.

The Illini sided with the French during the French and Indian War; and they sided with the Americans during the Revolution. In 1640, the Illini lived south of Lake Michigan; there were sixty villages totaling 20,000 people. The enemies of the Illini were the Fox, the Sauk, and especially the Iroquois. The Iroquois came from New York State and wanted to take over all the hunting grounds. Because of the Iroquois, the Illini had to move to Eastern Minnesota. The Illini traded with the Indians there and exchanged Indian slaves for guns and tools.

The main Illini village was just north of the Illinois River across from Starved Rock. This Grand Village of the Kaskaskia was an agricultural and trade village. There were a thousand people here and the chief was Rouensa.

In 1673, the French claimed the Illinois Country. Marquette was a missionary and Joliet was an explorer that came down the Mississippi from Green Bay to Prairie du Chen, Wisconsin. They came all the way down the Mississippi, stopping at the Des Moines River below Keokuk, Iowa, and they saw a path that led off the river into the woods. They took that path, which was pretty brave, to see what was there; and they came to a Peoria Indian village of 8,000 people. Historians believe that this was the first European contact with Indians in Illinois. The white men were welcomed; they smoked the pipe; they exchanged gifts; and they feasted on corn, fish, and buffalo. The Indians probably would not have welcomed them if they knew what was coming in the future.

The explorers went on down the river, all the way down to the Arkansas River. They turned around, came back up the river and took the Illinois River; and they stopped at the Grand Village. Marquette spoke to the Indians about Christianity; and they sat around him in a circle on their reed mats and their bearskins. Marquette came back here in 1675 and established a mission and a fur trading post. After this, priests and fur traders came to the Illinois Country to convert the Indians and build a fur trade network. In 1680, Fort Crevecoeur was built near Lake Peoria. This was the first French fort in the west. In 1682, Fort Saint Louis was built on top of Starved Rock as a fur trading post and, at this time, the French were at war with the Iroquois.

In 1690, because of the attacks on their villages by the Iroquois, the Kaskaskia Indians moved south and the priests and the missions went with them. They moved all the way down to Cahokia. They built homes and businesses here; and it became the center for the Indian trade in furs. The Indians got along with the French. They intermarried and lived together; but they did not like the British. The British gave them trouble.

Kaskaskia was established in 1703. Missionaries and French settlers came here; and they lived in harmony with the Indians.

The town became the capital of Upper Louisiana and a fur trading post. Many French trappers married Indian women. King Louis of France sent a church bell to Kaskaskia in 1741. That bell is still there. Fort Kaskaskia was built on a bluff in 1759 and, of course, in 1763, the Illinois Country was ceded to England. Kaskaskia was the first capitol of the State of Illinois in 1818, but it was destroyed by a flood in 1881.

In the early 1700s, the Sauk and the Fox tribes settled in Wisconsin and the Detroit area. They moved into the Illinois Territory in the 1740s; and they fought the Illini tribes for supporting the French. The Sauk hated the French because they had brought liquor, war, and disease to their tribe. Fort des Chartres was built in 1718; it was the seat of French government in Illinois when they controlled Louisiana and the Illinois Territory. The fort was also built to control the Indians of the region. It was turned over to the British in 1763 and abandoned in 1772.

In 1752, the Cahokia tribe captured and burned six Fox hunters that had come from Wisconsin. One Fox warrior escaped and returned to his tribe and they made war on the Illini. If you had been standing where the St. Louis Arch is today, you would have seen a thousand warriors of the Sauk, the Sioux, and the Kickapoo come down the Mississippi River in 180 canoes to strike at the Michigania living north of Fort des Chartres, because they had given shelter to the Cahokia. Eighty men, women, and children were killed and the village destroyed.

1754-63 was the French and Indian War, between England and France for control of the Ohio country. The Illini sided with the French and during this time, the Illini, the Delaware, and the Shawnee burned grain of the English as far as Pennsylvania and raided settlers as far as Georgia and the Carolinas. The war ended with the Treaty of Paris and England owning the Ohio country.

Pontiac's War occurred between 1763 and 1766. Pontiac was an Ottawa chief that led the Indians against British occupation in the Great Lakes Region. He tried to take Fort Detroit but failed. He came to the Illinois country to encourage the tribes to resist the British. In April of 1769 in Cahokia, Pontiac was killed by a Peoria Indian. Pontiac had stabbed and wounded this Peoria Indian's uncle. Pontiac is buried around Fourth Street in St. Louis. In 1764, the Kaskaskia population was 600; they had been defeated by liquor and disease. Some Peoria lived in Cahokia, some lived in St. Louis. The Illini lived on the west side of the Mississippi and took furs to St. Louis to trade with the Spanish.

In 1778, during the American Revolution, George Rogers Clark and his Virginia Rangers came to the Illinois country. One group of Peoria joined Clark and another group joined the British at Vincennes. So they split. Indians were scouts and hunters. As we know, Clark took Cahokia, Kaskaskia, and Vincennes and secured the Illinois country for the Americans. After the Revolution people began to move west.

Have you ever heard of William Biggs, of the Waterloo area? In 1788, William was a veteran of the American Revolution who had come to Illinois with George Rogers Clark. A lot of the people who came with Clark returned after the Revolution because they liked the good farmland in this area. They went back to the east and got their families and came and settled here.

William Biggs lived around Waterloo. He was taking beaver pelts to Cahokia with his friend John Ballas. They were attacked by Kickapoo. John was shot but he made it back to the fort and William was captured. He was taken 240 miles to a hunting camp on the Wabash River above Vincennes. Trackers eventually came and paid money for his release and he returned home and wrote an account of his capture.

In June of 1790, James Gillham and his son were plowing on their farm in Kentucky. A party of Kickapoo captured his wife, Ann, two sons and a daughter. They were taken on rafts across the Ohio River to Indiana; they crossed the Wabash River below Terre Haute, and were taken across Illinois to an Indian village on Salt Creek, 20 miles east of Springfield. Meanwhile, James had sold his farm and put his son in a neighbor's care. He went to Fort Vincennes, Kaskaskia, and Cincinnati to talk to General St. Clair. He learned from a French trader that the Kickapoo chief promised to give up captives for ransom. So James, with two guides, went to Salt Creek and he found his family there. It took him five years to find them. He took Ann and the two sons and left the village, but the Indians kept the daughter. The family moved close to Kaskaskia, had three more children, and came to Madison County in 1802. One son would return to Salt Creek every year to visit his sister and the Indians because he loved their life style. James and Ann are buried in Wanda Cemetery.

With an 1803 treaty, the Kaskaskia ceded all their land to the government and they moved to two reservations in northeast Kansas. They received yearly relief, farm supplies, a priest, a church, and government protection. In 1832, the Kaskaskia, Peoria, Cahokia, and Tamaroa signed a treaty in St. Louis to cede any of their lands left in Illinois to the government. The Indians never fully adjusted to being farmers and by 1950, there were only 429 Indians that remained out of the twelve tribes of Illinois.

So we did a pretty good number on them: war, disease, and alcohol.

In 1809, Illinois Territory was formed with Ninian Edwards as governor. A company of mounted Rangers was organized in Madison County and blockhouses built for protection from Indians. The British were supplying guns and ammo to the Indians to kill settlers. Ten companies of Rangers guarded the Illinois frontier from St. Louis to Vincennes, which is a long way on horseback. How were the soldiers paid? Land grants. A lot of times they would get a land grant where Indians lived and the Indians would just be pushed out of the way.

The Fort Dearborn massacre between the U.S. troops and the Potawatomie Indians took place in 1812. Evacuation of the fort was ordered by the commander. The Miami Indians, who were friendly with the Americans, were going to escort the people to Fort Wayne. But two miles from the fort, they were attacked. Two women, twelve children, and thirty-eight troops were killed. The fort was burned and many of the survivors either died or were ransomed. Black Partridge was the Potawatomie chief and a friend to the settlers and he tried to protect the people at Fort Dearborn.

Also in 1812, Governor Ninian Edwards and 350 Rangers left Fort Russell and took the old Indian trail, known as Edwards Trace, for a campaign against the Kickapoo. There were acts of terrorism between the American settlers and the Indians who allied with the British. Edwards marched all the way from Fort Russell to Peoria Lake on the Edwards Trace. They surprised Chief Black Partridge's village on the lake and they killed 24 warriors and drove the rest into the swamps. The Rangers destroyed horses, cattle, corn, and everything else to punish the Indians for siding with the British.

The Wood River Massacre was in 1814. The Battle of Hill's Fort in Bond County in 1814 was part of the War of 1812 also. There are markers for the four Rangers that were killed southwest of Greenville.

In March of 1815, several thousand canoes with Indian representatives came to Portage de Sioux. They came there to sign treaties to end the conflict between the United States and the Indians. William Clark, Ninian Edwards, and Auguste Chouteau were all there. President Madison approved $20,000 worth of gifts. The tribes that signed were the Potawatomie, Lakota, Sioux, Omaha, Kickapoo, Osage, Sauk, Fox, and Iowa. These treaties were to remove the Indians to Western lands and open Illinois for settlement.

September 1818, Ninian Edwards and Auguste Chouteau drew up a treaty that was signed at the Edwardsville Land Office. The Indians and their families came downriver and left their canoes at the riverbank. The men walked single file to Edwardsville while the women and children guarded the canoes. The tribes who signed were the Peoria, Kaskaskia, Cahokia, and Tamaroa. The Peoria ceded all their land to the government and were united with three other tribes. The U. S. promised to take them under their care (Did they? Not really.), pay them $2,000 worth of goods, and give them land west of the Mississippi River. Benjamin Stephenson signed the treaty also.

In 1818, Illinois became a state, Kaskaskia was the capitol and Shadrach Bond was the Governor.

Cherie then talked about the Nauvoo area. In 1823, there was a Sauk village of 1,000 lodges in the Nauvoo area. The Sauk village was purchased by Captain James White from a Sauk leader. How did White pay for that land? He offered that tribe liquor and 2,000 bushels of corn for their land. And the Indians went for it! In 1841, Mormon leader Joseph Smith was there and was visited by a Sauk from an Iowa village. Smith met Keokuk and 100 braves and chiefs to discuss the Mormon religion. There was a feast and dancing by the Indians.

The Prairie du Chen Wisconsin Treaties were four treaties from 1825 to 1830 – one establishing borders for the Indian Territory and the others ceding lands to the United States.

The Blackhawk War was 1832 and could have been avoided. It was between Chief Blackhawk and U. S. troops. His main village was Saukenuk on the Rock River in northwest Illinois. The Sauk settled there in 1750 and Blackhawk was born there in 1767. There were 100 lodges. They had gardens, grass for their horses, river fish, and game. An early explorer was there; and he said it was the best-built Indian town he had seen. They had a good life there. Part of the tribe lived in eastern Iowa and eastern Missouri. They planted crops in the spring and harvested in the fall. Their winter hunt was in Iowa and they sold furs to the British. What brought this war on happened in 1804 in St. Louis. A Sauk delegation went to St. Louis to have a council with Governor William Harrison. They were read a 2,000-word treaty, given alcohol, and eventually agreed to sign it. But, they did not have any concept of land areas. They ceded 23,000 square miles of land. They were promised protection by the government and would receive $2,200 in goods each year. But, their fur trade alone brought them $60,000 a year. So they did not need that government money and those treaties.

They had little concept of land and did not know how much they signed away. The problem was – Blackhawk and Keokuk never signed the treaty. So to them, it was not a valid treaty. And, the delegation that signed it was not given permission by the tribal council to sign anything. So in 1826, there were 4,800 Indians at Saukenuk and the government opened the land for settlement. The Indians went on their winter hunt in Iowa; and, when they returned in the spring, there were settlers there. Well, to avoid trouble, Keokuk took his band to Iowa, but Blackhawk decided to fight for his homeland. Governor John Reynolds raised 1,500 troops to move the Indians out of Illinois to Iowa. Blackhawk only had 500 warriors; and he was not supported by the British. There were many battles and many killed on both sides. When Blackhawk was found on the Bad Axe River in Wisconsin, due to death and desertion he had only 600 people and there was a battle. The troops opened fire and they killed about 260 and 100 drowned trying to cross the river to Iowa. After this, Blackhawk surrendered at Prairie du Chen to an Indian agent and he was taken to Jefferson Barracks. In 1833, he was taken to Fort Monroe, Virginia, where he became a celebrity. Pictures were taken of him and he was given many dinners in his honor. He toured Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York City and was shown the progress of the white man. Blackhawk came back and lived with the Sauk on the Des Moines River; and he was buried there in 1838. There is a sculpture of him in the museum on the Rock River where the village was once located.

This Indian village where Blackhawk was born and lived is the site of the most western conflict of the Revolutionary War. In the summer of 1780, American forces under John Montgomery with French and Spanish allies destroyed Saukenuk. Colonel George Rogers Clark ordered it done in retaliation for the British attempt to capture St. Louis and Cahokia. Saukenuk was rebuilt and stayed an Indian village until 1828. White settlers moved in and the Indians moved to Iowa.

In 1833, the Treaty of Chicago granted land in Michigan, Wisconsin, and the Chicago area to the government. At the end of the ceremony, before they left, 500 warriors in full dress did a war dance with their tomahawks. This was their final farewell to Illinois where they had lived for thousands of years.

Is Your Genealogy Sustainable?

(The following article was reprinted from the Hank Jones' Foreword to the book, ***Sustainable Genealogy: Separating Fact from Fiction in Family Legends***, by Richard Hite)

Genealogists today are living in some interesting times. We have a wealth of new tools and toys to play with, making our research easier and quicker. With the internet accessible in every home and local library, family historians now can access sources that would have been difficult to locate before *and* network and compare notes with other genealogists around the world who are working on the same families.

But besides being a blessing, the internet is also a curse: shoddy research abounds, undocumented family connections are widespread, and spurious sources often outnumber the legitimate ones. Unproven family traditions often are accepted unconditionally as fact and then, worst of all, venture down the internet highway, eventually making them seem like gospel rather than the garbage they really are.

Many of the genealogical sources used today derive from the oral histories passed down in families for generations, which were subsequently published in the "Mug Books" and other local histories that flourished in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. They thus have evolved into "written oral histories," one of the several important subjects focused on by Richard Hite in this book.

I know of no one better suited to write a book on "sustainable genealogy" than Richard, inasmuch as the Hite Family Tree has branches that are textbook examples of how family tradition—as opposed to evidence--sometimes can lead us far astray from our actual genealogy. For the past sixty years, I have immersed myself in documenting, tracing, and then writing about the myriad German "Palatine" emigrants who settled in colonial America in the 18th century. Of the 847 Palatine families who settled first in New York in 1710, the Hites included in this group held no special interest for me personally, as I descended from none of the 847 myself. However, I gradually learned that the Hites were a somewhat unique and special case: their progenitor was Jost Hite, the so-called "Baron of the Shenandoah Valley," a friend of George Washington and one of the largest and wealthiest landholders in that region. His descendants called him "Baron Hite," believing he had possessed a noble background in Europe prior to his arrival in the new world.

I looked for Jost Hite's overseas origins in just the same way as I looked for all the other families with whom he travelled; the methodology I developed of studying all the emigrants in *clusters* of families enabled me to finally document over 600 of the 847 Palatines in their ancestral homes in Europe. It turned out that "Baron" Jost Hite was not a Baron at all, but instead the son of the town butcher of Bonfeld, Germany. Richard, in his position as President and Chief Genealogist of the thriving Hite Family Association, over many years was able to build upon my findings with new data, and then separate other, different Hite family groups from Jost's proven line.

Richard's critical eagle-eye served him well in this task. He was fighting the old "Well if my last name is Boone, I *must* be a descendant of Daniel Boone" syndrome that pops up so often in our field. Like a skilled surgeon, he took out his genealogical scalpel and dissected some of the erroneous Hite family traditions to separate fiction from fact and thus Jost from some of the other completely different, later-arriving Hite lines. This book covers the methodology he used, the questions he asked, and – most important of all - how his wisdom might help YOU as you climb your own family tree.

You'll find lots of genealogical bases beyond Hite lore covered here: how sometimes the origins of certain families are attributed to the wrong ethnic group; how the very common two or three immigrant brothers tradition and their geographic dispersal is often attributed to the wrong side of the family tree; what to do when even the primary sources are in error; how Native American ancestry is fun to talk about, but hard to prove; and on and on in fascinating detail.

Reading Richard's thoughts and experiences cannot help but lead you into taking a more critical look at the accuracy and veracity of the sources you use to compile your own family's genealogy. I guarantee you that taking heed of the cautions cited and putting into practice the lessons learned in this book will make you all much better family historians and ensure that your genealogical legacy will be one to be trusted.

Henry Z. Jones, Jr.
Fellow, American Society of Genealogists

Lesser Known Probate Records
by
Robert Barnes

This article discusses less common sources of probate, what they do, and how they help the researcher. In their pursuit of probate sources, I urge researchers to be methodical, to keep a list of all sources checked, and to remember that a record may be found in an adjacent political subdivision. Sometimes clues of inheritance are found where they are least expected.

Original Records
Researchers should be aware that when probate records, such as Administration Accounts, Inventories, Wills, etc., were taken to the county court they would be copied into large register volumes, or libers, but the original records were kept on file.

When these documents were copied, mistakes in spelling and punctuation could often occur. When abstracters prepared materials for publication, even more mistakes might occur. The careful researcher should check these original records against subsequent transcriptions.

In Maryland, for example, the Prerogative Court has Wills, Original, (Series S 540), for the years 1666 to 1777. Baltimore, Caroline, Cecil, Frederick, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, Somerset, and Talbot counties have Wills, Original, dated from the colonial period, overlapping the Prerogative Court.

The Maryland State Archives has original Administration Accounts, Administration Bonds, Guardian Accounts, Guardian Bonds, Indentures, and Inventories, as well as Wills.

Accounts of Sales
Accounts of Sales are sales of the personal property of deceased persons. They may contain a more detailed list of his or her possessions than an actual inventory. Many times family members purchased some of the property of the decedent.

When John Hignet's property was sold in 1822, George Hignet purchased an old gun for $1.50, Louisa and Mary Ann Hignet purchased feather beds, sheets, blankets, quilts, and pillows for $11.00 and $10.00 respectively. Master John Hignet, Jr., purchased a small chest for 50¢; Louisa Hignet bought a trunk for $1.50, George Hignet paid $3.00 for a Map of the United States, and Mary Ann Hignet bought a large chest for $1.50. When John McComesky's personal estate was sold in 1823, the first purchaser was Agnes McComesky, whose name is repeated later in the list.

Administration Bonds
These may show the possible value of the estate. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries there were few newspapers in which to publish obituaries; church records did not always contain burials of all parishioners, and most people did not leave wills, so the administration bond might be the first permanent record of a death.

After someone died, his executor or administrator would come into court, with two sureties, and post a bond that they would well and faithfully administer the estate of the decedent. They were required to file the first account within six months. Many times they were late and would be summoned to show cause why they were late. They would then be granted an extension.

The two bondsmen or sureties promised that if the accountant did not carry out his or her duties they would be responsible.

If the wife (or widow) was the executrix or administratrix, the bondsmen were usually her relatives. If two executors were named in the will, one was usually a relative of the testator and the other a relative of the spouse.

Guardian Bonds
When the decedent left one or more minor children, a guardian would be appointed, and he or she would post a bond affirming that he/she would submit reports every six months detailing how much money had been spent on the minor's(s') clothing, education, and other expenses. Typically, the guardian would name the child and perhaps give an age.

Annual Valuations
Annual Valuations may be found in land records, orphans court proceedings, or as a separate series. These were recorded to ensure that the guardian would not squander the estate by cutting down trees, selling the lumber, and pocketing the proceeds.

"Jonathan Plowman died in August 1798, leaving an orphan Jantha. We the subscribers, Henry Brawn, Henry Epaugh, at the request of Zachariah Loveall, entered into the lands and plantation of Jantha Plowman, an orphan and viewed the same with the improvements, which consist of a dwelling house and kitchen, the latter wants a new roof, one old barn almost useless, one old corn house, a spring house wanting a new cover, a small house covered with straw, the land mostly cleared, an apple orchard of about 200 trees which appears to be old and not thriving, all which we estimate at the annual value of £13, and we agree that the guardian should be further permitted to clear three acres at the east end of the said plantation for keeping the houses and fences in repair." (Baltimore County Orphans Court Proceedings 4:30-31).

Indentures
Indentures were contracts, and their name derived from the time when two copies of a contract were made and then cut apart in a 'zig-zag' or indentured pattern. A portion would be given to each of the contracting parties. If ever a dispute should arise, both parties would bring their portions and fit them together to make sure that both parties had the correct document.

In more recent times, Probate Court Indentures were agreements whereby young people would be bound out as

apprentices. The following examples illustrate that parents (or guardians) might cross county or state lines to place the young person where he or she might learn a trade.

Edward Corbin of Baltimore Co., on 1 August 1795 placed his son Edward, aged 13 years, 6 mos., with Nicholas Lemmon of Westminster, hat maker, for seven years; on 2 June 1795 he placed his son John, aged 12 years, 11 mos., also with Nicholas Lemmon (Frederick Co. Indentures GM&RB#2:33, 48).

Thomas Glisan of Baltimore Co., schoolmaster, on 21 April 1794 placed his son James, aged 15 last 8 January, to Charles Glisan, of Frederick Co., house joiner, to age 21 (Frederick Co. Indentures GM&RB#2:3).

Hezekiah Griffin of Brooke co., Virginia, on 3 December 1798 bound his son Belford Griffin to Frederick Birely of Frederick Town, tanner to age 21 (Frederick Co. Indentures GM&RB#2:200).

Benjamin Webb of York Co., Pennsylvania, on 17 July 1798 bound his son Benjamin to Jacob Winter of Frederick Co., hatter for 14 years and two months (Frederick Co. Indentures GM&RB#2:190-1).

Petitions

Petitions may cover a variety of topics, ranging from complaints that an administrator or executor may not be doing his job properly, to permission to sell some of the decedent's property, to complaints that a master is not giving his apprentice appropriate training. They may be found in county court records, registers of wills offices, and various state agencies. Baltimore City Court even has Petitions of Inebriates.

Thomas Cole died by 1795, having made a will by which he left one-eighth of his property to Mordecai Cole. Thomas Cole, the executor, stated he had actually paid Mordecai Cole £151.6.6 current money, but Mordecai Cole would not give him a receipt (Thomas Cole, Baltimore Co. Petitions, 1795).

Daniel Davis, died by 1798 when Mary and Ezekiel Davis, administrators, petitioned the court for permission to sell some of the property in order to pay Davis' debts (Ezekiel Davis, Baltimore Co. Petitions, 1798).

Frederick Etienne died by April 1797, leaving Julian Rousseau as administrator and Lewis Pascault and Joseph Latil, sureties for Rousseau. They petitioned the court that Rousseau was about to leave the State of Maryland for the Republic of France (Lewis Pascault and Joseph Latil, Baltimore Co. Petitions, 1797).

Dr. Jesse Jaquet, of Fells Point, died by 20 June 1798, when Patrick Bennett and Nicholas Slubey petitioned the Orphans Court that his property should be preserved for the doctor's orphan children; the subscribers were sureties for administration by John Paul Jaquet, brother of the deceased, who they discovered has a propensity for gaming for money. They asked to be released as sureties (Patrick Bennett and Nicholas Slubey, Baltimore Co. Petitions, 1798).

Coroners' Inquests

When someone died an unusual or violent death, a jury of twelve men was called to assemble at or near the place of death and determine, if possible, the cause of death.

The following two examples are taken from Anne Arundel County Court (Coroners Inquests), 1684-1790, MSA (MSA C58).

William Eaton was found by a coroner's jury that met on 7 September 1790, to have met his death on 5 September 1790, while sailing in a 'Passage boat' on the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and was suddenly overset and was drowned.

Negro Phil was found, by a coroner's jury that met on 3 August 1790, to have met his death on 1 August 1790 when he was bathing in the waters of the Severn and accidentally suffocated and was drowned.

Coroners Inquests are found in Anne Arundel, Frederick, Prince George's, and Queen Anne's Counties for the eighteenth century.

By investigating these and other less well-known records, the researcher may uncover details of the lives of those who have gone before.

Stalker Needs Articles

The Stalker is in dire need of articles. We need input from all members. Send your contributions to Mary Westerhold at **mtw127@gmail.com**

Keep Us Up to Date on Your Address

Please let the secretary, Petie Hunter, know about any change of address: **petie8135@att.net**. The Stalkers are sent via Bulk Mail and will NOT be forwarded. We can even change your mailing address if you 'winter' in the South.

What if Your 18th-Century Ancestor Was a Runaway Servant?

The demand for labor in the colonial period was such that by 1775 an estimated 350,000 to 500,000 indentured persons had been transported to America. The majority of these individuals were indigent, eager for a better life in the New World, and willing to work off the cost of their passage by reimbursing ships' captains or others by the sweat of their brow. Other servants, especially after England's Transportation Act of 1718 opened the floodgates for exiled criminals, were in America to work off their prison sentences. This combined labor pool was vital to economic life of the Middle Colonies, including Pennsylvania, which received a significant population of German servants, also known as redemptioners.

Owing to the vicissitudes of 18th-century life, not all servants served out their full term of, typically, seven or fourteen years. Some "owners" were cruel. Working conditions could be demanding, especially in summer months, for Europeans unaccustomed to the hot, humid climate of the Chesapeake region. The countryside was also wide open, which made flight seem like a plausible option. And, of course, some of the servants were hardened criminals, to whom a labor contract would have seemed like a trifling affair.

Whatever the motivation, runaway servants were not an uncommon phenomenon in the 18th century. One source estimates that between 20-25% of indentured servants fled their masters. From the genealogist's standpoint, this presents a methodological problem since it was in the runaway's best interest to conceal his/her identity after making a successful getaway. In other words, even if the runaway kept the same name, it is quite likely that the link to his original residence in America and to his country of origin would be lost. Lost, that is, unless one can uncover his/her identity in the thousands of runaway ads placed in colonial newspapers by the disgruntled "owners." And this is precisely where the research and publications of Joseph Lee Boyle come in.

Since 2009, Mr. Boyle has compiled 17 volumes of runaway servant ads for the spanning the colonies from New England to Virginia. In the process he has combed scores of 18th-century newspapers for references to missing servants. His book on Delaware contains more than a thousand runaway advertisements for that colony. ***"Very impudent when drunk or sober." Delaware Runaways, 1720-1783*** includes descriptions of runaways and criminals living in Delaware, as well as those born or having contacts there. The ads contained references to the runaway's age, sex, height, place of origin, clothing, occupation, speech, and physical imperfections. In compiling this work, Mr. Boyle consulted twenty-one colonial newspapers from Boston to Maryland, relying on Pennsylvania papers most heavily. In all, *"Very impudent when drunk or sober"* refers to 2,500 runaways and their masters. Here is an example of the author's Delaware runaway transcriptions for the year 1762.

"FORTY SHILLINGS Reward.

RUN away, the 16th of this Instant, from the Subscriber, living in Dover, Kent County, on Delaware, a Mulattoe Servant Man, named Francis Miller, about 34 Years of Age, about 5 Feet 11 Inches high, slim built, walks loose in his Knees, pretty much pock-broken, and a large Beard: Had on when he went away, A blue Kersey Jacket, lined with ozenbrigs, old Check Shirt, old breeches , good Shoes, milled Stockings, and, it is believed , he stole, and took with him, two Great Coats, one old blue Cloth, the other light coloured. It is supposed he is gone up the Country to one Joseph Cookson's, living in Lancaster County, near the Head of Pequea. Whoever takes up said Servant, and bring him Home to his Master, shall have the above Reward. and reasonable Charges; or if secured in any goal, so that he may be had again, shall have what the Law allows, paid by THOMAS PARKE. N. B. All Persons are forbid harbouring or concealing him. as they will answer the fate at their Peril. - *The Pennsylvania Gazette*, January 28, 1762.

January 28. RUN-away from the Subscriber, living in Brandywine Hundred, New-Castle County, an English Man named John Jones, a thick set Fellow, about 50 Years of Age, long visag'd, wears his own hair of a brownish colour, he has on and carried with him, three brown Coats, one whereof is new, with carved mettle Buttons, likewise a red Jacket and old Buck-skin Breeches, and a good Beaver Hat, likewise three pair of blue Stockings, one pair worsted, the rest of his apparel unknown (and supposed to have taken a watch with him.) Whoever takes up said Jones and secures him in any of his Majesty's Gaols in this Province, so that the subscriber man have him, shall be paid the sum of THREE POUNDS, by CALEB PERKINS. - *The Pennsylvania Journal, and Weekly Advertiser*, January 28, 1762; February 4, 1762. See *The Pennsylvania Gazette*, January 28, 1762.

RUN away on the 7th Instant, from the Subscriber, living in Christiana Hundred, New-Castle County, an Apprentice Lad, named Shadrach Lee, about 19 Years of Age, 5 Feet 8 or 9 Inches high, with black Hair, and is a sour looking ill-natur'd Fellow, much given to Lying, a Shoemaker by Trade: Had on when he went away, an Olive coloured Cloth Coat, Linsey Jacket, white Shirt, light coloured Cloth Breeches, a blue Silk Handkerchief, with White Spots, grey Stockings, footed with blue, old Shoes, and steel Buckles. Whoever takes up said Apprentice, and brings him to the Subscriber, shall . . . ."

Go to
https://genealogical.com/store/?gpc_search=1&testinput_author_last_name=Boyle
for a list of all 17 colonial runaway servant books by Joseph Boyle.