D-OGS Newsletter – August 2020

News & Articles of Interest to Durham-Orange genealogists

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2020 dues – $20

2020 President – David McCorkle

D-OGS MEETING FOR 5 AUGUST 2020

As mentioned in an earlier email, our August D-OGS meeting will feature … you! We always reserve August for short member presentations, and since this will be online we are no longer restricted to local members. Join us on Wednesday August 5th at 7:00PM ONLINE to view and/or give presentations. These have always been some of the more interesting and interactive meetings, and being online will only enhance that. This is a perfect opportunity for our distant members to get involved. We would LOVE to hear from you.

Members can present information about their research, findings, or anything of interest to our group. We generally allow no more than 10 or 15 minutes per presentation, but can go longer depending on the number of requests. If you are interested in presenting, please send an email to vicepresident@dogsnc.org as soon as possible with your topic and approximate time so we can make sure you will have a time slot - don't be shy!

You will have a variety of options for your presentation – it doesn't have to be a formal Powerpoint. You can simply share your screen and show us what you want – photos, videos, documents, etc. You can also just to a "talking head" presentation, or even audio only. Whichever way you choose, we will be available to test it out ahead of time to avoid any glitches. Unlike our more format presentations, we will allow all attendees to show themselves on video if they so choose, and will encourage a more interactive format.

Accessing the Presentation

We will be using the popular Zoom software which runs on PCs and Macs, as well as mobile devices like phones and tablets. It will be free for you to use.

We encourage you to test your device prior to the meeting to make sure the Zoom software works properly. To do this, go to https://zoom.us/test and click [Join]. Detailed instructions on will be provided prior to the presentation.

Please note we are aware of issues related to unwelcome guests disrupting meetings and other security concerns, and have taken the necessary precautions. Because of that and limitations of the number of attendees we are allowing only active members and for those with memberships that have expired in the past year. We will revisit this decision on a case-by-case basis each month.

NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR ITS 2021 FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE

FALLS CHURCH, VA, 16 JULY 2020—The National Genealogical Society (NGS) announced that its 2021 Family History Conference is scheduled to take place 19-22 May 2021 in Richmond, Virginia, at the Greater

Richmond Convention Center. Information about the Conference's program—Virginia: Deep Roots of a Nation—and the many genealogical resources in Richmond are now available online as a downloadable brochure.

Conference Committee Chair Janet A. Alpert, FNGS, said, "We are acutely aware that we have to build contingency plans for any eventuality. Though we hope COVID-19 will not be a factor next spring, we are already preparing options to insure the health and safety of registrants, sponsors, exhibitors, and staff. We're confident that we will have a strong and enriching program for everyone interested in family history research."

The NGS 2021 Family History Conference program will feature a variety of lecture tracks. Session topics will include African American, Native American, and other ethnic groups research; archival records in Virginia and neighboring states; immigration and migration; researching federal and local government records as well as land, military, religious, and tax records; using DNA to trace your ancestors; and much more. In support of NGS's merger later this year with the Federation of Genealogical Societies, a "Focus on Societies" day is also planned. The Board for Certification of Genealogists will again sponsor a skillbuilding track.

The conference will also offer family historians and genealogists an array of other events, special workshops, and a family history expo with a host of exhibitors. Registration opens on 6 January 2021. Be sure to sign up for the NGS conference blog to receive up-to-date conference news and download the 2021 announcement brochure to learn more about the Richmond conference.

In 2022, the NGS Family History Conference will be on the West Coast with the California Genealogical Society (CGS) serving as the local host. Join us in Sacramento, California, 25-28 May 2022. Details will be available in the coming months on the NGS Family History Conference website and in the *NGS Magazine*.

Founded in 1903, the National Genealogical Society is dedicated to genealogical education, exemplary standards of research, and the preservation of genealogical records. The Falls Church, Virginia, based nonprofit is the premier national society for everyone, from the beginner to the most advanced family historian, seeking excellence in publications, educational offerings, and guidance in research. It also offers many opportunities to interact with other genealogists.

ANNOUNCING THE FAMILY HISTORY FEDERATION'S "REALLY USEFUL FAMILY HISTORY SHOW" ON SATURDAY THE 14TH OF NOVEMBER

(At least the Brits are planning to get on with their lives within this pandemic. By November maybe we will be able to get about more. Of course the Brits have a much better track record in handling this pandemic than we have. - *Editor*)

The following announcement was written by the Family History Federation (FHF), a genealogy organization in the British Isles:

The FHF Really Useful Family History Show
Saturday 14th November 2020

The Family History Federation (FHF) is excited to launch the FHF Really Useful Family History Show which will take place on Saturday 14th November featuring member societies and much, much more.

In announcing the Show, FHF Chairman, Steve Manning, said: "Irrespective of whether you're an uncertain 'newbie' or seasoned enthusiast, this is the one 2020 happening you must not miss! Why? Because the Family History Federation is totally focused on delivering a 'Really Useful Family History Show' to ALL our visitors!"

The event is supported by (in alphabetical order):

- Association of Genealogists and Researchers in Archives (AGRA)
- FamilySearch
- *Family Tree* magazine
- *Who Do You Think You Are* magazine

This national – even international – virtual show will provide:

- Expert presentations
- Discussion panels
- Access to all shops on Parish Chest plus those of commercial participants
- Opportunity to meet and talk to exhibitors live in the virtual exhibition hall
- UK "attendees" will receive goody bag posted to them (providing they book early!)
- And much more…

The event's website will be regularly updated with details of exhibitors and speakers. It will also provide access to the online ticket booking system.

Bookmark the show's own website at: **www.fhf-reallyuseful.com**

Further news will follow!

WHAT'S A PALATINE?

(by Henry Z Jones, Jr., Fellow, American Society of Genealogists)

"Probably the question I'm asked most frequently at a genealogy gathering is, "What's a Palatine?" Is it a surname, like "Harriett and Irving Palatine," or what?

"Palatine" is, indeed, a term that we often hear when climbing the family tree. In fact, I've been immersed in chronicling these so-called "Palatines" for some 50-plus years now. Basically, here's who they were: if you were a German-speaking immigrant to colonial America in the early- to mid-18th century, you would have been called a "Palatine" by those already here in the New World. It was sort of a generic term, the roots of which come from the word given to the area in southern Germany called the "Pfalz" or "Palatinate" where so many of these early settlers originated. Many American Palatines also came from other regions outside of the borders of today's Palatinate, however: Isenburg, the Kraichgau, Hessen, the Westerwald, Wurttemberg, and Siegen, for example.

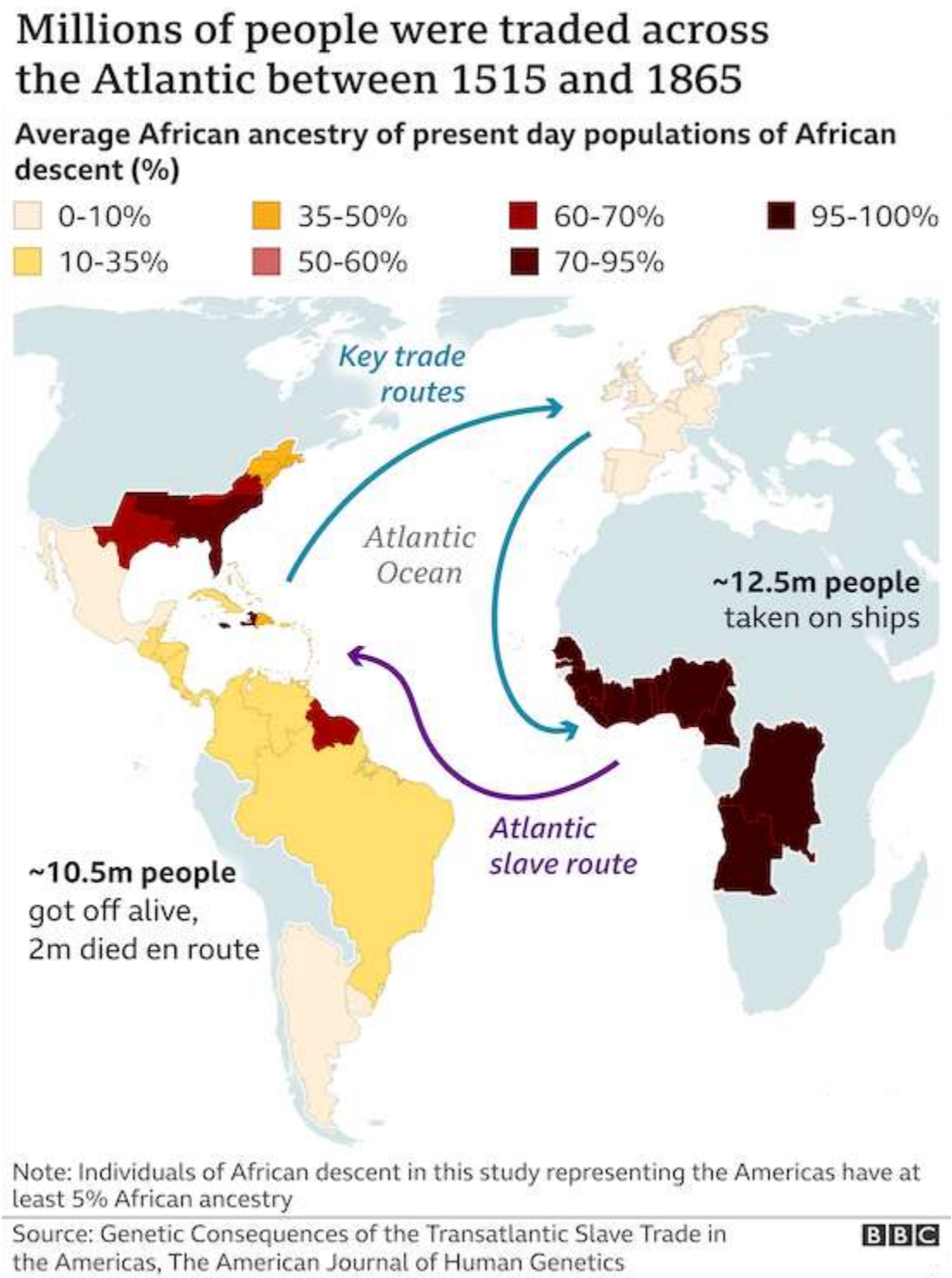
The first burst of emigration from Germany began in the 1680s and then reached full thrust in 1709/10, with large settlements in Ireland and colonial New York and North Carolina. Later groups went to Pennsylvania, Maryland, and other colonies. But, sadly, the new arrivals in America weren't simply known as "Palatines"; they were a hyphenate and called "Poor Palatines," which denoted the economic and social status in the Europe they had left behind. It was a derogatory term, and, unfortunately, it endured for a few decades.

However, upon their arrival, the Palatine immigrants to colonial America found a wilderness ready to be tamed and transformed into livable communities by perseverance and hard work. Their story is a tribute to their fortitude and quality of character, which enabled them to find the inner strength to meet the terrible difficulties they faced in their new life in a new land. They "took the risk" and succeeded!

Over the years, I have written several books documenting these hearty emigrants and their origins, including "The Palatine Families of New York, 1710," "More Palatine Families," "The Palatine Families of Ireland," "Even More Palatine Families" (with the late Lewis B. Rohrbach), and "Westerwald to America" (with Annette K. Burgert); all are available at my website www.hankjones.com. In addition to these books, it would be a wise decision for any descendant of these colonial Germans to join and network with the members of Palatines to America-German Genealogical Society (http://palam.org). “

GENETIC IMPACT OF AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE REVEALED IN DNA STUDY

A major DNA study has shed new light on the fate of millions of Africans who were traded as slaves to the Americas between the 16th and 19th centuries.



More than 50,000 people took part in the study, which was able to identify more details of the "genetic impact" the trade has had on present-day populations in the Americas. It lays bare the consequences of rape, maltreatment, disease and racism.

More than 12.5m Africans were traded between 1515 and the mid-19th Century.

Some two million of the enslaved men, women and children died en route to the Americas.

The DNA study was led by consumer genetics company 23andMe and included 30,000 people of African ancestry on both sides of the Atlantic. The findings were published in the *American Journal of Human Genetics.*

You can read more in an article in the BBC News website at: https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-53527405.

10 ESSENTIAL GENEALOGY BOOKS

Online resources continue to grow and make genealogy records and how-to guides more accessible to researchers, but sometimes long-form books are exactly what the genealogist in your family needs to jump-start their research or overcome research problems. Check out these 10 great books for genealogists.

1. *Unofficial Guide to Ancestry.com*
By Nancy Hendrickson (2018)
This comprehensive guide (newly updated and expanded) will show all you can do on Ancestry.com. From making the first entry on your family tree to completing deep dives into records databases, you'll learn how to master this huge website. The book has been updated to include the site's latest redesign and changes. And with it, you'll learn how to search for records collections (vital records, military records, immigration records, etc.) on Ancestry.com, plus how you can use them. You'll also learn how to manage Ancestry.com hints and how to navigate and interpret your AncestryDNA results.

2. *Organize Your Genealogy*
By Drew Smith (2016)
Need help handling all your files and data? This book by organization specialist and Genealogy Guy podcaster Drew Smith will help you organize every facet of your genealogy life, from making good, productive habits to planning and managing complex projects. Inside, you'll find practical tips for how to sort paper files, name digital documents, use software programs and apps like Evernote, and more. You can also put your new skills to use with the helpful forms at the end of many chapters.

3. *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy*
By Blaine T. Bettinger (2019)
Confused by DNA? You're not alone. Genetic genealogy is a fascinating and complicated part of family research, and it can be difficult (if not impossible) to figure it out on your own. Enter this book, written by a DNA expert who has his own blog on genetic genealogy. This guide covers all the basics of DNA and genetic testing, including how the four major DNA tests work and what you can expect to learn from their results. You'll also learn about ethnicity estimates and tools like GEDmatch, which you can use to further study your DNA. The book even has a glossary of DNA terms that simplifies important DNA concepts, plus a chapter that busts common misconceptions about genetic testing. This book is a must-read for budding genetic genealogists and DNA veterans alike.

4. *Evidence Explained: History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*
By Elizabeth Shown Mills (2017)

Want to take your research to the next level? Make professional-quality source citations with Elizabeth Shown Mills' tried-and-true manual. Researchers have used this detailed guide (now in its third edition) for decades. Inside, you'll learn how to cite every genealogy source you can think of, from census records to family Bibles to CDs.

5. *The Family Tree Cemetery Field Guide*
By Joy Neighbors (2017)
Do you love cemeteries? So do genealogists everywhere. This book (perfect for travel into the field) will help you navigate the burial grounds that hold your deceased ancestors. Inside, you'll learn how to use sites like Find A Grave and BillionGraves to find where your ancestors' graves are, then how to safely and responsibly visit and archive tombstones. This book's handy tombstone iconography section will also help you interpret the symbols on your ancestors' graves.

6. *The Family Tree Guidebook to Europe*
By Allison Dolan and the Editors of *Family Tree Magazine* (2013)
This guide, in its second edition, is designed to help genealogists trace their immigrant ancestors back to Europe, then give researchers the tools to uncover records about them. The book is divided into chapters based on countries (Ireland, Poland, Italy, etc.) or regions (the Germanic Region, Scandinavia, Eastern Europe, etc.) and contains brief histories of each country/region, plus historical timelines and tips for understanding geographic divisions and changes. Perhaps more importantly, you'll also learn about what record types are available for each European country or region, plus how to find them.

7. *The Family Tree Historical Maps Book*
By Allison Dolan and the Editors of *Family Tree Magazine* (2014)
If your American history is rusty—or if you just love old maps—this book is for you. This sturdy hardcover has beautiful, full-color historical maps of the United States from the country's beginning through the early 1900s. See your ancestor's locale as it was during his time. Or you can grab a magnifying glass and use the maps to figure out which county he lived in (and thus, where records of him might be found). If you can't get enough of maps, check out a follow-up book of European maps or an historical atlas of American cities.

8. *The Family Tree German Genealogy Guide*
By James M. Beidler (2014)
Got *Deutsch* ancestors? This guide has you covered, with resources for identifying your German immigration ancestor, finding German records, understanding the German language and writing to German archives. And with brief guides to German geography, history, and administrative divisions, this book contains everything you'll need to get started. A follow-up book by the same author, *Trace Your German Roots Online*, shares even more techniques for researching German ancestors online, and the same publisher has also produced similar books for Irish, Italian and Polish, Czech and Slovak ancestors.

9. *Story of My Life: A Workbook for Preserving Your Legacy*
By Sunny Jane Morton (2016)
We genealogists spend so much time researching our ancestors that we forget to record things for our own descendants to study. This workbook allows you to fix that. With prompts that invite you to write about your own life and times, this book will help you create your own genealogy records. What's the fondest memory you have of your mother? What was high school like for you? These questions might sound mundane to you, but their answers provide the rich detail that future researchers will cherish. This workbook also makes a great gift for a relative like Mom or Grandpa, whose memories you want to record.

10. ***The Family Tree Memory Keeper***
By Allison Dolan and the Editors of *Family Tree Magazine* (2013)
While the *Story of My Life* workbook (no. 9) records the history of one person, this workbook asks you to record memories of your whole family. Your family's history includes more than just birth and death dates. Use this workbook to capture your family's story, including anecdotes and photos of important places, objects and events.

(Reprinted from the FamilyTree Magazine blog)

BOOKS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST

New and Updated "At a Glance" Guides

The following reviews were written by Bobbi King:

Genealogy at a glance
German Genealogy Research
Updated Edition by Ernest Thode
CONTENTS
Quick Facts
German Emigration
Emigration Waves
Passenger Lists
Unlocking German Family History
German Places
Surnames
Given Names
Dates
German Record Sources
Vital Records
German Center for Genealogy
Berlin Document Center
Village Heritage Books and Histories
Military Archives
Censuses
References
Other Online Resources
QUICK FACTS
GERMAN EMIGRATION
Emigration Waves

New and Updated At a Glance Guides

The *At a Glance* guides are published by the Genealogical Publishing Company. Meant to be quick-read references, the guides are four-page laminates, 8 x 11 in size, authored by experts on specific topics. There is a wide range of guides available at the GPC website.

Here are brief descriptions of some updated guides newly published in 2020.

German Genealogy Research, Updated Edition **-** by Ernest Thode.

There are segments on German history followed by sections on research tips:

- German Emigration, including the reasons for leaving homelands and the eras of peak migrations;
- Passenger Lists, including lists of websites and German archives where online lists may be found;
- Unlocking German Family History, including background and online sources related to German places, surnames, given names, and dates, the most noble being a description and link to the ever-valuable Meyers Gazetteer;
- German Record Sources, including information about and where to find church and civil registration records, the German Center for Genealogy which has Germany's largest genealogical collection, the Berlin Document Center which documents the regime from 1920 to 1945, village heritage books and histories that list village residents, military archives, censuses, and references for further reading;
- Other Online Resources, including additional website urls for finding German information.

Scottish Genealogy Research, Updated Edition **-** by David Dobson.

There are segments on Scottish history followed by sections on research tips:

- Scottish Emigration Background, including migration information and references for further research;
- Passenger Lists, of which there are few before the mid-19th century, but there are pointers to some resources;
- Unlocking Scottish Family History, with information on surnames and palaeography, the study of old handwriting styles and deciphering old documents;
- Basic Genealogical Sources, including descriptions of old parish registers of the Church of Scotland 1553 to 1854 and other church records, post 1854 statutory registration of births, marriages, deaths, divorces, civil partnerships and same-sex marriages, and census returns from 1842 to 1911;
- Supplementary Record Sources, describing sources for wills and testaments, monumental inscription lists, Kirk Session Records, Services of Heirs, Property and the Register of Sasines, burgh records, estate and family papers, maritime records, and tax records.
- Major Online Resources describes websites useful for further research.

Polish Genealogy Research, Updated Edition **-** by Rosemary A. Dembinski Chorzempa.

There are segments on Polish history and research tips:

- Polish Names describes the complications of deciphering the surnames;
- Polish History and Emigration describes brief history from 963 A.D. to present;
- Finding the Hometown is a brief guide to locating an ancestral village of origin;
- Online Databases from Poland offers updated information on new efforts posting Polish records online;
- Other Resources includes details about the millions of Polish and U.S. records at FamlySearch;
- Areas in Polish Lands is a full page of major place names in Polish, Latin, German, and English language, a reminder of the variety of sovereigns and kingdoms that once ruled Poland and produced a mix of record languages.

Small as they are, these are very worthwhile references rich in resource and research ideas.

All of the "At a Glance" references are available from the publisher, *Genealogical.com*, at https://genealogical.com/store/ as well as from genealogy booksellers most everywhere else.

(D-OGS is not endorsing these products or this publisher. We are merely attempting to make our members aware of potentially valuable resources in your research.)

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

4 BY 50: TURNING POINTS IN DURHAM HISTORY

Tuesdays, August 4 & 11, 1:00 p.m.

The Durham County Library and Museum of Durham History present a four-part live web series that captures today's issues, framed in the context of Durham's history in 50-year increments. The four parts will look at: 1. 1868—1917*; 2. 1918—1967*; 3. 1968—2019; 4. 2020. Panelists will include local historians and experts on Durham history, hosted by Jim Wise. Viewers may submit questions during the live presentation. Join us by registering at durhamcountylibrary.org or by watching via MoDH's Facebook Live.

Part 3: https://events.durhamcountylibrary.org/event/4456774

Part 4: https://events.durhamcountylibrary.org/event/4456770

HUMOR

The pedestrian light on the corner beeps when it's safe to cross the street. I was crossing the street with an "intellectually challenged" co-worker of mine. She asked if I knew what the beeper was for.

I explained that it signals blind people when the light is red.

Appalled, she responded, "what on earth are blind people doing driving?!"

She is a government employee.....

PARTING THOUGHT

With all that is going on around us right now, maybe we should use a bit of the quiet times we have to think of not just the names and dates of family members that we are researching but also the lives and times that the folks represent. We need to better understand their times and trials in order to more fully appreciate how we got to where we are now.

If you have any items of interest that you would like to submit for future publication, please contact Richard Ellington at mailto:richard_ellington@unc.edu or 919.967.4168