



**Madison County  
Genealogical Society,  
Box 631, Edwardsville, IL  
62025-0631**

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# NEWSLETTER

*Volume 44 Number 2 Spring 2024*

***DUES! DUES! DUES! DUES! DUES! DUES! DUES!***

***Dues for 2024 are now being accepted. We would very much appreciate receiving your renewal checks ASAP. Send your renewal checks to:***

***Ferne Ridenour, MCGS Treasurer  
4814 Loop Road  
Dorsey, IL 62021-1014***

## ***Death of a Member***

### **Wesley Lohr**



Wesley Gene Lohr, 86, of Godfrey, died on Saturday, April 27, 2024 at his home surrounded by family. He was born on March 3, 1938 to Clarence (Ted) and Ellen (LaSetta) (Waters) Lohr in the same house in which he died. Mervin (Bud) Lohr was Wes's brother who preceded him in death.

Wes attended Godfrey Grade School and graduated from Alton High School. Wes then joined the United States Air Force and served in Greece and Turkey from 1956-1959. He was called home to help run the family business, C.M. Lohr Quarry, with his brother after his father's fatal accident.

He married the former Karen Jeane Sileven on February 20, 1965 at St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Godfrey. Karen preceded him in death in 2018.

Surviving are two children: Terry (Shelly) Lohr and Renee (Rob) Brown, and five grandchildren: Michael, Matthew, Mark, and Noah Brown, and Kari Lohr. Also surviving are sisters-in-law Alice Lohr, Marilyn Sileven, Teresa Tripp and brother-in-law Bob Tripp.

He was extremely proud of his grandkids and would listen to each and every story intently. Or maybe that is because he couldn't get a word in. Also surviving are nieces, nephews and hundreds of cousins from across the country.

While running the family quarry, Wes oversaw day to day operations and performed such tasks as electrician, diesel mechanic, rock driller, and explosives handler. He also worked with federal and state inspectors for mining, air, water, explosive

and dirt permitting. He grew up in the business, so he was a natural. The quarry further developed and expanded until it was eventually sold in 2003 and Wes retired.

Wes designed and built a house in Brighton, IL, where he and Karen raised their family. He was very involved in the community, especially at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church. They moved to Godfrey in 1988, and he moved back into his childhood home in 2003. He took care of his beloved wife, who lived with multiple sclerosis, for 40 years. They could be seen eating at every restaurant in Godfrey and Alton. They loved to socialize and found every opportunity to see their friends and family.

As a self proclaimed family genealogist and local historian, Wes spent his days researching the Lohr/Waters family trees. He reached out to cousins from coast to coast and stayed connected through email and Christmas cards. His knowledge of the Riverbend area was astounding. He could tell stories ranging anywhere between the Alton Mill fire and the building of Humbert Road, to remembering the Godfrey “Plank” road and the platform dances up at Pop Waters farm. If there was ever a question about the history of Godfrey or Alton, he knew the answer.

Through Wes’s learning and connections, he eventually started and organized the Godfrey Grade School reunions. These reunions went on for years and brought many old friends together again.

Faith was a very important part of Wes’s life. He was a devout Roman Catholic and was a member of the Dominican Laity in St. Louis. Wes and Karen belonged to SS. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Alton. In the past, he served as an usher and eucharistic minister. He was also a lifetime member of the Godfrey Knights of Columbus. Wes never missed a Sunday Mass or a Lenten fish fry.

Wes had a love for classic cars. He ordered and bought the first convertible 1964½ Mustang in Alton. He also bought a 1957 T Bird and it is still in his possession. He was restoring a 1966 El Camino from the ground up when he wasn’t helping others (his children) remodel bathrooms or build sheds. He was quite the handyman as well and would never pass up the opportunity to help.

From his weekly gatherings at Joe K’s and the Round Table, he truly touched the lives of so many people. He was a devoted husband, a caring father, and a supportive grandfather and will be missed by all.

A mass of Christian burial was held on Saturday, May 4, 2024 at SS Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Alton. Burial was at Godfrey Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Additional information and online guest book may be found at [www.gentfuneralhome.com](http://www.gentfuneralhome.com)

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## ***Free Newspapers for German Genealogy***

Let’s say you are looking for the German origin of one of your ancestors, and you’ve exhausted your English-language sources. You are familiar with German genealogical words and phrases because you own a copy of Ernest Thode’s *German-English Genealogical Dictionary*. You’re reasonably confident that the missing ancestor came to the U.S. from Berlin, so what should you do next?

The answer could be in another book by Mr. Thode, namely, the *Second Edition of his Historic German Newspapers Online*. For the past decade or so, Thode has been sourcing every German-language newspaper on the Internet that meets the following conditions: (1) Its contents are at least 50 years old, (2) Anyone can read it, and (3) Any country of origin is included so long as the publication is in German. Using these criteria, Mr. Thode found nearly 3,000 historic German-language newspapers for the *Second Edition of his Historic German Newspapers Online*.

As you might expect, many historic newspapers were published in Berlin. In fact, Mr. Thode specifies 180 of them in his latest version. So where do you begin? Fortunately, the arrangement of Historic German Newspapers Online helps

narrow down the field, as illustrated by the example below. As the author explains in his Introduction, turn first to the alphabetically arranged “country section” of the volume, where you will encounter German newspapers published not only throughout Europe and North and South America, but also in Namibia, Egypt, China, Australia, and Crimea. This section also tells you the publishing emphasis of each newspaper, for example, labor paper, Jewish, stock market paper, humor, etc. You can further narrow down your Berlin newspaper by turning to the “country section,” which is arranged alphabetically by the name of the periodical. This section also indicates the dates of coverage and a code for the URL where you can find each paper. Since you know that your Berliner ancestor came to the United States between 1870 and 1880, and you now know that the Berliner Gerichts-Zeitung was a judicial newspaper published during that decade, it would seem to be a good starting point. You now go to the front of the book, where the URL codes are arranged alphabetically, and learn that the paper is housed at the Zeitungsinformationssystem and is available at this URL: <https://zefys.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/list/title/zdb/24332471/>.

The Berliner Gerichts-Zeitung may not turn out to be the one source that can resolve all the questions you have about your ancestor, but Historic German Newspapers Online has now opened up a whole new world of possible sources for you, any one or two of which just might. Check it out today!

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### ***What if Your 18<sup>th</sup>-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 18<sup>th</sup>-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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup>-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. Read further to see a sample of the author’s Delaware runaway transcriptions for the year 1762.

### **“FORTY SHILLINGS Reward”**

RUN away, the 16<sup>th</sup> 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 Goals 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 [Genealogical.com](http://Genealogical.com) for a list of all 17 colonial runaway servant books by Joseph Boyle. Once there, you will also find the volumes in his other series of state rosters of Revolutionary War soldiers who served at the Valley Forge encampment.

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### ***Is There a Loyalist in Your Family Tree? by the late Carolyn Barkley***

The Loyalists were those North American colonists who remained loyal to the British Crown during the American Revolution. Often called Tories or “King’s Men,” they may have agreed with some of the principles being pursued by the founders of the fledgling nation, but they, nonetheless, preferred more peaceful, less chaotic methods of resolving the pressing issues of the time.

The greatest concentration of Loyalists lived in New York, a bastion of British influence for most of the Revolutionary period. These individuals tended to be Anglican, better-educated, and more well-to-do. Loyalists also were quite numerous in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. In the more southern states, particularly in South Carolina, they were more often back-country farmers. While Loyalists were found in other colonies as well, they were in a distinct minority, particularly in New England and Virginia.

Loyalists’ professed or perceived loyalty to the Crown proved dangerous. Many had their land and property confiscated, suffered the indignity of tar and feathering, or in some cases, lost their lives. It is estimated that approximately 100,000 Loyalists left the colonies, about half of them going to Canada, beginning in 1783. About one-third of those entering Canada settled in the Maritime Provinces: in Shelburne in Nova Scotia, in the St. John’s River Valley, and on St. John’s Island (later Prince Edward Island). By 1784, the rate of emigration was so great that Nova Scotia was divided into three colonies (Nova Scotia, Cape Breton and Brunswick) to better accommodate the influx of settlers. Another 2,000 moved into present-day Québec, and about 7,500 settled in what would become the province of Upper Canada in 1791

(present-day Ontario). Some returned to the newly-independent United States soon after the war, while others spent several generations in Canada before migrating south.

Several years ago, I heard a Scottish historian state that during the American Revolutionary War, about one-third of the Scottish-born population sided with the patriots, one-third with the Crown, and one-third just wanted to be left alone. While the exact percentages may be arguable, the concept is sound and might possibly describe the population in general at the outbreak of the war.

Oftentimes, our Revolutionary War research focuses solely on those who sided with the patriots (or rebels depending on your perspective). If a military or pension record cannot be located, you might be tempted to assume that your ancestor had no Revolutionary War service. It is important not to “admit defeat” too soon, and instead continue your research to determine if your ancestor might have been a Loyalist.

### **Here are five strategies that you can use in researching the possibility of a Loyalist ancestor:**

- 1. Locate your ancestor prior to the outbreak of the Revolutionary war.** Research all the land records beginning in 1775 to see if he sold or lost land during or immediately after the war. Read county or locality histories to see if there were Loyalists in the area. If so, how were they treated? Did they leave the area? Where did they go? Did any of them return?
- 2. Check military records to determine if your ancestor might have served with the British forces.** The British “provincial line” enlisted about 19,000 men in 50 units: 10,000 served in loyalist militia units known as “associations,” and others served in the regular British army and navy. This research is particularly important if your ancestor came from New York or a southern colony. A list of Loyalist regiments and muster rolls can be found on the Internet at The On-Line Institute for Advanced Loyalist Studies <https://www.royalprovincial.com/>. The list of regiments often includes links to online materials and documents related to a specific regiment. Also, please note that you will not be able to search the muster rolls by an individual’s name, but instead will need to search within each unit, using the links provided in the muster roll index. I searched across the entire web site for the surname “Barclay” and received twelve items including references to a court martial, as well as muster rolls for the Loyal American Regiment, Hatton’s Company of New Jersey Volunteers, and a list of men from the King’s Orange Rangers.
- 3. Confiscation Lists and Claims.** The Treaty of Paris included a provision requiring the U. S. Congress to restore property confiscated from Loyalists. Although many did not file a claim for compensation, confiscations lists can be very valuable. Lists are available both online and in print. A downloadable version of Loyalism in New York during the American Revolution contains a list of New York confiscations in the appendix. The Gaspé Loyalists website includes confiscation lists for Albany, Charlotte and Tryon Counties in New York, as well as lists for Vermont and other claims-related documents. <http://www.rocher-perce.org/garrett/History/Loyalist%20booklet/bolyalists.pdf>. Of particular interest is the two-volume *United Empire Loyalists: Enquiry into the Losses and Services in Consequence of Their Loyalty. Evidence in Canadian Claims. Second Report of the Bureau of Archives for the Province of Ontario*, by Alexander Fraser, reprinted 1994. This source contains records of the claims for losses of over 1200 individuals who fled to Canada during and immediately after the Revolutionary War. The entries are based on notes taken by the commissioners who handled the claims between 1783 and 1790 and include the claimant’s name, country or place of origin, reason for emigrating, date of migration, place of residence in America, occupation, names of family members and friends, location and value of confiscated property, war service rendered, losses sustained, evidence of character, statements of witnesses, notes of deeds and wills, and highlights of the claimant’s experiences during the war.
- 4. Libraries, Archives, and Organizations.** Consult the collections housed in organizational libraries and archives both in the United States and Canada. The United Empire Loyalists’ Association of Canada is an organization founded in 1914 to “enrich the lives of Canadians through fostering public awareness of our national history,

and in particular, of the United Empire Loyalists and their contributions to Canada, while also celebrating their memory and perpetuating their heritage as an integral part of the Canadian identity.” The UELAC web site provides a searchable Directory of Loyalists in which I was able to locate twelve Barclay (and variant spellings) entries. Each entry includes surname, given name, rank, where the individual resettled, status as a Loyalist (proven, expunged, etc.), and source detail (NYGBS, etc.). Link <https://uelac.ca/> The UELAC’s Toronto-based research library provides an extensive collection on Loyalist history and genealogy. In addition, the Haldimand Collection provides access to a significant collection of primary source material. Other resources include the Library and Archives Canada as well as Loyalist collections in the James A. Gibson Library at Brock University in St. Catherine’s, Ontario.

**5. Finally, the following titles will also provide assistance and background information as you research a possible Loyalist ancestor:**

- *Marion Gilroy’s Loyalists and Land Settlement in Nova Scotia*
- *Robert DeMond’s The Loyalists in North Carolina During the Revolution*
- *Lorenzo Sabine’s two-volume biographical Sketches of Loyalists in the American Revolution*
- *Alexander Fraser’s United Empire Loyalists*
- *In Search of Your Canadian Roots: Tracing Your Family Tree in Canada, by Angus Baxter. (3<sup>rd</sup> ed., Genealogical Publishing Company, 2008)*
- *Finding Your Canadian Ancestors: a Beginner’s Guide, by Sherry Irvine and Dave Obee (Ancestry, 2007).*
- *Canadian History for Dummies by Will Ferguson (Toronto, CDG Books, 2000)*

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**“Revolutionary War Land Bounties”  
by the late Lloyd Bockstruck**

“A land bounty is a grant of land from a government as a reward to repay citizens for the risks and hardships they endured in the service of their country, usually in a military-related capacity.

By the time of the Revolutionary War, the practice of awarding bounty land as an inducement for enlisting in the military forces had been a long-standing practice in the British Empire in North America. Besides imperial bounty land grants, both colonial and municipal governments had routinely compensated participants in and victims of military conflicts with land. Land was a commodity in generous supply, and colonial governments seized upon its availability for accomplishing their goals.

The American colonies’ governments copied Great Britain’s practice of awarding bounty lands. They generally offered free lands in exchange for military service, but they strategically did so on the presumption that they would be victorious in their struggle. They did not actually award the lands until the Revolutionary War was concluded and the British defeated. Such a policy not only imposed no financial constraints on the war effort, it also insured a degree of support for the Revolutionary cause. The Revolutionary governments were aware that “to the victor belongs the spoils” and that defeat brought no reward. Bounty lands were an effective propaganda technique for enrolling support for the war among the citizenry and for preventing them from defecting to the British if the tide of battle ebbed.

Those colonies with unseated lands used this advantage to enlist support for the cause with the offer of free lands. Unfortunately, some of the Original Thirteen enjoyed no such advantage. There was no bounty land policy in Delaware, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, or Vermont. Those states lacked enough vacant land to support such a policy. Bounty lands were a feature, however, in Connecticut, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina,

Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Virginia. Administratively, these nine states selected reserves in their western domains for the location of bounty lands. Such a choice was quite logical. By placing veterans on the frontier, the states could rely on a military force that, in turn, could protect the settlements from Indian incursions. These state governments also realized that they had to encourage the ex-soldiers to occupy their newly awarded bounty lands, so they granted exemptions from taxation ranging from a few years to life to those veterans who would locate on their respective bounty lands. Such a policy also had the effect of retarding the exodus of a state's population.

Since most of the Indian nations had supported the British during the Revolutionary War, the Thirteen States were cautious in approaching their former enemies. Populating the frontier with citizens skilled in defense offered the best prospect in enticing other settlers to join them. Veterans were knowledgeable in the use of firearms and in military strategy. Knowing that they would be defended if the need arose was reassuring to many settlers. The state governments also realized that revenue derived from the sale of vacant lands in the west was badly needed. The extension of settlements on the frontier would, in time, also increase the tax rolls and contribute to the reduction of their Revolutionary War debts. In the aftermath of the war, the states with trans-Appalachian claims ceded some of those claims to the federal government, but not until they had the assurance of being able to fulfill their bounty land commitments.

The issue of bounty lands has far wider geographical implications than the area encompassed by the nine state governments that instituted the practice. Besides the original states of Connecticut, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Virginia, the future states of Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Ohio, and Tennessee also were directly affected by the bounty land system. While the administrative records were, with one exception, the purview of the former nine, the bounty land reserves involved the five trans-Appalachian states. The states of Georgia, Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina either had no claims to trans-Appalachian territory or relinquished their claims to the federal government. Accordingly, their reserves for bounty lands lay within their own western borders. In the cases of Georgia and New York, these reserves were to be situated on the definition of their western borders as they existed in 1783. The bounty land reserves in those two states today would be described as being centrally located. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts allotted its bounty lands in the then District of Maine, which in 1820 achieved statehood status.

While most of the states awarded bounty lands for military service, there were two exceptions. Connecticut compensated its citizenry with lands in Ohio if their homes, outbuildings, or businesses had been destroyed by the British. The Nutmeg State seemingly awarded no bounty land for military service per se. Georgia also issued lands to its civilian population who had remained loyal — or at the very least neutral — to the Revolutionary cause after the British restored royal control during the war. There were no Revolutionary War bounty land grants within the present-day borders of the southern states of North Carolina and Virginia. North Carolina issued its bounty lands in its western lands, which became the state of Tennessee. Virginia selected reserves for its bounty lands in Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio before ceding its claims to the federal government.

It is important to emphasize that the Continental Congress also made use of the policy of bounty lands. The index to those claims appears in the *“Index to Revolutionary War Pension Applications”* in the National Archives (Washington, D.C.: National Genealogical Society, 1976). The federal bounty land records are included in the National Archives micro-publication, *“Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900,”* Series M804, 2,670 rolls. Abstracts of these files appear in the four-volume work by Virgil D. White, *“Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files”* (Waynesboro, Tenn.: The National Historical Publishing Company, 1990-1992). The federal government likewise selected a reserve in the Northwest Territory where bounty land warrants could be used to locate land. The U.S. Military Tract in Ohio encompassed portions or all of the counties of Coshochton, Delaware, Franklin, Guernsey, Holmes, Knox, Licking, Marion, Morrow, Muskingum, Noble, and Tuscarawas. These records appear in the micro-publications, *“U.S. Revolutionary War Bounty-Land Warrants Used in the U.S. Military District of Ohio and Related Papers”* (Acts of 1788, 1803, 1806), Series M829, 16 rolls, and in *“Register of Army Land Warrants Issued under the Act of 1788 for Service in the Revolutionary War: Military District of Ohio,”* Series T1008, 1 roll.

With the exception of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the other states permitted qualified veterans and/or their dependents to receive bounty lands from both the federal and the respective state governments. Accordingly, there may

be relevant bounty land files for soldiers in the Continental Line at both the federal and state levels. While New York made some adjustments, double dipping was the norm in the other states.

Following the American victory at Yorktown in 1781, the various state governments sought to implement their bounty land programs. The delay in establishing a governmental agency to fulfill the bounty land pledge holds dual benefits genealogically. First, it increases the likelihood of the survival of a paper trail for proving Revolutionary War participation for many individuals who may not be mentioned in any other record. Second, because the benefits were still being processed as late as the 1870s in some jurisdictions, there may be a wealth of information pertaining to heirs in bounty land files. Not only do the records locate the veteran in time and place him in a given locality during the Revolutionary War, they also do so for him and/or his dependents in the years following independence, when internal migrations within the nation can complicate the identification of specific individuals in their various removals.

The appearance of an individual or family in the west after 1783 offers considerable challenge in finding the former domicile or in establishing filiation. A master index to the bounty land grants of the relevant state governments seemed to offer expeditious access to the records holding the potential solution to such a dilemma. While access to the federal records has long been available in a master index, and while many localities have been treated individually by other works of varying quality, the absence of an overall index to state and territorial bounty lands — until now — has impeded effective use of these significant records.”

The foregoing article was taken from the Introduction to Mr. Bockstruck’s 1996 book, *“Revolutionary War Bounty Land Grants Awarded by State Governments.”* This remarkable book is a master index to all 30,000 state bounty land records awarded for service in the Revolutionary War. Typically, each of the 30,000 entries gives the name of the claimant (usually a veteran), state of service, rank held, date of the record, acreage, and any additional comments of genealogical interest, when available.

*“Revolutionary War Land Bounty Land Grants Awarded by State Governments”* not only pulls together all this disparate information in the form of a master index, it also explains the kinds of grants issued by each state, how they conformed or differed from the norm, and, of course, where the researcher can find the actual records in question. In short, if your ancestor lived during the American Revolution, *“Revolutionary War Land Bounty Land Grants Awarded by State Governments”* is one book you must examine.

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### ***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 is 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 have been immersed in chronicling these so-called “Palatines” for some 50-plus years now. Basically, here is who they were: if you were a German-speaking immigrant to colonial America in the early- to mid-18<sup>th</sup> 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 were not 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](http://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>).

**Genealogical Publishing Company, of course, has also published quite a few books on the Palatines, including the following:**

- ***Early Nineteenth Century Palatine Emigration***

This outstanding book lists the names of about 12,000 Palatine settlers, together with the names of persons in their families and the dates of emigration. Their major destinations and places of settlement were Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and the Hudson and Mohawk Valleys of New York.

- ***Early Families of Herkimer County, NY. Descendants of the Burnetsfield Palatines***

In 1723 a number of Palatine families were allowed to take up lands in the Mohawk Valley of New York. Those settling in the bounds of the present county of Herkimer were known as the Burnetsfield Patentees, after the name of the grant made by New York Governor William Burnet, and are the subject of this formidable work. This book deals with the families established in the area before the Revolution, and it gives detailed genealogies for almost 100 of them.

- ***The Early Germans of New Jersey***

For more than a century, Hermann Chambers' *Early Germans* has been the standard reference for genealogical research on families of northwestern New Jersey. In spite of its title, it is as useful for families of English, Scottish, or Dutch origin as for German. The bulk of the work is devoted to genealogies of families from the counties of Hunterdon, Morris, Sussex, and Warren and to genealogies of the early settlers of old Roxbury Township from Southold and Southampton.

- ***Pennsylvania German Immigrants, 1709-1786. Lists Consolidated from Yearbooks of The Pennsylvania German Folklore Society***

These lists, compiled by Don Yoder, attempt to identify German emigrants in their homeland as well as in Pennsylvania. Thus, emigrants are cited with reference to manumission records, parish registers, passports, and other papers of German and Swiss provenance. They are cited again, where possible, with reference to an equivalent range of Pennsylvania source materials, notably church records, wills, and tax lists in southeastern Pennsylvania. The German records often give the emigrant's date of emigration, occupation, dates of birth and marriage, and places of birth and residence, as well as the names of family members—sometimes to three or four generations.

- ***The German Immigration Into Pennsylvania Through the Port of Philadelphia from 1700 to 1775, and the Redemptioners***

This important historical study deals with the background of German immigration, especially that of the Palatines, the causes, migration patterns, leading figures in the movement, and disposition of the immigrants. Much of the book deals with the redemptioners—those who bound themselves to service as payment for the voyage to America.

- ***The Book of Names. Especially Relating to the Early Palatines and the First Settlers in the Mohawk Valley***

This classic work listed for the first time the names of the early Palatines of New York State, the original settlers of the Mohawk Valley. The estimated 20,000 names are classified, combined, and otherwise arranged to enable the researcher to identify Palatine immigrants in relation to specific categories of records.

- ***A Collection of Upwards of Thirty Thousand Names of German, Swiss, Dutch, French and Other Immigrants in Pennsylvania from 1727 to 1776***

This book is concerned mainly with early Palatine immigration and contains 319 ships' passenger lists with a total of 30,000 names. The arrangement is chronological according to date of arrival, listing the names of the ships on which the passengers arrived and the places from which they emigrated. In addition, the appendices list over a thousand early settlers who landed at some port other than Philadelphia but who later migrated to Pennsylvania from New York, North Carolina, and Georgia.

- ***Palatine Church Visitations, 1609: Deanery of Kusel***

The district of Kusel was situated in the western part of the German Palatinate, from which area came many early emigrants to America. Considering the almost permanent residence of the Palatines in a given area (prior to emigration), the proof that a particular name occurs in an early visitation, as this publication does for Kusel, is almost sufficient evidence of the linkage between the emigrant and his/her forebears—a full century before the great period of emigration.