

**IMPORTANT
DATES IN
GENEALOGICAL
RESEARCH**

1086

- The Domesday Book is finished.

King William I (The Conqueror) ordered this early “census” taken to give detail the taxable resources in England.

1538

- The Church of England parish registers begin.

Before this time churches did not consistently keep records which are now used for genealogists to trace their families.

1540

- Lutheran Churches in what is now Germany begin regularly keeping church registers followed by Reformed churches in 1650.

1563

- The Council of Trent required Catholic churches to record births, deaths and marriages in parish registers.

Some churches kept records prior to this time.

1607

- The founding of Jamestown in Virginia is the first permanent settlement in North America.

Some genealogical records still survive for the early years of this colony.

1618 - 1648

- The Thirty Years' War - many records were destroyed in Germany and other areas in Europe.

EARLY 1600'S

- First militia units are formed in the American Colonies.

The militia is comprised of all free male citizens of military age. This was the main force of defense during emergencies and during the American Revolution. There was no standing army as this was seen as a step to tyranny.

1685

- Louis XIV repeals the *Edict of Nantes*, a document granting religious tolerance to French Huguenots or Protestants.

From 250,000 to 500,000 Huguenots immigrate to Germany, the Netherlands, Great Britain and to the North American Colonies.

1704

- The *Boston News-letter*, the first successful newspaper begins publication.

Between 1704 and 1820 over 1,800 newspapers were published in the United States.

These are a rich genealogical resource.

RICHMOND, September 22, 1777.
WE the Subscribers intending to leave this Commonwealth in a few Weeks, have the following Articles for Sale, for Cash, viz. Files of different Kinds, Main Springs, Verges, Hour and Minute Hands, China Plates, a few Crystals sorted, and several very elegant Eight Day and Spring Clocks, also a very neat Pair of Pocket Pistols and a small Sword.
 JULIA WHEATLEY.
 THOMAS HUGHES.
 (1)

FREDERICKSBURG, August 23, 1777.
RECEIVED from *Rice Curtis* a ROAN HORSE, supposed to be continental Property, branded on the near Shoulder something like E. Potted, and appraised to 241. If not continental Property, the Owner may have him, on proving his Property, and paying Charges, by applying to me.
 THOMAS ALLEN.
 (1)

To be Sold at publick Vendue, On Tuesday the 21st. of this Instant, at the Plantation of Robert Tate, deceased,

ALL his Household and Kitchen Furniture, Stock of Cattle, Hogs, and Sheep, some Peach and Apple Brandy. Credit will be given for all Sums above Three Pounds, till the 25th of December 1778, on giving Bond with approved Security, to carry Interest from the Date, if not punctually paid. All Persons having Demands against said Estate are desired to bring them in properly proved, to
 FRANCIS TATE, Administrator.
NEWCASTLE, October 1, 1777.

RICHMOND, September 23, 1777.
I intend for Great Britain by the first Opportunity.
 JOHN SKELTON.
 (1)

State of NORTH CAROLINA, CRAVEN County, &c.
To all Sheriffs, Constables, and others, liege Subjects of the said State, greeting:

WHEREAS Complaint hath been made to me, one of the Justices of the Peace for the said State, by *John Bryan, Esq;* High Sheriff of the same, that last night the public Gaol of the said County was broke open, and the following Persons made their Escape from thence, viz. **MICHAEL KELLY**, an *Irishman*, for Robbery; he is about 5 Feet 6 Inches high, had on a Sea green Coat and Osnabrug Trousers, has lost one of his under Teeth, and had a Scar on his right Cheek. **MATTHIAS FARNAN**, for Robbery; he is about 28 Years of Age, 5 Feet 9 or 8 Inches high, had on a dark coloured Jacket, a Chip Hat, and has a Sore on his Leg. **JAMES RAWLINS**, for high Treason; he is a noted Villain, and was one of the Principals in the late Conspiracy against the State, has lived for two Years past in *Martin County*, and is very famous in the Art of Leggerdemain; about 40 Years of Age, of a very black Complexion, and had a Cut on one of his Cheeks. The above-named *Farnan* and *Kelly* obtained a pass from Mr. *Thrale* a few Days before their Commitment, which it is probable they will now make Use of: These are therefore, in the Name of this State, to require you, and every of you, to whom these Presents shall come, to make diligent Search, by Way of Hue and Cry, in all suspected Places, after the said Persons; and them, or either of them, having found, to cause to be apprehended, and carried before the next Justice of the Peace, to be dealt with as the Law directs. Given under my Hand and Seal, this 9th Day of September 1777.
 JOSEPH LEECH.

N. B. Whoever apprehends and secures the above Persons, so that they may be brought to Justice, shall have TEN POUNDS Reward for *Rawlins*, and FIVE POUNDS for each of the other two, from
 JOHN KENNEDY, Goaler.

GOOCHLAND, October 1, 1777.
THE Subscriber has for Sale, on low Terms, a Quantity of valuable and well assorted MEDICINES, also a Number of SHOP DRAWERS neatly painted and lettered, GLASS RETORTS and RECEIVERS, &c. &c.
 JOHN K. READ.
 (1)

FOR SALE, a likely young Negro Wench with her sucking Child. She can wash, iron, and wait in the House equal to any in *Virginia*. Inquire of the Printers.

To be sold, at Caroline Court-house, on the second Thursday in December next (bring Court Day)

THREE Lots of LAND on *Mattapony River*, each containing 300 or more Acres, very well watered and timbered; a considerable Quantity of Meadow may be made on each with little Trouble. The Purchasers will be allowed 6 Months Credit, on giving Bond with approved Security (if)
 ROBERT BAYLOR.

To be sold, at public Auction, for ready Money, on Monday the first of December next, if fair, otherwise next fair Day,

THE noted ORDINARY and Tract of LAND adjoining thereto, belonging to the Estate of *Samuel Abley, deceased*, situate about 6 Miles above *Williamsburg*, on the main Road leading from thence to *Hanover*; there is on the said Land a good Dwelling-House with three Rooms on a Floor, with three large Closets, and all other convenient Outhouses. A good Title will be made, and Possession given the first Day of January next.
 ROBERT C. WARREN.
 (1)

STRAYED, or STOLEN, out of Mr. *Batten's* Pasture, in *James City County*, on the Night of the 24th of September, a BAY GELDING, about 4 Feet 9 Inches high, one hind Foot white, short Tail and hanging Mane. I am not certain as to his Brand, but believe it is a Stirrup Iron, trots hard, and paces not at all. Whoever delivers said Horse to Mrs. *Camp* near *Williamsburg*, to Mr. *John Coker* near *Rappahannock's Ferry*, or to the Subscriber in *Louisa*, shall receive a Reward of 40s. and if stolen 5l. on Conviction of the Thief; he had on a small Bell which perhaps he may have lost.
 ROBERT ANDERSON, Jun.
 (1)

PRINCESS ANNE, Sept. 23, 1777.
I INTEND TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY soon.
 ALEXANDER WATSON.
 (1)

CUMBERLAND, September 23, 1777.
I intend to leave the Country in a short Time.
 NATHAN WILLIAMSON.
 (1)

RUN away from the Subscriber, in *Spotsylvania*, a Negro Man named **JEM**, about 22 Years of Age, 5 Feet 5 Inches high, well made, has a small Scar over his Eyes which are very large and red, had on a white Kersey Coat, blue Broadcloth Breeches, much worn, and togg with him also a darkish grey Virginia Fustian Suit, is very subject to Liqueur, and speaks very impertinently when drunk. Whoever secures the said Negro in Prison, or brings him to me, shall have five Pounds Reward, and all reasonable Charges allowed.
 WILLIAM JACKSON.
 (4)

For Sale, by **DIXON & HUNTER,**
 THE
 OFFICE and AUTHORITY
 OF A
JUSTICE of PEACE
 EXPLAINED AND DIGESTED,
 Under proper TITLES.
 By **RICHARD STARKE, Esquire.**

F O R S A L E,
At the RALEIGH, in Williamsburg,
At a reasonable Price, for ready Money,
 A great Variety of blue, brown, and light coloured broad and other
C L O T H S.

IHEREBY give Notice, that *Abraham Leafman* is under the Age of 14 Years, and, as I am informed he has enlisted into the Artillery Service, being an Apprentice of mine, I shall desire that he may be allowed to come with his Company, without further Trouble.
 FRANCIS LOCKETT.
 27

1756 - 1763

- French and Indian War. Many colonists served in militia units that were mustered for the war leaving behind genealogical records.

1772, 1793, 1795

- The First, Second and Third Partitions of Poland leave the once independent nation divided and under the control of Russia, Prussia and Austria.

Poland regains independence only after World War I.

1775 - 1783

- About 217,000 Colonists serve with the patriot forces during the American Revolution.

Military Pension applications are a rich source of information as they often have information on other family members.

1790

- The first US Census. Only heads of household were named in this and the following early censuses.

The population was 3,929,214

1791

- Founding the Ordnance Survey, the official UK mapping agency. They produce detailed maps updated at regular intervals showing valuable genealogical information.

1792

- Civil registration begins in France during the French Revolution. Before this time the churches were the main keepers of Vital Records.

1807

- The US Coast Survey is established to map the nations coasts, rivers and harbors.

http://historicalcharts.noaa.gov/historical/historical_zoom.asp

1812 - 1815

- The war of 1812.

286,730 Americans served in both regular and militia units. Service and pension files are held in the National Archives

1837

- Systematic national registration of births, deaths and marriages begins in Britain and Ireland.

Before this time these records were kept by the local church parishes.

1840

- The invention of postage stamps. This greatly reduced postage costs and brought an explosion in postal volume.

People send letters more frequently and more letters are saved for historical and genealogical research.

1840's

- Photography becomes common in Europe and the United States

1841

- The first UK census that names everyone in the household.

This census survives intact while most earlier recorded have been lost

1845 - 1851

- The Irish Potato Famine.

Of Ireland's 8,000,000 people 1,000,000 die of starvation. 2,000,000 emigrate to US, Canada, Australia and elsewhere.

1846 - 1847

- War with Mexico. Relatively few Americans (less than 80,000) serve in this war. Some received pensions for service during this and the American Civil War.

1848

- Upheaval in Europe as revolts break out in France, Germany, the Austrian Empire and Hungary.

The revolts are crushed by authoritarian regimes and immigration to US increases from these countries.

1850

- US Census includes names of all free citizens rather than just the name of the head of household.

Additional information included schedules for agriculture and industry.

1850's

- Woodcut pictures become common in weekly illustrated newspapers.

1855

- Castle Garden becomes the first official immigration center. 8,000,000 people passed through here between 1855 and 1890.

For a free search of 12,000,000 immigration records visit:

<http://www.castlegarden.org>

1860

- Unification of Italy

Before this time Italy was divided into several smaller kingdoms. Civil registration begins in 1866 and in some areas goes back to 1806.

The first Italian census was in 1871 but usually only contains the name of the head of household.

1861 - 1865

- The US Civil War involves perhaps 4,000,000 in the armed forces of both Union and Confederate armies. Numerous military pensions are available at the National Archives

1862

- The Homestead Act offers free tracts of Federal land to settlers who agree to live on the land.

Homestead records can be a useful family history resource.

1864

- Civil registration begins on all births, deaths and marriages in Ireland.

Non-Catholic marriages were recorded after 1845.

1867

- D. A. Sanborn starts the Sanborn Map Company.

Their more than 12,000,000 fire insurance maps provide detail of over 12,000 US towns. They are a helpful reference for genealogists looking for places where relatives lived and worked.

1869

- Death of Daniel F. Bakeman, the last veteran of the Revolutionary War at the age of 109.

1870

- The first US Census after the abolition of slavery is the first to include the names of all African-Americans.

1871

- Unification of Germany.

Before this time Germany was divided into numerous separate monarchies. Because of this it is necessary what town or state an ancestor came from to start finding their civil records.

1885 - 1940

- For these years annual “Indian Censuses” which count Native Americans living on reservations, are available.

1888

- George Eastman introduces his Kodak camera, a hand held camera that's simple enough for every day non-professional use.

From this time on casual “snap shots” become common in family photo albums.

1892

- Ellis Island Immigration Station opens in New York City on 1 January and becomes the major entry point for immigrants to the United States.

Fifteen year old Annie Moore of Ireland was the first person processed by this center.

12,000,000 immigrants will pass through its portals leaving useful records for family historians.

LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURIES

- Newspaper obituaries become common for everybody, not just prominent or wealthy people.

Regular recording of vital records becomes standard practice in the United States.

1898

- 306,760 American volunteers and regulars serve in the Spanish American War.

Service and pension records are held by the National Archives.

1900

- The first regular US Census to include nearly all Indians.

1901 & 1911

- Earliest censuses of Ireland that survive.

1907

- Peak year for Ellis Island when 1,004,756 immigrants pass through the station.

1911

- Date of the latest UK census that have been released to the public.

Their 1911 census will be released in 2022 following Great Britain's "100 year rule" regarding census privacy.

1914 - 1918

- World War I, the US enters the war in April 1917.

American military strength increases from 200,000 in 1916 to nearly 5,000,000 by the end of 1918.

Draft registration and military service records are available through the National Archives center in Saint Louis, Mo.

1918 - 1919

- The German, Austrian, Russian and Ottoman Empires collapse, bringing independence to Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

This sharply alters the map of Europe. These changes are important to family research.

1921

- A fire destroys the original rolls of the 1890 census.

Very little remains other than a notable special census of Union Civil War veterans.

1922

- During fighting between Nationalists and Republicans, fire destroys the Public Records Office in Dublin, burning many Irish genealogical records.

1924

- The Immigration Act severely restricts new immigrants to the US.

Congress passes a law granting citizenship to all Native Americans.

1930

- Date of the latest US census that has been opened to researchers.

1939 - 1945

- World War II.

The US enters on 8 December, 1941. Over 16,000,000 Americans serve in the armed forces during the war.

Service records are available at the National Archives.

1941

- No UK census taken due to the war.

1942

- On 19 December, 1942 the UK's 1931 census was destroyed by a fire in a storage facility.

This fire was caused when a careless watchman discarded a lit cigarette butt.

1950's & 1960's

- Fewer of us had “black & white childhoods” as color photography becomes available.

1973

- A fire in the National Archives National Personnel Records Center in Saint Louis destroys millions of military service records including many from both World Wars.
- Fredrak Fraske the last veteran of Indian Wars dies at the age of 101

1980's

- Home computers and CD's begin to revolutionize genealogy.

1990's

- The rise of the internet soon leads to an explosion of genealogical data available on line.

2008

- Death of the last Civil War widow, Maudie Hopkins of Arkansas, ending nearly 150 years of Civil War widow's pension records.

2012

- The 1940 US Census is scheduled to become available to researchers.
- December 23, 2012 - perpetrators of the 2012 end of the world hoax scramble to find a new scheme to make money from the fear they spread.