



## Cheyenne Genealogical & Historical Society

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# Cheyenne Genealogy Journal

### Musings by the President . . .

I have a confession to make. Sadly, I've come to the realization that I'm no researcher. Oh I've made some successful research trips to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and to my ancestors' home towns or the county seats to look at records and while there I've found birth, marriage and death records. I just haven't obtained all the probate records in every case. I've recorded the sales of lands involving my ancestors, but I didn't follow through with the land records. I've visited some of the churches of my ancestors while I was making my research trips, but not all of them. Don't get me wrong. I'm thrilled when I do find an ancestor and I can add information to my family tree. I love seeing my ancestor's name in a church register, for instance. I haven't made one phone call to a remote county clerk's office to ask for a birth, death or marriage record. I haven't written to a clerk of court for a probate record; not one letter for a deed. In my defense I did write for my great-great grandfather's civil war pension file. That was easy; all I had to do was fill out a form and submit it along with a check. What's holding me back? I don't know.

...Maybe this year I'll develop a plan to get 'er done. Sue



### "Genealogical Problem-Solving"—4th Annual Conference for a Cause to feature Thomas W. Jones, Saturday, Oct 13 in Loveland

The Larimer County Genealogy Society's 4th annual Conference for a Cause will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, 13 Oct 2018 in Loveland, Colo., at the Medical Center of the Rockies, Community Room. Featured speaker, Thomas W. Jones, has been co-editor of NGHS since 2002 and is a past APG board member, BCG trustee, and president. With over 40 years of research and teaching experience, he frequently lectures, teaches, and writes about genealogical methodology. His interests include

"blocked" lineages and genealogical problem solving. He will present the following topics:  
--**Finding "Unfindable" Ancestors:** The failure of common research practices to identify ancestors does not mean they are unfindable. This session will describe and demonstrate nine approaches to locating difficult-to-trace ancestors.  
--**Systematically Using Autosomal DNA Test Results to Help Break Through a Genealogical Brick Wall:** A case study set in the early 1800s demonstrates methodology for

using autosomal DNA test results to help solve longstanding genealogical problems.

--**What is the Standard of Proof in Genealogy?:** This presentation will explain the Genealogical Proof Standard, its five elements, and how each contributes to convincing proof. Examples will demonstrate the standard's application to simple and complex situations that genealogists frequently encounter. It will answer the question, "How much evidence is enough for proof?"

--**Maximizing Your Use of Evidence:** When researchers analyze and compare sources, they go far beyond what surface information tells them with resulting evidence that can solve simple and complex genealogical problems. Numerous examples will show participants how they can discover many layers of genealogical evidence and use it to advance their family histories. Pay & register online at [Eventbrite](#) or use a paper registration by printing this [downloadable document](#). (Mailing instructions included.)

### Save the Date!

LCGS's 4th Annual

### Conference for a Cause 2018

Saturday, October 13, 2018

A Full-Day Seminar Featuring

Thomas W. Jones

- Author of Mastering Genealogical Proof and Mastering Genealogical Documentation
- Former co-editor of NGSQ
- Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists, the National Genealogical Society, and the Utah Genealogical Association



Larimer County Genealogical Society  
Research. Learning. Helping.

Medical Center of the Rockies, Loveland  
Information and Registration soon at [LCGSCO.ORG](#)

### Upcoming Events:

13 Sept 2018  
"United States Research: Mid-Atlantic Region"  
[FamilySearch Webinar](#)  
1:00 p.m.

20 Sept 2018  
"Locating Images of Ancestors: Putting a Face With That Name"  
Larimer County Genealogy Society Monthly Meeting  
6:30-8:30 p.m. Good Samaritan Society, 508 W. Trilby Road, Ft Collins

20 Sept 2018  
"England & Wales Civil Registration"  
[FamilySearch Webinar](#)  
1:00 p.m.

21 Sept 2018  
"Finding Your Hispanic Ancestors on Family Search"  
[FamilySearch Webinar](#)  
11:30 a.m.

27 Sept 2018  
"Danish Emigration"  
[FamilySearch Webinar](#)  
1:00 p.m.

9 Oct 2018  
"Witches & Healers, Oh My!"  
CGHS Monthly Meeting  
6:15-8:30 p.m. Laramie County Library  
Cheyenne

11 Oct 2018  
"United States Research: Pacific Region"  
[FamilySearch Webinar](#)  
1:00 p.m.

13 Oct 2018  
"Conference For a Cause"  
Thomas W. Jones  
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Community Room, Medical Center of the Rockies, Loveland  
(registration info at left)

16 Oct 2018  
"Starting Family Tree: Navigating, Adding, Editing & Standardization"  
[FamilySearch Webinar](#)  
10:00 a.m.

# We All Probably Have Indentured Servants Among Our American Ancestors

Information in this article is from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia—  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indentured\\_servitude\\_in\\_the\\_Americas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indentured_servitude_in_the_Americas)

**Indentured servitude** in the Americas was a means by which immigrants, typically young Europeans under 25, came to the Americas from the early 17th to the early 20th centuries. Immigrants would contract to work for an American employer for a certain time period, usually between one and seven years, in exchange for the employer paying for their passage to the Americas. The employer provided subsistence for his indentured servants, but no wages; he could restrict some of their activities such as marriage, could sell or transfer their contract to another employer, and could seek legal sanctions, such as prison, if they ran away. At the end of the agreed time period, the servant would become free to go his own way or demand wages for his work. In some cases, the newly freed person also received an item of value such as a small parcel of land or a new suit of clothes.

The consensus view among economic historians and economists is that indentured servitude became popular in the Thirteen Colonies in the seventeenth century because of a large demand for labor there, coupled with labor surpluses in Europe and high costs of transatlantic transportation beyond the means of European workers. Between the 1630s and the American Revolution, one-half to two-thirds of white immigrants to the Thirteen Colonies arrived under indentures. Half a million Europeans, mostly young men, also went to the Caribbean under indenture to work on plantations. Most indentures were voluntary, although some people were tricked or coerced into them. A [debt peonage](#) (bondage) system similar to indenture was also used in southern New England and Long Island to control and assimilate Native Americans from the 1600s through the American Revolution.

Indentured servitude continued to be used in North America into the early 20th century, but the number of indentured servants declined over time. Although experts do not agree on the causes of the decline, some possible factors for the American colonies include changes in the labor market and the legal system that made it cheaper and less risky for an employer to hire African slave labor or paid employees, or made indentures unlawful; increased

affordability of travel to North America that made immigrants less likely to rely on indentures to pay travel costs; and effects of the American Revolution, particularly on immigration from Britain. In the Caribbean, the number of indentured servants from Europe began to decline in the 17th century as Europeans became aware of the cruelty of plantation masters and the high death rate of servants, largely due to tropical disease. After the British Empire ended slavery in 1833, plantation owners returned to indentured servitude for labor, with most servants coming from India, until the British government prohibited the practice in 1917.

Between one-half and two-thirds of European immigrants to the Thirteen Colonies between the 1630s and the American Revolution came under indentures. The practice was sufficiently common that the [Habeas Corpus Act 1679](#), in part, prevented imprisonments overseas; it also made provisions for those with existing transportation contracts and those "praying to be transported" in lieu of remaining in prison upon conviction. In any case, while half the European immigrants to the Thirteen Colonies had been indentured servants, at any one time they were outnumbered by workers who had never been indentured, or whose indenture had expired. Free wage labor was more common for Europeans in the colonies. Indentured persons were numerically important mostly in the region from Virginia north to New Jersey. Other colonies saw far fewer of them. The total number of European immigrants to all 13 colonies before 1775 was about 500,000-550,000; of these 55,000 were [involuntary prisoners](#). Of the 450,000 or so European arrivals who came voluntarily, Tomlins estimates that 48% were indentured. About 75% were under the age of 25. The age of legal adulthood for men was 24 years; those over 24 generally came on contracts lasting about 3 years. Regarding the children who came, Gary Nash, an American historian, reports that, "many of the servants were actually nephews, nieces, cousins and children of friends of emigrating Englishmen, who paid their passage in return for their labor once in America."

Farmers, merchants, and shopkeepers in the British colonies found it very difficult to hire free workers, primarily because it was easy for potential workers to set up their own farms. Consequently, a common solution was to

transport a young worker from Britain or a German state, who would work for several years to pay off the debt of their travel costs. During the indenture period the servants were not paid cash wages, but were provided with food, accommodation, clothing and training. The indenture document specified how many years the servant would be required to work, after which they would be free. Terms of indenture ranged from one to seven years with typical terms of four or five years. In southern New England, a variant form of indentured servitude, which controlled the labor of Native Americans through an exploitative debt-peonage system, developed in the late 17th century and continued through to the period of the American Revolution.



An indenture signed by Henry Mayer, with an "X", in 1738. This contract bound Mayer to Abraham Hestant of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who had paid for Mayer to travel from Europe.

Not all European servants came willingly. Several instances of kidnapping for transportation to the Americas are recorded, though these were often indentured in the same way as their willing counterparts. As historian [Richard Hofstadter](#) pointed out, "Although efforts were made to regulate or check their activities, and they diminished in importance in the eighteenth century, it remains true that a certain small part of the white colonial population of America was brought by force, and a much larger portion came in response to deceit and misrepresentation on the part of the spirits [recruiting agents]." (Continued on page 3)

## Apprentices Were Often Children—Orphans or from Poor Families—Bound Out to Work

(Continued from page 2)

Many white immigrants arrived in colonial America as indentured servants, usually as young men and women from Britain or Germany, under the age of 21. Typically, the father of a teenager would sign the legal papers, and work out an arrangement with a ship captain, who would not charge the father any money. The captain would transport the indentured servants to the American colonies, and sell their legal papers to someone who needed workers. At the end of the indenture, the young person was given a new suit of clothes and was free to leave. Many immediately set out to begin their own farms, while others used their newly acquired skills to pursue a trade. A few became sufficiently prosperous that they were eventually able to acquire indentured servants of their own.

Given the high death rate, many servants did not live to the end of their terms. In the 18th and early 19th century, numerous Europeans, mostly from outside the British Isles, traveled to the colonies as [redemptioners](#), a particularly harsh form of indenture.

Indentured servants were a separate category from bound [apprentices](#). The latter were American-born children, usually orphans or from an impoverished family who could not care for them. They were under the control of courts and were bound out to work as an apprentice until a certain age. Two famous bound apprentices were Benjamin Franklin who illegally fled his apprenticeship to his brother, and Andrew Johnson, who later became President of the United States. George Washington used indentured servants; in April 1775, he offered a reward for the return of two runaway white servants.

### Development

Indentured servitude in the Americas was first used by the [Virginia Company](#) in the early seventeenth century as a method for collateralizing the debt finance for transporting people to its newfound British colonies. Before the rise of indentured servitude, a large demand for labor existed in the colonies to help build settlements, farm crops and serve as tradesmen, but many laborers in Europe could not afford the transatlantic crossing, which could cost roughly half a worker's annual wage. European financial institutions could not easily lend to the workers since there was no effective way to enforce a loan from across the Atlantic, rendering labor immobile via the Atlantic because of capital market imperfections.

To address this imperfection, the Virginia Company would allow laborers to borrow against their future earnings at the Virginia Company for a fixed number of years in order to raise sufficient capital to pay for their voyage. Evidence shows this practice was in use by 1609, only two years after the founding of the Virginia Company's original Jamestown settlement. However, this practice created a financial risk for the Virginia Company. If workers died or refused to work, the investment would be lost. By 1620, the Virginia Company switched to selling contracts of "one hundred servants to be disposed amongst the old Planters" as soon as the servants reached the colonies. This minimized risk on its investment to the 2-3 months of transatlantic voyage. As the system gained in popularity, individual farmers and tradesmen would eventually begin investing in indentured servants as well.

In the 18th century, wages in Great Britain were low because of a surplus of labor. The average monetary wage was about 50 shillings (£2.50, equivalent to £344 in 2016) a year for a plowman, and 40 shillings (£2) a year for an ordinary unskilled worker. Ships' captains negotiated prices for transporting and feeding a passenger on the 7- or 8-week journey across the ocean, averaging about £5 to £7, the equivalent of years of work back in England. Still, demand for indentured labor remained relatively low until the adoption of staple crops, such as sugarcane in the West Indies or tobacco in the American South. With economies largely based on these crops, the West Indies and American South would see the vast majority of indentured labor. Historian Richard Hofstadter wrote:

*"The most unenviable situation was that of servants on Southern plantations, living alongside but never with Negro slaves, both groups doing much the same work, often under the supervision of a relentless overseer...Even as late as 1770, William Eddis, the English surveyor of customs at Annapolis, thought that the Maryland Negroes were better off than 'the Europeans, over whom the rigid planter exercises an inflexible severity.' The Negroes, Eddis thought, were a life-long property so were treated with a certain care, but the whites were 'strained to the utmost to perform their allotted labor.'"*

Over time the market for indentured servitude developed, with length of contracts showing close correlations to indicators of health and productivity. Tall, strong, healthy, literate or skilled servants would often serve shorter terms

than less productive or more sickly servants. Similarly, destinations with harsh working climates such as the West Indies would come to offer shorter contracts compared to the more hospitable colonies.

The majority of indentured servants ended up in the American South, where cash crops necessitated labor-intensive farming. As the Northern colonies moved toward industrialization, they got significantly less indentured immigration. For example, 96.28% of English emigrants to Virginia and Maryland from 1773 to 1776 were indentured servants. During the same time period, only 1.85% of English emigrants to New England were indentured.



Women and girls were often placed in service of well-to-do families doing cooking, washing and helping with chores.

### Restrictions

Indentures could not marry without the permission of their owner, were subject to physical punishment (like many young ordinary servants), and saw their obligation to labor enforced by the courts. To ensure uninterrupted work by the female servants, the law lengthened the term of their indenture if they became pregnant. But unlike slaves, servants were guaranteed to be eventually released from bondage. At the end of their term they received a payment known as "freedom dues" and became free members of society. One could buy and sell indentured servants' contracts, and the right to their labor would change hands, but not the person as a piece of property. Both male and female laborers could be subject to violence, occasionally even resulting in death. Hofstadter noted that, as slaves arrived in greater numbers after 1700, white laborers in Virginia became a "privileged stratum, assigned to lighter work and more skilled tasks." (Continued on page 4)

## Indentured Servitude Was One Method of Increasing the Number of Colonists

(Continued from page 3)

He also notes that "Runaways were regularly advertised in the newspapers, rewards were offered, and both sheriffs and the general public were enlisted to secure their return. ... The standard penalty in the North, not always rigorously enforced, was extra service of twice the time the master had lost, though whipping was also common."

Indentured servitude was a method of increasing the number of colonists, especially in the English and later British colonies. Voluntary migration and convict labor only provided so many people, and since the journey across the Atlantic was dangerous, other means of encouraging settlement were necessary. Contract laborers became an important group of people and so numerous that the United States Constitution counted them specifically in appointing representatives:

*"Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years..."*

Displaced from their land and unable to find work in the cities, many of these people signed contracts of indenture and took passage to the Americas.



Virginia and Maryland operated under what was known as the "headright system." The leaders of each colony knew that labor was essential for economic survival, so they provided incentives for planters to import workers. For each laborer brought across the Atlantic, the master was rewarded with 50 acres of land.

### Decline

Indentured servitude appeared in the Americas in the 1620s and remained in use as late as 1917. The causes behind its decline are a contentious domain in economic history. The end of debtors' prisons may have created a limited commitment pitfall in which indentured serv-

ants could agree to contracts with ship captains and then refuse to sell themselves once they arrived in the colonies. Increased lobbying from immigrant aid societies led to increased regulation of the indentured labor market, further increasing the difficulty of enforcing contracts. With less ability to enforce the contracts, demand for indentured servants may have fallen. However, most debtor prisons were still in service when indentured servitude disappeared and many regulations on indentured servitude were put in place well before the disappearance.

A rise in European per-capita income compared to passage fare during the nineteenth century may also explain the disappearance of indentured servitude. While passage from England to the colonies in 1668 would cost roughly 51 percent of English per-capita income, that ratio would decrease to between 20 and 30 percent by 1841. This increase in relative income may have been further supplemented by a demonstrated increase in savings among European laborers, meaning European emigrants would have the capital on hand to pay for their own passage. With no need for transit capital, fewer laborers would have become indentured, and the supply of indentured servants would have decreased.

Labor substitutions may have led employers away from indentured servants and towards slaves or paid employees. In many places, African slaves became cheaper for unskilled and then eventually skilled labor, and most farmhand positions previously filled by indentured servants were ultimately filled by slaves. Wage laborers may have been more productive, since employers were more willing to terminate waged employment. In comparison, firing an indentured servant would mean a loss on the original capital investment spent purchasing the servant's contract. Either substitution would lead to a decrease in demand for indentured servitude. An additional problem for employers was that, compared to African slaves, European indentured servants who ran away could not always be easily distinguished from the general white population, so they were more difficult to re-capture.

Indentured servitude's decline for white servants was also largely a result of changing attitudes that accru-

ed over the 18th century and culminated in the early 19th century. Over the 18th century, the penal sanctions that were used against all workers were slowly going away from colonial codes, leaving indentured servants the only adult white labor subject to penal sanctions (with the notable exception of seaman, whose contracts could be criminally enforced up to the 20th century). These penal sanctions for indentured laborers continued in the United States until the 1830s, and by this point treatment of European laborers under contract became the same as the treatment of wage laborers (however, this change in treatment didn't apply to workers of color). This change in treatment can be attributed to a number of factors, such as the growing identification of white indentured labor with slavery at a time when slavery was coming under attack in the Northern states, the growing radicalism of workers influenced with the rhetoric of the American Revolution, and the expansion of suffrage in many states which empowered workers politically. The rise in the affordability of immigration reduced emigrants' need for external financing in the form of indentures. David Galenson's analysis on affordability shows that the cost of immigration from Britain to the United States over the course of the 18th Century dropped from 50% of per capita income to less than 10%. This is attributable to higher levels of real income in Europe (a result of economic growth in the 18th Century) and to a sharp decline in transportation costs. Innovation had a strong impact on the ease and cost of passenger transportation, reducing the need of indentures. The railroad made non-port cities a much cheaper destination for immigrants. The steamboat was not necessarily cheaper than older sailing technologies, but it made transatlantic travel much easier and comfortable, an attractive factor for high-income classes (that could easily afford immigration without indentures). The British Navy's efforts against piracy also reduced transportation costs. Safer seas implied smaller crews (for there was no need to man weapons on board) and also reduced insurance costs (ships were at lower risk of being captured). The composition of immigrants also shifted from single males towards entire families. Single males usually left their homes with little if any savings. Instead, families generally liquidated assets in Europe to finance their venture.

# Genealogy News You Can Use...

## Get to Know Familypedia: the Biggest Genealogy Site You Probably Never Heard of

Information in this article is from Dick Eastman's [Online Genealogy Newsletter](#) of 11 July 2018.

**Familypedia** is a wiki, part of the commercial Wikia site. It is a place where **YOU** can create articles about your ancestors and easily link them to other articles about where and when they lived. The site is primarily text-based with biographical pages about deceased individuals. In some cases, you can find pictures of individuals as well as pedigree charts, maps, and other graphics. In most cases, each deceased person has a separate web page giving details about his or her life and also containing hyperlinks to other web pages that contain information about the person's relatives. Entire families can be hyperlinked together. *Familypedia* can be used alone as a separate service, or it can be linked via hyperlinks to other online services, such as MyHeritage.com, FamilySearch.org, Ancestry.com, or independent web pages created by individuals. Because the *Familypedia* web site has a wiki format, you can work collaboratively with others to create a network of articles about your ancestors and about those they lived and worked with. The site has no constraints on where the data resides, so you can provide links to your ancestors on whatever web sites host the information. Before you start entering your own ancestors on *Familypedia*, you will want to see if there is already some information about them or their family. To find existing information, you can go to <http://www.familypedia.wikia.com> and use the search box. However, a more organized search method is to use the Surnames Index, Birth Country Index, Death Country Index, Birth Decade Index, or Death Decade Index, all found on the same home page.

I started by searching on my own surname and found a number of individuals listed. However, they were not tied together as a "family" but appeared to be somewhat random listings. As I tried other surnames from my own family tree, I found several families linked together with a lot of information. All information on *Familypedia* is contributed by users, so we can expect the quantity and quality of information to vary widely. Some of the information is well sourced while other entries contain no source citations at all. Since anyone can edit a wiki, I could jump right into collaboration mode even though I don't know the other contributors personally.

I could add to their information about the individuals I have researched, change anything I knew to be incorrect, or create a new web page for other individuals and link them to related people. In short, *Familypedia* and other wikis are truly democratic communities. Any user can create a new web page for any individual at any time. Perhaps even better, any user can also edit each existing page. If you have supplemental information about an individual you find already listed, or if you wish to correct an error on a page, you can do so within seconds. If you can type and click, you can edit almost every page in a wiki. Of course, such anarchy might invite spam, graffiti, and other junk to be added by uncaring users. Luckily, like most other wikis, *Familypedia* easily handles such junk. Multiple copies are saved for each page on the site. When you visit a page, the latest version is displayed. If you see inappropriate content, you (or anyone else) can click on EDIT and then on SHOW CHANGES to show the various revisions. Finally, click on the last unmoled web page to revert to that version.

It actually takes more time to create graffiti than it does to delete it. Therefore, spammers and other unwelcome "guests" soon lose interest and move on to other pastures. Each and every user becomes an editor, able to delete unwanted content within seconds. Likewise, if anyone deletes good content, a click on EDIT and then on SHOW CHANGES will show all the different revisions, including those previously deleted. With a few more mouseclicks, any deleted pages can be restored in seconds. The reality is that *Familypedia*, *Wikipedia*, and other online wikis receive very little spam or other unwanted junk. The self-policing by users works well as long as there are plenty of users. The more popular the site becomes, the better the self-policing effort works. Unlike some other wikis, *Familypedia* allows anyone to add or correct information, even without creating an account. However, there are advantages to creating a free account. For one thing, your free account lets you register a user name for yourself. Becoming known under that user name means that you will be able to gain reputation and recognition in the community when others see your user name as the person who made the changes. Registered users also can do more with the site; they can upload pictures, create

personal "watchlists" to keep an eye on favorite articles, be notified of changes by email, and other advanced features. User names can be whatever you choose, within a few common sense limits (no profanity, no spam, etc.) and can be fully anonymous. Other users will not see your real name, address, telephone number, or other personal information. However, registered users may optionally create a user talk page where others can contact them. Information shown on a talk page can include as much or as little information as each person wishes to share.

*Familypedia* is a part of the family of wikis available at [Wikia.com](http://Wikia.com). Other wikis on the same service are devoted to television shows, movies, food, fashion, environmental sustainability, online games, lifestyle, and many other topics. Wikia is supported by advertising, so the site is free for all users. If you have an interest in genealogy wikis, you will want to check out *Familypedia*.

### MyHeritage Launches Filtering System for DNA Matches

Thanks to the growth of their database, most users on MyHeritage now have thousands of DNA Matches. Managing all those DNA Matches, and making sense of them has become a challenge. Filtering lets you view a subset of your DNA Matches at a time, focusing on those that meet particular criteria. A new user interface to the DNA Overview page lets you filter your DNA Matches easily by relationship, by country or by ethnicity. Using the new filter toolbar, you can combine multiple filters, and filter matches by additional criteria such as those that have a family tree, have shared ancestral surnames with you or have Smart Matches™ with you. Filtering of DNA Matches can be combined with sorting and searching. For example, you can easily find all your DNA Matches that include "Gordon" in the name of the match or as an ancestral surname, filtering them to view only those who have a particular ethnicity and live in a particular country, while sorting them alphabetically or by the amount of shared DNA. See the full [blog post](#) here with a step-by-step guide on how to use it.

**Cheyenne  
Genealogical &  
Historical Society**

P.O. Box 2539

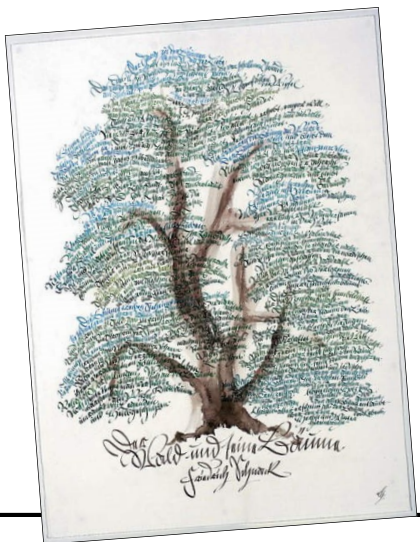
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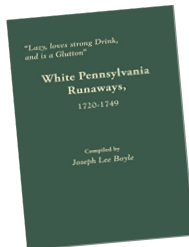
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## "Check This Out"

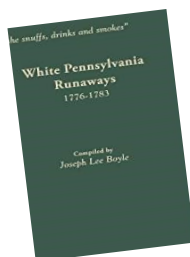
Family history-related fiction & nonfiction  
book reviews by CGHS members & others



**White Pennsylvania Runaways, 1720-1749**  
Compiled by Joseph Lee Boyle, c 2017  
Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore,  
Maryland; 478 pages

Little-known fact: in colonial America, indentured whites, comprised of convicts, vagabonds, exiles, redemptioners, the kidnapped, runaways, and the willing servants hoping for a better life by serving out a period of servitude being purchased by colonial masters than by remaining in their traditional European societies, preceded and exceeded the black slavery population in all the colonies up until the American Revolution. For some, the risks were rewarded: one in ten took up land, and one in ten became artisans. But for the other eight, the journey ended in death in servitude, a return to England, or life as a "poor white." With a substantial amount of capital invested in their vessels of cheap labor, few masters let runaways get by without public declaration. Conversely, some escapees had such little value or time left in indenture, no efforts were made to pay the reward to recover them. But the more valuable runaways were advertised, and when caught, paid in extended servitude time and penalty.

Mr. Boyle has compiled notices of white runaways from local newspapers of the day. None were in publication before 1720. Many newspapers were read through, some of which were *The Boston Gazette*, *The Pennsylvania Gazette*, *The New-England Courant*, and *The New-York Evening Post*, among several others. Also, a list of further readings is included for those who wish to research further. The chapters are arranged by year, notices in chronological order, with citations. There is a name index. The introduction in each book explains the situation of indentured servitude in appropriate detail, and gives the reader a good understanding of the subject.



**White Pennsylvania Runaways, 1750-1762**  
Compiled by Joseph Lee Boyle, c 2017  
Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore,  
Maryland; 485 pages

Most white Europeans did not come to the American colonies as free men and women. They were transported from Britain as indentured servants, political exiles, or convicts. In every colony, enslaved white persons preceded the engagement of black slaves long before the blacks arrived. Some were abducted to the colonies, some were runaways from impoverished homes selling themselves as servants, and some were exiles and vagabonds. White bound labor remained significant until the American Revolution. Mr. Boyle has compiled a number of books of entries (two noted here from Pennsylvania and others from Maryland & Delaware) with transcriptions extracted from numerous newspapers published during the periods. One example:

"Ran-away... from George Sheed of Philadelphia, Barber and Perriwig-Maker, a Servant Man of the same Trade, named George Tanner, a short well-set Fellow with short Leggs, short clumsey Hands full of Warts, a pretty broad Face and pretty much Pockfretten, and waddles in his Gate; a very lying talkative Fellow, is sometimes English sometime Irish as it may suit his Purpose, & pretends to have been a great Traveller...."

Each book has an introduction covering the historical points of the period, the background of white servitude, and the social milieu of the time. Each book has a large index, which must surely contain every name mentioned in the book.

—Book reviews by Bobbi King, Book Review editor with Dick Eastman's Online Genealogical Newsletter, <https://eogn.com>