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Book Reviews

Paul Milner, MDiv, MS, of Park Ridge, Illinois, edits the "Book Review" column. Publications for review should be sent to him at 1548 Parkside, Park Ridge, IL 60068.

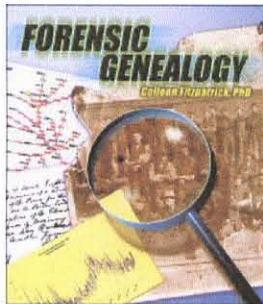


Paul Milner

***Forensic Genealogy.* By Colleen Fitzpatrick, PhD. Published by Rice Book Press, Fountain Valley, CA, c/o Andrew Yeiser and Associates, 302 Cleveland Avenue, Huntington Beach CA 92648. www.forensicgenealogy.info. 2005. viii, 220 pp. Illustrations. Softcover with CD-ROM. \$26.50.**

Ms. Fitzpatrick is an expert in optical laser measurement. She employs her scientific skills to demonstrate the use of research skills from other fields to evaluate artifacts and records to draw out information of value to the genealogist. The obvious analogies are made with TV programs such as CSI, Medical Detectives and Forensic Files but I liked this book as it gets you to think differently about your research and what might be done to solve specific genealogical problems using techniques from other fields.

The book itself is divided into three sections: Digital Detective; Database Detective and DNA Detective. The digital detective raises questions of how to look differently at our ancestor's photographs. The author includes examples of measuring the card stock thickness, the border shape and size and the image size to determine the camera used to take the picture. Dr. Fitzpatrick points out a problem with using clothing to determine the date and a family's social standing as the outfits may have been provided by the photographer. She offers an alternative: analyze other items in the photograph to determine date and place. There is a detailed case study using a group photograph of railway workers to determine when and where the photograph was taken using shadow calculations within the picture.



The Database section discusses the use, creation and manipulation of databases for genealogical purposes, with information gathered from city directories being used as an example of the technique. Information can then be combined with data from other often lesser used sources, such as, lists of fire victims and their losses, seaman's protection certificates, coroner's reports, registry of free persons of color; a sacramental records. Examples are given of cultural profiling to find out what is the norm for that time and place and how that compares with other locations. An interesting case study of seventeenth-century French parish records reconstructs families moving into the parish, and examines fertility rates

within the parish and how these were affected by an ergot epidemic.

The DNA detective section addresses the use of DNA in genealogical research. The fundamentals are defined and it is shown how "genealogy DNA" studies differ from the use of DNA in forensics or medicine. Testing companies and their tests (now dated) are identified along with DNA markers, their meaning, how to use them and formulas for finding the most recent common ancestors. Suggestions for organizing a single name study are given. This material is designed for the intelligent reader, but there are probably easier texts if you are just getting into DNA research. What is unique is the section that addresses the use of cladograms to diagram the genetic relationships among members of a DNA study.

A CD is provided with supporting materials from the book, formula spreadsheets and web links to the source citations and bibliographic materials mentioned in the book. The CD loads automatically using Internet Explorer.

While not for a beginner, this book will certainly be of value to more experienced researchers who want to see examples of how to think differently about the records they use, how to manipulate and use information in databases, and the application of modern research tools. It is a

book that makes you think differently about your research processes and is recommended.

Paul Milner
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Recording and Analysing Graveyards. Practical Handbook in Archaeology 15. By Harold Mytum. Published by the Council for British Archaeology in Association with English Heritage, St. Mary's House, 66 Bootham, York, YO30 7BZ, England. US Distributor: David Brown Book Co., P.O. Box 511, 28 Main Street, Oakville CT 06779. www.dbbconline.com. 2000 reprinted 2008. xvi, 173 pp. Forms, illustrations, index. Softcover. \$14.95 .

Many genealogical societies want to record the monuments within their local cemeteries. In the process they often re-invent the wheel when determining the process and the pieces of data to record. Here are instructions for doing such a project properly—even template forms are provided. The result will be a detailed recording of data that can be used across a wide geographic area and by more than just the genealogist. Not all the guidelines will apply since this is designed for British graveyards and their history but most guidelines are appropriate for American cemeteries.

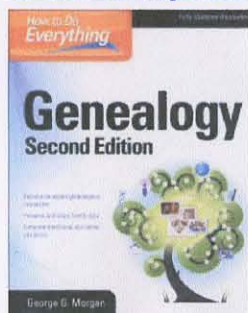
The book is divided into five parts: what can graveyards tell us; carrying out a project; recording the memorials; planning the burial ground; and, making sense of the information. The first part provides the context. It is well-illustrated and shows how markers and their contents have changed over time, often adapting to meet local resources and needs. The second part explains the recording process and offers a useful preparatory checklist of steps. The third part shows how to record the memorials, both the inscriptions and the monument details, using standardized numerical codes to describe the latter to allow for later geographic or chronological analysis of monumental practices within the cemetery or in comparison to other cemeteries. Examples of monuments are provided. The fourth part describes planning the ground, i.e. creating a detailed map showing grave markers and contours. The last section shows how to use computers to make sense of all the information and going beyond just the inscriptions. Sample forms are provided for recording information.

This book will get you or your society to think differently about how and why a cemetery should be recorded, at the same time it provides detailed guidance on how to manage and complete the project. It is highly recommended for individuals or societies considering or working on a cemetery project.

Paul Milner
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How to Do Everything: Genealogy [,] Second Edition. By George Morgan. Published by McGraw Hill Books, P.O. Box 182604, Columbus OH 43272. www.mcgraw-hill.com. 2009. 405 pp. Illustrations, index. Softcover. \$24.99. ***The Official Guide to Ancestry, Second Edition.*** By George Morgan. Published by The Generations Network, 360 West 4800 North, Provo UT 84604. www.ancestry.com. 2008. xxii, 300 pp. Illustrated, index. Softcover. \$24.95.



Two recent updated volumes by George Morgan are worth noting. The former, *Genealogy*, would make an excellent textbook for an introductory course in genealogical methods and research techniques. Extensively illustrated with images of records, resources and people, the book contains apt and helpful advice for beginning genealogical researchers.

In addition to American resources, Morgan also covers research clues for those searching in Canadian, Australian and UK record groups. As one with extensive background in teaching and utilizing the Internet in genealogy, he provides instruction on appropriate use of this vehicle in research. He offers advice and suggestions on when and how to engage a profes-

sional researcher. In other words, the book provides a broad range of clues, ideas, and advice on conducting research effectively and efficiently.

The *Official Guide to Ancestry*, in keeping with Morgan's facility for explaining materials in helpful and insightful ways, provides an insider's view of what's available through the expanding resources of The Generations Network. Due both to the scope of their available record groups and databases, and the firm's penetration into the genealogical marketplace, TGN and its various imprints and subsidiaries has become a vendor/publisher/purveyor whose influence cannot be ignored in the genealogical realm. If one were to try and conduct genealogical research at this point without using TGN's databases either in-home or in public libraries and archives, one would likely falter, so deep is its impact on current genealogical processes.

As one would expect of a teacher so well-versed on matters of internet research, Morgan also points out the pitfalls of accepting data and materials found on the Internet at face value. While the data found in such research may be accurate, it may not always be so, and the author makes certain readers understand not only the why, but also the how, of evaluating online assertions.

Genealogy would make an excellent addition to the stable of resources professional and avid amateur genealogists keep on their bookshelves. Libraries and teachers will also find utility in the visuals provided in the chapters on research. The *Official Guide* would make a useful resource for folks wanting to become more familiar with Ancestry.com as a tool for furthering research interests.

David McDonald, CG
De Forest, Wisconsin

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***Searching for Ichabod*, By Julie Foster Van Camp. Published by Walden West Resources, 2089 Baker View Road, Lopez Island WA 98261. www.searchingforichabod.com. 2009, 242 pp. Illustrated. Softcover. \$13.99.**

This work recalls in exquisite detail the efforts expended by the author in tracking and retracing the paths taken by her eighteenth-century forebear, Ichabod Foster, whose journey began in Rhode Island and ended with his death in the Holland Purchase region of western New York in 1814. Being the fortunate bearer of various diaries kept by Ichabod and contemporaries, Mrs. Van Camp used the data therein to cross upper New England into Vermont and on into New York, all the while seeking out significant homesteads, remaining buildings, record agents and offices with data of potential interest in the story of Ichabod and his family.

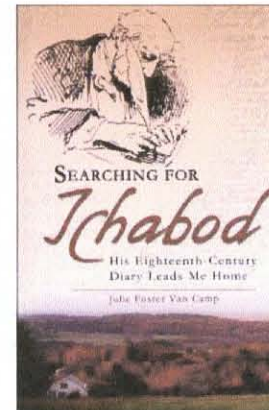
Recalling her own family's connections in Iowa, this daughter of a local physician was challenged in young adulthood to take the resources and materials related to Ichabod Foster that had been held in their Iowa farmhouse. Following the untimely deaths of her father and brother, Mrs. Van Camp was given what little data remained by her uncle with the question, "Why me?"

The resulting book is her effort to answer that question.

The author describes the serendipitous connections made with distant kin via old messages posted on Web-based bulletin board systems and the joy derived in observing the beauty of a chilly New England morning. She experiences first-hand the thrill of seeing a building, originally constructed as a church, long disused, built in part by her forebear. She artfully describes encounters of various types with archivists, librarians, local characters and historians which will ring true with most any active genealogist who has pursued genealogical records and research on-site.

Reflective and enthusiastic, Mrs. Van Camp provides an exceptionally detailed accounting of her research endeavors in tracing Ichabod's progress and ultimately, his disposition. As anyone who has ever sought an ancestral gravesite can appreciate, the author describes her emotional and intuitive reaction to a possible burial site on ancestral property in western New York.

Those with ancestors who migrated westward from New England in the aftermath of the



Revolutionary War and settlers in the Holland Purchase, as well as those with early Baptist forebears may find the descriptions and diary entries of particular interest.

David McDonald, CG
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Forgotten Patriots: African American and American Indian Patriots in the Revolutionary War: A Guide to Service, Sources and Studies. Edited by Eric Grundset. Published by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, 1776 D Street NW, Washington, DC 20006. www.dar.org/library/fp.cfm. 2008. 872 pp, Bibliography, illustrations, index. Hardbound. \$35.

In this well-planned and useful book, Mr. Grundset provides a comprehensive resource to the Revolutionary period—a gold mine of resources from archives, universities and local historical collections. Because of its depth and richness, the book is more than a reference tool; it is a road map for understanding the literature published on the subject.

Mr. Grundset also gives the reader historical information (including maps, pension records, and other images) about the American Revolutionary War, from both a regional and ethnic perspective. His eye for detail at the local level, where he provides not only information but also historical background, will enrich the research of every discerning student of genealogy. His stories and clues may well change your perception of an event or an ancestor!



Geographic organization of the book makes both resource material and historical background easy to understand and use. It begins with larger regions (North and South), then proceeds to areas (such as New England) and then to states, where the researcher will find lists of those who served in the Revolutionary War. Mr. Grundset shows his knowledge of the subject and the population of the time by including a chapter on the Old Northwest. He presents historical background on the importance of the territory to both sides, the African Americans, and the Native American alliances. Throughout the book, robust bibliographies offer both primary and secondary sources with additional information in the well-written appendixes.

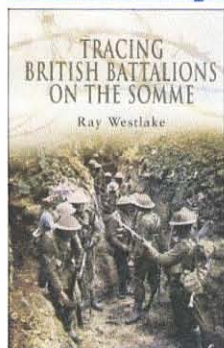
The book also deals with the following relevant topics: Miscellaneous Naval and Military Records, Foreign Allies and the West Indies. In chapters on each of these subjects, the reader will find records that are often overlooked by other references dealing with the Revolutionary period.

This is a must-have reference book for anyone interested in the American Revolutionary War or in the African Americans and/or Native Americans who served or aided the cause.

Kim Harrison
Provo, Utah

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Tracing British Battalions of the Somme. By Ray Westlake. 1994, reprinted 2009 by Pen & Sword Military, 47 Church Street, Barnsley, South Yorkshire S70 2AS, England. U.S. Distributor: Casemate Publishers, 1016 Warrior Road, Suite C, Drexel Hill PA 19026. www.casematepublishing.com. 310 pp. Index, map. Softcover. \$25.99.



This reference book tracks the movement of the 616 infantry battalions belonging to the regiments of the British Army and the 63rd Royal Naval Division during their service in the Battle of the Somme area between 1 July and 18 November 1916. It is arranged by order of regimental precedence and follows each battalion into the area, identifies their service in the Somme area, with battles and engagements, along with movements out of the line. The arrangement is chronological with specific dates provided. This is helpful as most histories focus on the less detailed divisional level. Generally, the locations given are where the majority of the battalion bivouacked or billeted. Often small parties (or single companies) moved away for temporary attachment to other formations, or on work detail, and this is mentioned where