

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

by John A. Leppman

Vermont Genealogy is pleased to offer our readers the following reviews to help them evaluate recently published books and CD-ROMs of interest. Notices are given to reprints of out-of-print books. If you produce or sell something you would like reviewed, please mail a review copy to John A. Leppman, Book Review Editor, 20 Thwing Lane, Bellows Falls VT 05101-1608. Reviews or notices of books and CD-ROMs appear at the discretion of the editor.

REVIEWS

Herrick Genealogical Register: A Genealogical Register of the Name and Family of Herrick from the Settlement of Henerie Hericke, in Salem, Massachusetts, Volume Two, compiled by Richard Leon Herrick (Holt, Mich., 3rd ed., 2009), hardbound, xxvi + p. 1175-1831. Order from the Herrick Family Association, c/o Sharon Herrick, 3889 Sierra Heights, Holt MI 48842-7706. \$60.00 to members of the Association, \$70 to non-members, includes shipping and handling.

Volume I of this massive compilation, which actually was two volumes (Part 1 and Part 2) in itself, was reviewed in *VG*, 13 [2008]: 181-182. This second volume of a projected four covers descendants of Henry² Herrick, son of the immigrant Henry (or "Henerie,"¹ baptized in Salem, Mass., 16 January 1638/9, died in Beverly, Mass., June 1702. Over eight thousand lineal descendants of this person are identified here. Herrick is the dominant surname, but other surnames are traced out to several generations. For example, a daughter of Henry² married a Porter.

As in Volume I, the presentation is clear, following *Register* format and expressing the necessary data in consistent and easily understood terms. Citations are easy to follow. The amount of biographical information on any individual, particularly in the later generations, is variable and generally not effusive, but that is acceptable and understandable in a book with this many people to list.

Erin's Sons: Irish Arrivals in Atlantic Canada 1761-1853 by Terrance M. Punch (Baltimore, 2009), softbound, [4], 191 pp. Order from Genealogical Publishing Company, 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 260, Baltimore MD 212011-1953; toll-free number for orders 1-800-296-6687. \$30.00; add \$5.00 postage and handling for the first book, \$2.50 each additional book. Maryland and Michigan residents add 6% sales tax.

The common dilemma of sorting out Irish immigrants in the nineteenth century applies as much to those who arrived in the Atlantic provinces of Canada as it does elsewhere. This book and its preceding Volume I (2008) draw on a multitude of resources to find these people and identify their places of origin, their vital events (births, marriages, deaths, and other biographical details), and in a few instances their eventual fates.

A considerable portion of the book consists of newspaper records from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland, and some secondary material from Prince Edward Island. There are also vital records from a number of Catholic parishes and quite a few gravestone records from around the Maritimes. Records of Overseers of the Poor in Nova Scotia highlight many of the least fortunate immigrants: "Joseph Anderson ... Born in County Down, Ireland, labourer. He, his wife Elizabeth, and four children came out to Halifax in 1849. In Sept 1849 they went to Liverpool [*Nova Scotia*]. In Oct 1852 his wife fell ill and became a lunatic." [p. 159].

Since no small number of nineteenth-century immigrants to the Atlantic Provinces or their descendants found their way to New England, this work will be of interest to many New England researchers. It is indexed by surname; a more thorough index would have been useful in this somewhat scattered assortment of source records.

Searching for Ichabod: His Eighteenth-Century Diary Leads Me Home by Julie Foster VanCamp (Lopez Island, Wash., 2009), softbound, x, 231 pp. Order from Walden West Resources, 2089 Baker View Road, Lopez Island WA 98261, or visit SearchingForIchabod.com. \$13.99, add allowance for shipping cost and sales tax if applicable.

There is a lot to know about Ichabod Foster, who was born in Attleboro, Mass., on 10 April 1740, and died in Willink, N.Y., on 1 January 1813. We know that he treated his hemorrhoids with pine knots split and boiled in two gallons of water. That sounds like it hurts. We know that he kept a diary for many years of his life. Unfortunately we do not know just how many years, because only fragments of it have survived, but armed with those fragments, his great-great-great-granddaughter Julie Foster VanCamp has pieced together a remarkable tale of this Vermont pioneer and his life and times.

Between 1770 and 1811, Ichabod lived, worked as a shoemaker, and farmed the soil of the town of Whiting in Addison County. In 1811, past the age of seventy, he set out to the newly available lands in western New York State being made available by the Holland Land Company. His diary offers an unusually precise account of his route westward from Vermont, and thus helps document a migration which, with variations, was made by many a Vermont family. In the second decade of the nineteenth century, a combination of circumstances led Vermonters to more fertile pastures, often in western New York. The migration, occurring before there was an Erie Canal to facilitate it, was an arduous one. The stories of these families are often fiendishly difficult to sort out from the scant supply of documents on hand. Mrs. VanCamp demonstrates well how a combination of frustrating lack of information and tremendously gratifying resources can be worked into a well-wrought piece of family history.

The story here is a skillful interweaving of Ichabod's biography – told chiefly in his diary's spare phrases – and Mrs. VanCamp's search for the documents and places which would bring it to light. Her portrayal of the town of Whiting is perhaps a bit too heavily infused with backroads rural charm; Whiting is hardly urban but is not that far off the main roads, at least by Vermont standards of main roads. (Its town clerk, former GSV vice-president Grace Simonds, gets rave reviews in the book for her helpfulness.) I am habitually wary of genealogical accounts which emphasize the researcher's adventures in finding the story at the

expense of telling the history itself plainly, and in places I wondered if this book would fall into that trap. It comes precariously close when it invokes Henry Z. Jones' "psychic roots" writings and their implications that some sort of supernatural forces lead genealogists to their successes. On balance, however, this account may be beneficially read and used by anyone wanting to get an idea of how to reconstruct an ancestor's two-century-old story, or wanting simply to know why it is worthwhile to try to do so.

The portion of this story dealing with Ichabod's migration from Vermont to western New York is featured in *New England Ancestors*, 10: 3 [Summer 2009]: 19-24.