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R. A. Prewitt records

Do most of you rely on the subject records? How accurate do you find them? The reason I ask is that someone is questioning my reliance on his work for Cumberland county, KY. In the absence of any documentation, I am appreciative of Richard's work. Of course I can't prove what I use but then others can't prove what they say about the family either because there are no records!

Comments



Bill Pruiett Jan 2, 11

I have two of Richard's books, "Prewitt-Pruitt Records of Virginia" (Revised 1993) and "Samuel Pruitt I and Elizabeth Hawker, Their Descendants" (1997). They have been invaluable to me as starting points for my own research. The "Records" book is supposed to be a recitation of records that Richard found in various courthouses throughout Virginia and some counties in Maryland. Interspersed throughout this volume, however, are "facts" that may or may not stand up to scrutiny. For example, under Pittsylvania Co., Va., 1809, March 16, Richard recites a marriage record for Asa Prewitt, my ggggrandfather. He then goes on to state that Asa was the son of John Prewitt, Jr. without giving a source for that information and without making it clear that this is his opinion, not necessarily fact. I believe Richard is correct in this opinion, but I have not found a record that would substantiate it. In a section on Frederick Co., Md., Richard gives a synopsis of the will of Samuel Pruitt I which has some errors. For example, he says that his son Samuel was to get Henry Dollin for the remainder of his servitude, when in fact the will states that his wife got Henry; the son would only get Henry if Elizabeth died before Henry turned 31. Later in that section Richard says that Samuel Pruitt I bought a piece of property called Easy Purchase on Nov. 22, 1737 and then renamed it Pruitt's Purchase. In fact, a Sept. 22, 1737 document clearly states that Samuel was signing a lease agreement for 100 acres of the 900 acre property known as Easy Purchase. Easy Purchase definitely remained in the hands of the Beale family and was later sold by them to others. The Samuel Pruitt/Elizabeth Hawker book perpetuates these two errors and others. The book seems to be a compilation of information from other Pruitt researchers and a lot of the information is not sourced. Having said all this, I can only repeat that Richard's books are excellent compilations of information from county and family records and are very good starting points for our own research. However, I would not, generally, cite Richard's books as the source of my information. We should go to the original source material to verify that it was accurately transcribed or synopsized.



Jan McClintock Jan 2, 11

I have stated this MANY TIMES and I believe everyone should be aware of this. Richard Pruitt is NOT A RESEARCHER. His books are merely a compilation of research done by other persons. Whenever Richard "recites" something...that does not mean that he has verified the information. I know this to be true because I have corresponded with Richard in the past and he has used material that I have given him for some of his books. I do have the sources for information that I have given him. This is not to be critical of Richard.....but please...do not refer to him as a Pruitt Researcher.....he is a COMPILER.



Mardine Campbell Jan 2, 11

Thank you. Somewhere long ago I heard he had traveled to various states reading records and abstracting them. I was hoping that was so. Sort of like believing in Santa Claus, I guess. Unfortunately for me I cannot go to the original source material because it does not exist. The court house in Cumberland County burned twice in 1864-65 and in 1933, as I understand it.



Jan McClintock Jan 2, 11

Mardine..I just ran across this and I have no idea if it's meaningful or if you have already researched it, but here goes:

From a publication entitled: "Marylanders to Carolina"...Migration of Marylanders to North Carolina: William Hopkins was born in 1762 in Fredericks County MD and lived in what became known as the Shenandoah Valley in VA at the time of his existment in the Rev. War. He lived there for some time and then moved to Chatham Co. NC. In 1810 he moved to Union Co. SC for a short time and then to Wilson Co. TN for 2 y ears. He then moved to Adair Co. KY for a few months and then to Wayne Co. KY before returning to Adair. On January 7 1834 he applied for a pension. SOLOMON PREWITT SR. OF CUMBERLAND CO KY AGE 86 WAS A "NEAR RELATIVE". (Ref VDW-1709)



Jan McClintock Jan 2, 11

Mardine
I just read William Hopkins request for pension for Rev War and he states he was born in Frederick County VA...not MD.
Also in 1834 Solomon Prewitt of Cumberland Co. KY age 86, says he was a "near relative" of William Hopkins and had known him since birth.



Jan McClintock Jan 2, 11

Mardine...here's a link to William Hopkins pension app.
http://www.kykinfolk.com/adair/Military/pensions/Hopkins_Wm.pdf



Mardine Campbell Jan 2, 11

Thanks, Jan. That is great information and I'll start working on it. By the way, I contacted Richard Prewitt directly. He did some of the research but was primarily a compiler. He has told me he will check his records about my Prewitts to see if he has new or confirming information.



Wayne Pruitt Jan 7, 11

I would like to add my 2 cents worth. I find that the accumulation of data from whatever source is important in developing the picture we are trying to paint. Unless we have the original source and conclusive proof we cannot be totally sure about any of it. So accumulate your data and keep it handy for confirmation or rejection as it will prove of use giving us the direction we need to go to get to our final destination. I have over 25000 names in my database and periodically do a matching exercise to determine if there are duplicates and even with that I have not been able to create a paper trail to arrive at my ancestors. Only by DNA have I been able to establish the place I need to go, now its finding a way to get there. All data helps, either for elimination or confirmation. Richard Prewitt's work is of a great deal of use to help with that effort. I really appreciate the amount of work that has gone into his publications.



Mardine Campbell Jan 7, 11

Thanks, Wayne. I think Richard Prewitt has done some really valuable work. As I learn new things, I modify my database. I'm not intractable but I would like proof. I cannot have it with my ggg grandfather & his wife but Richard confirmed what my family believes to be the truth. Unfortunately, the person I was discussing this with found info about my ancestors in a book which he thinks trumps what my family knows.



Jan McClintock Jan 7, 11

Mardine...were you able to learn anything more about William Hopkins and his connection to your Solomon Prewitt



Mardine Campbell Jan 8, 11

Jan, I found his record on Footnote and found him on censuses but so far have not had time to pursue more about him. This was really a good piece of information and more than most of us have had before. Could be the breakthrough. I will keep looking. Thanks for passing it along. This is the most valuable reason for belonging to this group--the possibility of breaking through the brickwall.



Jan McClintock Jan 8, 11

Just found this...not sure how reliable it is...but...

There is no family data in pension file; however, there are some old letters in Hopkins Family File, Ky Hist. Soc. Library at Frankfort, KY wanting death certificate in 1851, Adair Co, KY, of William Hopkins, b 1762 Frederick Co, VA...stating that he married 22 Oct 1799 in Edgecomb Co, NC..Sallie Stencil & had chrn-William McCarty Hopkins, Mark Hopkins, Moses Hopkins, Levi Hopkins, Solomon Hopkins, Sally Hopkins, & Mary (Polly)Hopkins.(Probably the writer, Mr. James T. Hopkins, Bryan, Texas, hoped to claim part of Mark Hopkins estate in CA)



Mardine Campbell Jan 8, 11

Where was this info posted? By the way, Solomon Prewitt's affidavit for William Hopkins did state William was a "near relative" of his.



Jan McClintock Jan 9, 11

<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ahopkins/va-frede.htm>
Mardine...that's the URL for the Hopkins info.....



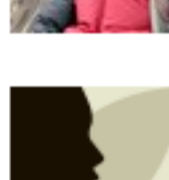
stephanie pruit Jan 11, 11

The Hopkins in VA is how I am a double Pruitt. I was born a Pruitt. I found that a Hopkins in the 1700s married a Pruitt on my mothers side. Let me gather the details. From memory it was Cornelius Hopkins I believe.



Robert Pryor Mar 4, 12

Stephanie, did you ever come up with the information about the Pruitt-Hopkins marriage?



Mardine Campbell Mar 4, 12

Stephanie, Solomon Prewitt Sr. swore an affidavit for William Hopkins in which he said he was a "near relative" of William's. Your information could be of use to Robert and me. Might even be a breakthrough. Wouldn't that be wonderful--a miracle even.



Mardine Campbell
Wrote this on Jan 1, 11
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