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Research Committee Annual Report

June 2007

Submitted by

Gene Pennington, Research Director

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Introduction

"As genealogists we work in the present, studying the past to share in the future. How we do it today will be tested by our descendants tomorrow."¹

What an outstanding year this has been! The Pennington Research Association has completed some significant projects and done so with many changes amongst the volunteers who support us.

We produced and sold Volume I of the Pennington Periodicals and published the first ever Pedigrees on a CD and distributed it to our Members. While the Research Committee is not responsible for the Pedigrees, I'm proud to say that much of the material contained in the CD is the product of our Group Leaders and myself.

We've improved our services to our Members and are making plans to launch the next series of major projects designed to bring more value to our Members.

Every year I am impressed with the dedication and work produced by our volunteers. I cannot overstate how much I admire all of you. Words alone cannot tell you how very much I appreciate each and every one of you. I want to thank all of the members of the Board and our Officers for staying the course. We continue to make significant gains towards realizing our mission, goals and objectives and this would not have been possible without the Board's leadership and their efforts as well as those of our Officers.

This report reflects the abilities and qualities of the members of the Research Committee. Without their skills, tireless efforts, dedication and concern for the PRA, none of our successes would have been achieved.

I want to mention the hard work and dedication by our Assistant Research Directors, the Chairman of the DNA Committee and our Obituary Database Editor. The PRA is blessed to have such an outstanding Team.

- Carmen Johnson -- Responsible for the John French Master File (JFMF) and our PRA Members only website on MyFamily.com. Carmen is also the Group Leader for Group 7.
- Melinda G. Pennington -- Responsible for our Family Groups and Group Leaders. Melinda is also the Group Leader for Group 6 and the Membership Chair for the Pennington Research Association, Inc.

¹ Quote from John Vincent Wylie, Professional Genealogist in an article written in *Everton's Genealogical Helper*, July/August 1998, page 223.

- Guye Pennington – Responsible for Volume I of the Pennington Periodicals CD and for our Bobby Pennington Index Project.
- Nick Pennington – Chairman of the DNA Committee. Nick is also the Group Leader for Group 33.
- Colleen Blizard - Obituary Database Editor – Colleen is also the Editor of the Pennington Pedigrees.

Projects

The Research Committee made progress this past year on each of our projects. The major projects we worked on this past year and their status are:

- Maintain and improve the PRA website – On-Going
- Bobby Pennington Index Project (BPIP) – This important project is now ready to start work on the Pennington Periodicals Volume II CD. See BPIP section for details.
- Pennington Periodicals CD Project – This important project has produced Volume I and we'll be working on Volume II soon. See BPIP section for details.
- DNA Study – We've maintained the Study with no major new findings. We continue to add more volunteers and retesting for additional markers – On-Going
- Operate the PRA's Members only website and monitor how it is utilized by our Group Leaders and members. I anticipate major changes this year. See the report JFMF section for details.
- Special Research Projects # 1 & # 2 – These are special projects that were approved by the Board in 2005 and have funds budgeted to ensure their success. To date we've received the 1st report from a professional genealogist for the 1st project and we've retained a 2nd professional genealogist to continue with this effort. We hope to have a report from the 2nd professional genealogists in a few months. The 2nd project is still being organized and I hope to start it by the end of 2007. See the section titled "Research Projects" for more details.

These projects are not necessarily listed by their priority. They are listed more or less on the work being conducted during the year as well as the time and funding for each project and what I thought must be completed in order to accomplish our primary goals and objectives.

Noteworthy Accomplishments

- We created and published Volume I of the Pennington Periodicals CD. This CD contains all of the Pedigrees and the Cousin's Couriers from 1968 through 1979 as well as the report from Jeffrey Haines, CG, for special research project #1.
- Communications with members and other researchers remained about the same; however, I did spend many hours communicating with several new Members. I think this helped get them off to a good start and I believe they felt they received value back from our communications. For the second year in a row, there was a decrease in the number of queries submitted from our website and posted on the PRA mail list. However, there was an increase in the number of general e-mail messages with Members and with other Pennington researchers.
- Collection and publication of genealogical information from new members and other researchers on our Member's only website continued at about the same rate as last year. Since July 2006, I have collected 5 reports and/or gedcom files and other research material and a few others were collected by the Group Leaders. All of the family history reports were forwarded to the Editor of the Pedigrees to be published, if I received the author's consent to publish. All of the reports and/or gedcom files have been placed on the PRA Members only website, if I received the author's consent to publish.
- Our main website (www.PenningtonResearch.org) continues to grow and improve. We have received a number of positive comments and suggestions to improve it. We continue to add new features and information to the website with the most notable being the addition of Secure Socket Layer (SSL) Certificate to improve the security of the website for on line transactions. This year the average page hits per month was 146,673 (compared to last year's average of 151,748). In January, 2006, we set a new record for the number of page hits for a single month with 192,261 hits! Wow! The previous record was for March, 2005 with 190,318 page hits.
- We successfully operated our PRA Members only website on www.MyFamily.com. There are all types of family history reports, gedcom files, miscellaneous files and information on the new website. The website is available to all PRA members. Group Leaders can work directly on their Group's gedcom (Family Tree) and make changes/additions/deletions on their file without having to go through our petition process as well as add their own gedcom and other

genealogical material. We added the PRA's Obituary database to the website this year thanks to Colleen Blizzard.

- All new and returning PRA members were sent "Welcome to the Pennington Research Association" and "New Member Process" messages via e-mail or a letter by U.S. Postal Service. This service, combined with the new member material sent by our Membership Chair, Melinda Pennington, continues to be a tremendous success. I receive positive comments regularly from new members and in some cases they have become Family Group Leaders. This process has greatly enhanced our ability to reach out to new and returning members and has helped us meet our primary goal of providing value to our members.
- DNA Study – We have completed all planned phases and we redesigned the website to make it easier to understand our study and to navigate the DNA related web pages.

DNA Committee Report

In the period 06/30/06 to the present date 10 Pen(n)ingtons have signed up for the DNA Study, which is three fewer than last year! In terms of the number of participants relative to the frequency of the surname in the population the Pennington DNA Study was rated in the top 100 in the world out of over 4000 but this year we fell to about 120th!

The DNA bank account which is comprised principally of donation money from PRA members stands at \$349.30 (when all checks have cleared) as of 4-31-07. This year I would like to request that the amount be adjusted to \$500 so that the PRA can contribute towards the cost of a test for good candidates.

As in FY 2005/2006 in the present time period the PRA account has expended \$99 each for three members of the study totaling \$297 (the money was spent on a member of groups 8, 32 & 30). One member of group 32 matched perfectly groups 4, 7, 20, 30, & 31. In addition the PRA helped out a New Zealand Pennington with \$37 to help defray the cost of the steep exchange rate. His result matched groups 5 and 14 but he was closer to several Radcliffes helping to cement the close relationship between these possibly related lineages. This individual had a family tree stretching back to 1821 in the UK.

A descendent of John I. Pennington b.1790 (from Kent Co. Maryland) matched group 9 Penningtons.

We have a couple of members of group 8 in the pipeline and this should help sort out some questions about whether some branches of group 8 are actually from different families.

This year we were lucky enough to have another member of the Genographic project contribute his 12 marker results to our study and he was clearly a member of group 28 or the closely related group 11.

Nicholas J. Penington Ph.D.
DNA study coordinator
PRA Group 33 leader.

Websites

We operated our PRA Members only website hosted by MyFamily.com for the entire year. The website is not meeting our expectations for success despite major efforts to make it of value to our Members. Our members are just not taking advantage of it's' features and we have not been successful in finding ways to change this behavior.

The website is located on www.MyFamily.com and is used by PRA members. Only Family Group Leaders are able to change/delete certain information on the website and a couple of Group Leaders have posted material this year.

We are recommending this year to the Board we give all PRA members the same access rights so they can add/change/delete information on the website just like the Group Leaders.

I post new family history reports, family trees (gedcom files), news and other genealogical material on the website for our members to use in their research.

Last year I said I would recommend to the Board that we no longer support the PRA Members only website hosted by MyFamily.com if we did not see a significant increase of use by our Group Leaders and Members. The amount of time, effort and expense it takes to operate this website may not be worth it when we have such a low participation rate.

After three (3) years of low use of the website on MyFamily.com, I am recommending that we give the site one more year to demonstrate it is worth the time and money it takes to operate it. Carmen has proposed a change in access rights for our Members and I support that recommendation. We will monitor the use this year and I will make a recommendation next year.

See the JFMF report by Carmen Johnson for more details.

We still receive a few queries submitted to our main website. We save all queries submitted to us via the forms on our website and post them on our website. Likewise, any replies are posted on our website.

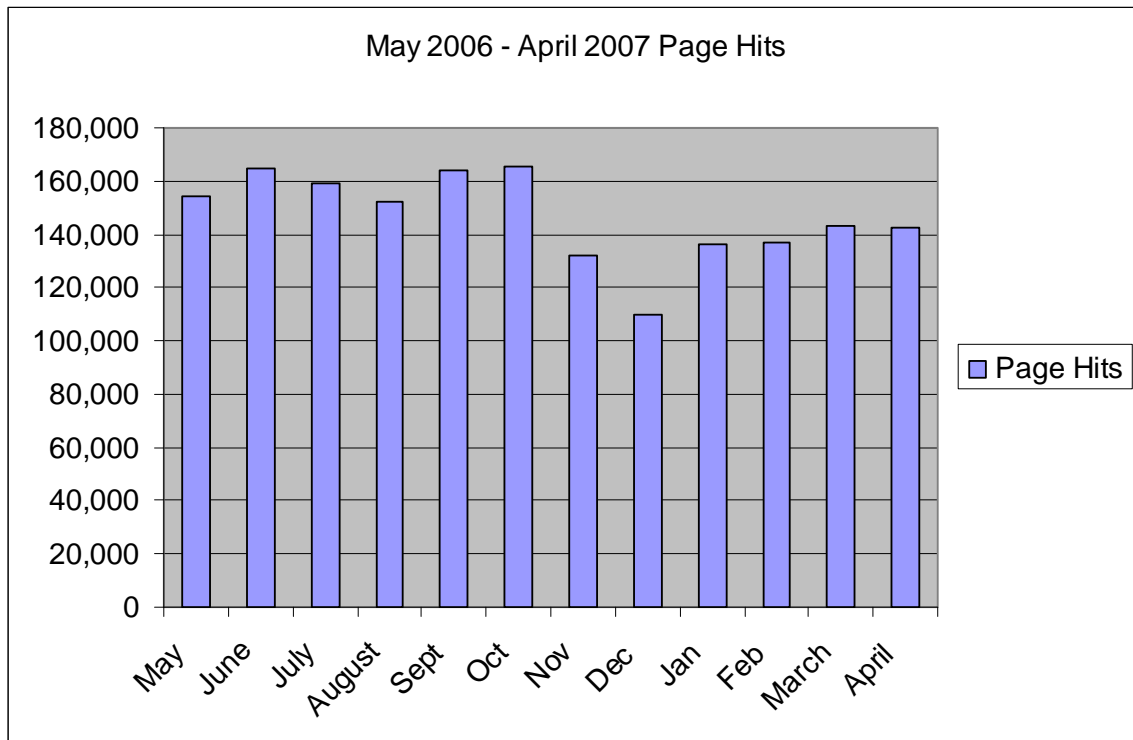
We save each month's queries and replies and made them available to the Editor of the Pedigrees who publishes them in the Pedigrees.

I am recommending to the Board that we no longer provide this service.

Below is a chart summarizing the number of page hits our website has experienced between May 2006 and April 2007.

Our record of 192,261 page hits was in January 2006. When reviewing these numbers, remember that these are PER MONTH! The website average this year was 146,673 page hits per month as compared to an average of 151,758 for the same time period last year.

While the average is lower, our most popular web pages remained the same. A significant change was noted in the use of on line applications and payment. The website was used by most Members to submit their membership applications, pay their dues, make donations and order publications.



Mail List

The Pennington Research Association's mail list was not as active the last few months as it was in right after our 2006 Board meeting. We started off real strong but since the end of the year, our list has been pretty quite.

We must continue our quest to make better use of our mail list. This is another example of how the PRA provides tools and methods to help our members but they are not used very much. While I did tell the Board last year I would report this year my recommendation as to whether or not to drop the mail list from those things the PRA operates, I'm not prepared to do so at this time. Given all the other projects and challenges we've faced and overcome this year, I'm recommending we give the mail list one more year before making a decision.

The Board, Officers, Staff and Research Committee members should set the example by using the mail list more for communications and research exchanges.

As of May 30, 2007, there were 183 subscribers to PRA mail list. This includes both regular and digest mode subscribers. This is 13 more than last year (170 subscribers).

The purpose of the PRA mail list is:

1. To provide information for researchers of the Pennington surname;
2. To provide general information such as announcements, research tips and resources and;
3. To provide an easy method for PRA members to communicate with each other;
4. A discussion list for research and;
5. To provide a source for queries and answers to queries for the editor of the Pedigrees should he/she choose to use them.

Message Boards

Ancestry.com and Genealogy.com

In addition to the mailing lists, genealogy message boards continue to play a major role in genealogy research. We have seen continued growth on the Pennington message boards hosted by Ancestry.com and Genealogy.com.

On Ancestry.com, the boards include wills, pensions, queries, obituaries, births, cemeteries, census, deed, immigration, marriage, bible and biography. This board is operated by the PRA and Colleen Blizard, Obituary Database Editor, posts to this board when information is sent to her. Operation of this board has helped the PRA to meet its mission. Colleen has

been incredible and has added hundreds of names to this important research tool.

On Genealogy.com's surname message board several messages have been posted by PRA members. This is a busy genealogy surname message board. This board is not operated by the PRA and anybody can post to the message board.

I encourage the Board, Officers, Staff, Research Committee and all Pennington researchers to utilize both message boards to help with their research and communication with other Pennington researchers.

PRA Blog

I started the PRA Blog at <http://praresearch.blogspot.com> in an attempt to use the newest communication tools over the Internet and improve our communications with our Members and Pennington researchers. To date, this blog has not been used very much. I'm afraid it suffers from the same technology challenge our Member's only website does in that most of our Members do not know how to use the technology nor do they have the time to learn how to use it. I'll continue to use the new blog for a year or so and see if it becomes more popular.

BPIP (Bobby Pennington Indexing Project)

This project is managed by Guye Pennington, ARD responsible for the BPIP. Guye is also the Treasurer/CFO for the PRA and is a Member of the Board of Directors.

This very important project is ready to move to the next phase – publication of Volume II of the Pennington Periodicals. Volume II will contain the next ten (10) years of the Pennington Pedigrees and the Pennington Cousins' Couriers. It may also contain other yet to be identified reports that we may receive between now and the production of the CD. In Volume I we included a report from Jeffry Haines, CG, about the family of Benajah Pennington, Sr., born 1724/25. Perhaps we'll be able to include a report from the research being done at this time by another professional genealogist picking up where the first report stopped.

The production schedule at this time is:

Pennington Periodicals Volume I: Pennington Pedigrees & Cousins' Couriers from 1968 – 1979 & research report from Jeffrey L. Haines, CG. Produced Fall 2006.

Pennington Periodicals Volume II: Pennington Pedigrees & Cousins' Couriers from 1980 – 1990. Target date for production – Fall 2008

Pennington Periodicals Volume III: Pennington Pedigrees & Cousins' Couriers from 1990 – 2000. Target date for production – Fall 2010

Pennington Periodicals Volume IV: Pennington Pedigrees from 2000 – 2010 (note that the Cousins' Couriers stopped production in 1999). Target date for production – Fall 2012

The current goals for the BPIP are:

- Scan the remaining Pedigrees issues from where Bobby Pennington left off through 2006
- Create indexes for each of those new scanned issues
- Convert all MS Word files of the Pedigrees and Couriers through 2006 to Adobe Reader format (pdf)
- Create Volume II of the Pennington Periodicals on a CD which will contain Adobe Reader format (pdf) copies of all of the Pedigrees and Couriers from 1980 through 1990

Status Update on BPIP

By: Guye Pennington, ARD for BPIP

There is not a significant amount of new material at this time regarding the Bobby Pennington Index Project/Pennington Periodicals CD. The first CD in the series was launched last year, and roughly 75% of PRA subscription members purchased the CD.

The second Volume in the series, which covers all Pennington Pedigrees in the 1980s is due to be launched in the fall of 2008. Production should be on schedule, especially with the majority of Volume One kinks worked out.

JFMF

Carmen Johnson, Group Leader for Group 7, is our Assistant Research Director (ARD) responsible for the JFMF and our member's only website hosted by MyFamily.com. Carmen has worked very hard to establish communications with all of our members to help them obtain access to the website and to understand how to utilize all its' functions.

The website for PRA Members only has two (2) primary objectives.

- Purpose: The JFMF is a working database for research purposes -- not a database that we will try to keep as up to date and as accurate as possible.
- The JFMF is hosted by MyFamily.com and is available to PRA members who choose to utilize the site.

Our member's only website has been in operation for four (4) years now and while it has helped us to resolve some of the major concerns with the JFMF that have been identified in the past, I continue to have doubts about it's success. The most important features are the ability for our Group Leaders to add gedcom files directly to the website and to modify them once posted but not many of them are not using this feature nor are they posting material to the website for their Group members.

Additional Features are:

- The website allows a member to search any of the gedcom files
- The website allows a member to print Family History reports.
- The website has a built in "chat" feature that allows members to have "chats" at any time with each other on the Internet.
- The website contains digital images of genealogical material such as deeds, wills, census records, Family History reports and photographs.
- The website has a calendar for us to post important events
- The website has a "News" section where we post important news

Last year it was noted that it is very important our Group Leaders participate frequently on this website. We have seen some participation by a few Group Leaders, but over all the Group Leader's participation has not been as high as we had hoped. Some of our Group Leaders are active on the website but the lack of postings by most of the Group Leaders leaves us with the impression that they are not interested. The majority do not use the many features available for them to share genealogical information and to communicate with their Group members.

Carmen and I have discussed this problem several times over the years and despite our best efforts, we have not devised a successful solution to the problem. However, this year Carmen has made some recommendations to change the rights & privileges for PRA Members who use the special website for PRA Members only.

We hope this will have a positive affect on the use of the special website and we will see more activity from our Group Leaders and Members. Her report and suggestions follow.

I support her primary recommendation of changing the rights & privileges for PRA Members so they can add to the website. However, I do not endorse all of her suggestions at this time. There are a couple of her suggested guidelines that need to be modified so they are in line with our boarder guidelines for the special website. This item is on our Board's agenda this year so we can discuss it in more detail.

JFMF & My Family Website

by: Carmen M. Johnson

As of May 29, 2007, we have 161 members on the MyFamily website. About 50 % of those have logged in at least once in the last 5 months, however there are many that have not logged in since before December 31, 2006. On May 16, 2007, I sent the following email out to members of the website:

In preparation for my report to the PRA, I have a few questions and comments that I would like feedback on. I am sending this message through the MyFamily email address - please reply to me on my carmenmjo@cableone.net account.

Right now, when members are added to the MyFamily site, they are added as with guest status. This allows them only viewing rights. Group Leaders are given User Status which allows them to add information and gives them Read/Write status to their group's family tree file. (It does not give anyone rights to change the JFMF - original file)

I have suggested in the past that we loosen up the User Rights and allow everyone to have User Rights rather than Guest rights. It would allow members to add information, but would not allow them to change the family files. They can add their own files as well. The opposite side is that Gene and I would have to monitor the site much more intently. We might get a lot of stuff that will have to be deleted quarterly. We would have to set up guidelines as to what will be allowed and not allowed. Is this a change that you as members would like to see. Do you think it make the site more useable? I would like to hear from you as to what your opinion might be on this. I look forward to hearing from you.

Carmen Johnson
Email: carmenmjo@cableone.net
ARD - JFMF - www.penningtonresearch.org
PRA Group 7 Leader
PRA Group 7: <http://pragroup7.genheirlooms.com>

I received many comments from members. Overwhelmingly these comments were in favor of changing the user rights status. Here are some excerpts from their messages:

- I agree that to allow members to have User Rights would be a good idea, provided they would not be allowed to change family files.
- As I have voiced from some years now, I think it is important to assist new (and old) researchers as much as possible.
- YES! YES! YES! Please open it up so that members may contribute.
- Carmen, I think that would be a fine idea to have User Rights.
- I myself have frankly been a bit frustrated with the Pennington site because it has not sparked more sharing and input. I hope to add some photos to the site of my branch and I would like to have my great grandmother's name corrected.
- So I am much in favor of trying to get more conversation going on the site and if that means people being able to add information for others to respond to, I am all for it.
- I'd like to see everyone have user status - I guess I just assumed everyone had this status but never added anything to the website.
- I think that what you have suggested in loosening up the rules sounds like a good idea. One guideline I would suggest is only names with documented sources could be added.

I propose that we loosen up the user rights on the MyFamily site with the following provisions:

- Users cannot change family files other than the ones that they own. They still need to go through their group leaders. If they are not getting the results that they need, then they are to contact Carmen Johnson or Gene Pennington.
- Only items of a genealogical nature may be posted. Nothing should be posted concerning a living person or a person who was alive after 1925.
- All items posted on must use the format that has been discussed including Group #, descriptive name. This format is listed on the MyFamily site under the Files section, under the Site Use category. The current file was posted by Gene Pennington on July 7, 2004 and is titled File Formats and File Name Standards.
- If any files or items are posted that don't meet the standards posted, and then those items will be removed.
- All family files posted in either pdf, rtf, or gedcom format and should include sourced information.

- Exchange of ideas, comments, and new information is encouraged; however any “flaming” activity of a negative nature will be deleted. If the member posts such a comment that can be a basis to remove access to the website or changing their status back to guest.
- All users who would like to have their status changed must read the File Formats and Standards and agree to the previous provisions.

I realize these changes will have to, in all likelihood, be approved by both the Research Director, (Gene Pennington) and Board. My goal is to increase activity on the MyFamily site and make it more valuable resource for our members. In addition, I feel that members may be much more willing to post valuable materials for the PRA and the general membership.

Submitted May 31, 2007

Carmen M. Johnson
ARD – JFMF & MyFamily site.

Family Groups

Submitted by Melinda Pennington, ARD-Family Groups, email mgp383@gmail.com
4 Elizabeth Ct, WHS, NJ 08889

During the past year we have gained new Group Leaders for following Groups:

- Group 2 – Peggy Pennington
- Group 10 – Jim Lantz
- Group 18 – Michael Pennington
- Group 24 – Peggy Pennington
- Co-Group 28 – Frankie Perry
- Group 30 – Marye Steckley

Unfortunately, during the past year we have also had a few Group Leaders resign their positions.

- Group 1 – Barrie Petty
- Group 9 – Rene’e Davis
- Group 21 – Ruth Voshell Stonesifer
- Group 30 – Jim Pennington

Our current vacant Groups follow:
Groups 1, 9, 16, 21, 25 and 34

Solicitation of Group Leaders:

I have posted a few emails asking for volunteers to the PRA Group email but probably not as often as I should have during the past year. I plan to improve on this in the next year.

Communication between Groups:

I have contacted all Group Leaders about twice in the past year if not more. I admit this should have been done with more regularity and I admit I struggle to juggle all my volunteer projects up in the air.

Communication between Group Leaders is not as high as I'd like it to be. There are some Group Leaders who are quick to communicate and then there are others that do not respond. We all have busy personal lives and I realize it is difficult to maintain correspondence between our Groups although I do wish it was greater. When I have found information useful to another Group, I have always passed it along to that Group Leader and I pray all Group Leaders take the time to do this.

All Group Leaders have email except for Group Leader 27. I have recently drafted a contact letter to Sidney Graveston (Group 27 Leader) as I have had no communication with him and he has not submitted his 2007 dues. To date there has been no return reply from Sidney. I will be following up with Gene Pennington, regarding this potential Group vacancy.

Family Group Reports to the Board follow:

Group 1 Report - Group Leader – VACANT

There will be no report from this Group. Barrie Petty was the past Group Leader, we have not found nor appointed a new Group Leader since she has resigned.

Membership records indicate 1 PRA member listed as a Group 1 member.

Group 2 Report by family Group Leader – Peggy Pennington

I became Group Leader for these two Groups and was really excited. I wanted a working Group even if it was not my own Group. I looked for the members of Group 2 and found one member. She wrote back and said she would have to find the DAR papers her aunt had done years ago. I have not heard any more from her.

I feel I must try harder to gather my flock up and get us to working on something. Do you have a suggestion?

I have found things on my husbands Group 32. I have a cyber friend in CO that has been so good to me to try and find the links to this Group. Melinda

has also been very good to help point me in the right direction also. I find there was a lot of 'running whiskey' in OK and then you would land in Leavenworth fast.

As a Group Leader I would like to be more of a working Group. I would like to see a monthly newsletter from each Group Leader. Tell us who you are looking for and where and the dates of birth or death etc. We can all look for your brick wall. I know it's hard to tell us things like that if you knew where and when you would not be looking.

I really like it when there is a discussion going on the list. I print off most of it and save I also would like to remind all if someone sends you information either by Snail or E to please let them know you received it and saying please helps a lot.

Genealogy is my hobby turned to an obsession.

Peggy Camp Pennington
Group 32
Group Leader 2 and 24

Membership records indicate 3 PRA members listed as Group 2 members.

Group 3 Report by family Group Leader – Trisha Bennett

This past year, the main focus of activity for Group 3 continued to be familial and historical research on various branches of the line to fill in family tree gaps. Time was spent tracking down and acquiring copies of historical documents, and communicating with Pennington cousins. Email contact was initiated by 12 people as a result of visiting the PRA website.

Research:

As one of the best-documented Groups of the Pennington family, there is a lot of information available about this line. The late Dr. Richard Bailey referred to some of it in his well-documented, two-part Pennington Pedigrees article written in the winter of 1980-81. However, few of the documents he referred to, or copies of them, are centralized at a single source. My goal has been to find and obtain copies of as much of the primary source materials as possible, so they will be available for interested researchers. This year I was able to add several documents for the first 4 generations of American Group 3 Pennington's, William, Daniel Sr., Daniel Jr., and Amos. In the next few years I plan to write up a short history of each of them and add it to the PRA website.

There is still confusion over the fact that William Pennington descends from Paul of Sunbreak, and not Sir Isaac Pennington. Some people harbor lingering hope that William Pennington will turn out to be a descendant of Sir Isaac Pennington. I personally believe that Dr. Bailey settled the question,

but without copies of the documents and more research on the family in England it will continue to linger. It seems to me that an article addressing that specific topic is in order, and I plan to write one in the next year.

More general historical research during the year also yielded interesting details to further illuminate the lives of the people in the Group 3 line. I spent time researching the local history of the areas where the Penningtons settled, and in particular the Quaker church history and records of these areas. Group 3 progenitor Paul Pennington and his family were converted to the Quaker faith by founder George Fox in the 1600's. A large share of William's line remained members of the Society of Friends until about the mid 19th century, or about 200 years. I am trying to discover how their faith affected their lives, where they lived and what they did, and ultimately why they left it. Studying the larger changes in the church over the years and how this was adapted at the local level in the places the descendants of Paul Pennington lived in has been very interesting. Weaving the history of the church in with the significant events and geographical moves of generations of family often leads to insights one might otherwise miss. Eventually I will write up summaries of what I have found and submit it to the Pedigrees, where it may be helpful to future Paul Pennington descendants or other family history researchers with Quakers in their bloodline.

Communications:

As mentioned above, 12 people emailed me as a result of visiting the PRA website. A check of the database revealed that 2 were not actually part of Group 3, and they were encouraged to check into other Groups. The other 10 came from different branches of Group 3. There were 2 emails from members of the Gill Pennington family (Gill, William, Daniel, William, Paul). Inquiries were also made about the Penningtons in Ohio and Indiana. In the course of helping the cousins with their branches, they provided information about their branches of the Group 3 general tree. The sourced material will be added to the PRA database.

Interestingly, the Lancashire England roots of Group 3 were a subject of interest, with 4 emails from England, and from people interested in the Penningtons who remained behind. Communication with them may prove helpful in sorting out the family's history, and even the Paul Pennington/Sir Isaac Pennington question.

The inquiries resulted in adding 2 new members to the PRA. However Group 3 has only 4 members, which is very disappointing.

My goals for PRA for the next year:

- 1) Improve and expand communication, and recruit more members. I plan to put together a list of all Group 3 members that have contacted

- me. I will be drafting and sending out a letter to catch up with them, ask how their research is going, and encourage them to join PRA
- 2) Continue to add primary source materials.
 - 3) Write 3 articles to submit to PP: one regarding Quaker research, an article about the relationship of American descendants of William and Paul, and one about one of the early generations of the family
 - 4) Add more information to the Group 3 website

Sincerely,
Trisha Bennett

Membership records indicate 3 PRA members listed as Group 3 members.

Group 4 Report by family Group Leader – Arthur Pennington

No report received.

Membership records indicate 28 PRA members listed as Group 4 members.

Group 5 Report by family Group Leader – Jeanne Thomas

There hasn't been much going on this past year with Group 5. I have been trying to get more documentation whenever possible. When new people contact me about Group 5, I sometimes do not have much information to share with them and that is frustrating for both them and me. I plan in the next year to set up a sharing of information within Group 5 and see if others can help fill in some of the gaps with extra research.

Jeanne Thomas - Group 5 leader

Membership records indicate 7 PRA members listed as Group 5 members.

Group 6 Report by family Group Leader – Melinda Pennington

The Group 6's report is positive for the past year. I have been its Group Leader since October, 2005, and have gotten to know most all of the PRA Group 6 members and other family members searching this Pennington lineage. We have combined all our sources and sharing is at an all time high.

1. In February, 2006, we started the Group 6 website which contains the family history of our Group 6 ancestry, photographs, copies of birth / marriage / death certificates, probate, wills, deeds, military records and pension records, etc. In the past year we have uploaded 1,016 documents to our website located at

- <http://online.dralex.com/Senora1890/> I continue to maintain and upload new documents weekly to this website as they are shared with me from other Pennington relatives.
2. I answer all emails in a timely fashion (within a couple of days) sent me from all Pennington Group 6 relatives regardless if they are PRA members or not. If they are not members, I have told them about the PRA and forwarded them a membership application and have asked them to become members. I've noticed about 75% of the time, they do become members.
 3. I have made some type of contact usually by email with all existing or new members of Group 6.
 4. Ongoing projects include transcriptions of the CSA military and pension records that was recently requested and acquired by PRA member, Nancy Markey. PRA member, Connie Blevens, volunteered to scan and transcribe these documents for the website. This project is not complete.
 5. All Civil War *Union* military and pension records have been obtained for the Group 6 servicemen that we have identified so far. These records can be viewed on our website. Special thanks to Nancy Markey for making this happen.
 6. Another ongoing project is the retrieval of all death certificates from the Missouri <http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/> website for all of Group 6 family members between the years 1910-1956. This is a slow process because each request can not exceed 5 certificates and the turn around is about 3 months. Once the certificates are available we then scan and upload to the Group 6 website.
 7. As a Group Leader, I submitted an article for the spring issue of the Pennington Pedigree, titled "Group 6 Photo Album". These six (6) photos were submitted to me by current Group 6 members. I plan to submit new photos or documents of interest in each future issue of the Pennington Pedigrees. Nancy Markey, PRA 6 member, has also submitted an article in the last issue and the upcoming issue of the Pennington Pedigree. I helped transcribe and scan some of the documents used in her articles.
 8. I continue to verify the accuracy of all new information added to our Group 6 gedcom file with census and other records available to me. Nothing is added unless a source has been provided with the new information.
 9. A list is maintained on how each PRA member is directly related to the progenitor of our Group.
 10. We currently have 24 Group 6 PRA members. Four of these are 2007 new members.

Membership records indicate 26 PRA members listed as Group 6 members.

Group 7 Report by family Group Leader – Carmen Johnson

PRA Group 7 Yearly Report
May 28, 2007
Group Leader: Carmen M. Johnson

This has not been most active year for Group 7, mostly through my own inactivity. I've had to deal with a lot of details concerning my mother's death that took my attention away from genealogical pursuits. It is my intention to improve in that area.

However, with the cooperative work that has been done with Jim Pennington, Group Leader for Group 31 and previous Group Leader for Group 30, and with Daniel Pennington, Group Leader for Group 12, we have made some significant discoveries. Jim has been doing a great deal with land records and various other records of NC Penningtons from the 1700's. Daniel has been pursuing information on filling out as much info on Group 12's Samuel Pennington. After receiving some information from Ken Cherry, a new PRA member, we discovered a record that listed all of the known descendants of Levi Pennington b. 1794. This was especially significant, because it listed a child that we had no knowledge of.

Jim and I continue to work on the theory that the Groups from the Ashe Co., NC area and nearby environs are connected. Our working theory is that they descend from old Benajah or Ephraim Pennington. This supports the DNA research that has found a lot of genetic connections between Groups 4, 7, 12, 30, 31, & 32. However, the connection, as yet, has not been made and is thus a working theory.

During the next year, I plan on updating my website, renewing contacts with Group 7 members and continuing on the work on the Ashe Co., NC Penningtons. Since I believe that there are a lot of connections between Group 7, 12, 30, 31, & 32 – I will continue to explore various types of records to create as full a history as possible.

Membership records indicate 31 PRA members listed as Group 7 members.

Group 8 Report by family Group Leader – Sue Webb / Rod Pennington

A major recent development in Group 8 is a DNA study result showing that Absalom Pennington of Louisiana, who was born around 1784 in Georgia (per later census records) and was married to Sarah Courtney around 1806, was related to Jacob Pennington, progenitor of the Lawrence Co., TN Penningtons. The Absalom-Jacob connection was most likely a close one, since testing of a male Pennington descendant of Absalom and Jacob gave a perfect match, even after expansion of the testing to include 67 markers. Descendants of Absalom had long suspected a Group 8 link, believing that

Absalom was the probably a son of Abraham Pennington's son Abraham-2. Note however that the DNA test result does not reveal the exact nature of Absalom's or Jacob's connection to Abraham the Group 8 progenitor, nor does it prove that either were even related to Abraham. Further study, possibly including additional DNA testing of male descendants of different lineages within Group 8, will be needed to conclusively answer long-standing questions about the structure of Abraham Pennington's family. DNA testing to date has not shown a connection between the Lawrence Co., TN and Logan Co., KY/Bradley Co., AR Penningtons, but additional confirmatory testing is being pursued. On a side note, I recently obtained an original copy of the October 27, 1877 Scientific American publication which included a blurb on James Jackson Pennington of Henryville, TN (grandson of Jacob Pennington of Lawrence Co., TN, and my great-great grandfather) and his flying machine. I will try and make copies of some kind available to interested PRA members. Please contact me or Sue Webb with any Group 8-related information or queries. Rod Pennington, rodpenn@iquest.net

Membership records indicate 26 PRA members listed as Group 21 members.

Group 9 Report by family Group Leader – Rene'e Davis

Report not received. Group Leader Rene'e Davis resigned on 5/31/2007 due to poor health reasons.

Membership records indicate 8 PRA members listed as Group 9 members.

Group 10 Report by family Group Leader – Jim Lantz

I have only recently assumed the duties of Group Leader for Group 10.

I have compiled all of the Group 10 records that were available on PRA and merged them with the Pennington records that I had in my private files. In quite a few of the listings I had additional documentation that wasn't shown on the PRA files.

I sent out a blanket invitation for all of our Group 10 members to look over these records on my private web page, <http://home.comcast.net/~jimlantz/>.

So far I have only received a reply from 1 member. Must not be too many of us Group 10's out there.

Once we are sure that this database is accurate, I will see about having it migrated to the PRA site.

If you would, please invite the PRA members to look over this site and notify me of any additions and corrections.

Additions in the form of a gedcom file would be preferable. I will only list 8 generations down from Thomas Pennington 1640-1702. This will mostly eliminate any information on living individuals. However, additional information can be provided to PRA members if they send me a private email at jimlantz@comcast.net.

I would also like some input from the members as to just how extensive we want to make our Group 10 database (i.e., do we want to show ancestry, if available, of those allied families that married into the Pennington clan)? In other words, do we want to limit it to Pennington blood lines only?

If we do include allied families, do we want to set a limit as to how many ancestral generations we will limit it to. I've found that once we get past the 9th or 10th generation we are prone to falling into the trap of using inaccurate data that has been posted on RootsWeb and other online databases. I have seen too many instances of mothers being 9 years old when their child was born, ***not on the PRA of course***. I call this type of genealogy "The adopt an ancestor method". If we see an obvious error, let's research it and either correct it or remove it.

If we are fairly sure of our sources, we will indeed include them. Let's post a data base that anyone can be fairly certain that it is an accurate list of our ancestors.

Jim Lantz
Group Leader 10

Additional Group 10 activity by Jim Pennington & Melinda Pennington: While Group 10's leadership was vacant a new PRA member named Brenda Ledbetter joined last year. Jim (Pres.) and I attempted to help her as we thought she was connected to Group 10. Her ancestor James Pennington moved from Wayne Co., NC where some Group 10 members were living at the same time. Jim and I ordered two wills from the NC Archives and mailed these to Brenda in hopes they would help her with her research. She still was unable to make a connection. Since this time, scans of these wills have been forwarded to the new Group 10 Leader.

Membership records indicate 17 PRA members listed as Group 10 members.

Group 11 Report by family Group Leader – Shirley Erickson

There is nothing terribly or excitingly new about Group 11. I've gotten a few little census/marriage tidbits since my last report but nothing so exciting as to do a completely new report. Meanwhile, I've been helping others and researching other Texas Penningtons which I've shared with the Pedigrees already.

Membership records indicate 2 PRA members listed as Group 11 members.

Group 12 Report by family Group Leader – Daniel Pennington

Group 12 Samuel Pennington: Since becoming Group Leader I have been putting together information on his descendants to add to the PRA's Group 12 file. It should be updated this summer, hopefully. I have made contact with several Group 12 members who seem to be more interested in knowing who Samuel's parents were than anything else. This has prompted me to look into the matter. DNA testing links Group 12 to the NC "supergroup" of Pennington families so I started there. In my research, I have gathered data, documents, and family stories that has gave me some leads, but nothing solid yet. I have also discussed these leads with other NC Pennington researchers including a former Group 12 Leader. As the year progresses I plan to finish with gathering census data and adding the notes I have so far to the PRA file. I also plan on going to Grayson County, VA where Samuel lived and look for info in the local records.

Membership records indicate 1 PRA member listed as a Group 12 member.

Group 13 Report – VACANT

Group 14 Report by family Group Leader – Ralph L. Pennington, Jr.

Report not received.

Membership records indicate 11 PRA members listed as Group 14 members.

Group 15 Report – Subsumed under Group 26

Group 16 Report by family Group Leader – VACANT

Membership records indicate 4 PRA members listed as Group 16 members.

Group 17 Report by family Group Leader – Rick Crume

I'm still trying to identify the parents of James Pennington, progenitor of PRA Group 17. A Loyalist in the Revolutionary War, James was a prisoner of war in Pennsylvania at various times between 1779 and 1782. He was granted land in Queensbury Parish, York County, New Brunswick, Canada, following the war and died there in 1808.

James Pennington was born in England and he could be the James Pennington, baptized 5 Jan. 1755 at Culmstock, Devon, England, a son of William Pennington and Elizabeth (Collings) Pennington. See the report on my research into James Pennington's English origins in Pennington Pedigrees, vol. 38 (2006), no. 1, pp. 30-39. My Web site <<http://www.onelibrary.com/Genealogy/penningtonculmstock>> has a report on the descendants of William Pennington and Elizabeth Collings.

This year I discovered more information on James Pennington's descendants, especially through his daughter Deborah (Pennington) Kinney, born in about 1797. My Web site at <http://www.onelibrary.com/Genealogy/pennington> has a report on James Pennington's descendants, though I haven't yet updated it with my most recent findings.

Rick Crume, May 30, 2007

Membership records indicate 1 PRA member listed as a Group 17 member.

Group 18 Report by family Group Leader – Michael M. Pennington

I have only been Group Leader for several months after enrolling as a member. This is my first report and so I feel somewhat inadequate to provide much in depth information. Here is an update of my activity thus far:

1. There are very few participants of Group 18, but I notified the ones I knew about that Group 18 finally had a team leader. Apparently, the lack of consistent activity in the past has generated a lack of interest. The second factor I believe causing the inactivity is that PRA has taken a position that there is no known American descendant of this line. This has resulted in no one trying to research additional possibles which is what I plan to do in 2007.
2. I have only received two e-mails, but I responded to them promptly and am currently performing some additional research on both. I have discovered that there are no definite answers for Group 18 inquiries. I am doing my best to satisfy both of these inquiries.
3. I have contacted Dr. Jasper Pennington and we have spent several hours talking about Group 18. Dr. Pennington still believes that William Pennington was related to Isaac "the Quaker" Pennington. When I asked for his sources however he provided no back up. He did suggest a trip to the Midwest to Richmond, IN where there are many Quaker records stored at a College there. I am planning a trip there in June.
4. I have several theories which I plan to research including trying to find the parents of Paul "Sunbrick" Pennington. If this could be resolved, I believe Group 18 holds the key to combing several of the other Groups.
5. I wrote an article on Edward J. Pennington for the Spring edition of the Pennington Pedigree but was not able to provide all sources in time for publication. This will be accomplished for the Fall edition.
6. I have reviewed the entire JFMF applying to Group 18 and am preparing a number of corrections which I intend to submit later this summer. I view this as a "cleanup", but the number of changes will be significant.

7. I submitted to a DNA test earlier this year. As I understand the result was not very conclusive in helping identify my specific Pennington Group. I believe the results were helpful to the overall test data but I'm not sure it answered many of my personal questions.

8. I look forward to many years of participation in the PRA. Everyone is so helpful and eager to answer your questions. I hope in the future my enthusiasm can help give back all I've received in just my first year.

Michael M. Pennington

Membership records indicate 1 PRA member listed as a Group 18 member.

Group 19 Report by family Group Leader – Shaunta Knibb

This is a small Group within the PRA, which has not been particularly active. As I have reported previously, we are, however, still trying to find the parents of Richard and Eleanor Pennington. Richard Pennington is the earliest known Pennington of Group 19, and we have no definitive location for him other than in what is now West Virginia. I have proposed to the Group 19 members that we engage in a joint research project wherein different people could review records of a defined area outside of West Virginia since the task of researching such a large area is daunting and incredibly time consuming for one person. It is believed that Richard Pennington may have come from the general area now covering Virginia, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Maryland so it is this 5-state area which would be the initial focus.

I am also trying to encourage sharing and joint research efforts more generally within the Group, as well as the submittal of articles or pictures (or both) to the Pennington Pedigrees. It is my understanding that Colleen Blizzard, a Group 19 member, is working on such an article.

Shaunta Knibb

Membership records indicate 6 PRA members listed as Group 19 members.

Group 20 Report by family Group Leader – Mandy Colgan

Nothing to mention. (Mandy Colgan, 5/31/2007)

Membership records indicate there are no PRA members listed as a Group 20 member.

Group 21 Report by family Group Leader – VACANT (this Group is recently vacant – the last Group Leader was Ruth Voshell Stonesifer)

Membership records indicate 1 PRA member listed as a Group 21 member.

Group 22 Report by family Group Leader – Daniel Pennington

Group 22 Elias Green Pennington Sr: When I became the Group 22 leader I realized that the PRA's file had almost no information on this family, though I knew the PRA had a Group 22 Leader in the '70's that documented a great deal of data. So I went back to the old Pennington Pedigrees and started collecting information on the family. This has been a long process thankfully speeded up by the Pennington Periodicals Vol 1 CD. I plan to have an updated file that's at least four times the size of the current PRA Group 22 file by the end of the year. I also found the news article and small book about a member of this family (thanks to Gene Pennington for pointing me in the right direction) and acquired a copy. There are currently no Group 22 members of the PRA and no one online seems to be looking for this family though a researcher of an allied family has shared some info and requested help from me with some of her distant Pennington cousins. My biggest objective with this family is to find at least one DNA testee to see if the family links with one or more of the other Pennington families. The only lead I have found on the ancestry of Elias is from a comment made by Bee Holmes (PRA founder) in the mid '70's that Elias may have been the son of Elijah of NC. Further research will be done to see from where she may have got the idea.

Membership records indicate no PRA members listed as a Group 22 member.

Group 23 Report by family Group Leader – Viola Ell (this Group has DNA ties to Group 6)

I did not receive a report for Viola Ell but I can tell you that we have had a couple of Group 23 contacts this past year and everyone is frantically looking for documents which will hopefully tie Joseph Pennington (Group 23) and Isaac Pennington (Group 6) together as "we suspect" son and father. Hopefully, this upcoming year we can find enough "probable proof" for Groups 6 & 23 to be subsumed under Group 6. This will be one of my goals for 2007-2008. Group 23 research can be obtained from the Group 6 website since we do know there is a DNA relationship between the two Groups.

Melinda Pennington (Group 6 Leader)

Membership records indicate 2 PRA members listed as Group 23 members.

Group 24 Report by family Group Leader – Peggy Pennington

I became Group Leader for these two Groups and was really excited. I wanted a working Group even if it was not my own Group.

I feel I must try harder to gather my flock up and get us to working on something. Do you have a suggestion?

I have found things on my husbands Group 32. I have a cyber friend in CO that has been so good to me to try and find the links to this Group. Melinda has also been very good to help point me in the right direction also. I find there was a lot of 'running whiskey' in OK and then you would land in Leavenworth fast.

As a Group Leader I would like to be more of a working Group. I would like to see a monthly newsletter from each Group Leader. Tell us who you are looking for and where and the dates of birth or death etc. We can all look for your brick wall. I know it's hard to tell us things like that if you knew where and when you would not be looking.

I really like it when there is a discussion going on the list. I print off most of it and save I also would like to remind all if someone sends you information either by Snail or E to please let them know you received it and saying please helps a lot.

Genealogy is my hobby turned to an obsession.

Peggy Camp Pennington
Group #32
Group Leader #2 and #24

Membership records indicate no PRA members listed as Group 24 members.

Group 25 Report by family Group Leader – VACANT

Group 26 Report by family Group Leader – Ric Blake

Due to illness no Group 26 report will be given this year. Message from Ric:
I just got out of the latest cancer treatment and have been unable to complete my report; my apologies. Ric, Group 26

Membership records indicate 9 PRA members listed as Group 26 members.

Group 27 Report by family Group Leader – Sidney Graveston (has no email)

I have mailed a letter to Sidney (last month) asking him for his "Group 27" report and 2007 membership. He has not replied back to my correspondence yet.

Membership records indicate 1 PRA member listed as a Group 27 member. (The member is not the current Group Leader). I plan on following up with this member to see if he or she has any interest in becoming Group Leader.
Mgp

Group 28 Report by family Group Leader – Paul A. Pennington & Frankie Perry

Group 28 has a new Assistant Group Leader, Frankie Perry of Haines, Alaska. She and Group Leader Paul Pennington are developing a division of responsibilities.

Assistant Group Leader Frankie Perry was born and grew up in the Webbville area where William Pennington and his wife Abigail Caudill settled about 1832. She traces her lineage to two of William's children: Elizabeth Pennington who married James Webb Jr., and Alford Pennington.

Paul and Frankie worked together with descendants Thomas Adkins, Eleanor Brewster, Randa LeBrun and Pat Starzer to place a memorial stone in the Webbville Cemetery, Webbville, Lawrence County, Kentucky, for ancestor of Group 28, William Pennington and his wife Abigail Caudill. This project was completed with a dedication in May 2005.

An article written by Frankie appeared in Pennington Pedigrees, 2006, Volume 38, Number 1, "Webbville, Kentucky", includes a picture of the memorial stone.

Frankie is working on developing a website as requested by the Board. She has also posted some new pictures on the Pennington Research Association MyFamily website, the first Group 28 photos to be posted there. Look for more information to be posted here in the near future.

Respectfully Submitted,
Frankie Perry
(Frances Adams Perry)

Membership records indicate 18 PRA members listed as Group 28 members.

Group 29 Report by family Group Leader – Joanne Pennington

I am Group Leader for Group 29. I have no new information to share at this time. My mother had a stroke last year and I have been her caretaker since and haven't had much time to spend on genealogy. I will surely contact you if and when I am able to share anything of any importance.

Membership records indicate 5 PRA members listed as Group 29 members.

Group 30 & 31 Report by family Group Leader – Jim Pennington (new Group 30 Leader is: Marye Steckley)

There has been very little contact between myself and PRA Members from either Group 30 or 31. Although I currently serve as the interim Group 30 Leader, I remain available to respond to any request from any member who may wish to communicate and/or request any assistance.

The primary activity within Groups 30 and 31 has been in conjunction with what I reference as the North Carolina Project. The first phase of this project is published in the 2007 Spring Edition of the Pennington Pedigrees. I plan to publish additional information in the 2007 Fall Edition of the Pedigrees to hopefully assist any PRA Family Group Researcher with ties to North Carolina.

I remain available to assist any PRA Member with their research activities, questions or comments regarding Groups 30 or 31 and look forward to any request.

Update: As of April, 2007, Marye Steckley is the new Group Leaders of Group 30. Jim Pennington will remain Group Leader for 31.

I did visit the MyFamily website and saw that I was able to upload, download documents, etc.

My update to you all is:

I have gotten a website started; it has nothing on it but it is setup. I will send it to you all as soon as I get it mocked up.

When I get back from my KY genealogy research trip I should have solid information for Abel Pennington from SC and his parents; or not. Who knows maybe he just appeared; though he was a lawyer so he came from somewhere.

Is there a contact list of PRA Family Group 30 members anywhere that I may get hold of? Can I get any past PRA Family Group 30 members contact information? Would it be advisable to cold call Penningtons in New Mexico to solicit information from them?

Marye E. Steckley
PRA Family Group 30 Leader

Note: The membership chair forwarded Marye Steckley the information she requested. Mgp

Membership records indicate 9 PRA members listed as Group 30 members.

Membership records indicate 2 PRA members listed as Group 31 members.

Group 32 Report by family Group Leader – William J. Pennington

Not much is new in Group 32. Certainly the DNA tests that tied most of the western NC Groups together is of tremendous benefit in the way we look at 32 in relation to all the other Groups of that area. It is a virtual certainty that Wells, progenitor of 32 is the son of William Pennington (no assigned Group) and this William is the likely brother of Micajah, Group 7. William Jr. is the probable son of William, the nephew of Micajah and the brother of Wells. I deduct this mostly from the Ashe County Court Records in the years 1806-1812 or thereabouts. William is recorded as having died around 1810 leaving a wife, Elizabeth whose needs were looked after by Daniel Strunk, the brother-in-law of Wells. If we can be certain that Benejah (no Group assigned) is the father of Micajah then that is the Group that all the aforementioned belong.

I am currently looking into the relationship that Rev. Charles Pennington of Grayson Co. VA has with the Ashe County Pennington's. Rev. Charles is originally from Philadelphia and I'm wondering if perhaps Benejah and some of the older Ashe County Pennington's were from the Philadelphia area or nearby New Jersey. New Jersey history is rich in Pennington information, one William J. Pennington of that state served as Speaker of the House during Lincoln's presidency.

I am also very curious about any connection with the Ashe County Pennington's and Connecticut. The Ashe County Pennington's were very close to the Perkins family who were from Connecticut and they followed Wells over to Whitley County, KY around 1820. The Perkins share several first names with Wells' family including the almost unheard of name, Arad.

Much has been learned. Much is speculated, and much is to be either proven or unproven.

Membership records indicate 4 PRA members listed as Group 32 members.

Group 33 Report by family Group Leader – Nick Penington

I will have to say "No Activity" I have come to the end of conventional written records I got back to 1585. I do not anticipate any further progress without Megabucks of expenditure and lots of time, of which I have precious little. Although I have identified some other Group 33 members in the UK and Italy, I may as well be a Group of one since they appear to have little interest in doing any genealogical work or joining the PRA.

Membership records indicate 1 PRA member listed as a Group 33 member.

Group 34 Report by family Group Leader – VACANT

Membership records indicate no PRA members listed as Group 34 members.

PRA Obituary Database Information

by Colleen Blizard, PRA Obituary Database Editor

The PRA Database has grown significantly since the last board report. We have seen an increase of 529 obituaries between May 9, 2006 and May 31, 2007. There are 1,265 obituaries in the database as of May 31, 2007. I have recently received 82 obituaries that are not yet entered into the database. I plan on getting them entered over the next few weeks.

Melinda Pennington, Group 6 Leader, is a researcher extraordinaire! She has contributed 275 of the obituaries added over the last year. Roy Don Howell, from Group 6, is also a researcher extraordinaire! He has contributed 201 of the obituaries that were added to the database. Eighty of the obituaries to be posted were also submitted by Roy Don Howell. A great big thank you goes out to Melinda Pennington and Roy Don Howell!

Almost all of the obituaries have been sent to me via e-mail. I am saving the email as text files. I am also saving any pictures that are included with the obituary. As each obituary is entered into the database, it is also posted to the Pennington Message Boards. Any pictures included with the obituary are also included on the Pennington Message Boards.

An Obituary report is posted on the PRA My Family Site. The report contains all of the obituaries in the database as of the date of the report. The report is posted as multiple files instead of a single file for members that do not have a high-speed internet connection. The first report was posted by Gene Pennington on August 16, 2006. I posted an updated report on May 7, 2007. A few members reviewed the uploaded reports and have provided the group numbers for some of the obituaries. There are 191 obituaries in the database that have a group number.

The obituaries that are being submitted are a mix of current obituaries and obituaries from several years ago. Some obituaries contain minimal information, while others provide a wealth of information. The complete obituary, as submitted, is included in the database.

I look forward to the continuing growth of the PRA Obituary Database!

Research Projects

Research Project #1

We received the report from Jeffrey Haines, CG, in 2006 and while it did not provide any significant new findings, it did provide a few new pieces of information on the family of Benajah Pennington, Sr., born 1724/25. His report also provided us with several new suggestions to continue the research.

His report was made available to researchers by including it in the new Pennington Periodicals CD, Volume I.

Additional funds were budgeted this year to continue with the research project. We hired a new professional genealogist to pick up where Mr. Haines, CG, left off with his research. We hired Terry Moore, CG, who lives in Raleigh, NC in early 2007. She expects to complete her research by the end of summer 2007.

Research Project #2

I've been waiting to start the preliminary work on our next special research project which will focus on one, or more, Pennington progenitors in England who migrated from England to America. I asked for help to narrow the scope/focus of our research on this first attempt. Due to a number of other projects and tasks involving the PRA, I have not yet started work on this project. It is clear to me that this will be a significant project for the PRA and I will make every effort to start work on it before the end of 2007.

Daniel Pennington found Debrett Ancestry Research, Ltd., located in England, and both of us have been in contact with them. They sound like they can do the work for us at a reasonable cost. Please visit their website and review what they offer, etc. The company information and website is:

Debrett Ancestry Research Ltd
PO Box 379, Winchester SO23 9YQ
Tel: +44 (0) 1962 841904
www.debrettancestry.co.uk

I've reviewed their website and they certainly look like a good agency to use. They give you several different ways to have the information presented to you which is an added plus.

I have contacted one (1) other genealogy research company who does research in England but I have not heard back from them. The other

company is British Ancestors at --> <http://www.britishancestors.com/> . They have some interesting services including a "No-Find No-Fee" service.

It would be best for the PRA that once we've decided which ancestor/s to focus on that we contact at least two (2) different companies and get price estimates as well as see what services they will provide for the fees.

Prior to starting this project we need to learn more about the genealogy research in England and how to make contract with other resources that can help guide us in the right direction. I think it is important to learn who has the best experience and can hopefully produce some new information.

I wanted to be sure that Nick Penington, our DNA Study Chairman, was able to help with this process and I've been sure to include him from the beginning of this part of the project. He has some background and experience with genealogy research in England and the with genealogy community.

Before we start we must identify which of our Pennington ancestor, in America, we want to be the focus of the research in England. He must be someone we are pretty sure came to America from England. After we discuss this, I want to ask our Group Leaders and Board/Officers for their input before I make a selection.

In one the messages from Debrett Ancestry, they recognized that without a "...real clue from America sources as to the area of origin is not easy....". The main purpose of our planned research project is to make a connection between one, or more, of our known Pennington Group progenitors and a Pennington in England. So the burden will be on us to identify the Pennington progenitor and his English ancestor's origin, if we can.

For example, in one of the messages Daniel had from Debrett Ancestry, he mentioned selected Ephraim I and II as the focal persons. These may not be the best ones to focus on because to the best of my knowledge, the PRA does NOT have any proof and/or evidence linking either of them to a known Pennington Group progenitor. All we have is some well thought out theories and assumptions.

Some of the PRA Family Group progenitors I've consider are:

- Group 3, Paul of Sunbrick, b. 1627, Lancashire, England
- Group 10, Thomas Pennington, b. 1630 England; Surry Co., VA.
- Group 27, Gamel de Penintone, Muncaster England

I've not excluded any Group at this time but I've tried to identify those Groups whose progenitor has already been identified as coming from England.

I really appreciate your help. Let me know if you find some other genealogy agencies in England that look like they can do our project.

Future

I've come to the Board each year with the same basic message about our future and I'm happy to report this year we made significant progress towards our goals and objectives. Plus, the Board and many dedicated volunteers have made major efforts to affect positive participation by some of our Group Leaders and we've seen improvement.

I want to point out that Melinda G. Pennington, ARD responsible for our Family Groups and Group Leaders, has made several positive changes. This has resulted in improved communications between Group members and their Leaders. Melinda and the Group Leaders are to be congratulated and it is my sincere hope we will see more improvements this year.

We will continue to encourage the Group Leaders to participate and to help find ways to resolve any concerns they identify. However, it is important that the Group Leaders work themselves to be an integral part of the Pennington Research Association. It is only with their help that we can continue to meet our goals and objectives.

I continue to believe the future of the Pennington Research Association is very bright. We have identified some of the challenges and we have worked very hard to overcome them.

We must continue to explore new ways of making our information available in printed and electronic media and on the Internet.

The purpose of an association such as the Pennington Research Association is to foster the exchange of genealogical information and to embrace others in our extended family.

I encourage the Board members to renew their commitment to our vision, our mission and our goals.