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Research Committee Annual Report

July 2009

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**

This has been one of our most challenging years in some time. I'm very concerned that the future of the PRA is in doubt. Despite significant accomplishments to meet our goals and objectives, our declining membership continued unabated. With the declining membership, the impact on the Research Committee has been significant. We continue to struggle with all the previously identified problems and challenges but the core problem is simple – a lack of volunteers. The few volunteers who are working are stretched very thin and have "maxed out".

We did improve our services to our Members and but unfortunately one or two of the major projects we implemented did not really "get off the ground" or made little progress.

I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to recognize all the dedicated volunteers who did work so hard this year. 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.

While we did some gains towards realizing our mission, goals and objectives, we have major obstacles and challenges facing us this year that will require a dedication by all of our Board Members, Officers and Research Committee Members.

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 project has now merged with the Pennington Periodicals Volume II CD. See the next section for details.

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

- Pennington Periodicals CD Project – This important project has produced Volume I and we're working on Volume II. 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 do anticipate major changes this year since we've been discussing this project for some time. 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 final report as well as a summary report from a professional genealogist for the 1st project. The 2nd project was placed on hold last year and no work has been completed on it.
- PRA Archives and Library Project – This project continues forward but at a slower pace than perhaps we want. Please refer to the Archivist report by Jasper Green Pennington for details. The PRA Digital Library Project made some major progress but we are behind our projected schedule due to staffing problems at Earlham College.
- PRA Military Records Project – This new project was started and some data was received, however, we've not added any more data since the start of the project. The project manager and I have not had the extra time to devote to this project.

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 have started work on Volume II of the Pennington Periodicals CD. This CD will contain all of the Pedigrees and the Cousin's Couriers from 1980 through 1990 as well the final and summary report from Terry Moore, CG, for special research project #1.
- PRA Digital Library Project - I received an update on our Digital Library Project from the Assistant Archivist at the Lilly Library at Earlham College. I created a summary of the project and incorporated her updated information for you. I've added the report to the material for the Board in our special folder on our website and the report can be viewed at →
<http://www.penningtonresearch.org/archives/archiveslibrary.htm>.
- Communications with members and other researchers remained about the same. I spend many hours communicating with 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 slowed from last year.
- Our main website (www.PenningtonResearch.org) did not grow this year (number of "hits"). Thanks to suggestions from Melinda G. Pennington and Jim Pennington, we added three (3) new web pages to help members looking for information on Family Groups and the Pedigrees. The new web pages are:
 - Family Groups by Group Number and Group Progenitor
 - Family Groups by Country and Regions
 - Pennington Pedigrees Table of Contents from 1968 through 2008
- 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

Report from the DNA Study to the Board of the PRA 6-3-2009

In the period 04/23/08 to the present date 9 Penningtons have signed up for the DNA Study, which is one more 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 still rated in the top group of DNA Studies with 114 members. In fact, last year we ranked about 162 out of 5,414 Surname studies for participation, based on frequency of the surname in this country. Our Study has revealed 8 clear genetic families and you can see the data and how it fits into 8 families by going to <http://www.penningtonresearch.org/rc/DNA/dna.htm> and following the link that is labeled "For the actual numbers, click here for the data".

The DNA Study is self financing meaning that all that entered paid for their individual tests. So for this reporting period I have not had any financial dealings to report. This year I have requested as usual that the amount in the DNA Study account be adjusted to \$500 so that the PRA can, if necessary, contribute towards the cost of a test for good candidates of limited means, or for tests that will increase our understanding of our results as a whole.

Of the results that we have received back in this period only one Pennington matched perfectly groups 4, 7, 20, 30, & 31 and several others matched the other less well represented lineages.

Participant

104785	Group 5/14 but three mutations
125785	Largest grouping perfect match
128252	Group 9, 19, 26, 29
136220	Group 11/28

144516 Group 8

150157 Group 3/17

Two more members of the study have not received back their results and a further two had no close matches in our study that now has 114 members.

We are now getting some very interesting information which seems to nail down the sequence for Group 3 that hails from Bucks Co PA with clear matches in the Furness region of Cumbria which was formally in Lancashire. What makes this especially interesting is that this is one of the few PRA Groups that have a paper trail link back to a specific location in the UK. This town of Barrow-in-Furness is now in the modern county of Cumbria but back then it was called Lancashire. This fits with descent from Paul of Sunbrick Lancashire c1627. Sunbrick is located very close to the Furness region. It is very interesting, and a little unexpected, that group 17 has a very close match to Group 3. An extension to 37 markers (on order) will help to solidify this link.

In addition, we are upgrading groups 28 and 11 to 67 markers to compare with what I call the "supergroup". The individuals themselves are paying for this upgrade. However, the DNA Study will pay for an advanced test which costs only \$23 plus shipping of \$9.50 (to another lab) for two samples. I am doing this on our group 11 volunteer and also a volunteer member of the "supergroup" who has no mutations from the modal sequence. A group 28 Pennington has already purchased this advanced test since the PRA helped him in the past with the cost of an upgrade. This could help to prove that groups 11 and 28 are, in reality, very closely related to the "supergroup" The technical details explaining how this will help are given below:

The test is called a Kittler test:

The issue is we have two markers 385a and 385b. One large PRA 'supergroup' has 11 and 14 repeats at these two markers and group 11/28 has 14 and 15 repeats at these two markers. But normally you cannot tell which marker (a or b) is on the left and which is on the right of the linear DNA strand so group 11/28 could be 15,14 and the "supergroup" could be 14,11. When you haven't done a Kittler the convention is to name the lowest value of repeats first. However there is a test (Kittler) which can label the marker 385a (lets say) so we know which is which. My guess is group 11/28 is really 15, 14 and the 'supergroup' is 11, 14 so that means the 385b did not change and we only have one mutation, where the group 11/28 385a gained 4 copies to go from 11 to 15. This can happen in a single step during copying and be counted as only one mutation. If this is true then groups 11/28 and the "supergroup" are all much closer kin than we thought.

So, these are exciting times for the DNA Study and when all these results come back we should have some more information on how close groups 3 and 17 are and also how close groups 11/28 are to the "supergroup" This "supergroup" is comprised of, at the very least, PRA groups 4, 7, 20, 30, & 31

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

Websites

The website is not meeting our expectations for success despite major efforts to make it of value to our Members. While some members are taking advantage of its' features, the majority are not even visiting it. In addition, the majority of our Group Leaders are not updating the data for the Group on the website.

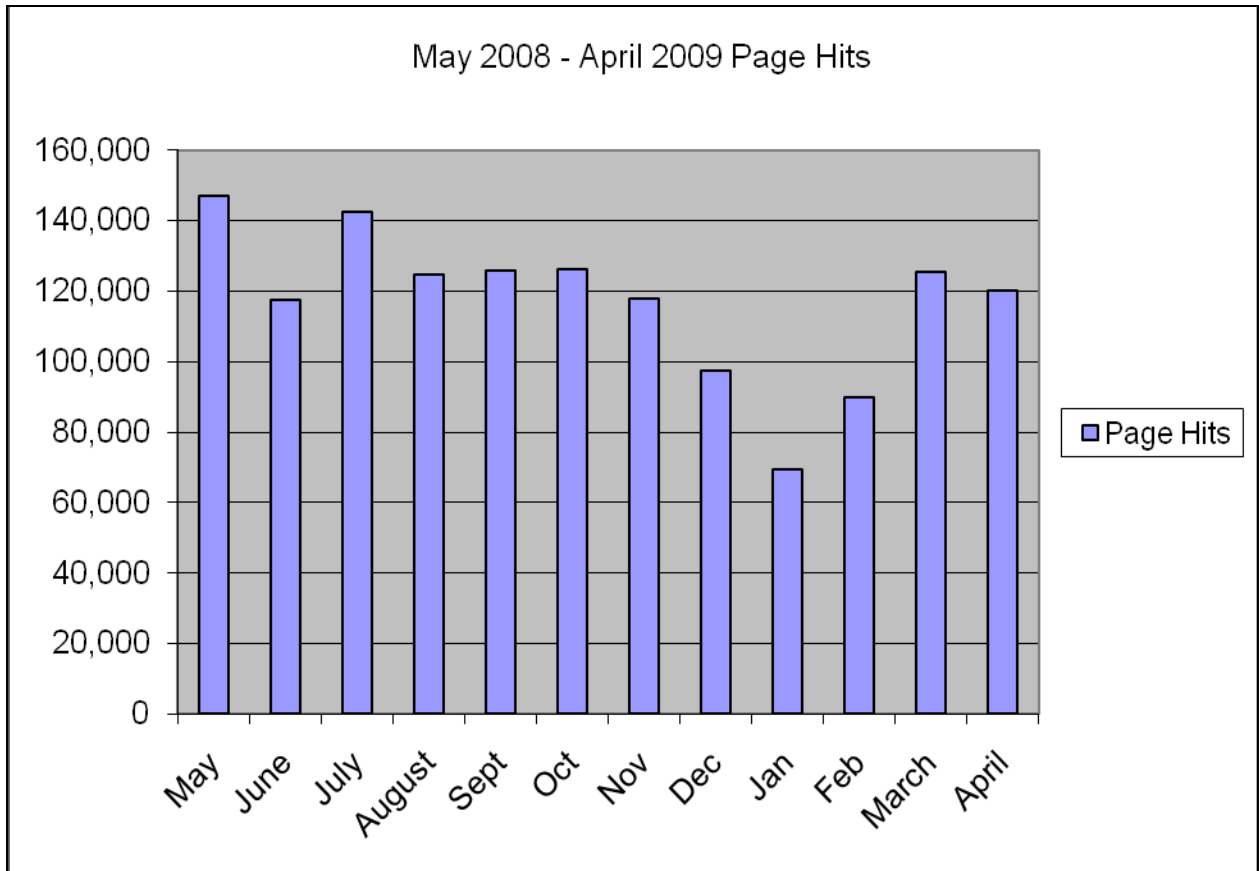
MyFamily.com has announced major changes to the service and I anticipate some of those changes will impact our website and how it will be operated and its purpose. As those changes occur, I'll report back to the Board.

Last year I recommended that we give the site one more year to demonstrate it is worth the time and money it takes to operate it. Sadly at this time I cannot recommend the continued operation of the website. However, rather than make a decision at this time, I recommend we wait until MyFamily.com makes the changes they have announced so we can better evaluate their impact.

Below is a chart summarizing the number of page hits our website has experienced between May 2008 and April 2009.

The website average this year was 116,989 page hits per month as compared to an average of 143,179 for the same time period last year.

The average is much lower so this tells us that even our primary website is not attracting as many visits as previous years. We continue to see the heavy use of on line applications and payments. 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 has been a little more active this year. The traffic goes up and down depending on what is posted. Our Group Leaders continue to be very lax in replying to any posted messages. Some Group Leaders are very good about responding to a message and/or a query but many of them do not even post a message for the entire year.

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 the last three (3) years I would report each year my recommendation as to whether or not to drop the mail list from those things the PRA operates, I'm still 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 delay a decision until we make some of the other major decisions facing the PRA this year.

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 June 30, 2009, there were 214 subscribers to PRA mail list. This includes both regular and digests mode subscribers. This is 4 more than last year (210 subscribers) so that's a positive change.

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. The blog has not been used very much by other researchers to post their information or to share their research. 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 and see if it becomes more popular.

BPIP (Bobby Pennington Indexing Project)

This project has been merged with the Pennington Periodicals CD project.

Pennington Periodicals Project

There is no manager of this project.

This very important project has moved 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 will also contain the final and summary reports by Terry Moore, CG.

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 – Spring 2009 (note the date change)

Pennington Periodicals Volume III: Pennington Pedigrees & Cousins' Couriers from 1990 – 2000. Target date for production – Fall 2011

Pennington Periodicals Volume IV: Pennington Pedigrees from 2000 – 2010 (note that the Cousins' Couriers stopped production in 1999). Target date for production – Fall 2013

The current goals for the Pennington Periodicals 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

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 works 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.

Family Groups

Melinda G. Pennington, Group Leader for Group 6, is our Assistant Research Director (ARD) responsible for our Family Groups and Group Leaders. In addition, Melinda is the Membership Chair and serves on the Board of Directors. Melinda has worked very hard to establish communications with all of our Group Leaders to help them meet the PRA's stated expectations and to help them with their efforts to improve their research efforts.

PRA ARD-Family Groups Report to the Board

Dated: July 15, 2009

During the past year we have gained the following new group leaders for following groups:

Group 2 – Doug Pennington
Group 6 – Roy D. Howell
Group 23 – Roy D. Howell

Group Leader resignations:

Group 6 – Melinda Pennington
Group 8 – Sue Webb (Co-leader)
Group 14 – Ralph L. Pennington, Jr.
Group 16 – Darlene Anderson
Group 23 – Viola Ell
Group 28 – Paul A. Pennington (Co-leader)
Group 32 – William J. Pennington

Our current vacant groups follow:

Groups 1, 9, 16, 21, 25 and 34

Solicitation of Group Leaders:

Various recruitment attempts and communications have been made throughout the year to existing and new members of groups 1, 9, 16, 21, 25 and 34. More attempts at finding new group leaders are needed in the next year. This is an ongoing task for the ARD of Family Groups.

Communication between groups:

Oct 9, 2008 – I contacted all the group leaders asking them to upload revised gedcom files to the myfamily.com member's only website.

Update: Only a few group leaders uploaded their gedcom com files. More urging of revising gedcom files is needed within the next year.

I have contacted all group leaders about twice in the past year. 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 but it seems to have gotten a bit better this year. 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.

Last month I asked all group leaders to consider taking on the ARD-Family Group position as I would like to resign from this post. I still have not received any interested Group Leaders who would like to take on the position. I will not resign until a replacement can be found. The new person who takes on this position is not required to be a group leader but it would be desired.

Family Group Reports to the Board follow:

Group 1 Report by family 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 0 PRA member listed as a Group 1 member.

Group 2 Report by family group leader – Peggy Pennington

No report submitted.

Membership records indicate 1 PRA members listed as Group 2 members.

Group 3 Report by Family Group Leader – Trisha Bennett

The last year was busy and devoted largely to expanding my personal genealogy skills, as I enrolled in a one year Genealogy Certification course at the University of Washington. My class graduated yesterday and I am looking forward to putting what I learned to work over the next year.

Communication:

There were only two inquiries from prospective Group 3 cousins over the past year. One was very recent and came as a result of seeing the PRA web page online. It is still unclear whether his family is a member of Group 3 or another line, and it is being investigated. Another contact came via another Group Leader. The inquirer believed his family belonged to the other Group, but was a Group 3 member. Otherwise all was quiet.

I would like to generate more activity among Group 3 cousins and plan to do more outreach this year. I have kept a list of Group 3 people who have contacted me over the years and will be reinitiating contact with them. I plan to inquiring about their research and offering further help. In addition I will be updating the PRA website for the Group. Only two generations, Paul and William, are represented. I plan to add 3 more generations forward, Daniel Sr., Daniel Jr., and Amos. I will also list sources for them. My hope is that the additional names will attract people using search engines to find ancestors.

Research:

I have continued to add primary and secondary source documents such as historical newspaper articles, photographs, and other information documenting the Group 3 line. I will be listing cites for some of them on the PRA webpage.

Though my certification course prevented me from doing much else this year, I have continued research of the Group 3 Penningtons and their Quaker Church heritage. The social I have planned to submit an article to the Pedigrees, but been interrupted by life in one way or another. This will be the year I do it.

In addition, I am planning to reorganize my Pennington research findings and submit some of the “raw” Pennington information for the Pedigrees as well.

To summarize, my overall goal as the Group 3 leader this coming year will be to add new Group 3 members and renew communication with previous members through improved outreach. My plans to do so are as follows:

- 1) Initiate an annual follow-up with people who have contacted me in previous years, inquiring about their research and offering further help.
- 2) Update the Group 3 PRA website with 3 additional generations of the family and sources.
- 3) Continue to locate original source materials for Group 3.
- 4) Write at least one article for Pennington Pedigrees.

Sincerely,

Trisha A. Bennett

Membership records indicate 1 PRA members listed as Group 3 members.

Group 4 Report by Family Group Leader – Arthur Pennington

We made substantial updates to the Group 4 - Ephraim file and posted to the MyFamily.com site last November. A huge debt of thanks go to the contributors: Joyce Nell Truitt, Rhodley Alden, B Knapp, Dianne Fleenor, and Mary Rushing.

One of our newest members shared a treasure with the PRA actually submitting to me before she joined. Cheryl Martin has scanned images from a family Bible containing birth, marriage and death information of the Pennington line from the late 1800's. These pages were published in the Spring 2009 Pennington Pedigrees. Also found in this edition of the Pedigree (from Cheryl) is a marriage license for Samuel Martin and Nancy Pennington, Letter of Consent from Joel Pennington and various photographs. It is in this spirit that genealogy thrives.

Membership records indicate 26 PRA members listed as Group 4 members.

Group 5 Report by Family Group Leader – Jeanne Thomas

Sorry to say there hasn't been much activity for Group 5 this year. We continue to work on this line. One interesting query had to do with another family in White Co. TN (not the Pennington surname) that think they may be related as one of the children was named after Charles Pennington. So the search continues.

I have also worked on Cassandra Swartzlander's family again this year and hope to write something for a coming issue of the PP.

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

Group 6 & 23 Report by Family Group Leader – Roy D. Howell

The Group 6's report is positive for the past year. I have been its group leader since the fall of 2008, taking over for Melinda Pennington, hard shoes to fill. 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 about 1000 new documents for a total of 2664 documents to our website located at <http://online.dralex.com/Senora1890/> About 300 of the new ones are Texas Death certificates. I continue to maintain and upload new documents weekly to this website as they are shared with me from other Pennington relatives. This last fall, Melinda Pennington combined groups 6 and 23 through DNA testing.

2. I currently take the Lamar Democrat Newspaper from Vernon, AL., and go online daily to the Columbus Dispatch, Columbus, MS and The Daily News in Tupelo, MS to watch for obituaries. This fall, I plan to subscribe to Obit Archives to search for obituaries around the country.

3. I continue to verify the accuracy of all new information added to our group 6 ged file with census and other records available to me. Nothing is added unless a source has been provided with the new information.

4. A list is maintained on how each PRA member is directly related to the progenitor of our group.

During the next Pennington reunion in 2010, Melinda Pennington will be making a presentation to the board to have these two groups combined. Group 6 will be the Group number and Group 23 will be resigned.

Membership records indicate 14 PRA Group 6 members and 1 PRA Group 23 member. Total 15 members for 2009.

Group 7 & 32 Report by Family Group Leader – Carmen Johnson

I wish that I could say that I had spent a great deal of time on research this past year...but in all honesty, I cannot. Much of my time spent on Group 7 & 32 activities has been corresponding with new members and other contacts about one thing or another. I have been working on developing a new description for Group 7 for the PRA page as well as my one personal website. That has been my main focus this year. It has been a project that I work on for several hours at a time, every few months. I hope to have it completely updated and ready to upload by the fall. My primary focus is thus:

- I am taking a more generalized research tactic. In my entire time as group leader for Group 7 – I have realized that there were two distinct groups within the Group 7 umbrella – now I realize that there are three groups. I label them Group 7-E, 7-

- B, & 7-M for the descendants of Ephraim Pennington b. 1769, Benajah Pennington b. 1770, and Micajah b. 1743. They are certainly connected, but the question remains – how?
- Group 7-E – This group is literally the descends of Levi Pennington b. 1794, Daniel b. 1813, and Andrew b. 1812 – John French had concluded that Levi b. 1794 was the son of Levi b. 1767 and grandson of Micajah b. 1743. We have two specific pieces of documentation that raises many doubts about that conclusion. One is a letter from Daniel to his son describing a visit to Andrew Pennington in Laurel Bloomery, Johnson Co., TN and the expectation of visiting “Unkle Levi” the next day in Ashe Co., NC. In addition, the previously mentioned Andrew is living with an elderly Ephraim in the 1850 census in Ashe Co., NC. He moves to Johnson Co., TN after 1852 when he sells his land to his nephew Elijah Pennington.
 - Group 7-M – This is the traditional Group 7 group – those descended from Micajah Pennington which includes the descendants of Micajah Pennington, Jr., Mary Pennington Bolling, Edward “Neddy” Pennington, Sarah Pennington Johnston/Johnson, Johanna Pennington Dickson, and Elizabeth Pennington Barton.
 - Group 7-B – This is the group that descends from Benajah Pennington b. 1770. Gene Pennington has proved the correct birthdate and John French’s original grouping of these descendants is likely incorrect, in that they do not descend from Micajah Pennington.
 - Not only are there distinct connections between those in Group 7 – but also Group 12 (Desc. of Samuel Pennington b. 1795), Group 30, Group 31, & Group 32. DNA research has proved this. They certainly tie into the larger super group which includes Group 4 – but unlike Group 4, these groups all grew out of the Ashe Co., NC area. I know of descendants still living in Ashe Co., NC from within Groups 7, 12, & 30.
 - The ancestors of these groups is an area of primary interest. For example – theoretically Ephraim b. 1769, Benajah b. 1770, Wells b. 1780, as well as the father of Group 30’s Andrew, James, Dow, et al – could very well be brothers – when you throw in Samuel b. 1795 – there is a quite close genetic grouping. We may never really find out how they tie in – but the fact remains that there is a distinct connection.
 - There is the potential to either broaden the scope of Group 7 by including the members of Groups 12, 30, 31, & 32 or to narrow the scope by splitting up Group 7 on the lines previously described. I don’t know if the common ancestor is a Benajah or an Ephraim. There is no doubt in my mind that there is a common ancestor. I don’t feel that you can merge the members of Group 32 in with 7 unless you give the same consideration to the other groups mentioned.

My goals for the following year is to finish updating my web page to include the information that I gathered (cemetery data) from my trip to NC in 2008, and adding

several land documents that are of interest to Pennington researchers in the Ashe Co., NC area. In addition, I am trying to do the basic census research on the first few generations of Wells Pennington descendants in order to have documented information and not hearsay. I have been at fault at not initiating contact more often, but I will be re-contacting the group members and asking that they examine the information that I have gathered. Everything is centered on getting the website up to date and viewable for the membership so they can make comments and corrections. This is a large goal that still involves a lot of time. I have been spending several hours of what little free time I have of late trying to get things organized...it is time consuming. Especially during the summer months when I have a full time job and have to work extra hours. It also doesn't help that I get drawn off on tangents on some of my other lines of research.

Membership records indicate 15 PRA members listed as Group 7 members.

Group 8 Report by Family Group Leader – Rod Pennington

No report received.

Membership records indicate 15 PRA members listed as Group 21 members.

Group 9 Report by Family Group Leader – Vacant

There is no report for this Group. It is vacant.

Membership records indicate 6 PRA members listed as Group 9 members.

Group 10 Report by Family Group Leader – Jim Lantz

Jim Lantz has been very active with Group 10 and its website. Unfortunately, Jim has been ill and cannot respond at this time.

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

Group 11 Report by Family Group Leader – Shirley Erickson

No report received.

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

Group 12 Report by Family Group Leader – Daniel Pennington

I now have a website up for this family group. Information will be added to the site throughout the year and an updated file will be uploaded to the myfamily.com site later this year. Most of my current research on this family is of Samuel's origins.

Membership records indicate 0 PRA member listed as a Group 12 member.

Group 13 Report – VACANT

Membership records indicate 1 PRA members listed as a Group 13 member.

Group 14 Report by Family Group Leader – Vacant

This Group does not have a Group Leader. Report not received.

Membership records indicate 6 PRA members listed as Group 14 members.

Group 15 Report – Subsumed under Group 26

Group 16 Report by Family Group Leader – Vacant

No report received.

Membership records indicate 2 PRA members listed as Group 16 members.

Group 17 Report by Family Group Leader – Rick Crume

I don't have much news to report on PRA Group 17.

I still suspect that our earliest known ancestor, James Pennington, who died in 1808 in New Brunswick, Canada, was the James Pennington, baptized 5 Jan. 1755 in Culmstock, Devon, England, a son of William Pennington and Elizabeth Collings.

A PRA Group 17 descendant had already done a Y-DNA test through Family Tree DNA. We recently refined the results from 25 to 37 markers, but still don't have a close match with any other Pennington.

This year I did a lot of research on John H. Pennington, born in 1848 in Maine, who was a grandson of James Pennington (who died in 1808). An international trade agent and railroad developer, John H. Pennington lived in several states and traveled often between New Orleans and Central America. Eventually I hope to write an article on him for Pennington Pedigrees.

Membership records indicate 2 PRA member listed as a Group 17 member.

Group 18 Report by Family Group Leader – Michael Pennington

Since last year, there was a definite increase in requests for information. That was somewhat surprising since there is only one active member in the Group, and there was nothing new discovered in this line. The PRA official position is that there are no known descendants of Sir Isaac Pennington in the United States. Originally, I had hoped to pursue new sources to disprove current thinking, but I was unable to devote the added time this past year as I started a new business myself. Last month I sold my business and will have more time now to devote to research this year

1. I received six emails this past year from individuals who believed they might be related to Sir Isaac Pennington. I responded to them both in a timely manner providing them with information on the first Pennington's arriving in America. I think they were disappointed and neither followed up with any additional questions.
2. I was hoping last summer to visit the Quaker College in Richmond, IN. This was at the advice of Dr. Jasper Pennington. I got as near as Cincinnati, OH, but was not able to visit the College.
3. I recently submitted to Colleen Blizzard an updated article on Joel Pennington for publication in "Pedigree" later this year.
4. I still need to cleanup some discrepancies I discovered in the JFMF applying to Group 18. It will require more time and research.

Once again, I apologize I have not been able to devote as much time as I wanted or anticipated this past year. In addition to my new business I have had some health issues to overcome. I am planning a trip next year to England looking to uncover the mystery of the parents of Paul Pennington who is the last known Pennington in Group 3. I very much desire to stay on as Group 18 leader and hopefully I can make a more significant contribution this coming year.

Membership records indicate 2 PRA member listed as a Group 18 member.

Group 19 Report by Family Group Leader – Shaunta Knibb

This remains a small group within the PRA. It has not been very active, but independently I think some of the members continue their research efforts, and may contribute the fruit of their efforts to the PRA at a later date. We continue to search for the parents of Richard Pennington and Eleanor Pennington, the earliest known ancestors of this branch of the Pennington's. Richard and Eleanor's earliest known location is what is now West Virginia. I previously proposed to the Group 19 members that we engage in a joint research project to scour records in neighboring states, such as New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania & Maryland for clues, but no one expressed interest in this project. I still think the project has merit, and am considering posting an "ad" (if you will) in the Pennington Pedigrees requesting either those who are interested (whether they have computer access or not) to contact me and/or for any and all to share with me any information they have about any men named "Richard Pennington." I am hopeful that someone already has a snippet of information in their files, which may prove useful to Group 19. Any results of this inquiry could (and should) be summarized or placed into article form to share with everyone.

As Group Leader one goal I have, but have not had time to achieve, is to update the family tree on the myfamily.com web site. I now have access to high speed internet which will make this project somewhat easier. I have also discussed with Colleen

Blizzard the submission of a pictorial-based article focused on Group 19 (probably of tombstones). I would like to include some commentary as well. My mother, Dorris Knibb, is working on this project with me. It is my hope that this article as with the “ad” proposed above, will spur some interest in Group 19, and inspire others to conduct ‘hands on’ research if they are able, because it is fun, and because you may get lucky and run into someone with a wealth of knowledge that you might never have had access to otherwise. I would like to inspire in each member that genealogy is not just a compendium of names and dates, but of the stories about the families and their experiences as well.

Membership records indicate 4 PRA members listed as Group 19 members.

Group 20 Report by Family Group Leader – Mandy Colgan

No report received.

Membership records indicate there is 2 PRA member listed as a Group 20 member.

Group 21 Report by Family Group Leader – VACANT

Membership records indicates 1 PRA members listed as a Group 21 member.

Group 22 Report by Family Group Leader – Daniel Pennington

Updates to the website will be made this summer and a file will soon be available on the myfamily.com site with all known descendants. Most of my efforts with this family have been spent trying to locate a DNA testing volunteer.

Membership records indicate 0 PRA members listed as a Group 22 member.

Group 23 Report by Family Group Leader – Roy Howell

Report is included with Group 6 report.

Membership records indicate 1 PRA member listed as Group 23 members.

Group 24 Report by Family Group Leader – Peggy Pennington

No report received.

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

Group 25 Report by Family Group Leader – VACANT

Membership records indicate no PRA members listed as Group 25 members.

Group 26 Report by Family Group Leader – Ric Blake

Beginning in November 2009, I'll begin placing individual and family histories on our PRA site. My intention is to include a brief biography of the individual and his or her spouse and children plus as much documentation as possible for each person, including primary and secondary sources: birth, death, marriage, military, property and census records. My goal is that each history will serve as a starting point and research base for future researchers. The first subject is: Isaac Green Pennington (see below), the great-grandson of William Pennington, Sr. of Monroe County, West Virginia / Giles County, Virginia, Group 26 progenitor. Over the next few years, I hope to add a new history every two months. My initial focus will be on the children and grandchildren of William Pennington, Sr.

I chose Isaac to be the first subject because his Civil War court martial described him as "...a man not to be messed with." How could I start with anyone else? If you wish to help with the project, please contact Ric Blake of Group 26 at zanblake1@myfairpoint.net or call: 603-434-4932.

Subject: ISAAC GREEN PENNINGTON4, James and Martha Drury (Waddle) Pennington3, Wheeler & Mary Polly (Swinney) Pennington2, William & Elizabeth Pennington (WV-1)1

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

Group 27 Report by Family Group Leader – Rev. Jasper Green Pennington

There has been no activity in 2009 in this group other than my own researches. My approach to developing this group is to continue to search for descendants of the Muncaster Penningtons arranging them in a genealogical table. I am concentrating on female lines that had not been pursued in the male genealogies in hopes of finding some living members who might be part of the group. This includes investigating further the Elizabeth Pennington (1619-) and John Archer line; Catherine Pennington (1712-1764) and Robert Lowther; three daughters of Joseph Pennington (1717-1793); Maria Margaret Frances Pennington and James Lindsay, Earl of Crawford. I expect that some of this was researched in the early 1900s when an heir was wanted for Muncaster. However much new material has been made available now and it is worth looking into again for our purposes. I make hast to add that these researches are not an attempt to find a lost heir!

It would indeed be a miracle if an individual could be found whose DNA could add anything to our present data bank for comparisons in that area.

Membership records indicate 0 PRA member listed as a Group 27 member.

Group 28 Report by Family Group Leader –Frankie Perry

In addition to the family group site DESCENDANTS OF WILLIAM PENNINGTON, started in 2001 by Paul Pennington at <http://www.knology.net/~paulpenn/d263.htm> there is a new site, located on MyFamily, part of Ancestry.com: "William & Abigail Pennington".

"William & Abigail Pennington" is dedicated to research of the family of William Pennington and his wife Abigail Caudill who ended their years in Lawrence County, Kentucky. It is and will be a depository of information including family lines, documents; such as birth, marriage, military, death records, obituaries, news-articles and photos pertaining to William, Abigail and their many descendants. The site provides a place for descendants to share what they know about the family and a place to research and ask others for help. It is a private site, available by invitation only and free to all PRA members. Some eighty invitations have been sent to descendants of this couple or to those researching this family. There are 38 active members on the site, including former group leader Paul A Pennington, and new information is added weekly if not daily. If you are interested in joining the site, please contact Frankie Perry at flap@aptalaska.com .

In addition information and queries posted to the website, I try to respond to individual inquiries. I have responded to over 200 email inquiries or follow-ups to inquiries in the last 18 months.

Recent inquiries and discussion seek a link to other Pennington Family Groups. A discussion thread on this topic has been started on "William & Abigail Pennington" MyFamily website.

Membership records indicate 12 PRA members listed as Group 28 members.

Group 29 Report by Family Group Leader – Joanne Pennington

No report received.

Membership records indicate 2 PRA members listed as Group 29 members.

Group 30 Report by Family Group Leader – Marye Steckley

No report received.

Membership records indicate 5 PRA members listed as Group 30 members.

Group 31 Report by Family Group Leader – Jim Pennington

I think I am the only Group 31 person trying to do anything. I have not been contacted by anyone regarding research or questions in reference to my Group.

Membership records indicate 1 PRA members listed as Group 31 members.

Group 32 Report by Family Group Leader – Carmen Johnson

See Group 7 for report.

Membership records indicate 5 PRA members listed as Group 32 members.

Group 33 Report by Family Group Leader – Nick Penington

Just like last year I am sorry to say there is nothing to report. Group 33 has been traced back to 1585 to a small hamlet in Cheshire in England (Aston-by-Sutton near Runcorn) and when you do that you come to the end of the road! There are no more church records. Maybe DNA will help in the future by identifying collateral branches of my family which must exist but of which I have no information. Absent that, this will be my report I suspect for the foreseeable future. I have been in contact with some Peningtons in my family spread all over, in Italy, the UK and Canada but they are minimally interested in genealogy. I have heard a few interesting stories from them about some people who married into my family but I would like to confirm them before revealing them to the PRA. Progress is very slow when your group has a membership of 1.

In desperation I turned to tracing some other branches of my family and had some success and made some discoveries that interested me a great deal before I hit the inevitable brick walls. Once this happened I got too busy at work to do any genealogy, but I do remain ready and willing to drop almost anything I am doing for a while to help anyone who can establish even a tentative connection to group 33.

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](#)

Please refer to Colleen's report submitted as a separate report. You will find the report with all the other reports submitted to the Board for 2009.

Research Projects

Research Project #1

We have received two (2) reports this year from Terry Moore, CG, who lives in Raleigh, NC. One report is her final report for the project unless we decide to extend the project beyond its current scope. The other report is a

summary report she prepared at my request that will serve as an overview of her research to date and provides suggestions for future research should we decide to extend the project.

This project is now complete. It took us a few more years to complete than we had originally planned but at least we point with pride to what was accomplished. More will be published on this research project in the future.

The first three (3) of her reports were made available to the Board and we will make the 4th report and the summary report available soon. They will also be included on the Pennington Periodicals Volume II CD.

Terry also created a timeline report for Benajah Pennington, Sr., b. 1724/25 that I've also made available to the Board and Officers. This will be included with the final report as well.

Please review these reports so you have a better understanding of where this research project has moved in terms of accomplishing its goals and objectives.

Research Project #2

For the past few years, this project has been on hold (see below for details). Given the current status of Research Project #1 and the other important projects the PRA has undertaken and may work on this next year, it is my recommendation to the Board this project remain suspended. When we reach a point that we can handle this project, and we have a sufficient number of volunteers to manage it, I'll let the Board know and we can decide at that time if we still want to pursue this project.

Background on 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 of 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.

If any readers of this report find some other genealogy agencies in England that look like they can do our project, please let me know.

Future

I've come to the Board each year with the same basic message about our future and while we have made progress, the major problem of declining membership is something that we must struggle with and find some resolution or this could spell the demise of the PRA.

I want to be sure and recognize the many dedicated volunteers who have made major efforts to help the PRA and continue to do so today.

Last year at our Board meeting, several proposals were presented to address the Group Leaders and our expectations of them. We implemented a couple of plans to try and help but I'm sadden to report they were not very successful.

My suggestion will be to address the definition of Group Leader and redefine our expectations to bring them more in line with the reality. I'll work with Melinda G. Pennington, ARD responsible for our Family Group Leaders, to develop those new definitions and when they are completed, I'll present them to the Board for review and approval.

I hope we can come to some resolution to this specific issue as we've been dealing with it for a number of years now and we have to find a solution.

Melinda G. Pennington, ARD responsible for our Family Groups and Group Leaders, has worked to improve communications between Group members and their Leaders.

We have encouraged the Group Leaders to participate and to help find ways to resolve any concerns they identify. However, it is important to note that while some Group Leaders have worked to be an integral part of the Pennington Research Association, others have not.

I continue to believe the future of the Pennington Research Association is positive, however, it will require major commitments to realize our goals and objectives.

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.