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Research Committee Annual Report

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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 others.

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 project has now merged with the Pennington Periodicals Volume II CD. See the next section for details.
- 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 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 have received three (3) more reports from the 2nd professional genealogists. The 2nd project is still being organized and I am recommending to the Board that it be suspended for at least a year. 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

Report from the DNA Study to the Board of the PRA 4-25-2008

In the period 06/30/07 to the present date 8 Pen(n)ingtons have signed up for the DNA Study, which is two 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 still rated in the top group of DNA Studies with over 100 members. In fact last year we ranked about 105 out of over 4000 Surname studies for participation based on frequency of the surname in this country and this year we fell to 162. In my opinion this is still something to be quite proud of.

The DNA Study is self financing meaning that all that entered paid for their individual tests. The DNA bank account which is comprised principally of donation money from PRA members stood at \$349.30 (when all checks had cleared) as of 4-31-07. On September 26th 2007 the account in Westfield N.J. was closed and a check for this amount was sent to Peggy Pennington Pound the Treasurer. 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.

Of the results that we have received back one Pennington matched perfectly Groups 4, 7, 20, 30, & 31.

Last year we had a couple of members of Group 8 in the pipeline and this has helped sort out some questions about whether some branches of Group 8 are

actually from different families. In fact Group 8 has been split again. Rod Pennington one of the Group Leaders for Group 8 had previously split Group 8 based on the location of its clusters in the country and the strength or weakness of the evidence that they were connected to the same family. The DNA tests of Group 8 individuals confirmed that there were different families i.e. Group 8 A, B, C, D etc. This year several Group 8B individuals with good paper trails to Group 8B were found to differ significantly from each other and a new designation Group 8b1 was formed. It appears that a merged family might be the cause.

This year for the second year running we were lucky enough to have another member of the Genographic Project contribute his 12 marker results to our study and he was found to be close to group 6 but needs more markers to match a group decisively. I will try to get him to upgrade his result.

Participant #

- o 95741 - Matches PRA Group 9 also close to 19, 26, 29
- o 96086 - Closely matches Group 17 also close to Group 3
- o 96652 - Perfect match to large Group
- o 104265 - 24/25 marker match to 8b1 (Group 8b splits)
- o 104785 - Result not back yet
- o 112511 - I1a close to participant 25073
- o 114700 - I1a close to participant 112511
- o N63190 - (only 12 markers) Group 6 needs more markers

There has been a change in the names of the Haplogroup (groups on the family tree of all men). This came about since more stable mutations have been found which allows the family tree based on DNA to branch out more. This means that the group previously called I1a now is called I1* I don't know if it is worth spending money to obtain this information at this point as the tree is so crude it only groups ones DNA with that of many millions of other men on the planet!

The long term goals of the DNA study have not changed and more sequences from the UK would be the top priority to help us interpret the large amount of useful information that we have obtained so far.

Nicholas J. Pennington Ph.D.

DNA study coordinator
PRA Group 33 Leader

Note from Gene Pennington: I asked Nick how many of the volunteers in our DNA Study have NOT yet had the 25 marker test. His answer was:

“Gene, Out of 104 participants we only have 5 that have only 12 markers. A couple of these men are not reachable by email they don't respond or they have passed away! I am of the opinion that although it looks untidy, having them all go to 25 markers would probably not tell us anything since they either clearly do not match a group or they are clearly a member of the group they are placed in (in other words sometimes 12 markers is enough).

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 gave 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.

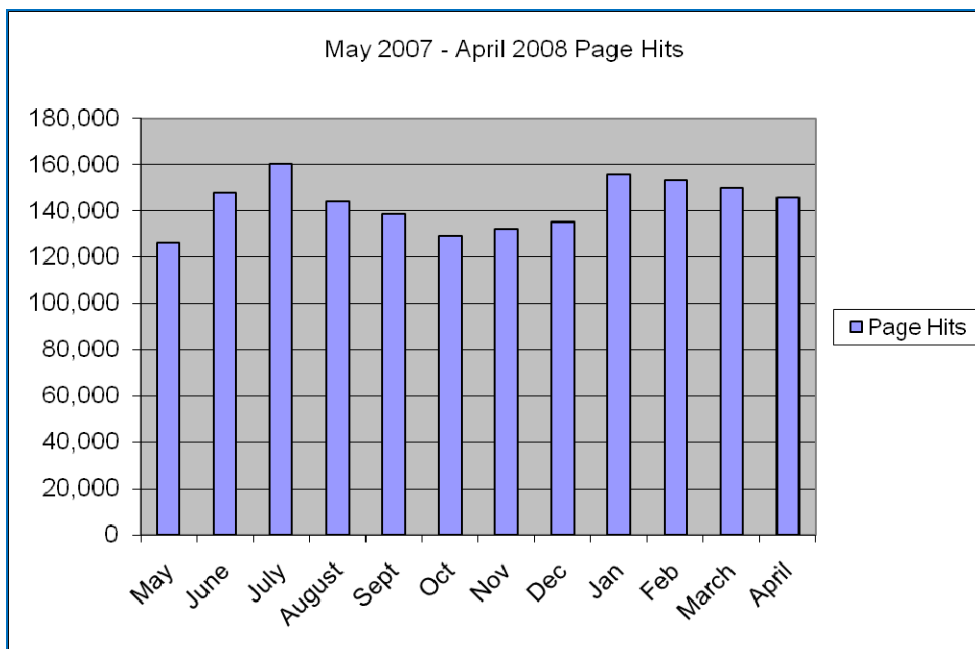
We have seen an increase (not big but an increase none the less) in the use of the website, so I am recommending that we give the site one more year to demonstrate it is worth the time and money it takes to operate it.

See the JFMF report by Carmen Johnson for more details.

Below is a chart summarizing the number of page hits our website has experienced between May 2007 and April 2008.

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 143,179 page hits per month as compared to an average of 146,673 for the same time period last year.

While the average is lower, our most popular web pages remained the same. 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 have been 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 last two (2) 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 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 June 30, 2008, there were 210 subscribers to PRA mail list. This includes both regular and digests mode subscribers. This is 27 more than last year (183 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. 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 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 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 2009

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.

JFMF & My Family Website

During the past year, we made the change to give User rights to everyone and allow them to post. I believe that this has created a lot more activity in both users signing on and viewing data and posting data. Recently, one of our members has posted some fairly significant material which shows that the mindset of some of our members is changing from being spectators to hopefully becoming participants. While our membership is down from past years, I must say I have seen more activity, which is encouraging. There are more members who have logged in during the last month than what I have seen in previous years.

There has been a move by MyFamily to suggest we upgrade the site to MyFamily 2.0. Based on our expectations that our family trees remain private, then I don't believe that moving to MyFamily 2.0 should be an option at this point. Family trees can be accessed by outside people – although

there is no information or names attached – the data is still there. I have two sites that I administer that are on MyFamily 2.0, but both are single family groups with smaller membership. So, if we have the choice to stay with MyFamily 1.0 – then we should stay there. From what I have heard at this point, that is the way Ancestry is handling the matter.

On another note, I have heard some frustration from a few members that their family data on the MyFamily site is not correct. I told them to notify their Group leaders to let them know of the incorrect data and ask that it be changed. I also told them to provide the appropriate documentation. If they did not get the assistance needed, then they were to notify either myself or Gene Pennington. I have not yet received notification of this as yet. I suspect that we might in the Fall.

Based on the activity that has been present on the site during the past several months, I have an expectation that we might see more activity. I will be emailing all members to encourage them to participate more enthusiastically. Hopefully, by the time we meet for the reunion, I will have more feedback.

Carmen Johnson

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

From: Melinda Pennington, ARD-Family Groups (mgp383@gmail.com)

Dated: May 12, 2008

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

- Group 16 – Darlene Anderson
- Group 27 – Jasper Green Pennington

Our current vacant Groups follow:

Groups 1, 9, 21, 25 and 34

Solicitation of Group Leaders:

I have posted a few emails asking for volunteers to the PRA mail list 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. 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 now have email.

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 1 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

No report received.

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

Group 4 Report by Family Group Leader – Arthur Pennington

No report received.

Membership records indicate 20 PRA members listed as Group 4 members.

Group 5 Report by Family Group Leader – Jeanne Thomas

There is nothing new to report. Hopefully, the coming year will produce more results.

Jeanne Thomas - Group 5 leader

Membership records indicate 12 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 **1,675** 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 have made some type of contact usually by email with all existing or new members of Group 6.
3. Ongoing projects include transcriptions of the CSA military and pension records that was recently requested and acquired by PRA member, Nancy Markey and those military records found on footnote.com. This project is not complete.
4. All Civil War Union and CSA 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. Nancy Markey will also be giving a presentation on the Group 6 Civil War soldier's at the next PRA Reunion in August, 2008.
5. 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. We may have acquired all of these as the site has recently added all the certificates available. This project is still ongoing.
 6. As a group leader, I submitted an article for the Fall 2007 issue & Spring 2008 issue of the Pennington Pedigree (not yet published), titled "Group 6 Photo Album". I've submitted about six (6) photos per issue. These photo's were sent 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.
 7. 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.
 8. A list is maintained on how each PRA member is directly related to the progenitor of our group.
 9. Roy Don Howell, PRA group 6 member, has been an extremely helpful PRA member. He researches on a daily routine and emails me any additions or corrections he finds. He has even taken some road trips to court houses and cemeteries out-of-state to assist with group 6 research. He is an invaluable asset to the PRA.

Membership records indicate 17 PRA members listed as Group 6 members.

Group 7 Report by Family Group Leader – Carmen Johnson

Group 7 is currently in a state of flux. It is hard to describe the Group any longer as mainly the descendants of Micajah Pennington. The DNA tests have thus far showed a great similarity between several Groups that all seem to originate out of Ashe Co., NC. However, most of those descendants from Micajah Pennington do not live in Ashe Co., NC. Most of those descendants live in VA or KY. The only Group that stayed within Ashe Co., NC are those descendants of daughter, Johanna Pennington Dickson. The Pennington descendants who live in Ashe Co., NC today are mainly the descendants of Levi Pennington, probable son of Ephraim Pennington, Andrew Pennington of Group 30, and Samuel Pennington of Group 12. *Note: Previously Levi Pennington, son of Ephraim, had been attributed to Levi Pennington, son of Micajah Pennington – I feel that this information is in error as there is little to*

support the relationship other than the similar name. The prevailing thought is that these Groups share a common ancestor a generation or two back from Micajah – possibly Benajah or Ephraim. Group 7 now comprises the largest Group in the PRA – and in reality, it is likely that there will be a much larger Group if you include Group 4, 12, 30, 31, & 32 because of the DNA connections that we now know exists.

My goal for the next year is to try and make a connection and work towards merging some of these Groups. I continue to try and maintain contact and provide assistance to those who are within my Group. While I confess, that I am not always successful, I feel that I have been of assistance to several new members. There seems to be several core groups within Group 7 – those who are descended from Levi (my line), those descended from Micajah, Jr, and from Benajah. Then there is the KY group who are descended from Mary Pennington Bowling and Sarah Pennington Johnston. By working on growing my database in the past, I've been able to make connections with many of the new members. I have also taken their information and added to my database and in some cases have added to it with census/web research. I am hoping that I provide a valuable service to my Group Members to keep them as long standing PRA members.

Carmen Johnson

Membership records indicate 23 PRA members listed as Group 7 members.

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

No report received.

Membership records indicate 16 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 5 PRA members listed as Group 9 members.

Group 10 Report by Family Group Leader – Jim Lantz

About the only thing going on at present, for Group 10, is our ongoing search for a Group 10 link for a Thomas C. Pennington. A DNA study confirmed that Thomas C. Pennington is indeed Group 10.

We have about a 2 or 3 generation gap from Thomas C. Pennington, the eldest known Group 10 Pennington of this group, and Thomas Pennington (abt. 1640-1702) and his wife Sarah George (abt. 1645-1694).

I have come across very few Group 10 Pennington's that located in Arkansas. If any of our members have anything that they might have come across in their research that might shed some light on this family it would surely be appreciated.

What we do have on this family, is as follows:

Thomas C Pennington. Who was married to Grace (Gracie) ADAMS.

The only know child of Thomas Pennington and Grace ADAMS was James J Pennington, born about 1820 in Bedford, Tennessee. He died in Carroll County, Arkansas, date unknown.

John J. married (1st) Addie Malissa Artelisa COX 1842-1843 in Bedford, Tenn.
. Addie Malissa Artelisa COX was born abt. 1825 in Bedford County, Tennessee and died Aft. 1900 in Boon, Arkansas. She was the daughter of Caleb COX and Nancy.

John married (2) Mary MULKEY May 25, 1879 in Boon, Arkansas

Children of John J. Pennington and Addie COX are:

i. James J Pennington, born December 12, 1846 in Carroll, AR, USA; died December 26, 1917 in Green Forest, Carroll, AR, USA; married (1) Catherine Elizabeth ARNOLD 1865-1869; married (2) Alice DORAN 1903-1907 in Carroll, AR; married (3) Alice DORAN 1903-1907 in Carroll, AR.

ii. Nicholes Henderson Pennington, born 1848-1849 in ARK; married (1) Jane; married (2) Jane.

iii. John Rufus Pennington, born December 20, 1851 in ARK, USA; died January 23, 1929 in Wagner, Oklahoma; married (1) Hattie 1878 in Searcy, AR, USA; married (2) Hattie 1878 in Searcy, AR, USA.

iv. Emiline "Emily" Pennington, born 1852-1854 in ARK, USA; married Thomas CASY 1875 in IZARD, AR, USA.

v. Mary Jane Pennington, born January 1854 in ARK, USA.

vi. Quintus Sinclair Cinnatus Pennington, born 1856-1857 in ARK, USA; married (1) Julia Ann Morgan; married (2) Julia Ann Morgan.

vii. Benjamin Franklin Pennington, born 1858-1859 in ARK, USA; married Mary M.

viii. Barxter DAVIS Pennington, born 1860-1861 in Izard, ARK, USA; married Hattie REED.

ix. Francis Laffayette Pennington, born 1869-1870 in Marion, ARK, USA; died in ARK, USA; married Sarah.

x. Nancy E "Cis" Pennington, born 1844 in Tenn, USA; married Marion CASY 1864-1869 in Izard, ARK, USA.

xi. Lissie O "Lizzie" Pennington, born 1863-1869 in Izard, ARK, USA; married (1) Zeke ADKINSON 1878-1879 in Marion, ARK, USA; married (2) Zeke ADKINSON 1878-1879 in Marion, ARK, USA.

xii. Saphone Fennity Pennington, born 1866-1867 in Marion, ARK, USA; married (1) Willis GILLEY; married (2) Willis GILLEY.

Child of John Pennington and Mary MULKEY is:

i. Etha Pennington, born 1877-1880.

More information on John J. Pennington"

John J Pennington, born 1819-1821 in Bedford, TN, USA; died in Carroll, ARK.

He was the son of 40. Thomas C Pennington and Grace ADAMS.

John and Addie Cox Pennington came to Carroll Co in 1843 accompanied by Nancy Cox, Urichi Call, Jackson and Martha Hampton Cox from Bedford Co. TN.

John and Addie and their children were in Izard County by 1860 and in Marion County by 1870.

John was a traveling Baptist minister and a blacksmith. Sometime before 1880 he left his wife and children and married Mary Mulkey in Carroll Co. His son James and his wife Catherine Arnold were in Carroll Co all of their lives, Catherine died in 1905 and James married Alice Duran, they had two children names unknown, he died 1917. James daughter Betha born 1892 married James Franklin Summey of Barry CO Mo. Lucretta married Sherman Holk (HOULK). ----

Jim Lantz
Group Leader PRA 10

Membership records indicate 12 PRA members listed as Group 10 members.

Group 11 Report by Family Group Leader – Shirley Erickson

No report received.

Membership records indicate 1 PRA member listed as Group 11 members.

Group 12 Report by Family Group Leader – Daniel Pennington

Group 12 - Samuel Pennington. I have made some headway in researching Samuel's past, but with every new question answered, another one comes up. I hope to make several trips to the areas where Samuel's family lived to research documents. Also, a website for Group 12 will be ready soon along with an updated database on the myfamily.com website.

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

Group 13 Report – VACANT

Membership records indicate 0 PRA members listed as a Group 13 member.

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

Report not received.

Membership records indicate 7 PRA members listed as Group 14 members.

Group 15 Report – Subsumed under Group 26

Group 16 Report by Family Group Leader – Darlen Anderson

No report received.

Membership records indicate 3 PRA members listed as Group 16 members.

Group 17 Report by Family Group Leader – Rick Crume

The group's progenitor, James Pennington, was born in England and was a Loyalist in the Revolutionary War. After the war, he settled in New Brunswick, Canada, where he married, had five children and died in 1808. He

may have been the James Pennington who was baptized 5 January 1755 at Culmstock, Devon, England, a son of William Pennington and his wife Elizabeth (Collings) Pennington. This couple's children included a son, William, who was baptized 26 March 1744 at Culmstock and died 15 March 1829 at Clifton, Gloucester, England. William Pennington, Jr., served as a comptroller of customs for the port of Brunswick, North Carolina from 1764 to 1776.

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

Group 18 Report by Family Group Leader – Michael Pennington

Unfortunately, there was very little activity in Group 18 over the past year. 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.

1. I only received two 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 have still not been able to satisfy the source requirements necessary for my article written on Edward Joel Pennington. I will attempt to accomplish 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.

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 also had major shoulder and eye surgeries. I very much desire to stay on as Group 18 leader and hopefully I can make a more significant contribution this coming year.

Michael M. Pennington

Membership records indicate 2 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 (but we did add a few members in the last year!), which has not been particularly active. As I have reported previously, we are 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 what is now West Virginia. I have previously 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. My goal was to divide up the task of researching the geographic areas covering New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Maryland. This the area in which Richard Pennington most likely lived prior to what is now West Virginia. Unfortunately, no one has expressed much interest in this project. I hope to explore ways to encourage more research and interaction nevertheless.

Colleen Blizard has been an active and contributing Group 19 member. Last year at this time she was working on an article to publish in the Pennington Pedigrees. Her article was published in the Vol. 39, No. 2, 2007 issue. I will do what I can in the following year 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.

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

Group 20 Report by Family Group Leader – Mandy Colgan

No report received.

Membership records indicate there is 1 PRA member listed as a Group 20 member.

Group 21 Report by Family Group Leader – VACANT

Membership records indicates 2 PRA members listed as a Group 21 member.

Group 22 Report by Family Group Leader – Daniel Pennington

Group 22 - Elias Green Pennington Sr. I have gathered documents and articles on this family and I am compiling a database for the myfamily.com website.

A site for the Family Group is now available at → <http://pragroup22.forumotion.com>. It lists some information on the Family and the goals of Group 22, namely, to find a DNA volunteer and to locate Elias' parents. Updates to the website will be made throughout the year.

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 has been 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. I also asked Nick Pennington for the DNA results and he sent them to me so I have that in my records.

Melinda Pennington (Group 6 Leader)

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

No report received.

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

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

We did not hear from Sidney Graveston (past leader) after I wrote him an inquiry letter. He has not submitted PRA dues in the past two years. We have removed Sidney as Group Leader. Rev. Jasper Green Pennington expressed his desire to become Group Leader and has taken over the Group just recently. – Melinda Pennington

Jasper's report: My leadership of this Family Group began late last year and since that time I have been reviewing my own research on the Muncasters over the years and doing some editing and revising. In lieu of a report of membership activity for Group 27, I am submitting some of my research on Lowther Pennington, the Second Lord Muncaster, who saw service in America during the Revolutionary War. (Note: Jasper's research will be printed in an upcoming issue of the Pennington Pedigrees).

Lowther was also in the Crimean War and my archives contain photocopies of a series of letters which he sent back to England about his experiences. These are being editing as I am able and will be shared with the membership.

In spite of the cordiality of these letters between Lowther and John, First Lord Muncaster, Lowther was seen as weak and a poor administrator of the estate so that there was conflict and hard feelings between them. In any event Lowther had a distinguished career.

My research into the lives of individual Penningtons has been an ongoing obsession moving beyond the genealogical facts. – Rev. Jasper Green Pennington

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

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

No report received.

Membership records indicate 15 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

This has been a busy year for me as I have:

Contacted current members (9)

Contacted past members (10)

I acquired a website to use for a PRA Family Group 30 website. I also utilize My Family Tree on Ancestry.com and PRA MyFamily.com for recording,

compiling and coordination of data I acquire. As I get data, I updated/added the documented data to PRA MyFamily.com website.

I began putting messages to PRA Family Group 30 members on MyFamily.com

When we went to Jackson County, Kentucky, in May 2007 we researched in Library, cemeteries, with people I met. We also went to Laurel County, Kentucky, and researched in Library, Historical Society, cemeteries, with people I met. At the Filson Library, and the Kentucky Historical Library, there were a number of sources to use/wade through/add to reference materials I use(d).

We did a personal indexing of the items in the "Fredora Pennington Lay Collection" in the Laurel County Historical Society Library which had connection to Able Pennington and descendants. I also joined every Historical Society, county and state, which had any named Pennington connections. This has given me access to sources in Kentucky and New Mexico specifically.

I have begun compiling laterally information on my personal family lineage, i.e.,

- my father, Clarence Henry Pennington, and his siblings,
- my grandfather, Green Monroe Pennington, and his siblings,
- my great-grandfather, Minatree Lincoln Pennington, and his siblings,
- my great great-grandfather, Levi Pennington, and his siblings,
- my great great great-grandfather, Able Pennington, and his siblings.

I continued acquiring documentation, i.e., censuses, birth, death information from certificates, obituaries, pictures, websites from a variety of sources. I began to transfer the same onto electronic data collection system; i.e., cd, hard drive(s)

I volunteered to transcribe the Ministers returns (706 of them) from Jackson County, Kentucky, for the Jackson County, Kentucky website.

To date I have proofed/edited obituaries from Grant County, New Mexico; letter P and D. I also began to analyze obituaries from all Grant County, New Mexico obituaries which were related to Pennington names I knew or confirmed were connected to those I knew.

I have contacted, corresponded with as many descendants of the above-named Pennington relations as I could on a regular basis, i.e., at least once a month. Sometimes three times a day.

In addition, I maintain contact with a source person in:

Jackson County, Kentucky

Grant County, New Mexico

Hilo, Hawaii

Show Low, Arizona

I currently have contact with (8) of sibling lineages.

Planned for this year, 2008,

- Have my PRA Family Group 30 Website up and running.
- Devise a consistent way to keep all PRA Family Group 30 members connected to each other.

- Recruit new memberships, and encourage renewals from those who are not currently PRA

Members, but had been in the past

- Get all my information into a GED com and to PRA for inclusion on website.

Sincerely,

Marye E. Steckley

Newberg, OR

PRA Family Group 30 Leader

Membership records indicate 4 PRA members listed as Group 30 members.

Group 31 Report by Family Group Leader – Jim Pennington

No report received.

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

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

No report received.

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

Group 33 Report by Family Group Leader – Nick Penington

Sorry to say there is nothing to report. Group 33 got back to 1585 and when you do that you come to the end of the road! Maybe DNA will help in the future but absent that, this will be my report I suspect for the foreseeable future.

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

As of May 5, 2008, the PRA database contained 1359 obituaries. The database has grown by 77 obituaries since last report. I have 81 obituaries yet to post and will get them posted as soon as possible.

Roy Don Howell from Group 6 has submitted most of new obituaries. Way to go 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 219 obituaries in the database that have a group number.

Most of the obituaries that are being submitted are from recent years, however, there are a few 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 have received three (3) reports this year from Terry Moore, CG, who lives in Raleigh, NC. She continues with her research and we hope she will complete her research by the end of 2008.

Terry will be a presenter at the PRA 2008 Reunion/Meeting in Raleigh, NC. The titled of her presentation is "The Researchers Guide to the Galaxy: Navigating through the North Carolina State Archives". Terry has also offered to help with research at the Archives when we visit.

Jim Pennington, President, and I have discussed each of the recommendations Terry has made in each of her reports. Using her recommendations as a base, Jim and I created a set of objectives for each new phase of the research project. In some cases, the objectives included some new recommendations that we felt would help narrow her research.

Jim and I have advised Terry that we will not move forward with the next research phase of the project until we can meet with her in person in

Raleigh, NC. She agrees with this approach and together we'll develop some new research objectives.

I have made available to the Board and Officers all three (3) of her reports that she's submitted to date. However, I have not included copies of her source documents she sent to me. I'll scan those later and include them in the final report.

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 it's goals and objectives.

Research Project #2

For the past couple of 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 that we suspend work on this project until sometime in 2009. 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 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 I'm happy to report this year that once again we've made progress towards our goals and objectives. However, 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.

One area which does need attention this year is our Group Leaders. I have placed this issue on the Board's agenda and 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, continued this year to make several positive changes. She has worked on 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 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.