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## People Profile: Peg Bradshaw

Editor

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takes me a whole year of looking before I will make the purchase but it is worth the effort and is always a great present to myself.

"I don't think of my collection as a significant cultural record, but it is certainly a record of the births and other events that mean a great deal to me and my family. With the births of grandchildren I still purchase special quilts for those overnight sleepovers. There is nothing more soothing than to see a little one all snuggled up in a quilt that was made with so much handwork, time, and love. I loved to watch my kids while they slept under the quilts; they always seemed so peaceful and I still see the same with T and Colby.

"In 100 years, I hope the quilts will be passed down to my children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and on and on. Till the threads are bare and there are just scraps left."

There are scholars, of course, who think quilts are very significant cultural, albeit personal, records, along with tapestries, cross-stitch, and embroidery. As Peg intimates, a quilt can evoke a different era or even a different person; you can almost feel another set of hands tucking the child in and keeping him safe and warm.

I collected a quilt from my neighbor's trash pile this morning. 

# against the grain people profile

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Peg Bradshaw

**BORN & LIVED:** Binghamton, New York, Lived in Chautauqua, New York, Anaheim Hills, California, Walnut Hills, California, Salinas, California ...settled in Williamsburg, VA.

**EARLY LIFE:** Attended Catholic schools my whole school life. Member of **Girl Scouts, CYO, Young Womens Catholic Association.**

**FAMILY:** Married and Divorced. Four Children: **Matthew** (married to **Amanda Elizabeth** (married to **Jason** with two sons **Tristan** and **Colby**), **Nolan** (Senior at **Virginia Commonwealth University**) and **Lauren** (Sophomore at **VCU**).

**EDUCATION:** Graduated from **Catholic Central High School**, Binghamton, NY.

**FIRST JOB:** Long distance operator for **Bell Telephone**, Binghamton, NY... before the automated system, used the old cord boards.

**PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES:** I was liaison for the renovation and building project of the Williamsburg library which opened doors for me to pursue other projects and other committees through **ALA** in the **LAMA** division.

**IN MY SPARE TIME I LIKE TO:** Spend time with my kids and especially with my grandsons. Travel. Veg on the beach.

**FAVORITE BOOKS:** *A Gift from the Sea, Charlotte's Web, A Light in the Attic, The McDuff Stories, Max and Ruby* ... anything by **Rosemary Wells**.

**PET PEEVES/WHAT MAKES ME MAD:** People with no common sense, no sense of humor and being unwilling to laugh at themselves.

**PHILOSOPHY:** One day at a time and laugh everyday.

**MOST MEANINGFUL CAREER ACHIEVEMENT:** The completion of the renovation project and coming in under budget.

**GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW:** To maintain my sense of humor and be able to keep up with my grandsons the way I do now.

## From the Reference Desk

by **Tom Gilson** (Head, Reference Services, Addlestone Library, College of Charleston, 66 George Street, Charleston, SC 29401; Phone: 843-953-8014; Fax: 843-953-8019) <gilson@cofc.edu>

It has taken over 30 years but the classic source *Historical Statistics of the United States* has been fully updated and expanded. Originally published by the **US Bureau of the Census**, the new *Historical Statistics of the United States: Millennial Edition* (2006, 0521817919, \$825) has just been released by **Cambridge University Press**. Available in print (and soon to be online), it is a stunning achievement providing a multifaceted statistical profile of American history that will be valued by students, scholars, and researchers of all types.

Each of the five volumes in the set deals with a broad, but distinct category. Volume one treats population with chapters on characteristics, vital statistics, internal and international migration, families and households, and cohort groups (those born at about the same time). There is an individual chapter on American Indians rounding out the volume. The second volume

concentrates on work and welfare and lists statistics covering labor, education, health, economic inequality and poverty, social insurance and public assistance and nonprofit, voluntary and religious entities. The third volume treats various aspects of economic structure and performance ranging from business cycles, savings, capital, and wealth to science, technology, and productivity. Volume four deals with individual economic sectors like agriculture, manufacturing, transportation, and communication, while the final volume covers topics related to governance (elections, etc.) and international relations. This last volume also contains chapters on Colonial Statistics and the Confederate States of America.

Each of the individual topic chapters contains an introductory essay that provide context. Along with the narrative there are useful timelines and graphs. Table arrangement is logi-

cal and understandable but in order to get their full import, readers should refer to the accompanying notes and list of sources whenever they are provided. And because of the multitude of sources and types of statistics employed, the appendices for each chapter are invaluable in explaining and defining specifics. Each chapter also has a worthwhile list of references. This set has a great deal to offer but to get the full benefit requires the time and patience to read the supporting materials. Librarians will do well to point this out to users, especially students less familiar with the demands of statistical research.

*continued on page 46*

