

CENTRAL FLORIDA GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Longwood, Florida

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The regular meeting of the Society on January 25 was an interesting discussion of genealogical material rather than a program. The idea was well received, both by members and by visitors. The future meeting will be:

Feb. 22

March 29

April 26

Announcement of the Work Shop will be made in a later NEWSLETTER.

AN EFFECTIVE APPROACH TO GENEALOGICAL DATA

In 1959 the GENEALOGICAL CLEARING HOUSE was established to assist the collection of complete and accurate data and preserving it, on families who at any time resided in Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee or Kentucky. With thousands of people working on genealogy, the need for a clearing house is apparent. Each person is spending hours of time and effort in research. One may find pertinent data, but the rest are still searching.

Likewise, new searchers go to old records, which are often wrong, and they perpetuate the errors. Even when mistakes are pointed out in publications, it may be years before searchers discover it. Maybe never.

The CLEARING HOUSE has thousands of family histories. When new information comes in, it is mailed to all the interested persons in the file, and references are given.

The fee for belonging to the CLEARING HOUSE is \$3.00 a year. Your own data is kept on file, not only for the reference of other members, but as a means of preservation of your own work. It is important that we place our data where it will not be destroyed. The CLEARING HOUSE acts in the capacity of a Bank Safety Deposit Box.

If you have data on families in the states named, write to Mrs. Tina Brayton, Secretary-Treasurer, P. O. Box 326, Felton, California 95018.

NEW TREASURES THE ORLANDO PUBLIC LIBRARY HAS
PROVIDED FOR YOU.

On This Rock - RD 975.4 Har
 Index to Concord Town Records 1732-1820 - RD 924.2 Con
 Concord Town Records 1732-1820 - RD 974.2 Con
 Diccionario Nobiliario - RD 99.6
 North Carolina Troops 1861-1863 - Vol. 1, 2, 3 - RG 975.6 Man
 Dames and Daughters of the Young Republic - RG 920 Bro
 A History of Morgan County, Alabama - RG 976.193 Kno
 A Genealogical History of the Montgomerys and Their Descendants -RG 929.2 Mont.
 Notices from the New Hampshire Gazette 1765-1800 - RG 974.2 Ham
 Chapin Family - RG 929.2 Chapin
 Some Marriages in the Burned Record Counties of VA. - RG 975.5 Vir
 Tombstone Inscriptions and Family Records of Jefferson County, Ohio-RF977.169POW
 Missouri Pioneers - RG 975.6 Man Vol. 1-8
 Matthew Whipple of Bocking, England and Descendants -Vol. 11 --RG929.2 Whipple
 The Papers of Willie P. Mangum - Vol. 3 - RG 975.6 Man
 Memoirs of the Lower Ohio Valley - 1905 - RG 976.9 Mem
 Some Family Origins of Adair-Ingalls - RG-929.2 Adair
 The Country Doctor and the Specialist - RG 929.2 Adair
 Mississippi 1850 Census - Surname Index - RG 976.2 Gil
 Old Gravestones of Dutchess County, New York - RG 974.747 Pou
 Knowing the Bruners - RG 929.2 Bruner
 The Genealogical Records of the Megow and Allied Families - RG 929.2 Megow
 John Skelton of Georgia - RG 929.2 Skelton
 The Jonathan Tree - RG 929.2 Wilkey
 Scottish Heraldry Made Easy - RG 929.8 Joh
 Early Marriage Records Washington County, Ohio 1789-1803 - RD 977.1 Ear
 The Genealogy of Orville Fisher Follett and the Follette of Attleborough,
 Mass. - RD 929.2 Follett
 Ancestry of Addie Clark Harding - RG 929.2 Harding
 Survey of American Church Records - RG 929.1 Kir
 History of Tennessee - RG 976.8 His
 A Scofield Survey - RG 929.2 Scofield
 History of Missouri - Vol. 1, II, III, IV - RG 977.8 Mar
 History of Chautauque County, New York and Its People - Vol. II,III-RG974.795 Dow
 A History of Marlboro County, S. C. -- RD 975.764 Tho
 History of Southwestern Ohio Vol. 1-3 -- RG 977.1 Smi
 Curiosities of Puritan Nomenclature - RB 929.4 Bar
 Wakulla County Pioneers 1827 - 1967 - RG 975.989 Smi
 The Weygandt, Frase, Bechtel Family Record 1523 - 1965 - RD 929.2 Weygandt

Do you need a census that is not on file locally! You could buy it from the National Archives, and then present the file to the Orlando Public Library. When you consider the great wealth of material available to us through the auspices of the local library, you may feel it would be nice to do something for them. True, they receive tax money and most of us pay taxes. But many people have also donated materials for your pleasure.

A county census microfilm usually costs about \$8.00 to \$10.00. The library has a price list. It is much cheaper than a trip to Washington, D. C.; It would be a nice gesture to show appreciation for all the valuable things we get free at the library. And it will always be available to you again if you want to re-check.

ENGLISH WILLS

If you have an English ancestry you may want to get a copy of a will or wills. How do you do this? It is by no means a simple matter if you do not understand the jurisdictional idiosyncracies of England, for it is not comparable to that of the U. S. A.

We must understand at the outset that the British Isles were dominated by the Church, even before the time of the Venerable Bede, who began his career circa 685-700. Churchmen were the largest literate class - familiar with history, jurisprudence (Roman) and capable of reading and writing. Hence, in an era when even a king often did not know "his letters," it was natural that he would seek out a "scribe" to take care of what we dub "paper work." Churchmen were not slow to take advantage of their skills.

It is not startling then to find that wills were for centuries probated in Ecclesiastical Courts. This practice was not changed until 1853.

The courts at the top of the list were two in number - the Prerogative Court of Canterbury and the Prerogative Court of York. Those who had property south of the Humber were under the jurisdiction of Canterbury (Wales included); those to the north, of York (Isle of Man included). Anyone with property in both areas filed their wills in both courts.

For some obscure reason, early churchmen did not look with favor on devising real estate by documents. It did not become legal to will real estate until 1540. Before this time, a will contained directions for disposition of personal belongings - from which rises the term used in England as well as in the colonies, of "personality." A man would dispose of his moveable properties; household effects, domestic animals, jewels, etc.

But if a man had few effects, he made no will at all. It is thought that not more than 10%, and actually considerably less of the population, made no will at all, and hence no probate record exists. Those who worked in industrial areas seldom had much to leave, and the bulk of early wills are those of the landed gentry. As trade and business progressed and the feudal system went into limbo, more and more people filed wills. The artisans emerged to comparative wealth, and by the 1500s we find drapers, candle makers, fishermen, ironmongers, etc. disposing of their assets by will.

Thus, there was a need for local courts to handle such matters. However, we cannot assume that such lower courts were jurisdictional in the precise boundaries of shires or hundreds. The church made its own jurisdictional boundaries - complicating the search for a will in England. There are many over-lapping jurisdictions. Church authority was divided.

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Church Official</u>
Province	Archbishop
Diocese	Bishop
Archdeaconry	Archdeacon
Rural Deanery	Rural Dean
Parish	Parish Minister

PECULIAR COURTS:

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The lowest court was usually presided over by the Parish Minister. He held what was known as a Peculiar Court. If a will was filed in such a court, it indicated that all the deceased's assets were confined to this parish.

Then came the Diocesan Peculiar Courts, where the bishop presided over several parishes. This might indicate there was property to dispose of in several parishes, but not necessarily so.

To make the matter more complicated, the church did not control all of the Peculiar Courts. For instance, the Manor still held onto its "subjects" as much as possible, and a will might be probated to a Peculiar Manorial Court. Secular officials sometimes assumed such functions in outlying areas.

Insofar as the Church maintained jurisdictional Peculiar Courts, they did not - as aforementioned - adhere to any pattern. For example, the Peculiar Court of Good Easter, Essex, was presided over by the parish minister, and appertained to that parish alone. But the Peculiar Court of Sturminster, Marshall, Dorset had jurisdiction over the nearby parishes of Corfe Mullen, Hamworthy and Lychet Minister. The Peculiar Court of the Chapter of St. Paul's Cathedral, London, had jurisdiction over several areas of London and some parishes in Middlesex, Essex and Hartford.

It became obvious then, that one must first pinpoint the place in which an ancestor died, to search Peculiar Court records. It cannot be assumed that because Sussex followed a given region, that the same pattern was followed in Northumberland. Throughout the Peculiar Courts were to be found, Royal Archiepiscopal, Episcopal, Deacons, Sub-deaconal, Prebendal, Rectorial, Vicarial and Manorial Courts.

For more detailed information in this regard, see "Genealogical Research in England and Wales." by David E. Gardner and Frank Smith, Bookcraft Pub., Salt Lake City, Utah, Vol. II, p. 22 & seq. (In the Orlando Public Library).

CONSISTORY COURTS:

Above the Peculiar Courts were the Consistory Courts. They were, in some respects, appeal courts. A decision made by a Peculiar Court might not meet with approval, and the matter could then be brought to the attention of the Consistory. This court might be presided over by the bishop, but more frequently, by a Chancellor.

These courts dealt not only in matters of probate, but matrimonial cases and moral offenses.

An executor might decide to file a will to more than one court. For example, the will of George Dickenson, Clerk and Parson of Buxall, was filed in the Consistory Court, Norwich (Book Mason, L. 208) and proved 29 April, 1619. The same will was proved at Bury St. Edmunds the next day - 30 April, 1619.

According to a survey made in 1830, there were 10,984 ancient parishes in England and Wales. A listing of the courts in 1832 showed there were then existing 4 Provincial Courts, 46 Diocesan (Commissary and Consistory), 36 Archdeaconry - 365 in all; the smallest covering a single parish, the largest with rights over the whole country. All this study was preparatory to changing the system by the Act of 1853, to governmental jurisdiction.

A Commissary Court exercised spiritual jurisdiction in remote parts of a diocese, or performance of the duties in the Bishop's absence, and has no bearing on our search for wills.

OTHER Procedures

We know that in this country, the first records were often kept in one book, whether they pertained to civil torts, deeds, naturalizations - or whatever was of legal significance. The same thing was true in the early days of England. In the 1200s and 1300s, wills were often set down with many other matters in the Bishop's Register. There is then, no use to look in Probate Records for these early wills. They are in the Diocesan Registers.

For example, the Register of the Bishops of Lincoln, which contain wills, go back to 1280 and proceed to 1320.

There was no uniform practice throughout the kingdom, and the earliest will (1316) of the Archbishop of York, was filed in the Consistory Court. At Canterbury, wills for England and Wales began in 1383. The Consistory Court of Ely goes back to 1449; Chichester 1518; Hereford records are fragmentary before 1662.

PROBATE

Wills, when probate was granted, were subject to being passed by a Probate Act. The details were usually set down in a PROBATE ACT BOOK. Not all courts followed this procedure, and sometimes the Probate Act was written at the end of the will itself. The executor had to file a Testamentary Bond, and after the proceedings were finished, the executor was handed the will as evidence of probate. But a copy might be kept by the court.

Some wills were registered. But in this case, a fee had to be paid. Some did not want to pay the fee, and these will not appear on a Registry List. However, this does not mean that unregistered wills are not probated.

It was the practice to bundle up original wills and copies (whichever the court kept) and store them away. In early wills, the registered copy may be the only record extant. Sometimes only the registers themselves exist; sometimes only the bundles of wills.

Hopefully, a reference to a will can be found in the PROBATE ACT BOOK, or the CALENDAR (Index) of THE ACT BOOK. Some courts kept both registers and bundles.

Inventories; Inventory records exist from about 1480 to 1600 - none from 1601 to 1660 - a few up to 1710. These may show real estate, personal property, business dealings - pointing to family opulence, social status, occupation, etc. Inventory records were not consistent; the court saw no reason to keep this data, and merely recorded that it had been done.

Testamentary Bonds: These might have genealogical material. The executor was often a relative. Some very good information has been obtained from this source.

SO HOW DO YOU LOOK FOR THE WILL?

It may or may not be necessary to know where and when your ancestor

lived. Fortunately for the researcher, it was a common practice to file all wills in the Canterbury Court of London (Prerogative), regardless of where the deceased spent his lifetime. For example, the will of Thomas Dickenson, Draper of Bristol, was filed in the Canterbury Court in 1584. The will of Richard Dickenson of Staffordshire was filed in the Canterbury Court in 1597.

How do you find out what wills were filed in this Prerogative Court? You can consult the Index of Wills prepared in "Scroope's Register." This Index can be found in the New York Metropolitan Library. It is in several volumes or folios covering given dates - such as 1596 - 1608, etc. Mathews' Index - "Yearbooks of Probates of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury," follows much the same pattern. This too is in the New York Library. It may be these books are elsewhere, but such whereabouts are not known to the writer at this time.

If you are not going to New York, consult the local library of the Church of Latter Day Saints, Par Avenue, to see what they have listed. The writer knows that the British Record Society has published a list of Canterbury wills 1686-1693, which was microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Salt Lake City. Or, you may write the New York Library for a list of their researchers and inquire the cost of an index search. Since this is merely an index, the cost should not be prohibitive - particularly if you can furnish a narrow range of years in which your ancestor died.

The index will give a variety of information. It varies considerably, but it may show residence, occupation, witnesses, executor, heirs and relationships. The following are sample listings, to indicate what you may expect.

Dickenson, George. Alderman of Lincoln. Will (41 Savile) proved May 29, 1622 by relict Katherine and son Robert.

Dickenson, Elizabeth of Parish of St. Savior of Wouthwark, Surrey, Widow. (83 Dale). Proved Oct. 22, 1621, by brother Ambrose Smith.

Dickenson, Wm. of Langdon Bridge, Parish Wykehan, Yorkshire, Jan. 6, 1651/2 (Buried in Hackness). Will (461 Alchin) proved May 17 by sons Henry and Archer.

Dickenson, Elizabeth of St. Benet, Paul's Wharf, London, Nunc. May 10, 1630. My mother Emma Dickenson, my sister Margaret Dickenson and brother Wm. Dickenson and his wife, Mr. Dr. Hughes, my cousin, Thos. Jordan (exec) and his wife, Joan Forde, Sarah Smith of Smithfield. Wit.: Wm. Lepington, Jas. Gibson, Joan Forde, Kath. Jordan. Proved May 10.

If you do not know when your ancestor died, but you know where he lived, you may be able to consult the Parish Registers. These show births, baptisms, burials, marriages. Many of these are available through the Library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Orlando.

Of the 10,984 ancient parishes of England and Wales:

All began records in 1538
 1,822 before 1558
 2,448 between 1558 and 1603
 969 between 1603 and 1650
 2,757 between 1650 and 1700.

Some of these records have been destroyed, by one means and another, such as the London fire of 1666.

If you have been lucky enough to find a record in the index, you can now apply for a copy of the will. Write to the Public Records Office, Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1LR, England, giving them the pertinent data found (including the number - (you will note in the case of George Dickenson that the number is 41 Savile) - and request the cost of a copy of the will. (Enclose International Reply Coupon). The cost depends on the length of the will, and is not standard. As example, 3 wills cost \$6.00 - but they were not \$2.00 apiece. Add a small sum for postage. Then remit this amount, repeating your request.

Remember that all old wills are written in script and in the terminology of the day, Legibility depends on the writer or copier. Some are fragile, mutilated and faded. This is particularly the case with wills dated before 1540. Even later one may be "worn." For example, the will of Jeffery Dudley, Esq., 1571, lists the names of two daughters, but only one name can be deciphered.

CONSULTING MATERIAL

- Wills and Their Whereabouts, B. G. Bouvens, Soc. of Gen., Engl., 1939.
Copy obtainable by mail from Soc. of Genealogists, 37 Harrington Gardens, London S. W. 7, England \$2.00.
- A Handbook of the Ancient Courts of Probate and Depositories of Wills, Geo. W. Marshall, Rouge Croix, Pursuivant, 1895
- Ecclestaistical Records by Claude Jenkins, 1920
- Episcopal Registers of England and Wales, 1918
- National Index of Parish Register Copies, Soc. of Genealogists (Eng.) 1939
- The Lancashire Probate Records - Trans. Hist. Soc. of Lancashire and Cheshire (Lanc. Pub. E., Vol. 104).

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TO THOSE WHO HAVE NOT YET SENT MAIL TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES. A. U. S. Postage stamp on a return envelope is useless to a foreign correspondent. He cannot Post a reply, except with a stamp issued by his own nation.

When requesting such a reply, first consult the local postofficer to determine the cost of reply mail from that area, and the weight allowed for this amount. Mexico, for example, allows only 1/2 oz. per stamp unit. Usually air mail is preferable. When you have determined the cost, buy an International Reply Coupon from the postal clerk to enclose with your letter.

In making a remittance to a foreign country, first consult with a Foreign Exchange expert at - for example - the First National Bank. Determine the proper type of remittance. England and Scotland will accept a bank draft. DO NOT SEND PERSONAL CHECKS.

Remember that an official in a foreign country speaks his own language. For example, a German may not read English, and discard your letter. Find someone to help you compose your letter - such as a language teacher at some school.

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NOTE: The records of the Church of Jesus Christs of Latter Day Saints in Salt Lake City have been moved. The new address is 50 East North Temple St., Salt Lake City, Utah 84111.

Wills are the most commonly sought for and used genealogical document. Logically, a man might be expected to name his wife, all his children, and some other relatives in his last will and testament. It must be remembered, however, that some of the terms of relationship used in these early days have changed over the years, and special knowledge is needed for correct interpretation of written records of the period. Genealogists use the date 1750 to mark the change in terminology to modern usage, but this must be taken very broadly; many of the older designations persisted for years beyond this date, and occasionally present-day usage appears in an older document. Examine any will prior to 1800 for these ambiguous relationships.

Some of the most commonly misinterpreted terms as follows:

1. In-law. - Then, as now, a relationship by legal action rather than by blood. In the period under consideration, it also meant what we now call the step relationship, and thus had a double meaning; the 1690 will of George Spencer devises to his son-in-law William - the husband of his daughter - and to his sons-in-law Raleigh and Giles - his wife's two sons by a previous marriage. A boy of 14 choosing his father-in-law to be his guardian would, of course, be choosing his step-father. On the other hand, a wife's brother or sister's husband might be referred to as brother-in-law - or the designation might be to "my brother Jones." A confusing example is the 1691 will of Nathan Cole requesting he be buried in St. Mary's Chapel by his "step-grandfather-in-law." The gentleman was at length identified as his grandmother's fourth husband.
2. Mr. or Mrs. - In many sections, a "status symbol;" in a period of social distinction, this indicated "the gentry," Mrs. Easter Moon, marrying at the age of 16, is not a widow; the term Mrs. here is used to indicate a girl of "gentle birth."
3. "My natural son." - the person referred to was son by birth and blood rather than by marriage or adoption. It did not imply illegitimacy. "Bastard" or "base born" would be used in that case - not as terms of opprobrium, but merely as a statement of condition.
4. Nephew and son. - These terms seem implicit, but "nephew" has occasionally been found to be either a male or female grandchild, while a son-in-law might be called "my son."
5. "My now wife" or "my present wife" - This is a common phrase in early wills, and should not be taken to mean the testator had a previous wife. It only means that the woman was the wife at the time of making that particular will. The testator may or may not have been married before.
6. Junior and Senior. - We may assume, lacking other knowledge, that William Morgan, Junior was the son of William Morgan, Senior. But the use of the terms Junior and Senior meant only that two men of the same name were living at the same time. William Morgan, Senior might have been a grandfather, an uncle, or even an older cousin.
7. Cousin (cozen, couzin). Of all relationships, the most confusing. It was used to cover any relationship outside the immediate family. It is often

found designating a niece or nephew, but it may refer to a true cousin, a remote cousin, or a connection by marriage so distant no true kinship can be found.

To help solve these ambiguous relationships, apply the same procedures we use in all genealogical research; analysis of the document itself, other supporting records, the knowledge of customs in the place and period. "Land left me by my father to be used by my mother-in-law while she lives and does not remarry" surely indicates a stepmother rather than a wife's mother. The will of Ann Carpenter, in which she devises "to my son and daughter John and Mary Hawkins" is clarified by a court record in which John Hawkins and Mary, his wife and natural heir of Thomas Stephens, bring suit to recover property from Henry Carpenter "which he pretends to possess through inter-marriage with the relict of said Stephens."

Most wills are fairly clear, and by observing the cautions inherent in the customary usages we have mentioned, only rarely will a totally obscure relationship be left to puzzle us.

- Article and Research by MaryrySteffens

FREE! - FREE! - FREE! - Two places to send free queries:

1. A Genealogy Column in a San Antonio Paper:

Mr. Lloyd F. Oliver,
2719 Spur Drive,
San Antonio, Texas 78227

2. GENEALOGY ANYONE?

The Cairo Messenger,
P. O. Box 30,
Cairo, Georgia 31728

There is nothing to lose on a free query. Just because you have no known connections in the area does not mean that nobody there is interested in your lines. Ye Ed knows of no connections in Texas, and yet she corresponds with 4 people in that state who are interested in her lines. Gamble 8¢.

The report from the members who answersd as to their experience with queries was - as might be expected - varied. One member discovered by query that a distan relative lived right here in Orlando; a helpful person who loaned books and exchanged data. Another got 4 replies. Others report interesting connections through queries. Why don't you try it?

Sound Alikes at Greenwood Cemetery:

Daniel Boone 1852 - 1928
Harry James (Trumpet) Aug. 20, 1917 - Sept. 16, 1970
Mary Martin 1859 - 1954
Robert S. Taylor 1865 - 1938

THE PROBLEM OF NAMES

Names in old records are often repetitious, and there lies the pitfall for the searcher. It has been proved in two cases - as an example - that men from whom descent was claimed, actually left no descendents! Both were prominent men in their way - one a Lt. Colonel, one a city major.

Older genealogists, though seemingly competent, were often lead away from the truth by assuming that John Doe in the record was the John Doe they were seeking. Today we are more circumspect. Somebody will catch every error you make, sooner or later; Presently, we demand proof.

Even the "living and well" have had their name problems. When Billy Rose sponsored the New York World's Fair, he had his name emblazoned on a block-long sign. He was avid for publicity - for himself. He heard that a small pet shop had opened on the opposite side of the midway, doing a brisk business in parakeets and canaries. The sign outside read "Billy Rose's Pet Shop.."

Billy descended on the man with a battery of lawyers to force the pet shop owner to cease and desist from exploiting his name. A very wrinkled old man stepped up and pleasantly welcomed Billy to his pet shop. "I've been expecting you," he said. "My name is Billy Rose; the family name for over 200 years. And Billy is not a nickname. Its the name they gave me when I was baptized 72 years ago. Do you want to see my birth certificate?"

Obviously a name is a name is a name. You may find the name of your ancestor, and he still may not be your progenitor. Take care. The long dead cannot speak for themselves to affirm or deny their identify. Look for some evidence beyond a name that happens to occur in a given locale.

Another pitfall that has often engulfed the unwary is the "discovery" that sisters married brothers. Anyway men of the same name married girls of the same name. Are you sure the men were brothers; the girls, sisters? For example, Sarah Erwin married John Williams. Her sister Rose Erwin married Fred Williams. But the men never even met until they happened to marry into the same family. Elsie Williams, who married Sarah and Rose's brother Richard, was the sister of Fred Williams. But she was in no wise related to John.

Men marrying into the same family might be cousins - or even second cousins; or distant cousins. In days of old, if a man had 5 sons, he was almost sure to have several grandsons named after him. Griffith Dickerson came to Virginia in 1656, and by the mid 1700s there were so many Griffith Dickensons in the Virginia woods that it is nearly impossible to identify all their parents.

Even wills - thought to be one of the best sources - can be confusing. It is true, for example, that Obedience Hamblen married Henry Powell in Amelia County, Va. Daniel Hamblin left a will in that county naming his daughter Obedience as one of his heirs. Fine. Or is it? Further search shows that John Hamblen left a will in that county (contemporarily) naming his daughter Obedience as one of his heirs. Which one married Henry Powell?

A name is a name - and that is all it is.

WHAT'S YOUR FAMILY LINE?
(Author unknown)

Ancestors are to be found, along with antique furniture and closet skeletons, in nearly all American families. Ancestors consist of forefathers, formothers, foreuncles and foreaunts, not to mention forecousins and the like, who become famous in history. Examples: having been beheaded by some king, or one who managed to become a governor or a mayor or something like that. This enables an ancestor to be pointed out to with pardonable pride by his descendants forever more.

Come to think about it, an ancestor is one of the easiest to come by, and one of the most fascinating object of all our earthly possessions. Being an ancestor merely consists of being boasted by one's descendants. Many ancestors have thereby been enabled to make good long after they are gone from this world.

More than a few of our ancestors who departed this life as poor and obscure characters, only a few jumps ahead of the sheriff, have had the good fortune to become the ancestors of ambitious families with plenty of money, prestige and publicity, as a consequence of which their tombstones have had to be greatly enlarged and adorned.

Ancestors are one of the most valuable and satisfying of all our worldly possessions. They are non-taxable and they cannot be stolen. Their upkeep is practically nothing and they do not deteriorate with age. As a matter of fact, ancestors increase in value as they become older. Ancestors who were here hundreds of years ago are worth a thousand times more than our own grandparents.

Adam is our oldest and best know ancestor. If he were still around, he would be some six thousand years old. Adam had a toterably good record when we consider the serpent, his wife and an apple turned out to be his booby traps. But Adam is everybod's ancestor so he is just taken for granted, like rain or sunshine, or taxes or freedom, or education or ignorance, so he does not rate a very gr at number of coupon books at the shopping center.

Nearly all people own and operate ancestors, even the poorest of people. Many a man who has only one shirt to his back and the other one in the washing machine often can boast of ancestors who are the envy of all his friends.

The moral of this story is that everyone ought to be proud of his ancestors. Certainly there were a handful or two who did not walk the straight and narrow path, but what the heck - they weren't YOUR ancestors!

- Contributed by E. Willis

A chart, though very important, makes an uninteresting statistic for everybody but you. What really makes a family history is the colorful events of each ancestor's lifetime. We have been "taught" to see Revolutionary soldiers as ragged, unkept men camping in snow covered woods. But what, for example, was going on in Scotland in the early 1800s? The Lairds had decided to raise sheep, so they kicked their people off the land. It was a cause of wholesale migration. To make a really facinating genealogy, to write up the events of the period.

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

There are numerous historical societies in nearly every state, preserving local color. If you have not had recourse to them, you may be missing something. For example, nobody in the Everley family knew that Joseph fought in the Civil War. He had no tombstone; even his grave was lost. But back in the early 1900s someone made a record of the cemetery where he was buried - stones or no stones - and named Joseph as a Civil War veteran. From that slender record, a wealth of material was found in the National Archives, Warren County, Missouri and Chicago, Illinois.

The following are Historical Societies in MISSISSIPPI.

Mississippi Historical Society, Box 571, Jackson - 39205
 Mississippi Methodist Conference Historical Commission, Millsaps College
 Jackson - 39210
 Mississippi State Dept. of Archives and History, Box 571, Jackson - 39205
 Biloxi Historical Society, Box 575, Biloxi - 39530
 Mississippi Coast Historical & Genealogical Society, The Spanish House,
 Box 513, Biloxi - 39530
 Northeast Mississippi Historical Society, Booneville - 38829
 Marion County Historical Society, Columbia - 39429
 Columbus and Lowndes County Historical Society, 916 College St. Columbus 39701
 Scott County Historical Society, Box 389, Forest - 39074
 Choctaw-Pioneer Historical Society of French Camp on the Natchez Trace,
 c/o Patty Ann Hall, Carthage - 39051
 North Mississippi Methodist Historical Society, Drawer U, Grenada 38901
 Hattiesburg Area Historical Society, 2600 Minosa Lane, Hattiesburg - 39401
 Holly Springs and Marshall County Historical Society, Holly Springs - 38635
 Jefferson County Historical Society, Loman - 39096
 Noxubee County Historical Society, Box 386, Macon - 39341
 Maridan-Lauderdale County Historical Society, Box 27, Maridan - 39302
 Natchez Historical Society, 307 So. Wall St., Natchez - 39120
 1699 Historical Society, 810 Iberville St., Ocean Springs - 39564
 Jackson County Historical Society, 4602 Fort St., Pascaquola - 39567
 Claiborne County Historical Society, Fort Gibson - 39150
 Panola Historical Society, Box 365, Sardis - 39666
 Vicksburg and Warren County Historical Society, 1008 Cherry St., Court Square
 Vicksburg - 39180

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We will carry a list of Societies in various states in future issues. If you have a request, send it to the editor at 13 South Nowell Ave., Orlando or phone 299-4364.

If you have an interest in some area of genealogy on which you would like to see a dissertation in the Newsletter, advise the editor. (If you do not make suggestions, then don't complain about the contents of the Newsletter!)

If you have made a study, by all means write it up for the benefit of other members, for publication in the Newsletter.

THIS IS YOUR BULLETIN. DO MAKE IT TRULY YOURS.