

# GENEALOGY.

Mode of Procedure for the Genealogist—City Libraries Have Fine Genealogical Departments—Seeker Must be Accurate—Wills and Deeds Contain Valuable Information—Careful Notes Must be Taken of Every Item Obtainable.

THE person who wishes to trace his family line should begin his work at his own home. Let him write down every clue and name possible to obtain from his own memory or from the memory of his parents. This should never be neglected among our people, who have all come either from foreign countries or the eastern states. Although memory is never a sure and safe guide in genealogical matters, it is too precious a source of information to neglect. And so, let the genealogist diligently write out his parents' names, their place of birth, marriage dates, and any other information concerning them, he can obtain. Then go on with the grandparents, and uncles and aunts, and so on back as far as he can go. These should be entered in family groups in a record book, which can be obtained from the Deseret News book store.

If the seeker lives in Salt Lake City, or in any large city in America or England, his method of procedure will be much the same. Let us fancy that someone living in London, or on a visit there, wishes to hunt up his genealogy. He should go first of all to Somerset House, and inquire for the genealogical department. If he lives in this city, he goes to the historical office. On entering the genealogical room, he should inquire for the genealogist's guide. In the city library, or in any city's library, there is no need for vocal inquiry, for there is always the card index, which the seeker may apply, without troubling anybody with questions. But the library in the historical office has no such index. When the seeker is searching for, say, you wish to trace Wilson. Look in the W's, and you will easily find the name, and following it will be the titles of numerous books. The volume of the book, if there are two or more volumes, will be given as well as the page, on which you will find Wilson named.

There are 81 book references to English Wilsons in the English Guide and 35 book references to American Wilsons in the American Guide. For instance: The seeker should note on a slip of paper all the titles of books in which the name Wilson occurs, and the number of those books in the catalogue, if he is in a city library; you then go to the card index again, and write out the names of four books—only four are usually allowed to take more than four at a time, then choose a quiet corner and begin your copying work. Of that later.

There are some books which should be examined first, if they have any of

plete answer. The fee for entrance into this society is three dollars the first year, and one dollar a year after. Twelve dollars gives one a life membership, and there are no further dues after this payment. It is necessary to become a member in order to go to the office and make full use of the library, but it costs nothing but a postage stamp for a return letter to make inquiries. If you have but little information about your father's line, and can get no more, so work for your mother's line, or your grandmother, or still further back. But whatever you do, write first to all the temples, asking if the particular line you wish to take up has been covered, and if so, who has done the work. You may then correspond with those who are at work on one of your family lines, and thus avoid the expensive and useless duplication of work.

There are many sources of information for the searcher after progenitors, who can afford to travel to the homes of his forefathers. First, the published books gathered in libraries; second, unpublished Parish records; third, wills and deeds found in city or county courthouses; fourth, the records of tombstones and graveyards. In this country, where men have fought in the Civil war, or the war of the Revolution, there is a large store of information found in our papers, both in Washington and in the state houses of those older states which sent their men out during the troublous times of 1776.

In any and all of these places, the seeker will find civil and usually obliging clerks who will hand out any papers sought. These must be examined under the eye of the clerk, and so the seeker must be provided with note book and pencil to take down every reference to Wilsons to be found in these places. Read with very careful eyes, for in them are many hidden clues: such as names of children and friends, property mentioned in different parts, which carry the line, sometimes, into most unexpected places. For instance, when searching out the Young family, the first William was left by previous searchers as located in Hopkinton, Mass. This William Young's will, found in the Middlesex county courthouse (in Cambridge, Mass.) made a year before his death, refers to his lands in Barrington and Nottingham, New Hampshire. The seeker who was at work on this line, went at once up to Barrington in New Hampshire, and found in the county courthouse a number of deeds from William Young to other men, and from other settlers to him. William spoke of himself as "of Boston," thus showing the place of his residence prior to going up to New Hampshire, and certainly prior to his removal to Hopkinton. He also referred to himself in these deeds as "cordwainer," and a dictionary revealed the fact that a cordwainer was a shoemaker. Then the searcher went down to Boston to hunt for her William Young. But she found there were four William Youngs in the old South Church at this particular time, and two of them had wives named Hannah, and all

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were having large families. At that time, the records of the old South Church were not published, and even now, they are not available in Utah. So William was left unsettled in Boston, till some future searcher rescues him from obscurity.

The war papers often give full descriptions of the enlisted men, and mention other valuable information concerning their families. The court records also reveal some information through deeds. And a little clue is sometimes obtained from the shipping lists of those early immigrants to what was then called Virginia, in large scope and meaning.

In Europe, the tipping system is so much in vogue that no single search can be made without a shilling or so, for the clerk's tip. But it is worth it, for it takes his time and time is money. In America, there is not so much of this yet one cannot ask a busy clerk to spend an hour or so in search of information unless some compensation is offered. So this expense must be counted upon.

A genealogist should not correct spelling of names, or dates, unless he is extremely sure he is right and the other man wrong. Accuracy, and again accuracy, is the key-note of all a genealogist's qualifications.

Any one can take up this study and work, but no one need imagine that it is an easy or simple task. Their work is a strain on nerves and brain, but there is a delightful compensation in it all, and more than all to the Latter-day Saint, in this important labor.

And now, a few words as to what to do in transcribing the information

you obtain. You should take with you some note books, of a convenient size to put in your bag, but not so small that you spend valuable time cramming your writing to match small pages, and write your name and address with great plainness on the cover, and first page of your book. This in case you should mislay it. If you are in a strange city, you might keep a stamp partly pinned to the page, that it may be posted to you in case of loss. I know of several instances where this has saved loss. Then, date your original first entry in your note book and occasionally add another date. This too, will prove of use. When you begin your real work, write first, the title of the book you are to use, its author and the volume, thus: Burke's Peerage, vol. III. Underneath that, add the further information given, such as "The Wilsons of Heath House," or "The Wilsons of Hampden Moor." Then, begin with your names. Write the father and mother, or using other lead pencil, or fountain pen, and under names write children, if they had any, so:

John Wilson, b. 7 May, 1707, of London, England, d. 3 February, 1759, Mary Underwood, b. 3 December, 1719, London, England, d. 4 September, 1780.

CHILDREN.  
John, b. May, 1750.  
Mary, b. 3 February, 1752.  
Henry, b. 1754.  
James, b. about 1756.

Give every scrap of information possible to obtain, such as marriage dates, death dates, and anything recorded in the book from which you obtain your information. If John Wilson fought in the war, or was head of his town, or was a sailor or merchant, note it down, although you do not need all such information in your temple records. But these little bits of information often give you clues from which to work in tracing your line further. Always transcribe your first notes in a temporary note book, but never use that for your final temple work. Record books containing instructions for this purpose can be obtained at the Deseret News Book store. Copy all necessary notes in such a book.

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY.  
An important change in the official board of this society occurred at the meeting held this week. Elder Joseph F. Smith, Jr., was made a member of the board in place of Elder John Nicholson who resigned; and Elder Joseph A. Christensen resigned as secretary of the board on account of pressure of work; Elder Joseph F. Smith, Jr., was installed as secretary; all communications to the society therefore should be addressed to Joseph F. Smith, Jr., historical office, Salt Lake City. Another important item of business was the appointment of a committee consisting of Joseph F. Smith, Jr., and Edith H. Smith to consider the feasibility of instituting the catalog and card index system into the library of the society.

Social dances every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday nights, by Prof. Eastman, at Red Men's Hall, 323½ State street.



DR. MARVIN LOSES HOPE.

Dr. Horace N. Martin, whose 4-year-old boy he believes was stolen from his home in Delaware, some weeks ago, has given up hope that he will ever regain the child. Recently reported to have been located in Erie, Pa., the rumor proved false and the boy is still missing. Dr. Martin, aside from offering a large reward for his boy, has been tireless in his personal labors to find the child and is now said to be in a serious physical and mental condition.

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