YOUR FOREFATHERS.

If Americans, Here Are Some Useful Hints For You.

WHERE AND HOW TO GET NAMES.

A Subject That is of Great and Ever Increasing Interest to all Latter-day Saints.

Editor Deseret News:

In response to a rapidly increasing interest in the subject among the Saints, and in inquiries frequently put to me, I respectfully submit the following upon the subject of American genealogy, hoping to convey to persons interested, information that may be of use. These suggestions are the result of my personal experience while making several visits of the older states of the Union, searching records, libraries, etc., and of the many I have been able to give the subject during a number of years.

Genealogy and history are inseparable, and the genealogist should be familiar with the history of the region in which he is working. But as my present aim is to offer practical hints to persons who do not expect to pursue the subject of genealogy further than to compile the records of their own ancestry and kinsfolk, I will dwell as briefly as possible on the historical features of it.

Beginning with New England: The first settlement was made in 1620, by Puritans. For some years after that the numbers of new settlers were not great, but from 1630 to 1642 the tide of migration was strong. In the latter year the Puritan party in England, with Cromwell at its head, began its ascendancy, and soon after that the liberty which the Puritans had sought in migration was granted to them at home; and hence there was a great and rapid falling off in the numbers that went to New England, during from 1642. One high authority estimates that seven-eighths of the inhabitants in New England when the revolution broke out, in 1775, were descended from ancestors who came from England before 1642.

Hence, in tracing a New England family, we will find, in seven cases out of eight, that it was founded by an emigrant who came over between 1620 and 1642, a period of twenty-two years; and in six cases out of eight, judging from my own experience, the emigrant ancestor arrived between 1630 and 1642, a period of only twelve years. The bulk of the migration consisted of families, men with their wives and children, servants and apprentices. To suppose that the early settlers of New England were drawn from the poor and ignorant classes of the mother country is a mistake. In intelligence, education and worldly prosperity they were above the average of the masses of their countrymen; and though their migration involved a sacrifice of worldly possession, their intellectual average was high, and their numbers embraced many men of learning and ability.

I will here digress for the purpose of correcting an error, for the extensive prevalence of which I can offer no explanation. The great majority of Americans who have not traced their genealogies from records, yet undertake to give an account of the founding of their families in this country, will state that "three brothers came over." It is never two brothers, nor four brothers, but always "three brothers." Why this "three brothers" tradition should have been so widely adopted among American families is a mystery for which I have sought in vain for a solution. Of course there were instances in which two, three, four, or more brothers came over, after reaching adult age, but the vast majority of New England families were founded by immigrants who brought their wives and children, and were not accompanied by brothers.

From the earliest times in New England, each town had an official known as the "town clerk," whose duty it was to record births, deaths and marriages. In every town such a record was kept, and it is seldom even tolerably complete, and in most cases is very incomplete; indeed, it is only comparatively of late years, covering a long period of years, has been lost or destroyed by fire, or otherwise. The first thing the settlers did, in most cases, after fairly founding their town, was to install a minister, who commonly kept a record of baptisms and marriages, and sometimes deaths. But the church record is often as deficient as the town clerk's.

There were also records kept of the proceedings of the "town meetings," i.e., conventions composed of voters residing in the town, which were held from one to several times a year; also of the doings of the selectmen, lists of taxpayers, pew owners, military organizations, etc. These records, dating from the earliest times, probate courts, under whose jurisdiction wills were proved and estates divided among the heirs thereto. The records of these courts are a valuable source of genealogical information. The family Bible record was also kept in many cases, but it is seldom that a Bible can be found containing a record going back more than one or two generations beyond the memory of the living. Tombstone inscriptions afford specially valuable information and clues.

To all these records, and others not named, and a great variety of other sources of information, the genealogist must have access. Where data he does not find in one place, he perhaps may in another. He searches in vain, and then patiently separates, arranges and weaves together the mass of material he has gathered, the result being a chronological and symmetrical record of the descendants of the immigrant ancestor, with dates and other incidents, as correlate and complete as they can be obtained.

Obviously this work must consume a great amount of time and be extraordinarily expensive, if the investigator is working for wages. But during recent years an extraordinary interest in the subject has been widely prevalent in New England, increasing to intensity year by year. Societies, home and genealogical, having means and labors, have been impelled to collect, preserve, and data respecting their own or other families, and many of the resulting compilations have been printed. In many cases, the "town meeting" has made an appropriation to cover the cost of preparing and printing the history of the town, which usually includes genealogical notices of its old families at the town, in many other cases such works have been written and published by individual enterprise. Many complete genealogies of families containing all branches that have descended from a common ancestor, have been compiled and printed. About nine hundred volumes of this character, containing genealogies of New England families, have been printed.

I use the word "printed" rather than the word "published" for the reason that, in a great many instances, the volumes have been printed for private distribution, and not for sale; and it is frequently difficult and sometimes impossible, to purchase a copy. I once saw a superbly printed and bound volume, as large as a family Bible, containing the genealogy of a family which has had several distinguished representatives in Utah, the preparation and printing of which must have cost thousands of dollars, only a few copies of which were printed, as I was informed.

The remarkable interest which the people of New England have taken in the subject of genealogy, has impelled them to acquire and print as much material relating to it, that it is a comparatively easy matter to trace almost any family that is rooted in that part of America, unless there were more than one of the same name in the same vicinity, then it may be difficult to separate the members of the respective families. It is to be hoped, however, that the investigator should be where he can get access to the books containing the data he wants. The most complete collection of books relating to American genealogy and local history, to whatever is contained in the library of the New England Historic Genealogical society, 18 Somerset street, Boston, Mass. The next best collection is in the Boston Public library. The Congressional library at Washington contains a large number of such works, as does the Watkinson library at Hartford, Conn., and I am also informed that the same is true of the Astor library in New York city, and of the Athenæum in Philadelphia. I mention these institutions, including it possible that persons interested may have relatives or correspondents within reach of them, who might be prevailed upon to transcribe from printed works, genealogical information.

A person who desires to obtain the genealogy of a New England family by personal effort and searching, should go first to one of the libraries I have named, preferably one of those in Boston, and from works of reference and local histories he is tolerably certain to obtain information which will put him on a track which he can follow as far as he chooses, and gather material until he has sufficient for his purpose. If he does not find in print the data he desires, he will learn what original sources of information he must resort to, and what trains he must visit to get access to them. But it is far cheaper, and preferable in every way, to employ some person familiar with the work. Such a person can accomplish more in one day than a novice could in a week. There are a number of professional genealogists in Boston and other New England cities, who compile family records to order.

In New York state, genealogies are gathered from records similar to those named above. Some of the early probate records of Albany and in New York city, are written in Dutch, and to procure the data they afford, a person who can translate them must be employed. To trace a Knickerbocker family is very difficult, as the son did not, in early times, usually adopt the surname by which the father was known; and in many instances sons were distinguished in various documents and records by their Christian names only. Several experts have labored to compile correct genealogies of the early Dutch families of northern New York, and have published the results.

Similar difficulties attend the compilation of the genealogies of the Dutch families of New Jersey, but in this state, judging from personal experience and observation, the practice of making wills was more prevalent than in any other, during colonial times. The wills proved in that state prior to 1776, and the probate records dating prior to that year, are stored in the office of the secretary of state at Trenton, or in the offices of the surrogate (probate judge) at Newark, being divided between what was formerly known as East Jersey and West Jersey. These records, with those kept by churches, are the main reliance of the genealogist in this state, and not much material of value to him has been put in print. Among a long period of New Jersey families frequently lack dates of birth, as there is in many cases no record from which to get one to obtain.

Pennsylvania was not settled until long after the other states named, and consequently records there go not so far back. There were not many white people in that state prior to about 1700, and the bulk of the population is comparatively modern migration. But little material relating to genealogy has been printed in this state, though the interest in the subject has much increased within the last few years. Land, probate and church records are the main sources of information for the genealogist here.

Maryland and Virginia were colonies that became populous early, and sent out swarms of settlers over the region south and west, embracing what are now many southern and western states. The following article published in the New England Historical and Genealogical Register for October, 1892, comprises some of the results of several weeks spent by me in traveling and searching records in the state to which it refers:

"PIONEERS OF GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION IN MARYLAND.—Under the very, very, shadow of the Dollar mark received (separately or jointly) for finding a coiling in Maryland, the fee of all lands enhanced within the province was found to lose. As land speculatory be raised to be established a fifty number which each tract of land, derived from the mother country to the province, received a given number of acres for himself, and an additional number for each of his children and servants, the object being to encourage immigration. Lands were surveyed to the settlers subject to a rental payable to the Lord Proprietary, which, however, was merely nominal. The authentication of this was a certificate issued to him by the surveyor, setting the metes and bounds of the tract allotted to him, the number of acres it contained, the date of survey, etc. These certificates were carefully recorded, presumably in every case, and the manuscript volumes which contain them are in a good state of preservation. The paper is mostly in good, many of it remarkably so, and is as easily read as a well written modern page.

"From this record can be learned the names of the original holders of the lands, who are presumably the ancestors of their survival in the country. The number of persons living at the time of the settlement is also indicated more or less clearly.

"Prior to the earliest settlement of the colony, travelers of land speculators have been allowed which were settling the way to most of the new settlements in America. These drawn up in the form were to show all the extents and bounds, and the name to that Maryland has what are probably the most complete and records to be found in any of the other states of the Union. It was more or less a prevailing custom to settle in the land the manner in which the greater number possessed of the land he was surveying, and not improbably a set of abstract of the title is given in the deed, tracing it from grantee to grantor, back to the certificate of survey in the hands of the authority of the Lord Proprietary. Of course land were conveyed by will, and the distribution of estates of decedents, and also affected by the records of deeds are often of great value to the genealogist.

"Much attention was given to the heirs at law and legal guardians during the colonial period. The original register wills from the earliest times, law and equity cases, every description were summarized, and volumes of decedents were almost always settled in accordance with established legal methods, and a record of the inventory, administrative accounts and final settlement, etc., was made. In some cases the administrator, Rev. Mr. Bryan, gives the names of the heirs, but in most instances it does not. The records of the administration had under the authority of the colonial courts appear to be tolerably complete from a very early date, and are in a good state of preservation.

"In the office of the clerk of the state supreme court, in the State House at Annapolis, are several manuscript volumes which contain, among other things, petitions that were presented to the colonial legislature by immigrants, asking to be naturalized. These documents frequently afford some information concerning the petitioner, by giving the place and date of his birth, an account of his marriage, the number of his children, the date of his arrival, his occupation, etc. It was the rule for a private act to be passed granting such a petition. In the year 1705, the Rev. Thomas Bacon compiled and published at the colonial capital, a quarto volume from its first session the laws, and names the acts to be printed. The compilation fills a large octavo volume, includes the private acts of 1705 with that had been passed, and has an index.

"The most valuable source of information, if the parish registers be excepted, are the records of wills. These are in a good state of preservation and are well indexed. In general, at whatever they do not differ much from similar records in other colonies.

"All of the above records made in any part of the colony prior to the year 1777, are kept in Annapolis. In that year the colonial legislature passed a law which required to be kept at the county seat of each county, records of deeds, probate proceedings, wills, marriage licenses, etc., and a copy of all such records made prior to 1777, are in the custody of the last named officer.

"Prior to the year 1777, no civil record of marriages was kept in the colony. But the law of that year relating to records provided for the issuance of marriage licenses by the clerks of the circuit courts of the respective counties. At each marriage license fee was charged to the account of the court, which to whom it was issued, as no more money, by the state treasury, the recipient of the blanks was intended by a pecuniary consideration, to keep a strict account of the disposal of them, hence in each county is a fairly complete record of marriage licenses issued.

"At no time has there been kept in Maryland, under any regulation of civil law, a record of births or deaths. There is now, and has been for some years, a law requiring births to be reported to and recorded by the clerk of the circuit court of the county; but the law is inoperative.

"Persons desiring to procure, by correspondence, information from records in Maryland, may address the following officials: For data from land records prior to 1777, Chief Clerk, Land Office, Annapolis. For data from wills, administration records, etc., prior to that year, Register of Wills, Annapolis. For information concerning early naturalizations, Clerk Supreme Court, Annapolis. For information from land records and marriage licenses since 1777, Clerk Circuit Court, at the county seat. For information from wills, administration records, etc., since 1777, Register of Wills, at county seat. For names of present taxpayers, Clerk County Commissioners, at the county seat.

"The main reliance of the genealogist working in Maryland, for dates of birth and death, and of marriage prior to 1777, are the parish registers. Unfortunately these are very imperfect, and none of them now in existence date back to the early years of the settlement of the colony. Baltimore county was founded about forty years before it could boast a regularly ordained pastor. No doubt the settlers individually practiced religious worship, though without a settled minister, but the oldest parish register in that county, whose people settled a region once divided into several counties, does not date back earlier than the closing years of the 17th century, and it is stated that there is not a parish register extant in the state containing records of birth, marriage and death, in manner more, rather than 1650.

"Time or mould exists from which can be gleaned the names and dates of birth of the first generation of children born in the colony, and in a large proportion of cases the exact day of birth of the second generation. Nothing can compensate for the loss of information of a place in the social and family genealogies (leaving the immigrant, the first in the family, out of account) of Maryland, and the genealogist meet ever meet with difficulty and perplexity in assigning children to parents, and in respect to some, they can do nothing, but one other work, the chief obstacle in genealogical and historical data.

"But the field is so multifaceted one. The wealth of information contained in the vast accumulation of records at Annapolis and in some of the other counties, is difficult of access from lack of convenient arrangement and indexes, and a considerable small amount of it has also found its way into print. The State Legislature, at its last session, was asked to [illegible] appropriation to survey the records, preparing an index to the [illegible] the records dating prior to 1777, and printing to make the expenditure. There is, however, a good [illegible] colonial history and genealogist [illegible] and it is doubtless only a question of time when the [illegible] and people of Maryland will be aroused to the necessity of bringing forth the treasure from neither to the outsiders, and placing it accessible to all the world.

H. F. CRAMMOND, JR.

With regards to Virginia I am not so familiar. The records of land titles, wills, probate proceedings, etc., were during the residence, the seat of Richmond. But since the state government was in by organized there records have been set in the seats of the respective counties. During the late war, vast quantities of records in Virginia were destroyed. The general character of records in this state, so far as I am familiar with it, is similar to that of the records of Maryland. Little genealogical material has been printed.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the subject of American genealogy is likely to present considerable difficulty and expense, but I feel warranted in assuring inquirers, that in nearly every instance, success will follow persevering efforts.

Very respectfully,
H. F. CRAMMOND, JR.
Room 322, Constitution Building.

BABIES EAT
QUAKER OATS

CASTORIA
for Infants and Children.

Retrenchment.
ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.
It is demanded of officials, of citizens and of purchasers. In making left more economical than in purchasing our
HOME INDUSTRIES.
Don't forget that we manufacture Footwear for all. Best School Shoes made, and greatest variety of goods $3 Shoes. Only the best of materials used and all work warranted.
Silver, Though Humbled, is Welcomed by Us.
SOLOMON BROS., No 70 S. Main Street.

BARKER & KNOWLES,
PRACTICAL GUNSMITHS.
Re-Stocking, Boring and General Repairing.
Models and Keys of all Kinds Made. Safes Repaired.
55 COMMERCIAL STREET, SALT LAKE CITY.
SIGN OF BIG KEY.

Browning Bros.
159 Main Street, Salt Lake City, Utah.
2501 Washington Ave., Ogden, Utah.
Wholesale and Retail
Guns, Rifles, Pistols, Ammunition, Fishing Tackle, Tents, Hammocks, Etc. Base Ball, Lawn Tennis, Cricket Supplies, Athletic Goods, Etc. Agents for Sporting, Blasting and Stump Powders. Send for new Illustrated Catalogue.

15½ lbs. Granulated
Sugar
For $1.00.
And all other goods in proportion.
GOLDBERG & SOLOMON,
Wholesale and Retail
Cash - Grocers.
45 E. FIRST SOUTH ST.
All Mail Orders Promptly Attended to
Telephone 487. P. O. Box 487.

·GUNPOWDER·
Let the boys have a shot for fun, and let us supply you with the best for sure.
HAZARD POWDER
Manufactured by
THE HAZARD POWDER COMPANY,
Hazardville, Conn.
Represented in Utah by
SALT LAKE HARDWARE CO.

SAVINGS BANK.
100 MAIN STREET.
Interest Allowed on Deposits.
Utah Title Insurance & Trust Co.
Capital, $1,000,000 Paid Up.
J. R. Ferry, President. W. S. McCornick, Vice President. A. L. Thomas, Sec'y & Mgr. Wm. Carter.

Shang Hai & Co's BAZAR,
Full assortment of Chinese and Japanese Ornamental and Fancy Goods.
Ladies' Underwear.
Before buying elsewhere call and examine our work. Most reasonable prices in the city.
Corset Steam Laundry Work.
Gloves cleaned and repaired neatly and cheap.
Orders from the Country solicited.
177 South Main.
Near 2nd south.

Manufacturer and Dealer in all kinds of Wood Ware and Coffins.
Joseph E. Taylor,
Pioneer Undertaker of Utah.

Manufacturer and Dealer in all kinds of Wood Ware and Coffins.
COFFINS AND CASKETS.
Full Line of Coffin Furnishings kept constantly on hand.
Telephone and Telegraph Orders promptly filled.
Orders promptly by Telegraph Collect and Walnut sides extra.
OPEN DAY AND NIGHT.
Corner and Residence No. 203 E. First South, Salt Lake City, Utah.
Telephone No. 15.

R. K. Thomas,
THE SILK HOUSE,
26, 28, 30, 32 EAST, FIRST SOUTH ST.
Salt Lake City.

Special Sale of Silks.
Black and Colored Surahs at 25c.
Our full line of $1 and 75c Surahs go this week for 50c.
Our 85c Colored Bengalines for 49c
Our $1.25 Black and Colored Diagonals for 95c.
Our $1.25 Extra Changeable for 95c.
Bargains in Black Silks.
Our 50c grade for 35c.
Our $1.50 grade for $1.15
Our $1.75 grade for $1.25
Our $2.25 grade for $1.65
Our $2.75 grade for $1.85
32 Inch Black India,
75c grade for 50c. $1 grade for 75c. $1.25 grade for $1.00.
Great cut in fine Dress Goods. All our Henriettas, Hopsackings, Storm Serges, Bedford and Isabella Cords now selling for $1, go this week for 75c.
Big Drives in Cloak Department
$20 Fall Capes selling for $12.50
$8 " " " " $10.00
$10 " " " " $6.50
$15 " " " " $4.00.
Light colored Blazer Jackets for $1.75, former price $6.75.
The prices on our White Embroidered Waists are cut in two.
The balance of our Blazer Suits at actual cost.
Wool Wrappers in Challie are now selling for $2.75.
Special prices to our Ladies' Underwear Department.
Get our prices on
Men's Shoes.
Our $6.00 Cork Soles for $4.00.
Our $4.50 " " " $3.25.
Our $3.00 Calf Congress for $2.50.
Our $2.00 Fine Shoes for $2.25.
Men's Cardigan Sole for $1.25
See Our Line of Boys' Waists, Selling for 25c, worth 40c.
Secure These Bargains.
Buyers From the COUNTRY
Are invited to call and take advantage of the greatest genuine low priced sale on earth! Mail orders solicited.
R. K. Thomas,