

**GENEALOGY OF
THE BOLLES FAMILY
IN AMERICA**

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Genealogy of the Bolles Family in America by John A. Bolles

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JOHN A. BOLLES

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THE BOLLES FAMILY
IN AMERICA**

State Hist. Socy of Wisconsin

With Genl Bolles' respects.

28 Jan 1867.



Bolles Genealogy.




1867

GENEALOGY
OF THE
BOLLES FAMILY
IN AMERICA.

BY JOHN A. BOLLES.

BOSTON:
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1865.



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1865

To My Mother,

IN THE

NINETY-FIFTH YEAR OF HER AGE,

AND THE

• TWENTY-EIGHTH YEAR OF HER WIDOWHOOD,

This Work is Dedicated.

August, 1865.

TO MY AMERICAN KINSMEN.

I HAVE now completed, as well as I have been able, the Bolles Genealogy. It has been the labor of my leisure hours for many years; oft-times wearisome, and sometimes vexatious, attended with difficulty, perplexity, and expense; yet, on the whole, pleasant, and in many instances productive of agreeable results, valuable acquaintances, and invaluable friendships. I almost regret the completion of this self-imposed task; and to part with my manuscript, even to the printer with a view to its publication, is a sort of bereavement, not unlike that which we feel when our children leave us, to enter upon lives and homes of their own. And yet I am glad that my task is done, and that I can now offer the fruits of my labor to those who are interested like myself in rescuing from oblivion the early records and the memory of our family.

Our family record is one of which we have no reason to feel ashamed. If not many great, or famous names, adorn our annals, the pages of our history, unstained by vice and crime, are crowded with the names of the good, the just, the honest, and the true; of excellent men and worthy women, whose memory, like that of the just, is blessed. To you, my American kinsmen, who feel interested in tracing the growth of our family, I need offer no apology for having entered on my work as genealogist. And yet most men are apt to regard such work as little better than idleness. To look forward, and to care only for the future, is the almost universal practice;—to “let the dead past bury its dead,” is the prevailing principle,—of this busy and ever-hurried generation. How few of us pause to consider that our grand-children, whom we fondly love, will soon care as little for us, as we now seem to care for our grand parents, and remoter ancestors. None of us is, however, quite willing to die and be forgotten:—

*“For who, to dumb forgetfulness a prey,
This pleasing, anxious, being e'er resigned,
Left the warm precincts of the cheerful day,
Nor cast one longing, lingering, look behind!”*

This latent wish to be remembered is easily excited to action. In the course of my genealogical researches I wrote to one of our name for information in regard to his parentage. He seemed to stand alone and disconnected from any known branch of our tribe, but his face bore the unmistakable Bolles image and superscription. To my first letter he made no answer. His silence did not surprise me; for in many other instances I had already met with the like disappointment. I wrote again,* and my second letter was answered by the statement that my correspondent knew the name of his father, but beyond that was wholly ignorant of his ancestry. A third letter secured a promise that he would write to the far-away town of his birth, and obtain, if possible, some further information. Months passed away, and no information came. I then made a journey of thirty miles to call in person upon this dilatory correspondent. I found him at

* And here, once for all, I beg pardon of the multitudes of far-off cousins whom I have persecuted and bored with pertinacious inquiries, and multitudinous letters, on the unprofitable subject of “endless genealogies,”—hereby promising that I will no more disturb their patience in like manner, although I trust they will all, without delay, or further request on my part, write to me, to the care of my publishers and friends, Messrs. H. W. Dutton & Son, Boston, Mass., and furnish me with all corrections and additions that may be useful to a second and more perfect edition of the Bolles Genealogy.

home,—surrounded by his family, and, at the moment we met, holding in his arms a beautiful child of four years old, of whom he was manifestly both proud and fond. "Is it your son, Mr. Bolles," inquired I. "No, sir," answered he, "my grandson." "Do you love him?" He answered by a hug and a kiss that rendered all words idle. "Do you believe he loves you?" "Of course he does! *Don't* you love grand-pa, darling?" and little curly-head returned the embrace and caress. "And yet, Mr. Bolles," said I,— "and yet, in forty years from now, if he follows your example, he will not even remember your name!" My remark struck home to his conscience and his heart. With tearful eyes he renewed his promise, and in three weeks from that time I received from him a document which enabled me to complete, by the addition of the oft-needed link, the genealogical chain which connected him with our common ancestor of 1608.

I have studied my own history for the purpose of ascertaining, if possible, why I have departed from the common indifference in regard to genealogical matters. At my graduation from Brown University, in 1829, President Wayland requested me to write an oration on "The Memory of the Dead." What induced him to assign to me such a topic I can only conjecture. But its effect upon my mind I can very distinctly remember. It taught me to look backward, and to regard the past with unwonted interest. From that time I began to care especially for the surviving patriarchs of our family, and for its records and traditions. My father, Rev. Matthew Bolles, encouraged this disposition, and laid before me such memoranda as he had collected in regard to our ancestors; as did also my uncle, Judge David Bolles, of Ashford, Conn., from whom I learned much concerning the Bolles settlers of New London. In the State Department of Massachusetts I found among the Colonial records some traces of the family earlier than its settlement in Connecticut, and some indications of its English relationships. These discoveries led to a careful examination of the early records of towns, counties, colonies, and states; and to a large correspondence with men bearing our name on both sides of the Atlantic. At last I found myself fairly committed to the enterprise of becoming the Bolles genealogist; and under the influence of that pledge, I labored to perfect this work, and prepare it for the press.

The arrangement of my materials became a matter of deep anxiety and careful study. I had never seen a genealogical work which was not confused and confusing; but it seemed to me possible to overcome this difficulty, and the result of my reflection was the plan adopted in this volume. My publishers pronounce it a success, and I trust that my readers will concur in that opinion.

I will endeavor to explain this method. On the margin of the page which contains the record of any name appear also the lineal male ancestors bearing the Bolles name as far back as Joseph Bolles the Englishman who founded our family on this Continent. Suppose that the Rev. EDWIN A. BOLLES of Orangeburg, S. C., wishes to learn who were his forefathers. He looks for his own name in the Index, and finds it recorded on p. 31 of the Genealogy. Turning to p. 31, he finds, by inspection of the margin, that he is the son of ABIEL BOLLES, who was born in 1786; the grandson of JESSE BOLLES, who was born in 1749, and died in 1836; the great grandson of ENOCH BOLLES, who was born in 1715, and who died in 1800; the great-great grandson of JOHN BOLLES, who was born in 1677, and who died in 1767; the great-great-great grandson of THOMAS BOLLES, who was born in 1644, and who died in 1727; and the great-great-great-great grandson of JOSEPH BOLLES, who was born in 1608, and who died in 1678. Any other name can be traced in like manner, and thus it is easy to discover the relationship, whether direct or collateral, of every person named in this volume.

To Mr. H. R. Danforth, the printer, who has so neatly and accurately transformed my manuscript into print I feel deeply indebted, and I trust that all of my readers will unite in this feeling.

Having been occupied for the last three years and a half in the military service of the United States, I have been unable to collect and receive many of the removals, births, marriages and deaths which have occurred during that eventful period. These omissions can only be supplied in a subsequent edition of my book. Each family in which these changes have occurred will gratify me by making them known in the way already suggested. I hope that I may thus hear from all who feel interested in this work.

It is matter of regret on my part that I have been unable to establish the point of connexion between the English and American Bollesea. Perhaps some future inquiry or inquirer may be more successful. I also regret that I have not succeeded in obtaining in all cases the full and exact information which I have attempted to procure from some branches of our American family. This failure is not owing to any lack of effort on my own part. It is incident, I suppose, to every inquiry so widely extended in time and space, and I ought to wonder that my endeavors have been so well rewarded, rather than to repine, that some who have been harassed by my importunity have failed to give me all the information that I desired.

The statements entertained in this little volume may be regarded as authentic, for I have, in every case, consulted the best authorities, and have very seldom depended on anything but public records, and original family registers, or the written declarations of the parties themselves in interest.

A brief inspection of this volume will show how widely our family is diffused. From the spot of its first establishment on the coast of Maine it has spread through every state and territory of the Union, so that it would be no very difficult task for me to traverse the whole United States, finding every night a shelter beneath the roof of kinsmen who bear our ancestral name, and who would, I am sure, be glad to receive him whose letters have, for many years, made known to them the writer of this Genealogy. To their kindness I now commend this product of my long continued, and never unwilling, labor.

AUGUST, 1865.

THE ENGLISH BOLLESES.

THE NAME OF "BOELS" is found in the ROLL OF BATTLE ABBEY, as given by HOLLINGSHEAD. DUCHEANE, from a charter in that Abbey, gives a list of the Conquerors of England, under William of Normandy, among whose names appears the name of "Bools."—(*Roll of Battle Abbey, annotated by John Bernard Burke, Esq., London, Eng., 1848.*)* The names of Boll, Bol, Bole, and Bolle, occur frequently in the Domesday Book.—(*Econ. Domesday, 19, 25, 29, 37, 38, 54, 251, 455, 478.*) *Hinton Domesday, 540, 541, 549.*

"The family of Bolles, of long standing in the County of Lincoln, was resident there so early as the reign of Henry III." (A. D. 1216—1272). "Its principal seat seems to have been Bolle Hall, in Swineshead, until the close of the reign of Edward IV. (A. D. 1483), when the elder branch of the Bolleses became settled at Hough, near Alford, in Lincolnshire, while a younger branch established itself at Gosberkirk, now Gosberton, in the same County, and from this younger branch descended the Baronets of Scampton, Lincolnshire."—(*Burke's Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies.*)

The following genealogy, collected in part from Illingworth's in part from "Visitations of Warwickshire," Harleian MSS. Brit. Museum, Nos. 1436, 1550, and 6060, and Visitations of Lincolnshire, Harl. MSS., Nos. 1564, 1592, and partly from other sources which are therein named, will, though defective, be of some interest, viz.:

1. ALANE, or ALAINE BOLLE, of Swineshead, Lord of Swineshead and Bole Hall, in Co. of Linc. in the reign of Henry III.
2. THOMAS BOLLE of Bolle, his son, of Swineshead and Bolle Hall. He had two sons, William and John. William, the eldest, married, had one child, Cecilia Bolle, on whose death, in the sixth year of Edward III., the family estates descended to his younger brother—
3. JOHN BOLLE of Bolle Hall and Swineshead, who was then 60 years old. He had two sons, William and Godfrey; William, the oldest, had but one child, Mabell. Upon her death, and the death of her father, the estates descended to the younger brother—
4. GODFREY BOLLE of Swineshead. William was Escheator of the County of Lincoln, and Godfrey appears to have had but one child. On Godfrey's death the estate descended to—
5. JOHN BOLLE, his son, who married JOANE, dau. and heir of Walter Godard of Moulton; and on his death to his son—
6. ELLIOTT BOLLE of Swineshead, who m. Catherine Pulvertoft, dau. and heir of John Pulvertoft of Bronfield, Co. of Lincoln. He died before 20th Richard II. His wife endowed a chantry in St. Mary's, Algarikirk, Lincolnshire. He appears to have had but one child, viz.—
7. JOHN BOLLE, Esq., of Swineshead, who m. Mary, dau. and heir of Wm. Angevine, by Elinor, dau. and heir of Wm. Alderlic. Then followed his son—
8. WILLIAM BOLLE of Swineshead, Esq., who m. Anne, dau. of John Kyme of Friskney, and was succeeded by his son—
9. JOHN BOLLE, Esq., of Swineshead and Haugh, Sheriff of Lincoln, 16 and 17 Edward IV. (1477), who m. Catherine, dau. and heir of Richard Haugh of Haugh, (Hough). He had eight children, viz. RICHARD, ROBERT, WILLIAM, JOHN, THOMAS, GODFREY, ARNULPH, and JOAN. From Richard, the eldest, descended the Bolleses of Hough and of Thorpe, and from Godfrey, the sixth, descended the Bolleses of *Newbold*, Gosberton, and Scampton. § Burke, in his "COMMONERS,

* "The names of every person of any consideration" (of those who fought under the banners of William the Conqueror in his conquest of England,) "were written upon a roll, and hang up in the Abbey of Battle." "As to the orthography it is of little consequence; the spelling of names was at that time, and for many ages afterwards, not fixed, every one writing them as they pleased." "Grafton, in his Chronicle, has given very many names" "from out of John Harding's Chronicle" and other sources. "Hollingshead mentions upward of six hundred; Stow, in his Chronicle, only four hundred and seven. Thomas Seivice, (copied by Fuller, in his Church History) mentions still fewer. Fox, (Acts and Monuments), gives a list of William First's officers and great men—valuable because it gives the initials of the Christian names. Dugdale (Sir William) accuses the monks of Battle of battery, in inserting names of persons whose ancestors never were at the Conquest. Guilliam Teytore, a Norman historian, who could have had no communication with the monks of Battle, has published the master roll that was read over after the battle of Hastings, to know who had fallen. Fox, Hollingshead, and Stow, have each pretended to give a transcript of this master roll, but they are so unlike that much reliance cannot be placed on any of them. Defective as these collections of names are, they are the only ones that can be had, except what may be learned from Domesday Book, and a French author who has enumerated such places in Normandy as have given names to families which have settled in England.—(*Noble's History of the College of Arms, Paris, 1810, pp. 5, 6.*)

† Lower, in his Dictionary of the Family Names of the United Kingdom. (London, 1850,) says that "Domesday presents us with two tenants in chief called Bolle and Bollo, the former in Hants and the latter in Dorset." Ferguson, (*English Surnames*, London, 1858,) derives the name from the Norse word *bolli*, a ball. De Bolle is found in the "*Rotali Hundredorum*."

‡ "*Topographical Account of the Parish of Scampton, with Anecdotes of the Family of Bolles, by Rev. Ogley Illingworth, London, 1810.*" This writer states that in "the reign of Edward II. (1307—1327), the Bolles family were tenants in capite of the Crown, of lands in Coningsby, and at the same time had large possessions at Swineshead, near Richmond, which they held of the Earl of Richmond, by Knight service."

§ Illingworth states that Boll Hall in Swineshead, now called Ball Hall, seems to have been their principal residence, till the close of the reign of Edward IV., when the elder branch became settled at Hough, (*Hough, Eng., Hist.*) near Alford, and at Thorpe Hall, near Leath, in Lincolnshire, and one of the younger branches at Gosberkirk, now Gosberton, in that county. The family had previously purchased the Co. of Lincoln several times in Parliament (as in 29, 36, and 38, Edward III., 1356, 1363, and 1365,) and had filled the offices of Sheriff and Escheator of Lincoln Co. We find them erecting chantries, and bestowing lands to charitable uses at Algarikirk, Wrocton, and other places in Lincolnshire, a clear indication of the wealth of the family in those early times.—(*Illingworth.*) Swineshead, or Swinstead, is 7 miles from Boston in Lincolnshire, and 115 miles from London. The sea formerly flowed up to this place, and there was a harbor near where the market place now stands. In 1154 a Cistercian Monastery was founded there, by Robert de Greslei, whose revenues at its dissolution was over 2175 per annum. The Monastery has disappeared. A little southwest of the town are the remains of a Danish encampment, of which a picture may be found in Thompson's Boston (1836) p. 22, copied from the London "Illustrated News." The population of the town is over 2000. King John first resided here after the loss of his baggage in crossing the Lincolnshire marshes, during his military progress from Lynn to Shalford, a short time before his death. Newbold is in Leicestershire.