

**A GENEALOGY OF SIX  
GENERATIONS OF GEMMILLS  
IN AMERICA: WITH NOTES ON  
THEIR SCOTTISH ANCESTRY**

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A Genealogy of Six Generations of Gemmills in America: With Notes on Their Scottish Ancestry by William Nelson Gemmill

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*William Nelson Gemmill*





## CHAPTER I

### THE GEMMILL'S AND THEIR KIN

There are times when we would know the sources of the streams which flow through our veins to generations yet unborn. It is to satisfy this desire that this booklet is written.

The Gemmills have been a simple folk. They have engaged in tilling the soil, and in the humbler tasks of the village tradesman. A few, from the earliest days, achieved distinction as martyrs, soldiers, preachers and scholars.

There were Gemmills in England before the days of William The Conqueror, and some of them fought against this Norman's cruel invasion of Albion.

There were Gemmills who, wearing the accouterments of the Scotch yeomanry, fought with Robert Bruce at Bannockburn.

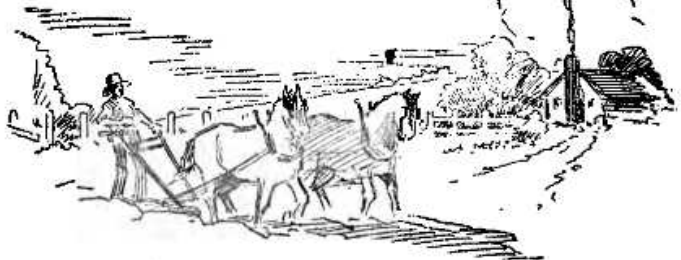
There were Gemmills who marched and prayed and fought with Cromwell at Marston Moor.

There were Gemmills in the new world, who tramped with Braddock through the wilderness to Ft. Duquesne, and shared his unhappy fate.

There were Gemmills with Wolf, on the Plains of Abraham and with the Minute Men at Concord and Lexington.

There were Gemmills with Green at Yorktown, and Brown at Lundys Lane.

There were Gemmills with Grant at Shiloh and with Meade at Gettysburg.



And in this last and greatest war, there were Gemmills whose heroic deeds at Gallipoli and the Dardenelles, will live as long as courage lasts.

There were Gemmills at the Marne and on the Somme, and some of these noble fellows now lie buried there with comrades. They died that the liberties we love, and bought with so much blood, might not perish from the earth.

There are Gemmills fighting in Flanders today, not more for King and Country, than for America and all her cherished institutions.

Nor did their glory shine alone upon the battlefield, for there were Gemmills burned at the stake, for conscience sake and there were Gemmills who preached the unsearchable riches of God, when to do so meant torture and death.

CHAPTER II  
THE NAME GEMMILL

*Freeman, the historian, says that the name Gemmill is of Danish origin—and means "ancient."*

It is quite certain that the names Gemmill and Campbell had the same origin. In the early days men were named after familiar objects or trades, so we have Lyons and Foxes, Smiths and Taylors, Blacks and Whites. All the letters of both the Hebrew and Greek alphabets were the names of familiar objects. The first letter of the Greek alphabet is "alpha" and of the Hebrew "aleph," both mean "ox." The second letter of the Greek alphabet is "beta" and of the Hebrew "beth," both mean "house." The third letter of the Greek alphabet is "gamma" and of the Hebrew "gimel," both mean "camel."

It is fair to assume that the names of Gemmill and Campbell had the same origin, and this was far back at the beginnings of Greek and Hebrew literature. In the early records we find the name appearing as Gimel, Gemil, Gamel, Gemmills, Gemmill and Gemmell.

