

I have been doing some more work on our genealogy. It is a long and tiresome job to look at every book which has a name mentioned which one might be interested in or in which one thinks something pertinent might be found.

I will tell you some things I have run across recently, but do not brag about this, as I have no legal proof of our line of descent at all and may not ever be able to find it. However it is interesting to know and makes you proud of your family.

A large book was published in 1940 about the Barksdales, but omitted us entirely, as none of our family furnished the author any information. It is certainly too bad he did not find Great Uncle George Barksdale, of Celina, Tennessee, in his search for information about the Barksdales, as Great Uncle George was so interested in the Barksdale Family and had so much information in his old family Bible..

However, the author, John Augustus Barksdale, (died in 1948) does mention a William Barksdale was born in 1780 in Henry County, Virginia, married a Sallie Smith in 1803, and states he may have died without issue. However, according to Great Uncle George's Bible, these were his grand parents and merely migrated to Tennessee in 1804, where they had many progeny. The father of William Barksdale was a John Barksdale who belonged to the Henry County Militia during the Revolutionary War, I think. Anyway, some John did, as his name is all over the place. The County Militia is about the same as the National Guard and did not always take part in any Revolutionary War battles, and is not considered to have as much prestige as belonging to the Continental Line. Of course, the difficult part is proving that John the father of William is the John in the Militia. There might have been 2 John Barksdales in Henry County Virginia. Henry County is down in the Southwest corner of Virginia, near the Tennessee line and on the line with North Carolina.

This book states that the Barksdales have a very old family crest. It is not very romantic or decorative;...a wagon wheel with a sword below. But I guess that is certainly us all right...a wagon wheel representing all the hard plodding work we do and the sword to battle our way through life and fight our country's wars with! Of course, only the eldest son in a straight line of descent from the knight who was assigned the crest in the first place has a right to use the crest, and women, never! So all these women who are using a family crest on their writing paper are wrong. And after this long a time, the eldest son of the eldest son, etc., down the generations could never be traced.

The mother of the first Barksdale to come to this country (about 3 centuries ago) (she stayed in England) was a Dorothy Woodhull who was a 9th generation descendent of King Edward III of England. So we are also descended from King Edward III of England, about 18 generations intervening. You might get out of your library a detailed history of England and read about King Edward III

It is the same with the Chownings...they have a crest that is even older than the English College of Heraldry. The College of Heraldry was originated to keep track of all these crests and mottos, etc, of the knights, so no two would have the same, as so many had been ~~awarded~~ awarded that it was becoming confusing. This was centuries ago and their first job was to find out about all those which had previously been awarded and record them. The Chownings was recorded as being

