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 porrf 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, (filed in 1948) does mention a William Barkedale was borm 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 mame 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 Williamiis 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 bettle 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 Heralds. The College of Heralds was orginated 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 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

Chowning and /////g Chewning, so both spellings of the name were current even then. However, it should be pronounced Chowning, no matter how spelled. In lots of lod records about the time of the Revolutionary War and before, when people did not know how to write, it is apelled numerous ways: Chuning, Chavning, stc. The Chownings, Chewnings, Chevenings, etc. came with William the Conqueror from Normandy to England. I believe that is right, but have no history book here to check on it.

The mane of Thomas Chowning, Chewing, Chuning, is all over the place in all the reference books about the Revolutionary War Records. He was a private in the infantry in the Continental Line, assigned to help the Artillery. This was called a Matroza. But so far I have found no proof that he is the Chowning to Tennessee. The Chowning family settled originally in Lancaster County, Virginia, which is on the Rappahannock, not too far from Jamestown. Here they stayed, at least our branch, until during or after the Revloution. This Thomas went to Henry County Virginia, to get land, I guess, and his son Chattin, came on to Tennessee, to get land. They had so many children in each generation that the farm owned by the father would have been worthless divided among so many children, so most of the boys moved on to where they were ppening up the wilderness so as to get cheep or free land.

All this searching is very interesting, but the livraries just stay open during office hours and so I have to get off from work to go to them. And I just do not have enough annual leave to cover my vacation and every thing else I want to do.

So far I have found no evidence that we have any but English ancestors so all of out family who dislikes the English had better begin changing their minds. Both the Barksdales and Chownings were extremely wealthy and well known old Virginia familes, who intermarried with other old Virginia families, who were all descendents of early, early English ismigrants. The Chownings came in 1636 which is not long after Jamestown was settled in 1606 or 1607, I certainly can't remember my history! /A nd the Barksdales came not long after. I think we should be proud of our English ancestry, as it was from them that we inherited our love of freedom, and justice, our laws giving equal justice to the poor, our Bill of Rights which originated in the Magna Carta of England. Just look for comparison by other races, South America, for instance, they could ha ve been just as great a country as we are, but the Spanish race just does not have the same backfround of law, equality, justice, or anything, even our respect for work, or the Protestant religion. So they did not take advantage of their opportunities as the descendents of the English did.