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THE BOLICH FAMILY IN AMERICA

*with
Genealogies*

by
MARY MARGARET BOLICH



1939

SCHLECHTER'S - PRINTERS - PUBLISHERS
ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

To My Husband
CHARLES MONROE BOLICH

Errata:

page 27: tombstone of Catharine must bear death year 1851, since this book was printed before 1951 & since 1951 would make her ca. 131 years old.

This book came in the mail from Mrs. C.J. Bolich to James W. Green III
 this the 21 Oct. 1976. Cost of book (charts included) \$5 + 80¢ postage.
 2 books with charts were ordered & paid for with check 534
 dated Sept. 22, 1976 for \$11.60 payable to Mrs. C. James Bolich.

CONTENTS

Chapter	Page	date read by James W. Green III
Foreword	7	Oct. 24, '76
Thoughts on Genealogies	9	Oct. 21, '76
Observations Upon the Value of Geneal- ogies and Family Histories	9	Oct. 21, '76
I The Coming of the Bolichs	15	Oct. 21, -24 1976 ante
II Historical Background and John Balch	21	Nov. 21, 1976
III Andreas Balch	27	
IV Johan Adam Bolch	101	Oct. 21, '76
V Johan George Bohlich	113	
VI John Bollick	129	Oct. 24, '76
VII Glossary of Indian Names	131	Oct. 21, '76
VIII The Bolich Family Today	133	Oct. 21, '76
IX Mailing List of Some Present Members of Family	135	
X Family Tree.	(Insert)	

FOREWORD

This recital of the Bolich Family in America tells us of the history of the times as well as of the growth of a pioneering family. That our family was highly individualistic and constantly striking out on new trails to take over unbroken lands, there is no doubt. Not only did they move farther and farther into Penn's Woods, but some went to North Carolina for undoubtedly the same reasons that the Boones went to Kentucky, and others went to Ohio and farther west. They were not content to remain in a community with other members of the family,—they sought new sites, new conquests, new adventures. That this is true, must make it clear to the reader that the gathering of facts concerning the family became many fold more difficult. Our kin in distant places have no intimate acquaintance with those who sprang from common blood but are far removed. It is hoped that this work may be the foundation upon which may be based a more substantial record of our family, a more engrossing interest among those of common blood, and a more enthusiastic participation in the furtherance of the best traditions of a reunited family.

Charles M. Bolich.

Allentown, Pa.
Dec. 10, 1939

Thoughts on Genealogies

“I wish to trace my ancestors a thousand years, if I trace them by gallowses. It is not love, not pride, not admiration; it is an expansion of the identity, intimately pleasing, and wholly uncritical; I can expend myself in the person of an inglorious ancestor with perfect comfort; or a disgraced, if I could find one.”

Letters of Robert Louis Stevenson.

“There is a great deal more in genealogies than is generally believed at present. I never heard tell of any clever man that came out of entirely stupid people. If you look around the families of your acquaintances you will see such in all directions. I know it has been the case in mine. I can trace the father and the son and the grandson, and the family stamp is quite distinctly legible upon each of them.”

Thomas Carlyle
1795-1881 Scot.

Observations Upon the Value of Genealogies and Family Histories

The most evident reason that inspires us to take any interest at all in our forbears is to ascertain the kind of people from whom we have sprung. We are interested in their facial characteristics, their physique, their mode of life, their habits of mind if such be discernible from their letters, wills, notations in family Bibles, etc. We are also interested in the houses in which our

ancestors lived, the towns or farms they inhabited. We point with pride to remaining evidences of fine architecture and to the taste displayed by our ancestors in the selection of such fine homes. We are interested in the extent of the farms they occupied, the kind of crops they raised in so far as they reveal to us the mode of life our ancestors lived and the habits of life common in those by-gone days. If they lived in towns we are interested in the events that took place in those particular towns and in that particular part of the country in which those towns were situated. We hope our ancestors took an active part in those events and were leading citizens of their day, helping to form the policies of government, education, religion and of business practices in their respective communities which have led this country to the height it has attained. This success can be attributed in no uncertain terms to the character of the men and women who were our ancestors. We refer, of course, to all responsible inhabitants of the thirteen original colonies in the 17th, 18 and early part of the 19th centuries.

Pursuing further the thought of our interest in our ancestors, we might state that the family strain developed in a different manner when subjected to various environments in far-separated parts of the colonies, so that present descendants of the same ancestors vary greatly both in their habits of life and way of thinking. This may be true of their political affiliations, which quite likely might cause deep concern to those cousins

with opposite views. But on the whole, religious beliefs and facial and physical characteristics are likely to remain somewhat similar, allowance being made for the addition of new strains and new characteristics through marriage from time to time.

It has always been a source of pride from time immemorial to be able to point to a man or woman who lived generations or centuries ago and to say "That is my ancestor", especially if that ancestor has accomplished something worth while in his day or has stood for principles which are admirable. Most people who lived during the time of the Reformation and the religious wars which followed had to take a stand for something or other and this necessity developed in them a sturdiness of character which has been transmitted to their descendants.

Besides being able to trace our ancestry back for so many generations, we can also point with pride to the things for which they stood. Not everyone is able to trace their ancestry beyond the second or third generation, because, perhaps, records have been lost through carelessness, lack of interest, or the destructiveness of time. But to those who are fortunate enough to be able to do so, the following of the family strain is often a source of pride, many times a means of instruction, and always an engrossing interest.

Robert Louis Stevenson has written: "I wish to trace my ancestors a thousand years, if I trace them by gallowses. It is not love, not pride, not admiration; it is an expansion of the identity,

intimately pleasing, and wholly uncritical; I can expend myself in the person of an inglorious ancestor with perfect comfort; or a disgraced, if I could find one."

Thomas Carlyle has said: "There is a great deal more in genealogies than is generally believed at present. I never heard tell of any clever man that came out of entirely stupid people. If you look around the families of your acquaintances you will see such in all directions. I know it has been the case in mine. I can trace the father and the son and the grandson; and the family stamp is quite distinctly legible upon each of them."

We have distinguished company in our enjoyment of genealogies.

Aside from the most evident value of genealogies which is our interest in the persons of our ancestors and in their achievements, there is also the contribution to our enlightenment which the study of their times and problems brings to the research worker or archaeologist. As the story of a family unfolds there is an exhilaration in the discovery of happenings important to its members, a delight in the success of their affairs, an evident satisfaction in the dovetailing of dates and facts which have seemed to evade capture.

very
good



The study of family histories changes our abstract way of thinking about historical events. Instead of thinking of those events as happening in past generations to unknown people, we think of them in connection with our own families and wonder what part our ancestors played in those

events. This study becomes an interesting hobby to be followed, perhaps, throughout one's life because new facts and new data are likely to appear at any time.

From the characteristics of our ancestors we can learn to know our own qualities, and to improve ourselves thereby.