

QUOTABLE QUOTES

I don't know who my grandfather was, but I am much more concerned to know what his grandson will be - Abraham Lincoln.

An autobiography usually reveals nothing bad about its writer except his memory - Franklin P. Jones

Why is it? You finally found you ancestor's obituary in an old newspaper, and all it says is "Died last week." (courtesy of The Sunny Side of Genealogy, CN Nutmegger, Mar92)

THE GENEALOGISTS PRAYER

Heavenly Father, look down on your humble, obedient genealogist servants, who are doomed to go from courthouse to courthouse; from cemetery to cemetery, armed with chalk and insect repellent; from library to library, checking indexes, making photocopies and lugging heavy tote bags full of charts and notebooks.

We beseech you, O Lord, to see that the courthouse is not closed for remodeling on the only day we will be in town; that the cemetery gate is neither locked nor patrolled by a dog of evil intent; that the library is not over-crowded, that there is one microfilm reader left; that our ball-point pens do not choose this day to give out, and that we find the father of Elizabeth. (The one who married Peter Easton in Gunthwaite, New Hampshire.)

Protect us from ill-tempered county clerks, interfering vergers (persons who help in a church), unhelpful librarians, noisy table mates and fellow research persons who are using the very books we came to see.

Give us this day divine guidance in searching our sources that we may find the vital records readable and including our ancestors; that we may discover that new line for which we have been searching and the father of Mehitabel. (The one who married Barnabas in 1692.)

We pray that the microfilm reader-printer is working; that the photo-copying machine does not run out of paper and that we do not run out of change (or if we do, that a fellow researcher will bail us out).

If these things happen, Oh Lord, lead us from the temptation of removing the page we wish we could copy.

Give us the wisdom to write up our references correctly so that those who follow us can have confidence in our research; forgive us our occasional envy of the pedigree rich in elegant ancestors; and help us find an honest Royal line.

Grant us the strength not to give up when all the records before 1820 were burned in the courthouse; when the page with our ancestor on it is missing from the index, and when we still can't find the father of Eliza Jane (the one who married the Randolph).

And if perchance we find the father of Purdence (the one who married Malanthon in 1732), help us to refrain from creating too much joyous noise in the library...for we have been looking so long, O Lord, so long!

(from California Gen. Soc., Dec. 1984)

The Genealogist's Litany

From blind acceptance of printed genealogies
Good Lord, Deliver us

From unwavering trust in the infallibility of family tradition
Good Lord, Deliver us

From neglecting to acknowledge the contribution of others
Good Lord, Deliver us

From failure to document all sources of information
Good Lord, Deliver us

From vociferous pride in Royal or Mayflower lineage
Good Lord, Deliver us.

For long-suffering Town Clerks, Church Secretaries, Librarians,
Local Historians, Registers of Probate and of Deeds, plus all
the Aunt Marys (et al) who so diligently probe the attics of
their memories
We thank thee, Lord.

Genevieve R. Ireland

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