

At the 20th gen.—it is true—you number 524,288 progenitors, all of the same period or generation and this is only to about 1200 A.D. There are families who trace back with perfect truth to the year 900. Now the 25th gen. gives 16,777,216 fathers and mothers with the proper number of greats prefixed, and now we are only to the Norman Conquest 1066. Here is the 30th gen. (being about 900 A.D.) in round numbers just 512 millions or one-third the population of the world to-day. The 50th gen. would make a good sized family genealogy by itself—being loosely stated at over “500 trillions”—a valuable book. Now we approach the beginning of the Christian Era—could any person trace back to 1 A.D. or about the 60th gen. and give the names of all his progenitors, he would have in his list 530,000,000,000,000,000, or 530 thousand trillions. At that time either the world must have been overpopulated or else one couple was progenitor to a good many brothers and sisters, making the civilized world afterward rather closely connected. In fact the figures are beyond comprehension. It all shows that thousands of people living to-day have had the same ancestor not many generations back. Those who boast royal descent forget that they are merely one of perhaps an hundred thousand others counting that royal personage in a roundabout way as one of their many progenitors.

Literally speaking or rather telling the truth there is no such distinction as royalty—those who at different periods achieved such positions were themselves, or descendants of, seigneurs—lords of the demesne—chiefs, etc. Consequently by counting back, all kings are reduced to not only collateral relatives but often younger sons of your lineal progenitor. Surnames and coat-armors decrease in number as the 20th gen. is approached, so those who wish to work out all their paternal and maternal ancestors must stop assigning to them armes and surnames after the 30th gen. Progenitors might then be known by numbers. The whole number of progenitors including your father and mother, to the 10th gen., adds up 1,022; most every one has that number it is supposed. The 20th gen. makes your total 1,048,574, not many as yet, but the 25th gives some 33 millions and there we had better stop as the population of the world is inadequate to furnishing sufficient ancestors, not to mention cousins.

When we consider that all those who have gone before were absolutely required, to give us being and a country to live in it is but little to do in return to put together a list of their names and actions. Can we offer our coming generations better food for study, reflection and serious ambition than this, to emulate their forefathers in the best they did? All truly great men have loved and respected the memory of their forefathers. It is only the small narrow minded selfish being who fails to comprehend the past and its relation to our inherited qualities.

The study of heraldry develops an entirely new way of seeing life, as it is. We no longer imagine that class or clique distinctions are a separate caste each above the other, graded in these ways by money power. On the contrary there are only two