

classes in life, not theory but practice. The first is made up of all the armorial families of the world and include the imperial, royal, princely, ducal, all the titled nobles, the earldoms, countships, baronies, lordships, seigneuries, knights and gentle houses, they are all equal armorially to one another and inherit coat-armor equally—it is in reality an enormous brotherhood of Heraldic houses. The second is of all who are not—but in our times as well as the past one may easily rise to the social first class, it being under certain conditions free to enter.

The descendants of the 2d class whose forefathers were peasants, tradesmen, bourgeois, clerks, artisans, mechanics, serfs, retainers, villains, tenants, soldiers, bastards and waifs, can and have risen to the first class and form to-day a large part of the boasted forefathers of many a haughty line. And now I think I have reached the true point of genealogies, a beginning, and will show that in the case of the most ancient lines they and theirs undoubtedly began in tribes, clans, and septs, their parentage lost and life a commune. We all can trace, when possible, back to but a dim and uncertain light. Intensely interesting to those who see within the meaning of all things and value at its true politic worth the glitter of title and power of precedence.

An attempt has been made to give some data, about each allied family—the whole line or the earliest ancestor in America & their origin in Europe. The coat-armors when indicated as of that family are inherited. When given as “of Eng.” or some place on the Continent—means nothing is known about the right; armes are thus given to indicate the standing of the family in Europe. Only a search can prove in this case the connection. When uncommon surnames appear the armes are given to locate the family and in such case the origin is almost always one. It is presumed until shown otherwise that each family acquired their surname by birth and not by assumption or adoption. Mistakes will be corrected whenever those who know have the kindness to inform the authors.

Such surnames as appear without notes, genealogies, or reference to Savage's Gen. Dict. are hopeless and cannot be found in the armorial rolls of Europe.

When uncommon fornames are prevalent in a line or its branches: or one or two names run in a line continually, it often indicates the cadette armes to be used in America.

All coat-armor is inherited with the surname, from the founder if he bore such. Grants after 1500 A.D. may belong entirely to one line of a family tho' they are all from one progenitor. Armes cannot be used then except by descendants of the one line.

Confirmation of old grants after 1800 A.D. even do not prevent inheritance of the old coat. Also be sure that the Conf. is not a new grant so disguised as to give a pretence of an ancient armor.

Coat-armors are not a mark of rank or distinction any more than the surname is. All gentles & nobles must bear such. If the Amer. fam. has always been of gentle rank then the armes must exist as a birth-right.