

For all errors, shortcomings, and inaccuracies I beg the indulgence of the generous reader. In a work like this, bristling with dates and names, absolute correctness is scarcely attainable. In fact I doubt if such a thing as perfection is possible in any elaborate genealogy. My only hope is to have reduced, by assiduous care in sifting and verifying every item, the number of possible errors to a minimum. Further, though I have endeavored to include in this history all the traceable branches of the DORLANDS, I apprehend that, despite my efforts, some branches may have been overlooked. In a country so extensive as North America it would be indeed surprising if any net could be woven big enough and comprehensive enough to encompass all the scattered children of a family so old and prolific and restless as the DORLANDS. Some lines have snapped off short and thus been lost to further searching; and it may be anticipated that fresh researches, following the publication of this volume, will lead to their recovery, and perhaps the discovery of new lines. I shall be gratified if such should be an indirect result of this work. In any event I shall take comfort from the hope that, should a second enthusiast arise in the family to trace its history and carry it forward, his labors will be the lighter in consequence of mine. The thought which I have bestowed upon these records, the pilgrimages I have made in search of them, and the drudgery I have willingly performed in their compilation have brought me their own reward in two years' instructive pastime, and—

"Howsoever they be done,
I leave them as a father does his son."

To all of the kindred who have aided this work, I return cordial thanks; and it gives me pleasure to acknowledge my special obligations, for zealous and hearty co-operation in supplying records, to—

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