

a lineal continuity. It evolved itself naturally from the necessities of the work, and it is hoped that it will be found self-explanatory and more satisfactory than the usual form. The posterity of the emigrants is here traced, contrary to the usual custom, in the female as well as the male lines, wherever practicable; and it is hoped that this feature also may commend itself to the reader.

As the title indicates, this book concerns only DORLANDS in America. To trace the family back to its source across the water would perhaps involve the labor of a lifetime. I have received intimations that the family originated in France, possibly in the city of Orleans, and thence removed in whole or in part to Holland, perhaps to the village of Breuckelen; and that, in addition to its appearance in America, it has been represented subsequently, under the form of *Darling*, on the eastern coasts of England and Scotland. This latter intimation is supported by the coincidence that all the coats-of-arms which I have examined of English and Scottish *Darlings* bear a striking resemblance to the DORLAND arms, though varied as to personal crests, and seem to be founded upon a common basis, of remote Continental origin. But, lacking facilities and opportunity for the prosecution of a thorough inquiry abroad, I have confined myself within the restrictions prescribed by the title, and have found therein an ample field for the exercise of whatever patience and ingenuity I may possess. I may add simply, the coat-of-arms here presented indicates that the DORLANDS did have a history across the water.

The historical resources I have utilized, in addition to the repositories of public records, are the Library of Congress at Washington, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia, the Astor and Lenox Library at New York, the Long Island Historical Society at Brooklyn, and the New York State Library at Albany.

Many interesting traditions of the family in various localities have come to my notice, but upon full analysis I have found it safest to pay but little attention to their literal import. Many of them bear a strong affinity to each other, but the most of them are alike erroneous and misleading, if accepted literally, and practically all of them are as ambiguous as the utterances of the ancient oracle of Delphi—seeming to palter with the truth in a double sense. They become intelligible only when interpreted in the light of definite information drawn from other sources, and have proven useful chiefly as suggestions for lines of patient investigation.