

Introduction

THE following historical sketch, taken from the histories, gives the origin and meaning of the name, as well as the important positions occupied by some of the early bearers of the name.

While the direct genealogy of persons bearing the family name is lost for a considerable length of time, there is no doubt that the family and name survived, and there is also strong reason to presume that the modern Stauffer or Stouffer are direct descendants of those early Stauffers who attained Imperial dignity. The genealogy can be taken up in 1630, from which date our family record can be positively traced.

“Hohenstauffen,” meaning Grand Cup Bearer, was originated in the year A.D. 937. It was a hereditary office, established by Emperor Otto the Great, given to the Duke of Swabia for the honor he did the Emperor in filling the position of Grand Cup Bearer at his Coronation. Members of this family were Rulers in Germany, Switzerland and Italy, as heads of the Holy Roman Empire, from 1137 to 1254. “Stauffer” was the name given to the head of the family. Seven Stauffers were Emperors, namely:

Conrad III.....	1137—1152
Frederic I.....	1152--1190
	(Barbarossa)
Heinric VI.....	1190—1197
Philip.....	1197—1208
Otho IV.....	1208—1212
Frederic II.....	1212—1250
Conrad IV.....	1250—1254