

In reply, I am sorry to say that I have no records which would be of any service to you, nor has my attention been directed to our family genealogy, with any efficiency of zeal, interesting as the matter is. The only point in your letter on which I am able to speak confidently, is that of the identity of the names "Guelphs" and "Phelps." There is no doubt of this identity, though I cannot point you to the documentary evidence of it. When I was in England a few years ago, I found it to be a matter of common fame there. The original name was "Welf." The earliest trace of the family dates back to the eleventh century, or thereabouts. The family was originally settled in the north of Italy, and was early transplanted to Germany, and there assuming the name of "Guelph." The identity of the names "Guelph" and "Phelps" accords with a tradition which I have met with in several branches of the Phelps family, that we are from the same stock with the House of Hanover, of which Queen Victoria is a representative. The Queen, it is well known, derives her lineage through the "Guelphs" of Germany, from the old "Welfs" of Lombardy. I have no doubt that a good book of English and German heraldry would furnish the documentary evidence of the identity of all these names. The history of the "Guelphs" you will have no difficulty in tracing, as they were a family of great political influence in the middle ages.

My father, I believe, has a paper which has been an heirloom in our branch of the family for several generations, giving the substance of the family traditions. The best I can do for your assistance is to forward your letter to him, and ask him to send you the substance of that paper. If it gives you nothing new, it may confirm or correct information derived from other sources. You may expect to hear from him soon. Meanwhile, my best wishes are with you in your undertaking, and I shall be happy to avail myself of your success, when its results are reached. I regret that my professional engagements leave me no time to ferret out, in our public libraries, the information necessary to render you some more valuable service.

With great respect,

I remain, dear sir,

Very truly yours,

AUSTIN PHELPS.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., June 30, 1860.

TO OLIVER S. PHELPS, Esq.

Dear Sir,—I enclose a slip cut from a Triennial Catalogue of Yale College. It contains a list of all the persons of the name of Phelps who have been graduated in Yale College.

It is entirely out of my power to inform you who of your name have been at any time connected with Yale College, without graduating. I should think that the Hon. Francis Granger, of Canandaigua, might perhaps answer the enquiry respecting the original Phelps, of Gorham. Hon. James Savage, of Boston, has made more extensive researches than any other man on American family history; and from himself or his great work, now in volumes, on American Genealogy, you might probably derive important information.

Your's, respectfully and truly.

B. SILLIMAN.

PHELPS.

1744 Alexander.
1758 Aaron.
1758 Bildad.
1759 Johannes.
1760 Sethus.
1761 Benaja.
1776 Guilielmus.
1776 Martinus.
1780 Timotheus.
1783 Noachus A.
1793 David
1794 Oliverus L.
1795 Samuel.

PHELPS.

1800 Elisæus.
1801 Royal.
1811 Samuel S.
1814 Abner. h.
1823 Dudleyus.
1825 Edvardus E. m.
1825 Guido R. m.
1826 Amos A.
1833 Johannes.
1849 Sylvanus D. h.
1852 Henrius E.
1853 Benjamin K.