

HOLLINGSWORTH & HOLLINGSWORTH FAMILIES IN ENGLAND, IRELAND & AMERICA

## (A BRIEF SUMMARY)

The oldest English sources yet examined, being early dated and undated deeds relating to the family of HOLLINGSWORTH (HOLLINGSWORTHE), are to be found in Cheshire, Lancashire & Yorkshire. Examination of a map will show that these counties (shires) all join in a cluster, in the northern part of the country. From these first appearances (about A.D. 1250) until the late 1500's, no instance has yet been met of the 13-letter surname "HOLLINGSWORTH" (HOLLINGSWORTH.) The earliest appearances of this latter name are to be found in parish church records from LONDON, many miles to the south, in the middle 1600's. Shortly thereafter, it begins to appear in Yorkshire and Lancashire, and from that time onward, it steadily moves into the forefront.

In Ireland, the main settlements of the family were as follows: (1) In County Armagh, northern Ireland, before 1632, of whom came the American Quaker branch. (2) In Parish of Clonduff, County Down, near Armagh, before 1714, a family of dominantly Presbyterian faith, dwelt. Both of these families are ancient, and may have a common ancestor. (3) In counties Wexford and Wicklow, in the southeast part of Ireland, below Dublin, a family appeared about 1750. This family was dominantly Church of Ireland (Protestant Episcopal). Your Editor is a descendant of this clan. He feels that this family is an offshoot of the family of County Down. About 1610 - 1615, one William Brownlow, Esq., came to Ireland from England. He founded the city of Lurgan, Co., Armagh, which, in 1619, consisted of 42 English families. This, perhaps, was the source of the Hollingsworth family in Ireland. If so, it antedates the appearance of the family of the same name, in UGLAND! Perhaps the addition of the letter "s" (if the families of Hollingsworth and Hollingsworth are the same) has something to do with the Ireland settlement. It is well known that the clan "MacFarlane," of Scotland, have a branch in Ireland, who began to spell their surname "McFarland," adding the letter "d", after arrival there!

"Hollingsworth" families in Ireland were rare. A Captain Hollingsworth, officer in the forces of Queen Elizabeth I., but of English origin, earned himself a black name during his military ravages in Ireland about 1570. Ralph or Radulphus Hollingsworth, and son Anthony, clergymen in the English church, were serving in Ireland in the 1650-1670 period. Also, in Dublin, several "Hollingsworth" (Hollinsworth) families appear from time to time. The earliest appearance is when Raphael Hollinsworth, of Francis St., mailer, married Alice Bennett, 13 Dec., 1657. This, by the way, is the earliest record of the 13-letter name to be found in Ireland, with legal proof attending. In 1707, a Raphael Hollinsworth married one Samuel Nelson. Benjamin Hollinsworth (Hollingsworth) and wife Ann, of Francis Street and later of Outpurse Row, Dublin, had four children baptized in the period 1714-1730: Thomas, later a merchant in New Row, who died childless in 1747; Margaret, married Henry Shea, a merchant in the same street, who left five children (Shea); and Elizabeth & Benjamin, Jr., nothing about whom is known. There is also a record of the intestate of one Alexander Hollinsworth, merchant, of Dublin, in 1723. There were similar records of Hollinsworth in Dublin in the early 1800's. Today, there are several families residing there, chiefly from the Wexford-Wicklow family to the south, who have moved to the city.

Several prominent traditions are affiliated with the several families in Ireland. The Hollingsworths of County Down tell two stories: (1) That the first of the name came with Alderman William Hawkins, founder of Ballyfriland, about 1641, when Cromwell landed in Ireland; (2) That they came as soldiers in

the army of King William of Orange (later William III.) in A.D. 1690. According to the Quaker records of Lurgan Meeting, written in the 1660's, Valentine Hollingsworth was born in Ballymacraddall, Parish of Seago, Co. Armagh, and his descendants would tend to assert different origins

in July, 1632. Thus, this information would tend to support the tradition for the two clans. The Wexford-Wicklow family tell us that their first settlement was made at Ballinckill, Parish of Ballycanew, Co. Wexford, in 1665. But others of the same family say that the first man came with Crowwell. So, take your pick. Time and much research may establish the veracity of one or another of these traditions.

In America, the first arrival was Richard Hollingworth, from London, a Shipwright by trade. He came to Salem, Massachusetts, on the ship "BLESSING" in 1635, with wife Susan, and children William, Richard, Elizabeth and Susan. Although the family name persisted for some time, there were none in New England in 1790, according to the first United States Census - in fact, no "Hollingworth" at all! The second immigrant was John Hollingsworth, who, with wife Sarah, arrived in 1638, in James City County, Virginia. They were transported by one Thomas Wallis, "Practitioner of Physicke." Nothing else is known of any supposed posterity. The third settlement was by John Hollingsworth, an indentured servant, in 1650, to Maryland. He was born in 1639 in England, and died in Kent Co., Md., in 1698. His sons were John, William & Thomas. From these men come living descendants in our times, bearing the surname. Thus, to this family belongs the distinction of the "First American Family of Hollingsworth," who are represented today. Then came Valentine Hollingsworth, from Co. Armagh, Ireland. He arrived on Delaware River about one month before William Penn, in 1682. (See the article by Joan Valentine Hollingsworth in this issue.) His large family spread throughout the South, and into Indiana, before 1800. The descendants of this man number in the many thousands and may be found in nearly every large city in America.

From 1682 onward, hundreds of other individuals bearing one or the other of the two surnames Hollingworth and Hollingsworth, came to America. (See the article on Philadelphia Passenger Lists in this issue.) But due to lateness of arrival, in comparison to the above settlements, their offspring have not gained prominence. In Canada, individuals bearing the name were in evidence before 1775. In the 1830 period, several members of the Wicklow-Wexford clan took up lands in Leeds County, Ontario, and are still abundant there. Also, about 1841, Edward Hollingsworth, born in Co. Louth, Ireland, but of English parentage (he was son of Capt. in Richard Hollingsworth of Nottingham, England, and of Catherine Bull, his wife), came to Melrose, near Belleville, Ontario. His 10 children have left a large family in Canada and U.S.A. We hope to present details about all these families in future columns of The Hollingsworth Register.

#### REFERENCES:

- (1) "History of East Cheshire," by J. P. Barwaker (1886). Two Vols.
- (2) Quaker Meeting Records, Lurgan, Ulster, Ireland.
- (3) Horthorey Rolls, 1664, Parish of Seago, Co. Armagh, Ireland.
- (4) Publications of the Dublin Parish Register Society. (See Indexes)
- (5) Hollingsworth Genealogical Memoranda... (1884) by Wm. B. Hollingsworth, p. 144. Also entire book for history of Valentine.
- (6) Descendants of Valentine Hollingsworth, Sr., J. A. Stewart (1925.)
- (7) Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England, Vol. II., pp. 448, 449. (Richard Hollingsworth & family.)
- (8) "Cavaliers & Pioneers," (Virginia Land Patents) (1963) pp. 94 - Patent Book No. I, Part II. (John & Sarah Hollingsworth.)
- (9) "Americana," Vol. 36, p. 562 (John Hollingsworth of Kent Co. Md.)