

INTRODUCTION

GENEALOGY is defined as the study of the origin, descent, and relationship of families. This term is derived from the Greek *genos*, race, and *logos*, discourse.

The ancient Hebrews of the Bible devoted to a large portion of their writings to family history. European nobility developed the adoption of surnames and heraldry. This was not true among the common people, and genealogy was generally neglected among the early immigrants to America, as they were too poor and too busy earning a livelihood to trace their ancestry. However, with economic growth, a renewed interest has developed in family decent.

It has been said that genealogy provides an important means of human improvement. God, in His infinite wisdom, saw the need for placing the human race into families, capable of feeling an interest in each other's welfare. A true civilization cannot be maintained where this family feeling is unknown.

The Pfantz Family History is a fulfillment of the sincere hopes of its countless contributors. Hopefully, it evokes a true feeling of belonging to the ancestral family. This history, however, is also a continual work in progress—as family history begins at home...

-Rebecca (Polley) Landis