

## FOREWORD

This genealogy, The Batchelor Family updates, expands, and corrects my earlier work, The Batchelor-Williams Families and Related Lines (1976). Collateral lines, of necessity, had to be limited in scope because of space considerations.

The author had difficulty in deciding on the correct title for this book, inasmuch as four separate branches of the same original family spell the surname differently. He finally decided on The Batchelor Family because of the following reasons: (1) the early-day Virginia families used BATCHELOR, BACHELOR and other variations somewhat indiscriminately; (2) the North Carolina BATCHELORS (grandsons of the immigrant--and from whom most of the descendants in this book sprang) used the spelling BATCHELOR almost universally; and (3) there are probably more North Carolina descendants using the spelling BATCHELOR than the others.

The variance in spelling of surnames was not limited to the BATCHELORS. In the early days when a good many of our ancestors were illiterate, surnames were spelled phonetically. Census takers, county clerks, and lawyers spelled the name as it sounded to them. It is the author's opinion that the original spelling in England was probably BACHELOR, not an unmarried man as is one definition, but from either a low-grade ecclesiastic or student, or a young man aspiring to be a knight. Chapter 1 expands on the family origins in greater detail.

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The author, now in his late seventies, realizes families no longer remain in the same community and marry a girl within a day's buggy ride as they once did. It is usually impractical for family reunions to be held at Christmas or other times...except for some isolated family branch who may choose to come together in a local reunion.

Now, we must rely on family genealogists to keep knowledgeable about the ever-widening circle of relatives. As the population explodes around the world, so do individual families. When the author was young our families lived nearby, seldom more than a county away. Cousins were nearly as close kin as our brothers and sisters. Aunts and uncles were revered and we knew they were there to help in a family crisis. But, now, our families number in the hundreds and we live everywhere, some in foreign climes. The closeness is gone forever.

But, if there is a spark of family interest within any of us, it will be they who enjoy this genealogy. If we can't enjoy the pleasure of knowing our kin in a more intimate fashion, as in yesteryear, then we can do the next best thing: know one another through the pages of genealogy.

I hope you enjoy this book as much as I enjoyed producing it.