

## Introductory Ramblings

### How it all started

Many families would like one, some families do legitimately have one, a few families 'borrow' one they are not entitled to, whilst other families just make up their own to appease their desire for self-aggrandisement. To what am I hinting at? Of course, a coat of arms, often mistakenly referred to as a family crest. Below, for what it's worth, is the 'official' coat of arms for a designated grantee of an unidentified member of a Marter family as described and depicted in *The Burke's Peerage World Book of MARTERS*. Unfortunately, the same coat of arms is described in an identical manner in Burke's *General Armoury* of 1844, 1847, 1851 and 1884, but for the family name of Martyr.



Fig I-1 The Marter Coat of Arms as Described and Depicted in *The Burke's Peerage World Book of MARTERS*<sup>i</sup>

Not a good start to my research and perhaps portends a quest which will involve some 'tilting at windmills'? But who, if anyone of our Marter 'clan' alive today, is entitled to use or bear these arms? The answer to this question is a matter of conjecture at this point in the tale, and we will have to wait to find out if any such a person exists. Maybe that will turn out to be me?

In commencing my small offering into the burgeoning plethora of family history treatise, I was rapidly and painfully made aware of my short-comings in many areas. As a novice researcher of

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family history sources and materials, it came as a rude shock to me that, for the most part, I was totally ignorant of the time and effort needed to arrive at irrefutable facts, to conclusively confirm dates, and to verify familial relationships. It was all too easy to accept information as being 'fact' rather than interrogate those sources which were disputable or, which were at best, somewhat questionable. In addition, the time and effort required to achieve even a small step towards coherence in assimilating and sorting, what was often at times a pile of papers over a foot in height, made it seem that everything was becoming 'a bridge too far'.

So, how did I manage to get myself into a position of dicing with insanity? Well, it all started with a family bible which was in the possession of my father, Maurice Reginald Marter (1909-2004). The former was in a marginally worse state than the latter when I offered to have the bible rebound, rather than my father bound over.

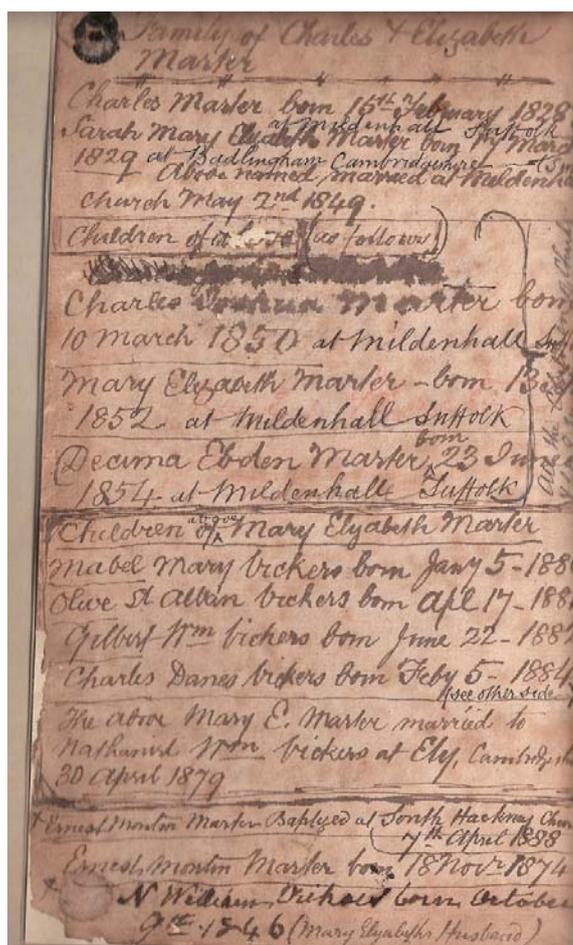


Fig I-2 The Front Folio from the Family Bible of Charles Marter (1828-1898)

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The bible was printed for The American Bible Society in the year 1818, after stereotyping by E and J White, New York. How such a bible came to be in the possession of a family in England is an unsolved mystery, and will almost certainly remain so in perpetuity.

The front folio is displayed as “Family of Charles & Elizabeth Marter” and records the birth dates of Charles Marter and his wife Elizabeth, as well as those of their children and grandchildren. The first entry reads: “Charles Marter born 15<sup>th</sup> February 1828” with a later addition of “at Mildenhall, Suffolk”. There are also some marriage dates recorded and a few dates of deaths. The frontispiece has a note which advises the reader thus; “X See Deaths at the end of this Bible X”. An example of one of these ‘deaths’ pages is below:

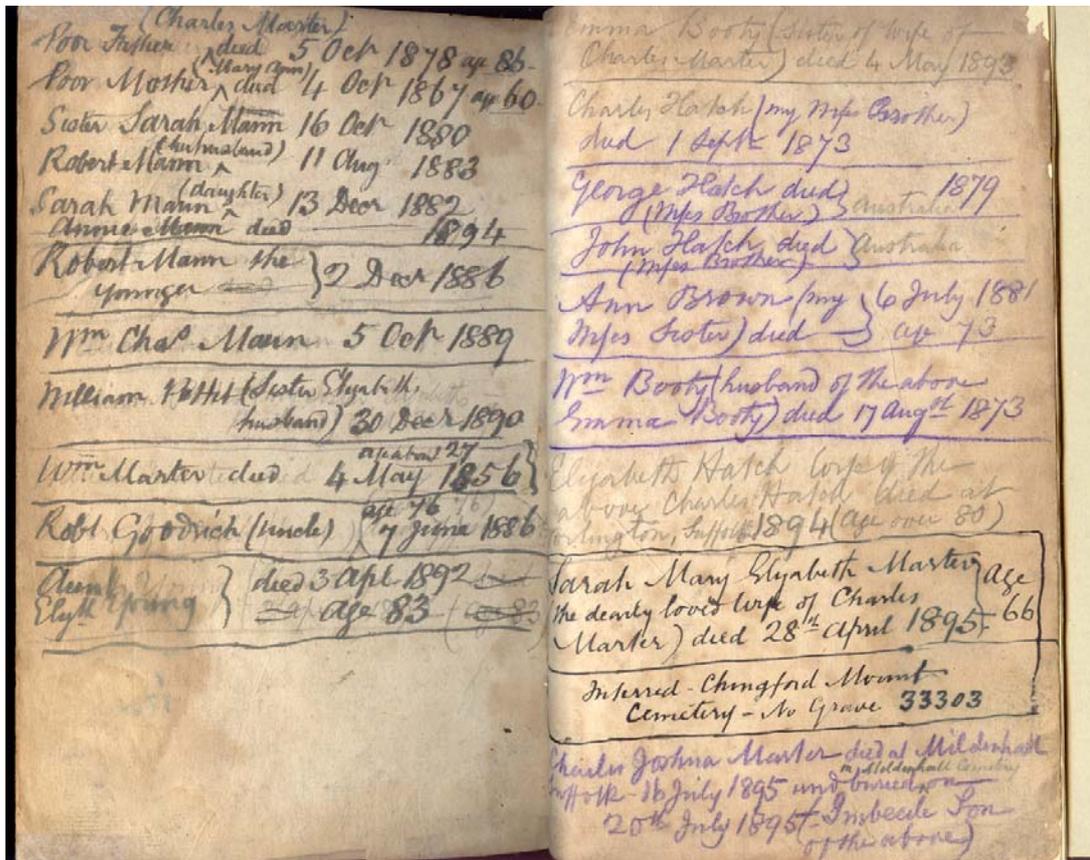


Fig I-3 Two Rear Folios from the Family Bible of Charles Marter (1828-1898)

Having convinced my father that his great grand-father's bible merited an update, I had no hesitation in convincing myself to spend 'whatever it takes' to have the Bible brought from its

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decrepit 19<sup>th</sup> Century state into a revamped version, more befitting the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. In resolving to do so, and living as we did a stone's throw from the wonderfully historic City of Cambridge with its world-renowned university, I posited that finding a book-binder would not prove too taxing. Indeed, this came to pass and I soon found myself outside a Victorian red-brick building on Bridge Street which sported a sign with bold red lettering announcing "Stoakley Bookbinders"!

After briskly, and perhaps foolishly, racing to the top of the spiral cast iron staircase to the workshop, I gingerly opened the entrance door which began creaking at a decibel level high enough to awaken even the heaviest of sleepers. Upon entering the room, what confronted me propelled my senses back to the same century as the Bible which had brought me here in the first place! After briefly staring in wonderment at the mountains of half-finished binding tasks, I noticed the distinctive smell of leather calfskin sheets. I cautiously moved towards one of the ancient book presses and gently caressed it but was distracted by the incessant chatter of house sparrows 'flirting' in the eaves.

Strewn about the workbenches was a motley collection of papers both ancient and modern, from behind which an elderly gentleman in overalls sauntered towards me in a somewhat lackadaisical manner and enquired about the nature of my business. What followed was an education in itself. I was politely, but firmly scolded for calling folios, pages and my inquisitor seemed perplexed that I should want to invest any money on what to him seemed like potentially a rather poor return. In short, I felt that he felt that the whole project was unworthy of his time and skills.

Nonetheless, I persevered with a plea bargaining approach and we eventually agreed the sum of £75 to rebind the bible and to add folios to the inside of the front and rear covers, thus enabling me to make further births and death entries in the appropriate sections. The leather chosen for rebinding was mid-brown calf and the letter printing on the spine was to be in gold and would read "**HOLY BIBLE**" at the top and "MARTER at the base. All I can say is that this was money well spent and, after collecting the finished book, it acted as a siren for me to become irretrievably ensnared in the addictive 'pastime' of family history research.

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There is a fascinating corollary to this microcosm of life in that as a result of further family history research I found that one Richard Marter (1825-1906), the cousin of the Charles Marter aforementioned, was a bookbinder in Shoreditch, Middlesex, England and that his son, also Richard Marter (1852-1898), carried on the family business after the death of his father. To complete the loop, I have in my possession a photograph of the family bible which was bound in red leather, presumably at the behest of one Richard Albert Marter (1880-1974), the son of the latter, Richard Marter.

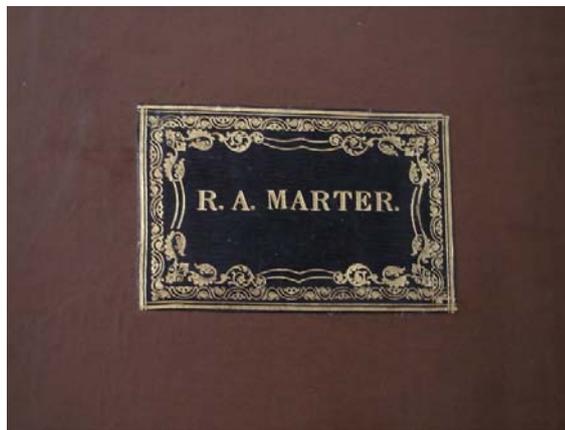


Fig I-4 Part of the Front Cover of the Family Bible of Richard Albert Marter (1880-1974)

The family history learning process was slow at first but, as the years rolled by, and with the advice and assistance of many family historians and societies who I crossed paths via letters, phone calls, face-to-face meeting, and over the Internet, a more stabilized author began to emerge from the gloom. Now, after almost fifteen years of toil and turmoil, and with a study whose shelves are filled with an estimated five yards of folders, ring-binders, and box-files, the time for the book 'launch' seems to be hovering on the horizon.

To slightly misquote Winston Churchill, "The end is not near, but the beginning of the end is nearing".

So, what did I eventually decide upon? My instinct was to veer away from the traditional, yet well-tried and tested methodology of trudging through generation after generation of Marter biblical begets, and the grammatical counterparts of begats and begotten, and placing the names

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and dates of them all on a huge wall chart. To me, whilst this line of approach visually tells a good story, and looks very impressive, I feel that most of this basic 'trivia' can be presented in a much more meaningful format by the use of an Outline Generation Report such as is provided by my FamilyTree Maker<sup>®</sup> (FTM) family history software program. An abbreviated portion of an example of this format is shown below for John Martyr of the village of Effingham, Surrey, England.

<i>Descendants of John Martyr</i>	
1	John Martyr 1661 - 1705 b: Bef. 03 Dec 1661 in Effingham, Surrey, England d: Bet. 28 Mar - 05 Apr 1705 in Effingham, Surrey, England
...	+Mary Ryde 1666 - b: Bef. 1666 in Feltham, Middlesex, England m: 28 Jan 1687 in St Dunstan & All Saints, Stepney, Middlesex, England
...	2 John Marter 1688 - 1706 b: Bef. 09 Feb 1688 in Effingham, Surrey, England d: Bef. 06 Jul 1706 in Effingham, Surrey, England
...	2 Thomas Marter 1690 - 1731 b: Bef. 17 Feb 1690 in Effingham, Surrey, England d: Bet. 31 Oct 1731 - 18 Sep 1766
.....	+Martha Darby - 1766 b: in Merrow, Surrey, England m: 27 Jun 1723 in Little Bookham, Surrey, England d: Bef. 18 Sep 1766 in Effingham, Surrey, England
.....	3 Mary Marter 1724 - b: Bef. 24 May 1724 in Effingham, Surrey, England
.....	3 Martha Marter 1725 - b: Bef. 06 Dec 1725 in Effingham, Surrey, England
.....	3 Jane Marter 1731 - b: Bef. 31 Oct 1731 in Effingham, Surrey, England
...	2 Phoebe Martyr 1691 - b: Abt. 1691 in Effingham, Surrey, England
.....	+XXX Groombridge
...	2 Joseph Martyr 1692 - 1760 b: Abt. 1692 in Effingham, Surrey, England d: Bef. 27 Mar 1760 in East Greenwich, Kent, England
.....	+Hannah Hyett 1715 - 1771 b: Bef. 06 Sep 1715 in City of London, London, England m: 29 Oct 1736 in Christ's Chapel of God's Gift, Dulwich College, Dulwich, Surrey, England d: 19 Feb 1771 in East Greenwich, Kent, England
.....	3 Hannah Martyr 1737 - 1742 b: Bef. 16 Feb 1737 in Greenwich, Kent, England d: Bef. May 1742 in Greenwich, Kent, England
.....	3 Deborah Martyr 1739 - 1801 b: Abt. 1739 in Greenwich, Kent, England d: 22 Jun 1801 in Greenwich, Kent, England
.....	3 Phebe Martyr 1740 - 1770 b: Bef. 28 May 1740 in Greenwich, Kent, England d: Aft. 12 Sep 1770
.....	3 Sarah Martyr 1742 - 1752 b: Bef. 09 Apr 1742 in Greenwich, Kent, England d: Bef. 16 Jul 1752
.....	3 Mary Martyr 1743 - b: Bef. 30 May 1743 in Greenwich, Kent, England
.....	3 Hannah Martyr 1744 - 1776 b: Bef. 29 Oct 1744 in Greenwich, Kent, England d: Bef. 04 Apr 1776 in Leeds, Yorkshire, England
.....	+Joseph Carttar m: 12 Feb 1767 in St Alfege, Greenwich, Kent, England
.....	3 Ann Martyr 1746 - 1823 b: Bef. 16 Oct 1746 in Greenwich, Kent, England d: Bef. 09 Dec 1823 in King Street, Greenwich, Kent, England
.....	3 Joseph Martyr 1748 - b: Bef. 29 Oct 1748 in Greenwich, Kent, England
.....	3 Richard Martyr 1749 - 1815 b: 29 Oct 1749 in Greenwich, Kent, England d: Bef. 09 Dec 1815 in Park Row, Greenwich, Kent, England
.....	+Elizabeth Wigzell 1751 - 1831 b: Bef. 28 Apr 1751 in Greenwich, Kent, England m: 30 Jan 1772 in St Alfege, Greenwich, Kent, England d: 19 Jan 1831 in King Street, Greenwich, Kent, England
.....	4 William Martyr 1772 - 1772 b: Abt. 1772 in Greenwich, Kent, England d: Bef. 19 Sep 1772 in Greenwich, Kent, England
.....	4 Joseph Martyr 1773 - 1813 b: Bet. 01 - 30 Sep 1773 in Greenwich, Kent, England d: Bef. 25 Oct 1813 in Thornton Row, Greenwich, Kent, England
.....	+Catherine Jane Cobham 1773 - 1856 b: 23 Mar 1773 in North Carolina, USA m: 25 May 1798 in Plymouth, Devonshire, England d: 06 Apr 1856 in Boulogne, Haut-de-Seine, Ile-de-France, France

Fig I-5 Part of the Outline Descendant Report for John Martyr of Effingham, Surrey, England

A further part of my research has been the gathering and entry into my FTM program of the more detailed information from sources such as: The London Gazette, The London Times, NewsPapers Past, original parish church records, The Church of Latter Day Saints records, wills,

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Family History Society CDs, and a vast array of other documents and web sites far too numerous to detail here. The listing of these details in all my records is vital to enable others who may follow in my footsteps to verify information which I have extracted from both primary and secondary sources. Some of this more detailed information can be produced by FTM in the form of a Genealogical Report, an example of which is shown below for the same John Martyr above.

### *Descendants of John Martyr*

#### *Generation No. 1*

1. JOHN<sup>6</sup> MARTYR (*THOMAS<sup>5</sup>, LAWRENCE<sup>4</sup> MARTER, LAWRENCE<sup>3</sup>, WILLIAM<sup>2</sup>, XXX<sup>1</sup>*) was born Bef. 03 Dec 1661 in Effingham, Surrey, England, and died Bet. 28 Mar - 05 Apr 1705 in Effingham, Surrey, England. He married MARY RYDE 28 Jan 1687 in St Dunstan & All Saints, Stepney, Middlesex, England. She was born Bef. 1666 in Feltham, Middlesex, England.

Notes for JOHN MARTYR:  
West Surrey Family History Society  
Surrey Parish Registers on Microfiche  
Effingham, Baptisms, 1565-1840:

1661 3 Dec MARTYR John s Thomas born

West Surrey FHS: Surrey Burials Index  
CD-10, Indexed by Alan Benny, 2006:

Effingham, Surrey, England:

"MARTYR John [senr] 1705 5 Apr"

Archdeaconry Court of Surrey:

Testator: John MARTER of Effingham, yeoman, weak  
Date of Will: 28th March 1705  
(To poor widows one pound)

To my wife my freehold and copyhold houses and lands for life and then to my son John MARTER three closes of freehold (fourteen acres) called 'Brook Hill Closes', Effingham and to my son Thomas MARTER a freehold in the occupation of widow LONGHURST and my copyhold house etc and two acres and six acres of copyhold lands in 'East Field'; to my daughter Sarah MARTER fifty pounds at age twenty one; to my other three daughters Mary MARTER, Martha MARTER and Phoebe MARTER fifty pounds each at the age twenty one; to my son Joseph MARTER one hundred pounds at the age of twenty one; residue to my wife, Executrix.

Overseers: Neighbours Anthony HILLIER, William MOSE (half a crown each)  
Witnesses: Richard RIDE: Anthony HILLIER: Henry WIGHT (X)

Proved: 1st October 1705 to Executrix and relict Mary MARTER  
DW/PA/5/1705/58

Other Reference: SY 0924Surrey Plus Wills Index:  
Archdeaconry Court of Surrey:

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Fig I-6 Part of the Genealogical Report for John Martyr of Effingham, Surrey, England

Just to give a feel for the enormity of the data entry task which I have undertaken to produce the Outline Descendant Reports (ODRs) and the Genealogical Reports (GRs) for the Marter and Martyr family lines of England and elsewhere, the following statistics are shown below for the twelve most populated and important families:

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Marter/Martyr Line Origins:	Generations:	ODR Pages:	GR Pages:
Surrey (Chertsey, Pirbright, Horsell & Woking), England	12	49	668
Surrey (Fetcham, Dorking, Shere, Mickleham & Southwark), England & USA	13	26	361
New Jersey (Burlington Co.) USA	9	32	250
Gloucestershire (Bristol), Middlesex (Cole Abbey), Surrey (Ham Common), & Kent (Knockholt), England, Canada & USA	11	18	248
Surrey (Fetcham, Dorking, Shere, Mickleham & Southwark), England & USA	12	13	159
Surrey (Cobham, Long Ditton, Banstead & Walton-on-the-Hill), England:	11	13	131
Kent (Otford) & Devonshire (Exeter), England, Australia (Victoria)	7	9	120
Devonshire (Exeter) or Middlesex (Strand), England	5	4	85
Surrey (Guildford), England:	12	3	51
Middlesex (Poplar & St Pancras) & Essex (Walthamstow), England	9	6	43
Middlesex (Whitechapel), Devonshire (Stoke Damerel & Plymouth) & Hampshire (Portsmouth), England	6	3	27
Surrey (Great Bookham & Leatherhead), England	7	3	2
<b>Total Pages:</b>		<b>179</b>	<b>2164</b>

Fig I-7 Data Generated from FTM of the Most Populous Outline Descendant  
& Genealogical Reports

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The largest quantity of data is understandably that of my direct Marter family line whose confirmed roots can be traced back to the burial of a Thomas Marter on the 21<sup>st</sup> October 1715 at Chertsey, Surrey, England. You may notice that the family tree with the greatest number of generations is not necessarily the one with the most information accumulated. In addition, you should be aware that whilst it is feasible to print out the six quires or so of ODRs, to print out more than four reams of GRs would require a wheel barrow to move them from place to place! My scheme is to concentrate on the twelve lineages in Fig I-7, one at a time, and these families will form the majority of the later chapters of Volume II of this family history project. All the ODRs for these families will be found in Volume III, thereby acting as a reference source for the 'story' of each lineage.

It must be borne in mind; however, that the data from these twelve lines do not represent the sum of the total available. There are many other smaller family trees which will not have been included in my discussions but which may yet be shown to link in with the larger ones. Indeed, logic would suggest, and even possibly dictate, that all lines should merge somewhere if records can be traced far enough into the past!

So, what to include? What to exclude? How to present my story? What formats should I use for presentation? Should I print my history in hardback or soft back form? What about the use of colour? Visual presentation is everything these days. The use of charts, graphs and the like always catch the readers' eyes but producing these graphics is often very time-consuming. Most vexingly, how long should I wait before calling a halt to my research and get on with writing up my findings? Literally and metaphorically, the last thing I want to do is suddenly find myself presented with an untimely demise at the moment of placing quill to parchment or, in this case, pinkies to QWERTY!

The use of computer software, which is specifically designed for family history applications, has revolutionized the manner in which today's researchers compile and present their data. There are many, many such programs on the market but, for my sins, I carried out little evaluative research as to the best one to use for my needs. By selecting the FTM series of software, now

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upgraded to the 2005 issue, I have been able to produce an adequate style and format for my purposes.

I have declined to purchase an update to this program, now at a 2010 version, because the interface quality for me has been downgraded from a user-friendly zenith to a user-friendly nadir, despite the fact that the newest version offers some very nice 'bells and whistles'.

During my foray into my literary endeavour I came across an interesting section in a dictionary of surnames, printed by the Oxford University Press,<sup>1</sup> which attempts, in what I hope is an intentionally mildly humorous manner, to outline all the essential attributes for someone who intended to study surnames. The article suggests these ideal qualities should include the following:

“Be a polyglot philologist with expertise in the history of Celtic, Slavonic, and Finno-Ugric languages as well as in Germanic and Romance languages. Also needed would be a mastery of Hebrew and Aramaic, for explanations of biblical origins. He or she would have a detailed knowledge of the local history of every region of all the countries of Europe, not to mention the United States, Canada, South America, Australia, New Zealand, and elsewhere. He or she would be a genealogist and a surveyor of family histories, with access to the innumerable family histories that have never been published, as well as those that have actually appeared in print. Our ideal author would have a detailed knowledge of place names, for the relationship between surnames and place names is often deep and intricate. Statistics, too, is a prerequisite for surname studies: for example, movements of population and generation need to be quantified, and the likelihood of single or multiple origins must be evaluated by studying, statistically, the historical and geographic distribution of the name.”

Wow! Maybe I can say with tongue in cheek that I can claim to have a smattering of some of those messianic attributes? But, undismayed by my obvious shortcomings, I have dared to venture into the wilderness of philology and family history with nothing but my wits, a shrewd

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<sup>1</sup> *A Dictionary of Surnames*, Page xlvi, Hanks & Flavia, 1988, Oxford University Press, ISBN 0-19-211592-8.

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nose for detecting the unbelievable or the unlikely, and an eye for spotting the 'easy to miss' details. It has also been a blessing to be possessed of a reasonable modicum of common sense, and a tenacity to ferret into places where others fear to tread.

Having previously given a broad outline of what you will be able to first peruse and then hopefully read, what is the sales pitch here? As already hinted at, by concentrating on individuals, and some groups of individuals I have found to be of interest because of their wealth or standing in society, their unusual trades or professions, those who were miscreants or murderers, military personnel, and members of the clergy, to name but a few categories, I hope to entertain and inform in equal measure. Before this can happen; however, there are certain lessons from the 'school of genealogy' which readers would be wise to 'swot up' on.

Thus, the first chapter of this work is entitled "What's in a Name?" and covers the origins and variants of the family name Marter/Martyr, and their earliest known occurrences. The second chapter goes into the geographical distribution of some of these Marter/Martyr surname variants, detailing which names have been included or excluded, and providing the rationale for so-doing. Later chapters expound the 'meat' of the tale I wish to relate to you. All these details, facts and figures are contained in Volume II of this Tale, whereas all the Outline Descendant Reports containing family 'trees' for the larger Marter/Martyr families which I have researched, have been relegated to Volume III.

During my Volume II dissertations on specific members of the various MARTER/MARTYR families, you may wish to refer to the pertinent family outline descendent trees in Volume III. In order to ease this task, each such candidate for examination will have an identity tag. Thus, for example, Antony David MARTER (1946-present) [Vol II.F1.orange.P7] would indicate: Volume II, Family Number 1, orange paper, 7<sup>th</sup> person from the top of the tree. Each family will have its own ODR section within Volume III and will be printed on different coloured paper. Anyway, that is my plan at the moment but watch this space!

In writing this family history I have attempted to walk the high-wire between being informally informative and studiously starchy. Some chapters are in the former genre, others in the latter,

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and some being an amalgamated mishmash of both. Only you can decide on how successful my circus act has been. I wish you *bon voyage* on your trip through time. May your reading be pleasurable and thought provoking although, in truth, perhaps all I can realistically hope for is one out of those two, or maybe having a foot in both camps, from time to time!

As a final offering, I would like to relate a tale which shows how things are not always what they seem to be, even in such august pieces of work written by one of the foremost English novelists of his day. When I was about seven years old, I remember reading a colour comic-strip version of Sir Walter Scott's wonderful novel, *Ivanhoe*. One object in the comic-strip booklet remained emblazoned in my mind was Ivanhoe's shield which was depicted as an up-rooted oak tree, symbolizing the disinheritance from his family.

In one picture, the motto on the banner beneath his shield read "DISINHERITED". However, when I read the 'real' *Ivanhoe* in later life, I discovered that the knight was originally named "Desdichado" which, although described in the book as being Spanish for the "Disinherited One", actually means "Unfortunate". What a wonderfully piquant but subtle warning for the family historian to muse upon! This introductory ramble began on a sceptical note; let it end on a literary one.



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<sup>i</sup> *The Burke's Peerage World Book Series* is generally regarded by serious genealogists as an unreliable source of family history material and must not be depended on, particularly regarding family crests and coats of arms. The inclusion of this coat of arms is for illustrative purposes only, although the blazon associated with the *The Burke's Peerage World Book of Marters* matches that contained in the various Burke's *General Armory* volumes listed in the main text, but for the family name of Martyr. Please also take note of my warnings contained within the paragraph!