

Hereditary Societies

IN THE U. S. OF A.

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Number of variety of hereditary societies

- ▶ Based on...
 - ▶ descent of a single person (Charlemagne, Elder William Brewster)
 - ▶ the qualities of a single person (Cincinnati, Colonial Cavaliers)
 - ▶ a family (Wing Family Association, Stetson Kindred of America...)
 - ▶ a particular event (Crusades, Mayflower, Valley Forge...)
 - ▶ a war (Colonial, Revolutionary, 1812, Mexican, Civil...)
 - ▶ Military order (officers: 1812, Civil War...)
 - ▶ a geographical area (Jamestown, Indiana, New England...)
 - ▶ a trade or profession (Flagon & Trencher, Postmasters...)
 - ▶ a religion (Early Quakers)



Men's / Women's / Inclusive / Exclusive Hereditary Societies

- ▶ Societies are particular to men
 - ▶ “Sons of”
- ▶ Societies are particular to women
 - ▶ “Daughters of,” “Ladies of,” “Dames”
- ▶ Inclusive societies
 - ▶ Proof to your ancestor or collateral ancestor is sufficient
- ▶ Exclusive societies
 - ▶ Usually proposed by two other members
 - ▶ Invitation only
 - ▶ Limited membership



Royal Societies

- ▶ American “gateway ancestors” proved to be from royal blood
- ▶ Inclusive or exclusive
- ▶ Tend to be more expensive to join
- ▶ Multiple from which to choose
 - ▶ any royal blood,
 - ▶ Plantaganets,
 - ▶ Scottish Kings,
 - ▶ Wessex Kings,
 - ▶ French Kings...



Hereditary Society weekend

- ▶ Two to three weeks in April
- ▶ Breakfasts, lunches, teas, and dinners
- ▶ Most extravagant: Order of the Indian Wars of the United States
 - ▶ Dinners are white / black tie affair
 - ▶ **This year:** “The evening carte will include *Brunswick Stew Lapin* as the appetizer, and *Traditional English Trifle* for dessert. The *Entreé* will include *Antilope Braisée – Longe Rôtie et Saucisse Grillée* followed by *Fig et Marcona Caille Farcie*. There will be open bar prior to dinner. Wine will be presented at table for each course. Programme, Port and Cigars to follow.”



Structure / Benefits

- ▶ National / State / Locale
 - ▶ Differently named based on history of the organization or event
- ▶ Benefits
 - ▶ Glossy magazines or offset / photocopied newsletters
 - ▶ PDF e-mail magazines / newsletters
 - ▶ Membership cards
 - ▶ Membership certificates
 - ▶ Insigne
 - ▶ Life membership
 - ▶ The Glory of being part of the XYZ group



My Favorites

- ▶ Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company
 - ▶ Right of descent member
- ▶ Society of Colonial Wars
 - ▶ Enamored with this group since I was in my 20s (exclusive)
- ▶ Order of the Founders and Patriots of America
 - ▶ Meant to be difficult to join (exclusive) – seven members in Missouri

- ▶ CHECK OUT: hereditary.us website

