

**AN INQUIRY
CONCERNING THE BOSS
FAMILY AND THE NAME
BOSS. [CHICAGO-1902]**

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An Inquiry Concerning the Boss Family and the Name Boss. [Chicago-1902] by William
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WILLIAM GRAHAM BOSS & HENRY RUSH BOSS

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11/10/1912

FOREWORD.

One day about the middle of the month of May, 1898, looking round an old bookstall in Leith Walk, Williamson's by name, I chanced on a bundle of odds and ends marked at the low price of twopence, and from a cursory examination of the bundle, thinking it might contain something of interest, I became the possessor. After making another purchase I hied me to my working den to weed the lot, and as it happened I consigned most of the twopence worth to the waste paper, including a copy of the Superior Printer, printed and published somewhere in America, and I thought I was done with superior printing, but at a leisurely moment, a few days after, on passing the waste box, this Superior Printer again caught my eye, and I looked over its pages more carefully than before, when behold an extract on "Reading Printers," from a magazine called The Ink Fiend, came into view, and, glancing over the paragraph, the name of my future correspondent, the printer of these

sheets, attracted my notice. I read the extract and—well, there was something about the sentences and matter which struck me, so that I made up my mind to write MR. H. R. BOSS, whose name I had stumbled on in this manner. For this purpose I rolled up the sheet, intending to take it home and have another look over it previous to writing. On the way home, when calling for my monthly magazine, I handed my superior printed treasure to the shopgirl to be rolled up therewith; but alas, on arriving home I found the precious sheet had slipped out of the roll by the way, and was now lost to me. So there was nothing left for me but to draw on my memory for the facts stated in my post-card as printed at page 9 of this volume.

Such is the history of my initiatory steps to the following imperfect letters of mine, put together at spare intervals, and begun without any intention of publication. And, although rather belated, I desire to thank the postoffice officials at Chicago for their courtesy in forwarding my post-card to MR. JAMES W. TURNER; to whom my thanks are also due for transmitting it to my friend. I also return thanks to all those who, though not numerous, have kindly furnished me with replies to my enquiries concern-

ing the name and its bearers, or who have given information about kindred matters.

For the satisfaction of the curious with reference to the illustrations, I may say that my great-grandfather's signature, at page 25, is from the subscribed copy of the Solemn League and Covenant, preserved in Queen Ann Street Church, Dunfermline, of which he was one of the original members, and where he filled the office of a deacon for about twelve years. And the other zincographs are from drawings by me, unless otherwise mentioned; they are left in outline to be coloured by hand if the possessor is so inclined.

Edinburgh.

W. G. B.

PREFATORY.

The origination of this book is well told by MR. WILLIAM GRAHAM BOSS in his "Foreword." When I began the printing of these letters it was with the expectation that they would make a pamphlet of forty or fifty pages, and that they might be of interest to

the small number of members of the BOSS FAMILY of whom I then knew. The work, however, has exceeded my anticipations and grown into a book, and the discovery has been made that the Bosses are much more numerous, in all parts of this country, at least, than I had any idea of.

In the preparation of my part of this book I have been hampered by the indifference of many of whom I have sought information, who have utterly neglected to reply to my letters, and by the ignorance of many others who have never known, or have failed to remember, much of the family history. Lack of pecuniary means has prevented my having researches made in libraries and public offices in various parts of the country; and I have been forced to content myself with such information as I could obtain from meager sources.

If the present volume is successful in awakening a proper interest in the subject, and in making returns for the money I have expended upon it, it will be followed by one or more other volumes, which it is hoped will be of interest and value, and, possibly, result in tracing the history of the families of the three brothers who, I am persuaded, were the first of

the name to settle in this country, and in finding many of their descendants of the present day.

To those who have answered my queries, to many others who have aided by suggesting possible sources of information, and especially to MR. WILLIAM GRAHAM BOSS, who has contributed so much to this book, I return my hearty thanks.

H. R. B.





*“Every family should have a family genealogist,
* * * * * It is extraordinary how
often, even in pedigrees of ancient families, modern
facts about cadets are despised. Regrets begin after
the links are lost.”*

The Scottish Antiquary, July, 1901.





WILLIAM GRAHAM BOSS.