

SOME OF THE COFFIN CAPTAINS
WERE NEWENLAND QUAKERS

ALL
CAPTAINS

MOST ARE FROM NEW BEDFORD
NANTUCKET
MARTHAS VINEYARD

85

SEAFARING RECORDS OF THE COFFIN FAMILY

Lindsay, the historian of the British Merchant Service says: "During the first half of the 19th Century, the masters of American vessels were as a rule greatly superior to those who held similar positions in English ships." As for crewmen, a British House of Commons report referred to the "Vast Superiority" of American officers and crews. Quoted by Alan Villiers in Cincinnati Enquirer 6/21/1959.

ALL NAMED COFFIN → SEA CAPTAINS

Name	Born	Died	Voyages, Vessels and Home Ports	Reference	
				Key (F = Father)	Line
THIRD GENERATION					
Peter	1631	1715	License issued for DOLPHIN Sloop 1698	1	A
Nathaniel	1671	1720	Grandson of Tristram who founded the family in America	2	C
Jonathan	1692	1773	Grandson of Tristram - 1753 Marthas Vineyard 1755-56-69 Nantucket	6	C
FOURTH GENERATION					
Nathan	1696	1768	1762 Nantucket	2	C
Elisha	1699	1722	1722 - lost at sea - Nantucket	3	C
William	1699	1774	Shipmaster and shipowner of Boston trading with Charleston, S. C.	8	C
Benjamin	1710	1784	1772-4 Nantucket	7	B
Henry	1716	1756	1756 - Nantucket	19	C
Richard	1729		1770-71-73 Nantucket	14	D
Timothy	1731		1753 Marthas Vineyard	15	D
Christopher			1751-2 SEAFLOWER 1756 Nantucket,	-	unidentified
FIFTH GENERATION					
Peter	1722	1789		25	B
James	1726		1769 - Dartmouth, Mass.	F1-4	B
Peleg	1728	1805	1756 - Nantucket	46	C
David	1733	1764	Lost at sea	29	B
Edward	1734		1798 PHEBE Nantucket	6	A
Micajah	1734	1827	LYDIA, HEPZIBAH, SANDWICH and others Grandson of Nathaniel, leading merchant and member of Mass. Legislature	24	C
Bartlett	1737	1793	CONWAY and ALLIANCE both of Nantucket died at sea	F1-4	D
Alexander	1740	1839	1775-6 SOMERSET Postmaster & Mayor of Hudson, New York. Twice member of Mass. Legislature. Bearer of dispatches from Benjamin Franklin in Paris, twice prisoner during the war. Intimate with John Adams, John Hancock and Samuel Adams.	51	C
Zephaniah	1740	1835	Moved to Hudson, NY 1778 AJAX of Hudson	3	E
Hezekiah	1741	1779	BEAVER at Boston Tea Party. She was first American ship to round Cape Horn.	65	C
Jonathan	1747	1843	1789 & 1793 POLLY of Gloucester 1791 HIBERNIA Nantucket	9	A
Solomon	1750	1834	1801 ABBY New Bedford distr. 2 voyages	5	E
Simeon	1750		ANN of Dartmouth, Mass. 2 voyages	25	D
Elijah	1751	1795	AFRICA of Nantucket 1791 MANILLA 1795 ASIA 1791 Died at Cape St. Nicholas	20	D
Seth	1753	1830	MINERVA of Nantucket 1789-92-1800. Directed amputation of his own leg by the mate.	17	C
Elihu	1754	1789	ASIA 1819-20 FRANKLIN 1833 MARY MITCHELL all of Nantucket	F11-4	C

SOME OF THE COFFIN CAPTAINS WERE NEW ENGLAND QUAKERS → ALL CAPTAINS

MOST ARE FROM NEW BEDFORD NANTUCKET AND MARTHAS VINE YARD

COFFIN SEA CAPTAINS

Name	Born	Died	Voyages, Vessels and Home Ports	Reference	
				Key (F = Father)	Line
Thaddeus	1755	1820	1805 HARRIETT British	55	C
Obadiah	1757	1821	1817-20 IMPROVEMENT Nantucket	29	C
Thomas	1766	1815	1800 TRYAL Nantucket	25	C
John	1770	1810	Of Harrington, Me.	33	C
SIXTH GENERATION					
Francis	1752	1820	c1790 LUCY of Dartmouth N. S. 1819 ROXANA of Nantucket	69	C
Brown	1753	1835	1791 HARRIET of Dartmouth, N. S.	2	A
James J. (of Nantucket)	1755	1838	1824 TRANSIT of Bristol, England discovered Bonin Islands, Sept. 12, 1824 naming the Southern group Coffin Islands. British Captain Beechey visiting them three years later called them after a late president of the Astronomical Society. Both names are used in Natl. Geographic maps 1944 and 1945.	8	A
John	1756	1838	(Gen.) 1775 Bringing General Howe to Boston. John afterwards transferred to British Army	12	C
Joshua	1758		1821-25-28 GANGES of Nantucket discovered Gardners Island and charted Coffin Island 1822	F2-5	C
Benjamin	1780	1829	1822 THOMAS 1826 REAPER of Nantucket 1828 discovered Reaper Island 1829 died at sea	39	C
Francis H.	c1780	1835	(Adm.)	11	C
Sir Isaac	1759	1839	(KGH Adm.) Founder of the Nantucket Coffin school.	13	C
Noah	1762	1825	Commanded a Whaler	3	E
Alexander Gardner	1764	1836	Prisoner of war during Revolution. PENMAN 1804 1820 LORENZO of New London ALLIANCE of New Bedford CONSTITUTION of Nantucket EDWARD of New York	81	C
Peter	1765	1835	1817 WILLIAM PENN 1818 GOLDEN FARMER 1819-22-24-25 BARCLAY 1826 STATIRA 1830-31-35 COLUMBUS all of Nantucket	61	D
Amial	1765		1818 and 1821 HYCSO of Nantucket	F2-5	E
Uriah	1766	1841		14	E
Alpheus	1767	1847	1793-97 COLUMBIA 1803 RENOWN both of Nantucket	5	E
Sylvanus	1768	1845	1818 MINERVA of Nantucket	12	A
Absalom	1768	1845	1809 PERSEVERANDA 1811 OCEAN 1816 NORTH AMERICA 1819 CHILI All of Nantucket	73	C
Albert	1773	1840	Of Philadelphia	14	C
Zenas	1774	1828	LYDIA 1793 and others - Nantucket. A leading Merchant, son of Micajah	37	C
Ariel	1775	1861	1808 HERALD New Bedford Distr. 1815-17 SAMUEL 1819 LEANDER, both of Nantucket	49	C
George A.	1776		1846 MARIA of Nantucket 1851 DRAPER of New Bedford 2 voyages	F3-5	E
David V.	1776	1852	1844 ARNOLDA of New Bedford	F36-5	D
Barzillai	1778	1853	1809-11 MONTICELLO 1816 FRANCES 1819 ATLANTIC 1828-31 SWIFT. All of Nantucket	21	C
Jesse	1778	1859	1816-19 VULTURE of Nantucket	75	C
Frederick	1779	1840	Of Nantucket Commanded British SYREN. Had battle with natives on Pelew Island. Took first sperm whale on Japan grounds May 10, 1820	39	D

SOME OF THE COFFIN CAPTAINS
 WERE NEW ENGLAND QUAKERS. → ALL CAPTAINS
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 NANTUCKET AND
 MARTHA'S VINEYARD 87

COFFIN SEA CAPTAINS

Name	Born	Died	Voyages, Vessels and Home Ports	Reference	
				Key (F = Father)	Line
Thomas M.	1779	1869	1835-39 MARY 1844 HENRY ASTOR 1849 GANGES 1855 ALABAMA - all of Nantucket	62	D
Wm. Elisha	1779	1805	or later - died at Sea	56	C
Alfred	1780	1810	Died at sea in command of a Boston ship	42	C
David	1783	1833	1804-8 MARIA 1815 PHEBE ANN 1818 CHARLES all of New Bedford distr. 1820 CAROLINE ANN of Hudson, New York	65	C
Zimri	1784	1855	1821-30 DAUPHIN (or Dolphin) of Nantucket	15	D
Eliakim	1785	1857	Shipmaster of Orange Street, Nantucket	24	C
Gorham	1785	1849	Shipmaster and Merchant of Nantucket	43	C
Hezediah	1785	1820	Shipmaster of Nantucket. Portrait in Wohling museum	80	C
Charles W.	1785		1833-37 OHIO 1841 NARRAGANSETT - both of Nantucket	46	D
David U.	1786	1866	1831-35-39 SPARTAN of Nantucket	51	D
Elihu	1787	1874	Portrait in Whaling Museum Nantucket	47	C
John B.	1787	1845	1835-37 MARY and MARTHA, Plymouth, Mass.	F14-5	B
Thaddeus	1789	1876	1820 CHARLES of New Bedford. 1825 FRANKLIN 1829 FABIUS, both of Nantucket	88	C
Reuben F.	1793	1850	1817 DIANA - OCEAN 1821 1821 TRIDENT, NY 1824-5 HYCSO Nantucket 1826 LOGAN, New Bedford	51	C
John Gayer	1795	1831	1827 1831 ONTARIO of Nantucket - died at sea	52	C
Benjamin	1796	1831	1831 - lost on ship JAPAN	25	C
Edwin	1801	1865	or later 1828 OCEAN 1832 MT. VERNON, both of Nantucket 1844-50 VINEYARD of Edgartown	91	C
James G. (or M)	1810	1880	1832-3 CONSTITUTION Nantucket 1840 ALTO of Fairhaven 1842 WASHINGTON of New Bedford	94	C

SEVENTH GENERATION

Zebdial	1768	1841	1796 JOHANNA Confiscated by the French Shipmaster of Orange St. Nantucket	1	D
Hiram	1774	1829	Shipmaster of Orange St. Nantucket	2	D
Edward Langdon	1783		Shipmaster of Gloucester	43	B
Jethro	1784	1863	1810-11 REBECCA 1817 INDUSTRY - both of Nantucket 1821 HOPE of Boston	8	A
Wm. B. (or H)	1787	1863	1810 JOHN JAY 1816 HYCSO - both of Nantucket	27	C
Peter M.	1781	or later	1826 PINDUS of Fairhaven 1832 POCAHONTAS 1836 EQUATOR - both of New Bedford	F29-6	C
Job	1789	1875	1809-11 FAME 1820 PLANTER 1824 SOUTH AMERICA - all of Nantucket 1815-16 BARCLAY of Bew Bedford Distr.	24	C
Barnabas	1791	1870	1822 CHARLES of Boston 1828-32 REBECCA SIMS of New Bedford	79	C
Abel	1792		Clipper ship GENTOO built at Boston 1834	24	B
Henry E.	1794		(R. Adm.) Son of Gen. John	F12-6	C
Joshua	1794	1873	1832 FRANKLIN 1839 PERU - both of Nantucket 1834 INDIA 1843-6 MARIA - both of New Bedford	7	D
Charles F.	1794	1873	1836 WASHINGTON of Nantucket	7	E
George G. (not a whaler)	1797	1867	1851 JANET of Westport, Mass. 1846 ARAGON 1848 OCEAN QUEEN of Newburyport 1849 ALHAMBRA and 1841 ARCO IRIS round the world	55	B

ALL
ALL NAMED COFFIN CAPTAINS

Name	Born	Died	Voyages, Vessels and Home Ports	Reference	
				Key (F = Father)	Line
Prince	1798	1835	1830 STATIRA of Nantucket of Falmouth, Mass.	1833 AWASHONKO 114	C
Isaac Stone	1798	1855	Brother of George	56	B
Edy	1799	1829	1825 FOSTER 1828 R. MITCHELL - both of Nantucket	97	D
Timothy U.	1809	1837	1835 REAPER of Nantucket	117	C
John T.	c1800		(R. Adm.) Son of Gen. John	F12-6	C
Edward W.	1802	1870	1831 IRIS of Nantucket	17	A
George W.	1804	1848 or later	1844 HARVEST	63	C
Aaron	1805		1834 AMERICAN of Nantucket	12	C
Edward G.	1805		1830 WINSLOW of New Bedford - died at sea	F101-6	C
Edward H.	1806	1853	1840 EAGLE of New Bedford	19	C
John W.	1807	1882	1846 CHARLES DREW of New Bedford (liv.)	120	C
Alexander	1808	1854	1840 AMERICAN of Nantucket	18	D
Oliver C.	1812	1882	c1849 CITIZEN of Nantucket (liv.)	91	C
Voranus L.	1831		of Harrington, Me.	96	D
James B.	1833	1882	Shipmaster of E. Boston (prob. Liv)	90	D

EIGHTH GENERATION

Edward B.	1807		1860-63 SAPHO 1867 MT. WOLLASTON both of New Bedford	61	C
Frederick Wm.	1813	1883	1841 AURORA 1845 AURORA (18 yrs. ?) Nantucket 1856 COURIER of New Bedford	68	C
Reuben	1815	1865	1862 Seagoing tug SETH LOW Towed the Monitor to Hampton Roads from Newark Bay in heavy seas and fog over the protests of its officers just in time to engage the Merrimac and save the Union Fleet	15	A
John A.	1822		1858 MT. WOLLASTON of New Bedford	105	C
Alfred M.	1825		1855 ROSCOE of New Bedford 1860 ALABAMA of Nantucket	14	A
George	1845	1899	(Capt. USN) Thanks of Congress for conspicuous bravery. Severely wounded in assault on Ft. Fisher. Commanded ALERT in 1884 Expedition to Rescue Greely in Arctic.	84	C
Edwin	1808	1874	1889-90-91-92-94-96-97 ROSARIO of San Francisco nipped off Point Barrow 1898. Commanded yacht AMERICA 1903 in Ziegler Fiala Polar Expedition reaching N. Lat. 84 deg. 4 min	81	D

NINTH GENERATION

Eugene E.	1888		R. Adm. U. S. C. G. Ret.	30	B
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TENTH GENERATION

Clarence E. Jr.			R. Adm. U. S. N. Ret.	F17-9	D
Harry Nelson			R. Adm. U. S. N. Ret.	F9-9	B
Philip	1899		Capt. U. S. N. Ret.	4	B

→ NOT ALL LOST
AT SEA WERE
CAPTAINS

MOST ARE FROM NEW BEDFORD
NANTUCKET
MATTHEW'S VINEYARD

COFFINS WHO WERE LOST AT SEA

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SEAFARING MEN WHO LOST THEIR LIVES AT SEA, ABROAD ETC.

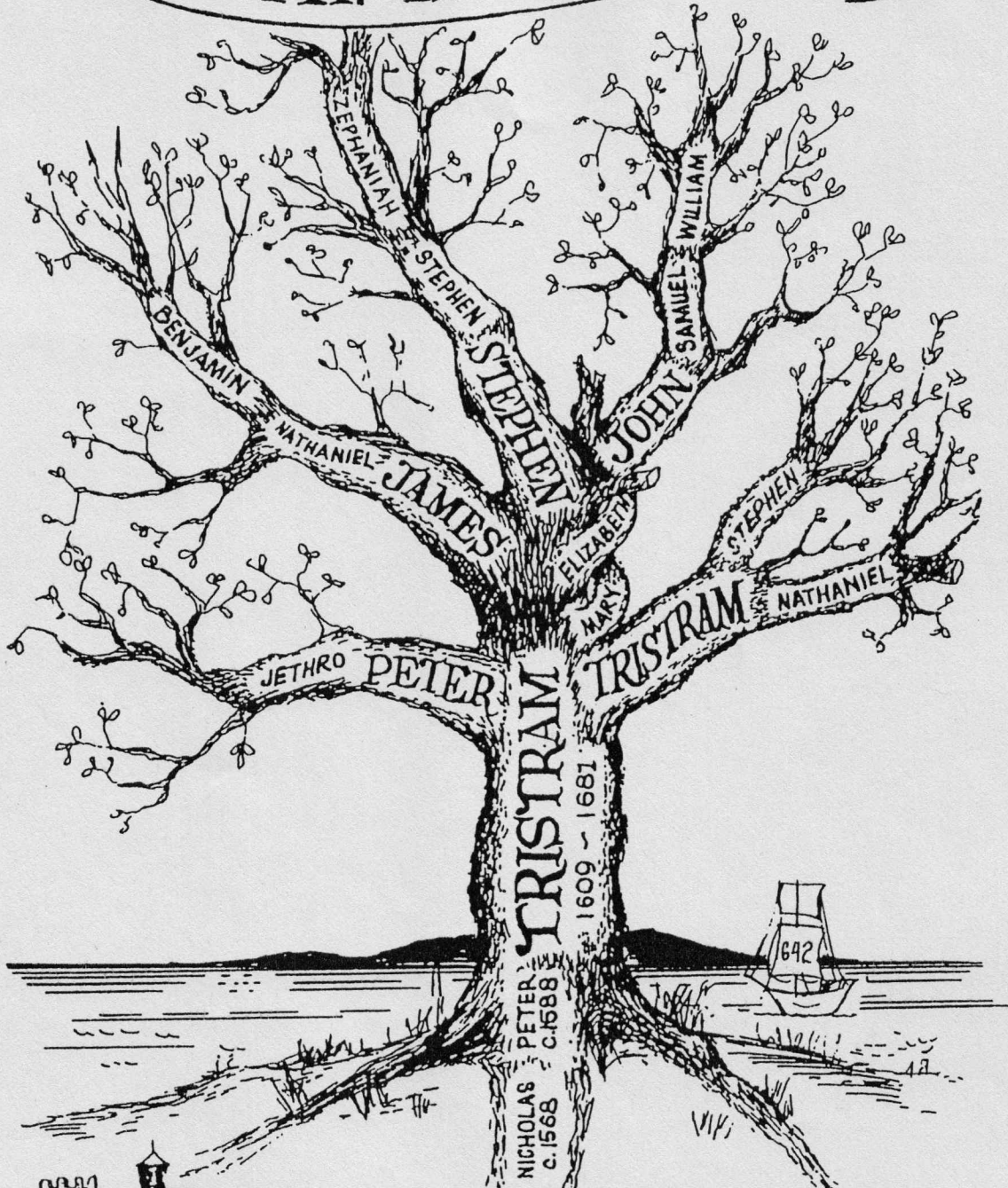
Name	Born	Died		Key	Gen.	Line	
Daniel	c1680	1724	Lost at Sea	son of Stephen	1	2	E
Paul	1691	1729	Lost at Sea	son of Stephen	1	2	E
Elisha	1699	1722	Lost at Sea		3	4	C
Joshua	1701	1722	Lost at Sea		4	4	C
Alexander	1713	1771	In the West Indies		17	4	C
Daniel	c1720	1745	Killed by a Whale		12	4	C
Henry	1716	1756	In France		19	4	C
Jonathan	1725	1755	Lost at Sea) on	son of Tristram	3	3	D
John	1727	1755	Lost at Sea) same	son of Tristram	3	3	D
Matthew	1735	1755	Lost at Sea) vessel	son of Tristram	3	3	D
Joshua	c1730	1780	Lost at Sea		22	4	C
David (Capt.)	1733	1764	Lost at Sea		29	5	B
Thomas	c1740	1809	In Melbourne		62	5	C
Bartlett	1737	1793	Died at Sea	son of Bartlett	1	4	D
Sylvanus	1745	1783	Drowned at Woods Hole		42	5	C
Bazael	c1745	1780	Lost at Sea	son of Elias	43	5	C
Elijah	1747	1781	Coming from a Prison Ship		69	5	C
Abel	c1747	1777	A prisoner of war		13	5	C
Walter	1748	1785	Lost at Sea		37	5	C
Peter	c1750	1772	Lost at Sea	son of Abner	2	4	D
Eliphalet	c1750		Lost at Sea	son of Joseph	18	4	C
Josiah	1751	1778	In a Prison Ship		9	6	A
Matthew	1751	1788	Killed by a Whale		36	5	C
Elijah	1751	1795	At Cape St. Nicholas	son of David	9	4	D
Zacheus	1751	1787	Died among the Turks		68	5	C
William	1753	1777	In the West Indies	son of Jonathan	12	4	D
Jethro	c1750	1782	Drowned on the bar		1	6	A
Thomas	1754		Lost at Sea	son of Daniel	20	4	D
Robert	1755	1774	Died after shipwreck	son of Robert	3	4	A
Henry	1756		Lost at Sea	son of Enoch	18	4	D
Obadiah	1757	1821	Lost on the Shoals		29	5	C
Obadiah	1757	1841	Lost at Sea	son of David	7	4	D
George	c1760	1780	Lost in a hurricane	son of Jonathan	20	4	C
Valentine	1760	1782	On passage home from France		50	5	C
				son of Ebenezer			
Nathaniel	1761	1781	Lost at Sea	son of Capt. David	29	5	B
Eliakim	1761	1784	Lost at Sea		16	5	C
John	1761	1794	Lost at Sea		3	6	A
Laban	1764	1814	At the Western Island		61	6	C
Thaddeus	1768	1819	At Sea		49	6	D
Kimball	1769	1792	Lost at Sea	son of Ebenezer	50	5	C
Laban	1772		Killed by a whale	son of Jonathan	19	5	D
Andrew	1773	1818	In South America		102	6	C
William	c1775	1794	On board Glover's vessel in England		22	4	C
				son of Job			
Hezekiah	1775	1815	On Coast of Timor		101	6	C
Owen	1777	1810	Lost at Sea		8	6	D
Wm. Henry	1778	1808	At Sea		83	6	C
Wm. Elisha	1779	1806 or later	Died at sea		56	6	C
Zacheus	1780	1805	Lost at Sea	son of Zacheus	68	5	C
Benjamin	1780	1829	Died at Sea		39	6	C
Bethuel	c1780		Lost at Sea	son of Jethro	1	6	A
Alfred	1780	1810	At Sea		42	6	C
Francis	c1780		Died Single abroad	son of Francis	69	6	C
George	1781	1808	At Sea		18	6	E
Rowland	1782	1803	Coming from Brazil	son of Abner	34	5	C
Reuben	c1782		Died single abroad	son of Francis	69	6	C
Sylvanus	1783	1813	Killed by a Whale		64	6	C

MOST ARE FROM NEW BEDFORD
 NOTALL CAPTAINS NANTUCKET AND
 MARTHAS VINEYARD

COFFINS WHO WERE LOST AT SEA

Name	Born	Died		Key	Gen.	Line
Henry	1784	1804	Lost at Sea	37	5	D
Timothy	1784	1812	Died Sept. 27 by fall from Masthead in Canton	48	5	C
Timothy		1812	Died Apr. 12 by fall from aloft on Ship Rose son of Obed	22	5	D
Kimball	c1785		Lost at Sea	22	4	C
William P.	1787	1822	In Batavia	8	6	A
George	1787	1819	Murdered in Batavia	70	6	C
Brown	1790	1819	Lost at Sea	2	6	A
Alexander	1793	1822	Died abroad	81	6	C
Alexander S.	1793	1822	At Sea	14	6	A
John Gayer	1795	1831	At Sea	29	5	C
Charles P.	1795	1821	Lost in the Mediterranean	8	6	A
Benjamin F.	1796	1831	Lost at Sea on ship Japan	25	6	C
Cromwell	1797	1823	Killed by a Whale	8	7	D
John H.	1798	1821	At Sea	58	6	C
Prince	1798	1834	Lost at Sea	114	7	C
Barzillai	1799	1825	Hurt by a Whale	1	7	D
John Gayer	1800	1828	At Sea	52	6	C
Owen	1802	1820	Shot in boat from Ship Essex	101	6	C
Edward	1805		At Sea	101	6	C
Robert Inot	1802		At Sea	73	6	C
Seth M.	1803	1824	At Sea	21	6	C
Francis C.	1803	1855	At Arica	77	7	C
Robert Barry		1822	Drowned from Frigate Franklin near Valparaiso	83	6	C
Rowland	1806	1824	Killed at mutiny on ship GLOBE son of Wm. Henry	42	6	C
James Gorham	1806	1851	At Sea	103	7	C
Josiah B.		1836	At Sea near Manila	82	7	C
Alvin Smith	1807	1852	At Sea	53	8	C
Paul West	c1807	1849	At Sea	76	6	C
Timothy R.	1809	1837	Lost at Sea	117	7	C
Abner	1810	1839	Carried off by a Whale	9	7	D
Stephen Gorham	1811	1830	At Sea	42	6	C
Rowland	1817	1840	In Martinique	24	7	C
James Dudley of Newburyport	1818	1843	Drowned in Boston harbor	32	6	B
Cromwell C. or Oliver Cornwell	1823	1857	Lost at Sea	90	8	C
Charles Frederick	1830	1854	At Sea on ship Norman	11	6	D
James Allen	1825	1870	Lost at Sea	104	7	C
Charles H.	1831		Lost at Sea	10	7	A
Philander	1833	1859	Lost at Sea	92	6	C
Peter F.	1838	1866	In Maranhao	104	8	C
Everett	1842	1869	By burning of Steamer Y. I. at Rio S.A.	57	7	C
Rowland H.	1843	1863	Drowned from ship Adeline Gibbs son of Charles G.	63	7	C
John B.	1842	1876	Lost from Harvest Queen in the English Channel son of Valentine	10	7	A
Wm. Franklin	1847	1878	Drowned in Buzzards Bay	94	7	C
Clarence U.	1850	1901	Drowned	116	7	C
Frederick H.	1853	1870	Fell from aloft on Sch. C.C. Davis son of Alexander	64	8	C
Wallace John	1855	1881	Lost at Sea	111	8	C
Theron Tristram	1922	1945	USN Killed at Okinawa son of Edward Brooks	1	9	C

COFFIN FAMILY TREE



CARMINOWE
1173 A.D.

PORTLEDGE MANOR 1254 A.D.



DOMESDAY BOOK 1086 A.D.



CERDIC 450 A.D.
ANCESTOR OF DAMARIS,
WHO WAS WIFE OF NATHANIEL,
SON OF JAMES, SON OF TRISTRAM



(COL. JOHN PINE COFFIN)

ALWINGTON DEVON, GREEN NORTH COAST OF DEVON ON THE BRISTOL CHANNEL
WEST COUNTRY OF ENGLAND NOW PORTLEDGE TOURIST HOTEL AND HOME OF THE
PINE COFFIN FAMILIES FOR 900 YEARS. HOME NOW OWNED BY COL. JOHN PINE
COFFIN RETIRED CAREER BRITISH ARMY OFFICER. TWO FAMILIES WERE MERGED
IN 1671 WHEN EDWARD PINE MARRIED DOROTHY COFFIN (DOROTHY PINE) THE
LAST DESCENDENT OF RICHARD COFFIN WHO CAME NORTH DEVON ON BRISTOL
CHANNEL COAST IN 1066 WITH THE NORMAN CONQUEST OF ENGLAND.

PS RECORDS SAY HE CAME FROM
NORMANDY FRANCE TO ENGLAND
WITH WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR

RICHARD
COFFIN

This seventeenth century brass plate is in the floor at the center of St. Michael Church in the rural village of Penkivel between Falmouth and Truro in Cornwall forty miles from Plymouth. The church is small and usually open and unattended.

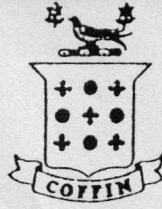
It is operated by the Minister from Truro. Lying a few miles from Falmouth and Truro it can easily be visited from either.



HERE LYETH THE BODY OF MARIE THE
WIDDOW OF PETER COFFIN GENT & 4TH
DAUGHTER OF HVGH BOSCAWEN OF
TREGOTHNAN ESQ WHO DYED Y^E 4TH DAY OF
SEPTEMBER 1622 AGED 71 YEARES

COFFIN FAMILY REUNION

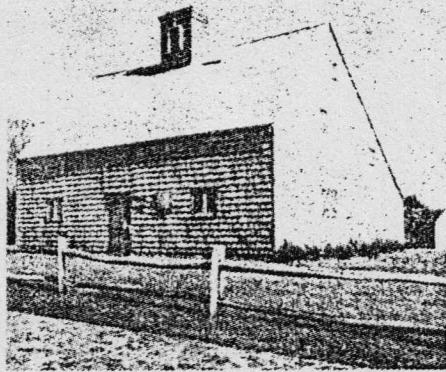
- Robert D. Smith (Bette)
Grinnell, Iowa
- David P. Coffin (Deanne)
Bethesda, Maryland
- Nantucket Historical Association
Nantucket, Massachusetts



- Donna Grubbs (Bradley)
Indianapolis, Indiana
- Helen Winslow Chase (Franklin)
Nantucket, Massachusetts
- Jared Coffin House
Nantucket, Massachusetts

THE COFFIN FAMILY REUNION COMMITTEE

Nantucket
Nantucket is an American historical and architectural treasure! It is a place frozen in early American times. Perhaps no other place in New England possesses as many homes from the 17th century as does Nantucket. One of the earliest of these homes is the Jethro Coffin House built in 1686. Maintained by the Nantucket Historical Association, it was damaged severely by a lightning bolt in 1987, and has been fully restored at considerable expense.



On Main Street, a cobble stone street shaded with majestic American Elm trees, many merchant and sea captain homes can be found reflecting the Federal period of architecture in America. A number of them have been owned and occupied by Coffins.

On Main Street the Historical Association has the Hadwen—Satler Memorial and on Liberty Street the Macy-Christian House. Several museums staffed and maintained by Nantucket Historical Association include: the Peter Foulger Museum and Research Center; the Whaling Museum; Thomas Macy Warehouse (Nantucket history); the Fair Street Museum and Quaker Meeting House. But this is not all! The Nantucket Historical Association also provides a working windmill grinding grain; the Old Gaol; the Old

COFFIN FAMILY NEWSLETTER

The *COFFIN FAMILY NEWSLETTER* is published quarterly by David P. Coffin-8907 Mohawk Lane - Bethesda, Maryland, 20817-3519. The subscription rate is \$15.00 per year. For countries outside North America add \$5.40. The newsletter is dedicated to helping people who have the Coffin name somewhere in their pedigree to trace their ancestry and learn more about the Coffin family, its history and its geographical and personal place in the development of American, Canada and the world. The publisher, David P. Coffin, hopes that it will add to the accuracy and depth of the background data available to Coffin Family researchers. And, with the help of readers, it is hoped that erroneous information will be corrected, as well as missing information will be added and extended into later generations of the records of the Family. If you are not a subscriber, please mail a check to David at the above address immediately. It is perhaps the finest family newsletter available, and Coffin's are proud of David's efforts.

Town Building; the Museum Shop; Fire Hose Cart House; 'Sconset Pump; Peter Foulger Homesite; Forefathers' Burial Ground; and at Capaum the Tristram Coffin Homesite.

For a truly magnificent sea port with Quaker sea captains who were "God Almighty of the Quarterdeck"; for the thrill of finding your Coffin family roots — let's all go home to Nantucket this October.

350 Years After Tristram Rediscover Nantucket this October!

Descendants of Tristram and Dionis Stevens Coffin will gather this coming October 2nd, 3rd and 4th for a reunion on Nantucket island 30 miles off the coast of Cape Cod. Headquarters for the event will be the Jared Coffin House, one of New England's premier Inn's.

The "Grey Lady of the Sea", as Nantucket has so aptly been described, will be clothed in her finest, crisp Fall gown. The cranberry harvest will be at its peak, and the cobble stone streets, with their quaint shops, will make walking tours delightful and breath taking.

The Coffin Family Reunion committee has been working closely with the Nantucket Historical Association, the *COFFIN FAMILY NEWSLETTER*, and the Jared Coffin House the past few months to celebrate the observance of the Coffin family in America. Tristram Coffin, with his wife, Dionis, and family embarked from Plymouth, Devonshire, England in 1642. After a long sea voyage they arrived at Newbury, Massachusetts. In 1659, Tristram along with a consortium of family members and friends, purchased the island of Nantucket. Soon after, Tristram moved to the island to establish a home and livelihood. Both he and his wife, along with many of his plentiful descendants, are buried on the island close by the first settlement near Capaum pond.

Efforts are being made to notify Tristram's descendants throughout the United States, Canada, and the world. It is anticipated that several hundred will be present at the reunion this coming October.

A PROUD HERITAGE

A study of the Coffin history and Genealogy shows that our ancestors have always kept pace with their communities, and indeed not infrequently furnished leaders in their fields.

The sea was for two centuries their main interest. We have contributed the unusual, if not unequalled, number of over one hundred ship captains. These included four British Admirals in the Colonial days and we now have an equal number in our own Navy, besides explorers and at least one civilian who saved our fleet from destruction.

The oceans have also taken their toll, as over a hundred Coffins have been lost at sea or in the course of a seafaring career.

On land, our pride is mainly in the solid citizens of all ranks, taking their places wherever they have settled, as part of the backbone of our country, from the early pioneers onward. However there are not lacking outstanding names in various vocations. The respected National Cyclopaedia of American Biography lists more than thirty Coffin descendants of Tristram in a variety of careers. They include not only pioneers and explorers but jurists, authors, historians, artists, and poets, bankers and brokers, educators, clergymen, engineers and architects, mathematicians, meteorologists and philanthropists. Without inviting comparisons by mention of names, we have furnished a President of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the founder of the General Electric Company, the leader of the Underground Railroad, a noted theologian, State Governor and National Congressman.

The sponsors of this volume also are leaders in their lines. Further examples will be found mentioned in the Genealogical text as the names occur.

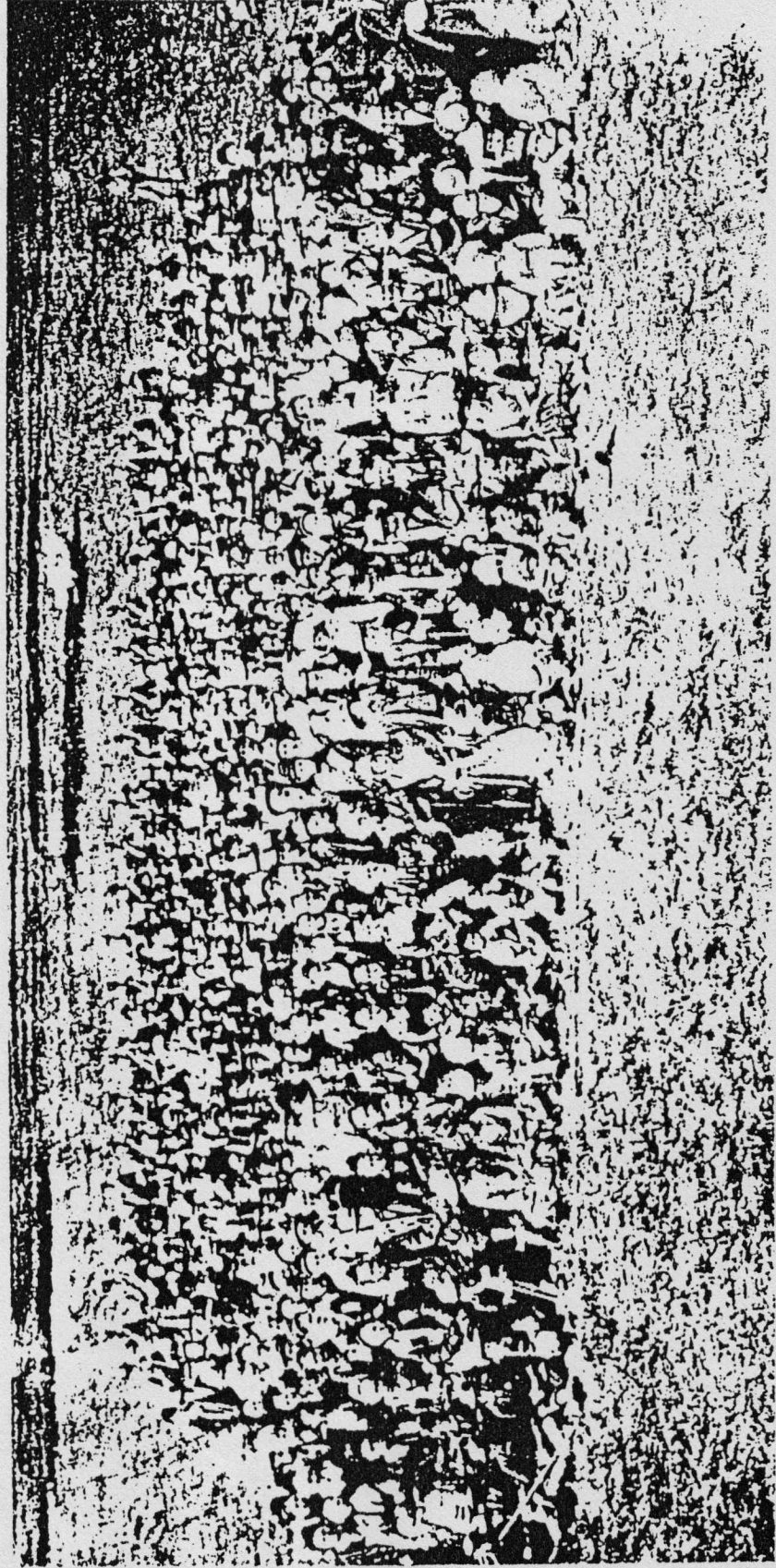
Ours is indeed a proud heritage.

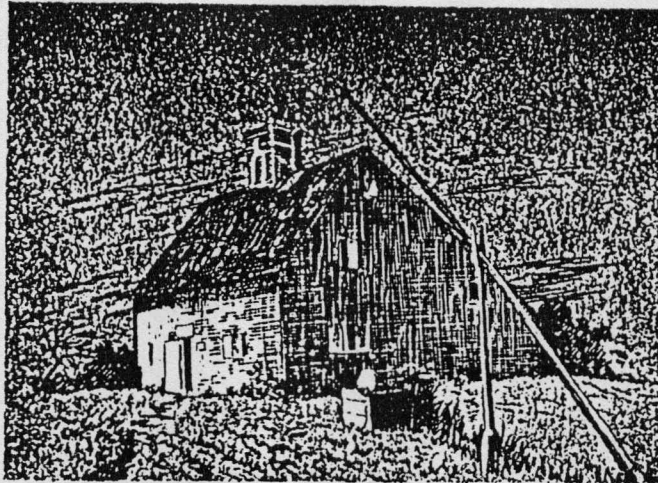
L. C.

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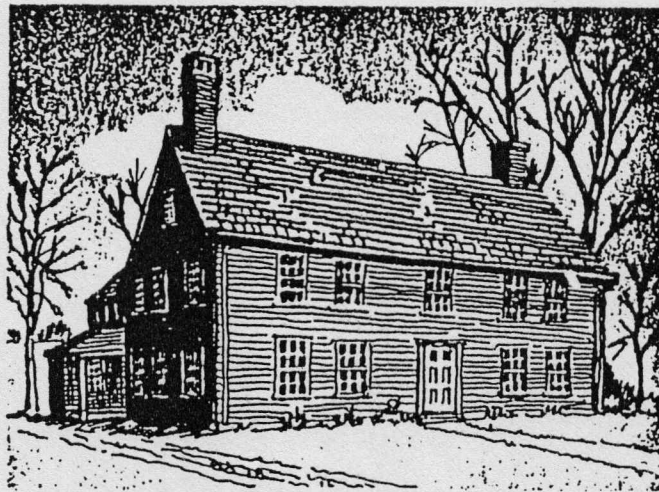
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COFFIN REUNION - Aug. 16, 17, 18, 1881





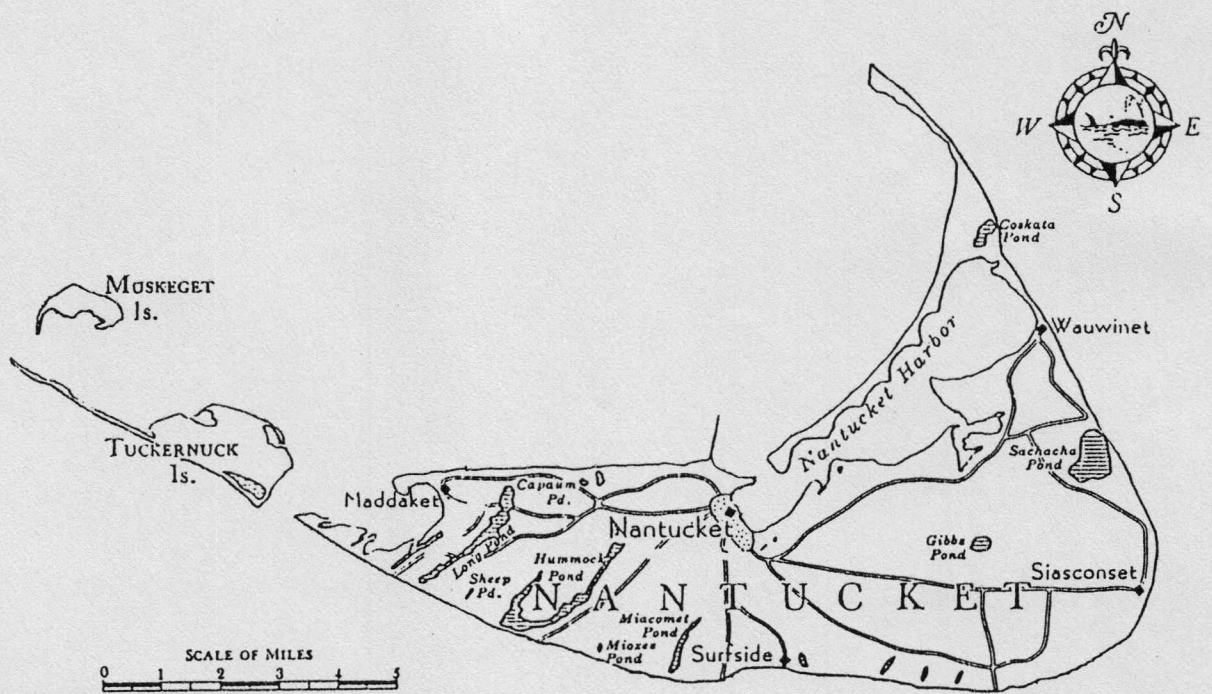
Jethro Coffin House 1686
Oldest in Nantucket



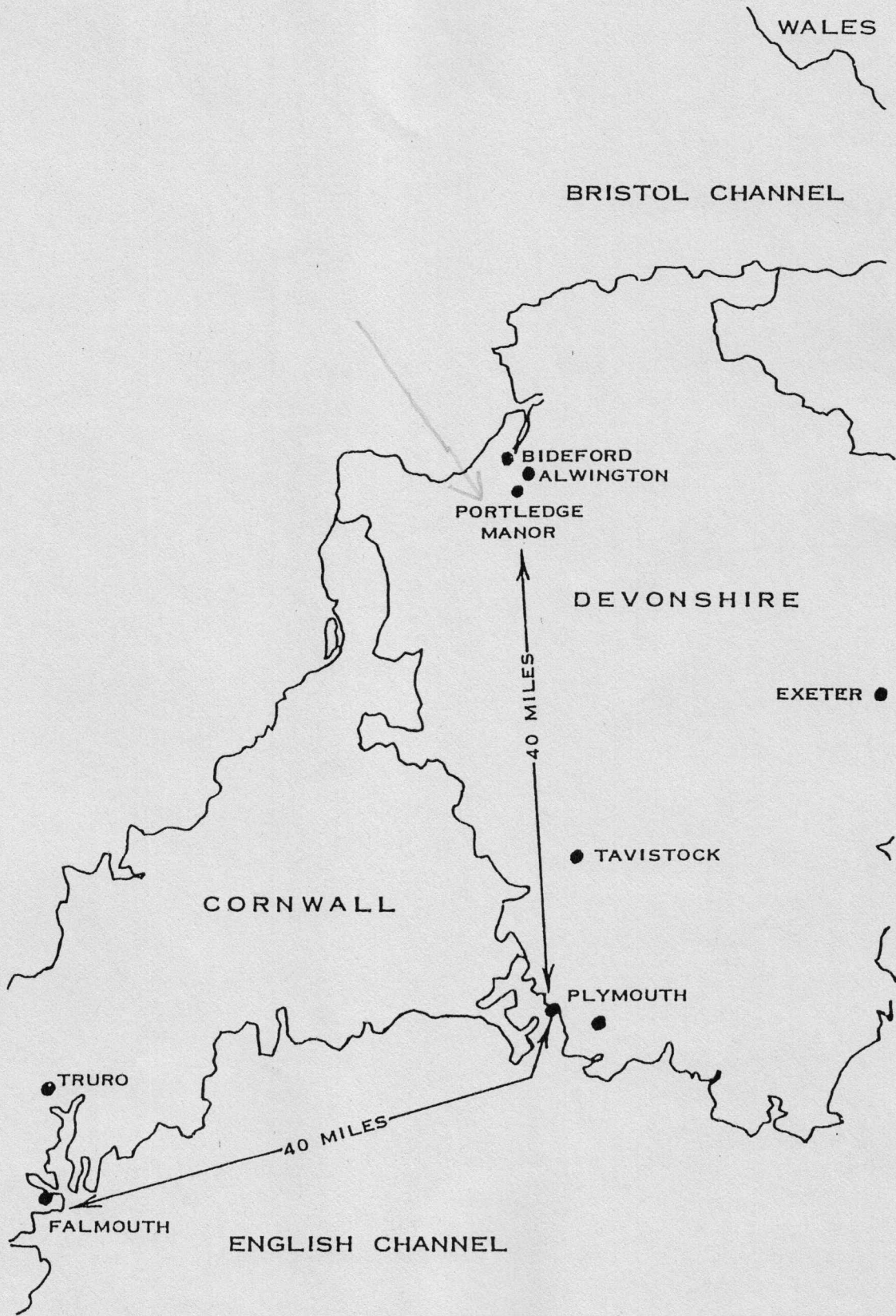
Coffin House at Newbury 1652



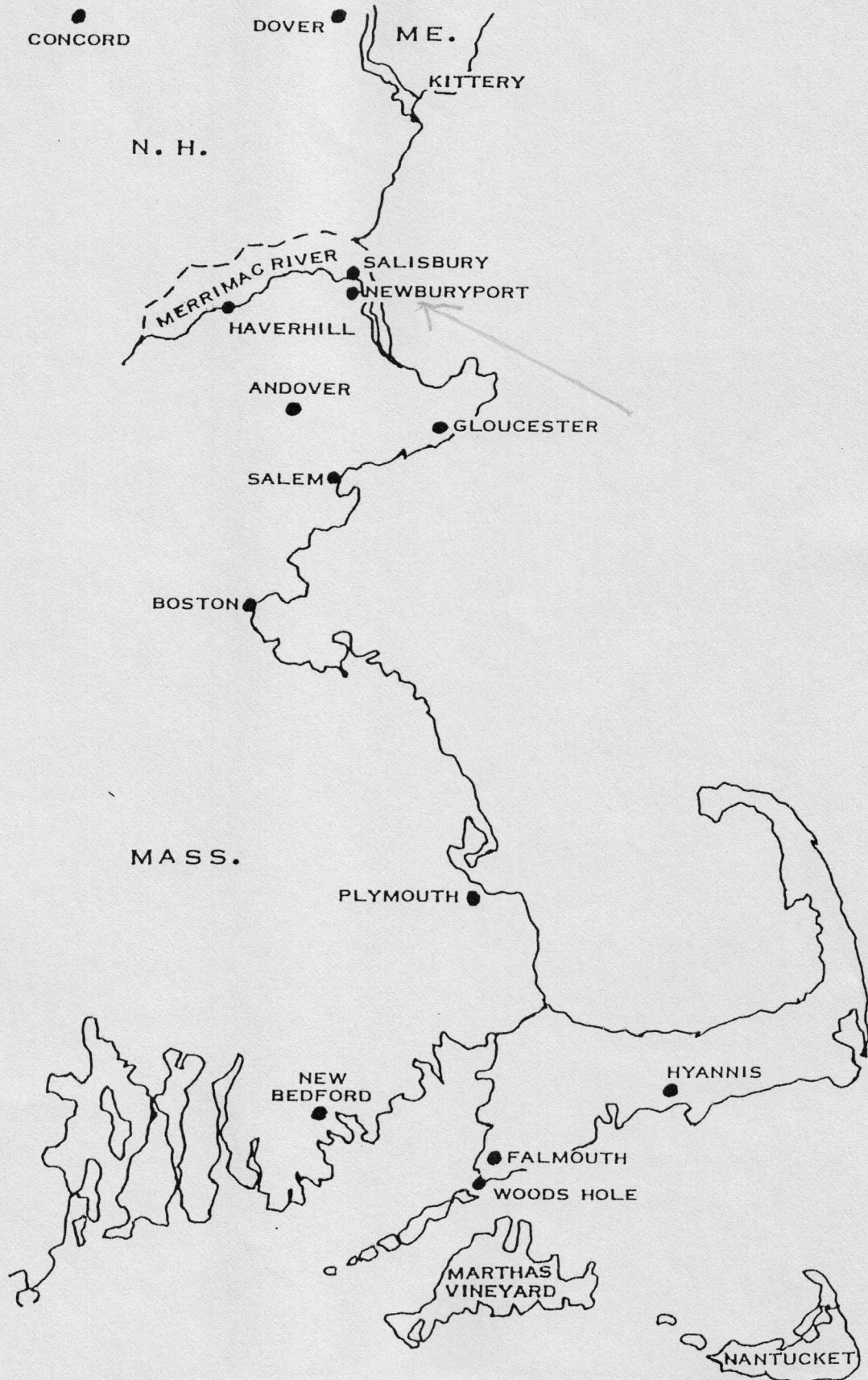
Portledge Manor - Devonshire



MAP OF DEVONSHIRE AND CORNWALL AREA



MAP OF NEW ENGLAND AREA



THE COFFIN FAMILY.

- Daniel, b. at Nantucket; d. 4 mo., 1724—lost at sea.
 Dionis, b. at Nantucket Sept. 21, 1671; m. Jacob Norton.
 Peter, b. at Nantucket Nov. 14, 1673; m. in Boston.
 Stephen, Jr., b. at Nantucket Feb. 20, 1675; m. 1693, Experience Look,
 dau. of Thomas.
 Judith, b. at Nantucket; m., first, Peter Folger, son of Elezer; second,
 Nathaniel Barnard, son of Nathaniel; third, Stephen Wilcox; d. Dec.
 2, 1760.
 Susanna, b. at Nantucket; m. Peleg Bunker, son of William; d. June
 11, 1740.
 Mehitable, b. at Nantucket; m. Armstrong Smith.
 Anna, b. at Nantucket; m. Solomon Gardner, son of Richard. 2d; d.
 April 22, 1740.
 Hephzibah, b. at Nantucket; m. Samuel Gardner.
 Paul, b. at Nantucket April 15, 1695; m. Mary Allen, dau. of Edward;
 d. April, 1729.

BIOGRAPHIES AND ANECDOTES OF DESCENDANTS.

The biographical and anecdotal feature of this publication is necessarily abridged on account of insufficient time to properly arrange and print before the first reunion of Tristram's descendants at Nantucket, August 16, 17, and 18, 1881. As many of his descendants have achieved fame and gained a just celebrity, it becomes a matter of extreme delicacy to select from among so many the few that space will permit to be noticed in this work. Those given, however, are but a fair representation of the many that might be, and which it is hoped some time will be, added to the biographies of Tristram Coffyn's descendants.

GEN. JOHN COFFIN, of St. John's New Brunswick, was an elder brother of Sir Isaac. He distinguished himself as a general in the English army against the colonies; and subsequently took up his residence at St. John's, N. B. In the war of 1812, he again took up arms in defence of his country, having always remained loyal to Great Britain. At the close of the Revolution he married Annie, daughter of William Matthews, of St. John's Island, South Carolina. Washington Irving in his life of Washington, states that the advance on Entaw by Gen. Greene, supported by Col. William Washington, was averted by Major John Coffin, with 150 infantry and 50 cavalry. He was born at Boston, Mass., in 1756, and died at his residence in King's Co., New Brunswick, on the 12th of May, 1838, aged 82 years. His whole career was that of a vigorous, conscientious man of great ability.

ADMIRAL SIR ISAAC COFFIN, Baronet, was of the fifth generation from Tristram and descended as follows: Tristram¹, James², Nathaniel³, William⁴, Nathaniel⁵, who married Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Barnes, of Boston. He was the fourth son, and was born at Boston, Mass., May 16, 1759. Entering the English Navy in 1773, he was commissioned a Lieutenant, 1778; Captain, 1781; Rear Admiral of the White Squadron, 1804; Baronet, and also granted a Coat of Arms the same year; Vice-Admiral, 1808; and in 1817 Admiral. He died at Cheltenham, England, in 1839, aged 80 years, without issue.

THE COFFIN FAMILY.

He was awarded an estate by the Government of England, known as the Magdalen Islands, at the mouth of the St. Lawrence River, about the time he was created a Baronet. He was a personal friend of the Duke of Clarence, who, when he became William IV., continued to show him favor. When it became necessary, in 1832, to swamp the House of Lords, by creating new Peers in order to pass the Reform Bill, the name of Sir Isaac was upon the King's list. He desired to make him Earl of Magdalen, but the Ministers objected, on the ground of his strong attachment to his native country, and especially cited the fact of his fitting out a vessel with Yankee lads from his Lancasterian School at Nantucket, to make master mariners of them, which could not be viewed by England with favor. So it may in truth be said that the Coffin School at Nantucket cost the Admiral an Earldom, and came near sacrificing his Baronetcy.

In 1790, when in command of the Alligator frigate, at the Nore, under sailing orders, the wind blowing strong, a man fell overboard. Coffin plunged in after him and saved his life; but in doing so sustained an injury from which he never fully recovered. It was regarded as a most heroic feat, and has once since been attempted by another descendant of Tristram, born at Nantucket, Lieut. Seth M. Ackley, of the U. S. Navy, who received therefor a commendatory letter from the Secretary of the Navy.

Isaac Coffin was commissioner of the Royal Navy in 1795, and was sent to Corsica; thence to Lisbon; thence to Mahon, in the Island of Minorca. Then he was placed in charge of the King's yard at Sheerness. He spent some time about the coast of Australia; and "Sir Isaac's Point" and "Coffin's Bay," as laid down on the English Coast Charts of Australia, are named in honor of him.

He married in 1811, Elizabeth, daughter of William Greenly, Esq., of Titley Court, Herefordshire; and, assuming the lady's name, became Sir Isaac Coffin Greenly. But the union was not a happy one, and they separated. She remained Lady Greenly and he dropped the Greenly. She was an exemplary lady, inclined to literary pursuits of a religious tendency which did not accord with his rollicking nature.

He at one time took to politics and was elected member of Parliament for Ilchester. Inclining to Liberalism, he consorted with the Whigs and became noted for his rough humor and salt sayings.

Of his ready wit many stories are told—one will suffice. Once, on his way to Titley Court, stopping to bait at Chepstow, he was informed by the innkeeper that an American, a prisoner, confined in the castle hard by, claimed to be his relative, and prayed for an interview. Sir Isaac, curiously, acceded, went to the prison, and was introduced to "a gentleman of colour." Both surprised and amused, he was informed by Sambo that he was an American, a namesake, and must therefore be a relation, as no one would be likely to take his name for the fun of the thing. "Stop, my man, stop," interjected the Admiral, "let me ask you a question. Pray, how old may you be?" "Well," replied the other, "I should guess about thirty-five." "Oh! then," rejoined his interlocutor, turning away, "there is clearly a mistake here, you can't be one of my Coffins—none of my people ever turn black before they are forty." He nevertheless secured Sambo's release.

One day an American ship sailed into Portsmouth or Plymouth, England, before the war of 1812, when Sir Isaac had charge of the Naval fleet. An English officer was sent on board. The master having gone

THE COFFIN FAMILY.

on shore, the mate being in charge did not receive the officer with the etiquette required on such occasions. The officer gave the first salutation as he reached the deck, by saying "What kind of a d—d Yankee lubber has charge here, who don't know his duty to properly receive his majesty's officer?" The mate said not a word, but seizing his visitor by the collar and slack of his trousers threw him overboard, for his own crew to pick up. Soon after an armed boat came alongside to take the mate on board the flag ship, where he was arraigned before Sir Isaac, who soon became aware that the culprit was a kinsman, whose father he had been familiar with in boyhood. He tried to get the mate to acknowledge that he was ignorant of the laws and customs, that he might dismiss the case, with admonition, but the Yankee was obdurate: "He'd be d—d," he said, "if any man should insult him with impunity on his own deck and under the flag of his country." The offender was remanded to be regularly tried the next day. In the meantime the Admiral sent a messenger to privately inform the mate that a suitable apology would relieve him from any further trouble in the matter; but on the trial the same defiant manner was assumed. The Admiral drew out some expression, however, which he accepted as satisfactory, and dismissed the offender with suitable admonitions.

Later in the day from the shore, the Admiral sent a message to the young man stating that, as his father was an old friend and relative, he would be happy to meet the son and enjoy a bottle of wine with him at the inn. But the young man replied that the Admiral might go to h—l with his wine. He'd see him d—d first before he'd drink with any d—d Englisher, especially one who would approve of an insult to an officer under his own flag upon his own deck.

The Admiral used to relate the above incident with much gusto, as he admired the spirit of independence exhibited by the Yankee mate.

Perhaps the most beneficial and truly philanthropic act of the Admiral was the founding of the Coffin School at Nantucket, a complete history of which, written by George Howland Folger, Esq., a former pupil of the school, it is hoped will soon be presented to the public.

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THE COFFIN FAMILY.

responsively to the truth and purity of her life, so long will there be pilgrims journeying to her tomb to drop thereon in mingled profusion white flowers and tears.

PROF. JAMES HENRY COFFIN, LL. D., was born at Williamsburg, near Northampton, Mass., Sept. 6, 1806, and was sixty-six years and five months old at the time of his death. Being left a poor orphan, he went to live with his uncle, the Rev. Moses Hallock, under whose care he was educated. He graduated at Amherst College in 1828. After leaving college he engaged in teaching in Massachusetts, entering upon a profession in which he continued until the day of his death. He established one of the first manual labor schools in the country, at Greenfield, Mass., which was known as the Fellenberg Academy. Leaving Greenfield in 1837, he went to Ogdensburg, N. Y., to take charge of a school there. Here he remained till 1839. His scientific life dates from this time. Here he became interested in Meteorology. In 1839 he left Ogdensburg to become a tutor in Williams College, where he remained five years. Here he published a work on the mode of calculating solar and lunar eclipses, which was extensively used. During the same period he devised the erection and superintended the building of the Greylock Observatory on Saddle Mountain. In this observatory he placed the first combined, self-registering instrument to determine the direction, velocity and moisture of winds, ever constructed. An improved instrument for the same purpose he recently presented to the Observatory at Cordova, Buenos Ayres. Leaving Williams College in 1843, he spent three years in teaching at Norwalk, Conn. In 1844 an acquaintanceship began, which continued up to the time of the rebellion, between the Professor and Capt. M. F. Maury, U. S. N. Capt. Maury is well known for his investigations into the subject of oceanic currents and winds. In 1846 Prof. Coffin accepted the position of Professor of Mathematics in Lafayette College, and for twenty-seven years his life has been spent in Easton. As Professor of Mathematics at Lafayette, Dr. Coffin won much celebrity, but his name will, perhaps, be more widely known throughout the country as a contributor to the reports of the Smithsonian Institution, and for his investigations on the subject of winds and atmospheric changes. In this field he was a pioneer. Twenty-two years ago the Smithsonian Institution published a large quarto volume of Prof. Coffin's, on the Winds of the Northern Hemisphere. For some years he was engaged on another work, which at the time of his death was nearly ready for publication. This volume was a treatise on the "Winds of the Globe." Issued by Smithsonian Institution, 1876—pages 781; 26 plates, the largest numerical tables ever issued from the American press. Among his more important mathematical works are a "Treatise on Solar and Lunar Eclipses," a work on the "Meteoric Fire-ball of July, 1860," "Astronomical Tables," "Conic Sections," and "Analytical Geometry."

The merits and learning of Dr. Coffin were not unrecognized. He was one of the first elected members of the National Academy of Science, and was a prominent member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, at whose meetings he frequently read papers on meteorological subjects. At the time of his death, on the sixth of February, 1873, he was an elder in the Brainerd Church. He united with the church at an early age, and lived a sincere and devout christian.

CAPT. REUBEN COFFIN, of Athens, N. Y., was in command of steamer *Seth Low*, during the war of the Rebellion, chartered to tow from New

THE COFFIN FAMILY.

York to James River the *Monitor*, with orders to proceed with all possible dispatch. When running down the coast with the *Monitor* in tow, a heavy fog set in with a heavy sea. The United States officers on board in command of the *Monitor* wanted Captain Coffin, of the *Low*, to cast anchor, as the lead showed they were shoaling their water and might get ashore. Captain Coffin told the officers he would run off shore and that would give more water, that his orders were to proceed with all possible dispatch, and he was not going to stop unless compelled to, and kept on his course, and reached his destination during the night previous to the famous fight between the *Monitor* and *Merrimack*. Never had any arrival proved more fortunate. The *Monitor* saved the balance of the United States fleet not already destroyed. This act of Captain Coffin in keeping on his course against the protests of the United States officers saved many valuable lives, and the government millions of money.

THE COFFIN COAT OF ARMS.

Heraldry has a language all its own, the significance of which none but careful students who have made it a specialty will pretend to absolute accuracy in its exposition. Briefly stated, it is the science of conventional distinctions impressed on shields or banners, and is both national and personal. The latter treats of bearings belonging to individuals either in their own or hereditary right. The Coffins have always claimed Coat Armour in hereditary right. That branch descended from Nathaniel Coffin, father of Admiral Sir Isaac, inherit the right through the Admiral's grant, and are unquestionably entitled to wear his Coat of Arms, but this differs essentially in its emblazonment from the more ancient ones.

Authorities upon English heraldry give, as belonging to the Coffins of Devonshire, a description which, in its combination, is unlike any other family bearings, and consists of Bezants and Cross-Crosslets. While they differ as to order of arrangement and combination, the number of Bezants is never less than three nor more than four, and the Cross-Crosslets vary from five upward to a semee which is an indefinite convenient number.

The Bezants are a roundle representing the ancient gold coin of Byzantium, current in England from the tenth century to the time of Edward III., and was probably introduced into coat armour by the crusaders. The white roundle exhibited upon Admiral Sir Isaac's Arms, is of silver, and is usually called a plate, although there were silver bezants used as coin. The Cross-Crosslets are Crosses crossed on each arm.

The Crests and Mottoes are of quite modern origin.