

THE PUSEY FAMILY.

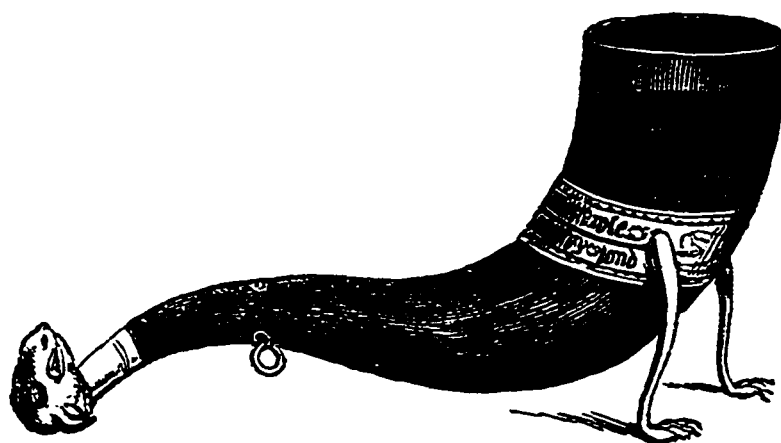
A BRIEF HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ITS ORIGIN IN
ENGLAND AND AMERICA.

COMPILED FROM TRADITIONAL AND AUTHENTIC SOURCES

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THE PUSEY HORN.

THE PUSEY FAMILY.

The family of Pusey is of ancient English origin, having been settled in the hundred of Ganfield, in Berkshire, England, for more than eight and a half centuries. During this long period the name has undergone inevitable changes of orthography, having been spelled variously Pesie, Pesey, Pesye, Pose, Pusye, Pyssey, Pusey, Pewte, Pewsey and Pecote, the last doubtless resulting simply from a miscopy of the old English characters. In the celebrated Domesday Book, completed in 1086, and embodying the results of the survey ordered by William the Conqueror, the name is registered "Pesie" or "Pesei" in "Gannesfelde" hundred.

The manor and village of Pusey, situated in the hundred of Ganfield, Berkshire, lie south of the London road, twelve miles from Oxford and about five miles east of Farringdon. Here the family have resided from the time of the Danish King Canute, fifty years before the Norman Conquest. The tradition is that about the year 1016, during the bloody contest for the English crown between the Danes under Canute and the Saxons led by Edmund Ironside, the hostile forces, having manœuvered for posi-

tion, lay encamped a few miles apart, the Saxons on White Horse Hill and the Danes at Chesbury Castle, a hamlet of Charney, when William Pusey, an officer under Canute, entered the Saxon camp in disguise and discovered a plot there formed for a midnight surprise and massacre of the Danes. As a reward for this perilous service, which saved the Danish army from destruction, King Canute presented the daring officer with the manor lying contiguous to the camping ground, giving him as evidence of the transfer the horn of an ox bearing the inscription "Kyng Knowde geue Wyllyam Pewte thys horne to holde by thy lond." Camden, Fuller and other antiquarian authorities refer to this circumstance. The conveyance of realty by the delivery of a horn or other article of personal property is well known to have been an ancient custom especially under the Danish kings, while the tenure of lands by what is known as cornage or the service of a horn is stated by Ingulphus and other old writers to have been not unusual in the early days of England.

The estate thus granted by the old Danish King to William Pusey has remained in the uninterrupted possession of the family and their descendents and direct representatives down to the present day. By family deeds and records in the British Museum it is shown that in the reign of Henry II, in the year 1155, the manor was held by Henry de Pesye; that in the reign of Edward I, in the year 1307, it was held by Richard de Pose; that Henry de Pusye was lord of the manor in 1316, in the reign of Edward II; that it was held by Henry de Pusey under Edward III in 1343; by William de Pusey under Richard II, in 1377; by John de Pusey under Edward IV, in 1468; by Thomas à Pyssey de Pyssey under

Henry VII, in 1507 ; by Philip, William and Richard de Pyssey, in 1562, 1580 and 1655 respectively, and by Charles Pusey in 1710. By the last named holder, both the horn and the manor, according to Dr. Hickes, were recovered in chancery before Lord Chancellor Jefferies "the horn itself being produced in court and with universal admiration received, admitted, and proved to be the identical horn by which, as by a charter, Canute had conveyed the manor of Pusey seven hundred years before." Reference to the case is made in I Vernan's Reports 273 de Term: S. Mich: 1684, wherein the demurrer of the defendant is stated to have been overruled and the plaintiff awarded his claim.

The family became extinct in the male line in 1710 by the death of the above mentioned Charles Pusey who bequeathed the manor to his nephew, John Allen, Esq., directing that he should take the name of Pusey in addition to his own, and that in case of his dying without issue it should be entailed on the male issue of his own sisters and his neices, the Allen's successively, who upon inheriting the estate were to assume the name of Pusey. Both Mr. John Allen and the sisters of Mr. Charles Pusey having died without issue, the sisters of Mr. Allen Pusey joined in settling the estate on the Hon. Philip Bouverie, nephew of Mr. Allen Pusey's lady who was daughter of Sir William Bouverie, bart. Mr. Philip Bouverie upon taking possession of the estate in 1789, assumed the name of Pusey and married Lucy, widow of Sir Thomas Cave, and daughter of the fourth Earl of Harborough, by whom he had five children. He died in 1828, and was succeeded by his son Philip, who became a member of Parliament for Berkshire, and was honorably distinguished for his assiduous devotion to the

interests of agriculture, in which he employed time, means and the resources of a classical and varied education. He was long editor of the Royal Society's Journal, and his enlightened discussion of scientific methods and especially his rare skill in combining the best results of theory and practice, secured him recognition at home and abroad, as a leading agricultural authority. His brother next in age was Dr. Edward Pusey, canon of Christ Church, and regius Professor of Hebrew in the University of Oxford, widely known as leader of the so-called "Puseyite" or Anglo Catholic movement, in the church of England, and author of numerous scholarly treatises on religious subjects. Hon. Philip Pusey married Lady Emily Herbert, daughter of the second Earl of Carnarvon, by whom he had one son and two daughters. He died July 9, 1855, and was succeeded by his son Sidney Edward Bouverie Pusey, Esq., the present possessor, who married a daughter of Lord William Hervey, April 29th, 1871.

The Bouveries who thus succeeded to the old Pusey Manor are descended from Lawrence des Bouveries of the Low Countries, driven to England by religious persecution, in the time of Queen Elizabeth.

PUSEY COAT OF ARMS.

ARMS.—Gu. three bars arg.

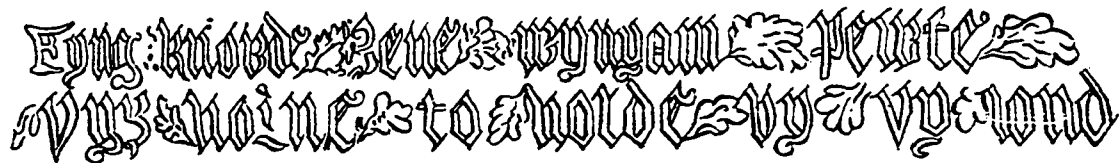
CREST.—A cat passant.

The old horn by the delivery of which the estate was originally granted and is still held, remains in possession of the family. A picture of it accompanies this sketch. It is believed to have been the drinking horn of King Canute. It is described as of dark brown or tortoise shell color, two feet and one-half inch in length,

one foot in circumference at the large end, and two and a quarter inches at the small end. Rings of silver gilt encircle it at either end and a broader ring or band surrounds it near the middle. To this middle band are affixed two legs with feet resembling those of a hound, by which the horn is supported upon a stand. At the small end is a screw stopper of silver gilt, in imitation of a hounds head. By taking this out and passing a strap through the two rings which are suitably placed for the purpose, it might be made to serve as a hunting horn. That it may have been used both as a drinking and a hunting horn at different periods is not improbable, but as the alleged delivery of the horn took place long before the discovery of gun-powder or the use of fire arms, it could not have been at first used as a *powder* horn, while the tradition that it was originally the drinking horn of King Canute and subsequently bestowed to evidence the reward of military service, receives plausibility in view of two special uses to which horns are known to have been devoted at that early day, namely, drinking purposes and the conveyance of landed property, which is further supported by the presumption that a peculiar value was attached to the familiar drinking appliances of a rude and convivial people.

Cornage was a species of tenure in old England by which the grantee not only received, but bound himself to blow a horn to alarm the country on the approach of an enemy, and tradition asserts that the delivery of this old horn imposed upon its receiver a special obligation to keep vigilant watch and blow a warning alarm against all the King's enemies. The inscription upon the broad middle band of the horn is believed to belong to a

much later age than that of Canute, having been probably made or renewed in the fifteenth century, but it doubtless replaced an older inscription of fading legibility. The following is a fac simile of it in its present appearance.



The presentation of this horn by Canute to the original William Pusey is said to have been made with much ceremony on the beach at Southampton and a plastic representation of the scene hangs in the hall of the present Pusey Mansion. Other treasures and interesting relics are also there collected, including family portraits, antique lace and articles once belonging to royal personages. Considerable legendary interest moreover attaches to the old place derived from the curious customs and characters of former residents, one of whom, Alice Paternoster, held lands in Pusey, in the reign of Edward I, by the service of saying paternoster five times a day for the souls of the Kings ancestors, and another of the same surname, on succeeding to an estate in this parish, instead of paying a sum of money as a relief, said the Lord's Prayer thrice before the Barons of the Exchequer as his brother had done before him.

The parish church was rebuilt at the expense of Mr. John Allen Pusey and a very handsome monument in his memory and that of his lady, stands in the south transept.

The Pusey Mansion is a plain stone structure with two front bows, presenting an attractive and substantial appearance. Its

present occupants give courteous attention to members of archæological societies and other considerate visitors attracted by the historical interest of the place.

It is not certainly known whether the Pusey families in America are traceable to the English origin here indicated, but it is well established that the ancestors of the American Puseys came from the same section of England, and, as the family is a comparatively limited one, having few or no branches which cannot be traced to a common source, it is not improbable that all American families bearing the Pusey name are descended more or less directly from the parent stock which effected so early and tenacious a lodgment in Berkshire.

Caleb Pusey, the first of the name who immigrated to America, was born in Berkshire, England, in the year 1651. He grew up among the religious denomination of Baptists, but in early manhood joined the Society of Friends and removed to London, where he became actively associated with William Penn in his cherished project for the colonization of Pennsylvania. Having arranged with the Proprietary for the erection of a grist and saw mill in the new Province, the materials for which were to be prepared in England, Caleb Pusey sailed for this country in 1682, probably in one the earliest of the twenty-three vessels which arrived that year in the Delaware. He selected a site for the proposed mill on Chester Creek, one mile from its entrance into the Delaware, where the materials, which arrived upon a later ship, were fitted and set up by Richard Townsend. Caleb Pusey was one of the proprietors and acted as the miller and resident agent of a joint stock company of owners. Some of these owners dis-

couraged by disastrous floods soon sold out their interests, others forfeited their rights by non-payment of damage assessments and the mill finally fell into the exclusive possession of William Penn, Samuel Carpenter and Caleb Pusey. With the exception of a rude mill which the Swedes had used for a brief period on the Schuylkill this was the first grist mill in use in Pennsylvania. It stood on land now belonging to the Crozier Estate, at Upland, and fell into ruins many years ago, but its weather vane, bearing the date 1699 and the initials of its three owners, was fortunately rescued and now surmounts the building of the Pennsylvania Historical Society, in Philadelphia. Caleb Pusey's residence, built about the year 1685, near the mill, is still standing, being probably now the oldest building in the state. It has been kept in repair in recent years by the kindly interest and liberal care of the present owners.

Caleb Pusey was a man of high rectitude of purpose and great force of character. To cool judgment and natural sagacity he united considerable literary attainments and he became an influential and prominent actor in the religious and public affairs pertaining to the early settlement of Pennsylvania. He was a leading elder of Friends' Meeting, was sheriff of the county and head of the "Peace Makers," a species of volunteer court to which the early settlers gladly resorted for the settlement of their differences and the relief of their troubles; and he stands in history as a peace maker of more momentous character, for when, about the year 1688, it was reported and believed amid wild alarm that, through the evil machinations of jealous enemies, the Indians had assembled in great numbers and were ruthlessly

murdering the settlers, Caleb Pusey volunteered, without weapons, to lead a few unarmed friends to pacify the infuriated savages by the simple power of truth. By a course thus frank and friendly, yet demanding a high order of courage, the falsity of the reports was shown and the public alarm subsided. He was the author of various essays and pamphlets in defence and exposition of the convictions of the early Quakers, some of which the Society caused to be printed and widely circulated in answer to the assaults and repeated misrepresentations of their enemies. Caleb Pusey was at various times a member both of the Provincial and Governor's Council as well as of the Assembly, and was always a trusted friend and coadjutor of William Penn in the important matters touching the settlement and prosperity of the Province. He left a mass of valuable papers comprising his own writings and the collections he had carefully made pertaining to public affairs, from which the materials for Proud's History of Pennsylvania were largely obtained. After forty-four years of active life in America passed at Philadelphia and Chester during which he was constantly identified with important movements looking to the public welfare, he removed to Marlborough, Chester County, Pa., where he died, greatly honored and beloved, on the 25th of December, 1726,

Caleb Pusey had no male issue but left two daughters one of whom married John Smith, a minister from New England and the other a man named Painter. Two brothers, nephews of Caleb Pusey, followed him to America about the year 1700. One of these, William Pusey, married Elizabeth Bowater and settled in London Grove, Chester County, Pa., where he erected a mill and

a substantial stone dwelling house which is still standing. The other, Caleb Pusey, Jr., settled in Marlborough in the same county. Both left numerous descendents and so far as is known all persons of American birth bearing the Pusey name or blood may trace their origin to one or the other of these two brothers or to their uncle Caleb Pusey through his married daughters.

There is some doubt, it is true, whether a more distinct family subdivision may not be traced to another Caleb Pusey, cousin of the historical personage referred to. The latter in his last will, while appointing his "kinsmen William and Caleb Pusey, Sr.," as his trustees, made a bequest to his "cousin Caleb Pusey"; but it is thought that the person thus referred to was really the son of his nephew Caleb Pusey and that the devisee was designated "cousin" simply in pursuance of the old custom of applying familiar and varying terms to the ties of consanguinity. In any event there is little room to doubt that all branches of the American family of Pusey are readily traceable to the common ancestry here indicated.