

SUPPLEMENT NUMBER ONE
TO
DESCENDANTS OF SAMUEL WEEKS
OF
DANVILLE, VERMONT
GENEALOGY

1933

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By ERNEST A. WEEKS
DENVER, COLORADO

1935

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THIS SUPPLEMENT SHOULD BE FILED INSIDE
OF FRONT COVER OF ABOVE MENTIONED BOOK

Au Revoir—
On that dark night;
Whose rosy dawn
Heralds the celestial light.

Scatter his ashes to the wind,
Whose sword or voice has served mankind,
And is he dead, whose glorious
Mind lifts him on high?
To live in hearts we leave behind,
Is not to die,
Even when the soul is at home in the sky.

"It is indeed a desirable thing to be well
descended, but the glory belongs to our
ancestors."
—Plutarch.

The preservation of this record cannot fail to prove valuable and a source of pride and interest, not only to persons connected with this family, but, to some extent, the world in general, and this book may prove to be the foundation upon which future records may be built, thus perpetuating a record that would otherwise be lost for all time.

After the distribution of the book, "Descendants of Samuel Weeks of Danville, Vermont," published in 1933, the author received a letter from Mr. H. Clifton, of Manchester, England, early in the current year (1935), in which he stated that he had access to a large library of official English government records, extending back through medieval times. After some correspondence, he kindly offered his services in tracing the ancestral line and family records of Leonard Weeks, of Greenland, N. H., through the available records at his command. After receiving my consent, he proceeded with the investigation through a period of about three months, and this Supplement is the result of his research. I have no doubt that the results of Mr. Clifton's efforts will be as gratifying to all people interested in this work as it has been to the author, himself, who feels no little pleasure and pride in being instrumental in placing these statistics in shape for historical value, at a time when they were generally supposed to be lost forever. These revelations are much like raising the curtain on a stage of England's medieval life, in which our ancestors played a conspicuous part, that had been all but lost to their posterity or audience. I believe all of their descendants will join in proclaiming our gratitude for the high standards of life maintained by them throughout those trying years and centuries in the life of the Caucasian race. In placing these records before my readers, I am mindful of that beautiful poem—"A Psalm of Life," by Longfellow:

"Life is real! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
'Dust thou art, to dust returneth,'
Was not spoken of the soul.

"Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time."

FAMILY OR SURNAMES

In England, the custom of using family names began after the Norman Conquest, about 1068, A. D. Not solely as a result of this invasion, but as a necessity in the more populous areas of all countries, especially on the mainland of Europe, on account of the increasing difficulty in identifying people under the old system of promiscuous names.

The dictionary of English surnames, "Patronymica Britannica," lists the name Weeks, Weekes, etc., the same as Wick, Wikes, Wyke, Wykes, etc., which seem to be mere orthographical variations. The precise locality from which it was derived is unknown. The syllable, "Wick," is found in many names of places and consequently in many local surnames.

It is the Anglo-Saxon "Wic," or "Wyc," and is of a very wide signification, implying a dwelling-place, mansion, borough, village, street (Latin, "viscus," with which it is doubtless connected), monastery, castle, camp or military station, bay, creek, etc. In local nomenclature, however, it generally implies a dwelling, habitation, or village, etc. "Week" and "Wyke" being very significant forms of the name.

On account of the many conquests of Britain during its early history, by various tribes of people from the mainland of Europe, the only available record of the origin of a family is through the etymology of the name. From the above it appears that the name, "Weeks," is of Anglo-Saxon origin, and that the family was, therefore, of the Anglo-Saxon race. It will be noted that after the Norman Invasion of England, until about 1355, A. D., in many instances the prefix "de" appears before a surname. This is explained as a French form or custom brought over by the Norman invaders and settlers. This prefix indicating a place name.

The official life, occupation, or place of abode of feudal times has left its existing record in English family nomenclature. It is a record that will never be effaced, and it is one that tells its own tale. After a feudal office had been held by a family for several generations, that family usually received a permanent surname indicating that office, occupation or place of abode, and that name has been handed down through all the intervening generations, modified by various corruptions of dialect, nicknames, spelling, etc.

SOME OF THE WEEKS FAMILY COATS-OF-ARMS

By SIR JOHN BERNARD BURKE

Eminent Barrister at Law, and Author of Many Books on English Heraldry

Wykes—(Of the Manor of Dursley, Gloucestershire, England.)

Argent on a pale, cotised, sable, three greyhounds' heads, or, collared, gules.

Crest:

A greyhound's head, erased, or, collared, gules, in mouth a man's leg, couped at the thigh, argent.

Wyke—(Newport Co., Essex and Stanton-Wyke, Co. Somerset.)

Paly of six, argent (silver), and gules (red), on a chevron of the last three crosses—crosslet, or (gold).

Wyke—(Ninehead, 1400.)

Argent, a chevron, gules, between three crosses, moline, sable.

All descendants of Leonard Weeks of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, are entitled to bear either of these arms. No crests are recorded for the shields of Stanton-Wyke and Ninehead, mentioned above. While it is possible, and perhaps common, to bear a shield of arms and have no crest to go with it, it is quite impossible to possess a crest without the accompanying coat or shield. Heraldry is purely a feudal institution, coeval with close armour, devised possibly in Germany, adapted and improved in France, Spain, and Italy, and imported into England by the Norman invaders and settlers.

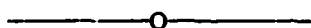
Our National Emblem, the Stars and Stripes, has been traced back to the paternal coat of George Washington, whose English ancestors bore "argent, two bars, gules, in chief, three mullets, of the second."

A cross, the emblem of Christianity, on a coat-of-arms bears a religious sentiment, no doubt, inspired by the great religious fervor of the

period of the Crusades. For my personal coat-of-arms I would follow the example of my ancestors of Newport, County Essex, and Stanton-Wyke, County Somerset, with their three crosses on a chevron, emblematic of Golgotha. As a Past Commander of Knights Templar, I would place over that shield a crest consisting of the Templar "Cross and Crown," in memory of those valiant and magnanimous Knights of the Crusades, whose deeds of charity and pure beneficence have spread their fame both far and wide, and surmount that crest with the motto, "The Old Rugged Cross," recalling that beautiful old hymn.

In that great light of the Christian world, the Holy Bible, we are taught that by faith and humility we are saved, and therein are we charged by our Master to love one another. These virtues, to my mind, constitute the very foundation of the Christian Salvation.

Form a mental picture, if you can, of a vision of the people of this world united with faith in God—Faith in our blessed Saviour, and conducting themselves in a manner that all could have faith in each other—in one grand church, marching on and on in peace and harmony throughout the years and centuries. Then compare that vision with the tragic condition of this world today; torn by hatred, selfishness, jealousy and suspicion; so many individuals striving to build themselves by trampling down their fellow man; so many nations striving to build and perfect the horrible forces of destruction to the extent that they may destroy humanity in shortest possible time! While humanity has always been thus, nevertheless, we must admit that this is a sad and sorrowful condition, and who is there among us, after a spiritual meditation on these scenes, that can refrain from hoping ever, and praying always for the advent of that glorious day when the reign of the blessed Emanuel, the Prince of Peace, the great Captain of our Salvation, shall become universal and eternal?



ADDITIONAL PEDIGREE OF LEONARD WEEKS OF ENGLAND

By H. CLIFTON, ESQ., Manchester, England

11 July, 1935

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| Thomas Wykes | Of Dursley Manor (Gloucestershire). marries the daughter of Richard Chedder, about 1432. He died in 1472. |
| John Wykes | Marries Matilda Langley, daughter of Walter Langley, Esq., of Over Dodynton (Gloucestershire). |
| Edmund Wykes | Marries Eliabeth Norton. (Younger son Edward Wykes.) Edmund died in 1514. |
| Nicholas Wykes | Marries Elizabeth, daughter of Sir R. Poyntz. Nicholas died in 1557. |
| John Wykes | Marries daughter of Sir T. Danvers. John died before his father, leaving two sons. |
| Robert Wykes A Younger Son | Who sold the Gloucester lands in 1566. Henry Wykes of Stanton Wyke. |

Founded on records, viz:

- (1) English National Patent Rolls.
- (2) "The State Papers of Henry 8th"—thirty-eight volumes.
- (3) Second Edition of Atkyns' "History of Gloucestershire."
- (4) Collinson's "History and Antiquities of Somersetshire."

Also with reference to pedigree of Leonard Weeks, published in Rev. Jacob Chapman's "Genealogy of Leonard Weeks and Descendants," and Ernest A. Weeks' "Descendants of Samuel Weeks of Danville, Vermont." It will be noted that the Clifton pedigree, almost, completely fits into the Rev. F. J. Paynton pedigree in the Chapman book. This traces Leonard Weeks' direct line back to about 1432.

The following excerpts from some of Mr. Clifton's letters reveal his opinions and conclusions which have resulted in his addition to the Leonard Weeks pedigree and family history during the middle ages. Mr. Clifton is an Englishman who has spent the major part of his life near the scenes of the Weeks family history; a man of intelligence and thoroughly familiar with English history, as well as the customs and habits of the English people. I have the utmost confidence in his judgment and integrity, and, after a thorough personal study of his notes and letters, I accept his decisions as final and worthy of full confidence. The following records are the most direct and important of his notes. In this Supplement I find it impossible to include more than about half of his records of different branches of the Weeks family. Among the excluded notes is a map of Somersetshire, showing the location of the most important points mentioned herein, as well as printed official documents from the government records, all of which help to strengthen his opinion and conclusions. I regret that it is necessary to omit them, but space will not permit.

Manchester, England, 6 June, 1935.

Ernest A. Weeks, Esq.,
Denver, Colorado, U. S. A.

Dear Sir:

* * * as regards the position of your family in the middle ages it was one of very good standing, indeed. They were "Squires" and "Lords of the Manor."

The second entry (dated 1243) proves conclusively that they were people of substance, as grants in medieval times of the "marriage of an heir" only concerned people of some wealth.

In 1390 Thomas W. is joined on a commission of enquiry with two knights.

In 1399 John W. is on a "commission of array." This being a matter of importance (being military) it was confined to people of standing in the county.

In 1429 we find Robert W. in debt for £1,000, an enormous sum in those days, something like \$75,000.00 now.

As regards church matters, the entries show that your ancestors were considerable benefactors to Bruton Abbey, Somerset. Some also entered the church.

As regards Gloucestershire, the branch here were also in good circumstances.

In 1397 John W. gave 56½ acres of good land to have prayers said for him in Bristol!

In 1432 Thomas Wykes became Lord of the Manor of Dursley. In connection with this, there is a little known fact that may interest you. Shakespeare is believed to have gone to Dursley in his youth, and the Gloucester scenes of the two old Justices (Shallow and Silence), in the second part of Henry 4th, has been identified as in Dursley.

This links up your family with Shakespeare!

Yours sincerely,

H. CLIFTON.

Manchester, England, 11 July, 1935.

Ernest A. Weeks, Esq.

Dear Sir:

* * * To my mind, it is quite clear that your descent is from the Weeks of Dursley (Gloucestershire). Thomas Wykes got the Manor of Dursley through his marriage with the Chedder family heiress, about 1432.

In 1503 we find his grandson, Edmund Wykes, owning 460 acres in Stanton Drew, Somerset.

The family held a very distinguished position for over 100 years and were one of the leading families in Gloucestershire. Unfortunately, in 1557, the properties fell into the hands of a young man, Robert Wykes, and, in 1566, he sold the whole of the Gloucestershire properties. Now, Robert had a younger brother, Henry Wykes. Is it too much to suppose that Henry was provided for by being given, for his portion, part of the lands in Stanton Drew, Somerset? I have no proof, but it seems a most reasonable surmise! Anyway, I think you would be justified in adopting it for your pedigree. This brings your family back to 1432. The work I've done is to give you every reference to this Weeks family in Somerset and Gloucester, contained (1) in the Patent Rolls; (2) in the State papers of the reign of Henry VIII, published in thirty-eight large volumes by our Record Office.

The sale by Robert Wykes of his Gloucestershire estates, I found in the second edition of Atkyn's History of Gloucestershire. In arranging the notes I have kept those relating to John, Edmund and Nicholas distinct.

The Minstrel, "William Wykes," is an interesting character. I wish I could fix him for a certainty. Probably a brother of Thomas Wykes.

The form "de Wykes" is a place name. These de Wykes were of good standing in Somerset and Gloucester, but it is impossible to say whether they were of Norman or Saxon origin.

* * * With regards to the Nightingale family, Geoffrey N. was not a Knight; his son, Thomas N., was the first Baronet.

Under date of 18 July, 1935, Mr. Clifton writes, viz:

I now send the remaining portion of the Wykes family notes. They consist:

(1) Of the references in Collinson's "History and Antiquities of the County of Somerset," a rare book, published in 1791 in three volumes, quarto.

(2) All the Wykes' references (they are not many) in the "Acts of the Privy Council." This is a formidable series of volumes.

(3) The "Inquisitioners' Post-Mortem." of the reign of Henry 7th. I think that there is no doubt, whatever, that your family originated in

Week St. Lawrence (Somerset), where they first appear as early as 1165. I think you would thus be quite justified in using, as your own, the coats-of-arms mentioned by Collinson.

You will note how the ancestral Manor of Wyke (Stanton Drew) was lost to the family in 1355, but came back again in the reign of Edward 4th with the Langley heiress. The Langleys had it from the Chedders.

I have an imperfect copy of one of the volumes of the "Acts of the Privy Council," during the reign of Queen Elizabeth. As it contains a lengthy account of a Wekes family lawsuit, I thought to cut the pages out containing this and send herewith. You will note how absurdly family names were spelled in those days. In these pages we have the same name in three different spellings: Wekes; Wike; Wikes.

Yours sincerely,

H. CLIFTON.

JOHN WYKES OF DURSLEY (GLOUCESTER)

1471—He is stated to have married Matilda, daughter of Walter Langley, Esq., of Over Dodynton (Glos.), but the year is not stated.

1472—Edward Wykes, the son of John Wykes, is described as a Godson of King Edward 4th.

1477—28 October—License granted for John Wykes, Esq., to enfeof Henry and Isabel Bustrop of a toft in Dursley, called "Wereyn Heys."

1479—Grant to John Wykes in reward for his good service to the King in England, Ireland and Wales and beyond the seas of the Island of Londey (i. e., Lundy Island, off the Devon Coast), with all lands, fishings, fowlings, huntings, etc., by land and by water in the sea for the space of three miles around the island.

1483—John Wykes is a Commissioner for the assessment of subsidies in the County of Gloucester.

1484—1 May—Placed by King Richard 3rd on the commission of array for the County of Gloucester.

EDMUND WYKES OF GLOUCESTER AND SOMERSET

Edmund Wykes, Esq., of Dursley, son and heir of John Wykes, Esq., was on the commission of peace for Gloucestershire for years 1506, 1508, 1510 to 1513.

1503—25 November—Pardon to Edmund Wykes, Esq., of Dursley, and his wife, Elizabeth, for entry without license on the Manor of Chelworth, alias West Chelworth, Co. Somerset, by name of lands: 200 acres of land, 100 acres of meadow, 100 acres of pasture, 60 acres of wood, in Staunton Drewe and Chelworth. Held in Chief of the King.

1504—26 February—Grant for life to Edmund Wykes of the officer of Keeper of Oakley Park (Glos.). Void by the death of Nicholas Moody.

1509—In the general pardon, issued at the accession of Henry 8th, his name appears as Edmond Wykes or Wykeys or Wykys, Esq., of Dursley (Glos.), son and heir of John Wykes. In the second part of the same pardon he appears as Edmund Wykes or Wykys or Wikys, of Dursley (Glos.) and Dodington and Stanley St. Leonards (Glos.); also of Staunton Dryw and Chelworth, Somerset, and of Bristol.

1514—John Copinger is appointed Keeper of Oakley Park (Glos.). Vice Edmund Wykes deceased.

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NICHOLAS WYKES OF DURSLEY (GLOS.)

1511—Nicholas Wykes was appointed “gentleman waiter” to the infant Prince Henry, nominal post, as the infant died.

1524—Nicholas Wykys a Commissioner to collect the subsidy in Gloucestershire.

1527—A license is granted Nicholas Wykes to hold a market and two fairs at Dursley.

1530—On a commission for good delivery, Gloucestershire.

1535—Nicholas Wekes, Esq., a Magistrate for (Glos.). Name also spelled Wykes. Also in 1537, 1539, 1540, 1542, 1543 to 1545.

1535—He is on the commission of enquiry into the tenths of Spiritualities for Gloucestershire and the town of Gloucester.

1538—Nicholas Wekes and Sir N. Poyntz, together denounce to the King's Minister, Thomas Cromwell, a certain Friar Robert—described as a “Black Friar of Bristowe”—and Harry Weston, of Hanham, gent., on suspicion of treasonable practices. Both were indicted at Sessions.

1536—Nicholas Wekes appears in the list of Gloucestershire gentry who were prepared to render the King aid during the Northern rebellion.

1539—Nicholas Wickes drew up a list of all persons meet to serve “the King in his wars” within the hundreds of Barkeley, Thornbury and Tewxbury and Tebbelston (Gloucestershire), as well archers as billmen with the number of horses and harness.

1539—Nicholas Wekes appointed by the King (Henry VIII) as one of the Esquires appointed to receive his bride, Anne of Cleves, on her arrival in England.

1542—Nicholas Wekes draws up and signs a certificate of the names and surnames of all men of arms and men armed, meet for war, as well archers as of other horsemen and footmen above the age of sixteen years within the hundreds of Kyftesgate and Tybaston (Glos.).

1543—In a grant of this date it is stated that, in 1532, a grant of the site of the Manor of Godbury (Glos.) and the lands attached thereto was made by Sir Anthony Poyntz to Nicholas Wykes, Esq., for a term of twenty-one years at a rent of £14.

1544—Nicholas Wykes was called upon to serve the King in his proposed French expedition.

1545—To John Wykes, the King's servant, son of Nicholas Wykes. Fiat for his appointment as controller of great and little custom and of subsidy in the Port of Bristol, in reversion after Nicholas Wykes.

1546—Nicholas Wykes is Sheriff of Gloucestershire. About the same time he was also Escheater for the County.

1545—June—Grant in fee to Maurice Walshe "of all lands in Sodbury (Glos.), lately in the tenure of Nicholas Wykes and now of the said Maurice, and the old park of Sodbury, the first vesture of three acres of meadow in Sodbury, in Gymeade, adjoining the south side of the said Park in tenure of Nicholas Wykes, reserved for pasture of the deer."

1549—Nicholas Wykes on an "Inquisitio Post-Mortem."

1551—Nicholas Wykes was on the commission to collect the relief granted by Parliament to the King in the County of Gloucestershire and city of Bristol. His grandson, Robert Wykes, got rid of the family properties in Gloucester in 1566. The lands in Dursley were sold to the Escourt family. Those in Dodington, with a newly built manor house there, to Giles Cotherington.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES (GLOUCESTERSHIRE)

1455-1483—Thomas Wykes is given as on the commission of peace for Gloucestershire in 1455, 1474 to 1477, 1479 to 1483.

1531—Edmund Wykes is one of the trustees of John Berkely of Stoke Gyfford (Glos.).

1533—Henry Wykes appears in a list of Gloucestershire servants of Lord Berkeley.

1540—Nicholas Wykes, parson of Batsford and Condicole, Gloucestershire (he held both livings), deposed that he had taken away a quantity of glass, without permission, from the dissolved Abbey of Hailes (Glos.).

1542—License granted to L. Chamberlayne and Rich. Andrews to alienate lands near Bristol to John Wykes.

1544—The same parties were granted a license to alienate to John Wykes the close called "Almery Lease" with a house, etc., built thereon in the suburbs and within the liberty of the town of Bristol and also a Messuage there in the tenure of John Stone.

WILLIAM WYKES, "THE KING'S MINSTREL"

The following entries are from the patent rolls. William Wykes was of Dursley (Glos.) :

1447—Grant for life of 100 shillings a year to William Wykes, the King's Minstrel.

1448—The grant was changed to one of ten marks a year.

1449—The following curious warrant to him was issued :

"Many rude husbandmen and artificers of England, feigning to be Minstrels, and some of them wearing the King's livery and feigning to be King's Minstrels, collect in certain parts of the Realm great exactions of many of the King's lieges by virtue of their livery and art. And though they be unskilled therein and use divers arts on working days and receive sufficient money thence, they fare from place to place on festivals and take the profits wherefrom the King's Minstrels and others skilled in the art and using no other labors or misteries should live."

William Wykes was therefore appointed to enquire into these abuses throughout England and punish offenders.

1456—10 March—Commission to William Wykes "to take boys elegant in their natural members and instructed in the art of minstrelsy and to put them in the King's service at the King's wages."

1462—5 November—Grant for life to William Wykes, one of the King's Minstrels, of ten marks yearly from the fee farm of the hundreds of Keftesgate, Holford and Greston with the fairs and markets held in the town of Wynchecombe, by the hands of the Abbot and Convent of Wynchecombe (Glos.).

(The dates show that Wykes kept his favor with both the Rival Kings of the Two Roses—Henry 6th and Edward 4th. The last grant was probably on his retirement to Gloucestershire. Wynchecombe being near his native Dursley.)

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

1243—29 October—Grant to Robert Passelewe of the marriage of the heirs of Phillip de Wykes in the King's hand by reason of the voidance of the Bishopric of Bath.

(Phillip held land in Somerset. His eldest son was named Phillip.)

1356—18 March—Enrollment of deed, Whereas Egelina de Wyke, mother of John, son and heir of John de Wyke of Milton (Somerset), holds the Manor of Wyke in the parish of Yatton, and also a messuage, one carucate of land, ten acres of meadow, £38 of rent in Cleware in dower of John's inheritance, with reversion to him after his death, he grants the said Manor, messuage land, meadow and rent, together with the homage and services of R. de Chedder and John Le Warre for the tenements which they hold in Cleware to John de Edyndon, the elder.

1390—6 May—Commission to Sir Baldwin Malet, Sir Hugh Durbaugh and Thomas Wyke to enquire whether any lands, tenements, or

rents, in the County of Somerset, have been alienated without the King's license, contrary to the Statute of Mortmair, and, if so, to certify all particulars.

1392—18 July—Complaint by Thomas Wyke, of Stanton Drue (Somerset), that Sir John Dwereaux, Roger Walton, Richard Clerk, John Flemyng, with other evil doers, lay in wait, armed to kill him, at Beleton (i. e., Belluton, Somerset), and there assaulted him and cut off his right arm and robbed him of goods value £20.

1397—6 July—Sir Thomas Latymer of Braybroke grants the Manor of West Chelworth (Somerset) to Thomas Wyke of Staunton Wyke, his wife, Isabel, and their son, Thomas, for their lives.

1397—16 February—License for John Wyke, parson of St. Stephens, Bristol, to alienate in Mortmain $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres of meadow, $51\frac{1}{2}$ acres of pasture and $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres of wood, in Berkeley (Gloucester), to St. Augustine's Abbey, Bristol, for saying a special collect in celebrating the daily mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in her Chapel of the said Abbey, for the good estate of the said John Wyke and for his soul after death.

1399—18 December—John Wike on the commission of array for Somerset County.

1429—12 November—Pardon of outlawry to Robert Wyke of Nyenhede (Ninehead) Flory (Somerset) for not appearing at Court to answer Sir T. Beauchamp, touching a plea of debt of £1,000.

1432—1 September—License for Richard Chedder to grant the Manor of Dursley (Gloucester), held in chief, to Thomas Wykes.

1439—11 February—Re the Manor of West Chelworth (Somerset), demised in 1397 to Thomas and Isabel Wyke of Staunton Wyke. They are now both dead. Their son, Thomas Wyke, enfeoffed R. Leveden and Thos. Fyssh of Bristol in fee without license. The Manor was in consequence taken into the King's hands. Thomas Wyke then petitioned for the restoration of the Manor to him as it had now been re-granted to him again in fee by Leveden and Fyssh. It was restored to him on payment of a fine.

THE WYKES OF NINEHEAD (SOMERSET)

"The Manor of Ninehead, in the time of Henry 1st (1100-1135) and King Stephen (1135-1154), was the possession of Randolph de Fluri, who 'in allusion to his name) bore on his seal a chevron between three crosses flory, which arms, with a little variation of the crosses, were afterwards used by the family of de Wyke, who (it seems), by some intermarriage with the Fluris, became possessed of the Manor of Ninehead.

"John de Wyke was Lord of this Manor in the time of Edward 1st (about 1300), whom he attended in an expedition against the Scots and was succeeded by another John de Wyke, and he by Philip de Wyke, who held this Manor and that of Withiel Flory, 13 Edward 2nd (i. e., 1319). He had two sons, Walter and John, of whom the latter inherited this Manor and was living in the time of Edward 3rd, having

issue, a son, also named John, who was resident at Ninehead, 13 Richard 2nd (i. e., 1389). He married Catherine, daughter of Sir Will. Bonville, in whose right he had the Manor of Yeovilton for his life. He died 12 Henry 4th (i. e., 1410), seized of that Manor and of the Manor of Ninehead Flory, as also a Moiety of the Manor of Lillisdon, leaving Robert, his son and heir, then of the age of nineteen years.

"This Robert was father of John Wyke, who was of Ninehead, in the time of Edward 4th, and died the tenth of that reign (i. e., 1469), seized of the Manor of Ninehead Flory, Withiel, Uphill and Oldmixon, leaving Richard, his brother and heir, of the age of sixty years, which Richard Wyke, or Wykes (as he was also called), died 1 Richard 3rd (i. e., 1483), seized of the Manors of Ninehead and Withiel Flory (held by Knights service of the Bishop of Winchester), the fourth part of the Manor of Uphill and Christon (held of Thomas, Lord Stanley) and four messuages, eighty acres of arable land, twenty acres of meadow, and forty acres of pasture, in Oldmixon (held of John Arthur). He was made a Knight of the Bath at the marriage of the King's son, Arthur, to Katherine of Aragon (1501). Succeeded by Richard Wykes, the latter end of the reign of Henry 7th (i. e., 1501-9), and who held the Manor of Ninehead and Withiel. He married Eleanor Hadley, of Withycombe, by whom he had issue Richard.

"This Richard Wykes, succeeding to the estates, married Margaret, daughter of Richard Rolle of Stevenstone. He died 1590."

N. B.—There is a monument to him (Richard W.) in Ninehead Parish Church. Gives his age at death as forty-one. Left behind him six sons and eleven daughters. His arms were: Argent, a chevron, gules, between three crosses, moline, sable.

COURT DE WICK

"A little southward from Claverham is the ancient mansion of Court de Wick. So denominated from the family of de Wick, its ancient founders and possessors. This family had their name from the parish of Week St. Lawrence, where they were seated so early as the time of Henry 2nd (1154-1189). In the twelfth year of that reign (1165) Thomas de Wyke was returned as holding two Knights fees of Robert, Bishop of Bath. Who had issue John de Wyke, the first, living in the time of King John. Who had issue John de Wyke, the second.

"Who had issue John de Wyke, the third, a commander in the army of Edward, the First, against the Scots. He became Lord of the Manor of Ninehead. He was succeeded by John de Wyke, the fourth, who, 30 Edward 3rd (1355), granted the Manor of Wyke, with lands and tenements in Clewer and Stanton Drew to John de Edynton, Senior, and his heirs—Reversionary after the death of his mother, Egelina Wyke.

"This John was the grandson of John de Wyke, the third. His parents were Philip and Egelina de Wyke.

"From the Edyntons these properties came into the hands of the Chedder family, whose heiress, as my former notes showed, married a Wykys."

The authority for all above is:

Collinson: "History and Antiquities of the County of Somerset." Three quarto volumes, 1791.

RELICS OF COURT DE WICK

The old manor house was rebuilt when it came into the possession of the Chedders. This, in its turn, was let go to ruin.

In the neighboring Yalton Church are two elliptical arches. In the first of which lies the effigy of an ancient man, with a few loose ringlets of hair flowing towards his shoulders. In the second lies that of a woman, whose head is covered with a close hood. Both are sadly mutilated. Their identity is uncertain, but it is thought they may represent members of the de Wick family.

Stanton Wyke got its name from "Court de Wick."

"INQUISITIONES POST-MORTEM." REIGN OF HENRY 7th

Somerset. 5 November, 15 Henry 7th (i. e., 1499).

Manor of Staunton Drewe, worth £7; and 150 acres of pasture, 20 acres meadow, 20 acres arable, 20 acres wood, in West Chelworth, worth 10 marks.

Held of the Abbot of St. Mary of Keynsham, service unknown.

The above were originally granted by Walter Langley to John Wyke and his wife, Maud (Langley's daughter), and the heirs of the said John. Afterwards the said John died; after whose death the said Maud continued her possession and was seized thereof in her demesne as of free tenement, and of such an estate by survivorship, died seized.

The said Maud died the last day, but one, of June, 14th year Henry 7th (i. e., 29 June, 1499).

Edmund Wykes is son and heir both of the said Maud and of the said John and is aged thirty and more.

LEONARD WEEKS IN AMERICA

Emerging from this medieval English background, a few years after that famous ship, the Mayflower, landed on the New England shore (1620), and during the exodus of the Puritans from England to America, Leonard Weeks and his elder brother, William, settled in the Indian infested wilderness at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and Kittery, Maine, respectively. Leonard was baptized August 7, 1639, in Compton Martin, near Wells, Somersetshire, England. Due, no doubt, to the fact that many private ships, during this period, registered only the total number of emigrants carried, instead of a personal list, we know nothing further about him until the sixth of December, 1655, when his name appears first in America, as a witness to a bond in York County, Maine. He appears next in the Portsmouth records on June 29, the following year (1656). In February, 1660-61, he had settled at what is now Greenland, where he remained until his death, in 1707-8. He was a man of property and influence, owning real estate in Portsmouth and several farms at Greenland, which he, late in life, deeded to his several sons, Captain Samuel receiving the homestead, which has been handed down from generation to generation in the male line until the present time it is yet occupied by one of his descendants.

The descendants of Leonard Weeks, through all of the intervening years, have had an honorable part in the establishing and preservation of our great nation, which today, regardless of its trials and tribulations, is the brightest spot on earth to live, and may it long continue "the land of the free and the home of the brave."

"My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing.
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the Pilgrims' pride,
From every mountain side
Let freedom ring.

"My native country, thee,
Land of the noble, free,
Thy name I love.
I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed hills,
My heart with rapture thrills
Like that above.

* * * *

"Our fathers' God, to Thee,
Author of liberty,
To Thee I sing.
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light,
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King!"

—o—

Having traced our genealogical family line backward until it fades into the medieval mists of obscurity, it is fitting and proper to also follow our ancestors' race of people, the Anglo-Saxons, until they, too, are lost in the awful mist of time, and that incomprehensible eternity.

The Celts were the earliest inhabitants of Britain, of which we have any certain knowledge. They were the first of the great westward migration of the Indo-European Aryan Nations, but it seems certain they were preceded by some wandering tribes of non-Aryan people, who left no record of their existence except what has been learned from various caves and excavations. Of the Celtic inhabitants of Britain nothing is known before the time of Julius Caesar's first invasion of their country—55, B. C. In his report he says: "We found Britain inhabited by an aboriginal race. By far the most civilized was the inhabitants of Cantium (Kent). The inhabitants of the interior do not, for the most part, sow corn, but live on milk and flesh and clothe themselves with skins. All the Britons stain themselves with woad, which produces a blue color and gives them a more formidable appearance in battle. They wear their hair long and shave every part of the body except the head and upper lip. Ten or twelve have wives in common."

The history of Britain begins with this invasion, which was only temporary. In 43, A. D., the Romans again took possession of the south part of Britain, which was held as a Roman province with continual warfare and difficulty until the year 410, A. D., when, in order to defend Italy against the Goths and other tribes, they voluntarily withdrew and abandoned the island permanently, leaving the Celts or Britons helpless in the way of protecting themselves from the invasions of the Picts from the North and the Scots from Ireland. Having appealed in vain for help from the Romans, the Britons applied to the Teutonic rovers from the mainland of Europe for assistance. Accordingly, one or more of the tribes of Angles, Saxons, or Jutes, came to their relief, which fact also started the great Anglo-Saxon invasion that eventually overwhelmed their country. The Romans occupied Britain as Christians, and, as a Roman province, Christianity was almost universal at the time of the Roman withdrawal. The Anglo-Saxon invasion and settlement meant heathen conquest and heathen rule, and all was havoc for the existing churches, ministers, and the whole Roman political system.

England, the land of the Angles or English, is, according to its etymology, the distinctive name of that part of Britain, in which, by reason of the Teutonic Conquests in the fifth and sixth centuries, the Teutonic race and speech became dominant. The name is in itself equally applicable to the older home of the Angles in Germany. This name was applied to the south part of the isle of Britain late in the tenth century, when the many English settlements, or principalities, became one kingdom. The Teutonic conquerors of Britain were Low-Dutch (i. e., low-land) tribes of Germany and Scandinavia, a perfectly independent and

co-equal branch of the great Teutonic family. The oldest, perhaps, of the tribes of this region, the Angles, Saxons and Jutes, stand conspicuously in that conquest. The time of the heathen conquest ends with the first years of the seventh century.

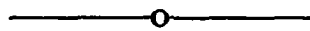
The introduction of Christianity among the English was so great a change, it gave a different character to all events that followed. The introduction of Christianity did not stop warfare, but it so far humanized its new converts as to eliminate cruel extermination. It no longer meant frightful death, flight, or personal slavery. The conversion of the English was gradual and on the whole peaceful; practically free of religious persecution or wars of religion within the confines of any of its kingdoms. The conversion of the English to Christianity was not only one of the great turning points in the history of England; it was one of the great turning points of Christianity itself, and one of the first acts of a long series of spiritual conquests which gradually brought all Europe within the pale of the church; thus, before the end of the seventh century, Teutonic and heathen England had embraced a new creed, that the rule of the Teuton was to be a Christian and not a heathen rule.

The Norman invasion started about 1068, and William the Conqueror was complete master of England in about five years after his landing.

Previous to William the land had been in the possession of freeholders and feudal officers, with well defined rights to their land. But after the conquest this was all changed. The land became the property of the Crown, to be distributed among the King's favorites (largely foreign), under feudal tenure. This transfer made the Norman conquest thorough and lasting. The Conqueror's foreign Knights, and men-of-arms, were quickly changed into Englishmen, and according to feudal law, Great Barons and feudal Lords of the Manor holding most of the land.

"Domesday Book" was finished in 1086, and, by the completion of this survey, the King acquired an exact knowledge of the possessions of the Crown. It afforded him the names of all the land holders; it furnished him with the means of ascertaining the military strength of the country, and it pointed out the possibility of increasing the revenue in some cases, and of lessening the demand of the tax-collectors in others. It was, moreover, a register of appeal for those whose titles to their property might be disputed. So accurate was this book that its authority was never allowed to be questioned. From this definite authority there could be no appeal—Hence, Domesday, or day of judgment.

We can hardly be wrong in calling the Norman conquest the most important event in English history since the first coming of the English and their conversion to Christianity; it was a violent change; a change which, in its more distant results, touched everything in the land, yet there was no break, no gap parting the times before it, from the times after it. The changes it made were, to a great extent, only the strengthening of tendencies which were already at work. The direct changes, which we may look upon as forming the conquest, itself, were made at once, gradually and under cover of legal form. The revolution, which seemed to be the end of English freedom, led, in the end, to its new birth.



CORRECTION—The last paragraph on page 8 of the "Descendants of Samuel Weeks" book should read "Exmoor, on the border of Devon. instead of the Mendip Hills.—E. A. W.