

**STUDWELL FAMILY OF  
FAIRFIELD COUNTY,  
CONNECTICUT, 1899**

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Studwell family of Fairfield County, Connecticut, 1899 by Anonymous

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FAIRFIELD COUNTY,

CONNECTICUT.

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1899.

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## STUDWELL FAMILY.

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THE family of Studwell originated in the County of Kent, England. \*Their ancient seat, which was situated near the hamlet of Seale, in the County of Kent, was known as Stidulfe's place. Studwell is a corruption of Stidulfe. The original name of the family was Stodewolfe, which was changed to Stodolfe, Stidolfe, Stidulfe, Steedale, Steedweel, Studwell, and (some families now) Stedwell.

Nasted's "History of Kent" mentions Robert de Stidulfe, who flourished before the reign of Edward III (1327), who is spoken of in ancient deeds, without date, as being the proprietor of Stidulfe's place in Seale.

A branch of this family settled at Mickleham, in the adjoining county of Surrey. In Surrey

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\*These notes on the English origin of the Studwell family have been contributed by Edward C. Marshall, M. A., genealogist, No. 127 Washington place, New York, author of the "Ancestry of Gen. Grant," the "History of the U. S. Naval Academy," etc. (For the sake of convenience, and to avoid possible errors, the family name throughout this genealogical record will be spelled the modern way—Studwell).

we find mentioned Sir Francis Stydolfe, Knight (died 1655), Sir Richard Stydolfe, Knight (died 1676), and Sir Thomas Stodolfe, Knight. In 1660 Richard Stidulf was created a baronet.

The hamlet of Seale in the County of Kent was held by feudal tenure by the Lords Say and Seal. In 1631 Lord Say and Seal, with Lord Brooke, Pyne Hampden and others, received a grant of land on the Connecticut river which was named "The Colony of Saybrook." In 1635, under the direction of John Winthrop, men, ordnance, ammunition and £2,000 sterling were sent from England to erect Fort Saybrook at the mouth of the Connecticut river.

Lion Gardiner, who was an engineer, laid out, about 1635, Saybrook Point, in lots, surveyed streets, and made preparations for the reception of "gentlemen of quality." Unfortunately, no list has been preserved of the men who settled in Saybrook in 1635. There is extant no list of the freemen of Saybrook previous to 1669, and Thomas Studwell, the progenitor of the Studwell family in America, was in Rye (or Greenwich) before this date. We know that, certainly, one of the earliest settlers of Saybrook, John Tully, was from the County of Surrey of



England. [History of Middlesex County, Connecticut.]

The trend in all the facts of the case furnishes strong grounds for the conjecture that Thomas Studwell (or Steedwell) was among the settlers in Saybrook in 1635, and that he went thence, about 1650, to Rye, and later to Greenwich, Conn. He was probably from Seale, in the County of Kent, and he came to America under the auspices of his patron, Lord Say and Seal. His birth took place, we may conjecture, about the year 1600. He was, therefore, about seventy years of age when he died in Greenwich, Conn. He appears to have had considerable money, as he was engaged, with others, in large purchases of land in Rye and Greenwich.

In the History of Greenwich and Stamford, Conn., we find that in 1656 one Crab sold portions of his estate to the ancestor of the Studwells, and that Peter Disbrow and John Coe, together with I. Thomas Studwell (1), bought a considerable part of what is now the town of Rye, N. Y., running from Byram river to Blind brook and the Sound, and north of the Purchase, a distance of six miles. Later, we find, in Bolton's "History of Westchester County,

N. Y.," that the same parties, on June 29, 1660, became successors to the Dutch West India Company, whose property included an island in Long Island Sound, called Mamusing. On this island I. Thomas Studwell (1) made his home in a rude dwelling before he built, on the mainland, his second house, which was located at Milton, near where is now the district school house. He was a leading pioneer of Greenwich, where his name appears, in 1656, as a signer of articles removing the court to New Haven. He owned a large tract of land west of the Mianus river, extending from Studwell's Point, on the Sound, some of it four miles to the north, and portions of this tract have remained in the possession of the Studwell family to this day. He also held land in Stamford. In 1662 he signed a declaration as one of the inhabitants of the town of Rye, and in 1663 he sold a part of his property, including a house on Mill brook.

The Indians conveyed another large tract of land (now town of Harrison) to Disbrow, Coe, Thomas Studwell and John Budd. Other parties came into the settlement, many of them from Long Island (when that section was given over to the Duke of York), among them being John Mead,

who by some is said to have been the first representative of the Mead family in this country. On April 28, 1663, Disbrow, Coe and Studwell sold to nine other settlers a portion of their extensive tract of land, which was located in the township of Rye and adjacent towns. In the earlier records of the various towns their names are found among those of prominent landowners.

In 1667 I. THOMAS STUDWELL (1) returned to Greenwich (then a part of Stamford), where he died in 1670. Prior to his death he was engaged in clearing the land and tilling the soil, also, as above mentioned, in disposing to early settlers of portions of the land which he had bought of the Indians. His sons and their descendants continued to dispose of this land for several years, the last of the large tract known as Studwell's Point, at Greenwich, being conveyed to Robert Mead, of that place (date of distribution of the estate of Lillie Studwell—November 2, 1787; date of land sale—April, 1788), the same having been in the family about one hundred and thirty years, or since the first purchase from the Indians. There were six or seven parts or divisions, each selling for about £125. 10 8d. sterling, and went to the children and grandchild-