

**THE STODDARD FAMILY: BEING  
AN ACCOUNT OF SOME OF THE  
DESCENDANTS OF JOHN  
STODDER OF HINGHAM,  
MASSACHUSETTS COLONY**

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The Stoddard Family: Being an Account of Some of the Descendants of John Stodder of Hingham, Massachusetts Colony by Francis Russell Stoddard

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BEING AN ACCOUNT OF SOME OF THE  
DESCENDANTS OF JOHN STODDER OF  
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COMPILED BY

FRANCIS RUSSELL STODDARD, JR.



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## INTRODUCTION

I HAVE long desired to publish a complete account of all the descendants of John Stodder of Hingham. A short investigation convinced me that I had neither the time nor money necessary for such a large undertaking. I have, however, compiled the information that follows, and have published it in the hope that it will be the forerunner of a complete Stoddard genealogy. It has been said that all genealogies contain errors; I hope that the pages that follow contain as few as is possible. This book shows that the Stoddards can justly take pride in the family to which they belong. I hope that this book will be perused with an interest equal to mine in writing it.

FRANCIS R. STODDARD, JR.

NEW YORK CITY, October 1, 1912.

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## THE STODDARD FAMILY

**T**HE name of Stoddard, also found written as Stoder, Stodderd, Stoderd, Stodderde, Stodart, Stoddart, Stodard, Stoddar, and in other forms, is one of the oldest in England. By different writers the name has been given both a Norman and a Saxon derivation. Arthur in his *Etymological Dictionary of Family Names* says, "Stoddard, Concerning the origin of this name there is a tradition, that the first of the family came over with William the Conqueror, as standard-bearer to Viscompte de Pulesdon, a noble Norman, and that the name is derived from the office of a standard-bearer, and was anciently written De La Standard, corrupted to Stodard or Stodart." Elijah Woodward Stoddard in his genealogy of the family published in 1865 takes a similar view and states, "In the office of Heraldry, England, the following origin of the Stoddard family is found: William Stoddard, a knight, came from Normandy to England, A.D. 1066, with William the Conqueror, who was his cousin." In the introduction to the 1873 edition of his work, he quotes the following notes "furnished Mr. L. T. Foster, of Youngstown, Ohio, by Robert Gun, of London." "Lineage concerning the origin of the name Stodart, there is the following tradition:—The first of the family came over with William the Conqueror as Standard-bearer to the Vicomte de Pulesdon, a noble Norman, who bore for arms three silver stars on a sable ground. The name is derived from the office of Standard-bearer, and was anciently written De La Standard. This office conferred a high rank on its occupant, and was generally given to a near relative, in whose family it frequently became hereditary." This is obviously copied



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from Burke's *Landed Gentry*, Vol. II, page 1307, which is supposed to be an authority.

Many writers do not accept this derivation. Lower in his "*Patronymica Britannica*" says that the name of Stoddard is synonymous with Stotherd. "Stot is a north-ernism for ox; and hence Stotherd is evidently oxherd." In Bardsley's "*Our English Surnames*" the following is found. "There is a little word which has dropped from our lips which once played an important part in our vocabulary—I mean that of 'herd'—not as applied to the flock, but the keeper. We still use it familiarly in compounds, such as swincherd or shepherd, but that it once had a separate existence of its own is proved by the many 'Heards,' or 'Herds,' or 'Hurds,' that still abound sur-nominally in our midst." "We now speak of our Lord as the 'Good Shepherd'; in olden times he was referred to as a herd, and has been so called by Chaucer." "See now the many compounds of which this purely Saxon word is the root. In our 'Stotherds' and 'Stothards,' our 'Stoddarts' and 'Stoddards,' still clings the remem-brance of the old stot or bullock-herd; in our 'Yeat-herds,' the heifer herd; and in our 'Cowards,' far from being so pusillanimous as they look, the homely 'cow-herd.'" "Nor are these all. In our 'Calverts' and 'Calverds' we are reminded of the once well-known 'le Calve-herd,' or 'le Calverd,' as I find him recorded; in our 'Nuttards' the more general but now faded 'nete-herd,' or 'noutherd'; and in our obsolete 'le Oxherds' and 'le Oxenherds' the familiar ox. Are we in the grazing paddock. In our 'Coultherds,' 'Coulthards,' and 'Coulards,' not to mention our 'Coultmans' and 'Coltmans,' we have ample trace of their presence. Are we again on the bleak hillside. The sheep have given us our 'Shepherds,' the rams our 'Wetherherds,' the

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kids our 'Gottards,' not to say some of our 'Goddards,' memorials of the once common goat herd." From among these names "Calvert" was that of Lord Baltimore, but family historians deny the derivation above given and ascribe to the name, as do the Stoddards, a Norman origin. Besides the above two derivations for the name Stoddard, I find one more mentioned in Charles A. Hanna's "The Scotch-Irish." He says, "The Scottish name of Stoddart is supposed to have been derived from the word Standard. It has also been conjectured to have been originally 'Stout heart,' to which the Anglified form of the name, Stothert, gives some countenance." Whichever of these three derivations is correct the fact remains that the family is one of the oldest in England.

From investigation there is good reason to believe that the name Stoddard is derived from the office of Standard-bearer as stated by the authorities first cited. There is in England the family of Standert, which name Bowditch, in his "Suffolk Surnames," says is derived from a standard carried in battle. In the Visitations of the County of Oxford taken in the Year 1634, by John Philpotts, Somerset King of Arms, can be found the name Standard of Whitehall, evidently a prominent and well-known family. This name is derived from a standard and nowhere is there the least claim that it has a derivation from the old Saxon stotherd. In England there were families of Stothards and Stotherds, but no connection has been found by the compiler of this book between them and the Stoddards.

If the name is derived from the Saxon derivation and not from the Norman, it would seem that there would have been members of the family in every district of England, yet up to comparatively recent times such was not the case. If the name comes from the Saxon, one would

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expect to find the family numerous and strongly entrenched in the grazing districts, but on the contrary the earlier records show that the family in England was strongest in and around the City of London. It is in a city that a name derived from a hereditary office would most likely be preserved; from Standard, the change to Standar, Stadar, Stodar, Stoddar, Stoddard, or Stodder, becomes simple in course of time.

From its beginning the family spread. A large part were settled near London and became very well known. In the Visitation of London, taken in the Year 1568, by Robert Cooke, Clarenceux King of Arms, we find the following. (Harleian Publications, Vol. I.)

STODDARD

Arms. Sable, three estoiles within a bordure argent.

William Stoddard of Lon=  
don gent. = Emme da - Cheeseman.

George Stoddard sonne and = Anne da. of Henry Herd-  
heyre Citizen of London son. of London Esq.,  
renupta - Barker.  
Arms Argent, a cross  
sable between four  
fleurs-de-lis gules.

Richard Stoddard. 1 sonne.	Nicholas Stoddard 2 sonne miles	= filia Thomas Eden de Com. Suff. militis.	Juditha daughter.
Willielmus Stodard filius et haeres	1 Maria 2 Anna 3 filia		Juditha 4 filia.