A HISTORY

OF THE

STOCKTON FAMILY.

BY

J. W. STOCKTON.

PHILADELPHIA:
PRESS OF PATTERSON & WHITE.
1881.

PREFACE.

MANY years ago my attention was directed to the fact that most of the records relative to the Stockton family, previous to the time of their coming to America, had been destroyed during the Revolutionary War by the army of Lord Howe, when the family was driven from Morven,—the Stockton estate at Princeton.

Finding that but little information was to be obtained in America, I instituted search in England, and that which I have been able to gather has cost me years of patient research.

Though this little volume is incomplete in many particulars, the aim has been to present a concise and accurate history of the family, and I have endeavored to give the *substance* of what is found in many volumes of English and American history.

The Stockton family, ancient and patrician in England, has been distinguished since the time of the Conquest; and, in this free country, where "worth makes the man," it has been equally distinguished since the year 1660.

My object in printing this history is to place it in the hands of many who have from time to time requested me to furnish them with the information contained herein, knowing that those who come of an honored race take an hereditary pride in keeping their record clean.

This does not pretend to be more than an outline of the history of the Stockton family on the *paternal* side, and, as we come to a time nearer our own, I give the history of the descendants of Richard Stockton, the Signer, and his brother, Rev. Philip Stockton, only.

It is a matter of regret with me that I am not able to mention all of the descendants of the first Richard Stockton; but some, with whom I have not been able to communicate, I know are descended from him, and others, whom I am confident are also his descendants, I have been unable to trace to him in an unbroken line.

J. W. S.

HISTORY.

THE FAMILY NAME.

THE STOCKTONS are of English extraction. The family, which in point of descent ranks with the most ancient houses in England, is styled *de Stoctun* in ancient Latin deeds. The family name is derived from two Saxon words, *Stoc* and *Tun*. The meaning of the word Stoc is "a place," the "stem of a tree;" and Tun is a word signifying "inclosure." The Stockton family came originally from Stockton Manor, Cheshire, England. Ours is a "before the conquest" rather than a "came over with the conqueror" family, and, according to a history of the Stockton family at the College of Arms in London, they resided at Stockton at the period of the Conquest.

When the Roman institutions had been swept away, there succeeded the feudal organization. Tenures of land were then completely free. Every considerable personage established himself in his domains with his family and retainers, and built himself a dwelling. Evidently our ancestor who first settled at Stockton *inclosed* what was then all or in part a forest. This

elucidates at once the naming of Stockton Manor, from which we get our honored patronymic. When we think of the signification of the two Saxon words *Stoc* and *Tun*, we see at once how appropriately this forest was named Stockton and our ancestors *de* Stockton.

Surnames of families were originally a kind of titles. Those which arose in feudal times generally indicated a territorial standing. They began to be adopted in England during the reign of Edward the Confessor, but did not become general until the reign of Edward the Second, in the early part of the fourteenth century; for previously the custom obtained, as among the Hebrews, Greeks, etc., of calling a man the son of some one; as, John, son of Richard (Richardson). The higher ranks added the names of their estates; as, Richard de Stockton. Some also took the names of their trades, professions, or offices; as, William (the) Chamberlain.*

In a pedigree of the Stockton family taken from a history at the British Museum, we find that the name was written *de Stoctun* in primitive days, and in later times *Stockton*. This is the only change the name has undergone during a period of at least eight hundred years, and this change is merely that caused by the English spelling of the original Saxon words.

Long before Richard Stockton came to America, the Latin prefix, "de," which is the ancient distinction of the English nobility, and which rightfully belonged to our long-descended family, had been modestly dropped.

Although we have made no special effort to trace the family previous to the Norman conquest, such evidence as we have encountered goes to prove, very conclusively, the Anglo-Saxon origin of the family.

---

* Collet's Rel. of Lit.

In a new translation of the Domesday-Book, by General Plantagenet Harrison, which has been recently published in England, he makes this note: "It has always been stated that the king seized upon all the lands of the people of England and divided them amongst his followers; but this was not the case. William the Conqueror only confiscated the great fiefs of the most rebellious of the nobility; but he did not touch an inch of land belonging to the tenants of the soil; and the Normans who settled in this country, with very few exceptions, obtained their lands by marriage with Anglo-Saxon heiresses."

During the reign of William the Conqueror, at the height of the political scale were the great landowners, who were subject only to the king. Each of them had his hall within his manorial precinct—each of them was a prince.

THE STOCKTON COAT OF ARMS.

ACCORDING to the opinions of Camden and other high authorities, hereditary arms of families were first introduced at the beginning of the twelfth century. When numerous armies, consisting of the troops of many different nations, were engaged in expeditions to the Holy Land, they were obliged to adopt some ensign or mark, in order to marshal the vassals under the banner of their lord. The regulation of symbolic bearings whereby they should be distinguished was intrusted to the Heralds, who made use of living creatures, trees, etc., as symbolical signs to distinguish them in war. In many cases these signs allude to the name of the bearer, and as early as the year twelve hundred we find the Stockton arms, which very evidently were granted in allusion to the family name. The arms are described in heraldic terms, thus: Vert. Three stocks of trees raguly and erased, argent. Crest, a lion rampant supporting an Ionic pillar, proper. The heraldic terms used here may be correctly defined, thus: Shield, green. Three stocks of trees shorn of their branches, silver. Crest, natural colors. These were the arms originally granted to the family; they were last borne by William, son of Owen Stockton, and are registered to him at the Heralds' College.

A second coat of arms was granted to the family, and this is the coat of arms which we inherit and which has

been borne by our branch of the family during many centuries of its history in England and America. These arms may be seen in the frontispiece and are described thus: Gules. A chevron vaire, argent and azure, between three mullets or. Translated, this would read: Shield red, a chevron vaire, silver and blue, between three mullets, gold.

The chevron is an *honorable ordinary*, a term used to denote the simple forms which were first used as heraldic distinctions, and therefore called honorable ordinaries as conferring more honor than later inventions, the military chieftains of different countries alone being entitled to this mark of honor. The chevron is described as a figure representing the gable of a roof, and is a very ancient ordinary.

Vaire is a kind of fur formerly used as a lining for the garments of knights. It is represented in engravings by figures of small bells ranged in lines.

Mullet comes from the French word *molette*, the rowel of a spur.

The crest is the highest part among the ornaments of a coat of arms. Different crests are often assumed by different members of the same family, but the lion rampant, supporting an Ionic pillar, is the only crest registered to our family at the Heralds' College.

The motto of the Stockton family is "*Omnia Deo Pendent*,"—all depends on God. The motto was generally founded upon the piety, loyalty, valor, etc., of the person to whom the arms were granted. Every motto has a history and a moral. Although chapters might be written on this one, nothing could be said of the motto itself which is not comprised and included in these three words, and our ancestor who first adopted this

motto must have known that it would be perpetuated by his descendants. Had he written volumes for posterity, he could not have said more than is embraced in these words, which come down to us embalmed in a tongue that never varies.

At first, when the feudal system prevailed, none but military chieftans bore coats of arms, and heraldic honors were confined to the nobility. This is not the case nowadays, and modern arms, or those granted after the War of the Roses, are very much confused.

It is a mark of distinction as indicative of antiquity when armorial bearings are without much ornamentation, as is the case with the arms of the Stockton family.

Many volumes have been written on heraldry, and it would be filling the pages of this work to little purpose to enter upon an inquiry as to the exact signification of an art that has existed for centuries, and it is scarcely necessary to remark that these honorable distinctions were so highly prized as to form the chief ornaments not only of the habiliments of all persons of rank, but of the halls, palaces, and churches of England during the many centuries of her history.

It is a common thing to see people canting heraldry or using coats of arms to which they have no right whatever, but when one comes honestly by a coat of arms which has been used by the family to which it belongs for centuries, and when it is so invaluable as a means of keeping the trace of a family, it is perfectly right to make use of it; and a coat of arms is just as much a man's property as his purse. At the time of the Crusades heraldry formed an *eye language*, and it will readily be seen how necessary symbols were for

the purpose of discriminating individuals when men of many different nations, speaking in various tongues, were gathered together under the leadership of one chief.

STOCKTON MANOR.

OUR ancestors were anciently Lords of the Manor of Stockton, which they held under the Barony of Malpas.* Stockton Manor is in the town of Malpas, in the hundred of Broxton, in the county of Cheshire, England. At the time of the Norman survey the county was divided into twelve Hundreds. Broxton is a territorial division of the county of Cheshire, and in extent is one-twelfth of the county. Cheshire is a county palatine on the west side of England, and takes its name from the ancient city of Chester, which is the metropolis of the county. The origin of the city of Chester is enveloped in obscurity. According to the opinion of Sir Thomas Eliot, it was built by a great-grandson of Noah. It has been asserted by some writers that the walls of Chester were first built by Marius, a British King, in the year seventy-three; but the most probable conjecture is that it was built by the Romans for the security of their army.

In the earlier periods of our history Cheshire formed a part of the territories of a British tribe called the *Cornavii*. After the invasion of Britain by the Romans, and after their departure, Cheshire was repossessed by the Britons, and, excepting a temporary occupation of it by Ethelfrid, king of Northumberland, A.D. 607, appears to have been under British rule until the year 828, when

*Ormerod's History of Cheshire.

it was conquered by Egbert. Previous to the Norman conquest it was governed by Saxon and Danish monarchs, and after the conquest was made a county palatine by King William the Conqueror, who granted it to his nephew Hugh d'Avranches, commonly called Hugh Lupus, to hold it as freely by the sword as he himself held the Kingdom of England and the Crown.

Camden declares that no county in England can boast a greater number of knightly families, and that they are remarkable for their loyalty and antiquity, many of their ancestors having been fixed here previous to the Norman conquest.

Before entering upon our immediate subject of Stockton Manor, we think it will be expedient to cast a backward glance at the ancient forms of aristocracy.

The Patriarchal system is best understood by the sacred writings of the Old Testament.

In times nearer our own, we pass on to *Feudalism*. Feudalism in its general signification is but another term for aristocracy. Its element at first was military chieftainship. The institutions of chivalry, originated and fostered by the crusades, owe their existence in great part to the Feudal system.

After the organization of the Feudal System, the wandering life which had preceded ceased, and populations became fixed. Every considerable personage established himself in his domains with his family and retainers, and built himself a fortified dwelling. Nobles and gentry, whose property was so extensive and power so great, could not fail of being turbulent and formidable. Nor did they lack instruments for executing the boldest designs. That portion of their lands which they parcelled out among their followers supplied them with a

numerous band of faithful and determined retainers; while that which they retained in their own hands enabled them to live in princely splendor. As the feudal tie was found in all divisions among brothers, there resulted from it a universally received opinion that in rendering faith and homage, far from degrading, it in some wise gave proof of nobleness. The obligation of the vassal towards his lord was effected by the triple ceremony of homage, faith, and investiture. The homage was the solemn declaration of the vassal as a warrior, and upon honor, that he wished to be the *man* of his lord. The same obligation was repeated by oath; this was faith. The lord then delivered to his vassal the land; this was investiture.*

English tenures upon many of the old estates are in the same condition they were left centuries ago. Lords of ancient manors are tied down by the restrictions laid upon them in Norman times.

At the time of the Norman conquest, a manor consisted of the lands upon which the lord had a mansion. There was appendant a seignority over freeholders sufficient in number to constitute a court-baron. The services of a manor are the rents due from freehold tenants holding of the manor.

Our ancestors were Lords of the Manor of Stockton, and Stockton Manor was the cradle of our race in England. In Feudal times, when our ancestor first settled there, it was probably all or in part a forest, and was inclosed by him, and took its name from this, as explained in the chapter on the family name.

David de Stockton inherited the Manor of Stockton from his father about the year 1250, in the reign of

*Bell's History of Feudalism.

King Henry the Third. It passed from him to his son William de Stockton, who was the last of the main line of the male branch of the family, in the fourth year of the reign of King Edward the Third (1311). The *direct* line of the family terminated in an heir female,—Isabella, daughter and heiress of William de Stockton. This Isabella married Robert de Eaton, and their descendant, John de Eaton, had issue Johanna, wife of Ralph Grosvenor, Esq., who received with her the estates of the Stocktons and Eatons. This was in the reign of King Henry the Sixth.

The ducal family of Westminster (the Grosvenor family) descends from the above. Ormerod the antiquary, in his history of Cheshire, says that "the Manor of Stockton descended to the late Earl Grosvenor, and was alienated by him in 1789 to Lord Kenyon. Lord Kenyon, also by conveyance from said Earl Grosvenor, alienated to his father the Manor of Macefen, adjacent to Tushingham. The early history of this Manor is involved in obscurity, excepting that it was clearly a component part of the Barony of Malpas, as appears by the plea of Edward Sutton, Lord Dudley, to a *quo warranto* in the fifteenth year of the reign of King Henry the Seventh. It is probable that it passed to the Stocktons, and in the same manner with Tushingham, and descended through the Eatons to the Grosvenor family."

Besides Stockton Manor, there is a place in the parish of Malpas called "Stockton's Bank," and a dwelling called "Stockton Hall," and in many other ways the name has been perpetuated.

"Eaton Hall," the seat of the Duke of Westminster, possesses great architectural grandeur, and is built in the Gothic style.

The town of Malpas, which includes Stockton Manor, possesses many features of historical interest. It is situated on an elevation near the river Dee, in the hundred of Broxton, one hundred and sixty-eight miles northwest from London. Our interest centres in the church, in which are many of the Stockton memorials.

In the monastic ages this church was the chapel of a religious house for monks of the Cluniac order. It is built of unhewn stone, and consists of a nave and chancel, without either aisle or steeple. It is highly ornamented, and some of its decorations have been supposed to be of Saxon origin. The benefice at Malpas from time immemorial has been in medieties. There is an excellent rectory and church-lands belonging to each mediety.

In this church our ancestors said the same prayers centuries ago that are being said in this nineteenth century throughout the civilized world, according to the Book of Common Prayer; and, for the honor of our country, be it remembered that the Episcopal Church was the first that came to America.*

It is a great privilege to walk in the same footsteps that our fathers have walked, and to think that we pray in the same familiar words that they used. The late Dr. Reed says of the Prayer-Book: "Here is a little volume of scarcely two hundred pages, of perfect English, which, created as English in sound, though black-letter in form, more than three hundred years ago, before Shakspeare's first play was printed and performed, is as fresh as if written yesterday. It is its familiarity which is its charm. Go into a country or village church, where every one is known to every one, and all are

* Bancroft.

neighbors, and listen when the clergyman, without previous notice, utters the solemn words, 'O Father of mercies and God of all comfort, our only help in time of need, look down, pity, and relieve thy sick servant for whom our prayers are desired,' and every thought turns at once to the vacant seat, and the individual sufferer is known, and the silence, as it were, speaks in earnest hope that the priestly prayer may be listened to; and when, at last, the dread alternative is spoken, 'or else give her (I choose to fancy it a dying wife and mother) grace so to take thy visitation that, after this painful life ended, she may dwell with Thee in life everlasting,' every heart throbs in sympathy for a desolated home, and the work of prayer is done.

"No one who has lost a friend, be it yesterday or years ago, can suppress utterly an emotion and a hope when, in the prayers for the church militant, he hears: 'We also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear.'"

No one can doubt but that there is magic in a familiar form of words, and it is a privilege to know that we use the same uniform mode of worship used by our ancestors, and that the same prayers which have been said for them will be said for us.

In the church at Malpas are many of the Stockton memorials, and it is proper here to mention them, as they are in memory of our more immediate ancestors.

Although we have only written of the family in a general way, and have made no attempt to write of any one member in particular, we mention these names, as they bring us to the time when Richard Stockton came to America.

In the south aisle there is a mural monument of

freestone, painted and ornamented with a cherub on each side, with wings gilded; below, a death's head with a branch of palm on each side, gilded. The shield, is oval, convex. On it is this inscription:

"In hopes of a blessed resurrection, near
this lyeth interred the body of John Stockton,
of Kiddington, in this county, Esquire, who changed
this life for a better, ye eighteenth day of October, in the
year of our Lord 1700, in ye 56th year of his age.
To his lamented loss for a time to come, his
mournful widow consecrates this tomb."

Above are these:

Gules, a chevron vaire, argent and azure, between three mullets or; impaling, sinister argent, a pale sable (his wife's arms).

This is the description given of this memorial in Ormerod's History of Cheshire, and, considering its antiquity and that it is otherwise remarkable, it will, no doubt, be extremely interesting to the family.

The next memorial, which is still more ancient, is in capitals, on a brass plate, in the south aisle, and reads:

"Here is buried, Owen Stockton, Gentleman,
who deceased ye second day of December, 1610, and
John Stockton his eldest sonne,
who deceased ye eighteenth day of June, 1643."

On a larger brass plate, on the same stone, is this inscription:

"Memoriam Sacrum.

"Stocktonus pacis semper
placidesimus Autor. Sub duro situs hic
marmore pace fruor. Aestas illaesa vidui tri-
cessima fama. Florentem subolem patre cadente
videt. Discedes lachrymas quot pax si abitura reliqui.
Caels pacificis praemia pacta fero. Eugenio
patri posuit Eugenius filius, obiit 2,
die Decembris Anno Domini
1610."

Arms, a chevron vaire, argent and azure, between three mullets or.

The following is a translation of the Latin inscription:

"In Memoriam Sacrum.

"I, Stocktonus, ever a most gentle promoter of peace, here laid under the hard marble, enjoy peace.

"The Thirtieth year of me bereft [by death of his wife], of an unblemished reputation, sees my offspring flourishing, my father dead.

"Departing, I have left behind me as many tears as though peace were about to leave [this earth].

"I obtain the promised reward in the peaceful Heavens.

"The son well-born has erected this to the father well-born, [who] died December 2d, A.D., 1610."

John Stockton was the son of "Owen Stockton, of Stockton and Kiddington, in Com. Chester.

Attest: WM. STOCKTON."

"Extracted from the Herald's Visitation made in the year 1664."

"ALBERT W. WOODS."
"Garter."

"College of Arms,
London,
29th Nov. 1877."

Another remarkable Stockton memorial was that of Rt. Hon. Sir John Stockton, Knight, Lord Mayor of London, 1470–71. Arms: a chevron vaire, between three mullets. He was buried at St. Pancras, Sopers Lane, which to-day is Queen Street, Cheapside, in the city of London. There are no tombs, tablets, or graves existing there now.

After the great fire of London, in 1666, St. Pancras' church was not rebuilt, but the parish was united with St. Marylebone, and is known as "St. Marylebone with St. Pancras, Sopers Lane, and All-Hallows, Honey Lane."

Sir John Stockton was the son of Richard Stockton. He was knighted in the field by King Edward the Fourth. In 1470 he was elected to the high honor of Master of the Mercers' Company, the oldest company in the city of London. It is older than any of the city Guilds. Sir Richard Whittington (Dick Whittington, "thrice Lord Mayor of London"), and Sir Thomas Gresham, who founded the Royal Exchange, were members of it, besides others whose names are noted in the

Lysons. Cheshire. See notes at end of Book

history of London and Great Britain. Sir John Stockton succeeded Richard Lee as Lord Mayor.

Prior to 1800 the Lord Mayors of London took rank after the king; now, however, the honor is a civic one, and conveys no social position. The honor was never conferred on one not by birth a gentleman, but now any one who may be a rich alderman may secure it.*

The name of Stockton frequently occurs in the public records of the parish of Malpas. William de Stockton, son of David, is noticed in an account of Tushingham as living in the fourth year of the reign of King Edward the Second.

At the College of Arms are entered pedigrees to the Stockton family in several counties in England. At Cookham, in Berkshire, there is an ancient memorial in the church to Sir Edward Stockton, who was vicar of this parish, and who was engaged in one of the expeditions to the Holy Land. It reads:

"Sacred to ye memory of
Sir Edward Stockton, Pylgrym of Jerusalem and Canon,
possessed of the house of our Lady at Gisborough."

Malpas was the birthplace of Matthew Henry, the Commentator on the Bible, and also of Bishop Reginald Heber.

We have now reached a period nearer our own, and when it is comparatively easy to find materials for family history. At the same time, we come to the dividing-line in the family history between the Old World and the New.

---

*Stow's Hist. of London.

In the Parish Register at Malpas, among many records of marriages, births, and deaths of the different members of the family, we find this entry:

"Richard Stockton,
the sonne of John Stockton, of the Parish of Malpas,
baptized ye 26th of June, 1606."

Extracted from the Register of Malpas Church, June 29th, 1880. *St. Peter's Day.*

Richard has always been a very prominent name in the Stockton family, and it is sometimes difficult to distinguish one from another; but when we come to this Richard we have something tangible. He was the son of John Stockton, and grandson of Owen Stockton. We are especially interested in this Richard, for he was the founder of the American branch of the family, and we will speak more particularly of him in the next chapter.

THE STOCKTON FAMILY IN AMERICA.

RICHARD STOCKTON.

RICHARD STOCKTON was the son of John Stockton, of the parish of Malpas, in Cheshire, England, and was born in the year 1606. What follows has been taken in great part from the family record. Richard Stockton belonged to an ancient and highly respectable family, and possessed an opulent fortune. He emigrated with his wife and children from England previous to the year 1660, and resided a few years on Long Island, at Flushing, near the city of New York. From there he removed to New Jersey, and immediately after purchased a tract of land there consisting of two thousand acres. This tract of land was then known only by its Indian name of *An-na-nicken*, and is in the eastern part of the present township of Springfield, in the county of Burlington. It was over two miles in length and one in width. The mansion-house of the late James Shreve is on the site of the house built and occupied by Mr. Stockton until his death. He emigrated from England on account of either religious or state persecution; it cannot be stated positively which, as he left England *previous* to the year 1660, during the protectorate of Cromwell. He died leaving a widow, Abigail; three sons, Richard, John, and Job; and five daughters, Abigail, Sarah, Mary, Hannah, and Elizabeth. To them he devised his estate.

He bequeathed four hundred acres of land to each of his sons, Richard and Job, and the residue of the tract to be equally divided between his three sons, Richard, John, and Job Stockton.

We will now confine ourselves more especially to the history of our own branch of the family, for the reason that we have the materials at our command. In pursuance of this plan, we come to

Richard Stockton, the second.

He emigrated with his father from England to Long Island. He did not go with his father to Burlington, but went to Piscataway, and from there removed to Princeton, which at that time had no name, but which he afterward named Stony Brook, in remembrance of the little stony brook which coursed through his land on Long Island.*

About the year 1700 he purchased an extensive tract of land, consisting of about six thousand acres, *of which the present town of Princeton is nearly the centre.* He, with a number of associates, formed a settlement upon this tract, and they were the first white or European settlers in that district. An account of the acquisition of this land and the history of the family-seat will be given in a chapter on Morven, the Stockton estate at Princeton.

Richard Stockton, the second, resided on his plantation at Princeton a number of years, an independent country gentleman, and died at an advanced age in 1709.

It is supposed that for a time the old stone house now known as the "Barracks," in Edgehill street, was

* Hageman's History of Princeton.

his residence. This was before he purchased the Morven property.

He left a widow, Susannah, and six sons, Richard, Samuel, Joseph, Robert, John, and Thomas.

By his will he devised his landed estate to his children. He bequeathed three hundred acres of land to his eldest son, Richard Stockton; to his second son, Samuel Stockton, five hundred acres; to his third son, Joseph Stockton, five hundred acres; to his fourth son, Robert Stockton, five hundred acres; to his fifth son, John Stockton, five hundred acres; to his sixth son, Thomas Stockton, four hundred acres, at Annanicken, which had been devised to him by his father, and one hundred and forty acres besides. The meadows were to be divided between his five oldest sons. To his mother, Abigail (who had been well provided for by his father), he gave twenty shillings a year; to his loving wife, Susannah, all his dwelling plantation, until his son John became of age, and then half of the house and improvements during her natural life, with all the residue of his real and personal estate, with the use of all his negro slaves, except Dinah, whom he gave to his brother-in-law, Philip Phillips. Every one of his sons, as they came of age, was to have a slave. He devised the family seat, Morven, to his fifth son, John; and in following the plan of writing of our own branch of the family, we will devote our attention more especially to him.

John Stockton

was one of the first presiding Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, of the county of Somerset, under the Royal Government. He was a man of education and

influence in the early history of New Jersey, and was universally respected. He was possessed of a fortune, and was a liberal friend and patron of the college, and prominently instrumental in securing to Princeton the College of New Jersey. He was an elder in the Presbyterian Church. He occupied the plantation known now as Morven, which had been devised to him by his father, Richard Stockton, Esq., the second. He was the most prominent of six sons. He was born in 1701, and Miss Abigail Phillips, to whom he was married in 1729, was born in 1708, and they were the parents of a very distinguished family.

He died in 1757, leaving a widow, Abigail; four sons, Richard, John, Philip, and Samuel Witham Stockton, and four daughters, Hannah, Abigail, Susannah, and Rebecca.

His daughter Hannah was married to Hon. Elias Boudinot. One of his daughters was married to Captain Pintard, and another one married his brother, Louis Pintard, and one was married to Rev. William Tennent.

Hon. John Stockton made a deed in his lifetime to his eldest son, Richard, for the east side of the homestead plantation, Morven, and he devised that part of his plantation lying on the north side of Main street, or the King's highway, to his second son, John, and the land on the south side of Main street to be equally divided between his two sons, Philip and Samuel Witham Stockton. These four sons, Richard the Signer, Captain John Stockton, Rev. Philip and Hon. Samuel Witham Stockton, were all distinguished men.

Captain John Stockton, second son of Hon. John Stockton, was commander of a vessel and died at sea.

His fourth son, Samuel Witham Stockton, graduated

at Nassau Hall, in the class of 1767. He went to Europe in 1774 as Secretary of the American Commission to the Courts of Austria and Russia. He returned to New Jersey in 1779. He was elected secretary of the convention of New Jersey to ratify the Constitution of the United States in 1787. He removed from Princeton to Trenton, and in 1794 he was appointed Secretary of State of New Jersey. He died 26th of June, 1795, from injuries received by being thrown from a chaise.

We will now notice Hon. John Stockton's two other sons, Richard the Signer, and Philip the Revolutionary preacher.

THE STOCKTON FAMILY IN AMERICA.

HON. RICHARD STOCKTON, THE SIGNER.

RICHARD STOCKTON was the eldest son of Hon. John Stockton. He was educated with great care. He was sent to the Academy at Nottingham, in Maryland, under the tuition of the learned Rev. Samuel Finley, afterwards President of Princeton College. After spending two years at Nottingham, he was sent to the College of New Jersey, and graduated with the first class at Newark. He read law with Hon. David Ogden, at Newark, and was admitted to the bar in 1754. He married Miss Anice Boudinot, sister of Hon. Elias Boudinot, LL.D., one of the presidents of Congress under the old confederation, and Director of the United States Mint. Hon. Elias Boudinot married Hannah Stockton, sister of the Signer.

Richard Stockton attained the highest eminence as a lawyer in New Jersey. He was a Judge of the Supreme Court before the Revolution, and a member of the King's Council for New Jersey. Among his law students were General Joseph Reed, Hon. William Paterson, and Hon. Elias Boudinot.

After a close attention to legal practice in Princeton for twelve years, he made a visit to England in 1766, where he received marked attention from the Marquis of Rockingham, Lord Gordon, and others. He was one of the principal benefactors of the College of New Jersey,

and it was through his instrumentality, while on a visit to England and Scotland, that Dr. Witherspoon was induced to accept the presidency of that institution and emigrate to New Jersey. While in Scotland he was honored by an invitation to a public dinner at Edinburgh, given by the Lord Provost and Council, after which the freedom of the city was conferred upon him. A similar honor was paid him in the town of Paisley. While in London he attended the Queen's birth-night ball. The Duke of York and the Princess of Brunswick opened it with a minuet. The Duke of Gloucester and the Princess Louisa succeeded; then the Duke of Cumberland and the Duchess of Bolton. The nobility and gentry then followed in the order of precedence. While in England he, with Dr. Benjamin Franklin, conferred with the merchants of London upon the subject of paper currency, touching the act of Parliament prohibiting future issues.

Letters from Richard Stockton to his wife, dated at London, show the state of public affairs at that time. He writes: "The Great Commoner is degraded by a peerage, and has the title of the Earl of Chatham. The people here are extremely disgusted with him for accepting it, and I know they will not like it better in America." In another letter he says: "Public affairs here are but in a bad way; the people still continue to abuse Lord Chatham. Mr. Grenville and his party cannot brook the repeal of the Stamp Act, and cannot keep from venting their rancor against America, in the House of Commons, upon every occasion. Mr. Charles Townsend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, informed the House last week that he was preparing a scheme to lay before them for raising money from the Colonies; urged

the necessity of sending more troops there, and the propriety and justice of their supporting them. *I exceedingly fear that we shall get together by the ears, and God only knows what is to be the issue!*"

Again he writes: "A few days ago I was introduced to General Conway, one of the Secretaries of State. He received me very politely, and asked me many important questions about America. I am happy that I had nothing to ask of government, and, therefore, dare speak my sentiments without cringing. *Wherever I can serve my native country, I leave no occasion untried.*"

He remained in England for about sixteen months. He then became anxious to return to America, and his solicitude was greatly increased by the knowledge that his return was earnestly desired by his family and friends. Neither the amusements of the British capital, nor the fascinations of fashionable life, could longer detain him from the society of his wife and family, to whom he was tenderly attached. He embarked in a vessel bound for New York, and arrived at his destination in September, 1767.

In the year 1768 he was elevated to a seat in the Supreme Royal Legislative Judiciary and Executive Council of the Province, enjoying at the same time the full favor of the Royal Government, and the undiminished confidence of his friends. In 1774 he was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court.

The storm, which had been gathering since the day when a penny-wise minister of the Crown conceived the idea of raising specific revenue from America, now began to burst over the land, and Richard Stockton had his full share of the peril. "Holding a high and honorable station under the government of a monarch

whose personal character he greatly respected, although he believed him to be misled by a corrupt ministry, and who had honored him with especial marks of confidence, he was now compelled either to renounce his allegiance to that sovereign, or depart from the duties which he owed to his native land.

"When he discovered that the British ministry had again resolved to enforce the odious right which they claimed of taxing the American Colonies without their consent, or granting them any representation in Parliament, he promptly selected the course of conduct which he thought it his duty to adopt. Although he had received numerous indications of official favor and personal attention from the King and many of the most eminent statesmen of the British Empire, yet after contributing his strenous exertions in the first stages of the dispute to effect a reconciliation between the mother country and the colonies, he considered himself bound by paramount obligations when the crisis of serious contest had arrived to enroll his name among those of the defenders of American freedom."* Separating, therefore, from his fellow-members of the Royal Council, to whom as individuals he was warmly attached, but who, with the exception of his friends, Lord Sterling and Hon. John Stevens, were all Royalists or neutral, he used his exertions to procure the organization of a prudent and well-directed opposition to the arbitrary measures of the British ministry, down to the day when accidental blood-shedding broke the bond forever.

He and all his family were zealously united in defence of American liberty. Among them were his

---

*Sanderson's Biog. of the Signers.

brothers, Rev. Philip and Hon. Samuel Witham Stockton, Hon. Elias Boudinot, his brother-in-law, and the celebrated Dr. Benjamin Rush, of Philadelphia, his son-in-law.

Richard Stockton was elected to Congress in 1776, and, together with Dr. Rush, his son-in-law, had the honor of subscribing the immortal Declaration of Independence—the brightest record that adorns the annals of our country.

His life was shortened by the cruel treatment he received from the British. Morven, his residence, being in the direct route of the army of Lord Cornwallis, in its march through New Jersey in 1776, he was compelled to remove his family to a place of security. After remaining at Morven to the latest period that the safety of his family admitted,—affording to the remnant of our distressed army every assistance in his power,—he conveyed his wife and younger children into the county of Monmouth, about thirty miles from the supposed route of the British army, where he sought refuge for them at the house of a friend and compatriot, John Covenhoven. He was betrayed by some of the Royalists, a party of whom came at night and by force entered the house. They dragged him from his bed and carried him to Amboy, and thence to New York, where he was thrown into prison, and, without the least regard for his rank, age, and delicate health, treated him barbarously. Congress adopted a resolution directing General Washington to inquire into the treatment he was receiving, and to seek his deliverance. This was effected, but he never recovered from the hardships and suffering to which he was at that time subjected.

The valuable plantation which he had received from his father became for some time the headquarters of the General of the British army. It had been made one of the most beautiful residences in the State. It was named "Morven" by his wife, and was filled with rare and elegant furniture, a valuable library, and works of art. The house was pillaged, the horses and stock driven away, and the estate laid waste. The furniture was converted into firewood, the wine-cellar emptied of its stores, and the valuable library committed to the flames.

Richard Stockton did not live to see the Independence for which he had done and suffered so much finally established. Exposure and the inhuman treatment he received laid the foundation of disease from which he never recovered. After riding on a very cold and windy day to Somerset Court, his lip became so much chapped that a cancerous affection resulted, which terminated his life. Surgical operations proved useless. He died at Morven in 1781, in the fifty-first year of his age. Thus he paid the cost of his avowed patriotism, fulfilling his pledge by giving his "life and fortune" to his native country.

> "To add greater honours to his age
> Than man could give him, he died, fearing God."

"Richard Stockton, when unadorned by the gorgeous robes of judicial office that prevailed previous to the Revolution, was neat but simple in his dress. Before the Revolutionary War he lived in a state of splendor frequently adopted by distinguished men under the Royal Government. Every stranger who visited Morven was cordially welcomed in the genuine style of ancient

hospitality, and it was customary in those days for distinguished strangers to call upon men of rank.

"He was a man of great coolness and courage. His bodily powers, both in relation to strength and agility, were of a superior order, and he was highly accomplished in all manly exercises peculiar to the period in which he lived. His skill as a horseman and swordsman was particularly great. His manners were dignified, simple, though highly polished."*

His widow, Annie; two sons, Richard and Lucius Horatio Stockton, and four daughters, Julia, Susan, Mary, and Abigail, survived him. His widow continued to reside at Morven for some time, and her home was visited by many of the distinguished friends of her late husband. The most friendly relations existed between Mrs. Stockton and General Washington, who paid her much respect, and they corresponded with the freedom of sincere friendship.

Richard the Signer's eldest son, was Richard "the Duke," of whom presently.

Richard the Signer's second son, Lucius H. Stockton, was an eminent lawyer. He settled in Trenton, where he acquired a large practice, and at one time held the office of District Attorney of New Jersey. His literary acquirements were extensive and his natural powers of a high order. That he was no ordinary man, may be inferred from the fact that he was nominated by the elder Adams to be Secretary of War, but Mr. Jefferson shortly afterward came into office, and the nomination was not confirmed. His daughter Sarah was married to Rev. William J. Armstrong, D.D.

Julia, daughter of Richard Stockton, the Signer, was

---

*Sanderson's Biog. of the Signers.

married to Dr. Benjamin Rush, of Philadelphia, who, as before stated, was also a signer of the Declaration of Independence. His daughter Susan was married to Alexander Cuthbert, of Canada.

His daughter Mary was married to the Rev. Andrew Hunter, D.D., a chaplain in the Revolutionary army, the father of General David Hunter, Dr. Lewis Boudinot Hunter, and Mrs. (Lieut.) Samuel Witham Stockton.

His daughter Abigail was married to Robert Field, of Burlington County, the father of the late Judge Richard S. Field and Mrs. George T. Olmsted.

Richard Stockton, "the Duke."

We will now resume our narrative at Richard the Signer's eldest son Richard, who was often distinguished from others of that name by the title of "Duke." He became one of the most eminent lawyers in the country. He represented New Jersey in the Senate of the United States from 1796 to 1799, and was a member of the House of Representatives from 1813 to 1815. When Marquis La Fayette visited Princeton, in 1824, Mr. Stockton was chosen by the council to address him.

He read law with his uncle, Hon. Elias Boudinot, and received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from Columbia College in 1815, and also from Union College in 1816. He was a man of a lofty sense of honor and the sternest integrity. His bearing was dignified and reserved. He was married to Miss Mary Field, and succeeded his father in the possession of Morven, living there until his death, in 1828. He left a large number of children.

Richard Stockton, his eldest son, was a lawyer of fine talents, who practiced for a time in New Jersey, and then removed to Mississippi. The Legislature of Mississippi soon perceived the value of his powers, and appropriated them to the use of the State by conferring upon him the office of a Judge of the Supreme Court. But this, not altogether according with the ardor of his temperament and the enterprise and activity of his mind, he in a few years resigned, and was immediately appointed Attorney-General, which position he filled with honor to himself and profit to the State.

He was killed in a duel with John P. Parson, at New Orleans. Judge Stockton did not fire, and a letter was found in his pocket after his death expressing such a determination. No man stood higher in the public estimation as a professional man,—none living more beloved by his acquaintances, or dead more regretted.

Shortly after his death these verses were printed, probably written by his sister Mary, Mrs. Harrison:

To the Memory of Richard Stockton.

A foreign turf was on thy breast, and hands
Of strangers scoop'd thy final resting-place;
The hearts which yearn'd for thee were in far lands,
Nor knew when death clasp'd thee in cold embrace;
The stranger smoothed the dark locks on thy brow,
And o'er thy manhood wept as I do now.

Oh! there are gentle beings who'd have blest
Their God to have stood o'er thee in that hour;
Their hands upon thy pallid temples prest;
Their eyes bent on thee with a soothing power;
Their lips murm'ring kind words and blessings warm,
Ere thy chafed heart grew still, and cold thy manly form.

Yet in that fatal hour thy thoughts did turn
To them,—to boyhood's home and native shore,
And stronger in thy heart the love did burn
Of those enshrined within its inmost core,—
The far-off faithful few, who in their home
A thousand leagues, still looked for thee to come.

There have been tears from the heart's fountain wrung
O'er thy sad fate: When shall their stream be dry?
Alas! thou wert so gen'rous, gay, and young,—
So bright thy rising hopes,—thine aim so high,—
The laurel of success upon thy brow,—
We scarce can deem thee with the dead e'en now.

But thou art gone: no more shalt thou endure
Of the world's scorn, or its awak'ning praise:
From the coarse gibes of men thou art secure;
Thy fiery spirit heeds no more their ways.
Thou art reposing in thy dreamless sleep,
Nor dost thou heed who frown, or smile, or weep.

Impatient wert thou of this wretched world
And the vile herd. For action thou wert formed;
Thy hand the bolt at tyrants could have hurled
And borne the palm where'er red battle stormed.
In times when troubles vex the lurid sky
Thou couldst have taught the bold to dare, the brave to die.

Yet were thy feelings kind, thy virtues true;
Affection burned not in a warmer heart.
They loved thee ever best whom best thou knew.
Frank and sincere, without the veil of art,
Liberal and lofty, courteous and brave,
A heart that freely felt, a hand that freely gave.

But thou art gone. For evermore, oh! God,
On this perturbed state thine eyes are closed.
The hopes along the meteor path thou trod
Which grew are with thee in the grave composed;
The crown—the laurel—the immortal fame
Which our o'er-sanguine hearts had pictured for thy name.

Farewell! sweet vernal flowers o'er thee bloom,
And murmurs of soft breezes fan thy sleep;
Rest, noble heart, in thy returnless home;
Rest where the weary never wake to weep;
Rest thee, brave spirit, where the mighty dwell
And where the requiem vainly breathes farewell, farewell.

Robert Field Stockton, second son of Richard, "the Duke," was a Commodore in the United States Navy, and became one of the most prominent men in the country. He will be noticed in a subsequent chapter.

William Bradford Stockton, his third son, never married, and survived his father about fourteen years.

Samuel Witham Stockton, his fourth son, was a Lieutenant in the United States Navy, and was married to Miss Mary Hunter.

They had two children: Major Samuel Witham Stockton, the present owner of Morven, and Mary Stockton, who was married to Rev. C. Wistar Hodge.

Richard Stockton, "the Duke," left four daughters; Annis, who was married to Hon. John R. Thomson; Mary, who was married to William Harrison; Julia, who was married to John Rhinelander, and Caroline, who was married to William Rotch.

Richard Stockton, "the Duke," died in 1839, and devised Morven to his son, Robert Field Stockton.

THE STOCKTON FAMILY IN AMERICA.

HON. COMMODORE ROBERT FIELD STOCKTON.

ROBERT FIELD STOCKTON entered Princeton College when in his thirteenth year. The impending war with Great Britain excited his patriotism, and he relinquished his college pursuits for the navy.

After having been ten years in the service of the navy, he returned to Princeton. He then became interested in the American Colonization cause, and applied to the Secretary of the Navy for command of a vessel. He obtained it, and, with the consent of the Navy Department, went to the coast of Africa to secure a site for the American Colony. After visiting the British Colony on the western coast of Africa, he consulted the Governor, of the colony, who referred him to a site, though he doubted if it could be obtained by peaceable cession from the ferocious natives, as many efforts had been made by different nations to obtain it, without success.

Commodore (then Lieutenant) Stockton sailed for this place, and after great trouble and danger induced the natives to execute a treaty for the territory which the society had urged him to procure. The territory thus acquired by Commodore Stockton is now the Republic of Liberia, and he has thus become associated in history with the founders of this State. He was nominated to be Secretary of the Navy in 1840 by

President Tyler, but he declined the honor. About the year 1842 the Navy Department permitted him to construct a steam-ship-of-war. It was completed in 1844 and named "Princeton." On her visit to the Mediterranean she attracted the attention of the skillful engineers of every European nation. She was armed with twelve forty-two-pounders, and two pieces of ten tons each. These two guns were called "Peacemaker" and "Oregon." In February, 1844, the President, Cabinet, and a large number of members of Congress and distinguished strangers in Washington, went on board the Princeton for an excursion down the Potomac. The steamer performed her part to the satisfaction of all on board, and the big guns were fired with perfect success. While at the table an officer came to Commodore (then Captain) Stockton and informed him that some of the company desired one of the great guns to be again discharged. The Commodore refused, but the same request being made by the Secretary of the Navy, he could not refuse, and he again fired the gun, which exploded, killing Hon. Abel P. Upshur, Secretary of State; Hon. Thomas W. Gilmer, Secretary of the Navy; Captain Beverly Kennon, United States Navy; Hon. Virgil Maxey, of Maryland, and Hon. David Gardiner, father-in-law of the President. Commodore Stockton's conquest of California and his establishing a civil government over it before the Mexican war closed, secured it to the United States when peace was agreed upon. He established the first printing-press and schoolhouse in that territory. In 1849 Commodore Stockton resigned his command in the Navy. He was elected to the United States Senate in 1851.*

* We are indebted to Bayard's life of Com. Stockton for much of the foregoing.

To him is due the construction of the Delaware and Raritan Canal.

Commodore Stockton was married to Harriet Maria Potter, daughter of John Potter, Esq.

"John Potter was born at Ballymoran, in Ireland, at the residence of John Stewart, Esq., his maternal grandfather. John Stewart was the eldest son and heir of Thomas Stewart and Margaret, daughter of Walter Graham, last cadet of the family of the Earl of Menteith. He was fifth in descent from Sir Alexander Stewart, great-grandfather of Alexander, first Earl of Galloway. Sir Alexander was ninth in descent from Sir John Stewart, second son of Alexander, sixth Lord High Steward of Scotland, progenitor of the royal family of Great Britain."

(The foregoing is extracted from a printed pedigree issued to John Stewart, Esq., by the King at Arms, Heralds' College, and now in possession of Gen. R. F. Stockton, dated in the year 1773. In it the family arms are described, all within the royal fressure.)

Commodore Stockton, although all his life exposed to danger in his profession, and having been engaged in several duels, lived to an advanced age, and died at Morven in 1866. He left three sons, Richard Stockton, John Potter Stockton, and General Robert Field Stockton; and six daughters, Catherine Elizabeth, who was married to Rev. William A. Dod, D.D.; Mary, who was married to Admiral John C. Howell, of the United States Navy; Harriet Maria Stockton; Julia, who was married to Edward M. Hopkins; Caroline, who was married to Captain William Rawle Brown, of the United States Navy; and Annis, who was married to Franklin Davenport Howell.

THE STOCKTON FAMILY IN AMERICA.

REV. PHILIP STOCKTON.

HAVING concluded our history of Richard Stockton, the Signer, the eldest son of Hon. John Stockton, in following our plan of writing of his distinguished sons in the order of their births, we now pass on to

REV. PHILIP STOCKTON,

the Revolutionary preacher. He was the third son of his father, Hon. John Stockton, of Princeton, and younger than his brother, Hon. Richard Stockton, the Signer. By his will his father, Hon. John Stockton, devised to him and his brother, Samuel Witham Stockton, that part of the homestead plantation, Morven, lying on the south side of the main street or highway, to be divided equally between them.

Philip Stockton was a clergyman and a man of fortune. He studied theology with Rev. John Witherspoon, D.D., who was president of Princeton College. The record of Princeton College shows that the degree of Master of Arts was conferred upon him as an honorary title by the college, and thereby implies that he had been in some other college, or had not finished his course at Princeton. He was a Presbyterian, and was ordained a minister by the Presbytery of New Brunswick, New Jersey, in the year 1778. We are not able

to state positively whether or not he ever had a pastoral charge.

He purchased the Castle Howard property at Princeton in 1785, and resided there. Castle Howard was formerly owned by Captain Howard, an officer in the British army previous to the Revolutionary War, and was named for him.

"Captain Howard was a decided Whig. During the Revolution he was confined to his room with the gout. His wife did not entertain his political sentiments, and he was often excessively annoyed by her entertaining British officers, whose conversation was very obnoxious to him. In consequence of this, he had painted in large letters over the mantle-piece in his room, "No Tory talk here." This was discernible twenty years after. Castle Howard is one of the oldest places in Princeton." *

Rev. Philip Stockton was born July 11th, 1746, and Miss Katherine Cumming, to whom he was married April 13th, 1769, was born on the 6th of April, 1748.

Katherine Cumming was a woman of great personal beauty and loveliness. She was the sister of General John N. Cumming.

The Cummings are of Scottish extraction, and are descended from Sir John Comyn, or Cuming, better known as the Red Comyn, who was the rival of Robert the Bruce in his pretensions to the throne, and who was murdered in the church of the Minorites at Dumfries, by Robert the Bruce, afterward King of Scotland.

Rev. Philip Stockton died January 12th, 1792, leaving a widow, Katherine, and five sons, John Stockton, Lucius Witham Stockton, Elias Boudinot Stockton,

* Hageman's History of Princeton.

William Tennent Stockton, and Richard C. Stockton; and two daughters, Susannah and Maria. To them he devised his estate. His children were all remarkable for a fine physique.

His eldest son, John, owned property in Hamilton County, Ohio, and removed there from Princeton. He died at an advanced age, leaving several children.

Lucius Witham Stockton, his second son, will be noticed in a subsequent chapter.

Elias Boudinot Stockton, his third son, died when quite a young man, and was unmarried.

William Tennent Stockton, his fourth son, resided at Newark, New Jersey, for some time. He married a Miss Williamson, and they had several children.

Richard C. Stockton, his fifth son, removed to Baltimore, Maryland, early in life, and married a daughter of Colonel John Hughes. They had two sons, Richard and John, and five daughters, Henrietta Stockton, Katherine, who was married to Lucius Witham Stockton (second); Ann, who was married to Samuel Austin; Ellen Stockton, and Margaret, who was married to Rev. William W. Lord, D.D.

THE STOCKTON FAMILY IN AMERICA.

LUCIUS WITHAM STOCKTON.

HAVING mentioned all the other sons of Rev. Philip Stockton, we will now write of his second son, Lucius Witham Stockton, and his descendants.

LUCIUS WITHAM STOCKTON

read law with his cousin, Richard Stockton, "the Duke," then quite a young lawyer in practice in Princeton, and was admitted to the bar of New Jersey as an attorney-at-law in November, 1793. He settled at Flemington, New Jersey, where he acquired a large practice, and for the period of ten years, from 1794, one year after he was admitted to the bar, until 1804, he filled the office of clerk or surrogate of the County of Hunterdon.

Lucius Witham Stockton was born on the 26th of May, 1771, and Miss Eliza Augusta Coxe, to whom he was married December 16th, 1795, was born the 18th of August, 1775. It is said that Lucius Witham Stockton was "the handsomest man of his day" when he married Miss Coxe.

Miss Eliza Augusta Coxe was a daughter of Charles Coxe, of Sidney, New Jersey, whose great-grandfather, Dr. Daniel Coxe, of London, was proprietor of West Jersey and part of Carolina.

Colonel Daniel Coxe, the son and successor of Dr. Daniel Coxe, settled at Burlington, and filled many important stations in the province of New Jersey.

Hon. Tench Coxe, grandson of Colonel Daniel Coxe, was a member of the Annapolis Convention, and also of the last Continental Congress. He was Assistant Secretary of the Treasury and Commissioner of the Revenue under Washington, and Purveyor of the Public Supplies under Jefferson and Madison.

Lucius Witham Stockton died leaving a widow, Eliza; three sons, Charles Coxe Stockton, Lucius Witham Stockton (second), Philip Augustus Stockton, and one daughter, Rebecca Augusta Stockton.

His eldest son, Charles Coxe Stockton, settled in Kentucky, and died when quite a young man.

Lucius Witham Stockton, the second

of that name, and the second son of Lucius Witham Stockton, settled at Uniontown, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, and was president of the company having the government contracts for carrying the United States mails.

He purchased property in Uniontown, and his residence there became one of the most beautiful in the State. Uniontown is situated at the foot of the Alleghany Mountains and is one of the most charming and picturesque spots in America.

Lucius Witham Stockton (second) possessed an abundant fortune and a noble character, and was a man of much public spirit and enterprise. He expended a great deal of his fortune in improving Uniontown; of

this the neighborhood affords abundant evidence. The Episcopal Church there was built by him.

His house was filled with elegant furniture, a valuable library, and works of art. The grounds were beautifully laid out, and handsomely ornamented with trees, shrubbery, and flower-gardens; and to the place he gave the name of "Ben Lomond."

Mr. Stockton was richly endowed with the most prepossessing and attractive graces of person, and possessed a lofty stature, a singularly handsome face, with the most graceful demeanor; a temperament so enthusiastic and ardent and a disposition so benevolent and generous, as to render him a universal favorite.

Ben Lomond, his residence at Uniontown, was visited by many of his distinguished friends. He was a devoted friend of General Harrison, and, after the election of the latter to the Presidency, he with his family and several members of his Cabinet were entertained at Ben Lomond. He was an extremely hospitable man, and every stranger who visited Ben Lomond was entertained in the most generous style of true hospitality.

Lucius Witham Stockton (second) was born September 1st, 1799, and Miss Rebecca Moore, to whom he was married November 24th, 1824, was born August 27th, 1805. They had three sons, Richard C. Stockton, Daniel Moore Stockton, and Lucius Witham Stockton (third), and three daughters, Margaret Moore Stockton, who was married to Dr. Thomas McKennan; Elizabeth C. Stockton, who died in infancy, and Rebecca Moore Stockton, who was married to Captain Alexander Wishart, of the United States Army.

Lucius Witham Stockton (second) survived his first wife, Miss Rebecca Moore, and married, secondly, Miss

Katherine Stockton, daughter of Richard C. Stockton, of Baltimore, August 15th, 1837. They had three sons, Richard C. Stockton, James Hughes Stockton, and Elias Boudinot Stockton, and one daughter, Henrietta Maria Stockton, who was married to Gen. Charles L. Leiper. Lucius Witham Stockton (second) died at Ben Lomond, his residence, in Uniontown, April 25th, 1844.

Having concluded our notice of Lucius Witham Stockton (second), in writing of the children of the first Lucius Witham Stockton, we now come to

Philip Augustus Stockton.

He was the third son of Lucius Witham Stockton (first). He was born November the 6th, 1802. He lived with his maternal grandfather, Charles Coxe, of Sidney, New Jersey, until 1819, when he entered the United States Navy. He remained in the service eleven years, four of which were passed on board the old Constitution, which was then the flag-ship of Commodore Read, in the Mediterranean. In 1830 he resigned his commission as Lieutenant in the navy, and settled at Princeton, New Jersey, his home being the property known as "Woodlawn," which he afterward sold to Judge Richard Stockton Field. He was married to Miss Sarah Cantey, and they had two sons, Colonel Philip Augustus Stockton and Edward Cantey Stockton. He survived his first wife and married, secondly, Miss Mary Remington, in 1840. They had one son, Howard Stockton, now a resident of Boston, Mass. In 1856 he was appointed Consul General for Saxony, and lived six years in Europe with his family. Returning to the United States in 1862, he made his home at New-

port, Rhode Island, and died there on the 30th of May, 1876, in the seventy-fourth year of his age.

Mr. Stockton was tall, well-proportioned, and remarkably handsome. His bearing was dignified and courteous, and his character generous and high-minded. He was a great favorite among his brother officers and in society, and was for many years president of the Newport Reading-Room.

We now come to Rebecca Augusta Stockton, daughter of the first Lucius Witham Stockton, and younger than her brothers, Lucius Witham Stockton (second) and Philip Augustus Stockton. She was married to Major Richard Lewis Howell. His father, R. L. Howell, Esq., of New Jersey, was a Major in the Revolutionary Army, and afterwards Governor of New Jersey for several terms, and for nine years Chancellor of the State.

They had several children, of whom six survive: four sons, Admiral John C. Howell, of the United States Navy; Andrew Allen Howell, Richard S. Howell, and Frank D. Howell; and two daughters, Elizabeth, who was married to Colonel William B. Royall, of the United States Army, and Augusta, who was married to John W. Williams.

MORVEN.

AS PREVIOUSLY stated in the first chapter on the Stockton family in America, Richard Stockton (second) emigrated with his father from England to Long Island. He did not go with his father to Burlington, but removed from Long Island to Piscataway, and thence to Princeton, which at that time had no name. He gave it the name, *Stony Brook*, and it was subsequently named Princeton. He purchased an extensive tract of land there, consisting of about six thousand acres.

The Stockton family were the first Europeans to occupy this land after the discovery of the country by Columbus, and a portion of it has been in the possession of the family uninterruptedly since they first became possessed of it. On this tract of land is the residence now known as "Morven."

Were an antiquary, such as Sir Walter Scott, to find an old place of this kind, with its numerous and remarkably interesting historical associations, he would draw a halo of glory around it; but our pen lacks a graphic description, and we must confine ourselves to a mere statement of facts.

The mansion is a two-story brick structure, and consists of a main building, with a portico over the entrance, and two wings, and contains in all fifteen rooms. The parlor and dining-room are on the first floor of the main building. The withdrawing-room and library are

on the first floor of the right wing. The kitchens are on the first floor of the left wing. The second floor of the entire structure is divided into sleeping apartments. The surrounding grounds possess great beauty. This mansion is between one hundred and fifty and one hundred and seventy-five years old.

In the dining-room are portraits of Mary Stockton Hunter and her husband, Rev. Andrew Hunter, who was chaplain in the army of the Revolution. There is also a portrait of Dr. Benjamin Franklin's daughter, Mrs. Bache, and very fine modern portraits of Lieutenant Samuel Witham Stockton, William Bradford Stockton, and General David Hunter.

The library, which opens from the withdrawing-room, contains a collection of the works of the best authors and many finely-illustrated volumes. This collection of books is a very valuable one—particularly so, as many of them are first editions; as, for instance, an original folio Hogarth. Their value is much enhanced by the fact that they have been in this library for more than a century.

The sleeping apartments have been occupied by many whose names are historical in this country. General Washington was a frequent visitor to Morven, and in a letter from Mrs. Stockton to her brother, Hon. Elias Boudinot, she mentions that General Washington had just left Morven, where he had been for some time.

Morven passed from Richard Stockton, who emigrated from England with his father, to his son, John Stockton. There is very little known of Susannah Stockton, wife of Richard Stockton (second); but she must have been a woman of very remarkable intelligence, as she was appointed by her husband sole execu-

trix of his will. He left a large estate and six sons. There is not much known of the wife of Hon. John Stockton. Her maiden name was Abigail Phillips, and she was a devoted Presbyterian.

The plantation was much improved by Hon. John Stockton, its second owner, and still more by his son, Richard the Signer, its third owner, whose wife gave it the name of Morven, taken from one of the scenes in Ossian's poems. (Morven was the home of Fingal, King of the Caledonians, who occupied the western coast of Scotland, and is described in the poem of "Temora.") The grounds were also laid out under her supervision, and to her, whose taste embellished and whose presence added charms, Morven owes many of its improvements.

Mrs. Stockton's maiden name was Anice Boudinot, and she was a woman of more than ordinary culture. She was descended from a French Huguenot family, which emigrated to this country after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes.

When Richard Stockton visited England, in 1766, he invited his wife to accompany him, but she thought it her duty to remain at home with her children. They corresponded with the ardor of youthful lovers, Richard Stockton always giving his wife her favorite poetical name, "Amelia," in such correspondence, while she called him her "Lucius." As examples of the loving letters he wrote to his wife, we insert extracts from some of them, written by him from England.

He writes: "Had you received a letter I wrote you from Dublin and the one I wrote you upon my return here, you would have laughed at those idle people at Philadelphia who would persuade you that I would

prefer the elegance of England to the sylvan shades of America. No, my dearest Amelia! the peaceful retreat which God has blessed me with at Princeton, you, and the sweet children you have brought me, are the sources from which I receive my highest earthly joys; joys which I prefer to the state of a prime minister or a king upon the throne. I am entertained with the grandeur and variety of these kingdoms, as you wish me to be, and, as you know I am curious, new objects are continually striking my attention and engaging my fancy; but

> "'One thought of *thee* puts all the pomp to flight;
> Priests, tapers, temples swim before my sight.'"

Again he writes:

"Let me tell you that all the grandeur and elegance that I have yet seen in these kingdoms, in different families where I have been received with great politeness, serves but to increase the pleasure I have for some years enjoyed in your society. I see not a sensible, obliging, tender wife, but the image of my dear Amelia is full in view. Kiss my dear, sweet children for me, and give rather the hardest squeeze to my only son, if you think it is right; if not, divide it equally without any partiality; but tell Dick I will bring him a laced hat, which seems to be his passion, and the little girls something pretty."

Mrs. Stockton was particularly pleased with any attention shown to her son Dick, and her husband writes: "Your friend, Lord Adam Gordon, only returned from Scotland a few weeks ago. He was so

obliging as to call immediately at my lodgings, and sent me an invitation to dine with him a few days after. He inquired very particularly after you and *your dear little boy.*"

While in England, Richard Stockton sent to his wife at Morven many choice roots and flowers for her garden, which, as before stated, was tastefully laid out in lawns, planted with rare trees, and ornamented with choice flowers, under her special supervision. He writes from Westminster:

"I am making you a charming collection of bulbous roots, which shall be sent as soon as the prospect of freezing on your coast is over. The first of April, I believe, will be time enough for you to put them in your sweet little flower-garden, which you so fondly cultivate. Suppose, in the next place, I inform you that I design a ride to Twickenham the latter end of next month, principally to view Mr. Pope's gardens and grotto, which, I am told, remain nearly as he left them, and that I shall take with me a gentleman who draws well, to lay down an exact plan of the whole."

Doubtless the grounds at Morven were finished after the designs, which Richard Stockton sent to his wife, of Mr. Pope's gardens.

So much had been said and written about Mr. Pope's gardens, that their fame had reached America, and that they were well known to Mrs. Stockton may be inferred from her husband's letters to her.

Mrs. Stockton was a woman of highly cultivated mind and extensive literary acquirements. She wrote a drama entitled "The Triumph of Mildness." She also

wrote numerous odes and poems. One of her poems, to General Washington, on the surrender of Lord Cornwallis, was published in the *New Jersey Gazette*, and signed "Amelia."

How highly General Washington estimated the merit of these complimentary writings, and how much pleasure they afforded him, may be seen from the letters to her. He writes:

"PHILADELPHIA, July 22d, 1782.

"MADAM:

"Your favor of the 17th, conveying to me your pastoral on the subject of Lord Cornwallis' capture, has given me great satisfaction. Had you known the pleasure it would have communicated, I flatter myself, your diffidence would not have delayed it to this time.

"Amidst all the compliments which have been made on this occasion, be assured, madam, that the agreeable manner, and the very pleasing sentiments in which yours is conveyed, have affected my mind with the most lively sensations of joy and satisfaction.

"This address, from a person of your refined taste and elegance of expression, affords a pleasure beyond my powers of utterance, and I have only to lament that the hero of your pastoral is not more deserving of your pen; but the circumstance shall be placed among the happiest events of my life.

"I have the honor to be, madam,

"Your most obedient and respectful servant,

"G. WASHINGTON."

"Mrs. Stockton."

Upon the announcement of peace, in 1783, Mrs. Stockton addressed this ode to General Washington:

Ode to Washington.

"With all thy country's blessings on thy head,
And all the glory that encircles man,
Thy deathless fame to distant nations spread,
And realms unblest by Freedom's genial plan;
Addressed by statesmen, legislators, kings,
Revered by thousands as you pass along,
While every muse with ardor spreads her wings,
To greet our hero in immortal song;
Say, can a woman's voice an audience gain,
And stop a moment thy triumphal car?
And wilt thou listen to a peaceful strain,
Unskilled to paint the horrid wrack of war?
For what is glory? What are martial deeds,
Unpurified at Virtue's awful shrine?
Full oft remorse a glorious day succeeds—
The motive only stamps the deed divine.
But thy last legacy, renowned chief,
Hath decked thy brow with honors more sublime—
Twined in thy wreath the Christian's firm belief,
And nobly owned thy faith to future time."

To this General Washington replied in a letter dated at Rocky Hill, New Jersey, where he had been provided with a house.

"Rocky Hill, Sept. 2d, 1783.

"You apply to me, my dear madam, for absolution, as though I was your father confessor, and as though you had committed a crime, great in itself, yet of the venial class. You have reason good, for I find myself strangely disposed to be a very indulgent ghostly

adviser on this occasion, and, notwithstanding 'you are the most offending soul alive,' (that is, if it is a crime to write elegant poetry,) yet, if you will come and dine with me on Thursday, and go through the proper course of penitence which shall be prescribed, I will strive hard to assist you in expiating these poetical trespasses on this side of purgatory. Nay, more, if it rests with me to direct your future lucubrations, I shall certainly urge you to a repetition of the same conduct, on purpose to show what an admirable knack you have at confession and reformation; and, so, without more hesitation, I shall venture to recommend the muse not to be restrained by ill-grounded timidity, but to go on and prosper.

"You see, madam, when once the woman has tempted us, and we have tasted the forbidden fruit, there is no such thing as checking our appetite, whatever the consequences may be. You will, I daresay, recognize our being the genuine descendants of those who are reputed to be our great progenitors.

"Before I come to the more serious conclusion of my letter, I must beg leave to say a word or two about these fine things you have been telling in such harmonious and beautiful numbers. Fiction is, to be sure, the very life and soul of poetry. All poets and poetesses have been indulged in the free and indisputable use of it, time out of mind; and to oblige you to make such an excellent poem, on such a subject, without any materials but those of simple reality, would be as cruel as the edict of Pharaoh, which compelled the children of Israel to manufacture bricks without the necessary ingredients.

"Thus are you sheltered under the authority of

prescription; and I will not dare to charge you with an intentional breach of the rules of the decalogue in giving so bright a coloring to the services I have been enabled to render my country, though I am not conscious of deserving anything more at your hands than what the purest and most disinterested friendship has a right to claim; actuated by which, you will permit me to thank you, in the most affectionate manner, for the kind wishes you have so happily expressed for me and the partner of all my domestic enjoyments. Be assured, we can never forget our friend at Morven, and that I am, my dear madam, with every sentiment of friendship and esteem,

"Your most obedient and obliged servant,

"G. WASHINGTON."

"Mrs. Stockton."

The foregoing is thought to be the most lively and sprightly letter that is known to have been written by General Washington. These letters from the "Father of his Country" present him in an extremely interesting light, and the student of American history, who makes himself familiar with Washington's letters, written to his friends in the midst of so fearful a strife, cannot help but have a rationally exalted estimate of his character.

That Mrs. Stockton was a hero worshiper, is very evident, and as these letters from General Washington indirectly throw light upon the character of her to whom they were addressed, we insert one dated at Mount Vernon, and the reader's attention is directed to the opening paragraph, in which it appears that less than one hundred years ago, owing to severe weather,

a letter mailed at Princeton was more than five weeks in reaching Mount Vernon.

"MOUNT VERNON, February 18th, 1784.

"DEAR MADAM:

"The intemperate weather, and very great care which the post-riders take of themselves, prevented your letter of the 4th of last month from reaching my hands until the 10th of this. I was then in the very act of starting on a visit to my aged mother, from whence I am just returned. These reasons I beg leave to offer as an apology for my silence until now.

"It would be a pity, indeed, my dear madam, if the muses should be restrained in you; it is only to be regretted that the hero of your poetical talents is not more deserving their lays. I cannot, however, from motives of false delicacy, (because I happen to be the principal character in your pastoral,) withhold my encomium on the performance. For, I think, the easy, simple, and beautiful strains with which the dialogue is supported, do great justice to your genius, and will not only secure Lucinda and Aminta from wits and critics, but draw from them, however unwillingly, their highest plaudits, if they can relish the praises that are given as highly as they must admire the manner of bestowing them.

"Mrs. Washington, equally sensible with myself of the honor you have done her, joins me in most affectionate compliments to yourself, and the young ladies and gentlemen of your family. With sentiments of esteem, regard, and respect, I have the honor to be, dear madam,

"Your most obedient and most humble servant,

"G. WASHINGTON."

"Mrs. Stockton."

When the storm of civil war burst on the country, Richard Stockton, warned of the approach of the British, had barely time to remove his wife and family to a place of safety. He sought refuge for them at the house of a friend, in Monmouth County.

Morven was directly in the route of the invading army in its march through New Jersey. Mr. Stockton's eldest son, Richard, then a boy of twelve years of age, with an old family servant, remained in the house, while everything was left to the mercy of the enemy. The house was pillaged and the estate laid waste. Morven was, for some time, made the headquarters of the General of the British army.

The plate and other valuable articles belonging to the family had been packed in three boxes and buried in the woods at some distance from the mansion. Through treachery of the servants, the place of concealment was discovered by the British soldiers, and two of the boxes were disinterred and rifled of their rich contents. The remaining one escaped and was restored to the family. There were also two portraits, one of Richard Stockton, by Copley, and the other of his wife, which were in the house when it was occupied by the British. After their departure, these portraits were found among some rubbish, with a gash, evidently made with a sword, in the throat of the portrait of Richard Stockton.

Mr. Stockton's retreat was discovered by a party of refugee loyalists, and, as mentioned in the chapter on Richard Stockton, the Signer, they hurried him to Amboy, and thence to New York, where he was thrown into a common jail. He was finally released, but, as previously mentioned, he never recovered his health.

His sufferings from the disease which he contracted on the prison ship and in the jail at New York were so intense, that he could not get the slightest repose without the aid of anodynes. His wife, who had shared his brighter fortunes, now cheered his declining days by her tenderness and devotion. She nursed him through his long and painful illness, and, while watching one anxious night, wrote a few impromptu verses, and although they cannot be given as a specimen of her poetic abilities, no one can read or listen to them without emotion:

"Sleep, balmy sleep, has closed the eyes of all
But me—ah me! no respite can I gain;
Though darkness reigns o'er this terrestrial ball,
Not one soft slumber cheats this vital pain.

All day in secret sighs I've poured my soul;
My downy pillow, used to scenes of grief,
Beholds me now in floods of sorrow roll,
Without the power to yield his pains relief.

While through the silence of this gloomy night
My aching heart reverb'rates every groan,
As watching by that glimmering taper's light,
I make each sigh, each mortal pang my own.

But why should I implore sleep's friendly aid?
O'er me her poppies shed—no ease impart;
But dreams of dear *departing joys* invade,
And rack with fears my sad prophetic heart.

And vain is prophecy—when death's approach
Thro' years of pain hath sapped a dearer life,
And makes me, coward-like, myself reproach
That e'er I knew the tender name of wife.

Oh! could I take the fate to him assigned,
And leave the helpless family their head!
How pleased, how peaceful to my lot resigned,
I'd quit the nurse's station for the bed!

O death, thou canker-worm of human joy!
Thou cruel foe to sweet domestic peace,
He soon shall come, who shall thy shaft destroy,
And cause thy dreadful ravages to cease.

Yes, the Redeemer comes to wipe the tears,
The briny tears, from every weeping eye,
And death, and sin, and doubts, and gloomy fears,
Shall all be lost in endless victory."

"MORVEN, December 3rd, 1780."

Richard Stockton, the Signer, died at Morven, February 28th, 1781.

"The majestic avenue of elms through which you pass on entering the grounds of Morven, and the row of catalpas along the whole front, were planted by Richard Stockton, the Signer, more than one hundred years ago. Every year, with the undeviating certainty of the seasons, these catalpa trees put on their pure white blooming costume on the Fourth of July, and for this reason they are called, in this country, the "Independence Tree." Here, in the presence of the house in which he was born, and in which he lived and died, these trees recall, with the sweet fragrance of their blossoms, on every Fourth of July, the memory of the Declaration of Independence, and this honored Son of Liberty, by whom it was signed."*

*Hageman's History of Princeton.

In an elegiac ode, written by Mrs. Stockton, immediately after her husband's death, she refers to these trees as having been reared by him. She wrote an elegiac ode yearly on the anniversary of her husband's death, and as the one which follows was written on the day of his death, we insert it here:

"Why does the sun, with usual splendor, rise
To pain with hated light these aching eyes?
Let sable clouds enshroud his shiny face,
And murmuring winds re-echo my distress.
Be nature's beauty with deep gloom o'erspread,
To mourn my Lucius, numbered with ye dead.
Mute is that tongue, which list'ning Senate charm'd;
Cold is that breast which every virtue warm'd.
Drop fast, my tears, and mitigate my woe,
Unlock your springs, and never cease to flow;
For worth like his demands this heartfelt grief,
And tears like these alone can yield relief.
O greatly honored in the lists of fame;
He dignified the judge—the statesman name;
How ably he discharged each public trust,
In council firm— in execution just,
Can best be uttered by his country's voice,
Whose approbation justified their choice.
And now these grateful tears shed o'er his hearse
A nobler tribute than the loftiest verse.
But, ah! lamented shade! thy *private* life,
Thy weeping children—thy afflicted wife—
Can testify was marked with every grace
That e'er illumined or adorned the place
Of husband, brother, father, master, friend,
And swell those sorrows now which ne'er can end.
Can we forget how patiently he bore
The various conflicts of the closing hour?
While meekness, faith and piety resigned,
And steadfast Hope raised his exalted mind

Above the sufferings of his mortal state,
And helped his soul in smiles to meet his fate.
Oh! fatal hour! severely felt by me,
The last of earthly joy my eyes shall see.
The friend, the lover—every tender name
Torn from my heart, the deepest anguish claim.
To me in vain shall cheerful Spring return,
And tuneful birds salute the purple morn;
Autumn, in vain, present me all her stores,
Or Summer court me with her fragrant bowers;
These fragrant bowers were planted by his hand,
And now neglected and unpruned must stand.
Ye stately elms! and lofty cedars! mourn,
How thro' your avenues you saw him borne;
The friend who reared you—never to return.
Ye muses! whom he loved and cherished too,
Bring from your groves, the cypress and the yew;
Deck with unfading wreaths his sacred tomb,
And scatter roses of immortal bloom.
Goddess of sorrow! tune the mournful air,
Let all things pay the tributary tear;
For worth like his demands the heartfelt grief,
And tears like these alone can yield relief.

"AMELIA."

"MORVEN, February 28th, 1781."

After the death of her husband, Mrs. Stockton occupied Morven until her son, Richard, was married, and then she surrendered the place to him. While she lived there she was visited by many of the friends of her late husband. When Congress sat at Princeton she entertained the President and members of Congress, and after she left Morven, when she was boarding at a private house in Princeton, General Washington called to see her there.

Mrs. Stockton served on a committee with Lady

Stirling, Mrs. Attorney-General Paterson, and others, to aid the Continental army.

She was made a member of the American Whig Society, the only instance in which a lady has been initiated into the mysteries of that literary brotherhood. At the time of the Revolutionary War a great many very important political documents had been placed in Whig Hall for safe-keeping. This fact was known to Mrs. Stockton, who was well informed upon all the political questions of the day, and was also acquainted with her husband's political correspondence. He writes to her: "I have left my letters to the Governor open that you may see their contents. As soon as you peruse them, enclose the gazettes, seal the packet, and send them on immediately." Upon the approach of the British army, Mrs. Stockton, knowing that the letters and dispatches had been hidden in Whig Hall, and the disastrous results that would ensue from their falling into the hands of the British, ran there from Morven and carried the documents home, and with her own hands buried them under a tree near the house. She was also intrusted with some of the articles belonging to the Whig Society, and so great was the necessity for secrecy that she was afterwards made a member of the society. Mrs. Stockton died at the residence of her son-in-law, Robert Field, at Whitehill, in Burlington County, February 6th, 1801.

After the departure of the British from Morven, the portraits of Richard Stockton and his wife, previously mentioned, were found, and are now in possession of one of their descendants. A very good copy of the

portrait of Richard Stockton, the Signer, is in Independence Hall. There is also a portrait there of Richard Stockton's wife; one of his son-in-law, Dr. Benjamin Rush, and one of his brother-in-law, Hon. Elias Boudinot. There are a number of very valuable ante-Revolutionary relics now in possession of the family. Several pieces of silver, that were in the box which was restored after being buried at Morven, are still in the possession of the family. A number of these pieces of silver have the family coat of arms engraved on them. Major Samuel Witham Stockton has a very old-fashioned and valuable gold watch which belonged to Richard the Signer, and which he had had made while in England, in 1766. The works are protected by two heavy gold cases, the outer one having the family coat of arms engraved on it. On the inner plate is this inscription:

"Richard Stockton, Esq., 1767."

This watch is now more than one hundred years old, and is still an excellent time-keeper. There is also in the possession of the family a small-sword which belonged to Richard the Signer. With this sword he defended himself when attacked by a desperate robber one night in the streets of Edinburgh. By his will he devised his sword to his son Lucius. He says: "I also give and bequeath to my son, Lucius H. Stockton, the sword I now wear."

Want of space precludes the further mention of the many interesting relics that are in possession of the family.

We have previously stated that the Stockton family

were the first Europeans to occupy the land at Princeton; therefore, it may be interesting to give the history of the acquisition of this property by the Stockton family.

In 1609 Hudson discovered the North River. Charles the Second executed a charter to his brother James, Duke of York, for all the land from the river Connecticut to the river Delaware, and in the same year the Duke of York conveyed all the land between the rivers Hudson and Delaware to Lord Berkely and Sir George Cartaret. This conveyance was re-confirmed in 1674, and again in 1682. In the year 1675, to Sir George Cartaret was assigned East Jersey. Sir George died in 1679, and by will appointed trustees, who, in 1682, sold to William Penn and eleven others. These subsequently took twelve other partners, who became the twenty-four proprietors of East Jersey. (The Duke of York's third grant was to these twenty-four proprietors.) By the division among these proprietors, 12,000 acres here fell to William Penn—5500 acres on the west side of Stony Brook and 6500 acres on the east side of Stony Brook.

Richard Stockton (second) removed from Flushing, Long Island, to Princeton, in the year 1696. In the same year he purchased of Dr. John Gordon 400 acres of land. In the year 1701 William Penn conveyed to Richard Stockton a tract consisting of 5500 acres of land.

Richard Stockton (second) devised that portion of

this tract now known as Morven to his fifth son, John Stockton.

From Hon. John Stockton it passed to his eldest son, Richard the Signer.

From Richard Stockton, the Signer, it passed to his eldest son, Richard "the Duke."

From Richard Stockton, "the Duke" it passed to his second son, Commodore Robert Field Stockton.

From Commodore Robert Field Stockton it passed to Major Samuel Witham Stockton, who now owns and occupies it.