

**A COMSTOCK GENEALOGY;
DESCENDANTS OF WILLIAM
COMSTOCK OF NEW LONDON,
CONN., WHO DIED AFTER 1662: TEN
GENERATIONS. [NEW YORK-1907]**

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CYRUS B. COMSTOCK

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DESCENDANTS OF WILLIAM COMSTOCK

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WHO DIED AFTER 1662

TEN GENERATIONS

EDITED BY

CYRUS B. COMSTOCK

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Of books, Austin's *Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island*; Arnold's *Vital Records of Rhode Island*; Caulkin's *History of New London*; Baker's *History of Montville, Ct.*; Selleck's *History of Norwalk, Ct.*; and Hall's *History of Norwalk*, have been found valuable.

Genealogical - 25.00

EXPLANATORY

In the following record a serial number has been prefixed to the name of each Comstock child when it first appears. If that child appears later as the head of a family the same number is prefixed but in heavy faced type.

To pass from the head of a family to his father, one must pass from his serial number in heavy type to the same number in light type.

To find the children of a child, find the family whose number follows the child's name.

Generations from William¹ Comstock of New London are indicated by small figures.

The usual abbreviations, b., m., d., dau., res., are used for born, married, died, daughter, and residence.

The dates given for births may sometimes be of baptisms and dates of marriage, dates of recording.

INTRODUCTION

In Devonshire, England, there is a little village called Culmstock, with a few hundred inhabitants, lying on the small stream Culm, from which it derives its name. It is called Colmstocke in the Domesday Book in the time of William the Conqueror.

From this village the name Comstock is doubtless derived.

Exeter is about twenty miles from Culmstock. The Cartulary of St. Nicholas Priory, Exeter, No. 365, has as witnesses in 1241, Will. de Widebeere, Godefrido de Kelli, Petro de Columstock, Nicho. Bissoph.

The *History of Taunton* (ten miles from Culmstock) gives among the early priors of Taunton, Richard de Colmstoke, elected 1325; Ralph de Colmstoke, elected 1331, resigned 1338.

The parish register of Stoke St. Gregory (nineteen miles from Culmstock) gives:

"Thomas, son of Thomas Coomstocke baptised ye 30 day Oct. 1636.

"John, son of Thomas Coomstocke baptised ye 18 day Sept. 1646.

"Thomas Cumstoke was buried 30 Sept. 1658."

The Harleian Society publications give among the burials of the church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London:

"Mariana Combstocke, 30 Nov. 1595.

"Joannes Combstocke, 26 Aug. 1597.

"Johannes Comstock, 1 Nov. 1603."

These quotations show that the name existed in England at the time of the settlement of New England.

About 1895, an examination at the Somerset House, London, of the Record of Births in England and Wales showed scarcely one birth per year. The name in England has therefore nearly died out.

There is a story of the existence in the Muniment office at

Frankfort, Germany, of pedigrees of nine generations of Komstohks prior to Charles von Komstohk, a baron of the Roman Empire, who escaped to England in 1547, because implicated with other noblemen of Austria and Silesia in the von Benedict treason.

Careful search at Frankfort-on-the-Main, and at Breslau, fails to find any trace of a Baron von Komstohk, or of a von Benedict treason. Dr. John Lee Comstock of Hartford, Ct., accepted the story. His sister, quoting it, says 5 Sept., 1865, "from my deceased brother I received what I have written, who as he informed me, upon a visit to Frankfort on the Main by a gentleman whose name I do not recollect, copied and gave it to him."

Dr. Comstock was probably misinformed by this unknown person.

The earliest known record of a Comstock in this country is in the will of Henry Russell of Weymouth, Mass., 28 November, 1639. He gives to his wife Jane "the remainder of his time to be served by my servant John Comstock." Apprenticeship of sons till the age of twenty-one was common in those days.

The Wethersfield record gives, 2d month, 28th day, 1641: "the lands of William Comstock which he purchased of Ric. Milles lying in Wethersfield on Connecticut River."

Beginning in 1635 and 1636 there was a considerable emigration from Watertown, Mass., and its vicinity to Wethersfield, Windsor, and Hartford, Ct., and William¹ Comstock may have been among the emigrants.

FAMILY I. I. WILLIAM¹ COMSTOCK, m. (2) Elizabeth—Miss Caulkins (*History of New London*) says that he lived to old age on Post Hill near north corner of Williams and Vauxhall Sts., New London, Ct. Stiles (*History of Wethersfield*) says we may be pretty sure that William Comstock was among the 26 from Wethersfield, Ct., in the expedition commanded by Capt. John Mason which captured the Pequot Fort at Mystic, Ct., 26 May, 1637, killing about 500 Indians.

The Wethersfield record gives "The 2^d month & 28 day 1641, the lands of William Comstock which he purchased of Rich. Milles . . . on Connecticut river . . . one piece whereupon a barn with two cellars and other buildings standeth as it is now fenced . . . two acres or more . . ."

Also, "the 12th month 10th day 1643, upon? . . . 'the land