

**RICHARD SEYMOUR, HARTFORD, 1640;  
A PAPER READ BEFORE THE  
CONNECTICUT CHAPTER,  
DAUGHTERS OF FOUNDERS AND  
PATRIOTS OF AMERICA, AT NORWALK,  
CONN., FEBRUARY 13TH, 1903**

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Richard Seymour, Hartford, 1640; A Paper Read Before the Connecticut Chapter, Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America, at Norwalk, Conn., February 13th, 1903 by Maria Watson Pinney

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**MARIA WATSON PINNEY**

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RICHARD SEYMOR

HARTFORD, 1640

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A PAPER

READ BEFORE

The Connecticut Chapter Daughters  
of Founders and Patriots  
of America

*At Norwalk, Conn., February 13th, 1903*

BY

MRS. MARIA WATSON PINNEY

*Derby, Conn.*

1875  
1876  
1877  
1878  
1879  
1880

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## RICHARD SEYMOUR.

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MADAM PRESIDENT:—When I pledged to write what I had gathered from tradition, from investigation and from the research of others, relative to Richard Seymour, I did not understand that a very competent party had nearly completed the genealogy of his five succeeding generations, although I knew it had been discussed for twenty-five years, but I supposed its publication as far in the future as ever.

It stands without question that a genealogy can not be published without funds, and while the time has passed since the work has been in preparation, several parties who were interested, and would probably have subscribed for more than one copy, have passed "the dark river, which has never been shadowed by a homeward sail," and they who have spent time and money collecting and arranging material for the book, have waited for funds to publish.

If my article can induce any person who inherits the blood of Richard Seymour to assist in this publication, by subscribing for the same, I shall have helped forward a meritorious work.

There being in the near future a probability that two or three volumes of genealogical statistics will be published, it is useless for me in a paper of thirty minutes to refer to his descendants.

Who was Richard Seymour? who came to Hartford in 1639/40, and was one of the signers of the agreement for planting Norwalk June 19th, 1650, and among the first settlers soon after. He died between the dates July 29, 1655, when his will was made, and October 25, 1655, when the court approved the inventory.

He mentions in his will his wife Mercy, son Thomas, and three other sons, namely: John, Zachary and Richard, who being under age, he left to their mother's guardianship.

Mr. Henry W. Seymour, of Washington, D. C., writes, "It is singular that the wills of two Richard Seymours should be so similar."

One, the nuncupative will of Richard Seymour of August 16th, 1637, and buried at Berry-Pomeroy, County of Devon, England, which says: "That lyttell that I have, I will leave ytt to the mother's disposinge, the Children shall be under the mother, not the mother them."

Col. Vivian, in his History or "Visitation of Devon," states: I think it reasonably clear that Mr. Richard Seymour, son of William, third son of Sir Edward Seymour, and who married Mary Stretchley at Plimpton St. Mary, May 26<sup>th</sup> 1626, License granted May 5<sup>th</sup> 1626, was buried Aug. 1637, as Elizabeth (Seymour) Cary wife of Sir George Cary of Cockington declares January 19<sup>th</sup> 1638, that Mr. Richard Seymour's inventory was taken by Henry Champernoune of Dartington Esq. Nicholas Ball of Tormohan, merchant, and another, Mr. Richard



Seymour leaving one son Richard who was never married, and was buried at Cockington August 26<sup>th</sup> 1684, also there were three daughters, Amy, Bridget and Anne.

Hart. So. "Visitation of Devon," 1620, vol. 6, page 53, says:

Elizabeth daughter of Gawain Champernounc, Aunt of Henry Champernounc of Dartington Esq., married for her first husband a Stretchley—which may indicate a reason for Henry Champernounc looking after the interests of Mary Stretchley the widow of Richard Seymour, son of William Seymour, and grandson of Elizabeth daughter of Sir Arthur Champernounc of Dartington Esq.

And again the Elizabeth (Seymour) Cary, whose declaration is here quoted, was sister to William Seymour, father of this Richard Seymour, and her second son Robert Cary, married for his first wife Christin daughter and heir of William Stretchley esq.—Westcote's "Devonshire" page 511.

The other will was made July 29, 1655, eighteen years after. Richard Seymour of Norwalk, Connecticut saying:

"I doe will and bequeath unto my loving wife, Mercy Seymour, my whole estate, viz. House and lands, cattle and movables, except small personal value of property to Thomas &c."

He gives, on reaching twenty-one, the sum of forty pounds to John, to Zachary and Richard, but the control was in the mother.

From my earliest childhood tales of ancestral

greatness were inculcated, which in the unquestioning credulity of youth, were accepted without asking for proof of such traditions.

We were taught to believe that the wife of Richard Seymour was Mary or Mercy Rashleigh, and that the marriage was recorded at Barnstaple in the north of County Devon, but the date we knew not. I have photographs, reversed in printing, of two rings, which have been handed down in the family of Richard Seymour's son, John of Hartford. Some years ago another descendant had duplicates made for his own keeping. The silversmith who did the making said, that the Naval Officer's ring was *not less* than two hundred years old.

The Rashleighs were anciently naval men, two of the family circumnavigating the globe with Sir Francis Drake.

There were also Naval Officers in the Seymour family.

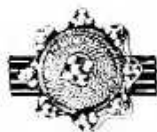
John—the second son of Sir Edward Seymour, and who married Elizabeth Slanyngge of Tamerton Folliet, Oct. 25, 1629 (possibly as second wife as he must have been about forty years old)—was in 1626 in the fleet as Captain of the ship "Camelion." Also "in 1627 April 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> 'Plymouth.' Sir Edward Seymour desires that his brother Capt. John Seymour, may have a *Good Ship* in the present expedition." And several years later records show his connection with the navy.



SEYMOUR ARMS AND RASHLEIGH ARMS COMBINED.



RING ACCORDS WITH RASHLEIGH ARMS.



THE NAVAL RING