

**THE STOUT FAMILY OF
DELAWARE: WITH
THE STORY OF
PENELOPE STOUT; NO. 5**

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The Stout family of Delaware: with the story of Penelope Stout; No. 5 by Thomas Hale Streets

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[No. 5]

THE STOUT FAMILY

or

DELAWARE:

WITH

The Story of Penelope Stout.

Compiled and Published

by

THOMAS HALE STREETS

COWNER

WESLEY BANNER CRAIG

DAUGHTER

MURIEL CRAIG GILL

#3 HILLCREST ROAD

FAR HAVEN, N. J.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

1915

1198550

PREFACE.

"THE STORY OF PENELOPE STOUT" is a fit introduction to any history of the Stout family; in fact, it would not be complete without it. This story was published privately several years ago as a *brochure*, when I first began the study of the Stout Family of Delaware, and became interested in its antecedents. It is republished here with additions and alterations. I have been at considerable pains in verifying the legend by official contemporary documents and by local history, and find that it agrees more with facts than is usually the case with family traditions.

The Stout Family of Delaware is properly one of the series of "Allied Families," inasmuch as most of those in Delaware, of recent years, were descendants of Mary Griffin.

THOMAS HALE STREETS,
Medical Director, U. S. Navy, Retired.

WYNCOTE, PA., 14TH MAY, 1915.

THE STORY OF PENELOPE STOUT.

The story of Penelope Stout—one of those thrilling stories of capture by and of rescue from the Indians, which were so often associated with the early settlements of our country—has been preserved in the memory of her numerous offspring, wherever found, for more than two hundred and fifty years. It reads more like romance than reality. The marriage of Penelope Stout serves as a date for the beginning of Dutch and English history in East Jersey, and no account of the first settlement of Monmouth county would be complete with her story left out. I propose to show that much of the legend is capable of verification by the undisputed events of history and by the records of the county courts.

Probably the earliest historian to refer to the story was Samuel Smith, in his "History of the Colony of Nova Cæsaria, or New Jersey," published in 1765. Another version, said to have been written about 1790, is given in Benedict's "History of the Baptists." There is a third account by Nathan Stout, entitled, "A Small Genealogical Account of the Family called Stout." At the conclusion of his narrative the writer says: "I now close this history, which I began in the seventy-third year of my age. I have ended it in the seventy-fifth, and my name is Nathan Stout, the fifth son of John Stout, who was the first son of James Stout, who was the first son of David Stout, who was

the seventh son of Richard." The history was begun in 1821, and was completed in 1823. Nathan Stout states that he was born in 1748. He died in 1826.¹

Of the more modern writers, Ellis, in his "History of Monmouth County," and later Saiter, in his "History of Monmouth and Ocean Counties," give the story more or less prominence. The former characterizes it—to the great indignation of the Stout descendants—as a romance. It is, however, too well authenticated by the truths of history to be viewed altogether in such a light. Mellick incorporated it in his "Story of an Old Farm," and it forms one of Frank Stockton's "Stories of New Jersey."

Smith begins his narrative in the following manner: "While New York was in possession of the Dutch, about the time of the Indian war in New England, a Dutch ship, coming from Amsterdam, was stranded on Sandy Hook." Now the only Indian war which occurred in New England while the Dutch were in possession of New York, was the Pequod war, which began in 1636 and ended in 1637, and resulted in the almost complete destruction of that tribe. So severe was the lesson taught the Indians by that war that peace continued between them and the white settlers for nearly forty years, or until King Philip's war in 1671. The Dutch surrendered New Amsterdam to the English in 1664. The date of the stranding of the

¹Nathan Stout was commissioned captain in the Second Regiment, Hunterdon County Militia, 1 May, 1776. (See Records of the Adjutant General's Office, Trenton, N. J.; also, Roster of Captain Nathan Stout's Company.)

vessel therefore, according to Smith, seems fixed to the time of the Pequod war, or about 1640.

Benedict's account says that Penelope Stout "was born at Amsterdam, about the year 1602; her father's name was Vanprincis; she and her first husband (whose name is not known) sailed for New York (then New Amsterdam) about 1620; the vessel was stranded at Sandy Hook." There is an error in these dates of about twenty years, as I shall try to prove later.

The story from this source goes on to relate that all the shipwrecked people were safely landed from the stranded ship. But Penelope's husband, who had been sick for most of the voyage, was taken so ill after getting on shore that he could not travel with the rest. He was hurt in the wreck and could not march. The others were so afraid of the Indians that they would not stay with him until he recovered, but hastened away to New Amsterdam, promising to send relief to him as soon as they should arrive. The wife alone remained behind with her husband.

Nathan Stout says: "The passengers from the ship were all butchered by the Indians after they had gotten ashore, all save Penelope Princess." The couple were left on the beach (Benedict says: "They tarried in the woods"), and the others "had not been long gone, before a company of Indians coming down to the water side, discovered them [Penelope and her husband], . . . and hastening to the spot, soon killed the man, and cut and mangled the woman in such a manner that they left her for dead" (Smith), and afterwards stripped them of their clothing. The wife's