

**GENEALOGY OF THE GEER  
FAMILY IN  
AMERICA FROM 1635  
TO 1914. ILLUSTRATED**

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Genealogy of the Geer Family in America from 1635 to 1914. Illustrated by Walter Geer

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**WALTER GEER**

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Geer

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## THE ENGLISH ANCESTORS

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WALTER GEERE, Gentleman, of Heavitree, County of Devon, England, born about 1450, married Alice Somaster, daughter of John Somaster, of Wydcombe, Devon, and granddaughter of Adam Somaster and Julyan, daughter of Sir John Prideaux, of Adeston. He had two children: JOHN, and Juliana, who married William Hurste.

JOHN GEERE, son of Walter, born about 1480, married, 1st, Alice Throwbridge, of Crediton, by whom he had one son: JOHN; married, 2nd, Jane Stowell, of Codleston, Somerset, by whom he had one son, Andrew, and two daughters, Mary and Anne.

JOHN GEERE, eldest son and heir of John, born about 1510, married, 1st, Juliana, daughter of Anthony Butside, of St. Bodoakes, Devon, by whom he had two children: JOHN and Mary; married, 2nd, in November, 1546, Beatrix, daughter of John Jermyn, of Exeter, by whom he had four children: Nicholas, Andrew, GEORGE, and Alice. Andrew married, and had a daughter Anne, who married Richard Ashe of Sowton, in January, 1615-16. Alice married the Reverend William Varley, of Exeter, in April, 1583. GEORGE, the youngest son, was probably the father of JONATHAN, and the grandfather of GEORGE and THOMAS.

JOHN GEERE, eldest son and heir of John, of Hollaway, parish of Kene, Devon, born about 1540, married Elizabeth Burington, by whom he had four sons and four daughters: JOHN, Bartholomew, George, Humphrey, Katherine (m. Richard Walton), Bridget (m. John Walton), Joane (m. John Lange), and Mary (m. Christopher Lamacroft).

JOHN GEERE, eldest son and heir of John, of Hollaway, Kene, born about 1570, buried 24 December, 1645, married Mary, daughter of Gilbert Yarde, of Nuton Bushell, by whom



he had three sons and six daughters: JOHN (b. 1600, d. 1664), George (b. 1610), Gilbert (b. 1611, d. 1631), and Elizabeth, Anne (b. 1604), Joane (b. 1605), Judith (b. 1606, d. 1638), Anne, and Rose (b. 1609, d. 1614).

(NOTE:—The arms of this John Geere are shown as a frontispiece in the Genealogy of James Geer.)

JOHN GEERE, eldest son and heir of John, born about 1600, baptized at Kenn, 21 April, 1603, buried there 17 March, 1663-4, married Ellinor —, by whom he had two sons: GILBERT and GEORGE.

GILBERT GEERE, eldest son and heir of John, baptized at Kenn, 12 September, 1650, Rector of Kenn, 1688, married Katherine —, and had three daughters: Katherine, Katherine and Ellen, and one son, Gilbert, baptized 21 October, 1690, buried 1727, who was also Rector of Kenn.

GEORGE GEERE, second son of John, born about 1648, married Elizabeth —, and had one son: George, baptized 7 June, 1677, buried at Kenn, 1719, married —, and had four sons: Richard, Gilbert, John and George, who were all baptized in 1700 and 1701.

## PREFACE

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Some years ago, in preparing papers for admission to the patriotic societies of the Colonial Wars and the Sons of the Revolution, I became interested in the subject of the history of the Geer Family in America, and this volume is the result of my researches. The only work which has ever been printed on the subject is a little book of eighty-four pages published nearly sixty years ago (1856) by James Geer of Ledyard, Conn., entitled "Historical Sketch and Genealogy of George and Thomas Geer from 1621 to 1856." This book is now out of print and very scarce.

As much of the material contained in the First Part of this volume is taken from the Genealogy published by James Geer, it may be of interest to quote here a part of his Introduction in which he states the origin of his work:—

"Living as the writer does upon the homestead of George Geer, and having in his possession many of the original papers belonging to him and his children, it very naturally prompted frequent inquiries respecting the past history of the Geer Family on the part of those descendants who visited the spot once trodden by our honored and revered sire. This spirit of inquiry, accompanied by many urgent solicitations that the genealogy of the family, as far as possible, might be collected together, suggested the idea of this memoir.

"That this has required much time and labor no one can doubt. To collect and arrange the names of so many in their appropriate places, from such fragmentary and obliterated materials, has been no easy task, nor without considerable expense. But the author felt that it had been already too long neglected and that, if undertaken, it must be done at once, and while he could wish that more able hands had undertaken it, yet the possession of many more documents than were possessed by any other, seemed to indicate that he should attempt it, and so far complete it as his declining years and decaying faculties would permit, being now (1856) in his 73d year.

"The design of the work is to give correct statistical information. To secure this, the author has made careful research of the records in New London, Groton, Norwich, Preston and the old Colony records at Hartford. He also visited Enfield and Springfield, and gleaned from their records such information as he could obtain respecting Thomas Geer. Besides this, much information has been collected from family bibles, tomb stones, and extensive correspondence. In some cases, the names by which persons were familiarly known have been changed to correspond with the true name of the person as found on record. The dates are made to correspond with the records so far as any could be found, by which to be guided.

"It may be proper here to explain why many dates in this work which were copied from early records are thus written, as for example, 1644-5. It will be observed that this mode of dating only occurs between the first of January and the 25th of March, and may be accounted for in this way: The ancients began their civil year the 25th of March, and though January and February were added 715 years before Christ, yet the practice of beginning the year January first did not become general until centuries after that, for we find that as late as 1654 Charles IX of France published an edict, in the last article of which it was decreed, that for the time to come the year should be constantly and universally begun and written on and from January first. It may also be remarked, that after the introduction of the new style, by Act of the English Parliament in 1752, this ancient practice of coupling the two dates soon became obsolete.

"While the Author has endeavored to secure correctness in all parts of the work, yet it will not be surprising if errors have crept in, though it is hoped and believed that there are but few."

The First Part of the present volume, containing the records of the descendants of George Geer, or the elder branch of the family, is practically a reprint of the book of James Geer, with many additions and corrections, while the Second Part, which contains the records of the descendants of Thomas Geer, or the younger branch, is entirely new matter.