

**THE TEFFT ANCESTRY,
COMPRISING MANY HITHERTO
UNPUBLISHED RECORDS OF
DESCENDANTS OF JOHN TEFFT OF
PORTSMOUTH, RHODE ISLAND**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649077410

The Tefft ancestry, comprising many hitherto unpublished records of descendants of John Tefft of Portsmouth, Rhode Island by Charles H. W. Stocking

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

CHARLES H. W. STOCKING

**THE TEFFT ANCESTRY,
COMPRISING MANY HITHERTO
UNPUBLISHED RECORDS OF
DESCENDANTS OF JOHN TEFFT OF
PORTSMOUTH, RHODE ISLAND**

THE TEFFT ANCESTRY

COMPRISING MANY HITHERTO UNPUBLISHED
RECORDS OF DESCENDANTS OF

JOHN TEFFT
OF
PORTSMOUTH, RHODE ISLAND

COMPILED AND EDITED BY

REV. CHARLES H. W. STOCKING, D.D.

RECTOR OF SAINT JAMES' CHURCH, VINCENNES, INDIANA,
AND PROFESSOR OF PEDAGOGY AND NORMAL
BRANCHES IN VINCENNES UNIVERSITY.

AUTHOR OF THE KNOWLTON, SOUTHWORTH, AND
STOCKING ANCESTRIES

*"It were, indeed, a desirable thing to be well descended, but
the glory thereof belongs to our ancestors."—PLUTARCH.*

The Lakeside Press
1904

PREFACE

This genealogical work, prepared chiefly for private circulation, does not claim to be, and is not, a complete record of this interesting family, which has played so important a part in the civil, military, and religious history of this country. Prepared chiefly for private use, it fulfills, however, the design of its promoters.

The editor desires to make thankful acknowledgment of the valuable assistance he has received from various members of the Tefft and Tift families, more especially from Mr. Oscar W. Tefft, of Greenwich, N. Y., and Mrs. Maria E. Tift, of Buffalo.

C. H. W. STOCKING.

*St. James Rectory,
Vincennes, Ind.,
July, 1904.*

THE TEFFT ANCESTRY

The year 1000 A. D. marks the date on, or near, which surnames came into recognized use. They were usually taken from the estates owned by the bearers of such names, indicating, therefore, landed proprietors. In process of time the use of surnames was extended to natural objects, trades, and professions, and even to personal traits and characteristics.

The name Tefft has undergone the usual changes in spelling, being variously written Tefft, Tefte, Tift, and Tift. It is of Saxon origin, and means "the place where a house has stood." The theory advanced by some that it is the anglicized form of the French "Thevet" is probably fanciful, and without historical warrant, for the name appears in early Saxon annals, and its origin and meaning are attested by William Arthur, and other etymological authorities.

The first persons of the name in America were William and John Tefte, or Tefft, the former of whom settled in Boston not later than 1635, and the latter in Portsmouth, R. I. It is probable that these brothers were accompanied by a sister Sara, for there stood until recent years on Cole's farm, near Cole's Station, Warwick, R. I., a memorial slab, with the following inscription: "Here lieth ye bodie of Sara Tefft, interred March 16, 1642." This stone is now in the possession of the Rhode Island Historical Society, and is the oldest monumental slab in the State.

It will be observed by the reader of the following pages that the Teffts were an intensely patriotic family, their names frequently appearing on the rosters of regiments in the Colonial, Revolutionary, and 1812 wars. They were equally prominent in civil affairs, holding both local and State offices, sometimes for very many years. In religious faith they were generally Baptists, the prevailing sect in Rhode Island, a faith to which many of their descendants are loyal to the present time.

The Tefft Ancestry

There was a large emigration from Rhode Island to Washington County, New York, in 1766, Nathan Tefft, Nathan, Jr., William, and Asa being the first of the name in that quarter. Other Teffts penetrated into Vermont, some remaining but a short time, and removing to Erie County, New York, while others remained permanently, the family name being still perpetuated there.

The first emigrants were:

1. William. m. Anna —.
2. John. m. Mary Barber.
3. Sarah (probably), d. March 14, 1642.

1 William and Anna — had:

(4) Lydia. m. — Deeble, and had son Abraham, who rem. from Boston to Haddam, Conn. William emigrated from England about 1633; settled in Boston, and carried on the tailoring business. He was made a freeman December 24, 1638, and with his wife Anne, was admitted to the church on August 2, 1640.

His Last Will and Testament.

Entered and recorded at the Suffolk Probate Office, November 23, 1672.

"The first day of the third Month, one thousand six hundred and forty-six, I William Teffe of Boston, of the Massachusetts Bay, doe make this my last Will and Testament First, I give vnto my daughter Lydia, the Summe of twenty pounds, partly for the discharge of Seaven pounds which I received for her in England being a Lagacie given unto her by one Robert Elvinge, deceased, and partly as a Lagacie from (myselic) so as shee never make other demands of the Said Legacie given by Said Robert Elvinge, and So Shee doe not marry without her mother-in-lawe's Consent, or the consent of Such friends as her Said Mother Shall leave her vnto. To be payed in fours of the youngest Cattle, at due prices except the least of all, and in

