

**THE NEW-ENGLAND KEMPS;  
ANCESTRAL KINSMEN OF  
THE HON. WILLIAM KEMP  
OF TROY, N. Y**

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The New-England Kemps; ancestral kinsmen of the Hon. William Kemp of Troy, N. Y by  
Arthur James Weise

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**ARTHUR JAMES WEISE**

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BY  
ARTHUR JAMES WEISE, M.A.

TROY  
1904

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## I

## KEMP

IN Old English, the term *Kemp* designated a soldier engaged in single combat.

"The name Kemp is derived from the Saxon word to *Kemp* or combat, which in Norfolk [County, England] is retained to this day; a foot-ball match being called a camping or *Kemping*; and thus in Saxon a *Kemper* signifies a combatant, a champion, a man-at-arms. In some parts of Scotland, the striving of reapers in the harvest-field is still called *Kemping*." *Vide: An Etymological Dictionary of Family and Christian Names*, by William Arthur, New York, 1857, p. 172.

## II

## THE ESSEX COUNTY (ENGLAND) KEMPS

IN Finchingfield parish, Hickford Hundred, Essex County, England, about a mile north of the parish church, is a manorial mansion known as Spain's Hall, which took its name from Hervey de Hispania (or Spain). The estate of which the site of the hall is a part came, as it is related, by marriage or otherwise, into the possession of the Kemp family.

## The Kemp Genealogy

John Kemp, living in the parish in the reign of Edward I (1272-1307), had by his wife, Alice Gunter, a son named Nicholas, who married Margaret, daughter of Richard de Hispania. "John Kemp, their son, married a daughter of — Reymond, son of John de Lincoln, and had with her a considerable estate, in this parish, called Remondys. John, their son, had also a son of the same name, who by his wife, whose maiden name was Amesbury, had Richard, living in 1371. His wife's name was Catharine, of whom no offspring is recorded; his second wife, Margaret, daughter of Robert Jekell, mercer of London, brought him in marriage, in 1406, the manors of Jekells and Justices. William Kemp, Esq., their son and heir, had by his wife, Alice Miles, a son Robert, who, dying in 1524, was buried in Kemp's Chapel, in this church; having had, by his wife Anne Apulderfield of Kent, seven sons and three daughters, none of whose names occur in records, except that of William, the eldest son. He married Mary, daughter of John Colt, and sister to Jane, wife of the celebrated chancellor, Sir Thomas More. The offspring of this marriage was Robert, Arthur, Henry, John, (which three last died without issue,) and George, seated at Cavendish in Suffolk; also Margery, married to George Cavendish of Glemsford, in Suffolk; Anne, wife of Thomas Wright, of Norwick; and Margaret, married to Thomas Downes, after whose decease she married a second husband, named Rushborough. The second wife of William Kemp, the father, was Mary, daughter of John Maxey, Esq., and widow of — Yardley; their marriage settlement bears the date of 1542.

“ Robert Kemp, Esq., the eldest son, married Elizabeth, daughter of Clement Higham of Barrow Hill, in Suffolk, chief baron of the exchequer, and had by her William and Robert; Bridget, wife of Clement Paman, of Chevington, in Suffolk; and Dorothy married Ralph Lee of Sussex. William, the eldest son, was rendered remarkable by the voluntary punishment of himself, for some impropriety of speech which he considered highly criminal, and for which alleged offence he imposed a vow of silence during the term of seven years, to which he strictly submitted, with most extraordinary and undeviating perseverance. He died in 1628, having in 1558 married Philippi, daughter and co-heiress of Francis Gunter, of Aldbury, in Hertfordshire, and had by her his only daughter Joan, married to John Burgoyne, Esq., of Sutton, in Bedfordshire. His brother Robert, who was of Gessing, in Norfolk, married Frances Mingay, and had by her Robert, Edmund, Elizabeth, wife of — Outlaw, Isabel,” etc.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The History and Topography of the County of Essex, England, by Thomas Wright, London, 1836, vol. i, pp. 651, 652, 653. *Vide:* The History and Antiquities of the County of Essex, England, by Philip Morant, London, 1768, vol. ii, pp. 362, 363, 364, 365; also The Visitations of Essex, Raven, 1612, by Walter C. Metcalfe, London, 1878, pp. 230, 231.