

**HISTORY AND
GENEALOGY OF A
BRANCH OF THE
FAMILY OF KINNE**

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History and Genealogy of a Branch of the Family of Kinne by Emerson Kinne

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EMERSON KINNE

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A BRANCH OF THE FAMILY OF KINNE

BY

EMERSON KINNE.

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INTRODUCTION.

Having, for a number of years, a desire to learn something of the ancestry of the Kinnes of Onondaga County, the writer of the following glance sketches, has, after considerable time, some correspondence, with a measure of trouble and patient investigation, obtained the facts herein recorded.

At the outset he may be permitted the expression of a candid sentiment that he has been impelled to this pleasant and yet somewhat difficult undertaking, more by a desire to snatch from unmerited, but inevitable oblivion, the facts, incidents and personal histories of our kinsmen, who are fast passing from the scenes that make history, to the unknown and unending future, than by an undue or personal family pride.

If, in the faithful record of facts, found in these pages, there shall appear any merit attaching itself to deeds of daring, or of patriotism, or of patient submission, where submission was a virtue, or of Christian zeal and labor, or of the more common virtues in humbler walks of life, such merit may be grateful to any of the kindred, whose eye may chance to rest on this humble attempt to record and preserve some of their history.

Such is my admiration of the virtue and heroism of our

forefathers, the early settlers of New England, such my veneration for their loyalty to God and their country, so marvelous do I count their hardships and sufferings, in their early attempts to colonize, their almost obstinate persistence in meeting and surmounting difficulties and their rigid practice of the primitive virtues; that my kinsmen will, perhaps, accord with my desire to lay before them some of the causes and considerations underlying the settlement and colonization of New England.

To this end I invited my nephew, Edward D. Kinne, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, son of my oldest brother, Julius C. Kinne, to prepare a paper on that subject, to be read at a probable re-union of Kinnes, to be held in Cortland, N. Y., to accompany this record.

In compliance with my request, he has paused in his busy pursuit of legal and legislative duties, and sent me what would seem to be, a suitable and proper introduction to the history of any family of the descendants of New England.

It has been said, that if our Pilgrim Fathers had settled on the western shores of America, instead of on the eastern, the eastern shores would still have been in the possession of the Indian race.

Whether there be any truth in this, or whether it be only a mere waggish way of lauding our wide western domains, is of little consequence.

One thing is certain; had a less hardy and heroic people encountered the trials which they did, New England had made quite another history, than that she has. Glorious as it is, she has shaped the history and directed the destiny of other, if not all other sections of the country.

Salem, the seat and center of settlements, next to Plymouth, was the first town settled in Massachusetts.

The first church organization effected in this country was at Salem, in 1629.

Witchcraft flourished and died here.

In the revolutionary war 158 privateers, mounting 2,000 guns, manned by 6,000 men were fitted out from this town.

Salem has a history. And from this place the name of Kinne, in the person of Henry, originates, as seen in the record.

The very sterility of New England soil, and the inclemency of its climate stimulated industry and incited to emigration, and its tide has ever after been westward.

Henry's descendants, scattered over various parts of New England, were not behind in enterprise, or purposes of permanent improvement in their material interests.

It is presumably known to all, that, by grant and subsequent purchase, Stephen Van Rensselaer, called the "Patroon," was the proprietor of about three-fourths of a million of acres of land, comprising the greater part of the present counties of Albany, Columbia and Rensselaer,—that he was the liberal landlord of the occupants of these lands, requiring only a mere nominal rent, leasing on long time, in some cases ninety-nine years. Such inducements, naturally invited emigration thither, and Cyrus Kinne, fourth in line from Henry Kinne, was induced to leave Voluntown, Conn., and settle on leased land in Rensselaer county. Enterprise and adventure know but little of limits. When once they have impelled men to strike out for independence, ease or affluence, every new promise of good, discovers avenues, penetrates forests, divides waters, bridges rivers, braves dangers, achieves victories and secures success.

Central New York, by a very generous provision of the

state and national governments, became in 1788 an objective point, by the disposition and distribution of public lands. There is now in the possession of Allen B. Kinne, of Woodard, Onondaga County, N. Y., an original deed of conveyance, to Cyrus Kinne, Esq., of one hundred acres of land from the State of New York, when John Jay was Governor, and Lewis A. Scott, Secretary of State. The deed bears date Sept. 2, 1795, and has attached to it the Great Seal of the State, which consists of a piece of wax, circular in form, three inches in diameter, and nearly a half inch in thickness, covered with parchment, bearing the impress, "The Great Seal of the State," and "Excelsior," and on the reverse, "Frustra," "1777." This was only one of the many parcels purchased.

These lands lying in the central part of the State constitute what was called the "Military Tract." Their cheapness and fertility soon became known.

A clear exposition of the status of this "tract" was published some time since in the columns of the *Syracuse Journal*, and is deemed of sufficient interest to be laid before our friends.

I desire to thank those who have responded to inquiries, in pursuance of the work I have had in hand, without whose aid, the task would have been fraught with greater difficulties and its results less satisfactory.

In the work undertaken, I have been assisted by my brother, A. E. Kinne, to whom I have often had occasion to refer, and to whom I desire herein to acknowledge my obligations.

In the Record I have attempted, it was my purpose, in the beginning, simply to place in manuscript form, such facts concerning the Onondaga branch of Kinnes, as were clearly in my own memory.

But as these were recorded, other facts and incidents, not distinctly remembered, but standing in such close relation to those well remembered, that some correspondence became indispensable to anything like a perfect and impartial recital of what was recalled.

The object of the work was to leave in some tangible form, what my immediate kinsmen might wish to preserve, and to place at the service of any one or more of them who would wish to perfect and extend the record and genealogy so as to include others or all of the name of Kinne, who now live or have lived in this country.

As the work grew, and some of our friends desired a more permanent form for preservation, than manuscript, it was deemed more satisfactory and more easy of reference, to put in pamphlet form, what at first was designed only for family reference.

NEW ENGLAND AND NEW ENGLANDERS

SOMETHING OF THEIR HISTORY; THEIR STRUGGLES, AND THE
FRUITION OF THEIR LABORS.

It is foreign to the design of this brief address, to attempt a detailed or elaborate portraiture of our New England ancestry. Such a labor must devolve upon the historian. Ours must be a bird's-eye, philosophical glance at that memorable past. The theme should interest and ennoble every true American heart.

No one, however gifted by nature or versed in modern or classic lore, can speak intelligently or act wisely for his generation, for his country or posterity, unless his eye can

light upon, and his memory retain, the salient features of New England history. Wanting in these essential elements of historic knowledge, the American citizen and statesman enters a labyrinth of social, financial and political problems, that the mere logical and philosophical wisdom of man, even aided by the lessons of history, may not hope to fathom or successfully explore.

Plymouth Rock is the polar star of American Liberty! and the political mariner, who pilots his craft, either in ignorance or defiance thereof, may expect shoals and shipwreck.

Fortunately, it is one of the distinguishing characteristics of the human being, that he loves to contemplate the scenes of the past, and that he longs to have his own history borne down to the future.

It is impossible to name a people who do not possess cherished traditions that have descended from their ancestors. The virtues we admire in them not only adorn and dignify their names, but win us to their imitation and emulation.

Their prosperity and happiness spread abroad a diffusive light that reaches us and brightens our condition. The wisdom that guided their footsteps, becomes at the same time, a lamp to our feet; and the observation of the errors of their course, and of the consequent disappointments and sufferings that befell them, enables us to pass in safety through rocks and ledges, on which they were stranded.

The settlement of New England was one of the remote, yet nevertheless, legitimate fruits of that great Religious Reformation of the 16th century; a Reformation thoroughly conceived and inaugurated, when Martin Luther, the intrepid and learned Augustine Monk, in 1517, nailed to the gates of Wittenburg, his famous 95 propositions, which