

The Coffins were in possession of Alwington Manor in Devonshire, England, from the time of the Norman Conquest, and it is still held by their descendants. Many members of the family have occupied conspicuous positions or distinguished themselves in many ways. In 1529, one Sir William Coffin, having discovered that a certain priest had refused to bury a corpse until the only cow of the deceased was delivered to him as a burial fee, caused the cleric to be placed in the grave and to be nearly, if not entirely, covered with the exhumed soil. Instead of being punished for this ecclesiastical offence, the knight was enabled to effect through his influence in parliament a needed change in relation to burial fees. Upon the restoration of the royal



family, Colonel Tristram Coffin, then Governor of Plymouth, who had fought against the crown during the war of the rebellion, embarked for America and settled with his family at Newburyport, Massachusetts. He left his only daughter in England, to secure, if possible, his inheritance. She married a Mr. Pine, who took the name of Coffin, and their descendants, the Pine-Coffins, are in occupation of the old estates to-day.