

CHAPTER IV.

CRANMER FAMILY.

THE CRANMER family of New Jersey claim descent from the celebrated Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, who was burned at the stake May 21, 1556. There is no evidence, however, to support this claim, as the male line of the Archbishop became extinct. If descended from this family, it could only have been through his brother, Edward, Archdeacon of Canterbury, who died in 1604, aged 69 years, leaving issue a son, Thomas Craumer, who had five sons. The first three generations of the family in New Jersey generally appear to have written their name Cramer or Crammer, though in 1707* William, the son of the founder of the family, signed himself Cranmer. The first of the family, however, to adopt the latter form exclusively was Seymour Cranmer, but for convenience the compiler has used that form of spelling the name in each generation.

I. WILLIAM CRANMER (Cramer or Crammer) settled originally at Southold, Long Island, from whence he removed to Elizabethtown, Essex County, East New Jersey, his name appearing among those who took the oath of allegiance, February 19, 1665. He was appointed constable of the town, April 27, 1670; was one of the freeholders, and possessed considerable property, most of which he sold in September, 1677, when he removed to the Hoar Kill (Lewes), Delaware.† His sons remained at Elizabeth, and he died some time prior to December 4, 1689, when letters of administration on his estate at Elizabeth were granted to his eldest son, Thomas, who, December 11, 1691, disposed of one-half of his farm and orchard in that town, his

*See *Appendix V.*

†Hatfield's *History of Elizabeth*, pp. 56, 73.