

THE PARKHURST FAMILY.

The family is of ancient English origin, the name appearing as early as A. D. 1000, although, as yet, the direct genealogy can be traced only three or four centuries.

The signification of the name is seen in its construction, "Park" meaning a public ground, and "Hurst" a grove or wood. The History of the Isle of Wight mentions a royal park called "Parkhurst Forest." Two centuries ago a colony of Parkhursts migrated from Parkhurst, on that island, to Surrey County, in England, from which branch of the family the Americans of this name are supposed to have descended. The original seat of the clan in Surrey was at "Parkhurst Manor," between Epsom and Guilford, confiscated about 1745, as tradition says, for connection of its possessors with the rebellion in favor of the exiled Stuarts. In 1635 a Parkhurst was Lord Mayor of London, but whether of our American branch is not certainly known. Bishop Parkhurst of Norwich, England, who died in 1574, is supposed to have been the grandfather or the great-grandfather of George, the first settler in America. George's daughter, Phebe, married one Thomas Arnold, who bought 20,000 acres of land in the territory now Providence, R. I., making the purchase from the Indians, and in 1640 he was a freeman in Watertown; Arnold was able to trace his ancestry back through seventeen generations to Ynir, King of Gwentland, A. D. 1100, who was a direct descendant from Cadwaladr of Wessex, King of the Britons from 688 to 728.

The Parkhurst family had a coat of arms granted them in the second year of Queen Elizabeth's reign. (See opposite page.)

Description: Shield, silver; cross ermine in each quarter; a buck trippant; (walking). Crest; a demi-griffin, with wings addorsed, in black, holding in the dexter paw a cutlass in silver, with hilt and pommel of gold. Ground of shield of all the above, purple. Motto: "The Cross our Stay."