

## OKELY, OF BEDFORD, ENGLAND.

### PART FIRST.

The most trustworthy information points to John Okely and Mary—maiden name not given—as our “first parents,” so to speak.

Presumably, John Okely was of purely English stock, but it is just possible there may have been an Irish branch to the tree, as there are Celts in this country who spell the name O’Kelly. This is speculation, however, which must be left to the antiquary.

We are informed that John Okely and Mary, his wife, are buried in St. Paul’s churchyard, Bedford, Eng. But little is known of them.

John was one of three brothers, the other two being Peter and James.

James is known to have come to this country in the early days, and after an interval returned to England and became a minister of the Established Church. He was only a multiple great uncle of the present generation, but it would be interesting to know something further of him.

Peter Okely seems to have been better known. One account gives his birth as April, 1654, and his death 1712. The same authority says he lived in Emerton, near Olney, and that he died at Bedford, England.

Peter is described as “a rich and covetous old bachelor who used to say that ‘John Okely would never be a half-penny the better for anything *he* had.’”