

STEPHEN KINSLEY  
MARIE SPAULDING

From a study made by Helena Goodale Hargrave "Kinsley and Carlton Forebears" we read,

"The Kingsleys were prosperous Saxon yeomen, living east of the River Dee when William the Conqueror invaded England in 1066. Family tradition has it that in 1087, William the Second was hunting in Vale Royal and became lost. He and his retinue were entertained overnight by a Saxon yeoman, and to show his gratitude, the king gave his host a large tract of land that was then known as "The Kings Lea" or meadow.

"The Saxon yeoman adopted the name "Randolphus de Kingsleigh" and became Keeper of the Forests of Mara and Mondren under Sir Randall, 3rd Earl of Chester, in 1123.

"The hereditary right of Master Forester was held by the Kingsleys for about a century (1123-1223). Then because Sir Richard left no male heir, the right was given to the son of his daughter, Jane. After that the "de" in the name was dropped.

"Charles Kingsley, the English writer and poet, visited New England in 1847 and met his cousin Dr. William Kingsley of Yale University. He is quoted as having said, while discussing genealogy, "My ancestor, Ralph (Ranulph) Kingsley, had two brothers, Stephen and John, who came to America and settled near Boston. At this time Ralph of Cheshire was 17 years old." <sup>1</sup>

He declared that the forebears of the American Kingsleys and his own were the same. This bit of information concurs with American studies of Stephen Kingsley (Kingsley) who came to America with a brother John.

"The Kingsley family of America stems from the two brothers who came to Massachusetts from Hampshire, England, in August 1635, as part of a company of Puritans brought over by Richard Mather. The ship miraculously survived a hurricane before landing at Boston.

"John settled in Taunton, Mass., where he had a share in the 'Great Lots of 1646'. He died in Rehoboth, Mass., in 1679. He had seven sons: John, Samuel, Eldad, Renewed, Enos, Freedom and Edward. Descendants of this branch of the family moved to Connecticut and then west to New York State.

"Stephen Kingsley was born in England in 1598. He married there Elizabeth \_\_\_\_\_ and after coming to America, settled in Braintree (now called Quincy), Mass., where he became a successful farmer. He was admitted a freeman, 13 May 1640. In 1650, he was a representative to the General Court and in 1653, became the first ruling Elder of the church at Braintree. In 1656, he moved to Dorchester, (now Milton) Mass., but returned to Braintree. Later he went back to Dorchester, where he was a representative in 1666. His wife died in Dorchester 10 Jan. 1668. His own death occurred there 4 June 1673. His Will was dated 27 May 1673 and proved 3 July 1673, one month following the signing." <sup>2</sup>

The name of Stephen's wife as stated above does not agree with the DAR findings nor the word of the genealogist, Brainard T. Peck. They have established Stephen's wife to be Mary or Marie Spaulding. <sup>3</sup> The study made by Helena Goodale Hargrave gave us the following additional bit of information:

"Stephen dropped the "g" eventually because of his aversion to the king of England." <sup>4</sup>

The DAR lists the children of Stephen and Marie (Spaulding) Kinsley as follows:

1. Tabitha Kinsley, md. Henry Crane (7-20)
2. dau. Kinsley, md. Robert Mason
3. Eleanor Kinsley, md. Anthony Gulliver
4. Mary Kinsley, b. Aug. 30, 1640
5. John Kinsley, md. 25 June 1667 Susanna Daniels, dau. of William and Katherine (Greenway) Daniels
6. Samuel Kinsley, b. 1630; md. Hannah Brackett <sup>5</sup>

1. #51 p. 1
2. ibid
3. #71 p. 66 or #2 Vol 2, sheet (7-43)
4. #51 p. 1
5. #71 p. 66