

## The Ancestor

WILLIAM KELSEY, the first of the Kelsey name in America, was born in England about 1600. The place of his birth has not been ascertained; some have claimed that he came from that part of Lincolnshire near Kelsey parish, but it seems more probable that he came from County Essex, as many of the first settlers of New Towne (now Cambridge), Massachusetts, were from Braintree, Colchester and Chelmsford, County Essex, England.

*Harleian Society Publications*, Vol. XIV, *Visitation of Essex*, Part 2, page 588, gives the Kelsey pedigree as follows: "George Kelsey of Thorpe in County Essex, descended out of Cheshire; wife Elizabeth, daughter of William Hamond of Westmill Bury, in County Hertford; issue: WILLIAM; HENRY (second son) of Gray's Inn, Barrister, etc., of Winchester, England, married Mary, daughter of ——— Maning, chancellor of Exeter; JOHN, of Chelmsford in County Essex, married Martha, daughter of Jeoffrey Lingwood, of Braintree in County Essex."

"To John Kelsey of Chelmsford in the County of Essex, Gent. & to Henry his brother to assigne unto them such armes as they lawfully beare considering their worth and merit, I do publish and declare that they may beare these arms hereafter mentioned, that is to say, sable on a pale cotised or three escocheons gules. The crest, two hands proper holding an escocheon or a sleeve sable cuff argent." (Not signed or dated.)

*Burke's General Armory*, 1883, states that these arms were granted June 24, 1634, and gives them as follows: *Sable, on a pale between two palets or, three escutcheons gules. Crest, Two cubit arms erect proper, vested sable, cuffed argent, holding in hands proper an escutcheon or.* It will be noticed that this date is after our ancestor is supposed to have come to New England.

No further record of the William named as the eldest son above is found, and it is possible that he and William Kelsey the emigrant are the same. Even if this is not the case, it is probable that William Kelsey, the settler, was of the same family, as he was one of the original Braintree Company which came with the Reverend Thomas Hooker from those same parishes of County Essex, in Old England, to Cambridge, in New England, in 1632.

The statement made in an old issue of the *Boston Transcript*