

THE LADDS AND THEIR NAME

The name of Ladd is said to have been of Norman origin and to have been taken from the title given to the home of the first bearers of the name, although it seems more probable that the family gave its name to the property. It is found on ancient records in the forms of Lade, Ladde, Lad, and Ladd, with the occasional addition of the prefixes de and le.

This family is said to have gone into England from France with William the Conqueror in 1066 in the person of one De Lad whose first name is not known. He is believed to have made his home at Deal, in the county of Kent. Later branches of the family were to be found in Sussex, Surrey, Devon, Hamps, and Exeter.

Among the early records of the family are those of William Ladd of Hampshire in the thirteenth century and Walter Lad of Exeter in 1326.

John Ladd of Kent County died in 1476, leaving a son named John, who was the father by his wife Alice of, among others, Stephen, John, and Thomas. Of these, Stephen was the father of a son named Thomas; John had a son Nicholas, who had another Nicholas, who died in 1669 and was succeeded by his oldest son Nicholas; and Thomas was the father of Thomas, who married Elizabeth Mumbra and had a son Vincent and several daughters. Vincent married Agnes Denne in 1575 and had Robert and Thomas and probably others. Of these two sons, Robert married Mary Lovelace in 1619 and had an eldest son named Lancelot, who married Elizabeth Barrett and had, among others, Vincent and Philip; and Thomas married Margaret Denwood and had Vincent, who was the father by his wife Elizabeth Knowles of a son Thomas as well as of others.

It is not definitely known from which of these lines in England the original emigrants of the name to America were descended, but it is thought that all of the families of the name of Ladd were of common ancestry.

Probably the first member of the family to emigrate to America was Daniel Ladd, who settled at Ipswich, Mass., about 1633. He later removed to Haverhill and was among the founders of that township. By his wife Ann he was the father of Elizabeth, Daniel, Lydia, Mary, Samuel, Nathaniel, Ezekiel, and Sarah, of whom the eldest son married Lydia Singletery in 1668 but died without issue.

Samuel, son of the emigrant Daniel, was married in 1674 to Martha Corliss, by whom he had issue of ten children, Daniel, Lydia, Samuel, Nathaniel, Ezekiel, David, Jonathan, Abigail, John, and Joseph.

Nathaniel, son of the emigrant Daniel, made his home at Exeter, N.H., where he was married in 1673 to Elizabeth Gilman. They were the parents of Nathaniel, Elizabeth, Mary, Lydia, Daniel, John, and Ann.

Ezekiel, youngest son of the emigrant Daniel, was the father by his wife Mary Folsom, whom he married in 1687, of Lydia, Mary, Nathaniel, and probably others.

Sometime before 1644 one Joseph Ladd emigrated to New England and made his home at Newport and later at Portsmouth, R.I. It is thought possible that this emigrant was the brother of Daniel, before mentioned. By his wife Joanna he had five children, Joseph, William, Daniel, Mary, and Sarah.

Joseph, eldest son of the emigrant Joseph, had issue by his wife Rachel of Rachel, Daniel, William, Joseph, Mary, Benjamin, Sarah, Jonathan, Caleb, and Rebecca.

William, second son of the emigrant Joseph, was married to 1695 to Elizabeth Tompkins, by whom he had Sarah, William, Mary, Priscilla, Joseph, Samuel, John, Elizabeth, Catharine, Lydia, Hannah, and Ruth.

As early as 1673 one John Ladd was resident in Lower Norfolk County, Va. He was the father of, among others, two sons named William and Amos, of the last of whom there is no further record.

William, eldest son of the emigrant John, married Huldah Binford in 1701, and had issue by her of John, James, William, and Huldah.

Another John Ladd emigrated to Burlington, N.J., in 1678. It is possible, although not probable, that he was the same as the John who was married at Woburn in that year to Elizabeth Fifield. John of Burlington is said to have been the son of one Nicholas Ladd of the count of Kent, England, and to have come to America in a company of Friends. He is said to have aided William Penn in laying out the city of Philadelphia. By his wife, Elizabeth, he was the father of Samuel, Jonathan, Mary, John, Jr., and Katharine.

Samuel, eldest son of the emigrant John of Burlington, married Mary Metcalf in 1713 and was the father by her of Matthew, Joseph, Sarah, Deborah, and Katherine.

Jonathan, second son of the emigrant John of Burlington, was the father by his wife Ann Wills, whom he married 1723, of two children, Samuel and Elizabeth.

John Ladd, Jr., youngest son of the emigrant John of Burlington, married Hannah Mickle, but is believed to have had no children.

The descendants of these various branches of the family in America have spread to practically every State of the Union and have aided as much in the growth of the country as their ancestors sided in the founding of the nation. They have been noted for their courage, ambition, hardihood, adventurous spirit, industry, energy, hatred of hypocrisy, integrity, piety, moral and physical strength, and perseverance.

Among those of the Ladds who fought as officers in the War of the Revolution were Captain Ezekiel of Vermont, Lieutenant James of Vermont, Lieutenant Samuel of New Hampshire, and Captain William of Rhode Island.

John, Daniel, Samuel, Thomas, Nathaniel, Joseph, and William are some of the Christian names most highly favored by the family for its male members.

A few of the many members of the family who have distinguished themselves in America in more recent times are:

William Ladd of New Hampshire, philanthropist,
1778 - 1841
George Trumbull Ladd of Ohio, educator,
1842 – 1921 and
Herbert Warren Ladd of Massachusetts, journalist and politician,
1843 -

The code-of-arms of the ancient family of Ladd is described as follows:

Arms. –“Argent, a fesse wavy, between three escallops, sable.”

Crest. –“A leopard’s head, proper.”

(Arms taken from P.VI of “Ladd Family”, 1890 by W. Ladd)

Sources.

The above data have been compiled chiefly from the following sources:

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