

Excerpt from The Sheafe Family of Old and New England Some of the principal settlers of Guilford, Conn., were men from the county of Kent, England, and it was an old Kent family, the Guildfords or Guldefords of Hemsted, Kent, from which it derived its name. Located at Hemsted, in Banenden parish, which adjoins Cranbrook and Rolvenden, soon after the Conquest, the Guldford family were prominent, both from their public service and through the alliances they formed. It was in 1575 that Sir Thomas Guldeford entertained Queen Elizabeth at Hemsted. A modern mansion has since been erected there, and is the seat of Viscount Cranbrook, a recent creation (1878), the Guldford baronetcy having become extinct in the first part of the eighteenth century. Another residence of the Guldefords was Halden-Place, in Rolvenden parish, which came into their family by marriage of an heiress of the Haldens, temp. Henry IV. It was Sir Henry Guldeforde, son of Sir Thomas above mentioned, who in 1587 sold a Thomas Kitchell 100 acres of marsh ground in Guldeforde marsh, in the parish of East Guldeforde, Sussex. This marsh is now known as Guldeforde Level. It was shortly before this period that Thomas Sheaffe, grandfather of Jacob the emigrant, purchased lands in Woodchurch, Kenardington and Apledore, Kent, of Richard Guildford, son of Sir John and half brother of Sir Thomas - Richard having become possessed of the Manor of Horne, alias Kenardington, by marriage with an heiress of the Horn family. After this, Richard, not having taken the oath of supremacy to Queen Elizabeth, was declared attainted and fled the country, and his lands were forfeited to the crown. At Tenterden, where a branch of the Whitfields lived, Pittlesden Manor, at one time (Hen. VII.) belonged to Sir Edward Guldeford, Kt. Kenchill in the same parish also belonged to him. Troops of young Flemings came to England in the time of Edward III., to establish the cloth trade, and finding Cranbrook, Kent, a favored spot for the industry, it was started there, and broadcloth halls were soon built, where the master manufacturer lived and kept his stock. Many of these halls are standing to-day; one of these is Willesley House (the residence of W. Smith Marriot, Esq.). Willesley was bequeathed to Edmond, father of Jacob Sheafe of Boston, by his uncle, William Sheafe of Cranbrook, who received it from his wife's step-father, Dr. Thomas Lange, of St. Cosmos and Damain-in-the-Blean, near Canterbury, in 1594. The cloth trade prospered, and large fortunes were made by the Grey Coats of Kent, as they were called after their dress. Of these cloth workers were the Sheafe family, and others with whom they intermarried. About the Publisher Forgotten Books publishes hundreds of thousands of rare and classic books. Find more at www.forgottenbooks.com This book is a reproduction of an important historical work. Forgotten Books uses state-of-the-art technology to digitally reconstruct the work, preserving the original format whilst repairing imperfections present in the aged copy. In rare cases, an imperfection in the original, such as a blemish or missing page, may be replicated in our edition. We do, however, repair the vast majority of imperfections successfully; any imperfections that remain are intentionally left to preserve the state of such historical works.

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