

CHAPTER VII.

STOCKTON FAMILY.

IN his *History of the Stockton Family*, Mr. J. W. Stockton states that Richard Stockton, the founder of the Stockton family of New Jersey, was the son of John Stockton, of Keddington, in the Parish of Malpas, County Chester, England, eldest son of Owen, of the same place, and that he was baptized in the parish church June 20, 1606. His reasons for supposing such to be the case were that the Hon. Richard Stockton, one of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, states in his Bible that "Richard Stockton emigrated from England previous to the year 1660, and resided for a few years on Long Island, near the City of New York, and belonged to an ancient and highly respectable family, and possessed an opulent fortune," and that the same gentleman used the arms of the Cheshire Stocktons, which were engraved on his watch.

Mr. Stockton has kindly allowed the compiler of this account of a branch of the family to have access to his notes used in the preparation of the genealogy, but after a careful examination of those papers and a thorough and exhaustive search of the records at Flushing and Jamaica, Long Island, and at Albany, the compiler failed to find satisfactory authority for Mr. Stockton's statement.

Richard Stockton died in 1707. His eldest son, Richard, was married in 1691, and died in 1709, when his children were all under age. His second son, John, was born in 1674; his youngest daughter, Elizabeth, was not born until the year 1680. His widow, Abigail, who is by the will of his eldest son proved to have been the mother of all his children, was living in 1714, when she divided some land between her sons, John and Job.

The compiler has arrived at the conclusion that Richard Stockton, of Flushing, and Springfield Township, New Jersey,