

Quincy

Ancient Quincy Family

The arms claimed by the Quincy Family of Massachusetts is described as “Gules, seven mascules conjoined, three, three, and one, or”; which means “a red shield with seven gold hollow diamond shapes joined together and arranged 3, 3 and 1.” These arms were first used by Roger de Quincy (died without male heirs on April 25, 1264; son of Magna Charta surety Saher de Quincy) and were apparently passed on through Roger’s daughter Margaret who married circa 1238 to William de Ferrers, 5th Earl of Derby, and then through one of their younger sons to Ferrers of Groby. It is unclear how these arms ended up in the possession of the Quincy family of Massachusetts. {Professor} Edward Elbridge Salisbury (1814 - 1901) suggested in his *Family Memorials* (1885) that during the late middle ages “. . . the lands and property were divided, they (the Quincy family) went into different employments, and became part of the yeomanry of England, but yet carefully retained the arms, and the tradition of their Norman descent.”



In various sources, the Quincy name also appears as Quincey, Quincie, Quinsey with and without the prefix De or de. Undocumented family stories and legends indicate that the Quincy family is descended from a companion of William the Conqueror who came to England in 1066. Records espousing this theory are as follows:

- Abigail Smith (1744 – 1818, wife of the 2nd American President John Adams and mother of the 6th American President John Quincy Adams) wrote that she had seen in the possession of her grandmother, the wife of John Quincy (1689 – 1757) a parchment genealogy of the Quincy family from the time of William the Conqueror.
- Eliza Susan Quincy (1798 – 1884) wrote in a letter dated June 17, 1844: “Edmund Quincy who landed in Boston September 4, 1633 . . . brought with him a genealogical account of his family, which traced their descent from the time of the Norman Conquest. This remained extant within the family more than a century but was then unfortunately borrowed and never returned and has now been lost for more than 50 years.”
- Author Thomas de Quincey (1785 – 1859) implied strongly that his ancestor was a follower of Duke William in 1066. He also states (without providing any documentation) that his family was of Norwegian or Norse origin and that they settled in Normandy where they adopted their name from the district or village of Quincy. (The Works of Thomas De Quincey, vol. 2, London : Pickering & Chatto, 2000, p. 271 ff). There seems to be some truth in the origin of the Quincy name; The Complete Peerage, Volume XII/2 page 745 states: “Saher de Quincy or Quency (died probably circa 1156 – 58) . . . was the tenant of Anselm de Chokes at Long Buckby, co. Northhampton in (probably) 1124 - 1129. He presumably derived the Quincy or Quency name from Cuinchy, near Béthune, on the border of Artois and Flanders, which is less than 10 miles from Chocques, the original home of his Northhampton overlord.”
- {Reverend} Henry Doyle Sewell (1806 – 1886) wrote in a letter to his sister Fanny (Frances Georgina Sewell, 1816 – 1885) dated February 3, 1858: “. . . we could show on our Fathers side, a descent from Saher de Quincy one of the 250 Barons who accompanied

William in A.D. 1066 whose descendants were made Lords of Bucklely Henry II — and Earls of Wilton or Winchester by King John — & one of whom is found among the 25 Barons who compelled John to sign Magna Charta.”

- {Professor} E. E. Salisbury (1814 - 1901) wrote in his Family Memorials (1885): “In the various versions of the Roll of Battle Abbey we find the name given as Quayncy, Quinci and Quincy” However, no such names appear on the Falaise Roll, Battle Abbey Roll or Dives-sur-Mer List. The only names related to “Quincy” appear to be those of Osberne du Quesnai and Raoul du Quesnai on the Dives-sur-Mer List.

Perhaps our Quincy family is descended from someone who came with William the Conqueror but sufficient evidence to prove this is lacking. However, as well as the few hundred names shown on various lists as “Companions of Duke William”, there were about 12,000 Standard Bearers, Men at Arms, Yeomen, Freemen and other ranks in William’s invasion force. Many distinguished themselves and were rewarded with grants smaller than a Knight’s fee after the conquest. Perhaps a Quincy ancestor was among them.

Thus, the Story of the Quincy Family begins, as do many families, with undocumented stories that must be considered at least partly legendary. The information for the three generations shown next is from *The Bellows Quincy Family*, Library of NEHGS (New England Historic Genealogical Society), Boston was kindly shared by Mr. Victor de Quincey.

Roger de Quincy, born circa 1035, brother of Robert de Quincy and Richard de Quincy.

Roger de Quincy, born in 1060, brother of Saher, Hamlin and Odon de Quincy, all of whom were living in 1100. (Saher, Hamlin and Odon may have been Roger’s sons.) Roger is said to have married Maud, said to have been a daughter of Roger Fitz Richard de Clare who was a son of Richard FitzGilbert de Clare and his wife Rohese Giffard. (see *De Clare* Generation Three)

(1) William de Quincy of Kings Sutton, Northhamptonshire, living in 1130. William is said to have been a younger son of Roger (above) and a brother of Peter, a monk of Savigny in Normandy, living in 1145. This lineage suggests that William may have been a nephew (or a brother) of Saher de Quincy (died probably circa 1156-58) who married Maud de St. Liz and was tenant of Anselm de Chokes at Long Buckby, co. Northhampton in (probably) 1124 - 1129. (see *De Quincy*)

Family tradition and undocumented stories suggest that William was a relative of Saher de Quincy of Long Buckby, Northhampton which is located about 20 miles NNE of King’s Sutton. All we can say for sure is that William was a contemporary of Saher de Quincy and that he lived in the same general area.

William is the first de Quincy mentioned in the Quincy and Wendell family records compiled by Arthur Wendell and shown in *The Descendants of Edmund Quincy 1602-1637 who settled in what is now Quincy, Massachusetts in 1635*, compiled by H. Hobart Holly, Historian, Quincy Historical Society, Quincy, Massachusetts.

Thus, it is with William de Quincy of Kings Sutton, Northhamptonshire, living in 1130, that we will begin this genealogy. William and his descendants also appear in the family records of Mr. Victor de Quincey whose family resided until recent times in Northhamptonshire.

(2) William de Quincy Died after 1179.	(9) Henry Quincy of Ashfield, County Suffolk. Living: 1385
(3) William de Quincy of Biskel, County Norfolk. Born: about 1165	(10) John Quincy of Ashfield, County Suffolk. Born: About 1370, Living: 1424
(4) William de Quincy of Brampton, County York. Living: 1219	(11) John Quincy of Ashfield, County Suffolk. Died: Before 1461
(5) Roger de Quincy. Born about 1225.	(12) Edward Quincy of Ashfield, County Suffolk. Died: Before 1482
(6) William de Quincy. Born about 1255, Died after 1304.	(13) William Quincy of Moneweden, County Suffolk and Whittlesey, County Cambridge Born: About 1465, Living: 1523
(7) Geoffrey Quincy, Constable of Framlingham Castle, County Suffolk. Born: About 1290.	(14) William Quincy of Deepingate and Aldwinkle, County Northampton Born: About 1490, Died: 1550
(8) Henry Quincy of Earl Soham, County Suffolk. Born: About 1310, Living: 1352	(15) John Quincy of Aldwinkle and Lilford, County Northampton Died: 1575

Generation Sixteen

John Quincy of Lilford, County Northampton.

Born in 1535

Died in 1597

Robert Winslow Sewall mentions in a letter dated January 15, 2001 "... the family notes of my grandfather, Joseph Sewall Sewall (1827-1917). He shows a John Quincy (1535-1597), father of Edmund (1559-1627/28)". John Quincy had the following children:

- **Edmund Quincy**, mentioned next.
- John Quincy (1564 – 1637) who had a son:
 - Thomas b. 1600; his son Thomas b. 1623; his son Thomas b 1649; his son Thomas b. 1679; his son William b. 1702; his son John b. 1734; his son Thomas b. 1760; his son James b. 1810; his son Christopher b. 1836; his son George James b. 1859; his son John Thomas b. 1890; his son Victor Philip b. 1913; his son Victor de Quincey whose family resides in the north of England to this day.

Generation Seventeen

Edmund Quincy of Wigsthrope in parish of Lilford, County Northampton

Born in 1559, baptized on December 21, 1559

Died in 1627/28

Edmund Quincy married on October 14, 1593 to Anne Palmer and they had the following children:

- Anne Quincy who married John Hills.
- Elizabeth Quincy who married James Holditch.
- Helen or Ellen Quincy who married Boniface Bing.
- Alice Quincy who married firstly Edward Rooding and secondly {Rev} Thomas Lewis.
- **Edmund Quincy**, mentioned next.
- Denis Quincy, a daughter who died an infant.
- Francis Quincy who married Elizabeth Andrew.
- Christian Quincy who married Gabriel Munnes.
- John Quincy who married Ann.
- William Quincy who is known to have married.
- Thomas Quincy about whom little is known.

Generation Eighteen

Edmund Quincy

Born in 1602, baptized on May 30, 1602

Died in 1635/36

Edmund Quincy, known as “The Puritan”, came to New England from Thorpe, Achurch, Northamptonshire in 1628. He returned to Old England, and then came with his family on “the Griffin” in the company of John Cotton in 1633. He acquired by grant and purchase extensive lands at Mount Wollaston in Braintree, Massachusetts on September 4th, 1633. He was a representative in the first General Court. Edmund brought with him a genealogical account of his family which traced their descent from the time of the Norman Conquest, and this remained in the family for well over a century. It was then borrowed and never returned; and as of 1844 had been missing for over 50 years.

Edmund Quincy married Judith Pares and they had the following children:

- Judith Quincy (1626 – 1695) who married {Hon} John Hull, a goldsmith and principal merchant of Boston, In 1676, he was the Treasure of the colony of Massachusetts. Their daughter, Hannah Hull (1657/58 - 1717) married {Judge} Samuel Sewall in 1675/76. (see *Sewall and Sewell* Generation Four)
- **{Col} Edmund Quincy**, mentioned next.

Generation Nineteen

{Col} Edmund Quincy

Born in 1627/28, baptized on March 15, 1627/28

Died on January 8, 1697/98

Colonel Edmund Quincy who was magistrate and representative of Braintree (Quincy) Massachusetts in the general court, and lieutenant-colonel of the Suffolk regiment.

{Judge} Samuel Sewall wrote on June 28, 1687: "I visit my sick languishing Unkle Quinsey; who is oppressed with Difficulty in voiding his Urine." Judge Samuel wrote for January 8, 1697/98: ". . . Unkle Quinsey died between 7 and 8 last night."

{Col} Edmund Quincy married 1st on July 26, 1648, to Joanna Hoar, sister of Margery Hoar and {Rev.} Leonard Hoar, third president of Harvard College, and whose grandfather was Charles Hoar of Gloucester, England, who probably died in 1636. Charles Hoar's father was "Sheriff Charles Hoare of the Cittie of Gloucester". Joanna died on May 16, 1680. Edmund and Joanna had the following children:

- Mary Quincy who married Ephriam Savage.
- Daniel Quincy (1651 – 1690) whose descendants are shown next:
 - Daniel Quincy (1651 – 1690) married (1682) Anna Shephard
 - John Quincy (1689 – 1757) married (1715) Elizabeth Norton
 - Elizabeth Quincy (1721 – 1775) married (1740) {Rev} William Smith
 - Abigail Smith (1744 – 1818) married (1764) John Adams, 2nd American President
 - John Quincy Adams, 6th American President, named for his great grandfather John Quincy, who lay dying when John Quincy Adams was born.
- John Quincy who died young.
- Joanna Quincy who married David Hobart.
- Judith Quincy who married {Rev} John Rayner, Jr.
- Elizabeth Quincy who married in 1681 {Rev} Daniel Gookin, whose sister Elizabeth Elliot (née Gookin) had married in 1680 to {Colonel} Edmund Quincy. Thus Elizabeth Quincy's husband was her step mother's brother.
- Edmund Quincy who died an infant.
- Ruth Quincy who married John Hunt.
- Ann Quincy who died on September 3, 1676 at aged 13.
- Experience Quincy who married William Savil.

{Col} Edmund Quincy married 2nd on December 8, 1680, to Elizabeth Elliot (née Gookin) who was the daughter of {General} Daniel Gookin and widow of {Rev} John Elliot, Jr. The ancestry of Elizabeth Gookin has been traced back to Robert de Dene, a Norman who held large estates in Sussex, Kent and Normandy. He was "pincerna", the household official in charge of wines and beverages, to King Edward the Confessor (1042 - 1066). (See *Denne* Generation Twenty)

{Col} Edmund Quincy and Elizabeth Gookin had the following children:

- **{Judge} Edmund Quincy**, mentioned next.
- Mary Quincy who married {Rev} Daniel Baker.

Generation Twenty

{Judge} Edmund Quincy

Born on October 14, 1681

Died on February 23, 1737/38

Edmund graduated from Harvard College in 1699 and was a Judge of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts from 1718 until his death. A controversy having arisen as to the boundary between Massachusetts and New Hampshire, he was appointed agent for Massachusetts, and embarked for England in December, 1737. Soon after his arrival in London he fell a victim to small-pox.

Edmund married on November 20, 1701 to Dorothy Flynt who was born on May 11, 1678 in Dorchester, Massachusetts. She was a daughter of {Rev.} Josiah Flynt and granddaughter of {Rev.} Henry Flynt and Margery Hoar, a sister of Joanna Hoar who was {Col.} Edmund Quincy's first wife. There is nothing "illegal" here; {Judge Edmund Quincy was a son of {Col.} Edmund Quincy and his second wife Elizabeth Elliot née Gookin. Dorothy died on August 27, 1737 in Braintree, Massachusetts, at the age of 59.

{Judge} Edmund Quincy and Dorothy Flynt had the following children:

- **{Justice} Edmund Quincy**, mentioned next.
- Elizabeth Quincy (October 17, 1706 – March 2, 1746) who married on November 10, 1724 to John Wendell of Boston (brother of the wife of her brother Edmund Quincy) and by whom she had sons and daughters.
- Dorothy Quincy (1709 – 1762) who married (1738) Edward Jackson (1708 – 1757) Boston merchant and manufacturer; Harvard 1726; their daughter Mary Jackson married {Judge} Oliver Wendell, whose daughter Sarah Wendell married {Rev} Abiel Holmes and was the mother of {Dr} Oliver Wendell Holmes, father of {Justice} Oliver Wendell Holmes. Dorothy Quincy is the "Dorothy Q." of the poet {Dr} Oliver Wendell Holmes, whose verses were addressed to her portrait:

"Grandmother's mother; her age, I guess
Thirteen summers, or something less;
Girlish bust but womanly air;
Smooth, square forehead with uprolled hair,
Lips that lover has never kissed,

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(from *The Poems of Oliver Wendell Holmes*, Boston, 1879, pg. 243)
- {Colonel} Josiah Quincy (1710 – 1784) who married (1733) Hannah Sturgis (1712 – 1755) and had three sons, Edmund, Samuel, Josiah, and one daughter, Hannah. {Colonel} Josiah Quincy's son:
 - Samuel Quincy (Born at Braintree, Massachusetts April 23, 1735; Died at sea in 1789) was a loyalist, and left Massachusetts in 1775 or 1776, never to return. Samuel Quincy was a Loyalist and remained true to his oath of office, wherein he swore to support the government. He was appointed attorney-general of Antigua. His wife, Hannah Hill, daughter of Boston distiller Thomas Hill, was not pleased with her husband's course in the politics of the times, and when he left Boston, a refugee, she preferred to remain with her brother Henry, and never met her husband again. Descendants of Samuel Quincy reside in Massachusetts to this day.

Generation Twenty-one

{Justice} Edmund Quincy

Born on June 13, 1703

Died in 1788

Edmund graduated at Harvard in 1722, and was a Justice of the Peace. He was a partner in the family firm whose ship *Bethell* in 1748 captured a Spanish treasure vessel and made all the partners rich. He suffered financial reverses and declared bankruptcy in 1757. He was author of a "Treatise on Hemp Husbandry", published in 1765.

Edmund married on April 15, 1725 to **Elizabeth Wendell** (1704 – 1769) daughter of Boston merchant Abraham Wendell, formerly of Albany. Elizabeth Wendell's great great grandparents were the early Dutch settlers **Jochem and Getrude Wessels**. (see *Wessels*.)

{Justice} Edmund Quincy and Elizabeth Wendell had the following children:

- Edmund Quincy, b. 1725/26, d. 1782. According to Prof. Edward Elbridge Salisbury: *Family Memorials*, page 317, Edmund married Ann Husk and they had children Edmund and Mary. According to Massachusetts Historical Society: *Pride of Quincy's, Nine Generations of the Quincy Family*, Edmund was "of Boston and Shoron; business man and land developer; married thrice and had issue by each marriage."
- Henry Quincy (January 20, 1726/27 - May 27, 1780) who married first probably before 1749 to Mary Salter by whom he had:
 - Mary Quincy who died in infancy.
 - Elizabeth who married Dr. Nathaniel Greene.
 - Mary Quincy (b. December 11, 1752) who married first to Dr. John Stedman by whom she had three sons, and secondly to {Col} William Donnison (or Dennison) by whom she had six children, the youngest of whom was:
 - Elizabeth Quincy Donnison (b. April 17, 1795) who married {Rev} Richard Manning Hodges, by whom, beside other children, she had:
 - Sarah Hodges. Prof. Salisbury wrote: "Sarah, who married {Rev} Joshua Augustus Swan of Kennebunk, Me., and who now resides, his widow, in Cambridge, Mass., with four children. To this lady I am indebted for most of my record of the descendants of Edmund and Henry sons of Edmund and Elizabeth (Wendell) Quincy . . ."

Henry married secondly on December 31, 1759 to Eunice Newell by whom he had:

- Eunice Quincy who married M. Joseph Dupas de Valnais, Consul-General of France in the United States from Louis XVI.
- Henry Quincy who married Sarah Robbins.
- Ann who died in infancy.
- Ann (or Nancy) Quincy who died young.
- Catharine Quincy who died young.
- Edmund Quincy who married Elizabeth Jarvis.
- Dorothy Quincy who married first to Charles Clement and secondly to Jabez Bullard.
- Abraham Quincy who married Elizabeth Murray Casey.
- William Salter Quincy who married Sally Holland.

- Nancy (or Ann) Quincy, (b. June 1, 1780) a posthumous child, who married Matthew Stanley Parker of Boston, Mass.; their daughter Sarah Ann Parker married {General} Samuel Andrews; their daughter Agnes Quincy Andrews married Malcolm McCloud; their daughter Miriam Quincy McCloud married Paul Theodore Christie; their daughter Miriam Brewer Christie married Robert Goble Collman; their son Chris Collman of Franconia, New Hampshire, U.S.A. whose records added immensely to this genealogy.
- Abraham Quincy, unmarried, who died by drowning when swept off a ship in Germantown.
- Elizabeth Quincy (1729 – 1770) who married Samuel Sewall, a grandson of {Judge} Samuel Sewall. (See *Sewall and Sewell*, Generation Four) Their great X3 grandson Robert Winslow Sewall and great X4 grandson {Professor} Theodore P. Wright, Jr. have been of immense help in preparing this genealogy.
- Katharine Quincy who died unmarried.
- Jacob Quincy who married Elizabeth Williams
- Dorothy Quincy who died in infancy.
- Sarah Quincy who married {General} William Greenleaf.
- **Esther Quincy**, mentioned next
- Dorothy Quincy who married first to John Hancock, a signer of the American Declaration of Independence and secondly to {Capt} James Scott.

Generation Twenty-two

Esther Quincy

Born on November 26, 1738 at Braintree, (now Quincy) Massachusetts.

Died on January 25, 1810 at Montreal, Quebec at the home of her son {Hon} Stephen Sewell (Solicitor General of Lower Canada) . (see *Sewall and Sewell*, Generation Seven)

Esther married to {Attorney General} **Jonathan Sewall / Sewell**

For the continuation of this line, see *Sewall and Sewell*, Generation Seven

Sources

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