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Family History
Chichele or Checkley Family

Memorials of the Chicheleor Checkley Family, Compiled by Osmond Tiffany
March 1895.

In possession of: Washington Memorial Library
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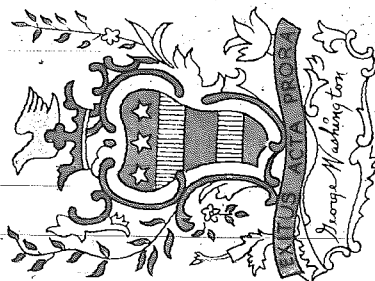
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Memorials
of the
Chichele or Cheekley
Family.

Compiled from Authentic
Documents, and Traditional
Records.
1845.

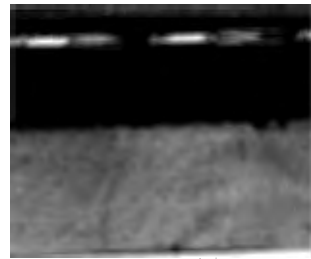
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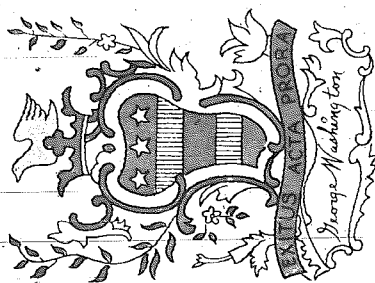
Josephine Stetson
Hatcher brought
record in - sold
from children of Mrs
C C Harrold



Origin

The Checkleys, or Chichele's, both in England and America; and the descendants, the Ameses, the Morses, the Manns, and the Tiffanys, claim lawful descent in wedlock from Thomas Chichele, the father of Henry Chichele, the famous archbishop of Canterbury, and founder of All Souls in Oxford; during the reigns of Henry 4.th, Henry 5., & Henry 6.th of England. He was born at Higham Ferrers, Northants, Shire, 1362; ordained 1392; and consecrated Bishop of St David's, ¹⁴⁰⁸ while on a visit to Pope Gregory 12.th the reigning pontiff. He was raised to the See of Canterbury in 1414, and died in office April 12th 1443, in the papacy of Martin V.

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Genealogical Notices
of the
Checkley Family.
Compiled for
William Checkley Shaw
and sisters;
by
Osmond Tiffany.
March 1875.

Origin

The Cheekleys, or Chichele's, both in England and America; and their descendants, the Ames's, the Mortons, the Manns, and the Tiffanys, claim lawful descent in wedlock from Thomas Chichele, the father of Henry Chichele, the famous archbishop of Canterbury, and founder of All Souls College in Oxford; during the reigns of King Henry 4.th, Henry 5.th, & Henry 6.th of England. He was born at Highnam Terrors, Northamptonshire, 1362; ordained 1392; and consecrated Bishop of St David's, ¹⁴⁰⁸ while on a visit to Rome by Pope Gregory 12.th the reigning pontiff, 1408. He was raised to the See of Canterbury in 1414, and died in office April 12th 1443, under the papacy of Martin V.

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The
American branch of the Checkleys,
or Chickels, or Chichelays.

1st Captain Anthony Checkley 1636.

His daughter Hannah, married 1694,
Captⁿ John Adams; the grandfather
of Samuel Adams, and the great uncle
of President John Adams.

2^d Colonel Samuel Checkley 1653.

His son, Revd " " the elder.
" Grandson " " " younger.

From whom descended,

His son John Webb Checkley.
" daughter Elizabeth Checkley.
" " Ann Checkley.

From whom descend;

3.
John Webb Cheekley, married Sophia
Pickers of this. He was the father of Mrs
Ann Cheekley Ames, whose mother died
at her birth; the grandfather of Chief
Justice Ames of Rhode Island, and the
great grandfather of the ^{Ames and} Keighly children.

Elizabeth Cheekley, married the
Rev Dr John Dothorp of Boston Mass,
and was the mother of Mrs Thomas Motley
Senior; grandmother of Wm Dothorp Motley
the historian, & minister to England and
Austria; great grandmother of Wm Mrs
Sheridan of England, &c &c

Ann Cheekley, married Rev Wm Shaw,
mother of Wm Cheekley Shaw 1st, Ann C. Tiffany,
& Elizabeth Shaw; grandmother of Emma & Tiffany
and brother, and of Wm C. Shaw 2^d and his sisters; great
grandmother of Annie C. S. Tiffany and sisters,
and of Wm C. Shaw 3^d and his sisters.

Genealogical notices
of the Checkley Family,
Extracted from Savage's History
of descendants of the Pilgrims.

Anthony Checkley, son
of William, of Boston Cape,
County of Northampton England
was born in the mother country, and
was baptized 31st July 1636. Captain
of Artillery Company. He married,
firstly, Hannah daughter of the
Reverend John Wheelwright; their
children were John, born 30 Decr 1664.
Sarah, 18 June 1668. Eliza, 8 May 1672,
Mary, 14 August 1673; and Hannah,
19 Decr 1674. Married in 1678.

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his second wife, Lydia, widow of Benjamin Gibbs, and daughter of Joshua Scottes Chief Justice of the District of Maine, but had no children by her. In 1698 he was chosen the first Attorney General of Massachusetts, under the new Charter, but was happily superseded before the witchcraft infatuation, and died October 8.th 1708.

His widow married March 6. 1712 William Colman. His daughter Hannah, in 1694 married Captain John Adams, who was the grandfather of Samuel Adams, and the great uncle of President John Adams. Hannah Chebley was Captain Adams second wife, Samuel Adams descending from the first wife, but the great

6.

intimacy of the Adams and the
Cheekley families, and their rela-
tionship, dates from the time of this
marriage of Miss Cheekley.

Colonel Samuel Cheekley
who was our progenitor, born also
at Houten Capes, October 14. 1653,
was the youngest brother of Anthony
above mentioned, and by another
mother. He arrived at Boston August
3^d 1670. He married in 1680, Mary,
daughter of Joshua Scottes, sister
of his brother's second wife. Their
children were Mary, born April 12
1683; Rebecca, 2^d September 1684;
Samuel, 23^d Sept. 1685, who died soon.

William, 18. April 1684; Joshua, 8 Feb
1689; Lydia, 31. March 1690; Eliza,
3^d September 1693; died within two
years; Richard, 4th October 1694;
Samuel again, 11th Feb 1696 from
whom we descend, and Mary, 26 June
1697. Of these ten children only
two outlived their father, Richard,
who was Deacon, and Samuel.

This Samuel was ordained as the
first minister of the New South
Church, Boston, April 15. 1719.
Married Elizabeth Rolfe 5th Jan
1721. and died December 1. 1769.

The early Checkleys occupied
very prominent official and social
positions in Boston, and the various histories
of that town, Roxbury, &c. contain
many notices regarding them.

Portraits.

In the possession, (at present date March 1875) of Mrs. Ann C. Tiffney of Baltimore, Maryland, are several original portraits of her ancestors.

First, the portrait of the Reverend Samuel Cheekley the elder.

He was the first minister of the New South Church, in Boston, as contrasted from the "Old South Church", which is still existing, a venerable monument of Colonial and Revolutionary times. Mr Cheekley was the first minister of the "New South", where he was settled in 1719, and there continued to preach during his life. He was the son of Colonel Samuel Cheekley, who was born

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in Preston Capes, near New-
hampton England, on October 14.
1653. He came to Boston Mass
with his older brother Anthony
in 1670, and in 1680 married
Mary Scottoe, daughter of
Joshua Scottoe, Chief Justice
of the Court of Common Pleas
in the District of Maine, which
at that time, and until 1820, when
Maine was admitted into the
Federal Union, belonged to the
State of Massachusetts.

Chief Justice Scottoe was the
author of several noted tracts and
pamphlets of that time. Colonel
Cheekley was for many years a
member of the General Court, i.e.
Legislature of Boston; was the

Colonel of the "Ancient and
Honorable Artillery Company",
and died Town Treasurer of
Boston, December 27, 1737-38,
upwards of 85 years of age.

He was a very distinguished citi-
zen, and held twelve military
commissions under the ^{Royal} Provincial
Government.

He was the great, great, great grand
father of William Cheekley Shaw,
and his two sisters, who are the
children of the late Ann C. Shaw
and Ann ^{O'Rourke} Maria De Butts.

Colonel Cheekley's son the
Rev'd Samuel Cheekley, the subject
of the above mentioned portrait,

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was born in Boston in Feb'y 1695,
and graduated at Harvard College
in 1715, taking his second degree
of A. M. in 1718. He died Dec'r
1769, in the 74th year of his age,
and the 51st year of his ministry.
He lies buried with others of his
family in the famous "Greenway"
burying ground in Tremont Street,
Boston, adjoining the Tremont House.
The tomb stone, a flat one, is close
to the iron railing on Tremont Street
and is distinguished by the family
coat of arms, the same as on the
antique silver tankard in possession
of William C. Shaw in the present
year 1845.

The Revd Mr Chesley married
a very beautiful woman, Elizabeth

12.

Rolfe, the daughter of the Rev. Dr
Benjamin Rolfe of Haverhill
Massachusetts, who was killed
by a party of French and Indians
~~on Sunday morning~~
August 29th 1708, while bravely
defending his family. Full notices
of this frightful massacre, in
which over one hundred inhabitants
of the little town were slaughtered,
are to be found in all the histories
of New England, and Mr Rolfe is
also mentioned in Bell's life of
Samuel Adams. Mr Rolfe's in-
fant daughter Elizabeth, who after-
ward married Mr Cheekley, was
saved from slaughter by being hid
by a servant under a tub in the cellar

of the house, and was found unharmed
after the departure of the assailants.
All the rest of Mr. Lodge's family were
murdered with himself.

It has always been related in the
annals of our family, that this
daughter, who was spared to become
Mrs. Cheeky, was so very beautiful
a woman and so admirable in all
respects in the eyes of her husband,
that through life he invariably ordered
when he entered a room where he was
sitting, an example of the chivalrous
devotion of the olden time. It is to
be regretted that no portrait of her
exists, at least none that I know of.
At that period very few likenesses
were taken, and fewer still of much merit
in point of art.

From Dr Samuel Cheekley the elder, through his son of the same name, descended in the fourth generation the late Samuel Ames of Rhode Island, Chief Justice of that State; an eminent lawyer, and renowned in social circles for his wit and conversational powers. He died Decr 20 1865 aged 59 years.

Also, of the same degree of kindred, the Hon John Lothrop Motley, the eminent historian, author of the Rise of the Dutch Republic &c &c, and minister to Austria and Great Britain. Both these gentlemen relate to Wm Cullen and his sisters in the same degree; Mrs Thomas Motley Sr,

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mother of the historian; Mrs. Ann
Checkley, it was, mother of Chief
Justice Ames; Mrs. Ann Checkley
Tiffany mother of Edmund Tiffany,
and William Checkley, New London,
the grandfather of the present William
C. Shaw (1875), being all first cousins.

Dr. Checkley's only daughter,
Elizabeth, having married Samuel
Adams, the illustrious patriot
of the American Revolution, I
extract from Wells' life of Adams
various notices of him, and of the
Checkley family. —

— According to the social and
"political station which had been
"occupied by his father, Adams
"retained all his father's friends, and
"also saw growing up around him

"a circle of young men, who subse-
quently occupied distinguished
positions in political life. Among
the most intimate of his father's
acquaintances was the Reverend
Samuel Checkley, whose position at
the New South Church had been
procured by the influence of the elder
Adams, and by whom the son had
been baptized. In his visits to his
reverend friend, he formed an
attachment for his daughter Eliza-
beth, and they were married at
her father's house on the 14th of October
1749. Miss Checkley was then twenty
four years of age, and, as her daughter
testified, was a rare example of virtue

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and pious, blended with a retiring
and modest demeanor, and the charms
of elegant womanhood. Only two
of their five children survived their
mother; Samuel, afterward a surgeon
in the Continental army, who died
unmarried, and Hannah, who married
Captain Thomas Wells, an officer of
the Revolution. This union which was
an extremely happy one, lasted nearly
eight years, when Mr Adams sustained
his severest affliction, the loss of his wife.
She died July 25. 1757. In the Family
Bible Mr Adams wrote as follows:—
"Wednesday July 6. 1757. This day my
"dear wife was delivered of a dead son,
"being our fifth child."—and later, —
"God was pleased to support her under
"great weakness, and continued her life

"till Lords day the 25th of the same
"month when she expired at eight
"o'clock A.M. To her husband she was
"as sincere a friend as she was a faith-
"ful wife. Her exact economy in all
"her relative capacities, her kindness
"on his side, as well as her own, admire.
"He ran her Christian race with remark-
"able steadiness and finished in tri-
"umph! He left two small children.
"God grant they may inherit her
"graces!" The families of Adams and
"Cheekley" (says Wells) had been con-
"nected by marriage in the previous
"century, Captain John Adams, having
"married Hannah, the daughter of
"Anthony Cheekley Esquire, first

19.

"Attorney General under the new charter"

— "It may be taken as a proof
"of the endurance and the longevity of the
"people of the last century, that it was
"the office of the elder Minister Checkley
"to baptize Samuel Adams on the day
"of his birth in 1722; to perform the
"service in 1749 at the marriage of his
"own daughter Elizabeth to the same person;
"to baptize all their children; to offici-
"ciate at the funeral of this daughter
"in 1757; and again in 1764 at the
"marriage ceremony of Samuel Adams
"and Elizabeth Wells. He died in the
"winter of 1769, having preached 51 years
"in the Church in Summer Street.

"Miss Elizabeth Wells above mentioned
"was 21 years older than her brother Thomas,
"who in the last year of the Revolution

"was married to the daughter of Samuel
"Adams; - the young lady (Miss
"Adams) thus becoming the wife of her
"stepmother's brother, eighteen years
"after her father (Samuel Adams)
"marriage into the same family."

Of a colored servant who long
continued in Mr Adams service
Hollo further says; - "the black
"servant girl Furry was presented
"to Mrs Adams by Mrs Cheekley
"about the year 1765, and having been
"purchased by Mr Adams, lived with the
"family for nearly half a century.
"Furry never left Boston but twice,
"which was during the British occu-
"pation, and when the small pox pre-

"sailed in town during the administration of Governor Adams (Sam'l Adams).
"she served every member of the house
"bold with an affectionate devotion
"which nothing could change. When
"the institution of slavery was formally
"abolished in Massachusetts, though
"she had long been free, additional
"papers were made out for her; but she
"threw them into the fire, indignantly
"re-marking that she had lived too long
"to be trifled with in that manner!"
"Another member of the family was
"a servant boy whose education Mr
"Adams attended to as conscientiously
"as if he had been his own child.
"The boy lived to become an intelligent
"mechanic in Boston, and was conspicuous
"in 1795-96 as an active

"politician in stealing his old master
 "to the Chief magistracy of the Common-
 "wealth. Added to these a famous
 "four footed dog, 'Inoue', a crea-
 "ture of immense strength and almost
 "human intelligence, and we have the
 "little household as it existed just prior
 "to the Revolution. Inoue was noted
 "for his antipathy to the British uniform,
 "and he bore on his shaggy hide the
 "scars of wounds received from sol-
 "diers, and even officers, who repelled
 "his attacks by cutting and shooting
 "at him. But the dog seemed to bear
 "a charmed life." —

— "Their principal social
 "visitors appear to have been the families

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"of Francis Wells Esq of Cambridge
"Farm, and the Revd Samuel Cheekley-
"Mr Adams having been related to both
"by his first and second marriage. A son
"of this minister bearing the same name
"was pastor of the old (styled "New") North
"Church from 1744 to 1768, and a friendly
"intimacy existed for many years be-
"tween the two families. The younger
"Cheekley, and his brother William who
"married a Miss Cranston in 1766, were
"often at the house, and some amusing
"anecdotes are related of the lively
"and entertaining disposition of the latter."

This was the lady who afterward married
President Stiles, and who bequeathed the
silver tankard to William C. Shaw Esq.

Mr Adams second marriage
with Elizabeth Wells, who when married

was just of the same age as his first wife, 24 years, never for a moment interrupted his intimate and friendly relations with the Cheakley family.

The following letter was written to Mr William Cheakley, brother of Revd Samuel Cheakley the younger, and for whom the first William Cheakley Shaw was named, on the occasion of his engagement to Miss Cranston, whom he soon afterward married.

"Boston Mar 16. 1766.

"Dear Sir

"I received your letter of the
"8th inst, with the greater satisfaction,
"as it brought me intelligence of your
"having taken some resolutions, which

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"I cannot but flatter myself with greatly
"add to your future happiness in life.
"Believe me my dear friend I wish
"I could persuade all the agreeable back-
"siders to think so, - there are social joys
"in honest wedlock which single life
"is a stranger to. You will allow me to
"be a tolerably good judge, having
"had experience of each in double turns.
"You have so long been intimate with
"Miss Cranston before you made a formal
"address to her, that I make no doubt
"your choice of her is well made. I have
"a good opinion of the young lady,
"without the pleasure of an acquaintance
"with her, and it is grounded on the opin-
"ion I have long had of your judgement
"and integrity. Without flattery, I believe
"you would hardly have made proposals of

"marriage to any lady, who had not those
 "accomplishments which will always
 "make a man of integrity and virtue
 "happy. May the best of Heaven's
 "blessings attend you both. I somewhere
 "met with a couplet which impressed
 "my mind in early life.

"Love is the knot religion ties;
 "And Love, well bounded, never dies.

"Pray present my own and Betsy's kind
 "respects to your fair one, and be assur-
 "ed nothing that in the least regards
 "your welfare, can be a matter of indif-
 "ference to either of us."

"Adieu

"Sam Adams

"Mr William Cheekley."

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"For his family, Samuel Adams
"was a delightful and entertaining
"companion. His cheerful temper
"which never desponded, shed a per-
"petual sunshine of happiness upon
"those about him; and his intimacy
"was valued by his acquaintances as
"much for those qualities as for his
"counsel and sagacity in public
"affairs. Though a stern and
"uncompromising opponent to
"tyranny, and ever presenting an
"undimmed front in his ceaseless
"warfare against schemes of oppres-
"sion, he could unbend among his
"friends and with his family. Bancroft
"introduces him in 1764, with a just
"and splendid tribute to his greatness
"of character. 'He was,' says Bancroft,

'a tender husband, an affectionate
 'parent, and relaying from severer
 'cares he could vividly enjoy the delight
 'of conversation with his friends; but the
 'halls of his modest mansion never
 'witnessed dissipation or levity or
 'frivolous amusements, or anything
 'inconsistent with the discipline of
 'the man whose incessant prayer
 'was that Boston might become a
 'Christian Sparta.'

Mr William Checkley, who
 graduated at Harvard College in 1756,
 and died in 1780, left no children.
 His widow afterward married the
 Reverend Dr Ezra Stiles, President
 of Yale College, and one of the most

eminent of the New England divines.

He was a man of profound learning and thorough classical scholarship. He wrote with fluency in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin, and was for upwards of thirty years the Librarian of the Redwood Library in Newport Rhode Island. Many of the time honored volumes in that collection bear his annotations in those learned tongues, as I have often seen when examining the Library.

William Checkley Shaw Senior, as before mentioned, was named for Mrs. Atles first husband, and she bequeathed to him several mementos of her regard on account of the name he bore, the silver tankard among them.

The Reverend Samuel Checkley the younger, elder brother of the foregoing

graduated at Harvard College
in 1743. and died in 1768. He was the
pastor of the New North Church
Boston, as his father had been of the
New South. The folio copy of the
Holy Scriptures presented to this
church by Deacon Richard Cheekley,
brother of the elder minister Cheekley,
is still preserved, and in use by the Society.
^{possibly perhaps destroyed by the great fire of Boston.}
Deacon Cheekley died unmarried.

The younger Minister Cheekley
married Elizabeth Webb the subject of
the second portrait in possession of Mrs
Tiffany. She was the daughter of
Reverend John Webb, and the sister in
law of Mrs Samuel Adams / 1st wife /
Mrs Cheekley long outlived her husband.

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he dying in Boston March 19. 1768, aged
44 years, and she at Marshfield
Massachusetts, at the home of her
William Shaw, husband of her daughter
Ann. She survived her husband
more than 32 years, and died in 1801.
Her brother in law Mr Adams died
in 1803. From her descend the Ameses,
Mortleys, Shaws, and Jeffreys as
before mentioned. The portrait was
painted about the year 1740, and repre-
sented her as a child of nine years.

This manuscript being intended
solely for family record, secure from
the gaze of the "interviewer," or his fellow
bore "our own correspondent," it may be
here noted that one of Elizabeth Webb's
wedding dresses, a green and gold flowered
brocade, is still in the possession of the

family, and belongs to her granddaughter Mrs Ann C. Tiffany. It is still in complete preservation and was worn by Mrs Checkley's great great granddaughter, Annie Checkley Tiffany, on the 22^d of February 1845, at the Martha Washington Tea Party, and its representation of Mrs Washington's drawing room or "Republican Court." With a pardonable anachronism Miss Tiffany represented her great great great Aunt, Mrs Samuel Adams, who was related to William Checkley Shaw and sisters in the same degree. 1845.

Mrs Checkley had three children. Her son John Webb Checkley, was one

of Governor Mifflin's staff (Pennsylvania) during the Revolutionary war, and afterwards a merchant in Philadelphia. He died however in Boston. He married Sophia Picken of Philadelphia and was the father of Mrs Ann Checkley Ames, who was the mother of Hon Samuel Ames, Chief Justice, and Adjutant General of Rhode Island.

Of Mrs Checkley's two daughters, one, Ann, married the Reverend William Shaw of Marshfield Mass, who died in ~~Baltimore~~ ^{Baltimore} on January 8th 1848. that town in 1816. He was the father of William Checkley Shaw Senior, who died in Baltimore on January 8. 1848; of Elizabeth Ann, who died unmarried in 1858, and

of Mrs. Ann Cheekley Tiffany, still living at the present date, March 1875, the widow of the late Oamond Capron Tiffany, who died June 11. 1851.

Mrs Cheekley's other daughter Elizabeth, married in Boston Mass, the Revd Dr John Dothrop, and became the mother of Mrs Thomas Mortley Senior, who was herself the mother of Hon. John Dothrop Pittsley, the historian and statesman, one of the most distinguished authors that America has produced.

The third portrait is that of the Reverend John West, father of Elizabeth, who was born in Fram-tree Mass in 1688, and graduated

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at Harvard College in 1708. He was
ordained first minister of the New
North Church in Boston, October 20.
1714. He died April 16th 1750, aged
62 years. He preached 35 years.
The portrait was taken in 1750, just
before his death. His wife's maiden
name was Elizabeth Jackson.
He never left his wife

Reverting for a moment to the double
connection of the Adamses and the
Cheekys, it may also be noted
that the wife of President John Adams
was related to our family through
the Shaw branch of it. Samuel Adams,
and John Adams the second President
of the United States, were second cousins.

The name of Cheeky is now
extinct in this country. The family
have always with just pride claimed

kindred with the celebrated prelate
 Henry Chichele, Archbishop of Can-
 terbury, "Primate of All England" in the
 reigns of King Henry 4th, 5th & 6th
 of England. He was also the founder
 of the magnificent "All Souls
 College" in Oxford. After his eleva-
 tion to the Primacy he resided at
 Lambeth Palace in London, the
 official seat of the Archbishops
 of Canterbury. He was of such
 eminence as a priest that he was
 consecrated Bishop in 1408, while
 on an embassy to Rome, by the Pope,
 Gregory 12th, and was raised to the See
 of Canterbury in 1414, dying 1443.
 He was not superior to the bigotry of his age.

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and persecuted the Wickliffites and the
Lollards, but he was a magnificent
patron of learning, and a patriotic
Churchman, being the last of the
English Roman Catholic archbishops
who maintained any national inde-
pendence of the Holy See. The Check-
leys descend from the father of the
Archbishop, he as a Roman Catholic
prelate being unmarried. Sir Henry
Chicheley sometime royal governor
of Virginia, was also by descent of
the same family. During the course
of centuries, the name, I spell origin-
ally ^{monounced Chickley} Chichole, was in certain localities,
as at Boston Capes, merged into
Checkley, but the coat of arms of
the Archbishop is the same, with slight
variations only in the stars, or "mullets"

or "Cinquetoils" as they are termed in Heraldry, with that inscribed on the tombstone in Boston, and on the silver tankard owned by the Shaw family. The claim of kinship with the great Archbishop was brought to this country by the first Cheekleys, more than two centuries ago, and has never been questioned in the family.

Let us revere the memory of our distinguished ancestors, imitate their piety and virtues, and alike endeavor to leave honorable names to our descendants.

Osmond Tiffany
March 20th 1875