

Edmund Weld



No Picture Available

Born: 1559 Sudbury, ENG

Married: Amy Clark

Died: 3 May 1608 Sudbury, ENG

Edmund Weld

Edmund Weld. Born ca 1559 at Sudbury, Suffolk.¹¹⁷ Edmund died at Sudbury, Suffolk, on 3 May 1608. Occupation: cloth merchant.

"Edmund was a evidently a very prosperous cloth merchant in Sudbury, into which town weavers had been introduced by Edward III. The town was on its way to becoming the center of the cloth industry in Suffolk, a precedence which it attained completely after the Restoration. Edmund Weld invested the savings from his business in lands, as his will shows. The location of his home can probably be very closely ascertained. It was two doors from the 'White Hart,' as shown by the will of William Buxton the elder, apothecary, dated 14 Jan. 1611, probated 24 Dec., 1611, which disposes of a messuage in St. Peter's Parish 'between the messuage late Edmund Weldes now in occupation of Thomas Barron on one side and the messuage called the White Hart on the other side.' There is still [1938] a 'White Hart' in Sudbury, on Cross Street. He was prominent in the councils of teh Borough, of which we find him 'Bailliff, 5 Sept., 1597."¹¹⁷

Weld Family Roots

Daniel Weld

The Weld family has a presence in Massachusetts dating back to the early 1600s and their relationship to one another is clearly recorded. In the first days of European settlement in the New World, three sons of **Edmund Weld** of Sudbury, Suffolk, England arrived in Boston. **Daniel Weld**, the eldest, became a teacher at Roxbury Latin School. Two notable Welds in New England traced their ancestry to him.

Thomas Weld

Thomas Weld, younger brother of Daniel, became minister of the First Church of Roxbury, assisted with the *Bay Psalm Book*, and became an overseer of the newly-founded Harvard College.

In 1641, he left most of his family in Massachusetts Bay Colony and returned to England on business for the General Court of Massachusetts. In England, Weld became a minister to Oliver Cromwell until his death.

Capt. Joseph Weld

Capt. Joseph Weld, the youngest of the three Weld immigrants, is the ancestor from whom the richest and most famous Welds descend. As an award for his participation in the Pequot War of 1637 and subsequent negotiations, the colonial legislature granted Weld 278 acres in the town of Roxbury.

Capt. Weld's land is now much of present day Jamaica Plain. With the wealth generated from this grant, Joseph Weld became one of the first donors to Harvard and founded the Ancient and Honorable Military Company.

The Welds and Harvard

Thomas Weld's involvement with Harvard was the beginning of almost 400 years of association between that institution and the Weld Family.

Surprisingly, the first Weld to attend ended his Harvard career in disgrace. **John Weld** (born in 1625) and a classmate stole money and gunpowder from two houses and were caught. Henry Dunster (Harvard's first president) personally whipped them and expelled them from the school. Weld returned to England and

Information from online research at: Ancestry.com