



SOUIER.

JERSEY AND BOSTON, N.A.

Sohier.

ACCORDING to that magnificent and rare monograph, "La véritable origine de la très-ancienne et très-illustre maison de Sohier," it appears that Peter de Vermandois was descended directly from Charlemagne through his great-grandson Pepin, the first count of that name. Peter de Vermandois was descended from this Pepin, in the sixth degree, and was surnamed *Sohier*, which signifies the victorious, and from his grand-nephew derived a family of the same name, settled in the Netherlands, which was represented in 1661, by Constantine Sohier, Baron of the Holy Empire, and Seigneur of Warmenhuyzen, Crabbendam, and Out-Poelgeest.

It appears from the remarks of the learned author of the above-quoted monograph, that Sohier, variously written Siger, Zegher, Seicher, Sieher, and Seger, is derived from the old German Zeger, which signifies the *victorious*, or according to Grammaye, *modestus honor*.

* ARMS OF STRAD: Argent, a unicorn, segreant, sable.

† ARMS OF STANLEY: Ermine, a griffin, segreant, gules, crowned, argent.

‡ Colonel Thomas Purcfoy married Eliza-Mary, eldest daughter of William-Hogg Locky, Esq., of Londonderry, who several times represented that city in Parliament, alternately with his wife's cousin, Sir George Hill, Bart.

§ ARMS OF GORKE: Barry of eight, or and gules.

¶ Par J. C. D. D. À Leyden, chez François Hacke, 1661. Imperial folio.

The middle of the sixteenth century was a period rife with religious and political persecution, which seems often to have scattered the house of Sohier. "Hugues Sohier," says the Leyden genealogist, "né en l'an 1550, ne pouvant porter une conscience forcée, comme il vit que le Duc d'Alve voulait introduire, par force, la Religion Romaine, trouva bon d'abandonner sa propre patrie."

It would seem that political rather than ecclesiastical trouble brought the Sohier family to Jersey, as its earliest settlers were of the Romanist faith. The first member, of whom local record is found, is John Sohier, whose name appears in a roll of the Royal Court, dated 1525. Sire John Sohier, Presbyter, is mentioned in a deed of 1547, as guardian to the children of his brother, Maryn Sohier. And in another document dated the same year, the names of Nicholas, John, and Thomas Sohier occur, related undoubtedly to the family which has for centuries been settled in the parish of S. Martin.

In the eighteenth century, the eldest branch of the Jersey family settled in America, which is now represented by WILLIAM-DAVIES SOHIER, Esq., of Boston, U.S.

In Jersey, the head of the family is GEORGE SOHIER, Esq., of S. Martin. A junior branch is represented by the REV. JOHN SOHIER, of Nantes, and another by PHILIP-EDWARD SOHIER, of S. Helier.

ARMS: Gules, a star of five points, argent.

CREST: A cross, argent, between the attires of a stag, ppr.

MOTTO: Stella XPI duce.

Pedigree of Sohier, of Jersey, and of North America.



