



SINE LUCE NIHIL

ALCETC

Date

Wm. R. Leete.

Leet Family

THE FAMILY OF

Leet or Leete.

ARMS:

Argent, on a fesse gules between two rolls of matches sable fired proper, a martlet or. (The martlet is omitted on the fesse in the description by Burke. It is also omitted on the seal of Gov. Leete. It is evidently a cadency symbol indicating the American line to be descended from a fourth son of the original stock.

CREST:

On a ducal coronet an antique lamp, fired proper.

MOITO:

None recorded, as is the case with all of the older arms.

AUTHORITY:

Crozier's "General Armory", 1904 edition, page 84. Burke's "General Armory", 1844 edition, not paginated.

TINCTURES AS SHOWN BY DESCRIPTION:

The shield is of silver. The fesse is of red. The rolls of matches are of black, the fire natural. (A roll of Matches would be referred to today as "a roll of fuse". These matches held fire for using in discharging matchlock guns and cannons.) The martlet is of gold. The ducal coronet and lamp are of gold, the fire natural. The mantle is of red lined with silver. The ribbon may be of silver.

NOTES:

Crozier records as authentic for descendants of Governor William Leete, from Cambridgeshire, England, who settled in Guilford, Conn., in 1639. The Leete-Leet Genealogy covers this family. Burke records the arms and crest as authentic for the family of Leet of Evorsden and Kingston, in Cambridgeshire, of South Hoo, in Huntingdonshire, and of Suffolk, and gives as authority -- Heraldic Office (College of Herald's) H.14. The authenticity of arms and crest is unquestionable. It is of note that the seal used by Governor William Leete shows the arms, but not the crest. In place of the latter was an apparently non-heraldic design, undescribable. The entire seal was very crudely engraved.

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Martin and Allardyce, By: *George C. Martin* George C. Martin.

BEFORE ME, the undersigned a Notary Public for and in Bexar County, State of Texas, this day personally appeared George C. Martin of the firm of Martin & Allardyce, of Terrell Wells, Texas, who took oath that the insignia above described appears in the published authority above mentioned.

GIVEN under my hand and seal of office this 24th day of October A. D. 1936.

Mrs. Mary M. Potter
Notary Public



WILLIAM LEETE, Governor of Connecticut, 1676.

William Leete, a native of England, died in Hartford, Conn., April 16, 1688.

Bred a lawyer, he was for a considerable time Clerk, in England, of a Bishop's Court. In this service, he became acquainted with the transactions between the Bishops and the Puritans. He himself became a Puritan, left the Bishop's Court, and, in 1638, came into New England, in company with Eaton and Hopkins.

His name is among the six planters who signed the writings at New Haven, in Newman's barn, September, 1637, when they purchased the lands of the Dutch Sauteurs. He became a resident of the town of Guilford, and "was one of the seven pillars of Mr. Whitfield's Church." When Mr. Whitfield went to England, several of the first planters went with him, but Mr. Leete remained at Guilford.

He was chosen Magistrate for the Colony of New Haven in 1642, was successively re-elected until May, 1658; was then chosen Deputy-Governor of that Colony, holding the office until elected Governor in 1661. He held the office of Governor of New Haven Colony until the union in 1685, with Connecticut Colony. He was then chosen one of the Magistrates of Connecticut; was elected Deputy-Governor in 1688; and in 1690, when he was chosen Governor, changing his residence to Hartford.

For more than thirty years he assumed the responsibilities of civil office, in one or other of the Colonies. He presided in times of the greatest difficulty, yet always conducted himself with such integrity and wisdom, as to meet the public approbation.

Twenty-seven queries were sent from the authorities in England to the Governor of his Majesty's Colony of Connecticut, to which answers were returned signed by Governor Leete. The last inquiry was as follows, with answer and signature.

"What course is taken for the instructing of the people in the Christian religion; how many churches and ministers are there within your government; how many are yet wanting for the accommodation of your corporation; what provision is made for their maintenance; as also for relieving poor and impotent persons; and have you any beggars and idle vagabonds?"

(ANSWERS)

Great care is taken, for the instruction of the people in the Christian Religion, by ministers attending Town, and preaching by them upon Sabbaths, and sometimes on Lecture days; and so by masters of Families instructing and catechizing their children and servants; being required so to do by law. In our Corporation are twenty-six towns, and twenty-one churches. There is in every town in our Colony a settled minister, except in two towns new begun, and they are looking out for a minister to settle amongst them. For the maintenance of the ministers, it is raised upon the people by way of rates; and in some places it is 100 lbs. per annum, some 90 lbs., some 80 lbs., and in no place less than 40 lbs. per annum, as we know of.... For the poor it is ordered that they be relieved by the towns where they live. It is seldom that any want relief; because labor is dear, and provisions cheap. Beggars and vagabond persons are not suffered, but when discovered are bound out to service...

WILLIAM LEETE, Governor.

"Per order,

JOHN ALLYN, Sec'y.

HARTFORD, July 15, 1680."

Mr. Leete had a large family of children. His son Andrew was for several years a Magistrate of the Colony.

An island near Guilford bears the Governor's name.

From American Christian Bibles, by Rev. Edward J. Giddings, 1880, 1890. Pages 313-4.

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