FROM CAILLOUET TO KELLAWAY: RESEARCH FROM THE ANTIPODES

***by John Warwick Kellaway*[1]**

ABSTRACT

The author provides a brief summary of the approaches and sources he used in researching the medieval origins of his family surname, and its variants. He shows how, by use of secondary sources and microfilms of original documents, it is possible to conduct such research from a base far removed from the historical origins of the name. The following article summarises the results of this research.

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Genealogical research began for me a little over 12 years ago, following curiosity over the derivation of our family name **Kellaway**. Reliable sources had stated that the name originated from the village of Caillouet in Normandy, which further increased the curiosity. I had firstly to find where my family had lived in England, prior to leaving in 1865 to settle in New Zealand. Once Dorset was confirmed, and with some difficulty explored/researched, the inevitability of moving back further and further into history began.

Research for those living away from the UK can be extremely difficult, and expensive. However I was able easily to access the family history records available at a nearby Church of Latter Day Saints. Initially I used their microfilmed Parish Register Records to track Kellaway families through the villages of Dorset, after their International Genealogical Index (IGI) system had proved incomplete.

The records unfortunately still only cover the period after about 1730, sometimes back to the late 1500s, and can be difficult to read. They have however microfilmed many other records from original documents and published books, back deep into the medieval period, and these are also available in microfilm and microfiche. This is an amazing source of research information for people in distant locations. While by no means complete, and sometimes containing old opinions that can prove inaccurate, the information is available from one source, and constitutes a strong foundation for more detailed research.

The Family Origin Name Survey (FONS) also contributed useful information, while other family researchers from the UK, US, NZ and Australia, particularly a Kelway, Brian Willoughby, and members of the US-based Callaway Family Association, have materially added to the now considerable stack of early knowledge, as well as confirming or sometimes adjusting my original research.

The research was made more difficult because spellings today can be very different from medieval times. We have now discovered some 200 variations from the presumed original Norman French. Not only that, but a whole series of initially seemingly unrelated names proved to be the same family.

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Heraldic research is confirming these connections. The accepted coat of arms, of glaziers snippers between four pears, has meaning for both the fruit and the stained glass. Possibly dating from 1450-1500, there now appear to have been earlier arms, with a chevron and three leopards' heads.

I eventually endeavoured to assemble all the disjointed information into some chronological order, matching names where possible, and fit them with a solid study of historical events, to arrive at a reasonably accurate picture of the family genealogy from their presumed arrival in England some 900 years ago.

The whole was collated into a 50 page treatise, "The Caillouet Kellaway Chronicles"[2]. Two years later, it has been supplemented, but remains substantially accurate.

As regards the research detail, the first known reference to the family name, about 1120, had strangely used two versions, de Cailli and de Kaillewi, raising the question of quite different phonetics. However further evidence has confirmed that they were the same family, later diverging completely. This derivation today links the Cayley and Devon Kell(e)y families. The Cayley family today traces their ancestry to the arrival of Guillaume de Cailli with the Conqueror, while an interesting aspect is that a check of the Normandy localities of Cailli and Caillouet reveals that they lie within a few km of each other.

Philip de Chailewai is recorded in the Gloucester Pipe Rolls in Wiltshire in 1165, and the manor at Tytherton/Kellaways there has had a series of different name spellings using Cs and Ks, from the 1200s, until the present day Kellaways. Philip's family intermarried with the Giffards, and the Gloucesters.

Although for some centuries French was the formal language, the gradual conversion/corruption of a name resembling Caillouet into English in the scattered corners of the country was clearly a problem. The spelling Kellawe developed in some localities, such as Durham, into Kellaw and Callow. A linkage to location, at Calewe Weston in Dorset, led to de Weston and the Weston family. In Devon, at Stoford, Stafford Barton, in Dolton, the family became de Stoford, then Stafford.

Commonly the prefix "de" preceded the name, suggesting location, but this became for a time "le", a description – both quite different meanings in French. They gradually disappeared altogether. Different spellings could occur in the same document, even with very prominent people into the 1500s. Both short and long versions of the name developed, and today Kelway is as prominent as Kellaway or Callaway. Even into the middle 1800s, either C or K spellings might be used for the same person. For example, my forebear was christened a Calloway on the Isle of Wight in 1756, but married as a Kellaway in Dorset in 1787.

Today most of the early spellings are long gone, and we have Kellaways, Callaways, Kelways, and minor variations of these, together with all the dissimilar forms.

Our name may be unusually complicated, but the research process has indicated a number of the difficulties that may be met when endeavouring to resolve medieval genealogy. It is important to look beyond the obvious, particularly with spellings, and to use complementary fields, such as location, to assist with the genealogical research process. Importantly I have sought to demonstrate that research **can** be carried out from overseas without immediate access to original archives.

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[2] See the summary of these chronicles by the same author on pp.60-64 of this issue.

Sources used for research

I provide here a list of the main resources used for these studies:

- Registers of the companions of the Conqueror.
- The Domesday Book.
- Heraldic Visitations of Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somerset and Hampshire from the 1500s and 1600s, which include family pedigrees
- Coats of Arms. These may be difficult to track in the accessible records, but can be found in many churches and houses.
- Church Tombs.
- Lists of Church Patrons, particularly St Giles Church, Kellaways. The patron usually occupied the manorhouse.
- Pipe Rolls.
- Feet of Fines.
- Inquisitions Post Mortem for Devon, Dorset, Somerset and Hampshire.
- Court Rolls.
- Patent Rolls.
- Close Rolls.
- Exchequer Subsidy Rolls.
- Muster Rolls.
- Bishops Registers, notably those Bishop Bek of Durham, and Bishops Edmund Stafford and Edmund Lacy of Exeter
- Chartularies.
- Wills, which we have found back to the early 1300s.
- Ordinance Survey Maps. Detail can locate a manor, and help determine a name.
- Old maps which can clarify location in the past.
- All the published records and histories of the times.