A VIGNETTE OF THE FAMILY OF CHICHE OF CANTERBURY AND OTHER PARTS OF KENT

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ABSTRACT

A vignette of the family of Chiche of Canterbury in Kent (12th-16th centuries). They epitomize the rise and fall of many within Kentish society in that period. A number of them were moneyers of the Canterbury mint in 12th and 13th centuries, rising to the rank of gentry before this branch of the family disappeared from prominence.

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The Chiche family epitomizes those that rose from the burgess class to the ranks of landed Gentry, the family reaching its greatest importance in the late 14th/early 15th centuries. One particular problem associated with compiling this pedigree is that there were a number of individuals of the name of Thomas, in straight succession, and without doubt some of the following references have been wrongly assigned. This article will be revised and corrections made in the light of ongoing research. In due course a complete family history will be written, but I present what I know at this stage. The pedigree begins with:

ANSER *fl.*in 12th century

He is the earliest member of this family I have been able to identify. He had a son Sigar, described as the son of Anser.

SIGAR *fl.*1163-1167, dead by 1216

He had at least one son, Eudo, alternatively described as Ivo (with variants). A Hugh son of Sigar is named as witness to a charter[2]. It is likely that he is another son and the man known as Hugh Aurifaber (*fl.*1167, dead by 1217), a Canterbury moneyer, for whom a number of references exist. It is suggested Sigar may alternatively have been known as Sigar de Coquina, presumably of the kitchen of St Gregory's Priory in Canterbury. He had a wife Dionisia, mentioned in abutments of a charter[3] and as the widow of Sigar in another[4]; both charters are undated but prior to 1216. A rental of 1163-1167 shows him holding land at Andrewsgate in Canterbury of the monks of Christ Church[5].

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2 Woodcock (1956) Charter 45, pp.34-5.

3 Woodcock (1956) Charter 43, p.33.

4 Woodcock (1956) Charter 44, p.34.

5 Urry (1967) Rental B208.

EUDO (IVO) CHICHE *fl.*1180 - died on 29th December 1225

The son of Sigar, he had sons John, Eudo and Thomas. He was a prominent member of the Canterbury community, being a *prepositus* on five occasions, namely, in 1207 (or before), in 1208 (or before), in 1208 (or before), before late 1216 and in 1226 (or before) (Urry & Bunce), 1980, pp.12-18). He was also an alderman of Burgate ward.

He was a moneyer of short cross pennies (figure 1), named in 1218 as *custos* of the mint of the Archbishop of Canterbury, along with Adam the mercer and Vivien the mercer[6]. In the same year he was moneyer of the Archbishop's mint. The moneyer of the King at this time was Simon Chiche, without doubt of the same family. He ceased minting in 1222 when his son John took over the dies to the mint. It may be that he was infirm or too old to continue, and wanted to pass the business onto his son.



Fig 1. *Short cross penny minted by Eudo Chiche (obverse and reverse)*

[Christopher Wren collection]

The earliest reference to him I have found is in a list of outgoing payments of the monks of Christ Church in c.1180, Ivo the son of Sigar the son of Anser receiving 3d. for certain land at Andrewsgate which the monks had bought of him for 25 Marks[7]. He witnessed a number of dated charters in the period 1207-1221 as also many that are undated. One such, of particular interest, is a charter by Osbert, son of Godwin Blund, and Wulfrun, with his heirs, to Lambert son of Arnold, witnessed by an extraordinary long list of people, probably the whole burghmoot of Worthgate ward in Canterbury, including Eudo, Ailwin Chiche, Arnold Chiche and Hugh Aurifaber. A date of c.1210 has been assigned to it[8].

We know he had died by 1226 because his son John paid the monks of Christ Church a relief in that year. Given that the monks prayed for his soul every 29th December, because of a stone dwelling he had given them, it is fair to assume that he did in fact die on that date in 1225.

There were a number of individuals of this name who were contemporaries or near contemporaries of Eudo Chiche. I have not been able as yet to place them within this pedigree, but am confident that they are of the same family. They are the above mentioned Ailwin Chiche (*fl.*1199-c.1210), Arnold Chiche (*fl.*1187-c.1210), Simon Chiche (*fl.*1180-dead by 1230) and Hugh Aurifaber, the last three named being moneyers.

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6 Abstract of Memoranda Rolls in the Public Record Office (PRO).

7 Urry (1967), Rental 12.

8 Huntington Library, San Marino, California, USA, Box 11, Documents from Vol.40, No.1116.

EUDO SON OF EUDO CHICHE *fl.*1217 - 1249

He was a son of Eudo Chiche. In c.1206 he and his heirs were in receipt of a payment by the monks of Christ Church for land which had been Anseri's at Andrewsgate, which had been bought for 25 Marks of Eudo (son of Sigar the son of Anseri)[9]. Together with his brother John he witnessed a charter in 1237[10] and with his brother Thomas another in 1247-1249.

THOMAS SON OF EUDO CHICHE *fl.*1240 - 1250

Another son of Eudo Chiche, he witnessed two charters, both with his brother Eudo. He may have had a son Thomas, for the Kent Feet of Fines for 13th October 1268 show Thomas Chiche and his wife Isabel acquiring land in Minster and Monkton in Thanet. The date would be too early to assign to Thomas (2) [see below]. This could relate to the Manor of Thornton *alias* Bartlotts which was in the possession of the main branch of the family up to the turn of the 16th century.

JOHN CHICHE *fl.*1231, dead by 1261

The pedigree continues with John, son of Eudo Chiche. His wife was named Amice and they had sons Stephen, Thomas, John, Lawrence and Hugh. He paid 4d. relief upon the death of his father Eudo in 1226[11]. The entry actually has the name Simon Chiche, Simon being crossed out, and Eudo inserted above.

Like his father he was a moneyer of short-cross pennies (figure 2), minting them for the Archbishop of Canterbury over the period 1222 to 1247[12]. He was elected *prepositus* of Canterbury in 1231 (or before)[13], and was alderman of Burgate Ward[14]. His property holdings within and without the city of Canterbury were extensive; he owned at least two stone houses, one in which he lived. He prospered, a fine dated 25th June 1241 showing him acquiring half a knight's fee in the suburbs of Canterbury from Hamo de Valoigns[15]. This may well relate to the manor of Balverle, Shyrte and Hall Court, which continued in this family until the second half of the 15th century. It was held in *gavelkind*, as is stated in a charter of 1485, by which Ralph Chiche sold his third share in it[16].

He witnessed a great many charters in the period 1231-1247, but one enacted by him has survived (Jacob, 2006). It is a grant by him to William Gracien, sometime warden of the re-vamped Hospital of St Mary at Ospringe, the *Maison Dieu*. This charter carries John's seal in the shape of a shield, in green wax, bearing a shield with three

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9 Urry (1967), Rental G15.

10 Red Book of St Augustine's (RBSA) fo.92, 100.

11 Centre for Kentish Studies, Canterbury, Lit MS D4

12 PRO, Abstract of Memoranda Rolls, typescript, year 1222, m 4d

13 Urry & Bunce (1980) p.18.

14 Centre for Kentish Studies, Canterbury Cathedral Archives, CCA-DCc-ChAnt/C/862 [http://www.kentarchives.org/].

15 Griffin, Abstracts of Feet of Fines, Centre for Kentish Studies.

16 British Library (BL), Harleian Charter No.78, C 17.

cinquefoils, with the legend *SECRETUM JOHANNIS*. The charter is of a period c.1219-1220[17].



Fig 2. *Short cross penny minted by John Chiche (obverse and reverse)*

[Christopher Wren collection]

Minting of short cross pennies ceased in 1247. There is a gap in references to him until 1260. Perhaps he withdrew from the daily business activity of Canterbury to enjoy the fruits of his success. He did, however, witness two deeds in 1260, one in January of that year[18]. I am reasonably confident these relate to him and not another of that name. An *Inspeximus* (dated November 1268) of a charter of Hamo Doge, a wealthy Canterbury magnate, the son of Roger Doge, dated 10th October 1266, established a chantry to pray for the souls of his predecessors and of John Chich and Amice his wife. John had died by then, although we know Amice was alive. It is possible, given that as she and her husband are included, she was a member of the Doge family (Turner & Salter, 1915).

We know Amice died between 1271-2 and 1275. In 1271-2 her name appears in the Eyre Rolls[19]. In one action, the charter she produces in court to prove title to the land in dispute was dated 20th November 1260, when John her husband was still alive. She had died by 1275 as her son Thomas granted Robert, Archbishop of Canterbury, property in the parish of St Dunstan without Westgate, the '*heirs of Amice Chiche*' being mentioned in the abutments[20].

THOMAS (1) *fl.*1254, dead by 1294

The son of John Chiche, he had a son Thomas and a daughter Amabilia. She married Hugh Scot of Canterbury (Sayles, 1938). Thomas was not a moneyer, in fact no members of the family were after John Chiche. He would appear to have traded as a merchant, perhaps even acted as a money lender, reaching a status even greater than did his father. He was bailiff of the city on eleven occasions, namely 1254-55, 1255-56, 1259-60, 1260-61, 1261-62, 1263-64, 1264-65, 1268-69, 1269-70, 1271-72 and finally in 1280-81[21]. He inherited the aldermanry of Burgate ward and is named as coroner of the city in 1280-1281[22].

He sat as juror on numerous inquisitions as, for example, the one held by the sheriff of Kent in 1290 to enquire into properties held by Jews in Canterbury; Thomas and

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17 Centre for Kentish Studies, Canterbury Cathedral Archives, CCA-DCc/ChAnt/I/162.

18 BL, Additional Manuscript No.29437; and RBSA fo.82.

19 PRO, Eyre Rolls, Just 1, Roll 364, m5 & m84.

20 Lambeth Palace, MS 1212, fo.117, No.LXXVIII.

21 Urry & Bunce (1980) pp.24-31.

22 Centre for Kentish Studies, Canterbury Cathedral Archives, CCA-DCc/ChAnt/C/1160.

Stephen his brother were members of that jury[23]. His name appears in the Eyre Rolls as both plaintiff and defendant, and he witnessed many deeds. One of the last he may have witnessed was on 11th November 1293, although it is not clear whether it was indeed him or his son Thomas[24]. We know he had died by 1294, as his son Thomas is named as executor of his will[25].

HUGH CHICHE *fl.*1262, dead by 1271-1272

A son of John Chiche, he witnessed several charters, as for example, one with his brother Thomas[26]. He had a son John whose name is given in the Eyre Rolls in the period 1271-1272, both as a plaintiff and defendant. In the Eyre of Kent in 1313-1314 John brought a writ of entry against Christina, the daughter of Roger of Leicester, stating that his uncle Stephen Chiche had wrongfully leased property to Roger. Hugh was deemed to have been under age at the time and recovered his share of the property (Maitland et al., 1912). We know Hugh was alive in 1266, when he witnessed a charter with Stephen, the original deed establishing a chantry for Hamo Doge. We know he had died by 1271-1272, when Amice his mother is described as the guardian of his son John.

SIR STEPHEN CHICHE, knight *fl.*1265, dead by 1296

A son of John Chiche, his wife was named Agnes, who together with William Doge was executor of his will in 1296[27]. They had at least one son named Gilbert, shown as paying rent in Canterbury for property held of Christ Church in c.1285[28].

The manor of Goodnestone next Faversham was in the hands of the Chiche family for many generations, but it was Stephen who would appear to have first acquired it in 1279 of Richard le Dagh (Doge) and Eleanor his wife (Hasted, 1782). The heirs of Stephen are shown as holding three quarters of it of Nicholas de Turberville. The manor would appear subsequently to have descended to the heirs of his brother Thomas. He is described as hereditary alderman of Northgate ward; after his death we find others holding this office, so it is likely he had no surviving male issue, given that these aldermanries were hereditaments.

He was bailiff of Canterbury on at least two occasions. The first is in 1274-1275 (Urry & Bunce, 1980, p.30). They do not record the second, which is recorded in the Eyre Roll of 1293-1294[29]. Urry & Bunce list a pair of bailiffs for 1293-1294, so it has to be in the year 1294-1295 that Stephen was bailiff, for which year Urry & Bunce are lacking two names.

Stephen had been knighted by 20th November 1292 - 19th November 1293[30] and is recorded as a knight of the shire of Kent with Sir John Poldre in 1293[31] and in 23

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23 Centre for Kentish Studies, Canterbury Cathedral Archives, CCA-DCc-Register K.

24 Centre for Kentish Studies, Canterbury Cathedral Archives, CCA-DCc/ChAnt/C/753.

25 BL, Stowe Manuscript 924, Charter 470.1; and PRO, Eyre Rolls, Just 1, Roll 375, m42.

26 Bodleian Library, Manuscript B336, fo.107.

27 Sheriff's Account, PRO E199/19/4.

28 Lambeth Palace, MS No.1105.

29 PRO, Eyre Rolls, Just 1, Roll 376, m64.

30 Centre for Kentish Studies, Canterbury Cathedral Archives, CCA-DCc/ChAnt/C/1006.

Edward I (1294-1295) with Sir Walter de Ripple[32]. He patently had the onerous obligations of knighthood thrust upon him, as we find him acting as one of two collectors of the 11th and 7th for the county of Kent on 4th December 1295[33].

We know of one charter to which he was grantor. It is undated but of the late 13th century, in which he grants to the prior and convent of Canterbury Cathedral Priory a meadow in Hackington parish. It carries his seal, with the device of a boar facing the right, with a branch above. The legend reads *S' STEPHANI' FIL JOHN'IS CHICCHE*[34].

He was alive on 4th December 1295, but had died either in the last few days of that year or early in 1296. We know his wife was alive in 1301[35] and in 1305-1306[36], when her name appears in the Eyre Rolls.

JOHN CHICHE *fl.*1293 - 1318

I am not sure how this John fits into this pedigree. He may well be the son of Hugh Chiche mentioned before. In 1293-1294 he gave one mark to concord with Stephen Chiche[37]. He inherited a share of the Chiche properties in Goodnestone and Canterbury, and owned property in Chart, for in 12 Edward II (1318-1319) he called John de Somerfeld to account to him for the time that he had been his bailiff in Goodnestone, Canterbury and Chart in the period 1312 to 1316. The case was adjourned[38]. He may be the same man whose widow Joan was granted protection with *clause nolumus* for one year on 22nd May 1322[39].

LAURENCE CHICHE *fl.*1262 - 1272

Little is known of Lawrence, another son of John. He was both plaintiff and defendant with his brothers as is shown in the Eyre Rolls of 1271-1272. He is known to have been appointed chirographer of Canterbury in 1272 and may have been the same man who had a daughter Christine, living in the hundred of Lonybergh. The Eyre Roll of 1293-1294 shows the King taking a deodand to the value of 20d. of her chattels[40].

THOMAS CHICHE (2) *fl.*1265, died c.1330

The son of Thomas Chiche (1), he was named as the executor of his father's will in 1293-1294[41]. He had sons Thomas and John.

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31 *Inquisition Quod Damnum.*

32 *Arch. Cantiana.*

33 CPR, Edward I, HMSO, p.172.

34 Centre for Kentish Studies, Canterbury Cathedral Archives, CCA-DCc/ChAnt/H/106.

35 Plea Roll, Centre for Kentish Studies, KB100, No.3.

36 PRO, Eyre Rolls, Just 1, Roll 379.

37 PRO, Eyre Rolls, Just 1, Roll 375, m45.

38 PRO, Court of Common Pleas, CP40, Roll 230, m188.

39 CPR, Edward II, Vol.4, HMSO, p.122.

40 PRO, Eyre Rolls, Just 1, Roll 377.

41 PRO, Eyre Rolls, Just 1, Roll 375, m87.

Urry & Bunce (p.36) identify one of this name as bailiff of Canterbury in 1322; this could relate to him or his son Thomas. He was also alderman of Burgate ward[42] and coroner of the city. On 8th August 1328 a writ to elect a successor as coroner was issued, because he was insufficiently qualified to fulfil the position[43]. Returned to Parliament for Canterbury in 1311, the same of that name was returned in 1324 and his name entered on the pawn or roll of attendance of parliament. He was returned again in 1325[44]. Again, whether it was he or his son who was returned on the last two occasions is not clear, but I suspect it was the former.

He served on various commissions as, for example, on 24th January 1326, to make an '*inquisition in the city of Canterbury touching confederacies and conventicles in the city and woundings, killings and mutilations of limbs, and to arrest those indicted by such inquisition.*'[45] His name occurs in the city of Canterbury archives, for example in 1329, when he was assessed in an auxilium (aid)[46].

It is likely he died about this time. Feudal Aids in 1330 (PRO, 1899-) state that Thomas Chiche, together with Thomas de Faversham and Richard de Graveney hold one knight's fee in Goodnestone of the honour of Leicester, although this had not been apportioned. This suggests his son Thomas had succeeded to it.

SIR THOMAS CHICHE, knight (3) *fl.*1333 - c.1355-62

The third of this name, he had a wife Mary, named in a fine of 1339[47]. In a fine dated 1343 his wife's name is given as Wilmyne[48]. If the same man, he married at least twice. He had sons Thomas, Stephen and John, named in the fine dated 1343. The second of this family to have been knighted, he is first mentioned as a knight in 1333[49].

There are entries in the Lay Subsidy of 1334-1335 that relate to him. He is assessed at 1s. tax in the hundred of Ringslow, 10s. tax in the hundred of Faversham and 16s. in the hundred of Canterbury. In 1346 he is shown as holding three quarters of a knight's fee in Goodnestone, in the hundred of Faversham, to the value of 30s., which the heirs of Stephen Chiche held[50]. As patron of the church of Goodnestone, he wrote on 15th October 1333 to the prior and convent of Christ Church to present John Keyser as priest to the rectory there[51].

Additional Manuscript 38006 in the British Library contains the wardrobe accounts of Robert de Tong, treasurer of the household of Eleanor, sister of Edward III for the period 18th April - 26th June 1332. Added at the end of the bound volume is an assessment made by Lord William Clinton, Earl of Huntingdon, John de Cobham and Thomas de Aldon, of military service due upon the sea coast of Kent, dated *tercio*

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42 Centre for Kentish Studies, Canterbury Cathedral Archives, CCA-DCc/ChAnt/C/1047.

43 Kent Records (1933) Vol.17.

44 Parliamentary Writs and Writs of Military Summonses (1834), Sir Francis Palgrave, p.669.

45 CPR, Edward II, Vol.5. HMSO (1904) p.238.

46 Centre for Kentish Studies, B/C/A2.

47 Griffin, Abstracts of Feet of Fines, Centre for Kentish Studies, No.384.

48 Griffin, Abstracts of Feet of Fines, Centre for Kentish Studies, No.516.

49 RBSA, fo.200

50 PRO (1904) Vol.3, p 35.

51 Centre for Kentish Studies, Canterbury Cathedral Archives, CCA-DCc-SVSB/II/15/3.

undecim, presumably 13 Edward III (1337-1338). This date ties in with the names of those assessed (Jacob, 2006). For the ward between Sandwich and St Mary at Dale Thomas Chiche owes the service of one man at arms. He must have died some time after 1354; no precise date has been established.

JOHN CHICHE *fl.*1300, dead by 29th May 1363

He was a son of Thomas (2) and brother of Thomas (3).

A manuscript pedigree in the Centre for Kentish Studies in Maidstone[52], states that a John, the son of Thomas Chiche, had married Katherine, the daughter of William, the son of Sir Eudo de Shillingheld in 3 Edward III (1329-1330). Thomas Chiche is stated to have died before 7 Edward III (1333-1334). Unfortunately the source is not given. Hasted states that the manor of Evering acre, lying in the parish of Berthersden, was conveyed in 7 Edward III (1333-1334) by William son of Eudo de Shillingheld to John son of Thomas Chiche of Canterbury. Indeed, William entered into a bond with John in 1333 in the sum of £100. Perhaps this relates to a marriage settlement; it is dated Monday 8th February 1333[53].

There is, however, another reference of 16th February 1329 to a John Chiche who had married a Katherine, the third daughter and co-heir of John Abeel[54]. This is corroborated by a fine of 1331 between William de Monte Acuto and Katherine his wife plaintiffs and William Vagham and Johanna his wife, Walter Hering and Margaret his wife and John Chiche and Katherine his wife, defendants, to property in Lewisham and West Greenwich. These must be the three sisters and coheirs of John Abeel selling some or all of their inheritance[55]. Possibly this is the same man and he married twice. If not, there was more than one John in this period. I have found no reference to his being an alderman of Burgate; this position went to his brother Thomas, presumably his elder brother. He was however a bailiff of Canterbury on at least four occasions, in 1351-1352, 1352-1353 and in 1360-1361. In 1348-1349 he replaced Thomas Poldre, who almost certainly died of the Black Death in the period 11th May - 2nd June[56].

He is assessed in the Lay Subsidy of 1334-1335 at 3s. tax in the hundred of Downhamford, 13s. in the hundred of Westgate, 1s. in the hundred of Twyford and 10s. in the Bailiwick of Key in Milton. He had died by 29th May 1363, as the heirs of John Chiche are mentioned in two charters relating to the sale of land in St Mary Bredin's parish; the second is dated 4th June 1363[57].

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52 Volume of pedigrees, Centre for Kentish Studies, Maidstone, MS U350/54.

53 BL, Additional Charter 16359.

54 CFR (1913), Vol.4, p.120.

55 *Arch. Cant.*, Vol.20, p.172.

56 Urry & Bunce (1980) pp.40-41.

57 Centre for Kentish Studies, Canterbury Cathedral Archives, CCA-DCc/ChAnt C/1117A & C/1118B.

SIR STEPHEN CHICHE, knight *fl.*1354-1355

He was a son of Thomas (3). He is named in two fines[58] and was the sponsor of John de Hakington, applying to be freeman of the city of Canterbury in 1354-1355[59].

SIR THOMAS CHICHE, knight (4) dead by 19th September 1392

He married Joan, the widow of Simon de Bradstrete, and daughter and heir of John Pycard[60]. It may well be that this was his second marriage. She brought him property in Surrey, principally in the Guildford area.

He and his parceners were in possession of the manor of Goodnestone[61] and he alone was in possession of the manor of Balverle, described as being of that place on numerous occasions. He was part owner of other properties, possibly as an investment, or as security against loans, and possibly on occasion as feoffee to uses. He may well have owned other property outright as, for example, he was granted a license on 6th March 1377 for the alienation in mortmain to the prior and convent of the Carthusian house of St Mary by London of the manor of Eslyng *alias* Huntingfeld, and rent in Faversham, Hernhill and Boughton under Blean[62].

He sat on a number of commissions in the period 1378-1380[63], but was granted an exemption for life on 4th August 1380; nevertheless, he was placed again on a commission on 8th May 1384[64]. Either he had a change of heart or was coerced to take on this assignment; alternatively it could relate to his son Thomas, although the dates make this difficult to accept. In 1385 he was appointed a commissioner in view of '*imminent invasion by the French in Kent*'[65].

On 21st October 1391 he was appointed sheriff of the county of Kent and keeper of the castle of Canterbury[66]. He died during his shrievalty, as on 19th September 1392 Richard atte Lese was appointed sheriff. An order was made to the executors of the will of Thomas Chiche, to deliver the county to Richard by indenture[67].

THOMAS CHICHE (5) *fl.*1384, died c.1429

On 15th June 1395 he is described as Thomas Chiche, son and heir of Thomas Chiche of Balverle and of Joan his wife, late the wife of Simon de Bradstrete and daughter and heir of John Pycard[68].

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58 Griffin, Abstracts of Feet of Fines, Nos.1991 & 518.

59 Canterbury Freeman Rolls, Centre for Kentish Studies, CC-R/F/8.

60 CCR, Volume 5, Richard II, p.427.

61 IPM 7th May 1361 on Henry Duke of Lancaster (PRO, 1935).

62 Patent Roll.

63 CPR, Richard II (1377-1381), HMSO (1895), pp 166, 467 & 576.

64 CPR, p.538.

65 Patent Roll

66 CFR, Volume 11, 1929, p7

67 CFR, Volume 11, 1929, p.55.

68 Close Roll.

There exist three manuscript pedigrees, two in the British Library and another in the Centre for Kentish Studies in Maidstone, that give descents of the family of Chiche[69]. Harleian MS 6081 begins with this Thomas and continues through to the 16th century. Everything contained therein tallies with what I have found at source. The other two go back a further four generations and the information contained does not at all agree with the foregoing. Either much remains to be discovered or the pedigree is a little fanciful, embroidered to suit the tastes of the late 16th/early 17th centuries.

Thomas married Alice, one of the two daughters of Thomas Ellis of Sandwich. The other daughter Constancia married William Notebeam[70]. We know for certain that he had one son, John, although there may have been another, Thomas. A Thomas Chiche sat on various commissions, for example on 8th January 1385, on 26th April 1385 and again on 24th April 1386[71]. Again whether these relate to him or his father is uncertain. His name occurs frequently in the Canterbury corporation accounts; he was jurat of that city[72]. He witnessed a number of charters. On 3rd September 1397, for example, he and his wife granted to John atte Halle of Sandwich a tenement in the parish of St Mary in Sandwich, near Pillerigate. A seal attached to the charter is that of Chiche, bearing an armorial device and legend, neither of which are described[73].

Amongst the number of official appointments he held was that of sheriff of Kent. Appointed on 29th November 1402, he resigned on 5th October 1403, when Richard Cliderowe was appointed in his stead[74]. He was bailiff of Canterbury in 1404[75] and a member of parliament for the city in the same year, as on 20th March 1404 a writ *de expensis* was issued in his favour for the parliament summoned at Westminster on '*the morrow of St Hillary then last past*.' He and John Sextayn, citizens of Canterbury, were paid £14 4s. for 71 days attendance.

In 1412 he is shown as holding land in Ringslow, Witstable, Westgate, Downhamford, Eastry, Faversham and Tenham to the value in total of £77 10s. (PRO, 1904). On 18th April 1417 he was granted an exemption for life from being put on assizes, juries etc against his will[76].

It may well be that he had a son Thomas, who died without heirs male, for a rental of the manor of Balverle, Shyrte and Hallcourt states that Thomas Chiche was lord of that manor; yet a Thomas Chiche of the Dungeon is shown as paying rent for land. The rental is undated, but stated to be *tempus* Henry VI (1422-1471)[77]. This suggests he had a son of that name, although at a later date John is named as his son and heir. It is uncertain when Thomas died, but he was alive in 1432-1433.

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69 BL, Additional Manuscript 16279, Harleian Manuscript 6081; CKS manuscript U350/34.

70 PRO, Eyre Rolls, Just 1, Roll 1512, m41, 1-7 Henry VI.

71 CPR

72 Centre for Kentish Studies, Canterbury Cathedral Archives, CCA-F/A/1.

73 Harvard Law School Library, English Deeds, No 301
http://www.law.harvard.edu/library/collections/special/manuscripts/deeds/deeds5.php

74 CFR, Vol.12, pp.181 & 231 (PRO, 1911-).

75 Urry & Bunce (1980) p.49.

76 CPR, Vol.2, Henry V, p.104 (PRO, 1911-).

77 BL, Harley Roll, T15.

JOHN CHICHE *fl.*1421 - 1447

He was the son of Thomas and Alice Chiche and married Alice the daughter of Ralph Bellers of Gloucestershire; they had children Valentine, Ralph and John. He is named in three charters in the period 1432-1441[78]. I have found no references to him after 1441.

VALENTINE CHICHE dead by 22nd July 1461

An entry in the Patent Roll of 22nd July 1461 is a grant to Phillipa, his widow, of the custody of all his lordships, manors, lands and other possessions during the minority of Margaret, his daughter and heir, and of the like during the minority of the next heir, should she die a minor, as if the child with which she herself is pregnant should be male, and so from heir to heir. In the event, she had another daughter, Emelyn, both named as his heirs in Chancery Proceedings[79].

Margaret married Sir Andrew Judd, knight, the son of John Judd in 1475. Emelyn married Sir Thomas Kempe, knight, of Ollantigh in Kent.

We know Valentine died between 28th January 1460, when an entry in the Patent Roll informs us he was appointed a commissioner of array to resist the rebels, adherents of Richard Earl of Warwick, who '*of late entered the port of Sandwich*,' and the 22nd July 1461.

RALPH CHICHE *fl.*1485, dead by 27th February 1504-1505

Ralph married twice. His first wife Joan was a daughter of John Bull. They had children Katherine, Margaret and Elizabeth[80]. His second wife was Katherine, he being her third husband. Katherine had previously been married to John A Bere and Thomas de St Nicholas. Ralph's will describes him as being of Milton[81]. It is dated 8th September 1500 and was proved by his widow Katherine on 27th February 1504-1505. He bequeathed property at Iwade, Tenham and Milton, as also in Ivychurch and Brookland, and the manor of Thornton *alias* Bartlotts in the Isle of Thanet.

On 31st December 1485 he conveyed his third share of the manor of Balverle Shyrte and Hall Court and other lands and tenements in and without Canterbury to John Fineux. John Chiche is named in the text as the father of Valentine, John and Ralph, who had held the manor in *gavelkind*. Both his brothers Valentine and John had died by then.

JOHN CHICHE will dated 1480-1481

His wife was named Eleanor. They had children Ralph (*dsp*), Margaret and Joan, all mentioned in his will which is dated 1480-1481[82] and which describes him as of the parish of Monkton in the Isle of Thanet. The three principal manors inherited from his

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78 Archives of Dean of Rochester Cathedral, DRC 460.06 & RBSA 127d and 128d.

79 PRO, C/2/488.

80 PRO, Lay Subsidy, E179/230/2.

81 PRO, C4/ 34/128.

82 Centre for Kentish Studies, C/2/488; PRO, C1/308/62.

father, namely, Goodnestone, Balverle and Thornton *alias* Bartlotts in Thanet, would appear to have been held jointly.

He was assessed at 6s. 4d. tax in the Lay Subsidy, 8 Edward IV, in the hundred of Ringslow, which will relate to the manor of Thornton[83]. His mother, described as the widow of John Chiche, was alive at this date and is also assessed.

KATHERINE CHICHE *fl.*1488 - 1525

Katherine Chiche appears at this stage to have been the last in this line of the Chiche family. In the Lay Subsidy of 1524-25 she was assessed on £100 worth of goods and taxed 100s. thereon. In the period 1501-1529 she was involved in a number of court cases relating to the various properties her husband had owned[84].

Other references to the name occur in this period. In 1524-25, for example, a John Chiche was assessed in Westgate ward on a wage of 20s., paying 3d. tax[85]. There must have been other branches of the family from whom he was descended.

ARMS OF CHICHE

The earliest reference to the arms of Chiche are in the Parliamentary Roll (c.1310). The first occurrence of a seal is on the charter of John Chiche of the early 13th century. It carries a shield charged with three cinquefoils with the legend *SECRETVM JOHANNIS*. The arms of Henry Chicheley, Archbishop of Canterbury (1415-1450) were a chevron between three cinquefoils[86]. Does this give credence to a hypothesis that Chiche is a *crasis* of Chicheley? The name Chicheley is not uncommon; there were many of that name in Kent in the 13th century.

A charter of Sir Stephen Chiche of the late 13th century carries a seal in the shape of a shield, bearing the device of a boar facing right, with a branch above. The legend reads *S' STEPHANI' FIL JOHN'IS CHICCHE.*

Thomas Chiche of the Isle of Thanet bore a shield of arms, 3 lions rampant, 2 and 1 within bordure, suspended by a strap from a forked tree, and within a gothic panel ornamented with Ballflowers along inner edge. The legend reads *SIGILL THOMAS CHICHE OF BO------- (BALVERLE)*[87]. In 1485 Ralph Chiche's oval seal bore a lion rampant in allusion to the arms of Chiche[88].

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83 PRO, Lay Subsidy Roll, E179 230/2; His will, Centre for Kentish Studies, A/7/133.

84 PRO, Lay Subsidy Roll, E179 124/188; PRO, Court of Common Pleas, CP40, 993, m8d; PRO, C1/377/58, C1/1514/29.

85 Centre for Kentish Studies, ChAnt/seal22; PRO, Lay Subsidy Roll, E179 124/188.

86 Centre for Kentish Studies, ChAnt/seal22.

87 BL, Additional Charter 16489.

88 Harl. Ch. 78 C 17.

Abbreviations used

See also the FMG standard list of abbreviations on p.88

BL	British Library
PRO	Public Record Office (UK) [now National Archives]
RBSA	Red Book of St Augustine's, British Library, Cotton MS Claudius DX

Acknowledgement

I am grateful to Christopher Wren for permission to reproduce the images of coins from his collection.

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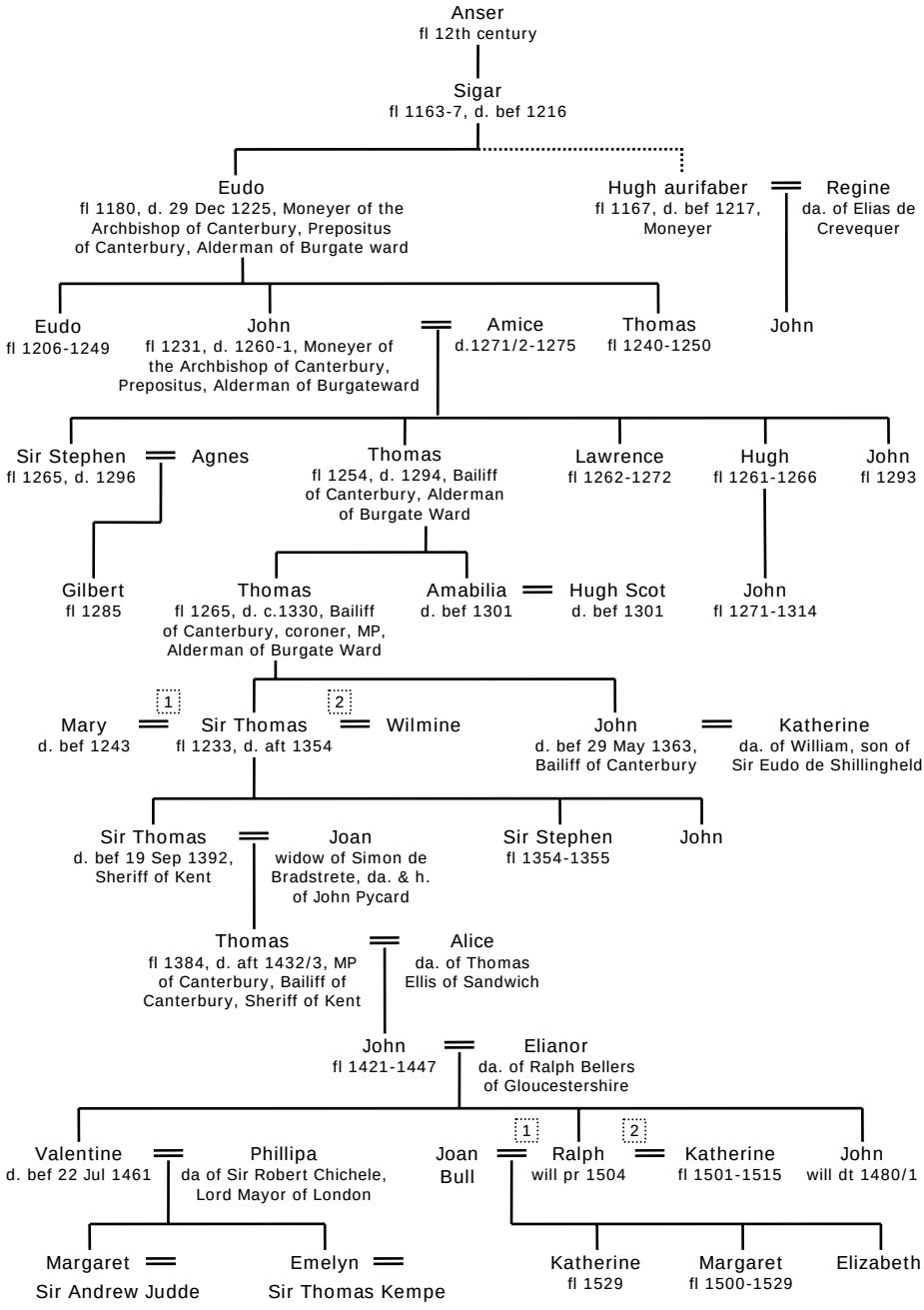


Fig 3. ***Pedigree of the Chiche Family***