AMONG THE ROYAL SERVANTS: WELBY, BROWNE, QUARLES AND RELATED FAMILIES

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ABSTRACT

This study is a small sample of the many families who regularly served the ruling family; the families covered are ancestral to Olive (Welby) Farwell, an immigrant to colonial Massachusetts, and this study grew out of an examination of unsolved problems in her ancestry. We were struck by the number of families that were extremely wealthy and directly or indirectly associated with the royal court. These families often avoided political pitfalls when reigns changed with deft denials of political interest and sometimes with financial aid to a new ruler. They often had considerable influence on policy but it was seldom overt, and the strong emotions associated with religious views occasionally interfered with family solidarity. A professional social historian of the period could do a great deal with these materials that we cannot, extending them much more broadly than we have, but we think our approach is both genealogically and historically useful. This emphasis on social history as the context of major patterns of relationships derives primarily from Sir Anthony Wagner. Our presentation is aimed at a non-professional audience, but we hope to stimulate further research, and we intend also to correct some misinformation which is found even in generally reputable secondary accounts. Our study uses many different approaches and methodologies, and in some cases we have uncovered information which wouldn't have been found if the research had been more narrowly focused.

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Methodological factors

When one deals with a group of related families, one sees patterns and possibilities one would miss in checking on a single line. One also runs into many more problems, with a wide variety of possible techniques to use in solving them. In Table I we list some of these, with particular problems in which they were helpful. Our summary of methodological factors is intended to help individuals who are not medieval specialists to appraise the data and arguments. Nothing in it is at all unfamiliar to specialists. The emphasis of the paper on social cohesion and social history does have some impact on both the use and the interpretation of the data.

1. **Chronology** is always a major factor and has to be treated in every examination of suggested pedigrees. Chronology may be dealing with matters as short as a few months or less (e.g., where it becomes crucial to know when a certain person became the heir of another) or it may be a matter of trying to determine whether two people are even in approximately the same generation. We have found crucial chronological problems in connection with many of the specific families we are examining.

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Table I: ***Usefulness of various kinds of evidence in solving particular problems considered in this paper.***

Type of evidence	**Families or problems for which this type of evidence was used**
1. Chronology	(All)
2. Occupations and social position	(All)
3. Origins of family names	Welby.
4. Hereditary offices	(Browne.)
5. Wills and IPMs	Browne; Sharpe.
6. Witness lists and supervisors	Browne.
7. Property inheritance	Bray, Thimbleby, Swynford.
8. Visitations	Welby; Browne, Brandling; FitzSimond.
9. Coats of arms	Browne, Brandling; Sharpe, Stanton, FitzSimond, and Bagot; Thimbleby, Swynford.
10. Advowsons	Thimbleby.
11. Geographical clustering of properties	Browne.
12. Geographic grouping of families – neighbours	Brownes in Northamptonshire; Brownes in Northumberland.
13. Onomastics	Metcalfe, Stapleton; Olive.
14. Plausible statements in dubious sources	Browne-Metcalfe; Browne-Brandling.

2. **Occupation and social position** can be useful evidence. The interrelated families of royal servants we are considering seem to have included a substantial number of royal auditors, often of great importance in a particular area, but seldom operating nationally. Most families included some clerics, up to and including bishops. These include Bishop William Overton and his two brothers as well as Dean Shorten (with a Wark mother). Among three brothers in the Sharpe family, Thomas Sharpe obtained the disposition of a prebend at St. George's Chapel, Windsor, 1453, William Sharpe became canon of St. George's Chapel, Windsor, 1454, and Stephen Sharpe was rector of West Hanningfield, 1461-1469. The Welbys included three vicars and a chaplain.

Many of the individuals with whom we are concerned were sheriffs. All sheriffs were officially representatives of the crown, and all sheriffs had opportunities to acquire a considerable amount of money through their official duties. The sheriffs had an important function acting as tax collectors, and many sheriffs went on to become mayors, although this was not an official royal position. Many also had an inheritance of office, entirely unofficial, but often very effective in the local area.

Problems of contacts between intermarrying families are certainly lessened if they see each other at court with moderate frequency.

3. The **origins of family names** are sometimes genealogically significant. Wagner discusses types of family names in *English Genealogy*[2] and *English Ancestry*[3]. The present study includes the Welby family of Moulton, one of several Lincolnshire families likely descended from the early Welbys of Welby.

4. In this survey few legally **hereditary offices** were involved, but in other studies they are often of crucial importance. When property is associated with a title of office, both are inherited in the same way.

5. Where available, **wills and inquisitions post mortem (IPMs)** are of primary importance in determining the relationships between individuals and particularly the inheritance of properties; these documents may allow us to flesh out families over a considerable number of generations. Note that official descriptions of these documents in archives are not always correct in their specification of relationships or date ranges.

6. The lists of **witnesses and supervisors** which accompany such wills often consist of relatives or close associates, whose relationships themselves throw light upon the relationships of the testator. On the other hand, they can also be distracting sidelines, taking attention away from more promising material.

7. Disputes about **property inheritance** were among the most frequent causes of legal action, often with a great deal of genealogical information. Women were themselves property. In the earlier medieval period, potential heiresses were betrothed as young as three years of age and a betrothal was as legally binding as a marriage. Later, marriages of women became valid when they were 12 years old. If a woman became a widow, she could determine what happened to her property (unless she remarried) and was often an executrix of her husband's will. A woman's will, if it met legal requirements, was legally as binding as a man's.

In the case of dowry, a woman was often given rights to the income from a property during her lifetime, a right which passed to her husband in many cases if he survived her. However, the family who provided the dowry (often the parents of the bride) retained reversionary rights, which meant that the property passed back to them rather than to the children of the couple.

An entail is a specification of the conditions of inheritance. Most commonly, entailed property passed to the oldest surviving male-line descendant of a first wife. A distant relative who met these conditions took precedence over a son by a second or third wife. A daughter could not inherit her father's property if he had any surviving sons, unless it was bequeathed explicitly to her. In some areas, entailed property passed to the last-born son, a pattern called inheritance by ultimogeniture.

8. From the 1530s onwards, crown officers called Kings of Arms (or their deputies) were sent throughout the British kingdom, recording the individuals who had the privilege of using coats of arms and their pedigrees. These efforts were known as **visitations**. Any lengthy pedigree was supposed to be based on documents acceptable to the particular King of Arms, but there were no clear standards of what constituted an acceptable document. In general, modern scholars are usually willing to accept the parents and grandparents given for the person recording the pedigree. Beyond that, pedigrees are not usually acceptable without supporting evidence. The coats of arms, themselves, were often considered acceptable proof of relationships, particularly if recorded in monuments.

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2 Anthony Wagner, *English Genealogy* (2d ed., 1972), *passim*.

3 Anthony Wagner, *English Ancestry* (1961), 79-83.

9. Matching or similar **coats of arms** can be significant evidence, and quarterings of arms can be useful in evaluating pedigrees. We will see some quarterings which appear to follow very precisely the rules for quartering and some which do not. These rules (e.g., as given by Fox-Davies[4]) can be expressed using some terminology from mathematics and computer science: the arms in a quartering should appear in the order in which the corresponding armorial families are first encountered during an in-order traversal of the binary ancestral tree (though if a female ancestor is not an heiress, her arms are excluded, and no arms can be brought in through her).

One might think that these various quarterings were carefully prepared based on the pedigrees, but it is also possible that a quartering was what was transmitted from earlier generations, and the pedigree was in part a reconstruction based on the quartering.

10. Many manorial families had the right to appoint vicars to local churches. These were often relatives or members of families with which closer relationships were desired. **Advowson**, the term for this right, is familiar to anyone working directly with medieval records but is often unfamiliar to descendants.

11. **Geographical clustering of properties** can be significant. Figure 1 shows that the manor of Apethorpe, held by relatives of Alice Keble, wife of Sir William Browne (Lord Mayor of London), was near Walcot (in the parish of Barnack) and other properties held by relatives of the Brownes of Walcot. Apethorpe was bought by Henry Keble and others in 1515, shortly after the death of Sir William Browne, and was sold to the king in 1543.[5]

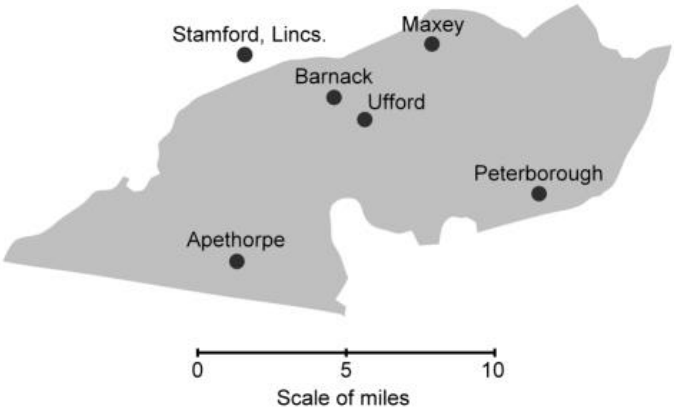


Fig 1. ***Some locations in extreme northeast Northamptonshire.***
A nearby city (Peterborough) and a large town (Stamford) are shown for reference.
Brownes were at Walcot in Barnack.
Relatives of Sir William Browne's wife (Alice Keble) were at Apethorpe.
Quarles were at Ufford and Maxey.
Edwards were at Ufford.
Sharpes were at Wormegay in Ufford.

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4 A C Fox-Davies, *A Complete Guide to Heraldry* (1909, repr. 1978, 1993), 548-9.

5 *VCH Northamptonshire* 2 (1906), 543.

12. **Geographic grouping of families** at areas well away from London can also be crucial in assessing probabilities of alleged relationships, as in the case of the Brownes, both at Walcot and at Wark. Specification of an area can also be helpful as in the mention of Mary Metcalfe of Napa.

13. **Onomastics** are of value in direct proportion to the rarity of the name, such as Olive, or to a combination of names of moderate rarity, such as Miles and Brian. Even common names may sometimes be helpful in suggesting relationships but have little evidential value. Fig 2 shows some of the inheritance of the relatively rare name Olive.

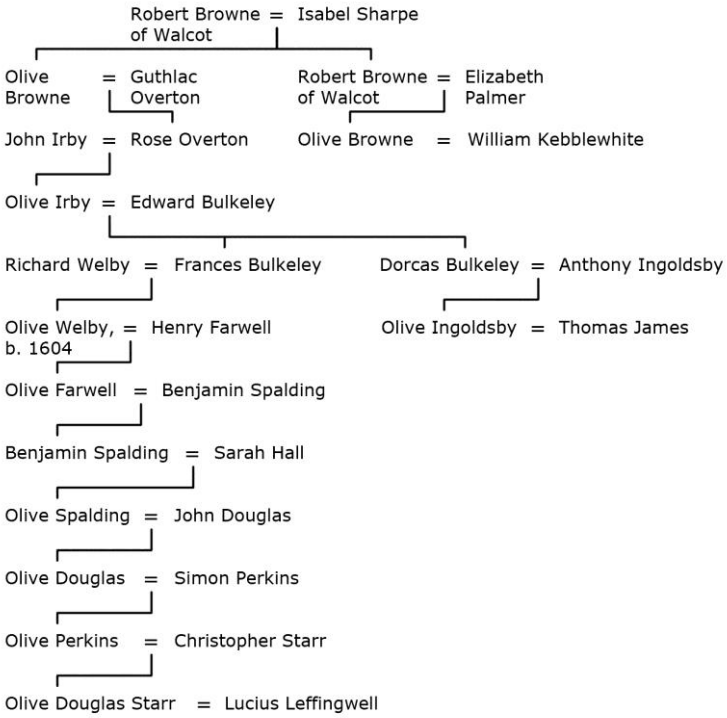


Fig 2. ***Inheritance of the given name Olive.***[6]

14. The degree of **plausibility of a statement in a dubious source** may be a matter of dispute. The more that external factors support the claim, the stronger it becomes.

A potentially useful factor which has not played a role in these studies is the biological inheritance of DNA, particularly Y-chromosome DNA inherited in the direct male line and mitochondrial DNA inherited in the direct female line. Unfortunately the procedures are still expensive, access to the necessary skeletal material is often

[6] Based on D L Jacobus's *Bulkeley Genealogy*, S J Spalding's *The Spalding Memorial*, and RootsWeb's WorldConnect database for the last three generations.

difficult or impossible to obtain and interpretation of the analyses is highly specialised and far from straightforward.

A point which needs to be emphasized in trying to understand the implications of bequests is that money always loses value over any substantial period of time. When Shakespeare was writing, 10 pounds would hire a property manager for a year, yet the pound was worth a great deal less than at the beginning of Elizabeth's reign.

Moreover, spices of all sorts were extremely valuable. Half a pound weight of pepper in the early 17th century would have cost several pounds. Gold was substantially cheaper and gold rings were a common mark of esteem for poor relatives.

Welby

The Welbys were, for four generations, typical examples of royal servants. Three of them were high sheriffs of Lincolnshire and thus official servants of the king. One was "apparently" a member of the royal household. Five were justices of the peace. Three successive generations were members of parliament for Lincolnshire, and four were vicars and chaplains.[7] See Fig 3.

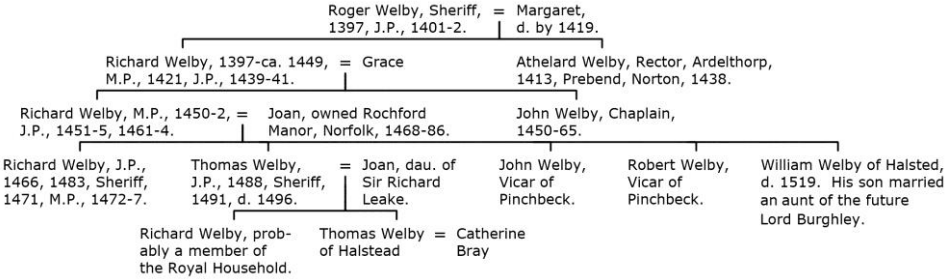


Fig 3. ***Welby (following Maddison's Lincolnshire Pedigrees).***
Note: 3 sheriffs, 3 MPs, 5 JPs, 4 vicars.

Bray

Standard sources such as Maddison's *Lincolnshire Pedigrees*[8] report that Katherine Bray, wife of Thomas Welby, was daughter of John (or Thomas) Bray of Middlesex. However, records from 1508 and 1509 tell us that while Katherine was indeed from Middlesex, her father was neither John nor Thomas but instead was Nicholas Bray.[9] An article on the Bray family is in preparation and will discuss Katherine's ancestry in some detail.

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7 A R Maddison. *Lincolnshire Pedigrees 3*, Harleian Society Pub. 52 (1904), 1055-6.

8 A R Maddison. *Lincolnshire Pedigrees 3*, Harleian Society Pub. 52 (1904), 1056.

9 Guildhall MS 10312/85, rot. 2d, ff.

Thimbleby

The Thimbleby family of Lincolnshire is ancestral to Olive Welby through both the Irbys and the Welbys. We have benefited greatly from ideas and documents, including translations of Latin originals, shared with us by Richard Gravestock and his collaborator James Green. They are preparing a Thimbleby study, covering the family in detail and including Swynford relationships.

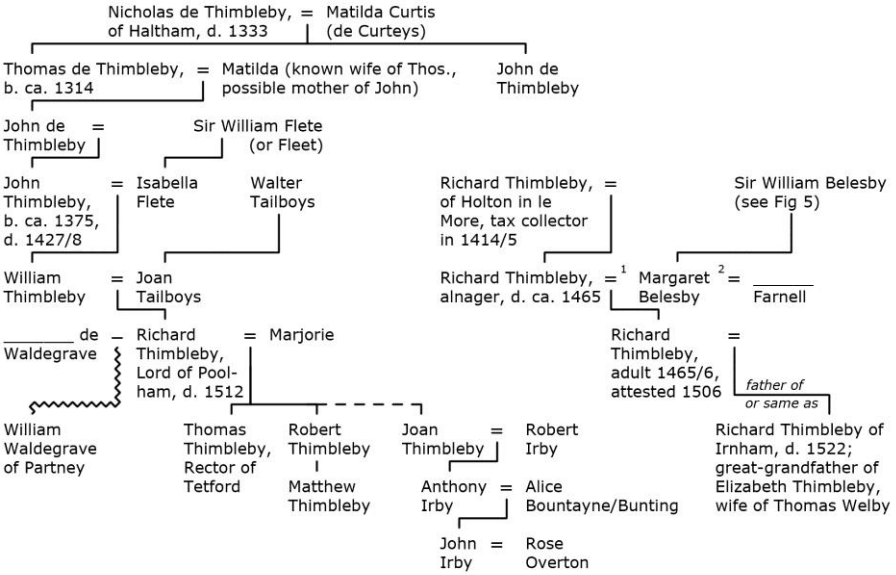


Fig 4. ***Thimbleby*.**

Fig 4 shows the relationships of various members of the Thimbleby family. Nicholas Thimbleby, a successful wool merchant, married Matilda Curteys and became the ancestor of the Poolham and Irnham Thimbleby families. He held a messuage and parcel of land in Haltham (sometimes Holtham or Hotham), part of the manor of Scrivelsby, in right of Matilda.[10] In 1389 a share of Haltham was held by John Thimbleby, parson of Nettleton, probable grandson of Nicholas and Matilda; he also had lands and tenements in Holton in le More (sometimes Houton or Howton) worth 40s yearly.[11] Later Holton in le More was held by Richard Thimbleby, the tax collector of 1414/5. He may safely be regarded as a descendant of Nicholas and Matilda, perhaps through their attested younger son John. His son, Richard, who was an

[10] 1333 IPM of Nicholas de Thymelby, in W. O. Massingberd, "The Manors of Somersby and Tetford", in *Associated Architectural Societies' Reports and Papers*, 23 (pt. 2, 1896), 256.

[11] Translation of an inquisition regarding the gift of land by John de Thymolby and others to the Priory of Syxill, 1389, supplied by Gravestock.

alnager[12] in 1444 and died about 1465, also held Holton in le More;[13] Richard's widow, the former Margaret Belesby, later married a Farnell and died before 1474. Richard and Margaret Thimbleby's son Richard, the third Richard in this lineage, inherited Holton in le More, according to the 1474 IPM of Elizabeth (Belesby) Stanley.[14] He was an adult in 1465/6[15] and was attested sometime after 1482[16] and in 1506.[17] He is the father of or is identical to the Richard Thimbleby who married the heiress Elizabeth Hilton and died in 1522, holding Irnham, Belesby, Holton in le More, Horsington, etc.[18]

Both branches of the Thimbleby family intermarried with the noble Tailboys family. The Poolham branch had the advowson of five churches and the Irnham branch had the presentation to one.

The visitation pedigree of the Irbys[19] shows that Robert Irby married Joan Thimbleby of Poolham and that she was a daughter of Robert or Thomas Thimbleby of Poolham. These two men are both sons of Richard Thymelby and his wife Margerie. It is reasonable to think that the Irbys had a document which seemed to suggest such a relationship, though not too clearly. However, closer examination of the chronology shows that Joan was the same generation as these two men and, therefore, probably their sister, a daughter of Richard Thymelby. There was a legal dispute between Richard Thymelby's bastard son, William Waldegrave of Partney, and Richard's grandson Matthew.[20] (Bastards, by law, took their mother's name. If acknowledged, they might, sometimes, be allowed their father's name, such as William Waldegrave, alias Thimbleby.) It is by no means impossible that Richard Thymelby married his earlier mistress, but we have seen no direct evidence of this. Neither do we have evidence associating her with the Waldegraves of Smallbridge.

Richard Thymelby was an exceedingly wealthy man, with a gross income equivalent to about £50,000 a year in modern terms.[21]

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12 An alnager's job was to measure and weigh lengths of finished woolen cloth and then affix a seal for customs purposes.

13 Translation of a charter of Richard Thymolby of Howton in le Moer, 1465, Duchy of Lancaster document, supplied by Gravestock.

14 Translation from the Latin commissioned by Green and supplied to us by Gravestock. A lengthy abstract of this IPM is given on pp. 202-4 of Thomas Stapleton's "Historical Details of the Ancient Religious Community of Secular Canons in York Prior to the Conquest of England, Having the Name of the Church of the Holy Trinity..." (briefly, "Holy Trinity Priory, York"), appearing in the Royal Archaeological Institute's *Memoirs Illustrative of the History and Antiquities of the County and City of York* (1848).

15 *CIPM* Henry VII (1506), no. 29, inquisition for Thomas Belwode.

16 Transcript of the answer of Richard Thymylby about a relief claimed, undated, after 1482, Duchy of Lancaster document, supplied by Gravestock.

17 *CIPM* Henry VII (1506), no. 29, inquisition for Thomas Belwode.

18 Translation of Richard Thimelby's 1522 IPM at the National Archives, E 150/556/32, supplied by Gravestock.

19 A R Maddison. *Lincolnshire Pedigrees 2*, Harleian Society Pub. 51 (1903), 541-3.

20 William Walgrave's petition to the Court of Chancery, undated, C 1/1086/2; the answere of Mathew Thymbelby esquier to the bill of complaynt of Willyam Walgrave, 36 Hen. VIII [1544/5], C 4/82/130. (Transcripts of both were supplied by Green and Gravestock.)

21 Tabulated from documents supplied by Gravestock.

Swynford

Our knowledge of Olive Welby's descent from the Swynford (de Swynford) family, as shown in Fig 5, is based largely on the very extensive work of Richard Gravestock, who has shared with us more than 30 important primary sources, ranging from 1256 to 1386. These we supplemented by four documents quoted by Judy Perry. Judy Perry is working on an update to her earlier two-part *Foundations* article on the Swynfords.[22] Based on some of Gravestock's documents she has accepted his modification of the Swynford pedigree by the insertion of a generation in Norman Swynford's ancestry.

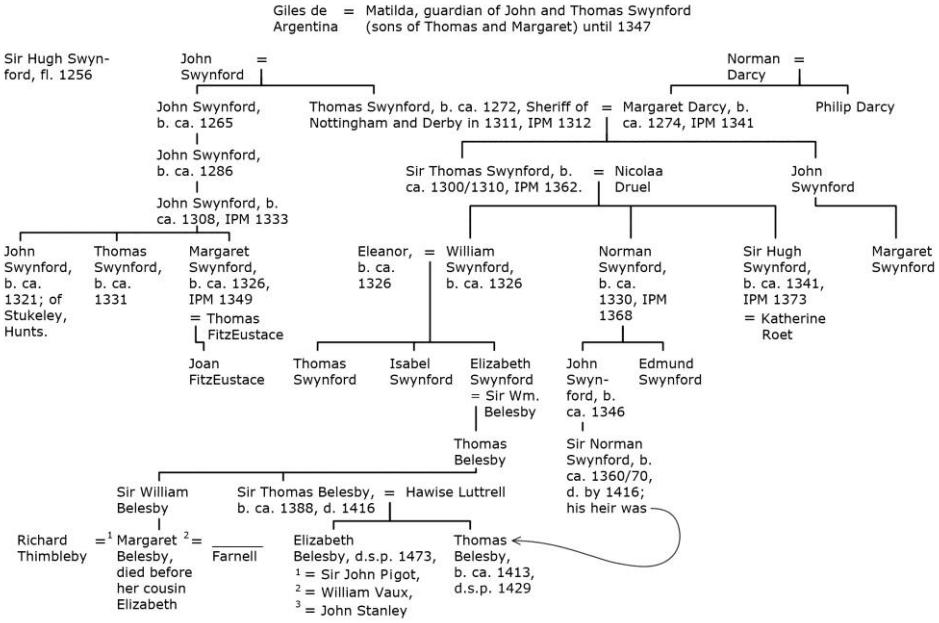


Fig 5. ***Swynford.***

The lineage goes back through Thimblebys and Belesbys to Sir Thomas Swynford, father of William Swynford and his younger brothers Norman Swynford and Sir Hugh Swynford; Sir Hugh married Katherine Roet, who later became mistress and then wife of John of Gaunt.

The wife of Sir Thomas Swynford and mother of William, Norman and Hugh Swynford was Nicola or Nicolaa. While some sources say she is an Arderne, evidence has accumulated that she belongs to the Druel family of Newton Blossomville, Bucks.[23,24]

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[22] Judy Perry, "Katherine Roet's Swynfords: a Re-examination of Interfamily Relationships and Descent," *Foundations* 1 (2003), 122-131; and 1 (2004), 164-174.

[23] Judy Perry, *op. cit.* (2003), 124-5.

[24] George Lipscomb, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Buckingham* 4 (1847), 257.

One of the reviewers of this article called our attention to a translation error in the published abstract of the 1349 inquisition post mortem of Margaret Swynford, daughter of John Swynford and wife of Thomas FitzEustace. The abstract says *"Isabel and Elizabeth, daughters of William de Swyneford and Eleanor his wife, kinswoman of the said Margaret, were heirs of the said Margaret; the said Eleanor then being pregnant, afterwards bore a son named Thomas."*[25] However, the Latin word for "kinswoman" (genitive singular) is the same as that for "kinswomen" (nominative plural); hence "kinswomen" is an equally good translation (referring back to the daughters Isabel and Elizabeth), and it better accommodates both Eleanor's not being the heir (her children were the heirs) and her daughter Elizabeth's later claim to be heir of John Swynford through her father, William Swynford, a relative of John.[26] This interpretation gives no information about the family from which Eleanor came.

Browne of Walcot

Among the ancestors of Olive Welby are Robert Browne of Walcot, Northamptonshire, and his wife, Isabel Sharpe. Browne was a royal auditor, implying direct access to the royal family; he died in 1506.[27]

Some information about Robert Browne's children is available. In the early 1500s his brother-in-law Sir John Sharpe was owner (lord) of the manor of Brockdish Hall in Burston, Norfolk. Blomefield's *Norfolk* gives an account of this manor,[28] reporting that in 1514 Sir John obtained a license to alienate it to Will. Tyler, after which it came to Robert Browne, from whom it came to the Pettuses. Conflicting information comes from the notes of Hattie Wyatt,[29] who says that Sir John Sharpe obtained a license to alienate Brockdish in May 1514 to John Turnour (second husband of Isabel Sharpe), George Quarles (the auditor, married to Margaret, daughter of Robert Browne and Isabel Sharpe), and also Robert Browne, Sr., of Walcot, Robert Browne, Jr., John Browne and Edward Browne (the four sons of Robert and Isabel). Neither Blomefield (writing in the 18th century) nor Wyatt gives the source of their information.

Early accounts of the family make Robert Browne a son of Sir John Browne, Lord Mayor of London in 1480-1, related to other mayors of London.[30,31] Fig 6 gives the relationships of various Brownes. In the chapel of the Brownes of Walcot in the southeast portion of the Barnack Church is a recessed canopied tomb dated to *c.*1500 by the editors of VCH Northants. On it are the arms of Browne impaling those of

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25 *CIPM* 9, 23 Edward III, no. 134.

26 See *CFR* 10, 9 Richard II, membranes 25 and 4.

27 *VCH Northamptonshire* 2 (1906), 467.

28 Francis Blomefield, *An Essay towards a Topographical History of the County of Norfolk* 1 (1805), 127-8.

29 Hattie Wyatt (notes transcribed by Hillra Qualls), http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/Qualls-Quarles/1998-06/0897277195 (which mis-states some relationships).

30 John Philipot, *The Visitation of Kent Taken in the Years 1619-1621*, ed. Robert Hovenden (1898), 218 (under Additional Pedigrees, from Stowe 618, fo. 233). This parentage was accepted and reiterated by the editors of *VCH Northamptonshire* 2 (1906), 467 (under Barnack), 543 (under Apethorpe); note that in both of these cases the position of Robert in the Browne family is mentioned to give context to the discussion but is not explicitly contained in the source document under consideration.

31 Walter C. Metcalfe, ed., *The Visitations of Northamptonshire Made in 1564 and 1618-19, with Northamptonshire Pedigrees from Various Harleian MSS* (1887), 167-8.

Bernard.[32] Robert Browne's grandson, Sir Robert, married Margaret, daughter and co-heiress of Philip Bernard or Barnard, and they were the parents of the first baronet. The editor has informed us that a colleague recently visited the Browne chapel at Barnack and concluded that this tomb most likely belonged to Robert Browne of Walcot (d.1506), commenting, "*The Browne quarterings added onto the tomb are of a much later style and date and were probably placed there by Robert Browne, first baronet, who died in 1623.*"[33]

We don't know of contemporary evidence that Robert Browne of Walcot was the son of Sir John Brown, lord mayor in 1480-1. Sir John does not mention a son Robert in his will. The absence of Robert Browne of Walcot from this will when so many more distant relatives are mentioned surely indicates something which we do not understand. However, it is not unusual to have disagreements between a strong-willed man and his step-mother. A son who had 'had his share,' who spent most of his time outside of London, who had direct access to the king and probably spent most of his London time at court might easily be omitted from his father's will.

The colleague who visited the Browne tomb at Barnack suggested that the arms on the tomb "*were probably devised by the Herald of Arms on [the baronet's] behalf to aggrandise the importance of the family.*"[33] Allen suggested[34] that this use of the arms of the mayoral Brownes of London was due to corrupt or careless heralds. However, would there not be descendants of the various mayoral Brownes who would notice a forged connection or inappropriate assumption of arms? We wonder also why the Walcot Brownes should want to be associated with a relatively obscure family of mayors of London. Robert and Isabel's son, John Browne, married Mary, daughter of Sir Humphrey Stafford,[35] a connection certainly as notable as a connection with the London mayors.

With respect to the parentage of the royal auditor, Robert Browne, there is some disagreement among the authors. Kelley thinks that the coat of arms used by his grandson is adequate evidence that he belonged to the family of the Brownes of Wark and that the claimed Metcalfe ancestry with its plausible connections supports the pedigree given in the Visitation of Kent. This visitation was collected by Camden as Clarenceux King of Arms. Philipot was Rouge Dragon and his assistant. Neither was either corrupt or careless, and Kelley sees no reason to think that the pedigree is not their work merely because it is not found in other manuscripts. The absence of Robert Browne from his father's will could be partly due to difficulties in the relationship between Robert and his stepmother, as mentioned earlier.

Stone thinks that Robert Browne could well be the son of Sir John Browne, lord mayor of London in 1480-1, but that we cannot presently claim this with a very high degree of confidence. Both the Northamptonshire and the Kent pedigrees display adult great-grandchildren of Robert Browne, so his parentage is sufficiently distant that it might be garbled. Note that his wife's parentage is misstated in both pedigrees: Isabel was the sister, not the daughter, of Sir John Sharpe. The assertion in these pedigrees that Robert Browne is the son of Sir John Browne could be an honest attempt to reconstruct an early portion of the pedigree, based on a tradition of a

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32 *VCH Northamptonshire* 2 (1906), 469.

33 Foundations editorial panel, personal communication, 2010.

34 Kay Allen, 6/29/1999 posting to soc.genealogy.medieval (http://groups.google.com/group/soc.genealogy.medieval/browse_thread/thread/a09016db48c336fa).

35 John Philipot, *The Visitation of Kent Taken in the Years 1619-1621*, ed. Robert Hovenden (1898), 219 (under Additional Pedigrees).

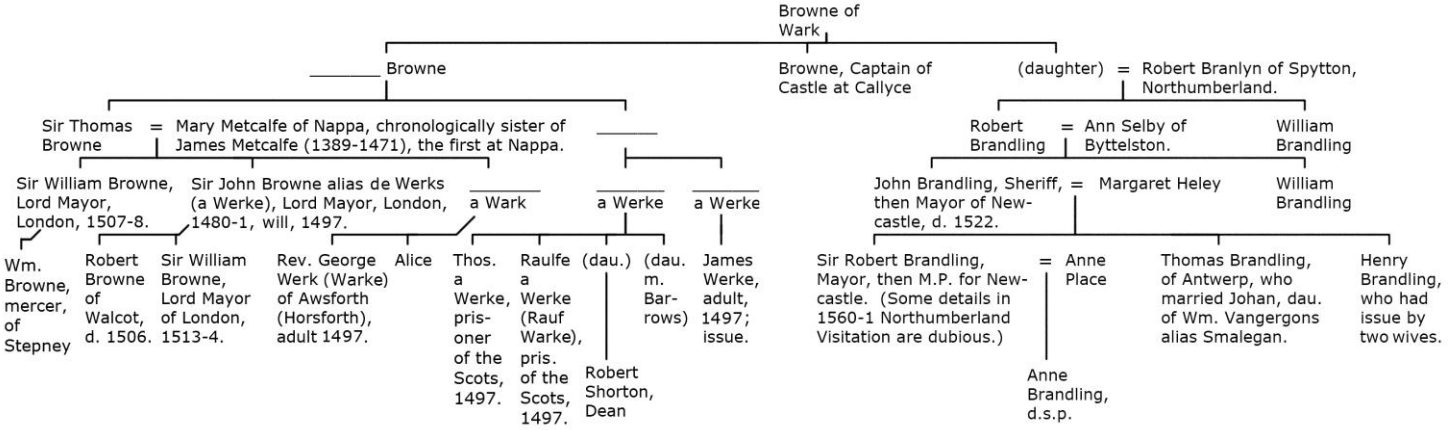


Fig 6. ***Browne (based on the wills of Brownes and Dean Shorton and on the Visitation of Kent, Additional Pedigrees); Brandling (based on Visitations of the North).***
This placement of the Wark (a Werke) relatives seems the most likely interpretation of the data, but other similar configurations are possible.

connection with the mayoral Brownes, but Robert Browne could equally well be a son of a currently unknown brother or even a cousin of Sir John Browne. Either of these latter alternatives would fit better with the lack of mention of Robert Browne in the wills of the mayoral Brownes and would still allow him to bear the Browne arms with a chevron between three escallops.

There is a manuscript list by William Smith, Rouge Dragon 1605, of Lord Mayors, Sheriffs, and Aldermen of the city of London with their arms.[36] Smith refers to Sir John Browne, mayor 1480-1 (who died in 1497/8), Sir William Browne, mayor 1507-8 (who died in office), and Sir William Browne, mayor 1513-4 (who also died in office). Smith is a far more reliable authority than Stow and we think it is reasonable to accept 'Sir' as a title of all three. The three related London Mayors all refer in their PCC wills (which we downloaded from the National Archives as PDF files)[37] to relatives in the north, and the family has an alternative name, Wark. We find in the wills of Sir John and Sir William (mayor of 1507-8) that each refers to a son of the other as "cosyn," i. e., nephew.[38] They were therefore brothers. The earlier Sir William refers to his "cosyn Mr. George Werke, clerk," son of an otherwise unidentified brother. His brother Sir John (mayor of 1480-1, will 1497, proved 1497/8) mentions three groups of Werke kinfolk: Maister George Werke and Alice, his sister; Thomas and Rauffe a Werke; James a Werke, his wife and their children. Rauffe a Werke is mentioned in the will of his nephew, Dean Shorton.

The pedigree in the Visitation of Kent which falsely links the Brownes of Walcot to the Brownes of Betchworth Castle, shows Robert Browne of Walcot as the son of Sir John Browne, son of Thomas Browne and Mary Metcalfe of Nappa.[39] Since James Metcalfe (b. 1389, d. 1471), who fought at Agincourt, was the first of his family to own Nappa, if Mary Metcalfe was of Nappa, she must, chronologically, have been his sister. (See Fig 7 for various Metcalfes.) Despite the dubious nature of the source, the allegation turns out to be plausible. On onomastic grounds these Metcalfes seem to derive from the Stapletons. The descent of the Brownes from the Stapletons depends on two separate hypotheses of quite different character. The Brownes are related to the Metcalfes on the basis of a positive statement in a dubious source, which is plausible but without supporting 'hard' evidence. The relationship of the Metcalfes to the Stapletons is based upon strong onomastic evidence and is very plausible socio-politically. Both are the sorts of problems on which reasonable scholars may, and should, disagree. It is much more likely that someone will find hard evidence if the plausibility of the connections has been pointed out.

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[36] William Smith, "The XII. Worshipfull Companies or Misteries of London, with the Armes of all of them that have bin L. Mayors for the space almost of 300 yeares of every Company particulerly. Also most part of the Sheriffes and Aldermen." MS. Bodleian Library. Extracts by C V Collier in *Notes and Queries* (8th Series) 4 (1893): 232.

[37] John Browne's will (proved 1498): PROB 11/11, Register: Horne, Image Reference: 344/231.
William Browne's will (proved 1508): PROB 11/16, Register: Bennett, Image Reference: 13/9.
William Browne's will (proved 1514): PROB 11/17, Register: Fetiplace, Image Reference: 254/156.
Abstracts of these wills are given in *Notes and Queries* (7th Series) 5 (1888): 151-2.

[38] In the 1497 will of John Broune (Browne), citizen and alderman of London, his "cosen" William Browne, mercer, of Stebenheth (Stepney) is named as a beneficiary; the overseer, William Broune of Stebenheth, could be the testator's brother. In the 1507/8 will of William Browne the elder, citizen and alderman of London, his "cosyn" William Browne, alderman (and future lord mayor), son of Sir John Browne, is named as an executor.

[39] John Philipot, *The Visitation of Kent Taken in the Years 1619-1621*, ed. Robert Hovenden (1898), 218.

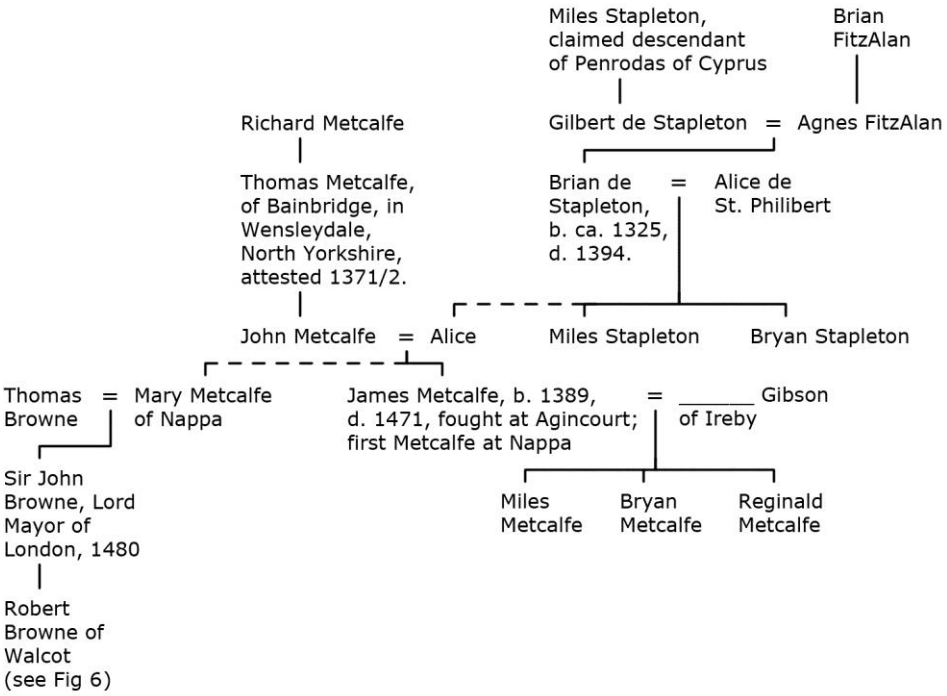


Fig 7. ***Metcalfe and Stapleton.***[40]

It is also unfortunately true that careless students of the families concerned will ignore the hypothetical nature of the conclusions. It is worth pointing out that if the two classes of evidence referred to the same hypothesis, say that a positive statement in a dubious source said that John Metcalfe's wife was a Stapleton, we would feel that the combined evidence was nearly as strong as a statement in a usually reliable source. Both hypotheses are stronger because of the unusual chronological restraints in both cases. Note that there is a further dubious but very interesting descent involved, the alleged crusader's wife, Penrodas, "daughter of the King of Cyprus."

With respect to the alleged marriage of Miles Stapleton, crusader, with Penrodas, "daughter of the King of Cyprus", the dates make it certain that this king would have to be Isaac Comnenus, captured by Richard, the Lion-Heart, in 1191. See the discussion by Lauder-Frost[41] and Vajay (with additional comments by Lindsay Brook).[42] The existence of an appropriate King of Cyprus at an appropriate date supports the account. So far, no contemporary document attests the existence of

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[40] Based on H H Metcalfe's *Metcalfe Lineages,* Philipot/Hovenden's *Visitation of Kent,* Additional Pedigrees, and Richardson's, *Plantagenet Ancestry,* Stapleton section.

[41] G M S Lauder-Frost, "The Daughter of Isaac Comnenus," *Foundations* 1 (2004), 301.

[42] Szabolcs de Vajay, "Isaac Comnenus, 'Emperor of Cyprus,' and his Daughter," *Foundations* 1 (2005), 387-8.

either Miles or Penrodas. It seems highly unlikely that Miles Stapleton would be a candidate for husband of the "Damsel de Chypre", the heiress of the "King of Cyprus" by his first, Armenian wife (who would have been as likely to give a daughter an Armenian name as a Greek one). The dates would indicate that Miles Stapleton may have been returning from the third crusade about 1204. The "Damsel de Chypre" was still married to Thierry of Alsace in 1207. However, Penrodas could have been an unrecorded daughter of Isaac and his second wife. (A five-year-old daughter of the second wife, with no prospects, would certainly be omitted from the record in 1191, but in 1204 Penrodas would have been 18, perhaps a minor prize suitable for a promising young soldier.) H E Chetwynd-Stapylton has said, *"The early history of every family depends in great measure upon Tradition. Randle Holme has collected many such traditions in his 'Pedigrees of Yorkshire Families.' He was a Herald Painter in Chester (circ. 1645), much employed in arranging pageants and funerals all over the country. His occupation gave him great opportunities of investigating genealogies and collecting family legends, and his Pedigree of the Stapeltons, though manifestly incorrect in some particulars, has been adopted by Thoresby, Collins, and Lodge in the last century, and by Betham, Clarkson, Ord, and Burke in the present."*[43] James Lee-Warner commented, *"The marriage with Penrodas's daughter* [should be Penrodas] *is more or less traditional (see Thoresby's* Leeds*);*[44] *but when we read Hoveden's description of the marriage of King Richard and Berenguella in the Isle of Cyprus, it appears more than probable that one at least of his followers might imitate his example."*[45]

However, we have found no Greek meaning for the name Penrodas. Penrod is a German name meaning famous commander, unlikely for a woman. Further, we have found no early indication of the Penrodas marriage. Hence, the probability is strongly against the descent.

Brandling

More distantly related are the Brandling family of Newcastle upon Tyne, attested in a pedigree of 1560-1561 (published with extensive commentary by the Surtees Society[46]). Sir Robert Brandling, Sheriff and Mayor of Newcastle upon Tyne, registered his pedigree back to his great-grandfather, Robert Branlyn, of Spytton (not located, probably Spital) by his wife, a daughter of "*Browne of Wark*" (not otherwise identified) and sister of Browne, Captain of the Castle of Callyce (i.e., Calais). The closest possible relationship to the Mayors of London would be if a brother of the Brandling wife was the grandfather of Sir John and Sir William Browne (through his son Thomas, if the Visitation of Kent pedigree discussed above is accepted). The coat of arms of Sir William Browne, Lord Mayor of London, 1507-8, closely matches the Browne coat of arms quartered by the Brandlings in Northumberland, though there appears to be some inconsistency in the tinctures in the two quarterings illustrated in the visitation volume. Sir William Browne's will (proved 1508) also mentions property in Calais. The fact that Brandling's brother-in-law, a Browne of Wark, is said to have

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43 H E Chetwynd-Stapylton, "The Stapeltons of Yorkshire," *Yorkshire Archaeological and Topographical Journal* 8 (1884): 70.

44 Ralph Thoresby, *Ducatus Leodiensis: or, The Topography of the Ancient and Populous Town and Parish of Leedes, and Parts Adjacent, in the West-Riding of the County of York*, (1715), 188.

45 James Lee-Warner, "The Stapeltons of Ingham," *Norfolk Archaeology*, 8 (1879), 192.

46 Frederick Walter Dendy, ed., *Visitations of the North or Some Early Heraldic Visitations of, and Collections of Pedigrees Relating to, the North of England. Part 1*. Surtees Society 122 (1912), 160-3 (under Pedigrees Collected in 1560-1561).

been a Captain of Calais receives some support from the existence of this property. Fig 6 shows these postulated relationships.

Dendy's extended commentary on the Brandlings points out that two of these Brandlings were Sheriffs of Newcastle upon Tyne who went on to become Mayors; partly because of this, they became wealthy. As merchants, the Brandlings had important ties to the Netherlands (to the extent that John Brandling was called "*of Antwerp*" and his son Thomas had a Dutch wife). John's son Sir Robert was Governor of the Merchants Company of Newcastle.

FitzSimond

In 1999 Stone discussed some of the ancestry of the Bulkeley cluster of immigrants to America in the newsgroup *soc.genealogy.medieval*.[47] He covered the Bulkeley descent from Christopher Sharpe of Coggeshall, Essex, and then discussed Christopher's descent from John Fitz-Simond and Maude, daughter of Rauffe Baghott. The ancestry of John Fitz-Simond as given in the 1558 Visitation of Essex,[48] shows an apparent chronological problem (too many generations) with having Sir John FitzSimond, husband of Maude Bagot, as a great-grandson of Sir John FitzSimond and his wife Alice, daughter of Lord FitzWalter. (The *History of Parliament* biography of FitzSimond says "*no evidence has been found to support Morant's statement (Essex, i. 302-3) that Fitzsymond married a da. of Lord Fitzwalter,*" but of course the visitation is evidence of one kind.[49])

Recently Kelley has proposed a solution to this chronological problem, illustrated by the chart in Fig 8.[50] The right-hand portion of this chart, from Jane FitzSimond up to John FitzSimond and Alice, daughter of Lord FitzWalter, is in the 1558 Visitation of Essex and is confirmed by the following Chancery suit pointed out by Douglas Richardson. In the period, 1475-1480, or 1483-1485, Jane Wentworth, widow, daughter of Robert [FitzSimond], son of John, son of Philip, son of John, son of Edmund, son of Adam, brother of Hugh Fitz Simond, knight, sued Thomas Stalbrok and other feoffees regarding the "*manors of St. Cleres, Brondish, Oldhall, and East Tilbury (Estilbery), and lands in Vange (Fenge), Fobbyng, Corringham, and Stanford, Essex, granted by dame Parnell Benestede to the said Hugh, and descended in succession to Nicholas, his son, Christian, daughter of Nicholas, and John Morisle, her husband, John, their son, and Edward, his son.*"[51]

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47 Don Stone, 6/28/1999 posting to *soc.genealogy.medieval* titled "Sharpe ancestry of Bulkeleys" (http://groups.google.com/group/soc.genealogy.medieval/browse_thread/thread/af2f5a670615f48e). A chart in this thread must be viewed with a fixed-width font; paste the chart into a word processor and change the font to, e.g., Courier.

48 Walter C Metcalfe, ed., *Visitations of Essex*, Harleian Society Pub. 13 (1878), 100-101.

49 J S Roskell, Linda Clark and Carole Rawcliffe, *The House of Commons 1386-1421* 3 (1992), 84.

50 Maud Bagot (top left of chart) is a probable great-granddaughter of John Bagot of Bagot's Bromley, 1288, and Eglima, daughter of Sir Anchitel Mallory (to be distinguished from the later Sir Anketil Mallory who married Alice de Driby). For details on Bagot of Bagot's Bromley, see Collins, *The English Baronetage*, II, pp. 48-51, and Wm. Salt Soc., *Collections for a History of Staffordshire*, n.s. 11, pp. 30-3,113 (for Rauf Bagot of Blithfield, ca. 1367). For details on the early FitzSimonds, see Clutterbuck's *Herts.*, III, p. 62.

51 *List of Early Chancery Proceedings*, 2 (PRO, London, Lists and Indexes, No. XVI), p. 249.

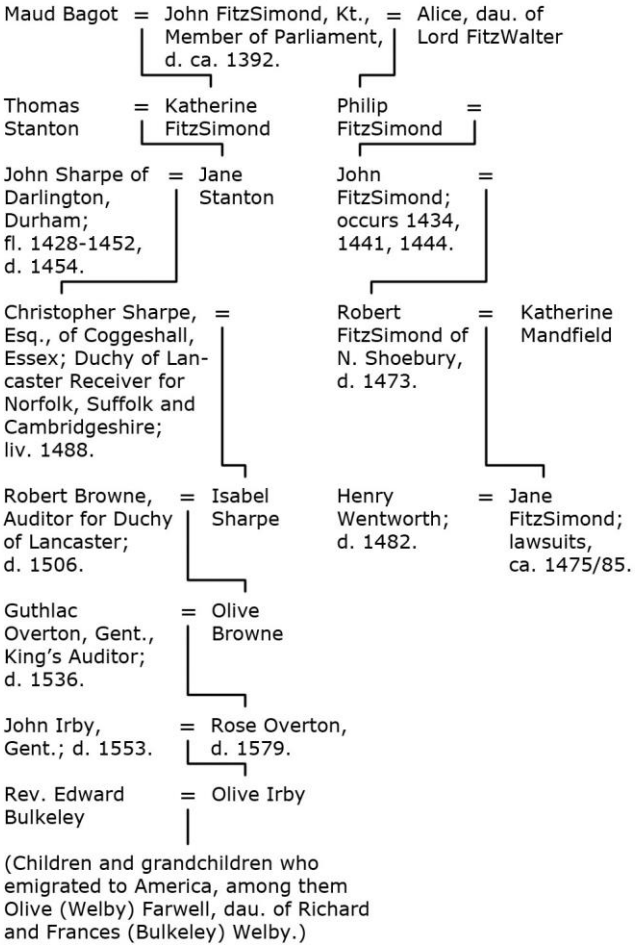


Fig 8. ***Descents from Sir John FitzSimond.***

Some comments on the FitzSimond/Sharpe pedigree in the 1558 Visitation of Essex are in order. The pedigree, appearing under the name of Sharpe, starts (on p. 100) with Sir John Fitz-Simond, goes through his great-grandson, the Sir John Fitz-Simond who married Alice FitzWalter, and at the bottom of the page displays Sir John Fitz-Simond, grandson of the latter couple. Then the descent splits (at the top of p. 101), giving at the left the marriages of daughters in successive generations to Staunton and Sharpe and ending with the marriage of Cicely Sharpe to Thomas Cotton. The marriage of Jane FitzSimond to Henry Wentworth is given on the right of the page, with a cross-reference to the Wentworth pedigree on p.124 later in the same volume, covering some of their descendants. Thus it is likely that the information in this Sharpe pedigree (pp.100-1) was supplied by two branches of Fitz-Simond descendants through the Sharpes and the Wentworths.

It is plausible that the Wentworths supplied their information first, bringing the senior FitzSimond line down to Jane, daughter and heir of Robert FitzSimond and wife of Henry Wentworth. Apparently the descendants of Thomas Stanton and Katherine FitzSimond, when supplying their information to the visitation herald (William Hervey, Clarenceux King of Arms), knew of their descent from John FitzSimond and Maude Bagot but were not sure how this John FitzSimond fitted into the larger FitzSimond family. In the pedigree as recorded and published this John is made a brother of Robert FitzSimond (d.1473) and thus a great-grandson of the Sir John FitzSimond who married Alice, daughter of Lord FitzWalter, whereas the chronology works much better if the two John FitzSimonds are the same man with two different marriages. Note that in the chart as displayed above, the lineage at the left, leading to the Bulkeleys, has slightly longer generations than the lineage at the right leading to Jane FitzSimond, but the dates at the left and right for a given number of generations down from Sir John FitzSimond, MP, are close enough to be plausible. It seems clear that descendants of Sir John via the Sharpes should not claim FitzWalter ancestry through the FitzSimonds.

Sharpe

We have had a number of useful exchanges of information with J C B Sharp of London, who has collected and analyzed a large amount of information on the medieval Sharpes.

The death year for John Sharpe (1454) in Fig 8 is from Mr Sharp. John Sharpe's son Christopher was appointed Duchy of Lancaster Receiver for Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire in 1460 and again in 1485; he was Escheator for Yorkshire in 1468-9 and 1473.[52] Nicholas Sharpe (brother of Christopher) was the father of Joan Sharpe, who married Thomas Cotton of Landwade, Cambridgeshire; according to the 1575/1619 Visitation of Cambridge, Sir Robert Cotton, d. 1519, son of Thomas and Joan, quartered the arms of Sharpe, Stanton, FitzSimon and Bagot,[53] which seems to be good evidence for a FitzSimond descent via Stanton and Sharpe.

A Cotton quartering is given by Palmer, containing arms for 1 Cotton, 2 Abbott, 3 Sharpe, 4 Stanton, 5 Fitz-Simon, and 6 Baghot.[54] Note that the arms are itemized in exactly the right order for the pedigree as given in the 1558 Essex visitation. Some of the other Cotton quarterings in the 1575/1619 Cambridge visitation also seem appropriate for the pedigree as given there (e.g., with their inclusion of arms for the Fleming and Hastings wives in generations 1 and 4, who are the only heiress wives before Abbott in generation 7).

In Appendix A of a manuscript Sharpe genealogy, Mr. Sharp says: a brass plate in Landwade church gives the arms of Nicholas Sharpe as *"…3 Eagles heades errased within a border ingrailed [im]paled with …on a bend 3 mullets 2o a frett…quarterlie."*[55] The latter appears to be the same as the arms of Spencer found later quartered with Cotton, *Quarterly argent & gules in the second & third quarters a*

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52 Robert Somerville, *History of the Duchy of Lancaster* (1953), 596.

53 John W. Clay, ed., *Visitation of Cambridge, 1575 and 1619*, Harleian Society Pub. 41 (1897), 21-22.

54 W M Palmer, ed., *Monumental Inscriptions and Coats of Arms from Cambridgeshire* (1932), 96.

55 W M Palmer, *op.cit., 230*

fret or, overall on a bend sable three escalops (not mullets) *of the first*.[56] This suggests that Nicholas had a second wife who was a Spencer.

Families related to the Sharpes

Guthlac Overton sued some Sharpe relatives around 1518-1529. Andrews-Reading[57] quotes from the PRO summary of document C 1/551/49: "*Guthlac Overton. v. John Turnour and George Quarles, auditors, and Hugh Edwardes, executors of John Sharpe, knight.: Money due to complainant as solicitor of the said Sir John, and for bread and lodging of Robert Browne, his nephew, and teaching him the `faculte of audytoriship.': London.*"

Concerning these people, Sir John Sharpe, Gentleman Usher of the King (mentioned earlier in connection with Brockdish and the Brownes), died 1518/9; Guthlac Overton, Gentleman of the Chamber Doors and king's auditor,[58] was the husband of Olive Browne, daughter of Robert and Isabel (Sharpe) Brown and niece of Sir John Sharpe; John Turner married Isabel (Sharpe) Browne after the death of her first husband, Robert Browne; George Quarles, Auditor of Henry VIII, was the husband of Margaret (called Magdalene by some sources) Browne, daughter of Robert and Isabel (Sharpe) Browne; and Hugh Edwards was the husband of Anne Sharpe, sister of Sir John and of Isabel. John G. Hunt has done a significant amount of research on the Overton family.[59,60] Note that Guthlac Overton's mother was Rose Pulter; Rose is a name that was carried forward in the family.

Like the Sharpes, the Quarles family of Ufford were extremely wealthy and very high in the government service (See Fig 9). George Quarles was an auditor. The high status and wealth of the family mean that there are an abundance of often inadequately examined records. The very large size of many of the families and the dangerous position of royal servants in the time of Cromwell make it virtually certain that other immigrants to the British colonies of this lineage will be found. At the moment, Joanna, one of the eighteen children of the well known Elizabethan poet, Francis Quarles, and her first cousin once removed, William Quarles of Ipswich, Massachusetts, are clearly well established. Francis Quarles, son of George, had eight children by his first wife and nine children by his second wife. Few of them died young.[61,62,63,64]

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56 W M Palmer, *op.cit.,* 97.

57 Michael Andrews-Reading, 4/7/2006 posting to soc.genealogy.medieval.

58 "*uni generosorum hostiarum camere nostre et uni auditorum nostrorum,*" AR/14/1 (1523), Cornwall Record Office.

59 John G. Hunt, "The Overton Family, Ancestral to Rev. Peter Bulkeley and other New England Settlers: Parentage of William Overton, Bishop of Coventry," *The American Genealogist* 35 (1959): 182-4, 36 (1960): 51.

60 John G. Hunt, "The Overton Family of Swineshead, Lincolnshire," *The American Genealogist* 36 (1960): 160-3.

61 George W. Marshall, "A Genealogy of the Family of Quarles," *The East Anglian* 3 (1867): 155-159.

62 Edward J. Sage, "The Quarles Family," *The East Anglian* 3 (1867): 170-3, (1868) 203-7.

63 Justin Simpson, "The Quarles Family," *The East Anglian* 3 (1867): 184-7.

64 Hattie Wyatt (notes transcribed by Hillra Qualls), "English Quarles from Hattie Wyatt's Notes," "English Quarles Part 2," etc., through "English Quarles-Qualls Part 7." Accessible via http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/index/Qualls-Quarles/1998-06 and 1998-07.

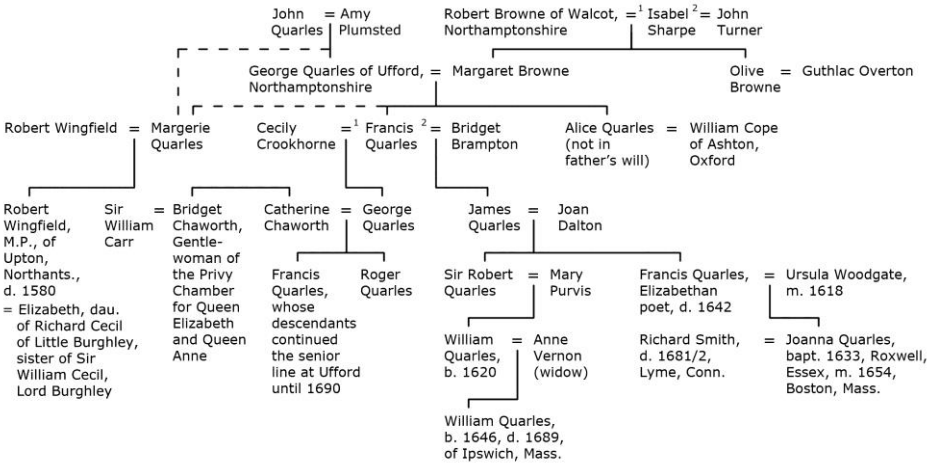


Fig 9. ***Quarles family (selected members).***[65]

William Cecil, Lord Burghley (1520-1598), Treasurer and Secretary of State to Queen Elizabeth, was born at Bourne, not far from Stamford (see Fig 1 earlier); early in his career he represented Stamford in parliament. He was related to or had contact with a number of members of the families of royal servants mentioned earlier. For example, his sister Elizabeth married Robert Wingfield, whose mother Margerie or Margaret Quarles was a daughter or sister of the George Quarles who married Magdalene Browne of Walcot.[66]

In our investigation of the families discussed here and their relationships, we have accumulated considerable additional information, some of it fragmentary and awaiting further research. We look forward to learning more about these interesting people from further explorations by ourselves and others.

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[65] Based on P W Hasler's *House of Commons, 1558-1603* 3, 638 (Robert Wingfield), Maddison's, *Lincolnshire Pedigrees* 3: 805-6; Edward J Sage's, *The Quarles Family;* Daisy Quarles', *Records of William Quarles of Ipswich, Mass.* and J G Hunt's, *The Identity of Joanna Quarles of Boston, Mass.*

[66] We know of five Wingfield or Quarles pedigrees with information about the father of Margerie Quarles that appear in printed visitation volumes, specifically those for Huntingdon, Norfolk, Northamptonshire (both Wingfield and Quarles), and Rutland; the source details are given in Richardson's *Plantagenet Ancestry* (2004), under Robert Wingfield, p. 769. Three of these pedigrees give Margerie's father as George Quarles of Norfolk, one gives her parents as John Quarles and Amy, daughter of Plumsted of Norfolk, and one gives just Quarles of Norfolk as her father. P W Hasler, *House of Commons, 1558-1603* 3 (1981), 638 (in an article by S. M. Thorpe on Robert Wingfield, d. 1580) gives her father as George Quarles; the article cites a number of sources (none of them visitations).

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