THE ORIGIN OF THE THYNNES.

I have always taken some interest in the origin of the Thynnes of Longleat, not only as being myself their senior heir-general, but also because, as is well known, the alleged origin of their name is very peculiar. The evidence seems to me, at least, so unsatisfactory that I should like to treat the subject in a critical spirit.

The best account, beyond question, is that written by Mr. Morris in 1855,[1] Mr. Botfield's "Stemmata Botvilliana" being based on the researches of Mr. Morris. But, at the outset, I dispute wholly the supposition that the "inne" from which the family took its name, could be their residence at Stretton. Mr. Morris instances "Talbot Inne," the Earl of Shrewsbury's town house at Shrewsbury; and Mr. Botfield appeals to Lincoln's Inn, Gray's Inn, Furnival's Inn, etc. But these all prove that the "Inn" was the town residence of a country noble; it was certainly not the name of his own home in the country, still less the name of a small freeholder's home. The idea, I do not hesitate to say, is simply out of the question.

My next point is that I can find no evidence of a Botfield taking the name of Thynne ("of th'inne"). Botfields we have, and Thynnes we have; but no Botfield speaks of a Thynne as a relative, nor does any Thynne so speak of a Botfield; nor did any of the family style himself Thynne *alias* Botfield, till they began to rise in position under Henry VIII.

Taking the pedigree chronologically, I come to the alleged parting of the branches, temp. Hen. VI. Here I may mention that I accept the abstracts of local deeds given by Thynne, the herald, the more readily as they do not prove any of the points I question. What I dispute is the authority of statements representing only the *ipse dixit* of Thynne, who is admitted to have made mistakes, who, as an "Elizabethan herald" must be looked on with suspicion, and who, in this matter, was making up his own pedigree. Now the two lines of Thynne and of Botfield are alleged to descend from Thomas Bottefeld of Botefeldes Ley in Church Stretton, living 4 Henry V (1418-19). This Thomas, according to Thynne, in 18 Henry VI (1439-40) "did surrender into the handes of the lorde all his landes and tenements in Church Stretton and within the Lordship of Stretton, with the appurtenances, to the use of John Botefelde his sonne and Joane his wife," etc. But on quite a different footing to this is the mere assertion that this John was a younger son, and that the "eldest son William Bottefelde adopted for his residence the mansion or inn at Stretton, to which the freehold lands of the family, with various detached copyholds were attached."[2] No evidence whatever is given for this statement, and yet this is a vital point in the pedigree.[3]

[1] *Topographer and Genealogist*, iii, 468-491.

[2] pp. 468, 478.

[3] The only fact proved is the hostile one that William Bottefeld *purchased* lands in Stretton.

The second hitch is found in the first appearance of the Thynnes *eo nomine*, on a subsidy roll of 1492, "when Thomas of In and William of the In are rated at 26s. 8d. each."[1] These men, as Mr. Morris shews, occur frequently on the court rolls, etc., but I can see no evidence whatever that they were Botfields, as alleged. The former is a juror for the manor in 24 Hen. VII, as "Thomas de la Inne de Botfeld," yeoman; and he witnessed a deed, by the same style in 1496. I think genealogists will agree with me that "de Botfeld" is here a local description, especially as the "de," Mr. Morris admits, had dropped out of the family name about a century before. What we want is "de la Inne *alias* Bottefeld,"—but we do not find it.

I now append a pedigree of the Thynnes as derived from deeds and court rolls *solely*. It is deplorable that Mr. Morris, who so well worked up this evidence, should have treated the assertions of Francis Thynne and of Randle Holme (of all people!) as equally valid with the records, and have thus mixed hopelessly up these two sources.

Thomas de la Inne de Botfeld occurs 1492-1508.

William de la Inne occurs 1492-1514.

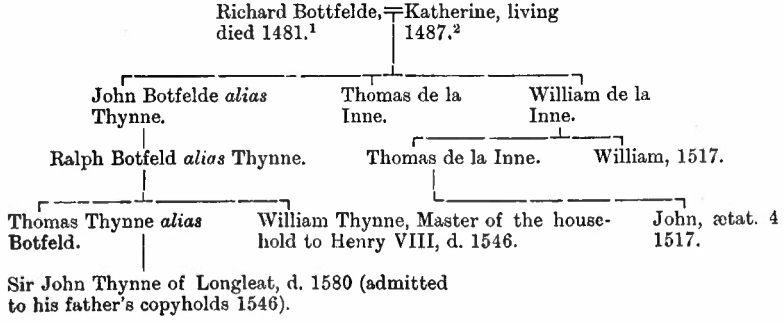
Thomas de la Inne succeeded his father 1514, died 1517.

William de la Inne occurs 1517.

John Thynne succeeded his father Thomas in copyholds at Stretton Oct. 1546.

John de la Inne succeeded his father 1517, aged 4.

From this slight *actual* evidence, Mr. Morris (p. 483) constructed the following pedigree :—



It seems to me a most singular circumstance, on comparing these two pedigrees, that Mr. Morris was unable to produce any evidence from the court rolls, relating to the alleged father, grandfather, or great-grandfather of Sir John Thynne (admitted 1546), although he was able to trace on them, as above, the copyholds of the De la Inne family. The inference is obvious.

[1] p. 481.
[2] I can find no authority given for these dates or this affiliation.

I may close these rough notes by pointing out that the Visitation pedigrees of 1584 and 1623 do not attempt to carry back the pedigree beyond "Ralph Botvill, Gent," who married "Ann d. of John Higons, com. Salop." I am by no means sure that William Thynne, who appears on the court rolls in 1517, may not, after all, be identical with the William Thynne, father of the herald and uncle of Sir John, who first appears as "second clerk of the kitchen" to Henry VIII in 1524. It is singular that his alleged grandfather, John, does not figure in the the Heralds' Visitations, and that there seems to be no *proof* given of his existence. The pedigree, as it stands, cannot be deemed really satisfactory or "proved." J. H. ROUND.

Pedigrees from the Plea Rolls.

By Major-General the Hon. GEORGE WROTTESLEY.

(Continued from p. 140.)

De Banco. Easter 42. *E.* 3. *m.* 385.

Salop.—John, son of Laurence de Lodelowe, Chivaler, sued Thomas, son of Thomas de Hodynet, for lands in Hodynet (Hodnet). The pleadings give these pedigrees—

Odo de Hodynet, temp. King Richard.
Baldwin.
Odo.
William.

Matilda.	Margaret.
Laurence.	Thomas, ob. s.p.
John de Lodelowe, the plaintiff.	

Richard de Hodynet, living 5 E. 3.	Robert de Swynerton, of co. Stafford.
Thomas.=Margaret.	Roger.
Thomas de Hodynet, the defendant.	John, who enfeoffed Richard de Hodynet.

N.B.—The above pedigree of Hodnet should be substituted for that given at p. 135, where one generation has been omitted.

De Banco. Easter. 42. *E.* 3. *m.* 229.

Somerset.—John Standysh sued Nicholas Golafre and Margaret, his wife, and several other tenants in Lonyngton for lands, &c., in Lonyngton, in which they had no entry except by demises made by John de Arderne, his kinsman, and whose heir he was, when he was under age. The pleadings give this pedigree—

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