

Five Hundred Years of Grainges

*Grainges in Buckinghamshire,
Hertfordshire and London,
and related Buckinghamshire families*

3rd Edition – December 2006

Pam Griffiths

Acknowledgements and Disclaimers

I would like to thank the staff of all the record offices and libraries I have used in researching my family. While all of them have been supportive and helpful, most deserving of mention is the staff at the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies, whose unstinting patience with my questions and requests for documents has been immensely appreciated.

I would also like to thank my cousin Janet Summers and my distant cousin Danny Neilsen, whose help and encouragement have been invaluable, who have unearthed numerous sources that I missed, and who understand what it is to be obsessed by family history. My thanks also go to those members of my extended family whom I pestered for information and finally to my immediate family, who – if my daughter is to be believed – spent half their family holidays in graveyards.

I am grateful to Philip Gower for his meticulous care in cross-checking text and trees. However, I am quite sure that, despite repeated proof-reading and meticulous research, there are some errors in this document. Suggested corrections, comments or amendments will be willingly received.

Spelling and Dates

These are both problematical issues in family history. It is not unusual to find a surname spelt two different ways in the same document. I have tried, in the body of the text, to use the spelling which seemed most commonly adopted by each individual, but, in the case of those who couldn't write, this is a somewhat arbitrary choice. Where a surname has been spelled in a variety of ways during one individual's life, I have tried to reflect this too. Sometimes, though, I have just opted for the most common version of the name used by the family. In the index, I have divided the Grainge section into two; all variants before Robert Grainge arrived in Little Horwood in the early 1750s are listed under 'Grange'. After that date, the name is spelled consistently with an 'i' and all entries are recorded as such. Other names are recorded under the most common form of a surname, provided the owners come from the same family.

I freely admit that my recording of dates in this document is probably questionable. There are several reasons for this. Firstly, before 1752, the New Year began on March 25th, and the current convention is to record the date in the first three months of the year as a dual figure, e.g. 1712/13. However, on the whole, I have recorded the date as it was written at the time. In addition, in some of the earlier registers, it is often difficult to find the year date, and on occasion, I may have missed or been unable to read the exact year. Finally, dates are the easiest thing of all to mis-transcribe, however much care is taken. For those errors and any others, I apologise.

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Earliest beginnings

The story goes that when my sister was born, my grandfather came to inquire after the birth:

‘Your father-in-law’s just been to visit,’ said the nurse.

‘What did he say?’ asked my mother.

‘He stomped down the nursing home steps muttering, “Another blooming girl.”’

Poor Grandpa; you’d think that with three sons he was reasonably assured of a grandson to continue the name, but his two elder sons already each had two daughters, and my birth, four years later, put an end to his hopes. After he died, there were only four Grainges in the London phone book – my father and his two brothers, and one lone stray, whom none of us ever thought to contact. I grew up with the awareness that when I married, there would be no more Grainges in this line. Maybe this was one of the factors which promoted a life-long interest in family history.

George Lipscombe in his *History and Antiquities of Bucks*¹ says that ‘every attempt to obtain a correct pedigree’ of the Grainge family has been ‘hitherto ineffectual’. Nearly twenty years of intermittent hunting in numerous record repositories make me believe that the above statement is no longer true. However, all family histories have question marks, areas where circumstantial evidence takes over from categorical proof, and this Grainge history probably has more than many, as our family, before the mid-eighteenth century, was remarkably mobile, and chose sometimes to live in areas where parish register entries have been lost or are incomplete. Consequently, everything in this document before about 1700 is open to some question, although it has been researched as carefully as the resources will allow.

The name Grainge – Grang, Graing, Grange, Graunge, Graynge or Greange as it variously appears in the earlier records – is described by Guppy² as ‘an ancient English surname’. When he published his book in 1890, most Grainges were concentrated in Hertfordshire -35 per ten thousand - and Buckinghamshire - 15 per ten thousand - with a presumably unrelated enclave of 10 per ten thousand in West Yorkshire. The earliest references to the name, according to Reaney³, come from the Essex *Rotuli Hundredorum* – William de la Graunge 1275 – and the Sussex *Subsidy Rolls* of 1296 – Laurence atte Grange. However, an entry in the *Eyre Roll*⁴, a record of the proceedings of itinerant judges in Buckinghamshire in 1227, precedes these:

‘Martin abbot of Messenden (Missenden) deposes his canon Richard de Grange versus John son of Geoffrey in a plea concerning a meadow.’

Harrison⁵ defines the name Grange as a dweller at a barn, granary or farmhouse, but the word was also used to describe a property farmed by monks. Michael Reed, in *The Buckinghamshire Landscape*⁶ says:

‘Outlying monastery estates were farmed from a grange, at first a humble range of buildings designed to accommodate a group of lay brothers, their servants and supervisors.’

Missenden Abbey, an Augustinian house founded in around 1133, stood at Great Missenden, only about five miles away from the home of our earliest known ancestors.

Until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1536, the abbey would have wielded considerable influence on the surrounding area, and no doubt controlled a number of outlying farms.

Several early documents also show the name Grange in use in an area where our ancestors later lived. In the Missenden Cartulary⁷ is a quitclaim dated around 1300 and witnessed by Willelmo de Grangia; another at Weston Turville is witnessed by Roberto atta Graunge in 1339. In 1303, the *Feet of Fines for Buckinghamshire*⁸ records a transaction between Robert de la Graunge, his wife Acelina and Henry de Fateplace over a messuage, a caracute of land and seven acres of wood in Weston Turville and Wendover. This is right next to the parish that was home to our ancestors for nearly two hundred years and, especially as the name Robert crops up quite regularly in the Grainge family, it is tempting to conjecture a link. From 1338 to 1364 there is a series of documents about land on Weston Farm (presumably at Weston Turville) in which Robert atte Graunge is a witness⁹. Further documents in the series¹⁰, dated 1396 and 7, have Walter and John Graunge as witnesses, and the following year John Graunge is joined by Edward and Henry Grange¹¹. On the final document, dated 1407, John is the only Graunge witness¹².

The Weston Turville references persist. In the middle of the fourteenth century, Robert atta Graunge was paying taxes of 20 marks there¹³. At an Eyre¹⁴ held at High Wiccombe, a John atte Grange was one of the jurors dealing with the vill of Weston Turville, Wendover, Halton and Aston – this on 11th May 1378. It is not possible from the entry to tell if this is the same John atte Grange who was a juror a week earlier, on Monday 3rd May, at Halton, for the same four villis. However, given the fact that the names Robert, John and William turn up with great regularity in the following history, it is difficult not to imagine these men as distant forebears, living at a time when surnames were just evolving, on or close to land belonging to Missenden Abbey.



St. Michael and All Angels Aston Clinton

Other parishes in the part of Buckinghamshire between Aylesbury and the Hertfordshire border also record Grange families before the early 1600s: Amersham, Aylesbury, Buckland, Drayton Beauchamp, Marsworth, Waddesdon and Whitchurch. So do Long Marston and Puttenham, just over the border into Hertfordshire, where a

Robert de la Graunge¹⁵ was recorded living at Grange Farm in 1294. However, most of these are only a stone's throw from Aston Clinton.

The *History and Antiquities of the County of Buckinghamshire*¹⁶ describes the heiress of the manor of Chivery, in the parish of Aston Clinton, marrying a John Grange. However, having checked the original Inquisition Post-Mortem¹⁷, I now agree with the *Victoria County History*¹⁸ that her husband was John Gauge, already an armiger in his own right, and not a member of our family. Altogether, Lipscombe has not proved a reliable source, speculating links which have not been borne out by the evidence. However, it is in the parish of Aston Clinton that the chain of documentary evidence leading from the 15th century to the 20th begins.

John and William Graunge of Aston Clinton

Aston Clinton is described in the *Victoria County History* as a long narrow parish in central Buckinghamshire¹⁹. The southern part, which includes the hamlet of St. Leonards, is high up, on the northern slopes of the Chilterns. The village itself lies in the Vale of Aylesbury. The main road from Aylesbury to Tring follows the route of the Roman Akeman Street, and both the Lower and Upper Icknield Way cross the parish. In the lower part of the parish, arable farming has always been important. A medieval map of the parish²⁰ shows a number of open fields taking up almost all the land in the northern half, while the higher, southern end is more wooded, and any fields or pastures are small.

From feudal times, the main unit of rural administration had been the manor. These varied in size, sometimes being contiguous with the parish, but often there were two or three manors in a parish, or vice versa. A manor could be held by the crown or by a landlord who held it from the monarch or a greater lord. Villagers then farmed the land, either in fee simple – which meant that their holding passed automatically to their heir at law, or by copyhold, i.e. leasehold (in various forms). The business of the manor – surrender of and admission to land, infringements of the customs of the manor, and so on – was dealt with at Manor Courts, usually presided over by the Lord's steward. All tenants were required to attend the courts, and fined if they failed to do so. The first part of the business was always the swearing of the jury, or homagium – a group of local inhabitants who, like a modern court jury, were required to listen to evidence and come to a decision based on the customs of the manor. The courts were also used to elect manor officials, like the constable, the hayward, or the ale-taster, who ensured the smooth running of the manor.

In the eighth year of the reign of Henry VIII, (i.e. 1516) a manor court was held at Aston Clinton²¹. Coincidentally, the one absentee from the proceedings, and therefore listed under Essoins, is John Gage, armiger. Of more interest to us is the first name on the homage, or jury: 'Johes Graunge'. Although much of the document is hard to read, the name is clear, and it also heads another homagium list further down the page. It also appears, at the foot of the first entry, with one other, as an afeeror, or assessor, that is the man who decided the amount of fines paid. No other information is given about him, but later documents suggest that he must have been born by 1470 at the latest, during the rule of the Plantagenet Edward IV, at the time of the Wars of the Roses. I can now construct a viable chain of evidence suggesting our descent from this man.

In 1522 *The Muster Certificate Book for Buckinghamshire*²² records two Graunges in Aston Clinton, a John and a William. (A Thomas is just down the road at Buckland and also appears on the Subsidy Roll there.) These certificates were an account of those men who presented themselves with accoutrements at a parade held to show what defences could be brought together in time of trouble. All men between 16 and 60 were required to attend if they were below the rank of Baron. A man's income decided what arms he had to provide, so the Aston Clinton Certificate lists the two men as worth – in 'bona et catalla' – £13 and £3 respectively. Although the yeomanry of England did not know it, part of the reason for this survey was to find out how much tax people were capable of paying. Two years later, Henry VIII used the Lay Subsidy to raise as much money as possible for his foreign wars. In Aston Clinton, the 1524 *Subsidy Roll for Buckingham*²³ gives a somewhat cryptic entry for John Grange:

'L	£1	John Grange	£10
		Decay'd by corn and cattle	£3'

I take this second line to mean that John was not quite so well off as he had been previously, although he is still well towards the top end of the list of inhabitants of the village. Certainly the average prices for both grain and cattle had dropped in the intervening years²⁴, but maybe he had learned to hide his real value. William, however, was taxed at £4, apparently worth £1 more than previously. Perhaps John had passed part of his estate to William.

The fact that neither of these records shows any other Grainges in the parish at the time made it doubly tempting to assume close kinship; but I didn't expect to find any proof as parish registers didn't begin until both men were dead. However, this was a litigious age, and there are two deeds in the Public Record Office relating to William Graunge. The first, an almost illegible equity pleading²⁵ by Thomas, son of Elizabeth Tatnall, dated 1533, accuses William Graunge of something, and payments at Candlemas are referred to. Procat, the catalogue of the National Archive, defines the case as:

'Detention of deeds to a tenement acquired of defendant in Aston Clinton.'

The second document²⁶ is far more revealing. It is undated, but makes reference to a lease of land made by John Graunge of Aston Clinton from Henry VII in the seventh year of his reign, 1491/1492. At the top of the document are the words:

'To the right honourable Sir Thomas Audley
Knight and Lord Chancellor of England.'

Audley replaced Thomas More as Chancellor in 1533, and held the post until 1544, confirming that it is our ancestor William Grange at the centre of this court action. In this instance he is the suppliant, complaining that John Bavam, gent:

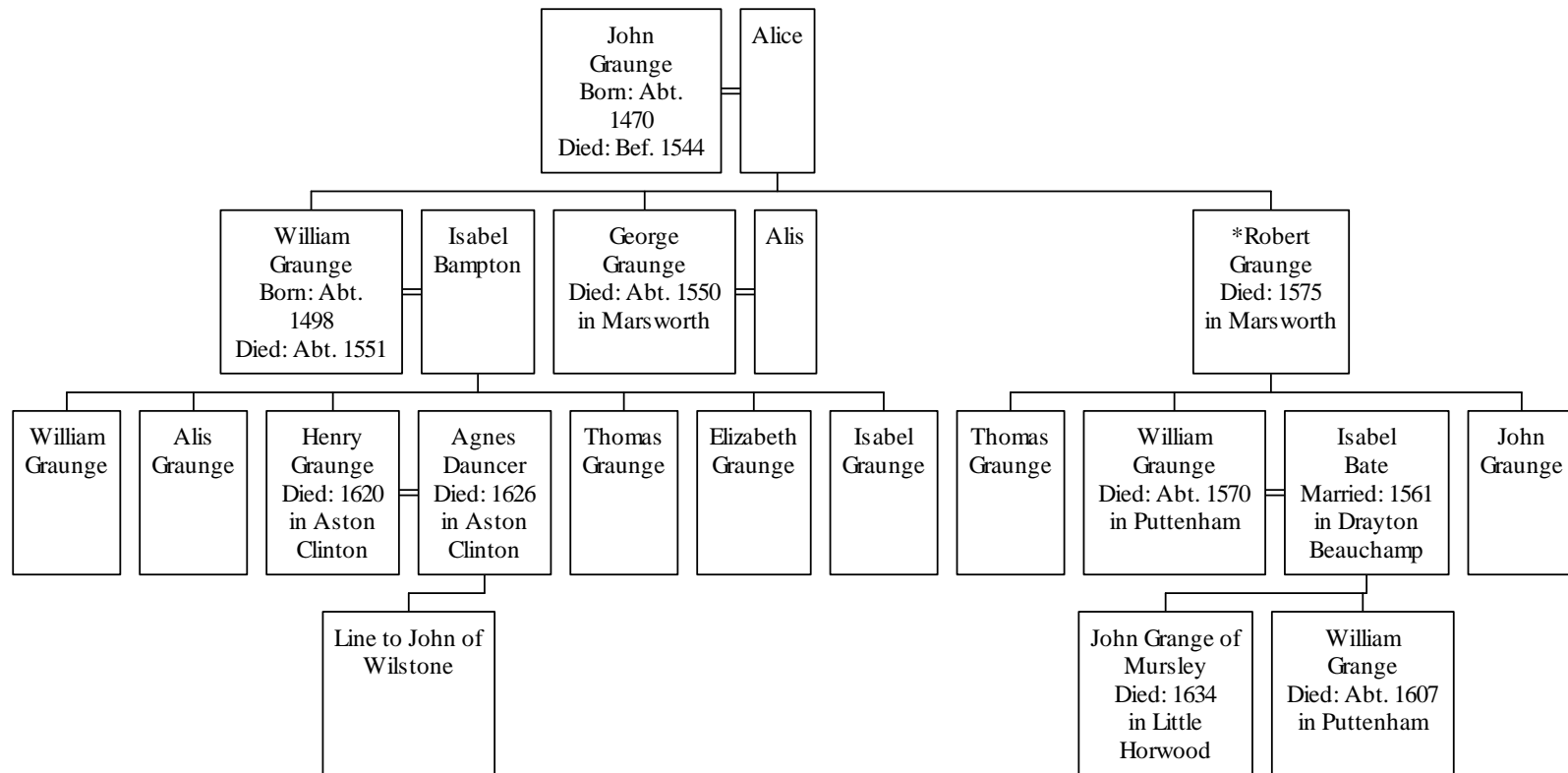
'of covetous mind and evil disposition'

has 'entered into' a field or close in Aston Clinton leased by John Grange:

'father to your suppliant to have and to hold to the same John and Alice his wife,'

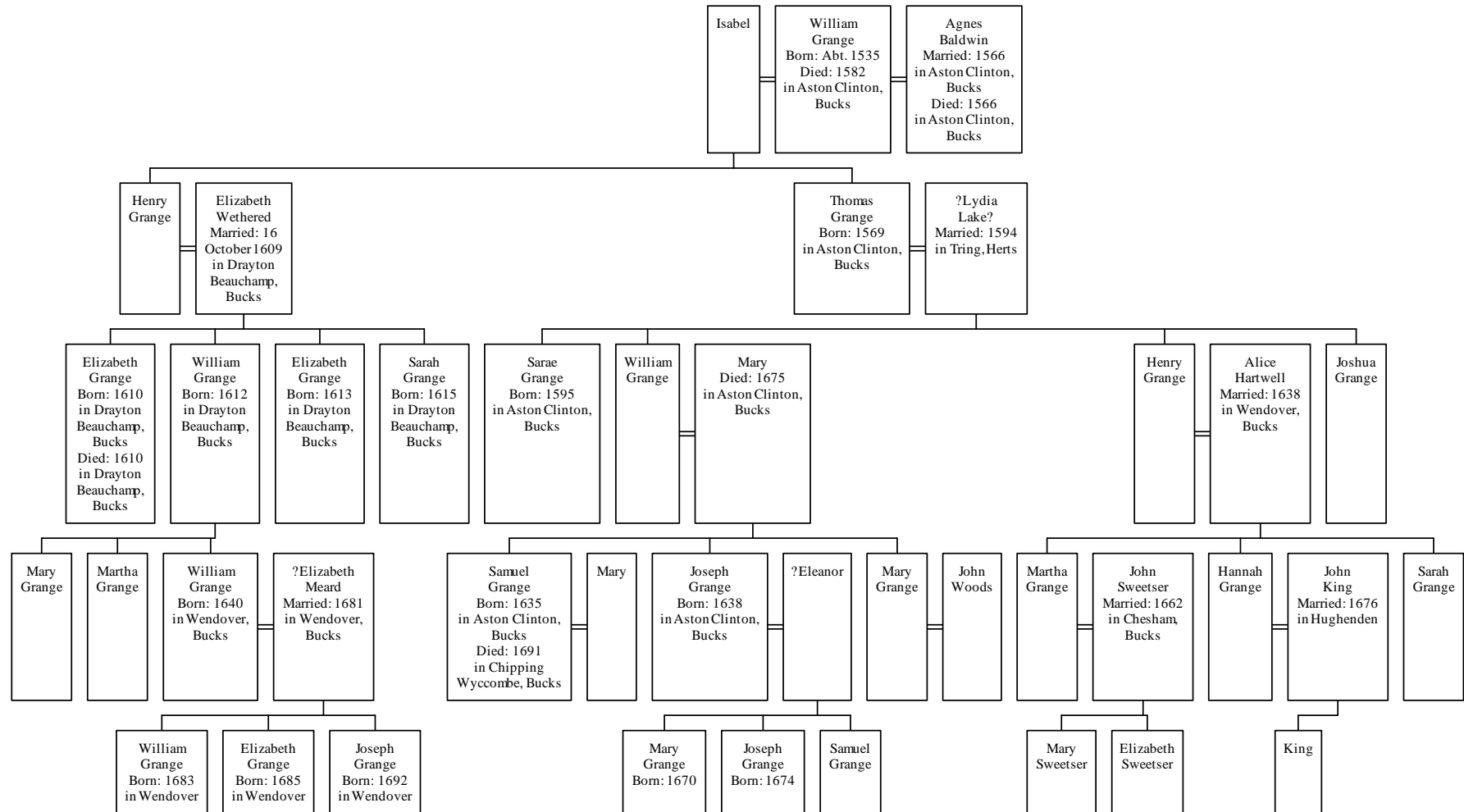
and so, incredibly, we are given proof of the relationship and the name of John's wife.

Tree 1 - Possible link between Aston Clinton and Puttenham Lines



This is highly conjectural, but would fit the evidence.
 * I'm not entirely sure the Robert buried in Marsworth is this one. It could be another son.

Tree 2 - Descendants of William Grange of St. Leonards



Some elements in this tree are conjectural

Being a plea to the Lord Chancellor, the document sets out William Grange's side of the story in great detail, as any plaintiff to this court had to make it clear that the common court could not solve the problem. According to William, at a court held in 1491, John Grange agreed to pay rent of 22 shillings a year in exchange for a field in Aston Clinton called (I think) Harfield. He and Alice were to hold the field for life, and it would then descend to William:

‘named and appointed by the same John Grange.’

William accuses John Bavam of having the copies of the lease in his ‘custody and keeping’ so that he has ‘no remedy by course of the common law’. Proving copyhold tenure depended, as the name suggests, on access to the tenant's copy of the original lease. Without it, William could not prove his right to the land. I have not discovered whether William's plea was successful, but he requested that a subpoena be served on Bavam, forcing him to appear in the Court of Chancery – the second highest in the land.

William Graunge was born in about 1498 probably at Aston Clinton. The only reason I can hazard a guess at his age is because he settled at some point in or near the hamlet of St. Leonard's in the south of the parish, and became involved in the dealings of the St. Leonard's Trust²⁷, a group of worthies dedicated to the maintenance of a separate chapel in the south of the parish. I am indebted to the Reverend A.G. Birch, who, in 1942, not only translated a run of documents about the trust in the first half of the 16th century, but also wrote a set of notes on their dealings and deposited them in the Record Office²⁸. These notes describe St. Leonard's as a hamlet of ‘9 households’ in 1549, lying on the top of the Chiltern scarp about three to four miles away from the village of Aston Clinton and its church. The documents deal with land designated to the chapel of ease in order to pay for a priest, and the trustees appointed to administer this land.



St. Leonards Chapel Aston Clinton

The names of the trustees regularly include members of the Baldwin family – of Dundridge²⁹ and elsewhere – and a number of other ‘illustrious’ or ‘famous’ Buckinghamshire names (Birch's adjectives), such as Cheyney, Hampden and Verney. On 20th May 1550, William Graunge is the last of a long list of newly appointed trustees. More interesting, however, is his involvement in an Inquisition³⁰ held on 27th April 3

Edward VI (1549) in which he was questioned, amongst other locals, on his knowledge of the chapel. The document records:

‘Willm Grange of Astonclynton of the age of L^{te} years and above
sworn and examined.’

Obviously he might have exaggerated his age, but other ages in the document are equally precise, giving 55 years, 58 years, 59 years and so on, and in a similar deed a couple of generations later, the age given tallied with the baptism. It is from this that I have assumed a year of birth of 1498.

The questions asked were about how far the chapel was from the parish church, how far the congregation of the chapel would have to travel to reach the parish church, whether the chapel was considered to be a chapel of ease, whether the land under discussion:

‘were first given for the finding of a priest to minister and serve in the said chapel’

and what the value of the land was. Along with other deponents, William Graunge swore that the chapel was about three miles distant from the parish church, that nine households in the hamlet would need to travel three or four miles to reach the church, and that parishioners from Chesham and other places found the chapel more convenient. He swore that the chapel had been there:

‘sythens his knowledge and remembrance’

and that:

‘no priest had there any certain living or stipend but that any such priest as hath served and said divine service there hath been from Sunday to Sunday and from time to time hired by the said inhabitants of the said hamlet of St. Leonard’s at their own proper costs and charge.’

William was not a trustee long. He made his will³¹ on the 30th April 1550; it was proved a year later. He first mentioned his sons Henry and Thomas, who were bequeathed money – the will is unclear at the point the amount is mentioned. His daughters Alis, Elizabeth and Isabel were to receive £6 8/4 each. All these bequests were to come into force when they reached the age of twenty or married. Presumably these five were all minors. There was a third son mentioned, another William, who received all remaining goods and chattels, and was designated co-executor. The fact that his age was not an issue suggests that he was an adult, and therefore the eldest surviving child. It is this William who married first Agnes Baldwin (of the Dundridge family) and then a second wife named Isabel, and was the progenitor of a branch of the family which remained at the St. Leonard’s end of the parish for the next hundred years or so. His mother – also named Isabel – was given land in Aston Clinton, and the profits and use of William senior’s goods and chattels during her widowhood, so that she could care for the children. An additional clause assured her of £20 and her chamber should she remarry, but any future husband was warned not to meddle in Grainge affairs! I surmise that her maiden name was Bampton, as there are extensive references in the will to ‘my brother William Bampton’ who was named co-executor and given clear instructions how the

money was to be managed, and how much land purchased to ensure the legacies could be paid. He was bequeathed his expenses.

A final, tantalising bequest was made to ‘my godson William Graunge’, who was also one of the numerous witnesses. Another witness was George Graunge/Grounge, whose will³² was proved in Marsworth in the same year, 1551. He appeared to have no direct heirs, but bequeathed much of his estate to Thomas Graunge, son of his brother Robert, or, in the event of his death, Robert’s heirs. It seems possible that this link joins our line to the Puttenham branch of the family, which ultimately leads to Robert Graunge Esquire of Little Horwood. (See Tree 1 – page 5.)

One other will sheds light on this part of the family. From the bequests made by William’s daughter Elizabeth³³ in 1568 we learn that Thomas was now dead, and that she received £5 of his share from her father’s will in addition to her own 20 nobles. As well as her surviving brothers, Henry and William, she mentions ‘sisters’ Alice, Elizabeth and Agnes; presumably the latter two were sisters-in-law.

The St. Leonards Branch

The Aston Clinton register does not, as Lipscombe found, give a cut and dried pedigree for the Graunge family. In order to verify our own line of descent, I was forced to ‘sort out’ all the various strands. This section carries a caveat. Because it is peripheral to my research I have accepted conjecture in a way I haven’t done elsewhere. However, all the pieces do hang together. (See Tree 2 – page 6.)

William, the eldest son of William Graunge of Aston Clinton had two sons, Henry and Thomas, both named in their father’s will³⁴ of 1582 – at which point they were clearly minors. The only land named in this nuncupative will was Blakemeres, which William’s executor and overseer, Henry Baldwin, seems to have taken control of. A field survey³⁵ carried out in 1582 shows ‘Black Mere’ – which I assume to be the same land – held as copyhold by Sylvester Baldwin. (See map - page 12.) This small close of pasture was at the centre of the hamlet, near to the chapel. According to the Hays, authors of *Hilltop Villages of the Chilterns*, there was a mere there, to water cattle, until 1923. Presumably, death overtook William suddenly, and in his dictated will he omitted to mention all his property. However, as his farm was held in fee, it devolved by law to his eldest son. Three years, later, the presumably now adult Thomas took Henry and John Baldwin to court over this farm which was called Brunes. The farm, also mentioned by the Hays, was one of only three at the St. Leonard’s end of the parish capable of sustaining arable³⁶, and presumably therefore a desirable asset. Thomas insisted that his father had died ‘seized of [this] demayne as of fee’, and that the farm should have passed to him as one of ‘his own name, blood and kindred’³⁷. Presumably his plea was successful, and the fact that this property turns up in later wills has allowed me to piece this family unit together.

As much by a process of elimination as anything, I have assumed that the other brother, Henry, married Elizabeth Wethered at the adjacent parish of Drayton Beauchamp in 1609. After three daughters, a son – William – was born to this couple in 1612. I suspect that he is the William who is named as ‘of Wendover’ in a later family will. Henry’s brother Thomas, born in 1569, seems to have had a long life. Like his

grandfather he seems to have been involved with St. Leonard's Chapel land³⁸, and generally he leaves a clear paper trail through taxation records, deeds and disputes. He probably married Lydia Lake at Tring in 1594, and baptised a daughter, Sarah, at Aston Clinton the following year. I suspect he is also the father of a younger Henry, William and Joshua. He doesn't seem to have died until after 1644.

The younger Henry married Alice Hartwell³⁹ at Wendover in 1638, but produced only daughters (Martha Sweetser, Hannah King and Sarah). Joshua moved to Wycombe, where his signature appears, along with several fellow citizens, at the election of a bailiff and an alderman⁴⁰. William, presumably the eldest son, stayed at St. Leonards, also leaving a clear paper trail⁴¹. His will⁴², proved in 1675, names his cousin William Grainge of Wendover and his three children – Mary, Martha and William; his brother Henry and his daughter Hannah; his brother Joshua; his own children – Samuel, Joseph and Mary Woods; and his grandchildren Mary and Joseph.

Samuel Grainge was presumably the most successful of this line. He, too, moved to Chipping Wycombe. His will - proved at the PCC in 1690⁴³ - names his wife Mary, cousin Hannah King and her son, uncle Joshua, and niece and nephews Mary, Joseph and Samuel. Detailed arrangements are made for the disposal of the farm Bruns to ensure that it goes to a member of the family.

I have not followed this line further, so don't know how much longer the farm stayed in the family. However, Bruns lasted into the 20th century at least, as a photograph taken of it in about 1906 appears on the Buckinghamshire County Council Historic Photographs website⁴⁴.

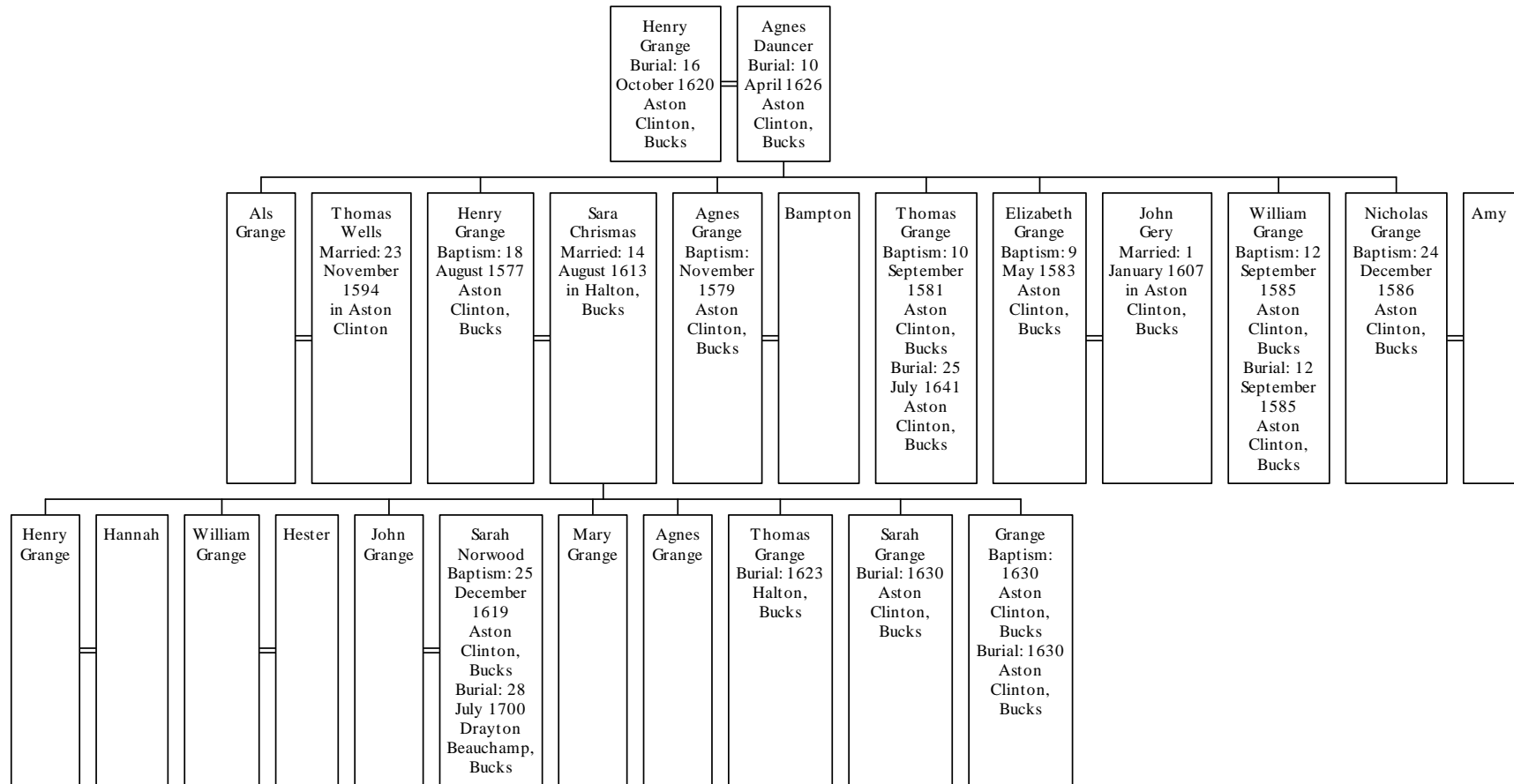
Henry¹ Grang of Aston Clinton

Our line, however, descends through Henry¹, the younger son of William Graunge and Isabel Bampton. (See Tree 3 – page 11.) He was obviously born before 1551 and therefore predates the parish register. His marriage is not recorded at Aston Clinton, but his wife's name, Agnes Dauncer, is known from wills.

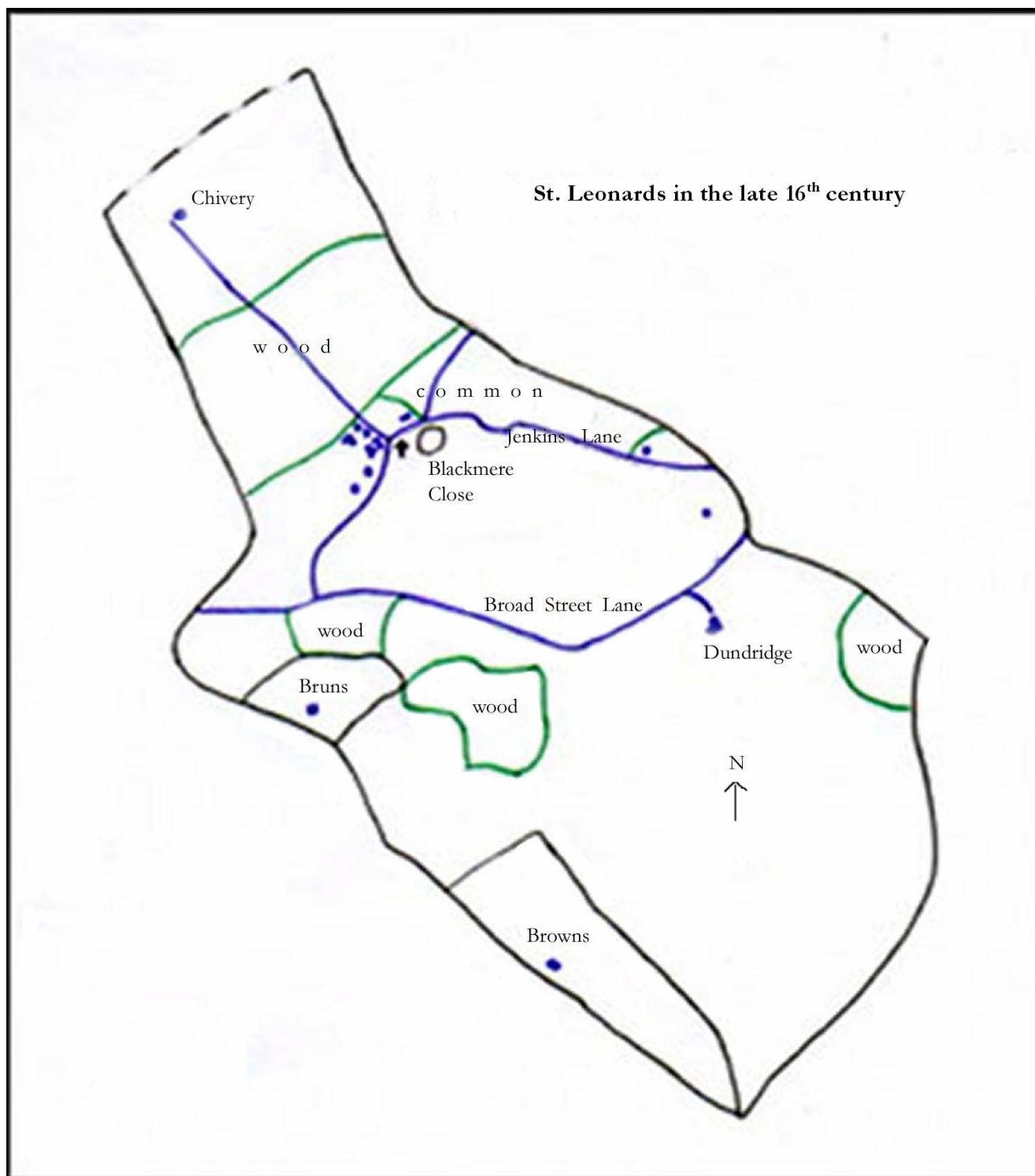
Little is known of this couple's lives, but they baptised six children at Aston Clinton church. The first was Henry² - our ancestor - on 18th August 1577, then Agnes in November 1579, Thomas on 10th September 1581, Elizabeth on 9th May 1583, William, who was buried on the same day, 12th September 1585, and Nicholas, who was baptised on Christmas Eve 1586. There was another daughter, Alice (spelt variously Als and Aylce) whom I take to be the eldest from her position in the wills. Maybe she was baptised in the parish where the wedding took place.

The will⁴⁵ of Henry¹, written in the year of his death – 1620 - is brief and to the point. His son Henry was to receive the table standing in the hall with a frame, and the wainscotting about the table. Presumably this was a significant item, as I have noted other wills in which the eldest son is given table and frame. Maybe it had some symbolic status as the centre of the home, and therefore was deemed fitting for the eldest son and heir. No land is mentioned, but this would have automatically gone to the eldest son as 'heir at law'. Als, his daughter, now married to Thomas Wells, received 20/-, as did his other two daughters, Agnes Bampton and Elizabeth Gery. The rest of his goods and

Tree 3 - Descendants of Henry Grange of Aston Clinton



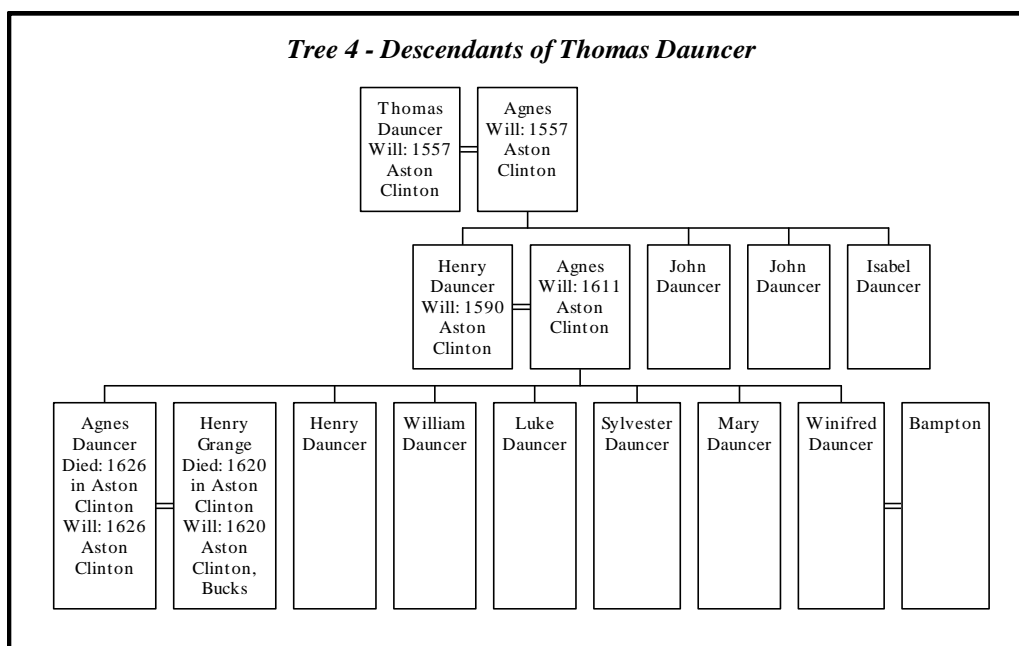
Alice Wells had four sons and two daughters.
Agnes Bampton had three sons.
Elizabeth Gery had four sons and three daughters.



chattels were divided between his wife and sons Nicholas and Thomas (who were also his executors.) Household linen went to wife Agnes. George Page and Mikeall Butt witnessed the will.

Dauncer of Aston Clinton

Henry¹ Grang was buried in Aston Clinton churchyard on 16th October 1620; his wife Agnes lived another five and a half years before joining him on 10th April 1626. Her will⁴⁶, dated 19th January 1626 is more detailed, and extends our knowledge of the family network by naming a number of grandchildren. She left her eldest son Henry 50/-, and Nicholas 40/- and a pair of sheets. Daughters Aylce, Agnes and Elizabeth were given 40/- apiece, along with a pair of sheets, a tablecloth and a platter. Agnes also received 'my best red petticoat', while the three sisters shared the rest of her wearing apparel. She named two grandchildren, Henry Graing the younger (our ancestor) and Richard Wells, and made reference to 'Nicklase' Graing's two children. Each of these received 5/-, but the 'rest of my children's children' (unfortunately not named) only got 12d apiece. Winifred Bampton (her sister) was given a russet petticoat and waistcoat, and she and Agnes' brother Luke Dauncer were also given a bushel of grain, half wheat, half barley. All the rest of her goods and chattels went to her son Thomas, her executor. The will was witnessed by Henry Graing, Thomas Wells, William Bampton and Nicholas Graing, and proved in 1626.



Between Aston Clinton, Halton and Buckland, is a tiny hamlet called Dansers End, which may be where the Dansers, Dancers or Dauncers originated. It is a common name in the early Aston Clinton registers, and a William Dauncer appears in the 1516 court roll⁴⁷. Our Agnes was the daughter of Henry Dauncer, husbandman of Aston Clinton. In his will⁴⁸, proved in 1591, he refers to himself as Henry the elder, though no mention is made of his son of that name, so presumably he was the eldest. He divides

his estate – crops, livestock and money – between his wife, sons William, Thomas, Luke and Sylvester, daughters Winifred Bampton and Mary and his son-in-law Harry Graynge. In the next sentence, his god-daughter Ales Grainge was promised half a bushel of grain on her marriage. Other grandchildren were also catered for.

His wife Agnes Danser's will⁴⁹, proved in 1612, corroborates the names of all their children except Mary, who was perhaps dead by this time, and confirms the existence of a son Henry. She makes direct reference to her daughter Agnes, with the surname spelled Graunge this time, bequeathing her 20 shillings and a pair of sheets. The next generation back, also drawn from wills, is Thomas Dancer⁵⁰ and his wife Agnes⁵¹, or Annis. These wills, written on the 7th and 26th September 1557 show a family consisting of three sons: - Henry, executor to both wills, John the elder and John the younger – and a daughter, Isabel. *The Muster Certificate Book*⁵² shows Thomas to be worth 6/8 in land and £2 in goods at Buckland in 1522, but he is assessed⁵³ at £2 in Aston Clinton two years later.

Familiar names crop up in all these wills. Aston Clinton was a small community and choice of spouse was obviously limited. The will of Agnes Grange's brother Henry Dancer⁵⁴ - in 1626 – proved to be witnessed by another of our ancestors, Francis Norwood, whose daughter Sarah would later marry Agnes' grandson John.

The 'Nicholas' line

The above-mentioned Nicholas Grange was Henry's youngest son. By the time of his brother Thomas' death, he was married (wife's name – Amy) with two children, Elizabeth and William. Elizabeth married Richard Stratford/Stratfield in 1636 and had three children, Agnes, William and Elizabeth. Her brother William died in 1635 and his mother a few years later. Nicholas apparently married again, to an Elizabeth, and produced twins – Alice and Henry - in 1644 and a son Nicholas in 1653. This seems unlikely as he would have been around 67, but extensive searching has not provided an alternative version, and, until it does, I am prepared to accept that, like so many others in this family at that time, Nicholas remained hale and hearty to a ripe old age. However, a will proved for Nicholas Grainge⁵⁵ in 1674 makes no mention of daughter Elizabeth or her family, so maybe there is a missing generation. (See Tree 5 – pages 45 -48.)

Of the twins, I think Alice must have married a member of the Lake family, as Lake grand-children are mentioned in the 1674 will. Henry married Alice Hawkins, but of their eleven offspring, only four lived to adulthood, and as far as I can tell, neither of the sons had children. Nicholas, born 1653, married Lucy Widmer at Hughenden in 1679. Of their numerous offspring, only the eldest, William, stayed in Aston Clinton. His will⁵⁶, in 1723, names brothers Nicholas, Henry and Richard and children William, Mary and Susanna. The three brothers - a baker, tailor and wheelwright, respectively - are all said to be of Chipping Wycombe. It is possible that Richard may have had a son Richard, who could therefore be the Richard Grainge junior, father to Robert Grainge wheelwright who was favoured in Robert of Horwood's will, but to date, I have not found a link. There were two other sons, Samuel, a cordwainer, also of Chipping Wycombe, and John, who also married in Hughenden. It was descendants of Henry Grainge the tailor who put up a memorial to him and his family in Aston Clinton

church⁵⁷, causing Lipscombe once again to jump to conclusions and assume that Henry was Robert of Horwood's son. I have not followed this line any further.

Henry² Grange of Aston Clinton and Halton

Henry² Grange, baptised 18th August 1577, didn't marry until 1613, when he was thirty-six years old. In this, he conforms to a pattern seen in many of this family in the 17th century, late marriage and a long life. His marriage to Sara Christmas was solemnised on 14th August 1613 at Halton in Buckinghamshire, a parish adjoining Aston Clinton. In the register, Sara's name is difficult to decipher. However, fortunately for me, she witnessed the will⁵⁸ of her father, Timothy Christmas, in 1621, and there the name is clear. He left everything to his wife Elizabeth for the bringing up of their children, and his burial took place on 1st August 1621 at Halton. His son-in-law Henry Graing was one of those responsible for taking an inventory of his goods, signing it in a way which is immediately recognisable from other documents.



St Michael Halton

Presumably most of their children: Henry, William, John, Agnes, Sarah and Thomas - were baptised at Halton; however, there is unfortunately no way of proving this as the early baptisms were lost when the register was rebound some years ago. (See **Tree 6 – page 17.**) It would seem that Henry probably returned to Aston Clinton round about 1630. His son Thomas was buried at Halton in 1623, but a younger daughter was baptised and buried at Aston Clinton in 1630. In 1629, Henry paid tax at Halton⁵⁹, but by the time that the infamous Ship Money⁶⁰ was being collected, in 1637, he was paying his 16/- at Aston Clinton. (This was a notorious tax, levied by Charles I to pay for the Navy. Highly unpopular, it was one of the major causes of the Civil War.) He was still there in 1642 (unless this was his son) when he contributed 2/- to the 'the Distressed Protestants in Ireland'⁶¹ - money raised after the Catholic Irish rose against Protestant English settlers.

Fortunately for this family history, Henry involved himself in a series of long and complicated conveyances. In each he is named as Henry Grange of Halton, but all the other participants are from Aston Clinton, suggesting that he had interests in both parishes. Deeds are notoriously long-winded, to the point of obfuscation. However, it would seem that somewhere round 1613, Henry Grange entered into a series of land transactions with the then Lord of the Manor, Sir Francis Barrington, along with William Wells (probably the son of another of our ancestors), Thomas Wells – married to Henry's sister Alice – and Edward Worceter. (As a Wells married a Worster some time in the early 1500s, I suspect he was a distant relative too.) I haven't found the original document, but it is referred to in detail in a number of subsequent deeds, including one with Francis Norwood⁶² in 1617. It would appear that the four men acquired a number of parcels of land and then sold some of them on to other parties. Whatever the reason for the original sale, it was ratified in the High Court of Chancery. The following year, Sir Francis Barrington alienated the manor of Aston Clinton to his son-in-law, Gilbert Gerrard, so maybe he wanted to raise some ready capital beforehand⁶³.

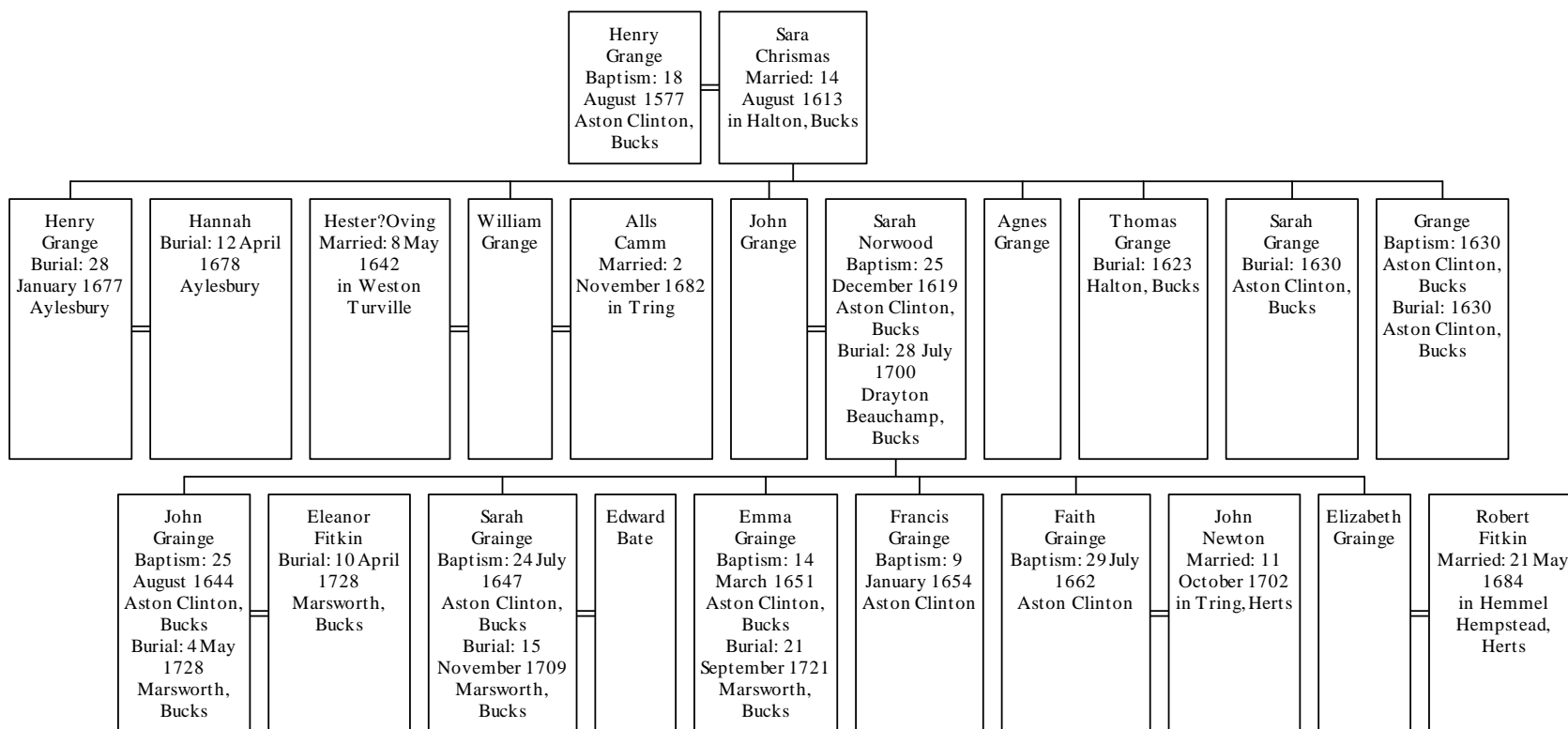
References to these transactions surface from time to time in indentures for almost the next hundred years, culminating in a document⁶⁴ dated 1717 which names a descendant of Henry Grange of Tring - one John Grainge of Lee - grandson and heir of Henry Grange of Aston Clinton. This helped me to tie in firmly what had been hopeful speculation. (See **Tree 9 – page 23** and **'The Tring Branch'**) This document, unlike the earlier ones, named Gilbert Gerrard - Barrington's successor - as Lord of the Manor at the time of the first indenture, but otherwise, the names and dates are identical:

'...on the seventeenth day of October in the [12th] year of the reign of our late sovereign lord James..... William Wells the younger, Thomas Wells, Edward Wooster and Henry Grange of Aston Clinton aforesaid and to their heirs and assigns for ever several messuages lands and tenements in Aston Clinton aforesaid yielding and paying therefore yearly to the said Gilbert Gerrard and his successors the yearly rent of £38 8/7d...'

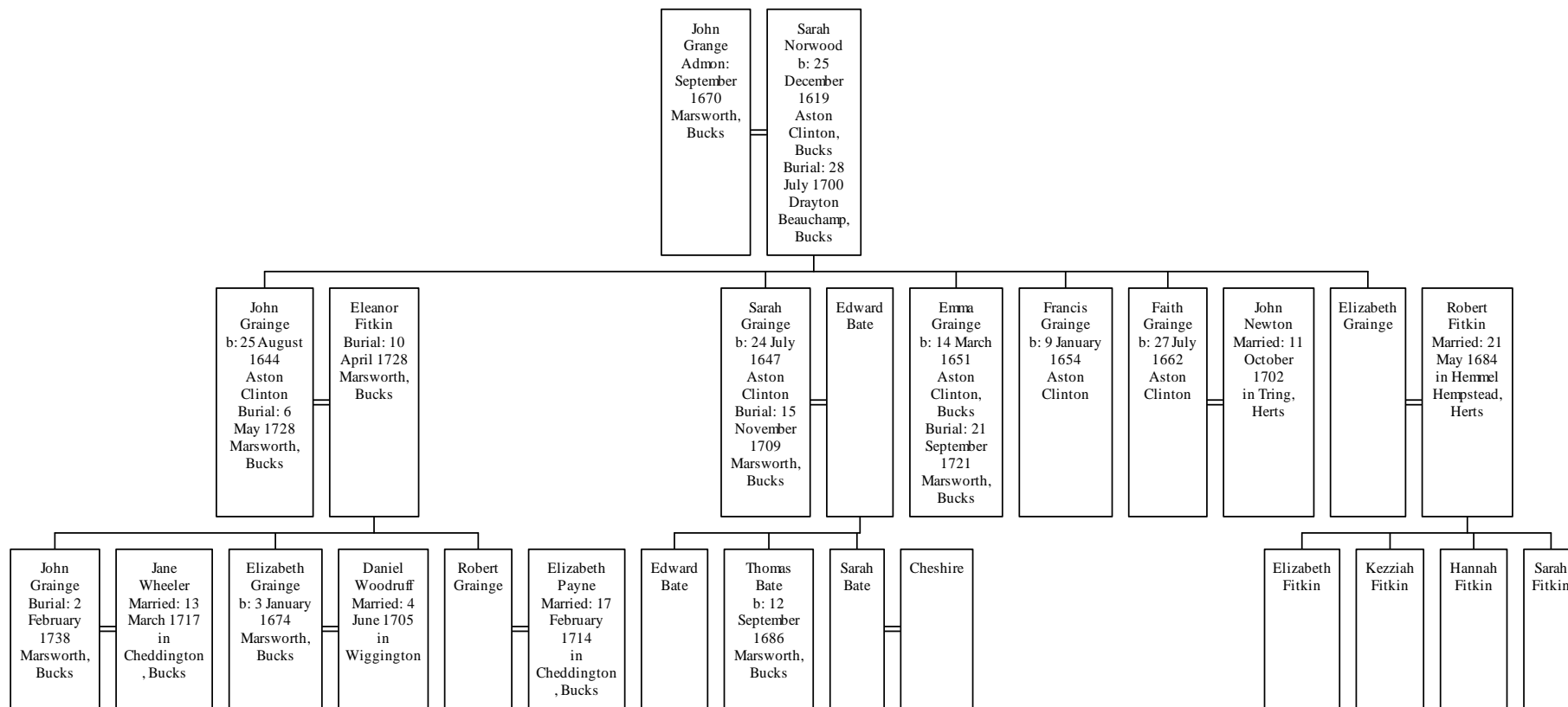
Presumably this deal allowed the four men to extend their own holdings and to raise extra income from rent drawn from the leasing of some of the land.

Henry was also a key witness in the Duchy of Lancaster depositions in the case of Gerard v. Wells⁶⁵ at Aston Clinton in 1633. This case seems to concern a difference of opinion as to the ownership of some land in the parish between Gilbert Gerard and William Wells. He is sworn and examined as aged about 55 or thereabouts, which would fit nicely with his baptism. In a series of answers to set questions, he states that he has known the defendant William Wells for forty years, (i.e. at least since the marriage of his sister to William's brother in 1594). He has known the plaintiff Gilbert Gerard for eighteen years, and that he has known the manor of Aston Clinton for some fifty or more years. He swears that the land in question - in Chicken Mead, Barland Mead and Little Weston Mead - is held by William Wells or some of his tenants. In corroboration of this, he refers to a survey made when Sir Francis Barrington (whom he knew for 30 years) was Lord of the Manor, and in which William Wells was asked about the land. He ends by saying that he has known the land in question for forty years and believes the copyhold to belong to the Wells. I assume that as William Wells was the only defendant, this land was not part of that bought by the four men from Sir Francis Barrington. The case also suggests some friction between the new Lord of the Manor and his tenants.

Tree 6 - Descendants of Henry Grange of Halton



Tree 8 - Descendants of John Grange of Aston Clinton and Wilstone



A lot of what we know about Henry's family comes from the extensive will⁶⁶ of his presumably bachelor brother Thomas, who died in 1641. The first bequest was to:

'Henry Grange the younger, my nephew, son of Henry Grange the elder.'

To him was bequeathed:

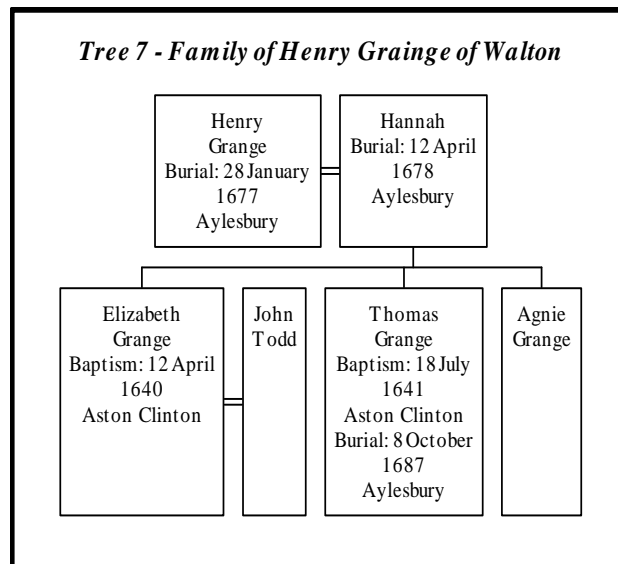
'all the reversion and term of years yet unexpiredin one messuage and tenement situate in Aston Clinton'

along with land in Merry Mead and Chicken Mead. Nephews Henry Wells, William and Nicholas Bampton were also willed land. His brother Henry Grange received £50, while his children, William, John, Mary and Agnes each got £20. His sister Elizabeth Gery and her children were given money, as were the children of his other two sisters not already catered for. His Stratford nieces and nephew were mentioned. Even uncle Luke Dauncer was not forgotten.

A further piece of documentary evidence about Henry and his family is a Quitclaim⁶⁷ to Henry Grange of Walton (in the outskirts of Aylesbury) – his son - dated 15th September 1656, by which time he was about 78 years old. It involves his other two sons, William and John, as well as others.

'Be it known unto all men by these presents that we, Henry Grange the elder of Aston Clinton... yeoman, William Grange of Aston Clinton... yeoman, John Grange of Aston Clinton ...yeoman quitclaim all manner of debts ...demands... suits...quarrels ... to Henry Grange of Aylesbury.'

Other deeds track Henry junior. There is a bargain and sale and feoffment in 1649⁶⁸ involving 40 acres of land on Brook Farm in Walton. A similar transaction⁶⁹ took place in 1663, between Henry Grange of Walton yeoman and his brother William Grange of Aston Clinton yeoman, along with Thomas Parsons of Stoke Manderville. The property included a cottage and land in Walton. A copy release of mortgage⁷⁰, dated 1653, involved another 10 acres. In October 1660, Henry Junior - this time said to be of Sedrup, also close to Aylesbury, makes a general release⁷¹ to Sir Thomas Lee. An equity pleading⁷² in 1673 shows Henry Grange, grocer of Walton, complaining that William Bampton hasn't returned money owing. Despite the different place names, it's definitely the same person, as the family unit is recorded in both locations. Henry was baptised in Aston Clinton, as were his children Elizabeth and Thomas; but he was in Aylesbury when his father made the general release in 1656. He was in Hartwell for the 1660 Poll Tax, with his wife Anna and children, and at Sedrup in



Hartwell when the quitclaim was drawn up. His son Thomas made a will⁷³ dated 1669. In this, he left everything to his parents, sister Elizabeth – married to John Todd, and another sister Agnie. However, as he went on to outlive his father by ten years, it was his sister who proved the will eventually in 1687.

John Grange of Aston Clinton and Marsworth

The next character in this saga, John Grange, was for many years the missing link. I had been aware of his family in Aston Clinton, but could see no proof to link him with the family unit in the next generation over the county border in Wiltshire in the parish of Tring, Hertfordshire. In any case, I was still trying to prove descent from the Puttenham branch. Initially, a stray marriage in Hemmel Hempstead, and two wills which had at first looked unpromising, helped me to piece things together. I don't yet know when this John was born, or where he married, or where he was buried, although an administration was granted to his widow Sarah in 1670, in Marsworth⁷⁴ (within walking distance of Wiltshire, and the parish where numerous Grange burials took place in the next generation). The wording is as follows, as far as I could decipher the Latin:

'John Grange, Marsworth, 26th September 1670. Sara, widow, administrator of the goods of John Grange late of Marsworth..... estate worth £226 8/- John Norwood of the same place, farmer.'

The case was called several times, suggesting that no one turned up. The most likely person to support a widow at such a time would be a brother, and sure enough, further research revealed Sarah and John Norwood, born 1619 and 1620 respectively, in Aston Clinton. Their parents' names were Francis and Emma, neither common at the time, and so the fact that John and Sarah, having named their first two offspring after themselves, went on to baptise their next two children Francis and Emma was strongly suggestive of a link.

However, the final proof came in a feoffment, dated 1st February 1665⁷⁵ between John Grange senior, weaver of Marsworth, John Grange junior, his son, and Richard Tidder of Aston Clinton. In this, John Grange is described as:

'now of Marsworth and heretofore of Aston Clinton...'

He is selling a house called *Cookes* in Green End Street in Aston Clinton (the road still exists, running at about 45° from the main London Road, opposite the Church Lane)

'late in the tenancy or occupation of the said John Grange the elder...'

for the sum of £210. Several closes, 'heretofore but one close' estimated to be about three acres in area, also form part of the deal. The deed is very fragile and not easy to read, so it is not clear whether the land is part of a common field called Long Croft, or adjacent to it. At any rate, it is bordered by land belonging to Richard Tidder and Mary Wells, widow. The deed also mentions Sarah 'now wife' of John; and her brother, John Norwood, witnesses the deal.

The five children of this couple baptised at Aston Clinton were John, 25th August 1644 (our ancestor), Sarah - 24th July 1647, Emma - 14th March 1651, Francis - 9th January

1654 and Faith - 29th July 1662. (See Tree 8 – page 18.) There was also another daughter, Elizabeth, not baptised at St. Michael's, who threw me off the trail for a while. The initial key to proving that the family in Aston Clinton moved to Wilstone lay in Emma Grange's will⁷⁶, written on 8th May 1721. Although she didn't mention her brothers, she left bequests to her sisters and their families. So it was that she mentioned Faith Newton of Bunstrue in Tring – Faith Grange married John Newton at Tring in 1702. She mentioned Kezziah and Hannah Fitkin, daughters of Robert and Elizabeth Fitkin – Elizabeth Greange married Robert Fitkin of Wilstone at Hemmel Hempstead in 1684. (According to a Rental⁷⁷ of 1676, Robert Fitkin paid 11/2 on a close called Aldwicke, part of the manor of Hemmel Hempstead. This perhaps explains the wedding location.) Finally, she mentioned Edward and Thomas Bate and Sarah Cheshire, sons and daughter of her brother-in-law Edward Bate of Marsworth – the parish register at Marsworth shows these to have been the children of Edward and Sarah Bate, and Sarah to be dead by this time (buried Marsworth 1709). She made her sister Elizabeth Fitkin of Wilston her executrix. Her burial took place at Marsworth on 21st September 1721, with the note, 'from Tring'.

Francis, the only sibling apart from John not named in Emma's will, is a bit of a mystery. For some time, I assumed that he was the Francis Grainge who later became rector of Woodford and Thundridge in Hertfordshire, but although the ages tally almost exactly in the *Alumni Cantabrigiensis*⁷⁸, that states him to be the son of John Grange of Ripon in Yorkshire. No baptism for him has been found there for him, however, so he is still a bit of a puzzle. There is a Francis Grainge baptised at Pately Bridge, near Ripon, but ten years too early, and with a father called Peter⁷⁹.

John's life in Aston Clinton is reasonably documented. Apart from his baptism, he is referred to, as already mentioned, in his Uncle Thomas' will⁸⁰ in 1641. The following year he made a contribution of one shilling to the 'Distressed Protestants in Ireland'⁸¹. The quitclaim⁸² to his brother cited above places him in Aston Clinton as a yeoman in 1656, and in 1660 he is listed in a tax assessment⁸³. This tax is headed:

'A rate made this 1st October 1660 for the pole (sic) ...for and towards the paying and disbanding of the armies and garrisons in this kingdom'

John Grang and his wife Sarah Grang each pay 6d. The next entry, perhaps the house next door, is for John Norwood, Sarah's brother, who pays a shilling. However, John doesn't contribute to the 'Free and Voluntary Present'⁸⁴ to Charles II in 1662; his name is missing on a list of names in Aston Clinton in 1663, headed 'Captain Fleetwood's Foot'⁸⁵; and he doesn't pay tax there in the 1666⁸⁶ and 1668⁸⁷ assessments. The only other references to him in Aston Clinton are in wills. Nicholas Grainge, whose will⁸⁸ was written in 1670, mentions land:

'purchased of one John Grange at a yearly rent of 7d'

while the will⁸⁹ of his cousin Thomas Wells, dated 1674, refers to land bought from John Grange deceased. Both these statements would fit a date of death in 1670, and it would seem that he moved at some time around 1662.

His life in Marsworth is uncharted, apart from the administration and feoffment already mentioned. It is not known why he chose to move his family, but a web page devoted to Aston Clinton⁹⁰ tells us that William Gerrard, vicar of Aston Clinton from

1630 – 1662, ‘inclined to the Puritans’ and having held the post of rector during the time of the Commonwealth:

‘was deprived... at the Restoration in 1662 whereupon he migrated to Tring to preach to a dissenting conventicle.’

Maybe our John also ‘inclined to the Puritans’, which would explain the name Faith appearing only in this generation. Both his brothers had also left the village by this stage, Henry to Walton, and William apparently to Weston Turville and then Drayton Beauchamp, from where his wife returned to be buried in 1681.

The Tring Branch

This brother William, and his wife Hester, baptised five children in Aston Clinton: Harry in 1642, Mary, Hannah, Elizabeth and Thomas in 1661. (See **Tree 9 – page 16.**) Another daughter, Martha, was baptised in Weston Turville, in 1665, which perhaps suggests that the ‘Richard’ Grange who married Hester Oving in 1642 could have been William. The marriage only took place a couple of months before Harry’s birth, so maybe the groom was reluctant and not well known to the church official writing up the register. The only one of this family to be interred at Aston Clinton was Hester, whose burial in 1681 identifies her as ‘of Drayton parish’. Like John, William leaves a paper trail up till about 1661, just after the Restoration, and then disappears, via Weston Turville, in 1665. I suspect that he is the William of Drayton parish who married Alls Camm at Tring in 1682 (only a few months before his daughter Mary married Thomas Brandon) and may have been buried at Marsworth in 1704.

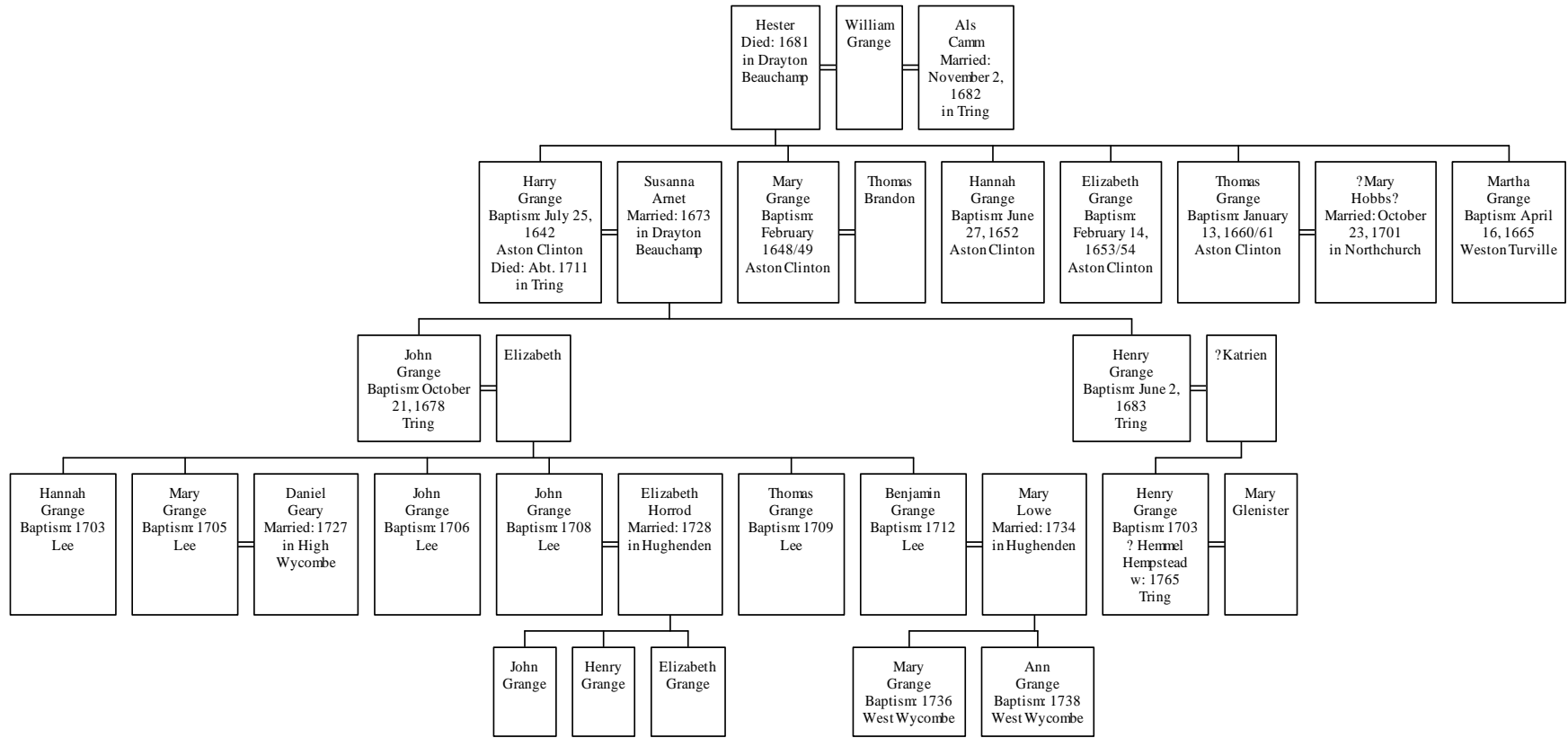
I am sure that ‘Harry’ became the Henry Grange who married Susanna Arnett at Drayton Beauchamp in 1673, and baptised two sons at Tring, John in 1678 and Henry in 1683. This Henry Grainge (Harry) has a similar profile to that of his cousin John. The manor records⁹¹ of Great Tring show him serving as a juror, buying and selling land in Akeman Street in Tring and signing the Association Oath Roll in 1695/6⁹². Two of his grandsons, Henry (Henry junior’s son) and John (John’s son) are named in Robert Grainge esquire’s will. (The only males of this line not mentioned are John’s younger brothers, Thomas and Benjamin, and the latter may have been dead by this time.) It was presumably John (born 1678), who was party to the indenture⁹³ of 1717 which named the four partners – William and Thomas Wells, Edward Worceter and Henry Grange – and referred to John as:

‘grandson and heir at law of Henry Grange late of Aston Clinton’

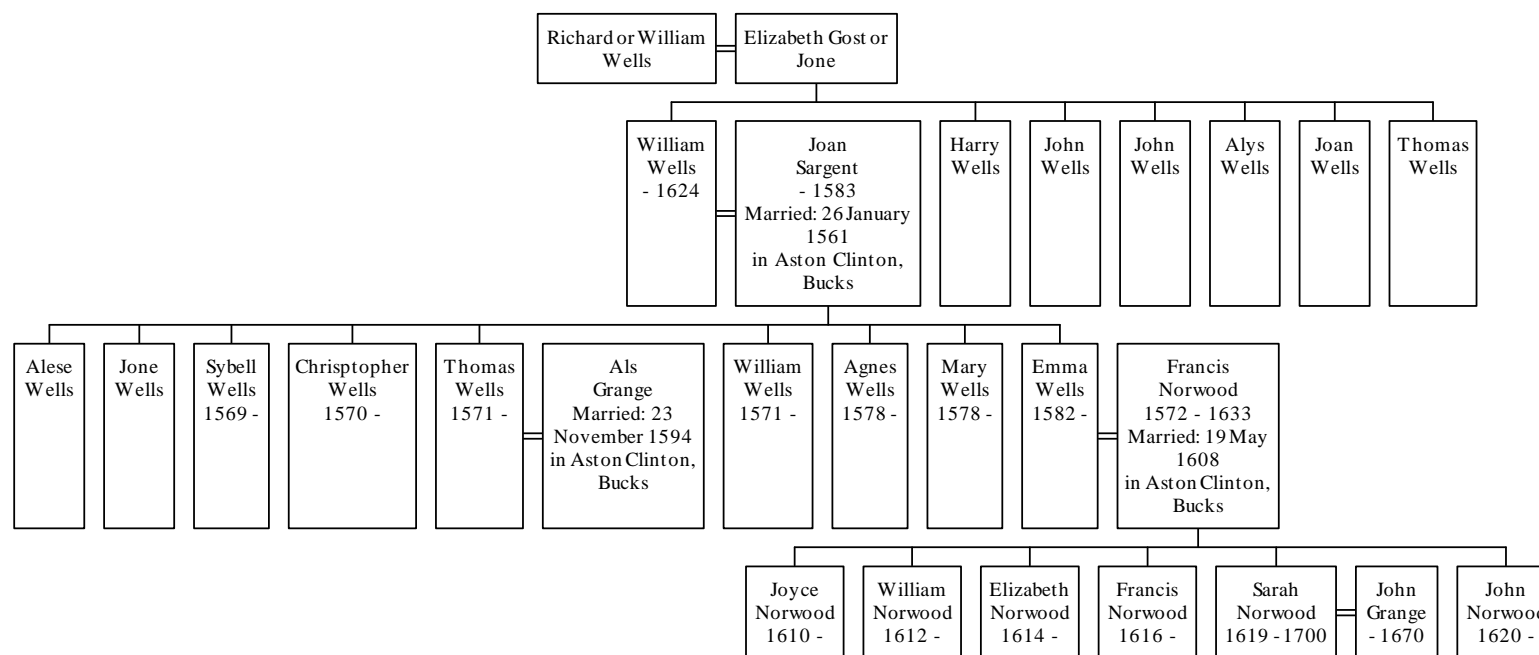
thus tying the Tring branch of the family to our own, and to Henry Grange of Halton, and his fellow conveyancers. (Grandson can be used for any descendant beyond son.)

Henry Grainge apparently witnessed the marriage portion⁹⁴ agreement of John Grainge of Ivinghoe and Little Horwood in 1679 at Ivinghoe, which is no distance at all from Tring, which is even closer to his bride’s parish of Long Marston. The signatory might have been the son of Henry of Halton’s brother Nicholas – an equally tenuous connection - but either suggests contact between members of a very extended family.

Tree 9 - Descendants of William Grange of Drayton - 'The Tring Branch'



Tree 10 - The Wells Line



It is not certain which set of parents belong to the William who married Joan Sargent. Only one set of possible children are shown in the second generation. For alternative family group, see text. The third generation shows all possible offspring.

I am much less sure of the fate of Harry's younger brother Thomas. I suspect that he too ended up in Tring for a while. In 1677, a Thomas Grange appears on the Great Tring Court Roll⁹⁵, but then disappears. Maybe it is he who marries Mary Hobbs at Northchurch. If so, it may be their burials recorded at Berkhamstead, Mary in 1736, and Thomas in 1744. His address is given as Little Heath, and his age as 85, which would only be a couple of years out. I would like to discover a son Richard who could be grandfather to 'Robert Grainge, son of Richard Grainge junior', the only Grainge beneficiary of Robert esquire's will whom I haven't firmly fixed to our line of the family.

Norwood and Wells of Aston Clinton and Drayton Beauchamp

John's wife Sarah was buried at Drayton Beauchamp on 27th July 1700. She was the fifth of six children born to Francis Norwood and Emma Wells. The first, Joys, was born in 1610, and followed by William - 1612, Elizabeth - 1614, Francis - 1616, Sarah - 25th April 1619 and then John in 1620. All baptisms took place at Aston Clinton. Francis and Emma had married in that parish on 19th May 1608.



St Mary the Virgin Drayton Beauchamp

Emma was also born there, the youngest daughter of William Welles and Joan Sargent, (married at Aston Clinton on 26th January 1561) baptised 14th November 1582. The Wells were a prolific clan, who complicated things further on occasion by giving two living children the same name. (See Tree 10 – page 24.) The parish registers apparently show three elder siblings, Sybell (1569), Thomas (1571 – married Alis Grange) and Mary (1578). However, William's will⁹⁶ – written in 1624 - doesn't mention these three, instead leaving bequests to four daughters, Agnes (baptised 1578), Alese, Jone and Em, and a son Christopher, baptised 1570. He calls himself William Welles senior, and I suspect that the William Welles the younger who witnessed it is his eldest son. Maybe the three stray children cited above belong to yet another William Wells, the other witness to the will!

William senior was either the son of Richard Wells and Elizabeth Gost⁹⁷ or of William and Joan Wells⁹⁸. Both couples left wills, Richard in 1554 and his widow in 1557.

current Lord of the Manor, Gilbert Gerard, obviously wants his cut, but I think that annual rent of £38 8/7 is paid to the four partners, and Gerard gets 11/1. The rest of the document deals with Francis' right to deal with the land in any way he sees fit, and the partners' right to carry off goods should he fail to pay the rent.

When he wrote his will¹⁰⁰, on 9th January 1633, Francis detailed these parcels of land again, mentioning: Morlands, Middle Way, Long Ridgeway, Ignell (Icknell) Way, Buckham Mare, Long Chickens and Chicken Mead. Many of the names tally, but I suspect, like most yeomen farmers of the time, he participated in other deals, the details of which are now lost. Most of his land was willed to his elder son Francis, for the remainder of the life of the lease. With this came his house with barns, stables, orchard, close of pasture, well field - provided he survive to twenty-one years of age. If not, younger son John would inherit. There was other land provision made for John, and the three daughters were bequeathed money. Sarah, for example, was to receive £12 straight away, out of the profits on part of Francis' land, and another £12 when he reached his majority. Should Francis junior default, two acres in Nining Field and Nining Hedge were to be shared between Sarah and her sister Elizabeth. Their mother Emma was allowed the moiety of the house and land during the sons' minority. She was also willed:

'half the produce of the orchard belonging to the house, with the new chamber and loft over the same; free liberty to come and go in any other houses, to dwell in the hall and use the fire.'

This offers a fascinating insight into living conditions. Francis Norwood had clearly recently converted his hall house, with one story, into a new-style two story house, where the hall was divided to create a private room at one end, with a loft area accessible by ladder. An upwardly mobile ancestor! Maybe this was as a result of the lease taken out in 1617. He was buried on 13th January 1633.

John Grange of Aston Clinton and Wilstone

When the family moved from Aston Clinton, they became involved in three areas: Marsworth, still in Buckinghamshire, with the nearest church to Wilstone, Wilstone itself, and Tring, both in Hertfordshire. Visitations¹⁰¹ carried out in 1706, 1709 and 1712 show Marsworth to be a small parish of about 44 messuages and cottages, and, a few years later, 85 families. In 1706 the visitation recorded that:

'no person of quality or gentleman of estate lives in it.'

although it mentions the 'extinct' West family from whom John Grange of Mursley acquired the advowson of Little Horwood¹⁰². Willeston or Willesthorne is described in *The Historical Antiquities of Hertfordshire*¹⁰³ as:

'...a hamlet or manor which did anciently belong to the family of the Lakes'.

By the time of our Grainges, it was part of the manor of Tring Magna, which included Dunsley, Miswell ffee, Gubblecote and Marsh, and Long Marston. Tring, like Aston Clinton, lay along Akeman Street, in a gap in the Chilterns with the Icknield Way running along Tring Hill. The name Icknield is a reference to the ancient British tribe, the Icenii.

Born in Aston Clinton in 1644, John² was around seventeen when his family moved to Wilstone. Unfortunately, he seems to have often used Marsworth church, which was nearer than the parish church of Tring. Until the early 1700s, the Marsworth records have only survived patchily, as not entirely reliable Bishop's Transcripts. Consequently, much of the information in this section is drawn from peripheral documents like manor records and land transactions.

Nevertheless, the first reference to this John is in the Marsworth Bishops' Transcripts, and it is the only record of a baptism of his offspring, though I am fairly sure there were two other children:

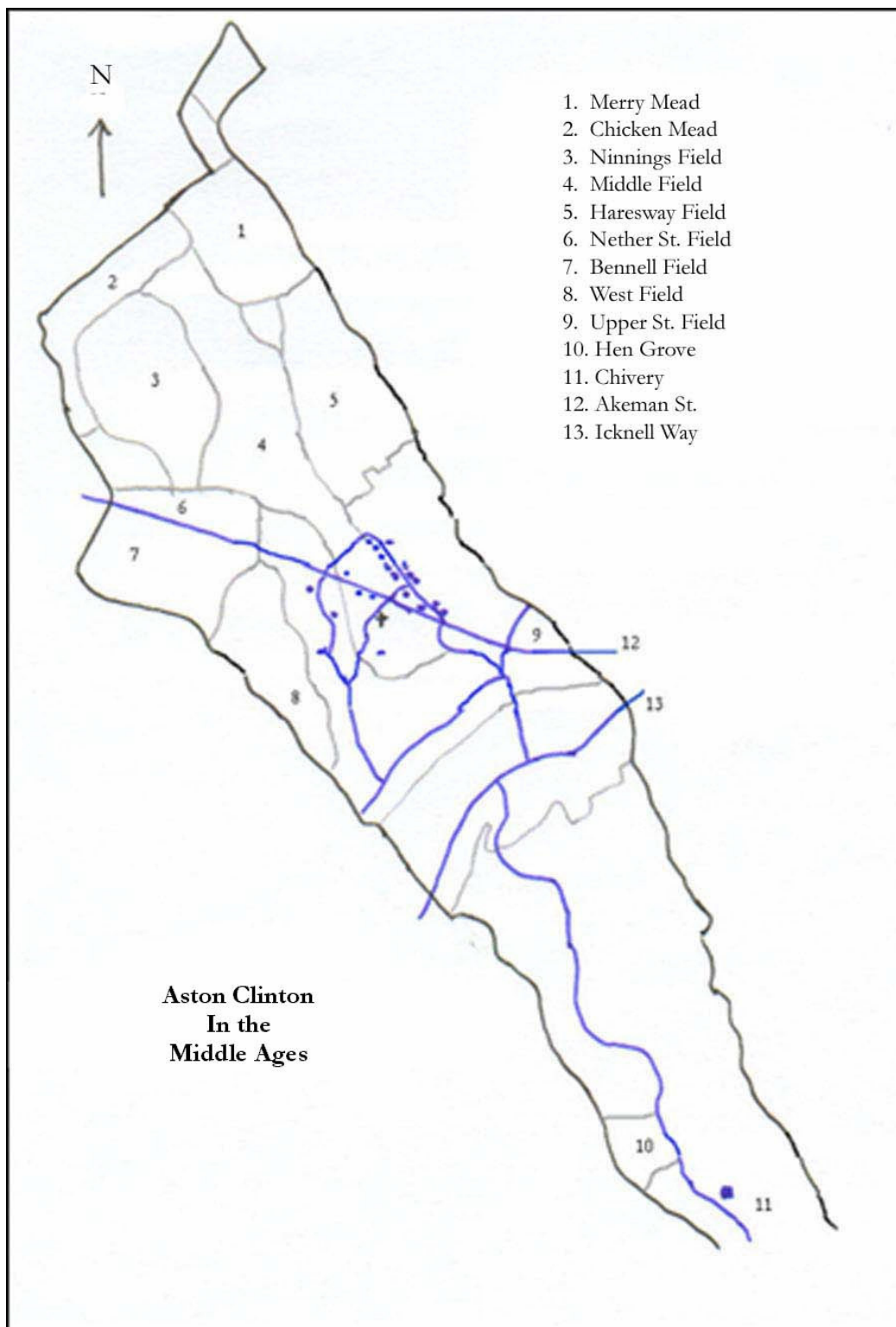
'Elizabeth Graynge the daughter of John Graynge and Elinor his wife was baptised 3rd January 1674'



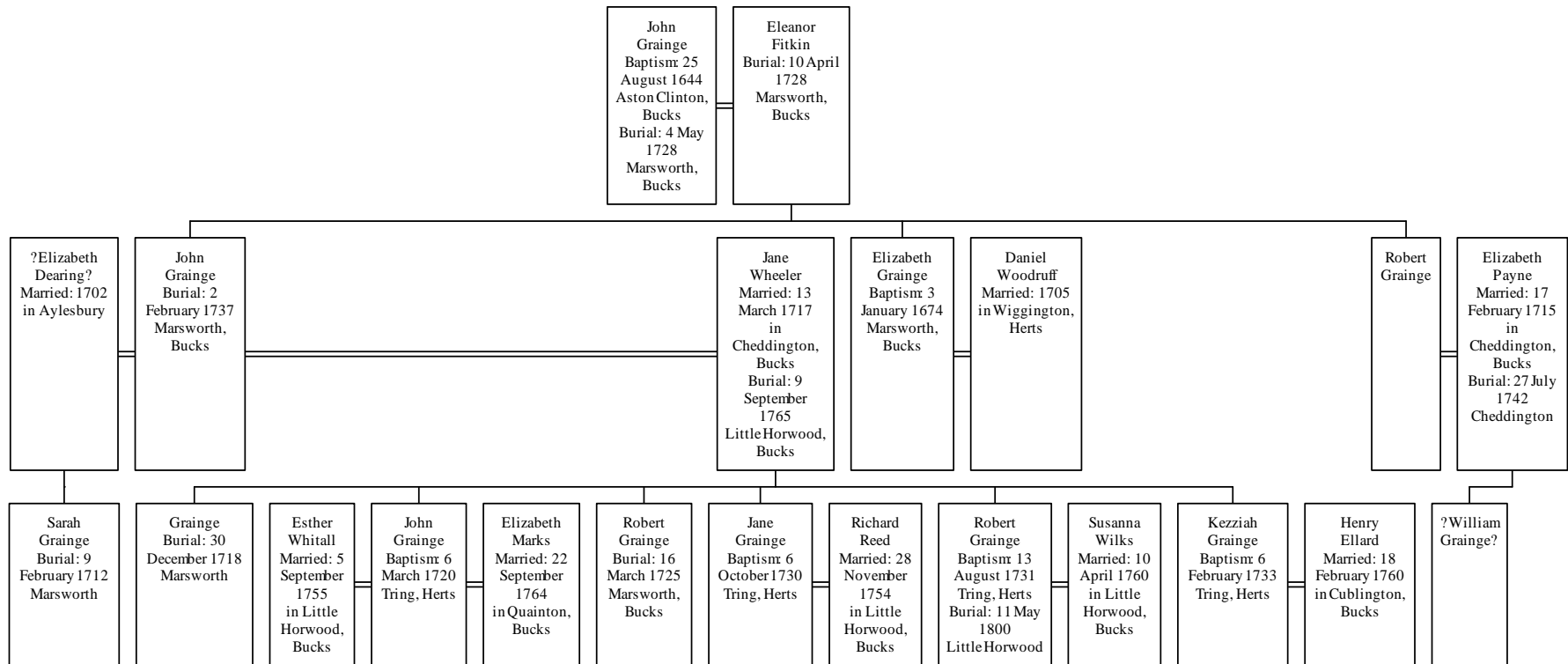
All Saints Marsworth

This daughter Elizabeth married Daniel Woodruff or Woodroffe of Wilstone at Wiggington in 1705. Like John Grange, he signed the 1695/6 Association Oath Roll¹⁰⁴, along with a Thomas Woodruffe, and although his will¹⁰⁵ in 1727 names a wife Frances, the fact that none of his three children is very old suggests a second marriage. A codicil dated 1729, refers to land bought from Thomas Stopps (who had also sold land to John Grange in 1722) and bounded on the south side by land belonging to John Grange.

The assumption that the John married to Elinor had a son John comes from a later reference in the manor rolls¹⁰⁶ to John junior. Sometimes that could refer to a nephew, but most usually it was father and son who were recorded as senior and junior. It seems certain that there was another son, Robert. In response to a Jacobite plot against William III, an *Act of Association* was passed in 1695, and most men of any standing took the oath vowing to combine together to protect the king. The Association Oath Roll at Wilstone¹⁰⁷, where 'all men signed' clearly shows the signatures of John and Robert Graing, in very similar handwriting. I have speculated long and hard about this; the writing is so similar it almost looks as if the same hand wrote both names, so maybe John was recording for his son. Certainly the handwriting is nothing like the only example of his son's signature that I have found. Maybe he was scarcely old enough to be involved but his father took the responsibility of recording his name. Certainly, if



Tree 13 - Descendants of John Grainge of Wilstone



the family did have Puritan leanings at this time, they would be keen to prevent any chance of a Catholic restoration in the form of James II's son, 'The Old Pretender'.

Whatever the truth, John senior's name appears frequently on the Manor Roll for Great Tring¹⁰⁸, a manor which covered much of Tring, Marsworth, Wilstone, Gubblecote, Long Marston, Hastoe, and other hamlets. John of Wilstone first appears in April 1680:

'Jurat et elegit John Grange ad officium pledgin captho per hamlett de Gubblecutt per anno sequen'

In other words, John was elected and sworn in as chiefpledge or constable for the hamlet of Gubblecote - a stone's throw from Wilstone, and part of Marsworth parish – for the following year. The next reference is to his failure to attend the court in 1687, but maybe he was unwell or had moved, as Puttenham Tax Assessments¹⁰⁹ for 1689/90 show John paying 4/6. In April 1692 the homage¹¹⁰ elected Richard Stonell and John Grange to be:

'tellers of the sheep and great beasts¹¹¹'

and in April of the following year, his name appears with that of Daniel Arnott and Samuel Butler at the end of a page of rules mainly to do with 'great beasts' enjoined to:

'see all the above said orders for Wilstone only performed.'

He appears again on the Manor Roll¹¹² in May 1694:

'Cons. de Wilstone. Item. Elegit John Grange ad officium constabular hamlet de Wilstone,'

and in April 1695 and April 1698 he was sworn as a juror at the court.

After this eighteen-year span, there is a gap for another sixteen years before the name John Grange reappears in the manor records, when I suspect it refers to his son. However, he makes an appearance in the Tring Vestry Book¹¹³ on June 5th 1705:

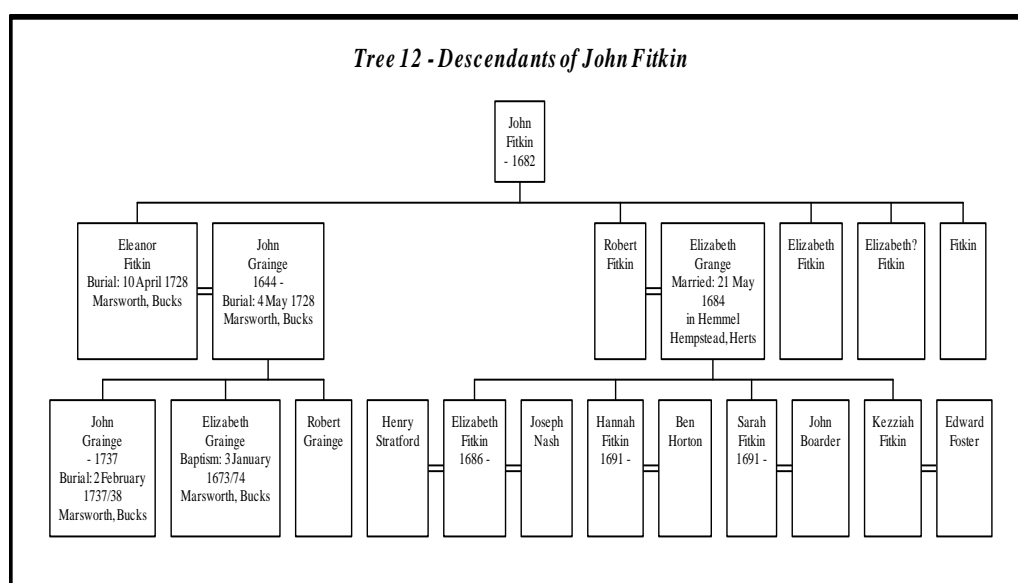
'Whereupon at the accounts of the last overseers of Tring and Wilsthorne, the tenth day of April last, John Grange overseer was found to have in his hands the sum of £4 18/10 which he was to pay to the present overseers of Tring and which he hath refused to do, therefore upon complaint to two of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace they have granted their warrants to levy the same by distress upon the goods and chattels of the said John Grange. Now at a public vestry held this present day we do agree to stand by the churchwardens (to whom the said warrant is directed) in the execution of the same.'

Presumably, therefore, he had been Overseer of the Poor for 1704-5. I assume this is John² as there is a twenty-year gap before the name appears in Vestry records again. What made him refuse to hand over the funds is not explained. Perhaps this is an echo of the temperament which got him fined for non-attendance of the Manor Court a few years earlier. Alternatively, it could have been a response to having to take on an unpopular role. Many of these elected roles were deeply disliked; perhaps this was a way of ensuring that he was not elected again. Maybe he was just strapped for cash that year!

Whatever the case, John² died in 1728, and was buried at Marsworth on 4th May. His wife Ellinor died in 1728 or 1729, on 10th or 18th April, depending on whether you believe the Marsworth parish register or Bishop's Transcripts!

Fitkin of Wilstone and Marsworth

No record has been found of the marriage between John Grainge and Elinor. However, the will of John Fitkin of Wilstone¹¹⁴ in 1682 which leaves his house in Wilstone to his son Robert - Elizabeth Grainge's future husband - also makes bequests to three other 'sons,' (who are also executors) namely: John Seare, William Lathwell and John Grainge. The inescapable conclusion is that John² of Wilstone's wife Eleanor was one of John Fitkin's daughters, and brother and sister married brother and sister.



Elinor Fitkin's baptism hasn't been found either; presumably it took place at the problematical Marsworth. A sister named Elizabeth was buried there in 1646. A brother named Robert married her sister-in-law Elizabeth Grainge. There were two other sisters - another Elizabeth (buried at Marsworth in 1728) who married John Seare - and one who married William Lathwell.

Her father, John Fitkin, was a yeoman and ploughmaker of Marsworth. He appears (as John Fittkinn) on a deed to declare the uses of a fine¹¹⁵ dated 25th April 1651, along with John and Elizabeth Seare of Marsworth and others, ratifying the conveyance of: a cottage and close of two acres with three acres of land in Marsworth; a cottage and close of one and a half acres in Marsworth and three acres of arable land dispersed in Marsworth fields. One of these is presumably the property mentioned in his will¹¹⁶ of 19th June 1682. His message in Wilstone goes to his own son Robert, a cottage in Marsworth to John Seare, and the rest of his personal estate to his three 'sons' and executors - John Seare, John Grainge and William Lathwell.

Apart from the will, information about this family is scant. There are references to a John Fitkin senior and junior concerning a marriage settlement in 1678¹¹⁷. If this is our John then there is no reference to this son in the will. Maybe he had died. Both the records of Great Tring and Harefield¹¹⁸ Manor, which includes part of Marsworth, mention Robert Fitkin and his son James in the 1660s. The manor of Tring at this time belonged to the wife of Charles II, Catherine of Braganza, and ‘Queen Katherine’s Rental’ reviewed by a Court of Survey¹¹⁹ in 1676 records a long list of copyhold tenants including:

‘John Fitkin for wood and woodground 1/-’

This is presumably Eleanor’s father, who is also sworn at the Manor Courts of 1672, 1673 and 1675¹²⁰. John Fitkin was buried at Marsworth on 28th June 1682, but there is no record of his baptism. Given that his son was named Robert, it seems feasible that a Robert Fitkin buried in 1639 there may have been his father.

John Grainge of Wilstone

Although the baptism of John junior - hereinafter referred to as John³ of Wilstone – is missing, much of the rest of his life is reasonably well documented. (See **Tree 13 – page 30.**) My guess is that he married twice. (There is a ‘likely’ marriage in Aylesbury on 29th December 1702 between John Greange and Elizabeth Dearing.) The burial of Sarah, daughter of John Grange, at Marsworth on 9th February 1712, is probably a child of this union. John was probably born between 1670 and 1680, and was therefore mature enough to appear as juror and constable of Wilstone in the Great Tring Manor Roll¹²¹ for the year beginning April 1711. He was also ‘sworn’ in May 1723 and October 1724, and in April 1725 he was made an overseer:

‘We nominate and appoint John Grange and James Harding of Wilstone ... to be overseers of Tring Mead.’

The last time he was sworn as a juror at the Great Tring Manor Court was in April 1730, in which year he was also appointed constable for Wilstone. This scenario would fit with his dying when his four surviving children were quite young.

John Grange also bought and sold land in the area. In May 1713, a surrender was made by John Theed and Francesca his wife of two acres of meadow in Long Mead (Tring Mead) on Longlowsy Hill to John Grange of Wilstone, his heirs and assigns¹²². It was the index¹²³ to this roll which recorded:

‘Grange John Junior admitted on surrender of John Theed and wife’

on 21st October 1713, and convinced me that this John must therefore be the son of the one married to Ellinor. Six months later, however, the land had been passed on, at a rent of 8d per annum, and the roll records:

‘Admission of Rowlands to 2a pasture and meadow in Longmead on Lowsy Hill in Long Lowsy furlong surrendered by John Grange.’

The deed recording this transaction¹²⁴, dated 8th April 1714, opens as follows:

‘To this court came John Grange a customary tenant of the said manor and in full and open court surrendered..... all that two acres of meadow which lies and exists in the common field called Longmead above Lowsey Hill in the strip there called Longlowsy.’

The land is described as formerly belonging to Thomas Brewer, gent, deceased; it is bordered on north and east by land belonging to Richard Dagnall, gent, and on the south by land belonging to William Gore, knight. In October 1722 John comes to the manor court¹²⁵ again:

‘To this court came Thomas Stopps of Wilstone, yeoman, and surrendered land in Wick Field (?) to John Grange of Wilstone in the parish of Tring, malster.’

In 1729/30, he makes a final appearance in a lease¹²⁶ from Martha Rowland and Thomas Harding Rowland of Aylesbury:

‘to John Grange of Wilstone, yeoman, of a messuage in Wilstone and closes in Wilston, Long Marston, Tring and Puttenham for twelve years.’

This lease shows that it was possible to control land in four apparently disparate areas, perhaps making more sense of his father’s tax assessment at Puttenham.



St Giles Cheddington

Another Grange, Robert, (presumably John³ of Wilstone’s brother) married Elizabeth Payne in Cheddington by banns on 17th February 1714. He appears in a Poll Book¹²⁷ of 1722 as Robert Grange of Tring, with land in Cheddington. This land may have come to him through his wife Elizabeth, whose father’s land¹²⁸ passed to her and her sister in 1712. Robert made his mark on his brother’s will in 1734, which is strange considering that he apparently signed the Tring Vestry Book¹²⁹ on 7th April 1724. After that he seems to disappear; however, an Elizabeth Grange, widow of Long Marston, was buried at Cheddington in 1742, and if this is the erstwhile Elizabeth Payne, then Robert was dead by this time. The Tring burial records for this period are somewhat in disarray,

so a missing burial is possible. I have found no baptisms for children of this couple, and believe there to have been none.

On 13th March 1717 John³ Grange married Jane Wheeler by licence at Cheddington. The first child from this marriage was presumably stillborn, or lived a very short time, as an unbaptised child of John Grange was buried at Marsworth on 30th December 1718. Maybe because this event took place at Marsworth, the next child, John, born on 28th February, was baptised on 6th March 1720 at Tring.

Another son, Robert, also died young, and was buried at Marsworth on 16th March 1725. However, three further children, all baptised at Tring, survived – Jane, born 2nd September 1730 and baptised 6th October, Kezziah, baptised 6th February 1733, and our direct ancestor, Robert, who was baptised on 13th August 1731.

The youngest of these children was only four years old when their father died and was buried at Marsworth on 2nd February 1737. He is recorded as John Grange of Wilstone, farmer, so presumably he combined this occupation with that of malster. His will¹³⁰, in which his name is spelt Grainge, describes him as a yeoman, and is written in 1734, when he describes himself as being ‘of reasonable good health’. This would perhaps corroborate the theory of a second marriage, and late children who would need to have their interests protected before their father became too old to do so.



St Peter and St Paul Tring

He left about ten acres of land and appurtenances in the Common Fields of Wilstone to his son, John. Along with this, £20 was to be paid out of his son Robert's inheritance of about five acres of land and tenements in Wingrave in Buckinghamshire – once Robert had reached the age of twenty-one. On the map, Wingrave looks some distance away, but Sheila Richards' book, *A History of Tring*¹³¹, makes it clear that 'Longmead', where we know John held land, ran all the way to the parish border, and 'Wingrave Mead', so perhaps this land wasn't so far away. Jane and Kezziah, the two daughters, were to receive £60 apiece on attaining the age of twenty-one. The rest of the estate was left to son John and wife Jane, who were nominated executors. John Grainge signed in a clear, bold hand. Robert Grainge, along with Thomas West and William

Monck, whose names appear on a number of local documents, witnessed the will. Jane and John junior proved it at Northchurch on 18th February 1737.

As yet, no baptism has come to light for Jane Wheeler, but I have wondered whether this Wingrave land was her marriage portion. There are several Wheeler families recorded in the Wingrave registers, but none of them has a Jane. However, there are other documents, (Marcham's Buckinghamshire Deeds¹³², the 1705 Bucks Poll Book¹³³ and the Bucks Quarter Sessions¹³⁴) which mention a Henry Wheeler, yeoman, in Wingrave. An earlier Henry Wheeler is recorded in an Estreat¹³⁵ of the Court Baron of Tring Manor in 1631. This Henry is fined for putting onto Long Meade more sheep than he had right to. Maybe Jane was connected to these.

After John³ of Wilstone's death, the family disappears. The Marsworth registers become more complete in the eighteenth century, but there are no Grainges. John, Robert, Kezziah and Jane don't marry at Tring or nearby. The widowed Jane doesn't die or remarry, and suddenly no-one is involved in civic duties, with the exception of a stray signature 'John Grainge' in the Tring Vestry Minutes¹³⁶ in 1742. (Apart from a reversed 'e' at the end, this is very similar to the signature of the son of John³ which appears on later documents. So maybe the family was still in the area in the early 1740s.) I have found no reference to John's sons in the manor records, or to them selling their land.

Curiously, a new Grainge family appeared in the neighbourhood at this time, in the shape of William Grainge. He lived in Wilstone as a malster from 1740 onwards, signed the Tring Vestry Book¹³⁷ in 1742, and was involved in a number of property deals and bonds from 1754. He buried two infant sons at Tring during this period, but his line continued in the area until the 20th century. According to Mary Digweed, one of his descendants, he was the grandson of Nicholas Grange and Lucy Widmer (p.10), through their eldest son William. A descendant of this line ultimately returned to Aston Clinton; Richard Grange, born at Long Marston about 1824, appeared on the 1881 census¹³⁸ at Chamber Farm, Lower House, Aston Clinton, with his wife Sarah Lydia. In the church at St. Leonards is a plaque, erected after her death in 1907 by her children:

'In loving memory of our mother Sarah Lydia Grange who was 40 years a resident of this parish also for many years a teacher in the Sunday School.'

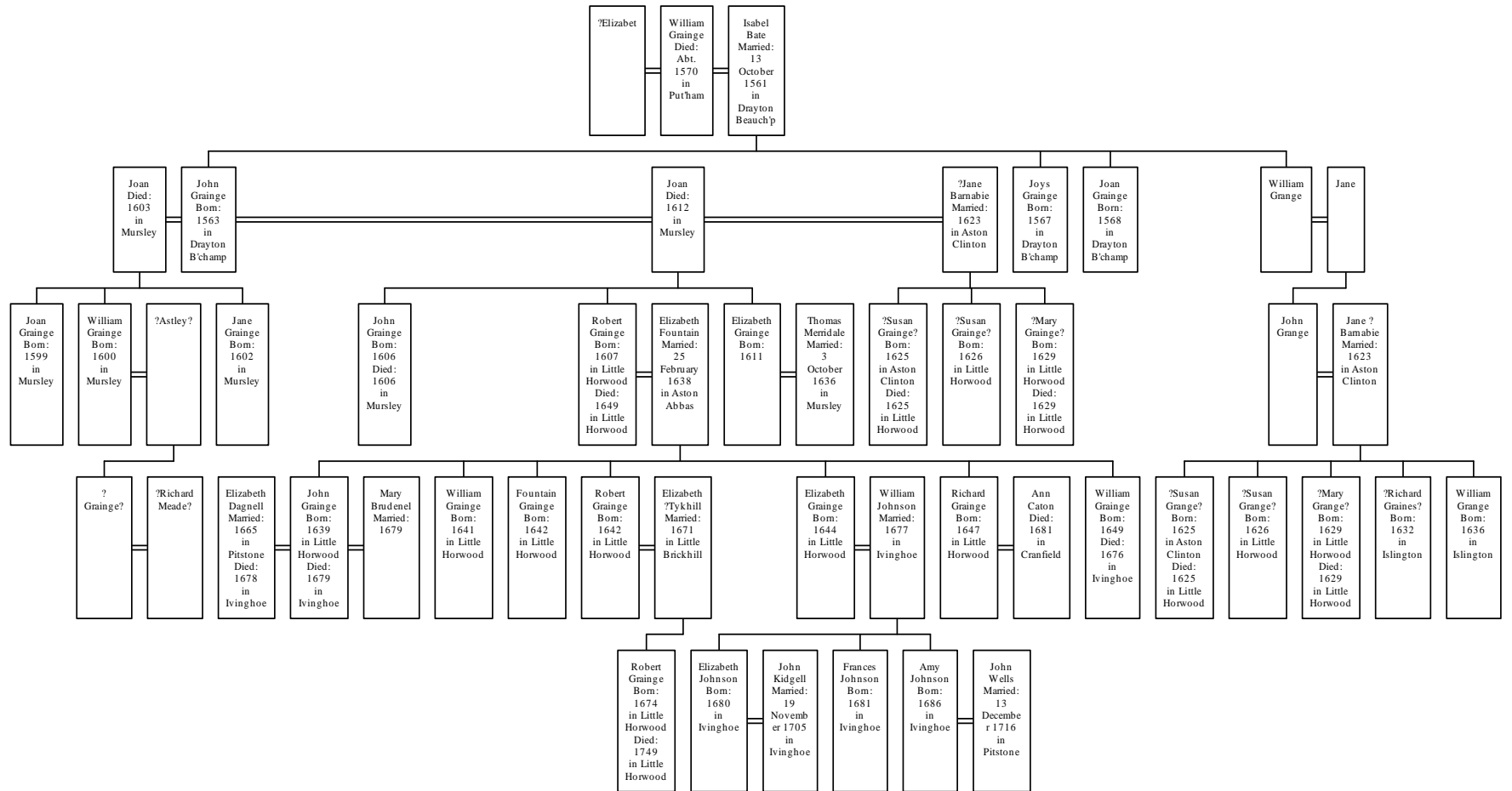
When our line resurfaces, it does so in Little Horwood, some twelve or so miles to the north-west, back in Buckinghamshire, brought there, via Padbury, to administer the will of Robert Grainge esquire of Little Horwood.

Why would Robert of Horwood have chosen our ancestors to be his executors? To try and answer this question, we need to follow another Grainge line, based in and around Puttenham, in the extreme north-west corner of Hertfordshire.

William Grange of Puttenham and descendants

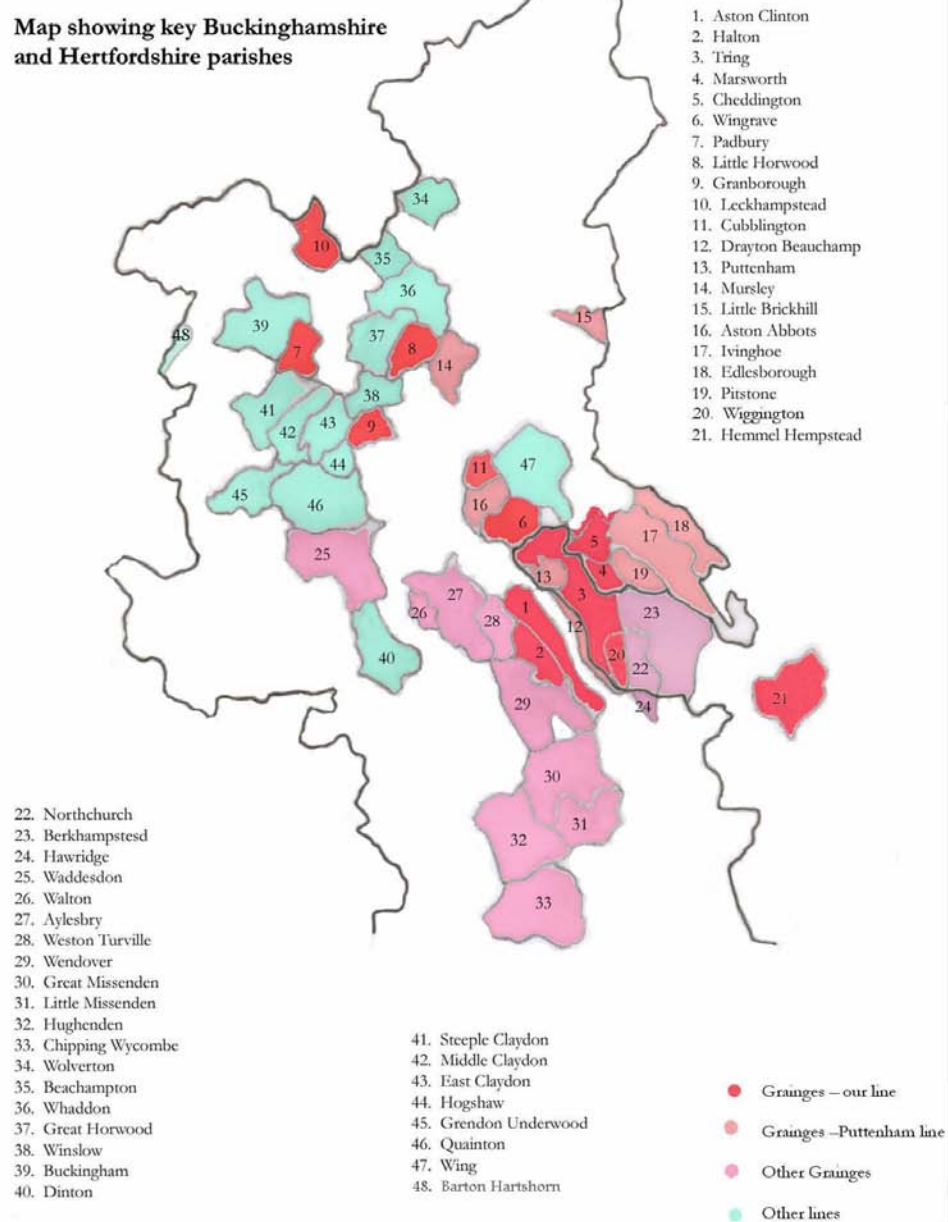
As stated earlier, the will¹³⁹ of William Graunge of Aston Clinton was witnessed by George Graunge of Marsworth. He in turn mentions a brother Thomas with a son Robert in his will¹⁴⁰ of 1550. The first reference I have found to a Grange in the area is to a Thomas, recorded in a Chantry Certificate of 1547/8 as paying rent on Taunce

Tree 14 - Descendants of William Grange of Puttenham



Some elements in this tree are conjectural. Note duplications.

Map showing key Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire parishes



Croft¹⁴¹. Maybe he is related; maybe not. A Thomas and a John Grainge paid Lay Subsidies in Puttenham in 1545 and 1566 respectively¹⁴². In 1571, a Robert Grange was named as bailiff on the Marsworth de la Hey Court Roll¹⁴³ (presumably the man buried at Marsworth in 1575), and a Thomas Grange appeared as a free tenant¹⁴⁴ in 1587. The Puttenham tree is peppered with Williams and Johns. Because this branch ultimately ends at Robert esquire of Little Horwood, I spent a long time trying to prove that we too descended from it. (See Tree 14 – page 37.)



St Mary Puttenham

In 1570 a will¹⁴⁵ was proved for William Grange, husbandman of Astrope (a tiny hamlet now just a row of about ten to twelve houses on the outskirts of Puttenham, itself only a small village. Judging by the size of the church and register, it was never a large community.) Given the proximity of Puttenham and Marsworth, it is not unreasonable to surmise that this was the ‘godson’ mentioned in the will of William Graunge twenty years earlier. If so, a family link, albeit tenuous, is forged between our ancestors and John Grange of Mursley, the first Grange to live in Little Horwood where our family settled in the 1750s. This William left ‘all my goods moveable and unmoveable’ to his wife Elizabeth, including his house called ?Bastridet , presumably in trust, as it was to go to his son John at the age of 21, along with ‘all other things belonging to husbandry’. The younger son, William, was bequeathed milk cows and sheep as well as money. This will is very hard to read, but the sons were clearly minors, and provision was made for William’s estate to go to Robert and John Grange, sons of John - perhaps a brother- if they did not survive to adulthood.

(It is possible that the above-named Robert was the one who witnessed the will¹⁴⁶ of Jane Barnabie’s uncle – Robert Barnabie - in Aylesbury in 1607. If so, and the relationships posited are right, then it seems more likely, as suggested elsewhere in this book, that the John Grange and Jane Barnabie married at Aston Clinton in 1623 were linked to these two families. Jane was the daughter of Robert’s brother Henry, and John was the son of the William above, ‘bequeathed milk cows and sheep’.)

William’s wife Elizabeth was named executrix, but two overseers were appointed, also common practice with young heirs. The name Elizabeth makes it probable that a marriage recorded on 13th October 1561 in Drayton Beauchamp - an adjoining parish –

between William Grange and Isabel Bate refers to this couple. (The names Isabel and Elizabeth were interchangeable at this time.) However, it is also possible that this Elizabeth was a second wife. Isabel had been previously married to William Bate, and had three daughters – Katherine, Elizabeth and Isabel – born at Drayton Beauchamp in 1554, 1558 and 1560 respectively. However, as a widow, she had married William Grange, and borne him three children (also at Drayton Beauchamp) - John, baptised 14th November 1563, Joys, born 1567 and Jone, born 1568. Presumably William junior was born after the family moved to Puttenham, though his baptism doesn't appear there either.

The will¹⁴⁷ of the elder son, John, 60 years later, makes a bequest to his sister, Isabel, wife of Richard Grace of Granborough, (the parish register shows her to have been a Bate). These two also mention their brother John in their wills¹⁴⁸, confirming the link.

Two years after William died in 1572 a will¹⁴⁹ was proved for John Grange of Puttenham, also a husbandman. Logic demands that this is the father of the John and Robert mentioned in William's will above. However, his estate went to wife Margaret and son Thomas, co-executors. It's notable, though, that his will was witnessed by Thomas White, one of William's overseers. Maybe John and Robert had died, or were already provided for by copyhold inheritance. It was not unheard of for land to be passed on before death. Or maybe he was a cousin, and there was a brother named John.



St Mary the Virgin Mursley

Back to John and William, sons of William. John's history is easy to follow. He appears to have made at least two advantageous marriages, neither of which I have found. Either that, or he was a first class businessman. At around the time of his marriage to Joan, (surname unknown) he settled in Mursley, about twelve miles north of Puttenham, where he fathered three children, Joan, William and Jane. William may have married an Astley, and presumably produced a daughter who married Richard Meade (more of whom later). John's second wife, also a Joan, gave him three more children, also baptised in Mursley - John, Elizabeth and Robert. John junior - who died shortly after his birth - was buried at Little Horwood.

By the time John died, he was clearly wealthy, with property in a number of parishes. He appears twice in the accounts of the Verney Estate¹⁵⁰ amongst knights and gentlemen, although always classed as a yeoman. His main home was in Mursley, as Certificates of Residence¹⁵¹ (created to prove that tax was being paid in a particular location) in 1624 and 1625 state him to be:

‘there most resident at Mursley’

and:

‘dwelling and abiding with his family in Mursley’

One of these refers to him as a gentleman; the other two as a yeoman.

A deed of conveyance¹⁵² made together with his daughter Jane in 1629 describes him as of Mursley, although he was also occupying Wood End in Little Horwood by this time. He seemed to be using Little Horwood church for some occasions - his own burial, for example - maybe in recognition of his role as patron. This would have given him the right to be buried in the chancel of the church. He had acquired the advowson of Little Horwood church from Nicholas West of Goldingtons Manor in Marsworth¹⁵³ (maybe that was his first acquisition before he left home; Marsworth and Puttenham rub shoulders – one in Bucks, the other in Herts). He also owned Aynell’s Fee, described in the *Victoria County History* as two virgates of land, part of the manor of Little Horwood since the reign of Edward I. (Sixty years earlier, this property held by the Williatts¹⁵⁴.)

John’s will¹⁵⁵, dated 27th March 1633, and stating him to be of Little Horwood, left 4 acres of land in the common field at Mursley to his heir-at-law, William, as well as absolution from all debts, and £500 to his sister Jane. His daughter Elizabeth received £200 and property in Little Brickhill and Soulbury. His other surviving son, Robert, was bequeathed the farm and house at Aynell’s Fee, the rectory and advowson of Little Horwood, land purchased in Little Horwood from Robert Williat and all his freehold land in Mursley. Also mentioned are kinsfolk Anthoine and Elizabeth Gibbs, sister Isabel Grace, and Richard Grace of Grandborough, yeoman, the vicar for the funeral sermon, and the poor of Little Horwood and Mursley. Tucked in amongst all this is a tiny reference:

‘Item I give and bequeath unto my kinsman John Grange of the parish of Islington yeoman the sum of twenty shillings of current English money to be paid to him by my executors hereafter named within three months next after my decease.’

I suspect this to be a reference to his nephew, the son of William Grainge of Puttenham, whom I thought for some time to be a direct ancestor.

John’s eldest son, William, presumably took up his inheritance in Mursley, maybe with his spinster sister, Jane, for although I have found no trace of his marriage there, William’s signature appears, with others, in the parish register under the following statement on 6th December 1635:

‘We whose names are here subscribed do testify that we heard John Burke of the Parish of Mursley read the book of the of the Church

of England and make unfeigned profession of his assent to the said articles.’

The following year – 1636 - his half-sister Elizabeth married Thomas Merridale at Mursley; and they raised a family in Little Brickhill. Their descendants benefited from the wealth of the later Robert Grainge, High Sheriff of Bucks, usually referred to as Robert of Horwood. In 1642 William and his sister Jane made contributions to the ‘Distressed Protestants in Ireland’¹⁵⁶.

That is the last Grange reference in Mursley. However, Jane Grange made a will¹⁵⁷ at Great Brickhill in 1643. In it she referred to siblings William and Elizabeth; her Merridale relatives; Robert and John Grange of Little Horwood; and ‘uncle Haylie’. She made identical bequests in the same sentence to her kinsman Robert Grace and to John Grange – presumably this was John of Puttenham and Islington, who, like Richard Grace, (son of Richard and Isabel mentioned above) would be a cousin. Another kinsman, Elizabeth Burt, was named, and she also made reference to Elizabeth Meade, daughter of Richard Meade, gent. deceased; however, no relationship was stated.

William’s will, proved in 1652, shows him to have moved to Edlesborough¹⁵⁸. He expressed a wish to be buried in the church there, and made bequests to his cousin Richard Grace, Astley in-laws, Meade in-laws, and his son-in-law Richard Meade, who was named executor and witnessed the will. There was also a list of men and widows in Edlesborough receiving small bequests; this was the time of the Civil War, and maybe William was ‘doing his bit’ for charity. There was no mention of a wife or daughter in the will, so it is open to conjecture whether Richard Meade was son-in-law as we understand it, a step-son or some even more tenuous connection.

John’s second surviving son, Robert, settled in Little Horwood. As patron of the church he had some standing, which is probably why he was responsible for administering the Protestation Oath¹⁵⁹ in Little Horwood on 13th February 1641. At the end of a long list of residents who had sworn to:

‘maintain and defend ... the true Reformed Protestant Religion ... His
Maiesties Royall Person The Power and Priviledges of Parliament ...
The Lawful Rights and Liberties of the Subject...’

and so on, is the comment:

‘Robert Grainge hath taken all this protestation.’

In 1638, he married Elizabeth Fountain in Aston Abbots, and over the next nine years, they produced six children, all baptised at St. Nicholas. Two of these, William and Fountain, died young, but the others, John, born in 1639, Robert, Fountain’s twin, born 1642, Elizabeth, 1644 and Richard in 1647 were alive when Robert wrote his will in 1648. Whether his premature death, aged 41, was due to disease or the Civil War is not known. However, Elizabeth was pregnant again at the time, and Robert’s will makes clear provision for the unborn child, a boy named William, whose baptism I have not found.

Robert Grainge’s will¹⁶⁰, proved like John’s in the PCC, stated him to be a yeoman, and requested that his body be buried in the chancel of the church at Little Horwood. Elizabeth his wife was to receive an annuity of £40 raised on the land called Aynell’s Fee, the contents of the household chest until son John was 21, and all the

household linen, provided she will it on to their children after her death. John was also to inherit the house in Little Horwood at the age of 21, and land in Bedfordshire. Robert, the second son, was willed the advowson and tithes of Little Horwood church, with appurtenances except a house 'lately built'. This also was to take effect at 21. Richard at 21 was to inherit land called Abbots Meade and £500. Daughter Elizabeth was to receive the same amount at 21 or when she married. The unborn child was given £300 – or £250 each if twins! The executors – Richard Meade again, and William Burton – were instructed to sell 'the house lately built by me' to raise cash to be paid to his children when they reach 21 years of age. The executors were to receive £100 apiece. There were a couple of minor bequests to the vicar and poor of Little Horwood, and another adjustment of £300 in Richard's favour. All in all, he seems to have made monetary bequests to the value of more than £2000, an amazing sum at that time.

Whether there were funds to pay out all these bequests is open to question, as Robert's wife later took the executors to court. In writing about Aynell's Fee, the *Victoria County History*¹⁶¹ notes that although Robert:

'empowered his executors to sell a messuage built by him...but in 1653 his widow Elizabeth, pleading on behalf of their young children, John, Robert, Richard, Elizabeth and William sued the executors for non-fulfilment of their trust.'

The article ends 'There is no further trace of this property.' The Public Record Office holds both the original Equity Pleading in this case¹⁶² by Elizabeth and her children, and Richard Meade's reply¹⁶³. In this, Meade submits both his accounts as executor and the inventory made after Robert Grainge's death, which lists goods to the value of £1042 9/- So maybe there was a shortfall.

Elizabeth took her young family back to Ivinghoe; perhaps she had family to support her or land there. In the early 1660s, she and her sons John and Robert paid Hearth Tax¹⁶⁴ there, and in 1664 these two sons were granted Certificates of Residence¹⁶⁵. Presumably this was to stop them paying tax twice, although it did not stop them paying Hearth Tax¹⁶⁶ on property in Little Horwood as well. In 1665, John married Elizabeth Dagnall at Pitstone, but no child was born of this marriage, and when Elizabeth died in 1678, John hurriedly married Mary Brudenell (settlement witnessed by Henry Grange). At this point, he presumably felt himself to be overburdened by calls upon his purse, for the Quarter Session Records¹⁶⁷ for Easter 1679 record an:

'order dismissing the appeal of John Grainge against his assessment to the Poor Rate at Ivinghoe.'

A number of papers survive on the Brudenell¹⁶⁸ family, including a bill for nails and lath for 'Mrs Grainge', but less than a year later, in the middle of proving his mother's will, John himself died, and Mary seems to have inherited everything. Certainly, a few years later, she sold Aynell's Fee¹⁶⁹, and it passed out of the family permanently. She remarried, and became Mrs Thomas Alford.

Elizabeth's penultimate son, Richard, married Ann Caton at Marston Mortaine in Bedfordshire in 1672, but she died nine years later in 1681, with no sign of any children, and Richard himself died at Cranfield in 1683. His will¹⁷⁰ names his brother Robert as executor and main beneficiary. Beneficiaries also include his sister Elizabeth, his Merridale uncle and cousins in Great Brickhill, cousin Richard Mead in Mursley, brother-

in-law John Beaumont and a number of Beaumont cousins, as well as a number of Caton in-laws and sundry others. The youngest son, William, also met an early death; his will¹⁷¹, in 1676, at Ivinghoe, divides his goods between his mother, brother John and his wife, sister Elizabeth, 'cousin' Robert - son of his brother Robert, and his brother Richard, his executor.

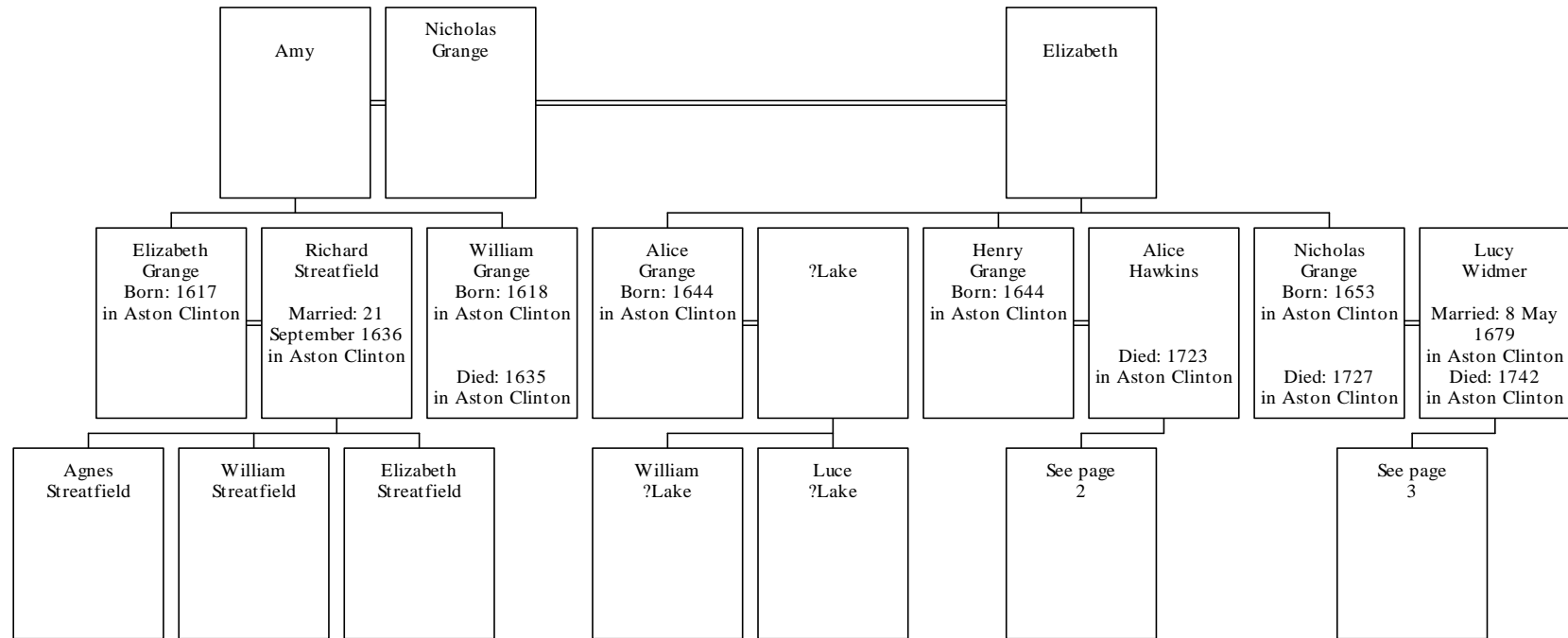
Seven children and considerable wealth don't necessarily mean that a family will flourish. Of all the offspring of Robert Grainge and Elizabeth Fountain, only Robert and Elizabeth produced children. Elizabeth married William Johnson in Ivinghoe in 1677, and raised three daughters, Elizabeth – later Kidgell - born in 1680, Frances, born 1681 and Amy - later Wells - in 1686. Robert, who had returned to live at Little Horwood, married by licence at Little Brickhill in 1671. Unhelpfully, the only record of this event - the Bishop's Transcript - says 'Mr Robert Grainge married'. There is no mention of the bride. However, a quitclaim¹⁷² dated 1720 deals with the division of land belonging to John Tykill of Little Brickhill. The beneficiaries were Joseph Biggs of Winslow; Samuel Heart, son of Margaret née Tykill; and Margaret's sister, Elizabeth Grainge. At one time I assumed that Elizabeth Tykill was the wife of Robert Grainge esq, the High Sheriff. However, the evidence of his will suggests he was unmarried, and, when Robert senior died in 1705, administration¹⁷³ was granted to a wife Elizabeth, so I now believe this was the Little Brickhill bride. It was their son, Robert junior, who was the last of his male line in Little Horwood, and whose will named our ancestors as executors, and thus brought them to Little Horwood.

This branch of the family was presumably wealthy enough to do as it pleased. On numerous occasions: 1681, 1683, 1692, 1693, Robert Grainge gent. was fined for failing to appear as a juror¹⁷⁴, though he did at least use his right to vote in elections¹⁷⁵. His son attended as a juror for the county¹⁷⁶ in 1702, but was later fined for failing to maintain a road in Little Horwood. He was 'Treasurer for the Mained Soldiers'¹⁷⁷ in 1706, but appears in a less favourable light in 1709-10. At Epiphany, he was reported¹⁷⁸, with others, as buying wheat at 7/- a bushel, oats at 2/- and barley at 8/- a bushel from one William Tomkins, despite the fact that he 'already had plenty at home'. Presumably he was dabbling in a little speculative dealing! Other references in the same Quarter Sessions volume show him acting as surety, having recognisances discharged and having taken the oath with regard to sacrament certificates.

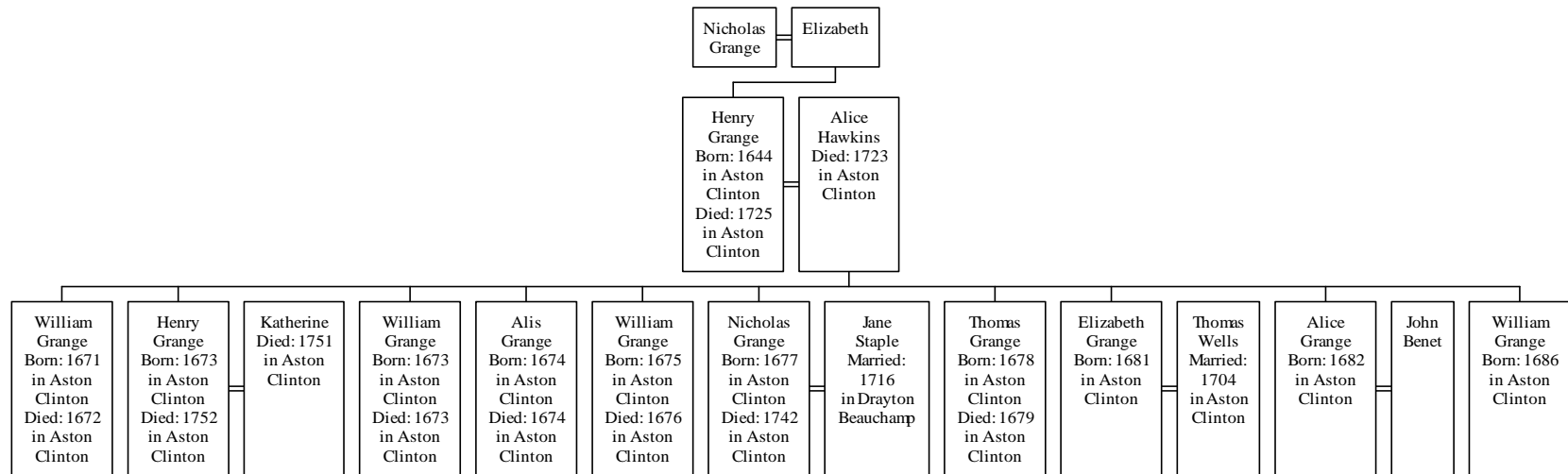
Robert senior presented two rectors to the living at St. Nicholas church: Thomas Footman in 1676 and Samuel Foster in 1701, while his son presented Purchas Denchfield in 1740. Each time the patron is listed as 'gent.'¹⁷⁹

Meanwhile, what of the branch which stayed in Puttenham? John of Mursley's younger brother William predeceased him by some years. His will¹⁸⁰ was proved in 1607. It is dated 25th July 1607, and described him as a husbandman of Puttenham. He commended his soul to God, and requested that his body be buried either in the church or churchyard at Puttenham. He then divided his goods between his wife Jane and his son John. The reference to son John receiving his inheritance 'when he come to the age of xxi years' marks him as a minor, but the care with which the will provided for his upbringing suggests that the boy was very young. In addition, a proviso covered the eventuality of his wife Jane being pregnant at the time of his death, so this is probably a young man's will, with the likelihood of son John being an infant. This would fit reasonably well with a supposed year of birth for William of about 1570. The wife, Jane, was given charge of her son:

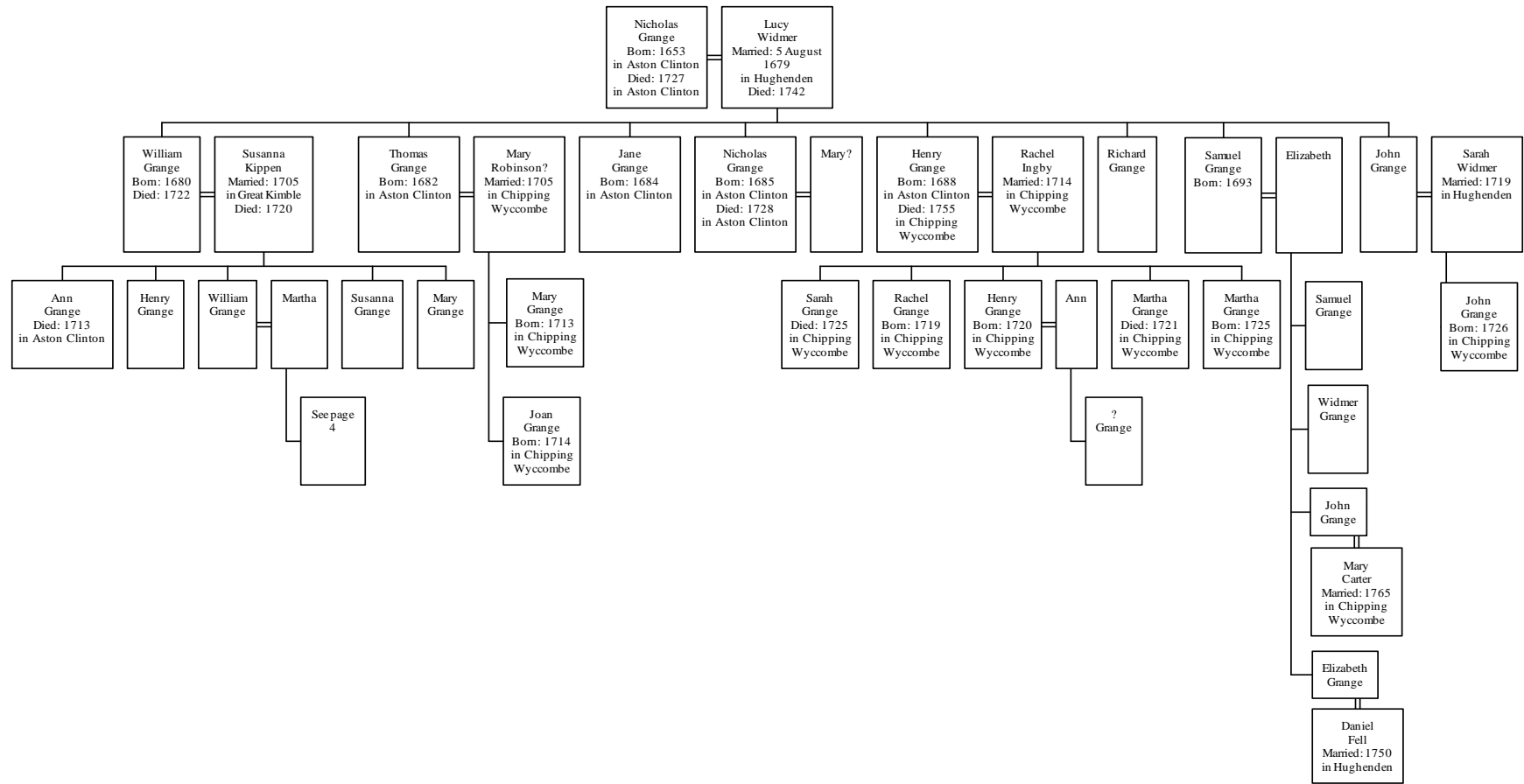
Tree 5 - Descendants of Nicholas Grange - page 1



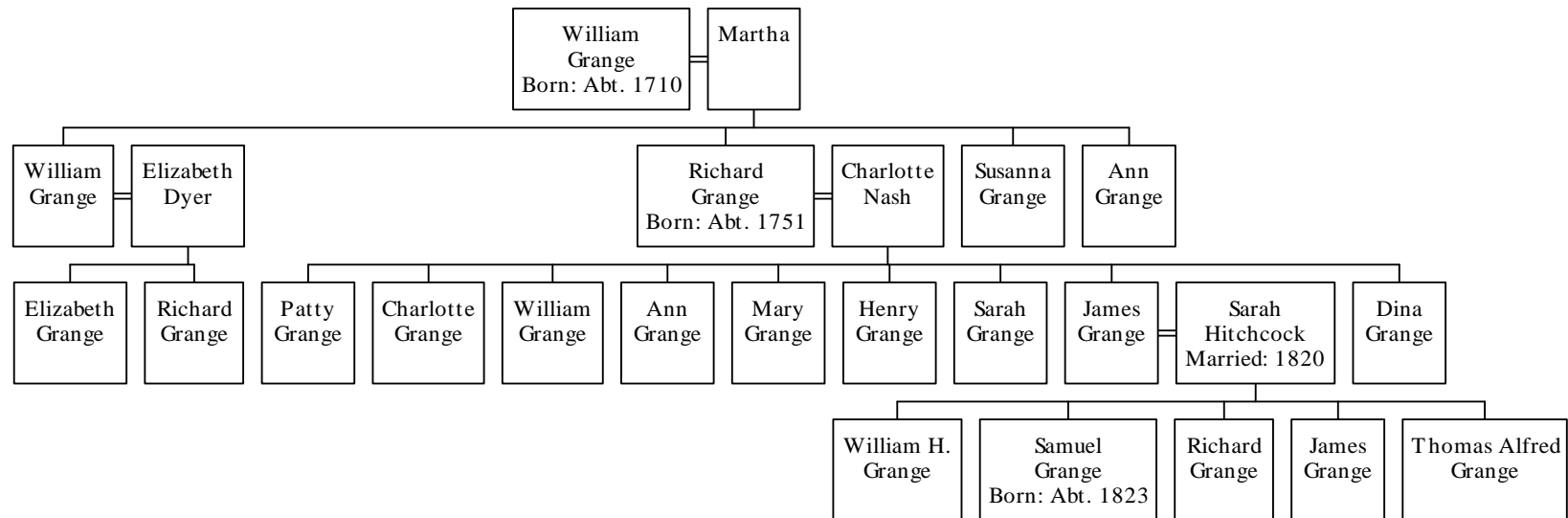
Tree 5 - Descendants of Nicholas Grange - page 2



Tree 5 - Descendants of Nicholas Grange - page 3



Tree 5 - Descendants of Nicholas Grange - page 4



‘And I will that Jane my wife or her assigns shall have the keeping governance and bringing up of my son John putting him to school in the time of his nonnage that he may learn to write and read and be made fit for an occupation....’

Further provisos gave his overseers the right to remove the boy if Jane didn’t follow the letter of the will, and describe how John’s inheritance was to be invested with ‘some sufficient man’, and an income drawn each year on the capital. He also made allowance for the money to be used to place John ‘with some trade’ if that was what his son would like. He bequeathed all his land and tenements with the appurtenances in Puttenham to John, to be held in trust until he is twenty-one, one half of the proceeds going in the meantime to Jane, and the other half to ‘the better keeping’ of John. Should John junior fail to reach the age of twenty-one, his uncle John of Mursley would receive his legacy.

William’s will also mentioned Richard Grace, his children Richard and Bennett, and their mother, William’s sister ‘T’. The page is unfortunately torn here, but the ‘T’ must be for Isabel. Godchildren William White and Ann Browne also received bequests – a sheep apiece. John of Mursley was named as overseer, suggesting that the two brothers were still in contact, and that William trusted John to keep an eye on the boy. The will was ‘signed’ with William’s mark, and later proved by Jane.

Whether William Grainge could read and write is a moot point. He clearly placed a high premium on his son’s education. Maybe when his will was made, he was too weak to hold a pen. A number of wills seem to have the testator’s mark even when there is evidence of an ability to write. Perhaps it was convention, or sickness, or maybe they were just obedient when the scribe told them to ‘make your mark’. There is a tantalising entry in the Manor Roll for Great Tring¹⁸¹ in 1602 where one Michael Parsons gave up land to Richard Arnott at Oakley Piece in Goalfield, butting onto the Sheerway, through William Grange. Although the word ‘seneschal’ doesn’t appear, William was apparently taking on the role of steward in this instance. This would seem to suggest a man of some substance in the community. In the same year he was sworn in as a juror for the court, along with others, and was recorded as paying rent of 4d for his land.

There is no burial at Puttenham for William’s son John. In addition, the will of his father’s overseer, John of Mursley, named a kinsman John in Islington - now in London but then a village in Middlesex - and amazingly, a baptism in the Islington register implies that John of Puttenham moved south. On 2nd June 1636:

‘William the sonne of John and Jane Grange’

was baptised. There is also a Richard ‘Graines’ baptised four years earlier in 1632, also with parents John and Jane. If the couple were new to the parish, this distortion of the name would be quite feasible. It is also feasible that it is this John who married Jane Barnabie in Aston Clinton in 1623 and that therefore the Susan, Susan and Mary born to John and Jane Grange in Little Horwood in the second half of the 1620’s belong to him, not his uncle as I once thought. The older John, born 1563, would have been a bit long in the tooth to be raising children in the late 1620s, and there is no reference to a daughter Susan in his will. Perhaps John of Puttenham moved to Little Horwood to be near his uncle, especially if his mother had died or remarried, and then moved away towards London following the birth of his daughters.

Despite extensive searching in the Islington registers, and many of the registers of surrounding parishes, I have found no other entries in the area relating to any Grange.

Nor have I found any will to suggest that John died in that area. For a long time, convinced that there must be a reasonably close family link between our ancestors and Robert the High Sherriff, I tried hard to prove that John of Islington was William of Puttenham's son, and that John of Wilstone descended from him. It was this tunnel vision which stopped me from giving the Aston Clinton branch due attention. However, the research I did in the area was not wasted, as it showed an absence of close male relations to John of Mursley, forcing Robert esquire to look further afield for heirs who shared his name.

Thomas Grange of Puttenham, presumably the son of John died 1572, left a will¹⁸² in 1607 mentioning wife Elizabeth and daughters Elizabeth and Joan. A Richard Grange was buried in 1617, also in Puttenham, and in the previous year, a George Grange married Elizabeth Gurney at Marsworth; neither appears to have had any male heirs. There were also two brothers, Robert and William Grange of Waddesden—possibly the two 'failsafes' of William of Astrope's will – who left wills¹⁸³ in 1619 and 1623 respectively. Of these, only Robert (witness to Robert Barnabie's will¹⁸⁴) had a son, Richard, and he had three daughters, baptised in Aylesbury, so that line petered out too.

Robert Grainge of Wilstone, Padbury, Little Horwood and Granborough



St Nicholas Little Horwood

Robert Grainge of Little Horwood esquire, High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire¹⁸⁵ in 1711, named John and Robert Grainge of Padbury as his executors, without stating a relationship. When I first read his will, having ground to a halt on my Grainge researches in the Little Horwood parish registers, I spent many hours searching the Padbury registers in vain, looking for the baptism of the first of our Little Horwood direct ancestors, Robert Grainge. For some time I cast around, looking at neighbouring parishes, seaching for that elusive baptism. The IGI had recorded the baptisms of John, Robert, Kezziah and Jane at Tring, but that was a dozen miles away, and seemed unlikely to be of interest. However, I eventually realised that each of these four married, either at Little Horwood or nearby, and that the pattern of witnesses made it certain that they

were siblings. Jane married Richard Reed of Padbury at Little Horwood in 1754, witnessed by John; John married Esther Whitall – of Padbury! – at Little Horwood in 1755, witnessed by Robert; Robert also witnessed Kezziah's wedding at Cublington in 1760, while her husband, Henry Ellard (whose marriage bond¹⁸⁶ and allegation show him to be a native of that parish) witnessed Robert's to Susanna Wilks in the same year.

What made this family move from Wilstone, where they had land, and presumably a livelihood? It seems cynical to suggest that they moved virtually under Robert Grainge esquire's nose in the hope of an inheritance. However, a strange entry in the Winslow manor records¹⁸⁷, dated 17th October 1737, reads as follows:

'Robt Grainge=tewley with his ~~wife~~ father and mother was admitted to a messuage and some acre of land from Robert Grainge esquire. 5/-.'

At first I thought that this referred to the Wilstone family, but it turned out that there really was a Robert Grainge Tooley, the son of Daniel and Mary Tooley, baptised in Little Horwood in 1734. Another brother wasn't given a Grainge middle name, so this really looks like a bit of gold-digging. There was, however, a Mary Towley mentioned as kin in Robert's will, so maybe they were distantly related. The Footman family, at the rectory, also added Grainge to the names of their children, presumably in the hope of pleasing their patron. Perhaps Robert of Horwood was susceptible to flattery, and was keen to have his name continue in some form or other by whatever means. There is another example of this in the village later. The last of the Lowndes, major landowners in the area, agreed to leave his estate to his friend Selby, provided he change his name to Selby-Lowndes! More extremely, one Christopher Maunde apparently left instructions to find a Maunde anywhere in Scotland rather than let a woman inherit.

Robert Grainge esquire, the last direct male descendant of John Grange of Mursley, must have been a wealthy man when he died on 23rd March 1749. As well as his inheritance from his father, he had been a named beneficiary in the wills of his uncles Richard and William¹⁸⁸. When his will¹⁸⁹ was written on 16th March 1749, the following assets were listed:

'all the ancient estates'

- these turn out to have been land, houses and appurtenances scattered amongst the parishes of Ivinghoe, Pitstone, Cheddington, Winslow and Little Horwood, as well as a freehold messuage, lands, tenements and hereditaments in Wooton in Bedfordshire, not to mention property in Great Brickhill –

'the Great Tythe of Little Horwood and the right of presentation to the vicarage thereof'

further land:

'purchased by me or my father'

the

'messuage or tenement wherein I now dwell at Little Horwood'

and

‘land that belongs and appurtains to the farm...now in the occupation of William Woolman’

Of these, the ancient estates, the Great Tythe and advowson of Little Horwood were to be distributed after his death between his three first cousins, Elizabeth Kidgell, Frances Johnson and Amy Wells. The presentment¹⁹⁰ of his death to the manor court cites him as having died:

‘seized of certain copyhold lands, tenements and hereditaments, lying within and held of this manor whereby there happened to the Lord for a heriot one waggon seized and taken to the Lord’s use.’

The same entry notes that his three cousins and main heirs were:

‘solemnly called by three proclamations ... and came not’

The way this inheritance was apportioned¹⁹¹ – the assets parcelled up and enscrolled, then placed in a bag for each of the three sisters to play ‘lucky dip’ - makes fascinating reading. Elizabeth Kidgell received the portion marked ‘W’ which included the Little Horwood Great Tythe, which is why the name Kidgell features heavily in 19th century property records for the area. William Woolman’s farm went to the son of Robert’s servant, William Parrat. There were also a couple of charitable bequests, a 3d dole for the villagers of Little Horwood, and money to be paid to one Katherine Perkins to teach in a school for poor children.

Then there were the references to the executors. Robert Grainge, the younger of the brothers and our ancestor, was willed¹⁹²

‘all that messuage or tenement wherein I now dwell at Little Horwood together with the farm and lands thereto belonging, with the appurtenances.’

The bequest to John was more obscure. It reads:

‘to John Grainge of Padbury all the rest and residue of my real and personal estate not hereinbefore by me bequeathed.....in trust nevertheless to sell and dispose of the fee simple And the money arising ...shall equally share and divide ... between the following’

There then followed a long list of kinsmen, presumably on the distaff side – the names being Woodward, Towley, Smith, Illing, Rose, Beansley, Munford and Pancard. Catamole, Pourle, Busby, Pancard (again) and Parrat are also mentioned, but not as kinsmen. At the end are listed: John Grainge of High Wiccombe, cordwainer, (Henry of Tring’s grandson) Robert Grainge son of Richard Grainge jnr. of High Wiccombe, wheelwright, and Henry Grainge, patten sole maker of Tring (Henry’s of Tring’s son).

Somewhat surprisingly, there is no mention of names like Merridale or Meade. However, an earlier document shows a transaction which looks like Robert, realising that he will have no direct heir, sharing out his wealth amongst his closest relatives. A bargain and sale¹⁹³ dated 12th May 1739, between Robert Grainge and Richard Merridale with two

trustees, for the princely sum of 5/-, places fifty acres of land in Great Brickhill in trust for Richard Grange Merridale, presumably Richard's son. There is also reference in *Marcham's Buckinghamshire Deeds*¹⁹⁴ to a feoffment in 1738 between James and Anne Illing of Watford (probably the son of William Illing of Little Horwood) and Robert Grainge. There may well be a number of other transactions for which no record can now be found, especially as little remains of the Winslow Manor Records for this period. There is one brief reference to Robert Grainge and John Illing in 1733¹⁹⁵. Robert is admitted to two acres of Illing land unless he is paid £82 12/- by the following April. It looks like security for a loan.

Robert was clearly a business man; he knew how to hold on to his assets and to make his money work for him. However, despite the high office he held, he evidently didn't like taking part in civic duties. In the Quarter Session Records¹⁹⁶ he is often called as a juror, but on about half the occasions is fined for non-appearance. He is also fined for failing to upkeep the highway. However, he doesn't seem to have been a socialite, gadding off to spend money when he should have been looking to the needs of his community. The inventory¹⁹⁷ of his goods suggests a fairly frugal way of life, and confirms the image of a bachelor establishment implied by no evidence of a marriage and no reference to a wife in the will. Whereas Robert's mother's wearing apparel was valued at £10 when she died in 1730¹⁹⁸, his is listed at a mere 8/6 nearly twenty years later. The best chamber boasts:

'one bedstead and curtains, one trunk, two gowns and petticoats, one pair of shoes, one chest of drawers, one table, six chairs, a parcel of glass bottles, six fleeces of wool, one fine sheet, two coarse sheets, two ? cases, one pillow case, one silver salt, four glasses and old lumber.'

I can't help imagining the gowns as his mother's old clothes, not yet disposed of. The best parlour is even sparser:

'one table, one cupboard, three chairs, two barrels, one drinkstand and old lumber.'

However, there is a long list of rents and debts owed which up the value of the inventory by almost 90%. He could afford his fines for non-attendance at court!

The house described in the inventory is presumably 'Wood End Farm'. Although it is not named as such, this house and the one next door, 'Wood End' or 'Old Oaks' are connected by past owners to Horwood House – also 16th century in part, which was built in its modern form on land attached to the Great Tythe in the 1767 enclosure. Presumably, therefore, all three properties had belonged at one time to John of Mursley's descendants. *The Monuments of Buckinghamshire*¹⁹⁹ describes 'Wood End Farm' as:

'of two stories and an attic. The plan is L-shaped, with the wings extending towards the N. and E.a window at the N end is of early 17th century date, and is of four lights with wood mullions and diamond-shaped quarries.... The central chimney stack has three square shafts set diagonally on a rectangular base and restored at the top.... On the ground floor one room has a plain, chamfered ceiling beam, and the kitchen has a wide fireplace.'

'Wood End' has been changed less externally; although a new window has obviously been added in the 20th century. The building is timber-framed, rectangular in shape, with a central front door, tiled roof and three chimneys. It still looks like a traditional 16th century yeoman's house. A picture of the house as it appeared in about 1912 can be found on the Bucks County Council website.²⁰⁰



Wood End

The three cousins german of Robert Grainge esquire were evidently outraged to have to share what they saw as their rightful inheritance, and they contested the will. The Public Record Office holds the Bill of Complaint²⁰¹ addressed to the Lord High Chancellor (Baron Hardwick) at the Court of Chancery, dated 28th November 1750 :

'... your orators John Grainge of Padbury in the county of Bucks yeoman and Robert Grainge of Padbury aforesaid... infant under the age of twenty-one years to wit of the age of eighteen years or thereabouts by John Harris his next friend.'

They make the case that Robert Grainge died:

'seized possessed and interested in a very considerable estate both real and personal'

The will is then recounted, and followed with the statement that John and Robert should have:

'quietly and peaceably held and enjoyed the same messuage farms and lands according to the direction of the said will as in justice and equity they ought to have done...'

However, the three cousins have apparently argued that either Robert never made the said will, or that he was only tenant for life, or the witnesses weren't there at the time of the testator's signing. Failing these arguments, the cousins threaten to wait until the witnesses are dead and then contest the will. Finally, they refuse to allow John and Robert to interview their witnesses on the grounds that they are old and infirm. The cousins were clearly throwing all their toys out of the pram!

The second document is a note to the local dignitaries, including our old friend Ferdinando Southam, ordering them to interrogate the witnesses to the will. This is followed by:

‘The Joint Answer of Amey Wells, Elizabeth Kidgell and Francis Johnson’,

dated 15th July 1751. It seems a little half-hearted, as if they don’t really believe there is a case to answer, and it lists the arguments cited above.

The judges clearly weren’t impressed either, as the final document in the case was the:

‘Sentence for the validity of the will of Robert Grainge esq. deceased’²⁰²

in January 1750. In this, John Bettsworth, Doctor of Laws Master Keeper or Commissary of the PCC stated that,

‘the proctor of the said John Grainge praying sentence to be given and justice to be done to his party and the proctor of the said Amey Wells also appearing and praying justice to be done to his party and the said Elizabeth Kidgell widow and Francis Johnson spinster in special and all others in general having been heretofore duly cited long and sufficiently expected and now also thrice called and no ways appearing and contumaciously absenting themselves pronounced contumacious.’

Presumably Amey and her sisters had already decided they were not going to win. The judge concluded that Robert Grainge esquire had been of sound mind when he wrote the will and that:

‘nothing in this cause or business hath been excepted propounded deduced exhibited pleaded proved or confessed which can in any wise defeat prejudice or invalidate the intention of the said John Grainge.’

and so found in his favour.

John would have been twenty-nine when Robert esquire wrote his will; our ancestor, Robert, would have been a mere seventeen years old. (There was a precedent for a young executor, though. John of Wilstone made his fourteen-year old son co-executor with his wife Jane, and John junior was only seventeen when his father died.) It is clear what Robert would gain out of the work involved, Robert senior’s house and farm in Little Horwood with 127 acres of land. What of John, though, who might be expected to do the bulk of the work, and who in fact was responsible for bringing together the goods and chattels listed on the inventory? The fact that none of John of Wilstone’s four offspring married until after Robert’s estate was settled might suggest that money was tight until then. John was thirty-five at the time of his first marriage, and Jane thirty-two.

It all hinges on the exact meaning of Robert’s will²⁰³. At first sight, it looks as if John was being instructed to sell up everything not already mentioned and distribute it amongst a long list of beneficiaries which did not include him. If the wording means it was only the fee simple shared out, then John would get what was left, which might include some copyhold land, and any cash – in the form of rents etc. Certainly, of Robert of Wilstone’s bequest, 96 of the 127 acres were copyhold. There is a fragment of

Winslow Manor Roll²⁰⁴ (repeated in indenture form²⁰⁵) which survives for 1752 and deals almost exclusively with Robert's estate. Firstly, Ferdinando Southam, gentleman, and his wife come to surrender land acquired the previous year from John Grainge of Padbury, yeoman. It might have been John's own land, but as it was in Little Horwood, it was more likely to have been Robert's. Then John himself is admitted to twenty-three acres devised to him by Robert's will, but immediately surrenders it to Matthew Hobbs. If these were John's bequests, then he was presumably making money by the surrenders.

However, still not that much in it for John. Why would Robert make him executor and then expect him to do the work for less return than that of his younger brother? Maybe the elderly bachelor was charmed by a small boy bearing his name, and somewhat whimsically decided to pass on his house to someone bearing his name if not his genes. Maybe John had already been reimbursed, and if my reading of the will is correct and it was only the fee simple he had to share out, there was a lot of cash floating about in the estate. Certainly, John was comfortably off in later life. After the death of his first wife, Esther Whitall of Padbury, he married again, to Elizabeth Marks, in Quainton, in 1764. To be fair, like Esther Whitall, she was a widow, and may have been left money and land by her first husband - Thomas Marks, brother to another of our ancestors, Elizabeth Grantham (née Marks). In any case, Land Tax Assessments²⁰⁶ towards the end of the century show him to be a landowner, and by 1782 he was sufficiently wealthy to be able to vote²⁰⁷. In the Quainton Churchwardens' Book²⁰⁸, in 'a catalogue of every proprietor of lands in the open and common fields' in 1767, John Grainge of Denham is shown as having ½ a land there, about 15 acres.

He makes numerous appearances in the Quainton Overseers' Book²⁰⁹. In 1769 he is part of a long list of parishioners distrained for:

'neglecting to work in the amendment of the highways.'

In 1770 he is one of many paying 2/- compositor in lieu of duty on the highways, and in 1777 pays 6/- for the same purpose. The list of those paying in lieu of duty, and including John Grainge, is very long in 1785. Evidently, mending the roads was not a popular civic duty. In 1774 he is paid by the overseers:

'Expenses of myself and Mr Grainge and our horses at Blackthorn and Fencut in search after Thomas Culley - 4/-'

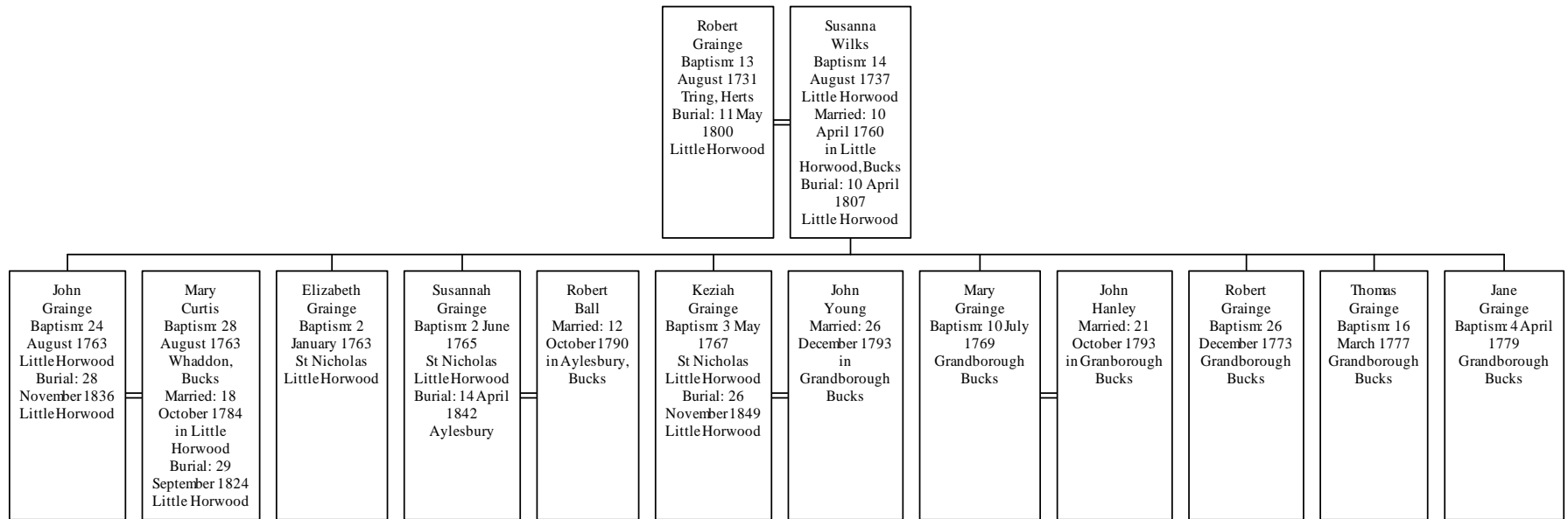
In 1767 and 1784 he took on the role of overseer of the poor. He also appears in the Winwood Almshouse²¹⁰ accounts for 1778 when he is paid 4/- :

'for the Carriage of a Load of Bushes for Mounding'.

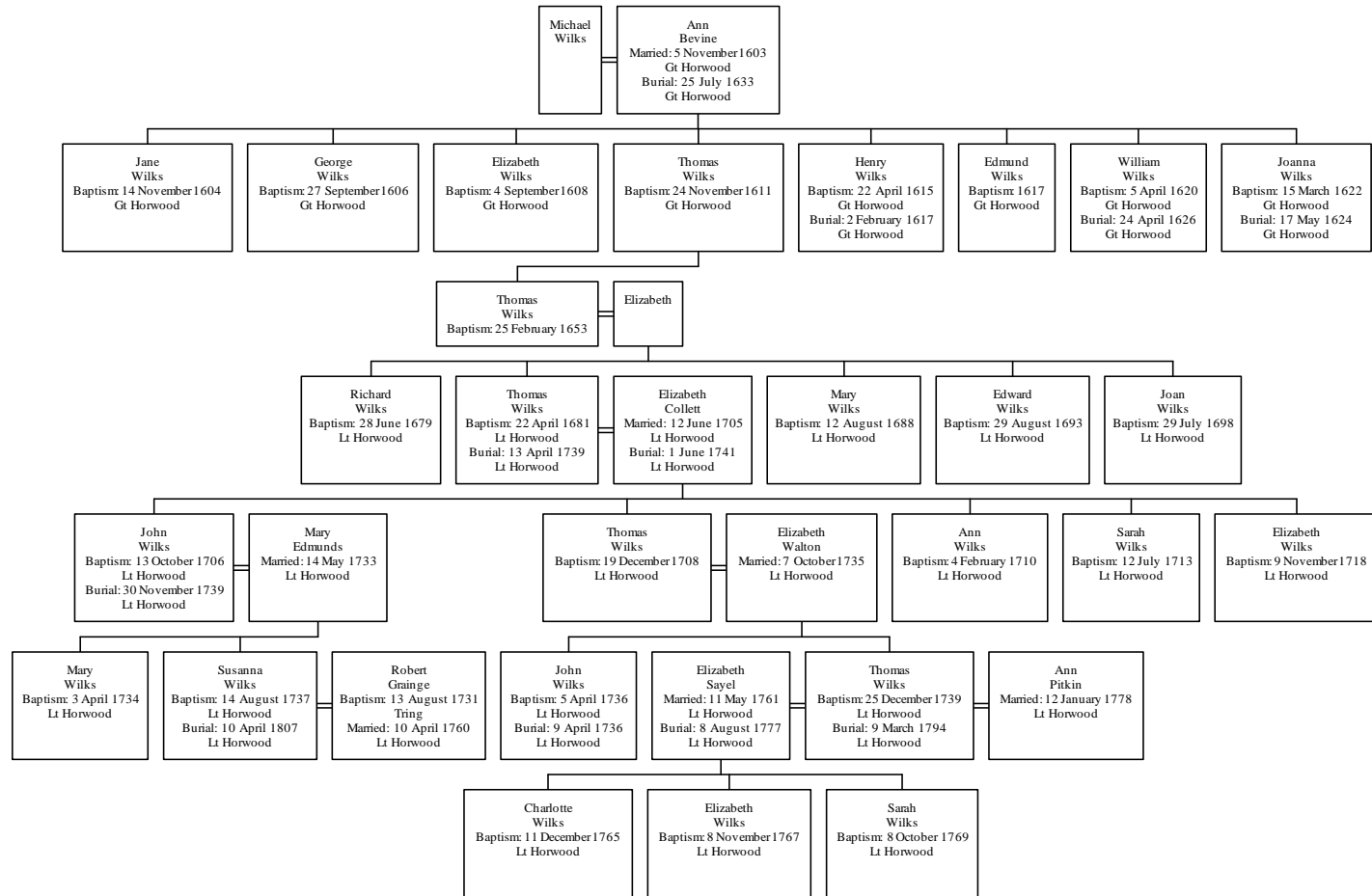
He served twice as churchwarden²¹¹, in 1773 with William Eeles and in 1774 with Peter Hughes.

In his will²¹², dated 2nd March 1791, and proved 19th May 1792, he states himself to be a dairyman of Denham in the parish of Quainton. He bequeaths his house and household goods to his wife, along with land he has bought, and his half of goods which he shares with his stepson, Thomas Marks. Should she predecease him, he is clear that all his property should go to stepson Thomas and stepdaughter Elizabeth Lee and her children. (Two generations later, the executors of Richard Marks, probably Thomas'

Tree 15 - Family of Robert Grainge



Tree 16 - Descendants of Michael Wilks



grandson, note his possessions, including Lower Denham Farm. It is tempting to see this as John Grainge's home.)

The only bequest John makes to his own family is a strange and somewhat miserly 2/6 a week to be paid to his brother Robert! Whether this is charity or a way of ensuring that his blood relation didn't contest the will is open to speculation. At one time I had assumed that this meant that John and Robert must have fallen out when Robert lost his inheritance. However, on 29th January 1771 both brothers witnessed the will of Thomas Reeve of Quainton²¹³, father of John's second wife, Elizabeth Marks, so they must have been in contact and on good terms at that point. Maybe John simply felt that his brother had inherited enough wealth; maybe Robert was comfortably off by the time John wrote his will. Perhaps he had already had a helping hand from his more cautious elder brother or they had quarrelled in the intervening years.

Robert Grainge of Padbury was born at Wilstone in Hertfordshire, and baptised at Tring on 13th August 1731, the fourth child of John³ of Wilstone and Jane Wheeler. (An earlier Robert had been buried at Marsworth in 1725.) By the time he was six, his father was dead, and he had inherited a small parcel of land in Wingrave. Where he passed the rest of his childhood is not known, but by 1749 he was presumably living at Padbury and is described as from there in a series of Winslow Manor Deeds up until at least 1754.

I had often wondered how the brothers had earned a living before receiving their inheritance from Robert Grainge esquire. I now believe them to have been pig dealers – Robert at least. Charlie Grainge, who lived in Little Horwood until the 1990s, owned what he referred to as *The Pig Book*²¹⁴ which he believed had belonged to his ancestor Robert Grainge; but although dates recorded in it place it between about January 1748 and October 1749, there is nothing to say who wrote it. Close study shows two different handwritings in it and my guess is that the authors were John and Robert Grainge.

The notebook is obviously written for personal consumption, and so it presents an incomplete picture. The writing which appears most frequently is legible but untidy, with some quirky spellings. The word 'owes', which appears on almost every page, is consistently spelled 'ose' by this writer. Two pigs are recorded sold to 'benet the bucher', and February appears on one occasion as 'Fepery'. This writer has frequent dealings with 'Mr Roberts', and the way in which the letters of this name are formed bear considerable similarity to Robert Grainge's signature. Some entries are in a tidier, less sprawling hand, with 'owes' spelled correctly, though with February missing its first 'r', and this hand resembles that of John Grainge, Robert's older brother.

The first entry shows how far the owner travelled in the course of his work:

'8 piggs of John Roads sold...	
... London att 0 – 16 – 6	6 – 12 – ...
1 more att 0 – 16 – 6	0 – 16 – 6
1 more att 0 – 13 – 5	0 – 13 – 5

	£ 8 – 2 – 0
for driving and seling	0 – 10 – 0

	7 – 12 – 0
8 ose me for att – 12-....	5 – 0 – 0

Due to John Roads

£2 – 12 – 0

Other places mentioned are Buckingham, Aylesbury, Padbury, Brickell, Moseley and Dunstyhill. There seems also to be reference to Oxon and Lestercheare – presumably Oxford and Leicestershire. Some entries are cryptic:

‘2 piggs left at harbrow to make the best. John James is to take the money for them’

and some plain sad, as with the pig:

‘1 left upon the road’

Clearly there were large numbers involved. One entry tells of sending 93 pigs up to Mr Roberts (based I think in London). Moneys are owed, received, borrowed and lent throughout the account.

All this helps to explain the pique of Robert Grainge esquire’s cousins at not receiving all his wealth when he died. Not only was he leaving property and money away from them, but to common pig dealers! Maybe John and Robert Grainge, out and about on business, simply were around the Little Horwood area at a time when Robert esquire fell out with his cousins and decided to leave part of his estate away from them.

There are several Winslow Manor Court²¹⁵ records referring to Robert, all headed:

‘The Manor of Winslow and its members in the county of Buckinghamshire.

‘The View of Frankpledge With the Court Baron of Richard Lowndes esquire.’

Then follows the date, and the name of the officiating steward, William Duncombe. In a copy of the Winslow Manor Court Roll²¹⁶ of 1752, at a court held on 30th and 31st October, he both surrenders some of Robert esquire’s land to Ferdinando Southam and is admitted to the house and land left to him by Robert senior:

‘At this court comes Robert Grainge of Padbury yeoman by Robert Adams gentleman his attorney and is admitted to the copyhold messuage lands tenements and premises mentioned ... under the will of Robert Grainge of Little Horwood deceased. To hold to him his heirs and assigns forever.’

So Robert:

‘devisee named in the last will and testament of Robert Grainge’

is admitted in the person of his attorney, Robert Adams, deputy steward of the manor to:

‘all that messuage wherein ... Robert Grainge did dwell at Little Horwoodtogether with the farm and lands thereunto belonging.’

The land is described as being dispersed in the common fields of the parish, and each piece is given a location. Land is spread through Middle Field and West Field in furlongs with names like Jenny Finney, Cross Down, Short Spot and Catsbrain. Other landmarks include Crows Nest Hill, Horwood Way and Reads Close. Holdings vary from five acres

to one rood. Of this holding of 127 acres, thirty 'by estimation' are freehold; the rest are copyhold, and Robert is admitted to them for an entry fine of £9 17/-

Robert Grainge was very young to receive such wealth, and it seems it may have gone to his head. The inhabitants of Little Horwood nevertheless initially treated him and his family with some deference; 'The Presentments of the Leet Jury' of Winslow Manor on Monday 3rd November 1755²¹⁷ name Robert, with Thomas Oakley:

'fit persons to serve in the office of constables for Little Horwood for the year next ensuing.'

However, Robert would have been only 24 years old, and was already showing himself too inexperienced to handle his new-found wealth.

Almost immediately after being admitted to his inheritance, he surrendered half his interest to Ferdinando Southam²¹⁸, and within five years the Winslow Manor Court notes a conditional surrender²¹⁹ of 96 acres of land to William Ledwell of Studley in Oxfordshire. Our ancestor had bound himself to the tune of £510. In an indenture²²⁰ dated 31st October/1st November 1757, William Ledwell is admitted because:

'the said sum of £510 was not paid on the day mentioned in the said surrender...'

By the following year, however, Robert seems to have regained control, but only in order to pass the land on for a final time, to Richard Davis of Stoke Lyme in Oxfordshire²²¹. So, on 16th and 17th October 1758, Robert Grainge finally gave up Wood End Farm, and the land associated with it. He would have been 27 years old.

It seems he didn't just acquire Robert esquire's Little Horwood property. 'An Account of Fines and Heriots for Ivinghoe²²², dated 11th November 1751 gives the following under the heading, 'Copyhold in Ivinghoe':

'Robert Grainge esquire for 2 messuages and lands late Grainge	£1	6	6
Ditto for a cottage at Ford End late Willis			4
Ditto for late Deacons' another cottage at Ford End		1	11
Ditto late Higbed 4 acres of land		1	2
Ditto part Shilburne ½ acre of land at Weards			3
Total Copyhold	£1	10	2'

This entry is preceded and followed by entries dealing with fines and heriots for Robert esquire's three female cousins' property in Ivinghoe. Given the date, the 'Robert Grainge' esquire in this document would seem to be Robert of Padbury, but what he was doing with property in Ivinghoe, I have no idea. Maybe this was part of his work as executor, and he was dealing with the estate, or maybe, to use modern parlance, he was 'broadening his portfolio'! Maybe the phrasing is simply misleading, and this is just a reference to the estate.

On 2nd February 1754, our Robert entered into a lease and release²²³ with Ferdinando and Sarah Southam for:

'one messuage, one barn, one stable, one curtilage, one garden, one orchard, eight acres of meadow, eight acres of pasture and commons of pasture for all the cattle with appurtenances, in Little Horwood.'

Robert apparently paid Southam £60 sterling. A lease and release can be a fictitious conveyance, and was sometimes used to ensure that no one else could claim a particular property. It is not clear, therefore, whether this was a genuine transaction or a part of his wheeler-dealing at the time. It could have been a way of ensuring his inheritance from Robert wasn't claimed by one of the other beneficiaries. If it was a genuine transaction, then Robert presumably wasn't destitute when he finally gave up his inheritance. Especially as, at the court of 16/17th October 1758, he was admitted to:

‘Several pieces of arable land ley meadow and pasture ground
lying in Little Horwood, by estimation 23 acres²²⁴’

These had previously been owned by Margaret, widow of John Illing, husbandman. Perhaps, having been through the ‘spend, spend spend’ syndrome, he now settled down to a simpler existence. Ferdinando Southam was the eldest son of George Southam, gentleman of Barton Hartshorn. An interesting codicil to his part of the story is the fact that in a special manor court held on 15th February 1762²²⁵, he was declared bankrupt, having perhaps over-stretched himself in his property dealings. One of his creditors was William Ledwell!

Robert's marriage bond and allegation²²⁶ of 1760, issued by the Archdeaconry of St. Alban's, state him to be a yeoman of Little Horwood, intending to marry Susanna Wilks of the same parish. While one witness to this document is Thomas Wilks, Susanna's uncle, both this marriage licence and John's five years earlier are signed by John Rawbone, surrogate, and it is this man - curate of Winslow²²⁷ and vicar of Granborough, who solemnised the marriage at Little Horwood on 10th April 1760. Other marriages at Little Horwood were all performed by P. Denchfield, vicar. While Robert signed the marriage register in a bold hand, Susanna made her mark. The witnesses were Henry Ellard and Alis Bely. Searching the register for Robert's marriage, I noted him witnessing two other weddings in the parish: that of Thomas Betts and Ann Reeve on 22nd June 1758 and Richard Clark's to Elizabeth Line? on 7th February 1769 – presumably just before he moved his family away from the village and settled in nearby Granborough.



St John the Baptist Granborough

The first four children born to Robert and Susanna Grainge were baptised at Little Horwood, (See Tree 15 – page 57.) John on 5th April 1761, Elizabeth, baptised 2nd January 1763, Susannah, baptised 2nd June 1765 and Keziah, baptised 3rd May 1767. The other four children, Mary - 10th July 1769, Robert - 26th December 1773, Thomas - 16th March 1777 and Jane - 4th April 1779, were all baptised at Granborough.

However, there is a Grainge burial in Little Horwood on 9th September 1765. The parish register merely states: 'Mrs Grainge buried'; however, the Bishops' Transcripts call her Mrs Keziah Grainge. Unless this is a wife to Robert esquire, suddenly crawled out of the woodwork, the most likely candidate for this burial is Jane Wheeler. BTs are notorious for getting the detail wrong; if she was always known as Mrs Grainge, whoever wrote up the BTs, probably some time after the event, may just have picked the wrong daughter's christian name to ascribe to her. It's obviously at around this period that Robert and his family pack up and move to Granborough. Later, both Keziah and Mary married there, to John Young and John Hanley in 1792 and 1793 respectively. Susannah married Robert Ball at Aylesbury in 1790. The other children disappear without trace.

So how did Robert Grainge make his living in later life? He should be easy to track, but he's not. We know he inherited Wood End Farm in Little Horwood, and probably Wood End or Old Oaks Cottage, the property next door, and that he may have bought another house in the village. We know he sold his estate and bought a smaller parcel of land. The Enclosure and Tithe Records²²⁸ show no evidence of Robert being in Little Horwood, but by 1767 he was presumably living at Granborough. However, there is no record of him in the run of Land Tax Assessments²²⁹ which cover both Ashenden and Cottesloe Hundreds, i.e. both Granborough and Little Horwood. It is tempting to see him as the black sheep of the family, overwhelmed by the inheritance from Robert Grainge esquire, and the importance of being his executor. Perhaps he simply squandered his inheritance and returned to selling pigs. The only reference I have found to him after the move to Granborough is his signature, in 1777, as witness to the will of Thomas Reeve²³⁰, yeoman of Quainton and father of brother John's wife Elizabeth. He seems, however, to have omitted to write his own will, so maybe he had nothing to leave. He was buried at Little Horwood on 11th May 1800.

Wilks of Great and Little Horwood

Robert Grainge's wife - Susanna - comes from a long line of Wilks in Little Horwood, topped by Michael Wilks. He married Ann Bevine in Great Horwood in 1603 and raised his family there - Jane, George, Elizabeth, Thomas¹, Edmund, William, Joanna and Henry, all born between 1605 and 1615. (See Tree 16 – page 58.) Thomas¹ had obviously moved to Little Horwood by 1641, as his name appears there on the Protestation Oath²³¹. He seems to have had one son Thomas² by a wife named Elizabeth in 1644, and it is possible that the Joan Wilks who married in Great Horwood in 1665 was also his daughter. Our ancestor Thomas² was baptised in Little Horwood in 1653 but no mother's name was given. He in turn raised five children there between 1679 and 1698 – Richard, Thomas³, Mary, Edmund and Joan. We know nothing of the father, but the eldest son, when he married in Padbury in 1704, was recorded as a carpenter, so maybe his brother Thomas³, born in 1681 and the next in our line, was too. This Thomas, who married Elizabeth Collett at Little Horwood in 1705, fathered five

children, John, Thomas⁴, Ann, Sarah and Elizabeth, before being buried there, aged 'near 60' in 1739. His widow Elizabeth outlived him by two years, and was buried in 1741.

Susanna's father John, eldest son of Thomas³, was baptised on 15th December 1706 and married Mary Edmunds on 14th March 1733. A daughter Mary was baptised a year later, and Susanna followed in 1737, baptised at Little Horwood on 14th August. After that, there is no other reference to a John Wilks apart from an entry in the Little Horwood register, a burial giving his age as 'between 50 and 60', which seems a little over the top for someone aged 33. However, there is no other candidate for this burial; ages given in registers are often conjectural, and if John had been ill, he might well have looked old before his time.

Susanna spent much of her married life at Granborough, but like her husband she was buried at Little Horwood. The entry in the burial register, dated 10th April 1807, records:

'Susannah Grainge from Granborough.'

It was Thomas³, I believe, who first acquired the property I was shown in 1985 as 'John Grainge's cottage'. On 23rd October 1728 Winslow Manor records the admission²³² of Thomas Wilkes to a cottage in Little Horwood on the surrender of Butler Evans and John and Sarah Woodward. The entry is in Latin, except for place names. The cottage is on 'Common Green' and 'Home Close' is mentioned. The Latin text defines the property as:

'nuper divis per sepem vivam'

meaning 'lately bounded or divided by a live hedge', a phrase which turns up in later records when John Grainge was admitted to the property. There is a further reference to this property the following year²³³.

A Winslow Manor Roll entry in 1770²³⁴ records the fact that the cottage:

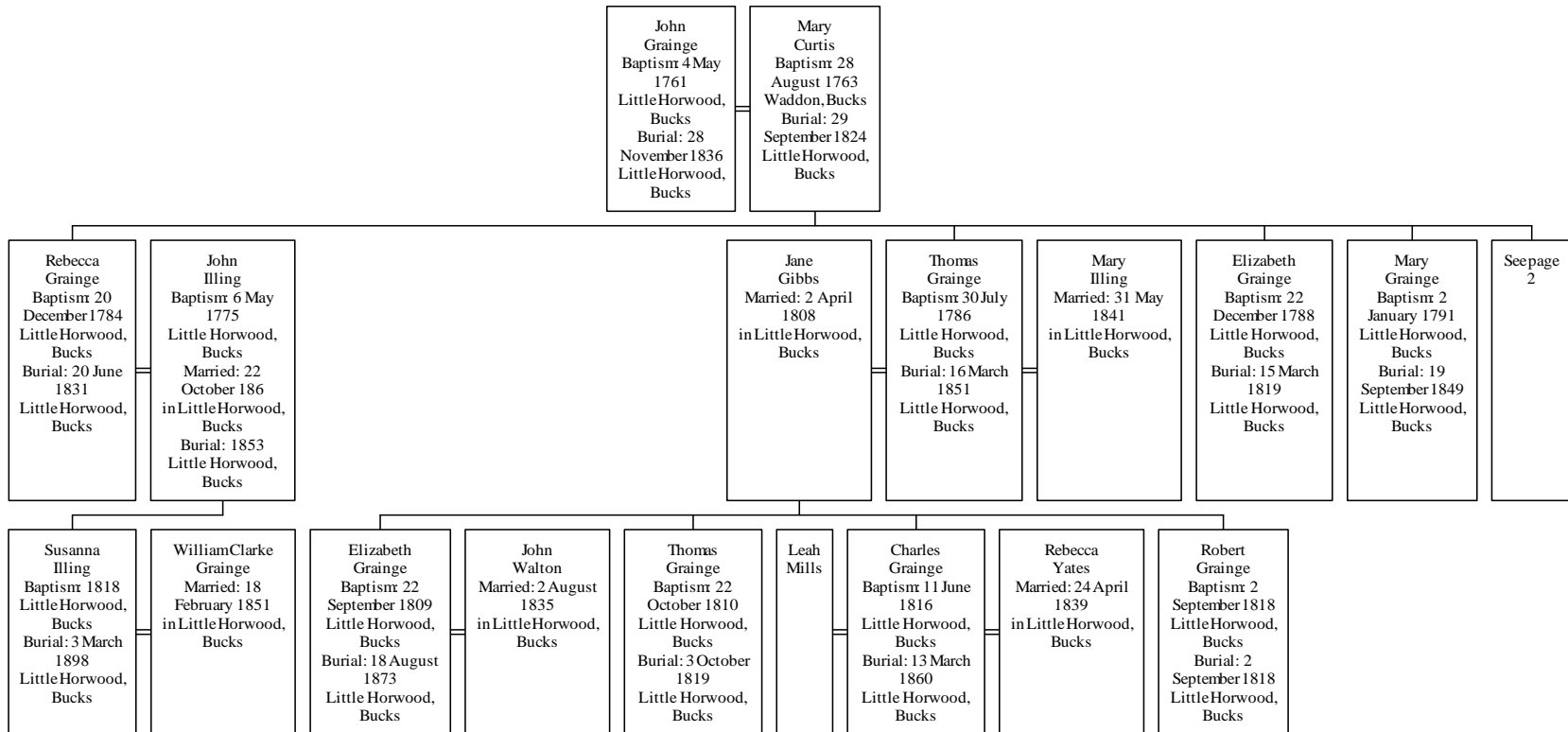
'together with a small piece of land lying near the common ground in Little Horwood aforesaid, sometime since divided from the said green by a live hedge and ditch....'

was inherited by Thomas⁴ from his father, Thomas³ who died in 1739. The entry says he was admitted 'at about 1736', so either his father passed on his property as he became infirm, or memories were a little faulty.

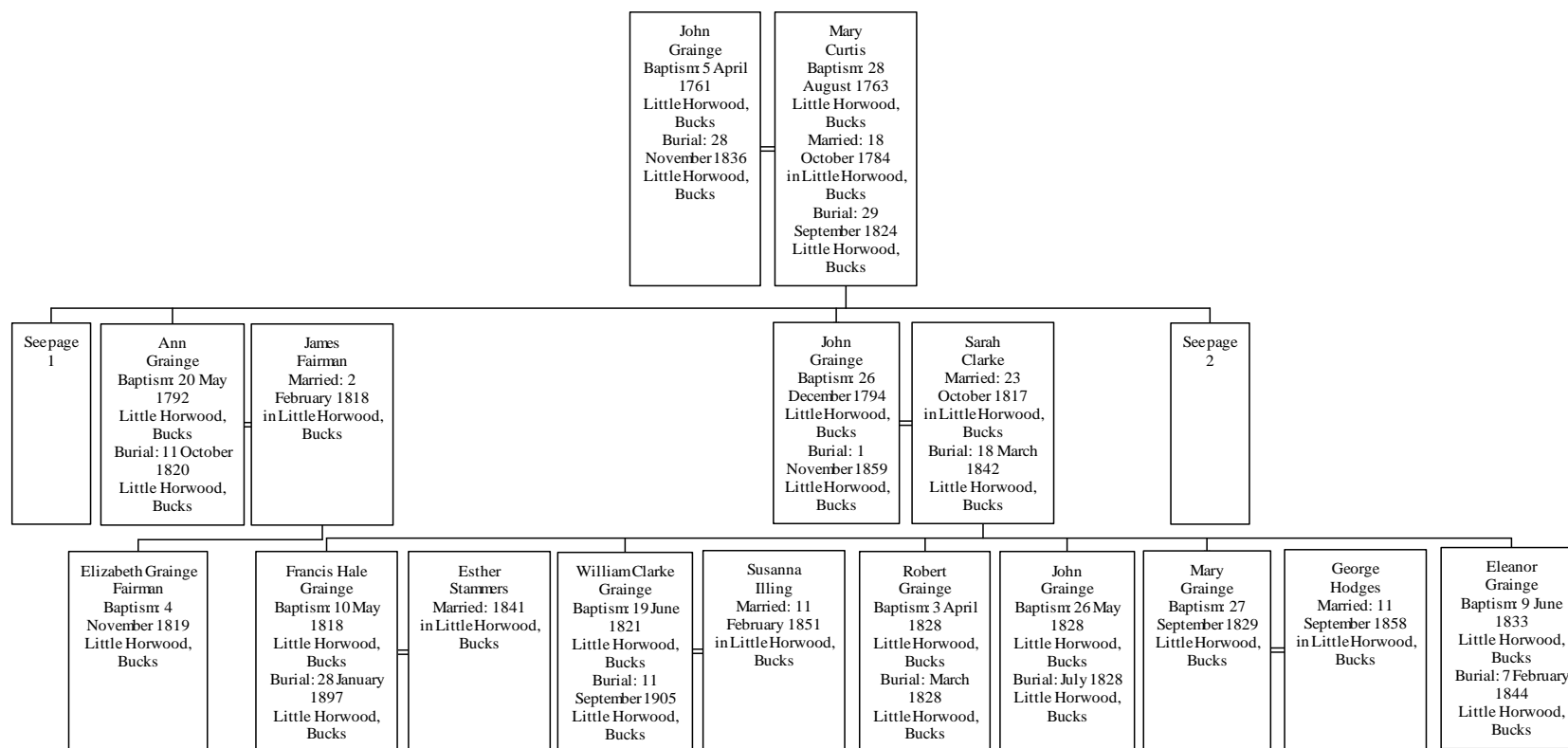
I originally assumed that a much later entry dated 26th October 1781²³⁵ referred to Thomas⁴ born 1708. However, I now think this must be Thomas⁵ born in 1739, as the marriage of Thomas Wilks and Ann Pitkin didn't take place until 1778, and seventy seems rather late for a marriage - even a second one:

'And afterwards to this court came Thomas Wilkes of Little Horwood in the county of Bucks carpenter in his own proper person and desires of the Lord of this Manor... All that messuage cottage or tenement situate and being in Little Horwood aforesaid within this manor late in the occupation of Ann Pitkin now the wife of the said Thomas Wilkes for and during her life and after her decease to the use of John Grainge of Little Horwood aforesaid carpenter grandson of the said Thomas Wilkes his heirs and assigns...'

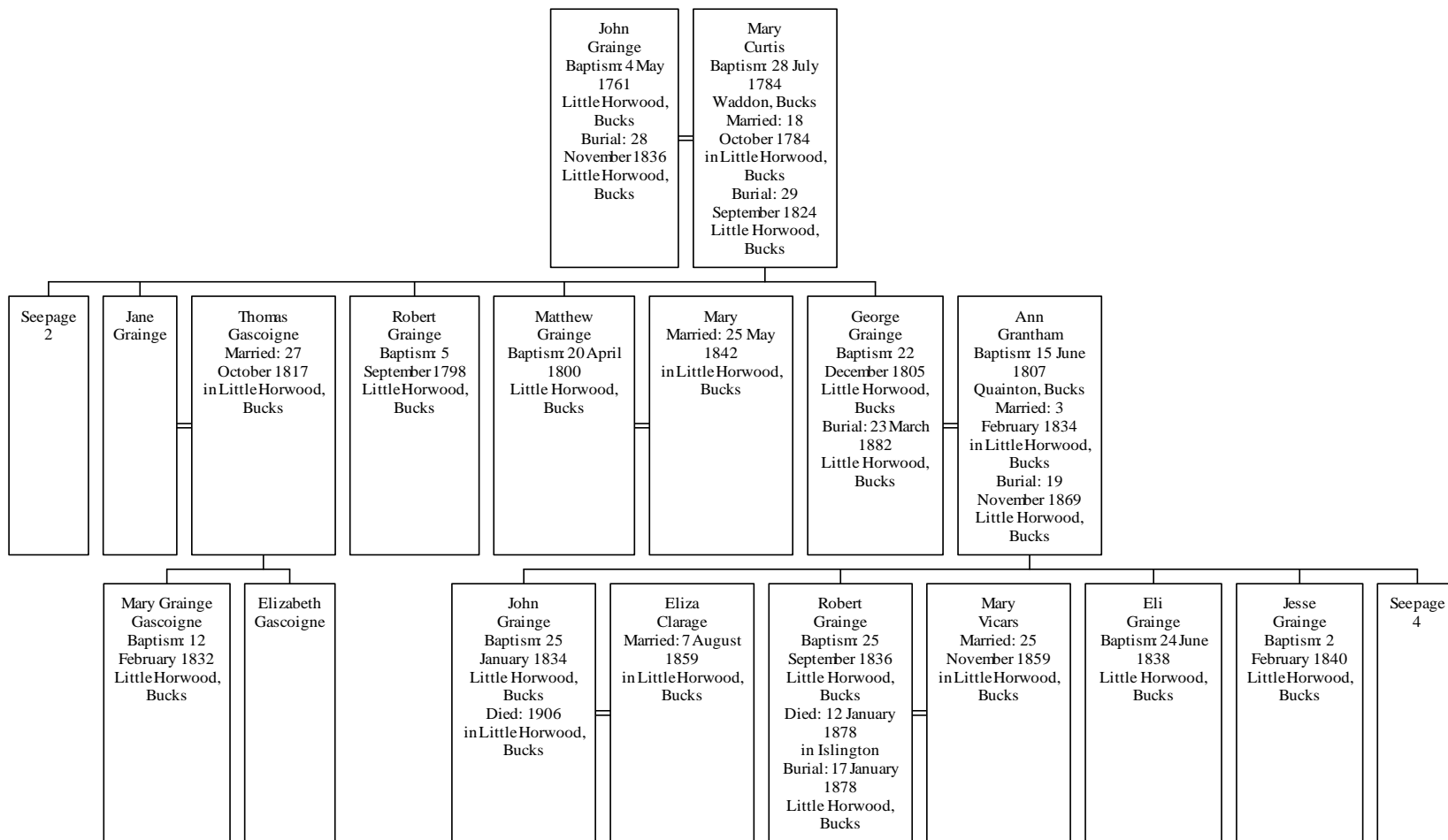
Tree 17 - Descendants of John Grainge of Little Horwood - page 1



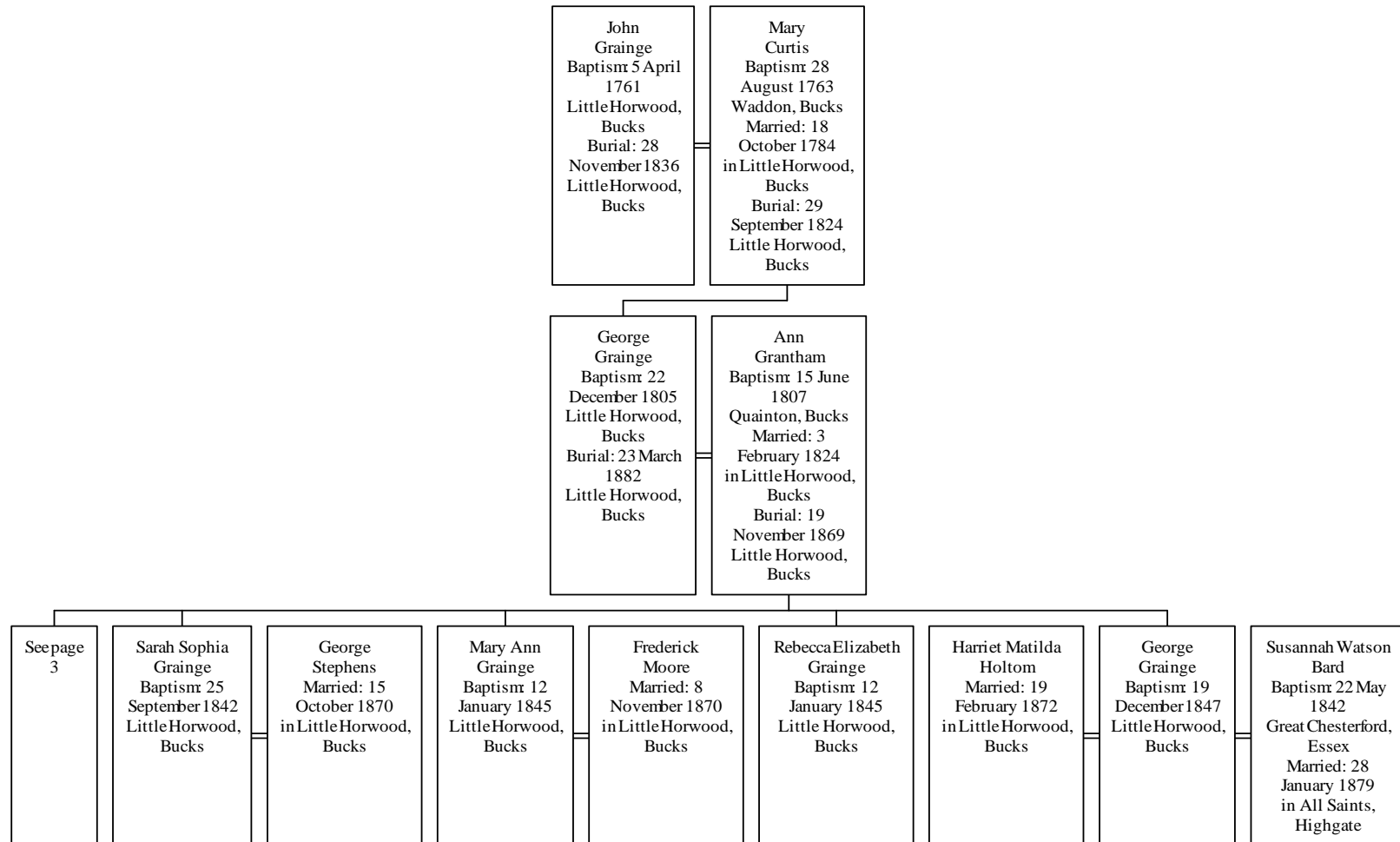
Tree 17 - Descendants of John Grainge of Little Horwood - page 2



Tree 17 - Descendants of John Grainge of Little Horwood - page 3



Tree 17 - Descendants of John Grainge of Little Horwood - page 4



If my reading of the registers and manor records is right, the property passed through three generations of Thomases. However, the last one only had daughters, none of whom seems to have married in Little Horwood, and may have died young. John Grainge, who was also a carpenter, was admitted to this property in 1794, and would have been first cousin once removed to Thomas⁵, and presumably his heir, as well as being great-grandson of Thomas³, the one originally mentioned in the manor records. By 1794 then, the house had been in the family for over sixty years, and is probably one of the cottages still owned by John's descendants.



'John Grainge's Cottage'

John Grainge of Little Horwood

With the birth of John Grainge in 1761, this history moves into a well-documented and less tortuous phase. John - the son of Robert Grainge and Susanna Wilks - was baptised at St. Nicholas, Little Horwood on 5th April 1761. Presumably he moved with his parents to Grandborough when he was about eight, although the Manor Rolls refer to him in 1781 as of Little Horwood. Maybe, as one of Thomas Wilks' heirs, and possibly his apprentice, he grew up with his great uncle or cousin. Certainly, he must have learnt the carpentry trade somewhere, and with one of the Wilks clan seems most likely. After banns on the 3rd, 10th and 17th October 1784, he married Mary Curtis in Little Horwood on the 18th. The two witnesses were Robert Corbett and William Read, possibly a cousin through his aunt's marriage to Richard Reed. These names both appear on the list of Jurors of our Lord the King on the Winslow Manor Records²³⁶.

John and Mary's first child, Rebecca, was baptised shortly afterwards on 20th December 1784, and married John Illing in 1816. Thomas, their first son, baptised on 30th July 1786, married twice, first Jane Gibbs and then Mary Illing. Three girls followed, Elizabeth - 22nd December 1788, Mary - 2nd January 1791 and Ann - 20th May 1792. John, baptised 26th December 1794, married Sarah Clarke in 1817 and raised an extensive family, some of whose descendants still live in the area. Jane, baptised 28th March 1796, married Thomas Gascoigne in 1831. Robert was baptised on 5th September 1798,

followed by Matthew on 20th April 1800. A carpenter like his father and brother John, he died in 1842. (See Tree 17 – pages 65-68.)

The last of this large family was our direct ancestor George, also a Christmas baby, baptised on 22nd December 1805. His given name harks back to earlier George Grainges: the witness to William of Aston Clinton's will, the one married at Marsworth in the early 1600s, and a few others in Weston Turville in the late 16th and early 17th centuries. For the next few generations the name cropped up regularly, and although I've not traced them all, my father used to tell a story (probably apocryphal) of six George Grainges sitting down to dinner together!

John took up his cousin's craft of carpentry, but also seems to have dabbled in property. In 1791 the Winslow Manor records show him being admitted to a 'copyhold messuage tenement and land in Little Horwood'²³⁷ surrendered by William Giltro, and in 1794 he is admitted to Thomas Wilks' cottage. A further admission in 1798 gives him control of Thomas Wilks' widow Anne's cottage as well²³⁸:

'Now to this court comes John Grainge in his own proper person and desires of the Lord of the Manor to be admitted tenant to the premises aforesaid with the appurtenances according to the form and effect of the said surrender. To whom the Lord of the Manor by the hands of his said deputy steward grants seizin thereof by the rod to have and to hold the premises aforesaid with the appurtenances to the said John Grainge his heirs and assigns for ever of the Lord by the rod at the will of the Lord according to the custom of this manor by the yearly rent of six pence fealty suit of court heriot and other services and customs therefore due and of right accustomed. And he gives the Lord for a fine for such estate so to be had in the premises five shillings and he is therefore admitted tenant...'

From this year, John appears regularly on the Land Tax Assessments²³⁹ for Cottesloe Hundred. The highest tax paid in Little Horwood was £9 and the lowest 4d. He is clearly not a wealthy man; as with the exception of 1801, when he paid the princely sum of £5 12/3, his assessments were usually between 2/1^{1/4} and 2/2. (Maybe it is significant that this is just after his father's death. Maybe he did inherit some land after all.) However, the fact that he was paying tax both as proprietor and occupier from 1798 through to 1832 when the records end, suggest a degree of financial independence. In 1827, the record states 'house and orchard', which clearly ties it to the property, still with a few fruit trees, shown me by Charlie Grainge in 1985, as 'John Grainge's cottage'; his inheritance from Thomas Wilks.

John leaves a clear paper trail. He witnessed his daughter Rebecca's marriage in 1816. He is listed on the Bucks *Posse Comitatus*²⁴⁰ of 1798 as being able to be summoned to the aid of the sheriff in order to suppress riot. In addition, he is regularly sworn in as 'headborough'²⁴¹ for Little Horwood – first in 1799 and then for most years up to his death in 1836, when son Matthew takes over:

'Also at this court John Grainge was continued and sworn to serve the office of Headborough for the parish of Little Horwood for the next year ensuing.'

He was sworn as an officer of the court in 1801, 1804, 1807 and 1809 – 1812. The post of headborough varied. In some places he was the constable, in others his deputy.

Alternatively, he could be responsible for the tithings. Given the fact that there were two other constables sworn, I suspect John fulfilled the latter function.

John Grainge was buried on 28th November 1836 at St. Nicholas, Little Horwood, aged 75 years. His will²⁴² divided his estate mainly between his surviving children. His eldest sons, Thomas and John, were given custody of:

‘all and every my copyhold messuages cottages closes lands tenements hereditaments real estate and premises situate standing lying and being in Little Horwood aforesaid or elsewhere...’

and:

‘all my household goods and furniture, implements stock in trade ready money book debts rights credits and all other my personal estate and effects whatsoever...’

on the understanding, however, that, as executors, they were to sell the above and divide the money between Thomas, John, Robert, Matthew, George, Mary and Jane Grainge, and Rebecca Illing. A further bequest of £5 was made for the maintenance of Elizabeth Grainge Fairman, daughter of his daughter Ann. His will is dated 7th April 1828, and bears the phrase ‘the mark of John Grainge’, despite the fact that he was perfectly capable of signing the marriage register 44 years earlier. So presumably he was close to death.

The witnesses to his will were Thomas Faremen, presumably a relative of his son-in-law James, Charles Willis and John Curtis, probably either Mary’s brother or his son. It was proved at the Archdeaconry of St. Albans on 20th May 1837 by his sons Thomas and John, who swore that the estate was worth less than £200. Ironically, this is less than half the value of the land his father lost.

As John’s three cottages were all copyhold, there is an entry in the Winslow Court Book for the Court Baron²⁴³ held on 1st November 1836, which states:

‘Thomas Grainge and John Grainge the younger, devisees of John Grainge the elder. Admission in trust.’

It details the history of the three properties, showing the one acquired in 1791 to be occupied by sons John and Matthew, and Ann Wilks’ cottage occupied by son Thomas. Presumably the other one was the home of John senior and Mary Curtis.

Curtis of Little Horwood

Mary Curtis belonged to a family with a long history in Little Horwood, dating back at least to the marriage of Thomas¹ Curteise and Ellen Boucher in 1582, and possibly beyond. (See Tree 18 – page 73.) A Thomas Curtis appeared on the Muster Certificate²⁴⁴ for Little Horwood in 1522, ‘valor bonorum £5’. Agnes Curtis, a widow, left a will²⁴⁵ in 1566 with bequests to three daughters and a son named Thomas. The facts that he was not chosen as executor and that an overseer, Henry Bailie (probably Agnes’ brother) was named, suggest that Thomas was a minor, so a marriage 16 years

later is feasible. Six baptisms of children of Thomas and Ellen were recorded between 1583 and 1597 – Henry, John, Elizabeth, William, Bridget and Ales. Thomas presumably became a man of some standing in the parish, for when Sir John Fortescue - Chancellor to Elizabeth I - acquired the manor of Winslow (of which Little Horwood is a part) in 1600, he held a ‘Court of Survey’:²⁴⁶

‘at which the most searching enquiry was made respecting the extent and bounds of the manor’

A large number of questions were posed about numbers of tenants, natural resources, markets and so on. Twenty-three men were on the jury set up to furnish the answers, and one of these was Thomas Curtis. Detailed answers are given, for example that:

‘...every tenant ... doth hold all his lands and tenements by the rodd, and copies of Court Roll, in fee simple or fee tayle.....’

and again that tenants have the right to fell and sell timber as they have done:

‘time without memory of man to the contrary...’

Their answers also make it clear that some land in Little Horwood in the east field has already been enclosed, nearly two hundred years before the rest of it, but that this has not affected commoners’ rights in nearby Abbot’s Wood. They refer their new Lord of the Manor to the ‘Terrier booke of Little Horwood’ for further clarification. A copy of a map²⁴⁷ of the area, drawn up in 1599, shows what look like a small enclosed field on one side of the village, backed by the mass of Abbots Wood. Behind this area lies Whaddon Chase.

We descend from Thomas’ eldest son, Henry, who was baptised at Little Horwood on 11th February 1583. His parents’ burials have not been found. The Little Horwood register is very dark and difficult to read in the early burial pages; however, Thomas must have died between 13th August 1609 when he wrote his will, and 15th November 1609 when it was proved in London by his wife Helen²⁴⁸. Henry as heir-at-law presumably inherited the bulk of the estate, and appears mainly as the means of paying other members of the family their bequests. The second son John received £40, ten sheep, two heifers:

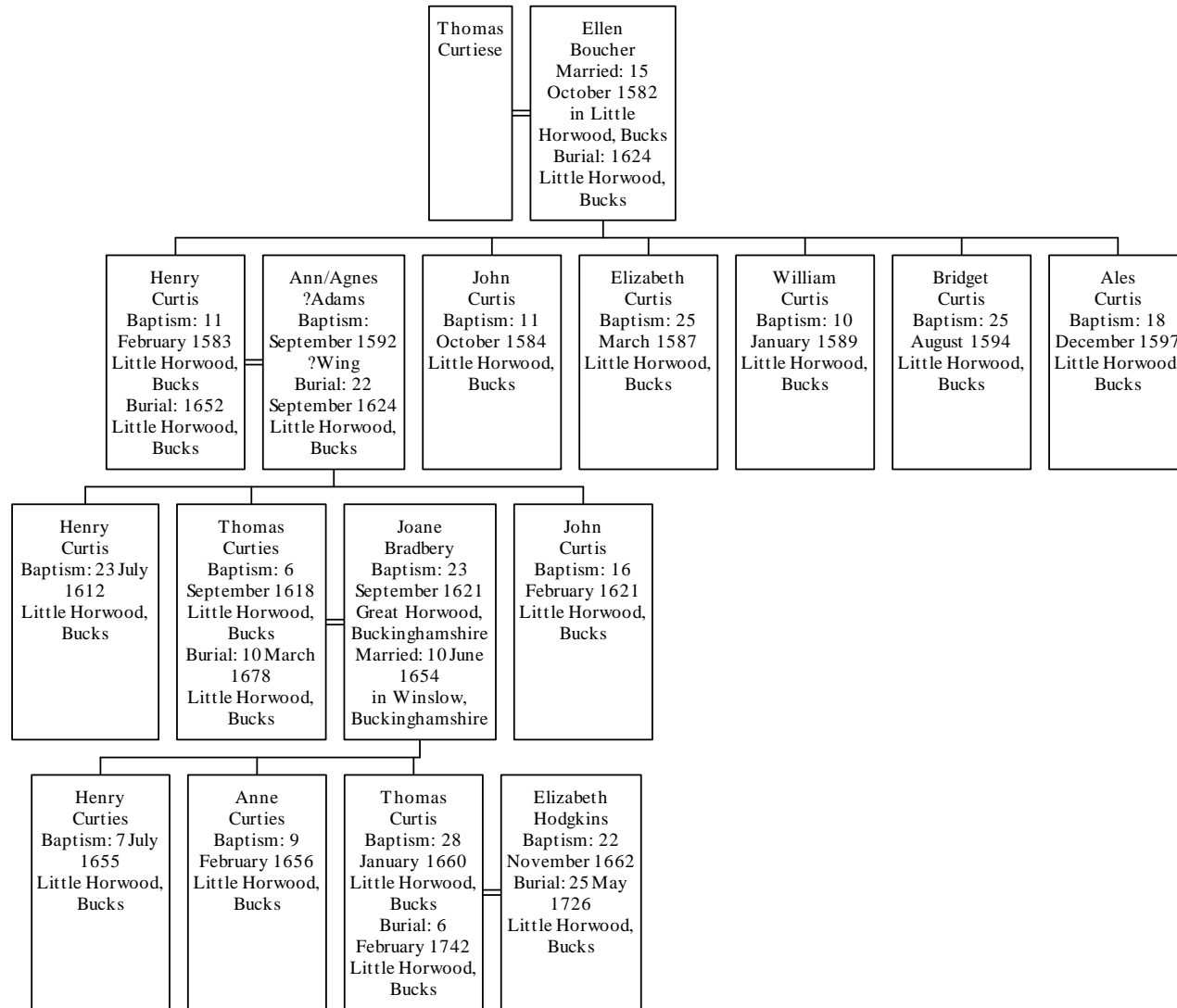
‘th’one brinded and th’other a redd’

and a little black chest. Son William (who later made his own will²⁴⁹ in favour of wife Ann and son William) was given a similar sum of money, and daughters Bridget and Alice £20 apiece. Daughter Elizabeth, already married to John Adams, received a smaller sum, as did granddaughter Alice Adams.

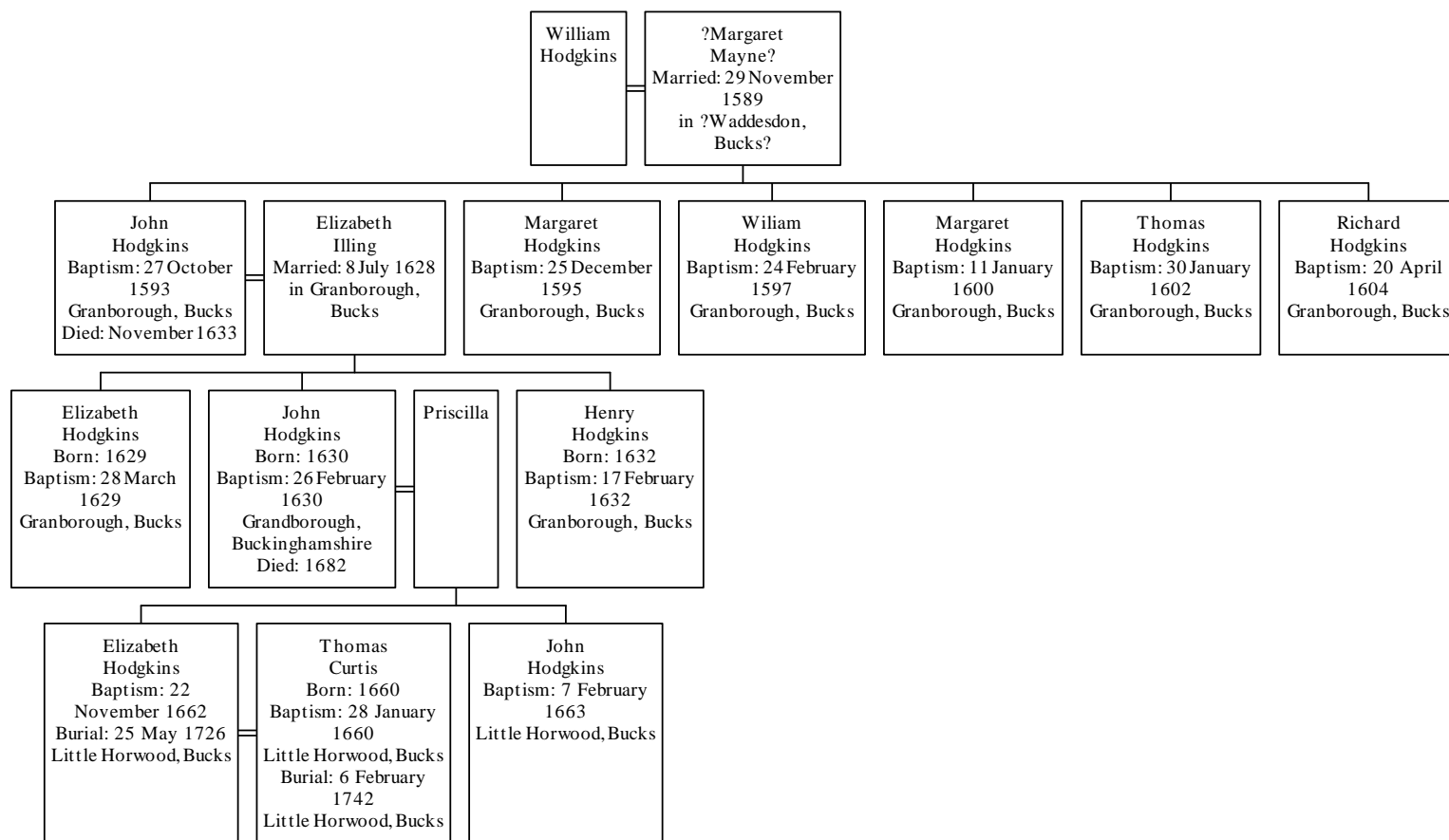
Having been enjoined to pay out his siblings’ inheritance at particular dates, and rather strangely to give his mother 20 nobles on the day of her death, Henry found himself in receipt of:

‘my team with all furniture thereunto belonging, with carts, ploughs and harrows.’

Tree 18 - Descendants of Thomas Curtiese



Tree 19 - Descendants of William Hodgkins



The will was signed by Thomas, and witnessed by Thomas Williamson, Thomas Adams, George Varney, Henry Curtis and John Butcher.

Helen, or Ellen, was left all goods movable and unmovable, which is perhaps why she was able to leave a delightful will²⁵⁰, proved in 1624:

‘Elin Curtisse, feeling herself not well, doth bestow her goods as far forth as they will reach...’

She made her eldest son Henry her sole executor, but left nothing to him. Her daughter Alice received money and household goods including:

‘my best bed and bed covering, three blankets, a feather bed, two bolsters and two pillows and five pairs of sheets...’

along with kitchen utensils such as brewing kettles, a cupboard, a chair, a stool. Other sundry items included two beasts and one sheep. In addition, Henry was directed to pay her 20 nobles within a year of her marriage. Son William received:

‘one black cow, and one brass pot, one coverlet, a pair of blankets, a pair of sheets and one bedstead...’

amongst other items. Son John received slightly less, but provision was made to give his children Marie and Richard 10/- each when they reach 18 years of age. Son-in-law John Adams’ family was also catered for, and Henry’s children were promised 20 shillings apiece on attaining 18 years. The witness again was John Butcher – presumably one of Ellen’s family. An inventory²⁵¹ taken by John Butcher, Thomas Adams and a third man whose name isn’t clear valued her estate at £19 5/4.

Henry¹ Curtis’ wife appears variously as Ann or Agnes in the records. There is no record of their marriage in Little Horwood, but a marriage between a Henry Curtis and Agnes Adams took place at Wing, not far away, on 24th January 1610. Ellen’s will suggests an Adams connection, so I think this is probably the right one, especially as the first baby appeared 18 months later. Henry was baptised in 1612, Thomas - our ancestor - on 6th September 1618 and John in 1621. Agnes, wife of Henry Curtis, was buried on 22nd September 1624, and her husband does not appear to have remarried, which is unusual. Maybe his sister Alice kept house for him; she seems to have stayed single. Henry paid tax²⁵² of 5/- in 1641 and a year later gave 2/6 to the Relief of Distressed Protestants in Ireland²⁵³. He is listed on the Protestation Oath²⁵⁴ of 1641 at Little Horwood.

Henry was buried in 1652; the exact date is obscure. However, his will²⁵⁵, which refers to him as a husbandman, is dated 20th August in that year. The preamble of this will contains a delightful error, as Henry is described as being ‘in a firm body’ instead of the more usual infirm one. He directs his body to be buried in the church or churchyard before going on to deal with his worldly goods. His first-born son was perhaps dead by this time, as he began by bequeathing £100 to his ‘second son’, John (actually his third), who also received a fair share of the household goods. A daughter Ann, who doesn’t seem to appear in the baptismal register, and so could be his deceased son’s wife, was also bequeathed a share of the household goods, but Henry was also careful to provide for the welfare of this presumably either widowed or spinster daughter:

‘And my will and meaning is that she shall have during her natural life the use of chamber over the parlour with benefit of the fire in the hall from time to time.’

His servant Elizabeth Taylor received 20/-, likewise the parish of Little Horwood, with the instruction to use the money to buy a black hearse cloth. The final bequest was:

‘All the rest of my goods and chattels whatsoever..... I do give devise and bequeath to my well-beloved son Thomas Curtis whom I do constitute and make the full and sole executor...’

The will was witnessed by John Harris the elder, Emmanuel Ward and Robert Hawkins, but doesn’t appear to have been proved until May 1661.

An inventory²⁵⁶ was prepared by Thomas Illing and Anthony Cheley and exhibited by Thomas² Curtis as executor. Henry’s wearing apparel was assessed at £3. In the house, the usual yeoman fare appears – a frame table, chairs and stools, pewter dishes, bowls and spoons, chafing dishes, a spit, pot-hangers, candlesticks, etc. bedsteads, feather and flock beds, bolsters, pillows and bed linen. However, the main wealth was clearly in the farm. Wheat, barley, beans, oats and hay were valued at £50, while three horses, three colts, nine cows, one bullock, one farrow hog and two suckling pigs, two cocks and several chickens were valued at £25. There was also an orchard, and the ubiquitous ‘old lumber’ which seems to turn up in all wills at this time. The whole estate was valued at £113 7/6.

Thomas² Curtis, the next in our line, also figures in the Protestation Oath²⁵⁷ of 1641. Twenty years later, he made a contribution of 4/- to the ‘Free and Voluntary Present’ to Charles II²⁵⁸, in 1662. Although not everyone paid this, it isn’t clear how voluntary the contributions were. Looking at the book which records this ‘gift’ for Buckinghamshire, it looks as if those collecting made more than one visit, and probably chivvied those who had committed to pay but had failed to do so.

Thomas² didn’t marry until 10th June 1654, when he would have been 36. His wife was Joan Bradbury, and the entry in the Winslow register transcript reads:

‘Thomas Curtis of Little Horwood and Joan Bradbury of Sinilboroe (Singleborough?) by banns’

Joan, baptised on 23rd September 1621 at Great Horwood, followed the three other children (William, Richard and Thomas) of Richard Bradburie and Joanna Barge, who had married there on 24th July 1609. Joan’s three children were Henry, born 1655, Ann – 1656 and Thomas³, our ancestor, baptised 28th January 1660.

Although Thomas² called himself a yeoman, signifying a slight elevation in class over his father, little is known about him. His will²⁵⁹, written on the 17th February 1678, is not easy to decipher, but he made his first bequest to his daughter Ann, £50 to be paid over two years, and directed his executor to:

‘find meat, apparel, lodging and all other necessities for my said daughter Ann at his own charge...’

until the first part of her bequest be paid. His son Thomas³ received the:

‘bedstead whereupon my son lie...’

along with the covers and linen, and a coffer. His eldest son, Henry, inherited the rest of the estate, and was designated executor. The will was witnessed by William Bradbery – Joan’s brother - John Curtis – his brother - and Richard? Thomas² signed his will in a fairly clear hand for someone close to death. He was buried three weeks later, on 10th March 1678.

The lives of the next generation are well documented. Thomas³ lived to be 82 years old. A yeoman farmer, he was sworn as a juror at the manor court²⁶⁰ on at least four occasions, 1724, 1725, 1726 and 1731. He also appears on the Winslow Manor Roll for 11th October 1730²⁶¹. Richard and John Barton, John Turpin and Maria his wife, customary tenants, came to the court to surrender land in the fields and meadows of Little Horwood:

‘to the work and use of Thomas Curtis senior for life and to
Richard Curtis son of Thomas Curtis his heirs and assigns...’

His brother Henry, the eldest son, was clearly a pillar of the community. In 1684 he took out a Bond of Administration²⁶² for his paternal uncle, John Curtis, who had died intestate. In the Buckinghamshire Quarter Sessions²⁶³ books, he is listed as a juror in 1695. In 1701/2, there is a curious entry in which he is indicted for breaking into Abraham Morris’ house and taking away goods and cattle worth £100. The others accused were variously farmers, a gentleman, a clerk and a labourer, and the crime was witnessed by two women, one of whom was a Morris. They were each fined 3/4d. The whole thing reads like a recovery of debts rather than a theft, especially as Henry was called as juror the next year in a case against Thomas Footman, and for several years was either constable or ‘treasurer for the maimed soldiers’. The following volume of Quarter Session Records²⁶⁴ records him as sworn as juror for the body of the county at Epiphany 1710/11, and ‘not sworn’ at a subsequent session. He was also listed in the Buckinghamshire Poll Book²⁶⁵ at Little Horwood in 1713. In 1717 he was not sworn as Chief Constable of Cottesloe Hundred²⁶⁶. Perhaps he declined the honour!

Although Henry clearly did well for himself, he died without children, so his will²⁶⁷ in 1719 shows him funnelling his wealth back into the family line. To his brother Thomas³, our ancestor, he bequeathed:

‘all estates of land and living for his natural life’

with a caveat that they would pass to his son Thomas and his heirs for ever after his brother’s death. To the parish he gave £3 to the poor ‘where most need is’ and a black cloth, first to be used at his funeral. His brother John Hall’s children received 20/- each, but to his wife Angel Williat, whom he married in 1711, he left 1/-. No record of the reason for this parsimony has come to light, but her burial entry, in 1732 has ‘bis vidua’ after it, which can either mean twice widowed, or twice destitute!

Hodgkins of Little Horwood and Granborough

The wife of our ancestor Thomas³ was Elizabeth Hodgkins, baptised in Little Horwood on 22nd November 1662, the daughter of John and Priscilla Hodgkins. She was buried on 25th May 1726, aged 'above 60'. The belief that this is the right spouse despite the lack of a marriage entry is based on the fact that Elizabeth's son Thomas left a bequest²⁶⁸ to a cousin, Thomas Hodgkins, who appears to be the son of John Hodgkins, brother of this Elizabeth. (A John Hodgkin also witnessed Henry Curtis' will²⁶⁹ in 1719.) This union produced six children, Thomas Curtis - baptised 1st July 1692, John - 3rd June 1694, Henry, our ancestor, baptised 16th February 1695, William - 27th April 1698, Elizabeth - 20th November 1700 and Richard - 23rd May 1703.

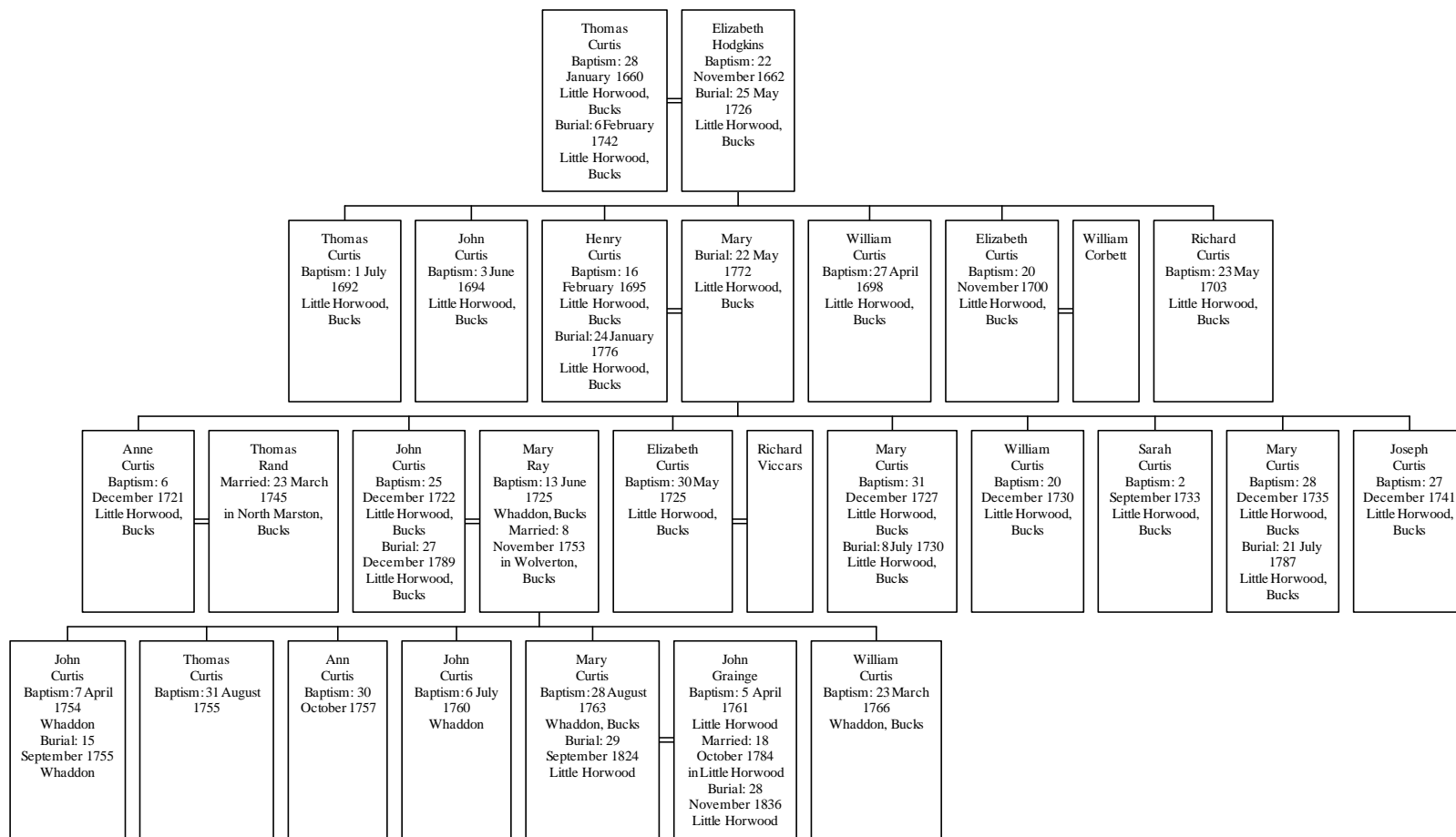
John Hodgkins' will²⁷⁰, written on 17th January 1682, gave his son John 'a yearling colt' and his daughter Elizabeth £20. Small bequests were made to Mary Barber, Priscilla and Phoebe Henley, his stepdaughters. He made his mark on a will witnessed by, among others, Thomas Curtis, whose signature is recognisably the same as on his own will, thus strengthening the idea of a link between the two families. John had been baptised at Granborough in 1630, only three years before the death of his father. This older John, born at Granborough in 1593 (son of William Hodgkins), married Elizabeth Illing there in 1628 and fathered three children before dying at 40. His will²⁷¹ nuncupative, made 'as he lay on his deathbed' left £15 to be divided between the children, and everything else to his wife and executor, Elizabeth. (See Tree 19 – page 74.)

Curtis of Little Horwood and Whaddon

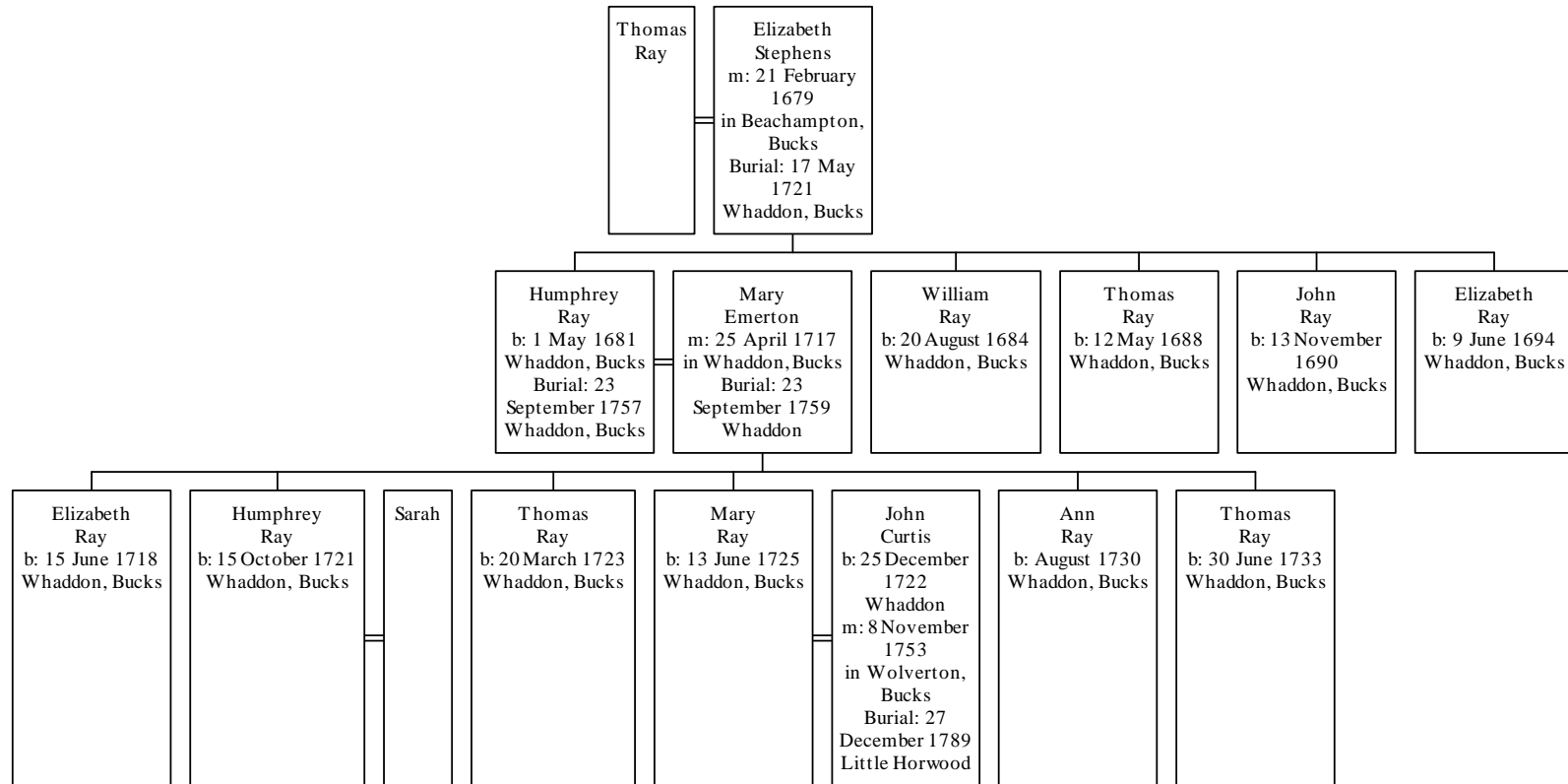
On 13th September 1736, Thomas³ Curtis made his will²⁷², which was proved on 26th May 1743, three months after his death. The first bequests were of £70 to his son Henry, £50 to his son William and £10 to his son Richard. Presumably the 7 ¼ acres of copyhold land already allocated, and forming the next bequest, balanced the books for Richard. Henry's children, John, William, Elizabeth, Ann, Sarah and Mary were all promised £5 when they reach 21 years of age. Sons William and Richard each got a share of the household goods, including their beds, and the rest of his goods and chattels went to his executor, son Henry. The will was signed in a clear hand, and witnessed by John Markham, Barton Franklin and a third person whose signature is illegible.

Henry Curtis and his wife Mary raised a large brood in the early 1700s. (See Tree 20 - page 79.) Anne was the first, baptised 6th December 1721, (she married Thomas Rand at North Marston). John, our direct ancestor, was baptised on Christmas Day 1722. Elizabeth followed in 1725, (she later married Richard Vickers) and then Mary in 1727. Another son, William, appears in the register on 20th December 1730. No marriage or issue are later recorded for him in Little Horwood. Sarah, the next baptised - 2nd September 1733 - was buried as a single woman in 1802; in her will²⁷³ she left all monies and securities to her nephew, William Rand. Mary - born 28th December 1735 - also remained a spinster, but left a detailed will²⁷⁴ in 1783. Joseph, the last born, was baptised on 27th December 1741, but to date, no marriage has been found for him either. Of all these children, then, only John continued the Curtis line.

Tree 20 - Descendants of Thomas Curtis



Tree 21 - Descendants of Thomas Ray



Potentially, Henry² would have been the second consecutive generation of our Curtis ancestors to benefit from a childless older brother's will. However, he was buried on 24th January 1776, and his brother Thomas Curtis' will²⁷⁵ wasn't proved until that year, despite having been written in 1771. (Sixteen years earlier in 1755, he appears in the Winslow Manor records making presentments²⁷⁶ as a member of the Leet Jury, and his signature appears at the end of the document, closing the proceedings.) The will left Henry all his copyhold land, but it passed directly to his younger son William. All other 'messuages lands tenements and hereditaments', along with a legacy of £100 and a yearly annuity of £6 10/- passed to our ancestor John, with the exception of one messuage and the accompanying land which was willed to Thomas' cousin Thomas Hodgkins. £100 was also bequeathed to his nephew William, and an annuity of £6 10/- along with personal property belonging to his late wife, to a kinswoman (Mary Allen) who seems to have been his wife's niece. Although the will does not state the exact location of the land, a map²⁷⁷ drawn up from a close reading of the 1767 Enclosure Award shows the position of Thomas' land grant. It appears to have been a large field at the apex of a triangle between Hollowhole Farm and Horwood House, just south-east of The Pheasantry.



St Mary Whaddon

The next generation closes the circle, for Henry's son John was also father to Mary, wife of John Grainge. Unlike generations of his forbears, John did not spend his whole life in Little Horwood. His wife Mary Ray was born in Whaddon, the parish next door to Little Horwood, and this is where they raised their family. Their marriage, however, took place in the north of the county at Wolverton on 8th November 1753:

'John Curtis of Little Horwood and Mary Ray of Nash were married with licence.'

This seems to have been a popular parish for weddings, and maybe the fact that Mary was already pregnant heightened the need for discretion! John Curtis' co-bondsman named on the marriage licence²⁷⁸ was John Clark of Nash.

Six baptisms for this couple took place at Whaddon. John was baptised 7th April 1754 and buried 15th September 1755; Thomas was baptised 31st August 1755, Anne – 30th October 1757 (she later married Abraham Clark in Little Horwood in 1785), John – 6th July 1760 (married Esther Illing at Little Horwood in 1782), Mary, baptised 28th

August 1763 and later married to John Grainge, and William – 23rd March 1766 (married Ann White in Little Horwood, 1788). At some point, then, John returned with his family to Little Horwood, but when isn't clear. He was buried, as 'Mr John Curtis', at St. Nicholas in Little Horwood on 27th December 1789, but I have not found his wife's burial to date. The Whaddon register has more gaps than the Horwood one, so maybe she died there and John returned 'home' after her death.

Alternatively, he may have returned to take up his inheritances. The will of his aunt Elizabeth Corbett²⁷⁹ bequeathed a:

'freehold new inclosed piece or parcel of land'

in Little Horwood, co-incidentally in the occupation of Thomas Wilks, to John Curtis of Nash, labourer. The land was to pass eventually to his eldest son Thomas. His sister Elizabeth Viccars was mentioned, as were Mary and Sarah Curtis, who executed the will in 1775, four years after it was written.

He was also admitted to land inherited under his uncle's will. An entry in the Winslow Manor records²⁸⁰ in 1786 states:

'Thomas Curtis late of Little Horwood, customary tenant of all that messuage, tenement, farm house and appurtenances with land in a field heretofore called Middle Field ... containing 58 acres 3 roods, 1 perch bounded on the east by John Illing's land, on the south by Kidgell Sandon's the west by Richard Curtis' with 78 copyhold acres ... died seized thereof and by his last will and testament dated 2nd August 1771 devised to his nephew John Curtis, son of his brother Henry....'

He held that land until his son Thomas was admitted on his death in 1790.

In 1784 John Curtis was listed as a voter in the Bucks Poll Book²⁸¹, and two years later he was elected as the Little Horwood Headborough²⁸², the post later held by his son-in-law. His brother William was sworn as juror of our Lord the King²⁸³ in 1752. However, he omitted the final duty of writing a will. Maybe death came upon him unexpectedly, though he would have been 69. As it was, his son Thomas had a warrant of administration²⁸⁴ granted 'in the goods of John Curtis his late father deceased', and swore that 'such goods chattels and credits did not amount to the sum of £400.' Nine years later, his sons John and Thomas are listed on the *Posse Comitatus*²⁸⁵ as farmers, with five horses, one waggon and two carts at the disposal of the county sheriff.

Mary Curtis, unlike her husband, only made her mark on the marriage entry in the Little Horwood register. We do not know when she moved from Whaddon to Little Horwood, just that it was her 'abode' when she was buried, aged a slightly reduced '58 years' on 29th September 1824. Presumably she was living in the village before she married. More is known of her aunt, also Mary Curtis, a spinster, whose will²⁸⁶ was proved in 1783. As well as monetary bequests to brother William, sisters Elizabeth Viccars and Sarah Curtis and brother John's children - amounting to over £60 - she apportioned her wardrobe as follows:

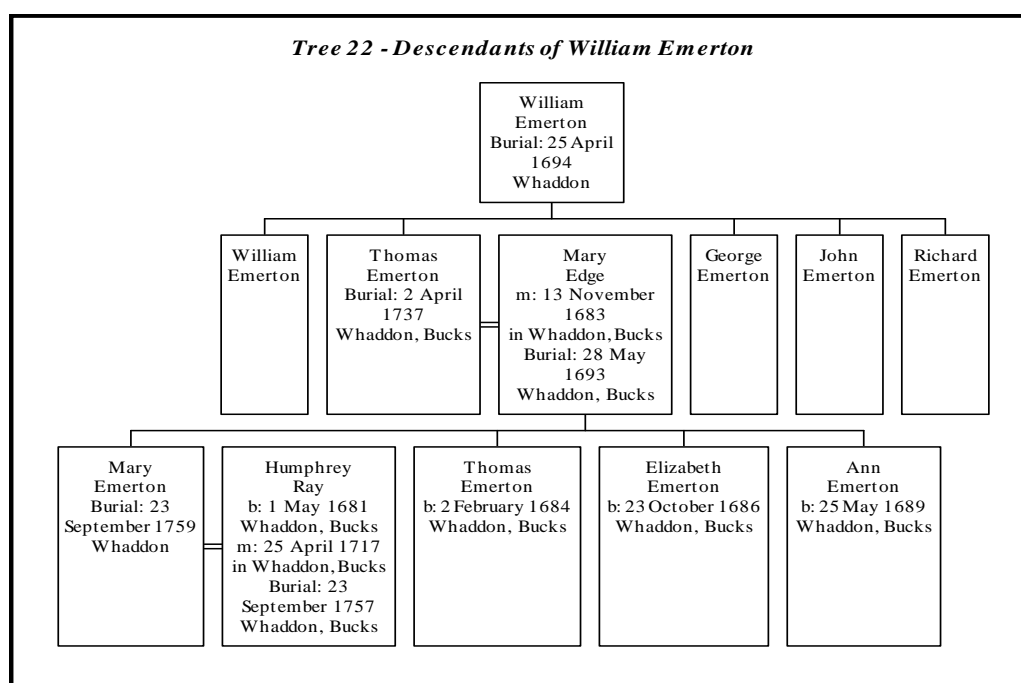
To niece Ann: one silk gown, one petticoat, one linen gown
To niece Mary: one cotton gown, one woollen gown, one black, quilted petticoat

To sister Elizabeth: one woollen red cardinal, 3 caps, one white apron, one checked apron, and a white handkerchief.

Another will²⁸⁷, proved in 1822, records bequests by Mary's brother Thomas. While his brother John and his deceased brother William's children inherited land, sisters Ann Clark and Mary Grainge received £80 and £70 respectively.

Ray and Emerton of Whaddon and Nash

Another brief digression covers the family of Mary Ray, John Curtis' wife. She was baptised at Whaddon on 13th June 1725, the fourth of six children. (See Tree 21 - page 80.) Presumably Humphrey Ray and his wife Mary Emmerton (whom he married on 25th April 1717) were of some stature in the village, for his burial entry, on 23rd September 1757 is underlined, Humphrey Ray of Nash, husbandman. Mary outlived her husband by two years; her burial records her as a 'widow kept by her son'. Her grandfather, Thomas Ray, married Mary Stephens at Beachampton in 1679, and Humphrey, baptised at Whaddon on 1st May 1681 was the first child of five. Thomas, a husbandman and stock farmer, wrote a will²⁸⁸ proved in 1715, dividing his estate between his wife, sons Humphrey (the executor) William and John and his daughter Elizabeth.



Mary Emerton's baptism doesn't appear with those of her siblings at Whaddon, but her husband's and daughter's mention in her father's will show her to be the daughter of Thomas Emerton and Mary Edge who married in 1683. Thomas Emerton - whose burial entry in 1737 was also underlined - was predeceased by his son, so his estate²⁸⁹ was divided between his grandchildren, with Thomas' sons getting the bulk, and his three sons-in-law receiving a token 1/- apiece. Mary Ray was to inherit £5 on reaching the age of 21. Thomas was a farmer, owning free- and leasehold land in Nash

field. His father William Emerton's will²⁹⁰ divided his personal estate between five sons, but named Thomas executor, which would suggest seniority. Unfortunately there are gaps in the Whaddon register at the time of the Civil War, and it is probable that the George, John, Richard and Thomas mentioned were born at that time. Hearth Tax returns for Whaddon²⁹¹ in 1664 show a William Emerton being assessed on his land:

'William Emerton terr. £01 00: £00 08 00'

The threshold for those taxed on land was 20/-, and the rate was 4/- in the pound, so I'm not sure why he appears to be paying twice that rate. Two years later, in 1666, the Hearth Tax²⁹² entry is even more cryptic:

'William and Jeffery Emmerton both £1 10/- to pay 12/-'

There is an earlier generation of Emertons, from whom William is probably descended, but it is not possible to tell from the Whaddon register which possible set of parents, if any, is his. There were three Emerton couples in Whaddon at about the right time: Jeffery, married to Jane Baldwyn, Edward and Martha, and William and Elizabeth. Given the entry above, Jeffery seems the most likely.

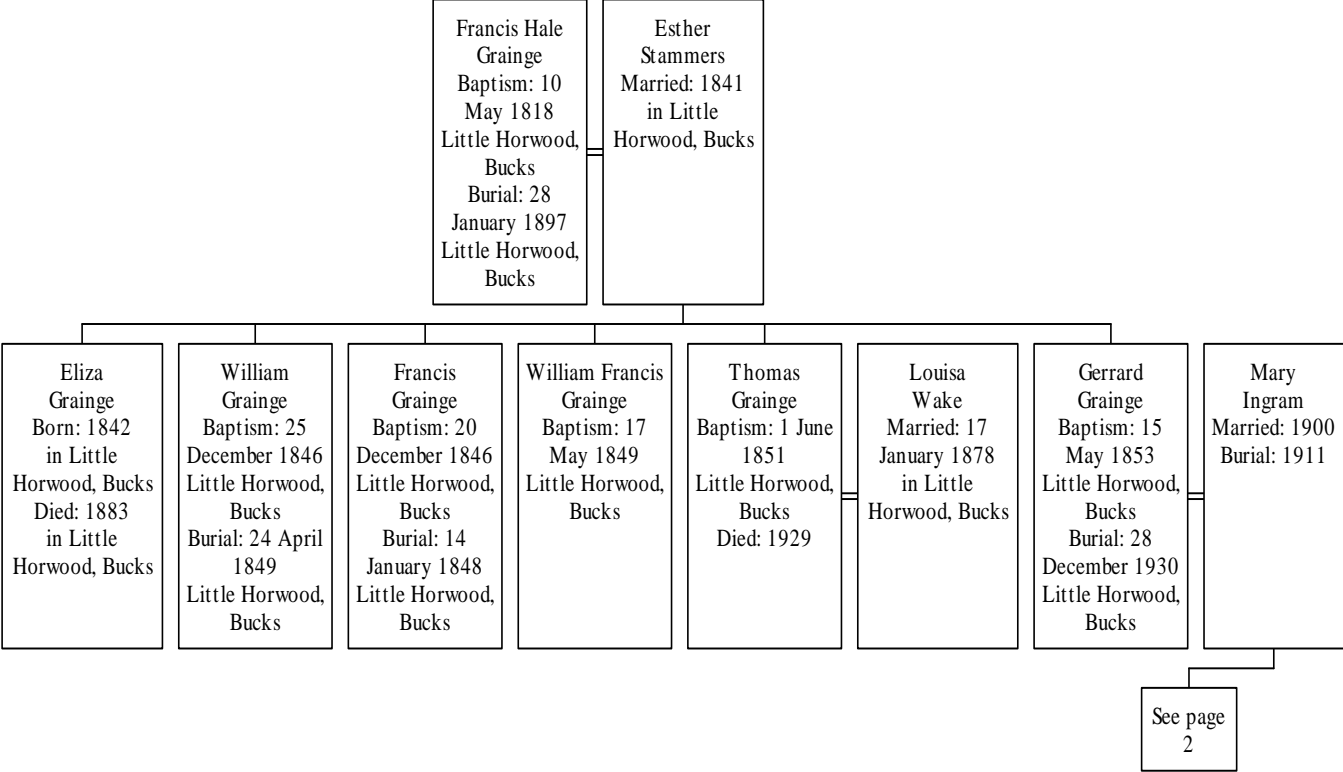
John Grainge of Little Horwood's family

Back now to the main Grainge line. John's extensive family spread out through Little Horwood in the early 1800s. When the 1851 census²⁹³ was taken, Rebecca's husband, John Illing (a farmer of 33 acres) was still living with two of his children and a Gascoigne niece. Daughter Susanna Illing had recently married William Clarke Grainge, her cousin and son of John's son John who was also farming in the village. Thomas Grainge was dead, but had fathered four children, and although his son Thomas had been 'killed by the crush of a waggon' in 1819, his brother Charles – another carpenter – appears on the census with his wife, although their one son, Austin, did not survive infancy. Elizabeth had also died in 1819, but Ann lived long enough to give birth to the grandchild mentioned in John's will. She appears on the census with her Gascoigne aunt and uncle, and a cousin. Matthew, also a carpenter, doesn't seem to have had any children, but the remaining two sons John and George – the last of our direct line to live and die in Little Horwood – both raised large families.

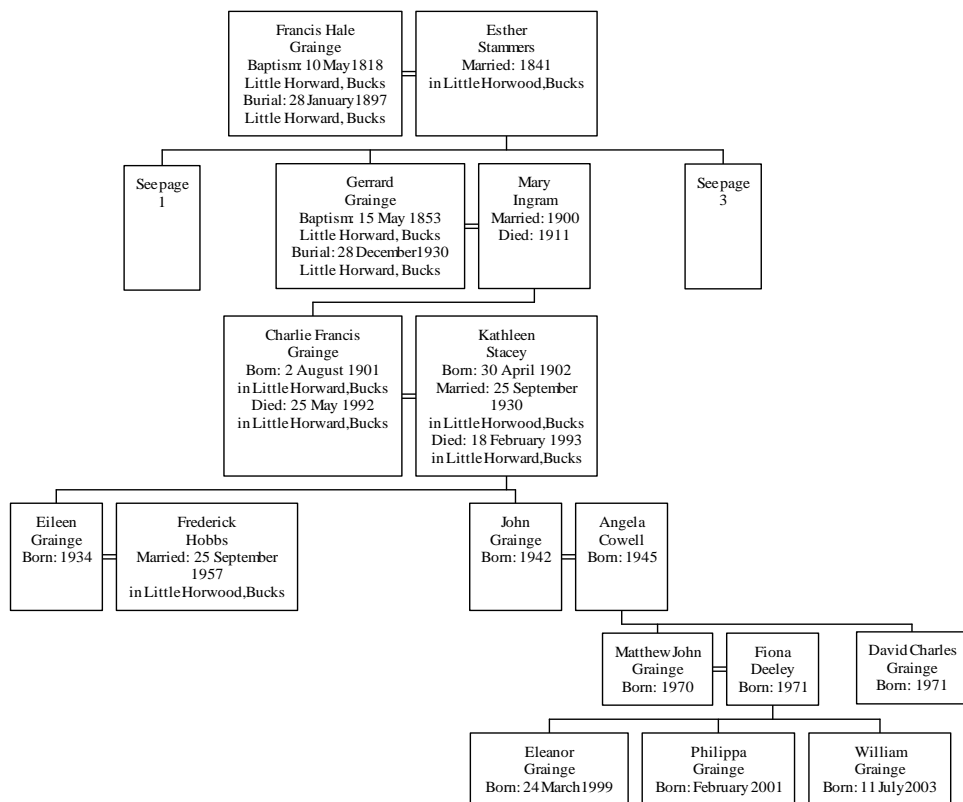
John junior married Sarah Clarke, and of their offspring, Francis Hale and William Clarke Grainge both feature extensively in parish records. **(See Trees 23 – pages 85-87 and 24 – page 93.)** As youngsters, they were clearly a dab hand at catching sparrows, being paid 4d a dozen for reducing the numbers of these 'pests' of the cereal crops²⁹⁴. In later years they appear in the parish accounts²⁹⁵, as did John, being paid on a regular basis for upkeep of the church. On one occasion in 1844, the entry reads:

'At a vestry meeting it was agreed that Mr J Grainge occupy the recreation ground for two years for the purpose of levelling it and getting it in proper state intended, sowing with seeds the first year.'

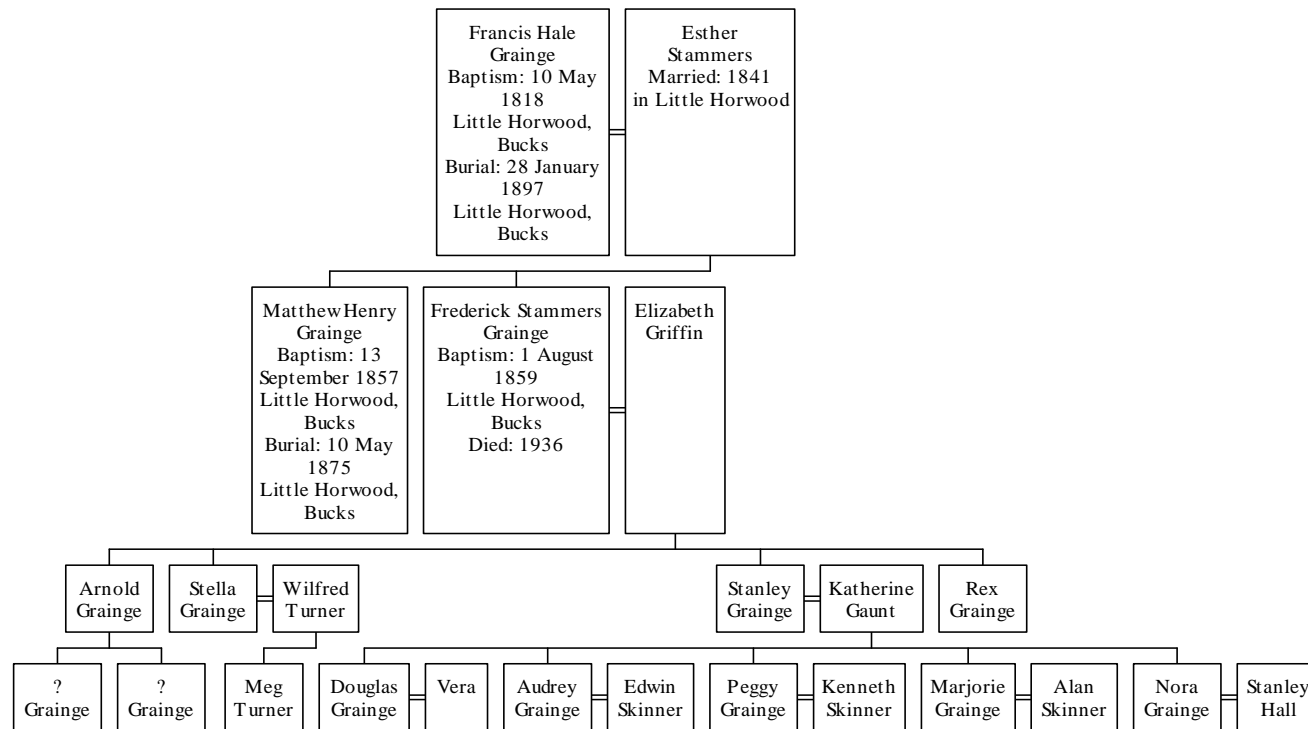
Tree 23 - Descendants of Francis Hale Grainge - page 1



Tree 23 - Descendants of Francis Hale Grainge - page 2

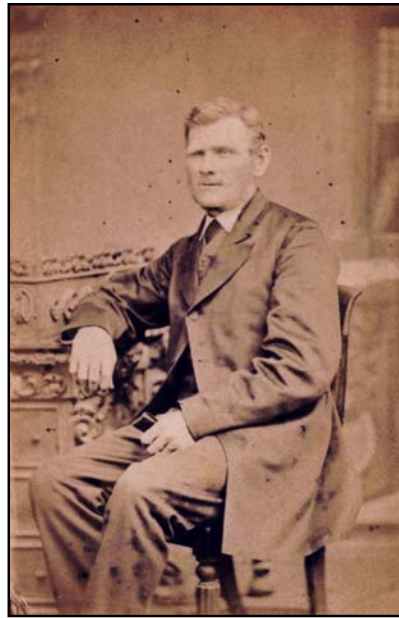


Tree 23 - Descendants of Francis Hale Grainge - page 3





William had a large family, but his line seems to have died out or left the village. Maybe, though, Frederick George, buried at Little Horwood in 1980, belongs to this line.



Francis Hale Grainge

Francis Hale's first three sons died without issue. (See Tree 23 – pages 85-87.) William Francis married a Surrey girl, Fanny, and moved away. He is recorded in Middlesborough on the 1881 census²⁹⁶ with three young children: Agnes, Walter and Florence. (The same year's census²⁹⁷ shows his father still living on the Green in Little Horwood.) The next son, Gerrard - a builder - had one son, Charles Francis Henry, whom I met in Little Horwood in 1985. Like many of his family before him, he held the post of Churchwarden, and my first sight of a transcript of the church registers was in the same house on the Green, 'The Firs'. A group photograph at the door of St. Nicholas Church in 1946, taken presumably to commemorate an important event, has Charlie standing to the far left of the visiting Bishop, second from the right of the photo²⁹⁸.

Information on living members of the family withheld.

Both Charlie and Kath lived to a ripe old age. A headstone in Little Horwood churchyard, not far from the church door, records the following:

‘In loving memory of Charlie Francis Henry Grainge
2nd August 1901 – 24th May 1992
And Kathleen Annie Grainge, 30th April 1902 – 18th February 1993.’

Gerrard’s brother, Frederick Stammers Grainge, farmed at Shalstone, near Buckingham. He and his wife Elizabeth had four children - Arnold, Stella, Stanley and Rex. Arnold had a son and a daughter; Stella married Wilfred Turner and had one daughter, Meg; Stanley married Kathrine Gaunt and had five children: Douglas, Audrey, Peggy, Marjorie and Nora. Three of the daughters seem to have married members of the Skinner family. Nora married Stanley Hall and Douglas married a girl named Vera.

The Victorians were far more formal over the process of mourning than we are. Mourning cards still exist for some members of the family. Francis Hale Grainge was commemorated as follows:

‘In Affectionate Remembrance of
Francis Hale Grainge,
Who passed peacefully to his rest
On Thursday, January 28th, 1897,
In the 79th year of his Age.’

Others still owned by John Grainge are in memory of Francis’ brother-in-law George Hodges, and his daughter-in-law Mary, wife of Gerrard.

George Grainge of Little Horwood

George Grainge, my great-great grandfather, was something of an afterthought, arriving as he did in 1805, five years after his nearest sibling and twenty-one years after the eldest. Probably born in the house on the Green in Little Horwood known as John Grainge’s cottage, he was baptised at St. Nicholas’ on 22nd December; his father was 44 and his mother 42. No doubt to a certain extent he had to make his own way in the world. At least two of his brothers had followed their father into carpentry, and Little Horwood was probably not large enough to sustain a third. He married Ann Grantham from Quanton by banns on 3rd February 1834; witnesses, his sister Mary Grainge and George Ward. Their first two children, born in 1834 and 1836 were named, unsurprisingly, John and Robert.

John married Eliza Clarage and raised a large family in Little Horwood. (See Tree 25 – page 94.) Of their children, five were girls: Eliza – married Thomas Henry Rigby (one son, Arthur); Rosa – married Joseph Nelson Stanton (three children, Bert, Eva and Jack); Annie – married Richard Rice; Kate; and Louisa – married George Garrett. There were also two boys. George John married Louisa Price in 1891, and they had six children. The first – Hector Archibald – emigrated; Eliza married and had a daughter; the other four – Frederick, Harry John (who had T.B.), James and Elsie Kate – died without issue, and, except for James, lie with their parents in Little Horwood churchyard. Harry, the last of John and Eliza’s brood, married Kate Mary Coleman and had three sons, Maurice Edwin, Mervyn and Frederick John Tring

Information on living members of the family withheld.

John's brother Robert (born 1836 and married to Mary Viccars) had only one child, Emily Ann. Like his brother, he is listed as a labourer in the census of 1851²⁹⁹, but was at one time a butcher. He died in Islington aged 41 on 12th January 1878, having been run over following a fall from a grain wagon, but was buried in Little Horwood. A surviving 'in memorium' card carries the highly sentimental text:

‘Watch and pray, for ye know not what an hour may bring forth.

Grieve not my wife and child dear.
‘Tis God's kind word that called me here.
And you are left behind to stay.
Until the Lord calls you away.’

The next child, Eli, was born in 1838. Jesse followed, in 1840, and later married Emma Vicars, sister to Mary. He had no children, but contributed much to his community. With his cousin Gerrard he was nominated delegate to the Rural Deanery Conference; in 1875, he was paid 15/- by the churchwardens for carting; four years later, he was paid £1 10/- for 'cleaning the church all throughout'; in 1888, he was paid a £2 salary in the churchwardens' accounts³⁰⁰.

After four sons, came three daughters; Sarah Sophia was born in 1842 and married George Stevens – a printer - in 1874. Twins arrived in 1845 - Mary Ann (who married a baker, Frederick Moore, in 1870) and Rebecca. Jesse witnessed his brother John's wedding, while Sarah witnessed his. George and Sarah Grainge witnessed Mary Ann's. In this generation as the previous one, our ancestor (my great-grandfather) was tail-end Charlie in the family, and also named George. He was born on 19th December 1847, with his parents aged 42 and 40. However, before embarking on his life, there is more to say about his parents – and his mother's antecedents.

George senior was born into an era of more extensive record keeping. Parish registers gave occupations, which appear successively as labourer, farmer, dealer in cattle, jobber and then farmer again. Concerned about public health, nineteenth century governments instigated the census, and although individuals do not appear until 1841, the 1831 census³⁰¹ tells us quite a lot about the nature of Little Horwood. There were 90 inhabited houses in the village, and 106 families. The fact that there were no unoccupied houses and none being built suggests a fairly static society. Females outnumbered males 230 – 201, and the majority of people worked on the land. The census rather sniffily comments that there were only two men not of the labouring class – presumably the rector and the squire!

The 1841 census³⁰² gives minimal information. George aged 34 is living with his wife Ann, aged 32, and their children: John - 6, Robert - 4, Eli - 3 and Jesse - 1. Although George is listed as an Agricultural Labourer, there is a servant, but as her name is Mary Grantham, and she is only 12, I suspect she is part of the extended family. Ann White, aged 75, is also part of the household. By 1851³⁰³, George is more established, a farmer of 14 acres, aged 44. From now on, his place of birth is given as Little Horwood. Ann, listed as 43 and born at Quainton, gives her occupation as farmer's wife, while the three oldest boys, aged 16, 14 and 12 are all agricultural labourers. Eli, aged 11, is

followed by Sarah Sophia, 8, Mary Ann and Rebecca, 5 and George, 3. As if the household wasn't crowded enough, there is also Sophia Grantham, a visitor aged 84, occupation nurse, birthplace Shipton Lee. This is Ann's mother, soon to be a Winwood Almswoman. The final member of the household is William Reed, aged 19, an agricultural labourer from Quainton. Given the surname, and his status as a visitor, perhaps he is a distant cousin, through Jane's marriage to Richard Reed a century earlier.

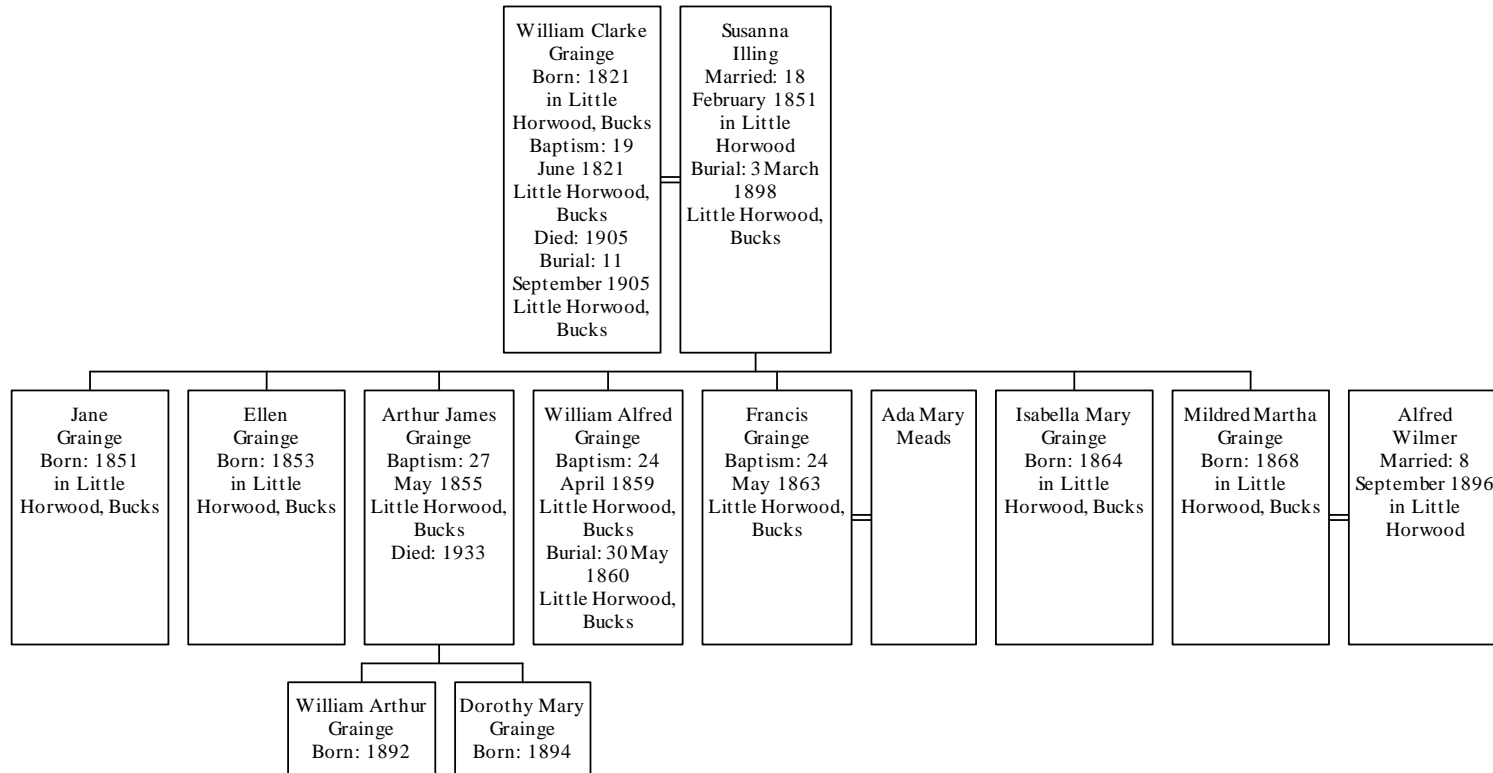
A print-out of the 1851 census³⁰⁴ for Little Horwood shows the village to be littered with Grainge families and their connections. As well as George's family, there is that of his elder brother John, the carpenter, living with his married son William and other members of the family. Francis Hale Grainge, carpenter, is also raising a family. In addition, there is Louisa, later to marry Francis Hale's son Thomas; and Gascoigne families linked by Jane Grainge's marriage to Thomas 30 odd years earlier. Mary and Emma Viccars, who later married Robert and Jesse Grainge respectively, are growing up with their parents. There are Curtises, Illings, Fairmans, Yeates and Clarkes, all of whom had members marrying into the Grainge clan. All in all, the village must have been a very close community.



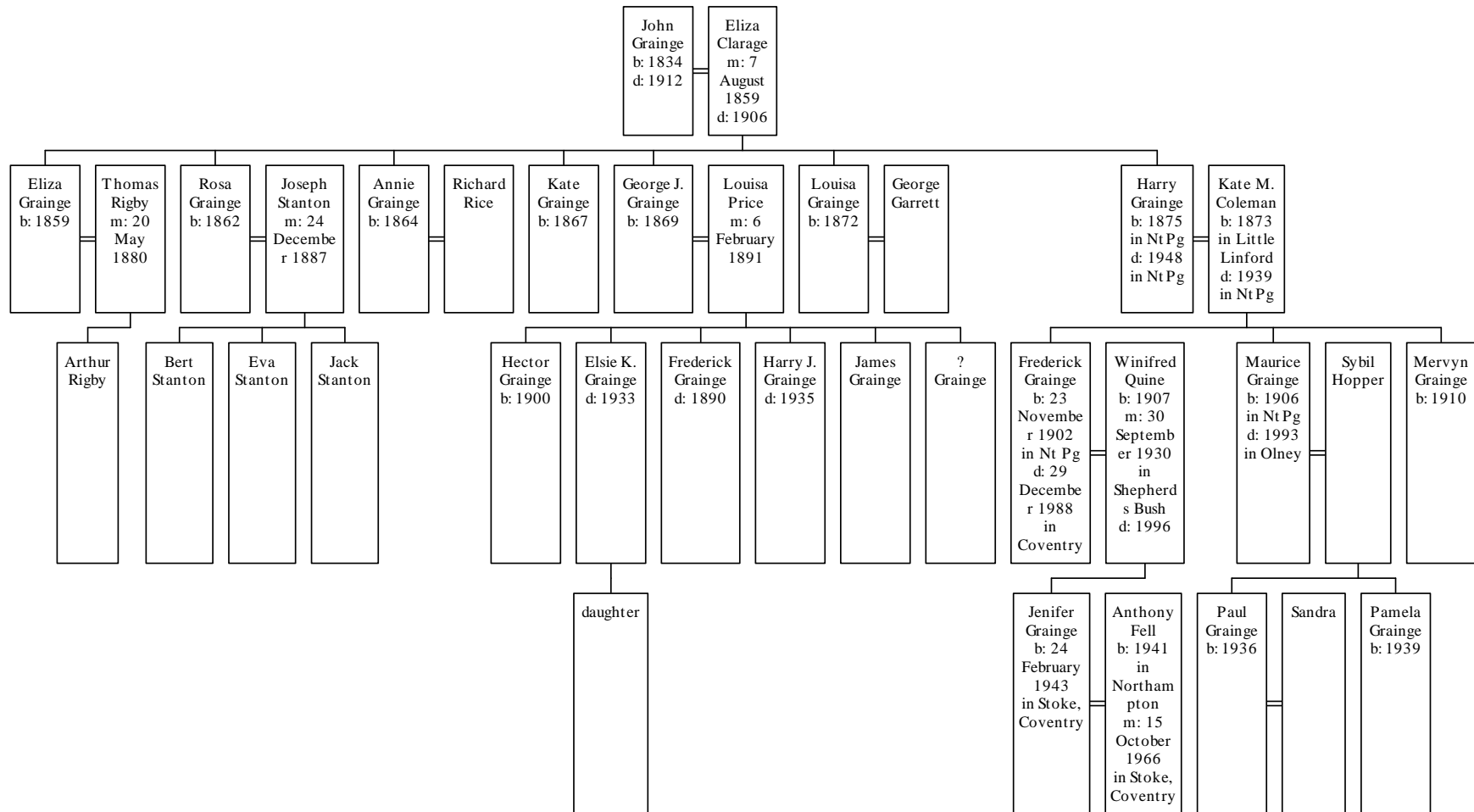
The Firs' Little Horwood

By 1861³⁰⁵, George Grainge's household has shrunk again, as has the size of the farm – to 4 acres. However, under occupation the words 'grocer's shop' appear, and Kelly's Directories³⁰⁶ for Little Horwood for 1848 and 1853 confirm that George had set up shop with his cousin, Francis Hale Grainge, at 'The Firs' on the Green. His wife Ann, whose elastic age is now 55, is listed as a lacemaker, along with her three daughters. This was a common occupation in Buckinghamshire at the time. Of the sons, only Jesse and George are still at home, and recorded as labourers. Their address is given as Main Street. The widowed Leah Grainge, a dressmaker, is nearby. William Clarke Grainge's family is on the same road. George's brother Robert, a butcher - with wife Mary Ann and daughter Emily - is at Wood End, while Francis Hale Grainge and family are on the Green. At Hancock's Gate, Wood End, and living with her family, is the nine-year old Harriet Holtom, later to marry George Grainge junior. William, her father, is listed as a farmer.

Tree 24 - Descendants of William Clarke Grainge



Tree 25 - Descendants of John and Eliza Grainge



All dates without location mark ceremonies at Little Horwood
Nt Pg = Newport Pagnell

In 1871³⁰⁷, Francis Hale Grainge - still living with his family on the Green - acted as one of the census enumerators. His brother William, a farmer, also gave an address on the Green. George's brother Robert, now an agricultural labourer rather than a butcher, lived nearby. George, widowed, and giving his age as 65, was living at 40, Church End with Sarah Sophia, still unmarried, and George junior. The elder George gave his occupation as farmer of 6 acres, and his children were farmer's daughter and farmer's son respectively. His oldest son John, an agricultural labourer, married, and with a growing family, was at Wood End. Daughter Rebecca was by now working as a servant general to the vicar, and was lodged at 39, Church End.

Her father appeared on one more census, in 1881³⁰⁸. By now retired, age inflated to 78, he was living with the widowed Sarah Sophia and a boarder – schoolteacher Sophia Jones. There were also three grandchildren, Annie, aged 16 (John's daughter), Alfred Stephens, Sarah's 5 year old son and Harriet Matilda Grainge, who was the daughter of George junior and his first wife. Born at Tattenhoe, she was listed as a scholar aged 6.

As well as the census returns, other documents shed light on George Grainge's life. In 1833 he witnessed the wedding of his cousin William Curtis to Hannah Viccars. The Banns book shows both him and Ann to be 'of this parish' when their banns were called on 5th, 12th and 19th January 1834. In the Poor Rate Valuation³⁰⁹ of 29th March 1838, he is listed as the occupier of part of a farmhouse belonging to W.S. Lowndes esq. (the big land-owner in the village). The rateable value is £3 1/8 and the gross rental £3 15/-. His three brothers are also recorded. Matthew and Thomas pay on cottages they own themselves, while John, whose own property is described as house, buildings and orchard, also pays rates on 'Corbets Meadow, Town Close and other arable land' owned by Lydia Harding. As the youngest son, George is the only one not owning his own home. Later, he appears as signatory to the Vestry Meeting minutes³¹⁰ – in 1858 along with William and Francis Grainge, in 1873 with Francis. In an 1877 directory³¹¹, George (assuming this is not his son) is listed somewhat quaintly as: 'Grainge George, Gardener &', but it fails to list his additional skills! Presumably at the advanced age of 72, he simply dabbled a little to keep body and soul together. Francis, Robert and William appear in the same volume, as carpenter and farmer, butcher and farmer respectively. The same directory notes of Little Horwood:

'The herd of Alderney cows bred here was considered the finest in England and the butter was forwarded for the use of the Royal Household.'

Shades of A.A. Milne!

He died on 20th March 1882. The certificate records him as a farm labourer of 79 years, and gives the cause of death as 'Natural Decay'. The informant, present at the death, was Elizabeth Deeley. This is not a name I recognise; perhaps she was a nurse. George was buried in Little Horwood Churchyard in a grave shared with his wife Ann. The burial register gives the same date as the death certificate, which seems unlikely. The monumental inscription, already begun for Ann, reads:

'Also of George Grainge, who died 20. 3. 1882, aged 79 years.'

Next to this stone stand those commemorating George's brother Robert, and his granddaughter Winifred Mary Reed who died in 1986. Nearby also lie three of Francis Grainge's children, Matthew Henry Harry, William Francis and Eliza.



George and Ann Grainge's Grave at St Nicholas Little Horwood

Once again, a remembrance card survives, this time shared between husband and wife. It reads:

In affectionate remembrance of
George Grainge of Little Horwood
Who died March 20th 1882, aged 79 years.
"In the morning it is green and groweth up: but in the evening it is cut down,
dried up and withered." Psalm xc 6v
"Thy will be done."

Also of Ann,
The beloved wife of George Grainge, of Little Horwood,
Who died on Sunday, November 14th, 1869 aged 63 years,
"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth,
because the spirit of the Lord bloweth on it."'

Grantham: mainly Quainton

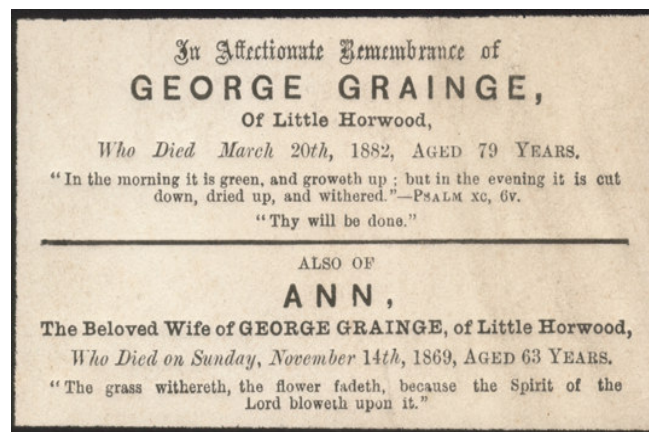
The story of Ann Grantham's family takes us out of Little Horwood and into Quainton, the Claydons and Barton Hartshorn. (See Tree 26 - page 99-100.) Like her husband, Ann – baptised at Quainton on 15th June 1807 - was a younger child in a large family. Her parents John Grantham and Sophia Roads had fourteen children in all, beginning with Josiah (the only one to be baptised at East Claydon) in 1787, and running through John, Hannah, William, Thomas, William, Charlotte, Susanna, Richard and James before reaching Ann, Charles, Samuel and finally George baptised in 1814.



St Mary and Holy Cross Quainton

As with many women at the time, there is little documentary detail for Ann other than the dates of her baptism, marriage and burial - on 19th November 1869 at St. Nicholas - and a death certificate citing 'Fibris Biliosu; Exhaustion' as the cause of her death on 14th November. She is simply recorded as the wife of George Grainge farmer, and the informant is Martha Curtis, in attendance. Her memorial inscription in Little Horwood churchyard reads:

'Affectionate remembrance of Ann the beloved wife of George Grainge who died November 14th 1869 aged 63 years'



but no memorial card was issued until her husband's death thirteen years later. Her father is less difficult to read. Baptised at Quainton on 15th February 1767, he married Sophia Roads there on 1st December 1786, when he can have only been about 19 and was buried on 25th April 1838. He appeared in the 1798 Posse Comitatus³¹²:

'John Gratham (sic) labourer of Quainton'

I suspect he lived a fairly humble life, frequently finding it hard to make ends meet for his extensive family. Three of his sons appear to have been apprenticed³¹³ by the parish – a means of removing those likely to require relief! Richard - born 1802 - became apprentice butcher to George Smith of Oving on 22nd February 1817 and James - born in 1805 - was apprenticed as a basket-maker to Thomas Collett of Leighton Buzzard on 9th October 1819. In 1829, the youngest son, George, was apprenticed to basket-maker William Fell, of Betchley, Oxfordshire.

Presumably the parish worthies found John's family a drain on resources as they feature regularly in the Overseers' accounts for Quainton³¹⁴. In 1801, smallpox hit the family, and Edward Curtis' wife was paid 10/- for:

'nursing Grnth's family with the Small Pox.'

At the same time, the overseers paid out 10/6 for:

'Long faggots and stakes to the mound for stopping up the Vine Walk Passage, to Grantham Passage, on Acct of the Small Pox and other expenses.'

Two further entries show the family receiving relief during an outbreak of smallpox. Presumably, John was also having trouble finding work, for, on 16th October 1802, he was paid 8d for:

'2 days at 2 fairs trying to get a place'

and as the family were regularly given hand-outs in the following years, I suspect he was unsuccessful at the hiring fair. Even when death struck, John had to turn to the parish, which, in 1813 paid 6/- to cover:

'Thomas Curtis' bill for Jno Grantham's child's coffin.'

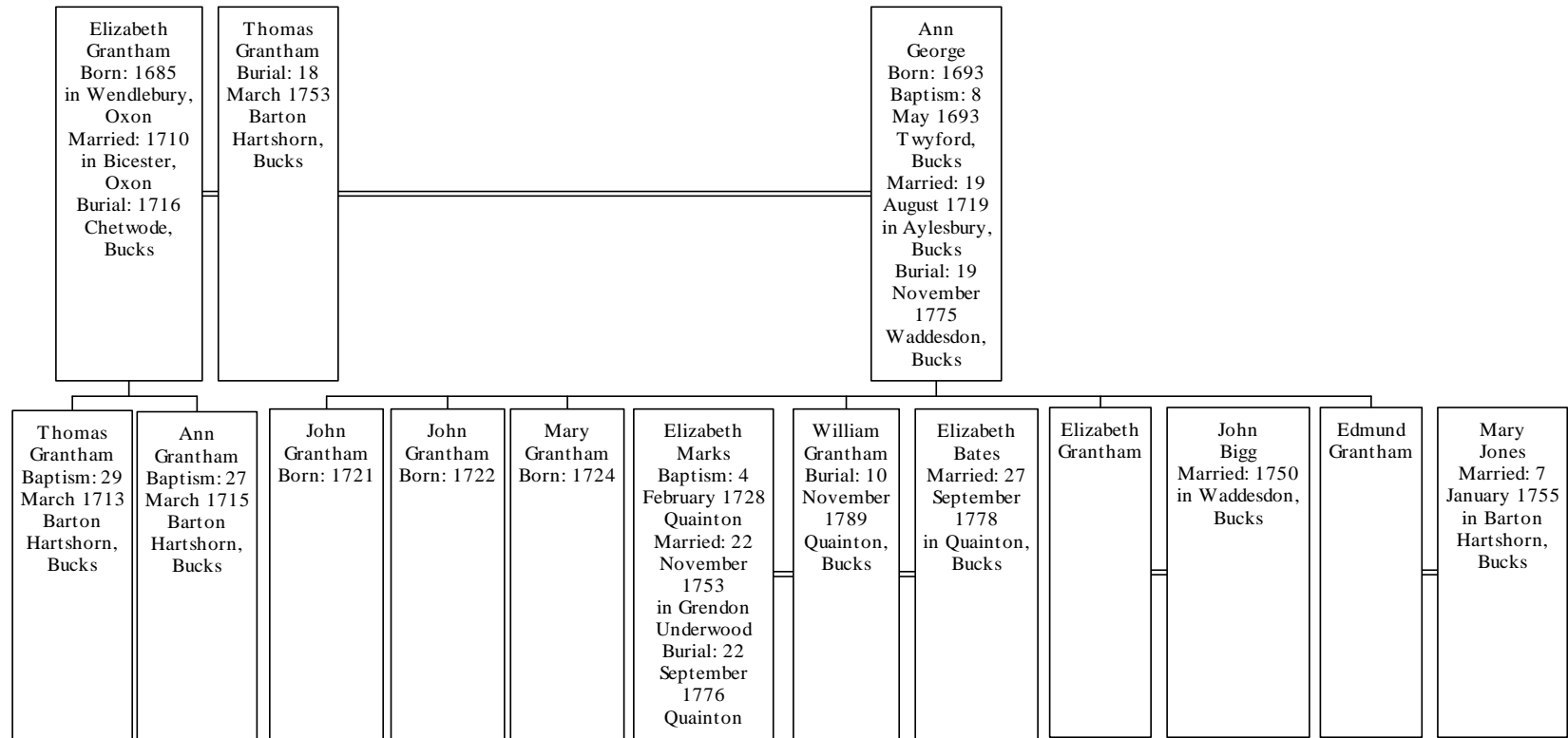
John Grantham, despite being poverty-stricken, was presumably seen by his 'betters' as a sober and upright citizen. In the 1830s, the Swing Riots, led by the mysterious and probably imaginary Captain Swing, flared up across much of southern England in response to a series of poor harvests, a severe winter, and job losses and consequent rural poverty created by mechanisation. The authorities were alarmed at the rapid spread of unrest, and one of the landowners' responses to this in Buckinghamshire was an annual award to those who remained loyal. The recipients were selected by a panel, having first been recommended by their own employer. A certificate, still held by one of his descendants³¹⁵, records the fact that at Beaconsfield on September 20th 1836, John Grantham - then 69 years old – was awarded the Royal Bucks Agricultural Association's 'Society's Coat and Buttons' for:

'Honesty, Sobriety, and general good Conduct during a period of 53 years'.

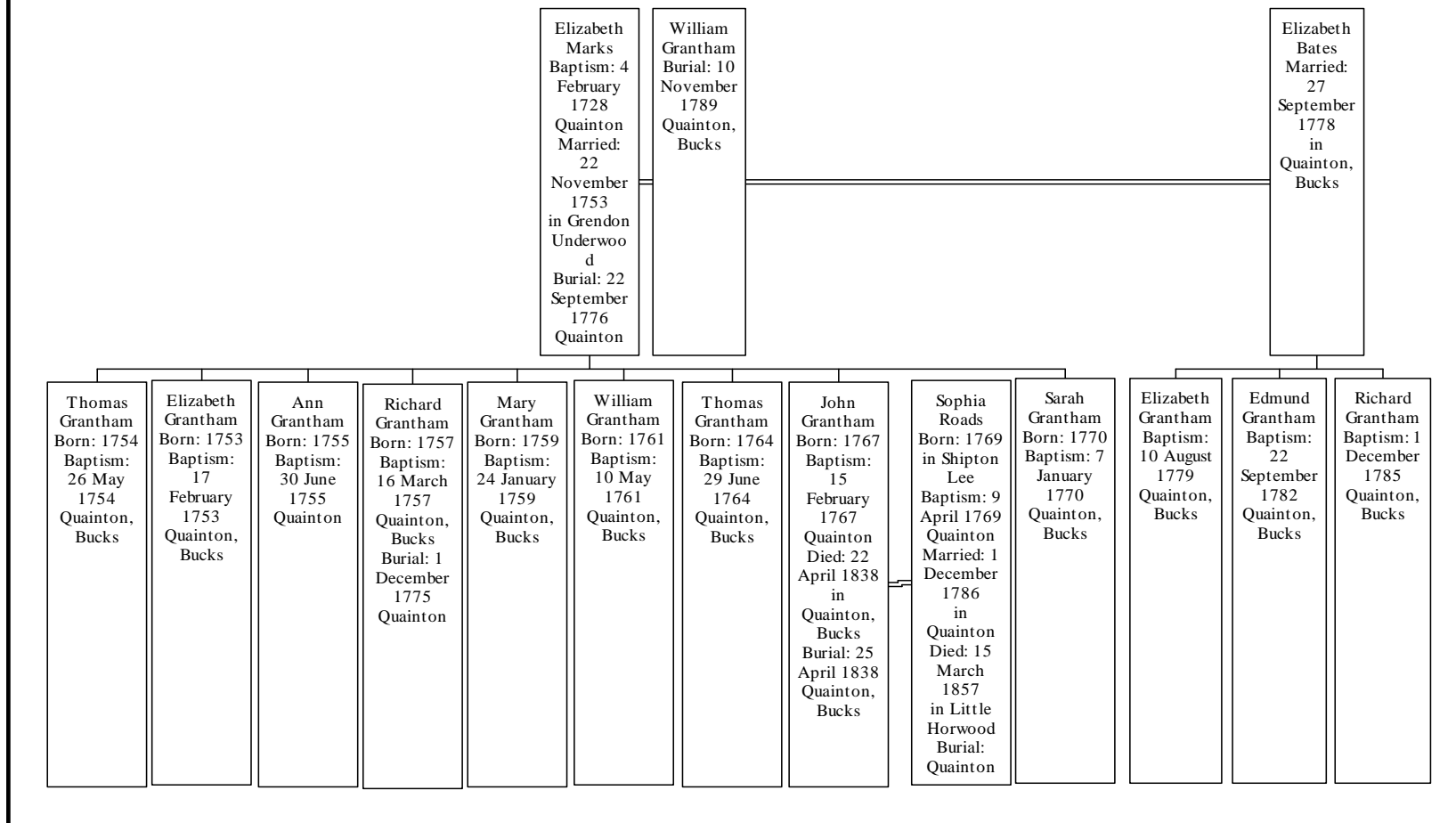
One wonders, though, whether he would have been so outstandingly loyal had he been a younger man, and less dependant on the Winwood Charity for alms.

The Winwood Almshouses stand on a bend in the road on the edge of Quainton, at right-angles to the church. They were endowed by Richard Winwood in 1686, came

Tree 26 - Descendants of Thomas Grantham - 1



Tree 26 - Descendants of Thomas Grantham - 2



under the auspices of the Charity Commissioners in 1910 and are still in use today. Their accounts³¹⁶ first record him on 8th January 1830:

'Paid Grantham for going to Aylesbury for the doctor for
Master Todd 1/-'

Although this doesn't stipulate that it is John, it seems likely. The following year there is a more extensive entry:

'10. 2. 1831. Pd for a new bed and cord for old Grantham and his
wife who have taken Hopcroft's tenement at a rent of 9d a week or
£1 19/- p.a. since Christmas last when Hopcroft went, by permission,
to live with his daughter and her husband ... in consequence of the
unsettled state of his mind. 2/6'

Presumably charity didn't extend to 'difficult' geriatrics! Two years later the accounts note:

'24. 6. 1833. John Grantham ? half year rent for vacant UAH
(upper alms house?) tenement £1. 6. 0.'

We can assume therefore that he was a fairly docile inmate! John died on 22nd April 1838 at Quainton, of water on the chest. He was 71 years old, and still a labourer. The informant was Sarah Shephard, in attendance.



Winwood Almshouses Quainton

With Ann's grandfather, though, the story livens up. There appears to be no record of his birth, which I believe to have taken place in the tiny parish of Barton Hartshorn, on the border with Oxfordshire. The original parish records have been lost, and Bishops' Transcripts survive only patchily. However, one Elizabeth Cooke of Mursley left bequests in a will³¹⁷ of 1772 to several George relatives, her sister Ann Grantham, and her nephew William Grantham. This would place William as a son of the marriage between Thomas Grantham, dairyman, of Barton Hartshorn and Ann George at Aylesbury in 1719. This family seems to have been quite poor, and so presumably William left the village to seek work.

At some point before June 1752, he presumably fetched up in Quainton and swept Elizabeth Marks – daughter of a local farmer – off her feet. For on 17th February 1753, the Quainton register records:

‘Elizabeth Grantham, the reputed base daughter of William Grantham and Elizabeth Marks’

I imagine that either her parents disapproved or Thomas was a reluctant groom for Elizabeth was three months pregnant with her second child before a wedding took place at Grendon Underwood on 22nd November 1753. The marriage entry reads:

‘William Grantham of Dinton married Elizabeth Marks of Quainton by licence.’

William seems to have been an itinerant labourer. This was the era of the Poor Law, where parishes were desperate to move on anyone not considered one of their own who might prove to be a financial burden. Settlement Papers from the period show the shameless way in which parish officials shunted ‘undesirables’ about the country rather than pay for their upkeep. Some of these ‘settlements’ survive for William Grantham³¹⁸. The first two, dated 8th January 1754, read as follows:

‘To the churchwardens and overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Quaintonand of Walldridge in the Parish of Dinton. Whereas complaint hath been made by you the churchwardens and overseers of the parish of Quaintonthat William Grantham, Elizabeth his wife (‘and Elizabeth their child’ is scratched out) have lately intruded..... and are likely to become chargeable... we accordingly adjudge... that the last legal place of settlement of the said William Grantham is at Walldridge in the parish of Dinton’

This is followed by an order of removal to Dinton.

Accompanying this is a handwritten statement, headed:

‘The examination of William Grantham taken upon oath ye 8th of January 1754 and who saith that in ye year of 1749 or 50 he was hired in Aylesbury market to John Cook of Walldridge in the parish of Dinton yeoman for a whole year, which year’s service he performed and almost another year and that he hath lived in no other place for the year since or performed any act to gain a settlement elsewhere.’

Underneath is the mark of William Grantham. Two subsequent documents³¹⁹, dated 27th April 1754 and 27th May 1754 issued by the churchwardens of Dinton, acknowledge William Grantham as belonging to their parish. This presumably reassured the Quainton worthies that, should William become a liability, they could return him to Dinton, and so they seem to have allowed him to stay.

This must have been a great relief to Elizabeth. Her second child, Thomas, was baptised at Quainton in May 1754, privately, as was his later namesake. (Private baptisms often indicate a sickly baby, not expected to live.) Seven more children followed, Ann, Richard, Mary, William, another Thomas, John – our ancestor – and Sarah in 1770. All these are recorded as the children of William Grantham and Elizabeth his wife. It would be nice to think that after all this excitement, William settled down to be a model

husband and father, but, on 3rd November 1756, a bastardy bond³²⁰ to the value of £40 was taken from Thomas Coles (his brother-in-law) and William Grantham to the Parish Officers, so that:

‘Whereas Elizabeth Bayoth hath made oath that the above William Grantham hath begotten the said child, Now the above bounden Thomas Coles and William Grantham shall at all times and for ever acquit (the officers) from all Costs Charges and Troubles whatsoever concerning the Birth and bringing up of the said Child.’

The Quainton Overseers’ Accounts³²¹ do mention William Grantham in a better light on occasions. In the surveyors of the Highways Accounts, he is one of many listed as presumably paying 2/- in lieu of duty. In 1778 he is paid on two occasions, 8/6 and £1 2/- for 17 and 44 pole of sloping for the highway. In 1785 he is again part of a list of parishioners who paid 2/- composition in lieu of duty. In 1786 he appears in a list of labourers and hirers in the Overseers’ Cash Book. The rather cryptic comment is:

‘Grantham 6 to G. Clark 6/-’

which I take to mean that he was paid 6/- for six days’ labour.

Elizabeth died in September 1776, of smallpox, and was buried on the 22nd. Two notes in the Overseers’ Accounts³²² refer to this; the first records burial fees of 11/6 for Elizabeth Grantham, Riah Piddington, Mary Hatton, Piddington wife and Mary Piddington, and a second records 2/6 paid:

‘To Jno Wheeler for helping to carry Grantham’s wife to church’

On 21st September of that year, there is a whole section of the accounts devoted to the smallpox outbreak. It covers items such as:

‘Napps wife for waiting on the people with the smallpox one week – 2/6’

food presumably bought for the invalids, the expense of fetching a nurse from Winslow, a vestry meeting about inoculation of the poor, and an entry which reads:

‘Paid for moving them that had the small pox from Keens House to the Town House – 1/6’

A month later, Mr Smith is paid 4/- for an advertisement about the disease.

After Elizabeth’s death, William married Elizabeth Bates at Quainton on 27th September 1778. With her, he had three more children, Elizabeth, Edmund and Richard. He died eleven years later, and was buried at Quainton on 10th November 1789.

As I have said, no baptism has been found for William Grantham, although I believe him to have originated in Barton Hartshorn, the son of Thomas Grantham and Ann George. The record of their marriage, at St. Mary Aylesbury on 19th August 1719 says simply:

‘Thomas Grantham daryman of Barton Hartshorn and Ann George of



St. James Barton Hartshorn

The Bishops' Transcripts record the baptisms of two sons named John, one in 1721 and one in 1722. A daughter Mary was recorded in 1724. Over the next ten years or so, though, there are many missing years in the transcripts. The BTs are hard to read, and disordered, but the next reference I have found is to the burial of Thomas Grantham on 18th March 1753. (This burial is also recorded in the original register which began in 1752.) His wife Ann is not recorded as being buried at Barton Hartshorn. However, there is an Ann Grantham, 'widow from Barton', buried at Waddesdon on 19th November 1775, while an Elizabeth Grantham married one John Bigg and raised a family there. My guess is that the widowed Ann went to live with her married daughter.

Shortly after the death of Thomas, a marriage took place at Barton (in 1755) between Edmund Grantham of Barton and Elizabeth Jones of Newton Purcell, over the border in Oxfordshire. This couple raised four children, Thomas, Ann, Elizabeth and William. They seem to have been poor, as in 1770 one Thomas Smith³²³ of Barton Hartshorn left a bequest to Edmund of a weekly dole of bread, and half a year's schooling to his son William. Barton Hartshorn was such a tiny community that it seems highly likely that Edmund was another child of Thomas and Ann. His unusual name has led me to speculate a link with a family in Kings Sutton, Northamptonshire about ten miles away. This unit also contained parents named Thomas and Ann, with children named Thomas, Mary, Frances and Edmund. However, despite extensive searching, I cannot find a definitive link, and although I can trace that family back to Ardley, Fringford and Willaston – even closer to Barton Hartshorn – I cannot prove our descent from this Oxfordshire family.

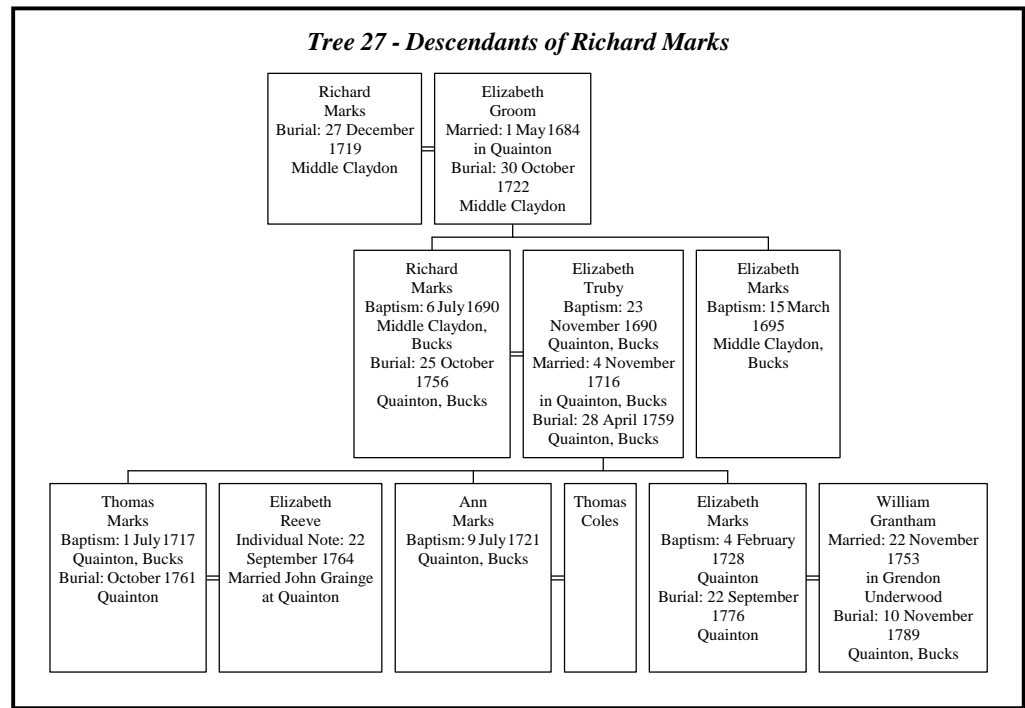
It would seem then, that Thomas and Ann had not three children, as recorded in the BTs, but six: John, John, Mary, Elizabeth, William and Edmund. Thomas seems to have fathered another two – Thomas and Elizabeth, born in 1713 and 14 – by a first wife, also Elizabeth. This earlier marriage may have taken place at Bicester in 1710 between first cousins as the bride there was also named Grantham. An Elizabeth Grantham, presumably this first wife, was buried at Chetwode in 1717. Also at this time at Chetwode - which was part of the same manor as Barton Hartshorn - was one Joseph

Grantham. In his will³²⁴ of 1725, he leaves one shilling to his ‘son-in-law’ Thomas Grantham. No place is mentioned, so I assume this would be our Thomas, in nearby Barton. Joseph’s family prospered: his son Thomas was overseer of the poor at Chetwode; and his descendants established themselves in Chetwode, Akeley and Tingewick.

Our Thomas seems to have fared less well, and have left little trace. Barton Hartshorn was hardly more than a hamlet at this time and few records survive. According to Browne Willis³²⁵ there were only twenty families there in 1712, and their church shared its curate with nearby Chetwode. The only other reference I have found to Thomas in adult life is his burial, at Barton, on 18th March 1753. There are two versions of the BTs extant, as this is the time New Year moved from Lady Day to January 1st. On the later one, he is listed as ‘poor’, but this may have just been the clerk’s interpretation of a squiggle on the earlier copy. The original parish register entry carries no such comment.

Marks, Truby and Groom: mainly Quainton

It seems ironic that Elizabeth Grantham née Marks was killed by smallpox, which, if the note about inoculations above is to be believed, was a greater scourge to the poor, when she was born into more comfortable circumstances. She was the youngest child of Richard Marks, a grazier, and his wife, Elizabeth Truby. Her siblings, Thomas and Ann, were born in 1717 and 1721 respectively, but her baptism wasn’t until 4th February 1729. By then her father was clearly established; he appears as an overseer of the poor for Quainton in 1725, 1730, 1736, 1745 and 1754, and he signs the overseers’ accounts in 1752³²⁶.



Richard Marks was baptised in Middle Claydon on 6th July 1690, the son of another Richard Marks and his wife Elizabeth Groom. His one sister, Elizabeth, was born five years later. He married Elizabeth Truby at Quainton on 4th November 1716, and was buried in the same parish on 25th October 1756. Had he lived longer, maybe his daughter Elizabeth wouldn't have had such a hard life. He was, after all, a man of some status, with the right - on 4/5th April 1722 - with only 50 others, to:

‘vote for the knights of the shire in Buckinghamshire³²⁷’

In 1724 he was party to a ‘Deed to lead to the uses of a fine³²⁸’. This kind of document was drawn up when a number of small landowners wanted to record ownership of land without going to the expense of doing it individually. The document is dated 23rd October and has nine parties, two of whom are from Great Chesterton in Oxfordshire and the rest are from Quainton. Richard Marks, described as a ‘daryman’ is ‘of the eighth part’. All the land referred to is in Quainton, in Mill, Blagrove, Leech and Hill Fields, and Lots Mead. As usual, the furlong names are lyrical and tantalising; Spratts Pit, Red Sharp, Painters Plot, Fielder Foxages, Twezell Brook, and so on, but it is impossible to say which bit belonged to Richard Marks. The document is signed or marked by all parties, (Richard signed) and ends with the words:

‘All to the use and behoof of Joseph Stapps.’

On the 6th November 1746 he appears on a list of freeholders³²⁹ qualified to serve on juries.

There are numerous references to him in the Quainton Churchwardens’ Book³³⁰ where he is listed amongst others (including his brother-in-law Thomas Groome) giving donations to charity following disasters. Often, these are fires, such as a collection for:

‘the poor sufferers by fire in North Marston’

in August 1705, but there is also an entry regarding:

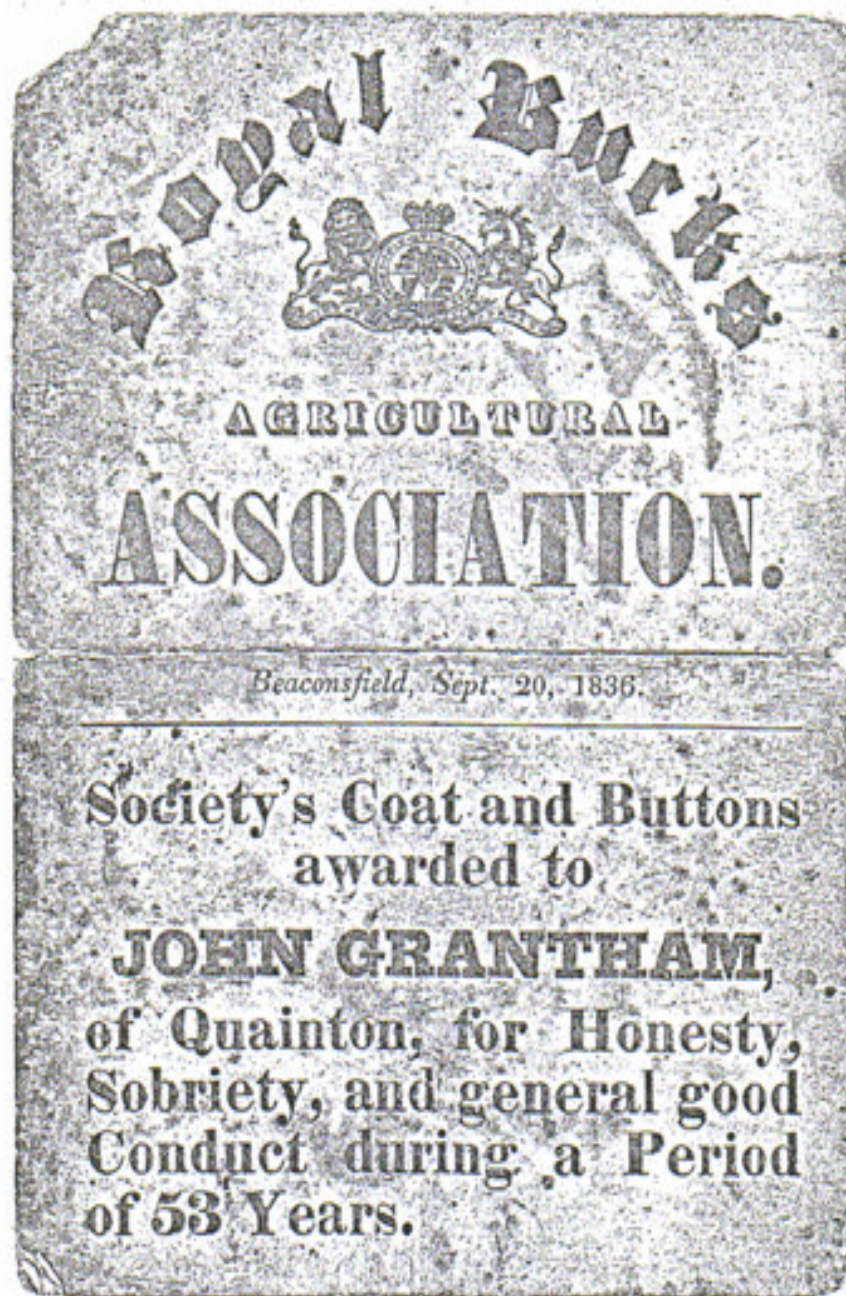
‘Oyster and dredgermen sufferers by a late, great frost’

in 1748. All in all, between 1726 and 1748, he makes five donations of between 6d and 3/-. On the last of these, his address is given as Denham. Richard’s signature appears in the Churchwardens’ Cash Book³³¹ on three occasions, in April 1730, 1736 and 1737, and also, with others, on a letter to the vicar, Mr Ellis, respectfully requesting him to pay the poor rates for the tythes as he has done in the past.

Richard’s will³³² went some way to alleviate his daughter Elizabeth’s situation. In it, he described himself as a yeoman, and then divided his estate between his wife and children. Thomas received:

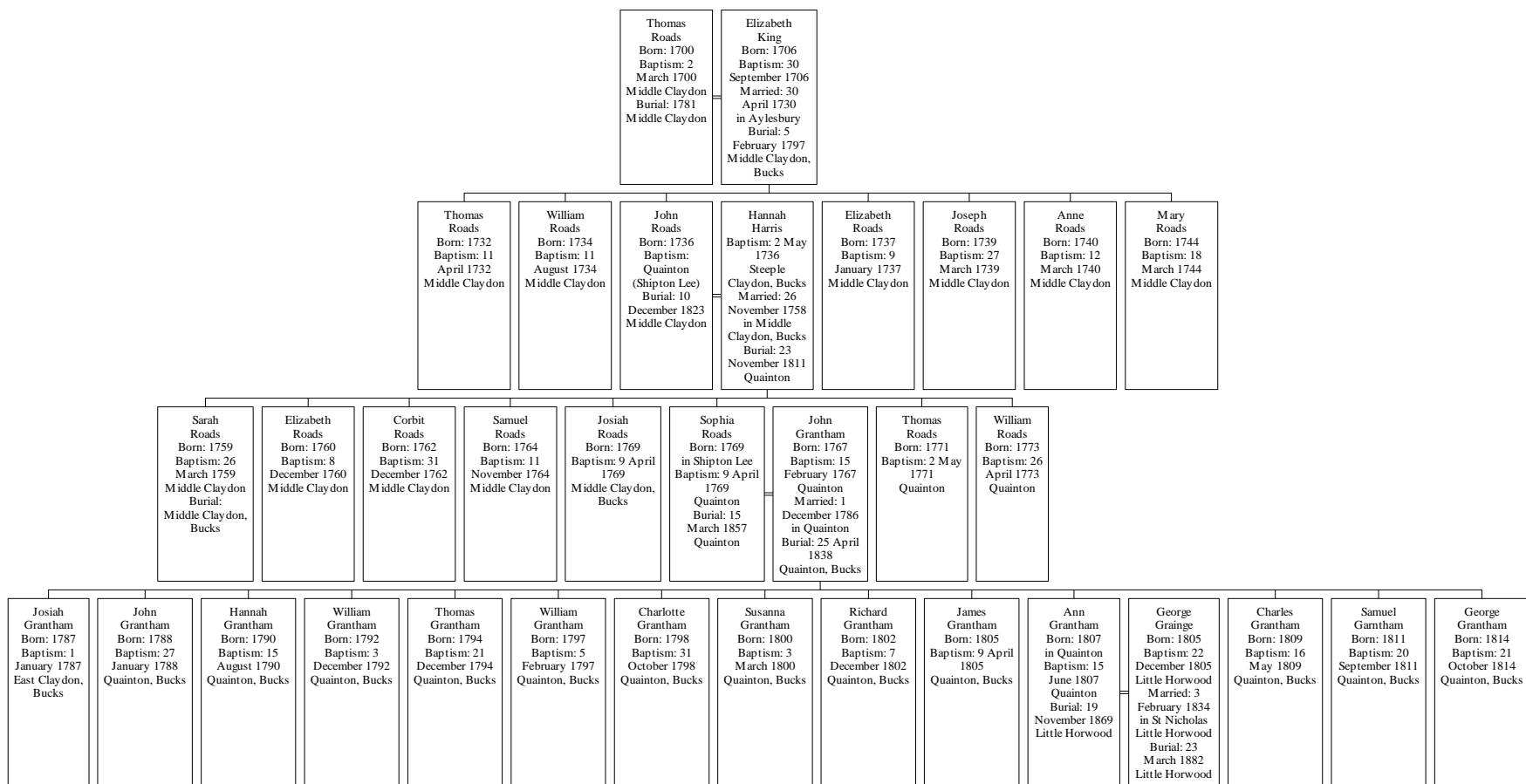
‘the messuage ...in occupation of young Foster’

and land in the open fields of Quainton willed to him by his uncle Thomas Groom³³³. His elder daughter Ann, married to Thomas Coles at Buckingham on 25th July 1742, was to receive the above if her brother died, but was also gifted land in North Quainton bought from Thomas Neace. His wife was to receive an annuity of £3 raised from the



Certificate awarded to John Grantham by the
Royal Bucks Agricultural Society

Tree 30 - Descendants of Thomas Roads and Elizabeth King



land inherited by the elder two children, the house occupied by Thomas, and his goods and chattels. To his daughter Elizabeth, wife of William Grantham he willed:

‘the messuage and tenement currently occupied by William Judkins’

So presumably she had the option of a roof over her head, or some income from rent. In addition, both sisters received a lump sum of £50. The will is signed by a very shaky hand, suggesting that Richard was close to death at the time.

His widow, Elizabeth, survived him by three years and was buried at Quainton on 28th April 1759. She also left a will³³⁴, including bequests to her cousin William Burnham, her son Thomas Marks and her daughter Ann Coles. Marks and Coles grandchildren were mentioned by name and provided for. Her daughter Elizabeth, wife of William Grantham and our ancestor, was willed £10 and half the household goods; and a further £80 (more than twice the amount given to her siblings) was placed in trust with instructions that Elizabeth should receive annual interest. The trust was to continue after her death for her children Elizabeth, Ann, Richard and Mary. Provision was also made for the child Elizabeth was carrying at the time. Key items of furniture and linen were shared out, with Elizabeth Grantham receiving:

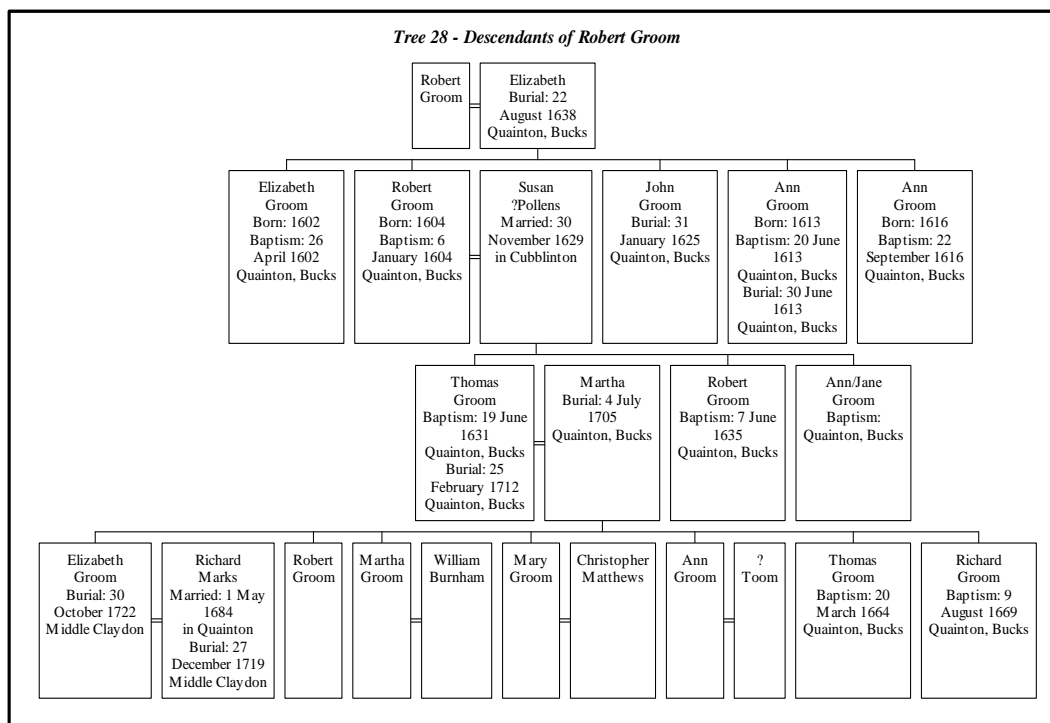
‘my half dozen best chairs below stairs ... my folding table and two others below stairs, one ancient flowered pewter dish and two others.’

Grandaughters Elizabeth and Ann Grantham received bed linen and curtains, and a chest of drawers and a kettle. Grandson Richard was bequeathed a silver salt. Her son Thomas was executor, and was devised the house she lived in – presumably the one referred to as ‘The Hill’. At the end of the will Elizabeth made her mark.

Little is known of Richard Marks senior. He was a dairyman, married Elizabeth Groom on 1st May 1684 at Quainton, and was buried at Middle Claydon on 27th December 1719.

The Grooms, however, are trackable through another three generations. We know that Elizabeth Marks née Groom was buried as a widow at Middle Claydon on 30th October 1722, but her baptism remains a mystery. Her parentage is clear because of a detailed will left by her father, Thomas. Although he was baptised at Quainton in 1631, only his two youngest children were christened there: Thomas in 1664 and Richard in 1669.

Thomas Groom’s will³³⁵, written on 5th November 1708, shows him to have been a grazier like his grandson Richard Marks. He made a number of detailed bequests – £5 to his son Robert; £5 to his daughter Martha, wife of William Burnham of Penn; to his daughter Mary, the £5 owed him by his son-in-law Christopher Matthews, and another £7 to be paid six months later; £5 to his daughter Elizabeth, wife of Richard Marks; and £5 to be divided equally between his daughter Ann Toom’s three children. The rest of his estate went to Thomas, who was also his executor. The will was witnessed by Robert Galloway, Elizabeth Lilby and Frances Greene. Thomas was buried on 25th February 1711, predeceased by his wife Martha, whose burial took place, also at Quainton, on 4th July 1706.



His son, also Thomas Groom, died only a few years after inheriting. His will³³⁶, dated 16th December 1719, left bequests to his brother Robert, his 'sister Marks' (£5), his niece Elizabeth Marks (£10), his other sisters and their families and his servant. His nephew Richard Marks was willed:

‘My house and close and quarter of a yard land situate and being in the parish of Quainton aforesaid and to his heirs and assigns...’

and then designated executor. Probate was granted to Richard Marks on 2nd January 1719.

Like other families in the area, the Grooms appear on a document written in 1702³³⁷ bearing 436 names of inhabitants in Quainton and headed:

‘An assessment made upon the inhabitants of the said town by virtue of an Act of Parliament for granting certain dues upon Marriage, Birth, Burials, Bachelors and Widdowes’

Thomas and Martha senior and Thomas and Martha junior were all assessed at 4/- under the burial heading. Thomas junior was also assessed at 2/6 in the marriage column, and 1/- in the batchelor column, which all in all seems a bit harsh. The document ends:

‘We, Joseph Bouden and John Eeles collectors for the year Annoqu Dm 1701 do hereby nominate Thomas Groome snr and John Collins collects for the year on = Inding May 25th 1702. Allowed by us, J. Tyrell, Thos Piggott.’

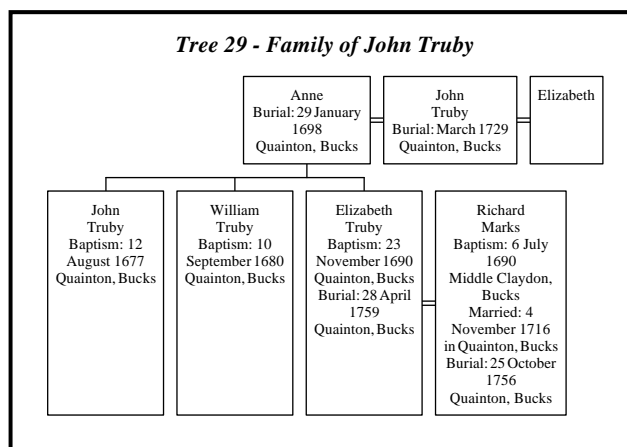
Once again, one of our ancestors is, albeit not necessarily voluntarily, taking a role in parish life. His son, Thomas, our ancestor Elizabeth's brother, followed the trend, serving as Surveyor of the Highways³³⁸ (1716) and Overseer of the Poor³³⁹ (1719) in Quainton, and, just before his death, as 'Chief Constable'³⁴⁰.

Thomas Groom senior was the eldest child of Robert Groom and Susan (possibly Pollens, married 30th November 1629 at Cublington.). Born in Quainton in 1631, and followed by siblings Robert and Ann, he was buried in 1711. His father Robert's death may have occurred in 1683, but this burial could also refer to his father, another Robert Groom. (There is an earlier burial in 1646 tagged 'the elder'; however, as Thomas' father also sired a Robert, it is difficult to tell which two generations are involved. What is clear is that the elder Robert married an Elizabeth, who died in 1638.

Elizabeth Truby born at Quainton in 1690, ten years after her brother William, was the daughter of John and Ann Truby. There was another son John, and probably the Thomas who appears on the tax return below was another sibling.

The Truby family was presumably a newcomer in the Quainton area in the 1690s, as a rate made for the tythe of the town of Quainton in the Churchwardens' Book³⁴¹ on 9th November 1694 shows John Truly (Truby) paying 1/- on a land of wheat. In August 1705, he contributed 6d at Quainton and Lee for:

'the poor sufferers by fire at North Marston'.



John and his family also appear on the taxation document quoted above³⁴² and written in 1702. Presumably the tax was levied on the assumption that all would eventually need burying, so John, his second wife Elizabeth, Elizabeth junior and Thomas Truby were all charged 4/- apiece. Apart from that, only their burial dates are known: John's in March 1728/9 and Elizabeth's in 1711/12.

Roads and Harris: mainly the Claydons

For the Roads part of the story, (See **Tree 30 – page 108**) I am indebted to Heather Rohrer³⁴³ and Howard Lambert, whose extensive trees on the Roads of the Claydons brought me back from a wrong turning I took on this branch many years ago. The marriage entry for John Grantham and Sophia Roads at Quainton reads:

'John Grantham of this parish and Sophia Roads of the parish of East Claydon, married by licence with consent of parents'

The date is 1st December 1786; both John and Sophia make their mark and the event is witnessed by Charles King and John Wheeler. The reference to East Claydon led me to search there for Sophia's birth, and lo and behold, the baptism of a child with the right name, daughter of Richard and Ann, appeared in the register in 1772. Admittedly, fourteen was somewhat young, but the reference to parental consent suggested a minor, and the bride was clearly very pregnant, so I accepted this as the right person. Only when the Rohrer trees posited a different link did I return to the register to discover that 'my' Sophia was still unmarried ten years later when she witnessed a wedding in East Claydon.

What I now think happened is this. John Grantham seems to have inherited something of his father's 'incontinence'! Sophia at seventeen had become pregnant by her boyfriend, and been sent away to East Claydon, maybe to stay with relatives while her family persuaded John Grantham, himself only twenty-one, to do the decent thing. In the nick of time, the wedding was arranged, but she must have been close to giving birth at the altar, as the christening of the resultant child took place exactly a month later, on 1st January 1787, at East Claydon. Whether it took place there out of consideration to whoever had looked after Sophia during her pregnancy or whether she didn't have the hard neck to turn up at the local church for the two ceremonies so close to each other is a matter for speculation.

The child was christened Josiah, which was the name of Sophia's twin brother. Within just over a year she had produced a second son - John - and thereafter the babies came thick and fast. Hannah, William, Thomas, William again, Charlotte, Susanna, Richard, James, Ann (our ancestor), Charles, Samuel and finally George in 1814 were all baptised at Quainton. Twenty-four years of almost constant pregnancy or nursing ought to have been enough to ensure an early grave, but Sophia was evidently tough. She lived to be almost 88 years old, and, if the 1851³⁴⁴ census is to be believed, earned a living as a nurse. It is possible that she was a wet-nurse, given that she had so many children, and it was quite common then for mothers to employ others to breast-feed their offspring. Maybe, though, she simply nursed the sick. There are many references in the overseers' books to parishioners being paid to nurse during epidemics. Widowed in 1838, in 1841 she appeared on the Quainton census³⁴⁵ as a pauper, living with her 9-year-old granddaughter Caroline Grantham. In her very old age, she was cared for as a Winwood Almswoman. Whether Sophia actually had rooms in the almshouse, or was in receipt of an allowance, I'm not sure. By the time of her dealings with them, she was a little unclear about her age. An entry in the accounts³⁴⁶ in 1856 reads:

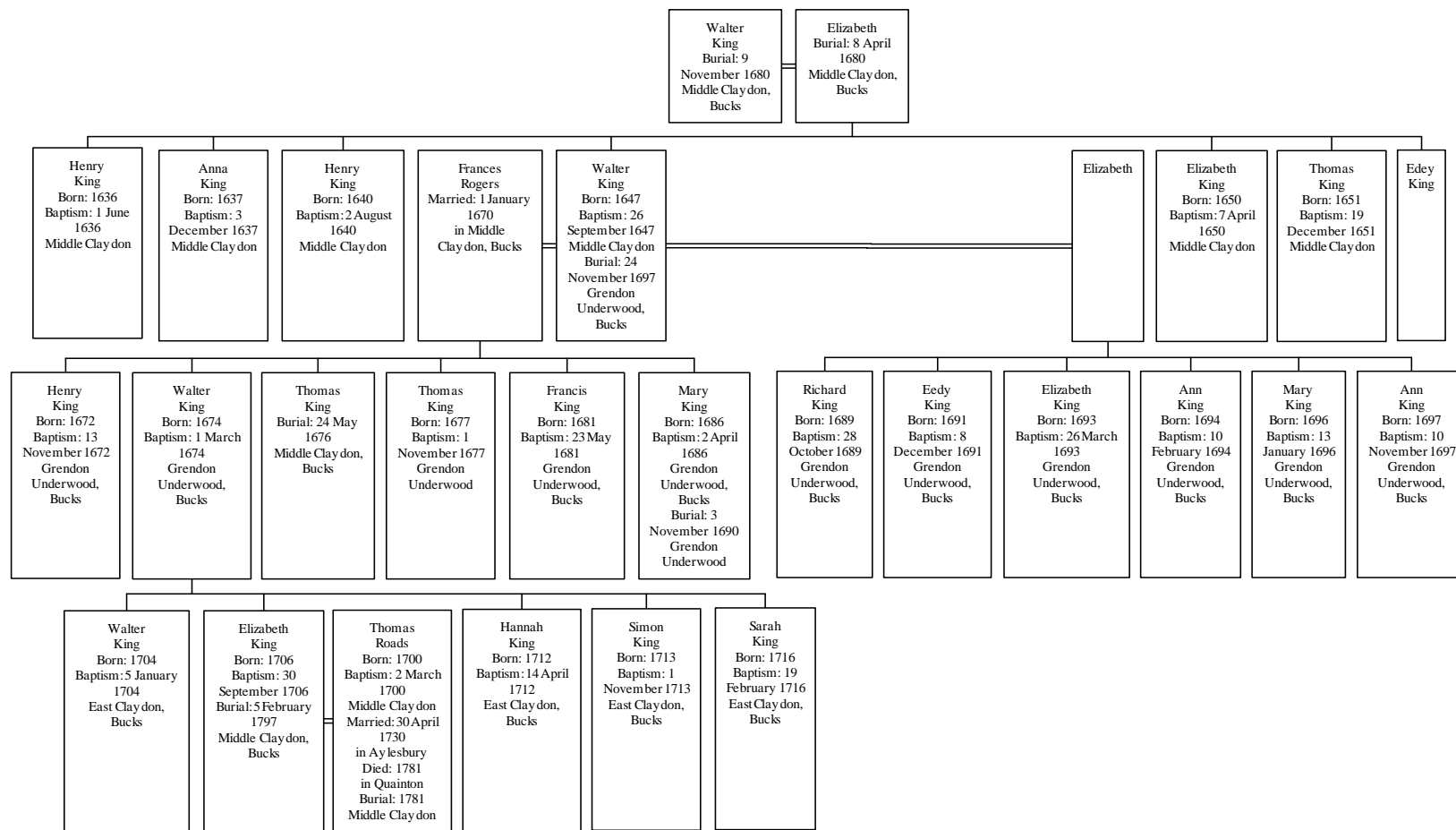
'Widow Sophie Grantham [now 90 years of age or upwards]
residing with her daughter at Little Horwood, 52 weeks £9 15/-'

A subsequent entry in 1857 says:

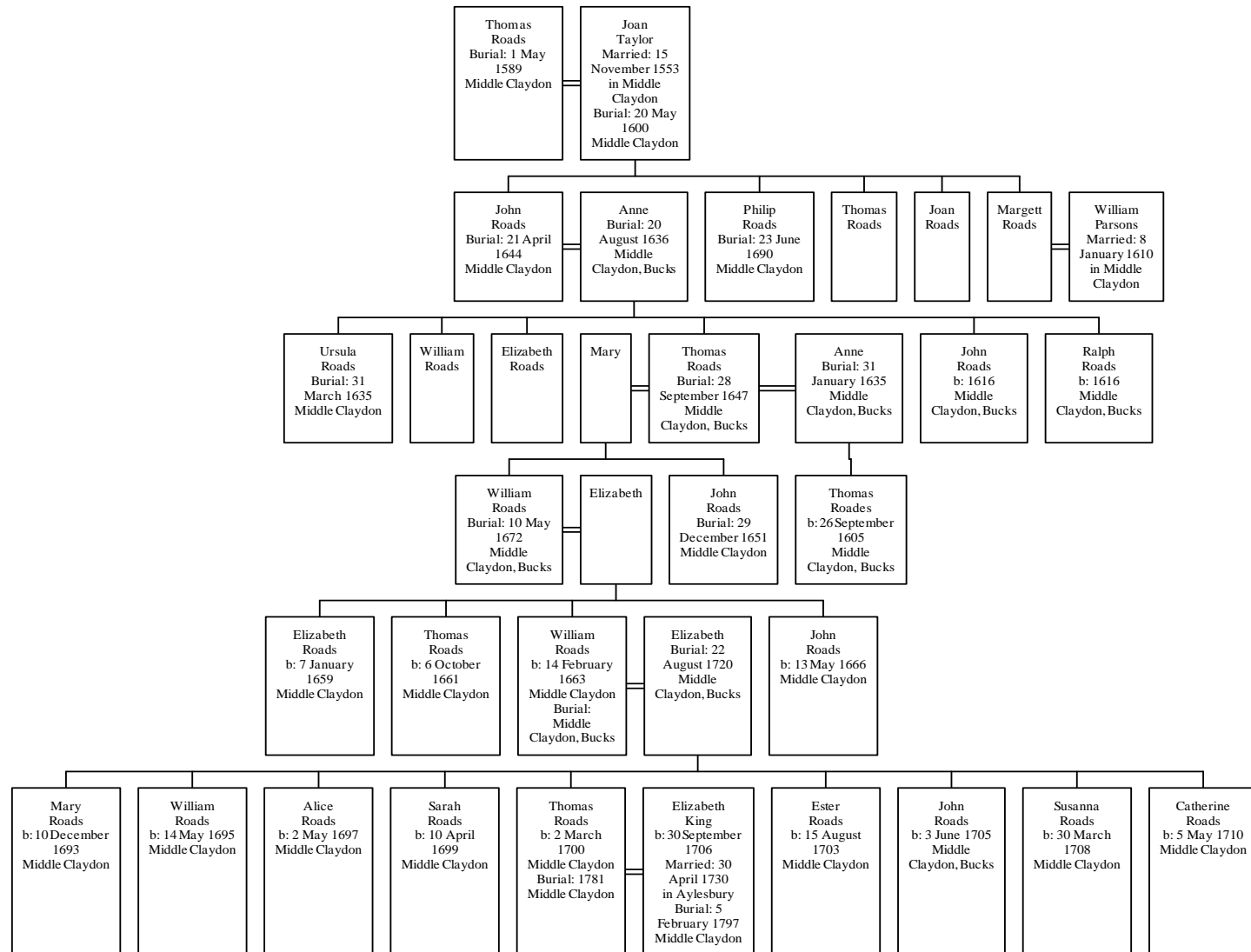
'Widow Sophy Grantham died at Little Horwood, age 90
18 weeks £2 18/-'

Sophia Grantham, née Roads, died on 9th March 1857, aged 88. Her occupation was listed as 'wife of John Grantham labourer deceased. The certified cause of death was 'natural decay' – old age, presumably. Sarah Ann Walton, in attendance, registered the death.

Tree 31 - Descendants of Walter King



Tree 32 - Descendants of Thomas Roads and Joan Taylor



The Winwood accounts make interesting reading. They cover items as various as a shilling extra to the alms-people in honour of Queen Victoria's coronation, the digging of osier beds, rent from farms, and comments on an inmate who is a 'great charge in nursing, she being ill and out of right mind'. In any event, Sophia seems to have been one of the favoured few. A note just after her death resolves to add two extra persons to the charity, 'thus raising the number to six.'

Sophia's parents were John Roads, a dairyman, and Hannah Harris. John was baptised on 17th May 1736, in All Saints Church which stands in the grounds of Claydon House at Middle Claydon. This property was owned by the Verney family with whom the Roads had a long association. On 26th November 1758 John married Hannah Harris there. The entry in the register reads:

'John Roads of the parish of Middle Claydon in ye county of Bucks Bachelor and Hannah Harris servant to ye Earl Verney of the said parish were married in this church by licence from ye court at Aylesbury.'

John and Hannah both sign, and the marriage was witnessed by John Oliver (who was the bondsman on the licence) and William Butler. The bond and allegation³⁴⁷, issued the day before, state John to be a dairyman and bachelor of Middle Claydon, aged 22 years or thereabouts, and Hannah to be a spinster of the same age.

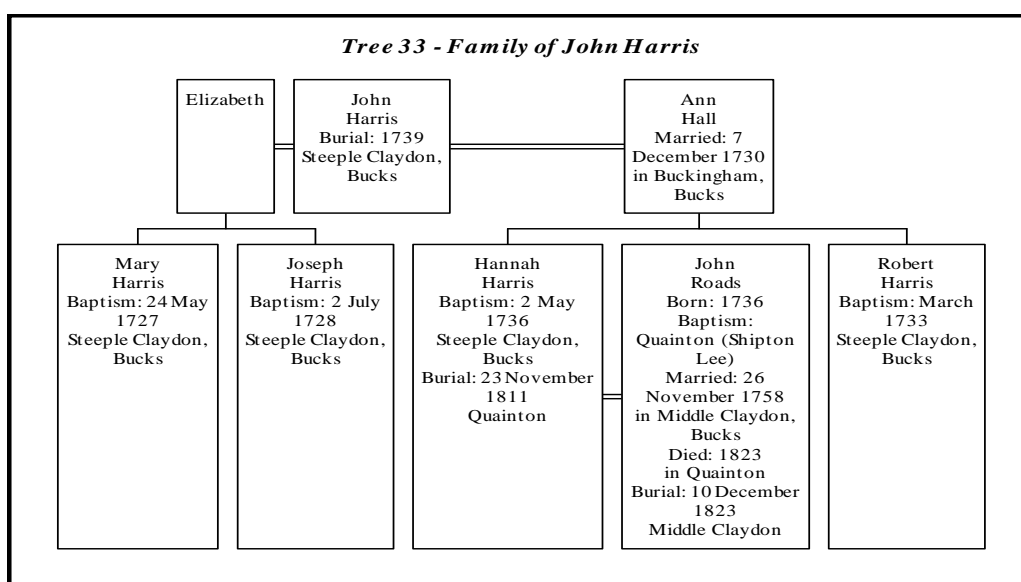


St Michael Steeple Claydon

The first child, Sarah, was born a year later, followed by Elizabeth, the unusually named Corbit, Samuel, twins Josiah and Sophia, Thomas and then William in 1773. Apart from the last two, which were at Quainton, all baptisms took place at Middle Claydon. However, I suspect the family may have moved earlier than that. On the 1851 census Sophia gave her place of birth as Shipton Lee³⁴⁸. While it may just have been where she grew up, by 1782, when the Land Tax Records³⁴⁹ begin, John was established

at Shipton Lee, occupying land belonging to Mr Calcraft esq., along with eight others, and paying his share of a land tax bill of £133 4/-. The following year, the proprietor was John Carter esq., and the tax bill had dropped slightly, to £123 6/-. He paid tax the following year, with Calcraft as the named proprietor again, but then disappeared from the record. Possibly he moved on when John Calcraft died. The landowner's estate was auctioned in 1788³⁵⁰, and while John's brother Thomas is listed as one of the 'respectable tenants', there is no reference to John. At this time, Shipton Lee was a tiny hamlet with only thirteen occupiers of land recorded there at any one time. However, in earlier times, it was a manor, Sibden or Shepeden Lee. John died at the ripe old age of 87, and was buried in Quainton on 10th December 1823.

His wife Hannah Harris, baptised on 2nd May 1736 at Steeple Claydon, was the daughter of John Harris (Aris or Airis) a labourer of Steeple Claydon, and Ann Hall of Buckingham, in which parish they married on 7th December 1730. Only Hannah and an elder brother Robert were born of this union, as John died when she was only three, in 1739. There were two half-siblings, Mary and Joseph, born of John's first wife Elizabeth. Presumably, if they survived infancy, Ann Hall raised all four children.



John Roads, our ancestor baptised in 1736, was the second child of Thomas Roads and Elizabeth King. The first child in this family was Thomas, baptised at Middle Claydon in 1732, and followed by William, two years later. Elizabeth followed John in 1737. Another William, Joseph and Ann were born in the next three years, and finally Mary, baptised in 1744. Thomas, their father, was just thirty when he married at Aylesbury. The parish register reads:

‘Thomas Roads of Clydon and Elizabeth King of Hogshaw were married the thirtieth April 1730’

He was buried at Middle Claydon on 12th October 1781. The only other information we have about him comes from his will³⁵¹ which is accompanied by a document empowering his son Joseph to act as executor, and makes numerous bequests. His son John was to receive £30; his daughters Elizabeth wife of Joseph Stevens and Ann wife of Thomas Roads received £10 apiece. These three were also bequeathed

pewter dishes and chairs. His grandson John, son of his deceased son Thomas, was to receive £20 on his majority. The rest of the household goods, furniture, cattle, corn, grain, hay, implements of husbandry and in the dairy business, plate, linens, and woollen, ready money, securities, chattels, rights, credits, and personal effects, were left to his son Joseph. The will was witnessed by John Butcher and James Burnham, signed clearly, and dated 17th September 1780. It was proved on 23rd October the following year. His wife Elizabeth predeceased him by over twenty years, and was buried at Middle Claydon on 4th December 1759.



St. Mary Aylesbury

Thomas Roads, dairyman, was baptised at Middle Claydon on 2nd March 1700. He was the sixth of ten children born to William and Elizabeth Roads, all but one baptised at Middle Claydon. Ann came first, but I have not found a record of her christening. Then in 1693, Mary, followed at roughly two year intervals by William, Alice, Sarah, Thomas, Hester, John, Susanna and finally Catherine, born in 1710.

The Kings: Grendon Underwood, Quainton, Middle Claydon

The fact that Elizabeth King gave her place of origin as Hogshaw gave me pause for thought, as it hasn't existed as a separate parish since the time of the Reformation. In fact, it was subsumed into East Claydon, and her baptism turned up in the register there, on 30th September 1706. Only her father's name is mentioned, Walter King of Hogshaw, through five baptisms, beginning with Walter in 1704, and ending with Hannah – 1712, Simon – 1713 and Sarah – 1716. Nothing else is known of him, but I believe him to be the son of Walter and Frances King, christened at Grendon Underwood on 1st March 1674. (See Tree 31 - page 113.)

Walter King of Grendon Underwood first married Frances Rogers on 16th January 1670 at Middle Claydon. Although he was described as of this parish, she was recorded as from Gretmore in the parish of Grandon. She bore five children, Henry – 1672, Walter, Thomas – 1677, Francis (a daughter according to the register) – 1681 and Mary – 1686. In 1689, Richard, son of Walter and his second wife, Elizabeth, was

baptised, followed by Eedy, Elizabeth, Ann, Mary and Ann (1697). Two weeks after her baptism, Walter senior was buried with affidavit on 24th November 1697. Ann's parentage is conjectural, for in fact she was christened at East Claydon, as daughter of Walter King of Hogshaw. However, this is seven years earlier than the next baptism, and I wonder if this is the twenty-three year old Walter bringing up an orphaned sister.

There is no baptism of the older Walter at Grendon Underwood. However, another Walter King raised a family at Middle Claydon at the right time, baptising a Henry – 1636, (H)anna(h) 1637, Henry – 1640, Walter – 26th September 1647, Elizabeth – 1650, Thomas – 1651 and Edey. His will³⁵², while very fragile, and with bits missing, makes the family link. He left his eldest son Henry 2/- and each of his children 5/-. His daughter Hannah Bailey received many of the household goods – bed and bedding, a coffer, a table, a kettle, an iron pot, frying pans, andirons, and a host of other items. Hannah's three children received money to remain in trust until they were grown. His 'son' Robert Stapp and Eedy his wife received £10 to remain in trust until he was twenty-one. Another legacy, to 'son' William Shreeve has been lost from the will, but is referred to in a clarification about putting the money 'forth to interest' at the end of the document. There was a further legacy to cousin Ann King, daughter of Thomas, of 50/- when she reaches twenty-one.



St Leonards Grendon Underwood

The most significant bequest was as follows:

‘unto my son Walter King’s three children the sum of £20 to remain trustees....twenty-one’

Given that at the time of Walter of Claydon’s death Walter of Grendon had precisely three children, it seems likely that this is the right link. The line quoted above is followed at the end with:

‘the rest wholly bequeathed to Walter King, his heirs and assigns.’

Walter King is appointed executor, and Walter senior makes his mark. If we assume by the token nature of eldest son Henry’s bequest that he had already been provided for, then it would make sense for the bulk of what was left to go to his second son.

Like many of our ancestors, Walter King can be traced through parish duties. In 1642, he contributed 1/- towards the relief of Protestants in Ireland³⁵³, and an entry in Middle Claydon register states:

‘Thomas Miller and Walter Kinge are chosen to be overseers of the poore by the consent of the parish of the present yeare of our Lord 1651.’

There are numerous other King references in the Middle Claydon registers in the first half of the 17th century, including the burial of ‘Walter King the elder in 1639, but no way of linking them at present to the family recorded above.

A further page in the Middle Claydon Register links the King and Roads families almost sixty years before Elizabeth King married Thomas Roads. It is headed:

‘Middle Claydon Church An Acc^{tt} who sits in the Womens seates taken from John Roads clerke 3 May 1674’

It then begins:

‘The South Side
 1 seate Mrs Holmes, Ralph Roades house in ye grounds, Mrs Scarlet, Henry King’s wife, John Roads wife
 2...Edey King for Hill Butts House
 3....Walter Kings wife, Widdow Kinge
 4....Widdow Roades.....
 The North Side

 2Tho Millers wife (now Wm Roades)

Presumably ‘widdow King’ was Walter’s mother, seated with her daughter-in-law. I wonder if the two families were still in contact when Thomas Roads and Elizabeth King decided to marry.



All Saints Middle Claydon

The Roads and the Verneys

Thomas Road's parents, William and Elizabeth, are more enigmatic. There is a burial record for Elizabeth at Middle Claydon on 22nd August 1720, and her husband seems to have lived until 1744, but, unlike many of his family, he left no will. The only other details of his life which are known are his baptism, on 14th February 1663, and those of his children, who are listed above. (See Tree 32 – page 114.)

The generation above is like a mirror image. Again, the parents are called William and Elizabeth; again, we have information about their deaths – William was buried at Middle Claydon on 10th May 1672, his wife died in 1689; again, there is no will. Presumably, William died quite young. His children; Elizabeth, Thomas, William and John were baptised between 1659 and 1666, but the only other reference to this William comes in his father's will.

The next generation up is another Thomas, whose first wife, Ann, was buried on 30th January 1635. She appears to be the mother of a son Thomas, who was born and died in that year. A second marriage, probably to Mary Waters, took place in Wooton Underwood on 12th March 1635. Thomas Roads' will³⁵⁴ was proved in 1650, three years after his burial at Middle Claydon on 28th September 1647. This will is fragile in the extreme, with bits missing, and is hard to decipher in places. However, it is possible to make out bequests to his son William, of a brazen candlestick and brazen pan, a little coffer and blankets, along with the main bequest of land called (possibly) Edum Croft – where isn't clear, possibly Fymer? Another child is promised money on reaching majority, but the name is unfortunately missing. There is a bequest to another son, John, and some kind of life settlement for his 'well-beloved' (presumably wife Mary, but I have found no record of her life after she was widowed). John is mentioned as the eventual recipient, but it looks as if he could have had to share with his siblings. His brother William is named executor, and the will is witnessed by Raph Roads - another brother - John Matthews and Thomas ?F...den.

Thomas' brother William was estate steward to Sir Edmund Verney, owner of Claydon House and courtier to both James I and Charles I. When Charles became king, Edmund Verney was made Knight Marshal of the Palace and Gentleman of the Privy Chamber. During the Civil War, he was made Bearer of the King's Standard³⁵⁵. Because Verney was frequently away from Claydon, firstly on king's business, and then in exile, there is a vast archive of correspondence and papers from the period. William Roads appears twice in the Verney Papers³⁵⁶. The first occasion is before the Civil War, when he is mentioned on a warrant:

'from the Earl of Northampton to all Justices of Peace to assist William Roads and Ralph Hill'

The job they were to do was an unpopular one, to seize greyhounds for the King's sport when he came to visit. These two men were empowered to:

'take all such dogs as they think will be useful to his majesty'.

Part of Charles I's belief in the Divine Right of Kings, no doubt!

The other reference comes in a letter from Sir Edmund Verney to his son Ralph. He was obviously away in the North with King Charles, but had bought fifty horses and geldings which were to be at Claydon in ten days time, and needed feeding. He exhorts his son:

'I praye wright to Will Roads presently to inquire out some grass for geldings...'

Clearly that much extra livestock would need some organising.

William Roads was a key figure in the running of Claydon, especially during his master's exile after the Civil War. The *Verney Memoirs*³⁵⁷ describe his house at 'Finemore' as on a spur of land:

'standing out into a flat plain towards Oxford and a far-reaching view'

towards Edge Hill in one direction, and Amy Robsart's home at Cumnor Hurst in the other. The book suggests that he lived at Finemore Lodge, previously inhabited by members of the Verney family, on a farm with some of the best land and the most beautiful position in the parish. William was also churchwarden at Middle Claydon in 1641, and signed the parish register as such.

As an employee of the Verneys, William was following in his father's footsteps, for our ancestor John Roads had also been Estate Bailiff to the Verney family. However, the *Verney Memoirs*⁸⁵⁸ clearly favours the son:

'William Roads was a good man and had raised himself above his father's social position.'

The *Verney Memoirs*³⁵⁹ give a broad picture of John's life, especially of his old age. Chapter IV of the second volume begins:

'The most important personage at Claydon during the ten years of Sir Ralph Verney's absence was William Roades, the steward. He and his father had worked on the estate, man and boy, for more than half a century in positions of trust. From 1610 onwards John Roades' handwriting, as Sir Edmund's bailiff, occurs constantly in tythe receipts... and other documents.'

With age, his son took on some of the load³⁶⁰:

'The old man is still styled bailiff in 1639, but since 1625 his son's signature has been associated with his in the estate receipts, and the running of the estate gradually devolved on the younger and more capable man.'

Sir Edmund was obviously fond of him, writing to John's son³⁶¹:

'Your father has sent to me about that ash wood, and the poor old man offers to pay for it. Tell him I cannot write to him now but that I have sent to you [to] let him have that wood or any other wood to keep him from cold. Trewly I am much grieved to see that I cannot prevail with him, for his own good, but because he understands it

not and has foolish jealousys in his head, I will say no more of it.’

His son, Sir Ralph Verney, records John Roades’ death in his calendar of *Letters from Roades*³⁶² on May 1st 1644:

‘John Roades died on Good Friday last.’

His wife, Anne, had been nurse to the Verney children, and is also recorded in the *Verney Memoirs*³⁶³. She was left a legacy by Sir Edmund in a will made in 1622:

“I give unto Anne Roades, wife of John Roades my servant, for the care which she hath had in breeding my children when they were young, Tenne pounds.” As the children of John and Anne Roades were about the ages of Sir Edmund’s elder children, Anne probably nursed her foster children with her own, either at the House or in her home.’

The author credits with this arrangement the easy intimacy with which the Verney and Roades families addressed each other in letters.

Anne was buried at Middle Claydon on 20th August 1636, and her husband followed her on 21st April 1644. Howard Lambert’s tree has a marriage for these two in 1595, but it does not seem to have taken place at Middle Claydon, and I suspect it’s a speculative date based on the birth of the eldest child. Neither baptism has been found. However, John presumably pleased his master Earl Verney, who left a bequest to:

‘his faithful servant and bailiff at Claydon, an annuity of 5l’³⁶⁴

The Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies holds a catalogue to the Verney Papers³⁶⁵ (The originals are at Claydon House). The following entries are of interest:

‘Counterpart Lease 2. 2. 32 Elizabeth (1589)’³⁶⁶

1) Edmund Verney

2) John Roads of Middle Claydon yeoman, servant to 1)

Tenement or cottage with barn stable and backyard, a little close, an orchard and a garden, and 3 acres of land in Middle Claydon now occupied by Thomas Rodes father of 2).

21 years from Michaelmas last at 8s p.a.’

By 1610 he had been appointed steward, and his raised status is reflected, perhaps, in the rent:

‘Counterpart Lease 13. 4. 15 James I (1617)’³⁶⁷

1) Sir Edmund Verney

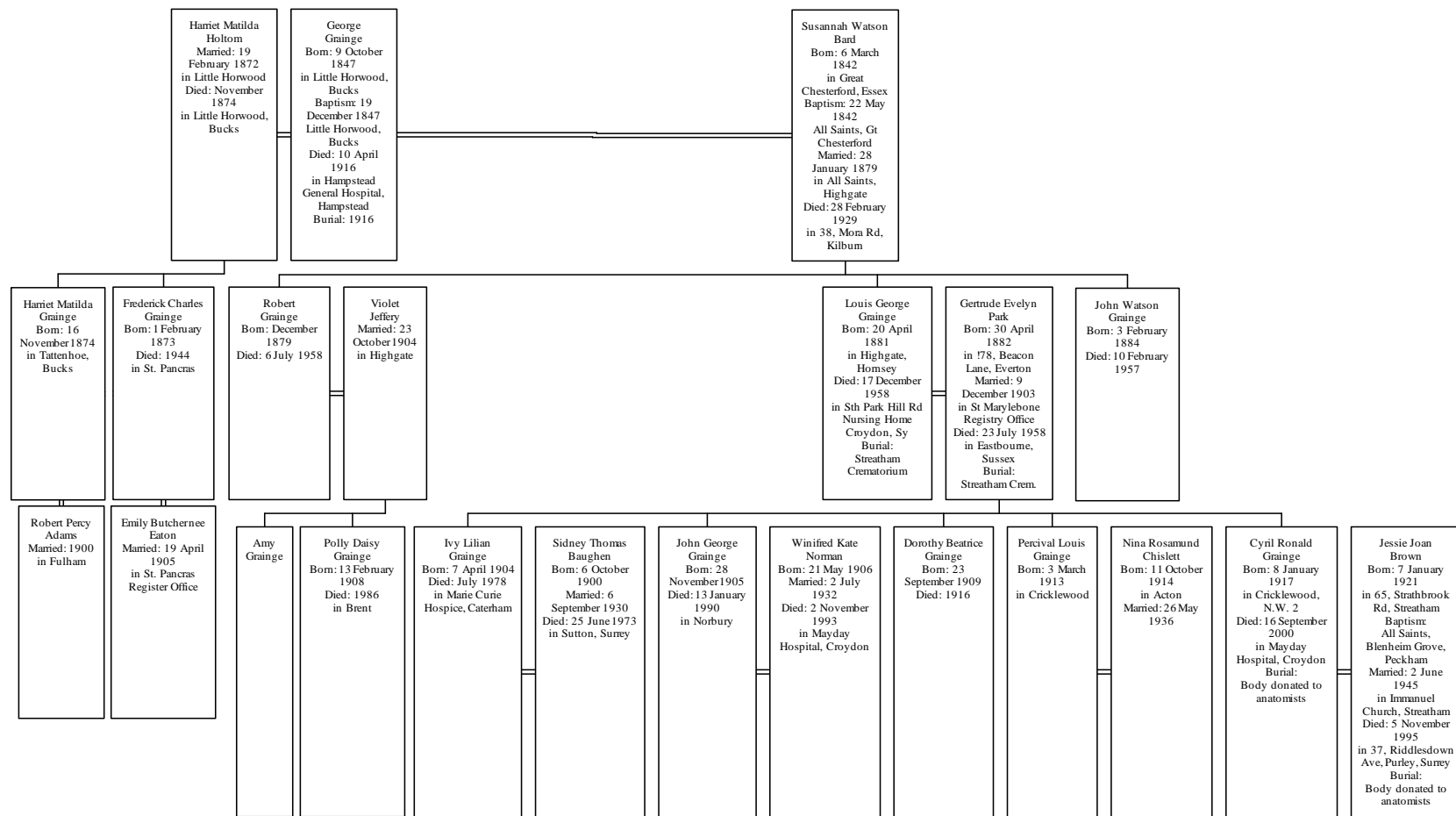
2) John Rodes of Fymer Lodge Middle Claydon, yeoman.

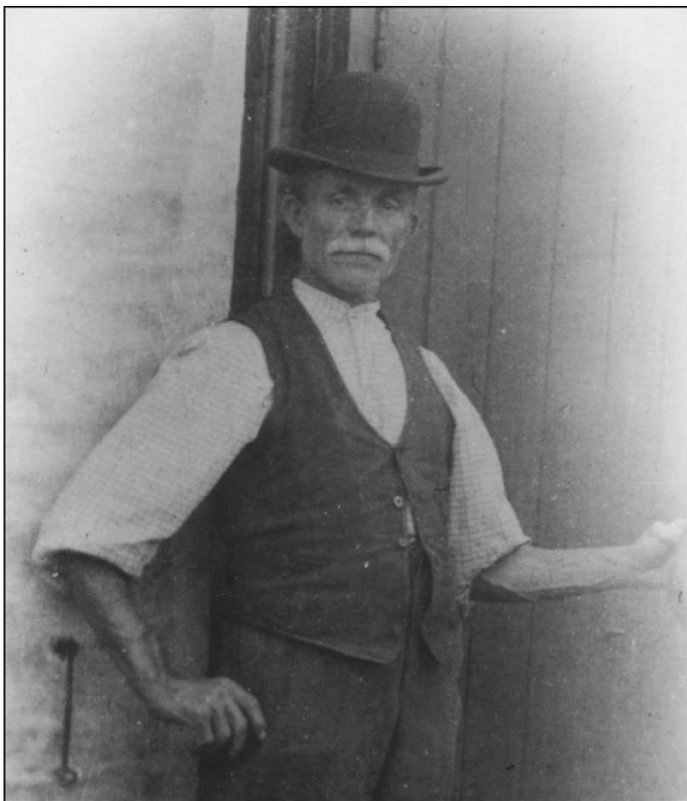
Fymer Lodge, Fymer Closes or Fymer Lodge Closes. Close of pasture called Diggings, Cottage and pightle late Heath usually occupied with diggings all in Middle Claydon and Fymer, except trees of oak, ash and elm.

17 years from Lady Day last at £34 3/4 p.a. plus a couple of meatable capons at Pentecost.’

And finally:

Tree 34 - Descendants of George Grainge of Little Horwood and Highgate





George Grainge

Susanna Watson Bard



'Assignment of Lease 6. 6. 1 Charles I (1626)³⁶⁸

- 1) William Goodricke snr of Middle Claydon yeoman
 - 2) John Rodes of Middle Claydon yeoman
- Farm and yardlands in Middle Claydon held under lease from
Lord Verney 1) is in arrears of rent of £23 p.a. 2) to pay off £46
to Sir Edmund Verney and return any surplus to 1).²

I can't help feeling that the Verneys could afford to lose £46 more than John Roads could, but if, as seems the case, he was sub-letting, presumably he was liable.

The Rohrer tree has six children for John Roads: Elizabeth, Thomas, William, Ursula, John and Ralph. To date I have not been able to corroborate these, but accept them as correct pro tem. All four brothers made contributions to the Relief of

Distressed Protestants in Ireland³⁶⁹ in 1642; Thomas and John gave 6d each, Raph 4d, and William 5/-.

At the top of the tree is yet another Thomas Roads, a yeoman farmer. On 15th November 1553, he married Joan Taylor at Middle Claydon, and they had at least five children, Philip, Thomas, John, Joan and Margaret, who survived to be mentioned in Thomas' will. The will³⁷⁰ is dated 20th March 1589, with probate granted on 12th April, which was somewhat strange, in the light of the fact that the parish register gives a burial date of 1st May 1587! However, this is a transcript, and both the Verney archive and the will suggest that Thomas was still alive in 1589, and that the transcript is in error. The will gifted £10 each to son John, son Thomas, Joan? son Philip, daughter Joan and daughter Margett. 12/- went to the Poor Man's Box, a doublet and something to Philip, and the rest of his goods to his wife Joan. The will was witnessed by Thomas Milner and John Gibbes.

George Grainge of Little Horwood, Highgate and Hendon

This completes our detour to Quainton and the Claydons, and returns us to the main Grainge line and the last Grainge generation in our branch to be born in Little Horwood. (See Tree 34 – page 123.) George Grainge, my great-grandfather, was born in Little Horwood on 9th October 1847 and baptised at St. Nicholas' Church on 19th December. Like his father, he was the youngest of a large family, and as family size grew, fortunes declined. At the age of 13, he is described on the 1861 census³⁷¹ as a labourer, and although in 1871³⁷² he is designated 'farmer's son', George senior's land only covered 6 acres, probably not enough to give a good standard of living. When he married for the first time, a year later, he was again classed as a labourer. This short-lived marriage was to Harriet Matilda Holtom, daughter of William Holtom, labourer, and took place after banns (on 21st and 28th Jan and 4th February) in Little Horwood on 19th February 1872. George and Harriet both signed the marriage entry, and Frederick Moore - his brother-in-law - and his sister Sarah witnessed the service. Two years earlier, on 8th November 1870, George had witnessed Frederick's marriage to his sister Mary Ann, so presumably the two men were friends. Apparently, the couple initially set up home in Leckhampstead, a few miles to the north-west, but when Harriet died two years later, her burial entry in the Little Horwood register recorded:

'Harriet Grainge, abode Tattenhoe, Whaddon, buried 8th November 1874 aged 22 years.'

A delicate and ornate memorium card shows her to have died on 30th October, and my guess is that her death was caused by childbirth.

There were two children from this marriage, Frederick Charles, born at Leckhampstead on 17th January 1873 and maybe named after his uncle, and Harriet Matilda, who was born at Tattenhoe on 5th October 1874. By the time of the 1881 census³⁷³ she was living with her aunt Mary Ann, and her uncle Frederick Moore. Aged sixteen, she is recorded as a dressmaker's apprentice. Frederick and Mary Ann were obviously big-hearted. Also at their home at 106, Middle St. Bradwell, Buckinghamshire in 1891 were Harriet's brother Frederick C. Grainge, an eighteen year old journeyman baker, and Rebecca, still unmarried, but listed as Lady's Help, rather than the unflattering 'domestic servant' status she was given in the Moore household in 1871.



Whether the death of his first wife was the trigger, or lack of prospects in an area which was soon to suffer from severe agricultural depression, at some time in the next five years George left his ancestral home and moved to the outskirts of London. He was not alone in leaving the village; by the time of the 1901³⁷⁴ census only 66 houses were occupied and there were 9 not occupied. Of the population of 237, 129 were male and 108 female. This is a drop of about a third in the number of households, and almost a half in terms of population from the figures given in 1831. According to David Hey, there was a 'persistent, considerable drain'³⁷⁵ of agricultural workers away from the countryside and into the towns in the second part of the 19th century, most especially between 1851 and 61, and 1871 and 81. By 1911, there were only three-quarters the number of agricultural workers there had been in the middle of the century.

He settled in Highgate, then still a village. A map³⁷⁶ of the area published in 1877 shows North Hill (George's address on the 1881 census) as a long road running from Highgate village up towards Manor Farm with no buildings on either side. On one side there were fields and then Bishops's Wood, and on the other, about a quarter of a mile away, the Great Northern Railway's Edgware line. A photograph³⁷⁷ taken of North

Road (the continuation of North Hill) in about 1910, shows a flock of sheep being driven down the centre of the road and one solitary vehicle in the distance.

Family tradition has it that George met his second wife, my great-grandmother Susanna Watson Bard, when he was working as a gardener at the big house where she was cook. I haven't yet managed to prove this, and their wedding certificate, dated 28th January 1879, gives him the occupation of milkman, and leaves a gap for her. I suspect he must have indulged in a degree of casual labour, for, although both his sons' marriage certificates give his occupation as gardener, a few years earlier – in 1901, the census return lists him as a milkman again. They married at All Saint's Church, Highgate, in Edmonton registration district. (His niece, Emily Ann, married John Shopland Reed at the same church 16 months later and is recorded at Mansfield Cottages, also on North Hill, on the 1881 census.) Both participants give their address as Springfield Cottages, which lie on North Hill. It was not uncommon for both parties to give the same address, as this saved the cost of one set of banns. The marriage was witnessed by her father Lewis (who made his mark) and her sister Hannah (who signed). Susanna, giving her age as 35, was in fact five years older than her husband. The Bards came from Great Chesterford in Essex, where they had lived for at least 150 years, but their story is too long to be told here and belongs in another history.



15, Springfield Cottages North Hill Highgate

At the time of the 1881³⁷⁸ census, Susanna would have been heavily pregnant with my grandfather, Louis George, who was born on the 20th April. However, on the night of 3rd/4th, the following are listed at 15 Springfield Cottages, North Hill, Highgate: George Grainge, head of the household, married, 35, farmer's servant / agricultural labourer, born at Little Horwood in Buckinghamshire. Then Susanna Watson Grainge, his wife, 37, from Great Chesterford; Robert, aged one, born in Highgate; and Hannah Bard, Susanna's sister, aged 30, possibly there to help out during the confinement.

At some point, George must have taken up a career in gardening, a skill no doubt picked up from his father, as this is the occupation recorded on his death certificate. Again, family tradition has him working at Kenwood House, less than a mile away from his home, as Head Gardener. Kenwood³⁷⁹ was originally built in the early 17th century, although its present appearance is due to the architect Robert Adam. In George's time,

the house was owned by the fourth Earl of Mansfield, but he lived mainly on his Scottish estates at Scone. His son, the fifth earl, lived lavishly at Kenwood at the turn of the century, but when he died in 1906, the estate passing to his brother, the sixth earl. He apparently rarely used it, preferring to let it to a Russian grand duke and then an American. Unfortunately, Scone Palace Archive, which holds the Mansfield Estate papers, has no record of the names of outdoor staff. Despite considerable searching on my behalf, the archivist has not so far found any reference to George Grainge. Maybe he didn't work there at all!

George and Susanna had three children in all, Robert, born in December 1879, Louis George and John Watson, born 3rd February 1884. By 1891 the family was living in St. Pancras where the 1891 census³⁸⁰ records them at 20 Rochford Road. George is listed as a 46 year old employed 'farm labourer agricultural' from Winslow; Susanna is there, as are sons Robert, George L (Louis George) and John W, aged 11, 10 and 7 respectively. Susanna's 17 year-old niece, Alice Eldridge, completes the household, showing that contact links with the extended family were still strong.

The family also appears on the 1901 census³⁸¹, although mis-recorded by the enumerator as 'Granger'. The address given is Mackeson Road, in the ecclesiastical parish of St. Stephen's, Hampstead. The *London A – Z* shows Mackeson Road on the south side of Hampstead Heath, just off Constantine Road, where Louis' future wife - Gertrude Evelyn Park - was living with her aunt and uncle³⁸². The house number is missing on the return, but is presumably 23, as the next three entries in Mackeson Road are 25, 27 and 29. George is head of the household, aged 55, employed as a milkman again, born in Bucks. Susannah, aged 58, is from Essex. Their two younger sons are there - Louis G, aged 19, some kind of clerk (the second word is illegible), born Highgate, Middlesex, and John W, 17, with what look like ditto marks in the occupation and born columns. There is no sign of Robert, but George's son from his first marriage, Fred^{ck} C. is there, aged 28, a barman, born in Bucks. Buckinghamshire census returns show his sister Harriet, who had married - in Fulham the previous year - Robert Percival Adams, a railway coachmaker, and was now living in Bradwell. Their uncle Frederick, now widowed, was living in Stantonbury with New Bradwell, alone but for an apprentice.

In 1903 and 4, George's sons Louis and Robert gave addresses at 51 and 44 Twisden Road, St. Pancras on their respective marriage certificates, but there is nothing to indicate whether these were family homes or bachelor lodgings. Their older brother Frederick married Emily Butcher on 19th April the following year at St. Pancras Register Office. He gave his address as 154, Carlton Road, and his father's occupation as Farm Labourer. After this, George drops out of sight again until his somewhat dramatic death in Hampstead General Hospital on 10th April 1916, following a road traffic accident. He was clearly an ailing man by this time, though, as the cause of death section on his certificate reads like a medical text-book:

'Heart failure, hypostatic pneumonia while suffering from arterio-
....? and disease of the heart and kidneys, accelerated by fracture
of right tibia. Knocked down by motor cycle. Accidental.'

The death certificate also records an inquest held by London coroner at St. Pancras, Walter Shröder, on Friday, 14th April. This was reported by the *Hampstead Record*³⁸³ on the same day under the headline 'Motor Cycle Fatality':



Louis George Grainge
and
Gertrude Evelyn Park





Dorothy



Ivy on her
wedding day



Bunny, Ivy
and Jack

Squibs

George and Gertrude



‘...George Grainge, 69, gardener, of 72, Cricklewood-lane, ... died from injuries received by being knocked down by a motor-cycle.’

Evidently George had been crossing Cricklewood Lane on Monday 27th March when the accident occurred. He reported that:

‘the motorcyclist had his head down evidently to shield it from the wind. The cyclist did not sound his hooter.’

The motor-cyclist, Albert Crocker, a driver in the Royal Naval Air Service, insisted that he had both sounded his horn and shouted when he saw George step off the pavement about 50 yards ahead of him, and had done all he could to avoid the accident. He also sustained injuries when he was thrown off his bike by the impact. The doctor, Miss Jessie Valentine, said that death had occurred due to:
‘pneumonia while suffering from heart and kidney disease accelerated by the injuries received.’

The verdict was ‘Accidental Death.’ The newspaper recorded a gale in the area the next day, which did considerable damage, notably ripping the ivy off the church wall, so maybe George’s version of events was right. Susanna lived on for nearly thirteen years, dying on 28th February 1929 at Mora Road, in Kilburn. Although two of his older brothers predeceased him, his third brother, Jesse, with his wife Emma, lived on in Little Horwood until 1926 and 1928, when they were 86 and 87 respectively.

I have not traced anything further about the two children of George Grainge’s first marriage, other than to note that Frederick’s death is recorded in the GRO indexes in the June quarter of 1944, aged 71, in the registration district of Pancras, so presumably he stayed in London.

However, the eldest son from George’s second marriage, Robert, born in the final quarter of 1879, and registered in Edmonton, grew up to be a railway fireman. There must have been connections during his youth with Susanna’s family in Essex, for on 23rd October 1904, Robert married his first cousin, Violet Jeffrey, daughter of Susanna’s sister Amy, who had married George Jeffrey and settled in Elmdon in Essex. (Violet appears in her father’s household as a month old baby on the 1881 census³⁸⁴) By the time of her marriage, her father, a vermin destroyer, was dead, but her sister - Alice Mary Daisy Jeffrey - was there to witness the wedding, as was John Watson Grainge, Robert’s younger brother. All parties signed, and the marriage took place at St. Anne’s Church, Highgate Rise, the parish church for the couples’ respective addresses: 54, Chester Road and 44, Twisden Road. Robert’s occupation was entered as ‘fireman’ – presumably on the railway, for which he worked for the rest of his life. He lived in a cottage in Woodhey Road, which was probably owned by the railway company. When the cottages were sold, Robert was in no position to buy the freehold, so his nephew, Percival Louis Grainge bought it, allowing Robert and his family to live there rent-free.

There were two daughters to this marriage, Amy and Daisy (born Hendon, 1906 and 1908 respectively). Daisy was apparently a bit simple – result of being the product of cousins, perhaps. After her sister’s marriage to Bill Archer, virtually the man next door, Daisy lived on alone until her death in 1986.

Robert Grainge of 45, Woodheyas Road, London NW10, died 6th July 1958 at the Central Middlesex Hospital, Park Royal, London. Administration³⁸⁵ was granted in London to Amy Archer, married woman, on 21st August that year. The effects were valued at £1516 5/2. This estate was quite small, and the fact that Robert remained in a humble occupation with presumably a lowish wage, while his brother Louis George was more 'upwardly mobile' caused a rift between the two brothers on the occasion of the death of their father. Apparently Louis wanted to pay for the funeral as he could afford it, while Robert insisted that he, as the older brother, should take on the responsibility. The brothers severed contact, but their children didn't, and my father used to tell me how he cycled over to Uncle Bob's for Sunday lunch on a regular basis.

The youngest of the three brothers, John Watson Grainge, never married, but remained an affectionately remembered bachelor uncle. As a child, I relished visits from 'Nunc' who always managed to bring something interesting and seemed always affable and smiling. He lived in lodgings at 225, Pinner Road, Harrow in Middlesex, but died at Nuffield Nursing Home, Hanger Lane, Ealing on 10th February 1957. Administration³⁸⁶ of his estate, which was valued at £4589 16/3, was granted on 20th March to 'Robert Grainge, retired Engine Driver'.

Louis George Grainge of Highgate, Cricklewood and Norbury

My grandfather, Louis George Grainge, is registered as having been born on 20th April 1881. However, a family story has it that he was actually a few days older than this, but that his parents didn't get round to registering him in the allotted time. The birth took place at 15, Springfield Cottages, North Hill, Highgate, Hornsey. How long the family stayed at that address is not known, nor where Louis went to school. He did well enough to win a prize at some point, as I have a copy of *The Lively Poll – A Tale of the North Sea* by R. M. Ballantyne which he won. The inscription reads:

'G. Grange for lessons and good conduct from Christmas to March'

Unfortunately, it is not dated, nor is the school named. Presumably it was a fairly run of the mill event, for they haven't even spelled his surname correctly! However, a later prize of Dickens' *Barnaby Rudge* was issued by the School Board of London and dated November 1902, when he was 21 years old. It was issued by Mansfield Road Evening Continuation School, so presumably he was taking evening classes to further his office career.

Louis George Grainge married at the age of 22, when he was a stockbroker's clerk. His address is given as 51, Twisden Road. His bride, Gertrude Evelyn Park - my grandmother - was 21, and although no occupation is listed, she was apparently a milliner at the time. The youngest daughter of Richard Park and Harriet Porter of Everton, she was sent south when her mother died and brought up by an aunt, Sarah Jane Williams, in Gospel Oak. The marriage took place at The Register Office in St. Marylebone on 9th December 1903, and was witnessed by Daisy Jeffrey, Susannah Watson Grainge, Sarah Jane Williams and Robert Grainge. It was clearly a somewhat hurried affair, as my aunt, Ivy Lilian was born on 7th April 1904 at 7, Lichfield Road, Cricklewood.

Four more children followed: John George (Uncle Jack) born 28th November 1905 at the same address, Dorothy Beatrice, born 2nd March 1909, Percival Louis (Uncle Bunny) born 3rd March 1913, and my father, Cyril Ronald, born 8th January 1917. The first two births were registered at Hendon, but Dorothy's was at Willesden, as was my father's. The address on his birth certificate was 78, Ivy Road, Cricklewood. Maybe the responsibilities of early parenthood galvanised Louis into hard work, for he gradually worked his way up to become a Trust Company accountant with 'Investment Trust Services' in London. Certainly, he saw the importance of having a good job, scotching my father's ambitions to be a car mechanic, and insisting that he take on employment 'in the city'.

At the time of my father's birth, during the First World War, Louis was a Private in the Durham Light Infantry, but even here he was a commercial clerk, presumably deemed too old for active service. By the end of the war he had been promoted, and photographs of him in uniform show him sporting sergeant's stripes.



Louis George Grainge in the garden at 78 Ivy Road

Sometime in the late 1920s, he moved his family south of the river, and took up residence at 25, Crescent Way in Norbury, SW16. The house was named 'Springfield', presumably in memory of his earliest home. Whereas the Ivy Road house had been a typical Victorian town house, this was a modern semi-detached, with bay windows, an attached garage and three steps up to the porch and the front door. To me, as a little girl, it seemed an imposing house, and was clearly a symbol of the fact that Louis George had got on in life. Throughout my childhood, there was a huge glazed pottery urn standing in the porch, which Tony, their black terrier dog, used to nudge with his nose so that it rocked back and forth.

Louis and Gertrude's lifestyle now involved a car, and annual holidays on the south coast, usually with all the family in tow. There are many family photographs of my father and his siblings on the beach as young children, and later ones where boy and girlfriends, and even members of their families are seen. Events such as wedding anniversaries and birthdays were marked by extended family parties.

By the time I knew them, they were both old. My grandmother was deaf – having had scarlet fever when she was younger – and both were frail. The back room downstairs had been converted into a bedroom, and there was a live-in housekeeper. To me, they seemed serious; I had to mind my ps and qs, but I was the youngest grandchild, daughter of the youngest child, so not much of a novelty. Looking at family photos, though, there is a sense of fun about Nana, and my mother used to tell me how she and I would laugh together when I was a baby, her shoulders shaking with silent giggles. She also told me the story of my grandfather leaping into bed in amorous mood calling out, ‘Here I am, my little turtle-dove,’ and almost impaling himself on Nana’s hair curlers.

My grandfather clearly inherited the sense of duty which was so evident in earlier generations of Grainges, but in his case, family came first. My father used to relate how, if he had not been to see his mother in a particular week – and this was after he had married and moved to Coulsdon – his father would be on the phone demanding to know why he hadn’t been back to Norbury to see her.



23 Crescent Way Norbury

On 23rd July, 1958, Gertrude Evelyn died of a coronary thrombosis while on holiday at the Southborough Hotel, Carlisle Road, Eastbourne. My grandfather, Louis George, only survived her by a few months, dying on 17th December 1958 of uraemia and nephritis, and also suffering from senile dementia. He died at South Park Hill Nursing Home, an annexe of Mayday Hospital in South Croydon. I can just remember driving with my father on a cold winter night to see him, a frail old man, propped up on pillows. He was cremated at Streatham Crematorium.

His will³⁸⁷ named Ivy and Jack, the eldest two children, as executors, and left instructions for the whole estate to be divided equally between his four surviving children, Ivy, Jack, Bunny and my father. It was witnessed by G.L. Pavitt (Gladys Pavitt, a family friend) and E.M. Dengate. Probate was granted on 5th February 1959 to John George Grainge, Trust Company Accountant, effects £19,842 7/6.

Ivy, the eldest daughter, took her second name, Lilian, from her mother’s elder sister. She was educated until the age of fourteen at Mora Road School, Cricklewood, and was awarded a copy of *Down the Snow Stairs* as a prize in 1914/15 for:

‘Tree 35 – Descendants of John George Grainge’ withheld.

Pictures of John George Grainge and family withheld.

‘good work, conduct and attendance.

Ivy was very musical, as were several members of the family, and played the piano, mainly the popular light classics of the day. On 6th September 1930 she married Sydney Thomas Baughen at St. Michael’s Cricklewood. Sid worked for the shipping company, Elder Dempster. His nephew Michael later became Bishop of Chester, and both Sid and Ivy were staunch Anglicans. They lived at 15 Romany Gardens, Sutton until their respective deaths – Sid in 1972 and Ivy, from cancer, on 29th July 1978. They had no children, and to me often seemed starchy, but they hosted numerous big family parties, epitomised by parlour games like Charades and Chase the Ace. As I was usually the youngest present, numerous distant cousins always connived to let me win.

John George, my uncle Jack, was given two familiar Grainge names. (See Tree 35 – page 135.) Born less than eighteen months after Ivy and also educated at Mora Road, when young he was interested in the Boy Scout Movement and tennis, the which sport he exchanged for bowls when he retired. He was nearly twelve years older than my father, and so they shared little of their childhood together. This did not prevent them from keeping in close contact in adult life, even meeting once in the desert during the war. Six weeks after my parents’ wedding, (which Jack missed being still in the RAF) my father wrote him a long, newsy letter. It closes:

‘Well old chap, I seem to have run on and run on.... Cheerio for now. Hurry home. Yours ever, Squibs.’

Jack spent four years in the RAF, first at Hednesford Camp in Staffordshire, then in Persia as a corporal with the ‘Anti-Locust Patrol’. The only letter I have written by Jack to my Dad is about their mother’s estate, but finishes with the possibly tongue in cheek:

‘Next time you see me remind me you owe me 10/- for insurance premium.’

Between 1918 and 22 Jack was educated at Clark’s College, and in 1926, he went to work in the city with his father as a Trust Company Accountant at ‘Investment Trust Services’, the company he served until retirement in 1971.

Information on living members of the family withheld.

Jack and Winnie, on the contrary, spent their entire married life rooted in one place, 71, Isham Road, Norbury. They did consider moving, but Auntie Winnie used to joke that Jack wouldn’t move to the top of a hill for fear of subsidence, and a valley was out because of flooding, so they stayed put. Jack died on 13th January 1990 and Winnie

on 2nd November 1993. Winnie was a local girl as well; her widowed father lived in Balham with her younger sister Margie, who was a civil servant and was ultimately awarded an OBE for a lifetime's service. The other sister, Dorrie, and Winnie's cousins, Dot and Artie were regularly in attendance at family parties when I was young.

George and Gertrude's next child was named Dorothy Beatrice, and was born on 23rd September 1909. (Beatrice was the name of another of her mother's sisters.) When my father died, I found a book of hers entitled *The Two Parrots*, in a series called 'Books for Young Readers'. Inside is a sticker announcing it to be a prize for 'Conduct and Attendance' dated 1st February to 31st July 1915, from the Infants Department of Mora Road School. Her life, however, was destined to be short. By the next year, she was dead from diphtheria.

The next child was a boy, Percival Louis, born 3rd March 1913 at 78, Ivy Road, Cricklewood. (See Tree 36 – page 139.) He was named for his maternal uncle and his father and grandfather (Lewis Bard), but from an early age he was known as Bunny, reputedly because of a likeness to a comedian, John Bunny. He was the brains of the family, attending Kilburn Grammar School until he was eighteen years old, commuting from South London when the family moved. At school, he attained an Inter BSC (which is half way to a Bachelor of Science qualification), focusing on Maths, Physics and Chemistry, possibly with English. On leaving school, he joined Canada Life as a junior clerk and trainee actuary. When war broke out, it was decided that only one of the two actuaries in the company should join up, and Bunny, who had a young family, was put on the reserve list. He served in the Home Guard in Kingsbury initially, but when the Blitz became intense in 1942, the company moved him and his family to High Wycombe – not far from his roots – for three months. After the war, he went on to complete his training, becoming one of the first fully qualified actuaries in the country in 1953. He travelled all over the world for Canada Life, regularly making the trip across the Atlantic to Toronto, via New York. In those days, before aeroplane travel, this journey was made on the *Queen Mary* on several occasions. In 1978, an article in *The London Pelican*³⁸⁸ reported on his retirement:

"PLG" joined the Canada Life on 7th December 1931, and after wartime interruptions of his studies qualified as a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries in 1953, when he was appointed Assistant Actuary. In 1969 he was appointed Actuary, United Kingdom and Ireland, and in 1973 Actuarial Vice-President."

His keen brain wasn't always put to the best of uses as a boy. My father reported how his big brother, with whom he shared a bedroom, once persuaded him that he could fly from his bed. Result, a bruised head – and a wiser, if sadder, younger brother.

Information on living members of the family withheld.

‘Tree 36 – Descendants of Percival Louis Grainge’ withheld

Pictures of Percival Louis Grainge and family withheld.

Cyril Ronald Grainge of Cricklewood, Norbury, Coulsdon and Purley

My father Cyril Ronald Grainge, the youngest of George and Gertrude's children, was born during the First World War, on 8th January 1917. (See Tree 37 – page 143.) A photograph of him as a baby records his mother's belief that he was a replacement for the dead Dorothy. However, my father always felt that his parents were a little weary of child-rearing by the time he came along. Somewhere along the way he too acquired a nickname – Squibs – which he always said was a reflection on a lively personality. He spent the first years of his childhood in Cricklewood in North London, at the family home of 78, Ivy Road. Like his siblings, he attended Mora Road School, but when the family moved to Norbury, he transferred to a private establishment, The Modern School, Streatham, on the London Road near Streatham Common. He had fond memories of his headmaster, Major Gunnis, but accepted, I think, my mother's view that the education offered was a little limited. However, he gained at least two prizes while he was at the school. Ainsworth's *The Tower of London*, was given at Christmas 1930 for general good work; the following year he received *Oliver Twist*. The Bible that he carried to church each week for as long as I can remember is inscribed:

Presented to Cyril Ronald Grainge on his Confirmation

31st March 1933

From Arthur A. Gunnis

"Fear God: Honour the King." 1 Peter II 17'

He stayed at school there until he was nineteen, mainly because his father never got round to organising his leaving (if Dad was to be believed). Eventually, he went to see the Headmaster himself, and told him that he thought it was time to move on!

The respect my father felt for Arthur Gunnis, M.A., L.C.P. seems to have been reciprocated, for when he left, the Head gave him a testimonial:

To whom it may concern.

Mr Cyril Ronald Grainge was a pupil in this school from April 1930 until April 1935: during the whole of his time he gave me the utmost satisfaction both in the form rooms and the playing fields.

I always found him a keen student, anxious to please his masters and popular with his school fellows. As a school prefect he shewed

judgement and tact in handling other boys and was a very successful captain of his XI both in cricket and football.

I think I am right in saying that in five years he was never late.

I am sure that Mr Grainge will conscientiously carry out any duties he may undertake to perform.'

His reports comment on his conduct in school. With the exception on one 'Highly Satisfactory', the rest of the remarks range from 'Very Good' to 'Excellent' and 'Exemplary'. The number of boys in the form each term is relatively small, and Dad was usually ranked somewhere in the middle. Comments refer to his conscientious approach and quick grasp of subjects. He is once chided for lack of concentration, but on the whole, reports reflect an intelligent and hard-working student.

As Major Gunnis' letter implied, he was also a keen sportsman, and was presented with a number of certificates and medals for swimming and life-saving. The first, dated 9th July 1929, and headed 'The Willesden Schools', records a distance of 25 yards, but three years later, The Modern School awarded him a supplementary first class certificate for swimming a mile. The love of swimming lasted until the day he died.

Time not spent at school was passed mainly on Streatham Common with 'the Gang'. This is where he first met my mother, Jessie Joan Brown, four years his junior. She was the daughter of William George Brown – a self-employed flour factor – and Katherine Joan Fuller. They lived less than half a mile away at 65, Strathbrook Road, Streatham. As a teenager, he is reputed to have told her to:

'Go home and tell your mother I hate the sight of you.'

But feelings evidently changed with time. The gang followed innocent pursuits. There was 'British Bulldog' (a highly physical game which apparently involved leapfrogging as far as possible up a chain of people linked together, bent over, the first one holding on to a set of iron railings). They were not above throwing a stick for the dog so it leapt over and startled courting couples (the resultant spilt coinage could be collected later). They swam in Tooting Bec, cycled and climbed trees.

Dad left school when the country was in the depths of the Depression. He had clear ideas of the kind of job he wanted: P.E. instructor or car mechanic. He had actually got as far as arranging an interview as the latter when my grandfather stepped in. With all the snobbery of a generation which has hauled itself out of manual labour, he announced that no son of his was going to work in a job where he got his hands dirty. Squibs was duly despatched to the City, to work in his father's firm, initially, I think, as an office assistant. Before his city career had really got off the ground, rumblings of war were heard, and so on 10th May 1938, he joined the Territorial Army as a Sapper in the Royal Engineers. (When he transferred to the Royal Artillery, on 1st July 1940, his rank changed to Gunner.) He was also given the post of bugler, as he was the only person able to get a note out of it! In 1939, he and my mother became engaged, but Grandpa Brown vetoed an early marriage. He had seen too many war widows struggling to bring up children alone to stomach that possible fate for his daughter. So it was that their engagement lasted the duration of the Second World War, six years.

By August 1939, he was training at Dagnall in Buckinghamshire – I don't think he realised that he was heading back to his roots. He moved on to Eaton Bray, and then to Fleetwood in Lancashire, where he was ordered overseas. During embarkation leave, he

‘Tree 37 – Descendants of Cyril Ronald Grainge’ withheld.



Cyril Ronald
and
Jessie Joan Grainge



took the risk of travelling south to see Mum. Getting off the train at the London terminus, he spotted a military policeman at the barrier. Aware of just how much trouble he was in if caught in London, he marched up to the M.P. and asked for a light for his cigarette. He was passed through the barrier without a second glance. So that Mum could get home to see him my grandmother phoned the bank where she was working and told the boss that Jess was needed at home to help clear up bomb damage.

Dad sailed from Liverpool on 18th December 1940 on Convoy WS 5A. According to a letter from The Ministry of Defence, the convoy consisted of 18 slow and 5 fast ships. The escort provided came into its own when the convoy was attacked by a German ship, 'The Admiral Hipper'. The rest of the ships scattered, and only a little damage was done by the raider. The convoy reached Freetown on 5th January 1941, and moved on to Durban, arriving there on 26th January. By 11th February the convoy was in the Gulf of Aden, and finally arrived at Ismalia in the Suez on 16th February. Once in the Middle East, my father was involved in anti-aircraft work at Port Said. He developed great affection for the region, visited a kibbutz, swam in the Red Sea, and made friends with some of the locals. He only went back once, after my mother had died, but found it changed almost out of recognition. Sickness separated him from his unit at one point, a godsend as it turned out, as many of them were later captured. As it was, he was sent to Egypt, where he became Lance Bombardier and then Quarter Master Sergeant. Later, as Rommel approached, his unit was sent to Sinai, and, on the whole, he passed most of the war in much less danger than my mother faced, living through the Blitz in London.

In May 1945, he sailed for home from Alexandria, arriving home earlier than expected to a brief debarkation leave. In the detailed letter sent to his brother Jack, he records:

'I boarded the 'S.S. Pasteur' on the Saturday afternoon... unfortunately, I had been saddled with the onerous task of 'Mess Deck Sergeant' responsible for the well-being and behaviour of 90 men, at least 80 of whom had not seen me since I was a Gunner.'

He goes on to describe the journey home in some detail, his nearly tripping and dropping his kit-bag of precious presents as he came down the gang-plank, the:

'smooth running and comfort of an S.R. (Southern Railways) coach',

his frustration at a halt at Clapham Junction where:

'I would have given anything to be able to hop across the platform onto a Norbury train',

and his delight at speaking to my mother on the phone for the first time in four years when:

'we jabbered "nineteen to the dozen"'.

After going through the appropriate formalities at Woolwich Barracks, he describes being met at Oval Station in the car by 'Mr B' and 'Jess'.

'We arrived at 65 at 1.15, amidst a shower of rockets, jumping

crackers and Very Signals, and after about half an hour it seemed as though the last four and a half years had never been and that I'd never been away from home at all.'

My mother's plans for a 17th June wedding were hastily brought forward to 2nd June, despite the groom having picked up a cold as soon as he returned to northern climes. The ceremony took place at Immanuel Church in Streatham. It was formally witnessed by William George Brown and Louis George Grainge, but despite the upheavals of wartime, almost all of both families were there: both sets of parents, my Mum's brother, aunts, uncle, grandmother, and cousins; Dad's sister and sisters-in-law, younger brother and brother-in-law, his four nieces, and Nunc. Wedding photos show my father in his army uniform, and my mother in the wedding veil she shared with the cousin who married a week later: clothing was still severely rationed. A brief honeymoon at Seaton followed, and then my father was posted to Long Marston – back to his roots again – before being demobilised on 7th January 1946. His 'Soldier's Release Book' records the following information:

'Present Rank – W.S./B.Q.M.S
Trade on enlistment – Bank Clerk
Military Conduct – Exemplary
Testimonial – B.Q.M.S. Grainge. CR. Has been here 7 months.
During that time he has worked extremely well in the Garrison
Adjutant's Office. His attitude, capabilities and keenness are first-
class, a trustworthy and most reliable man. I am sorry to lose him.'

His 'Soldiers' Service and Pay Book, with all addresses and other sensitive information blue pencilled out, record him to be 5'5", weighing 134 lbs, chest measurement 36", fresh complexion, brown eyes and brown hair.



61 Winifred Road Coulsdon

It also records his address as 65, Strathbrook Road; like many couples at the time, my parents moved in with the older generation. This continued until after the death of my maternal grandmother in May 1946 and the birth of my sister. My grandfather saw the new baby as a replacement for my recently dead grandmother, and showed every sign

of trying to spoil her. So, in 1947, my parents bought a house at 61, Winifred Road, Coulsdon, and it was in this house that we both grew up.

Meanwhile, my father had returned to his career in the City. He passed the first part of the Institute of Bankers exams on 1st October 1948, and the exam making him an Associate of the Institute in October 1954. He worked as a bank officer at the Westminster, later National Westminster Bank in the Overseas Department, first at Lothbury and then Threadneedle Street Branch, and steadily gained promotion. By 1976, he held the post of Manager, Accounts Department. However, thirty years of office work were more than enough to convince him that early retirement was a good idea. He had worked protracted periods of overtime during the merger between the Westminster and National Provincial Banks, and also during mechanisation, as well as seeing each New Year in on a train home once the books were balanced. So, in March that year, he said goodbye to the city life and banking, and commuting by train to London Bridge.



37 Riddlesdown Avenue Purley

By the time of his retirement, he and my mother had been in their second home at 37, Riddlesdown Avenue, Purley for nearly seven years. He no longer ran the allotment at which he had spent much of his free time when we were children, but helped my mother tend the large garden which was her pride and joy. His domains were the lawn, and the vegetable plot on which he grew a variety of things. On their move to Riddlesdown, they changed allegiance from Whitethorn Avenue to Kenley Methodist Church, but continued to contribute to the running of the church in numerous ways. They joined a choir, took piano lessons and continued walking - always a favourite pastime. For nearly thirty years, their autumn holiday was in the Lake District with Mum's cousin Betty and her husband, and/or with friends.

When my mother became ill with cancer, Dad nursed her up until she died when he was 78, and they had been married for over fifty years. After her death in 1995, he took the challenge of living alone head on. When I rang him on his 80th birthday, I asked him how he had spent the day:

‘Oh,’ he said, ‘I walked across Riddlesdown to Hamsey Green and had a pub lunch at *The Good Companions*.’

‘But Dad,’ I said, ‘it’s five miles and there are three inches of snow on the ground.’ He didn’t seem to think that was a deterrent.

He continued living at Riddlesdown, fit and healthy until February 1999, when he had a stroke. Tests found this to have been provoked by Polycythemia, Waldenstrom’s disease, an age onset illness in which the body produces too many red blood cells. Although he fought back from the initial incident, returning home, and diligently relearning the art of writing, there were numerous small incidents after that, though he kept quiet about them on the whole. In September 2000, he couldn’t wait for school term to start so that he could recommence his weekly swim in uncrowded water. On Friday 15th, he went swimming at Purley Pool. When he got out, he felt unwell, so the staff called an ambulance. He had had a massive stroke, and died at 4 a.m. the following morning at Mayday Hospital in Croydon.

Following my mother’s lead, there was no funeral, as his body had been donated to the London School of Anatomists. Instead a memorial service was held at Kenley Methodist Church. In it, my daughter read from the letter he had left for her and her brother. It caused a ripple of laughter as she quoted from it part of Polonius’ speech in *Hamlet* – ‘neither a borrower nor a lender be.’ Everyone there recognised this as part of my father’s much repeated philosophy.

The final pages of this history have been withheld, as they deal with members of the family still living. Suffice it to say that, as I made my marriage vows in 1971, and became Pamela Mary Griffiths, I ended an era. The last Grainge born in this particular line was no longer a Grainge. It seems a fitting irony that I, with my passion for family history, chose to get married almost exactly 500 years after the first recorded John Grainge in our line was born.

Pictures of Cyril Ronal Grainge and family withheld.

Picture of Grainge family withheld.

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- Abbreviations:
- | | |
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| B.F.H.S. - | Bucks Family History Society |
| B.L.A.R.S. - | Bedfordshire Record Office |
| C.B.S. - | Centre for Bucks Studies |
| C.L.S.A.C. - | Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre |
| F.R.C. - | Family Records Centre |
| H.A.L.H.C. - | Hertfordshire Archive and Local Studies Centre |
| H.R.O. - | Huntingdon Record Office |
| L.M.A. - | London Metropolitan Archive |
| P.C.C. - | Prerogative Court of Canterbury |
| P.P.R. - | Principal Registry of the Family Division |
| P.R.O. - | Public Record Office |
| SoG - | Society of Genealogists |
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Parish Registers:

Wherever possible, and certainly for key links, I have looked at the original registers. Where these are no longer extant I have used Bishops' Transcripts, BTs – the documents, usually on single sheets, sent to the Bishop as a copy of the church register. I have also consulted transcripts, and used the IGI. As there are so many documents involved here, I have not given individual references. However, the entries should be fairly easy to track. I have searched numerous other parish registers, but not included any which gave no information pertinent to this book.

Bedfordshire

Cranfield	Marston Mortaine
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Buckinghamshire

Amersham	Aston Abbots
Aston Clinton	Aylesbury
Barton Hartshorne	Beachampton
Buckingham	Buckland
Cheddington	Chetwode
Chipping Wycombe	Dinton
East Claydon	Eddlesborough
Cublington	Drayton Beauchamp
Granborough	Great Horwood
Great Missenden	Grendon Underwood
Halton	Hawridge
Hughenden	Ivinghoe
Lee	Little Brickhill
Little Horwood	Little Missenden
Marsworth	Middle Claydon
Mursley	Padbury
Pitstone	Quinton

Steeple Claydon
Walton
Weston Turville
Whitchurch
Wingrave
Wolverton

Waddesdon
Wendover
Whaddon
Wing
Winslow
Wooton Underwood

Hertfordshire

Aldenham
Hemmel Hempstead
Puttenham
Tring
Wiggington

Berkhampstead
Northchurch
Thundridge
Widford

Middlesex

Islington

Northamptonshire

Kings Sutton

Oxfordshire

Ardley
Fringford

Bicester
Wendlebury

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