



# WEBB ALIAS WOLWORTH OF DURSLEY, WICKWAR, KINGSWOOD, CROMHALL AND WOTTON UNDER EDGE E.T.C.

## Webbe alias Woleworth of Dursley

Robert Wollesworth of Dursley = Maud  
Churchwarden of Dursley with John Vale in 1462. (mentioned in husband's will)  
Born circa 1420 died 1466/7

John Vale and Thomas Pacy were witnesses to his will and they were both immigrants according to the tax return of 1441 so was Robert Wollesworth too?

As yet no mention of Wollesworths can be found before Robert. If Robert Wollesworth was an immigrant perhaps Maud was the Webbe? Robert is only ever called Wolllesworth not als Webbe.

Thomas  
Left £20 by his father

John Webbe alias Woolroth =  
Left £20 by his father  
He owed a debt to Thomas  
Wykes in 1470 and he is  
described as a weaver.

Alice dau and co heir of John  
and Joan Vale of Dursley  
married circa 1465. She  
inherited various lands in Dursley  
Woodmancote and Coaley.

William  
Left £20 by his  
father.  
(See William Wulworth  
of Wykwar d.1479)

Joan  
Left £20 by  
her father

Robert Wolworth als = Matilda  
Webbe of Dursley  
buried before the High  
Altar at Dursley  
with his wife.

She re-married  
Robert Richards  
of Dursley (d.1490)  
She d. 1504

Wealthy clothier of Dursley who in his will left his Mill to Edmund, a bell rope to Dursley Church, 7 whole bales of wool to his brother William, and residue to wife Johan. Died 1513.

Edmund Webbe alias Woolworth = Margorie d.pre 1579  
Wealthy Clothier known as 'The Good man of Dursley' on account of his mischievous trading techniques. Died 1584

He inherited the Vale property in Dursley, Woodmancote, Cam, Coaley and Wickwar.  
Edmund lived at The Priory in Dursley where his initials and date 1520 can still be seen.

daughters

Thomas = Johan  
William  
Francis  
left 7 whole clothes by his Uncle Thomas.

John Wolworth (of Wotton?)  
(see W. als W. of Wickwar)  
He was given a spruce table by his grandfather Robert Wollesworth.(see W. of Wotton-u- Edge)

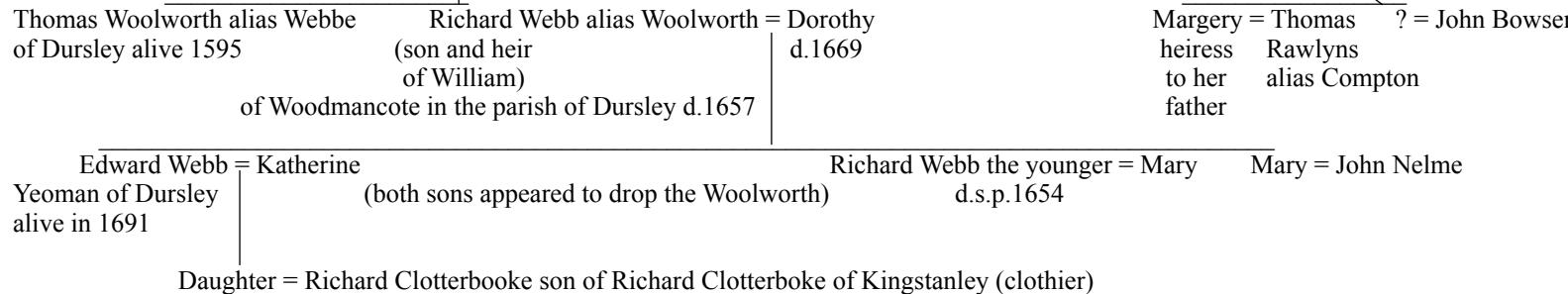
A John Woleworth married to Agnes probably died 1558 leaving two daughters Elizabeth and Alice who married Harry Adie or Adye? (see his will)

Christopher = Alice Bridges  
clothier of Dursley  
died.s.p.1579  
He married Alice in 1573  
Edmund lived at the Priory in Dursley where there are his initials

William  
d. 1591  
John = Ursula

In 1638 a Francis Webbe of London owned a cottage in Durlsey (Berkeley manuscripts)  
He appears to have left a daughter and heiress who married Edward Hill and he took over Francis's land in Cam. (10 Caroli)

and date 1520.



## Webb alias Wolworth of Wickwar

Robert Wollesworth of Dursley = Matilda (overseer to son Richard)

She re-married Robert Richards of Dursley (d. 1490) and died 17th Sept 1504. In her will (PCC) she requested to be buried next to Robert Walworth before the High Altar of Jesus at Dursley.

### Richard Wolworth alias Webbe of Wickwar\*\*

Died 1503 leaving three underage children.

In his will Richard bequeaths half his share of the Frethe meadow to his wife and then to Robert his son. His wife Jane already had the other half of the Frethe by inheritance and this is mentioned in the will of their son Robert Webbe of Alderley. He was a wealthy clothier and builder of the Pool House in Wickwar 1496.

1) Maud d. of John Vale & younger sister to Alice Vale who married John Webbe alias Woolworth of Dursley.  
John Overseer to his brother Richard

2) Jane (mentioned in her husband's will)

Richard Wulworth was leased a share of Frythwode in Wykewarr by Lord la Warr in 1480.

### Robert Webbe of Alderley

d. 1521 (Eliz. Webbe of Alderley widow was worth £14 Mil. Sur. 15???)

Robert wishes in his will to be buried in the church of All Saints, Bredstret, London

(also called All Hallows) which might suggest he did his apprenticeship in London.

Mentions in his Latin will John Cloterboke M.A. and Walter Cloterbok of Eastington - so might be related to Thomas Webbe of Eastington d. 1510), also Robert Wolessworth). John and Walter Cloterbok were the step brothers of John and William Webb of Eastington.

= Elizabeth

Possibly James Wolorth of Wickwar Clothmaker who was in dispute with John Pakkett of Stow, Woolman, over the price of goods brought by him.  
1504-1515  
James and John Webbe are listed for Gloucester Lay Subsidy 1520?  
A James Wolorth of Alderley farmer died 1545 (Glos will).

John  
Richard Wolorth = Dorothy  
of Wickwar  
Clerk d. 1587

Robert Webbe = Joan

Clothier of Kingswood. m. 1521 and d. 1558  
(Robert and Joan's children were all underage except Katherine in 1558)

Tucker of Alderley d. 1575  
A Thomas Webbe clothman of Alderley  
owed debts in 1529 - perhaps the son of Laurence

Laurence = Joan

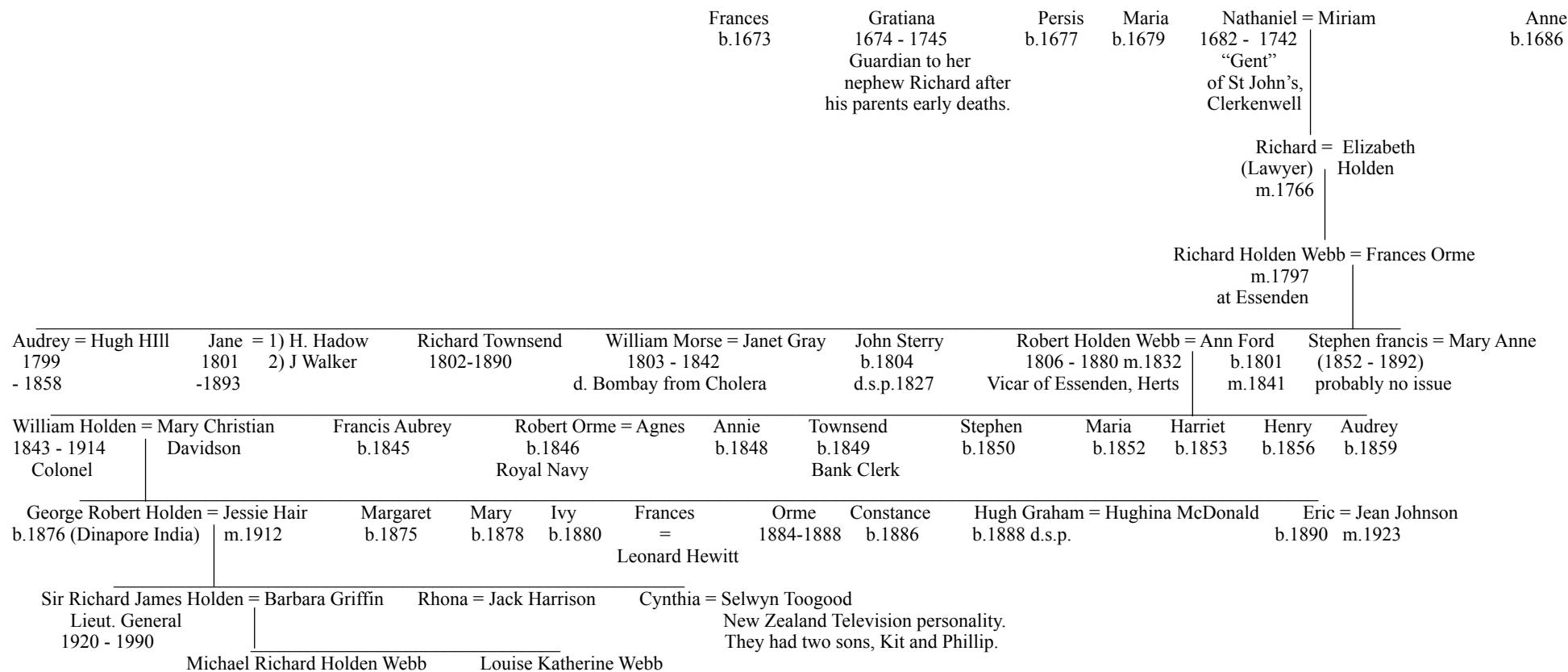
Unborn child  
Richard

Arthur  
(son and heir)

Edith = Richard Colwell

In 1567 Arthur took his cousin Edmund W. Webbe of Dursley to court saying he was entitled to part of the Vale inheritance.

Thomas Webbe = Margaret Clothier of Cliffords in Beckington, Somerset. d. 1585 <u>Bore for his arms: Sa. three escallops, in bend, ar.</u>	Nich. Webbe = Martha Clothier of Kingswood d. 1597 (signs himself Wolworth als. Webb in his will)	Kath. = John Mayo Vissech (Veysey?)	John of Exeter d.1587 (See <u>Webb of Exeter</u> )	Francis & Edmund <sup>^</sup> Probably both d.s.p. young.	Anthony Clother of Iron Acton who died 1564 (See <u>Webb of Iron Acton</u> )	Thomas Clother of Wotton d. 1585	Christian Thos. Rich. Matthew Will.	Thos. Rich. Matthew Will.	Laurence = Jone d.1587	Margery Margaret Alice	
Johan = Alex. Chirk m.1584 or Choke)	Eliz. = Robert Webb Died 1610/ 1611 - Cecil Papers. He illicitly claimed the ownership of Woolverton Manor in order to raise £600. He inherited Cliffords, his father in law's estate at Beckington, Somerset.	Christian = Rich Browning of Cowley 1628 Nich. Will. of London m. Martha?	Will. Benedict = Alice Clothier of Kingswood Clother to Queen Elizabeth I He patented anew process to make oil for the clothing industry in 1624 from rapeseed. In 1599 he was living at Wakemyl Barnes, near Kingswood	Trobridge	Richard Mayor of Wotton 1605	Will. d. of Epsom 1604 d.s.p. 1656 b. Wotton 1571	Thom. of Wotton 1604 Clothier, later settled at Cromhall b. Wt. 1572	John Robt. = Susanna Atwell of Cromhall	Nich.= Anne Nich. = Anne	Brice = Jane Atwell m. 1605	
Robert of Beckington 1563-1625 Rector of Beckington By 1628 he was late of Beckington, & living in Sodbury. d.s.p.1650 d.1632 He was described by a contemporary as an 'uncerteyn man'. In 1628 he married Katherine Cullimore, dau of Richard Cullimore of Sopworth, Wilts. Robert Webb	Will. John Marg.= Ed. d.1632 Webb d.1607 of Alleston see <u>Webbs of Minch.</u> He d.1621	Alex. Francis	Thos.= Eliz. d.1600 dau & heiress of John Norreys of Heywoode, (White Waltham) m. 1599	Benedict = Joane Byrto of Wotton under Edge (Married at Wotton in 1601)	Robt.= Anne Draper Gent of Wotton 1588-1664 Owned a cloth mill in Cam Corriets?	Nich.= Eliz. of Lower Stone d.1660	Thos.= Persis of The Grange Kingswood 1590-1674 Persis was the dau of Anthony Webb & died 1659 (see <u>Webb of Iron Acton</u> )	Thos. = Persis of St Clement Danes, London. Draper.	Thos. of Robt. of John b.1611 Wotton called Nich. Junior	Thos. of Robt. of John b.1609 Wotton called Nich. Junior	
Thomas Alexander Robert Inherited manor of Westbury, Wilts his grand from his grandfather father Robert Webb of Beckington and made a Queen's Ward to protect his estate on account of his father dying when he was only 1 year old. His mother went onto marry a further two times and this branch of the Webb family appear to have become extinct soon after.	Robert Heir to his grand father Robert Webb of Beckington and made a Queen's Ward to protect his estate on account of his father dying when he was only 1 year old. His mother went onto marry a further two times and this branch of the Webb family appear to have become extinct soon after.	Thomas	Eliz. Webb of Ashwick	Thos. = 2) Mary of Lower Stone d.1729 & Stapleton. 1643-1718	Eliz.=? Webb d.1702 (monuments her and her brother at Stone)	Thomas	Richard = Frances Mentioned in the will of his grandfather Anthony Webb of Kingswood. He had a He probably monument had two put up to his children, Thomas father & mother and Margaret mentioned in the will of Nath. d.1742	Thomas	Richard = Frances Mentioned in the will of his grandfather Anthony Webb of Kingswood. He had a He probably monument had two put up to his children, Thomas father & mother and Margaret mentioned in the will of Nath. d.1742	Thomas	Richard = Frances Mentioned in the will of his grandfather Anthony Webb of Kingswood. He had a He probably monument had two put up to his children, Thomas father & mother and Margaret mentioned in the will of Nath. d.1742



### Webb of Cromhall

(From Heraldic Visitation of Gloucester 1682/3)

Robert Webb of Cromhall = Susanna dau. of Richard Atwell of Cromhall  
Died circa 1632 aged around 50. He was originally a clothier from Wotton but owned land at Moorton, and also Frampton Cotterell.  
She died 1636 (memorial at Cromhall)

Robert Webb of Cromhall  
Owned 'Woodland' estate  
in parish of Cromhall.  
1619-1684

He died without issue and left his various properties to his sisters families, also his  
his cousins, Thomas Webb of Cromhall Abbot,  
Thomas Webb, son of Edward Webb of Kingswood,

Margaret = Thomas Allen of Cromhall  
Christian Ursula = Christ. Purnell of Alveston  
Eliz = Rich. Adams of Thornbury.

### Webb of Exeter

(From Heraldic Visitation of Devon 1620)

John Webb of Exeter = Agnes dau of De La Hay of France  
Son of Robert Webbe John Webb of Exeter died 1587  
of Kingswood d.1558

William = 1) Jane do of Humphrey Crew  
2) Mary Brocken  
William died 1606 (Colaton Raleigh) and is referred to as Webb als Wolworth  
John Webb of Exeter Gent = Dorothy Deane (Inq. post mortem)

Elizabeth b.1620 Dorothy b.1622  
Rebecca = Francis Courtenay b.1628 Capt R.N. John = Johan Harris  
John = Johan Harris b.1630 m.1655

and Brice and John Webb.

(all children baptised at St Mary Major Exeter)

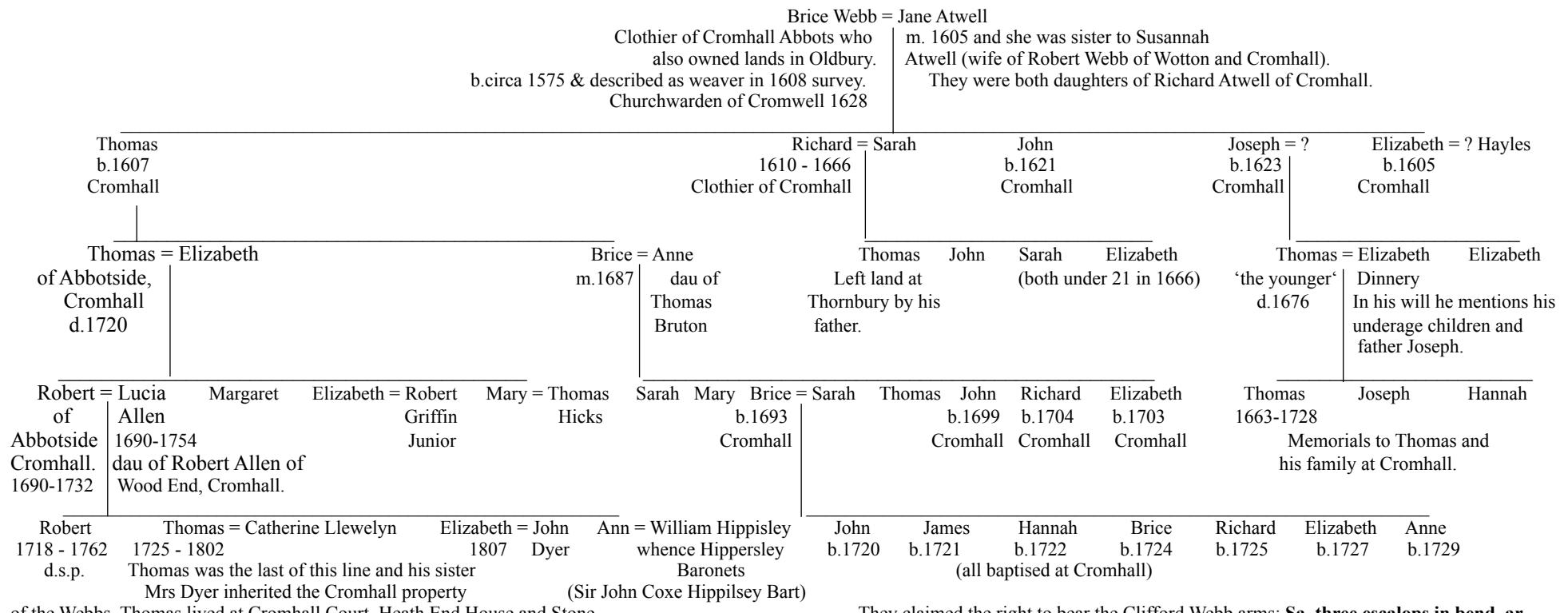
d.s.p. 1676

At the Heraldic Visitation of Gloucesterhey 1682 they claimed to be the representatives of or descendants of Thomas Webbe, Clothier of Cliffords in Somerset who died 1585 (see above) and so were granted the right to bear his arms Sa. three escallops in bend, ar.

leaving his estate to his wife and then his sister Rebecca Courtenay.

They bore: Quarterly 1st and 4th, or, a cross sa. in the 1st quarter an eagle displ. of the last; 2nd and 3rd, Az. a sun in splendour Or.  
Crest: a hind's head erased Arg. vulned in the neck ppr.

### Webb of Cromhall Abbots (within parish of Cromhall)



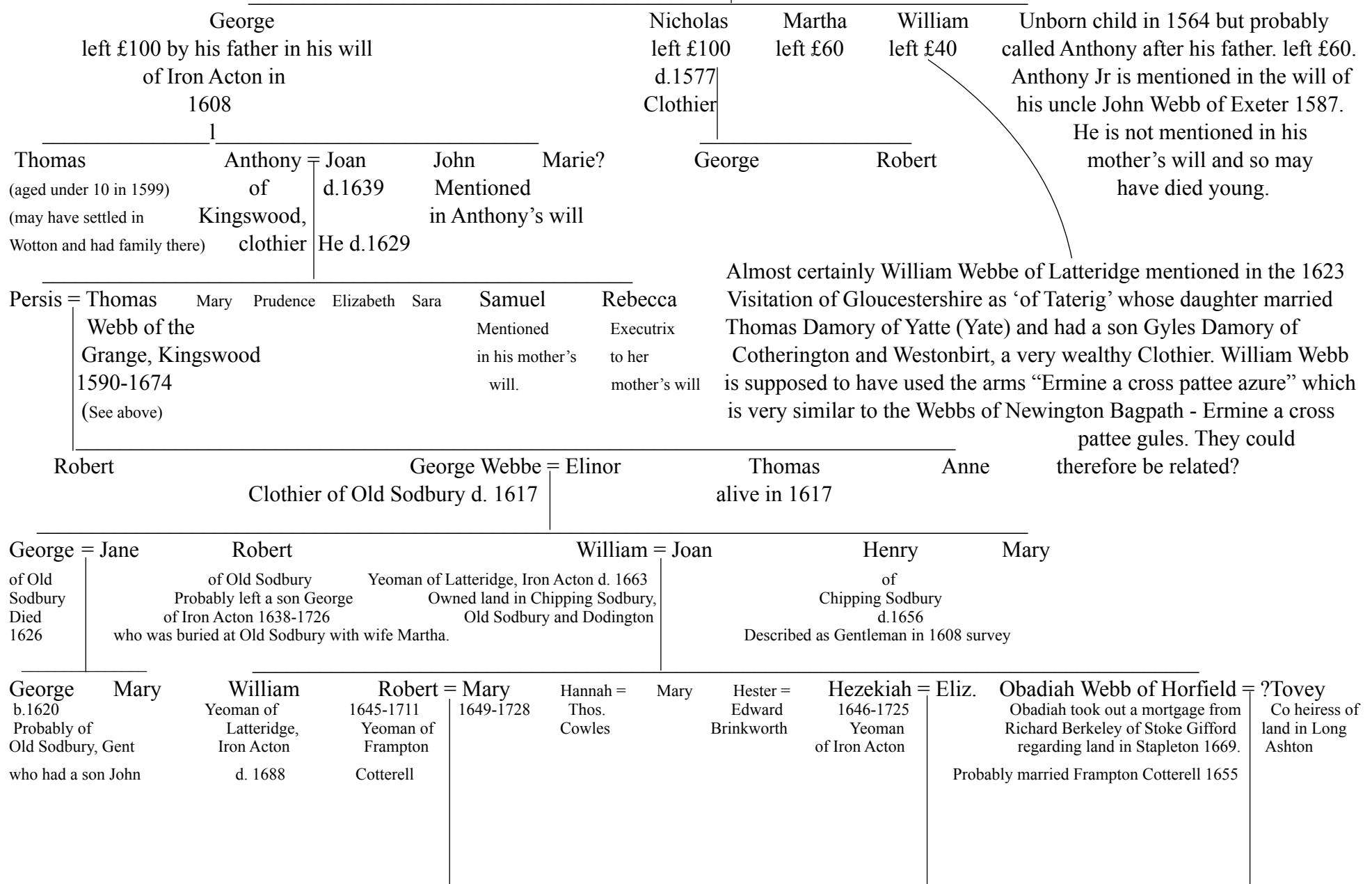
### Webb of Iron Acton

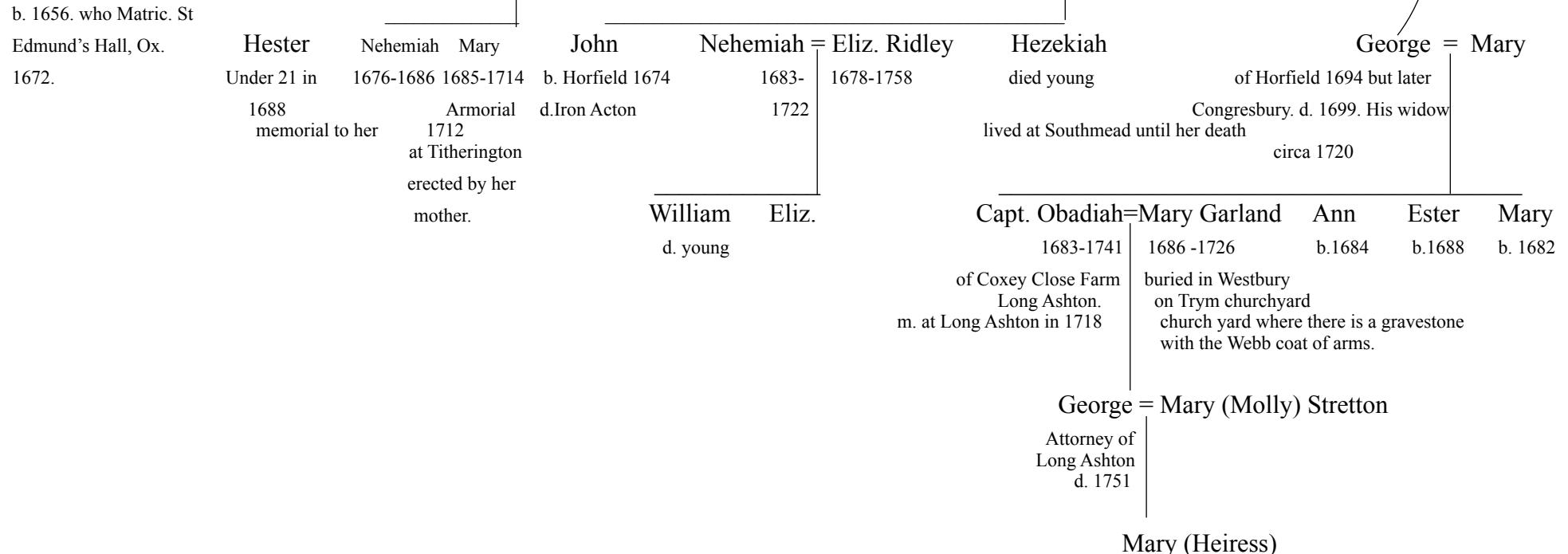
They bore for their arms: Or a cross quarterly counter charged gules and sable, in the first quarter and eagle displayed of the second.

Anthony Webb Clothier of Acton Ilger hamlet in Iron Acton d. 1564 = Helen

Mentioned in the will of his brother John Webb of Exeter but not in that of his father Robert who died in 1558. He died relatively young leaving infant children.

Helen married secondly William Veele of Iron Acton Gent who died 1599 leaving three daughters Dorothy, Mary and Margaret. Helen died at Iron Acton 1597.

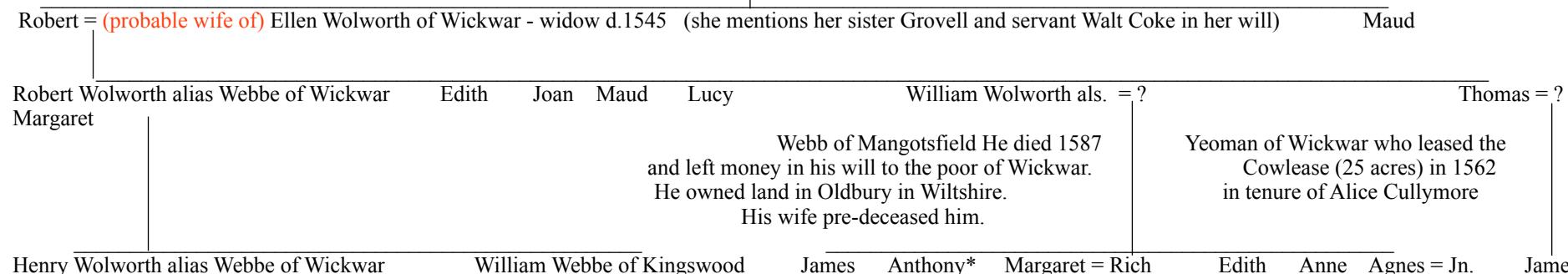


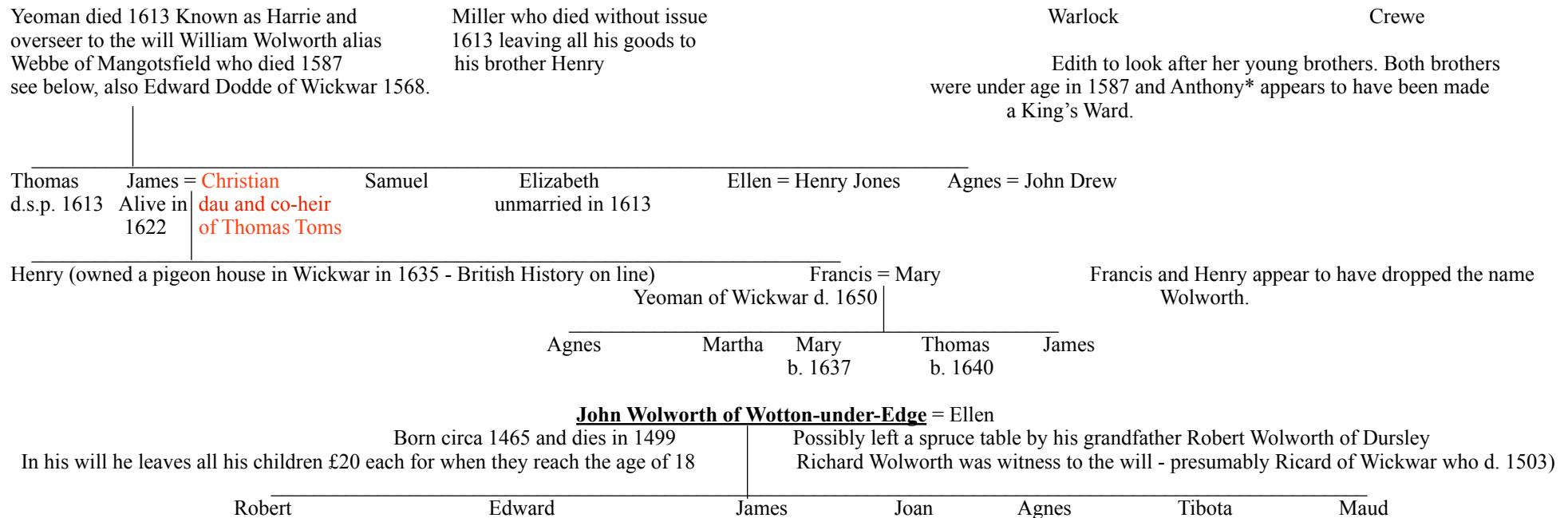


In his will he left his two children 16 woollen clothes (each cloth worth 43s 4d) to be divided between them. Also to John Webbe 20s to be found for him for schools and also one bed and one silver spoon.

### William Wulwurth of Wykwar d. 1479 = Agnes

William was the son of Robert Wolsworth of Dursley who died 1462





However a James Wolworth was at Wotton under edge in 1473 and was involved in the appointment of the new Rector there. In 1476 he was likely to have been the mayor of Wotton and so this John Wolworth may have been his son or brother, especially as John names one of his children James.  
See Wotton under Edge; men and affairs of a Cotwold Town by Edward Lindley 1977

## Background

During the 1320's the business minded King Edward III realized it would be more profitable if English exporters could sell woollen cloth as well as ordinary plain woollen yarn to Europe. However English weaving skills did not in any way compare with their Flemish counterparts at this time, and so around 1330/1 seventy cloth working families from the Netherlands were encouraged to settle in England by the King. Various centres were established in East Anglia, the area around Cranbrook in Kent including Goudhurst, Biddenden and Frittenden, and also the Stroud valley and Dursley area of Gloucestershire.

According to John Speed in his 'Historie of Great Britaine' of 1611, King Edward III was anxious to discover how well his experiment had worked, and so a few years later in 1336 he sent some of his men back to the cloth making areas of the country where Flemish weavers had settled to see what progress had been made. Apparently the weavers of the Gloucestershire beat all the competition, and the best of them all was given the name of Webb by the King. This story is also repeated by Thomas Fuller in his 'History of the Church History of Great Britain' of 1655, and according to a pedigree entered at the College of Arms by one of his descendants in 1620 the name of the master weaver was Richard. (See Webb of Frittenden)

It is generally accepted in the various history books of Gloucestershire that the Webbs of Dursley were the descendants of this master Flemish weaver and it is also probable that he was honoured with the ancient coat of arms that appears on the top of this family tree. It is not recorded whether this weaver had another surname before adopting Webb; other

Flemish weaving families who settled with the Webbes included the Clutterbucks, the Blanches and the Hyetts suggesting surnames were fairly common in Flanders at this time. However the name Webbe was not unknown amongst Flemings and in 1436 a band of Flemish Weavers, including Nicholas Webbe of Tregoos, Gerard Webbe of Mastryght and Talban Fletyng of Fletyng were allowed to settle in Buckingham.

It would appear that Robert Wollesworth of Dursley who died 1466 was an immigrant as were the social circle he mixed with - John Vale and Thomas Pacey e.t.c. His wife Maud was therefore the Webb and like the Richmond Webbs of Wiltshire his descendants gradually discarded the paternal name for what ever reason. As yet no records of the name Woleworth have been discovered before Robert. It is a Flemish name derived from Volvert and the term alias from this period suggests a husband has taken over his wife's copyhold property from the Lord of the Manor, so perhaps the Webbes were the original copyhold owners of a cloth mill in the Dursley area which then passed to the Woleworths through marriage.

When the Flemings first settled in England they remained a close knit community despite being separated into various enclaves around England. One of the master weaver's sons probably married a Flemish girl from the immigrant weaving community at Cranbrook area of Kent and their descendants continued to live at Frittenden nearby until the late 17th century. They were the first branch of the family to officially have the Webb coat of arms confirmed to them by the College of Arms in 1620, but unfortunately this prevented their Gloucestershire cousins from following suit as after three hundred years it was assumed they were two completely separate families. At that time the right to an official coat of arms was an important step up the social ladder

When Robert Webbe of Wotton under Edge, a descendant of Robert Wollesworth of Dursley, married Elizabeth, the daughter and co heir of Thomas Webbe, a wealthy Clothier of Cliffords Hall in Somerset who died 1585, he adopted her family Coat of Arms, namely Sa. three escallops in bend, arg. In 16xx his cousin Robert Webbe of Cromhall also applied to the College of Arms to have this coat confirmed to his branch, and it would appear a confusion arose due to two separate Webbe families intermarrying. In any case the Herald of the day erroneously assumed Robert Webbe of Cromhall was a descendant of Thomas Webbe of Clifford and the three escallops coat was confirmed to him and his descendants.

This research is concerned with all the various Webb families who might be in some way be descended from Richard Webb the Master Weaver honoured by King Edward II around 1330, especially those which used his coat of arms as appears at the head of this family tree.

#### Military Survey 1522

Richard Shervyngton clerk, chaplain, for his salary £6, goods £4 **Richard Wolworth** chaplain of the chantry there, which is worth £6, goods 20s. 66r Itchington Richard Perymon of Itchington 40s "John Perymon his son 40s John Colymore £4 ...

There was a John Webbe Tucker of Alderley in 1529, also a James Webbe Tucker and Thomas Webbe of Alderley Clothier.

#### Manor of Kingswood

The manor of Kingswood was bought by Robert Webb in 1580, but then passed to Nicholas Veel (see Webb of Iron Acton) whose grandson sold to it to Edward Hill esq. Presumably this Robert Webb was he who died 1610/11. Tortworth Manor close by was also bought by ? Webb around the same time. The manor of Bully near Wickwar was held by ? Webb in the 15th Century. Thomas Webb held a considerable estate at Falfield (no date) (Falfield appears to have been part of the Cromhall estate. Edward Webb was lord of the Manor of Bagpath near Wotton in the 16th century. (see History of county of Gloucester compressed by Atkyns)

There is only one monument in this church (brought from the old one) worth of note. It is a mural tablet on which is Or, on a bend Sable, three escallops Argent, crest a demi hind salient, attired and unguled Or. "In memory of his deare Father Thomas Webb, late of Kingswood, son of Richard Webb, of Wotton Underedge, gent, who died May 24th 1674 aged 84. His obsequious son Richard Webb set up this monument." "And in memory of his virtuous mother Persis, daughter of Anthony Webb, who died 15 years before; viz. April 17th 1659.

Anthony Webb's daughter Elizabeth married Thomas Saunders, her father's apprentice in 1629 at Kingswood.

A Gratiana Webb was born 1674 to Richard Webb and Frances - St Mary Abchurch London  
Nathaniel Webb was born 1682 to Richard Webb and Francis - St Mary Abchurch London

Gratiana Webb born 1735 at St James Clerkenwell to Nathaniel Webb and Miriam

P. 137 no. 18. One Richard Webb, only son of Nathaniel Webb, late of Kingswood, Wilts., esquire, was admitted a student of the Inner Temple 20 July 1755.

Richard Webbe of Kingswood, co. Wilts, to the lord Treasurer: petitions to postpone payment of £300 he owes as collector of the subsidy; intends to sell part of Cannonbury manor, co. Gloucester, which his late father, Thomas Webbe, and others purchased from the Crown; Feb. 1603; with Buckhurst's order to stay process.

#### **Benedict Webbe b.1563**

He had high hopes for the use of rape oil both for soap and in the cloth industry and had been conducting experiments with an oil mill at Kingswood since 1605. He even grew his own crop of rape on land in the Forest of Dean, leased to him by Sir William Throckmorton and by 1618 he had successfully persuaded clothiers to use rape oil in cloth manufacture. He had other high achievements to his credit. He had perfected the manufacture of a multi coloured cloth, known as medley or Webb's cloth. All this had followed from his early training with a linen draper in London followed by travels in France. From these beginnings he had built up a trade with France, principally in the cloth but also in salt. (see Esther Moir, "Benedict Webb, Clothier" Economic History Review s, 256-64).

#### **Stone Manor**

The Manor of Stone was sub-divided into Lower and Upper Stone. Nicholas Webb bought Lower Stone in 1623.

A ewer-shaped Flagon of the same year (1795?), inscribed  
"The Gift of Thomas Webb Esq to the Chapel of Stone" with  
the donor's Crest, A demi-stag rampant couped {argent} ducally  
gorged {or}

#### **Lower Stone**

William Try sold part of the manor of Lowere stone to Nicholas Webb 20th July '20 James'. This was inherited by Nicholas son of Nicholas Webb. Nicholas Webb senior left a will dated 1st January '1 Charles) and had a wife Martha. Who died 1639.

#### **Webb of Cromhall Coat of Arms**

William married anne, eldest daughter of Robert Webbo fCromhall in the county of Gloucester, heir male of the ancient family of Webbe of Clyfford afterwards settled at Cromahal, as appears by the certificate of Robert Cooke, Clarenceux King of arms, 33 Queen Eliz stating that

"being required by Robert Webbe, of Clyfford, in the county of Somerset to deliver unto him the auncient armes beloning to that family, whereof he is descended, confirming under the seale of mine office; whereupon I have made search in the registers of mine office and doe finde that his auncestors of long and auncient time have born these arms - that is to say Sables, three escallops in bend argent."

#### **Origin of the proverb 'He'll prove a man of Dursley**

The proverb, 'He'll prove a man of Dursley' (i.e. promise much and perform nothing), is due to the unenviable notoriety of a Gloucestershire clothier, in the time of Queen Mary. This was a certain Webb, of Dursley, who used 'to buy very great quantities of wooll out of most counties of England. At the weighinge whereof, he would ever promise out of that parcell a gown-cloth, petticoate-cloth, apron, or the like to the good wife or her daughters, but never paid any thinge.' J. Smyth, Berkeley MSS. iii, 26-7. Victoria County History vol 2