

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 Woolwroth =
 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 Wolworth of Wykwarr 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.

Thomas = Johan
 daughters

William **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)

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.

Francis
 left 7 whole clothes by his Uncle Thomas.

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 Dursley (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.

Thomas Woolworth alias Webbe of Dursley alive 1595
of Woodmancote in the parish of Dursley d.1657

Richard Webb alias Woolworth = Dorothy d.1669
(son and heir of William)

Margery = Thomas Rawlyns alias Compton father
? = John Bowser
heirss to her

Edward Webb = Katherine
Yeoman of Dursley alive in 1691

Richard Webb the younger = Mary d.s.p.1654
(both sons appeared to drop the Woolworth)

Mary = John Nelme

Daughter = Richard Clotterbooke son of Richard Clotterboke of Kingstanley (clothier)

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.

- 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)

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.

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

Robert Webbe of Alderley = Elizabeth

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 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.

James
Possibly James Wolworth 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 Wolworth of Alderley farmer died 1545 (Glos will).

John
Richard Wolworth = 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)

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

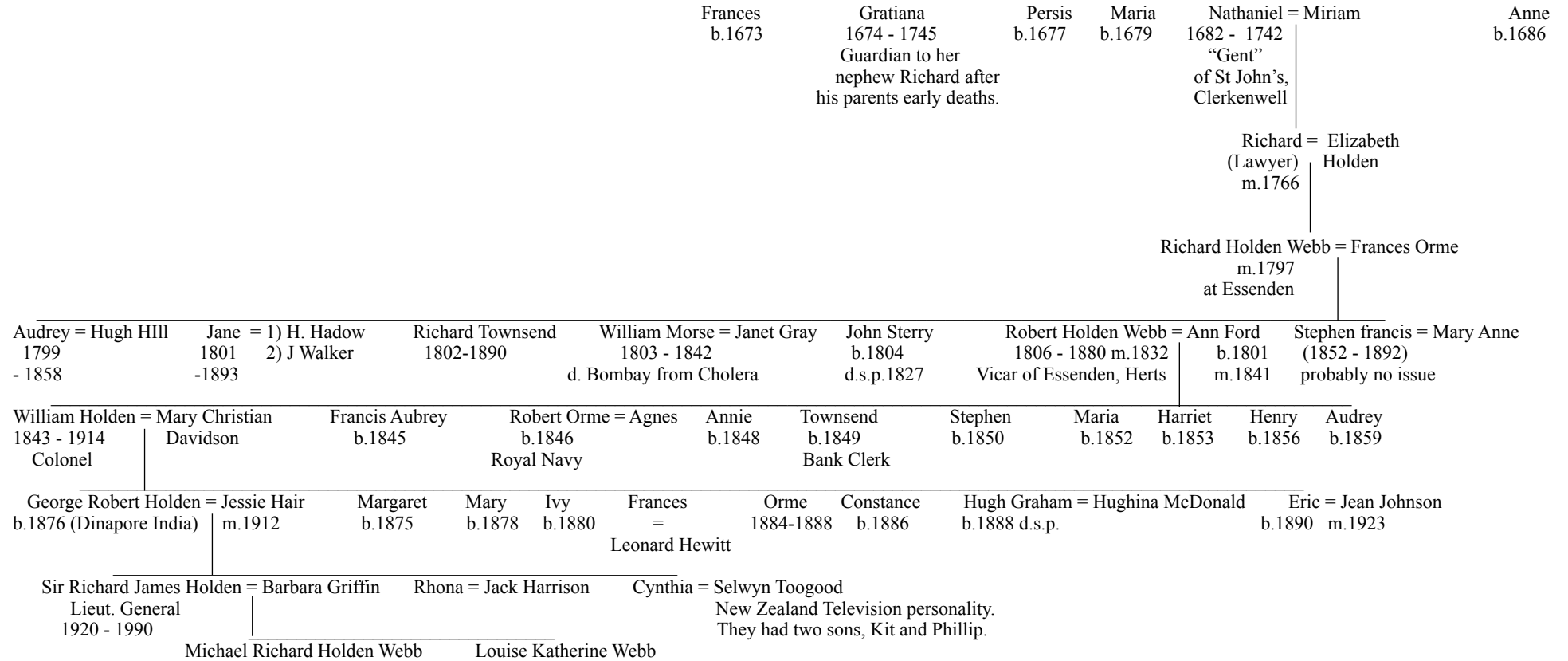
Unborn child
Arthur (son and heir)
Edith = Richard Colwell
Richard
In 1567 Arthur took his cousin Edmund W. Webbe of Dursley to court saying he was entitled to part of the Vale inheritance.

Thomas Webbe = Margaret Clothier of Cliffords in Beckington, Somerset. d. 1585 <u>Bore for his arms: Sa. three escallops, in bend, ar.</u>	Margaret d. 1606 (signs himself Wolworth als. Webb in his will)	Nich. Webbe = Martha Clothier of Kingswood d. 1597 (Veysay?)	Martha Vissech (Veysay?)	Kath. = John Mayo Exeter d.1587 (See <u>Webb of Exeter</u>)	John of Exeter d.1587 (See <u>Webb of Exeter</u>)	Francis & Edmund^ Probably both d.s.p. young.	Anthony Clothier of Iron Acton who died 1564 (See <u>Webb of Iron Acton</u>)	Thomas = Christian Clothier of Wotton d. 1585	Christian He had leasehold land at Kingswood and left land at Rockhampton to provide for the poor of Wotton in 1578,	Thos. Rich. Matthew Will. Laurence = Jone Margery Margery Alice	James d.s.p.1588	Laurence d.1587	Jone Thomas Matthew Margery
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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 Elizabeth I He patented anew process to make oil for the clothing industry in 1624 from rapeseed. In 1599 he was living at Wakemyll Barnes, near Kingswood	Nich. Will. Benedict = Alice of London Clothier of Trobridge	Richard. Will. Thom. John Robt. = Susanna Nich. = Anne Brice = Jane Marg. Mayor of d. of of of Wotton 1604 Epsom Wotton 1605 d.s.p. 1656 Clothier , b. Wotton later settled at Cromhall b. Wt. 1572	Atwell of Cromhall	Nicholas was a clothier of Wotton 1574-1634	Brice = Jane Clothier of Cromwell b. Wotton 1575	Marg. Atwell m. 1605
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(See Webbs of Cromhall)

Robert of Beckington By 1628 he was late of Beckington, & living in Sodbury. 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. He probably left no issue.	Will. 1563-1625 Rector of Beckington Will. d.s.p.1650	John of Alleston see <u>Webbs of Minch.</u> He d.1621 Alex Thomas	Marg. = Ed. d.1632 Webb of Westbury, Wilts Robert Webb 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.	Alex. d.1607 Francis Alexander Inherited manor of Westbury, Wilts Robert Webb	Thos. = Eliz. d.1600 dau & heirress of John Norreys of Heywoode, (White Waltham) m. 1599 Robert Heir to his grand father Robert Webb of Beckington and made	Eliz. Benedict = Joane of Wotton under Edge (Married at Wotton in 1601) Benedict of Kingswood	Byrto	Robt. = Anne Gent Draper of Wotton 1588-1664 Owned a cloth mill in Cam Corriets? Nich. = Dau Webb of Ashwick	Anne Draper Edward (b. Wt.1582 & in 1608 survey)	Nich. = Eliz of Lower Stone d.1660 Mary Wyatt d.1729 Thos. = 2) Mary of Wyatt d.1702 (monuments her and her brother at Stone)	Thos. = Persis of The Grange Kingswood 1590-1674 Persis was the dau of Anthony Webb & died 1659 <u>(see Webb of Iron Acton)</u>	Persis of St Clement Danes, London. Draper. Thomas Mentioned in the will of his grandfather Anthony Webb of Kingswood. He had a He probably monument had two children, Thomas and Margaret mentioned in the will of Nath. d.1742	Thos. of Wotton London. Draper. Martha Marg. Nich. John b.1634 b.1641 b.1643	Robt. of Wotton Clothier Richard = Frances of St Mary Abchurch London He had a monument put up to his father & mother in Kingswood Church 'from an obsequious son'	John b.1611 Nich. Wotton called Nich. Junior John b.1643
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Webb of Cromhall

(From Heraldic Visitation of Gloucester 1682/3)

Robert Webb of Cromhall = Susanna dau. of
Died circa 1632 aged around 50. He was originally a clothier from Wotton but owned land at Moorton, and also Frampton Cotterell.
Richard Atwell of Cromhall
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.
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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	Joane = John Naper alias Sandy of Exeter		
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 b.1630 m.1655

and Brice and John Webb.

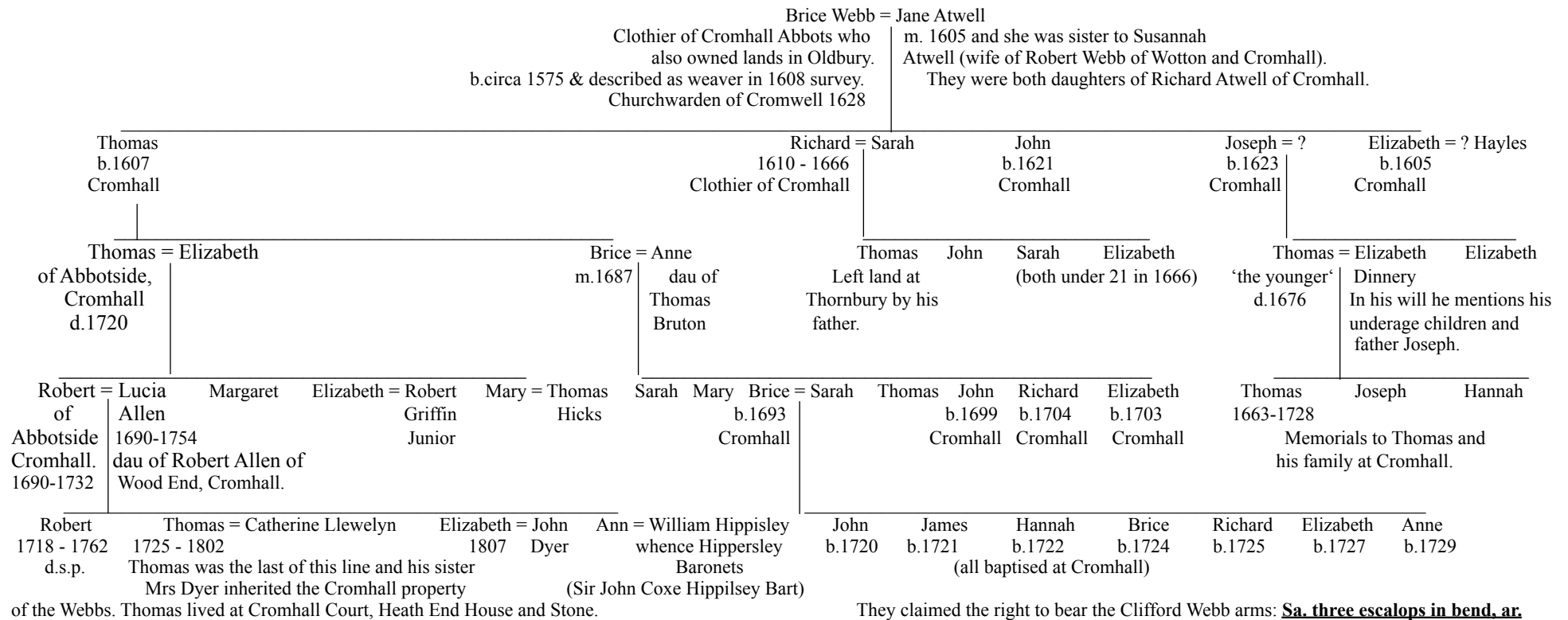
(all children baptised at St Mary Major Exeter)

d.s.p. 1676
 leaving his estate to his wife
 and then his sister Rebecca Courtenay.

At the Heraldic Visitation of Gloucesterhey 1682 they claimed to be the representatives of
 or descendents 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 escalops in bend, ar.**

**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.

George
left £100 by his father in his will
of Iron Acton in
1608

Nicholas
left £100
d.1577
Clothier

Martha
left £60

William
left £40

Unborn child in 1564 but probably called Anthony after his father. left £60. Anthony Jr is mentioned in the will of his uncle John Webb of Exeter 1587. He is not mentioned in his mother's will and so may have died young.

Thomas
(aged under 10 in 1599)
(may have settled in Wotton and had family there)

Anthony =
of
Kingswood,
clothier

Joan
d.1639
He d.1629

John =
Marie?
Mentioned
in Anthony's will

George

Robert

Persis =
Thomas
Webb of the
Grange, Kingswood
1590-1674
(See above)

Mary
Prudence
Elizabeth
Sara

Samuel
Rebecca

Mentioned
in his mother's
will.

Executrix
to her
mother's will

Almost certainly William Webbe of Latteridge mentioned in the 1623 Visitation of Gloucestershire as 'of Taterig' whose daughter married Thomas Damory of Yatte (Yate) and had a son Gyles Damory of Cotherington and Westonbirt, a very wealthy Clothier. William Webb is supposed to have used the arms "Ermine a cross pattee azure" which is very similar to the Webbs of Newington Bagpath - Ermine a cross pattee gules. They could therefore be related?

Robert

George Webbe =
Elinor
Clothier of Old Sodbury d. 1617

Thomas
alive in 1617

Anne

George =
Jane
of Old
Sodbury
Died
1626

Robert
of Old Sodbury
Probably left a son George
of Iron Acton 1638-1726
who was buried at Old Sodbury with wife Martha.

Yeoman of Latteridge, Iron Acton d. 1663
Owned land in Chipping Sodbury,
Old Sodbury and Dodington

William =
Joan

Henry
of
Chipping Sodbury
d.1656
Described as Gentleman in 1608 survey

Mary

George
b.1620
Probably of
Old Sodbury, Gent
who had a son John

Mary
William
Yeoman of
Latteridge,
Iron Acton
d. 1688

Robert =
Mary
1645-1711
Yeoman of
Frampton
Cotterell
1649-1728

Hannah =
Thos.
Cowles

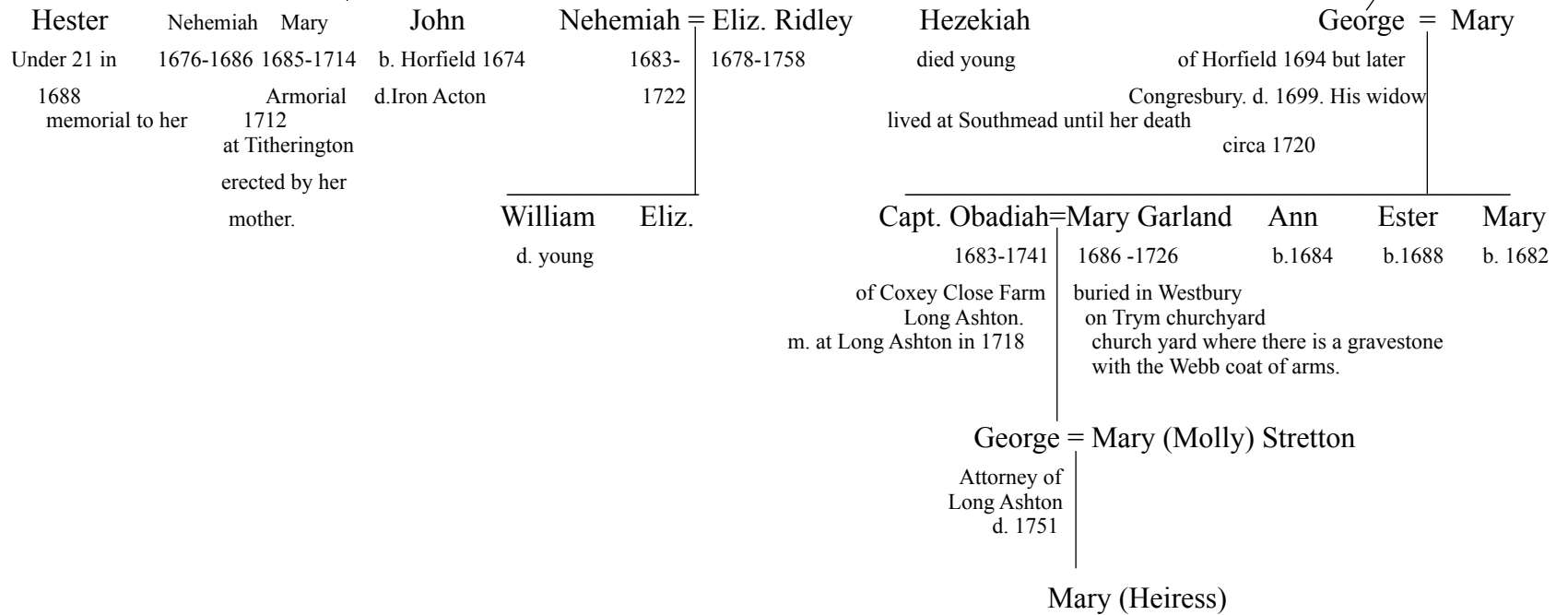
Mary
Hester =
Edward
Brinkworth

Hezekiah =
Eliz.
1646-1725
Yeoman
of Iron Acton

Obadiah Webb of Horfield =
?Tovey
Obadiah took out a mortgage from
Richard Berkeley of Stoke Gifford
regarding land in Stapleton 1669.
Probably married Frampton Cotterell 1655

Co heiress of
land in Long
Ashton

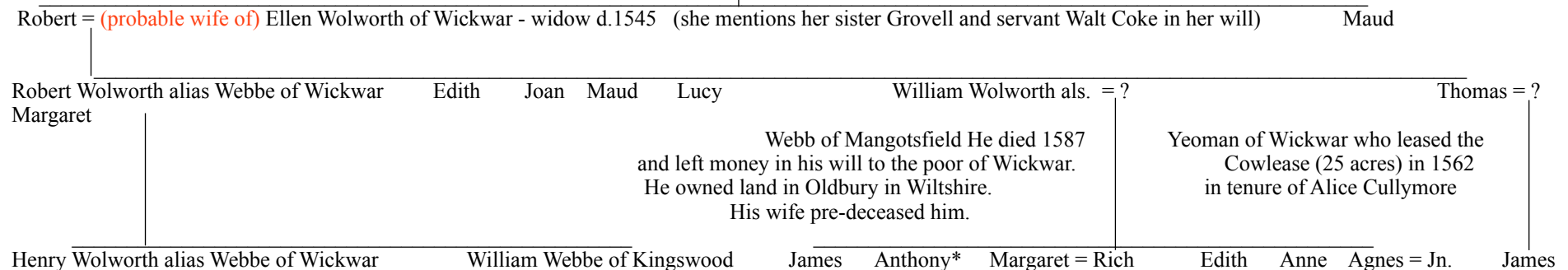
b. 1656. who Matric. St Edmund's Hall, Ox. 1672.



William Wolwurch of Wykwarr d. 1479 = Agnes

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 was the son of Robert Wolsworth of Dursley who died 1462



Yeoman died 1613 Known as Harrie and overseer to the will William Wolworth alias Webbe of Mangotsfield who died 1587 see below, also Edward Dodde of Wickwar 1568.

Miller who died without issue 1613 leaving all his goods to his brother Henry

Warlock

Crewe

Edith to look after her young brothers. Both brothers were under age in 1587 and Anthony* appears to have been made a King's Ward.

Thomas d.s.p. 1613	James = Christian Alive in 1622 dau and co-heir of Thomas Toms	Samuel	Elizabeth unmarried in 1613	Ellen = Henry Jones	Agnes = John Drew
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Henry (owned a pigeon house in Wickwar in 1635 - British History on line)

Francis = Mary

Francis and Henry appear to have dropped the name Wolworth.

Yeoman of Wickwar d. 1650

Agnes	Martha	Mary b. 1637	Thomas b. 1640	James
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John Wolworth of Wotton-under-Edge = Ellen

Born circa 1465 and dies in 1499

In his will he leaves all his children £20 each for when they reach the age of 18

Possibly left a spruce table by his grandfather Robert Wolworth of Dursley

Richard Wolworth was witness to the will - presumably Ricard of Wickwar who d. 1503)

Robert	Edward	James	Joan	Agnes	Tibota	Maud
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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'ties 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 Webbe; 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 Tregooos, 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 salieant, 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 Lower 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. She died 1639.

Webb of Cromhall Coat of Arms

William married Anne, eldest daughter of Robert Webbe of Cromhall 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 Elizabeth stating that

"being required by Robert Webbe, of Clyfford, in the county of Somerset to deliver unto him the ancient arms belonging to that family, whereof he is descended, confirming under the seal of mine office; whereupon I have made search in the registers of mine office and do find that his ancestors of long and ancient time have borne 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 weighing whereof, he would ever promise out of that parcel a gown-cloth, petticoat-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