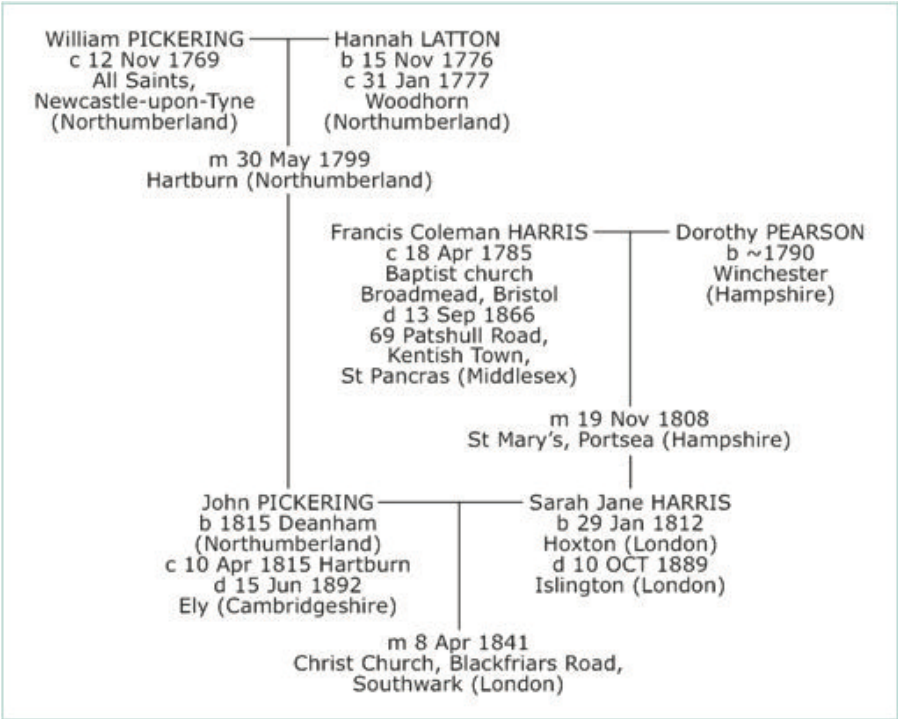


7

Back to the Conqueror

The following chart describes the respective parents of John Pickering and Sarah Jane Harris:



Item 7-1: John Pickering, Sarah Jane Harris and their respective parents.

I shall now present the few available facts concerning the Pickering line, and then I shall work back up along the Harris line. Most of this chapter will then deal with the vast subject of the Lattons and their ancestors.

Birthplace of John Pickering

The UK census of 1851 informed us [item 6-5] that John Pickering was born in Hartburn (Northumberland), which was the place where his parents were married. Then the census of 1861 [item 6-44] indicated his birthplace as Deanham (Northumberland), which was part of the Wallington Demesne, to the west of Morpeth.



Item 7-2: Wallington Demesne, near Morpeth, containing ruins of Deanham.

Readers can use Google Maps to see that Hartburn and the site known as Wallington Demesne lie side by side, to the west of Morpeth. Woodhorn, the birthplace of John's mother Hannah, is located to the east, alongside the road that leads into Newbiggin-by-the-Sea.

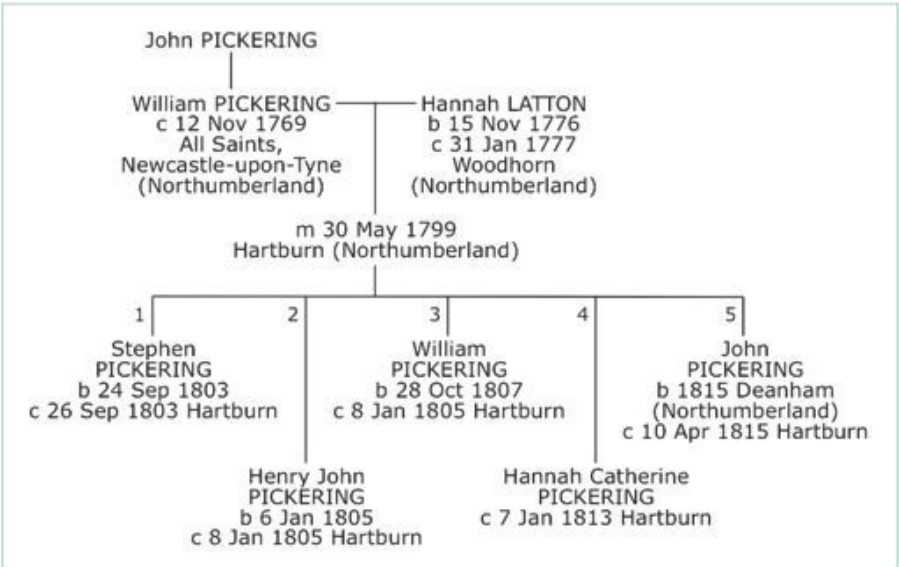
In *A History of Northumberland* by John Hodgson (1828), part 2, volume 2, pages 294 and 295, there are several references to Deanham, which was an ancient place whose name was once written as Danum, Denome, Denom or Deneham. This document can be downloaded from Google Books.

The marriage of William Pickering and Hannah Latton on 30 May 1799, at St Andrew's church in Hartburn, is mentioned in the Mormon database.



Item 7-3: Church of St Andrew in Hartburn.

They had five children, all christened at Hartburn.



Item 7-4: Family of William Pickering and Hannah Latton.

Pickering origins

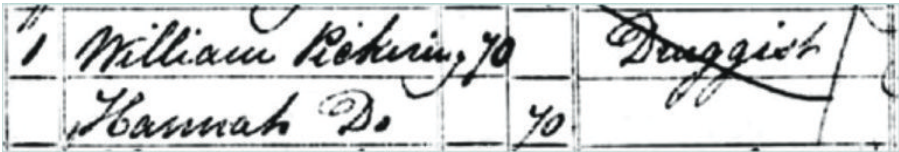
My presentation of Pickering ancestry goes no further back than the christening of William, son of John Pickering, on 12 November 1769, in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. But I would imagine that further in-depth research could yield older information.

The Pickering surname seems to have originated in North Yorkshire, where there is a village named Pickering. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names* by E Ekwall indicates that the Domesday Book speaks of *Picheringa*. Apparently, *Piceringas* was an ancient tribal name, but there is no clear explanation of its origins. In *The Place-Names of the North Riding of Yorkshire* by A H Smith (Cambridge, 1928), it is said that the term *Pikeringes* appeared in 1110. In the Pipe Rolls of 1130, the name appears as *Pinchering*. In the Close Rolls of 1208, it was written as *Pikering*.

There have been several famous Pickerings in English history. Queen Elizabeth had a suitor named William Pickering, a diplomat. *Paradise Lost* by John Milton was published in 1835 by William Pickering, Chancery Lane.

Census of 1841

The UK census of 1841 indicates that a William Pickering, 70, described as a druggist, was residing with his wife Hannah, also 70, at Bakewell in Derbyshire.



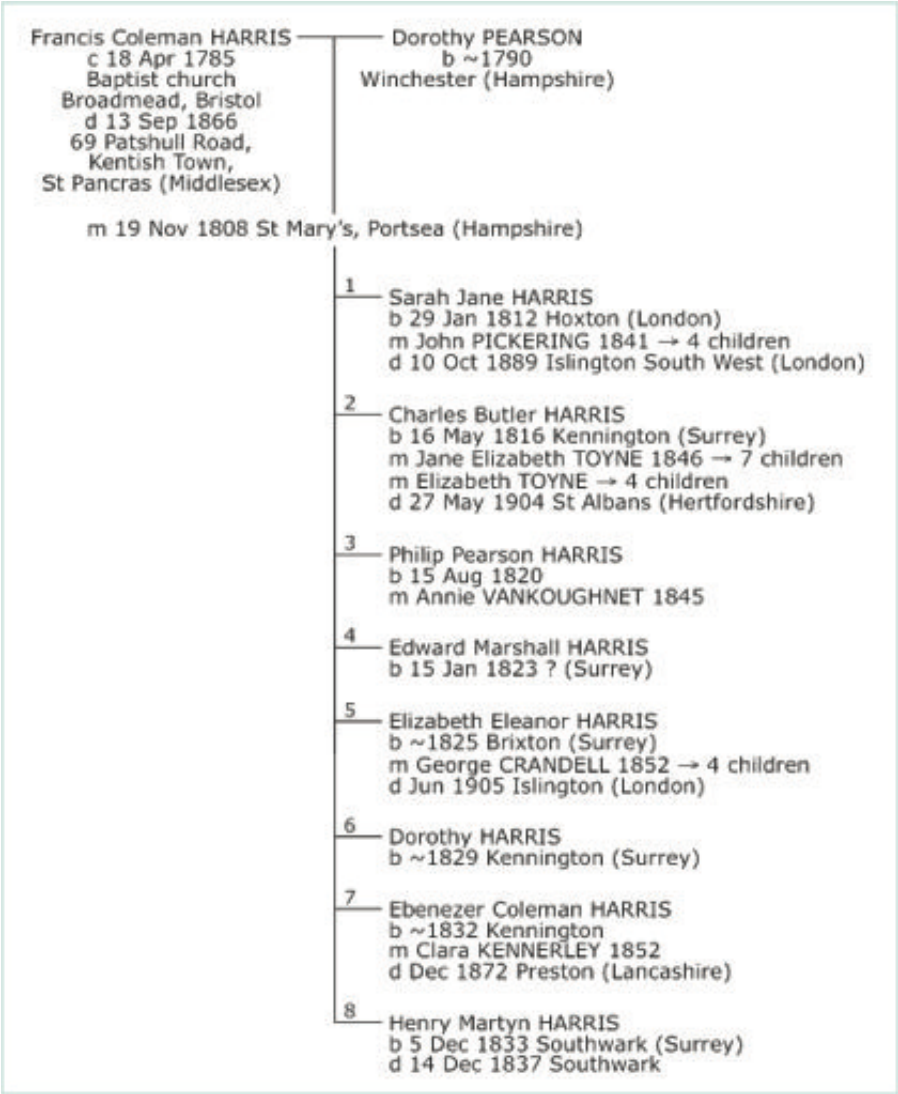
1	William Pickering, 70		Druggist
	Hannah Do.	70	

Item 7-5: UK census of 1841: possibly our earliest known Pickering ancestors.

This couple could well be the parents of our John Pickering (in which case the woman's age is inexact). If that were a fact, I have no idea why they would have moved from Northumberland to Derbyshire.

Harris ancestral line

Let us turn now to the family of Sarah Jane Harris. I include here a chart of her family that we saw already in the previous chapter [item 6-40].



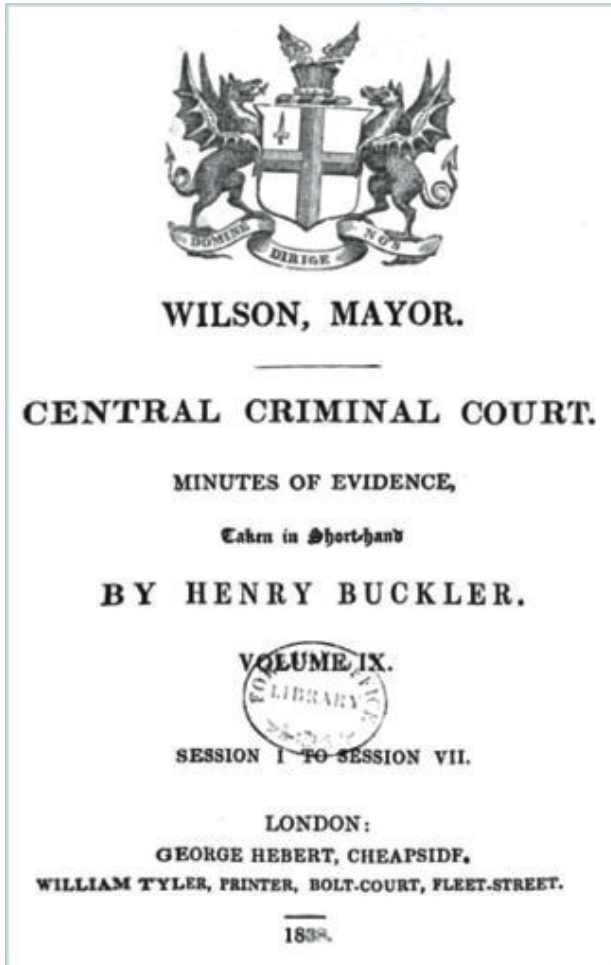
Item 7-6: Family of Francis Coleman Harris and Dorothy Pearson.

When I started to write this chapter, I knew little about this family and their origins. Since then, I have been in contact with a young New Zealand

Chapter 7

woman, Mary-Jane Howard, who is a descendant of Charles Butler Harris [1816-1904]. Much of the information I present here concerning our Harris ancestors was provided by Mary-Jane.

Before moving back up along the Harris ancestral line, I want to relate an interesting anecdote concerning Mary-Jane's ancestor Charles Butler Harris, whose portrait was included in my previous chapter [item 6-15]. He was the victim of a minor act of theft, which probably took place in 1838, or maybe a year earlier, when Charles was aged 22. This theft gave rise to a court case at the Old Bailey in London, described in the following *Minutes of Evidence*.



Item 7-7: Minutes of Evidence of the Old Bailey, 1838.

Here is the story of this apparent theft:

283. WILLIAM HARVEY was indicted for stealing, on the 19th of November, 1 oz. weight of tea, value 4d., the goods of Charles Butler Harris.

EDWARD MARSHALL HARRIS. I live with Charles Butler Harris, he is my master and brother, and keeps a shop in Nicholas-lane; he sells cocoa, tea, and coffee. I have known the prisoner upwards of a month—he is a watch-patrol—he asked me to take some tea from my brother without his knowledge—he came to me one night, and said there had been a man there who, when he came home drunk, used to give him some tea, not to say any thing about it—I told my brother, and he told me perhaps he was doing it to try my honesty, and to take something and offer to him, if he came again—I took some cocoa and offered to him—he took it—he put it into his pocket, and took it off home—he was taken the last time he came, and the tea was found upon him.

Prisoner. He called me into the house, and told me there was no harm in it, as he was a partner with his brother—he pushed it into my pocket—it was given to me as a present.

JAMES PEARCE. I am in the service of the prosecutor—I saw the prisoner come in one Monday evening, when my master was gone to Croydon—he stood by the fire, and said, “I should like some of that cocoa” Marshall said, “I cannot give you any, for fear my master would miss them”—the prisoner said, “I should like some of that gunpowder tea,”—Marshall opened the canister, and put the scoop in, and said, “I cannot reach it”—the prisoner got some tea.

Prisoner. Q. Did you not hear him call me into the place, and tell me he was in partnership with his brother? A. No, you said, “He won’t tell your master, he is a poor man’s son, he may have to do it himself some day.”

CHARLES BUTLER HARRIS. This tea and cocoa are mine—(looking at them)—it was marked previously by direction of the officer—the prisoner was searched in my counting-house, on the 19th of November, and it was found on him—he received the cocoa half an hour before he took the tea—he asked me to pardon him, and said he would go down on his knees a hundred times for me to pardon him.

Prisoner. I have been twenty-two years a soldier, and never had any thing against my character.

GUILTY. Aged 32.—Transported for Seven Years.

Item 7-8: Theft of tea from Charles Butler Harris.

A description of Charles Butler Harris appeared in Crockford's *Clerical Directory*, 1874.

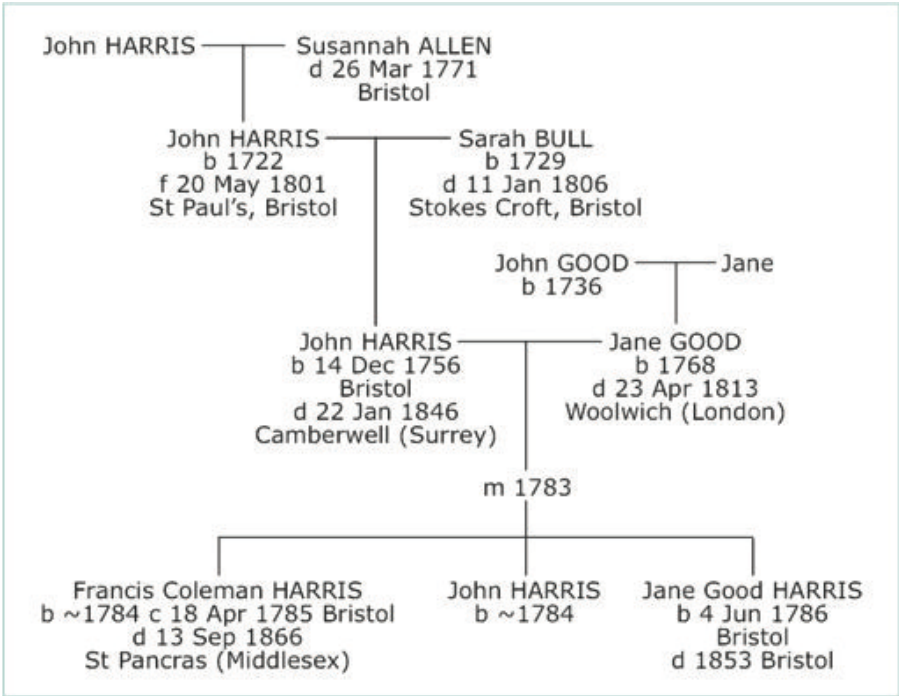
HARRIS, Charles Butler, *Dunstable*.—Queens Coll. Oam. B.A. 1845, M.A. 1865; Deac. and Pr. 1845. *Dunstable Coll. and Commercial Sch.* Formerly P. C. of *Helsington, Westmoreland*, 1851–60. [24]

Item 7-9: Biographical summary of Charles Butler Harris.

In 1845, 29-year-old Charles Butler Harris obtained his Bachelor of Arts at Queens College, Cambridge. Ordained as a deacon, he was immediately appointed principal at Dunstable College in Bedfordshire. From 1851 to 1860, he was the perpetual curate of Helsington, up in the Lake District. Then he returned to university, at the age of 49, to obtain his Master of Arts.

Harris ancestors

The following chart presents the ancestors of Francis Coleman Harris:



Item 7-10: Ancestors of Francis Coleman Harris.

There are no less than four men named John Harris. We are particularly interested in the father and the grandfather of Francis Coleman Harris: that is, John Harris [1756-1846] and John Harris [1722-1801].

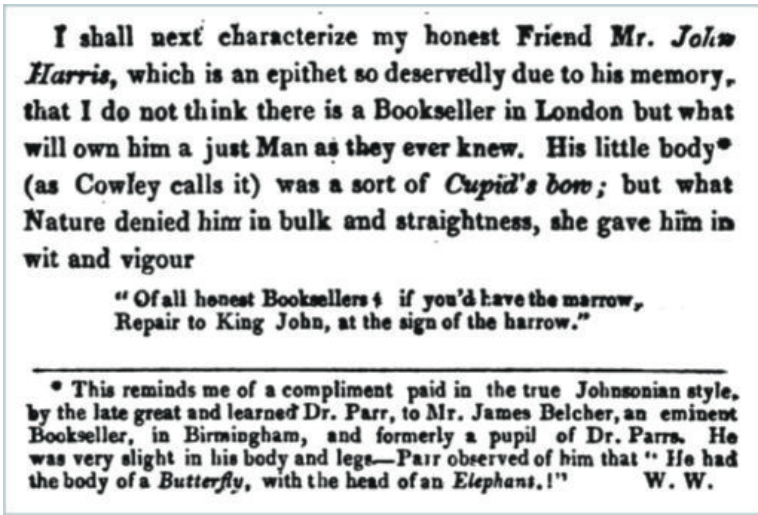
John Harris the London bookman

Throughout his life, John Harris [1756-1846] worked professionally in London's book world, both as a bookshop employee/owner and as a book publisher. Here is a description of him in *Fifty Years' Recollections of an Old Bookseller* by William West, 1837, pp 51-2:

At the time my brother was bound an apprentice to Evans, about the year 1778, his principal assistant was Mr. John Harris, a gentleman who had then been with him several years, possessing considerable ability, with every other requisite, in attention, expedition and perseverance, to acquire a fortune, and which has been realized. I believe, that after remaining with Mr. Evans for nearly fourteen years, he in compliance with his employer's wish settled for a short period, as a bookseller at Bury St Edmund's, but, from the activity of his disposition, and the energies of his mind, he soon became disgusted with so dull and inactive a life, compared with the extraordinary and necessary exertion required of a wholesale bookseller in Paternoster-row. At the period of his return, in 1785, my brother had left Evans, and I supplied the vacancy. Mr. Harris returned to his avocation as manager, *pro tempore*, but his disposition, and Evans's eccentric and positive habits, (added to a blind partiality to his son) but ill accorded. A separation took place, and for a short period, Mr. H. conducted the business of the late John Murray, (father of the present well-known bookseller of that name) a gentleman of good education and of considerable tact in that day, but being a man of strong passions, as well as of a strong mind, the irritability of the Scotchman (Murray) even surpassed that of the Welchman (Evans) and Mr. Harris gladly made his retreat to a spot more congenial to his mind, which was the establishment of the late Mr. Francis Newberry, bookseller, at the west end of St. Paul's, who was, for several years, publisher of the Gentleman's Magazine, he died in January 8, 1780. His widow survived him many years, but retired from business which Mr. Harris having conducted for a length of time, succeeded to, and has retired from with an ample fortune, leaving the establishment to his son, the present Mr. John Harris, who can boast of one of the most respectable concerns, in its way, in the kingdom.

Item 7-11: Allusion to John Harris written by William West.

This comment by William West in the same book, p 115, suggests that John Harris was a small man:



Item 7-12: Another allusion to John Harris by William West.

This is John Harris's bookshop in St Paul's Churchyard:



Item 7-13: John Harris's bookshop in St Paul's Churchyard.

The following six pages are a catalog of books published by John Harris.

**PUBLISHED BY JOHN HARRIS,
ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD.**

By the Same Author.

THE SON OF A GENIUS, a Tale. Price 4s., extra boards.

ELLEN THE TEACHER, a Tale. Price 2s. 6d. half-bound.

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Item 7-15: Catalog of publications by John Harris (page 2 of 6).

by John Harris.

3

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Item 7-17: Catalog of publications by John Harris (page 4 of 6).

by John Harris.

5

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Item 7-19: Catalog of publications by John Harris (page 6 of 6).

Specimens of John Harris books

One of the nicest publications I found was his *Cinderella, or the Little Glass Slipper* (John Harris, London, 1827), which contains beautiful hand-colored woodcuts.



Item 7-20: Woodcuts from *Cinderella* (part 1 of 2).



Item 7-21: Woodcuts from Cinderella (part 2 of 2).

Information about books for children published by John Harris can be found on the web.

John Harris the Bristol alderman

The father of the London bookman was John Harris [1722-1801]. Several documents concerning this man indicate that he was a prominent citizen of Bristol, who can be presented according to three related sets of criteria:

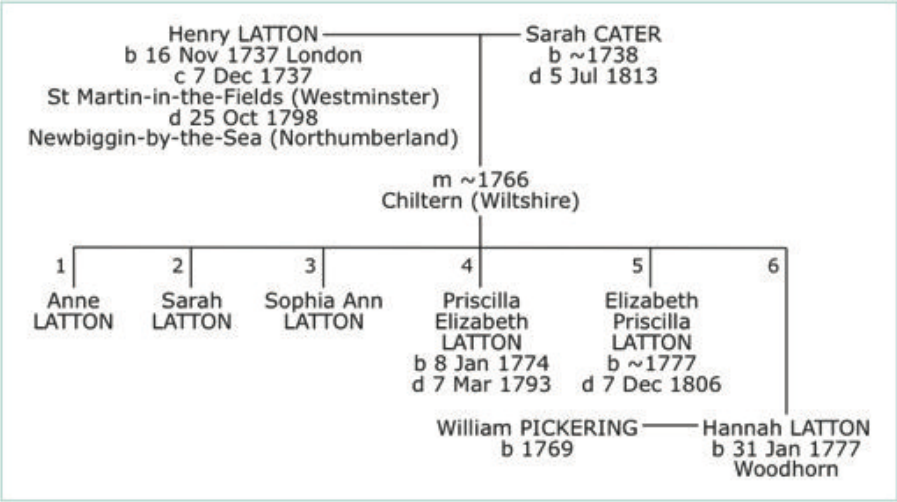
- First, he had a distinguished political career as an alderman of the city of Bristol. He served twice as sheriff, in 1776 and 1778. Then, in 1790, he was the mayor of Bristol.
- Second, he was a prominent member of the Baptist Church in Bristol. He joined the Broadmead congregation in 1745, and served as a deacon from 1760 up until his death in 1801. For many years, he was the chairman of the body of deacons. John Harris married Sarah Bull [item 7-10]. It is said that her cousin was a certain Hugh Evans, the Baptist pastor at Broadmead. Does this suggest that John Harris might have become a Baptist through his wife? Or did he in fact meet up with his future wife through the Broadmead congregation?
- Third, John Harris was a prosperous merchant in Bristol, apparently in the domain of sugar refining in the neighborhood of Lewin's Mead.

Much has been written concerning the role of Bristol in the notorious “triangular” system of trading, enabling British products to play a role in the acquisition of African slaves, who were then transported to the Americas, where they produced sugar, tobacco and cotton. These products were then sent to Britain, closing the triangle. Insofar as John Harris was engaged in sugar refining in Bristol, it is quite likely that he was involved in the above-mentioned “triangular” slave-trading. Was he subsequently converted to abolitionist thinking, in the context of the Baptist community of Broadmead in Bristol? I have the impression that research is still being conducted in that domain. So, we might obtain answers, one day, to the questions I have just asked. Meanwhile, a paper on the Bristol Baptist context was presented in 2000 by Roger Hayden, entitled *Caleb Evans and the Anti-Slavery Question* (available on the web).

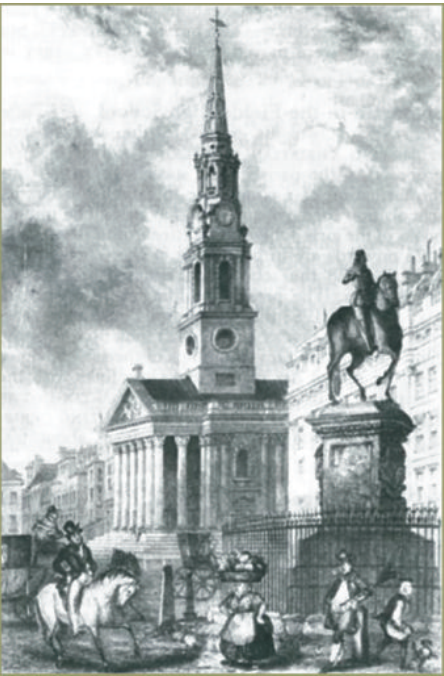
That appears to be as far back as we can go in the Harris' ancestral line. So, I shall now return to the point at which I left the Pickerings, near the start of this chapter.

Parents of Hannah Latton

William Pickering and Hannah Latton were married on 30 May 1799 in Hartburn [item 7-1]. The bride’s father was a clergyman: Henry Latton.



Item 7-22: Parents of Hannah Latton.



Henry Latton was christened in 1737 in the London church of St Martin-in-the-Fields, at the place known today as Trafalgar Square. Once the site of a chapel used by monks of Westminster Abbey, this edifice has often been referred to as the “royal parish church”. The future King Charles II was christened at St Martin-in-the-Fields in 1630.

Item 7-23: Church of St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, Westminster.

Henry Latton was the vicar of Woodhorn (located near Morpeth).



Item 7-24: Woodhorn church

The 61-year-old vicar died violently on the moors of Newbiggin-by-the-Sea, to the north of Newcastle, not far from Morpeth. It appears that he had been attending horse races, and it has been said that he was murdered... but I have no details concerning the exact circumstances of his death.

Objects associated with the vicar of Woodhorn

On 1 February 2012, an email from a South African, Richard Frost, told me that he had inherited an oil portrait of the vicar of Woodhorn.



Item 7-25: Henry Latton [1737-1798], vicar of Woodhorn.

The painting was identified by a nameplate:



Item 7-26: Nameplate on portrait.

Richard Frost sent me fragments of the vicar's gardening notes, dated 1780 and 1785.

Memorandums Woodhorn Garden 1780
 Melon Bed finished March 6th Seeds of Melons various put into Pots March 7.
 Beans and Peas sowed Feb. 13. Spinage March 3. Radish seed
 Feb. 13. Parsley sowed March 8. Nasturtiums March 16 Corn
 Sallard March 16. 100 fallage Plants from G. Pottison March 16—
 Double Parsley March 16. Two Beds of Onions March 16. N^o 3. perpetual
 Garden water pipes N^o 1. Cilly flower N^o 2. Purple Broccoli
 in seeds March 16. 1780. A Bed of bands a Bed of spinage some
 Radish seeds among the Onions March 16. Moved two Cherry beds from the
 Garden to the Kitchen Windows—March 16 Early Turnips—March 20.
 Cabbages Turkey Chubb N^o 4. Tulips & Jonquils from Mr. G. Cook
 Mr. 6. 22nd 1780. P^{er} by my sent to Mr. Ma chell for lettuce seed—10. 10.
 Mr. 6. 22 Lettuce seeds sown & some cucumber seeds from Mr. Mackels Mar.
 Mr. 23. Holyhook seeds from B. Whitford sown in Mian in kitchen two Pots

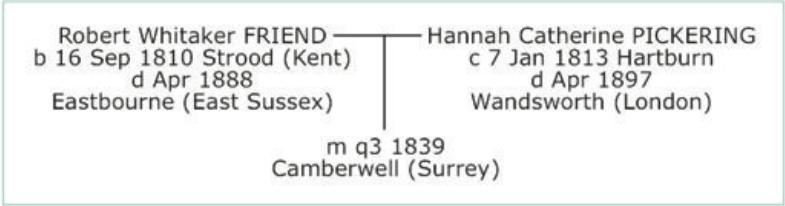
Item 7-27: Woodhorn gardening notes, 1780.

1785 Work we done in the garden by G. Pottison of North-horn L. 5 2
 April 5th began to work being the first fair day for many weeks
 5 Peas and Beans put in
 6 Onions, Carrots, sown
 7 Radishes, Asparagus Beds cleared Dung taken off.
 8 Shambies cleared
 9 Cucumber seeds put into Hot Beds
 9 Paid G. Pottison in full to this day 0- 7- 0
 9 Paid for seeds to Mr. Ma chell 0- 5- 0
 16 Made second Hot Bed, put in Fox & Thrush from Mr. Ma chell.
 23 Paid G. Pottison 0- 6- 0

Item 7-28: Woodhorn gardening notes, 1785.

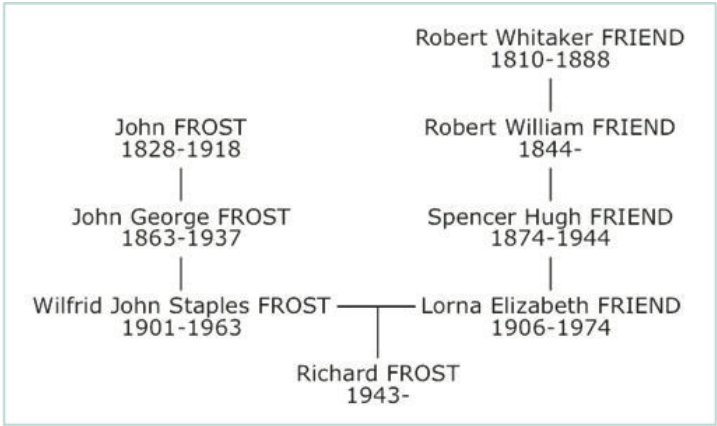
South African descendants

Robert Frost—the South African who kindly sent me a portrait of the vicar of Woodhorn and his gardening notes—belongs to the descendants of Hannah Catherine Pickering [item 7-5].



Item 7-29: Marriage of Hannah Pickering with Robert Friend.

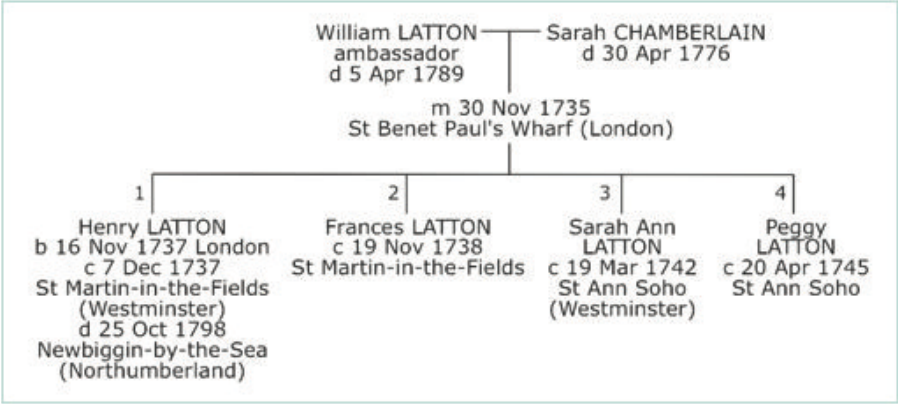
The following chart summarizes the genealogy of Richard Frost, whose paternal great-grandfather was knighted for services to the Commonwealth.



Item 7-30: South African cousin Richard Frost.

William Latton, ambassador

The vicar of Woodhorn had three younger siblings. Their father became the English ambassador in Morocco.



Item 7-31: Parents of the vicar of Woodhorn.

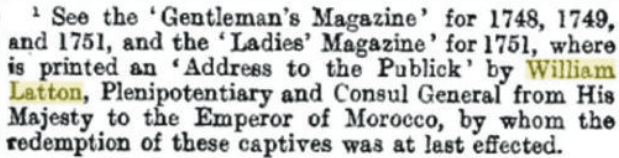
St Benet at Paul's Wharf was designed by Christopher Wren. It escaped destruction during the Blitz. Once a popular place for military weddings, it is the church of the College of Arms.



Item 7-32: Church of St Benet at Paul's Wharf, London.

Moroccan affair

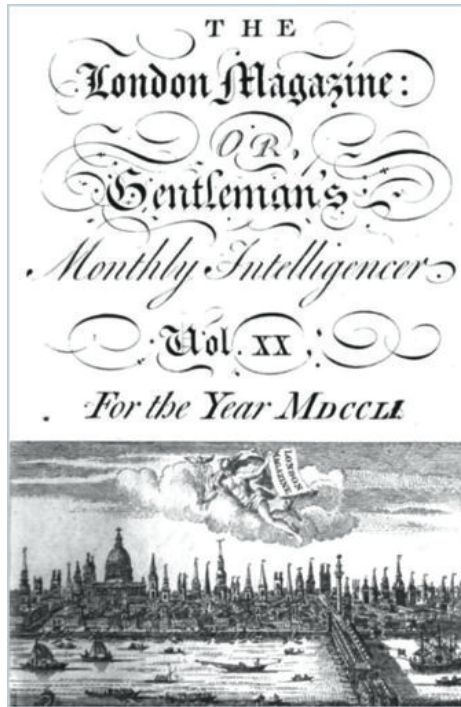
The ambassador William Latton was involved in a weird Moroccan affair, evoked in an editor's introduction to a 1755 travel narrative by the English novelist Henry Fielding [1707-1754], entitled *Journal of a Voyage to Lisbon*. In his biographical notes on Fielding, the editor mentions a London vessel, the *Inspector*, which was wrecked in the Bay of Tangier on the Barbary Coast on 4 January 1746 while operating as a private warship, called a *privateer*. The commander of this privateer was named Richard Veal(e). This was also the name of the captain of the ship that took Fielding to Lisbon. It appears likely that they were one and the same individual. The editor of Fielding's book indicates that, after the shipwreck of the privateer, some of its crew members were captured and sent to work "as slaves among the Moors". A footnote mentions the role of William Latton in "the redemption of these captives".



¹ See the 'Gentleman's Magazine' for 1748, 1749, and 1751, and the 'Ladies' Magazine' for 1751, where is printed an 'Address to the Publick' by William Latton, Plenipotentiary and Consul General from His Majesty to the Emperor of Morocco, by whom the redemption of these captives was at last effected.

Item 7-33: Reference to William Latton in a Fielding book.

Latton's strange ambassadorial mission to Morocco was described on pages 234-235 of this issue of the *London Magazine* of 1751.

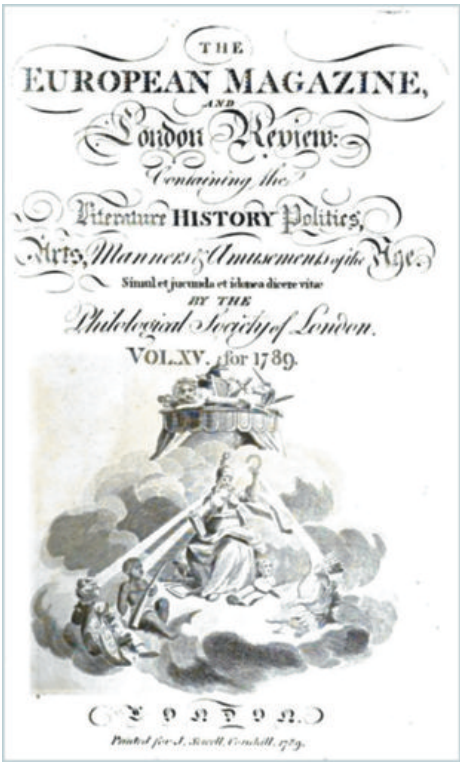


Item 7-34: Magazine mentioning the English ambassador William Latton.

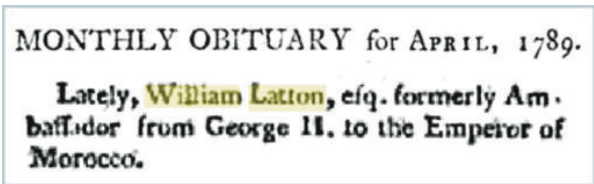
We received the following melancholy account from several of the poor British captives lately redeemed from slavery in Barbary, some of whom came home in the Blandford man of war the 22d of last March, viz. That they sailed, Oct. 1745, out of the river Thames, in the Inspector privateer, capt. Veale, of 22 carriage guns, besides swivel; and in Jan. 4, 1745-6, were wrecked in Tangier-Bay, on the coast of Barbary, where they lost 96 of the crew, and 86 getting on shore alive, were immediately seized and stript by the Moors; 79 of them being carried to prison, were chained so together, and kept in that miserable condition four days and four nights successively, without any thing either to eat or drink, and lay upon the bare stones; under which distresses they were consulting to draw lots for one to be killed to subsist the rest; but on a remonstrance from the goaler, that they were near expiring, the people of the town sent them eight small sheep, two of which they instantly devoured raw, and from that time they were allowed bread and water. In which condition they remained four months, and were then drove up the country from Tangier to Bufcoran, which is 200 English miles, bare-footed, like a flock of sheep, to the emperor of Morocco, who ordered them the third day to slavery, in building up and pulling down large castle walls, where they worked with very heavy tools from sun rising to sun-setting, Sundays and all days alike; their allowance, for a great part of their slavery, being but half a blanket a day, which is but one penny, and at the most only a whole blanket. In this condition they remained for upwards of four years, when they were redeemed by William Latton, Esq; his majesty's ambassador to Muley Abdallah, emperor of Morocco. And it is very surprizing, that so many of them survived these great fatigues, (only eight of them dying in the country) as they never had any thing to lie on but the ground and stones, and nothing to cover them but a straw hat on their heads, and a piece of a blanket round their bodies, in the day-time.

Item 7-35: Moroccan mission of the ambassador William Latton.

The *European Magazine* announced Latton's death on 5 April 1789.

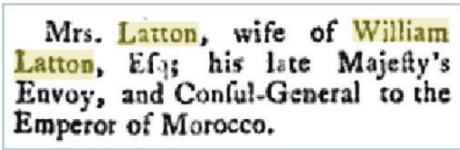


Item 7-36: Magazine announcing the death of William Latton.



Item 7-37: Obituary announcement.

Dodley's Annual Register by Edmund Burke contained an announcement of the death of the ambassador's wife Sarah, the mother of the vicar of Woodhorn, on 30 April 1776:



Item 7-38: Death of William Latton's wife Sarah.

Ambassador's parents

The ambassador had a sister Ann, and they appear to have married Chamberlain siblings. In certain documents, the surname of Ann's husband was spelt differently.

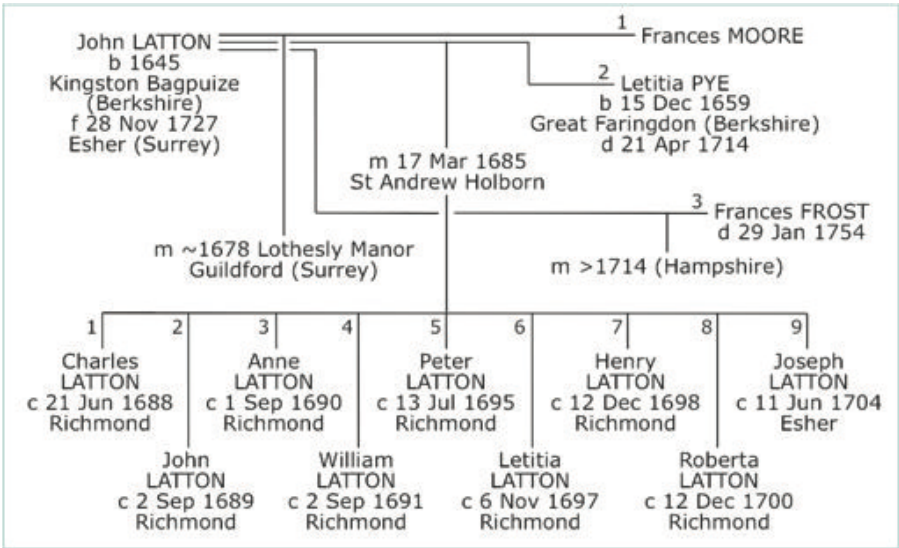


Item 7-39: Parents of the ambassador William Latton.

We shall see in a moment that William Latton senior was mentioned in his father's will, and this information revealed that he died at an early age.

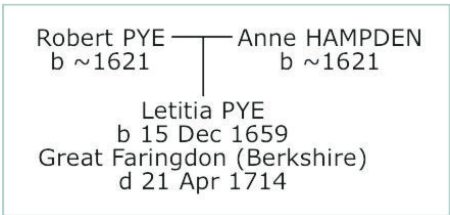
John Latton of Surrey

The ambassador's grandfather, John Latton [1645-1727], born in the family's ancestral village of Kingston Bagpuize in Berkshire, soon settled in Surrey, where he became a prestigious figure.



Item 7-40: Family of John Latton of Surrey.

John Latton's second wife, Letitia Pye, from Great Faringdon (near Kingston Bagpuize in Berkshire), became the mother of nine offspring.

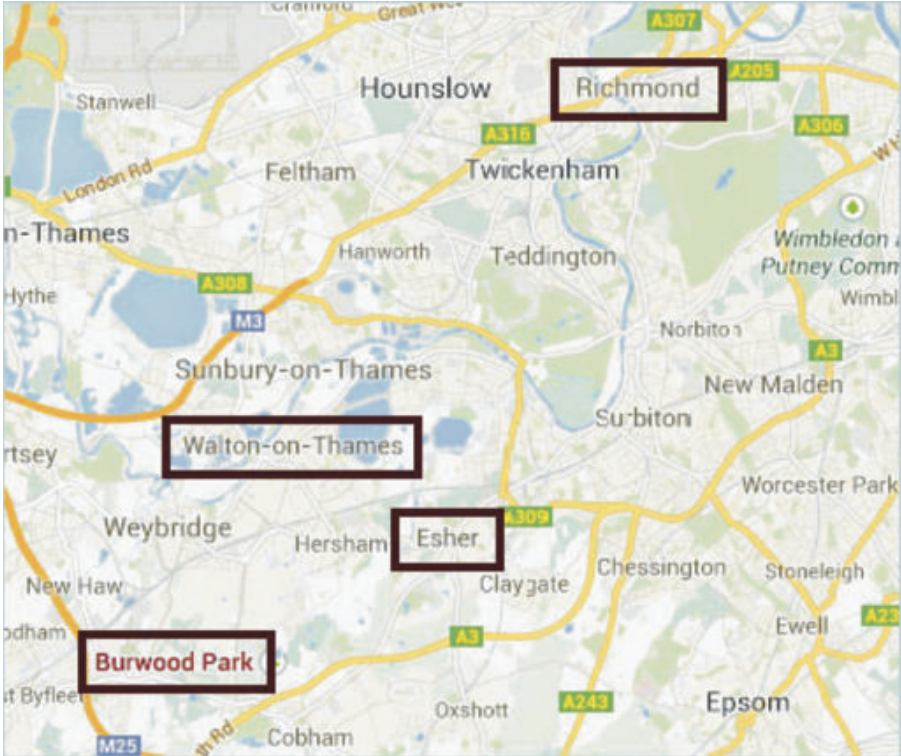


Item 7-41: John Latton's second wife, Letitia Pye.

Under Queen Anne—the last of the Stuarts, who reigned from 1702 to 1714—John Latton was the deputy lieutenant of Surrey. Around 1710, he purchased Burwood Park, a large estate in Surrey. Then he became a favorite of the first Hanoverian monarch, George I, who reigned from 1714 to 1727.

Places in Surrey associated with John Latton

In historical and genealogical documents, John Latton of Surrey is often designated as “of Esher” or “of Walton-on-Thames”. Major place names in Surrey associated with John Latton are indicated in the following map:



Item 7-42: Places in Surrey associated with John Latton [1645-1727].

John Latton married his first wife in Guildford (Surrey). The first 8 offspring of his second marriage were christened in Richmond, also in Surrey. In 1694, King William III granted Latton a lease of the Richmond lodge, along with the stewardship of the manor.

I have the impression that John Latton's first real acquisition of property in Surrey was the manor of Esher, located within the boundaries of the township of Walton-on-Thames (whence the two equivalent designations: “of Esher” and “of Walton-on-Thames”). This ancient manor belonged to Sir Thomas Lynch, who gave it to his daughter Philadelphia when she married Thomas Cotton on 18 November 1689. Then, at an unknown date, the young couple sold the Esher manor to John Latton. This purchase probably took

place after the birth of Latton's daughter Roberta, in 1700, because the next offspring, Joseph, was christened at Esher in 1704.

As for the property at Burwood Park, this acquisition seems to have taken place at a later date, around 1710. John Latton apparently liquidated his Esher and Burwood Park estates around 1716, well before his death. Still, in his will of 1727, he referred to himself as being “of Walton-on-Thames”, and he appears to have been buried in Esher. In other words, certain details of times and places are not yet totally clear.

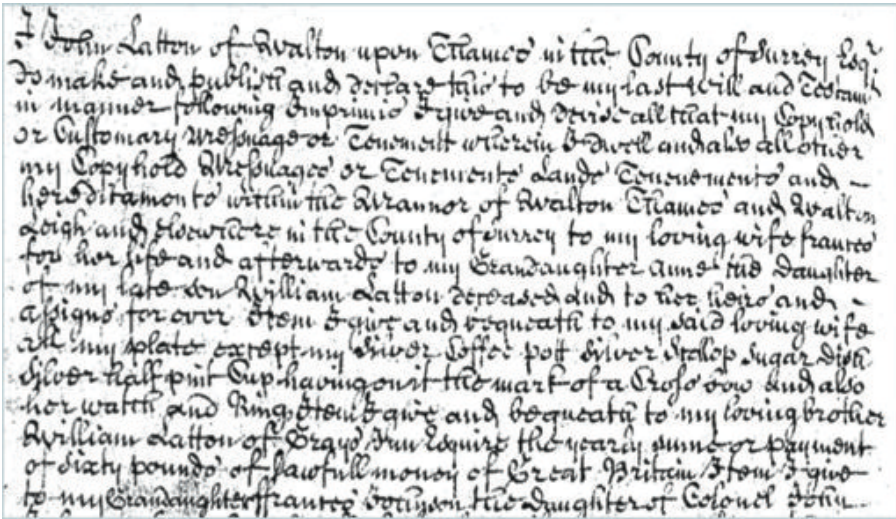
John Latton's will

Shortly before his death in November 1727, John Latton made a will.



Item 7-43: Opening of the will of John Latton [1645-1727].

This will, which can be found on the web, is displayed here in four parts:



Item 7-44: Will of John Latton [1645-1727], part 1 of 4.

behindon by my daughter Roberta his wife the sum of one thousand
pounds of like lawfull money I then give and bequeathe to Samuel
Behnastie younger son of Samuel Behnastie the elder of Exeter in
the said County of Durey Esquire two hundred pounds of like
lawfull money I then give and bequeathe to William the son of
Israhel Latton the widow of my said late son William five hundred
pounds of like lawfull money within four last mentioned legands
are to be paid as hereafter is mentioned I then give devise and
bequeathe to my kinsy and loving friends S^r James Edwards of Winton
aforesaid Baronet Son Cousin and he of Weybridge in the said County
of Durey Esq^r and to the said Samuel Behnastie the elder all my
monneys at interest either in fund or otherwise my shares and
parts in Wyfleet Drille my pictures and furniture of all sorts and
all my Goodes Chattle and personal Estate whatsoever after my just
debts and funeral expenss are paid and discharged In Trust that
the said S^r James Edwards Son Cousin and he and Samuel Behnastie
the elder and the survivor of them and the Executors and Admini-
strators of the survivor of them shall and do out of my said monys

Item 7-45: Will of John Latton [1645-1727], part 2 of 4.

and out of my shares and parts in Wyfleet Drille pay or cause to
be paid to my said loving brother William Latton the said sixty
pounds per annum for his life by half yearly payments the first
payment to be made at the end of six months after my death and
further to permit and suffer the said pictures and the Goodes and
furniture in and about my said dwelling house after an inventory or
particular thereof is taken to remain in their proper places and to be
used by my said wife for her life along with my house and making good
the same the common wear and common accidents only excepted and
after the death of my said wife to deliver over the same to and to
the use of my said Granddaughter Anne Latton and as concerning
the said monys and the said shares and parts in Wyfleet Drille
subject to the said payment of the said sixty pounds per annum to
my said brother for life to permit and suffer my said loving wife
to receive and take the same for her life by half yearly payments
and after the death of my said brother and wife then to pay the
said three monys and parts to my said Grand Child Frances
Behnastie to Samuel Behnastie the younger and William the said son of the

Item 7-46: Will of John Latton [1645-1727], part 3 of 4.

said Sarah Latton widow three months after the death of the Survivor
 of my said Brother and wife and afterwards to pay over the principal
 money and interest and parts with the surplus of the interest or product
 thereof to my said Granddaughter Anne Latton & give to my said -
 Trustees two Summes a piece to buy them Rings over and besides their
 Charges in managing the trust hereby imposed in them with the y^e are
 hereby empowered to deduct out of the said money and the said interest and -
 parts in Bylliet & Wille's Item & do nominate the said Dr. James' Edwards -
 John Cousinaker and Samuel Wintrop his Elder Executors of this my last
 Will and Testament the witnesses whereof & the said John Latton have
 hereunto set my hand and seal to this my last Will and Testament this
 thirtieth day of October in the first year of the reign of our Sovereign
 Lord George the second by the Grace of God of Great Britain &c. Anno
 Domini 1727. J. Latton. signed sealed published and declared in the said -
 Testament in the presence of us who have hereto set our hands as witnesses in
 the said Testament's presence (the words James' Robinson to Samuel Wintrop
 Junior and some few other raizures and Interlineations left materiall -
 being first interlined Anne Bigge. Edw: Hawley Seth Dringhurst. J.

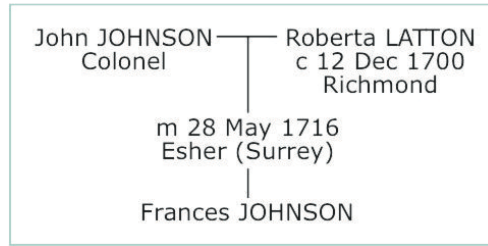
Item 7-47: Will of John Latton [1645-1727], part 4 of 4.

Overview of John Latton's will

Surprisingly, the will of John Latton—dated “*this thirtyeth day of October in the first year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the second by the grace of God of Great Britain at Anno Domini 1727*” [item 7-47]—mentions few members of his large family:

- “my loving wife Frances”
- “my granddaughter Ann, the daughter of my late son William Latton”
- “my loving brother William Latton of Gray’s Inn”
- “my granddaughter Frances Johnson, the daughter of Colonel Johnson by my daughter Roberta”
- “William, the son of Sarah Latton, the widow of my said late son William”.

Apart from his late son William, and the latter's children William and Ann [item 7-39], the only other Latton offspring mentioned in the will was Roberta, described here:



Item 7-48: Family of Roberta Latton.

It is strange that no other offspring [item 7-40] are mentioned.

John Latton's brother William

John's brother William Latton [1653-1732] was admitted to Wadham College at Oxford on 24 September 1670. This choice of a college may have been linked to the fact that this college was founded by an ancestor, Nicolas Wadham [1532-1609]. In 1685, William was a fellow of Wadham when the eldest illegitimate son of Charles II, the Duke of Monmouth, landed in south-west England in an attempt to dethrone the Catholic monarch James II, who had grown up in Oxford, where he had been taken prisoner at the age of twelve, on the eve of the execution of his father, Charles I. William Latton, like all Oxfordians, defended the king.

When, however, Monmouth rose in open rebellion in 1685, Oxford was united against him; constitutional agitation was one thing, armed force quite another. Wadham, Lincoln, and Trinity joined to form one of the companies of loyal volunteers which mustered for the King; they trained in Trinity Grove, having Philip Bertie of that college, nephew of the Earl of Abingdon, as their captain, and William Latton, fellow of Wadham, as lieutenant; one of the drummers also was a Wadham commoner. Their only service was a review in Christ Church meadow, where the officers were very fine, with "scarlet coats and white feathers in their hats": apparently it was only the horse soldiers who had the honour of dining with the Earl of Abingdon and "came home well fuz'd."

Item 7-49: William Latton volunteers to defend King James II.

The “loving brother William Latton of Gray’s Inn” went down in literary history through a one-page letter to the dean of Ely, written on 10 January 1728. It was published in John Nichols, *Illustrations of the Literary History of the Eighteenth Century*, vol 4, 1822.

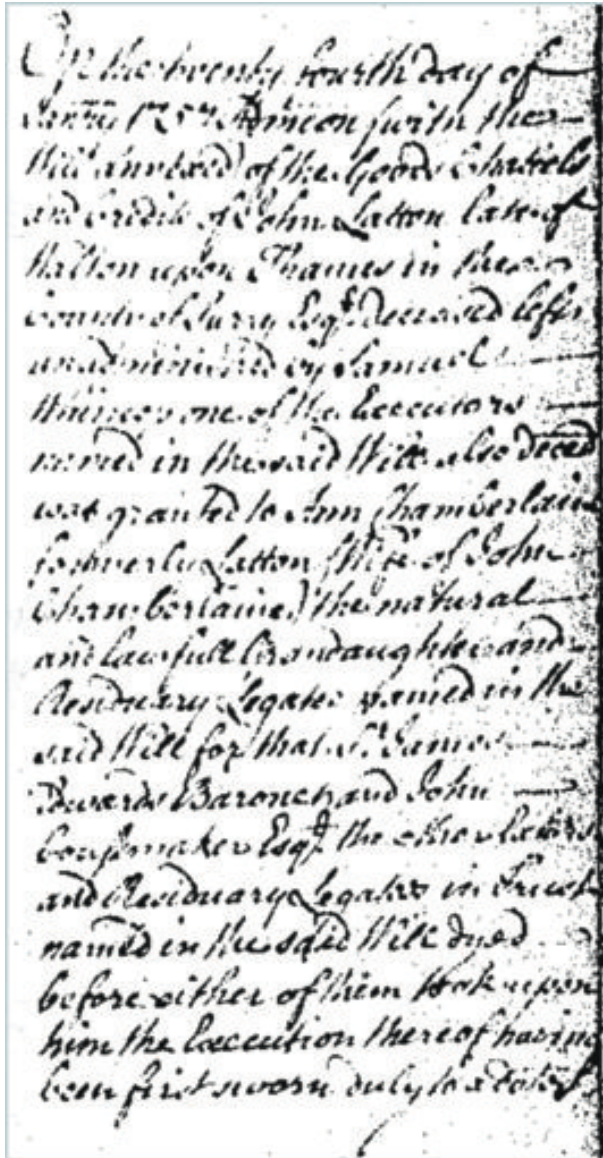
Mr. WILLIAM LATTON to Dr. Moss, Dean of Ely.
 “DEAR SIR, Gray’s Inn, Jan. 10, 1727-8.
 “I am now at last (after, I think, a long time) able to inform you of the result of my affair depending on the good Lord Thanet, &c. which take as follows :—About a fortnight since the Lord Morpeth very readily added his hand to that of the Lord Oxford’s and Lord Thanet’s ; and on the first of this instant I received of their agent, Mr. Lamb, 300*l.* by direction from the Lord’s Committees, for the Duchess of Albemarle, for my services to her Grace abroad, as kindly expressed in their order. The Lord Oxford, in the most obliging manner, invited me to dine with him on Saturday last, where, by appointment, I found the Lord Morpeth and his Lady accompanying the Countess of Oxford (whose consents were required to this noble New Year’s Gift), whereby I had an opportunity given me, at once, of paying them all due thanks for their most bountiful and seasonable relief bestowed on me. I have likewise conveyed my gratitude in the best manner I could to the Lord Thanet, and my acknowledgments to all others of my benefactors but your dear self, whom may heaven amply reward for your good wishes and actual charities to me. By this remarkable blessing from above, and a legacy of 60*l.* *per annum* for my life, from my dear brother lately dead, I trust I may be able to clear my debts before I die ; and if God shall please to spare me life and health till my legacy becomes payable (*viz.* at 12 months after my brother’s death), I shall have enough to lay down my gray hairs cheerfully, especially having now lived to see my services thus owned by the Lord’s Committees as above, and my faithful endeavours for my dear master the Duke of Albemarle so far justified by all but his executors, whom the Almighty forgive.
 “But I press too hard on your patience, and now beg only farther, that good Mr. Dean will believe, that to complete my happiness here, I have nothing troubles me more than that the distance is so great from so kind and so amiable a friend as yourself, which admits of no relief greater than a line now and then when you shall have leisure ; for I am, and must ever be, Sir, your most obliged and most affectionate humble servant
WILLIAM LATTON.”

Item 7-50: Letter from William Latton to the dean of Ely.

The erudite gentleman named John Nichols who chose William Latton’s letter as a specimen of 18th-century literature was the same man who wrote the story of the Leicestershire Skeffingtons, mentioned in chapter 5.

Probate problem

Let us return to the will of John Latton [1643-1727]. At the end of the presentation of this will, a note in the margin is dated 24 January 1757 (three decades after Latton's death):



On the twenty fourth day of
 March 1757. I being with the
 will of the late John Latton late of
 the County of Surrey Esq. deceased left
 and administered by James
 Chamberlain one of the Executors
 named in the said Will also dead
 was granted to John Chamberlain
 Executor of the Will of John
 Chamberlain the natural
 and lawful son and daughter and
 Residuary Legatee named in the
 said Will for that W. James
 Devereux Baron and John
 Coopers maker Esq. the other Executors
 and Residuary Legatee in Trust
 named in the said Will died
 before either of them took upon
 him the Execution thereof having
 been first sworn duly to do so

Item 7-51: Note added three decades after the death of John Latton of Surrey.

The subject of this note is exposed in a legal commentary that describes a judgment by Sir George Lee:

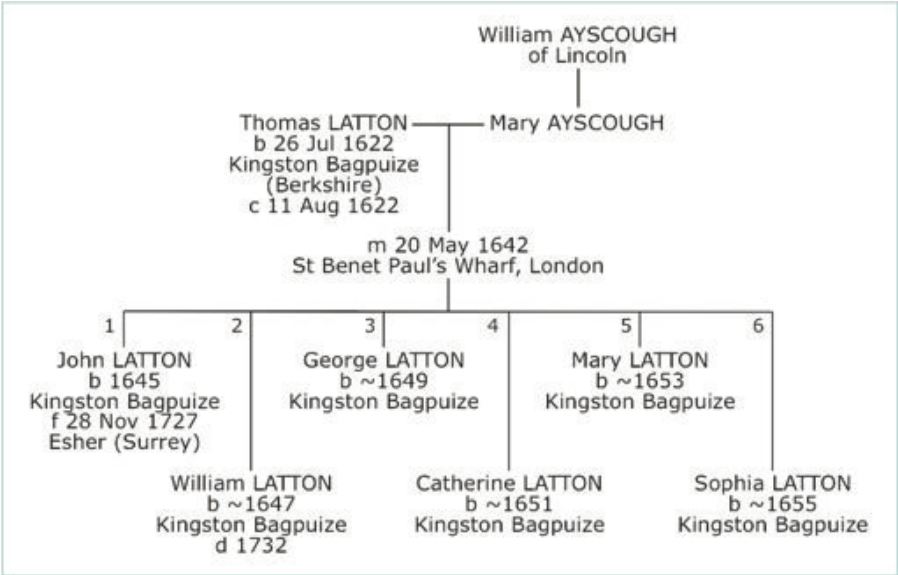
COUSSMAKER <i>against</i> CHAMBERLAYNE.		Caveat Day, July 3.
<p><i>Dr. Pinfold, for Coussmaker.</i> — John Latton deceased died in November 1727 ; on the 30th October 1727, he made his will, appointed Samuel Wincop, Esq., Sir James Edwards, Bart. and John Coussmaker, Esq. executors and residuary legatees in trust, gave 60<i>l.</i> a-year for life to his brother William Latton, to his grand-daughter Frances Johnson 1000<i>l.</i>, to Mr. Wincop, jun. 200<i>l.</i>, and to William Latton, 500<i>l.</i> to be paid as hereafter mentioned ; gives all the residue to the executors in trust, and to the survivor of them, and the executors and administrators of the survivor during the life of his brother, and of his (the deceased's) widow, to whom he gave for life all the produce of his estate beyond the 60<i>l.</i> a-year to his brother, and after their deaths, the said legacies to be paid, and then gave the remainder after payment of the said legacies to his grand-daughter, Ann Chamberlayne. Mr. Wincop alone proved the will, the other executors did not renounce, but did not act ; John Coussmaker survived the other two executors, made his will, and appointed his son, George Coussmaker, the party in this cause his executor, who proved his will ; deceased's brother died in 1732, and his widow on the 29th January 1754 ; the question is, whether administration <i>de bonis non, cum testamento</i> shall be granted to Ann Chamberlayne, who has no interest at present, till the particular legacies are paid, but who will have the particular interest in the residue, or to Coussmaker, the executor of the surviving trustee.</p>	<p>Where a trust is coupled in a will with an executorship, and the executor does not prove the will, the representative of that executor cannot take probate of it.</p> <p>A mere trustee has no right by law to claim an administration.</p>	

Item 7-52: Probate conflict concerning the will of John Latton of Surrey.

Sir George Lee's judgment in favor of Ann Chamberlayne is summed up as follows: A mere trustee has no right by law to claim administration.

Thomas Latton and Mary Ayscough

The parents of John Latton of Surrey and William Latton of Gray's Inn were Thomas Latton and Mary Ayscough.

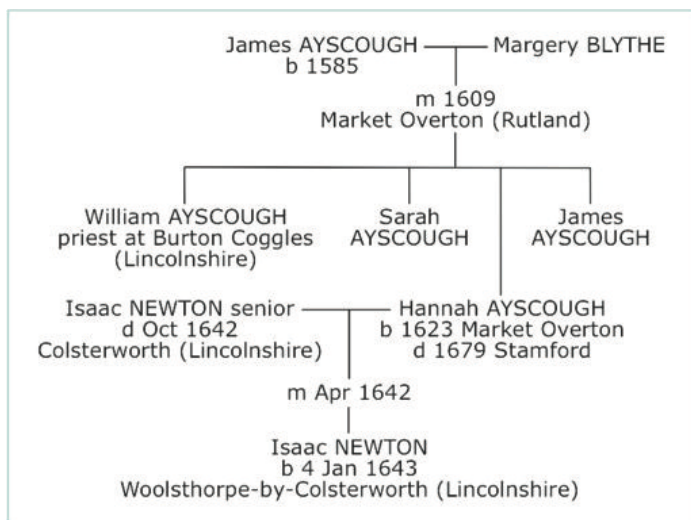


Item 7-53: Family of Thomas Latton and Mary Ayscough.

As indicated in this chart, the village of Kingston Bagpuize was originally in Berkshire, but it became part of Oxfordshire in 1974.

Possible link to Isaac Newton

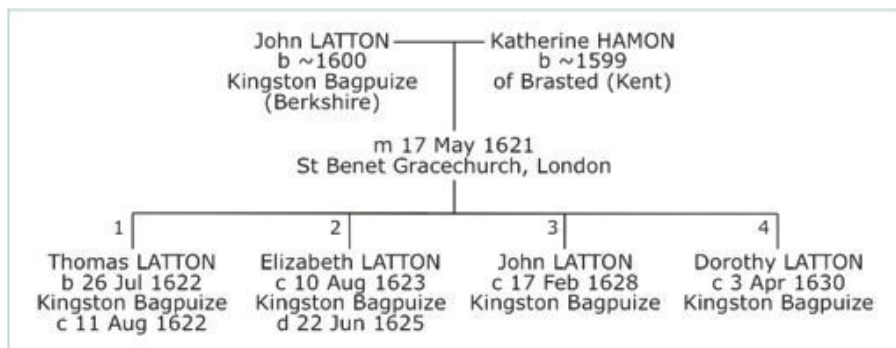
Finding an Ayscough ancestor (from Lincolnshire) in our family tree, I was tempted to look for possible links to the great Isaac Newton.



Item 7-54: Ayscough ancestors of Isaac Newton.

John Latton of Kingston Bagpuize

The father of Thomas was John Latton of Kingston Bagpuize:

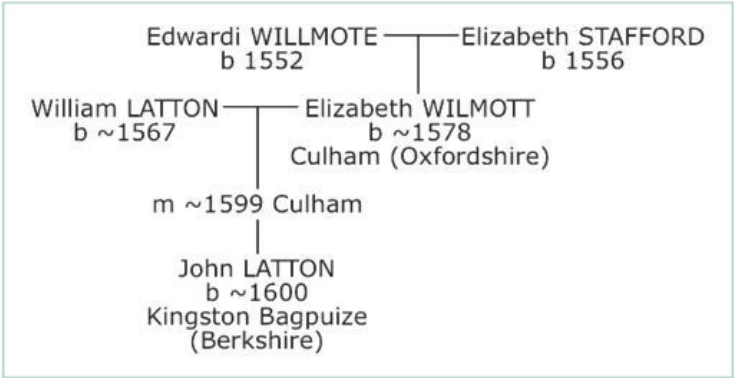


Item 7-55: Family of John Latton of Kingston Bagpuize and Katherine Hamon.

Later, I shall work back up from Katherine Hamon to ancient royalty.

William Latton and Elizabeth Wilmott

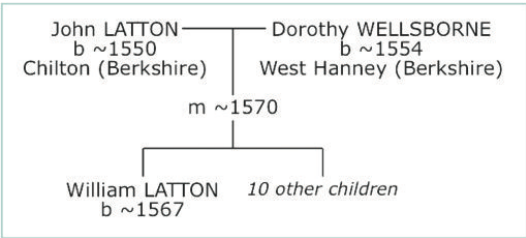
John Latton of Kingston Bagpuize was the son of William Latton and Elizabeth Wilmott.



Item 7-56: William Latton and Elizabeth Wilmott, parents of John Latton.

John Latton, High Sheriff of Berkshire

William Latton was the eldest son of a family of almost a dozen offspring.

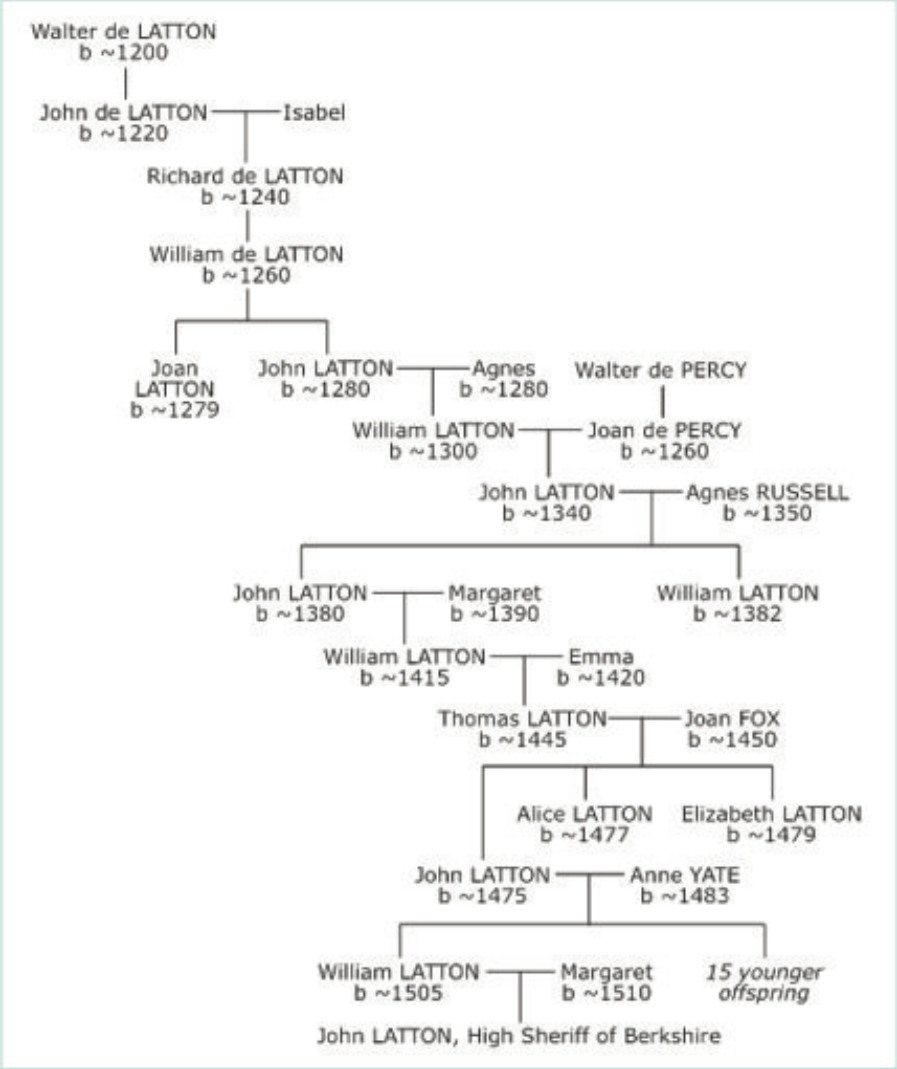


Item 7-57: Family of John Latton of Chilton.

Their father, John Latton, was a native of Chilton, 25 km north-west of Reading. In 1542, he bought a property in Kingston Bagpuize, south-west of Oxford. In 1589, under Elizabeth I, he became the High Sheriff of Berkshire.

Earliest generations of Lattons

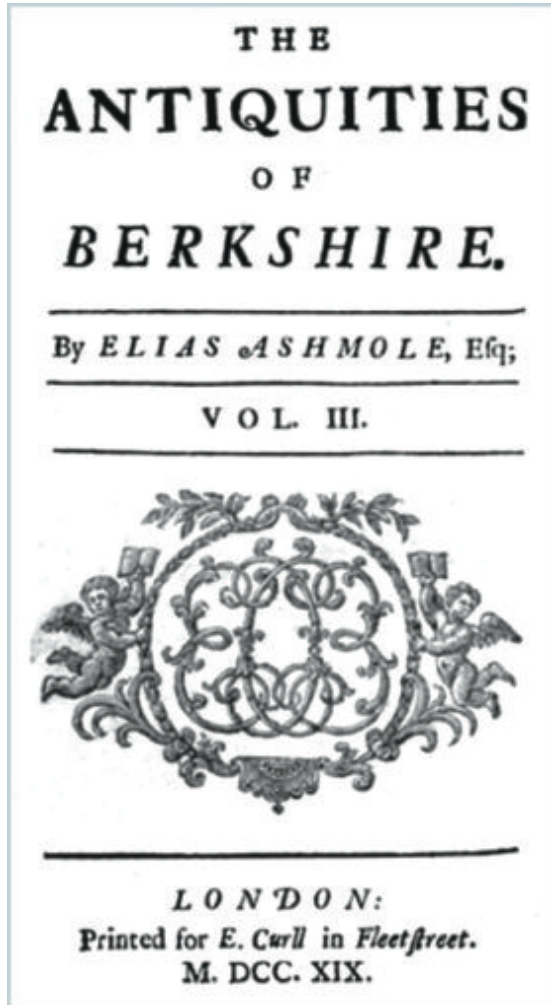
The following chart presents a dozen generations of Lattons preceding the High Sheriff of Berkshire:



Item 7-58: Earliest generations of Lattons.

Old book mentioning the Latton family

Information about the Lattons is contained in *The Antiquities of Berkshire* by Elias Ashmole [1617-1692], published posthumously in 1719.



Item 7-59: Book describing the Latton family.

In a moment, I shall reproduce relevant pages of Ashmole's book. First, let us look at a modern map to see the location of various places associated with the Lattons and mentioned in Ashmole's book.

Latton territory: Berkshire yesterday, Oxfordshire today

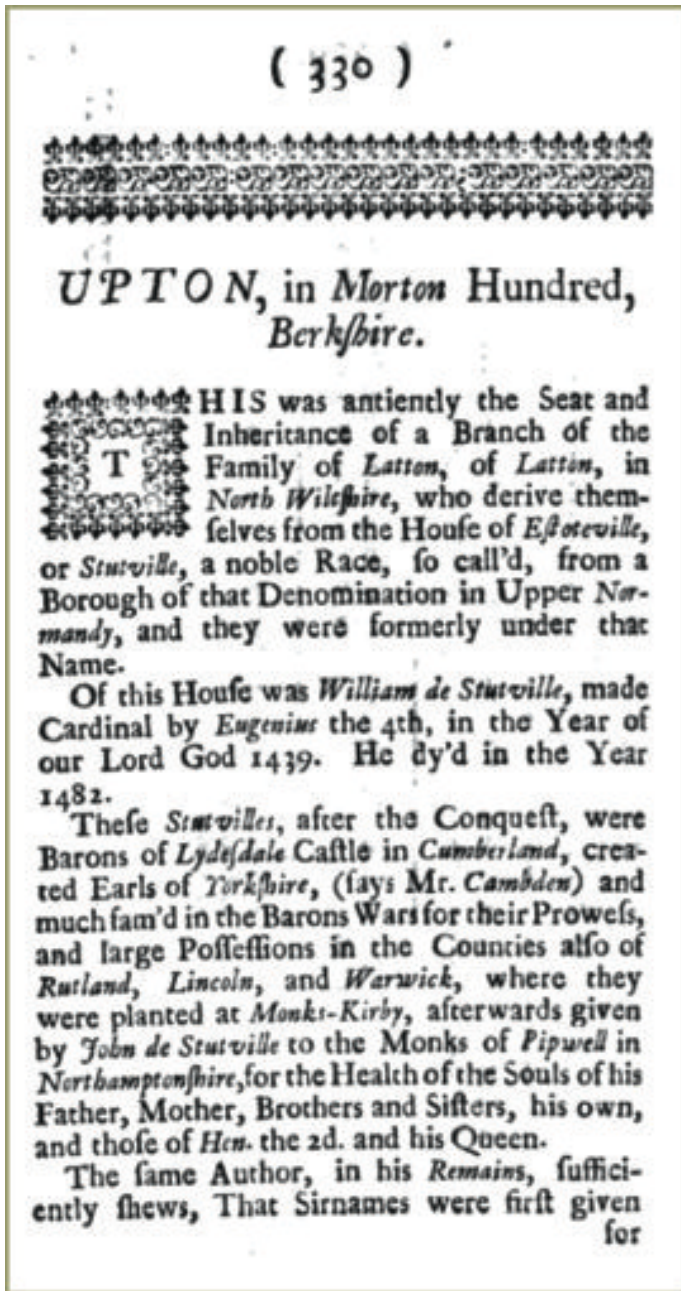
The following map indicates Latton places that lie south of Oxford:

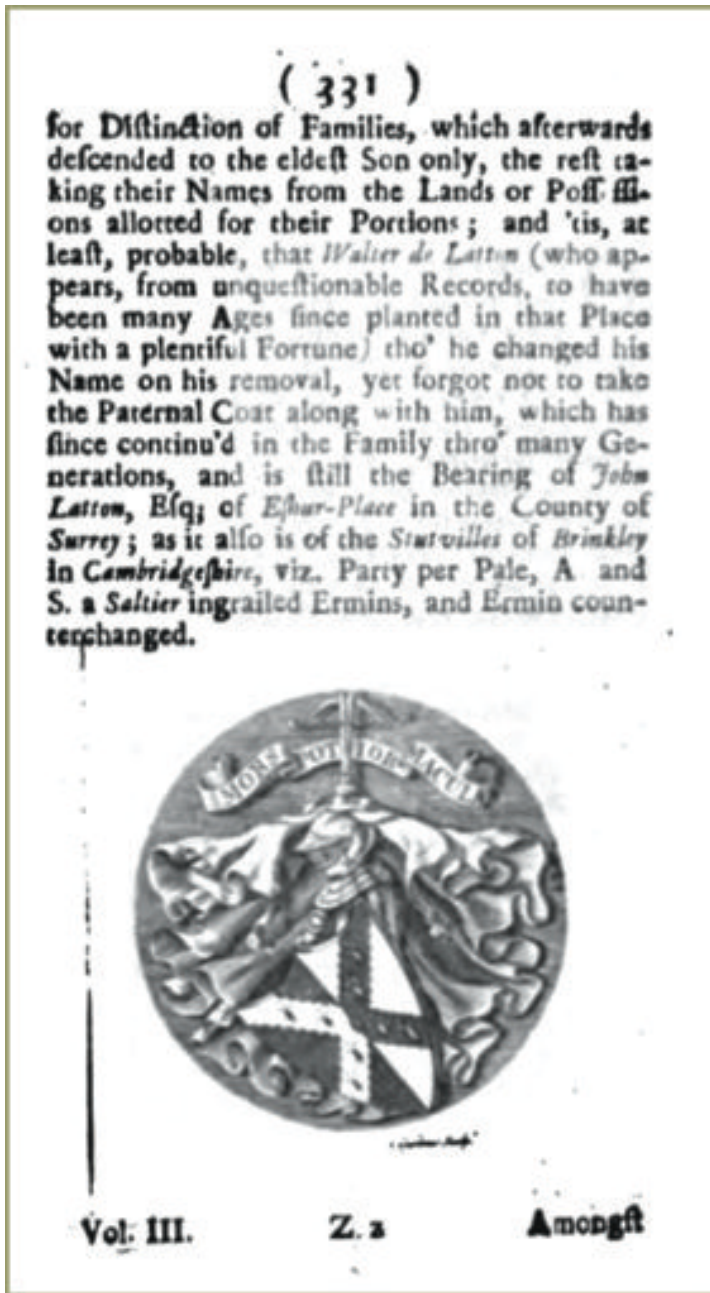


Item 7-60: Latton places, in Berkshire yesterday, in Oxfordshire today.

The positions on the map of four Latton villages can be indicated with respect to Abingdon, 13 km south of Oxford, near the gigantic figure of a white horse cut into the chalk of Uffington. The village of Kingston Bagpuize is located to the west of Abingdon, while the villages of Upton, Chilton and Blewbury lie to the south of Abingdon. Originally in Berkshire, these four villages have been designated, since 1974, as lying in Oxfordshire. The present-day Berkshire border runs to the south of Chilton.

Let us look now at the Latton pages in Ashmole's book.

Ashmole's *Antiquities of Berkshire*, page 330Item 7-61: Page 330 of *The Antiquities of Berkshire* by Elias Ashmole.

Ashmole's *Antiquities of Berkshire*, page 331Item 7-62: Page 331 of *The Antiquities of Berkshire* by Elias Ashmole.

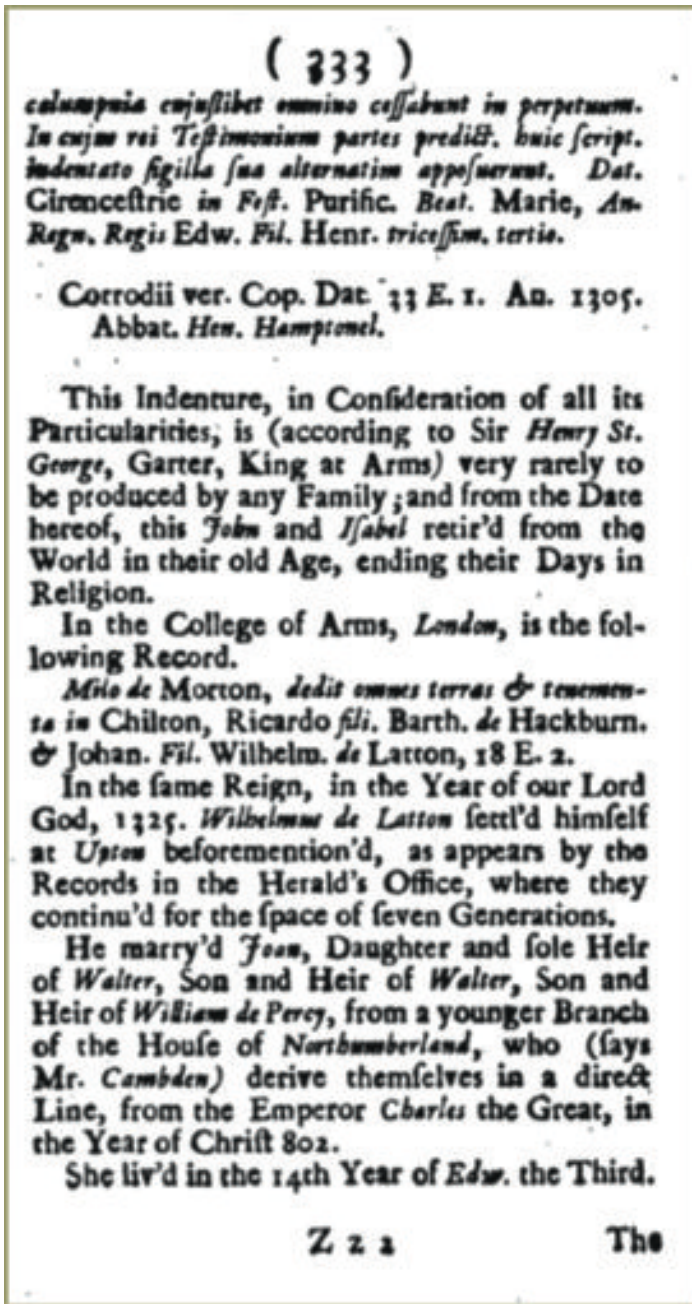
Ashmole's *Antiquities of Berkshire*, page 332

(332)

Amongst the small Remains of the Family Writings, there is still to be seen a Corrody of 414 Years old ; a true Copy of which take as follows.

Omnibus Christi fidelibus præsens scriptum visuris vel audituris, Henricus permissione Divinâ Abbas Cirencestrensis, & ejusdem loci Conventus, salutem in Domino, Noverit Universitas vestra nos concessisse. Johan. de Latton, & Isabelle Uxori, ejusdem sub forma & conditione que sequitur subscripta, viz. Quolibet hebdomada, quoadiu vixerint simul, quatuor decem albos coronarios & novem Gallonas cereris, scil. quinque Gallonas cerevisie Conventualis, & quatuor de cerevisiâ Capellanorum & annum ferculum qualibet die de Coquina nostra, sicut libere servientes in die recipiunt de domo nostra, percipiend. itoque si dict. Isabella diutius supervixerit, statim post mortem dict. Joh. medietas omnium superius concessorum totaliter cessabit. Et pro dictâ concessione predict. Joh. nobis & Ecclesie nostre totaliter remisit & de se & heredibus suis in perpetuam quietem, clamavit totum jam & clamium quod habuit vel aliquo modo habere potuit, cum reversione quacunque in terris & tenementis cum omnibus pertinentiis suis quas Gualterus, Pater predict. Johan. de nobis assignatas tenuit in Latton, & dictus Johan. & heredes sui dictas terras & tenementa nobis & Ecclesie nostre sine diminutione quacunque plene & integrè warrantizabunt. Et si continget (quod absit) predictos Johannem & Isabellam a predict. warrantia quocunque modo deficere, vel in dict. tenementis aliquod juris vel clamii clamare seu vindicare, ex tunc, dicti Abbas & Conventus a prestatione omni premissarum absque

sa-

Ashmole's *Antiquities of Berkshire*, page 333Item 7-64: Page 333 of *The Antiquities of Berkshire* by Elias Ashmole.

Ashmole's *Antiquities of Berkshire*, page 334

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The paternal Coat of this *Walter* was *A. 3 Fusils in Fess S.* taken from the *5 Fusils* formerly born by the *Percy's* before they were Earls of *Northumberland*, and this Coat was afterwards the Bearing of *Lutton* for some Time, in Compliment to that Heiress, as appears by the Office of Arms, but they soon resum'd their former Coat of *Sturville*.

Amongst the Writings of the Family are also still to be discover'd the following Manors, Lands and Tenements which they were formerly Possessors of in this County only.

<i>Upon,</i>	<i>Tilburst,</i>	The Parlo-
<i>Chilton,</i>	<i>Childry,</i>	nage of <i>Han-</i>
<i>Blewbery,</i>	<i>Huckburn,</i>	well.
<i>Wantage,</i>	<i>Frilford,</i>	The Tythes of
<i>Sing,</i>	<i>Oke,</i>	<i>Lyford.</i>
<i>Luttons Downs,</i>	All Ox-street,	<i>Draycot Park,</i>
<i>Fawley,</i>	in Reading,	held from St.
<i>Jinglefield,</i>	<i>East Hanney,</i>	<i>John's Coll.</i>
<i>Spinfield,</i>	<i>East Hendred,</i>	in Oxford for
<i>Milford,</i>	<i>East Lockinge,</i>	many Years
<i>Ardington,</i>	<i>West Lockinge,</i>	in the Family
<i>Blewfields,</i>	<i>South More.</i>	ly.

How many of these were Manors is not easily discovered at this distance of Time; the most of 'em seem to have been so.

John Lutton, of *Chilton, Berks*, Esq; was High Sheriff of this County the 32d of the Queen.

The last Residence of this Family in *Berkshire* was at *Kingston Bakepuze*, in the Hundred of *Oke*, which Seat and Manors were purchas'd by

Ashmole's *Antiquities of Berkshire*, page 335

(335)

by *John Latton*, of Chilton, Esq; in the 33d of Hen. 8. in the Year of our Lord God 1542. and descended to *William Latton* his Son and Heir, in the 38th of the Queen, as by the following Inquisition.

Valor five extentus An. val. Maneriorum ter. & tenementorum & ceter. quicumque in Comit. Berks, qua nup. fuere Johannis Latton, Armig. defunct. & que per fin. post mort. ejusd. Johannis cuidam Guicel. Latton, fil. & hered. suo descendant & descendere debeant in usu Possessione & reversione. Qui quidem Joh. Latton, Armig. ob. Octob. 16. An. Regni Domine Regin. 38 Wilhelm. Latton, ad tunc, plen. etat. viz. 22 An. Temp. mort. dicti Joh. Patris sui prout per inquisit. inde capt. apud Maidenhead, Com. Berks, 19 Maii, An. Reg. 13^o. plen. poterit apparere, &c.

Manerium de Kingston Ferrars, & Chartley, ac omnes ter. & tenementa nup. Domini Ferrars & Chartley, in Kingston, predict. tent. de Domina Regin. in capit. viz. per centessim. partem Feodi milit. & val. per An. 6 l.

Manerium de Kingston Longville tent. de Domina Regin. in capit. per servit. quarte partis unius feod. milit. val. per An. 100 l.

Manerium de Kingston Bagpuze, scil. omnia Messuag. ter. & tenementa quonda Kingstons & Cliffs, ter. in Kingston Bagpuze, predict. nup. Quilters, tent. de Domina Regin. ut de Honore su. Leicestrens. in foccag. per fidelit. & An. Reddit. unius Rose Rubie & valor, per An. 10 l. 19 s.

These Lordships, with all the Appurtenances in the Parishes of Fifeild, and Netberton, with Newbridge, Gange, the Hams on the River Thames, a large Royalty of Fishing, and a Swan-

Item 7-66: Page 335 of *The Antiquities of Berkshire* by Elias Ashmole.

Ashmole's *Antiquities of Berkshire*, page 336

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Swannery (as appears by Records) seem by the Purchase Deeds, to have been of great Extent, and continu'd in the Family of *Latton* 128 Years before they removed into *Surrey*.

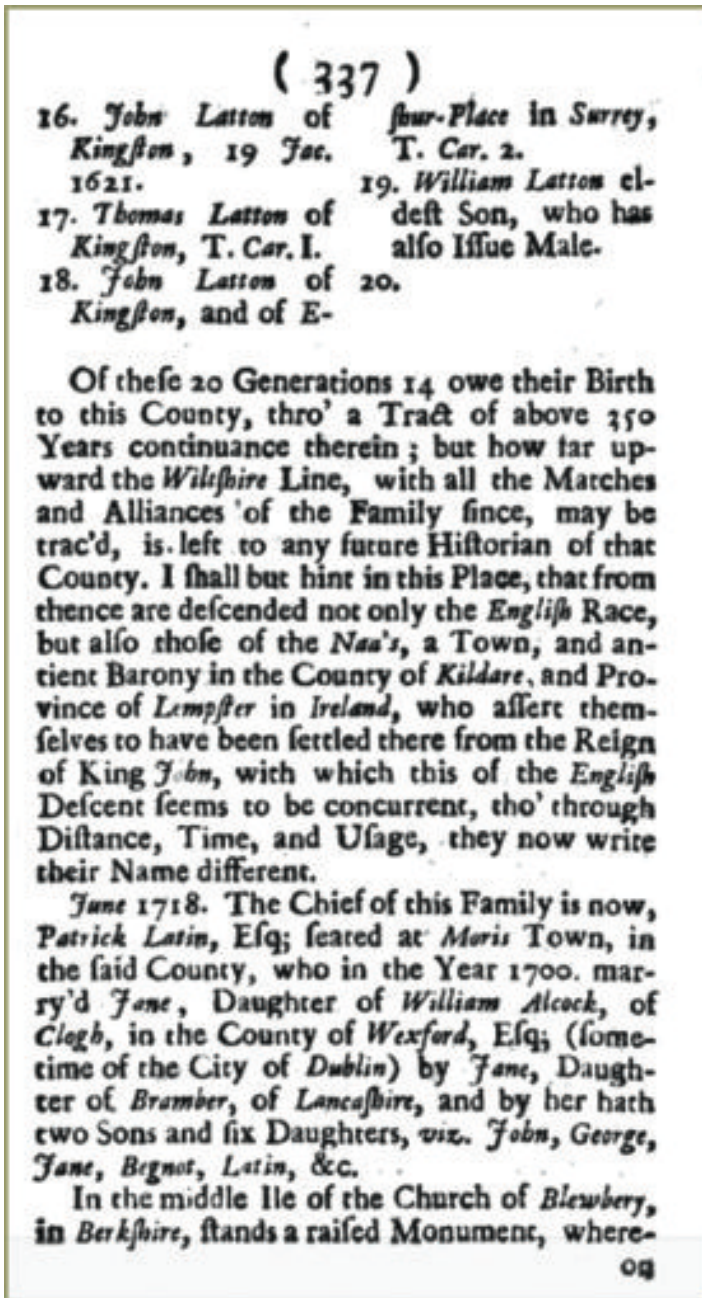
It likewise appears, by the Writings before cited, that of old they have had large Possessions also in the Counties hereafter specify'd, viz.

<i>Oxfordshire,</i>	<i>Dorset,</i>	<i>Kent,</i>
<i>Glocestershire,</i>	<i>Somerset,</i>	<i>Norfolk,</i>
<i>Hampshire,</i>	<i>Essex,</i>	<i>Suffolk, and</i>
<i>Devon,</i>	<i>Middlesex,</i>	<i>Surrey.</i>

The Descent of the Family stands thus stated in the Heralds Office, excepting only the first, for which see *Dugdale's Monasticon*.

1. Roger de Latton without Date.
2. Walter de Latton without Date.
3. John de Latton [Isabel] Son of Walter, 28 Ed. 1.
4. Richard de Latton, 2 Ed. 2.
5. Will. de Latton [Joan] settl'd at Upton in Berkshire, 18 Ed. 2. 1325.
6. John Latton of Upton.
7. William Latton of Upton, 1 Ed. 3.
8. John Latton of Upton.
9. John Latton of Upton, 17 Ric. 2.
10. William Latton of Upton, T. H. 6.
11. William Latton of Upton, T. E. 4.
12. John Latton of Chilton, T. H. 7.
13. William Latton of Kingston, T. H. 8.
14. John Latton of Kingston, T. Eliz.
15. William Latton of Kingston, T. Jac.

16.

Ashmole's *Antiquities of Berkshire*, page 337Item 7-68: Page 337 of *The Antiquities of Berkshire* by Elias Ashmole.

Ashmole's *Antiquities of Berkshire*, page 338

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on are the Figures cut in Brass, of a Man in Armor, on whose Surcoat are the Arms of *Dauonce*, viz. Party per Pale, *A.* and *O.* a *Fess* undule. *G.* between 3 *Lyons Head*: erased of the same. Also a Woman, on the Right Side of whose Surcoat, are the foresaid Arms, and on the left are quarter'd those of *Latton*, *Percy*, *Esbury* and *Sycheville*, and underneath the following Epiraph.

Of your Charite pray for the Sol of Dame Alice Daunce, Daughter of Tho. Latton, Gent. late the Wife of Sir John Daunce, Knt. Councillor, and Ambreyor. General unto our Sovereign Lord King Hen. the Eight, who deceased the 27th Day of Aug. in the Year of our Lord God, 1521. On whose Sol Jesu have Mercie. Amen.

Underneath are the Figures of 5 Sons and two Daughters, also two large Books chain'd to the Monument, viz.

At the Foot of this Tomb, on a Grave-stone, cut in Brass, is the Figure of a Man in Armor, between his two Wives, with this Inscription.

Here lyeth **John Latton**, late of Chilton, Esq; and Anne his Wife, which John dyed the xxxiith of May, in the Year of our Lord God, M. CCCCX. LVII.

Under which are the Figures of 6 Sons and 9 Daughters cut in Brass.

22711.

Ashmole's *Antiquities of Berkshire*, page 339

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William, Thomas, Anthony, John, Bartholomew, John, Alice, Eliz. Mary, Margaret, Dorothy, Fritwith, Jane, Susan, Anne.

From another Grave-stone the Brass Plates are lost, but the Persons there interr'd were *John Latton*, of *Chilton*, Esq; and *Agnes* his Wife, Daughter and Heir of *John de Esbury*, this Scrap only remaining, viz.

.....:.... Lady, and there doe their Offering, and say a Pater, whatever their Devotion shall be

Over this Monument are the Coats of *Latton*, *Esbury*, *Percy*, and *Sycheville* plac'd singly, and in this Order, viz. *Esbury* in the 2d Place.

Also the Figure of a Man in Armor between his two Wives, under each of which are the Figures of two Sons and three Daughters, with the Coats of *Latton*, *Percy*, *Esbury*, *Sycheville*, quarterly.

In a Chapel, on the South Side of the Church at *Kingstone Bagpuzze*, *Berks*, over a Vault of the Family of *Latton*, stands a rais'd Monument, over which, in the Glass Window, are quarterly the Arms following.

1. Partyper Pale A. & S. a *Saltier* engrail'd Ermins, and Ermin counterchang'd by the Name of *Latton*.

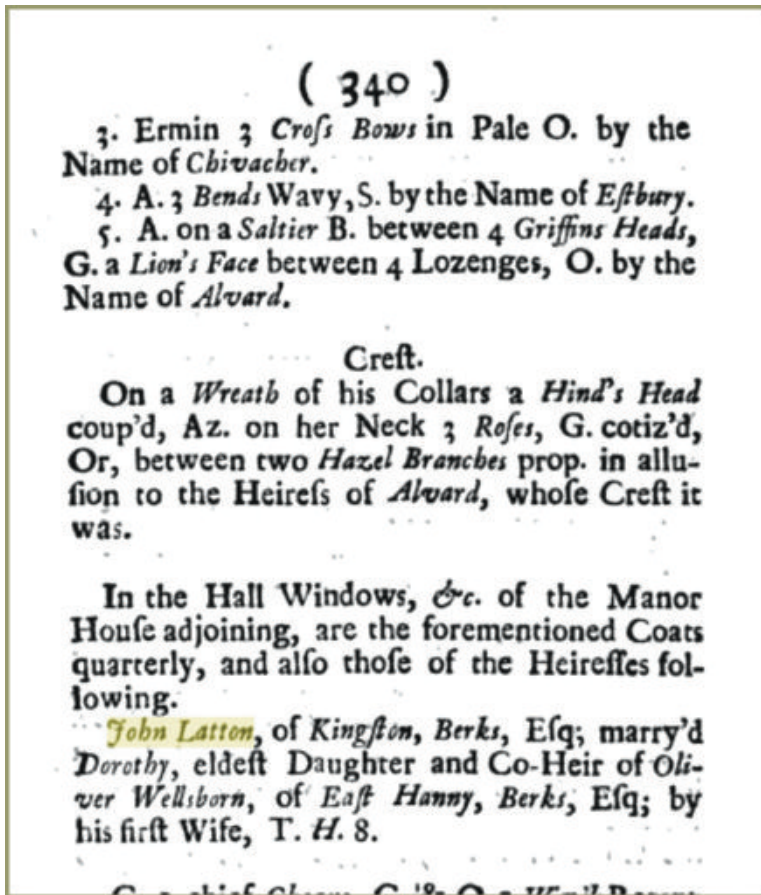
2. A. 3 *Fusils* in *Fesse*, S. by the Name of *Percy*.

Vol. III.

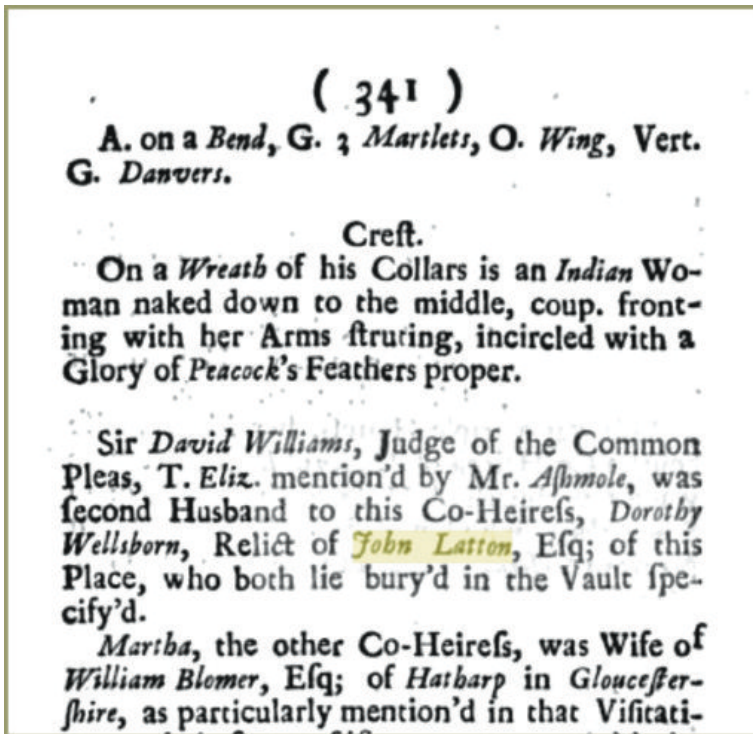
A a a

3. Er-

Item 7-70: Page 339 of *The Antiquities of Berkshire* by Elias Ashmole.

Ashmole's *Antiquities of Berkshire*, page 340Item 7-71: Page 340 of *The Antiquities of Berkshire* by Elias Ashmole.

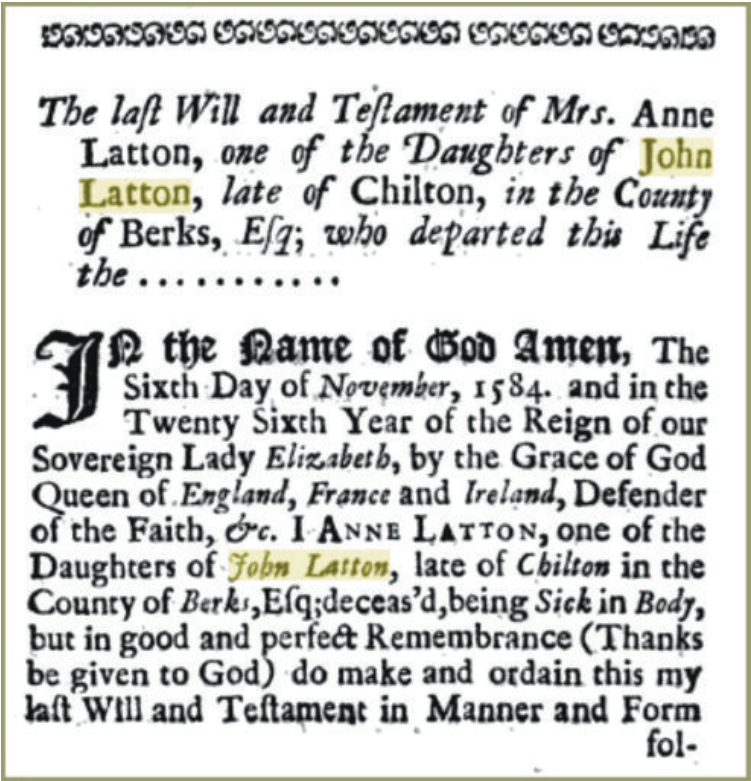
Ashmole's *Antiquities of Berkshire*, page 341



Item 7-72: Page 341 of *The Antiquities of Berkshire* by Elias Ashmole.

Will of Anne Latton

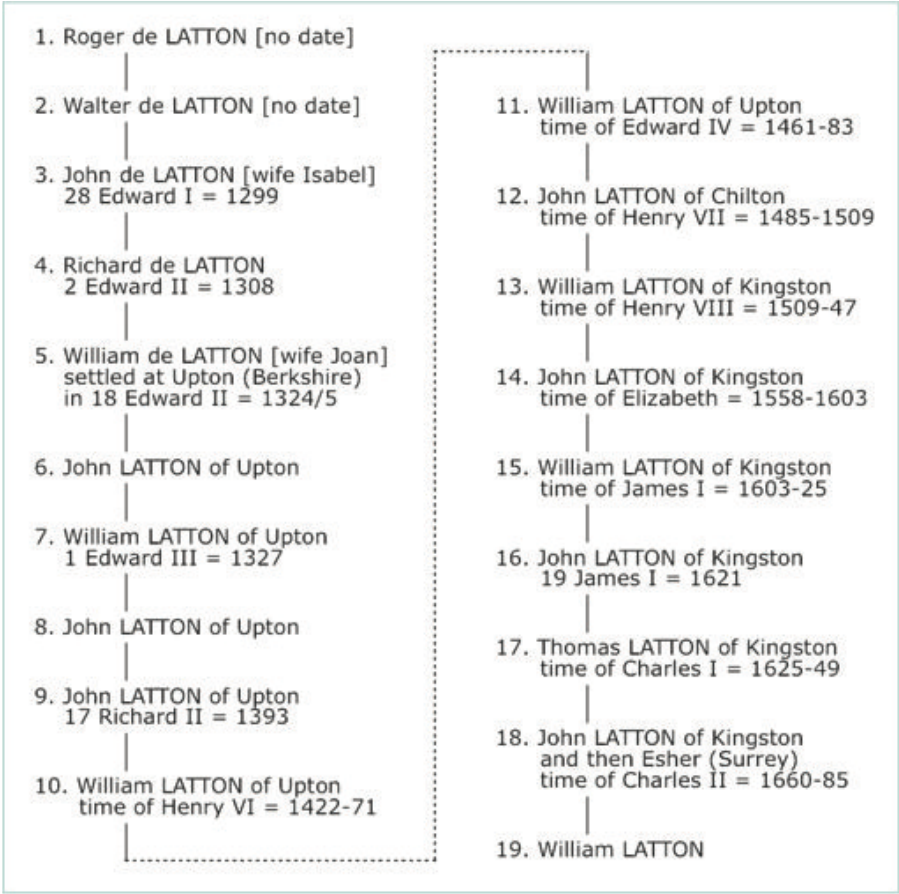
Later on in his book, Ashmole has inserted a 15-page copy of the will of a 16th-century Anne Latton, a daughter of John Latton of Chilton (Berkshire). The will starts out as follows [Ashmole page 346]:



Item 7-73: Page 346 of *The Antiquities of Berkshire* by Elias Ashmole.

Ashmole's list of Lattons

Ashmole’s book contains a list of the early Lattons [items 7-67 and 7-68]. In the following chart, I have recopied Ashmole's list of 19 individuals while expanding his date indications into a more explicit form:

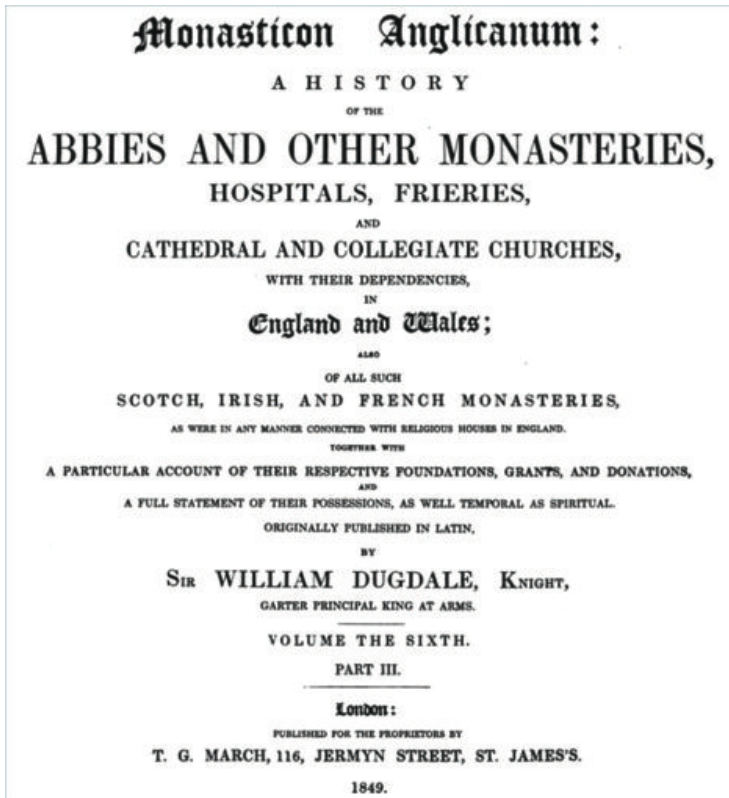


Item 7-74: Ashmole's list of Lattons.

The 19th individual, at the foot of Ashmole's list, is the William Latton whose name appears at the top of item 7-39: the father of the ambassador and the grandfather of the vicar of Woodhorn. My presentation of the early Lattons corresponds grosso modo to Ashmole's list.

Monk named Latton

Ashmole's list [item 7-67] starts with a certain Roger de Latton, then a Walter de Latton, but no dates are indicated for these men. Concerning the first individual, Ashmole refers us to the Latin *Monasticon Anglicanum* compiled by William Dugdale [1605-1686], who happened to be Ashmole's father-in-law. Published in 1692, this work described religious institutions in Britain. An enlarged English edition appeared in 1849.



Item 7-75: Title page of the enlarged 1849 edition of *Monasticon Anglicanum*.

Dugdale refers to this patriarch as “Roger”, a monk at the hospital of Elsham Priory in North Lincolnshire, founded by Beatrice d'Amundeville. In his *Notitia Monastica*, Thomas Tanner [1674-1735] explained that Walter, a son of Beatrice d'Amundeville, had committed this hospital, before 1166, to the care of a prior and regular canons of the Order of St Austin, which was the archaic mendicant community of Augustinian monks, now referred to simply as the Order of St Augustine.

Stuteville/Latton legend

At the start of his presentation of the Lattons [item 7-61], Ashmole states that the Lattons “derive themselves” from an ancient and celebrated family: the Estoutevilles of Normandy, whose name is generally written in English as Stuteville. Ashmole’s exclusive source of information concerning this Stuteville/Latton lineage was William Camden [1551-1623], England’s chief heraldic guardian from 1597 to 1623. Ashmole relayed Camden’s opinion [item 7-62] that Walter de Latton could be identified as a descendant of the Stutevilles through his coat of arms.



Item 7-76: Latton arms issued (according to Camden) from the Stutevilles.

Ashmole indicated that these arms, with an engrafted (indented) X-form, had indeed been adopted by John Latton of Esher.

Concerning the alleged Estouteville/Latton lineage, I have run into three fuzzy zones, which caused me to wonder for a while whether this link might not be a mere legend.

- For the moment, I have never discovered any kind of X-shaped form in the armorial context of the ancient Estouteville family.
- Neither Camden nor even Ashmole [in copies of ancient documents from the British Library] offers a plausible genealogical account of the precise transition from the Estoutevilles to the earliest Lattons.
- Two or three sites in England, all mentioned explicitly in Domesday, have come to be known as Latton. And it is not at all certain that Camden/Ashmole had in the mind the right site...

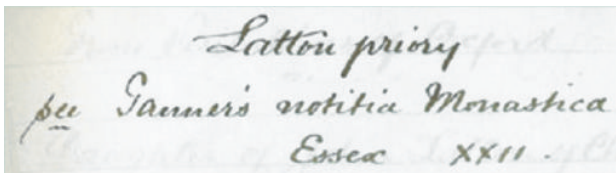
Places designated today as Latton

The least likely place of origin of the Lattons was a district of Cheltenham in Gloucestershire that Domesday refers to as *Lechetone*. This name has been transcribed into Latton, but it is better known today as Leckhampton. A more likely place, referred to in Domesday as *Latone*, was located between Cirencester and Swindon in Wiltshire. Ashmole was particularly impressed by the existence of a *corrody* of 1305 [items 7-63 and 7-64] that guaranteed privileges at Cirencester to John de Latton and his wife Isabel. Today, there is a hamlet named Latton to the north of Cirencester Road, and a street called Latton Close in Swindon. This is surely the region evoked by Ashmole when he spoke [item 7-61] of “the family of Latton, of Latton in North Wiltshire”. But I have found no traces of any Stuteville presence in this area.

By far the most likely place of origin of the Lattons was *Lattuna* in Essex, which was not even mentioned, however, by Ashmole. Domesday spoke of three manors here, the third of which evolved into Latton Priory. In the *Monasticon Anglicanum*, Dugdale described Latton Priory in Essex, which was in existence before 1270. It housed a community of monks of the Order of St Augustin, as at Elsham. Curiously, however, Dugdale never suggested for an instant that the Elsham monk named Rogero de Latton might have come from Latton Priory! The author of *Notitia Monastica* was more elusive still: Thomas Tanner was not even sure whether the place in Essex should be named Latton or Lacton!

A detail in the modern English translation of Domesday [Ann Williams and G H Martin (editors), *Domesday Book*] is significant in the context of my forthcoming explanations concerning the likelihood that Latton Priory was the missing link between the Stutevilles and our English Lattons. At the start of their transcription of data on the third manor at Lattuna, the editors refer to this territory as the *Land of Peter de Valognes*. We shall see that Sibyl de Valognes was almost certainly the individual who established a marital link between the Stutevilles and Latton Priory.

Even John Pickering [1851-1926] made a note [item 6-35] suggesting that he sensed the relevance of Latton Priory in our genealogical context.



Item 7-77: John Pickering's notes mention Latton Priory.

History of the Estouteville family

A French book on the Estouteville family, by Gabriel de La Morandière, *Histoire de la maison d'Estouteville en Normandie*, Charles Delagrave, Paris (1903), can be downloaded from the web.



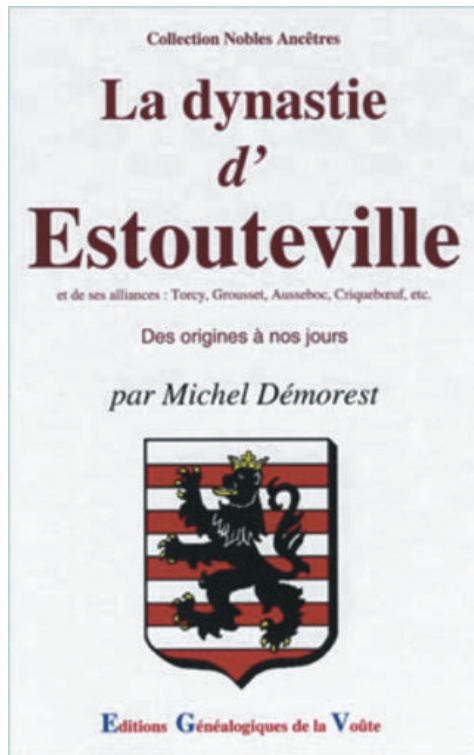
Item 7-78: French-language book on Estouteville history.

In the mists of Viking legends, the patriarch was designated as Stoot, meaning big and robust. A second term was added to his name, Vogel, meaning bird. The Viking plunderer Stoot-Vogel was considered as a great bird of prey. The Treaty of Saint-Clair-sur-Epte, signed in 911 between the king of Western Francia, Charles III, and the Viking chief Rollo, gave the latter all the land between the River Epte (flowing into the Seine at Giverny)

and the sea,. This territory would be considered henceforth as the heart of Normandy (today's Upper Normandy). The Vikings also received, through that generous treaty, the totality of Brittany. In return for all this territory, they were expected to protect the French kingdom from maritime invaders. Consequently, our Viking “bird of prey” was transformed into a sedentary citizen of Normandy, and he was now known to his neighbors as Estout.

A century and a half later, a Norman descendant of the former pirate Stoot-Vogel, referred to as Robert d'Estouteville, was (according to the Battle Abbey Roll) a companion of William the Conqueror at Hastings. His son, Robert II of Estouteville, had six sons through his second wife, the Saxon Erneburge. These sons—named Robert, Richard, Osmond, Patrick, Jean and Eustache—were thought (by Gabriel de La Morandière) to be the founders of the English branches of the Estouteville family.

Much is still being published about this family, particularly on the web. I even found a commercial French-language publication of a few dozen pages, full of genealogical data and family shields, that describes the “dynasty”.

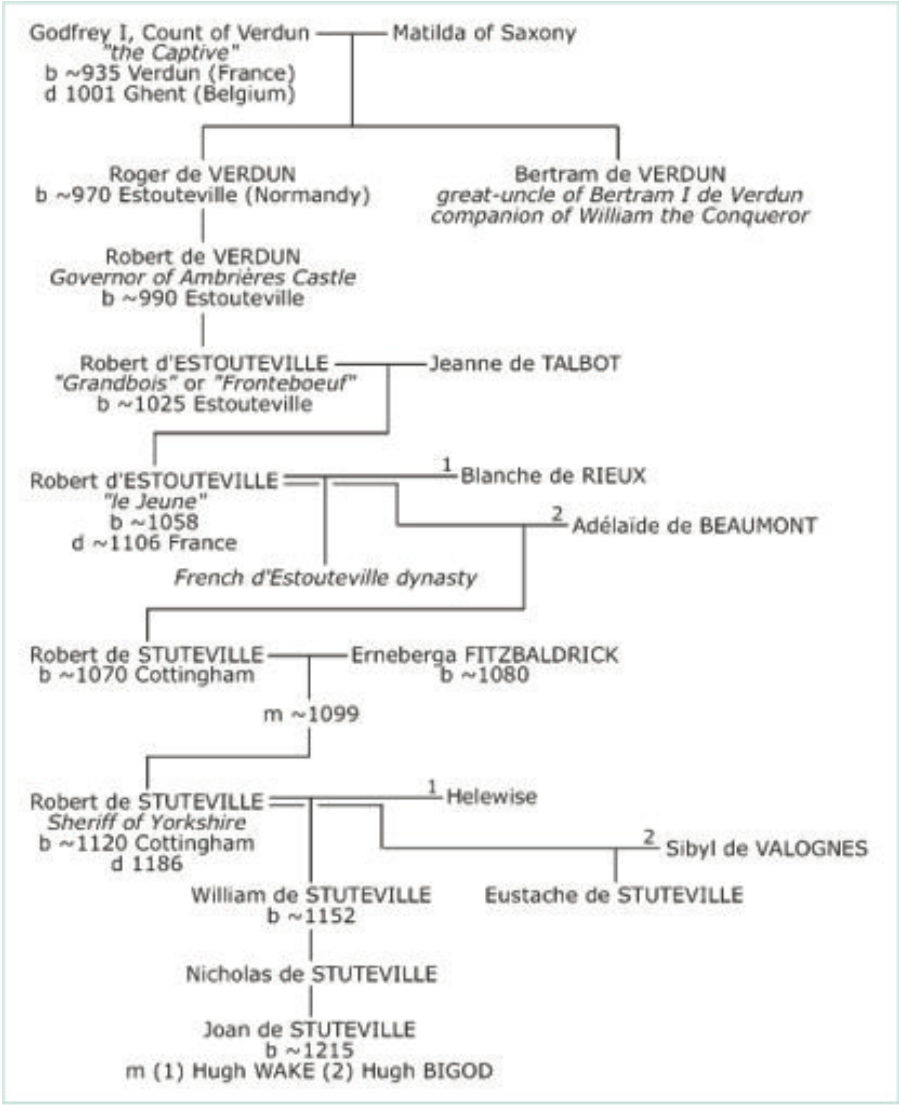


Item 7-79: Genealogical notes by Michel Démorest.

Let me now propose my personal “theory” on the Stuteville/Latton link.

Speculations upon the origins of the Estouteville family

Here is the synthesis of my attempts to grasp some two or three centuries of ancient Estouteville genealogy:



Estouteville families might be thought of, by certain historians, as fanciful. But I have not invented this idea, which has been expressed on the web by several researchers. I might point out that Norman settlers named Verdun were in fact the first landowners in the Leicestershire village of Skeffington: the source of my paternal ancestry. Consequently, the idea that ancient roots of my personal story might have once been intimately entangled in France is an attractive genealogical scenario. The place of alleged entanglement is a beautiful village in the Mayenne department: Ambrières.

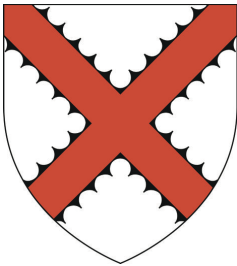


Item 7-81: Ambrières (Mayenne) in the Loire region of France.

Was this the idyllic place in which a certain Robert de Verdun had a son who would become known as Robert d'Estouteville? Why not? In any case, researchers are advised to refrain from trying to locate an actual village named Estouteville. There is indeed a small locality named Estouteville-Ecalles, some 20 kilometers north-east of Rouen, but it hardly appears to be the seat of a great Norman family.

Be that as it may, the people who concern us above all in the chart of item 7-75 are the folk of the East Yorkshire village of Cottingham, just alongside Hull. In particular, the sheriff of Yorkshire Robert de Stuteville [1120-1186] had a second marriage with a certain Sibyl de Valognes. And Valognes is a name that rings a bell in post-Conquest English history.

Intriguing blazon

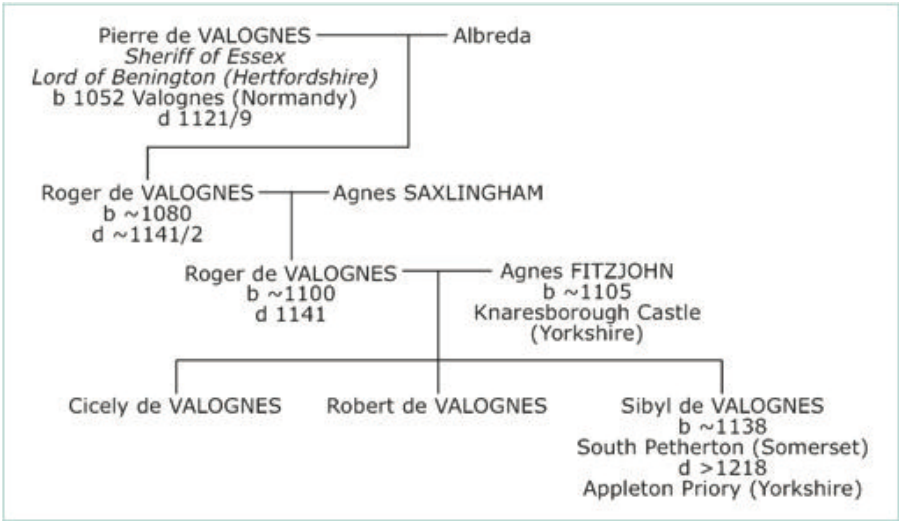


I take the liberty of mentioning here a trivial detail that might (or might not) be totally insignificant. Here is the present-day blazon of Ambrières. Its form can be compared with the arms of item 7-76.

Item 7-82: Blazon of Ambrières.

Valognes family

The name of Pierre de Valognes occurs in the Dives-sur-Mer list of the Companions of William the Conqueror, compiled by Léopold Delisle. His great-granddaughter Sibyl de Valognes was the lady mentioned in item 7-75 as the second wife of Robert de Stuteville, Sheriff of Yorkshire. The following chart shows the Valognes family:



Item 7-83: Descendants of Pierre de Valognes.

Using the charts of items 7-75 and 7-77, we can now examine the way in which the Stuteville/Latton evolution probably took place, at Latton in Essex, in the century that followed the Norman Conquest.

Lattons of Latton Priory

The Lattuna manor of Pierre de Valognes in Essex is described as follows:

Turgis holds Latton of P[eter], which a free man held TRE as a manor and as 21/2 hides and 30 acres of land. [There were] then 2 ploughs in demesne; now 1. The men [have] half a plough. Then as now [there was] 1 villan and priest. [There are] now 4 bordars. [There were] then 4 slaves; now none. [There is] woodland for 350 pigs. [There are] 35 acres of meadow. Then as now it was worth 60s.

— Ann Williams and G H Martin (editors), *Domesday Book*, p 1029

It was located in the Hundred of Harlow: an Anglo-Saxon administrative entity corresponding roughly to the Danelaw term *wapentake*. The letters TRE stand for *Tempore Regis Edwardi* (in the time of Edward the Confessor) as opposed to TRW, *Tempore Regis Willelmi* (in the time of William). Prior to the Norman Conquest, Lattuna in Essex existed as a manor in which a priest and four slaves cohabited with 350 pigs. In 1086, at the time of Domesday, Pierre de Valognes was the tenant-in-chief (or overlord) of Latton, whereas the actual lord of the manor was a certain Turgis (also spelt Thorgisl), who cannot be identified precisely.

Detailed information on this Latton manor (one of three in Lattuna) is provided in the *British History Online* website:

The tenant in demesne in 1184, 1197, and 1201 was Ralph of Latton holding 1 knight's fee.

Here are the documentary sources for this information:

Pipe Roll 1186 (Pipe Roll Society, xxxiii), 133

Pipe Roll 1197 (Pipe Roll Society, new series, viii), 75

Pipe Roll 1201 (Pipe Roll Society, new series, xiv), 64

In other words, as early as 1184 (roughly, at the time of the Stuteville/Valognes family), there was already an individual at the manor calling himself Ralph of Latton (who may well have been anterior to the monk Rogero de Latton). The web page provides another relevant element of information:

The overlordship descended in the Valognes family [...] until 1235...

There is no doubt in my mind that we have here an explanation of the origins of the link between the Stutevilles and the Lattons. Admittedly, if it is clear that the Latton “surname” was being used already at the time of the Stuteville/Valognes family, we cannot ascertain whether or not any of these primeval Lattons were in fact biological descendants of Robert de Stuteville and Sibyl de Valognes. But that is neither here nor there...

Places to visit

Back in 1784, Latton Priory in Essex looked like this:



Item 7-84: Latton Priory, 1784.

This photo of Latton Priory dates from around 1930:



Item 7-85: Latton Priory, 1930.

Today, the remains of Latton Priory can be found to the south of Harlow, in the Epping Forest region, at a place called North Weald Bassett. Google provides us with an aerial image of the remains of the priory:



Item 7-86: Google aerial view of the remains of Latton Priory.

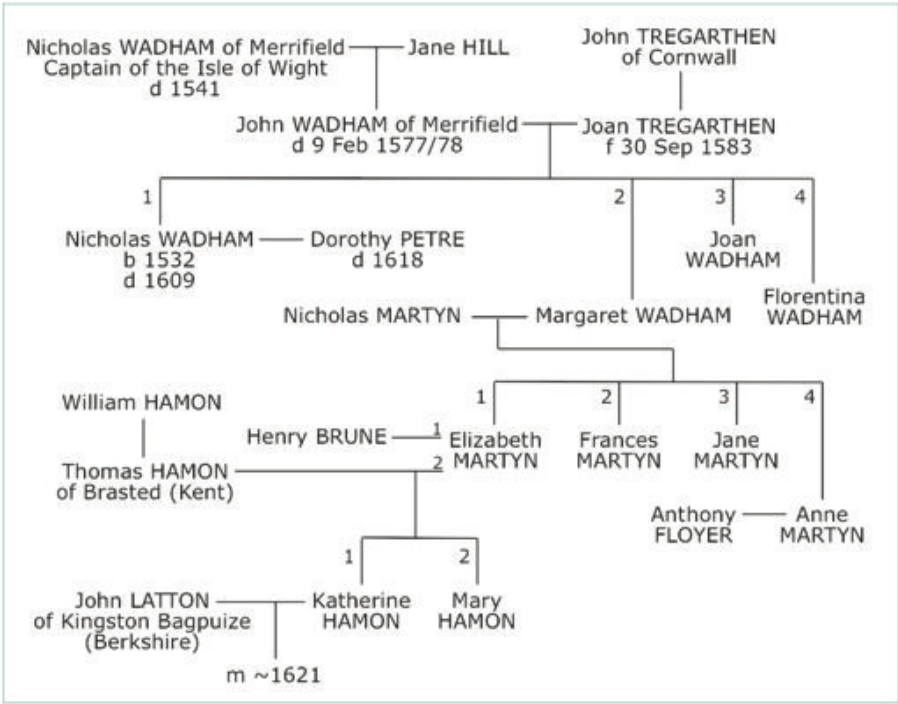
In Normandy, the magnificent castle of the Estoutevilles can be found in their ancestral village of Valmont.



Item 7-87: Castle of the Estouteville family at Valmont.

From the Lattons back to the Wadhams

Before our excursion into Latton territory, we saw that our 17th-century ancestor John Latton of Bagpuize married a Katherine Hamon [item 7-55], whose ancestral line takes us to the celebrated Wadham family.



Item 7-88: Ancestral line from our Lattons back to the Wadhams.

In the above chart, our central ancestor is Elizabeth Martyn, the daughter of Margaret Wadham, who was the sister of Nicholas Wadham [1532-1609], founder of Wadham College at the University of Oxford. Elizabeth's first husband was Henry Brune, and this union gave rise to descendants named Floyer (not indicated in the chart). Elizabeth's sister Anne married into this same Floyer family.

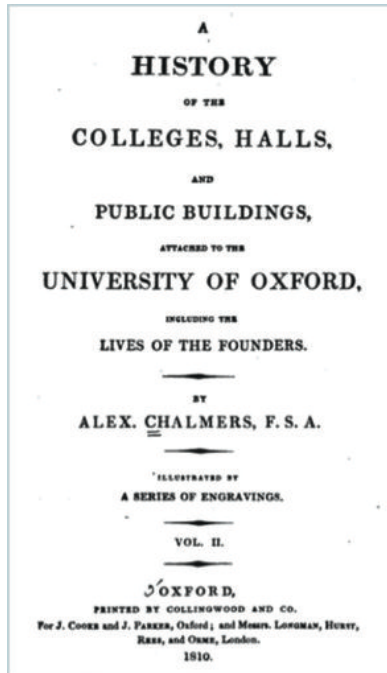
I might mention, at an anecdotal level, that these Floyers are the ancestors of the present-day Sarah Ferguson (former wife of Andrew, Duke of York), whose ancestral links with royalty were much the same as ours.

Wadham College at Oxford



Item 7-89: Wadham College at the University of Oxford.

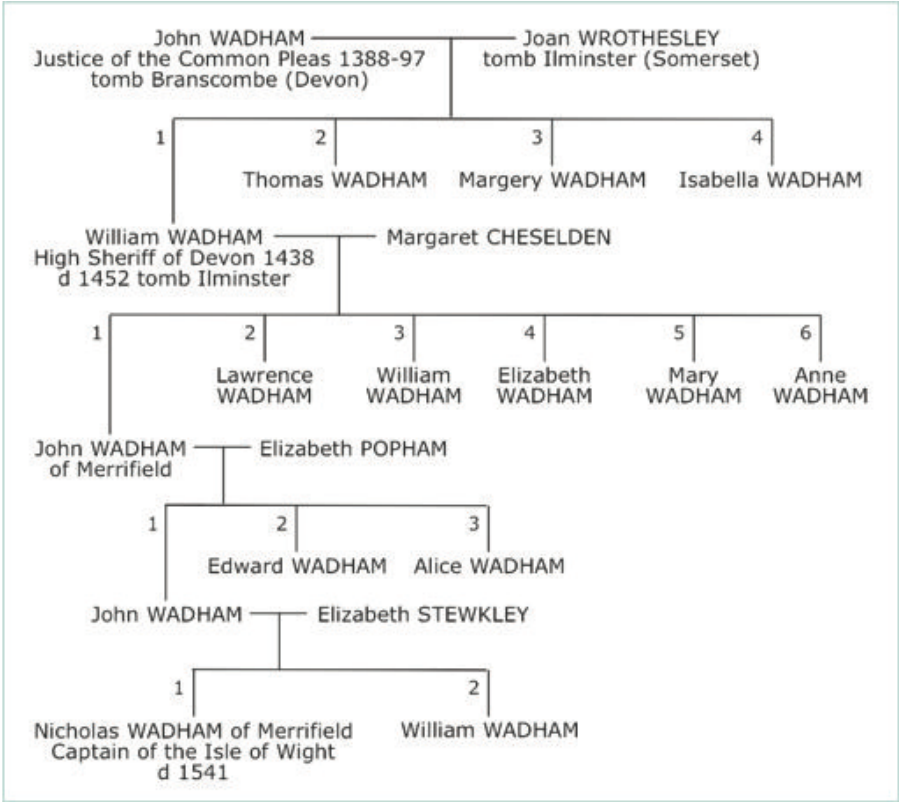
Information on the history of the colleges of Oxford is contained in a book dated 1810 by Alex Chalmers, made available today by Google.



Item 7-90: History of the colleges of Oxford.

Earliest Wadhams

Some of the websites about the earliest Wadhams seem to reproduce pages from old editions of Burke publications.

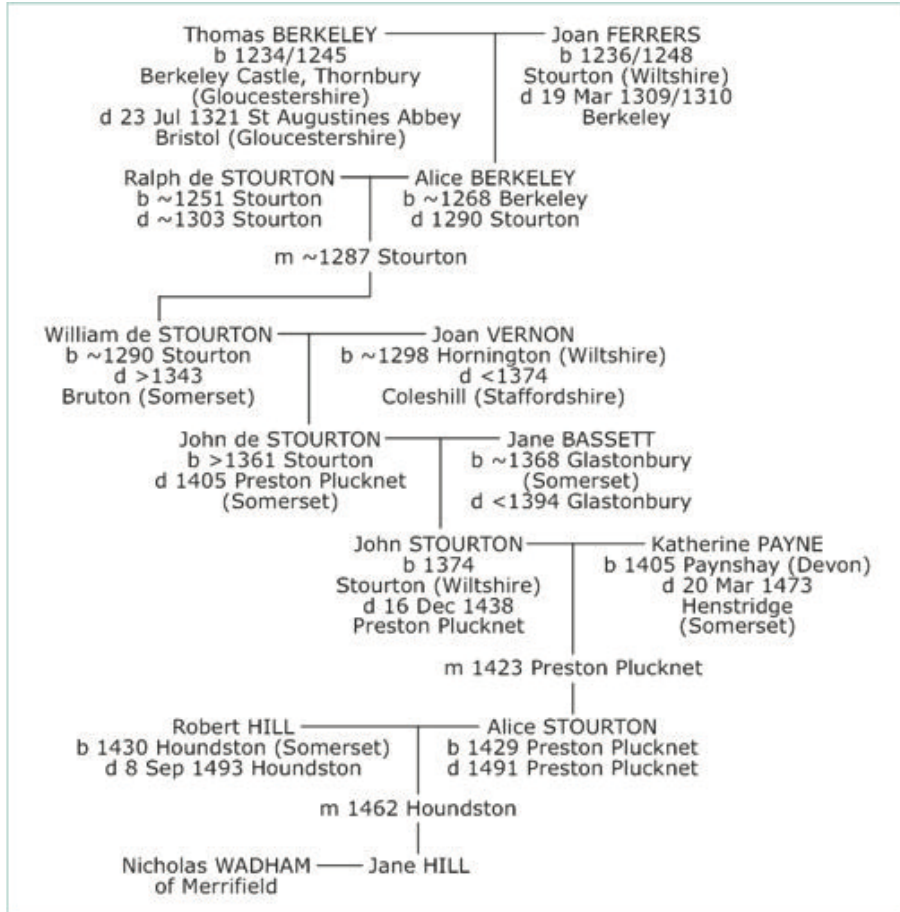


Item 7-91: Earliest known Wadhams.

Let us return now to the union between our 16th-century ancestor Nicholas Wadham, Captain of the Isle of Wight, and a certain Jane Hill. Her maternal ancestors were named Stourton, and it is through them that we finally attain the realms of English royalty.

Stourton ancestors

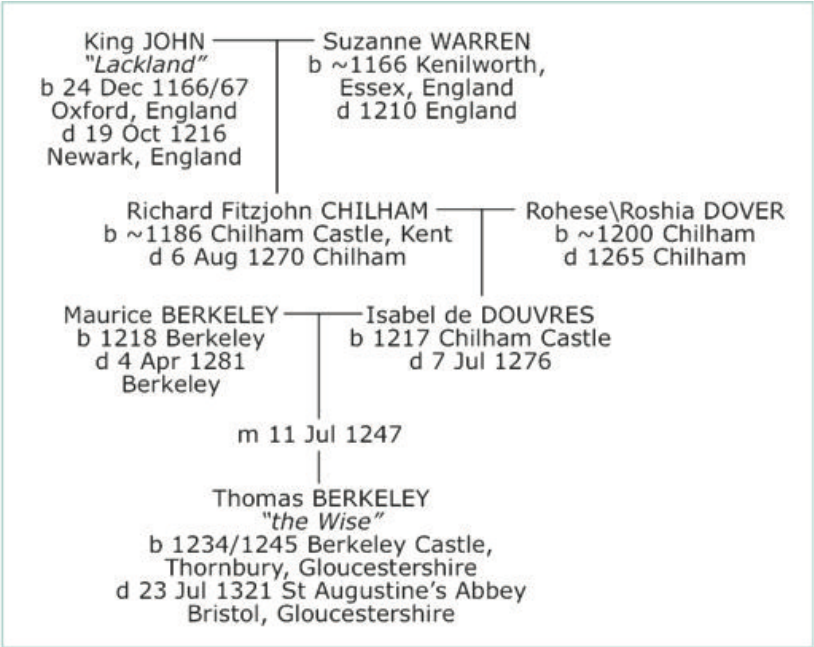
Data on the ancestry of Jane Hill, wife of Nicholas Wadham of Merrifield, has been extracted from various websites. At several places in the following chart, I have moved back up along maternal lines:



Item 7-92: Stourton ancestors.

Ancestral line from Thomas Berkeley to King John

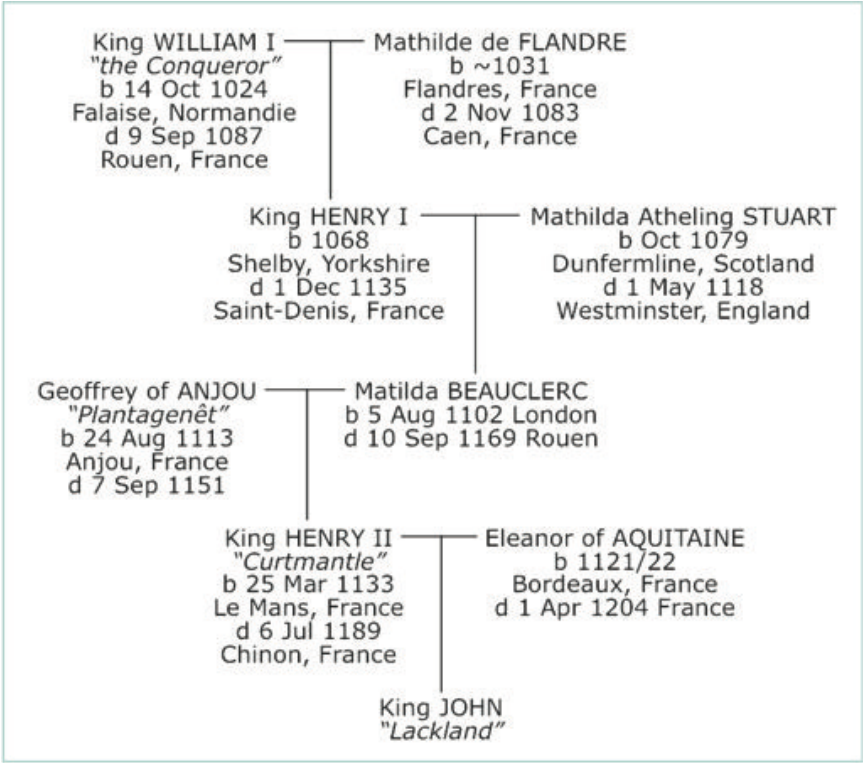
A maternal great-grandfather of Thomas Berkeley was King John, who signed the *Magna Carta* at Runnymede in 1215.



Item 7-93: Ancestral line from Thomas Berkeley to King John.

Ancestral line from King John to William the Conqueror

King John, of course, had a celebrated great-great-grandfather: William the Conqueror.

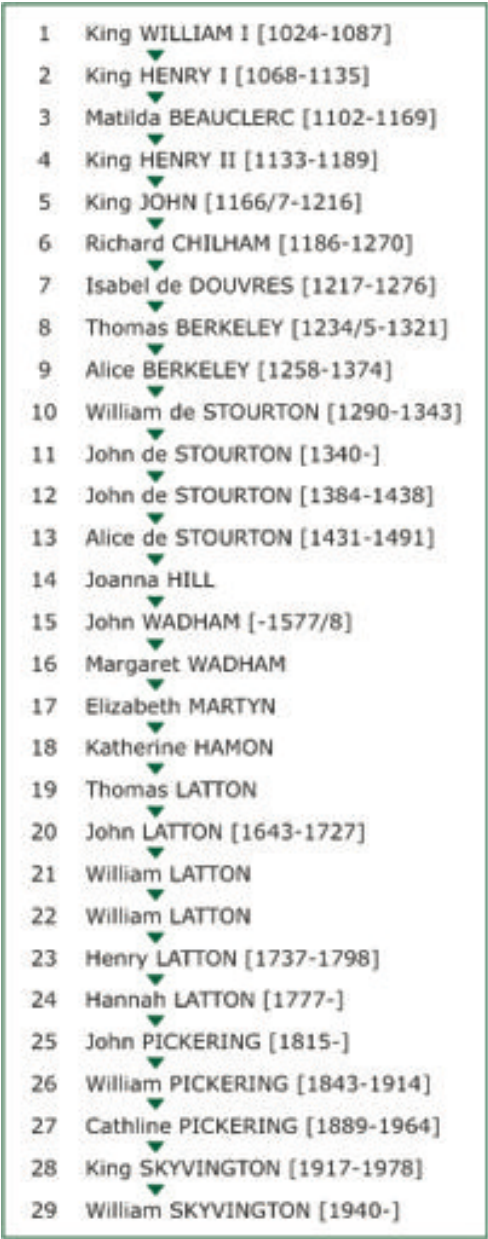


Item 7-94: Ancestral line from King John to William the Conqueror.

Having reached this point in our ancestral research that started with the Pickerings, I do not intend to delve any further into the background of the Conqueror, since this subject is presented amply in countless contexts.

Line of descent from the Conqueror down to the author

Here is my line of descent (a needle in a haystack) from the Conqueror:



Item 7-95: A line of descent from the Conqueror down to the author.

Terminating my book with this diagram might suggest that an underlying purpose of this research into my paternal forebears—which started exactly a third of a century ago—was to demonstrate that a 73-year-old author named William Skyvington happened to be a descendant of 989-year-old William of Normandy. I would like to assure readers that my goals were far more subtle.

My grandfather “Pop” assured me that no traces of our ancestors could possibly exist in Great Britain. As for my grandmother “Ma”, she referred to her Irish Orangemen ancestors as if they were brave actors in a mysterious past, and she seemed to like the idea that she might have been related to the foolish explorer Thomas O’Hara Burke... but I do not recall her ever saying a word to me about forebears named Latton, Wadham and Berkeley, not to mention a line of kings named John, Henry and William.

May these pages enlighten the ghosts of my grandparents, and maybe convince them that all has not been lost. The past is still present in our lives.