

Bickfords of England

After a few months of researching and digging into sources in the United States, I managed to blend in some searching in England. I gathered much information which you will see throughout the English section of this book. Some of my discoveries of the early Bickford surname and a location named 'Bickford' or 'Bickford Town' are inserted below.

From : 'Collections Towards A Description Of The County Of Devon' by Sir William Pole, written in 1604, page 328:

BICKFORD.

BICKFORD Raph de Bickford held 27 of Kinge Henry 3; Will^m de Bickford, 24 of Kinge Edw. 1; Will^m de Bickford, 8 of Kinge Edw. 2; John de Bickford, 19 of Kinge Edw. 3.

In other words, Raph de Bickford held Bickford (Town) in 1243; Willam de Bickford held Bickford in 1296; Willam de Bickford held Bickford in 1315; John de Bickford held Bickford in 1346

From 'Survey of Devon' by Tristram Risdon (1580-1640).....

Corim. By the heiress of the latter it was conveyed in marriage in 1399 to John Crocker of Lynham, son of John Crocker of Hele, who was also in possession of the adjoining manor of Bickfordtown. In the family of Crocker the two manors of Hemerdon and Bickfordtown remained until 1632, when John Crocker and Elizabeth sold them to Peter Ryder and Tristram Avent, by whom they were divided; one moiety of Hemerdon was allotted to Ryder, the other with Bickfordtown, to Avent, whose residence the latter became, and so remained in his family during five generations. The last of this family, Maria,

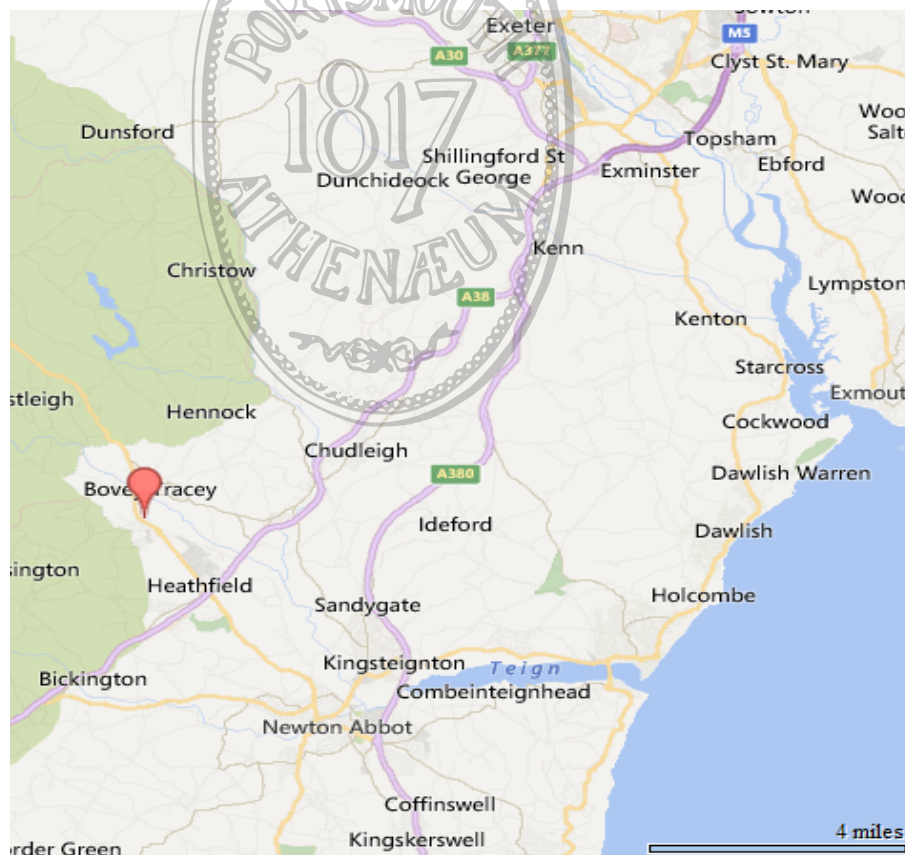
Page 275: From: 'Collections Towards A Description Of The County Of Devon' by Sir William Pole, 1604. Therefore, this mention of 'Bickford' is true, as of 1604.

Jane, daughter of John Hille, of Exceter, Elinor, wief of John Hull, w^{ch} had issue S^r Edward Hull, w^{ch} died wthout issue. Hugh Mallet, sonne of S^r Baldwyn, by Amy Lyff, married Jone, daughter of John Ronyon, of Bickford, & had issue Thomas, w^{ch} by Jone, daughter of Will^m Wadham, of Meri-field, had issue Will^m, w^{ch} by Alis, daughter & heire of Thomas Younge,

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Another mention of Bickford Town.....Dunsland Manor is one of the manors mentioned in the Domesday Book as 'Donnesland' and Vivian in his book, 'The Visitations of the County of Devon, Comprising The Herald's Visitations of 1531, 1564 & 1620, with additions' by Lt. Colonel J. L. Vivian, 1895.....shows a pedigree (which follows the chapter 'Dunsland Manor House') that Dunsland descended through the Arscott family via Humphrey (died 1580) and John (died 1623) until 1662 when the death of Arthur Arscott without male progeny resulted in it eventually passing to his second daughter Grace, the widow of William Bickford of Bickford Town, Plympton St Mary who had died in 1659.

Wonderful News!! - While searching and digging, I had the very great good fortune to make contact with an outstanding researcher and Bickford cousin in Gwyn Lobb. Gwyn is extremely thorough and has given me permission to copy in her essay, 'History Notes For Terry Bickford's Family Tree', and others which are inserted below. I am very glad that I was able to send her much information on our early Bickford families of New England and to provide sources for her future research in New England. I am very grateful for all the information on our early Bickfords in England which Gwyn has provided to me. As you read her article, it is vividly apparent just how much time and hard work and deductive thinking has gone into her research and the organization of all that she has learned. I think you will be as fascinated and impressed as I was and still am. Gwyn resides in Devon, England not far from Bovey Tracey.



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Map showing Bovey Tracey, Bickington, Coffinswell in Devon

Gwyn Lobb's – 'HISTORY NOTES FOR TERRY BICKFORD'S FAMILY TREE' - 2015

Historical documentation tells us that the family later to be known as Bickford arrived in South Devon between 600 and 700 AD. Thought to have come to these isles from Saxony in Northern Germany, they were seeking good arable agriculture and pasture land for farming and it comes no better than that to be found in South Devon, especially in the South Hams.

It is my contention that the place of settlement they chose was Bickington spelled in various ways through the centuries, although there is varied and debated opinion surrounding this point. I have studied the existing and documented facts, plus circumstantial and supporting evidence, and have considered long and hard all alternative suggestions. For example, many think that Plympton St Mary was the first area of residence before they spread to others. This may be true as there are similar numbers of Bickford population in the Plympton area as there are around Kingskerswell. The Bickford name is a place name and logic suggests that Bickington was the place. The word 'bic' means hill and 'ford' stands for river or stream. A river, namely the Lemon, flows at the bottom of a hill upon which Bickington is partly built, so I think there is more supporting evidence for them originating in Bickington than anywhere else.

They probably spread to other areas fairly rapidly and I think Plympton was certainly one of them. 'Ton' of course, stands for town or village in Anglo Saxon terminology. There are other Bickingtons in Devon and in company with other place names where there is more than one, it was common for names to be replicated where settlers move further afield taking their place name with them. That is not always the explanation but sometimes it is.

Of course, the Saxons settled in many areas and mainly towards the south and west of the country but a similar group of persons also eventually known by the name of Bickford arrived in England and settled in Staffordshire around the same time. Whether the two groups arrived together or whether they went their separate ways from the onset with a variation on time of arrival is hard to say. They bear the same names and may have been of the same group in Saxony from whence they came, before that. Bickford, Coven and Penkridge are place names associated with the Bickfords there.

A memorial inscription for William Bickford of Paradise Farm, Coven, Staffordshire reads, 'from Paradise he came and to Paradise he will return' but I cannot locate the date.

There is also some association with Gloucestershire.

Given their obvious influence and presence in their community the head of the South Devon group was probably a Saxon chieftain or descended from one, and apparently bore the name of Beocca. They appeared to have soon established themselves throughout the South Hams. The first place of settlement for which there is some evidence, was probably Wrigwell, on the edge of Bickington. Wrigwell is a personal name with supposed Celtic origins. In many instances, the Saxons settled well with the Celts, possibly intermarrying into their families and working together elsewhere as they could have done here, supposing that there were Celts there at the time, and they had not departed. Wrigwell Farm can be found on the pinnacle of a small hill or

raised area surrounded by other farms in a kind of circle descending to the base of the hill in the typical style of an Anglo Saxon settlement. Included in this circumference are Coombe, Farlacombe, Gale, Herebere and Lower Herebere. Slightly more distant is Burn. All of these farms were owned by Bickfords at various times or a family into which they had married.



Wrigwell House

Wrigwell was my family's ancestral home which name of choice was taken by various members of the family to new places of settlement all over the world. This was to the exclusion of all other house or farm names with which they have been associated since, so Wrigwell had a great deal of significance for them - in other words, it was the jewel in the crown.

Because The Domesday Book was completed in haste due to the anticipated early demise of William the Conqueror, it was produced in a more abbreviated form than previous earlier versions prepared for some regions would suggest. One such region is the West country where the Exon edition resides in the Library of Exeter Cathedral. It gives much more detail about certain events and personages in the region. For instance there is a most unusual entry about the fact that there was no recorded landowner in Bickington, South Devon in 1086. It can be found in a codicil in the back of the volume, and I think it is the only mention of a parish in the country, bar one maybe, where this is noted. This is very significant to me as I think I know the reason why - supporting evidence again!

As for noted persons - there is recorded a William Bickford at Bickham, Flete near Modbury, and a Ralph Bickford at Plympton St Mary of Bickford Walls or Bickfordtown Farm in the Hemerdon district. These would be recorded in their original form as Ralph of Bickford (Ralph de Bykeforde) and William of Bickham, Flete (William de Bykeham). (It is possible that I have the order back to front, but I do not have the record available to me at the present time to check it.) Bickham House was later relinquished for want of a better description to the Elford family I believe, (of Elfordleigh) or there are certain associations with them and the house still remains.

The name may have changed and later was restored but I am unsure of that point, but is still exists as Bickham House today. There are other houses in Devon bearing the same name. The

Plympton estate was held for many years by the Bickfords as was Wrigwell in Bickington during those early times.

Surnames were not a recognised term of address back then but a person could be associated with a place and take their name from it as a means of identity which was one of many ways about two to three centuries on as to how surnames evolved.

The name of Bickford can be found in early records of the 1500s at Abbotskerswell, Churchstow, Coffinswell, East Allington, Ilsington, Loddiswell, Plympton St Mary, Rattery, Tormohun, Ughborough and Widecombe in the Moor and many more. Probably they existed in most of them before the commencement of parish registers and had done for many years.

Bovey Tracey, apparently being one of them was a revelation to me as tracing a Bickford at Bovey Tracey is fairly rare but there was an obvious presence there in the 1400s going by the evidence shared with me via a Family Bible discovered in the USA. This fact came to my notice through courtesy of Ian Wills who has a family tree online which carries several generations of Bickfords from the 15th century who appear to have connections to both our branches which he obtained from this bible. Ian is descended from the Wills family who have lived and farmed in Devon from at least the 1300s and in the same areas as ourselves, but mainly Lustleigh and Ilsington and have married into the Bickford family many times over through the years.

After their presumed hasty departure from Bickington, many of the remaining Bickfords in the area may have moved to Bovey Tracey or were perhaps part of a branch of them who were already there. They did not appear to remain there for very long and most moved gradually into Abbotskerswell, Ilsington and Widecombe in the Moor and there were strong links between them and those of Plympton St Mary, as records show. A document found at Wrigwell House also has proof of it.

The Bickfords are noted to have had a troublesome history where fortunes rose and fell, depending mainly on whose favour they were in or out of at the time. These would include the monarch of the day or those persons engaged by them to enforce rules and regulations, not always held in high esteem by the Bickfords. I am definitely a chip off the old blocks, and by that I do not mean my parents.

They certainly held a grudge against the Normans when they tried to interfere with their cherished way of life in Bickington, and if they did not care for the new laws they tried to impose upon them as regards the management of land which the Anglo Saxons considered, perhaps justly, their prerogative, they rose up against them with disastrous results. In particular the Bickfords as the main branch of the family there, would have fought tooth and nail to hold on to their rights, and were probably the largest land owners occupying it at the time. Although King William could be a reasonable man he would not tolerate the bolshie Bickfords. He was also ruthless and I think the Bickfords paid the price which is why I think there was no recorded landowner in Bickington at that time because they were very likely killed or driven out. There probably was a battle and those that survived it would have scattered and gone to ground. How they fared in other parishes is unknown too but others may have been more accepting of these new rules having heard about their cousins' fate.

Subsequent events throughout history proves that the Bickfords as a whole would never take 'no' for an answer as they were always falling out with the authorities. When in trouble there was a sanctuary to which they would go at St Keverne in Cornwall. It literally was a sanctuary being a convent or monastery well hidden from view, of which no one except perhaps their closest allies knew. There they kept a low profile until it was safe by their reckoning to return. There are few records but they apparently became involved with the Bogan family at St Keverne, and bought and sold land and property between them. There is a document which refers to William Bickford of Plympton and St Keverne describing him as a leather merchant.

The right to bear a Coat of Arms was traditionally recognised as belonging to the eldest son of the eldest son in a direct line of descent. When a Bickford's right to exercise it was in dispute, following one of the Heralds' Visitations, he was asked to prove this right which he knew he had but unfortunately did not have the documentation to do so. Therefore he was asked to vacate his property in Abbotskerswell, which I believe was Court Farm. This, Richard Bickford (b.1525), who was the recognised head of the family, with the support of his son Michael (b.1560), refused to do. The documents proving property ownership including the right to bear arms were missing probably due to various skirmishes, battles or fires at some point in the past.

The Prerogative Court of Canterbury was established for the proving of wills and litigation cases to be heard for those citizens who were over a certain level of wealth. Therefore the case was to be proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the 26 June 1618, but the judge ruled against Richard, although he argued that he had inherited the property from his father William, he could not back up his claim with the required documentary evidence, but he continued living at the property which did not bode well. The authorities returned and rather than give in, both father and son fought to the death literally, as there was a fierce, pitched battle which resulted in Richard and Michael being killed on the site or nearby. They died on the same day in 1619 and they were buried three days later. They are both recorded as having no fixed place of residence, or 'displaced' at the time of their death. No one would know what that meant or indeed who they were unless they knew the story and fitted the pieces together. There was no disease or other cause of death at that time. The facade on the front of the house was torn off and extensive damage was sustained.

The farm remained in a derelict state for approximately one hundred years until James Tuckett restored it and rebuilt the front in 1721. It is possible that Richard's great grandfather (possibly John (b.1416) had built it in 1450 when he moved with his family to Abbotskerswell from Bovey Tracey, when he would have been about thirtythree. Court Farm is supposed to have been built around 1450 and perhaps to replace another on the same site. I have found no documentation to support my claims but that is not to say there is none. Anyway, a subsequent event approximately two hundred years later suggests it and John Bickford, born in 1725 (my 6 x great grandfather's brother), re-acquired it in the late 1700s to early 1800s. Who knows what lies in the vaults of The National Archives? It was John Somers Cocks who said 'it should not be thought that all that can be discovered has now been revealed; there remain many documents that have not been examined but which will certainly fill in some further, and perhaps important detail when they are'. It so happens he was writing about Abbotskerswell, but it can apply to

anything in history. In any event the dates and time lapses all fit together and draw to that terrible conclusion.

There was damage done to Love Lane Bridge which lies between Bickington and Abbotskerswell and I wondered if these representatives of the Crown were going for Wrigwell also, being aware of its importance, as the present Wrigwell House has been rebuilt at some stage in its history and maybe more than once. Love Lane is on a direct route to Wrigwell from Bickington. There is no record that I know of to substantiate this fact but the building which stands today is from about the mid-1600s and resembles a Devon long house and has been extended shortly afterwards. In no way does it equate to a medieval building, so it may have been ransacked and vandalised or even burned. Whether at that time or another I wouldn't like to say.

Considering its history and the length of time it is supposed to have existed something of that ilk must have happened to it, but it may have been modified from the original. The bridge was eventually repaired and a curious inscription carved upon one of the stones reads, 'This bridge repaired by the County in 1688. M Bickford Love Lane Justice'. As Wrigwell was 'rebuilt' some while before this date it may be associated with the earlier date of the Abbotskerswell tragedy. The first Bickford to return to Wrigwell was around 1664, and he was John (b.1639), Michael's grandson, so it could link up. The facts plus the speculation do seem to fit very well together, and there is more fact than speculation.

A later John Bickford (b.1811) there, had claimed that his family had held the Wrigwell estate for six hundred years. This fact is disclosed within the summary for Bickington William White gave in his Devon Directory of 1850. That date takes you back to 1250. William White was not in the habit of giving false information and the owner and occupier of the estate had no reason to lie, although there are those who would like to prove otherwise. It is just that this Bickford would not consider the gaps between dates when not personally in occupation, as literally applicable.

The Bickfords were considerable landowners and with land comes wealth and with wealth comes education. Richard was the constable for his community at Abbotskerswell and was responsible for assembling the Muster Rolls for Queen Elizabeth 1 in anticipation of wars with Spain. Michael's level of wealth was such that he was obliged to contribute to the church a percentage of his income in lieu of tax in the form of produce which he generated from his farm, which was customary, and for the relief of the poor. Richard was over 90 at the time of his death and Michael was about 60. They were my great grandfathers x 11 and 12.

Within approximately ten years of this event, William Bickford (b.1567), who was Michael's brother, assumed the right to take over Bickfordtown Farm in Plympton as the next natural heir to the property as there was no other successor in the locality where the farm was situated. He was the next holder of his family's Coat of Arms, ignoring the ruling imposed upon the family by the authorities, being Richard's second surviving son. Michael had a son, Nathaniel who was only sixteen at the time of his father's death and therefore perhaps considered under age to take on that responsibility, so William had assumed it then.

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William took his wife Dewnes (nee Lambshead), who he had married in 1595 in Ilsington to live at Plympton where William junior was born in 1597 and baptised at the age of seven in 1604. The parish registers confirm these facts. Richard was the father of another son born between Michael and William in 1562 but he may not have survived and I have no proven record as yet to show whether he did or not - presumably not, in view of the fact that William assumed all responsibilities in place of Michael. There didn't seem to be any argument within the family about that.

By 1628 the authorities had caught up with the fact that William Bickford (junior) had now taken up residence in Plympton having reached the age of thirty-one or thereabouts, and as he was the grandson of Richard Bickford of Abbotskerswell, they considered him as some kind of usurper who had absolutely no right to believe himself to be the rightful inheritor of Bickfordtown Farm, so William, on hearing trouble was afoot and thinking they were about to remove him from the premises, fled to St Keverne, not wishing to endure a similar fate to his grandfather and uncle, or be involved in any further dispute. They did not seem to worry about his father. Perhaps they did not realise he was still alive, but he could have taken up residence elsewhere in the parish by that time, or returned to Abbotskerswell where there are indications he died or was buried there. He outlived his son and actually died at the age of one hundred and one. The Avent family took control of the Bickfordtown property but there did not seem to be any animosity between them and the Bickfords on account of it, so it may have been an understood arrangement. I believe a marriage later transpired between an Avent and a Bickford.

About four to six year later having kept his ear to the ground, William returned to Devon from St Keverne but not South Devon for any length of time. He ultimately made for North Devon - to Dunsland where he married Grace Arscott, the heiress of that estate, in 1634. This was an astute move on his part and quite a feather in his cap. He defiantly established his rights then and his family would have been well known to the Arscotts. His Coat of Arms was later found with those of three other past and proud owners of Dunsland who had inherited it previously, quartered over the front portico of the east wing entrance to Dunsland House. There is evidence of an earlier marriage between a Bickford from Rattery, a cousin to William, and someone who the Arscotts may have known in that area, which may have been his introduction to the Arscott family.

In 1641 the Protestation Returns were being compiled, and in Ilsington, Nathaniel Bickford (b.1604), who was the son of Michael, and referred to earlier, was one of the church wardens of the Parish Church of St Michael there, who were responsible for their completion along with the constables and the vicar. Five signatures at the foot of the document includes that of Nathaniel, and in their own hand. They were then presented to the local JP of their hundred for his inspection. The returns were completed and returned at varying dates across 1641 and 1642.

Nathaniel's death is recorded as occurring on 7 March 1641, which seems strange as he was only thirty-eight, and must have taken place immediately after the returns for Ilsington were submitted. His wife Ann Smerdon, who was ten years younger, died the following year at twenty-nine. I have no evidence of anything untoward happening, but do not forget he was not only Michael's son but Richard's grandson. They had one son, John who was left an orphan at two years old. He is the thread by which my branch hangs and is the John who was the first

Bickford to return to Wrigwell, as stated previously. This John had ten children of which only five survived one of these being my great grandfather x 8, Thomas Bickford (b.1670). The significance of Wrigwell would have been instilled into John from an early age by his uncles and aunts no doubt, to whom he would have been left to be brought up.

The evidence for Ellis Bickford's descent from those Bickfords at Bovey Tracey can be deduced from the following information. The John Bickford born in 1416 had a son born in 1439 who married a Mary Ellis. The evidence points to the likelihood that he had a brother William, who was born in 1449 but at Abbotskerswell, where I think the family had moved. I think it is the same family, and this William is the one through whom I descend. The older brother had a son called Richard who was born in North Bovey in 1461 and had moved back to Bovey Tracey where he met and married his wife, Ann Knight, and where their four children were born - two boys and two girls. The eldest of these was John (b.1484). He married Ann Decker and their offspring numbered nine, all born in Bovey Tracey, the last of whom was another Richard (b.1519). The date of death given for John would appear to be an error - 1515 - as three more children were born to them after it. It possibly should read 1545 making him about sixty-one at the time of death, and may have been entered incorrectly into the original bible as 1515.

It is here the records from this family bible end, but it is approximately one generation from the last of these Bovey Tracey Bickfords to the first of those recorded at Coffinswell. If Ellis' father was indeed Richard, it all adds up. There is a period of about thirty years between Richard at Bovey Tracey and Ellis at Coffinswell - a generation. He may have been very young when married, although not necessarily, but with parental consent it was possible for boys to marry at the age of fourteen back then, and girls at fifteen. It well may be there were other Bickfords at Coffinswell before this date, but I have guessed Ellis Bickford's birth date as well as his wife's, Joane Gotham. They both may have been born there, and Joane very likely was, but the births are too early to be recorded officially, as the Parish Registers for Coffinswell only begin in 1560.

When the Bovey Tracey births were listed of that last generation, there is no indication in which parish any of them may have moved to or married in. Ellis however, is quite significant as a choice of name - it would work out that he is possibly Mary Ellis' great-great grandson. We don't know if he had other siblings, but some of the other Bickfords there in Coffinswell could be his brothers and sisters. There are other Ellis Bickfords but none as early as this I think, and in further flung parishes. Bovey Tracey, Abbotskerswell and Coffinswell are very close, almost next door to one another in fact. There are probably unrecorded siblings in the earlier records at Bovey too.

Among his and Joane's seven children, the boys have the names of Richard, (very significant and first son as far as we know), Daniel, George, Michael and John. The girls are Dorothy and Joan. On these first two generations, you will see from the birth dates that there are considerable gaps among them. For instance, Ellis and Joane had been married for about eight years before their children began to arrive, unless they had lost some or they were born elsewhere. They were married at Coffinswell but we don't know where else they might have been living just afterwards. They may have returned to Bovey Tracey for a while - there could be any number of reasons, but I have found no record, but those could be missing. Don't forget that many men were very busy

preparing to take part in Elizabeth I's Spanish wars, and could have been away for long periods, training.

Also, there was a gap between Joane (b.1584) and John (b.1597), into which I have inserted Michael (b.1590), who I am fairly sure is their son although I can find nothing which actually states he is, as his birth is recorded with no named parents. On the other hand there is no other Bickford family into which this Michael seems to fit, and there were several Michael Bickfords in the parish. There is an obvious gap there and logic dictates that Michael could be the clue to fill it. You sometimes find these anomalies in early records and need a little poetic license but not too much.

There is also a long gap where there are no children in Richard Bickford and Tamsine Melberie's marriage, and that is between 1611 and 1621. Similar reasons maybe, or illness causing early death. Death records can be difficult to trace or have been lost. There are indications which show that Emblin Bickford is theirs but not easy to prove but there are strong Bickford ties to both Newton Ferrers - where it is stated Emblin was born - and Stoke in Teignhead, from Coffinswell from quite early days. After that things are more straightforward and although there are many early deaths among children and mothers dying in childbirth, we usually have the record to support it, but not always.

St Bartholomew Parish Church in Coffinswell has more than one memorial inscription inset into the floor for members of the Bickford family and these were only afforded to people of note. The most prominent properties listed in the parish are Court Barton and Manor Farm, but whether either of these was owned or occupied by a Bickford I have yet to determine, but they lived in Coffinswell for hundreds of years so it is possible. There is no other property there which I can say with certainty belonged to them either, at present. Probably more research would uncover additional facts and The National Archives at Kew may have something. They have millions of documents but not all of them are online. A trawl through their library of rare books and documents may reveal something.

You will note Christian names follow an almost identical pattern being passed from father to son with William, Richard and John, plus Michael and Daniel and a few other variations being found in Abbotskerswell and Coffinswell, seemingly derived from those at Bovey Tracey. Other close knit parishes have similar choices but often with additional names not found in these three. If you study a map of the region you will see the close proximity to each other the aforementioned parishes lie, and it's what I would interpret as supporting evidence. In Coffinswell, Ellis gradually gave way to Elias which may initially have come from the parish clerk when entering up events, as it would appear they had forgotten what Ellis was all about - and there is always a George hanging in there somewhere, which eventually became the name of choice for a few hundred years, with your main line descending through a George.

I have generally stuck to your main line of descent all the way down, giving siblings' marriages and the numbers of their children as far as possible. The only exceptions to this is I've shown that the first George Bickford at Kingsteignton married again after his first wife died having moved there from Coffinswell at an earlier date. Most of the five children he had with his second wife died as you can see, but I don't know what happened to their first born, Edward.

The second exception is that I've shown the total number of children Nicholas Bickford had with Margaret Watts, which number twelve, because of your interest in the Bickfords at St Mawes, and your connection to them. This may be a surprise to you as I know you thought there were about seven or eight. One or two were born and died between censuses I found. They did live during the earlier years of their marriage at St Just in Roseland (in Seaview Terrace).

Some records show the Bickford children were baptised in the parish church and some show a nonconformist baptism. In a couple of cases they show two baptisms per child. Part way through the century, the registration district for St Mawes and St Just in Roseland changed from Falmouth to Truro which represented both. The parish church of St Justus in St Just in Roseland served both - rather like the parish church of St Peter, St Paul and St Thomas of Canterbury at Bovey Tracey, which served both parishes of North Bovey and Bovey Tracey for some years.

Further study will reveal that once the Bickfords of Abbotskerswell and later Ilsington began moving back to Bickington, they acquired properties there almost faster than you could blink, one after the other, by either marrying their daughters and sons into the families who owned them, or by purchasing outright. They were Bickington Barton, The Elms (previously known as Hingstons and later as South Knighton House), Lee Farm, Lurcombe, Ramshorn, and not forgetting Wrigwell - plus those previously mentioned, and there is a later association with Chipley and others. I suspect many of them were in their ownership from much earlier times in their history because there is evidence of them being in Bickington in the 1500s and before, but they were often absent for long periods. They seemed to be constantly coming or going. Properties were often rebuilt or extended during the intervening years, due to deterioration or modification in the meantime, and often by the Bickfords themselves once acquired. If they had lost one they would move heaven and earth to restore it to their possession, and most of the time succeeded.

This conveys an evolving pattern of loss and regeneration from their first arrival there. It was repeated over and over again but they never gave up the struggle.

When they finally established their hold on the two parishes again, there the main branch stayed and the last Bickford left Wrigwell in 1968. Those at Ilsington gradually moved away in the 1800s to become lawyers, doctors, or joined the armed forces, especially the navy, as the living on the land became more difficult, but some of them did stay at Barton for longer and well into the 20th Century.

There are many stories about the Bickfords I could tell you but as most of those are about my Bickford branch and its off-shoots and this summary is about yours, we will not dwell on them, other than to give you some clues as to their very early history which affects us both plus events which took place largely due to habitual behavior common to both or all branches, but generally the main branch stayed in Ilsington and Bickington from about 1600. © Gwyn Lobb, 27 June

2015

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PRINCE HALL

Prince Hall at Two Bridges on Dartmoor was originally built in 1443 around the same time as Court Farm in Abbotskerswell. I think it was owned by the Bickfords at a fairly early date but whether from its origins I don't know. At that time it was known as Prynse Hall and possibly as all one word but I don't know who was responsible for building it. It was one of the ancient tenements of Dartmoor. It may have been one of those out of the way places they turned to in times of trouble but later in its history the authorities certainly knew about it.

It's general destruction was caused the records say, by what they think was a deliberate act of vandalism in the 1600s at the time of the Civil War, rather than combat. They are probably right and they must have witnessed the condition of it afterwards when it was safe to return, to draw that conclusion. Oliver Cromwell's men must have been on their way to some location in either Devon or Cornwall, yet they went out of their way to commit this crime, because crime it was either as a direct order from Cromwell, or because they wanted to have some 'fun'. They must have known who it belonged to and that was probably the point, and it is not an easy place to get to.

My great grandfather Thomas (b.1723) x 6's brother John (b.1725), who was the entrepreneurial one, had been on a 'mission' most of his life to re-acquire any property the Bickford's had owned at a previous time, in Widecombe in the Moor, Abbotkerswell, Ilsington and Bickington - and possibly Bovey Tracey too. He set about this task quite methodically by either purchasing outright when the opportunity arose, or by inheritance in marrying his sons and daughters into families who presently owned them. The family had relinquished said properties reluctantly when the Bickfords had chosen to leave the area for one reason or another some years before - maybe as many as a hundred years - long before John was born. He decided he was going to get them back by one means or another. It took time but he generally succeeded. Inevitably the cash started to run out eventually. Having decided to have a look at Prince Hall with an idea to renovating it from its derelict state, knowing it had belonged to his ancestors and no one had laid a claim to it since, he decided to start farming there again. It lay within the boundary area of Ilsington where he presently lived at Knighton Farm, but was still a fair distance away and the roads were very inhospitable being still un-made up and it was especially harsh in the depths of winter. Being a determined man and not easily put off he first began to build some out-buildings in which to house cattle and other farm animals and this is on record although the record does not state who was responsible for this. He suddenly abandoned this project probably finding it extremely difficult and with advancing years although only about forty-nine, rather unwelcome. Anyway, something more attractive was on the horizon. Court Farm in Abbotskerswell had at last come up for sale - the one place he longed to recover.



Court Farm House in Abbotskerswell – Time Teign

So he hastily put Prince Hall up for auction for a quick sale at Knighton Farm, thereby raising the much needed funds to complete the purchase, having sold Prince Hall to Francis Buller who before too long became the youngest judge in the country, at the age of thirty two. There is a document with references to John Bickford and Francis Buller. The file is so large I have not been able to open it online. Perhaps I would have better luck in the Record Office at Exeter which had been recently renamed Devon Heritage Centre and now changed to Devon Archives and Local Studies Service. Francis Buller proceeded to rebuild Prince Hall which is more or less how it looks today. It probably doesn't resemble the original construction a great deal but the dimensions would be similar as the foundations and the cellars beneath are still retained. John Bickford's sale of Prince Hall took place on the 18 July 1774. My great grandfather x 4, another Thomas Bickford was born in that year almost to the day, having been baptized on the 19 August 1774, and he was John's grandson. John did not regret his actions as he had regained Court Farm. He did not retain his new acquisition for that many years however, as he sold it again before he died. He died in 1811 at the age of 86 at Knighton Farm. By the time John's grandson, John Bickford (b.1790) had begun his quest to regain Barton Farm in Bickington, funds had run so low in the family coffers there was not much in the way of cash to leave for future purchases but he achieved his aim by completing the purchase by taking out a mortgage. He had previously lived at Coombe, another family farm also in Bickington which his son was given before inheriting Barton himself. John Bickford (b.1639), Nathaniel's (b.1604) son, four generations before, did the same when he purchased Wrigwell. His misfortune from which the family had scarcely recovered, was that his great grandfather Richard Bickford (b.1525) had lost his home and died in the attempt to save it. John's father had died about twenty years before at quite a young age, being only about thirtyseven (Nathaniel 1604-1641).

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I did not learn of any of this history from my family. They knew none of it, only that the Bickfords had been gentleman farmers. I researched it myself from bits and pieces which I stumbled across here and there really.

There are a number of interesting and famous people who have been associated with Prince Hall. Arthur Conan Doyle is supposed to have written 'The Hound of the Baskervilles' while staying there. The Duke of Windsor visited there with Wallis Simpson, and Lord and Lady Astor took it on as a summer residence later selling it to a Plymouth charity for deprived children.

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7 August 2016

More Sources For Gwyn's History Notes

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Profiles of Some Early Bickfords

I'm starting this section on our English Origins with an insert from Sir William Pole's book of 1604, 'Collections Towards A Description of the County of Devon' by Sir William Pole (died 1635) Now Printed from the Autograph in the possession his lineal descendant Sir John-William de la Pole, Barrister of Shute, &c in Devonshire, MDCCXCI., which appeared on an earlier page. We have not been able to connect these Bickfords and the best reason is because, while extremely reliable, parish records (including church) do not go back that far. However, I am inserting a part of an email message from Gwyn Lobb in Devon to which I agree completely. I could not have put down the words better.

B I C K F O R D.

BICKFORD Raph de Bickford held 27 of Kinge Henry 3; Will^m de Bickford, 24 of Kinge Edw. 1; Will^m de Bickford, 8 of Kinge Edw. 2; John de Bickford, 19 of Kinge Edw. 3.

“When William Pole described the Bickford family in his book he was describing the same Bickford family as ours as they are our ancestors. There is only one Bickford family and all roads lead to Bickington, and why is that? - because it is a place name. Just as on my father's side the Lobb surname is a place name and all roads lead to Lob(b) (next to Braunton in Devon). I tried to indicate this when I referred to John Bickford saying his family had held Wrigwell for 600 years which if White's first directory was published in 1850 takes you back to 1250 at least. The 'de' stands for 'of' in Latin or French, e.g. Byckforde de Bictone and all its variations of which there are many.

As far as I can make out they both descended from a Saxon chieftain or someone of that ilk as they had a certain amount of clout and wealth when they arrived (600-700 AD) - one in North Devon and the other in South Devon - and soon became prominent citizens in their own community, which you soon discover when you read the little history that there is about them.

The first date for a record going back to a birth date on record for a Bickford was 1449 for the birth of William's (1485-1534) father in Abbotskerswell, another William. His father I think, had moved from Bovey Tracey and had a hand in building Court Farm in Abbotskerswell at about that time. He was John Bickford who was born in 1416 in Bovey Tracey. He would be our great grandfather x 15 for all three of us. That last date was obtained from the US family bible mentioned previously. That is the earliest birth date I have apart from William Pole's references.” Gwyn Lobb, 2016

The following pages are *excerpts* from the John Bickford Descendant Report in Volume 2. In developing a pedigree, the Descendant Report in Volume 2 and the pedigree charts are the final authority. Always, ask the librarian for the most recent DVD version of the Reports.

Generation 1

JOHN¹ BICKFORD was born in May 1416 in Bovey Tracey, Devon, England. He married Ann mnu in 1438 in SSSt. Peter, Paul & Thomas of Canterbury, Bovey Tracey, Devon, England. She was born in 1416 in Bovey Tracey, Devon, England.

The John Bickford born in 1416 had a son born in 1439 who married a Mary Ellis. The evidence points to the likelihood that he had a brother William, who was born in 1449 but at Abbotskerswell, where I think the family had moved. I think it is the same family, and this William is the one through whom I descend. The older brother had a son called Richard who was born in North Bovey in 1461 and had moved back to Bovey Tracey where he met and married his wife, Ann Knight, and where their four children were born - two boys and two girls. The eldest of these was John (b.1484). He married Ann Decker and their offspring numbered nine, all born in Bovey Tracey, the last of whom was another Richard (b.1519). The date of death given for John would appear to be an error - 1515 - as three more children were born to them after it. It possibly should read 1545 making him about sixty-one at the time of death, and may have been entered incorrectly into the original bible as 1515.

John Bickford and Ann mnu had the following children:

- i. John Bickford was born in 1439 in Bovey Tracey, Devon, England. He died in Bovey Tracey, Devon, England. He married (2) Mary Ellis in 1459 in SSSt. Peter, Paul & Thomas of Canterbury, Bovey Tracey, Devon, England. She was born in 1440 in Bovey Tracey, Devon, England. She died in Bovey Tracey, Devon, England.
- ii. William Bickford was born in 1449 in Abbotskerswell, Devon, England. He died after 1490 in Abbotskerswell, Devon, England. He married Joan Soper in 1481 in St. Mary the Virgin Parish Church, Abbotskerswell, Devon, England. She was born in 1452 in Abbotskerswell, Devon, England. She died in Abbotskerswell, Devon, England.

Generation 2

JOHN² BICKFORD was born in 1439 in Bovey Tracey, Devon, England. He died in Bovey Tracey, Devon, England. He married (2) Mary Ellis in 1459 in SSSt. Peter, Paul & Thomas of Canterbury, Bovey Tracey, Devon, England. She was born in 1440 in Bovey Tracey, Devon, England. She died in Bovey Tracey, Devon, England.

John Bickford and Mary Ellis had the following child:

- i. Richard Bickford was born in 1461 in North Bovey, Devon, England. He died in 1515 in Bovey Tracey, Devon, England. He married Ann Knight in 1483 in SSSt. Peter, Paul & Thomas of Canterbury, Bovey Tracey, Devon, England. She was born in 1464 in North Bovey, Devon, England. She died in 1527 in Bovey Tracey, Devon, England.

Courtesy of the Ports of the South Devon Museum, 1461 in North Bovey, Devon, England. She died in 1527 in Bovey Tracey, Devon, England.

Generation 3

RICHARD³ BICKFORD was born in 1461 in North Bovey, Devon, England. He died in 1515 in Bovey Tracey, Devon, England. He married Ann Knight in 1483 in SSSt. Peter, Paul & Thomas of Canterbury, Bovey Tracey, Devon, England. She was born in 1464 in North Bovey, Devon, England. She died in 1527 in Bovey Tracey, Devon, England.

Richard Bickford and Ann Knight had the following children:

i. John Bickford was born in 1484 in Bovey Tracey, Devon, England. He died in 1545 in Bovey Tracey, Devon, England. He married Ann Decker in 1505 in SSSt. Peter, Paul & Thomas of Canterbury, Bovey Tracey, Devon, England. She was born in 1488 in Bovey Tracey, Devon, England. She died in 1527 in Bovey Tracey, Devon, England.

ii. Margrete Bickford was born in 1485 in Bovey Tracey, Devon, England. She died in 1557 in North Bovey, Devon, England. She married Nicholas Tapper in 1515 in SSSt. Peter, Paul & Thomas of Canterbury, Bovey Tracey, Devon, England. He was born in 1481 in North Bovey, Devon, England. He died in North Bovey, Devon, England.

iii. Michael Bickford was born in 1487 in Bovey Tracey, Devon, England. He died in 1557 in Mortonhamstead, Devon, England. He married Mary Nosworthy in 1507 in SSSt. Peter, Paul & Thomas of Canterbury, Bovey Tracey, Devon, England. She was born in 1488 in Bovey Tracey, Devon, England. She died in 1567 in Bovey Tracey, Devon, England.

iv. Elizabeth Bickford was born in 1490 in Bovey Tracey, Devon, England.

WILLIAM³ BICKFORD was born in 1485 in Abbotskerswell, Devon, England. He died in 1534 in Abbotskerswell, Devon, England. He married Elizabeth Smerdon in 1523 in Abbotskerswell, Devon, England. She was born in 1487 in Widecombe In The Moor, Devon, England.

William Bickford and Elizabeth Smerdon had the following children:

i. Richard Bickford was born in 1525 in Abbotskerwell, Devon, England. He died on 18 Jan 1619 in Abbotskerswell, Devon, England. He married (1) Ann Scrope in 1548 in St. Mary Parish Church, Abbotskerswell, Devon, England. She was born in Apr 1532 in Widecombe In The Moor, Devon, England. She died in Mar 1619 in Paignton, Devon, England.

ii. Thomas Bickford was born in 1527 in Abbotskerswell, Devon, England. He married (1) Unknown Mrs Bickford in 1550 in St. Mary Parish Church, Rattery, Devon, England. He married (2) Margaret Heade on 09 Jul 1559 in St. Peter Parish Church, Ugborough, Devon, England. She was born in Ugborough, Devon, England. He married (3) Alice Quoys on 30 Oct 1564 in St. Michael Parish, Ilsington, Devon, England. She was born in 1530 in Widecombe In The Moor, Devon, England.

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iii. John Bickford was born in 1529 in Devon, England. He died in 1582 in Abbotskerswell, Devon, England.

Generation 4

RICHARD⁴ BICKFORD was born in 1525 in Abbotskerwell, Devon, England. He died on 18 Jan 1619 in Abbotskerswell, Devon, England. He married (1) Ann Scrope in 1548 in St. Mary Parish Church, Abbotskerswell, Devon, England. She was born in Apr 1532 in Widecombe In The Moor, Devon, England. She died in Mar 1619 in Paignton, Devon, England. Notes for Richard Bickford:

The right to bear a Coat of Arms was traditionally recognised as belonging to the eldest son of the eldest son in a direct line of descent. When a Bickford's right to exercise it was in dispute, following one of the Heralds' Visitations, he was asked to prove this right which he knew he had but unfortunately did not have the documentation to do so. Therefore he was asked to vacate his property in Abbotskerswell, which I believe was Court Farm. This, Richard Bickford (b.1525), who was the recognised head of the family, with the support of his son Michael (b.1560), refused to do. The documents proving property ownership including the right to bear arms were missing probably due to various skirmishes, battles or fires at some point in the past.

The Prerogative Court of Canterbury was established for the proving of wills and litigation cases to be heard for those citizens who were over a certain level of wealth. Therefore the case was to be proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on the 26 June 1618, but the judge ruled against Richard, although he argued that he had inherited the property from his father William, he could not back up his claim with the required documentary evidence, but he continued living at the property which did not bode well. The authorities returned and rather than give in, both father and son fought to the death literally, as there was a fierce, pitched battle which resulted in Richard and Michael being killed on the site or nearby. They died on the same day in 1619 and they were buried three days later. They are both recorded as having no fixed place of residence, or 'displaced' at the time of their death. No one would know what that meant or indeed who they were unless they knew the story and fitted the pieces together. There was no disease or other cause of death at that time. The facade on the front of the house was torn off and extensive damage was sustained.

Richard was the constable for his community at Abbotskerswell and was responsible for assembling the Muster Rolls for Queen Elizabeth I, in anticipation of wars with Spain. Michael's level of wealth was such that he was obliged to contribute to the church a percentage of his income in lieu of tax in the form of produce which he generated from his farm, which was customary, and for the relief of the poor. Richard was over 90 at the time of his death and Michael was about 60.

THOMAS BICKFORD⁴ was born in 1527 in Abbotskerswell, Devon, England. He married (1) Unknown Mrs Bickford in 1550 in St. Mary Parish Church, Rattery, Devon, England. He married (2) Margaret Heade on 09 Jul 1559 in St. Peter Parish Church, Ugborough, Devon, England. She was born in Ugborough, Devon, England. He married (3) Alice Quoysh on 30 Oct 1564 in St. Michael Parish, Ilsington, Devon, England. She was born in 1530 in Widecombe In The Moor, Devon, England.

Thomas Bickford and unknown 01 Mrs. Bickford had the following children:

Thomas Bickford was born in 1551 in Rattery, Devon, England. He married (1) Margery Manston on 12 Aug 1577 in St. Peter Parish, Ugborough, Devon, England. She was born in 1557 in Ugborough, Devon, England. He married (2) Margaret Mantell before 1577. She was born in 1552 in Oxfordshire, England.

Courtesy of Dr. John G. Bickford, 1999. All rights reserved.

Generation 5

WILLIAM⁵ BICKFORD was born in 1565 in Abbotskerswell, Devon, England. He died in 1666. He married Dewnes Lamshead in 1595 in Ilsington, Devon, England. She was born in 1573. She died in 1669.

William Bickford (b.1565), who was Michael's brother, assumed the right to take over Bickfordtown Farm in Plympton as the next natural heir to the property as there was no other successor in the locality where the farm was situated. He was the next holder of his family's Coat of Arms, ignoring the ruling imposed upon the family by the authorities, being Richard's second surviving son. Michael had a son, Nathaniel who was only sixteen at the time of his father's death and therefore perhaps considered under age to take on that responsibility, so William had assumed it then. William took his wife Dewnes (nee Lamshead), who he had married in 1595 in Ilsington to live at Plympton where William junior was born in 1597 and baptised at the age of seven in 1604. The parish registers confirm these facts. Richard was the father of another son born between Michael and William in 1562 but he may not have survived and I have no proven record as yet to show whether he did or not - presumably not, in view of the fact that William assumed all responsibilities in place of Michael. There didn't seem to be any argument within the family about that.

Generation 6

NATHANIEL⁶ BICKFORD was born in 1603 in Abbotskerswell, Devon, England. He died on 07 Mar 1641 in Ilsington, Devon, England. He married Anne Smerdon on 26 Jan 1636 in Ilsington, Devon, England. She was born in Sep 1616 in Ilsington, Devon, England. She died on 12 May 1642 in Ilsington, Devon, England.

In 1641 the Protestation Returns were being compiled, and in Ilsington, Nathaniel Bickford (b.1604), who was the son of Michael, and referred to earlier, was one of the church wardens of the Parish Church of St Michael there, who were responsible for their completion along with the constables and the vicar. Five signatures at the foot of the document includes that of Nathaniel, and in their own hand. They were then presented to the local JP of their hundred for his inspection. The returns were completed and returned at varying dates across 1641 and 1642.

Nathaniel's death is recorded as occurring on 7 March 1641, which seems strange as he was only thirty-eight, and must have taken place immediately after the returns for Ilsington were submitted. His wife Ann Smerdon, who was ten years younger, died the following year at twenty-nine.

WILLIAM⁶ BICKFORD was born in 1597 in Plympton, Devon, England. He died in 1659 in Bradford, Devon, England. He married Grace Arscott, daughter of Arthur Arscott and Ebbott Yeo, on 09 Dec 1634 in Bradford, All Saints Church, Devon, England. She was born in 1601 in Dunsland, Bradford Parish, Devonshire, England. She died on 09 Jan 1686 in Dunsland, Bradford Parish, Devonshire, England.

By 1628 the authorities had caught up with the fact that William Bickford (junior) had now taken up residence in Plympton having reached the age of thirty-one or thereabouts, and as he was the grandson of Richard Bickford of Abbotskerswell, they considered him as some kind of

usurper who had absolutely no right to believe himself to be the rightful inheritor of Bickfordtown Farm, so William, on hearing trouble was afoot and thinking they were about to remove him from the premises, fled to St Keverne, not wishing to endure a similar fate to his grandfather and uncle, or be involved in any further dispute. They did not seem to worry about his father. Perhaps they did not realise he was still alive, but he could have taken up residence elsewhere in the parish by that time, or returned to Abbotskerswell where there are indications he died or was buried there. He outlived his son and actually died at the age of one hundred and one. The Avent family took control of the Bickfordtown property but there did not seem to be any animosity between them and the Bickfords on account of it, so it may have been an understood arrangement. I believe a marriage later transpired between an Avent and a Bickford. About four to six years later having kept his ear to the ground, William returned to Devon from St Keverne but not South Devon for any length of time. He ultimately made for North Devon - to Dunsland where he married Grace Arscott, the heiress of that estate, in 1634. This was an astute move on his part and quite a feather in his cap. He defiantly established his rights then and his family would have been well known to the Arscotts. His Coat of Arms was later found with those of three other past and proud owners of Dunsland who had inherited it previously, quartered over the front portico of the east wing entrance to Dunsland House. There is evidence of an earlier marriage between a Bickford from Rattery, a cousin to William, and someone who the Arscotts may have known in that area, which may have been his introduction to the Arscott family.

There was another early Bickford mentioned as below; however, I have not ascertained his relationship to other Bickfords in my tree.

From: 'A View of Devonshire in MDCXXX, A Pedigree of Most of Its Gentry' by Thomas Westcote, Gent., edited by The Rev. George Oliver, D. D. and Pitman Jones, Esq. publ by William Roberts of Exeter, 197 High Street, in 1845, page 82. John Bickford mentioned in the year 1608.....

Perambulation of Dartmoor. 6 James I:

On the sixteenth day of August, in the sixth year of King James the First (**1608**), a Court of Survey was held at Okehampton, before Sir William Strode, knight; Richard Connock, esquire; Robert Moore, esquire; and Robert Paddon, gentleman ; Auditors of the duchy of Cornwall, and Commissioners appointed for that purpose: when the Jury, Edward Skirnett, Walter Hole, Roger Cole, Henry Burges, Richard Edmond, Gregory Grey, **John Bickford**, Hugh Elford, John Massey, Roger Drake, Walter Lillicrap, John Chubb, Stephen Taverner, Andrew Heywood, Roger Wicket, Robert Hannaford, John Wills, John Hele, Walter Tuckerman, William Mudge, William Ilbert, Thomas Sturges, and Elias Harris, inter alia, found the bounds of the Forest of Dartmoor to be as underneath, viz.:—Beginning at a high hill lying in the north quarter of the Forest, called at this day Cosdon, alias Cosson, and in the old records Hoga de Costdown; and from thence lineally eastward, by estimation one mile or more, unto Little Houndetorr, which in the said record is called Hoga de parva Houndetorr; &c. &c.

John Bickford (1580-1625)

The Will of JOHN BICKFORDE of Ratterye [co. Devon], yeoman, weak and sickly in body, dated 23 May 1625 (1 Charles I). To be buried in the church or churchyard of Rattery. To the poor of Ratterye £20, to be employed by the four men, rulers or overseers of said parish, towards keeping the poor at work, as other money is now employed in said parish. To my son Thomas Bickeford, my executor, a term of fifteen years in a tenement and two mills in Rattery called Croutes Bargine. To my son John Bickeforde the residue of the term which shall be to come in all said ten[ement] and mills, which term is during the lives of my said son John Bickeforde and my son William Bickeforde, and also one meadow called Marleye Meadow in Rattery. If my son John pays to my son Thomas £100 towards payment of my debts, Thomas is to have no estate for fifteen years in the ten[ement] and mills called Croutes Bargine. My son John is to pay to my daughter Anne Bickford £20 on the surrender of her estate in Marlaye Meadow aforesaid; but, if she will not give the surrender, he shall pay her nothing. I give more[over] to my son Thomas an estate for eight years in the ground that is held between me and my brother Gregorye Bickeforde in Rattery, towards payment of debts and legacies. To William Bickeforde, my son, £10, in two years after my death. To Symon Bickeforde, my son, £10, in two years after my death. To my son Richard Bickeforde £10, in two years, and an estate for one year in the ground before mentioned which is held between me and my brother Gregory, to begin next after the end of the said one years [sic]. Residue of the term which is to come in said ground, which is during the lives of Jane Bickeforde, wife of said Gregory Bickeforde, and my said son John Bickeford, I give to my sons Symon Bickeforde and Richd. Bickeforde, to be held jointly bet[ween] them. To Anne Bickeford, my daughter, £30, one year after my death. To Jaune Bickeford, my daughter, £30, 3 years after my death. To Marye Bickeford, my daughter, £30, 3 years after my death. Residue to my son Thomas, whom I appoint executor. Overseers: my brother Gregorye Bickeford and my brother-

in-law Thomas Headd. In witness that I affirm this my last will I have hereunto set my hand and seal the 6 Oct[ober] in the year first above written. Witnesses: Xper Windeat and Alexander Halse. Proved 16 December 1625.

Inventory of the goods of John Bickford of Ratterie the Elder, lately deceased, taken 14 December 1625 by Gregorie Bickford of Rattery, yeoman, and Thomas Head of Dean Prior, yeoman, and exhibited by Thomas Bickford, executor, 16 December 1625: 3 oxen, 5 kine, 2 yearlings, 3 calves, 3 horses, 15 wethers, and 15 ewes, pigs, and poultry; wearing apparel, £5; 14 silver spoons, £5; other household goods; chattel lease of Ratterie Hills, £60; total £188. 8s. (Archdeaconry of Totnes.)

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Gregory Bickford (1578-1630)

FROM PARISH REGISTERS, CO. DEVON ABBOTS-KERSWELL

The Will of GREGORY BICKFORD of Rattery [co. Devon], yeoman, weak in body, dated 3 July 1630. To the poor of Rattery 40s., to be employed as of late the like gifts have been. To the poor of Modbury 10s., to be employed as at the present time such legacies are employed in Rattery. To the minister that shall give me Christian burial 20s. To Allan Belfield and Joane Belfield, children of Allan Belfield the Elder, £100, for procuring to them a state [i. e., an estate] for their lives in this my living of Knoll or some other like unto it, which sum I appoint to be paid out of my living at Modbury and Rattery Hills. Out of my said living at Modbury and my grounds at Rattery Hills there shall be paid immediately, after this £100 is satisfied, £100 more, to be divided equally between Margaret

Benfeild and Joane Benfeild, the daughters of Allan Benfeild [sic]. If Allan Benfeild the Elder do make his son Allan Benfeild sole heir of all his land, then, after the payment of the said £200 and after the death of my executrix, the said Allan Benfeild the Younger shall have and enjoy the whole living and means in Modbury. The said Allan Benfeild the Younger is to have half of all the household [goods] in my house at Knowle, after the death of my executrix. To each of those that shall be my household servants at the day of my death 5s., but to my servant Mary Marche I give 10s. Executrix: my beloved wife, Jane Bickford. Overseers: Allan Benfeild, my son-in-law, and my cousin Richard Marten, to each of whom I give 40s. Witnesses: John Knight, John Rowland, Late [?] Martyn. Proved 17 December 1630.

Inventory, taken 22 September, 6 Charles I [1630], by Thomas Hedd, gentleman, Richd. Martyn, merchant, and Thomas Bickford and Geffery Wyndeate, yeomen, and exhibited 17 December 1630 by Jane Bickford, relict and administratrix: ready money and plate, £30; wearing apparel, £20; 5 fat oxen, £22; 8 fat bullocks, £21; 8 plough oxen, £32; 9 milch kine, £27; 17 young bullocks, £30. 10s.; 304 sheep, £101. 6s. 8d.; 4 score lambs, £16, and other stock; 312 fleeces of wool, £30; a chattel lease in one-half of certain grounds near Rattery Church called the Heele, for years to come determinable on two lives, £80; a chattel lease of a tenement in Rattery called Crabbacrosse, determinable on one life, £20; a chattel lease in a tenement in Rattery, parcel of a tenement called Holwill, for about six years to come, £60; a chattel lease for a tenement in Rattery, late Johane Halse's, for about two years, £6. 13s. 4d.; two other chattel leases in two several tenements in Modbury, co. Devon, determinable on three lives, £400 apiece; total £1236. 9s. 2d. [Signatures of Thos. Hedd, Richard Martin, and Jeffery Windeatt.] (Archdeaconry of Totnes.)

Cont.....

Administration on the goods of HENRY BURT of Abbots-Kerswell, co. Devon, was granted in 1634. (Principal Registry, Exeter.)

Administration on the estate of LUCY MARTIN of Rattery [co. Devon], widow, deceased, intestate, was granted 20 September 1639 to Richard Martin, son of the deceased.

Inventory, taken 15 August, 15 Charles I [1639], by Thomas Head the Elder of Deane Prior and Geffery Windeate of the same, yeomen, and exhibited 20 September 1639 by Richd. Martyn, son and administrator: wearing apparel, £10; 1 silver boll [bowl], 1 gilt boll, 1 double-gilt salt, 1 little silver cup, 6 silver spoons, £8. 10s.; beds, bedding, etc., of high value; wheat, barley, oats and peas in the ground, £28; 66 sheep, 20 lambs, cows, etc.; a good debt owing for wool, £2. 5s.; total, £162. 18s. 10d. Bond by Richd. Martyn of Totnes, merchant, for £300, 20 September 1639. [Signed] Richd. Martin thelder. [A seal covered with paper.] (Archdeaconry of Totnes.)

The Will of Johane Marche (wife of Gregory Bickford)

The Will of JOHANE MARCHE of Sherford, co. Devon, widow, dated and sealed 21 May 1616.* To be buried in the church of the parish of Sherford. To the poor of Sherford 10s., to be distributed by my overseers at my burial. To my eldest daughter, Alice March, £5, to be paid within a half year after my death. To my second daughter, Elizabeth March, £5, within one year after my death. To each of the rest of my daughters, namely, Ulalia March, Amias March, Jane March, and Johane March, 50s., to be paid within a year after my death. Residue (with all my rents and reservations) to William March, my son, executor. I do request William Randall, John Bickford, and Gregory Bickford to be overseers. The sign of Johan Marche. Witnesses: George March, Nicholas Jackston[?]. Proved 21 June 1616.

Inventory, taken 10 June 1616 by Arthur Wakeham, William Randall, and Thomas March and exhibited 21 June 1616, includes farm stock and apparel, £5; no household goods; 20 ewes, £7. 13s. 4d.; 19 lambs, £4; 3 kine, £10. 10s.; swine, £3; lease in reversion of twenty-one years in a tenement called Sand Wills, £60, total. £140. 7s. (Archdeaconry of Totnes.)



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Gwyn Lobb's Email Replies

These replies to me from Gwyn are very important to sharing ideas and findings. I hope you will find them informative and help to understand and to be able to recall relationships and dates.

September 5, 2016:

.....The information in William Pole's book is quite amazing in that he has included quite a lot of detail about the Bickfords. I presume that the John Bickford referred to in William White's Directory of 1850, and quoted as saying the Bickford Estate of Wrigwell had been held since 1250 came from that book as there is so little written information anywhere else. They were there long before that I believe, as John did, but with no additional written record it is hard to prove without hard evidence but there is much circumstantial evidence as detailed in my essay sent to you earlier. That was the only date John had which he could refer to. Where Pole got his information from I couldn't say because he refers to a much earlier time than his own. There could have been some early documentation available then which has later been destroyed, unless of course, The National Archives have something - not all their archives are online.

I had once come across a copy of that original publication in a second-hand bookshop in Ashburton - long since gone - (not the Dartmoor Bookshop, Jim). It was priced at £1,000. I did have £1,000 available to me but I was off work with illness at the time and it was in the nineties. However, reason prevailed although I was very tempted and anyway the proprietor told me it had been reprinted but he was wrong. If I had known that, whether reason would have still prevailed I am not sure - probably it would!

There is no relevant record that I can find for Mary Ricord connected to the Bickford family. There is as you say, in the States and this is where written recollections get confused with people recording and copying and getting the facts mixed up. There is no record of Richard Bickford (1525-1619/20) having married for a second time either, which I do not think he did. Your record probably refers to one I may have found in Devon but my dates differ and I have no second Christian names - Record. There are several variations on that spelling, mainly baptisms but no marriages I could easily find for those dates. A second christian name was extremely unusual for those times so I wonder if your ones with Joane and Elizabeth is another confused recollection if someone was unsure and it has been copied incorrectly several times over. She is no doubt related to the ones I have found. Your quotes about the Catours is right I would think and very likely the parents of John's second wife.

The line of descent from Abbotskerswell to Rattery and then to New Hampshire stacks up pretty conclusively even though we have some missing parish registers, particularly at Rattery. Most of the written records in New Hampshire claim John Bickford (1608-1677) originated in Rattery, Devon and that he arrived in 1623 making him 20 years if age, although they can't name the ship he sailed on. It is probably one of two ships we know sailed that year. They also declare he married Temperance Furber in 1624 with their first child being born the following year in 1625 - another John. Much of this information has been quoted and misquoted, transposed and otherwise mixed up but if you search the most authentic sources you have in the way of family

history records, that is what they say - not necessarily on the public member family trees as few of them have it right. The source of the authentic information apparently is taken from our English records which the Devon County Council should still have in their archive holdings.

I have other supporting evidence for John's ancestry in the form of his father's will which I will send you a copy of in due course. There was only one Bickford family in Rattery at this time and the dates and locations and various other references all fit together in a logical time scale and you can trace them back to Abbotskerswell as all those records are mostly intact. How do you prove anything in family history? It's usually from a combination of written records, biographical data, and circumstantial evidence. Sometimes it is very difficult but the Rattery Bickfords were relatively easy compared to the things I discovered about my Abbotskerswell Bickfords. The tragedies which unfolded which I related in that first essay I sent you were very hard to prove but after years of searching and study I now know them to be hard facts and I have no doubt about it whatsoever - given the sparse information and dates which fit together and cannot be disputed, although at the very beginning I could not believe what I was finding which started out as theories, and I had to set out to prove it and I absolutely believe I have now.

William Bickford (1485-1534) is often described in some records as vicar. I have no reason to think it not genuine but as you say, where did that come from? I can find no evidence for it.

Logically he should have been vicar at the parish church in Abbotskerswell but if you view the list of vicars from the earliest date in the church, he is not included. He did not live in Diptford, nor was he born there. There is a William Bickford who was vicar at St Michael Parish Church in Ilsington but of a slightly later date (after the recorded death date of our William). None of the reliable family trees describe him as such, namely those of Ian Wills, Greg Ramstedt or Ian Butterworth.

When I complete my Bickford Rattery Family Tree chart I shall not include the vicar description mainly because I do not include occupations on it unless I add notes to go with them, and I have no hard evidence for it.

Sept 7, 2016:

Yes, you are obviously right about the Cator and Ricord ancestry and how they connect to our Bickfords. The Bickfords may well have known the Ricords of Devon but on the other hand may not have. Often immigrant families meet and marry out of a common camaraderie when in a new land. I found that when researching my Lobb cousin's mother's line in Australia. The English immigrants tended to marry fellow English immigrants finding themselves thrown together with that in common - nearly all of them did. It did not mean they automatically knew each other's families beforehand.

Richard Cator of Dover makes marriage settlement with Mary Ricord whom he is to marry. —Cator then had a grandchild John Bickford. 16 Aug. 1637.

Phil's added note: This is the death notice of Mary Ricord Cator, mother of Elizabeth Cator who married John Bickford in about 1637. from 'Historical Memoranda Concerning Persons and Places in old Dover, N. H.' from The Dover Enquirer, 1850-1888, page 409.

The grandson mentioned in the newspaper account was John Bickford born 1638 in Newington, Rockingham County, NH.....Phillip E. Swan

When William Pole described the Bickford family in his book he was describing the same Bickford family as ours as they are our ancestors. There is only one Bickford family and all roads lead to Bickington, and why is that ? - because it is a place name. Just as on my father's side the Lobb surname is a place name and all roads lead to Lob(b) (next to Braunton in Devon). I tried to indicate this when I referred to John Bickford saying his family had held Wrigwell for 600 years which if White's first directory was published in 1850 takes you back to 1250 at least. The 'de' stands for 'of' in Latin or French, e.g. Byckforde de Bictone and all its variations of which there are many.

As far as I can make out they both descended from a Saxon chieftain or someone of that ilk as they had a certain amount of clout and wealth when they arrived (600-700 AD) - one in North Devon and the other in South Devon - and soon became prominent citizens in their own community, which you soon discover when you read the little history that there is about them.

The first date for a record going back to a birth date on record for a Bickford was 1449 for the birth of William's (1485-1534) father in Abbotskerswell, another William. His father I think, had moved from Bovey Tracey and had a hand in building Court Farm in Abbotskerswell at about that time. He was John Bickford who was born in 1416 in Bovey Tracey. He would be our great grandfather x 15 for all three of us. That last date was obtained from the US family bible mentioned previously. That is the earliest birth date I have apart from William Pole's references - I don't know if that book contained any birth dates - probably not. I was mesmerized when I found it but I didn't write anything down and did not have the means to photocopy anything.

Sept 9, 2016:

John Bickford (1529-1582) - this John is our great grandfathers x 12's brother - our great grandfathers being Richard (b.1525) and Thomas (b.1527). The date I have is 1529 and his father - our great grandfather x 13, William - dates should read 1485-1534. We don't know much about John (1529-1582). Wait for the tree chart and do not scratch him!

The son of Thomas Bickford born in 1551 would be the child of the first marriage, as I understand it.

I would really like a copy of Pole's book whichever way it comes and is easiest for you. I could probably find it myself but am just a bit busy to do that right now.

Abbotskerswell Parish Records : officially, Abbotskerswell parish registers did not begin until 1607, Bishops Transcripts from 1606.

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Ian James Wills' 1865 Family Bible

I am devoting a chapter to a wonderful discovery. Ian Wells has a very well researched and presented tree on his website and I have been able to glean much information on our Bickfords. Much of his genealogy is from family bibles and one is pictured below. I have entered much information into my relational database and you can find all of it in the Descendant Report in Volume 2. I have entered a Relationship Chart at the end of this chapter for Maria Bickford.



Wills, Ian J.

Photo : 1865 Bible - Owned by my grandparents. The inside cover of a 145 year old bible given to me on my 6th birthday in 1953. It was a present from my grandparents on my mother's side of the family (William Chatterton and Clara Cameron)
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Ian Wells features a full page introduction on his website and the two paragraphs which follow are part of that page.

"The connections to the Bickford family spread far and wide around the world. One in particular was **Maria Bickford*** who married Richard Lambeth at Penryn, Cornwall, England. They emigrated to Tasmania, Australia in 1838 before moving to South Australia. Together they raised 11 children with two that died young and were buried in Hampshire, England. All of the other children from this family all married and had families that lived in Dunedin, New Zealand, Tasmania, Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales in Australia. The descendants from this family are everywhere today."

*Relationship Chart to John Bickford b 13 May 1416 at end of this chapter.

"Surnames of other families that lived in the U.S.A with connections to this tree are as follows:

TOZER RANDALL RUNNELS HUCKINS **THOMPSON BURNHAM BICKFORD***
CRAWFORD THOMAS GODDARD HILL WINGATE

Most of these families lived around Durham, Dover, Strafford and Oyster River in New Hampshire during the 1600s to early 1800s.

Several from the TAPPER, MORTIMER and GERMON families left Devon, England to live in Chicago, U.S.A. during the early 1800s."

*I descend from each of these families. William Thompson b~1633 was a Scot POW of the Battle of Dunbar (Scotland) in 1650 and exiled to America; Robert Burnham arrived on the ship *Angel Gabriel* in 1635; John Bickford arrived in America from Devon in 1623.

Just an example of the Bickfords in Ian Wells' tree.....

Search in THE WILLS FAMILY TREE from 1300. Connections from England, Canada, Australia & U.S.A. for "John Bickford"
Results 1 to 38

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Bickford, John (b.1416) | 20. Bickford, John (1725 - 1811) |
| 2. Bickford, John (b.1439) | 21. Bickford, John (b.1745) |
| 3. Bickford, John (b.1484) | 22. Bickford, John (b.1748) |
| 4. Bickford, John (b.1490) | 23. Bickford, John (1748 - 1786) |
| 5. Bickford, John (b.1506) | 24. Bickford, John (1762 - 1836) |
| 6. Bickford, John (1530 - 1582) | 25. Bickford, John (1786 - 1846) |
| 7. Bickford, John (b.1562) | 26. Bickford, John (1790 - 1879) |
| 8. Bickford, John (1580 - 1625) | 27. Bickford, John (b.1807) |
| 9. Bickford, John (1603 - 1677) | 28. Bickford, John (1811 - 1889) |
| 10. Bickford, John (b.1608) | 29. Bickford, John (b.1812) |
| 11. Bickford, John (1623 - 1712) | 30. Bickford, John (b.1849) |
| 12. Bickford, John (b.1625) | 31. Bickford, John (1856 - 1933) |
| 13. Bickford, John (1639 - 1695) | 32. Bickford, John (1875 - 1875) |
| 14. Bickford, John (b.1659) | 33. Bickford, John Solomon (b.1804) |
| 15. Bickford, John (1666 - 1677) | 34. Bickford, John Thomas (b.1846) |
| 16. Bickford, John (1678 - 1699) | 35. Bickford, John Tozer (b.1856) |
| 17. Bickford, John (1696 - 1745) | 36. Bickford, John William Furze (1832 - 1918) |
| 18. Bickford, John (b.1711) | 37. Bickford - Smith, John Clifford (1881 - 1941) |
| 19. Bickford, John (b.1725) | 38. Bickford - Smith, John Thomas (1857 - 1857) |

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Relationship: Maria Bickford to John Bickford

John Bickford is the 10th great grandfather of Maria Bickford

10th great grandfather

 John Bickford b: 13 May 1416 Bovey Tracey, Devon, England d:	 Ann Mnu b: 1416 Bovey Tracey, Devon, England d:
---	--

9th great grandfather

 William Bickford b: 1449 Abbotskerswell, Devon, England d: Aft. 1490 Abbotskerswell, Devon, England

8th great grandfather

 William Bickford b: 1485 Abbotskerswell, Devon, England d: 1534 Abbotskerswell, Devon, England

7th great grandfather

 Richard Bickford b: 1525 Abbotskerwell, Devon, England d: 18 Jan 1619 Abbotskerswell, Devon, England
--

6th great grandfather

 Michael Bickford b: 1560 Abbotskerswell, Devon, England d: 18 Jan 1619 Abbotskerswell, Devon, England

5th great grandfather

 Nathaniel Bickford b: 1603 Abbotskerswell, Devon, England d: 07 Mar 1641 Ilisington, Devon, England

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John Bickford is the 10th great grandfather of Maria Bickford

4th great grandfather



John Bickford

b: Aug 1639
Ilington, Devon, England
d: 13 Mar 1696
Bickington, Devon, England

3rd great grandfather



Thomas Bickford

b: 19 May 1670
Bickington, Devon, England
d: 25 Jan 1741
Bickington, Devon, England

2nd great grandfather



Nathaniel Bickford

b: 1702
Bickington, Devon, England
d: Aug 1747
Bickington, Devon, England

Great grandfather



John Bickford

b: 25 Oct 1725
Bickington, Devon, England
d: 29 Jul 1811
Knighton Farm, Ilington, Devon,

Paternal grandfather



John Bickford

b: 19 Mar 1762
Widecombe In The Moor, Devon,
d: 07 Feb 1836
Barton, Bickington, Devon, Engla

Father



William Bickford

b: 28 Feb 1787
Bickington, Devon, England
d: 30 Nov 1811
Penryn, Cornwall, England

Self



Maria Bickford

b: 16 Jul 1811
Penryn, Cornwall, England
d: 29 Aug 1898
North Fitzroy, Victoria, Australia

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Devon Places Maps

Devon is the third largest county in England with a present-day population in excess of one million. It is one of only three counties to possess a north and south coast. The sea has therefore played a major part in the history of the county. The name 'Devon' derives from the name of the Celtic people known as the *Dumnonii* who inhabited the southwest of England from the Bronze Age onwards. The county has a long history of settlement. Kent's Cavern in Torquay is the oldest recognizable human dwelling in Britain and the country's oldest scheduled ancient monument. Remains and artifacts dating back half a million years have been found in the cavern. A jawbone excavated from the cave in the 1920s is the earliest human remains found in the British Isles and dates back to around 40,000 years ago. Human skeletons have also been found in the nearby caves at Brixham. With the onset of the last Ice Age the climate cooled and 20,000 years ago all but the southern extremity of Britain was covered in ice sheets. The human population retreated to refuge in warmer locations in Europe. It was only as the ice melted around 12,000 years ago that humans returned to the British Isles. In the Palaeolithic period Devon was sparsely populated by nomadic hunter-gatherers. By the Bronze Age a substantial population had settled on Dartmoor and continued to occupy the area until the early Iron Age. To this day the area is still dotted with the remnants of the many Iron Age hill forts. It is these hill fort settlers who mainly constitute the *Dumnonii*, "the people of the land". During the Roman occupation Exeter was the most westerly Roman town in Britain and became the terminus of the great frontier road known as the Fosse Way. In the ensuing centuries the county was invaded by Angles, Saxons, Danes, Vikings and Normans. By the time of the Domesday Book in 1086 the population of Devon was estimated to be between sixty and eighty thousand. In 1801 the population had risen to 340,308. The nineteenth century saw the beginnings of the mass emigration movement. Men, women and sometimes whole families emigrated to Canada, America, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, and many Devon place names and surnames can today be found in these countries.

The maps which follow will help in locating villages and towns mentioned in the text of this book. Some are underscored in red and some locations are described below. The other purpose of the maps is to show the proximity of Bickfords in Devon.

Locations:

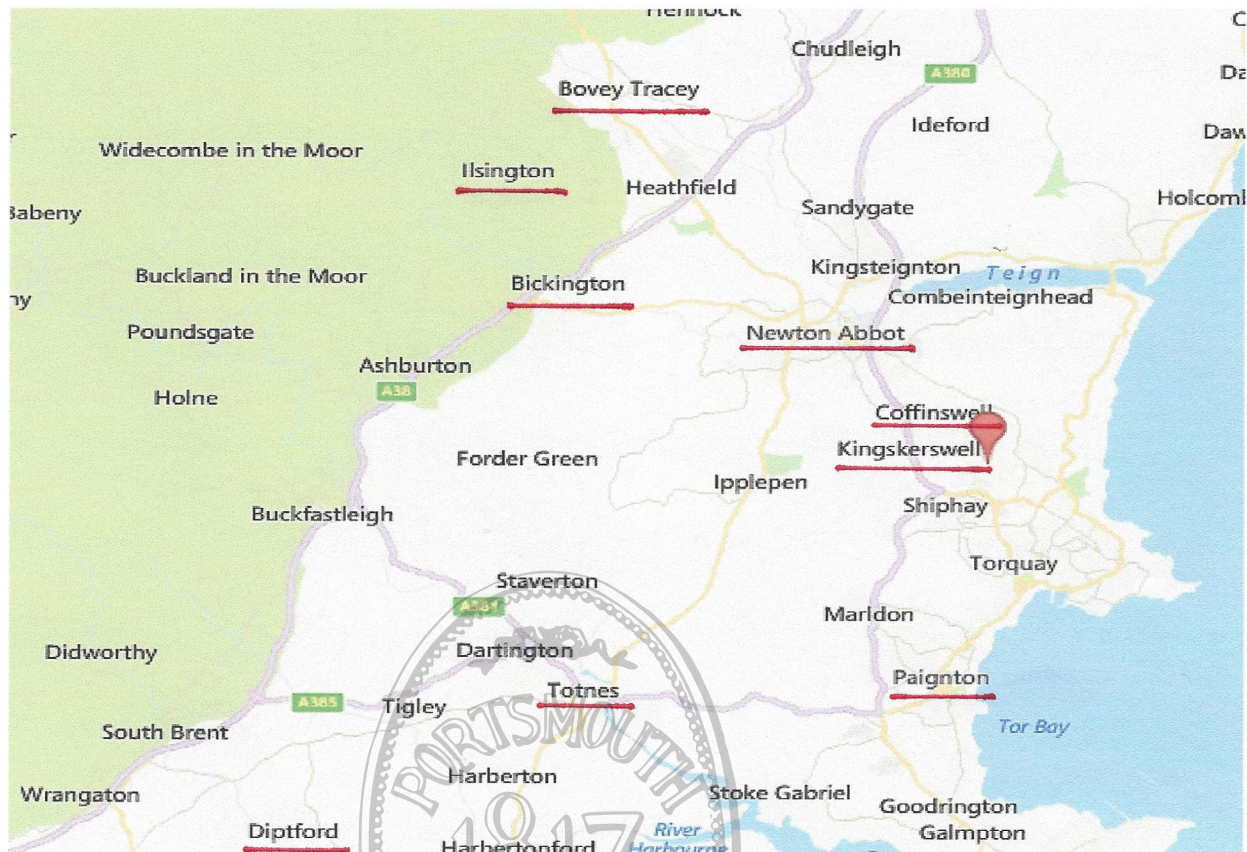
1. Bradford parish/Dunsland is east of Exeter and near the south shore of Devon
2. Somerset is north of Exeter and south of the north shore of Devon
3. Plympton is east of Plymouth and near the south shore of Devon
4. Diptford is east of Plymouth and sw of Exeter
5. Northleigh is east of Exeter and near the south shore of Devon
6. Crewkerne, Somersetshire is east of Exeter and near the south shore of Devon
7. Weymouth is east of Exeter in Devon and on the south coast of Somerset

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8. Rattery is '4 miles W. by N.' of Totnes and west of Paignton; notice location of Abbotskerwell.
9. Abbotskerswell is about 20 miles SSW of Exeter & about 7 miles NE of Rattery
10. Islington is sw of Exeter(top edge) and NNW of Totnes which is near Rattery
11. Wrigwell is due north of Exeter
12. Bickington is south of Bovey Tracey on edge of Dartmoor National Park
13. Coffinswell is north of Kingskerswell and north of Paignton
14. Bovey Tracey is ssw of Exeter and nnw of Paignton on edge of Dartmoor National Park
15. Islington is sw of Bovey Tracey



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Jim Bickford Visits Devon

The following article was sent to me by, James Bickford, my Bickford cousin in Connecticut. Jim and Linda Bickford and a couple of friends were able to visit England and to include a *must* visit to Devon. This must have been quite an experience for Jim as he was able to walk in the same footsteps and visit the same parish churches in which his direct descendants did also.

Bickford Roots in Devon by James Bickford, Connecticut, USA.....

October 5, 2016, I met my newly discovered distant English cousin Gwyn Lobb and her husband, John. Gwyn was kind enough to contact me on a shared genealogical web site prior to our trip to England this fall. Over months of communication, Gwyn led me to not only information about previously unknown ancestors but also to the sites where our Bickford ancestors lived, married, had children, buried their loved ones and, in our case, left for a new life. Our ancestor, John, was born in Rattery, a small parish in Devon but left there in 1623 for New Hampshire, leaving his family and friends. His father, John (also born in Rattery in 1580) and his mother would never see him again. For a perspective from our side, John was Eli's great grandfather times four.

The first set of pictures are of the Rattery church and adjacent Church House Inn. The interior of the church is very evocative and retains a sense of its history. Our ancestors were buried in Rattery, possibly in the churchyard but given the distance of time, no graves from the 1500-1600s were found. The Church House Inn has been operating in various forms since 1026, forty years before William conquered England. We had tea there with Gwyn and John, along with our long-time best friends, Tom and Jane Zenaty.

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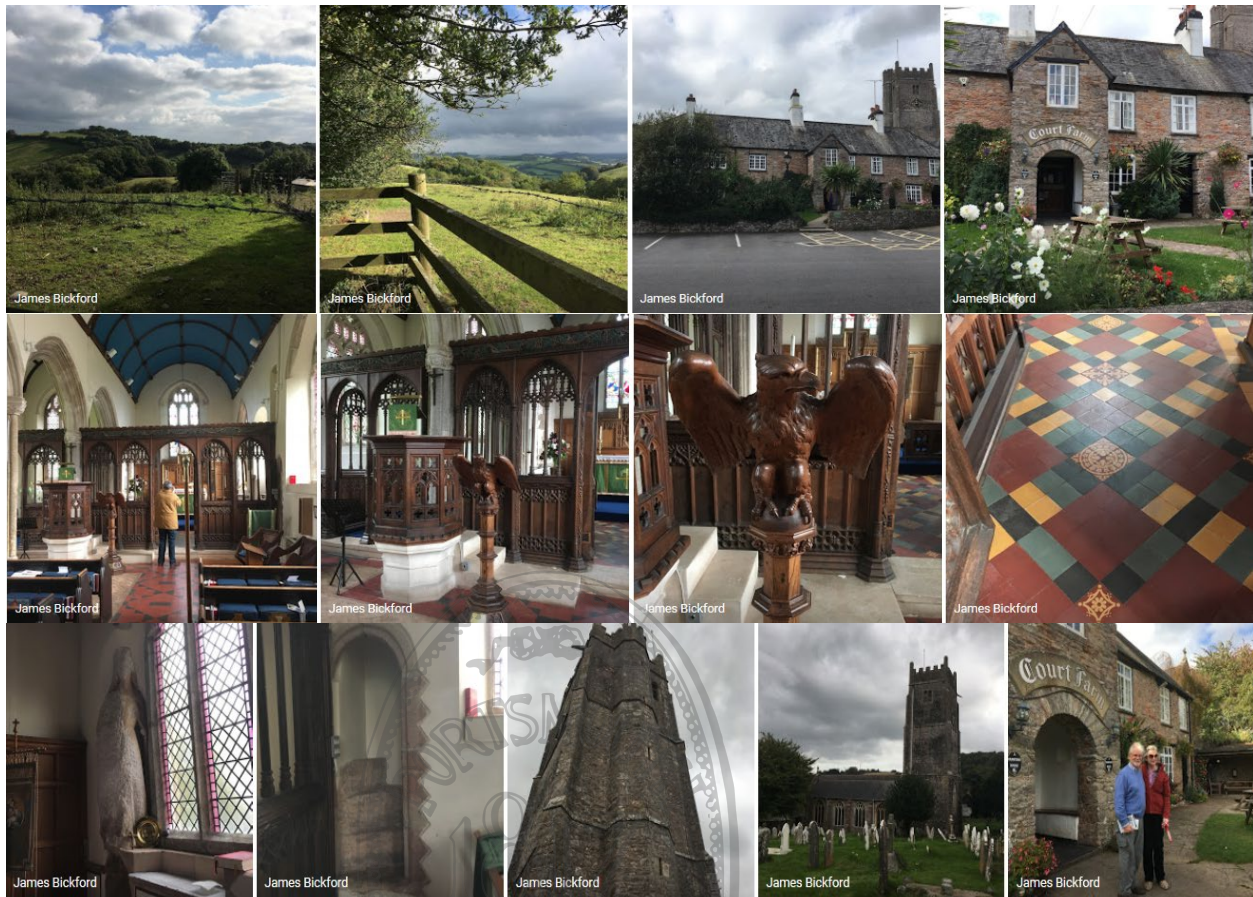
Gwyn Lobb in red and black and Jim Bickford in blue and gray are shown in the photo just above.



The set of pictures below are from Abbotskerswell, the home of our ancestors William (b.1449), William (b.1485), Thomas (b.1527), and Thomas (b.1551).

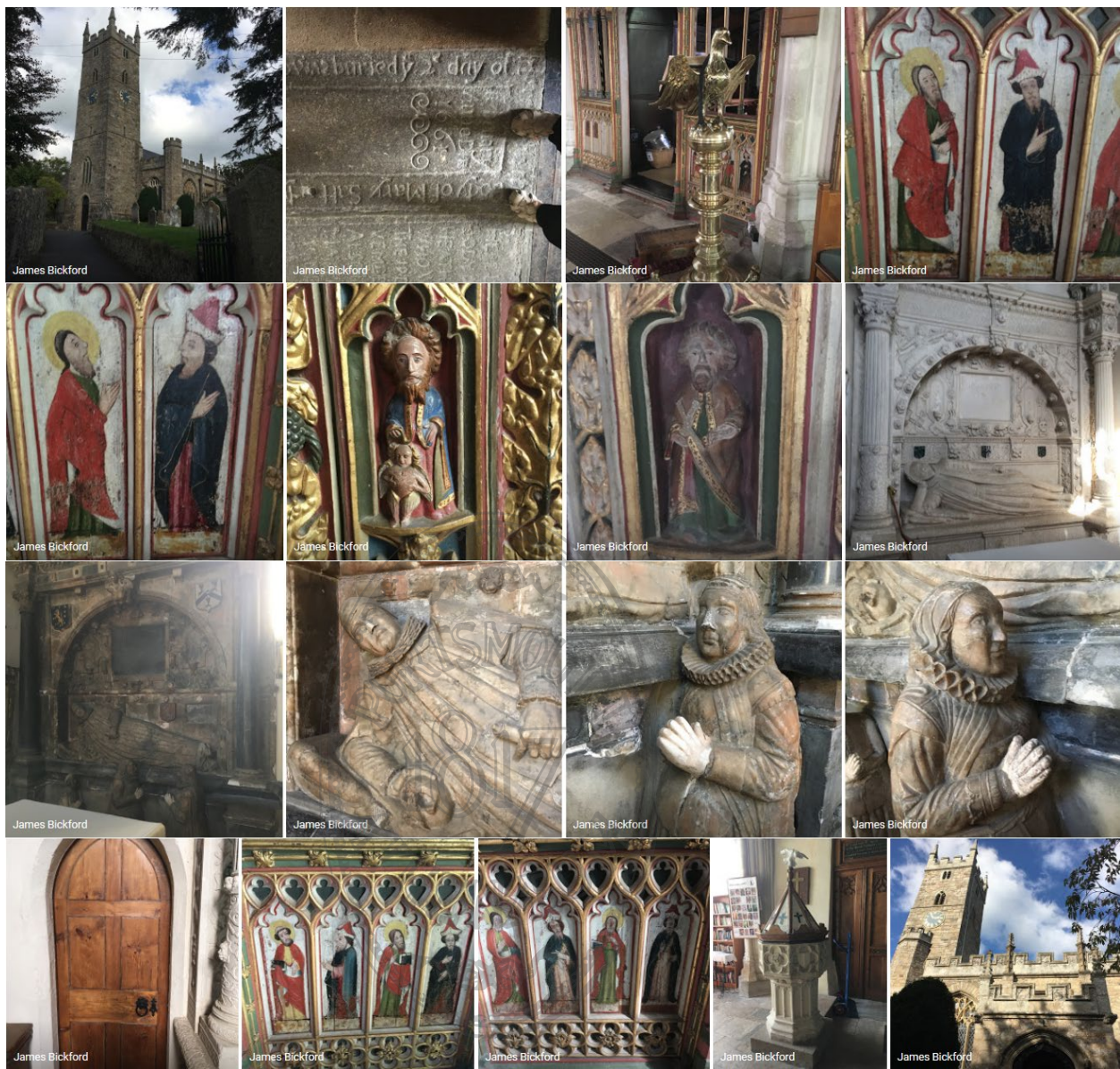
We had lunch at the Court Farm Inn, a building originally a farm house built around 1450. Thanks to Gwyn's research, she was able to confirm that our Abbotskerswell ancestors lived there (*at Court Farm*).

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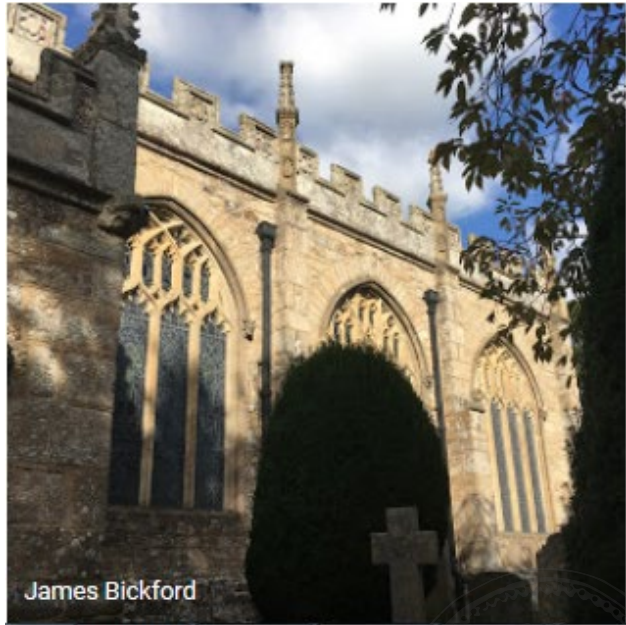


The final set of pictures below are from Bovey Tracey where William's father, John was born in 1416 and presumably our Bickfords lived for a number of generations prior to moving to Abbotskerswell around 1450. The church interior was beautiful and more ornate than the interiors of the churches in Rattery or Bovey. It was a fitting end to a day filled with unexpected family history, gratefully shared with my distant cousin and new dear friend, Gwyn Lobb.

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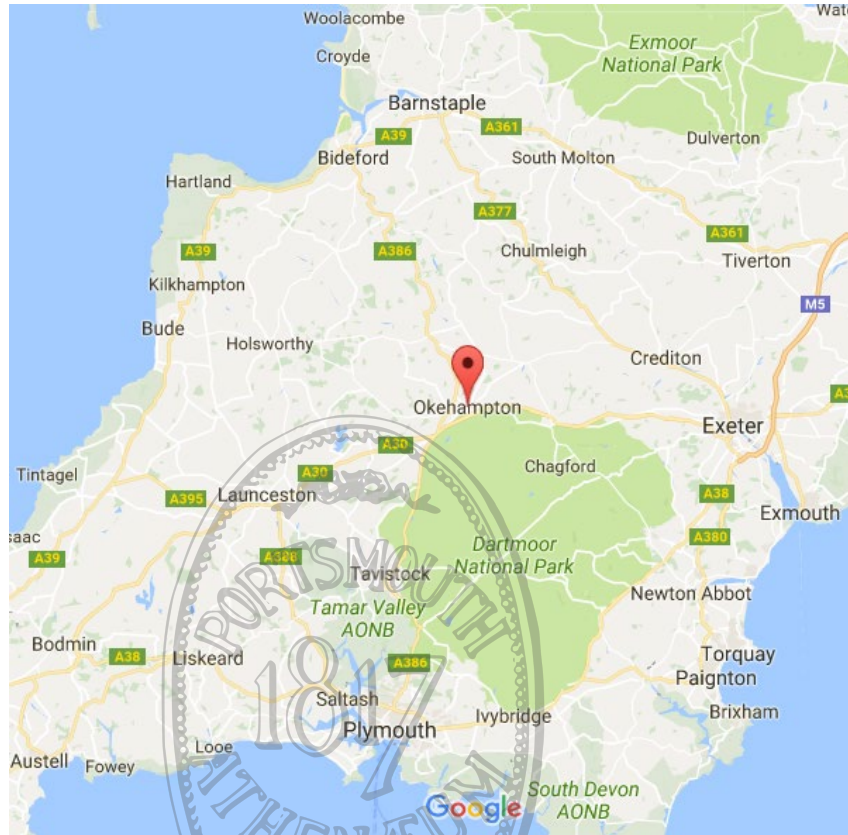


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Okehampton



The area now occupied by Okehampton has a long history. It is known that Iron Age people lived there before and around 0 AD, that before 70 AD, following the invasion of Britain by the Emperor Claudius in 43 AD, the Romans built a fort (found by aerial photography in 1975) close to what is now Okehampton and also at nearby North Tawton. Okehampton was founded by the Saxons and the earliest written record of the settlement is from 980 AD as "Ocmundtune", meaning settlement by the Ockment, a river which runs through the town. It was recorded as a place for slaves to be freed at cross roads. Like many towns in the West Country, Okehampton grew on the medieval wool trade. Notable buildings in the town include the 15th century chapel of St. James and Okehampton Castle.

However, it was Baron Baldwin de Brionne, one of the knights of William the Conqueror, who, by building a castle, established the basis for the present town of Okehampton as an important trading and market center throughout the centuries in this part of Devonshire. Baron de Brionne was William's Royal Sheriff of Devonshire, and his castle in Okehampton is the only Devon castle listed in the Domesday Book of 1086. The present castle, on the same site, is that which was rebuilt and considerably enlarged in

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the early 1300s by Earl Hugh Courtenay, of the powerful Courtenay family of the county. In 1539, its owner, the Marquis of Exeter, was executed by order of King Henry VIII, and it gradually fell into disuse from then onwards.



Remains of Okehampton Castle today

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All Saints Church



A Church has stood on this hill since Saxon times when the little hilltop village of Ocmundtune was closely grouped around its (probably wooden) Church and surrounded on all sides by dense forests. With the building of Okehampton Castle soon after 1066, present day Okehampton began to develop in the river valley and the little Saxon village was progressively abandoned.

It is certainly known that a Church existed here prior to the first recorded consecration by Bishop Bronescombe of Exeter in 1261. The lovely medieval building, which resulted from a further rebuilding in 1447, was destroyed by fire in 1842. It was rebuilt again to this plan, by Hayward. The 80 foot granite ashlar tower alone survived the blaze and was incorporated into the rebuilt Church which, although somewhat larger, was designed, more or less on the lines of the previous one. There are remains of the old stone reredos against the west wall of the south aisle. The organ is reputed to be one of the finest in Devon.

The reredos is of stone and was built in 1891 by Hems and the choir stalls and altar rails date from 1892. The pulpit is a little older, being installed in 1872. There are several fine stained glass windows in the church, notably one south window by Morris and Co. depicting St Cecilia and the Angels. The North Window is by the Kemp studios and others are by Ward and Hughes. In the Lady Chapel there is a small section of medieval glass displayed in a cabinet beside the altar.



All Saints, apart from being a lovely place to spend a quiet, reflective time, also has the distinction of having its own resident Church Mouse together with a dedication to someone with "a deep love of God's animal world" who was "killed whilst out hunting".



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Bovey Tracey

Bovey Tracey is a small town in Devon, England, on the edge of Dartmoor, its proximity to which gives rise to the "slogan" used on the town's boundary signs, "The Gateway to the Moor". It is often known locally as "Bovey" (pronounced "Buvvy"). It is about 10 miles southwest of Exeter and about half way between Newton Abbot and Moretonhampstead. At the 2011 census the population of this ward was 7,721.

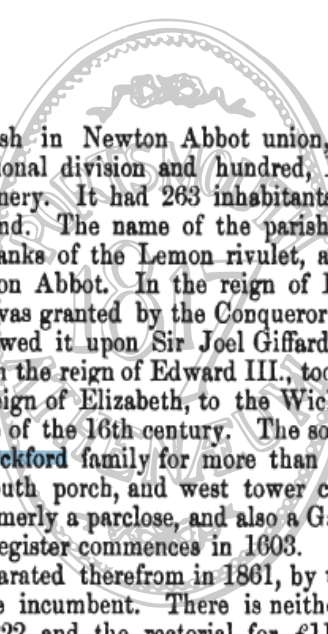
Bovey Tracey was an established Saxon community and takes its name from the River Bovey. The name first appears in Domesday Book as *Bovi*. The town gained its second name from the de Tracey family who were lords of the manor after the Norman Conquest, and was first documented as *Bovitracy* in 1309.

One member of the family, William de Tracy, was implicated in the murder of Archbishop Thomas Becket in Canterbury Cathedral in 1170. It is thought that he rebuilt the parish church of St Peter, St Paul and St Thomas of Canterbury as penance for the murder. In the early 13th century Henry de Tracey created a borough here and in 1259 was granted the right to hold a weekly market and an annual three-day fair.

During the English Civil War on 9 January 1646, Oliver Cromwell and a contingent of his Roundhead army entered Bovey Tracey after dark and caught part of Lord Wentworth's Regiment by surprise, catching a number of officers playing cards in an inn. Many of Wentworth's Royalist troops escaped, but Cromwell did capture about 400 horses. If local legend is to be believed, the Royalists escaped by throwing coins from the windows in order to distract the poorly paid Roundhead troops. The next day a battle was fought on nearby Bovey Heath ending in victory for Cromwell's army. The name of Cromwell lives on in the town today in both the public house "The Cromwell Arms" and the remains of a nearby stone arch, known locally (and incorrectly) as "Cromwell's Arch". The arch is actually what is left of a priory that stood previously on the site of the nearby Baptist Church. The town has over a hundred listed buildings. The parish church, at the top of the town, is grade I listed. It has a tower dating from the 14th century, many 15th-century carvings including three misericords, and a screen described by Arthur Mee as "one of the finest in this county of fine screens". The church has an unbroken list of vicars from 1258. Bovey Tracey is twinned with Le Molay-Littry in Normandy.

Bickington

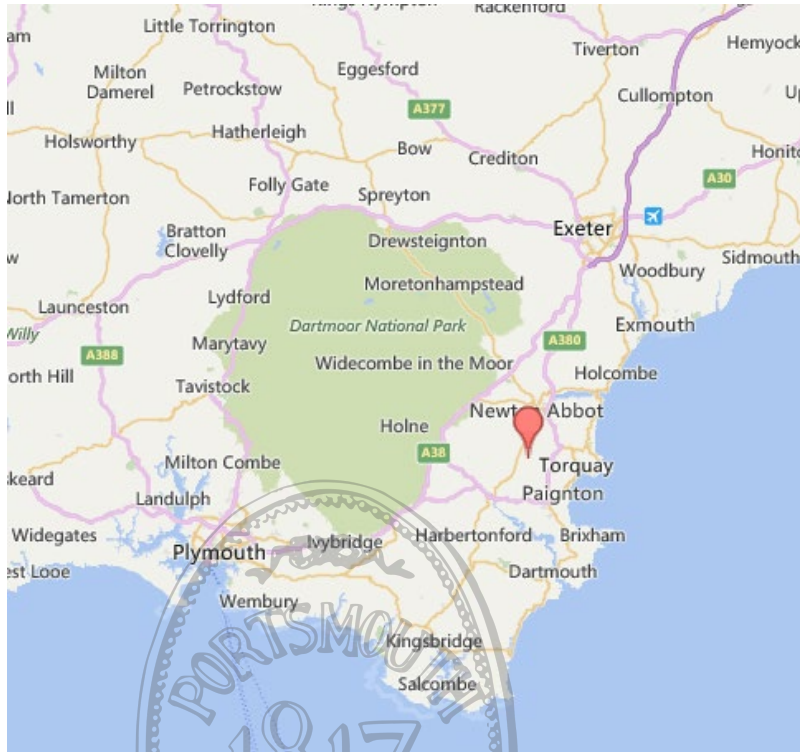
Bickington is a village and civil parish in the Teignbridge district of Devon, England, on the edge of the Dartmoor National Park. According to the 2001 census it had a population of 311. The village is about five miles west of Newton Abbot, on the River Lemon. The church is 15th century and its lychgate has a room over it. The name of the parish was anciently written Bichentone or Bufoton. In the reign of Edward the Confessor, the manor belonged to Brictric, the son of Algar, and was granted by the Conqueror to Queen Matilda, on whose death it reverted to the Crown. Henry II bestowed it upon Sir Joel Giffard, who assumed the name of Bickington. The heiress of Sir Joel Bickington, in the reign of Edward III, took the manor to the Marwoods, and a co-Heiress of this family took it, in the reign of Elizabeth I, to the Wichalses, but the manor was dismembered many years ago, perhaps in the middle of the 16th century. The soil belongs to various freeholders; the Wrigwell estate has been held by the Bickford family for more than 600 years.



BICKINGTON is a parish in Newton Abbot union, Newton Abbot and Torquay county court district, Teignbridge petty sessional division and hundred, Eastern division of the county, Totnes arch-deaconry and Moreton rural deanery. It had 263 inhabitants (128 males, 135 females) in 1871, living in 56 houses, on 1375 acres of land. The name of the parish was anciently written *Bichentone* or *Buketon*. The village is seated on the banks of the Lemon rivulet, and on the Exeter Road, 3 miles N. of Ashburton, and 4 miles from Newton Abbot. In the reign of Edward the Confessor, the manor belonged to Brictric, the son of Algar, and was granted by the Conqueror to Queen Matilda, on whose death it reverted to the Crown. Henry II. bestowed it upon Sir Joel Giffard, who assumed the name of Bickington. The heiress of Sir Joel Bickington, in the reign of Edward III., took the manor to the Marwoods, and a co-Heiress of this family took it, in the reign of Elizabeth, to the Wichalses, but the manor was dismembered many years ago, perhaps in the middle of the 16th century. The soil belongs to various freeholders; the Wrigwell estate has been held by the Bickford family for more than 600 years. The CHURCH (St. Mary) consists of chancel, nave, north aisle, south porch, and west tower containing three bells. The church is in the Perpendicular style, and had formerly a parclose, and also a Galilee chapel. In the interior are monuments of the Bickford family. The Register commences in 1603. The living, a vicarage, was formerly united to that of Ashburton, but was separated therefrom in 1861, by the patrons, the Dean and Chapter of Exeter. The Rev. William Smith is the incumbent. There is neither glebe nor parsonage house. The tithes are commuted—the vicarial for £222, and the rectorial for £115. The Dean and Chapter of Exeter are the appropriators of the latter, and Mr. Richard Skinner is the lessee. The WESLEYANS have a small chapel here. The CHURCH SCHOOL was built in 1848, by the Rev. R. P. Cornish, late curate of this parish. The poor have £2 a year from Plymouth Corporation, as the gift of Benjamin Baron; and a small gift of 10s., 'Skinner's Gift,' administered by the Charity Commissioners.

The clip above is from 'History, Gazetteer and Directory of the county of Devon....2nd edition' by William White 1878-9

Abbotskerswell



In the Domesday Book, Abbotskerswell was called *Carsuella* and was held by the abbot of Horton, Dorset. The name *kerswell* means *cross spring*. In 1086 it had a population of less than one hundred. In 1316 the name of the parish was spelt Abbodescarswell and to it were annexed the hamlets of Eggeswell (now Edginswell) and Cockington. Two years later the parish and manor belonged to the Abbots of Sherbourne [Dorset], who in 1524 granted land upon which to build a house, the rent of which was to go, after the expenses were paid, one half to the minister and one half to the support of the church; at that date the parish was called Kerswell Abbot, and later Carswell and Carswill with and without the Abbot, but probably that was always understood.

Abbotskerswell developed around the growing of apples and oranges for cider making. Henley's Devonshire Cider was made by a company based in nearby Newton Abbot from apples grown in the extensive orchards around the village, and their presses were here too.

Abbotskerswell St. Mary's Church



The village church, dedicated to St. Mary, stands on the site of a former building, and it is thought that the original foundation dates back to the time of the Saxon King Edwy the Fair [r. 955-959]. It would have been a small wooden structure of which no trace remains now.

Soon after the beginning of the 12th century, Horton was taken over by Sherborne Abbey which, in the following century, built a new church in stone with the Chancel and Nave. By the time of a visitation in 1342, various defects were reported and in particular the Chancel was described as “too dark” and the Nave “dirty with its roof in a bad state”. Of that Nave, nothing now is identifiable but the Chancel has an Early English lancet window dating from the 13th century so that at least part of its walls must be original.

There is a good rood screen dating from the 15th century, the lower panels of which formerly had paintings said to be the works of the monks of Sherbourne. The rood staircase remains. In the splay of the south window in the chancel is a large image, said by some authorities to be that of the Blessed Virgin, and by others Oedehild, daughter of Edward the Elder [r. 899-925], and half-sister of Athelstane [r. 925-940], who married in 926 Hugh Capet, Count of Paris, the manor having been granted to this lady in 956 by King Edwy.

A major reconstruction took place in the 15th century when the Chancel was altered, the Nave rebuilt and the massive three-stage 60 foot (18.3 m) high West Tower added with its demi-octagonal stair turret, diagonal buttresses and red sandstone battlements. All walls were of local limestone or sandstone. At the end of the century or early in the next, the North Aisle was added, the work being completed by Sherborne before the Dissolution in Henry VIII's reign, since when the living has been in the gift of the Crown. The village church, dedicated to St Mary, was affected by the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the reign of Henry VIII. Old treasures, particularly a large badly damaged medieval statue assumed to be of the Virgin and Child have been found within the church, and work has been undertaken to restore them.

Nothing much changed thereafter until the 19th century. By then, the fabric had evidently seriously deteriorated. The Chancel was described as "entirely neglected" and whitewash had been used in parts with 'a lavishing and usurping hand'. The Victorians called in the architect William Butterfield (1814 to 1900) in 1881 to put "restoration" (really, reconstruction) in hand. It involved rebuilding some walls together with new wagon-roofs and some repairs to the granite piers. There were losses; the rood loft was dismantled, the Jacobean altar rails removed as was the West Gallery (said to be unsightly) and the room over the porch which was then rebuilt. The granite mullions in the windows were mostly replaced by Beerstone or Bathstone. By the time the church was redecorated in 1884, the total cost had come to £1,609 most of which was borne by Mrs. Marcus Hare of Court Grange in memory of her husband Captain Marcus Hare who had drowned when HMS Eurydice capsized in 1878.

Chancel

The Early English (13th century) single-light lancet window in the north wall is surrounded by zigzag moulding. In the south wall a Perpendicular style three-light 15th century window with volcanic stone mullions, built into the splay of which is a remarkable, more than life size, statue of the Virgin. Unfortunately, it was seriously damaged in Butterfield's restoration before it was realized it was there. The theory has been put forward that it had been thus plastered over to hide it from the iconoclastic emissaries of the Duke of Somerset in Edward VI's reign. When examined in the 1880s, it was found to have traces of paint, now vanished, and to be hollowed at the back so that it is nowhere more than 4 inches (10cm) thick. Below it is the lower part of the former 13th century lancet, and to its right a priest's door. The east window is three-light Perpendicular with old glass in its uppermost part and 19th century by Gibbs in the rest, placed there in memory of Thomas and William Kitson, the father and son vicars here from 1774 to 1847. The altar rail is Butterfield's own design and replaced the fine Jacobean one. The altar is also by Butterfield. The striking oak reredos and screen were erected in the 1930s in memory of Arthur Thomas Dence.

Screen

Dividing the Chancel from the Nave is a typical Devon 15th century screen with a beautiful Vine moulding frieze running along the cornice and through the paintwork is an

unauthorized early 20th century addition. The original coving has been replaced by flat panels and the groining on the spandrels removed. The turret that gave access to the rood loft remains with its three lower steps. The parclose screen that divides the Chancel from the north aisle chapel (used as a priest's robing room) is also restored 15th century or early 16th century one. The height of the piscina in it indicates some alteration of floor level here.

Nave and North Aisle

The two are divided by a Beerstone arcade of four bays with foliage sculpture on the capitals of the clustered columns of Dartmoor granite. All were repaired in 1884. Butterfield also reconstructed the wagon roofs throughout with their plastered ceilings. The windows of the nave are 15th century though two have had their original granite mullions replaced in freestone, while those of the North Aisle are late 15th century or early 16th century with the mullions on all four replaced by Beerstone or Bathstone in 1884. The west window is four-light, 15th century, as is the west door with its four-centred arch, approached through the Tower arch, yet another 19th century innovation.

The pulpit is from the 1880s whilst the eagle lectern was given by J. W. Palk in 1908. The plain octagonal granite font is probably 14th or 15th century but the base, perhaps, later. Beneath the south door was once a limestone arch doorway that gave access to the room above the porch until 1884. A number of memorial tablets to members of families once prominent in the village adorn the walls, and it will be noted from the ones just to the left of the south door, that eighteen men lost their lives in the 1914-18 war but only one in the 1939-45 one.

Bells

The ringing chamber is situated in the second stage of the Tower and contains a ring of six bells. The treble, second and third were cast at the Whitechapel foundry in London. The 4th is a recast from the same factory of an earlier bell by John Pennington I of Exeter which bore the names of the 1664 churchwardens John Tull and John Gotham. These four bells were given in 1924 by Hilda Hare in memory of her mother who in 1906 had the then existing bells rehung and a new floor put in. The 5th dates from 1705 and was cast by Thomas Pennington III and bears the names of Richard Scobel and Mary Shars as wardens. The tenor from 1637 is the oldest, being by Thomas Pennington II with the names of Peter Yeabsley and John Pope the churchwardens. These three old bells must themselves have been replacements for the 'iil belles ynye towre' recorded in 1553. The Tower also contains the mechanism for the clock given by Mrs Hare in 1908 to replace an earlier one that struck the hours but had no face. It strikes on the tenor bell.

South Porch

It was entirely reconstructed by Butterfield when the room over was removed. Some of the exterior ornaments remain, most prominent of which is a quatrefoil of uncertain date

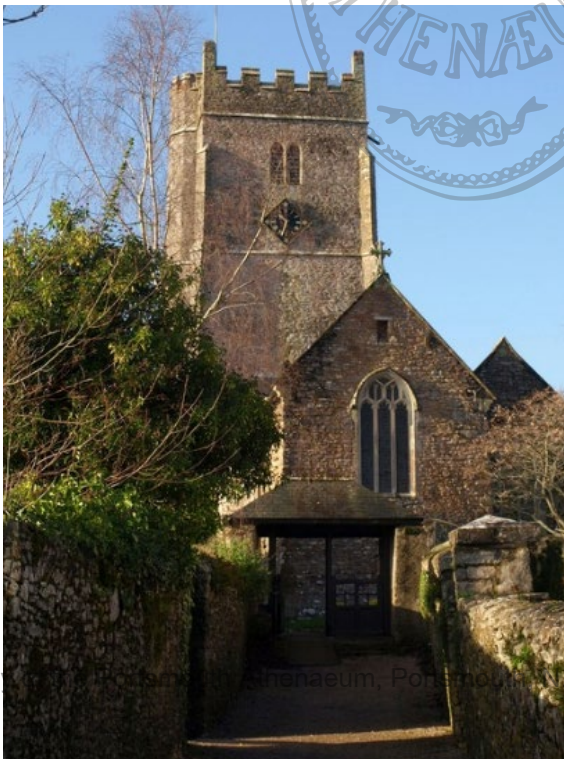
and origin. (It does not figure in a 1770 description of the porch). Above it is a very worn Courtenay shield that once showed an angel and a cross with the letters S P R, and below it on either side of two rose bosses. Running up the left side of the doorway's surround is a carved inscription that can now scarcely be made out but which once said 'The stone that the builders refused is become the head...'

Lych South Gate

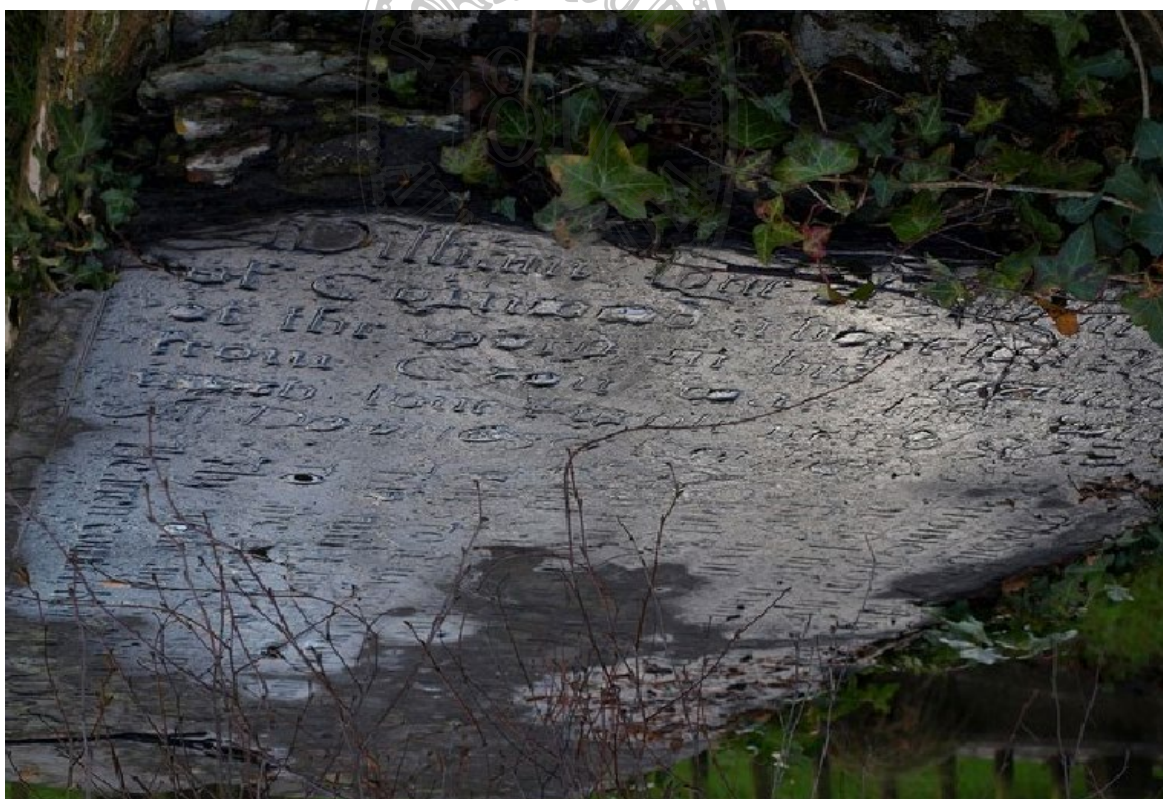
Believed to be the oldest dated wooden one in England. There is carved on the crossbeam FEARE.GOD. T.R. 1603. S.R. HONOR. YE. KNG. S.Y., the initials probably being those of the Churchwardens and donor. It was restored in 1899 in the memory of Rev. Vesey Hine, vicar here from 1865 to 1897 and again in 1989 in memory of A.K. (Peter) Judd.

The church consists of chancel, nave, north and south aisles, south porch (with the stairs to the former monks' room still remaining), and west tower containing three bells, dated 1664, 1637 and 1705. There is an old legend that three additional bells were sunk on the voyage over the sea from abroad. The church is mainly Perpendicular, but the chancel is Early English. The western tower has diagonal buttresses and a stair turret in the centre of one side. The east window was inserted by members of the Kitson family in memory of two relatives of that name, formerly vicars of the parish. On the chancel wall is a brass erected by his brother officers in memory of Captain Marcus Hare, who commanded H.M.S. *Eurydice* when she foundered off Dunmore Head, Isle of Wight,

The baptismal font is Norman. The church registers date from 1607.



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Chest Tomb... just inside the lych gate and close to the chancel of the church. Dated 1639
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Rattery Parish, Devon



For most of Bickford cousins in the United States, John Bickford is our gateway ancestor. It is said that he was born in 1609, because of two depositions he signed in 1669 at Oyster River, Province of New Hampshire, which stated that he was sixty years old. Parish records show that John's father and grandfathers migrated from Bovey Tracey, Devon to Abbotskerswell, Devon, to Rattery, Devon where John was born and christened in St. Mary's church*. If we believe that his depositions are true and correct, he left Rattery at the age of 13 or 14 for America. We do not know which ship conveyed him. We do know that he married Temperance Furber in 1624 and their firstborn was another John Bickford, born 1625. *see chapter 'Jim Bickford Visits Devon'.

According to 'Survey of the County of Devon' by Tristram Risdon (1608-1640) – "Rattery, called by the Saxons *Ratrew*, anciently the inheritance of Alwin the Saxon, in William the conqueror's time the lands of William Fallaise. In king Henry the first's reign, Robert Fitz-Martin was lord thereof, Dartington, and Camoys, who gave the manor to the abbey of St. Dogmaels in Wales, which he founded to the honour of St. Mary of Camoys there, (which grant of his king Henry the first confirmed) whereunto he gave the churches of Tregent, Waldre, and the chapel of Cockington, with two farthings of land there, whose father, Martin de Turon, that worthy warrior, had overrun all that country of Camoys, in Wales, reputed a barony; for in it, besides three boroughs, are twenty knight's fees, and twenty-six parish churches, all which he left to his posterity.

Luscombe lieth in this parish, the lands in ancient times of Anchestel; Henry de Altaribus held it in the time of king Henry the third, by the name of *Lushecombe*; and for divers descents a family so sirnamed inhabited there. *Fenton* was the dwelling of Sir John de Fenton, the twenty-seventh (year) of king Henry the third (reign); when it had remained some descents in that name, the inheritance thereof came to William Gibbs about the reign of king Henry the fourth; and after many descents in that family, descended to two daughters and co-heirs, the one married to Walter Wotton, the other to Drewe of St. Sires Newton, and was sold to John Glanville, justice of the common pleas. *Willing*, the seat of the Saverys, lieth in this parish, a family descended out of Britanny, who have lived there divers descents, and enjoy fair possessions, and are allied to worshipful houses."

Rattery, St. Mary's church



The present church preserves its early plan and may well have been built in the late-Norman period. An early west tower, nave with north and south aisles, south porch, north and south transepts, chancel with narrower north and south chapels, sanctuary and vestry, make up the cruciform design. Three building periods can be traced. The font, nave, chancel and sanctuary are believed to date from the 12th century; the tower, narrow aisles and probably the transepts were added in about the 13th century, the chancel chapels are 15th century, and the spire too could have been built around this time. The external walls of the church were roughcast in 1823.

The sgraffito is a complete system of internal plasterwork, which was applied in 1874. It consists of a base coat which is dark red, and two further coats of blue and a top coat of yellow ochre, which must have looked spectacular when it was first applied, and quite gaudy. This would have presented quite a departure from the plain walls which probably preceded it. In 1909 a portion of the sgraffito was recoloured and redecorated.

We presume that there were originally benches for worshippers to sit on and at some stage box seating was installed, but by 1870 the

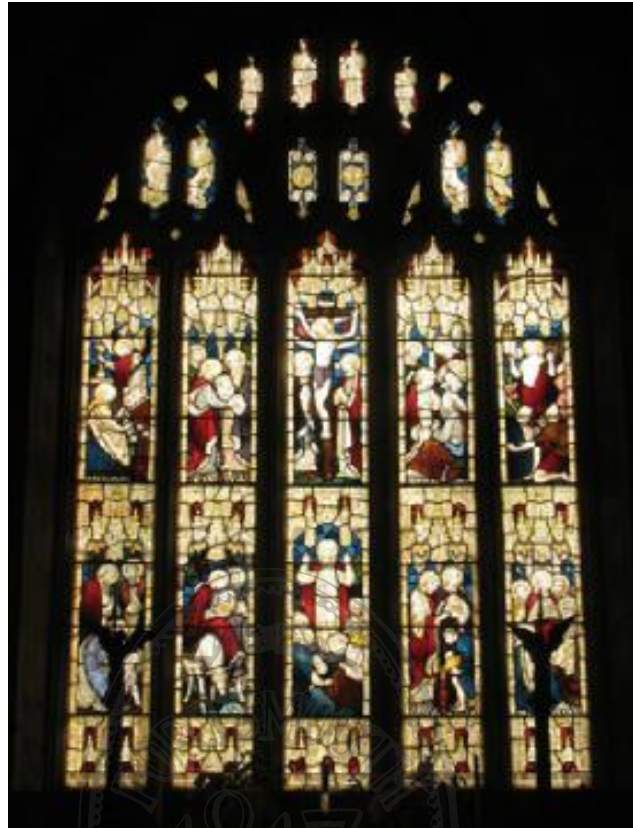
Rural Dean the Revd. R. Champernowne had recommended that the square box seats be removed, with open ones substituted to

increase accommodation, and that the unsightly gallery might also be taken out and the church opened to the west end. This was again mentioned in 1871, the Rural Dean stating that the west gallery was the 'greatest eyesore'. Work was carried out in 1874, and in 1876 the Rural Dean, the Revd, R. Bartholemew, pronounced the restored church to be in excellent order. The 1874 restoration included the sgraffitto decoration of the walls, and he noted that it had been thoroughly and tastefully restored.



The font, one of three of its kind in Devon, the others being at South Pool and Dittisham, is of great antiquity and much interest, and its origin is certainly Norman. The bowl and stem are of red sandstone and the base of grey sandstone. The cup shaped bowl is surrounded by shallow flutings. In Transactions of the Devonshire Association for 1916 the loss of the font's round rim was lamented and comment passed that: 'No doubt it was in bad condition as the ring often is, in the cast of soft stone, but the appearance of the font is affected very injuriously'. There is an apocryphal story that a jobbing Norman carver came up the River Dart, offering his services to churches, and that he was invited to carve our font.

It seems fairly certain that there were walls on each side of the nave before the addition of the aisles in the 13th century. The arcades are of three bays each with pointed arches. The east bay, which is opposite the transept, is virtually a three quarter arch without any trace of a point. The building seems to owe this irregularity to a widening of the transepts when the chancel chapels were added. There is no structural arch between the nave and the chancel; but across this space is the restored rood-screen.



The east window is a very large and particularly fine one, inserted probably in the 15th century, and the lovely stained glass later still, towards the end of the 19th century. The paintings are incidents from the Gospels. There is a sedilla (group of three seats) in the south wall of the sanctuary where sat (and still do!) the assistant(s) at celebrations of the Holy Communion.

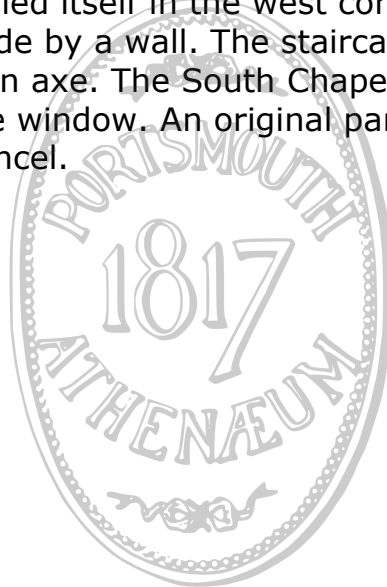


The tower is essentially of the 13th century and the rather large west window was probably inserted in the late 14th century, certainly not earlier. The arch into the nave is acutely pointed and at the apex is slightly out of true! Most windows of the aisle were characteristic of the late 13th century, displaying a plain, simple form of tracery. A glorious

example of modern design is expressed in the two windows in the north aisle, given in the memory of the Carew sisters.

In each end wall of the transepts is a very large window and these, like those in the aisles, date from the 13th century. The east wall of the south transept retains an original 15th century perpendicular window.

The chancel chapels are wider than the aisles. Each chapel is separated from the chancel by a single granite arch – these having been added in the 15th century. The windows are of the same period, but the painting, of course, is much later, about 1850. The brownish, porous looking stone used in the arches is called honeycomb dun', and is only found on four farms in the parish – Willing, Brownstone, Bulkamore and Torne. Stripping off the old slates from the North Chapel in 1962 for a new roof, a forgotten iron circular stair-turret to the rood-loft revealed itself in the west corner behind the organ. It is concealed on the inside by a wall. The staircase and rood probably came under the Reformation axe. The South Chapel is the Chapel of Our Lady and has a very expressive window. An original parclose (screen) divides the chapels from the chancel.



The rood-screen extends right across the nave and is of nine bays originally carved in the 15th century. Either on the way to or in Exeter for repair, fire ruined the upper part of this ancient screen. Scorch marks can still be seen at the back of the screen near the Vicar's stall – silent reminders of the fire. A brass plate near the pulpit is witness to the restoration in 1911.

On one's way into the church it is easy to miss a pointed niche over the porch, which doubtless housed an image of St. Mary the Patron Saint. On the gable is an 1803 slate sundial.

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The east window of the church is a typical example of the Victorian period, during which canopy work and a painted ground were popular features. There is fine line work in the painting which was given in memory of Elizabeth Carew, one time patron of the living. The Lady Chapel's east window contains a beautiful picture of Our Lady painted between 1800 and 1870.

The south window of the lady Chapel contains the figure of St.



Peter.

The east window of the south transept shows St. James



in a rather cruder type of painting, dating from the period 1850-90.

The north aisle window is of a relatively modern style with white glass playing a far more prominent role and the colours being somewhat subdued, with the result that more use is made of the window to let in natural light. The north window of the Organ Chapel is a good example of the use of acid, enamels and stains and embodies something of the German and Flemish style, dating from 1850-80. The large plain windows in the church include and embossed in ruby – an old and effective process.

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The Bells

St. Mary's has a ring of five bells housed in the tower where there has probably been one or more bells installed since the 13th century, from which the tower itself is thought to date. The earliest record of bells in the church is on 14th February 1763, when the churchwardens and principle inhabitants of the parish petitioned Fredrick, Lord Bishop of Exeter, as follows:

Humbly herewith.

That whereas there are now four bells in the Tower of the said Parish Church of Rattery, two whereof are rendered useless, and incapable of being rung, and whereas by proper notice being given in the Church for parishioners of the said Parish to meet in the vestry to consult and consider of a proper method for the new casting the said bells, it was then unanimously agreed the said four bells cast into five and hang them up in a strong and substantial frame for the sum of sixty pounds. Wherefore we pray an Intimation to Issue forth under the Seals of his said *Lordship's Court to be read in* the said Parish Church of Rattery, in order *to intimate to all Person's who shall or* may have any objections thereto; to appear on the day of the return of the said *Intimation at his said Lordship's* Court to make their objections thereto, otherwise to let them know that a *Faculty will pass under his said Lordship's seal for casting and* hanging the bells as aforesaid.

The third bell is 33 inches diameter, and inscribed as the second bell. The fourth bell is 36 inches in diameter, and inscribed 'Aggett and Sons, Bellhangers, Chagford, Devon. Hear me when I call, Henry Carew, Vicar, John Hoare, John Coker Churchwardens, Recast March 1901.' The tenor bell is 41 inches diameter, and weighs 13 cwt. It is F sharp, and inscribed 'Pennington Fecit PL IC CW, Robert Savery, Vicar.' It has three impressions of gold coins; a George II guinea, and both sides of a John V Portuguese coin, dated 1743.

The Churchyard



The churchyard is just over an acre in size and is more or less divided into two. The upper churchyard is original, and the lower was given by the Misses Carew. The land was consecrated by the Bishop of Crediton on 5 May 1899. The churchyard is planted with snowdrops, primroses, daffodils, shrubs and trees, and is maintained by a band of volunteers, who cut the grass and tend the boundary hedges.

One of the oldest gravestones is near the south door and is dated 20 November 1689.

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Vicars

Jeffrey Hurning (c. 1199) was the first recorded priest, but there were almost others appointed by the lord of the manor before this. Several Rattery priests were very long serving, with Walter Cuillebole and John Jago serving 54 years, and Henry Martyn 53. In 1650, the Puritans ousted James Bampfield and one wonders how he fared, until he was restored in 1660.

Attendances have varied over the years, and to a great extent have depended on the personality of the priest or the determination of the major landowner and employer. If the Misses Elizabeth Anne and Beatrix Carew noticed any of their estate workers missing from the service, they would be informed that their presence would be expected the following week. There were 96 names (a record) on the electoral roll in 1926, whereas in 1937, the vicar, Reverend Morse, complained of the slackness of the men's attendance in church – on more than one occasion the vicar's warden being the only one present. Towards the end of his ministry, Gurney Ryott had only two or three worshippers attending his morning service, but his successor, Harold Patrick, was able to build the congregation back up to a healthy number, and he re-formed the choir, and introduced nativity plays.

There have, of course, been characters amongst the priests. The Church Plate Committee of the Devonshire Association reported in 1913 that in one parish, Rattery, the incumbent, Revd. Bernard Packer, would neither furnish any particulars, nor answer any letters, and was absent when called upon. The committee were not permitted to see the plate. The Rural Dean supplied the deficiency (and also reported that Rattery was one of several parishes which possessed nothing 'really ancient'. 'It frequently happens', he noted, 'that parishes where there was a wealthy resident squire, a tasteless modern plate has been substituted for ancient vessels.')

Reverend Gurney Ryott used to dash off to Torquay after evening service, to play in a string quartet; and Reverend Herbert Knights was instrumental in launching a very successful appeal on the radio, for the 'Weeks Good Cause' in aid of the church roof, which was in danger of collapsing at the time. Many still remember Tom Taylor who, on a voluntary basis, used to collect glasses in the Church House Inn, and on occasion would serve drinks.

Vicar	Period	Donor of the Living
1. Jeffrey Hurning	c. 1199	The Abbot and Convent of St. Mary & St. Dogmael Cardiganshire
2. Walter de Pembroke	In 1238	
3. Thomas Ballard	1260 - 1284	
4. Walter Cuillebole	1284 - 1338	
5. John Lambrith	1338 - 1349	
6. Sir William Budd (Priest)	1349 - 1354	
7. Sir Ralph Pataleke (Priest)	1354 - 1364	
8. Thomas de Northwode (Priest)	in 1364	
9. Sir William Blackhall (Priest)	1364 - 1376	
10. Sir Lawrence Buscoveleke	1376 - 1391	
11. Sir John Thomas	1391 - 1417	
12. Sir John Colyn	1417 - 1472	
13. Sir John ate Wyllle	1472 - 1453	
14. John Groove STP	1453 - 1455	Archbishop Bonchier
15. Sir John Hylle (Carmelite Chaplin)	1455 - 1490	St Mary & St Dogmael
16. John Henrys	1490 - 1514	
17. Thomas Lloyd LLB	1514 - 1524	
18. Jeffrey Johns (Chaplin)	1524 - 1565	
19. Matthew Preston	1565 - 1567	Richard Savery esq. of Willing
20. Henry Martyn (Scholar)	1567 - 1620	
21. William Hele MA	1620 - 1628	Richard Savery esq. of Totnes
22. Michael Thompson	1628 - 1634	
23. James Bampfield MA (Restored)	1634 - 1650	
24. David Mole (Puritan Minister)	c. 1650	Intruded Ministers who may have been appointed by Richard Savery esq. of Willing
25. Ambrose Rouse (Curate)	died 1654	
26. John Searle MA	1656 - 1660	
27. James Bampfield MA (Restored)	1660 - 1663	Richard Savery esq. of Willing
28. Samuel Cory	1663 - 1711	William Savery Esq. of Slade
29. John Doidge	1711 - 1721	Waltham Savery Esq. of Slade
30. Robert Savery LLB	1721 - 1767	Samuel Pierce Esq. of Hendacott
31. William Savery	1767 - 1781	John Herring Esq. of W. Langston
32. John Jago DD	1781 - 1835	Dame Elizabeth Carew of Marley
33. Joshua Reynolds Johnson MA	1836 - 1841	
34. Arthur Dene	1841 - 1844	
35. Fitzwilliam John Taylor BA	1844 - 1845	
36. Robert Palk Carew BA	1845 - 1875	
37. Henry William Carew	1875 - 1902	
38. Bernard Packer BA	1902 - 1913	The Misses E. and A. Carew

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39. Ernest Craven Grimaldi	1913 – 1919	
40. Percy Earle Barnes	1919 – 1927	Sir H. Palk Carew of Haccombe
41. John William Storey	1927 – 1930	
42. Edward Eld Jackson	1930 – 1935	
43. David Patrick Lloyd Morse	1935 – 1940	
44. Robert Gurney Ryott	1940 - 1949	Sir Thomas Palk Carew
45. Harold Stanley Patrick MA	1949 - 1960	Bishop Robert Mortimore
46. John Thompson (Licensed to officiate)	1960 – 1961	Sir Thomas Palk Carew
47. Herbert Knights (Priest in charge)	1961 - 1969	Bishop Mortimore Sir Rivers Carew
48. Thomas F. Taylor MA	1969 – 1979	Hon. Ass.
49. John Graham Bishop MA, PHD, BD	1979 - 1988	
50. John Hugh Harper	1979 – 1989	
51. David Winnington-Ingram MA	1991 – 1999 2000 –	

Church Lands

As evidenced by the Rattery entry in the Episcopal Registers, 1257 – 1307, the church was endowed with land. In more recent times, an inquiry in the parish on 7 November 1911 reported ownership of:

...a messuage (dwelling house with outbuildings) called the Church House of Rattery, with a little parcel of land therunto adjoining, containing, by estimation, half an acre, and a close of land, situate within the parish of Rattery, containing by estimation one acre, and the almshouses on the south west side of the said close, in trust, to permit the churchwardens and sidesmen of the said parish, to receive rents and profits of the said premises, and, yearly, to render an account, to use of the parish and parishioners, to the intent that the same should be wholly converted and justly employed, towards better maintaining and setting forth God's divine service within the said church, the relief of the poor and needy people of the said parish, and all other necessary uses, and most convenient and meet to be employed at the will and discretion of them, and the greatest number of the sufficientist of the said parishioners, as in time past had been used and accustomed; and also on trust, to let the premises for the term of life or lives or years, to such persons as the said sidesmen and greater number of sufficientist of the said parishioners should appoint, with a power to appoint new trustees, to be nominated by the sidesmen when the trustees should be reduced to three.

These premises consist of a house called the Church House, with a garden adjoining, and a field on part of which the almshouses are standing. The church-house and field are in the occupancy of George Stevenson, as a yearly tenant, at a rent of £8 per annum. They were let to him at a parish meeting, and the rent is considered fair. The said almshouses consist of six rooms, occupied by six of the poorest families of the parish, placed there by parish officers. There is also a house built some years ago for a schoolhouse, partly by subscription, and partly at the expense of the parish. The school, which was unsupported by any funds, except voluntary contributions, has ceased to exist, and the house is let to William Gidley, as yearly tenant, at a fair rent of £5 per annum. The rent of the above mentioned premises are received by the churchwarden and carried in his general account with the parish, in aid of church-rates.

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The Bickford Family in Rattery Records by Babara Paul, Rattery, Devon, England 2017

- The Lay Subsidy Roll for 1674 lists an Agnis Bickford
- On 9th November 1665 Agnes Bickford married James Tolchard at St. Mary's Church, Rattery
- On 26th February 1700 Agnes Bickford was buried at St. Mary's Church, Rattery
- There is a probate record for Amos Bickford in 1619
- Elisabeth Bickford was baptised on 11th August 1696 at St. Mary's Church, Rattery. Her father's first name was John
- Elisabeth Bickford was buried on 27th May 1673 at St. Mary's Church, Rattery
- Elizabeth Bickford married George Netherton on 19th January 1713 at St. Mary's Church, Rattery
- Devon Wills Index – Gregory Bickford. Occupation Yeoman. Probate year 1630
- Devon Wills Index – Henry Bickford. Probate year 1601
- Devon Wills Index – Henry Bickford. Probate year 1625
- Devon Wills Index – Jane Bickford. Widow. Probate year 1634
- Devon Wills Index – Joan Bickford. Probate year 1648
- Devon Wills Index – Johan Bickford. Widow. Probate year 1647
- Joan Bickford – born third quarter 1624. Mother's last name Brealey
- John Bickford – buried 24th November 1656 at St. Mary's Church, Rattery
- Margaret Bickford – baptised 1st May 1698 at St. Mary's Church, Rattery. Father's first name William
- Mary Bickford married Richard Ellett on 30th November 1665 at St. Mary's Church, Rattery
- Mary Bickford married William Sheere on 14th January 1667 at St. Mary's Church, Rattery
- Mary Bickford – baptised 12th January 1692 at St. Mary's Church, Rattery. Father's first name John
- Devon Banns Register – Banns date 7th September 1777 Mary Bickford (Dean Prior and John Tottle (Rattery
- Mary Bickford – born 1738 was buried on 21st July 1820 at St. Mary's Church, Rattery
- Richard Bickford – buried 30th November 1654 at St. Mary's Church, Rattery
- Richard Bickford – baptised 26th January 1702 at St. Mary's Church, Rattery. Father's first name William
- Richard Bickford – born 15th March 1780. Baptised 26th March 1780 at St. Mary's Church, Rattery
- Sarah Bickford – baptised 28th January 1700 at St. Mary's Church, Rattery. Father's first name William
- Susanna Bickford – baptised 18th October 1694 at St. Mary's Church, Rattery. Father's first name John
- Susanna Bickford – buried 10th September 1695 at St. Mary's Church, Rattery
- Thomas Bickford – baptised 14th April 1692 at St. Mary's Church, Rattery. Father's first name William
- Thomas Bickford married Mary Yelland on 7th June 1772 at St. Mary's Church, Rattery
- Thomas Bickford – baptised 28th June 1772 at St. Mary's Church, Rattery. Father's first name Thomas
- Banns Register – Thomas Bickford and Mary Yelland. Banns date 10th May 1772
- William Bickford – baptised 5th March 1694 at St. Mary's Church, Rattery. Father's first name William
- William Bickford – baptised 25th July 1773 at St. Mary's Church, Rattery. Father's first name Thomas

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Illesington

The village is believed to be an ancient settlement - probably existing 200 to 300 years before the Norman Conquest. It is mentioned in the Domesday Book as Ilestintona, and there is known to have been a church there since at least the 11th century. St. Michael's parish church, as seen today, dates back to the 15th century. It was the site of an incident which has passed into local folklore; in 1639, the schoolroom, which was above the west lychgate of the church, collapsed into the street and churchyard.

Apart from its agricultural history, Illesington's industrial archaeology reflects the mining of the 18th and 19th centuries. The Atlas tin mine and the Smallacombe iron mine were major local enterprises – with the cottages at Lewthorne Cross being built for William Grose, the mine captain and mine workers. Nearby, at Haytor, granite was quarried and carried down to the Stover Canal at Ventiford, Teigngrace, on the Haytor Granite Tramway, the route of which is now commemorated in the Templer Way footpath. Haytor granite was used in the building of many civic structures including London Bridge, over the Thames in London.

Through the centuries, Illesington village appears to have been largely self-supporting. Census returns and church records show a variety of rural occupations among the local community including farmers, blacksmiths, carpenters, thatchers and stone workers. It had an ancient manor house which fell into ruin after occupation ceased in about 1825. The village's most famous resident was the playwright John Ford, who was born at Bagtor House.



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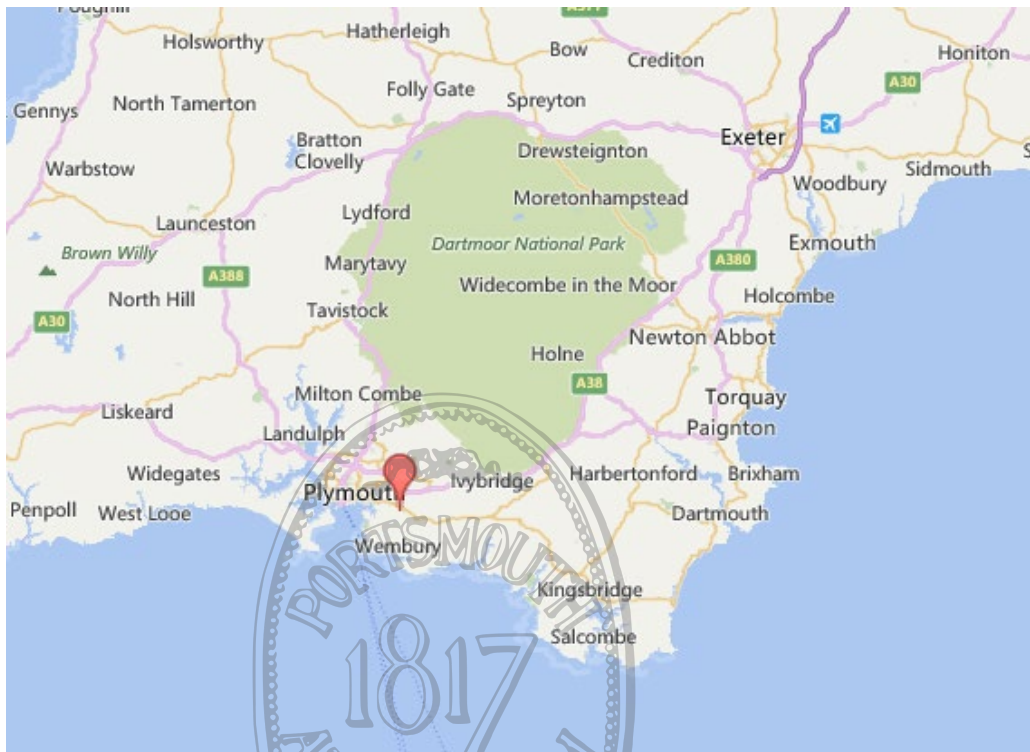


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Plympton St. Mary



Plympton



Looking down on part of the town from the castle



Plympton's motte and bailey castle

* A motte-and-bailey castle is a fortification with a wooden or stone keep situated on a raised earthwork called a motte, accompanied by an enclosed courtyard, or bailey, surrounded by a protective ditch and palisade.

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 Plympton's thirteen Domesday manors, besides the royal manor, were Baccamoore, Battisford, Bickford Town, Challonsleigh, Elfordleigh, Hemerdon, Holland, Langage, Loughtor Mills,

Torrige, Woodford, Walford (lost), and Yealmpstone. Sparkwell appears by 1167, Saltram by 1249, Boringdon by 1279, Newnham by 1292.

Plympton Town Richard de Redvers (d.1107) was granted the feudal barony of Plympton, with *caput* at Plympton Castle, by King Henry I (1100-1135), of which king he was a most trusted supporter. His family later became Earls of Devon. Their lands, including Plympton, and titles were later inherited by the Courtenay family, feudal barons of Okehampton. The ancient Stannary town remains dominated by its now ruined Norman motte-and-bailey castle and it still retains a cohesive medieval street pattern. A number of historic buildings in the local vernacular style of green Devon slate, limestone and lime-washed walls, with Dartmoor granite detailing, attest to all periods of its history.

Boringdon came to the Parkers in the time of Elizabeth I. They rebuilt it on a substantial scale and made it their principal residence until they moved to Saltram after 1712. The house has been half-demolished, but there are considerable remains of the Elizabethan house, including the great hall.

Saltram, on a fine site overlooking the Plym estuary, is the largest house in Devon. In the reign of Charles I it was the seat of Sir James Bagg of Plymouth, and was then a substantial Tudor mansion. John Parker married Lady Catherine Powlett and it was they who built Saltram much as we see it to-day: a house of George II's time. It has been altered and added to three or four times, and is now rich in all that the 18th century architects and craftsmen could effect. (Country Life, 59 (1926), 160-170; Tourist's Companion to Plymouth, etc., 289) In 1768 the lower rooms were superbly decorated by Adam, notably the saloon and the dining room. The former is a double cube, and is said by Polwhele to have cost at least £1 0,000. The ceilings of these rooms were painted by Zucchi. Among the art treasures of this great house, the collection of English and French furniture, and the pictures, are equally outstanding. The furniture includes a superb writing table which formerly belonged to Louis XIV. The pictures are undoubtedly the finest collection in Devon. They include a considerable number of the works of Sir Joshua Reynolds, who was a friend of the Parkers and often stayed at Saltram, and the fine Italian pictures collected from 1751 onwards on the advice of Reynolds. Saltram is one of the three great houses still kept up in Devon. The other two are Powderham (the Earl of Devon) and Castle Hill (Earl Fortescue).



An Augustinian priory was founded at Plympton St. Mary in 1121, but a collegiate church of St. Peter and St. Paul had existed here from the time of Alfred. Plympton priory became the second richest monastery in Devon and Cornwall, exceeded only by Tavistock Abbey, but scarcely a vestige of this great house remains today. Such small fragments as remain lie to the south of Plympton Parish Church. The gatehouse of the priory is still in existence. In 1872 it was recorded that the gatehouse, kitchen and refectory were still in good condition. Among its property was the site of Plymouth, a town which owes its origin to the priory.



White Ladies Priory near Bickford

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St. Mary's Church in Plympton



St Mary's Church was consecrated on 29th October 1311 and proudly celebrated the 700th anniversary of their church in 2011. The church has a history of more than a thousand years, commencing with a 9th Century Saxon Minster which remained until 1121. It was replaced at that time by a Norman Augustinian Priory which became one of the leading monastic houses in the South West of England and remained until the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII in 1539. The remains of the old Priory can be found adjacent to St Mary's Church.

The church has many outstanding features, including a large granite tower, several stained glass windows and many other artefacts. In St Katherine's Chapel, which is the oldest part of the building, there is a tomb of Richard Strode who was a Plympton MP in the 1500s and was famous for introducing a bill to curb the mining of tin on Dartmoor. There is a large memorial plaque on the north wall of the church, dedicated to the Strode family. In the late thirteenth century, the river came up to the church tower and pilgrims about to embark for Santiago de Compostela in Spain were given refuge in the church. The Courtenay Chapel has a memorial to Philip Courtenay whose daughter married William Strode. Another famous local family with strong connections to St Mary's Church were the Parkers of Saltram. There are many artefacts in the church dedicated to them.

Through the generations, the people of Plympton St. Mary have come to this church to worship God, rejoice in times of joy and seek comfort in times of sorrow.

In order to celebrate the 700th Anniversary, St Mary's Church held a series of special events from the time of the Patronal Festival in August 2011 when there was a Songs of Praise led by

Pam Rhodes and a Flower Festival, until the following Patronal Festival in August 2012 when there was a closing service led by Bishop Martin Shaw and a bell ringing festival. Various special services were held during the year, including a Dedication Service which took place on 29th October 2011.



Plympton St. Mary's Church Reredos in 1890

The church consists of chancel with priest's door, nave, north and south aisles, north and south chapels opening out of the aisle, south porch, and west tower with eight bells. In the chancel is a trefoil-headed piscina with drain and shelf, and triple sedilia with trefoil heads. The east end of the sanctuary is panelled with marble, the modern carved reredos has panels representing the Adoration of the Shepherds, and the Entombment. The east window is filled with modern stained glass. There is a hagioscope in the chapel at the east end of the south aisle, and in the south wall is an ancient monument with a recumbent figure, it is in memory of Philip Courtenay of Loughton (now Newnham Park). The figure, much mutilated, is arrayed in plate armour. The front base of the monument has canopied niches with figures, they are in a very bad state of preservation, the monument dates from about 1514. There are some small remains of ancient glass in the upper portion of the east window. The walled-up doorway in the south wall conceals the staircase which led to the rood screen, this, and the marks on the pillars for the attachment of the screen, prove its former existence, but there is nothing remaining now. There are the remains of a piscina placed rather high in the south wall. On the east wall is marble tablet in memory of the Snelling family, sometime of Chaddlewood, with dates from 1622 to 1673. The east window of the north aisle chapel contains in the top lights some remains of ancient glass, bearing the arms of Hill of Shilston on the left, and Hill of Hill's Court, on the right.

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On the north side of the chapel is a very fine tomb erected in memory of Richard Strode, of Newnham in this parish, who died in 1464. Beneath a canopy rests a male figure arrayed in

plate armour, the hands in the attitude of prayer, the head with long hair rests on a helmet. The front of the tomb has eleven niches with figures of monks holding their rosaries. The centre niche has a representation of the Holy Trinity [plate]. The Father with His Hand raised in blessing and holding a crucifix between His knees and a dove at the top of the cross. Mrs. Jameson says in her *History of our Lord* that this device, known by the name of the Italian Trinity, obtained a strange popularity from the 12th to the 17th century, exhibiting little variety of composition during all those ages. With the exception of a carving on a tomb in Ashwater Church, this is the only carved representation of this device I have met with in a Devonshire church. Other niches contain figures of St. Paul, St. Katherine, the Blessed Virgin and Child, and St. John. At each end of the tomb are pinnacles, each with two niches, these niches contain figures of St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke, and St. John, with their usual emblems.

On the north wall of the chapel is the monument of William Strode. In the centre is a kneeling male figure in armour with his hand on his sword; on either side of the centre figure are effigies of females kneeling at a desk; on a panel beneath the left hand figure are half figures of the seven daughters and three sons of Sir William. The two female figures at the desk represent Mary the first wife, who died in 1617, and Dyonisia the second Lady Strode. Underneath the right hand figure is a representation of Death cutting a flower with a sickle, the flower is held by a hand appearing out of a cloud.

Above the central effigy is the inscription:—

**"Tread soft, for if you wake this knight alone
You rayse an hoast, Religious champion
His country's staff, right bold distributor,
His neighbour's guard, the poor man's almoner
Who dies with works about him as did hee,
Shall rise attended most triumphantly."**

Above the left hand figure are the words:—

**"Mary, incarnate virtue soule and skin
Both pure, whom death not life convinced of sin
Had daughters like seven Pleiades but shee
Was a prime star of greatest claritie."**

Above the right figure are the lines:—

**"Dewnes hath merited no slender prayer
In that she well supplyd the former's dayes
Conceive how good she was whose very worst
Unto the knight was this that she died first."**

Beneath the central figure is the inscription:—

**Cubiculum
Gulielmi Strode, Equitis Aurati
et in isto ordine tandem antiquissimi:
Familia satis clari
Sed Religione integritate morum consilio Justica Publica
Generosa hospitalitate rebus probe et fœliciter gestis longe clarioris**

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**Qui et septem filiarum quinq: nuptarum Equitibus nexu lugati
Et arctiori nexu plurium virtutum
Devoniæ suæ gluten, et Oraculum diu substitit
Is duarum uxorū unanimi fretus consortio,
Mariæ et Dionysiæ
Quare ex altera decem suscepit liberos
ex altera serius solamen dierum et operum satur obdormivit
In gremio terræ matris
cum sorore vermicula, et ultima propinquitate naturæ decumbens
conquerentibus amicis
In te occidit spes omnes et fortuna nostri nominis
donec nominis generisq: discrimen
Communi gloria resurrectionis
et soluis affinitate Christi evanescit
Occidit Junii 27, 1637. Aetate suæ 76.**

**Patri Gulielmo, matri Mariæ et Dionysiæ quasi matri
Monumentum hoc posuit Gulielmus Strode.**

On the third pier from east end of the north aisle is an image niche, and on a line with this pier, in the north wall, a filled-in doorway. The south porch with parvise is worthy of notice. Above the doorway are three canopied niches. The highest of these, above the parvise window, has a representation of the Holy Trinity; the Father is seated with the cross in front, the dove is missing. The lower niches have figures of the Blessed Virgin, and the Angel Gabriel; in the centre between the niches are the remains of a tree with helmet and wreath, the crest of the Strode family.

The roof of the porch has carved bosses, the centre one bearing a representation of the Crucifixion. There are three niches over the inner doorway, but the images are missing. In the south-east corner is a holy water stoup, and the eastern wall has a window which has been filled in.

Plympton church (St. Mary) stood in the churchyard of the conventual church: hence its comparative isolation from the village to-day. It now stands in a lawn-like churchyard, a handsome building of early 14th and 15th century date, built largely of granite. The granite tower (108 ft.) is notably good. Among the features of the interior are the Strode monuments (460, 1637), some ancient heraldic glass, the mutilated canopied tomb of a Courtenay (15th century, the handsome triple sedilia and piscina in the chancel, and the good modern parclose screens.

Bradford Parish and Dunsland Manor

Bradford is a civil parish and village in the local government district of Torridge, Devon, England. The parish, which lies about six miles east of the town of Holsworthy, has part of its eastern boundary formed by the River Torridge and it is surrounded clockwise from the north by the parishes of Milton Damerel, Shebbear, Black Torrington, Ashwater, Cookbury and Thornbury. In 2001 its population was 359, compared to 280 in 1901.

The parish church, dedicated to All Saints, in the village of Bradford, mostly dates from the early 14th century, although it has a Norman period doorway and baptismal font. There are several memorials on the north wall to the Bickford family. The earliest records the death of William Bickford in 1659, and is also a memorial to his wife Grace, who died in 1686, and his father-in-law, Arthur Arscott, who died in 1662.



Mid-19th century engraving of Dunsland House

Dunsland is a historic manor and former house near Holsworthy in the parish of Bradford in Devon, England. It was successively home of the de Dunsland, de Cadiho, D'Aubernon, Battyn, Arscott, Bickford, Coham and Dickinson families and it is very likely that the estate passed in an unbroken blood line from the time of the Norman Conquest in 1066 until 1954 when it passed to The National Trust. The house was destroyed by fire in 1967, just after extensive restoration.

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From 'Collections Towards A Description Of The County Of Devon' 1604 by Sir William Pole of Colombe and Shute, Knight (who died in 1635), now printed from the Autograph in the possession of his lineal descendant Sir John-William de la Pole, Barrister of Shute, &c. in Devonshire. Printed in London in MDCCXCL

D U N S L A N D.

DUNSLAND, in y^e beginnyng of Kinge Henry 3, John de Dunfland held ; & after it contynewed divers discent in the name of Cadiho, & Robert de Cadiho, in Kinge Henry 4 tyme, left it unto Thomazin his daughter, wief unto John Dabernon, & had issue John, w^{ch} had issue Jone, wief of John Batten, w^{ch} had issue Robert, & William. Robert Batten, of Dunfland, married Jane, daughter of John Walrond, of Bovy, & had issue Humfry, w^{ch} by Katerin, daughter of John Carmyno, had issue Phelippa, wief of John Arscot, of Holdefworthy, & they had issue Humfry, John, & Nicolas. Humfry Arscot, of Dunfland, had issue John, the father of John, the father of John Arscot, y^t nowe is.

Ilgeram de Aubernon held BRADFORD, & other lands in Kinge Henry 2 tyme ; from hym issued twoe famylyes, thon of Bradford, w^{ch} contynewed unto Kinge Edw. 1 tyme. The heire generall was Giffard, of Yeo, by Dennys, of Bradford ; the other of Dunfland, w^{ch} contynewed unto Kinge Henry 6 tyme. The heire generall is Arscot.

The following insert gives a slightly different presentation of the same information as above. The book: 'A View of Devonshire in MDCXXX. A Pedigree of Most of Its Gentry', by Thomas Westcote, Gent., edited by The Rev. George Oliver, D. D. and Pitman Jones, Esq. published by William Roberts of Exeter, 197 High Street, in 1845. (my insertions are in blue.....phil swan)

'At Cokeberry, we receive a good augmentation of a riveret made lately of two rills (brooks), one arising here in the land that St. Leoger sometime held, now Speccot : the other at Bradford, or de Vado Lato, of a large passage through our river Torridge. Giffard was seized of lands here. Donnesland, or Dunsland, gave name to a progeny, by whose heir *de* Cadiho had it ; by the inheritance of that race, Thomasin, it descended to Daubernon, or de Albernoun. There is no long continuance of one tribe in one place, for Elizabeth, the only offspring of that tribe, enriched Battin therewith ; and his daughter and heir Arscot of Arscot ; whose daughter and heir brought it to her husband Bickford of — ; whose son, Arscot Bickford, esq., left it lately to his son (Arscott) by (Bridget) Prideaux. It continued longer in the name of Arscot than in any of the former names. He married Yeo: his father, Munck: his grandfather, Hatch. Hengescot (a surname) had lords also of the same denomination until the two heirs imparted it between Prideaux and Pointingdon. On a stone inlaid in brass is the form of a man armed cap-a-pie (head to foot), with this inscription,—

" Pray for the soul of John Hengescot, esquire, who deceased the 30th January, A. D. 1500: on whose soul Jesus have mercy." On another inlaid also in brass, " Hic jacet Johannes Daubernoun de Dunsland, qui obit 5to. die Aprilis, A.D. 1432: cujus animas propitiatur Deus." ' Courtesy of the Portsmouth Athenaeum, Portsmouth, N.H., with permission of the author, copyright restricted

In the time of Edward the Confessor, Bradford and Lashbrook manors were held by the Saxon king, Algar the Tall. Dunsland was held by Wulfric (or Uluric). After the conquest of England by

William The Conqueror of Normandy, the Devon manors were redistributed by King William I. By 1086 (the time of the Domesday survey), there were five principal land holders in Devon. After the king, they were Baldwin the Sheriff, Judichael of Totnes, Robert the Count of Mortain and Geoffrey de Mowbray, Bishop of Coutances. There were nearly fifty other smaller holdings, as well. The King held most of the wealthiest manors but Baldwin, in fact, held the greatest number. The King had, among others, Black Torrington, Shebbear, Holsworthy, Northlew and Halwill in this area. Baldwin held Okehampton, Sampford Courtney, Bratton Clovelly, Monkokehampton and Bradford as well as Dunsland. The manors accounted for only about one tenth of the land in the parish, the rest would be either regarded as waste land or forest where the king had the right to hunt.

The Parish, which consists of a number of scattered hamlets and farmsteads with no central village, is called 'Bradeford' in Domesday. Despite the spelling, the same is thought to refer to a broad ford over the River Torridge which is close to Bradford Mill. The only road shown on early maps is the lane, known as Church Lane, running from the old Rectory at Priestacott, behind the church and the manor where it forks, one branch leading to the Mill and, presumably, the ford, while the other leads to Bason and Thornbury.

Bradford (or Bradford Dabernon) parish, which is in Holsworthy union, was anciently held by the Dabernon and other families. Dunsland, a large and ancient mansion, with an estate of about 1000 acres, became the property of John Cadiho in 1087, by his marriage with the daughter of Baldwin de Brionis, Baron of Okehampton. John Dabernon, lord of the manor of Bradford, obtained Dunsland in 1400 by marrying the heiress of the de Cadiho family, Thomasin de Cadiho. From the Dabemons, it passed in a similar manner in, 1437, to John Batyn ; similarly from Batyns, in 1558, to John Arscott. From Arscotts, in the same manner in 1634, to William Bickford, of Bickford Town, whose heiress married in 1790 the Rev. William Holland Coham, of Coham.

More on the Dabernon family... from ['Collections Towards A Description Of The County Of Devon' by Sir William Pole, 1604.](#)

T I N G T O N D R E W .

T I N G T O N D R E W both gave name, & tooke name of [the] possessor thereof in Kinge Henry 2 tyme. Hee was called Drew, or Drogo de Teinge. Anno 27 of Kinge Henry y^e 3, Eugenius Dabernon was y^e lord thereof ; & 24 of Kinge Edw. 1, John Daubernon held the fame ; and William Dabernon, 19 of Kinge Edw. 3. Stephan Dernford died seized of the mannor of Tington Drewe, anno 6 of Kinge Henry 6 ; & it descended unto James his sonne.

Will^m Newcomb dwelleth in this parish.

[In other words, Eugenius held in 1243, John held in 1296, William held in 1346](#)

All Saints Church in Bradford Village



There has almost certainly been a church on this site since Saxon times. The present building dates from the Norman, Early English and Perpendicular periods. The principal Norman features are the font and the south doorway. The font, which has a romanesque fluted bowl with round moulding on the rim, is particularly fine.



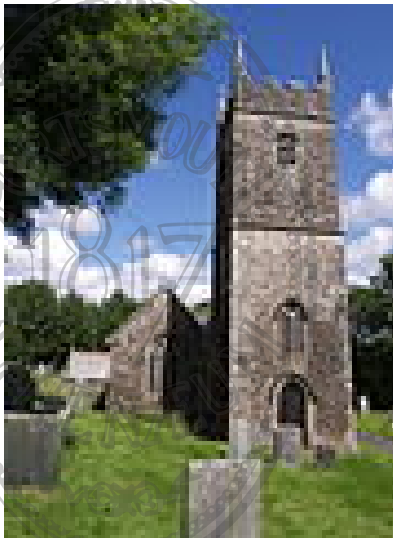
Baptismal font from Norman era

The shaft has been lengthened by the insertion of two courses of stone. The granite pillars of the arcade are Perpendicular and probably early 15th century.

The Domesday Book records four manors in what is now the parish of Bradford: Bradford itself and the manors of Dunsland, Lashbrook and Henscott. Middlecot was another sub-manor attached to Black Torrington. The first three were all manors belonging to Baldwin the younger son of count Gilbert de Brionne. King William I (William The Conqueror) made Baldwin Sheriff of Devon after the surrender of Exeter to the King in 1068. The manor of Henscott was held of the Bishop of Coutances by Drogo.

The manor named *Donesland* in Devon which appears in the Domesday Book of August 1086 is believed to refer to Dunsland. Before the Norman Conquest it was held by Wulfic. By 1086, Dunsland was held of Baldwin by de Cadiho (who was thought to have married Baldwin's daughter) and Lashbrook by Roger de Mules (possibly a brother of Baldwin). By 1166, in the

time of King Henry 2, Dunsland was held by Ilgeram de Aubernon and in 1241 by the heirs of William de Aubernon (Dabernon). It was held by Richard Cadiho in 1242 or 1243. In 1396, Bishop Stafford granted a license to John de Cadiho and Alice his wife to have a private chapel within their house. In 1414, Thomasin, the daughter and heir of Robert de Cadiho married John D 'Aubernon (Dabernon) described as "warden of the stannary, and of the fees of the duchy of Cornwall" and who was "chosen one of the knights for the shire" in 1356/1357. His granddaughter married John Battyn of Exeter. After four descents in this family it passed by the marriage of Philippa Battyn to John Arscott of Arscott in Holsworthy on the death of Humphrey Battyn in 1522. After another four generations, on the death of Arthur Arscott in 1662, it was inherited, through his daughter Grace's marriage to William Bickford of Plympton St. Mary, by their son Arscott. Another four generations and, at the death of Arscott Bickford in 1817, it passed to his sister Mary who had married the Rev. William Holland Coham of Coham in Black Torrington. Their granddaughter married Capt. Harvey Dickinson in 1858. In 1954 the house became National Trust property, and in 1967 it was destroyed by fire.



The patronage of the church, the right to appoint successive rectors, was held by the lords of the manor until the 18th century. The advowson was purchased from George Cary* in the 1730s by William Bampfield of Beer in execution of the will of his uncle, another William Bampfield, rector of Arlington in North Devon, who died in 1720. He directed that provision be made for the education of a member of the Bampfield family at school and university so that he might be given the living of a parish within the gift of the trustees. When William the younger died in 1749 the trusteeship passed to his son-in-law Henry Carslake. In the 19th century the trust was vested in the rectors for the time being of the parishes of East Down, Bratton Fleming and Goodleigh. Six members of the family were appointed between 1741 and 1904. The trust was extinguished in 1989 and the rights passed to the Diocesan Board of Patronage.

*An earlier Sir George Cary is mentioned in a clip from 'Collections of Devon....' In the following pages.

The earliest mention of a rector is in July 1309 with William Mewy who was ordained deacon at St. German's in February of that year by Bishop Stapeldon. The earliest record of an institution is November 1321 when William Bassett was presented by John Deneys. The first mention of

the dedication of the church to All Saints is in 1373, but the first stone church was built here more than two hundred years before, though no one knows the earliest date.

Apart from the 12th century font and south doorway, arched with a single order of colonnettes, the next oldest parts of the building are the windows and south doorway of the chancel which date from around 1300. The east window of the chancel was renewed in the 14th century and the north aisle was probably added about this time, though the windows of the north aisle are 15th century perpendicular. The granite arcades separating the aisles are also 15th century, said to date from 1438. The tower was built a little earlier but was reputedly struck by lightning about 1550 after which it was restored and raised in height. There is an indistinct date carved in the stone on the outside near the base of the tower. The doorway and west window of the tower appear to be 14th century.

The present wooden altar table frames a pre-reformation altar slab of slate with incised crosses which was found in the 19th century in one of the vaults under the church floor. It was said that the vaults of the Hengscot and Arscott families were under the floor in the north aisle, while the Bradford manor vault was beneath the chancel.



There are a number of 16th century memorials on the floor at the east of the north aisle. The earliest is to Elizabeth Fortescue (of the Henscott family) dated 1563 (or 8) There is one to John Hengescott in 1572, and to his daughter, Elizabeth Pomerey in 1599: also to Humfrey Arscott 1580. There were once two brass memorials, one to John Dabernon, 1432, and one to John Hengescote, 1500, but these were removed sometime in the 19th century. Laid on the floor of the nave are a number of 17th century Barnstaple tiles of varying designs. There are several

memorials on the north wall to the Bickford family. The earliest records the death of William Bickford in 1659, and is also a memorial to his wife Grace, who died in 1686, and his father-in-law, Arthur Arscott, who died in 1662.

Behind the organ is a tablet to the memory of the Bickford family of Arscott, and near it a tablet with following inscription:-

**In Memory of William
Bickford of Dunsland, Esq
who departed this life
the 3rd of November
Anno Dom 1659
And also of Grace Bickford
his wife who was ye sole
Daughter and heiress of
Arthur Arscott of Dunsland
Esq: who Departed this
Life January ye 9th 1686.
Esq: departed this life
The 18 of October 1662.**

On the west wall of the north aisle there is a fine slate memorial to the Maynard family. It commemorates John Maynard of Bovacott, gentleman, who died in 1687, his sons Arthur and Ezekiel and Ellen the wife of William Maynard, rector of Thornbury.

Bovacott became the home of John Coham in the 18th century and passed by marriage to Heysett by whom it was sold in the 1870s to Saunders. The west window of the north aisle contains a memorial to John and Mary Heysett. A depiction of the Resurrection, Crucifixion and Ascension was placed there with new granite mullions in 1872. There are a further two memorials to the family on the north wall.

The east window in the north aisle was given in 1871 by Miss Mary Coham of Compton Hartley and Mr W.H.B. Coham of Dunsland to record the memory of their ancestors who possessed Dunsland from 1087. A brass plaque beneath the window records the names of the several families.

There is one further interesting slate memorial which is on the wall inside the tower. It is a memorial to John Venton of Highstead who died in 1823. He is described as 'gent' on the stone, but the Ventons were yeoman farmers in the parish throughout the 18th century and the first half of the 19th century. They farmed at both Great and Little Bason and at Highstead.

In the early 19th century there many reports of neglect and disrepair - pigs and horses in the churchyard, decayed roofs, broken mullions and doors and damp. Between 1864-67 there was a general restoration of the body of the church. The walls were taken down and re-built with additional Beer stone, including new windows. The mason was William Heard, who also made the new east window. The nave was re-roofed, again re-using such of the old timbers and slates as were good. The carpenter was Richard Chowen; and the total cost was £286. The work was supervised by Mr Samuel Hooper of Hatherleigh and financed by a parish rate and a loan of £200. Mr Heysett and Mr Coham were largely responsible for getting this work done.

The chancel was not repaired at this time. It was the responsibility of the rector who was the Revd. John Yule. In 1850 he had restored the Rectory at Priestacott and possibly was in financial difficulty. It is known that he was bankrupt in the 1860s and had to come and go from the Rectory in secret to avoid the bailiffs. The chancel was boarded off from the rest of the church and used for worship while the repairs to the nave were being done, but afterwards the partition was left and the chancel became very dilapidated. It was said a tree was growing through the roof and nothing was done until Mr Yule died in 1885. His successor, Rev. Robert L. Bampffield, set about the restoration, dying in 1888, a year before its completion. The small transept projecting south from the chancel was removed during this restoration. In the following year a stained glass window depicting the Good Shepherd was placed in the south chancel in memory of his zealous work and liberality. The cost of the work between 1885-89 was £800 and was said at the time to make it the best chancel in the Deanery. The altar table was raised on two steps making the sedilia in the south wall rather low.

Parson Yule was a colourful character whose mother was the daughter of Bampffield Carslake, and whose father, Commander John Yule, R.N., served with Nelson at Trafalgar. John Carslake Duncan Yule went up to Oxford in 1821 but does not appear to have gained a degree. He was vicar of Coleridge, from 1838 before being appointed to the family living in 1842 (two years after the death of his father) and remained at Bradford until his death 43 years later. From 1843 he was also Rector of Hollacombe. Having restored and improved the ancient rectory he is next noted as the architect of the new Market Hall in Holsworthy in 1857. He seems to have worked hard to get the church restored with much opposition from his Nonconformist churchwarden, William Yeo of Henscott. But after that work was finished he seems to have given up all thought of restoring the chancel. He was very lax about keeping the parish registers. Burials were copied into the register after his death by his nephew from note books he kept, but many baptisms seem to be unrecorded. He once invited Mr English to dine with him at the New Inn in Bideford. Mr English was bemused by the way he ate his duck - bones and all - but was less amused when he was left to pay the bill!

The south windows were reframed with new glass in 1865. In 1849 it was noted that the windows contained images of the Evangelists and our Lord crowned with thorns and displays of the arms of Yeo and Walrond.

After Mr. English bought the manor there was further extensive repair to the church between 1869 and 1871 for which Mr English and Mr Bickford Coham were largely responsible and their images, together with those of their wives, are carved on four of the corbels of a completely new roof. The carving is credited to William Heard.

In 1897 a new pulpit was erected in memory of Joseph Thomas English who died in 1892. After the death of Clervaux Saunders of Bovacott in 1905 an eagle lectern was given to the church in his memory, and the reredos depicting the Last Supper which was painted by E. Fellows Prynne. These items were both dedicated by the Bishop of Crediton on 4th March 1907. In 1912, to commemorate the coronation of George V, a sixth bell was added to the peal. In 1760 there were four bells; a fifth was added in 1811. Two of these were re-cast by Mears & Stainbank in 1891 and the other three were re-cast in 1912 by Taylor of Loughborough. The carpenter most involved with the 1880s restoration was Arscott Short of Holemoor.

It was recorded that a new harmonium was purchased for the church in 1886, this was replaced by a pipe organ in 1905. While Claud Williams was rector he dismantled the organ but was unable to put it together again so it was removed after he left, and not replaced until about 1933.

A reed organ was purchased in 1962 and this was replaced with a Wyvern electronic organ in 1986. Electric lighting was installed in the church in 1958. Also in 1986 a stained glass window was commissioned for the south aisle in memory of Mildred Tribble of Henscott. The window was designed by James Paterson of Bideford and executed by his son Robert shortly after his father's death.

Some mention must be made of the other churches and chapels in the present parish of Bradford with Cookbury. Cookbury Church with its unique dedication to St John and the Seven Maccabees (7 children and their mother who were brutally executed by Antiochus king of Syria in 168 B.C.) is a fine example of a small Norman church which has largely escaped destructive restoration. Most of the building is 13th century with the north aisle being added in the 14th century. In 1981 the church was declared redundant and attempts were made to sell it. This did not happen and the church was made a chapel of ease to Bradford Parish Church in 1987 and subsequently 25,000 was spent repairing the roof and windows (with a generous grant from English Heritage). Monthly services are held at Cookbury from April to September.

Additional notes on the church building materials and construction.....

Norman origins with some 14th century fabric extended in the 15th century, restored in 1869 and during 1875 - 89. Stone rubble walls. Gable-ended slate roof.

Plan: nave, north aisle and chapel, west tower and south porch and vestry to north of chancel. The earliest feature of the church is Norman south doorway. The next recognizable building phase is 14th century from which time the chancel dates or was rebuilt. A major remodeling took place in the 15th century when the north aisle was added and the porch probably built. The tower was struck by lightning in 1550 and rebuilt. The date of the vestry is uncertain since it incorporates 17th century features but these may have been re-used in the 19th century. Kelly's Directory records that the church was restored in 1869 from a ruinous state and again during 1875 - 89 when the chancel was rebuilt. The tower was restored and new pinnacles made in 1891.

Exterior: A two-stage unbuttressed west tower, crenellated with renewed obelisk pinnacles terminating in crosses. West doorway has 2-centred arch and recessed chamfer, arched hoodmould above. Probably restored 2-light west window with cinquefoiled heads and quatrefoil over. Belfry openings are of 2 lights with 4-centred heads and hoodmoulds. West window of north aisle renewed in 20th century in Decorated style. Granite moulded north doorway with 4-centred head and hoodmould. To its east is early 16th century 3-light granite mullion with segmental heads and a hoodmould. Beyond that is a 15th century 3-light mullion with ogee-headed lights and a hoodmould. At the east end of the north wall is a 17th century straight-headed 3-light mullion. East end wall of aisle has 3-light granite Perpendicular window. The vestry projects as a small wing from the north wall of the chancel with a cambered head doorway on its east side and a 17th century mullion window on its north wall. East window is a 19th century 3-light restoration in the Decorated style. South wall of chancel has 2 apparently early 14th century unrestored windows. The nave has 19th century 2 and 3-light Decorated style windows. Gabled 15th century or 16th century porch with stone coping and 4-centred chamfered rubble arch.

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Interior: porch has renewed open timber roof. Narrow Norman doorway with round arch to tympanum, dressed stone jambs and colonnette either side with carved capitals. Internal walls are rendered. 5-bay granite arcade to north aisle of Pevsner A-type piers with carved capitals and the moulding continuing on the 4-centred arches. Tall pointed rubble tower arch. The roofs have all been replaced during restoration. Late 19th century carved pulpit, choir stalls and benches. Medieval Barnstaple floor tiles cover part of the nave and north chapel. Small Norman font with fluted edge to bowl. In north chapel are 3, 16th century floor memorial, one of 1599 to Elizabeth Pomeroy, the others considerably worn.

On north wall is a marble obelisk shaped memorial to Arscott Bickford of Dunsland who died 1771. Adjoining it is a large slate wall memorial to members of the Bickford family who died at various times in the 18th century. Next to this is a good memorial dated 1659, 1686, and 1662 to William Bickford, his wife Grace and Arthur Ascott of Dunsford. It is slate with a Corinthian column either side surmounted by a broken pediment with armorial shield at centre and winged angel's head below. Beyond are 2, 19th century marble memorials to the Heysetts of Baracott.

The following clip is from [‘Collections Towards A Description Of The County Of Devon’](#) by Sir William Pole mentions Sir George Cary and Sir Edward Cary who were patrons of All Saints Church in Bradford.

B R A D F O R D D A B E R N O N .

BRADFORD DABERNON. Ilgeram de Aubernon held this land in Kinge Henry 2 tyme; & in the begynnyng of Kinge Henry 3, Ilgeram Dabernon gave Bradford unto William his younger sonne; John Dennys, by Jone his wief, held Bradford, anno 24 of Kinge Edw. 1, w^{ch} had issue Walter, w^{ch} by Matild, daughter & heire of Henry Bokerell, had issue John, w^{ch} by Alis, sister & heire of Will^m Cristenflowe, of Wycroft, had issue Walter, w^{ch} by Mfolda, daughter of Stephan Dernford, had issue Thomas, w^{ch} by Alis his 1 wief, daughter of Thomas Baunfild, of Poltymore, had issue Gilbert; his 2 wief was Elisabeth, y^e daughter of Robert Hach, of Wolley, by whom hee had issue Thomas, from whom is descended Dennys, of Holcomb Burnell. Gilbert Dennys, of Bradford, had issue Radigond, wief of Robert Giffard, of Yeo, & had issue Leonard Giffard, w^{ch} had issue Thomas, w^{ch} had issue John, w^{ch} had issue John Giffard, whose daughter Wilmote was first married unto John Byry, of Collaton, & from him divorced, and married unto George Cary, of Cokington, K^t, by whom shee had issue George, & 2 daughters, w^{ch} died all three w^{thout} issue; but shee had conveyed her land unto the said S^r George, w^{ch} hath conveyed the same unto S^r Edward Cary his brother's sonne, w^{ch} is nowe lord of Bradford.

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Dunsland Manor House



Dunsland Manor House

The house with part of its estate was purchased at auction by a London speculator Mr. de Savoury who was interested in the timber in the woodlands. It was then bought by Philip Tilden, an architect who attempted to restore the house, a job that remained incomplete on his death in 1954. His widow sold the property with 92 acres to the National Trust in the same year.

The National Trust spent an enormous sum on restoring the house and let it to tenant guardians. During the night of 17 November 1967 the house was destroyed by fire, with the walls left standing in such a precarious state that the decision was taken to demolish the whole structure and to fill up the basement with the rubble and level the site. Today, the land is still owned by the National Trust and it is maintained as a park with some features of the old estate still visible.

To lose a house to fire is always a tragedy, but when the house is one of the very few top-Grade listed houses in an area it is a particularly hard loss. Dunsland was a fascinating house both architecturally and historically and its destruction after surviving decades of neglect and having undergone an extensive - and nearly complete - restoration deprived north Devon of one of its few large houses.

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The manor named *Donesland* in Devon which appears in the Domesday Book of August 1086 is believed to refer to Dunsland. Before the Norman Conquest it was held by Wulfric. By 1086, Dunsland was held of Baldwin by de Cadiho (who was thought to have married Baldwin's daughter) and Lashbrook by Roger de Mules (possibly a brother of Baldwin). By 1166, in the time of King Henry 2, Dunsland was held by Ilgeram de Aubernon and in 1241 by the heirs of William de Aubernon (Dabernon). It was held by Richard Cadiho in 1242 or 1243. In 1396, Bishop Stafford granted a license to John de Cadiho and Alice his wife to have a private chapel within their house. In 1414, Thomasin, the daughter and heir of Robert de Cadiho married John D 'Aubernon (Dabernon) described as "warden of the stannary, and of the fees of the duchy of Cornwall" and who was "chosen one of the knights for the shire" in 1356/1357. His granddaughter married John Battyn of Exeter. After four descents in this family it passed by the marriage of Philippa Battyn to John Arscott of Arscott in Holsworthy on the death of Humphrey Battyn in 1522. After another four generations, on the death of Arthur Arscott in 1662, it was inherited, through his daughter Grace's marriage to William Bickford of Plympton St. Mary, by their son Arscott. Another four generations and, at the death of Arscott Bickford in 1817, it passed to his sister Mary who had married the Rev. William Holland Coham of Coham in Black Torrington. Their granddaughter married Capt. Harvey Dickinson in 1858. In 1954 the house became National Trust property, and in 1967 it was destroyed by fire.

There had been a house and estate at Dunsland for hundreds of years. Remarkably, it had only been sold three times - once in 1428, 1945 (having passed through inheritance in the intervening years) and 1950 - before it's final sale to the National Trust in 1954. The original Tudor house, built no later than 1500, stood slightly to the west of the later house and contained traces of a much older building. A substantial portion of this house did survive as the south wing, serving as the kitchen and service rooms until it was abandoned and unroofed in the early 1950s. The original house would have been quite simple, with rubble-built walls 4-5 feet thick with only the quions being squared. As the house grew it was sub-divided into two floors. All the windows were small, with wooden or stone mullions and they all, with one exception, faced inwards to the courtyard. Inside, little had changed in some aspects; meat could still be hung on hooks in the chimney to be smoked, a 'cloam' (pottery) bread oven built into the wall was still used to bake the daily bread up until 1939, and in the upstairs Housekeepers Room, a huge, locally made cupboard with over a hundred, individually labelled drawers stored the necessary supplies required to keep a remote household self-sufficient.

Dunsland was mentioned in the Domesday book. It then slips back into obscurity until it's noted that in 1428 the male line of the Cadiho family, who had owned the estate for approximately 400 years, had died out and the house passed, via the married daughter's inheritance, to the Dabernon family. This was short lived and within two generations had been passed again through a married daughter's inheritance to the Battyn family who held it until it passed once more through a daughter to the Arscotts and then by the same route to the Bickford family.

It was the Bickfords who were responsible for the major improvements and enlargements which created the final Dunsland house. They were a wealthy family from Plympton in south Devon who owned land around St Keverne in Cornwall. Grace Arscott was the last of that family and Dunsland passed to her and her husband William Bickford. Grace outlasted William but when she died in 1686 their son, Arscott Bickford, inherited the estate and it was he who created the final Dunsland house. He married three times with the second and third of those marriages both to members of the powerful Prideaux family. Both these wives seem to have brought little land with them but they did bring money which allowed Arscott to create the new north wing and other improvements to the house.

Though the exterior of the house could be regarded as rather provincial, the quality and variety of the interior decoration - especially that of the Drawing Room - was equivalent to that of the great houses of the Home Counties or the Shires. There was little comparable to it elsewhere in Devon at the time. In particular the Drawing Room ceiling plasterwork and the wood carvings were some of the best in the county. The ceiling had a wide cove decorated with a continuous chain of festoons supported by plaster ribbons. The middle centred on an oval garland of roses surrounded by rectangular panels meeting circular panels in each corner. The longer rectangles contained scrolls of acanthus with animals and birds just visible in the foliage, with the shorter rectangle containing the family crests surrounded by military trophies. Though very detailed, the work was rich without appearing too heavy. The chimneypiece was also a curiosity having a conventional lower part in keeping with the style of the rest of the room, whilst the upper part showed a different hand entirely. The overmantel had been carved with great skill and care and had, somewhat inevitably, been linked with Grinling Gibbons as it contained many of his familiar motifs. However, though good, it is not to Gibbons exceptionally high standard and is more likely to be the work of a local man, Michael Chuke, who had been apprenticed to Gibbons and returned to work in Devon, achieving much acclaim over time. It is also possible that the overmantel was brought from the demolition sale of nearby Stowe House in 1739.

The new North, or Restoration, wing was built of local stone and faced with ashlar with a series of terraces in front. It was this wing which contained the fine rooms - a central salon, drawing room, library and parlour. Apart from the finely decorated Drawing Room mentioned previously, the other rooms were decorated in a simple style with moulded panels, with the panelled walls painted to resemble walnut.

[A description from 'The Antient Sepulchral Effigies and Monumental and Memorial Sculpture of Devon' by W. H. Hamilton Rogers, F. S. A. 1877. Exeter, Devon.](#)

BICKFORD. *Bradford*,—At Dunsland, the antient seat of Arscott and Bickford, over the window of the Hall on the exterior are the following shields :—

- 1, An escutcheon quarterly of nine—1, *a chevron engrailed between three martlets* (Bickford); 2, *a fess vaire between three unicorns' (?) heads*; 3, *a chevron between three arrows, a crescent for*

difference (Floyer); 4, *a chevron between three battleaxes* (Batten); 5, *a cross moline, on a chief three mullets pierced*; 6, *a chevron between three escallops* (Dabernon?); 7, *three piles in point wavy* (Cadiho); 8, *Mules*; 9, *Arscott*. On the dexter side a single shield charged with Bickford, on the sinister, *a stag's head between two flanches* (Parker). Over the east entrance, Bickford impaling Prideaux.

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A Window to the Past

When Dunsland House was tragically destroyed by fire in November 1967, a 900-year old English country house was lost forever. Along with it went much of the history, traditions, and everyday features of a by-gone era. Dunsland House reminds us that, at one time, family names and estates conveyed power, wealth, and position in society; all supported with a sense of family honor and remembrance for those who came before. Just for a moment, let's remember it here.



Dunsland House, Devon, England

The National Trust of Britain

This view shows the Arms of Bickford impaling Prideaux over the Great Dining Room (Ball Room) entrance to the Restoration wing (completed 1670) of Dunsland House. Begun before 1086, Dunsland House passed into the Bickford family when William Bickford, (1597-1659) of Plympton, South Devon, married the heiress, Grace Arscott, in 1634. The arms were also built into the plaster ceiling over the Drawing Room and even built into the lead cistern-heads, (rain spouts) which carried rain from the roof - all a testament to the importance of family names to prominent and wealthy families of the time.

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Courtesy of Henry Westlake & the Highampton Local History Group,
Devon, England



The Great Drawing Room



The Library

The Great Drawing Room, considered the most beautiful room in the house, with five massive windows providing light. The ceiling panels were a masterpiece created in copper and plaster by Italian craftsmen.

The Library was the most loved and used room in the house with floor-to-ceiling bookcases reaching 13 feet filled with volumes dating to the 1600s....Bickford H. C. Dickinson, *The Dunsland Segal*

The period at the end of the 1600s marked the high point in the Bickford family fortunes and, though long, the decline continued until 1945. However, this also meant that the house was largely untouched and no further grand projects were undertaken leaving the house to pass into the 20th century looking much as it had three hundred years earlier. The house had passed through the families until the 29th owner, Arscott Harvey Dickinson, put it up for sale in 1945. Though he had bravely tried to maintain the house, the impact of the two World Wars and a shortage of staff and money had left the house, according to the sales particulars as 'in need of considerable repair and redecoration'.

Dunsland was following a familiar pattern at this point. The house and woodland was sold to a Mr De Savoury from London who promptly and rapidly started felling the valuable timber - the house was merely a sideshow to his main interest and would probably have been demolished or allowed to fall into ruin. However, in 1949 the architect Philip Tilden was dispatched by the Devon County Planning Authority to inspect and report on Dunsland. By this point the decay of the previous years was accelerating - the magnificent drawing room ceiling was close to collapse due to a rotting timber beam and the bottom had fallen out of one of the huge slate rainwater tanks in the ceiling so that whenever it rained the water poured onto the main staircase.

Tilden had recently restored the nearby Wortham Manor and his practice specialised in rescuing and restoring historic houses for his clients. In spite of his report no action was being taken - so Tilden sold Wortham Manor and stepped in himself in 1950. As he said in his autobiography: "...my wife and I felt we had no alternative but to buy it ourselves...We did emergency repairs to keep out the weather, paid the timber merchant five pounds for every tree he left standing, fitted a small kitchen into one corner of the hall, with two bathrooms over, and moved in."

However, despite his brave action, and living in such spartan conditions, Tilden was growing old, his health started failing, and he lacked sufficient funds to complete the project. He tried to reduce the size of the project by unroofing the oldest part of the house - the kitchen wing - but these actions were merely delaying the decline of the house. Tilden died in 1954 and his widow could not continue the project.

Rescue came in the form of the National Trust who had recently been left a legacy to specifically buy property in Devon or Cornwall. With this money they purchased the house and 92 acres of woodland and set about the huge task of restoring the house. An emergency £30,000 grant from the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works was spent on restoring the exterior and with further grants and a group of dedicated volunteers the house was gradually bought back to life. The house was furnished with surplus furniture from other National Trust properties and included other loaned items such as ten Chippendale chairs from the conductor Sir Adrian Boult. A team of ten local skilled craftsmen had spent over two years meticulously restoring the interior and finally it was let to Mrs Caffyn and her son who also acted as tour guides. Dunsland House had probably not looked to be in such fine condition since the completion of the North wing over 250 years ago. Everything was in place for Dunsland to take its place among the National Trust's collection and to open for the summer season in 1968.

It has never been established how the fire started, but once it had, it spread rapidly through the house. The construction of the house, with its wood panelling and the central staircase which acted as a flue, meant that the fire could not be contained and the building was gutted from end to end. By 7:30am the next day, 18 November 1967, the house was no more than a charred, smoking shell. Nothing could be saved or salvaged - the firemen recalled how they could see

the furniture inside highlighted against the flames but because of the ferocity of the fire they could not enter the building.

Once the fire was out it was quickly discovered that the shell was in such a parlous state that it could collapse at any time. Restoration was not an option as all the contents had been lost, and such was the heat of the fire it meant that the stone had lost its bonding with the brick, necessitating a complete rebuild from the foundations up - effectively a completely new house that merely looked like the old Dunsland. With the threat of falling masonry the decision was taken to quickly bulldoze what remained and the rubble was used to fill the basement along with whatever else had fallen into it. All that remains of Dunsland now is a plaque set into the wall that was once one of the courtyard walls - a sad end to over 900 years of history.

A note on the Bickford Coat of Arms by Gwyn Lobb:

“Getting a replica of the authentic coat of arms could be difficult for the following reasons. After the litigation case involving the will at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in 1618, apart from losing his home Richard's right to hold a coat of arms was removed from him and he and his son Michael lost their lives over it. William would have none of it and as the next natural inheritor he re-established his right, which he knew he was entitled to do, and defiantly had them sculptured together with those of the three previous prominent families to have held Dunsland before him, to be mounted over the portico of the east wing entrance to the house in the form of a shield.

That shield should be the genuine article, so to speak, so we need to find it to be sure it is the right one. The royal College of Arms who officially hold the records for coats of arms does not have one officially listed for the Bickfords as it was never officially reinstated by government. The name you can find listed and the space at the top of the page which once held the illustration, is now blank. I'll do some digging to see if anything has changed, and find some record of it somewhere.”Gwyn Lobb
September 18, 2016



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J. L. Vivian's Pedigrees

In his work, '*The Visitations of the County of Devon*' of 1895, J. L. Vivian set out a pedigree chart for the Arscotts of Dunsland. It starts with a John de Dunsland, passes through the Cade (de Cadiho) and D 'Auberon (Dabernon) families to the Battyn family to Humphry Battyn (died 15 November 1522). Vivian states that Humphry Battyn left his lands to his daughter Philippa and her husband John Arscott (died 1 May 1563), a lawyer of the Inner Temple, the son and heir of John Arscott (died 1541) of Arscott by his wife Margerie Floyer.

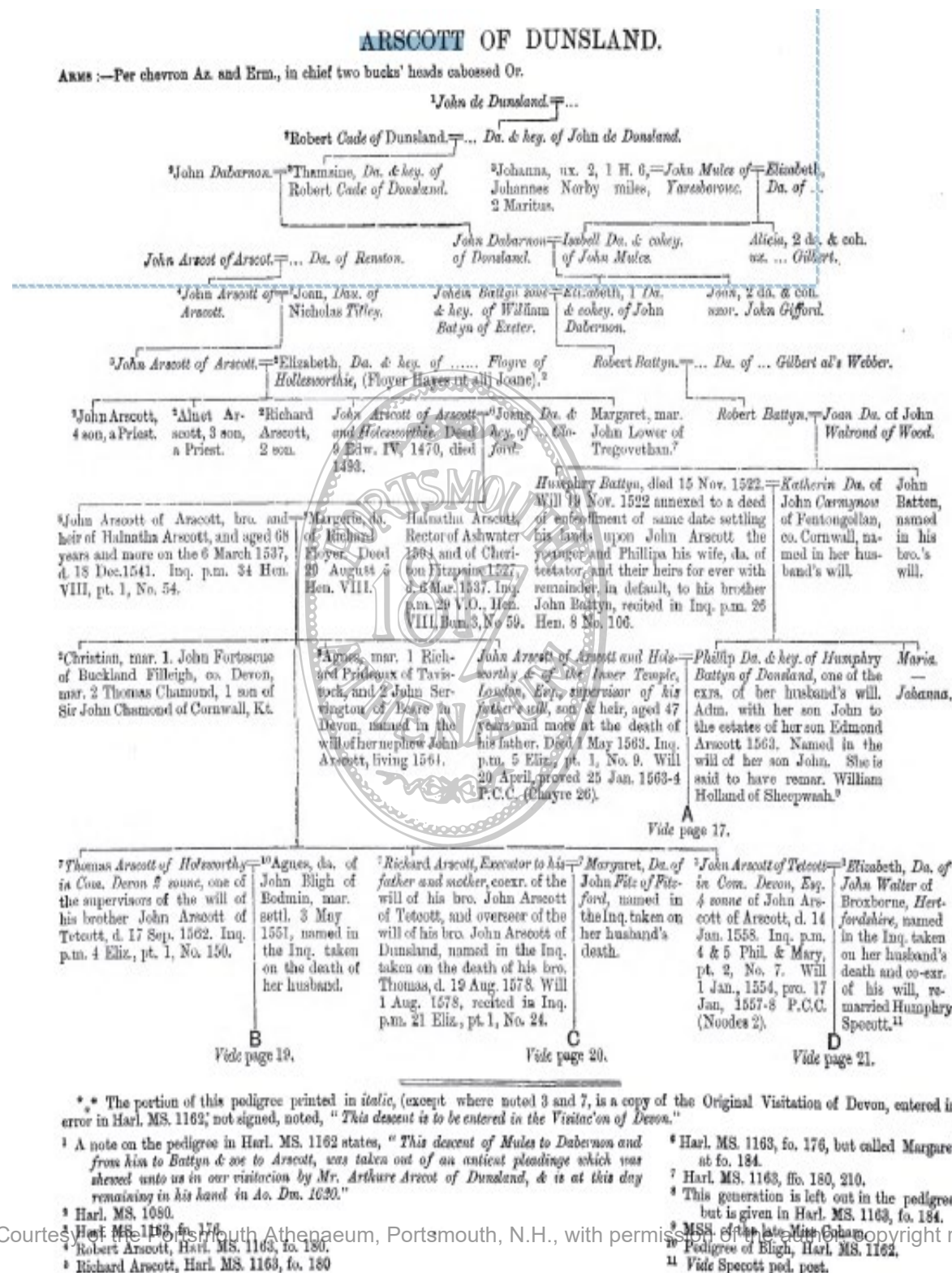
Vivian's pedigrees, on the following pages, show the passage of Dunsland and the Dunsland Manor from the John de Dunsland to de Cadiho (sometimes, anglicized to Cade). Then, that the estate descended through the Arscott family via Humphrey (died 1580) and John (died 1623) until 1662 when the death of Arthur Arscott (1662) without male progeny resulted in it eventually passing to his second daughter Grace, the widow of William Bickford of Bickford Town, Plympton St Mary who had died in 1659. Grace Bickford lived until 1686 and her son and heir was Arscott Bickford (died 1693), who enlarged and embellished the house which then mainly dated from about the year 1500 with additions made in the mid-16th century and in 1609. It then became one of the finest houses in North Devon.

Most of us in North America are not direct line descendants of William Bickford (1597-1659) and Grace Arscott, who inherited Dunsland from her father and after her husband's death. William Bickford (1597-1659) descends from Richard Bickford (1525-1619), son of Vicar William Bickford and Elizabeth Smerdon Bickford. John Bickford (1609-1676 of Oyster River, NH, descends from Vicar William Bickford's son, Thomas b. 1527.

Later on, you will see Relationship Charts for other descendants of Richard Bickford. It is important to enjoy this Bickford history and to present our findings to all of our Bickford cousins.

The next pages show some of the pedigrees from 'The Visitations'. The Visitations started shortly after the Norman Conquest when William The Conqueror wanted an inventory of what he actually had. He sent out Heralds to interview nobles to get pedigree proof of their rights to a title and the right to bear arms. What more could a genealogist look for? Enjoy. With a little practice, these pages are not difficult to navigate.

The following pedigree inserts are from: 'The Visitations of the County of Devon, comprising The Herald's Visitations of 1531, 1564, & 1620'...With additions by Lt. Colonel J. L. Vivian, 22 October 1895.



¹Joane, mar. Anthony Leight of Henford in co. Devon¹	¹Barbara, mar. Christopher Harris of Radford, named in her father's will; he is named in the will of his brother-in-law John Arscott.	¹Margery, mar. John Stoford, named in the will of her father in law.	²Agnes, mar. William Arscott, 8 son, named in the will of his father and brother John, a minor 1564.
Hainet Arscott, 7 son, named in the will of his father and brother John, a minor 1564, Vicar of Shebbear, bur. 2 Dec. 1619 at Shebbear.³	Mary, da. of Thomas Squire, mar. 18 July 1586, bur. 4 Ap. 1638 at Shebbear.³	George Arscott, 6 son, named in the will of his father and brother John, a minor 1564.	Edmond Arscott, 5 son, named in his father's will. Admon. granted 13 Dec. 1563 to Phillipa his mother and John Arscott his brother, Act Book P.C.C.
George Arscott, bap. 4 May 1587, bur. 18 Mar. 1608-9 at Shebbear.³	Frances, da. of Cyrrion Collocott, mar. 5 Nov. 1612, bur. 21 Mar. 1672 at Shebbear.³	³Thomas Arscott, Mary, da. of ... Fitz, 4 son, named in mar. 7 Ap. 1567, bur. his father's will, 21 May 1608 at Ash- bur. 17 Ap. 1613 water.³	⁴John Arscott of Egg Buck-land, 2 son, one of the exrs. of his father's will, d. 10 May 1594. Inq. p.m. W. and L., 6 Eliz., Bun. 9, No. 33. Will 8 May, pro. 23 June 1584, P.C.C. (Stevenson 21).
Hainet Arscott, bap. 31 Jan. 1617-18, bur. 6 June 1636 at Shebbear.³	Mary, bap. 26 Sep. 1613 at Shebbear.³	Ann, bap. 2 July 1615 at Shebbear.³	Phillips, only da. and heir, aged 8 months and 14 days on the 3 Nov. 1564.
⁴Nicholas Arscott, 3 son, named in his father's will as "my son Sir Nicholas Arscott parson of Bidford."	⁵Humphry Arscott of Dunstond in Com. Devon Esq. 1 son and heir, aged 38 years and more on 3 June 1563, and one of the executors of his father's will.³ Died 12 bar. 14 Ap. 1580 at Bradford.³ M.L. Will 31 Mar. 1580, recited in Inq. p.m. 23 Eliz., pt. 1, No. 19.		
¹Dorothy, mar. William Kellaway of Mawgan, co. Cornwall.	¹Honor, mar. William Levels of Castle Horneck, co. Cornwall.	¹Anne, named in her father's will, mar. John House of Killworthy co. Cornwall.	¹Phillips, named in her father's will, unmarried 1620.
⁴Levis Arscott of Abbots Bickerton in Com. Devon, named in his father's will, living 1620, 2 sons, living 1649.¹⁰	¹Frances Da. of Thomas Wood of Axworthy, mar. 4 Ap. 1634 at Bradford.³	¹John Arscott of Dunstond, aged 22 years and more at the death of his father, living 1620, bur. 2 July 1623 at Bradford.³ M.L.	¹Mary Da. of Thomas Monke of Ponderidge, Esq. bur. 1 Jan. 1630-1 at Bradford.³
Margaret, bur. 15 Aug. 1597 at Shebbear.³	¹Dorothy 2^{da}, mar. 23 Ap. 1640 at Bradford to the Rev. Edward Watson.	¹John Arscott, Ellinor, bap. 14 sons & daes. at May, bur. 27 23, 1620. Aug. 1580 at Bradford.³	¹Margerie, eldest da., bap. 17 Jan. 1578-9 at Bradford,³ worer Lewis Stukley of Afton in Com. Devon Clericus.
Robert Arscott, 2 sons.	Thomas Arscott, 5 son.	¹Frances 2^{da}, mar. George Chilcott of Stogumber in Com. Somerset.	¹Anne 3^{da}. ¹Humphry Arscott, 4 son.
¹John Arscott, 2 son, bap. 22 May 1585-6 at Bradford,³ bur. 14 July 1646 at Ashwater.³	¹Jaquet Da. of Walter Cottell of Yeombridge in Com. Devon, bur. 21 Jan. 1653-6 at Ashwater.³	Arthur Arscott of Dunstond in Com. Devon living 1630, bur. 21 Oct. 1662 at Bradford.³	¹Elliott Da. of Leonard Yeo of North Petherin Esq., bur. 13 May 1641 at Bradford.³
¹Mary, 1 da., mar. 3 Aug. 1654 at Ashwater³ to John Truebody.	¹Thibote, 2 da., bap. 9 Mar. 1628-4 at Ashwater.³	Walter Arscott, Rose, da. of ..., widow of ... bur. 22 Nov. 1633 at Ashwater.³	¹Purnell, mar. 12 Oct. 1670 at St. Giles in the Heath.³

* * The portion of the pedigree on this page printed in *italics* is a continuation of the Original Visitation of Devon 1620, (except where note 4, 6, 7), entered in error in Harl. MS. 1162, not signed, noted, "This descent is to be entered in the Visitation of Devon."

¹ Harl. MS. 1080.

³ Pedigree of Bligh, Harl. MS. 1162.

* Study of a Terrestrial Invertebrate

⁴ Harl. MS. 1163, fo. 180.

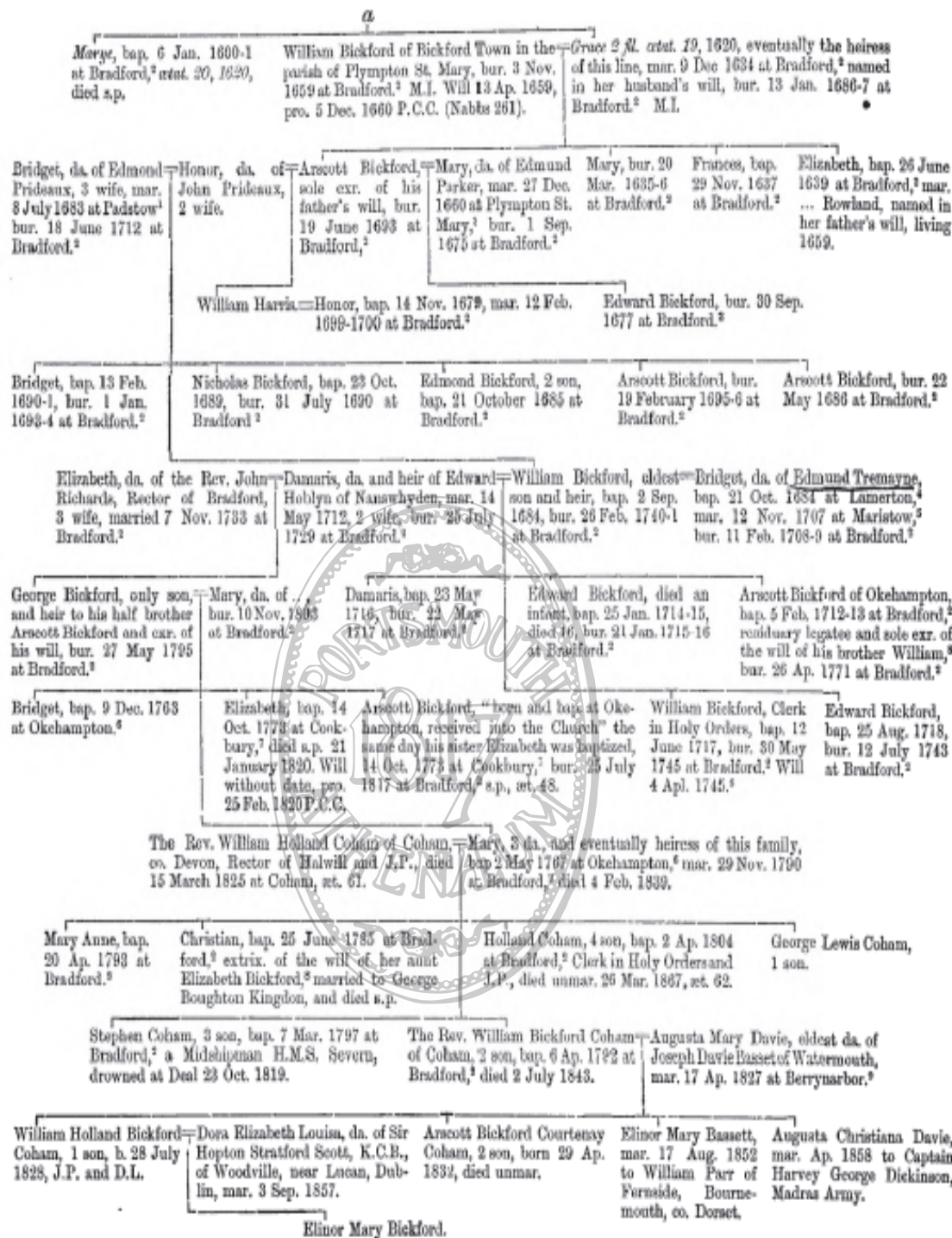
² Bradford Parish Register.

* The descent from this printed in *italic* is a copy of the Original Visitation of Devon 1630, Harl. MS. 1163, fo. 119, signed Lewis Aricott.

⁷ Harl. MS. 1163, fo. 184.

^a Ashwater Parish Register.

⁹ St. Giles in the Heath Parish Register.¹⁶ Ashwater Court Roll.



¹ Padstow, Cornwall, Parish Register.

² Bradford Parish Register.

³ Plympton St. Mary Parish Register.

⁴ Lamerton Parish Register.

⁵ Maristow Parish Register.

⁶ Okehampton Parish Register.

⁷ Cookbury Parish Register.

⁸ Charity Commissioners Report, 1824, vol. xiv.

⁹ Berrynarbor Parish Register.

Arscott Bickford married three times and was succeeded by William, the eldest son of his third wife, Bridget. William also married three times and was succeeded on his death in 1740 by his son from his second marriage, named Arscott like his grandfather. On Arscott's death in 1771 his brother George was the successor to the estate and on George's death in 1795 it passed to his son, another Arscott. This third Arscott was said to have been a gambler and lost much of the family's money. He died childless in 1817 and the estate passed to his sister, Mary, who was married to Rev William Holland Coham (died 1825), of Coham, Devon.

The following insert is from: 'A Genealogical And Heraldic History of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain & Ireland' by Sir Bernard Burke, C. B., LL. D., Ulster King of Arms. Printed in London, 1875.

COHAM OF COHAM.

COHAM, WILLIAM-HOLLAND-BICKFORD, Esq. of Coham, Dunsland, and Trevedoe, co. Devon, J.P., b. 28 July, 1828; m. 3 Sept. 1857, Dora-Elizabeth-Louisa, youngest dau. of Gen. Sir Hopton Stratford Scott, K.C.B., and has issue one child,

ELINOR-MARY-BICKFORD.

Lineage.—In passing by the banks of the River Torridge, towards the parish of Black Torrington, Devon, the dwelling of Coham, with owners of its own name, comes in view. It is not known when its possessors did not dwell there, they having possessed it from time immemorial. The name denotes Saxon origin—*ham*, a Saxon word, signifying "a home" or "dwelling place," surrounded by wood, water, and fields, just as Coham is situated; but the family can only prove their home at this place from the year 1547, and this proof from the aid of the Black Torrington parish register, where the following entry may be seen: "Margaret, dau. of Stephen Coham, gentleman, of Coham, was baptized April 4th, 1547," and this extract is from the earliest register extant in the parish-chest. We find this Stephen Coham succeeded by Stephen Coham, the father of Lewis Coham, of Coham, Esq., living in the beginning of the 17th century. To this gentleman succeeded

LEWIS COHAM, Esq. of Coham, who m. 22 Dec. 1669, Mary, the sister of John Arscott, Esq. of Tescott, near Holsworthy (who succeeded the John Arscott who m. Gertrude, the dau. of Sir Shilston Calmady, but left no family), by whom he had three sons and two daus.,

STEPHEN, his heir.

John, who settled at Bovascott, in the parish of Bradford. He m. Margaret, 2nd dau. and co-heiress of William Holland, Esq. of Upcott Avenel, in the parish of Shropshire, and of Othene, in the parish of Holsworthy and Tescott, by whom he had three sons, Stephen, who lived and d. at Lovescott, *ann.*; William, who lived at a house in the town of Holsworthy, called The Croft, where he d. *ann.*; Arthur, in holy orders, archdeacon of Wilts, &c., m. Grace, dau. of

George-Plunkett Woodruffe, Esq. of the Manor House, of Chiswick, by whom he had two sons and two daus., all of them married.

Arthur, who m. a dau. of Burdon of Burdon, and settled at Holsworthy, where this branch of the family continue to reside.

Mary, m. to the Rev. Benoni Bampfylde (rector of Black Torrington), of Poltimore.

Gertrude, m. to Clement Gay, Esq. (related to Gay the poet.).

The eldest son,

STEPHEN COHAM, Esq. of Coham, m. in the 5th of Queen Anne, Mary, dau. and co-heiress of William Holland, Esq. of Upcott Avenel, in Devon (lineally descended from John, 4th son of Robert, Lord Holland, by Maude his wife, one of the daus. and co-heiresses of Alan le Zouch, of Ashby), and thus acquired that estate. About this time the mansion house of Coham was destroyed by fire, and the family, in consequence, removed to their seat at Upcott Avenel. By the heiress of Holland, Mr. Coham had two sons,

I. LEWIS, his heir.

II. Holland, in holy orders, rector of North Lewe, Devon, who m. Christiana, dau. of the Rev. James Silke, of Westminster, of an ancient family there settled, and had issue,

1 STEPHEN, successor to his uncle.

2 WILLIAM-HOLLAND, heir to his brother.

The eldest son,

LEWIS COHAM, Esq. of Upcott Avenel, rebuilt the mansion of Coham. He m. Lucretia, dau. and co-heiress of — Barnfield, Esq. of Mambury and Great Torrington, Devon; but dying without issue, 1778, was s. by his nephew,

STEPHEN COHAM, Esq. of Coham and Upcott Avenel, at whose decease, *ann.*, 1786, the representation and possessions of the family devolved upon his brother,

THE REV. WILLIAM-HOLLAND COHAM, of Coham and Upcott Avenel. This gentleman m. 29 Nov. 1790, Mary, dau. and eventually sole heiress of George Bickford, Esq. of Dunsland and Arscott, both in the co. Devon, representative of the ancient family of Arscott of Arscott and Dunsland, co. Devon, and by her (who d. 4 Feb. 1839) had issue,

WILLIAM-BICKFORD, his heir.

George-Lewis, of Upcott Avenel, co. Devon, J.P. and D.L. Holland, J.P. for Devonshire, d. *ann.*, 26 March, 1867.

Mary-Anne.

Christiana.

Mr. Coham d. 15 March, 1825, and was s. by his eldest son,

THE REV. WILLIAM-BICKFORD COHAM, of Coham and Dunsland, who m. 17 April, 1827, Augusta-Mary, eldest dau. of the late Joseph Davie Bassett, Esq. of Heanton Court and Watermouth (whose great-grandmother, Elinor Courtenay, was eldest dau. of Sir William Courtenay, by the Lady Anne-Bertie his wife) and had issue,

WILLIAM-HOLLAND-BICKFORD, now of Coham and Dunsland. Arscott-Bickford-Courtenay, b. 29 April, 1832.

Mary-Bassett-Eleanor, m. 17 Aug. 1852, to William Parr, Esq. of Fernside, Bournemouth, Dorset.

Augusta-Christiana-Davie, m. April, 1858, to Harvey-George Dickenson, capt. Madras army.

Mr. Coham d. 2 July, 1843.

Arms—Per chevron, engrailed, gu. and erm.; in chief, five fleurs-de-lis, three and two, and in base, a lion, rampant, or.

Crest—In front of a plume of five feathers, arg., two cross-bowlets, with a cross-guard, of the author, copyright restricted

Motto—Fidemus, et sub Deo erimus.

Seats—Coham (anciently spelt Colham), in the parish of Black Torrington; Dunsland, in the parish of Bradford, co. Devon; and Trevedoe Manor.



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1604 Letter by Sir William Pole (1565-1635)



One of the earliest and most adept genealogists was Sir William Pole, whose de Pole family was in Devon from the time of the Norman Conquest. His work in gathering pedigrees was acclaimed in his time and it is in ours. He did not have the advantage of the Visitations of Devonshire* of 1531, 1564 & 1620 from which to build his pedigrees. His gatherings and thoughts were published in 1604 and republished by a direct line descendant, Sir John-William de la Pole, Barrister of Shute, &c in Devonshire, in 1791. 'Collections Towards A Description of the County of Devon' by Sir William Pole (died 1635).

*These Visitations are presented wonderfully in 'The Visitations of the County of Devon, Comprising The Herald's Visitations of 1531, 1564 & 1620, with additions by Lt. Colonel J. L. Vivian, 1895

From the hand of Sir William de Pole, 1604

To shew the Spirit and Disposition of the Collector, the Attention, Liberality, and Impartiality, with which he pursued this his favourite Object; and to prove that he had a large Work on the Subject in contemplation so early as the year 1604; we shall here insert, *verbatim*, an Original Letter from *Sir William* to — Reynell, now in the British Museum, Bibl. Harl. N^o 1195. fo. 37. dated from *Shute*, April 27, 1604; but without any superscription:

“ Good Sir,

“ Your brother and my very kind allyed frinde Sir Thomas Reynell
“ sent mee from our last Sessions the petegree of his famly together
“ with c'tayne collections gathered out of evidences and records for
“ the better manifesting of this genealogy †. And bicause I have bine
“ much beholden alwayes to you, as the like unto him, and also
“ lately to your brother Josias, I cannot more aptly employe my la-
“ bours to a better use than to shew my gen'rall affection unto your

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“ name by searhing the trewe lyneal discent of your famyly we^h I
“ take hath not bine hitherto done.

“ And because you are a man y^t are feated in the middest of Anti-
“ quities I doe therefore present unto your vewe this my labor and
“ love bicause no man canne better amend my myssinge nor better
“ censure my loving meaning. I have therfore set down my Autho-
“ rity because yf I have erred I may manifest the ground thereof.

“ You may perceive in this my labour two discents more than in
“ the other petegree & I stand very confident y^t every discent from
“ father unto sonne is heere proved.

“ That Walter Reynell, whose sonne John married Jane John Hal-
“ gewils daughter who (as I take it) was after married to S^r John Tre-
“ vilian of Netelcomb, that Walter I say died in the 16th of E. 4 :
“ and after you may perceive in the 13 of H. 7. Walter Reynell co-
“ venanteth with William Fortescu y^t John his eldest sonne should
“ marry Margery the daughter of the said Fortescu. This Walter
“ also lived neere unto the 20 of H. 8.

“ I find in R. 3 tyme Robt Reynell was lord of Malston and cap-
“ tayne of the hundred of Colridg. And do think verily he was
“ younger sonne unto John [Walter] 9 H. 5 that was employed in
“ France with the Duke of Bedford [*Norfolk* *].

“ When you have amended and perfected this petegree I pray you
“ to send it unto your Brother S^r Thomas comending over unto
“ him my faithful meanyng although the thing itself bee small
“ worthy.

“ I protest I am so far of from partiall dealing in these my studies
“ that I wil not derogate from myne enemyes, nor add any thinge y^t
“ I cannot authentically prove for my frinds.

“ I purpose (God willing) to set out something for the Antiquities
“ of Devonshire. And therefore doe pray you of your best help w^{ch}
“ shall not want publick acknowledgment by mee. For I hold it good
“ right y^e every man posses his owne.

“ I spake unto you for the Sherif^s and received answere if I sent
“ you word where I wanted you would supplye it. But (if you please)
“ that your man may at leifure give me a Note of all by degrees *ab*
“ *anno in ann*^s I will pay him for his labor w^{ch} he may bestow at
“ your best leifure.

“ Thus wth my kindest Salutations, doe very hartily commend over
“ my very loving affections unto your gentle entertaynment.

“ Your most assured loving ffrind

“ W^M P O L E.

“ *Shute this 27 of Aprill 1604.*”

The extent of *Sir William's* general Abilities, his Reputation as an Antiquary, his Knowledge as a Lawyer, and his Accomplishments as a Scholar and a Gentleman, may be collected from the Survey of Devon, written by Mr. Risdon, who was his Cotemporary; as well as from Mr. Prince's Worthies of Devon, published at the close of the last Century; both of whom express the obligations they have to *Sir William's* Manuscripts.

F U N E R A L C E R T I F I C A T E † :

“ THE Right Worshipful *Sir William Pole*, Knt. departed out of
“ this transitory Life the 9th day of February, 1635, in the 74th year
“ of his age, at his house called Colcombe, in the Parish of Coliton,
“ and County of Devon, and was buried in the Isle on the West side
“ of the Chancel of the said Parish Church, being the Burial Place
“ belonging to his Family. He married to his first Wife Mary, the
“ eldest Da^ur, and one of the Co-heirs of Sir William Periam, of

“ Fulford, in the Parish of Crediton, and County aforesaid, Knt.
“ Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, and by her had Issue six Sons
“ and five Daughters, *viz.*



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A List of English Monarchs

I decided to insert a section on the years of the reigns of English Monarchs to begin with the House of Normandy and to include the House of Anjou. The purpose of this section is to make it easier to interpret many of the inserts from *'Collections Towards A Description of the County of Devon'* by Sir William Pole (died 1635) Now Printed from the Autograph in the possession his lineal descendant Sir John-William de la Pole, Barrister of Shute, &c in Devonshire, MDCCXCI. For example, 'in the 19 of Kinge Henry 3' simply means in the nineteenth year of the reign of Henry 3 or, by consulting the chart below, 1216 + 19 is 1235 AD.

Empress Matilda was married to Geoffrey V of Anjou and they were the parents of King Henry II who married Eleanor (Alinor) of Aquitaine. Henry and Eleanor were my 25th great-grandparents. My pedigree continues from King John to King Henry III to his son, Edmund 'Crouchback' Plantagenet, brother to King Edward I 'Longshanks'. My cousin 17 times removed, Elizabeth Plantagenet, married Henry Tudor who became King Henry VII. Elizabeth descended from King Edward I. While I am not related to Henry VII by blood, I am related to Henry VIII and to his children.....and proud to be so English.

House of Normandy

Name Reign	Portrait	Birth	Marriage(s) Issue	Death	Claim
William I William the Bastard William the Conqueror <i>(Guillaume le Bâtard)</i> <i>(Guillaume le Conquérant)</i> 25 December 1066 – 9 September 1087		c. 1028 Falaise Castle Son of Robert I, Duke of Normandy and Herleva	Matilda of Flanders Chapel Notre Dame of the castle in Eu, Normandy 1053 ten children	9 September 1087 Rouen aged 59 after wounding himself on the saddle when his horse stumbled. Buried at Saint Etienne Abbey (Abbaye aux Hommes) of Caen	Supposedly named heir by Edward the Confessor in 1052 (de facto right of conquest)
William II William Rufus <i>(Guillaume le Roux)</i> 26 September 1087 – 2 August 1100		c. 1058 Normandy Son of William the Conqueror and Matilda of Flanders	unmarried	2 August 1100 New Forest aged 42 when shot with an arrow, events still unclear.	son of William I (appointment)

Henry I Henry Beauclerc <i>(Henri Beauclerc)</i> 5 August 1100 1 December 1135		September 1068 Selby Son of William the Conqueror and Matilda of Flanders	(1) Edith otherwise Matilda of Scotland Westminster Abbey 11 November 1100 four children (2) Adeliza of Louvain Windsor Castle 29 January 1121 no children	1 December 1135 Castle of Lyons-la-Forêt (Saint-Denis-en-Lyons) aged 67 apparently from eating a surfeit of lampreys Buried at Reading Abbey	son of William I (seizure of the crown)
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House of Blois

Name Reign	Portrait	Birth	Marriage(s) Issue	Death	Claim
Stephen Stephen of Blois <i>(Estienne de Blois)</i> 22 December 1135 — 25 October 1154 ^[36]		c. 1096 Blois Son of Stephen, Count of Blois and Adela of Normandy	Matilda of Boulogne Westminster 1125 five children	25 October 1154 Dover Castle aged about 58	grandson of William I (appointment/ usurpation)

Matilda Empress Matilda <i>(Mathilde l'empereuse)</i> 7 April 1141 — 1 November 1141 Title disputed		7 February 1102 Sutton Courtenay Daughter of Henry I and Edith of Scotland ^[38]	(1) Henry V, Holy Roman Emperor Mainz 6 January 1114 no children (2) Geoffrey V, Count of Anjou Le Mans Cathedral 22 May 1128 three children	10 September 1167 Notre Dame du Pré in Rouen aged 65	daughter of Henry I (seizure of the crown)
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House of Anjou

Henry II Henry Curtmantle <i>(Henri Court-manteau)</i> 19 December 1154 — 6 July 1189			5 March 1133 Le Mans Son of Geoffrey V of Anjou and Matilda , daughter of Henry I	Eleanor of Aquitaine Bordeaux Cathedral 18 May 1152 eight children	6 July 1189 Chinon aged 56. Buried at Fontevraud Abbey	grandson of Henry I (Treaty of Wallingford)
Henry the Young King <i>(Henri le Jeune Roy)</i> (co-ruler with his father) 14 June 1170 — 11 June 1183			28 February 1155 son of Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine	Margaret of France Winchester Cathedral 27 August 1172 one child	11 June 1183 Martel, Limoges aged 28. Buried at Rouen Cathedral (Notre-Dame)	son of Henry II (coronation as junior king)

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Richard I Richard the Lionheart <i>(Richard Cœur de Lion)</i> 3 September 1189 – 6 April 1199			8 September 1157 Beaumont Palace Son of Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine	Berengaria of Navarre Limassol 12 May 1191 no children	6 April 1199 Châlus aged 41 from an arrow wound in the shoulder that became infected. Buried: Heart at Rouen Cathedral. Body at Fontevraud Abbey	son of Henry II (primogeniture)
John Lackland <i>(Jean sans Terre)</i> 6 April 1199 – 19 October 1216			24 December 1166 Beaumont Palace Son of Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine	(1) Isabel of Gloucester Marlborough Castle 29 August 1189 no children (2) Isabella of Angoulême Bordeaux Cathedral 24 August 1200 five children	19 October 1216 Newark-on-Trent aged 49. Buried at Worcester Cathedral	brother of Richard I (proximity of blood)

House of Plantagenet

Henry III Henry of Winchester 28 October 1216 – 16 November 1272			1 October 1207 Winchester Castle Son of King John and Isabella of Angoulême	Eleanor of Provence Canterbury Cathedral 14 January 1236 five children	16 November 1272 Westminster Palace aged 65	son of King John (primogeniture)
Edward I Longshanks 20 November 1272 – 7 July 1307			17 June 1239 Westminster Palace Son of Henry III and Eleanor of Provence	(1) Eleanor of Castile Abbey of Santa Maria la Real de Huelgas 18 October 1254 16 children (2) Margaret of France 10 September 1299 three children	7 July 1307 Burgh by Sands aged 68	son of Henry III (primogeniture)
Edward II Edward of Caernarfon 7 July 1307 – 25 January 1327			25 April 1284 Caernarfon Castle Son of Edward I and Eleanor of Castile	Isabella of France Boulogne Cathedral 25 January 1308 five children	21 September 1327 Berkeley Castle aged 43 (murdered) ^[42]	son of Edward I (primogeniture)
Edward III 25 January 1327 – 21 June 1377			13 November 1312 Windsor Castle Son of Edward II and Isabella of France	Philippa of Hainault York Minster 24 January 1328 14 children	21 June 1377 Sheen Palace aged 64	son of Edward II (primogeniture)
Richard II 21 June 1377 – 29 September 1399			6 January 1367 Bordeaux Son of Edward, the Black Prince, and Joan of Kent	(1) Anne of Bohemia 14 January 1382 no children (2) Isabella of Valois Galais 4 November 1396 no children	14 February 1400 Pontefract Castle aged 33 probably from starvation	grandson of Edward III (primogeniture)

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House of Lancaster

Henry IV Bolingbroke 30 September 1399 – 20 March 1413			3 April 1367 ^[43] Bolingbroke Castle Son of John of Gaunt and Blanche of Lancaster	(1) Mary de Bohun Arundel Castle 27 July 1380 seven children (2) Joanna of Navarre Winchester Cathedral 7 February 1403 no children	20 March 1413 Westminster Abbey aged 45 ^[43]	grandson and heir male of Edward III (usurpation/agnatic primogeniture)
Henry V The Star of England 20 March 1413 – 31 August 1422			16 September 1386 ^[44] Monmouth Castle Son of Henry IV and Mary de Bohun	Catherine of Valois Troyes Cathedral 2 June 1420 one son	31 August 1422 Château de Vincennes aged 36	son of Henry IV (agnatic primogeniture)
Henry VI 31 August 1422 – 4 March 1461			6 December 1421 Windsor Castle Son of Henry V and Catherine of Valois	Margaret of Anjou Titchfield Abbey 22 April 1445 one son	21 May 1471 Tower of London aged 49	son of Henry V (agnatic primogeniture)

House of York

Name Reign	Portrait	Arms	Birth	Marriage(s) Issue	Death	Claim
Edward IV 4 March 1461 – 2 October 1470			28 April 1442 Rouen Son of Richard Plantagenet, 3rd Duke of York and Cecily Neville	Elizabeth Woodville Grafton Regis 1 May 1464 ten children	9 April 1483 Westminster Palace aged 40	great-great-grandson and heir general of Edward III (seizure of the crown/cognatic primogeniture)

House of Lancaster (restored)

Name Reign	Portrait	Arms	Birth	Marriage(s) Issue	Death	Claim
Henry VI 30 October 1470 – 11 April 1471			6 December 1421 Windsor Castle Son of Henry V and Catherine of Valois	Margaret of Anjou Titchfield Abbey 22 April 1445 one son	21 May 1471 Tower of London aged 49 (murdered by the York brothers).	son of Henry V (seizure of the crown)

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House of York (restored)

Edward IV <i>(second reign)</i> 11 April 1471 – 9 April 1483			28 April 1442 Rouen Son of Richard Plantagenet, 3rd Duke of York and Cecily Neville	Elizabeth Woodville Grafton Regis 1 May 1464 ten children	9 April 1483 Westminster Palace aged 40	great-great-grandson and heir general of Edward III (seizure of the crown/cognatic primogeniture)
Edward V 9 April 1483 – 25 June 1483 ^[45]			2 November 1470 Westminster Son of Edward IV and Elizabeth Woodville ^[45]	unmarried	c. 1483 London aged about 12 (probably murdered)	son of Edward IV (cognatic primogeniture)
Richard III 26 June 1483 – 22 August 1485 ^[46]			2 October 1452 Fotheringhay Castle Son of Richard Plantagenet, 3rd Duke of York and Cecily Neville	Anne Neville Westminster Abbey 12 July 1472 one son	22 August 1485 Bosworth Field aged 32 (killed in battle). Re-interred Leicester Cathedral, 26 March 2015	great-great-grandson of Edward III (Titulus Regius); brother of Edward IV

House of Tudor

Henry VII 22 August 1485 – 21 April 1509			28 January 1457 Pembroke Castle Son of Edmund Tudor and Lady Margaret Beaufort	Elizabeth of York Westminster Abbey 18 January 1486 eight children	21 April 1509 Richmond Palace aged 52	great-great-grandson of Edward III (right of conquest)
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Henry VIII 21 April 1509 – 28 January 1547			28 June 1491 Greenwich Palace Son of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York	Catherine of Aragon Greenwich 11 June 1509 one daughter	28 January 1547 Whitehall Palace aged 55	son of Henry VII (primogeniture)
				Anne Boleyn Westminster Palace 25 January 1533 ^[47] one daughter		
				Jane Seymour Whitehall Palace 30 May 1536 one son		
				Anne of Cleves Greenwich Palace 6 January 1540		
				Catherine Howard Hampton Court Palace 28 July 1540		
				Catherine Parr Hampton Court Palace 12 July 1543		

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Gwyn Lobb's Bickford Pedigree Charts



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BICKFORD BOVEY TRACEY FAMILY TREE - 1416-1519

John Bickford born in 1416 at Bovey Tracey, is the mutual great grandfather x 15 for all three of us - Jim, Phil and myself - we three having descended through William Bickford born in 1449 at Abbotskerswell. William Bickford and Joan Soper are our mutual great grandparents x 14

John Bickford
B. abt. 1416
Bovey Tracey, Devon
C. 13 May 1416
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thomas of Canterbury
Bovey Tracey, Devon
D. date
Devon
M. 1438
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thomas of Canterbury
Bovey Tracey, Devon

Ann (unknown)
B. abt. 1416
Bovey Tracey, Devon
C. date
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thomas of Canterbury
Bovey Tracey, Devon
D. date
Devon
M. 1438
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thomas of Canterbury
Bovey Tracey, Devon

Terry Bickford, whose branch moved to Coffinswell in Devon, close by, descended through William Bickford's (b.1449) elder brother John Bickford (b.1439) at Bovey Tracey, and probably through Richard, his great grandson, born in 1519 Terry is now in his eighties and is the one who I wrote the first Bickford essay for to support his family tree which I completed for him in 2015

John Bickford
B. abt. 1439
Bovey Tracey, Devon
C. 27 November 1439
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thomas of Canterbury
Bovey Tracey, Devon
D. date
Bovey Tracey, Devon
M. 1459
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thomas of Canterbury
Bovey Tracey, Devon

Mary Ellis
B. abt. 1440
Bovey Tracey, Devon
C.
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thomas of Canterbury
Bovey Tracey, Devon
D. date
Bovey Tracey, Devon
M. 1459
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thomas of Canterbury
Bovey Tracey, Devon

William Bickford
B. abt. 1449
Abbotskerswell, Devon
C. 1449 ?
St Mary the Virgin
Parish Church
Abbotskerswell, Devon
D. date
Abbotskerswell, Devon
M. 1481-4
St Mary the Virgin
Parish Church
Abbotskerswell, Devon

Joan Soper
B. abt. 1452
Abbotskerswell, Devon
C.
St Mary the Virgin
Parish Church
Abbotskerswell, Devon
D. date
Abbotskerswell, Devon
M. 1481-4
St Mary the Virgin
Parish Church
Abbotskerswell, Devon

Richard Bickford
B. abt. 1461
North Bovey, Devon
C. abt. 1461
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thomas of Canterbury Parish Church
Bovey Tracey, Devon
D. 1515
Bovey Tracey, Devon
M. 1463
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thomas of Canterbury Parish Church
Bovey Tracey, Devon

Ann Knight
B. abt. 1464
North Bovey, Devon
C. abt. 1464
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thomas of Canterbury Parish Church
Bovey Tracey, Devon
D. 1527
Bovey Tracey, Devon
M. 1483
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thomas of Canterbury Parish Church
Bovey Tracey, Devon

John Bickford
B. abt. 1484
Bovey Tracey, Devon
C. date
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thom. of Canterbury Parish Ch.
Bovey Tracey, Devon
D. 1515
Bovey Tracey, Devon
M. ~~1488~~ 1515
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thom. of Canterbury Parish Ch.
Bovey Tracey, Devon
Ann Decker
B. abt. 1488
Bovey Tracey, Devon
C. date
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thom. of Canterbury Parish Ch.
Bovey Tracey, Devon
D. 1527
Bovey Tracey, Devon
9 children

Margaret Bickford
B. abt. 1485
Bovey Tracey, Devon
C. date
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thom. of Canterbury Parish Ch.
Bovey Tracey, Devon
D. 1557
North Bovey, Devon
M. 1515
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thom. of Canterbury Parish Ch.
Bovey Tracey, Devon
Nicholas Tapper
B. abt. 1481
North Bovey, Devon
C. date
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thom. of Canterbury Parish Ch.
Bovey Tracey, Devon
D. date
North Bovey, Devon
1 child

Michael Bickford
B. abt. 1487
Bovey Tracey, Devon
C. date
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thom. of Canterbury Parish Ch.
Bovey Tracey, Devon
D. 1557
Mortonhamstead, Devon
M. 1507
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thom. of Canterbury Parish Ch.
Bovey Tracey, Devon
Mary Nosworthy
B. abt. 1488
Bovey Tracey, Devon
C. date
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thom. of Canterbury Parish Ch.
Bovey Tracey, Devon
D. 1567
Bovey Tracey, Devon
2 children

Elizabeth Bickford
B. abt. 1490
Bovey Tracey, Devon
C. date
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thom. of Canterbury Parish Ch.
Bovey Tracey, Devon
D. date

John Bickford
B. abt. 1506
Bovey Tracey
Devon
C. date
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thom. of Cant. Par. Ch.
Bovey Tracey
Devon
D. date

Thomas Bickford
B. abt. 1507
Bovey Tracey
Devon
C. date
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thom. of Cant. Par. Ch.
Bovey Tracey
Devon
D. 1507
Bovey Tracey
Devon

Ann Bickford
B. abt. 1509
Bovey Tracey
Devon
C. date
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thom. of Cant. Par. Ch.
Bovey Tracey
Devon
D. date

Septimus Bickford
B. abt. 1511
Bovey Tracey
Devon
C. date
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thom. of Cant. Par. Ch.
Bovey Tracey
Devon
D. date

Oliver Bickford
B. abt. 1513
Bovey Tracey
Devon
C. date
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thom. of Cant. Par. Ch.
Bovey Tracey
Devon
D. date

Margaret Bickford
B. abt. 1514
Bovey Tracey
Devon
C. date
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thom. of Cant. Par. Ch.
Bovey Tracey
Devon
D. date

Joanna Bickford
B. abt. 1516
Bovey Tracey
Devon
C. date
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thom. of Cant. Par. Ch.
Bovey Tracey
Devon
D. date

Thomas Bickford
B. abt. 1518
Bovey Tracey
Devon
C. date
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thom. of Cant. Par. Ch.
Bovey Tracey
Devon
D. date

Richard Bickford
B. abt. 1519
Bovey Tracey
Devon
C. date
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thom. of Cant. Par. Ch.
Bovey Tracey
Devon
D. date

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PHIL'S BICKFORD FAMILY TREE BICKINGTON-BOVEY TRACEY-ABBOTSKERSWELL-RATTERY-NEW HAMPSHIRE

BICKFORD
BOVEY TRACEY
GENERATION

prior to those first found at
Abbotskerswell
who connect with William

John Bickford
B. abt. 1416
Bovey Tracey, Devon
C. 13 May 1416
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thomas of
Canterbury, Bov'y Tracy, Dev.
D. date
Bovey Tracey, Devon
M. 1438
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thomas of
Canterbury, Bov'y Tracy, Dev.

Ann (unknown)
B. abt. 1418
Bovey Tracey, Devon
C. abt. 1418
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thomas of
Canterbury, Bov'y Tracy, Dev.
D. date
Bovey Tracey, Devon
M. 1438
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thomas of
Canterbury, Bov'y Tracy, Dev.

It is probable that William
(1449) is a younger brother of
John (1439), as William was
born in Abbotskerswell and the
Bickfords, of this branch of
them moved there shortly
before 1450 roughly, when
Court Farm was built. There
were possibly other siblings
between them. There are no
parish registers to support this
1416 record which comes from
a family bible in the USA

John Bickford
B. abt. 1439
Bovey Tracey, Devon
C. 27 November 1439
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thomas of
Canterbury, Bov'y Tracy, Dev.
D. date
Devon
M. 1459
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thomas of
Canterbury, Bov'y Tracy, Dev.
Mary Ellis
B. abt. 1440
Bovey Tracey, Devon
C. abt. 1440
SSSt Peter, Paul & Thomas of
Canterbury, Bov'y Tracy, Dev.
D. date
Devon

Note for Phil Swan & Jim Bickford

We have no records for Bickington
unless Sir William Pole's book can
throw any light on dates we can link
to but you can see the link from
Bovey Tracey to Abbotskerswell

We three descend through William
Bickford and Joan Soper

- Gwyn

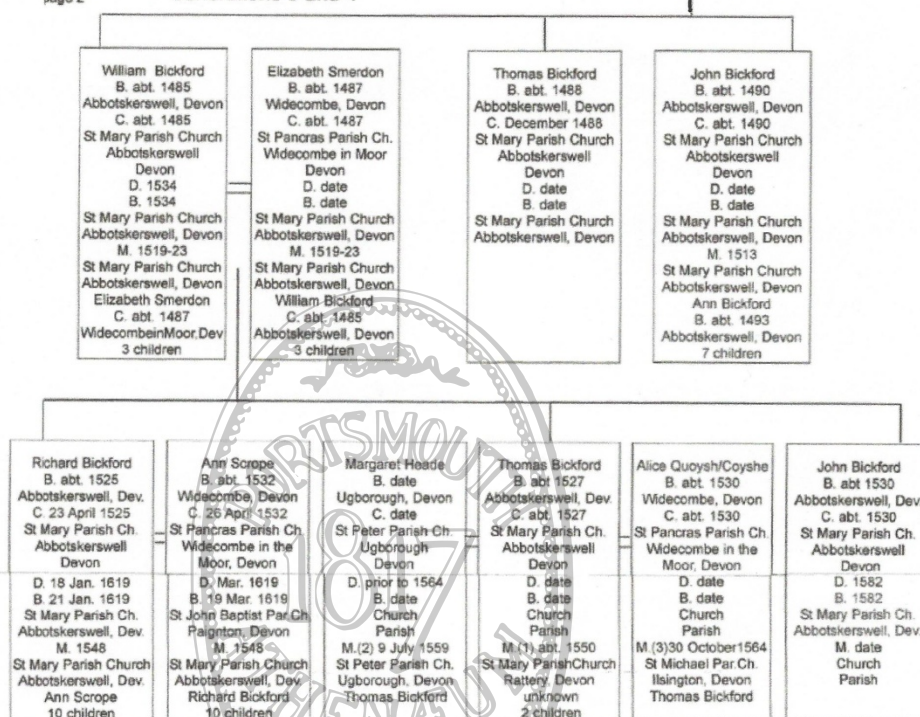
Generations 1 and 2

William Bickford
B. abt. 1449
Abbotskerswell, Devon
C. 27 November 1449
St Mary Parish Church
Abbotskerswell, Devon
D. date
Abbotskerswell, Devon
M. 1481-84
St Mary Parish Church
Abbotskerswell, Devon
Joan Soper
B. abt. 1452
Abbotskerswell, Devon
C. abt. 1452
St Mary Parish Church
Abbotskerswell, Devon
D. date
Abbotskerswell, Devon

Joan Soper
B. abt. 1452
Abbotskerswell, Devon
C. abt. 1452
St Mary Parish Church
Abbotskerswell, Devon
D. date
Abbotskerswell, Devon
M. 1481-84
St Mary Parish Church
Abbotskerswell, Devon
William Bickford
B. abt. 1449
Abbotskerswell, Devon
C. 27 November 1449
St Mary Parish Church
Abbotskerswell, Devon
D. date
Abbotskerswell, Devon

page 2

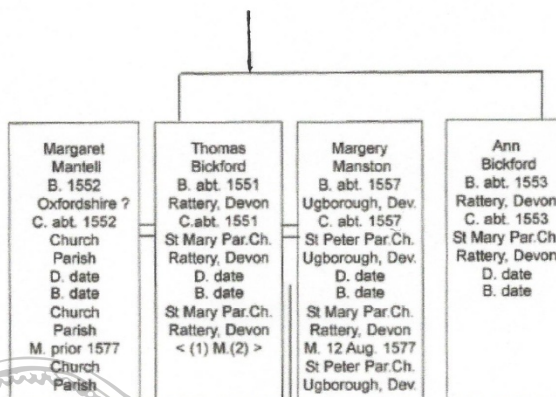
Generations 3 and 4



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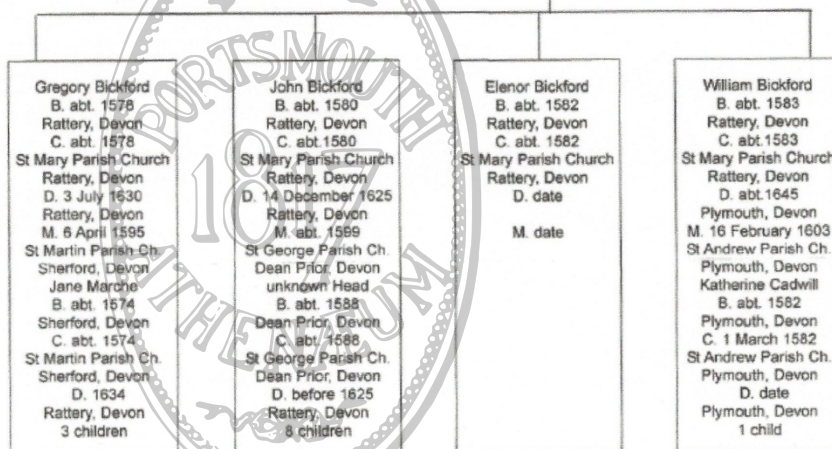
page 3

Generation 5

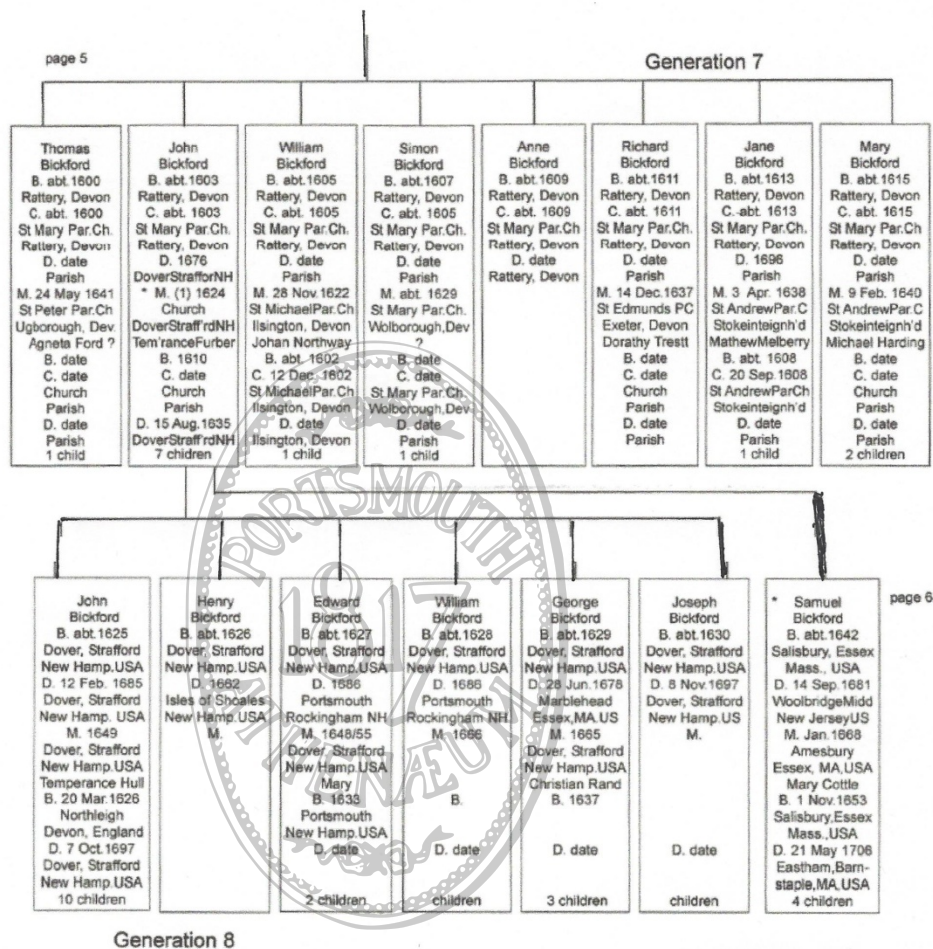


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Generation 6



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BICKFORD FAMILY TREE

Please note this chart is not complete and is subject to revision and amendment, but basically is still correct

February 2012

see page 5

* M. (2) 1637 Dover, Strafford, New Hampshire, USA
Elizabeth Cator
B. 1620 Newington, Rockingham, New Hampshire, USA
D. 1672 Dover, Strafford, New Hampshire, USA

Gwyn Lobb
2012
updated 2013
updated 2014/16

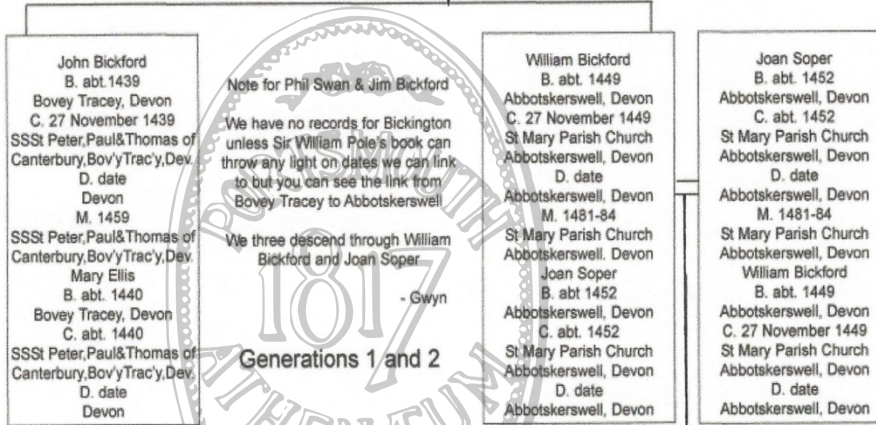
PHIL'S & GWYN'S BICKFORD FAMILY TREE
BICKINGTON-BOVEY TRACEY-ABBOTSKERSWELL-RATTERY-NEW HAMPSHIRE

BICKFORD
BOVEY TRACEY
GENERATION
 prior to those first found at
 Abbotskerswell
 who connect with William

John Bickford
 B. abt. 1416
 Bovey Tracey, Devon
 C. 13 May 1416
 SSSt Peter, Paul & Thomas of
 Canterbury, Bov'y Trac'y, Dev.
 D. date
 Bovey Tracey, Devon
 M. 1438
 SSSt Peter, Paul & Thomas of
 Canterbury, Bov'y Trac'y, Dev.

Ann (unknown)
 B. abt. 1418
 Bovey Tracey, Devon
 C. abt. 1418
 SSSt Peter, Paul & Thomas of
 Canterbury, Bov'y Trac'y, Dev.
 D. date
 Bovey Tracey, Devon
 M. 1438
 SSSt Peter, Paul & Thomas of
 Canterbury, Bov'y Trac'y, Dev.

It is probable that William
 (1449) is a younger brother of
 John (1439), as William was
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 Bickfords, of this branch of
 them moved there shortly
 before 1450 roughly, when
 Court Farm was built. There
 were possibly other siblings
 between them. There are no
 parish registers to support this
 1416 record which comes from
 a family bible in the USA



page 2

Generations 3 and 4

William Bickford B. abt. 1485 Abbotskerswell, Devon C. abt. 1485 St Mary Parish Church Abbotskerswell Devon D. 1534 B. 1534 St Mary Parish Church Abbotskerswell, Devon M. 1519-23 St Mary Parish Church Abbotskerswell, Devon Elizabeth Smerdon C. abt. 1487 Widcombe in Moor, Devon 3 children	Elizabeth Smerdon B. abt. 1487 Widcombe, Devon C. abt. 1487 St Pancras Parish Ch. Widcombe in Moor Devon D. date B. date St Mary Parish Church Abbotskerswell, Devon M. 1519-23 St Mary Parish Church Abbotskerswell, Devon William Bickford C. abt. 1485 Abbotskerswell, Devon 3 children	Thomas Bickford B. abt. 1488 Abbotskerswell, Devon C. December 1488 St Mary Parish Church Abbotskerswell Devon D. date B. date St Mary Parish Church Abbotskerswell, Devon	John Bickford B. abt. 1490 Abbotskerswell, Devon C. abt. 1490 St Mary Parish Church Abbotskerswell Devon D. date B. date St Mary Parish Church Abbotskerswell, Devon M. 1513 St Mary Parish Church Abbotskerswell, Devon Ann Bickford B. abt. 1493 Abbotskerswell, Devon 7 children
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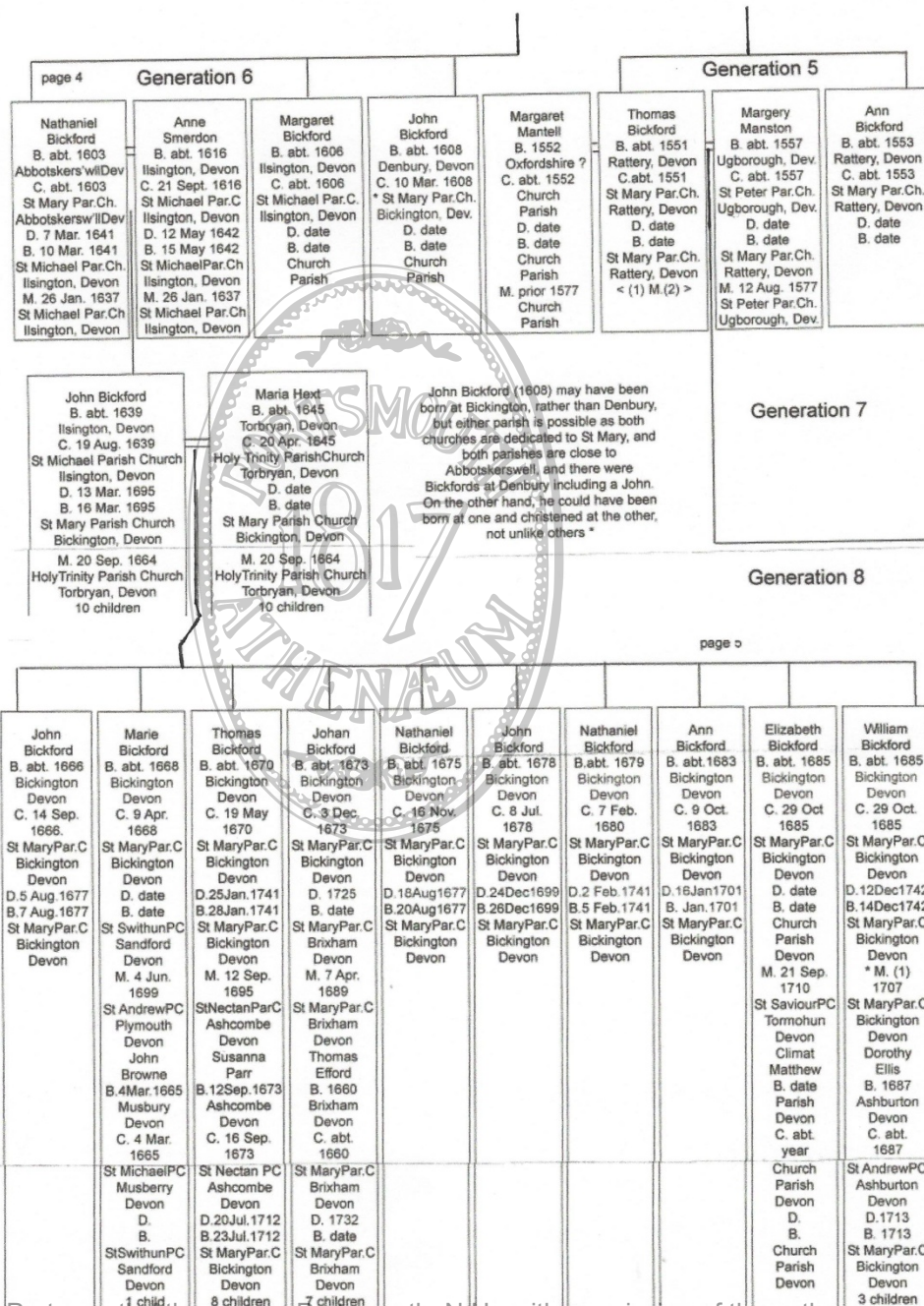
Richard Bickford B. abt. 1525 Abbotskerswell, Dev. C. 23 April 1525 St Mary Parish Ch. Abbotskerswell Devon D. 18 Jan. 1619 B. 21 Jan. 1619 St Mary Parish Ch. Abbotskerswell, Dev. M. 1548 St Mary Parish Church Abbotskerswell, Dev. Ann Scrope 10 children	Ann Scrope B. abt. 1532 Widcombe, Devon C. 26 April 1532 St Pancras Parish Ch. Widcombe in the Moor, Devon D. Mar. 1619 B. 19 Mar. 1619 St John Baptist Par. Ch. Paignton, Devon M. 1548 St Mary Parish Church Abbotskerswell, Dev. Richard Bickford 10 children	Margaret Haade B. date Ugborough, Devon C. date St Peter Parish Ch. Ugborough Devon D. prior to 1564 B. date Church Parish M. (2) 9 July 1559 St Peter Parish Ch. Ugborough, Devon Thomas Bickford	Thomas Bickford B. abt. 1527 Abbotskerswell, Dev. C. abt. 1527 St Mary Parish Ch. Abbotskerswell Devon D. date B. date Church Parish M. (1) abt. 1550 St Mary Parish Church Rattery, Devon unknown 2 children	Alice Quoysh/Coyse B. abt. 1530 Widcombe, Devon C. abt. 1530 St Pancras Parish Ch. Widcombe in the Moor, Devon D. date B. date Church Parish M. (3) 30 October 1564 St Michael Par. Ch. Ilminster, Devon Thomas Bickford	John Bickford B. abt. 1530 Abbotskerswell, Dev. C. abt. 1530 St Mary Parish Ch. Abbotskerswell Devon D. 1582 B. 1582 St Mary Parish Ch. Abbotskerswell, Dev. M. date Church Parish
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Generation 5

Elenor Bickford B. abt. 1550 Abbotskers well, Devon C. 1550 St MaryPar.C Abbotskers well, Devon D. date B. date Parish	Elizabeth Bickford B. abt. 1552 Abbotskers well, Devon C. 1552 St MaryPar.C Abbotskers well, Devon D. date B. date Parish	Johan Bickford B. abt. 1554 Abbotskers well, Devon C. 1554 St MaryPar.C Abbotskers well, Devon D. date B. date Parish	Margery Bickford B. abt. 1556 Abbotskers well, Devon C. 1556 St MaryPar.C Abbotskers well, Devon D. date B. date Parish	Mary Ford Bickford B. abt. 1558 Abbotskers well, Devon C. 1558 St MaryPar.C Abbotskers well, Devon D. date B. date Parish	Michael Bickford B. abt. 1560 Abbotskers well, Devon C. 1560 St MaryPar.C Abbotskers well, Devon D. 18 Jan. 1619 B. 21 Jan. 1619 Abbotskers well, Devon M. abt. 1600 Church London, Middx Christian Katter B. abt. 1566 C. abt. 1566 Church London, Middx D. 1608 B. 22 Dec. 1608 Abbotsk', Dev. 3 children	John Bickford B. abt. 1562 Abbotskers well, Devon C. 1562 St MaryPar.C Abbotskers well, Devon D. date B. date Abbotskers well, Devon	William Bickford B. abt. 1565 Abbotskers well, Devon C. 1565 St MaryPar.C Abbotskers well, Devon D. 1666 B. date Abbotskers well, Devon M. 1595 St Michael PC Ilminster, Dev Dewnes Lambhead B. abt. 1573 C. 27 Jan. 1573 St Michael PC Ilminster, Dev D. 1669 B. date Abbotsk', Dev. 1 child	Richard Cass elton Bickford B. abt. 1566 Abbotskers well, Devon C. 1566 St MaryPar.C Abbotskers well, Devon D. 1649 B. date Abbotskers well, Devon M. 15 Jan 1620 St MaryPar.C Abbotsk', Dev Barbara Board B. 1598 C. abt. 1598 St MaryPar.C Abbotsk', Dev D. date B. date Abbotsk', Dev 1 child ?	Thomasine Bickford B. abt. 1570 Abbotskers well, Devon C. 1570 St MaryPar.C Abbotskers well, Devon D. date B. date Parish
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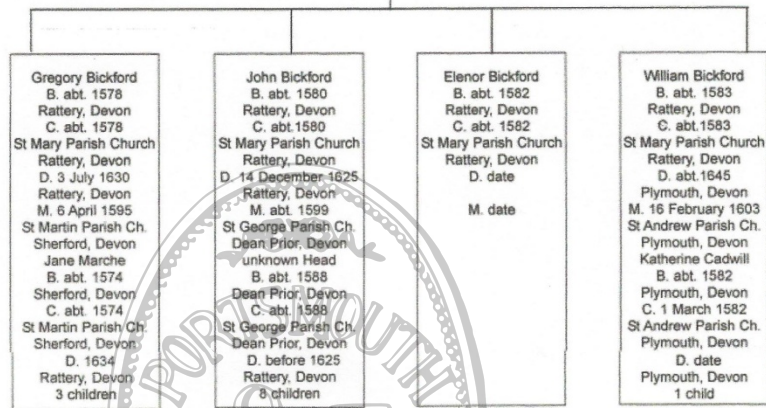
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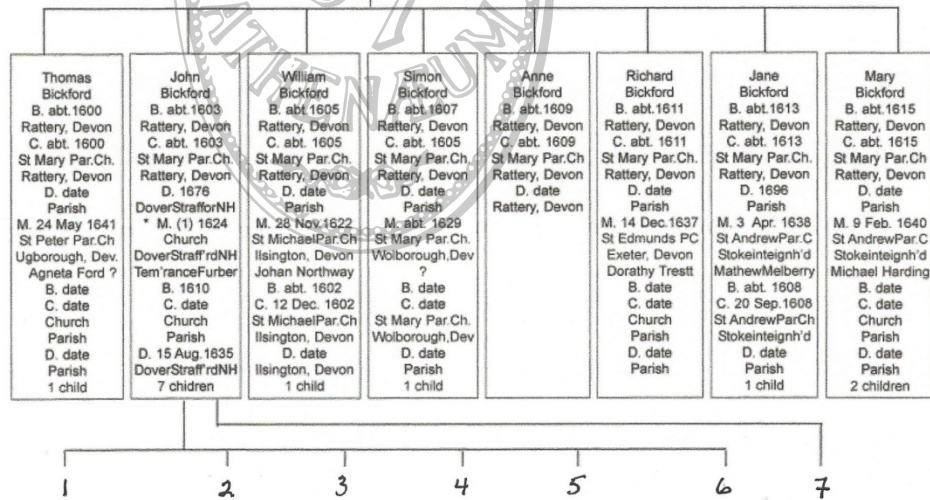
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Generation 6



page 7

Generation 7



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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	page 8
John Bickford B. abt. 1625 Dover, Strafford New Hamp.,USA D. 12 Feb. 1685 Dover, Strafford New Hamp.,USA M. 1649 Dover, Strafford New Hamp.,USA Temperance Hull B. 20 Mar. 1626 Northleigh Devon, England D. 7 Oct. 1697 Dover, Strafford New Hamp.,USA 10 children	Henry Bickford B. abt. 1626 Dover, Strafford New Hamp.,USA D. 1662 Isles of Shoales New Hamp.,USA M.	Edward Bickford B. abt. 1627 Dover, Strafford New Hamp.,USA D. 1686 Portsmouth Rockingham,NH M. 1648/55 Dover, Strafford New Hamp.,USA Mary B. 1633 Portsmouth New Hamp.,USA D. date 2 children	William Bickford B. abt. 1628 Dover, Strafford New Hamp.,USA D. 1686 Portsmouth Rockingham,NH M. 1666 B. D. date children	George Bickford B. abt. 1629 Dover, Strafford New Hamp.,USA D. 28 Jun. 1678 Marblehead Essex,MA.,USA M. 1665 Dover, Strafford New Hamp.,USA Christian Rand B. 1637 D. date 3 children	Joseph Bickford B. abt. 1630 Dover, Strafford New Hamp.,USA D. 8 Nov. 1697 Dover, Strafford New Hamp.,USA M. D. date children	* Samuel Bickford B. abt. 1642 Salisbury, Essex Mass., USA D. 14 Sep. 1681 Woolbridge,Midd. New Jersey,USA M. Jan. 1668 Amesbury Essex, MA, USA Mary Cottle B. 1 Nov. 1653 Salisbury, Essex Mass., USA D. 21 May 1706 Eastham, Barn- stable, MA, USA 4 children	

Generation 8

BICKFORD FAMILY TREE

see page 5

* M. (2) 29 Jul. 1714 * St Gregory Parish Church, West Oghwell, Devon
Elizabeth Katherine Spry
C. 29 Jun. 1690 St Andrew Parish Church, Ashburton, Devon
D. 1767 B. 1 Sep. 1767 St Mary Parish Church, Bickington, Devon

see page 7

* M. (2) 1697, Dover, Strafford, New Hampshire, USA
Elizabeth Cator
B. 1620 Newington, Rockingham, New Hampshire, USA
D. 1672 Dover, Strafford, New Hampshire, USA

Please note this chart is not complete and is subject to revision and amendment, but basically is still correct

February 2012

Gwyn Lobb
2012
updated 2013
updated 2014/16



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Bickfords of New England

Having introduced some of the Bickfords of Old England and some of the places where they lived, I want to introduce the Bickfords and some allied families who immigrated to America in the early 1600s. My connection to the Bickfords is particularly interesting to me in my article on *The Angel Gabriel* which follows later on.

First, I will show you my lineage from my Bickford 'gateway ancestor grandparents': John and Temperance Furber Bickford -> John and Temperance Hull Bickford -> Temperance Bickford and Jeremiah Burnham -> Sarah Burnham and Capt. Jonathan Thompson -> Susannah Thompson and Robert Thompson, Jr. (first cousins) -> a few generations of Thompsons -> grandma Rubie Darline Thompson and Joseph Swan, Sr. -> my parents Swan -> me.

The *Angel Gabriel* passenger list (per Rev. Richard Mather's diary in 1635) shows Robert Burnham and Mary Andrews Burnham (his wife and sister to *Angel Gabriel's* Captain Robert Andrews) and their sons, Robert, John, and Thomas. I descend from Robert and Mary Andrews Burnham -> Robert -> Jeremiah -> Sarah Burnham ->

Another passenger of great interest to me is William Furber born ~ 1614. He landed at Ipswich with the other survivors of the shipwreck and served out his one year apprenticeship. Then, he relocated to Oyster River and married Elizabeth Clarke. Why Oyster River??? I believe that this William Furber is a younger brother to Temperance Furber who married John Bickford in 1624. Passengers on The Angel Gabriel came from as far north as Lancashire and from all parts of Wiltshire. Bristol is easy access from London where Temperance Furber and William Furber, Jr. would have been born.....children of William Furber, Sr. and Mary Newbye of London, England. One other passenger of interest is John Tuttle who settled in Dover. John Tuttle and my Thompson ancestors were well acquainted and, in 1718, my 6th great-grandfather, John Tomson, sold 50 acres of inherited land at Cocheco swamp to one John Tuttle. Poor John Tomson! He was given a King's Grant of 1200 acres in what is now Durham, NH. His estate remains are on Madbury Road in Durham. John Tomson's great-great grandson, Ben Thompson, Jr., willed his fortune (most of Durham and his cash and stocks...about a million dollars, in those days) to the State of New Hampshire to form a 'College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts'.....which eventually became the University of New Hampshire in 1923. I think that what locals know as the 'Tuttle's Little Red Barn' sits on that swamp land, but I have no proof of that...no disproof, either. Recently, that property (about a mile from where I live) was sold to a non Tuttle. It had been the oldest family-owned farm on North America.

The article which follows is about The *Angel Gabriel* and the trip from Bristol, England to Ipswich, Massachusetts in 1635. The account of the trip and its pleasures and its perils was recorded in Rev. Richard Mather's Journal or Diary. The article which follows 'The *Angel Gabriel*' is about another family immigrant and his family's voyage to America. The article is about Rev. Joseph Hull and *The Mary Gould* in 1635.



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The Angel Gabriel

Crossing the Atlantic in 1635.....Background



This account is based on the 1635 diary of Puritan Rev. Richard Mather* on the Angel Gabriel's crossing the Atlantic from Bristol, England, to Pemaquid Point, Maine. Pemaquid, Maine, which had seen European planters [immigrants] from Europe as early as 1605, was a common destination for the Angel Gabriel, a 240 ton, 16 gun ship, built in 1614 for Sir Walter Raleigh for his voyages to Guiana, South America. Pemaquid Point and harbor is composed of black and gray granite rock.

* Richard Mather is the father of Increase Mather [who later to became President of Harvard College] and grandfather to Cotton Mather, minister, scientist and scholar.

After 1618, the ship was used for immigrant trade between England and America until 1635 when she was shipwrecked off Pemaquid Point on August 15, 1635, during The Great Colonial Hurricane. She was the first passenger ship until then to meet with catastrophe. Angel Gabriel had won distinction for defeating three Spanish ships to defend the city of Bristol, England in 1631. Angel Gabriel left Thursday, June 4, 1635 from Bristol, England, harbor with four other vessels: the Diligence, Mary and Bess, who were headed for Newfoundland, and the St. James, who with 100 passengers was headed for Boston. The Angel Gabriel's first stop was to be Pemaquid Point, Maine. Stalled by unfavorable winds, the five ships waited 12 days at Milford Haven, Wales, and then with the aid of a freshening easterly wind, the five ships left Milford Haven and by noon were out of sight. Angel Gabriel's last voyage was captained by William Andrews.

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Thirty (30) passengers came over on the last voyage:

1. Captain Robert Andrews, who settled in Ipswich's Chebacco Parish, where he had a house and family. He was made a freeman May 6, 1635.
2. Thomas, John and Robert Burnham, three nephews of Captain William Andrews, being the sons of his sister Mary and her husband, Robert Burnham. The three nephews also settled in Chebacco Parish.
3. John Bailey, a weaver from Chippenham, England, settled in Newbury with his son and daughter. His wife and other children in England remained separated forever as the wife refused to risk the New England voyage, and Bailey would not return. However, in his will dated 1651, John Bailey left his wife twenty pounds sterling provided she come over.
4. John Cogswell, his wife, eight children, and servants William Furber and Samuel Haines migrated from Westbury, Wiltshire, England. Mr. Cogswell had recently sold his woolen business and all his property to settle in Ipswich where he received a town lot and a large grant of 300 acres in Chebacco Parish. Cogswell salvaged only a part of his freight from the wreck of The Angel Gabriel, although goods and specie valued at \$25,000 were aboard, a large sum for the 17th century.
5. William Furber departed Ipswich on expiration of his apprenticeship with John Cogswell. He moved to Dover, married and settled down.
6. Samuel Haines also left Ipswich on expiration of his apprenticeship and returned to England to marry and brought his wife back to Dover, where they also settled.
7. William Hook.
8. John Tuttle settled in Dover. Other Tuttle's immigrated in other in ships in 1635, but John Tuttle was always referred to as "John Tuttle who came in the Angel Gabriel."
9. Ralph Blaisdell, age 42, his wife Elizabeth Parker Blaisdell, and their son Henry Blaisdell, age 3. He was from Lancashire, England, the same area that Richard Mather and his family were from. Ralph first went to the southern Maine town of York, and within a few years was one of the first settlers of Salisbury, MA.
10. Henry Simpson, wife and children "planted" in York, Maine. Two were lost on the voyage, and three during the August 15 hurricane.

Governor of New England, Sir Ferdinando Gorges, said that "planters" [immigrating colonial settlers] were "going to New England in heaps". South of Pemaquid, Maine, and east to Monhegan Island [the cradle of New England] were English settlements. North of there and inland were French settlements. People came to New World for religious freedom and for the trade of furs, fishing and to own their own land.

The Ralph Blaisdell and Henry Simpson families were bound for York, on the coast of southern Maine. The other passengers were headed for points farther south in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, where they had relatives waiting for them. Rev. Richard Mather of Lancashire, England,

on the ship *James* (which accompanied The Angel Gabriel from June 4 to July 4, 1635) had been removed from his Anglican Church in 1633 because of his non-conformist beliefs.

By April 1634 restrictions were placed on immigration and a system of searchers, who boarded outgoing ships looking for persons who were not licensed “to pass beyond the seas,” was instituted.

On May 23 “two searchers came on board the James, viewed the list of all passengers, ministered to us the oath of allegiance to all of a full age, viewed our certificates from the ministers of the parishes from which we had come, approved of the lists, and gave us licenses with their signatures and seals to pass the seas, cleared our ship for departure,” wrote Richard Mather in his diary. Bristol city is about five (5) miles inland up the Avon River from the Severn Estuary where the wharves and merchant establishments were located. Kings Road was along a deep water harbor at the mouth of the Avon River on the east side of the Severn Estuary, but with tides and contrary winds it was a most difficult channel to navigate.

Angel Gabriel Arrives at Bristol

The Angel Gabriel comes into Bristol, England, harbor, known also as the Kings Road on the east side of the Severn Estuary.

May 26, 1635, Angel Gabriel – 240 tons – enters Bristol harbor area and joins up with the James, much lighter – 110 tons, but can carry 100 passengers. The Angel Gabriel did not yet have its full complement of 30 passengers and cattle.

May 27, 1635, Passengers from three boats came aboard The Angel Gabriel. Sir Ferdinando Gorge was granted the Province of Maine in 1629 and was appointed Governor for New England in March 1635. He came on board the Angel Gabriel, asking the passengers of their country, occupation and calling of life. He expressed his good will and promised if he ever came to Massachusetts he would be a true friend unto them.

May 28, The cattle for the Angel Gabriel were brought on board. While winds delayed departure, the immigrants had time to go ashore to wash and buy more oats and hay for the animals, and bread for themselves. We assume that the Angel Gabriel’s passengers were also inspected by two searchers as had the James on May 23. Richard Mather, a passenger on the James, said on of the passengers on the ship Angel Gabriel, “Among them some loving and godly Christians that were glad to see us.” The passengers met with each other several times until wind conditions would be right for departing: The more heavily armed Angel Gabriel would help protect the James on the high seas from pirates or in case of disaster.

May 28, the Captain of the Angel Gabriel and some of her passengers came on board the St. James. Food brought on board: oats and hay for cattle, bread, victuals, water, milk, fowl, cheese, eggs, fresh fish. A typical meal on the Angel Gabriel consisted of mutton broil, turkey and good sack. When wind strong and the waves high, the ship was bounced around. Many of the women and some children got seasick, dizzy and light headed, vomiting, and could scarcely stand or walk without falling unless they took hold of something.

Departure from Bristol, England, Harbor.

June 4, Angel Gabriel – 240 ton and the James – 110 ton, along with the three ships bound for Newfoundland (the Diligence – 150 tons, the Mary – 80 tons, and the Elizabeth – 240 ton)

departed Bristol's Kings Road and went as far as Lundy Island at the mouth of the Severn, where they dropped their pilots on June 9.

June 9, A Thursday, tacked north to Milford Haven, Wales. The passengers and crew bought "victuals, visited, went to church, held joint services with the "Gabriel" and other ships, and variously occupied 12 wind-bound days.

June 12, Near Hartford, a knight of the country, Sir James Parret, came on board. After conversing with the men he lamented that "so many of the best people for upholding religion were removed and taken away" to New England.

June 14, Second Sabbath since leaving Bristol. Many of the passengers from Angel Gabriel went to a church on shore at Nangle and heard two refreshing and "comforting" sermons from Rev. Jessop from Pembroke, a grave and godly man, who "had lost a good living, because of his non-conformity." His text was Psalm 91:11

June 18, One of the sailors, by name of Jeffrey Cornish, of the James was put on shore by the ship's Captain for "drunkenness, blasphemy, brawling and cursing."

Monday, June 22 the two ships set sail from Milford Haven, where they had waited for the wind for 12 days, and by noon had lost all sight of land.

June 23, The James and Angel Gabriel lost sight of the three ships bound for Newfoundland. "The Angel Gabriel is a strong ship, furnished with 14 pieces of ordinances [canons], and the James seamen desired the Angel Gabriel's company. But the Angel Gabriel was slow in sailing, and at times the James went with three less sails to let the Angel Gabriel stay with them," wrote Mr. Richard Mather in his diary. On the Angel Gabriel were found several children recovering from small pox. Afterward they stayed for supper with Captain Andrews.

June 24, Seen porpoises [dolphins] leaping running near our ship. The James and Angel Gabriel pursued a Turkish Pirate ship, which had taken the Newfoundland bound Mary captive, but could not catch them, so turned back onto their regular course.

June 28, Fourth Sabbath since leaving Bristol and first Sabbath on the high seas after leaving Milford Haven on June 22.

June 29, One of the seamen struck a great porpoise, and hauled it into the ship with ropes, about the size of a hog which would sell for 20-25 shillings. The flesh was fat and lean with color like a hog. And when cut open, had liver, lights, heart and guts like that of a swine. It was like a sporting event for the women and children.

June 29, Captain Taylor of the James and Rev. Mather went on board ship the Angel Gabriel and found that several children were recovering from small pox. Many women and children had been seasick as well. We remained for supper with them and had "good cheer, mutton boiled and roasted, roasted turkey, and good sacke."

June 30, We saw porpoises and crampushes [whales] as big as an ox, puffing and spewing up water as they went by the ship.

July 4, Mr. Mather wrote, "We saw the truth of Scripture, Psalm 107:23-31. 'Some went out to sea in ships; they were merchants on the mighty waters. They saw the works of the Lord, His wonderful deeds in the deep. For He spoke and stirred the tempest, that lifted high the waves. They mounted up to the heavens and went down to the depths; in their peril their courage melted away. 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their wits end. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and He brought them out of their distress. (v. 28) He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed. They were glad when it grew calm, and He guided them to their desired haven. Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and His wonderful deeds for men.'"

James Goes Ahead of Angel Gabriel

July 4, Some were very seasick. None could go or stand on the deck, because of "the tossing and tumbling of the ship." This was the last day passengers on the Angel Gabriel saw the ship James. The James went on ahead, concerned that the hay or cattle could not hold out if they slowed up to let the Angel Gabriel stay even with them. The James was now able to go full sail. July 7, A bird was sighted, like that of a swallow, called a Pitterill, which follows ships against foul weather. Another whale is spotted as big as an ox.

July 18, Many Bonnyetoes leaping and playing about the ship. This is a fish a little larger than a cod, but less than a porpoise.

July 19, Seventh Sabbath since leaving Bristol. The wind was so strong that the preacher's loudest voice could not be heard while leading the services.

July 20, Many dolphins were playing about the ship; many sea fowl, hagbats and others.

July 21, The seamen caught a Bonnyetoe and opened him up on the deck. It was as good a tasting fish one could desire.

July 22, An abundance of sea fowl like Pitterels and hagbats.

July 23, An abundance of porpoises and crampushes [whales], leaping and spewing up water about the ship. The seamen thought that the ship was near land, because they noted a change in the color of the water, but with their sounding with a line of a 160 fathoms, they still could not find bottom.

July 24, Exceedingly cold, like a winter December day. Saw fish twice as big as an ox swimming along side of the ship. We saw mighty whales, spewing water like chimney smoke, making the sea about them white and hoary as in Job 41:32. Behind him he leaves a glistening wake; one would think the deep had white hair. Mr. Mather no longer wondered if the body of Jonah could be in the belly of a whale. At evening the seamen sounded and found ground at 50 fathoms.

July 25, Seamen sounded again and found no bottom, concluding that the day before they had been on the Newfoundland banks. The captain estimated that the ship had 250 leagues to go before reaching its destination.

July 25, The passengers and crew feasted on three porpoises, striked by the seamen, and seasoned with salt, pepper and vinegar. The fat was like fat bacon and the lean meat like bull beef.

July 26, Eighth Sabbath since leaving Bristol. The wind blew the rain so strong that the rain leaked through the sides of the ship and got the bedding wet.

July 28, So hot that people and cattle afflicted with faintness, sweating and heat, but the goodness of our God caused a north by east wind to come up about noon, which relieved the heat and helped us forward on our way.

July 28, A bluebird landed on the ship, which meant we were not far from land.

July 30, About sunset we saw with admiration and delight innumerable multitudes of huge crampushes [whales] rolling and tumbling about the sides of the ship, spewing and puffing up water. Also seen were Bonnyetoes and lesser fish, "so marvelous to behold are the works and wonders of the Almighty in the deep."

August 1, Seamen sounded and found land at 60 fathoms. Another land bird came and landed on the sails of the ship. Seamen fished and caught cod as fast as they could hale them in.

August 2, The ninth Sabbath since leaving Bristol.

August 3, About three in the morning, a strong storm and tempest of wind and rain came to us. The seamen let down the sails. The ship was tossed with fearful mountains and valleys of water, as if we could have been overwhelmed and swallowed up. This did not last long. The wind was against us, so we floated along the coast. There was also a great fog and mist all day. We did gain an abundance of cod and halibut. Many mackerel were caught. Saw multitude of great whales, which we were now used to seeing.

August 9, The tenth Sabbath since leaving Bristol.

August 14, Angel Gabriel made her landfall off Monhegan Island during the early morning hours. Captain Andrews tacked the Angel Gabriel safely to anchor in Pemaquid Harbor by early evening, probably in the cove opposite Shurt's Fort, present day Fort William Henry.

Arrive Pemaquid Point, Destroyed by Hurricane

August 15, Early Saturday morning, Angel Gabriel, anchored to the north, was caught by the Great Colonial Hurricane. Three or four passengers lost their lives. One seaman was drowned. Most of the cattle perished, and the passengers lost their goods.

From Richard Mather's diary: "The Angel Gabriel, at anchor at Pemaquid, was burst in pieces and cast away in the storm, and most of the cattle and other goods with one seaman and three or four passengers did also perish therein, besides two of the passengers who died on the way, the rest having their lives given them for a prayer."

Epilogue

We now know that in the early fall storm tracks come from the Caribbean, rotating counterclockwise, bringing great quantities of rain from the sea on their leading edge. The cyclonic winds can get up to 200 mph and are capable of huge destruction. See "The Great Colonial Hurricane" under Angel Gabriel.

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Angel Gabriel had sailed 1000 leagues or 3000 miles from England. The trip took ten (10) weeks and one (1) day after leaving Bristol, having departed Bristol on June 4 and landing

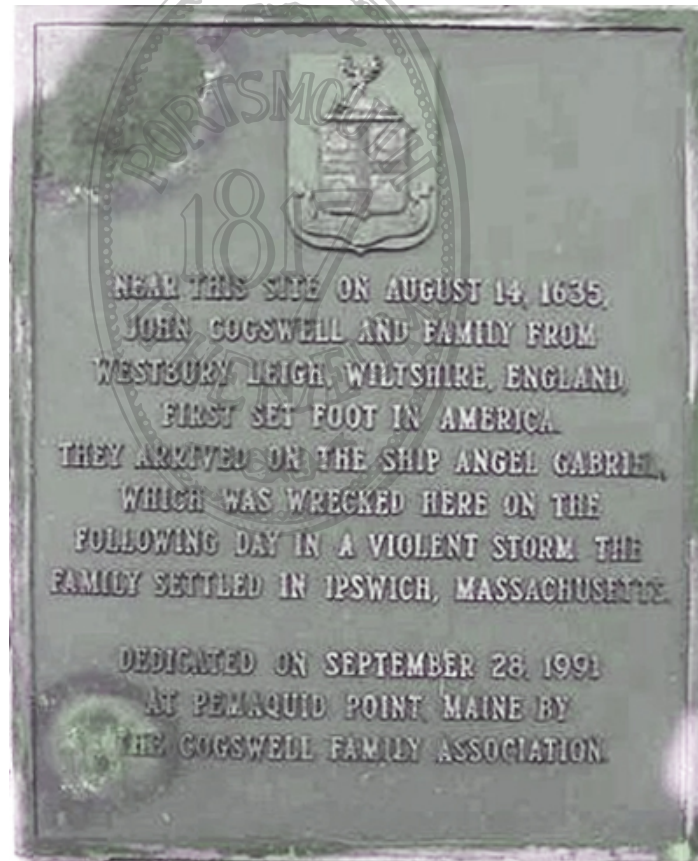
at Pemaquid August 14, 1635.

Passengers remained healthy by walking the deck in the fresh air and having a variety of food. They had good and wholesome bread and beer, salt fish and salt beef, bacon or buttered peas, buttered bag pudding from currants and raisins, pottage beer and oatmeal, water pottage well buttered. After the storm "we saw many mighty trees rent in pieces from the storm. Others were uprooted." Down the coast in the Massachusetts Bay on Marvil Head 23 colonists and seamen had been swept into the sea and perished, except one man and his wife, who survived to report the news.

The Angel Gabriel of Bristol, England, was the first ship to carry passengers to the New World and who suffered a catastrophic fate.

The Angel Gabriel was wrecked off the coast of Maine, but the smaller, faster ships, the Mary, the Bess, and the Diligence outran the storm, and landed in Newfoundland on August 15, 1635.[1]

A plaque commemorating the loss was dedicated August 8, 1965 at Pemaquid Point, Maine. Some of the passengers survived the sinking.



Plaque at the Pemaquid Point Lighthouse in Maine

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Another partial list of passengers:

- Bailey, John Sr and son John Jr b 161. Weaver from Chippenham, Eng, wife and family left in England, settled in Newbury
- Beck, Henry
- Blaisdell, Ralph, wife Elizabeth. From Goosnargh and/or Holcombe, Lancashire, bound for York, Main or Salisbury. Ref: Bank, Mass. 36 pg 87
- Burnham, John, Robert and Thomas, Nephews of Master Robert Andrews, sons of Robert's sister Mary Andres Burnham.
- Cogswell, John 43, wife Elizabeth (Thompson) child Mary, William, John, Hannah, Abigail, Edward, Sarah, Elizabeth, and servants. From Reading, Berkshire, bound for Ipswich. Ref: NEGR 15/177 and Mass Arc 39/506. 36 pg 5 From Westbury Leigh, Wiltshire, settled in Ipswich
- Furber, William
- Haines, Samuel, Apprentice to J Cogswell, abt 24, later settled at Dover point
- Hook, William
- Mathers, Richard
- Simpson, Henry
- Tuttle, John, From Dover, settled in Ipswich then Dover NH

About John Tuttle, age 17, there is considerable confusion. It is reported that he settled in Chebacco but eventually moved to Dover, New Hampshire, where he became known to locals as "Shipwreck John Tuttle." Other oral history suggests that he walked from Pemaquid to Dover. He is apparently not the same John Tuttle, age 39, who arrived with his family in the "Planter" in 1635, but went to Ireland a decade later and never returned. Town deeds record that John Tuttle purchased a lot along the Ipswich River cove near the present County Street in July, 1638 but sold that property three months later to Reginald Foster. His son Simon Tuttle built a portion of the Tuttle-Lord-Shatswell house which still stands on High Street.

Additional Notes and Photos

The Angel Gabriel was captained by Robert Andrews of Norwich, Norfolk County, England and was joined on the journey by the James, the Elizabeth (Bess), the Mary and the Diligence. As they approached the North American coastline, the unusually powerful early season hurricane struck. The Category 3 hurricane was moving faster than 30 mph with maximum winds of 130 mph. The three smaller ships were bound for Newfoundland and outran the storm, safely reaching their destination,

The larger and heavier James and the Angel Gabriel were on a course for New England. The James anchored off the Isle of Shoals but all three anchors were lost. It managed to limp into Boston two days later, its sails ripped apart, with all one hundred-plus passengers surviving. The Angel Gabriel took refuge in Pemaquid Bay and most of its passengers managed to disembark before the ship broke apart and sank with the loss of several lives. A bark commanded by Captain Gallop made several trips to Boston transporting the survivors, many of whom made their way to Ipswich and

became prominent founding members of the community. A new commemorative plaque was installed at Pemaquid in 2010.



The first section of Cogswell's Grant in Essex was built in 1728 by a descendant of John Cogswell.

The principal passenger was John Cogswell from Westbury Leigh, Wiltshire, born in 1592. He was a man of wealth and standing, married to Elizabeth Thompson, a daughter of the Vicar of Westbury parish. They embarked with eight of their nine children on the Angel Gabriel accompanied by his servants and many of their belongings for the new settlement at Ipswich. Cogswell and his family were swept from the deck and washed ashore, and more than £5000 worth of property, including cattle, furniture, and money were lost to the sea. Cogswell and his family were eventually transported to Ipswich, where he acquired a sizable estate in an area called Chebacco, which is now Essex. A house on that property, Cogswell's Grant in Essex, is owned by Historic New England and is open to the public. Cogswell's reputation and his comparative wealth gave him a leading position in the town.



The Burnham-Giddings house on Argilla Road was built by Thomas Burnham, descendant of the Thomas Burnham who survived the wreck of the Angel Gabriel.

Also among the survivors of the Angel Gabriel who managed to eventually reach Ipswich were Deacon John Burnham, Robert Burnham, and Lt. Thomas Burnham, who was made Selectman in 1647 and was Deputy to the General Court from 1683 to 1685. In 1667 he was granted the right to erect a sawmill on the Chebacco River. He owned land both in Chebacco and in Ipswich, which was divided between his sons Thomas and James upon his death. Read more in "The Cogswells in America" and the Cogswell Family Association.

One of the many historic properties associated with this family is the Burnham-Patch House at 1 Turkey Shore Road in Ipswich. Although it dates to the 1730's, it appears to have been built on the floor plan of an earlier house from the 1670's. Heavy quarter-round chamfered framing timbers in the cellar provide evidence of the earlier structure. The large ell on Poplar Street was added in the early nineteenth-century. The Burnham Patch house and the Heard-Lakeman dwelling across the street have two of the original covenants established with the Ipswich Historical Commission, featured in the book "Something to Preserve."



The David Burnham house in Essex

The David Burnham House on Pond Street in Essex is said to have been built c. 1684 by David Burnham, son of Thomas Burnham, and remained in the Burnham family for almost 150 years. It was the subject of restoration work in the early 20th century by the Essex Institute under the auspices of George Francis Dow. The kitchen fireplace was the largest known to have been uncovered in Essex County at that time.



The White Horse Inn on High Street was built by Corporal John Andrews, son of the captain of the *Angel Gabriel*.

Captain Robert Andrews and his three nephews who had accompanied him also settled in Chebacco. Land records from 1635 show that his house lot adjoined the properties of Thomas Firman, John Perkins Jr, John Cross, Richard Hoffield and Thomas Hardy. Andrews apparently decided he was through with the maritime industry, and was allowed to sell wine by retail, "if he do not wittingly sell to such as abuse it by drunkenness." His son Corporal John Andrews built the large house on High street, where he operated the White Horse Inn.

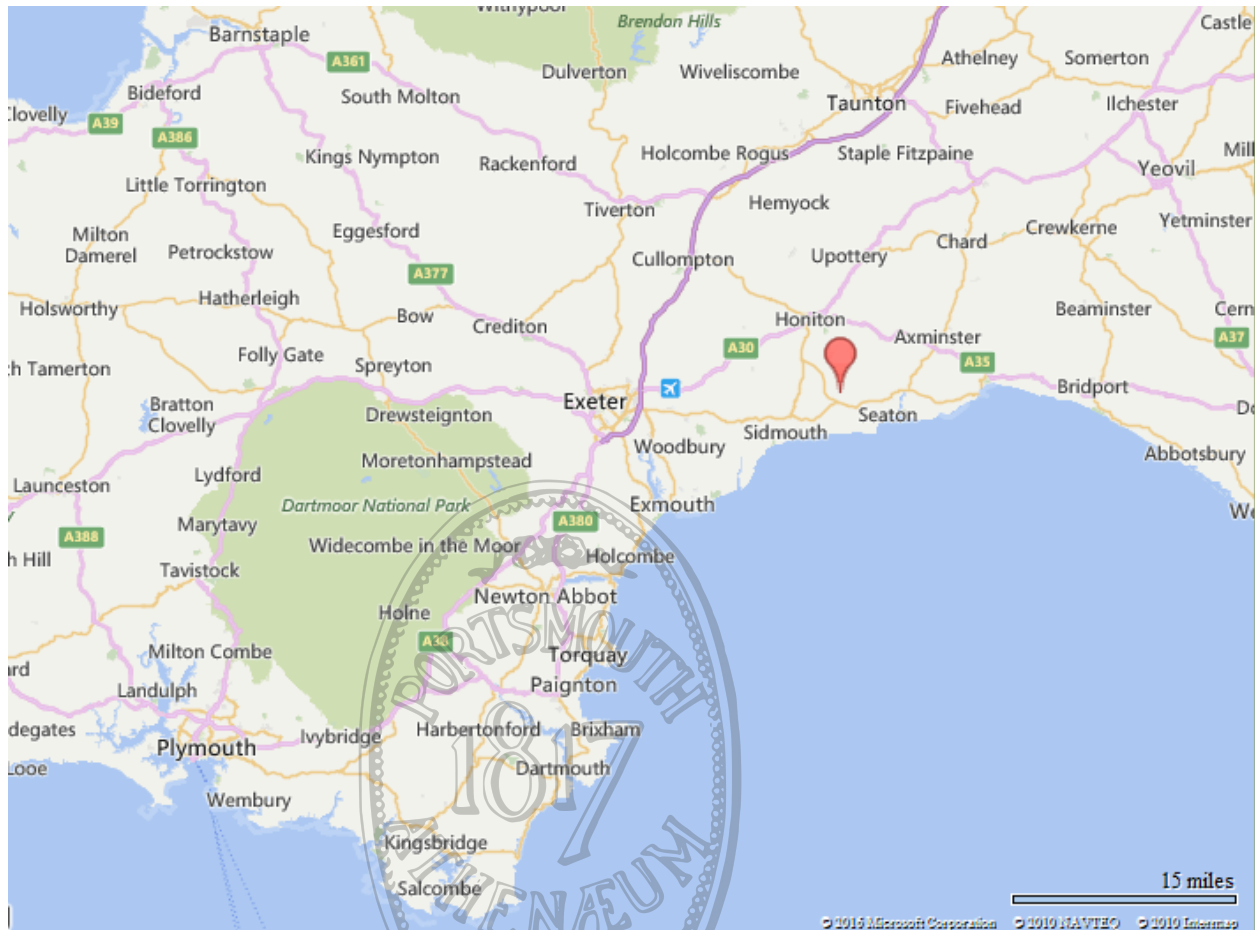


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The *Angel Gabriel* was similar to the *Mayflower* but a couple of feet longer and carried four more guns.



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Rev. Joseph Hull (1594-1665)



Northleigh in Devon

Joseph Hull was born in about 1595 (baptized 24 April 1596) at Crewkerne, Somerset, England, the youngest of eleven children born to Thomas Hull, the younger, and his wife Joane Peson/Pysinge. His father must have been fairly well off (I have seen his father listed as 'Sir' Thomas Hull), as he sent two sons to Oxford, both to St. Mary's Hall. William, the eldest, matriculated in 1592, and in January 1611/12, became the vicar of Colyton in Devonshire. Joseph, the youngest, matriculated at Oxford from St Mary Hall on 22 May 1612, aged 17; BA on 14 November 1614. His inventory included "his books" valued at £10 [MPCR 1:270]. He was ordained a deacon in 1619 and he probably spent the years from 1614-21 working with his brother in Colyton. In 1620, he was ordained a priest, and in 1621, his father presented him with the living at St. Giles Rectory, Northleigh, Devon. James I was on the throne. He was rector of Northleigh, Devon, 1621 to 1632.

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Joseph probably married his first wife in about 1619, probably in Colyton or Silverton, Devon. Very little is known about her except that her name was *not* Joanna Coffin. Phyllis Hughes, of the Hull Family Association, says the name comes from some inventive and quite persuasive speculation by an early Hull researcher, Orra Eugene Monnette, who based his speculation on the usual genealogical suspects: names of children, locations of possible relatives, etc. Phyllis Hughes found that the Joanna Coffin under consideration (daughter of Peter and Joanna (Thember) Coffin) was only about 3 years old when she supposedly married!

In the winter of 1632/33, Joseph resigned his living at Northleigh and moved back to the vicinity of Crewkerne to Batcombe. It is not known why he resigned. His wife died sometime between 1632 and 1634. Also around this time, perhaps earlier, his only remaining brother, George, emigrated to America. But from the time he left Northleigh, he was in trouble with the church authorities for preaching without a license. The trouble, in fact, began slightly earlier. In 1629, the wardens of Crewkerne were "presented" for allowing him to preach there without signing the Book of Strange Preachers. He was cited for illegal preaching at Broadway, in Jan 1635. Also in Jan 1635, he allegedly preached a sermon at Glastonbury, in which he was quoted as saying that "judgment hung over the land and that first it would fall on the clergy and then the laity." On 17 Feb 1635, he was actually expelled from the Church of England, not for the preaching as such, but for "failing to respond to the court's citation."

He had married his second wife, Agnes Hunt, on 13 Mar 1633, St. Cuthbert's Wells, Somerset. This information comes from Linda Lyons (email, 3 June 2016) who also says she hasn't found a baptism record but there were lots of Hunts in Broadway, Somerset where Joseph Hull was at that time.

Joseph was the leader of a group of about 100 Puritans, including Massachiel Barnard, the son of Richard Barnard, a noted Puritan leader, who sailed, probably on the ship *Welcome* of Mellcomb, Thomas Chappell, master, from Poole (of which Weymouth is a part). I say probably on the ship *Welcome* because the passenger list wasn't exactly a passenger list per se. These were lists of persons who had paid an export duty. [note from the British researcher who found the list]. Most often, people traveled on the same ships as their belongings, so it might be slightly pedantic to be so cautious.

On 20 March 1634, "Joseph Hall of Somerset, a minister, aged 40 years, Agnis Hull his wife aged 25 years, Joane Hull his daughter aged 15 years, Joseph Hull his son aged 13 years, Tristram his son aged 11 years, Elizabeth Hull his daughter aged 7 years, Temperance his daughter aged 9 years, Grissell Hull his daughter aged 5 years, Dorothy Hull his daughter aged 3 years, Judeth French his servant aged 20 years, John Wood his servant aged 20 years, [and] Rob[er]t Dabyn his servant aged 28 years" were enrolled at Weymouth as passengers for New England on the *Marygould* * [Hotten 283; GMN 7:9]). *A passenger list follows this biographical sketch.

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Most of the passengers who came to New England in 1635 on the *Mary Gould* whose English origins have been identified came from either Broadway or Batcomb in

Somersetshire [Hotten 283-86]. With the discovery that Rev. Joseph Hull was curate at Broadway in 1633 and 1634, the conclusion that he was the organizer and leader of at least a part of this shipload of passengers is greatly reinforced. A further reflection of this connection to Broadway is seen in a deed of 20 February 1639[/40], wherein "Richard Standerweek, of Broadway, in the county of Somerset, in old England, clothier," sold to "Nicholas Nurton, of Waimouth, in New England, ... all the cattle ... whatsoever I have with Mr. Hull in New England" [PCR 1:159-60, 7:16].

They left on 20 March and arrived in Boston on the 5th or 6th of May, 1635. On June 7, they landed at Dorchester. On 8 July 1635, Gov. John Winthrop reported that "[a]t this Court, Wessaguscus was made a plantation & Mr. Hull, a minister in England, & 21 families with him allowed to set down there" [WJ 1 :194]. On 8 July 1635, "[t]here is leave granted to 21 families to sit down at Wessaguscus, viz: [blank]" [MBCR 1: 149]. Then, Weymouth was then known as Wessaguscus.

On September 2nd, Rev. Joseph became a Freeman of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, and took the oath at the General Court in Boston. He was the first legally authorized minister of the town of Weymouth under the rule of the Bay Colony, but he did not remain there long. The town split into various religious factions (Separatists, Moderates, and Hutchinsonites) and Rev. Joseph left.

He settled at Hingham (now Norfolk Co, MA) in 1636. In 1636 two parcels of land were "granted unto Mr. Joseph Hull by the town of Hingham": "for a house lot five acres of land"; and "for a great lot and for a planting lot lying together five and forty acres" [HiBOP 97v]. His son and first child with Agnes, Hopewell, was probably born there that same year. In 1638, he was elected a Deputy for Hingham to Massachusetts Bay General Court, 6 September 1638, 13 March 1638/9 [MBCR 1:235, 250]. Committee on wages and prices, 12 March 1637/8 [MBCR 1:223]. Commissioner to end small causes at Hingham, 6 September 1638 [MBCR 1:239]. Committee to set a colony tax rate, 6 September 1638 [MBCR 1:242]. Deputy for Barnstable to Plymouth General Court, 3 December 1639 [PCR 1: 126, 137]. He seems to have devoted himself to civic affairs - another minister, the Rev. Peter Hobart, baptized his next son Benjamin.

1639 May 5 - preached his farewell sermon at Hingham. Also, in 1639, he led a group of people to settle in the Plymouth Colony, on Cape Cod, at what was then called Mattakeese, now Barnstable. The rock still stands where he preached his first sermon; the inscription reads:

1639
 At this rock
 now in fragments
 tradition reports that
 the settlers of Barnstable
 received the sacrament
 for the first time
 in their new abode
 and held
 thier first town meeting.
 This tablet to their memory
 was set up in
 1916

1639 June 4 - Plymouth Court granted authority to "Mr. Joseph Hull and Thomas Dimoc" for themselves and their associates "to erect a plantation or town at or about a place called by the Indians Mattakeese," - now called Barnstable on Cape Cod.

"Mr. Amos Otis, in his treatise on the Rev. Hull, states: "Mr. Lothrop and his church came October 21, 1639. Mr. Hull and the other settlers welcomed them to their homes. In Oct., 1639, Mr. Hull was the leading man in the town. In one short year thereafter, he fell from his high position, he was excluded from office; he had lost his influence; he was unpopular, many of his early friends had deserted him, and others reaped the fields he had sown. He felt chagrined; and the ungenerous treatment he thought he had received, induced him to move."

1639 Dec 3 - elected Deputy (with Thomas Dimmock) from Barnstable to the General Court of Plymouth Colony. (They were the first two ever). Admitted freeman at the same court

1639 Dec 11 - held Thanksgiving was held at Barnstable with Rev. John Lothrop "at Mr. Hull's house, for God's exceeding mercy in bringing us hither [Barnstable] safely keeping us healthy & well in our weak beginnings & in our church estate" [NEHGR 10:39].

1639/40 March 23 - daughter Naomi baptized by the Rev. John Lothrop at Barnstable

1640 Apr 15 - assisted Rv. Lothrop at the ordination of Mr. John May as the teaching elder of the Barnstable Church.

1640 June - NOT reelected Deputy from Barnstable.

On 1 May 1641, "Mr. Hull excommunicated for his willful breaking of communion with us, & joining himself a member with a company at Yarmouth to be their pastor, contrary

to the advice and counsel of our Church" [NEHGR 10:41]. On 11 March 1642[131], "[o]ur sister Hull renewed her covenant with us, renouncing her joining with the [church] at yarmouth confessing her evil in so doing with sorrow" [NEHGR 10:39]. On 10 August 1643, "Mr. Hull, in the acknowledging of his sin, & renewing his covenant was received again into fellowship with us" [NEHGR 10:41].

On 7 March 1642/3, it "is ordered, that a warrant shall be directed to the constable of Yarmouth, to apprehend Mr. Joseph Hull (if he do either exercise the ministry amongst them or administer the seals), to bring him before the next magistrate, to find sufficient sureties for his appearance the next General Court, to answer his doings (being an excommunicant)" [PCR 2:53].

On 7 September 1642, in "the controversy betwixt Samuell Hinckley and Mr. Joseph Hull, about the lands the said Hinckley bought of the said Hull in Barnestable, it is ordered, by the consent of both parties and by the town of Barnestable, being referred to the bench, that the said Mr. Hull, according to his own proffer, shall abate forty shillings of that the said Samuell Hinckley should have paid him for the said land, and that the town of Barnestable shall return the one half of the lands they took away from the said Samuell Hunckley to him again, and so a final end to be of all suits & controversies about the same" [PCR 2:44, 7:30, 31]

Sometime before April 1643, he became the minister of Accomenticus (now York); he also had the Isle of Shoals under his charge. When Maine tried to join the confederation of the United Colonies (10 May 1643), it was refused admission, because of him – an excommunicated person and "very contentious". In August, he did more apologizing and was received again into fellowship with the Barnstable church.

On 10 May 1643, in his discussion of the formation of the New England Confederation, Gov. John Winthrop noted that "[t]hose of Sir Ferdinando Gorge his province, beyond Pascataquack, were not received nor called into the confederation, because they ran a different course from us both in their ministry and civil administration; for they had lately made Accomenticus (a poor village) a corporation, and had made a tailor their mayor, and had entertained one Hull, an excommunicated person and very contentious, for their minister" [WJ 2:121].

In November 1644, as part of the inquiry into the suspicious death of Richard Cornish (1634, Weymouth) at Agamenticus, "something was discovered against the son of Mr. Hull, their minister," which caused the case to be reopened [WJ 2:258; GM 2:2:213-14].

When Roger Garde died at Agamenticus early in 1645, "Mr. Hull offered to preach yet his funeral sermon and did and the people all solemnly interred him there with arms" [WP 5:38].

On 6 July 1646, Edward Godfrey successfully sued "Joseph Hull, minister, ... for a parcel of marsh" [MPCR 1 :93].

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He resided at Launceston, Cornwall, at least from 1648 to 1652, and was presumably minister there, and was rector at St Buryan, Cornwall, in 1662 when he was ejected from that living [Calamy 1:349]. The evidence for the residence and vital events in Launceston, Cornwall, has been pieced together from three sources. The baptisms for Reuben and Ephraim were published by Burton Spear [M&JCH 17:96], the baptisms for Ephraim and Priscilla by Carl Boyer [Ancestral Lines, 3rd edition (Santa Clarita, California, 1998), cited above as Ancestral Lines, pp. 318-22], and the incomplete burial record for Priscilla by Noyes, Libby and Davis [GDMNH 358]. These three sets of records are all presumably derived from the same source, the Launceston parish register, and are consistent with one another.

The following deposition sheds some light on the movements of the family. [Dec. 28, 1669, John Bickford, aged about 60, and John Simmins (Symonds) aged about 52, deposed that "about four and twenty years agoe or there about naomy hulls father and mother they went for England: and left theyer Children to the wid wilderness: and Left them very young and wear not tutred (tutored) as they ought to have been." [N. H. Court Files, Vol. I, p. 325.]]

He served as the vicar at Launceston in Cornwall for the next several years, without any noticeable broils - perhaps the country was too busy with the Civil War to bother with him. Charles I was beheaded on 30 January 1649. Rev. Joseph appears to have managed fairly well under the Cromwells - In 1656 (April 11), he became Rector (or possibly Dean) at St Buryan, Cornwall (near Lands End). He did have some trouble with Quakers there - in 1659, George Fox, the Quaker apostle, visited Lands End, and wrote a paper addressed to priests and justices, containing some uncomplimentary remarks addressed specifically to "Priest Hull:"

"Priest Hull, are these thy fruits? Hast thou taught the people no better manners and conversation, who are so brutish and heathenish? And Priest Hull, have people spent their money upon thee for that which is no bread? All such teachers that make a trade of the Scriptures, we utterly deny, who own Christ, and are come off from your steeple-houses."

But whether he was good or not, it didn't matter. The Restoration of Charles II (1660) brought with it the restoration of the priest who had previously been in charge of St Buryan. Rev. Joseph was at loose ends again, and in 1662, he returned to America.

He went first to Oyster River (a precinct of Dover, now Strafford County, NH) where several of his children were living - and he had some more trouble with Quakers there.

1662 - In Oyster River, Mary Tompkins went to Priest Hull's place of worship, "who standing before the old man, he began to tremble, and having spoken something against women's preaching, he was confounded and knew not what to say; whereupon Mary, standing up and declaring the truth to the people, John Hill in his wrath thrust her down from the place where she stood with his own hands, and the Priest [Hull] pinched her arms" Amos Otis says that this happened in the morning (and that the pinching

was merely his way of trying to keep a firm grip) and that in the afternoon, he "allowed the quakeresses to do as their spirits moved - he did not disturb their meeting . . . "

Not long after this, he recovered his old parish at York, where he died 19 Nov 1665, somewhere on the Isles of Shoals, or possibly in York itself. He left no will. He was buried in York. Agnes was granted Letters of Administration of the estate in June 1666, so she lived at least that long, but I do not know how much longer. His widow, Agnes, administered his estate. Her account says that "the Isle owed him for his ministry £20." The total value of his estate was £62-5-5, of which £10 were for books.

Miscellaneous Notes:

Rev. Joseph Hull had a lot of children. This comment sums it all up--. [1655 Aug - John Tingecombe (Rector of Truro, Cornwall 1649-62) wrote of Hull "Tis hoped the man is godly. He has a very greate charge of children, neare twenty. Some say more."]



The *Mary Gould*

From Vol. I, History of Weymouth Massachusetts in four volumes [1923] published by the WEYMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Wright and Potter Printing Company, Boston. PAGE 72, Chapter XV: THE COMING OF THE HULL COMPANY

During the summer of 1634, according to a record in the Town Records of Dorchester, "there went out to New England 20 ships, with 2000 planters." (See the Western Antiquary, Vol.6, p.88.)

In 1635, Weymouth was numbered among the towns of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The Gorges' claim had now become of no weight, and the Gorges party had transferred this interest to the Province of Maine. Weymouth began to take a prominent part in the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

In 1635 there came a large addition to the population of Weymouth. This was the Hull Company, already mentioned and a statement made where their names can be found, but it seems best that the list should be given. They came from Weymouth in England, but some of them were from other towns in Dorset and in counties nearby.

We now find that the influence of Boston is felt as the center of the Bay State Colony, for permission had to be given to Hull and his company to settle in Wessagusset. Thus on July 8, 1635, the General Court of Boston passed an order giving permission to the Rev. Joseph Hull, with twenty-one families numbering about one hundred persons, to settle at Wessagusset.

The people of this company became prominent in the affairs of Weymouth, and some of their descendants hold those positions even today. In 1870, Mr. H. G. Somerby, who had been making investigations in England, discovered a list of the Hull passengers and sent it to Mr. William L. Appleton of Boston, with the following letter:

LONDON, September, 1870.

My DEAR MR. APPLETON: - Amongst a bundle of miscellaneous manuscripts just turned up in the Public Record Office I find with other documents relating to New England, the following list of passengers which I have the pleasure of sending to you for publication in the Register.

I remain, yours very truly,
H. G. SOMERBY.

Mr. Appleton gave the list to the Register and it was published in the New England Historical and Genealogical Register, Vol. XXV, pages 13, 14 and 15, January, 1871.

PAGE 73 THE COMING OF THE HULL COMPANY BOUND FOR NEW ENGLAND
Weymouth, ye 20 of March, 1633

1. Joseph Hull of Somerset, minister, aged 40 years.
2. Agnes Hull, his wife, aged 25 years. Second wife of Mr. Hull
3. Joane Hull, his daughter, aged 15 years.
4. Joseph Hull, his son, aged 13 years.
5. Tristram, his son, aged 11 years.

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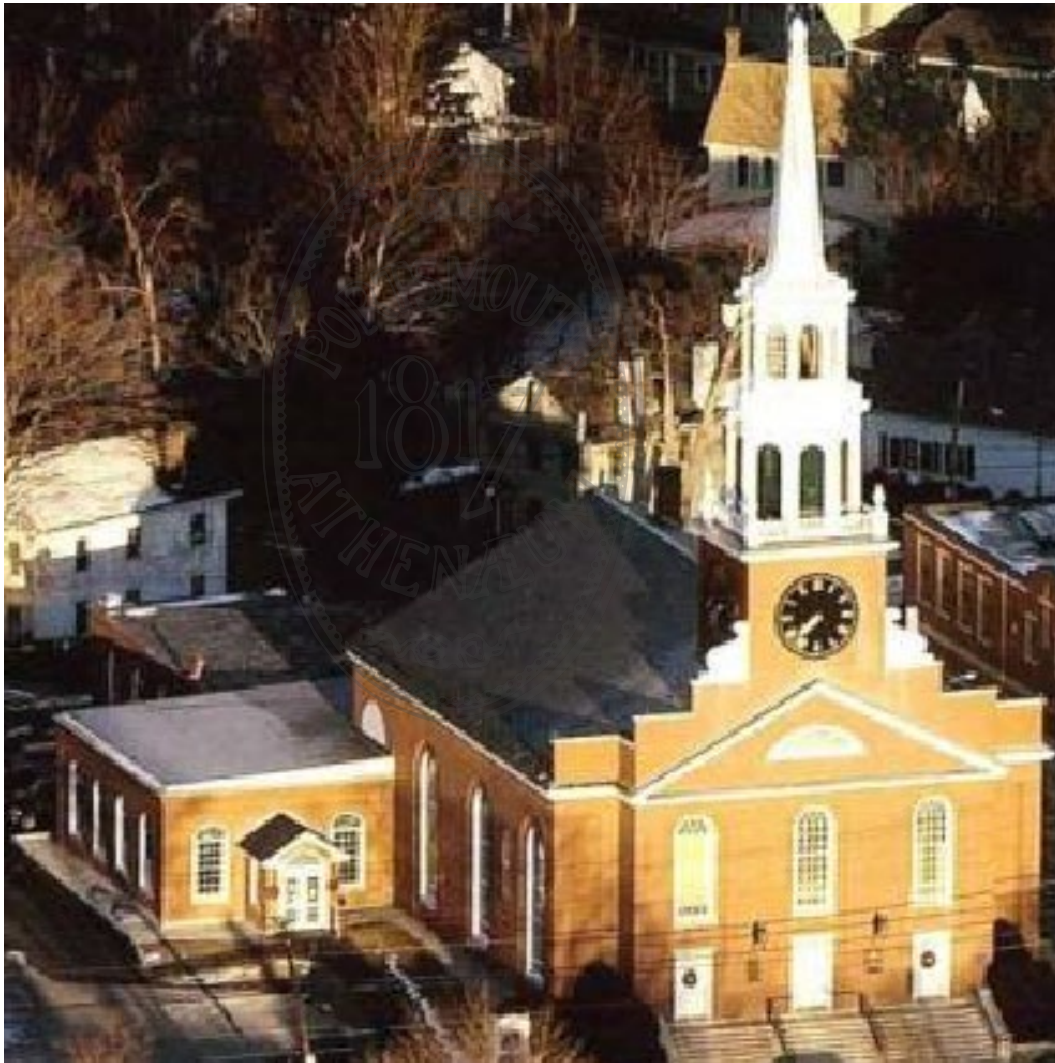
- 6 Elizabeth, his daughter, aged 7 years.
- 7 Temperance, his daughter, aged 9 years.
- 8 Gressell, his daughter, aged 5 years.
- 9 Dorothy, his daughter, aged 3 years.
- 10 Judith French, his servant, aged 20 years.
- 11 John Wood, his servant, aged 20 years.
- 12 Robert Dabyn, his servant, aged 28 years.
- 13 Musachiell Bernard of Batcombe, Clothier of the County, Somerset, aged 24 years.
- 14 Mary Bernard, his wife, aged 28 years.
- 15 John Bernard, his son, aged 3 years.
- 16 Nathaniel, his son, aged 1 year.
- 17 Rich Persons, salter and his servant, 30 years.
- 18 Francis Baber Chandler, aged 36 years.
- 19 Jesope Joyner, aged 22 years.
- 20 Walter Jesop Weaver, aged 21 years.
- 21 Timothy Tabor in somss of Botcomhe, taylor, aged 35 years.
- 22 Jane Tabor, his wife, aged 35 years.
- 23 Jane Tabor, his daughter, aged 10 years.
- 24 Anne Tabor, his daughter, aged 8 years.
- 25 Sarah Tabor, his daughter, aged 5 years.
- 26 William Fever, his servant, aged 20 years;
- 27 John Whitmarks, aged 39 years.
- 28 Alice Whitmarke, his wife, aged 35 years.
- 29 John Whitmarck, his son, aged 11 years.
- 30 Jane, his daughter, aged 7 years.
- 31 Onseph, his son, aged 5 years.
- 32 Rich, his son, aged 2 years.
- 33 William Read of Batcombe, taylor in Somerset, aged 28 years.
- 34
- 35 Susan Read, his wife, aged 29 years.
- 36 Harma Read, his daughter, aged 3 years.
- 37 Susan Read, his daughter, aged 1 year.
- 38 Rich Adams, his servant1 aged 29 years.
- 39 Mary Adams, his wife, aged 26 years.
- 40 Mary Cheame, his daughter, aged 1 year.
- 41 Zachary Bickwell, aged 45 years.
- 42 Agnis Bickwell, his wife, aged 27 years.
- 43 John Bickwell, his son, aged 11 years.
- 44 John Kitchin, his servant, aged 23 years.
- 45
- 46 George Allin, aged 24 years.
- 47 Katherine Allin, his wife, aged 30 years.
- 48 George Allin, his son, aged 16 years.
- 49 William Allin, his son, aged 8 years.
- 50 Matthew Allin, his son, aged 6 years.
- 51 Edward Poole, his servant, aged 26 years.
- 52 Henry Kingman, aged 40 years.
- 53 Joane, his wife, aged 39 years.
- 54 Edward Kingman, his son, aged 16 years.
- 55 Joane, his daughter, aged 11 years.
- 56 Anne, his daughter, aged 9 years.

- 57 Thomas Kingman, his son, aged 7 years.
- 58 John Kingman, his son, aged 2 years.
- 59 Jonathan Ford, his servant, aged 30 years.
- 60 William Kinge, aged 40 years.
- 61 Dorothy, his wife, aged 34 years.
- 62 Mary Kinge, his daughter, aged 12 years.
- 63 Katlieryne, his daughter, aged 10 years.
- 64 William Kinge, his son, aged 8 years.
- 65 Hanna Kinge, his daughter, aged 6 years.
- 66 Thomas Holbrooke of Broadway, aged 34 years.
- 67 Jane Holbrooke, his wife, aged 34 years.
- 68 John Holbrooke, his son, aged 11 years.
- 69 Thomas Holbrook, his son, aged 10 years.
- 70 Anne Holbrooke, his daughter, aged 5 years.
- 71 Elizabeth, his daughter, aged 1 year.
- 72 Thomas Dible, husbandman, aged 22 years.
- 73 Francis Dible, aged 24 years.
- 74 Robert Lovell, husbandman, aged 40 years.
- 75 Elizabeth Lovell, his wife, aged 35 years.
- 76 Zachetis Lovell, his son, aged 15 years.
- 77 Anne Lovell, his daughter, aged 16 years.
- 78 John Lovell, his son, aged 8 years.
- 79 Ellyn Lovell, his daughter, aged 1 year.
- 80 James, his son, aged 1 year.
- 81 Joseph Chickin, his servant, aged 16 years.
- 82 Alice Kinham, aged 22 years.
- 83 Angell Hollard, aged 21 years.
- 84 Katheryn, his wife, aged 22 years.
- 85 George Land, his servant, aged 22 years.
- 86 Sarah Loud, his kinswoman, aged 18 years.
- 87 Richard Joanes of Dinder.
- 88 Robert Martyn of Bakombe, husbandman, aged 44.
- 89 Humfrey Shephard, husbandman, 22 years.
- 90 John Upham, husbandman, aged 35 years.
- 91 Joane Martyn, aged 44 years.
- 92 Elizabeth Upham, aged 32 years.
- 93 John Upham, Junior, aged 7 years.
- 94 William Grane, aged 12.
- 95 Sarah Upham, aged 26.
- 96 Nathaniel Upham, aged 5 years.
- 97 Elizabeth Upham, aged 3 years.
- 98 Dorss Richard Wade of Simstuly Cop, aged 60.
- 99 Elizabeth Wade, his wife, aged 60 years.
- 100 Dinah, his daughter, aged 22
- 101 Henry Lush, his servant, aged 17 years.
- 102 Andrew Hallett, his servant, aged 28 years.
- 103 John Noble, husbandman, aged 13 years.
- 104 Robert Ruste, husbandman, aged 40 years.
- 105 John Woodcooke, aged 2 years. [correction: should be 20 years]
- 106 Rich Porter, husbandman, aged 3 years. [correction: should be 30 years]

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Dover and Oyster River, Province of New Hampshire

In the early 1600s, Dover encompassed what is now Dover, Durham, Oyster River, New Market, Madbury, and more.... a very large land mass in The Province Of New Hampshire. In order to better understand the movements and growth of the Bickfords of New Hampshire and Maine, it is important to note that most were members of the First Parish Church of Dover, NH.....at least, in the early years. For survival and for protection, it was important for settlers to band together religiously, politically, and economically. Of very great concern was the travel to meeting on the Sabbath. The trip was long and tiring for some parishioners and Indians laid in hiding and waiting.



The fifth meetinghouse for The First Parish Church in Dover, NH

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This First Parish was, in the beginning and for many years, coincident with the town, indeed, the town was the parish, and at its meetings transacted all secular-ecclesiastical business. The territory, when the limits of Dover came to be defined, included the present city of Dover, the towns of Somersworth and Rollinsford on the north, the towns of Madbury and Lee on the west, the town of Durham on the southwest, and the town of Newington on the south. The northwest boundary line as run from the Newichawannock river down to the western corner of Lee, is twelve miles in length. An air line from the upper corner of the now Somersworth, running to the southern line of Newington, is fifteen miles in length. From the western extremity of Lee an air line to the meetinghouse on Dover Neck, crossing hills, rivers, and forests, is more than thirteen miles. Such for eighty years was the extent of the First Parish.

In the course of time it became inevitable that parts of this great tract should be set off to constitute other parishes. Settlers multiplied, and local interests grew up. The fertile shores of the Great Bay drew men to Newington. The waterpower at Durham on the west, and Salmon Falls on the north, built up industries in those places. The laws required all people to pay taxes for the support of the ministry, and the principles of our polity required every inhabited territory strong enough to do so to erect a house of worship at the public expense. The place of worship was on Dover Neck, and those remote found it a hardship to travel thither every Lord's day: In 1660, indeed, so strong had grown the settlement at Cochecho, our now centre of population, that this vote was passed :

"It is ordered for the supply of cochecheae thear is set apart fiftien pound of towne rents for the ministrey thear in the winter season."

The signers were Thomas Larkham, William Jones, John Follett, Robert Nanny, Thomas Durston, Thomas Roberts, Samuel Haines, Bartholomew Smith, John Dam, Bartholomew Hunt, William Waldern, John Tuttle, Henry Beck, Thomas Layton, Edward Starbuck, William Pomfret, William Furbur, William Storer, John Hall, Phillip Swaddon, Richard Waldern, Edward Colcord, Robert Huckins, Richard Pinkcom, and Thomas Tricky. The spelling of names varies from that of the preceding paper. This protest will be found at the end of this chapter.

This was a standing vote. Our defective records make but one allusion to the result, viz. : —"2, 2 mo. 1666. By the Selleckmen, Ordered that William Pomfrett shall giue out Orders to Mr. Rayner for the Seuerall Rents dew from mills to be payd to him toward his sallery, as also to giue Mr. Coffin order to Receue ,£15 of Rent to pay Elder Wentworth for his paynes at Crechechae the last winter."

Elder William Wentworth, thus the first person recorded as statedly officiating at Cochecho, was a ruling elder in the church, and ancestor of three governors of the province of New Hampshire, who ruled from the year 1717 until the war of the Revolution.

The earliest efforts for separation, although then unsuccessful, were made by the people of Oyster River, now Durham. Such was the importance of that place, and such the difficulty of travel, largely by boat, that an agreement was made, 14 July 1651, that two ministers should be employed, each at £50 salary, Mr. Daniel Maud to remain at Dover Neck, and another be called for Oyster River. A vote dated 16 April 1655, provides for the "comfortable maintenance of the ministry of Dover and Oyster River," by devoting to that purpose all the rents of the sawmills, and a tax of two pence in the pound upon all inhabitants. A meetinghouse was built upon Durham Point in 1655, and it was voted 30 March 1656, that "thear shall be a house at Oyster Reuer Billd neier the meeting house for the use of the menestrey, the demenshens as follareth, that is to say 36 feet long, 18 foett Broed, 12 foot in the wall, with too chemneyes and to be seutabley feneshed." There was also a minister there. On the 17th of June 1657, "Mr. Flecher ¹ and the towne hauing had some discourse whether he will leaue them, he willingly manifested that he was not minded to stay aney longer, but to Prepaer himselfe for old England and could not justly lay Aney Blame Apon the Towne."

1 Edward Fletcher, admitted townsman in Boston, a February 1640 ; returned to England in 1657 ; was minister at Dunsbum (Duntsbourne ?), co. Gloucester : " He was beaten and used unmercifully. . * . He came a little before out of New England," says Calamy, " and being thus abused returned back thither . . . and there died." He came back to Boston, and his will was proved there, 12 February 1666.

The following shows how the differences between the two parts of the town were settled : — Wee hose names are heir under written being chosen By the towne of Douer are Appoynted by thear order to heire and Determine all such Differences as apier Betwixt the inhabetants of the too thierds of the towne of Douer and the on thierd of the towne in Oyster Riuer Doe Conclude at Present as followeth that is to saye

1ly first that from the first of Aprill 1657 and soe forward from yeir to yeir it is heirby mutually a greed uppon that the naigeborhoed of Oyster Riuer shall inioy full Righte and intrest of twenty pounds out of the Rents of the towne to be from lamprell Riuer grant Rent performed as allsoe the sayd neagberhoed shall inioy thear full Right of the too peney Rate Rising from within themselves boeth wich twenty pounds and too peney Rate is for the supply of the minestrey within them selves and to be ordered by themselves for the End Exprest

2ly It is Agried and determined that the sayd naighberhoed shall haue liberty from time to time to make Choyse of a ministrey for thear accomodations, prouided that thay haue the approbations of the sayd towne or of anie three oidasent Elders

3ly That in Case the nieghberhoed of Oyster Riuer shall bee without a ministrey aboue fower moenthes they shall Returne the twenty pounds aboue sayd into the Coman tresseurey with Proper anabcll (?) Contrebutioun theyay of Douer doeing the like to them in proportion in the like Case and this mutually to be Donn soe longe as thear is Defeekte of Eather sied

4ly It [is] Ordred for the minestry of Douer Necke thear is sett aparte fifty fiue pounds of Towne Rents with the two penie Rate appon all the inhabetants Except oyster Riuer is set apart for the ministry thear and in Case this Doe not make up the Sallarey, then to be maed up by a Rate uppon the sayd Inhabetants Blody point Excepted only paying the two penneo Rate.

5ly It is ordered for the suppley of Cochechoe thear is set apart fiftien pound of towne Rents for the ministrey thear in the winter season

6ly It is agreed that the house of mr Vallintin Hill wich is his nowe dwling house at Rockey point shall be within the line of Deuetion to Oyster Riuer Witnes oure hands this 17th of July 1660.

Vallintine Hill, William ffurber, Richard Wallderne, John Daues, William Wentworth, Robert Burnam, Raphfe hall, William Willyames, Richard Otes, William Robards

Rev. Joseph Hull also served a brief time at Oyster River. Records make no mention of him, but Bishop's 'New England judged by the Spirit of the Lord', a thoroughly partisan work, mentions him. George Preston, Edward Wharton, Mark Tomkins, Alice Ambrose (alias Gary)," says this work (published in 1667), " having been at Dover, . . . passed from thence over the water to a place called Oyster River, where, on the first day of the week, the women went to Priest Hull's place of worship, who, standing before the Old Man, he began to be troubled." After the usual interruption, the Quakers were " led out of the place of worship, but in the afternoon they had their meeting, unto which came most of the Priest's hearers, when truth gave the Priest such a blow that day," says Bishop, "that a little while after the Priest left his Market place, and went to the Isles of Shoals, three leagues in the sea."

Rev. Joseph Hull* was born in Somersetshire, England, in 1594; graduated St. Mary Hall, Oxford, in 1614 (or near that year); was rector of Northleigh, Devon, 1621 to 1632 ; was minister at Weymouth, Mass., in 1635 ; was at Yarmouth in 1640 ; had trouble with the Massachusetts' authorities, doubtless because of his greater liking for the English church, and left the province. Was at York in 1642, but appears to have returned to England after the Parliament became powerful. Calamy mentions him as at St. Buryan, Cornwall, ejected or silenced, but gives nothing but his name and place. He then

appears at Oyster River parish in 1662 ; soon went to the Isles of Shoals, and died there 19 November 1665. His daughter, Elizabeth, married John Heard of Garrison Hill, and her descendants are numerous here, including Dr. John R. Ham, one of the deacons of this church.

*my 8th great-grandfather.... Phillip E. Swan

In speaking of John Reyner, Jr., 7th minister of First Parish church, Rev. Joseph Hull also kept a diary as follows: John Reyner, jr., seventh minister, son of his predecessor, John Reyner, by wife Frances (Clarke), was born, probably in Plymouth, in 1643 , was graduated at Harvard College in 1663, and became assistant to his father about 1667. Upon his father's death he was invited, 22 July 1669, to officiate for one year; he accepted, and evidently continued until his death; although not regularly settled until 12 July 1671. He died, apparently in Dover, 21 December 1676, "of a cold and fever," says Hull's diary, " that he took in the field among the soldiers." "Among the soldiers" doubtless refers to his accompanying the expedition eastward of Captains Syll and Hathorne, who reached Dover, with Massachusetts forces, 6 September 1676, and who participated in the momentous " sham fight " on the next day.

The people at Oyster River, being dissatisfied, sent a petition to the General Court at Boston, 17 May 1669, signed by John Bickford and thirty-eight others, desiring incorporation as a town. They represented "the intolerable inconvenience of our traveil many myles, part by land, part by water, manie tymes by both, to the public worship of God and the necessarie stay of manie of us from public worship, who can not undergo the difficulties of traveil to it " ; that they comprise two hundred and twenty souls, near fifty families, and seventy and " odd " soldiers, and they hope the Court would find " our hearts and hands strengthened in the work of God, our case more vigorous for an able, Orthodox minister, our families instructed according to law, ourselves growing in truth and peace to God's glory." A strange argument this would be with which to appeal to a modern legislature in behalf of a division of a town.

The movement was successful only in causing the town by action 6 October 1669, to decide that Oyster River may "build a meeting-house " at their own expense, and appropriate their tax for the ministry.

It was agreed in 1675 that two of the five selectmen should be selected from Oyster River. Under this arrangement the people there for many years had their own minister, who was paid by the town, but with the taxes imposed upon that people for the purpose. John Buss was both physician and minister from, perhaps, 1684. He was living there at the time of the great Indian and French massacre of 18 July 1694, when ninety-four of his parishioners were killed or carried captive. He was not at home that morning, and his family escaped to the woods ; but his valuable library was burned. In his petition laid before Governor and Council in 1718 are the words " your petitioner who for forty years successively has labored in the work of the ministry in that place " ; and, " But being now advanced to seventy-eight years of age, and unable to perform the usual exercise of the ministry, the People have not only called another minister, but stopp'd their hands

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from paying to my subsistence, whereupon he is greatly reduced, having neither bread to eat nor sufficient clothing to encounter the approaching winter.

"He had, indeed, been in some straits earlier. Fifty-five persons in Oyster River petitioned* the General Assembly, November 1715, stating that "whereas by mutual agreement the inhabitants of Oyster River have for many years past made choice of their own minister and paid his salary . . . and that the selectmen of the town in general (two whereof have been annually chosen within the district of Oyster River) have all along made rates [* e., taxes] for the several ministers," and, as there has been lately some neglect either in making or collecting the tax, they ask that they have, practically, parish powers. The papers show that there was a division of sentiment at Oyster River. But the result was an order that the selectmen of Dover "call to an account" Joseph Davis, the last year's constable in Oyster River, and oblige him to pay the money he should have collected; and that the selectmen make the legal assessment "as formerly, on the inhabitants of Oyster River, for the support of the present minister, Mr. Buss, until another minister be called and settled in his room."

*The result of this petition was an order that Dover pay him £20 per year, in quarterly instalments. John Buss was born in 1640; perhaps he lived early in Concord, Mass. It does not appear that he was ever ordained. He was preacher and physician, beloved as such in Wells, Me., in 1672, and would seem, by their records, to have remained until near 1684; the petition above conflicts with this date but is doubtless incorrect. He died in 1736.

On the 4th of May 1716, Oyster River was made a parish, — "the new meeting-house built there [to] be the place of the public worship of God in that district." That parish was incorporated as Durham, 15 May 1732, and took from parish and town the present towns of Durham and Lee and part of Madbury, — all then Durham. The church was organized 26 March 1718. "This day (through the smiles of Heaven upon us)," wrote Nathaniel Hill and Stephen Jones to the Boston News Letter of that time, "we had a Church gathered here, in the Decency and Order of the Gospel, and our Teacher, the Reverend Mr. Hugh Adams was then consecrated and Established the Pastor thereof, who then preached from that Text in Cant. 3, 11; we being then favored with the Presence and Approbation of some Reverend Pastors of the next Neighboring Churches, with the Honored Messengers thereof at the said Solemnity, in our New Meeting-House, wherein they gave the Right Hand of Fellowship."

The petition presented by Nathaniel Hill was signed by Jeremiah Hurnham, Stephen Jones, Elias Critchett, Sampson Doe, Joseph Dudley, Elias Critchett, jr., James Nock, John Tompson, Joseph Jones, John Chesley, John Burnham, David Davis, Abraham Bennick, John Gray, John Rawlins, James Bickford, Samuel Perkins, William Duly, John Doe, John York, Joseph Chesley, John Cromell, John Buss, jr., Philip Chesley, Joseph Davis, John Tompson, sen., John Smith, William Jackson, David Kincaid, Jonathan Chesley, Valentine Hill, Ichabod Chesley, jr., Thomas Alin, John Sias, Job Renholds, Samuel Chesley, jr., Samuel Chesley, Cornelius Drisco, Robert Burnham, Peter Mason, Jonathan Simpson, Robert Tompson, Samuel Hill, John Renalls, Joshua Davis, Moses Davis, jr., William Leathers, Francis Pitman, Ely Demeritt, Naphthali Kincaid, James Jackson, Thomas Willey, James Burnham, Robert Huggins, Jonathan Woodman.

Hugh Adams was born 7 May 1676; graduated Harvard College 1697; was ordained pastor of the church in Braintree, Mass., 10 September 1707, the day on which the church was organized; dismissed 22 August 1710. At Chatham, Mass., then without a church, the town, 25 April 1711, offered him £50 salary and £100 settlement. He seems to have accepted in the summer. The town voted, 13 January 1715 "not to employ Mr. Adams in the work of the ministry any longer," — the petitioners for such action alleging that he "did so imprudently, unsteadily, and contentiously behave himself in many respects." His labor at Oyster River ceased 20 January 1739. He died there in 1750.

The first meetinghouse in Durham was built by the town of Dover in 1655, near the lower end of Durham Point. The second, "new" in 1716, was farther up, on land now owned by Hamilton A. Mathes, and under its pulpit was concealed a portion of the powder taken from Fort William and Mary, 14 December 1774, in the daring attack on that royal fortress by John Sullivan and others, of Durham, in connection with John Langdon, and from which place the powder was taken to Bunker Hill and used in that battle. The third house was the huge one built at Durham Falls in 1792, which was taken down in 1848. It was noticeable for its immense windows and general lack of beauty. It stood upon the triangular piece of ground just south of the bridge, now used as a lumber yard. The fourth and present house was dedicated 13 September 1849.

1 So called because Capt. Neal of the Portsmouth plantation, and Capt. Wiggin, of the Dover plantation, in 1631 disputed about the ownership of this beautiful territory, and would have shed blood if they had proceeded to extremities. "So, as in respect," says Hubbard, "not of what did, but of what might have fallen out, the place to this day retains the formidable name of Bloody Point."

So greatly had Somersworth (Rollinsford really) grown in 1729 that a petition for separation as a parish was presented that year. It gave the usual reasons : " That the Dwelling places of your Petitioners are at a great distance from the house of Publick Worship of God in the Town of Dover, where yo' Petitioners live, by which their attendance thereon is rendered very difficult, more especially to the women and children of their Families, and that in the Winter Season and in Stormy Weather they cannot pay that Honour and Worship to God in Publick as it is their hearts desire they could, therefore for the advancing the Interest of Religion," etc. The petition was granted, and the parish of " Summersworth " established 19 December 1729.

* This petition was signed by George Huntress, Edward Row, John Dam, Wm. Hoyt, Joseph Richards, Samuel Rawlings, Joseph Rawlings, Samuel Totnpson, Richard Downing, William Furbur, Jethro Bickford, Clement Meserve, Thomas Bickford, John Fabyan, Samuel Huntress, Nathan Knight, John Hodsdon, John Pickering, 3d, Henry Lankstir, Benjamin Richards, John Downing, John Knight, Thomas Trickey, John Downing, Andrew Peters, John Knight, 2d, John Warenfol, John Bickford, John Rawlins, Hatevil Nutter, William Whitham, James Rawlings, Clement Meserve, Moses Dam, Alexander Hodsdon, Henry Nutter, William Shackford, Thomas Leighton, Richard Pumery, Joshua Crocket, John Hutson, John Nutter, Abel Peavey, Thomas Row, Edward Pevey, John Quint, John Trickey, James Gray, John Carter, Henry Bennet, Benjimin Bickford, Richard Nason, Thomas Downs.

There had been some public service there earlier. James Pike, teaching in Berwick, preached there in 1727. On the 28th of October 1730, he was ordained pastor of the church there. "This day," said a correspondent of the Boston News Letter, " the Rev. Mr.

James Pike was ordained Pastor of the Church in this Place. The ceremony was opened by the Rev. Mr. Tufts. The Rev. Mr. Wise preached from the 9th Chapter of Matthew, 37 and 38 verses. The Rev. Mr. Cushing gave the charge and the Rev. Mr. Rogers the Right Hand of Fellowship." Mr. Pike remained pastor until his death, 19 March 1792, preaching his last sermon 31 October 1790. The house which he built still stands, and is occupied by his great-grandson. That house has a sacred memory, in the fact that George Whitefield, to whom Mr. Pike was a warm friend, used to occupy its guest room, — the southeast chamber.

Rev. James Pike was born in Newbury, Mass., 1 March 1703 ; graduated Harvard College 1725. " He was a faithful servant of Christ." The services at his ordination were printed in pamphlet form, a copy of which is in the library of the Boston Athenaeum, and another with the family at Rollinsford.

The petitioners were : James Davis, Joseph Ryans, William Tasker, Joseph Daniels, William Fowler, Noah Young, Nathaniel Tibbets, Samuel Chesley, Job Demerit, Timothy Moses, Robert Huckins, LUut. Emerson, John Buzzell, John Evens, Isaac Twombly, James Huckins, William Buxsell, Thomas Bickford, Joseph Jackson, William Brown, Thomas Glovier, Ens. John Tasker, Samuel Davis, John Roberts, Henry Buzzell, John Demerit, Joseph Libbey, Zachariah Pitman, John Tasker, jr., Eli Demerit, John Smith, Charles Bickford, Zachariah Edgerley, Joseph Buzzell, Joseph Twombly, Benjamin Leathers, John Demerit, William Demerit, John Demerit, jr., James Crown, Antony Jones, Paul Gerrish, Thomas Bickford, Daniel Young, John Buzzell, jr., Azariah Bordey, John Winget, jr., John Huckins, Ebenezer Demerit, James Jackson, James Jackson, jr., Capt. Hicks, Ebenezer Tasker, Reuben Gray, William Twombly, jr., Timothy Perkins, William Gliden, Ebeneser Buzzell, Jacob Buzzell, James demons, jr., Benjamin Wjllcy.

In the period of March 1828 to March 1829, there was a departure of those of the Unitarian persuasion and others from the First Parish Church.

From the book: 'The First Parish in Dover, New Hampshire, Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary, October 28, 1883' by Dr. Alonzo H. Quint, printed for the parish, 1884 To M^r Philemon Chandler Clerk of Rev^d Mr Clary's Society in Dover.:

Sir, We, the undersigned, having become members of the Unitarian Society in this Town, intend from this time to separate ourselves from the Revd M^r Clary's Society and do hereby request you to take our names from the list of its members.

March 31, 1828.

Ezra Green, G. W. F. Mellen, Jacob M. Currier, Cyrus Goss, James Whitehouse, E. Tredick, J. B. H. Odiorne, T. T. Tredick, Samuel W. Carr, Benjamin Barnes, jr., Ezra Young, Thomas J. Palmer, George W. Kittredge, R. H. Little, Eri Perkins, A. Folsom, Matthew Bridge, Samuel B. Stone, John W. Mellen, Benjamin T. Tredick, William H. Kittredge, James C. Sewall, Abigail Atkinson, Stephen Toppan, Thomas Currier, J. Perkins.

Others withdrawing were, in full, as follows : —

John G. Tilton, 31 March 1828.

Henry A. Foot, " " "

William Hale, Unitarian, 20 November 1828

Edmund C Andrews 24 January 1829

Nathaniel Young, 15 February 1829.

Thomas Bickford, 24 March 1829

Mark Noble, 30 March 1829.

Aaron W. March, " " "

Obed E. Adams, Unitarian, 31 March 1829

Lucius Everett, 31 March 1829

Joshua Ham, " " "

Samuel Horn, " " "

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Thomas W. Kittredge, 27 March 1829
John Mann, “ “ “
Joshua Janes, 30 March 1829.

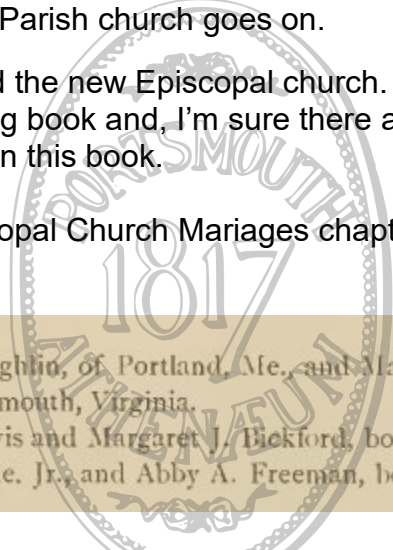
Samuel W. Dow, “ “ “
William Hale, jr., 31 March 1830.

In the period between 1828 and 1839, Unitarian and Orthodox Congregational churches had been formed. But, by 1839, the First Parish Church (Orthodox Congregational) and the Unitarian Society in Dover had each dismissed their pastors. It was thought to be a favorable time to attempt the commencement of an Episcopal Society here. The departure of their pastors released those Episcopalians who had attended their ministries from any real or implied obligations for support and gave them a fair opportunity to gather together for worship. (The portrait above of Rev. Thomas Ricker Lambert and a portrait of his mother, Abigail Ricker, are on display in The Hale House....St. Thomas' Episcopal Church parish house)”

Asa Tufts became the first senior warden of the newly formed St. Thomas' Episcopal Church in Dover. William Hale, Sr. was a major supporter and the list of former parishioners of the First Parish church goes on.

Bickfords, also, attended the new Episcopal church. I have discovered a few Bickford marriages in the following book and, I'm sure there are other Bickford marriages listed in other church marriages in this book.

From St. Thomas' Episcopal Church Mariages chapter in--'Collections of the Dover, NH Historical Society' 1894



1850.	
Jan.	30, James McLaughlin, of Portland, Me., and Mary M. South- er, of Portsmouth, Virginia.
May	16, James H. Davis and Margaret J. Bickford, both of Dover.
Dec.	16, Dr. A. W. Pike, Jr., and Abby A. Freeman, both of Dover.

Phyllis Bickford (whose pedigree and family are featured later in this book) was married at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church in 1956 and her father was married a second marriage in 1991.

Dr. Alphonso Bickford was mayor Dover in 1862 and 1863 and an alderman later on. Later, in this book, there is an article on Dr. Alphonso Bickford. It mentions that his daughter married Elisha R. Brown, a very wealthy banker and a member and benefactor of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church in Dover.

For more information on St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, contact me regarding my book... 'St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, Dover, NH, -Our History- ' publ. 2016. I am a baptized and confirmed member of St. Thomas' Episcopal church and served on the Vestry in 2013.....Phillip E. Swan philswan192@gmail.com

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I. Protest from Dover, 4 March 1641, against annexation to Massachusetts.*

NORTHAM 4. 1 Moneth.

HONOURED SIR:—

Wee the Inhabitants of Northam make bould to trouble you wth theise few lynes Certifyinge yo^r that wheras wee suppose Captaine Underhill hath informed yo^r & the rest of your brethren of the Matetusheth baye that wee are all willinge voluntarily to submit our selues to your gouernment vpon fformer Articles propounded; truth it is wee doe very well aproue of your Judicious wayes & shalbe very ioyfull if please god to enlarge vs that wee may be free from other ingagments & pmises wth some of vs are obliged in to the owners or patentees from whom vnder his Mat^r Letter Pattents wee enioy our free liberty: wth causeth vs not for present to submit to any other gouernment then that wth wee haue already entred into Combination to obserue acordinge to the Kings Mat^r lawes vntill such time as the owners come over to vs wth wee suppose wilbe about three Moneths hence and then our ppositions Considered as the Lord shall direct vs wee will labour more to satisfy yo^r. But for the pceedings of Captayne Vnderhill seeking to vndermyne vs and contrary to his oath & fidellyty as we suppose intrusted to him hath went from house to house & for his owne ende by flattery & threatning gotten some hands to a note of their willingnes to submitt themselves vnder your gouernment & some of those are men of other Combinations others Strangers that haue noe habitation to bring his purposes to past, wee doubt not but you are to well acquaynted wth his Stratagems in plotting his owne designes wth wee refer to you^r graue iudgment sume of those that subscribed to his note haue this day vtterly ptested against their owne act, for he hath raysed such a Mutinie amongst vs wth if we take not Course for the stopinge therof it maye Cause the effusion of blood by reason he hath by his designes privately rent the Combination as much as in him lyeth. Contrary to his act that is that wee should continue in the same gōumt except an agreemt or cause shewed to the Contrary in open Court agreed on by the Maior pte. thus Much we thought good to acquaynt you^r Wor^{sh} wthall beseeching you^r favorable constructiō hopinge yo^r will weigh ou^r Case in equity & Conscience & not any way to

* A copy generously made from the original in his possession, by John S. H. Fogg, M. D., of South Boston, Mass.

enforce vs to any act wherby wee should breake pmise or Couenant wth the patentees or amongst ou^r selues wth in soe doinge we should sinne greatly: wee heartly desire you^r prayers for vs & comit yo^r to the ptection of the Almightye at yo^r [] to be comand^d.

Thom Larkham.	the mke of Bartholo-	William Storer.
William Jones.	mew [V] Hunt.	the marke [H] of John
John ffollett.	William Waldern.	Hall.
Robert Nanney.	Sig. John Tuttle.	Phillip Swaddow.
Thomas Durston.	Henry beck.	Richard Waldern.
Thomas Roberts.	Thomas [T] Layton, m ^k .	Edward Colcord.
Samuel Haines.	Edward Starbuck.	[R] Sig Robert Huckins.
Bartholomew Smith.	William Pomfrett.	Richard Pinkcom.
John Dam.	William furbur.	Thomas Trickey.

II. A Tax List* of the Year 1659.

A Raet mad for m^r Raners Prouietion at 2d in the pound for Douer the 22 : 9; [16] 59

Great Rate†							Great Rate						
Tho layton	2	11	0	5	2	0	m ^r Iudecues Edlin	0	5	0	0	10	0
John Damm sinyer	1	10	0	3	0	0	James nutt sinyer	0	12	7	1	5	2
John Hall decon	0	18	6	1	17	0	Jeremie Tebutt	0	13	0	1	6	0
will Pomfrett	0	12	0	1	4	0	Henry Tebutt	0	14	4	1	8	8
m ^r Roberds	0	6	7	0	13	2	Tho nocke	0	8	0	0	16	0
Tho downes	0	9	0	0	18	0	Jonathan Hillton	0	5	0	0	10	0
m ^r Cimball	0	10	0	1	0	0	Isake Stokes	0	5	0	0	10	0
m ^r Edmond Busnall	2	3	4	4	6	8	M ^r Buckner	0	8	4	0	16	8
M ^r Chadwell	0	5	0	0	10	0	Raphl Thwamly	0	11	6	1	3	0
moses Chadwell	0	5	0	0	10	0	Thomas Hanson	1	5	4	2	10	8
Benjamin Chadwell	0	5	0	0	10	0	william ferbush	0	5	0	0	10	0
John Stathom	0	5	0	0	10	0	Elder Starbuck	1	13	4	3	6	8
Richard Knight	0	5	0	0	10	0	nathanell Starbuck	0	10	0	1	0	0
m ^r Clemants	0	16	8	1	13	4	Robert Jones	1	11	8	3	3	4
m ^r Reaner	1	7	4	2	14	8	John ash	0	5	0	0	10	0
Tho Beard	1	12	4	3	14	8	Petter Coffin	1	5	0	2	10	0
william hakett	0	5	0	0	10	0	micam [blank]	0	5	0	0	10	0
william Jones	0	5	0	0	10	0	Cristin Dalak	0	5	0	0	10	0
John Tuttell	0	5	4	0	10	8	welsh Jams Grant	0	8	6	0	17	0
left Hall	0	13	3	1	6	6	Petter Grant	0	5	0	0	10	0
wedoe storey	0	8	3	0	16	6	m ^r Tho wiggin	0	19	2	1	18	4
Elder nutter	1	5	0	2	10	0	Gorge Weden	0	5	0	0	10	0
Tho Caney	1	18	4	3	16	8	Jeremi marcom	0	5	0	0	10	0
Tho Roberds	0	14	8	1	9	4	Phelep Cromwell	0	9	6	0	19	0
John Roberds	1	6	8	2	13	4	Richard Otes	0	19	2	1	18	4

* This list is an exact copy of the original.

† The "great rate" was the general town tax. The first three columns of figures (respectively pounds, shillings and pence) were the tax for the minister's support.

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Great Rate							Great Rate						
Joseph Astin	1	13	9	3	7	6	Richard Rooe	0	8	0	0	16	0
John Hard	1	11	6	3	3	0	Thomas Treick	0	15	8	1	11	4
m ^r Goldwier	1	13	4	3	6	8	Michikell Brane	0	9	4	0	18	8
his man	0	5	0	0	10	0	James Ralliens	0	17	0	1	14	0
Cap ^t wallden	4	11	2	9	2	4	Richard Keater	1	4	4	2	8	8
m ^r Gorge wallden	0	5	2	0	10	4	John Bickford	0	14	10	1	9	8
Elder wentworth	1	10	4	3	0	8	henry lankster	1	9	2	2	18	4
Samewell wentworth	0	5	0	0	10	0	henry hobes	0	19	4	1	18	8
Umfrey Varney	0	5	0	0	10	0	Richard Toser	0	6	0	0	12	0
John louring	0	16	8	1	13	4	m ^r Andrew wiggin	1	0	0	2	0	0
Will Horne	1	6	2	0	12	4	m ^r Brogton	0	16	8	2	13	4
Joseph Sanders	0	5	0	0	10	0	Gorge vesey	0	5	0	0	10	0
William Sheffild	0	10	4	1	0	8	william Smeth	0	5	0	0	10	0
Tho Payne	0	5	2	0	10	4	niuin the Scot	0	5	0	0	10	0
Richard Morgin	0	6	8	0	13	4	James keid	0	5	0	0	10	0
Sargant Hall	2	3	4	4	6	8	laserres Permet	0	5	0	0	10	0
William flurber	1	4	8	2	9	4	William Tomson	0	5	0	0	10	0
Antoney nutter	1	8	3	2	16	6	Jedediae Andres	0	9	4	0	18	8
John Dam Juner	0	12	0	1	4	0							

The prices of the prouetions:—

Bef at 3d p lb
 pork at 4d p lb
 wheat 5s p boshell
 Pease 4s p bosh
 malt 6s p bosh
 Barle 5s 6d p bosh
 buter 6d p lb
 Chese at prise Corant

These prouetions are to be brought in
 to m^r Reaners forthwith after demand
 heir of and apon non performanc heir
 of we give our Constabell full power to
 straine apon eurey Delinquent for thear
 defeckt.

The Oyster River people at that time had a separate meeting, and
 paid a separate tax:—

Oyster Riuer Prouition Rate maed the 22 : 9 : [16]59.

the great Rate							the great Rate						
	£	s	d	£	s	d		£	s	d	£	s	d
M ^r Hill	2	12	8	5	5	4	Phellep Chesly	1	12	8	3	5	4
Thomas unrie the stiller	0	8	4	0	16	8	Robert Junkes	0	8	4	0	16	8
John meader	0	13	4	1	6	8	James Jackson	0	5	0	0	10	0
william Graues	0	5	0	0	10	0	Walter Jackson	0	5	0	0	10	0
Einsin Ionhn Daues	0	15	0	1	10	0	William Beard	2	7	8	4	15	4
Juner william will- yams	0	8	0	0	16	0	John woodman	0	15	0	1	10	0
James Bunker	0	8	0	0	16	0	Patrick Jemeson	0	15	0	1	10	0
Will follett	1	0	0	2	0	0	Henrey Browne	0	10	0	1	0	0
Thomas Jonson	0	13	4	1	6	8	Thomas Dowty	0	10	0	1	0	0
							James Oer	0	10	0	1	0	0
							James medellman	0	10	0	1	0	0

	£	s	d	£	s	d		£	s	d	£	s	d
Edward Arwin	0	10	0	1	0	0	Richard Braye	0	6	10	0	13	8
John Barber	0	5	0	0	10	0	John Hill	0	6	8	0	13	4
Edward Patterson	0	10	0	1	0	0	Thomas footman	1	3	4	2	6	8
Robert Bernom	1	6	8	2	13	4	Richard yorke	0	19	4	1	18	8
William Pitman	0	10	0	1	0	0	John martin	0	18	0	1	16	0
William Roberds	0	10	0	1	0	0	John Godder	1	14	8	3	9	4
William Willyams							Beniamen Hull	0	8	4	0	16	8
sin	1	5	8	2	11	4	John Hillton	0	6	8	0	13	4
Thomas Steuenson	0	13	4	1	6	8	James Nutt Juner	0	5	0	0	10	0
William Drew	0	11	8	1	3	4	Olleuer kent	0	8	4	0	16	8
Rice howell	0	5	0	0	10	0	John hance	0	5	0	0	10	0
Joseph filld	0	8	4	0	16	8	John Diuill	0	5	0	0	10	0
Matthew Gills	1	6	8	2	13	4	Robert Hussey	0	5	0	0	10	0
mathew willyams	0	10	6	1	1	0	William Risley	0	5	0	0	10	0
Beniamen mathews	1	5	0	2	10	0	Thomas Green	0	5	0	0	10	0
Charlls Adames	0	13	0	1	6	8	Steuen y* westin-						
John Bickford	1	6	8	2	13	4	man	0	5	0	0	10	0
Thomas welley	0	18	4	1	16	8	Will Jones	0	5	0	0	10	0
John Allt	0	19	10	1	19	8							

III. Conveyance of the present Meeting-House Lot.

TO ALL PEOPLE to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting Know you that I Joseph Hanson Esq^r of Dover in y^e Prov^t of New Hamp^t in New England Gent^e for & in consideration of y^e Sum of Six Hundred Pounds Old Tenor to me in Hand before y^e Ensealing hereof well & truly paid by Mess^{rs} John Hayes John Wood Shadrach Hodgdon & Daniel Ham Deacons of y^e Church of Christ in Dover Feoffees in Trust for a certain Society hereafter mentioned y^e Receipt I do hereby Acknowledge & thereof do Acquit & discharge them y^e s^d Hayes Wood Hodgdon & Ham & their Heirs forever Have given Granted Bargained & Sold & by these Presents do freely fully & absolutely Give grant Bargain Sell aliene convey & confirm unto him y^e s^d Jn^s Hayes Jn^s Wood Shadrach Hodgdon & Dan^s Ham & to their successors in y^e Office of Deacon or Deacons & in y^e Trust for y^e Society afores^d A certain Parcel of land lying & being in Dover afores^d on y^e North Westerly side of y^e main road that leads from Dover Neck to Cochecha Bridge & on y^e North Easterly side of y^e road that leads from y^e afores^d road to Littleworth containing one fourth Part of an acre of forty Square rods butted & bounded as followeth (vizⁿ) Beginning by y^e afores^d main road two rods & an half from y^e South Easterly Corner of s^d Hanson's land & from thence runing North forty four Degrees East as s^d Road runs Eight rods from thence runing North forty six Degrees West five rods [to] a Stake from thence runing South forty four Degrees West Eight rods to a Stake & from thence runing South forty six Degrees East five rods to y^e first mentioned bounds which s^d land is hereby conveyed unto y^e afores^d Deacons and their Successors in s^d Office forever as Feoffees in trust for y^e afores^d Church & Regular Congregation & Society of Dissentions from y^e Estab-

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lished Church of England in s^d Town of Dover & Shall be to y^e Sole Use Benefit & Behoof of s^d Society forever to Erect or Build thereon a Meeting House or Meeting Houses as they Shall See fit for y^e Publick Worship of God & therein from time to time to Attend & Perform y^e Duties of Publick Worship According to Order of y^e Gospel without Let trouble or Moles- tation from any Person or Persons whatsoever To HAVE & HOLD y^e s^d Granted & Bargained Premises together with all their Appurtenances to them y^e s^d Deacons & their Successors in s^d Office forever as Trustees for y^e Society afores^d as a good & Absolute Estate of Inheritance forever & I y^e s^d Joseph Hanson for myself my Heirs Execu^r & Admin^r do Covenant & En- gage y^e foregoing Premises to them y^e s^d Jn^s Hayes Jn^s. Wood Shadrach Hodgdon & Daniel Ham Deacons & to their Successors in s^d Office forever as feeoffees in Trust for y^e Society afores^d against y^e lawful claims & De- mands of any Person or p^eersons whatsoever forever after to warrant Secure & Defend by these Presents In Witness whereof I do hereunto set my hand & Seal this 10th day of July Anno Domini 1758 & in y^e 32^d year of his Maj^s Reign.

Joseph Hanson [Seal]

Sign'd Sealed & Delivered

In y^e Presenc of us

Tho^s Wallingsford

Eleazar Young Jun^r

Prov^r. of New Hamp^s. Dover July 10th 1758

Then y^e abovenamed Joseph Hanson Esq^r Personally Appearing before me y^e Subscriber & Acknowledged y^e within & foregoing Instrument to be his free Act & deed

Tho^s Wallingsford Just. Pacis

Received & Recorded 15th June 1759

D Peirce Rec^d

[Rockingham Registry of Deeds, Vol. 58, page 191.]

IV. List of Wardens of the First Parish.*

Prior to the incorporation of the parish as distinct from the town, its business was transacted by the selectmen and other town officers. From its incorporation, in 1762, "wardens" were chosen annually, almost always in March, after the election in 1762, which was in August. The following is a list year by year: —

1762. Nathaniel Kimball, Lt. Shadrach Hodgdon, Dea. Daniel Ham.

1763. Capt. John Gage, Lt. Dudley Watson, Lt. Joshua Wingate.

1764. Jonathan Hayes, Stephen Evans, John Titcomb.

1765. Humphrey Hanson, Moses Ham, Jonathan Hayes.

1766. Samuel Emerson, Ichabod Hayes, Thomas Westbrook Waldron.

1767. Moses Ham (Capt. John Gage declined), Lt. Joshua Wingate (Capt. How-
ard Henderson declined), Capt. Thomas Westbrook Waldron.

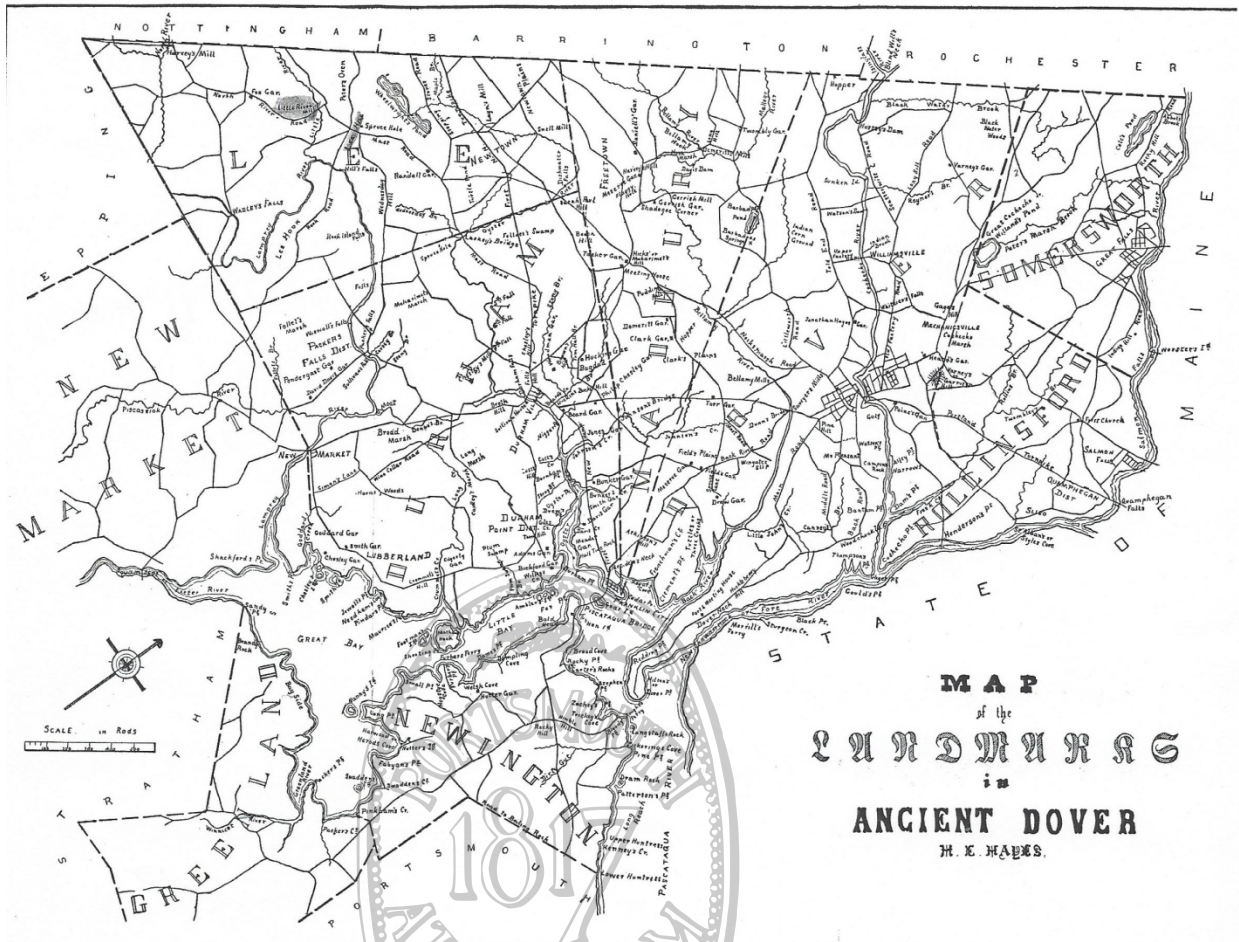
1768. Otis Baker, Esq., James Young, Richard Kimball.

1769. John Kielle, John Waldron, 3d, Moses Wingate, jr.
1770. Moses Wingate, jr., Capt. John Gage, Job Clements.
1771. Moses Wingate, jr., Capt. John Gage, Ichabod Horne.
1772. Job Clements, Capt. John Gage, Moses Wingate, jr.
1773. Nathaniel Cooper, Ephraim Kimball, Moses Wingate.
1774. Benjamin Titcomb, Nathaniel Cooper, Benjamin Church.
1775. Benjamin Titcomb, Aaron Wingate, Benjamin Church.
1776. Aaron Wingate, Benjamin Peirce, Benjamin Church.
1777. Benjamin Peirce, Aaron Wingate, Ensign Samuel Heard.
1778. Aaron Wingate, Benjamin Peirce, Ensign Samuel Heard.
1779. Aaron Wingate, Ensign Samuel Heard, Benjamin Peirce.
1780. Ensign Samuel Heard, Benjamin Peirce, Moses Wingate.
1781. Moses Wingate, Samuel Heard, Thomas Shannon.
1782. Samuel Kielle, Capt. James Libbey, John Ham.
1783. Samuel Kielle, John Ham, Capt. James Libbey.
1784. Dr. Ezra Green, Capt. James Libbey, Major Benjamin Titcomb.
1785. Capt. James Libbey (resigned in July), Capt. John Gage, Joseph Richardson (resigned in July), John B. Hanson, Major Ebenezer Tebbets.
1786. Ebenezer Tebbets, Dr. Ezra Green, Major Benjamin Titcomb.
1787. Dr. Ezra Green, Major Ebenezer Tebbets, Col. Benjamin Titcomb.
1788. Capt. Moses Wingate, Ensign Samuel Heard, Dodavah Ham.
1789. Capt. Moses Wingate, Dodavah Ham, Dea. Benjamin Peirce.
1790. Capt. Moses Wingate, Dea. Benjamin Peirce, Ezekiel Hayes.
1791. Dea. Benjamin Peirce, Capt. Moses Wingate, Ezekiel Hayes.
1792. Aaron Roberts, Dea. Benjamin Peirce, Capt. Moses Wingate.
1793. Dea. Benjamin Peirce, Andrew Torr, Dominicus Hanson.
1794. Dea. Benjamin Peirce, Andrew Torr, Dominicus Hanson.
1795. Dea. Benjamin Peirce, Andrew Torr, Dominicus Hanson.
1796. Dea. Benjamin Peirce, Andrew Torr, Dominicus Hanson.
1797. Dea. Benjamin Peirce, Dominicus Hanson, Andrew Torr.
1798. Dea. Benjamin Peirce, Dominicus Hanson, Andrew Torr.
1799. Dea. Benjamin Peirce, Andrew Torr, Dominicus Hanson.
1800. Dea. Benjamin Peirce, Andrew Torr, Dominicus Hanson.
1801. Dea. Benjamin Peirce, Andrew Torr, Dominicus Hanson.
1802. Dea. Benjamin Peirce, Andrew Torr, Dominicus Hanson.
1803. Dea. Benjamin Peirce, Dominicus Hanson, Philemon Chandler.
1804. Dea. Benjamin Peirce, (Andrew Torr declined,) Dominicus Hanson, Philemon Chandler.
1805. Dea. Benjamin Peirce, Dominicus Hanson, Philemon Chandler.
1806. Dea. Benjamin Peirce, Dominicus Hanson, Ezra Young.
1807. Dea. Benjamin Peirce, Dominicus Hanson, Ezra Young.
1808. Dea. Benjamin Peirce, Dominicus Hanson, Ezra Young.
1809. Dea. Benjamin Peirce, Dominicus Hanson, Ezra Young.
1810. Dea. Benjamin Peirce, Dominicus Hanson, Ezra Young.
1811. Dominicus Hanson, John W. Hayes, Moses Hodgdon.
1812. Dominicus Hanson, Moses Hodgdon, John W. Hayes.
1813. Dominicus Hanson, Moses Hodgdon, John W. Hayes.
1814. Dominicus Hanson, Moses Hodgdon, John W. Hayes.
1815. Moses Hodgdon, Dominicus Hanson, John Wingate Hayes.
1816. Moses Hodgdon, John W. Hayes, William Woodman.

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1817. Moses Hodgdon, John W. Hayes, William Woodman.
 1818. Moses Hodgdon, John W. Hayes, William Woodman.
 1819. Moses Hodgdon, John W. Hayes, William Woodman.
 1820. Moses Hodgdon, John W. Hayes, William Woodman.
 1821. Moses Hodgdon, John W. Hayes, William Woodman.
 1822. Moses Hodgdon, John W. Hayes, William Woodman.
 1823. Moses Hodgdon, John W. Hayes, William Woodman.
 1824. Moses Hodgdon, John W. Hayes, William Woodman.
 1825. Moses Hodgdon, John W. Hayes, William Woodman.
 1826. Moses Hodgdon, John W. Hayes, William Woodman.
 1827. Moses Hodgdon, John W. Hayes, William Woodman.
 1828. Moses Hodgdon, John W. Hayes, William Woodman.
 1829. Moses Hodgdon, John W. Hayes, William Woodman.
 1830. Moses Hodgdon, John W. Hayes, William Woodman.
 1831. Moses Hodgdon, John W. Hayes, William Woodman.
 1832. Moses Hodgdon, John W. Hayes, William Woodman, John Riley, Andrew Peirce.
 1833. Moses Hodgdon, John Riley, Andrew Peirce.
 1834. William Palmer, John H. Wheeler, William Plaisted Drew.
 1835. William Plaisted Drew, John H. Wheeler, Joshua Banfield.
 1836. William Plaisted Drew, Samuel Wyatt, Hosea Sawyer.
 1837. Hosea Sawyer, Nathaniel Low, Francis Cogswell.
 1838. Francis Cogswell, Samuel Wyatt, Rufus Flagg.
 1839. Rufus Flagg, William Plaisted Drew, Asa Freeman.
 1840. Asa Farnsworth, Edmund J. Lane, William Plaisted Drew.
 1841. Edmund J. Lane, William Plaisted Drew, William L. Chandler.
 1842. Edmund J. Lane, William Plaisted Drew, William L. Chandler.
 1843. Edmund J. Lane, William Plaisted Drew, William L. Chandler.
 1844. Edmund J. Lane, William Plaisted Drew, William L. Chandler.
 1845. Edmund J. Lane, William Plaisted Drew, William L. Chandler.
 1846. Edmund J. Lane, William Plaisted Drew, William L. Chandler.
 1847. Edmund J. Lane, William Plaisted Drew, William L. Chandler.
 1848. Amos Sargent, Peter Cushing, 2d, Charles Woodman (George Quint declined).
 1849. Peter Cushing, 2d, Silas Moody, Josiah Hall.
 1850. Peter Cushing, 2d, Silas Moody, John H. Wheeler.
 1851. Peter Cushing, 2d, Silas Moody, John H. Wheeler.
 1852. Peter Cushing, 2d, Silas Moody, Joshua Banfield.
 1853. Joshua Banfield, William L. Chandler, Isaac A. Porter.
 1854. Joshua Banfield, William L. Chandler, Isaac A. Porter.
 1855. Peter Cushing, 2d, Silas Moody, John B. Sargent.
 1856. John B. Sargent, Joseph W. Welch, Joseph Mann.
 1857. Joseph W. Welch, John B. Sargent, Joseph Mann.
 1858. Edmund J. Lane, Joseph W. Welch, Joseph Mann.
 1859. Edmund J. Lane, Joseph W. Welch, Joseph Mann.
 1860. Edmund J. Lane, Oliver Wyatt, Joseph Mann.
 1861. Edmund J. Lane, Oliver Wyatt, Joseph Mann.
 1862. Edmund J. Lane, Joshua G. Hall, Joseph Mann.
 1863. Edmund J. Lane, Joshua G. Hall, Joseph Mann.
 1864. Edmund J. Lane, Richard N. Ross, Dr. Levi G. Hill.
 1865. Edmund J. Lane, Richard N. Ross, Dr. Levi G. Hill.

1866. Benjamin Parker Peirce, William R. Tapley, John Q. A. Smith.
 1867. George W. Benn, Dr. John R. Ham, Joseph W. Wingate.
 1868. Joseph W. Wingate, George W. Benn (resigned in August), Dr. John R. Ham (resigned in August), Peter Cushing and Silas Moody, chosen 15 August.
 1869. Dr. Thomas J. W. Pray, Andrew H. Young, Dr. John R. Ham.
 1870. Dr. Thomas J. W. Pray, Dr. James H. Wheeler, John R. Varney.
 1871. John R. Varney, Dr. James H. Wheeler, Dr. Levi G. Hill.
 1872. Dr. James H. Wheeler, Dr. Levi G. Hill, John R. Varney, Charles A. Faxon, William Grime, Peter Cushing, Elvin C. Kinnear.
 1873. Peter Cushing, Solomon H. Foye, William Grime, Charles A. Faxon, Russell B. Wiggin, Charles M. Murphy, Theodore W. Woodman.
 1874. Solomon H. Foye, William Grime, Charles M. Murphy, Elisha R. Brown, Jeremiah Y. Wingate, George W. Benn, Edmund B. Lane.
 1875. George W. Benn, Elisha R. Brown, Jeremiah Y. Wingate, William Eadie, Ebenezer F. Faxon, Edmund B. Lane.
 1876. William Eadie, Alvah Moulton, Jacob M. Willey, John C. Tasker, James H. Davis, Elisha R. Brown, Solomon H. Foye.
 1877. John C. Tasker, Thomas E. Cushing, Alvah Moulton, William H. Vickery, John Smellie.
 1878. John C. Tasker, Thomas E. Cushing, Alvah Moulton, William H. Vickery, John Smellie.
 1879. Augustus B. Burwell, Charles Porter, Elisha R. Brown.
 1880. Charles Porter, Augustus B. Burwell, Dr. John R. Ham.
 1881. Samuel C. Fisher, Benjamin Franklin Nealley, Andrew H. Young.
 1882. Samuel C. Fisher, Andrew H. Young, Benjamin Franklin Nealley.
 1883. Samuel C. Fisher, Andrew H. Young, Benjamin Franklin Nealley.
 1884. Samuel C. Fisher, Andrew H. Young, Benjamin Franklin Nealley.



Map of Oyster River from 'Landmarks in Ancient Dover' by Mary Pickering Thompson, 1892

Oyster River Massacre – 1694

The Oyster River Massacre (known to the French and Indians as the 'Raid on Oyster River') happened during King William's War, on July 18, 1694 at present-day Durham, New Hampshire.



Durham, Strafford, New Hampshire

Until the year 1732, this place formed part of the township of Dover and was five or six miles from Dover proper; it was always a distinct settlement and had a separate history from the first.

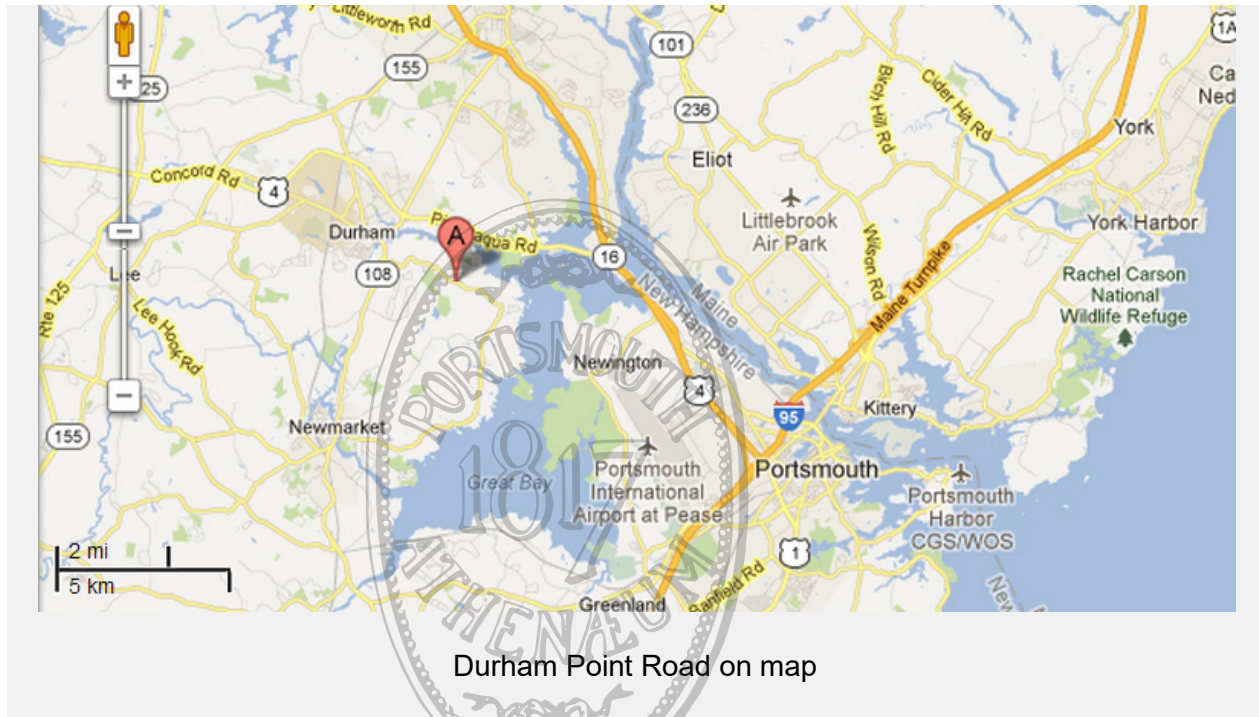


circa 1667 Map of The Piscataqua & Oyster River by John Scott (See full map below)

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The name of "Oyster River" was given by the early pioneers to the Indian Shankhassick, a branch of the Piscataqua, on the banks of which they had found a bed of oysters. This

stream has a channel broad and deep enough for shipping as far as the head of tide-water—that is, to the falls in Durham village, which is about two miles from its mouth and ten miles from Portsmouth harbor. There was no village here, however, in 1694. At that time there was a cordon of twelve garrisons along both sides of the river below, in which, at the least signal of danger from the Indians, those scattered settlers took refuge whose houses were without means of defense. But the meeting-house, the parsonage, the licensed tavern, and the center of local affairs were then on the south side of the river, more than a mile below the falls, on the tongue of land between the Oyster and Piscataqua rivers, now known as Durham Point.



This point is a rough, hilly tract of land, whose heights afford some delightful views across the tidal streams that enclose it. At that time Durham Point was alive with the activity of the early colonists, who were engaged in fisheries and in supplying lumber for a foreign market, as well as in agriculture.



View from Durham Point Road

A force of about 250 Indians under command of the French soldier, Claude-Sébastien de Villieu, and “the fighting priest” Fr. Louis-Pierre Thury attacked settlements in this area on both sides of the Oyster River, killing or capturing approximately 100 settlers, destroying five garrison houses and numerous dwellings. It was the most devastating French and Indian raid on New England during King William’s war. Reverend John Pike wrote in his diary: *“The Indians fell suddenly & unexpectedly upon Oyster River about break of Day. Took 3 Garrisons (being deserted or not defended) killed & carried away 94 persons, & burnt 13 houses-this was the first act of hostility committed by them after ye peace concluded at Pemmaquid.”*

Where were the Catholic missionaries during the carnage at Oyster River? Belknap only speaks of one; but according to the Durham tradition there were two priests in the expedition. They are said to have taken refuge in the meeting-house, and, without doubt, saved that building from destruction when the neighboring houses, including the parsonage, were burnt to the ground. No credit has been given them for this protection, and a poor return was made when our troops afterward pillaged and then burnt more than one Catholic church among the Indian missions of Maine. In view of this the priests in the Oyster River meeting-house may certainly be pardoned for the trifling act that has been made almost a matter of accusation against them. The local accounts say that while there they “amused themselves” in writing on the pulpit.

The Catholic missionaries seem to have done their utmost to rescue the women and children, at least, from the hands of the savages and place them in good families in Canada, where they were treated with invariable kindness and Christian charity, as is manifest from the accounts given at their return, several of which have been published. Most of the children, at least the girls, were sent to the schools at Quebec and Montreal to be educated, and some of these it is difficult to identify for they generally received new Christian names in baptism, instead of the Old Testament names in vogue among the Puritans, and their surnames, uncouth to French ears, were phonetically recorded,

and thereby transformed almost beyond recognition. Otis, for instance, was written Autes, Hotesse, and even Thys; Hubbard was changed to Ouabard; Willey to Ouilli, Houellet, and Willis; Wheeler to Huiller; Bracket to Bracquil, etc. These are all Oyster River or Dover names. One pupil was registered at Quebec as "Nimbe II." Her real name was Naomi Hill. Many of the surnames were dropped in despair, and "Auglaise" substituted. Among the captives at the Ursuline school in Quebec, about the year 1700, were Marie Elisabeth Anglaise, Marie Francoise Anglaise, Anne Marie Anglaise, and so on, to the number of eight or more, with no other -surname.

In western Maine, the years of 1687 and 1688 brought with them a heightening of tensions between the Abenaki and their English neighbors. Increased settlement, especially near the mouth of the Saco River, triggered a series of conflicts over fishing rights, livestock, and land ownership. The English placed nets across the Saco River, blocking migrating fish, a major Abenaki food source in the spring. English cattle continually damaged the local tribe's unfenced corn fields. The leaders of the Saco Indians approached the English complaining, "that the corn, [the English had]promised by the last treaty, had not been paid, and yet their own was destroyed by the cattle of the English; and that they, being deprived of their hunting and fishing berths, and their lands, were liable to perish of hunger."

The Abenaki complaints fell on deaf ears. English failure to address these complaints violated a 1685 treaty that established mechanisms for resolving such difficulties. Frustrated in their attempts at diplomacy, the Saco killed the offending cattle during the summer of 1688. In August, a dispute between settlers and Indians at North Yarmouth ended violently with casualties on both sides. Prompted by this Indian uprising, Benjamin Blackman, justice of the peace at Saco, ordered the seizure of twenty Indians that he suspected of causing the unrest. The Abenaki responded in kind, capturing several settlers during a raid on New Dartmouth in September 1688.

The Abenaki enjoyed considerable success at the start of the war. In June of 1689, several of the Eastern Indians joined with Kancamagus' Pennacooks in an attack on Cocheco (Dover). That August, the English fort at Pemaquid Point (Maine) was destroyed. Later that same month, a party of sixty Indians returned to New Hampshire, burning the Huckins garrison at Oyster River.

After initial successes in King William's War (1689-98), French and Native aggression waned. Little more than a side show in the Nine Year War, supplies to Canada, especially to Acadia, were often low. Native groups desiring trade goods in exchange for furs (and needing guns, powder, and lead) were at times forced to deal with the treacherously undependable English. With French supply shortages, a desire for trade goods, and the continued gains by the English military, some Penobscot and Kennebec factions felt compelled to sign a treaty with the Governor of Massachusetts, William Phips, at the newly rebuilt Fort William Henry at Pemaquid, Maine in 1693.

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Replica of Fort William Henry in 1909

The reverses of 1692 and 1693 eroded the Abenaki willingness to continue the war. During the summer of 1693, a group of ten to thirteen chiefs, led by Madockawando, began to explore the possibility of peace. The humiliating failures at Wells and Pemaquid exposed the ineffectiveness of the French military alliance. The Abenaki found themselves deceived in the expectation of receiving assistance from the French. The cost of the war and lack of French support crippled the Abenaki economy. Continual war-parties interrupted traditional patterns of food gathering and fur production.

Good Hearts, Stout Men – “The war party of 250 Abenaki Indians that moved through the darkness of the night, concealed within forests, was out for blood. Besides their own chiefs, at the head of the party was Sebastien de Villieu, a 60-year-old French military career officer, and Father Louis-Pierre Thury, a Jesuit priest. Father Thury had previously incited other Abenaki massacres of English Protestants whom he had hatefully considered to be heretics. The Abenakis were determined to slaughter or capture all the English colonists of the New Hampshire Oyster River Plantation, then butcher their livestock and set all their dwellings on fire.

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1667 Map of The Piscataqua by John Scott (See Oyster River Detail above)

When thirteen of the Abenaki chiefs signed the 1693 Treaty of Pemaquid the previous year, the French were alarmed that they might be losing their native allies for further prosecution of their war against the English. Father Thury and other Frenchmen insidiously influenced the younger chiefs to reject what the thirteen older chiefs had decided, suggesting that they were weak-willed cowards who planned to sell tribal land to the encroaching English. The best way to insure future Abenaki loyalty, the French knew, was to induce the disaffected chiefs to mount a treaty-breaking raid against an English settlement. After that, there could be no turning back until the French made peace with the English. Initial war councils of the young chiefs in 1694 had favored Boston as the target of their intended terror, but the Abenakis changed the site of battle to the Oyster River Plantation.

[For the English, the Treaty of Pemaquid was a master stroke. Many of the frontier settlements lay in ruins. Settlers confined to garrisons could not harvest crops. Food shortages were common. Commerce and trade were at a standstill. But now, with the Eastern Tribes under control, New England was free to muster her forces for a second attempt on Quebec. Flushed with success, Phips sent runners to the frontier settlements to proclaim the peace. To a war-weary region this was welcome news indeed. As fall gave way to winter, and no new outbreaks occurred, the settlers began to leave the garrisons, returning to their homes.]

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Only two days before the slaughter, the Oyster River settlers had gathered to belatedly hear — and to cheer — news of the Treaty of Pemaquid. Feeling safe from attack, the neighbors let their guard down, ending the long-held night watches along both sides of the Oyster River.”

The Indian war party approached from the west after sunset, and divided their forces into two divisions, one attacking along the river’s south side and the other on the north side. Detachments of eight to ten Indians were then tasked to strike each of the 12 fortified garrisons and other strong-houses. The Indians believed that settlers in unfortified houses would rush to the garrisons for protection, only to find the Indians waiting to kill them down outside the already-besieged garrisons.”

Jeremy Belknap, continues the story in *The History of New Hampshire*, ed. John Farmer (Dover, N.H.: S.C. Stevens and Ela & Wadleigh, 1831)

The towns of Dover and Exeter being more exposed than Portsmouth or Hampton, suffered the greatest share in the common calamity.

The engagements made by the Indians in the treaty of Pemaquid, might have been performed if they had been left to their own choice. But the French missionaries had been for some years very assiduous in propagating their tenets among them, one of which was ‘that to break faith with heretics was no sin.’ The Sieur de Villieu, who had distinguished himself in the defence of Quebec when Phips was before it, and had contracted a strong antipathy to the New-Englanders, being then in command at Penobscot, he with M. Thury, the missionary, diverted Madokawando and the other Sachems from complying with their engagements; so that pretences were found for detaining the English captives, who were more in number, and of more consequence than the hostages whom the Indians had given.

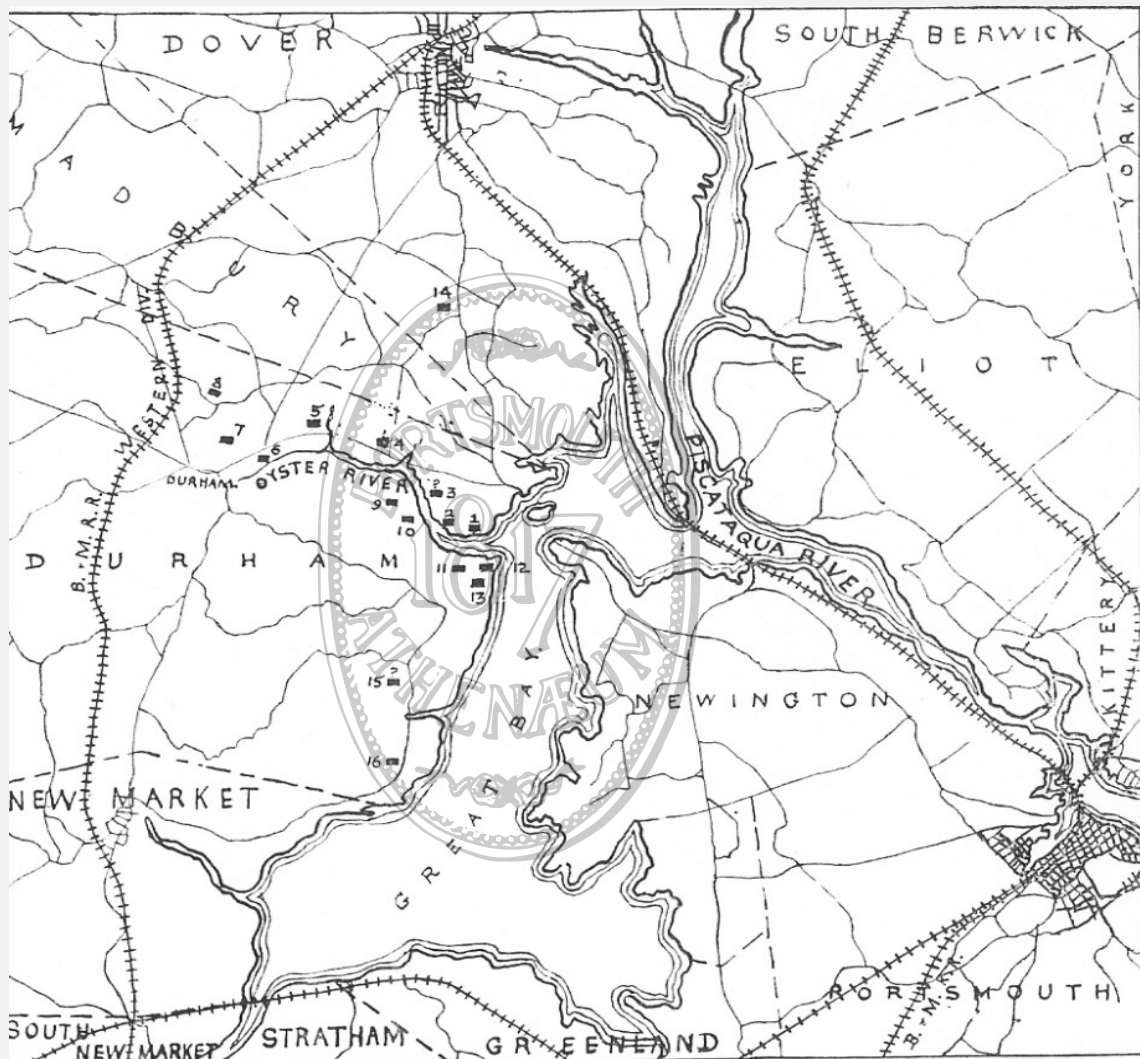
The settlement at Oyster river, within the town of Dover, was pitched upon as the most likely place; and it is said that the design of surprising it was publicly talked of at Quebec two months before it was put in execution.

Rumors of Indians lurking in the woods thereabout made some of the people apprehend danger; but no mischief being attempted, they imagined them to be hunting parties, and returned to their security. At length, the necessary preparations being made, Villieu, with a body of two hundred and fifty Indians, collected from the tribes of St. John, Penobscot and Norridgewog, attended by a French Priest, marched for the devoted place.

The enemy approached the place undiscovered, and halted near the falls on Tuesday evening, the seventeenth of July. Here they formed two divisions, one of which was to go on each side of the river and plant themselves in ambush, in small parties, near every house, so as to be ready for the attack at the rising of the sun; and the first gun was to be the signal.

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John Dean, whose house stood by the saw-mill at the falls, intending to go from home very early, arose before the dawn of day, and was shot as he came out of his door. This firing, in part, disconcerted their plan; several parties who had some distance to go, had not then arrived at their stations; the people in general were immediately alarmed, some of them had time to make their escape, and others to prepare for their defense. The signal being given, the attack began in all parts where the enemy was ready.



Map showing location of Garrison Houses in the settlements at Dover, N. H.

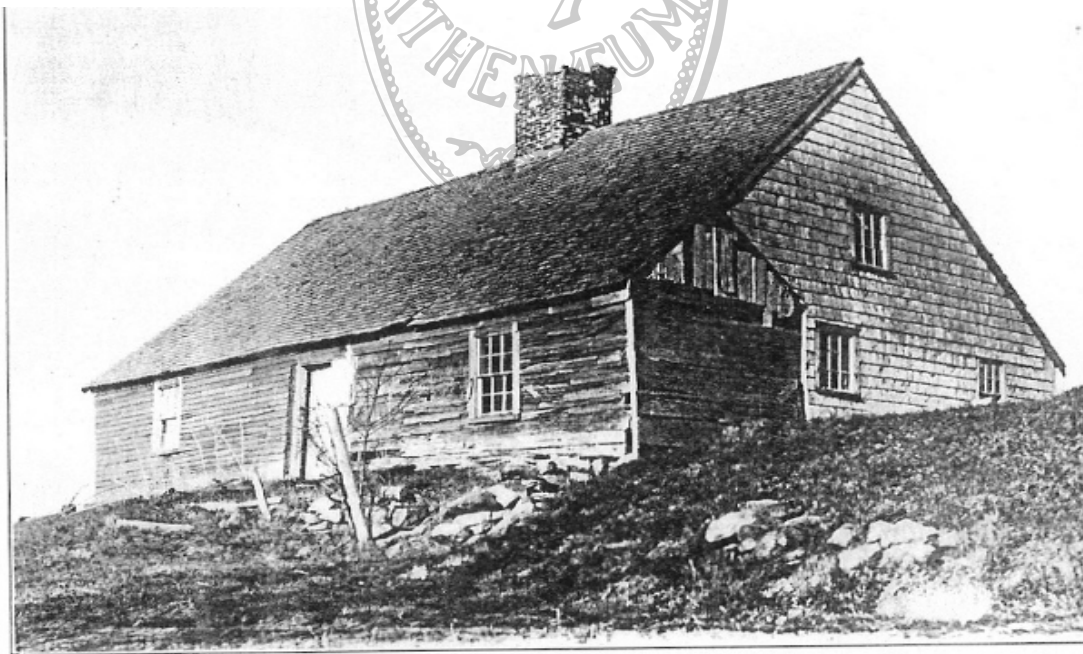
MEADER, 2. DAVIS, 3. SMITH, 4. BUNKER, 5. JONES, 6. BEARD, 7. WOODMAN, 8. HUCKINS, 9. BURNHAM, 10. DAMME, 11. ADAMS, 12. BICKFORD, 13. EDGERLY, 14. MESERVE, 15. EDGERLY, 16. SMITH.

Map of Dover Garrison Houses

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Of the twelve garrisoned houses five were destroyed, viz. (11.) Adams's, Drew's, (13.) Edgerly's, (1.) Medar's and (6.) Beard's. They entered (11.) Adams's without resistance, where they killed fourteen persons ; one of them, being a woman with child, they ripped open. The grave is still to be seen in which they were all buried. Drew surrendered his garrison on the promise of security, but was murdered when he fell into their hands. One of his children, a boy of nine years old, was made to run through a lane of Indians as a mark for them to throw their hatchets at, till they had dispatched him. Edgerly's was evacuated. The people took to their boat, and one of them was mortally wounded before they got out of reach of the enemy's shot. Beard's and Medar's were also evacuated and the people escaped.

The defenceless houses were nearly all set on fire, the inhabitants being either lulled or taken in them, or else in endeavoring to fly to the garrisons. Some escaped by hiding in the bushes and other secret places. Thomas Edgerly, by concealing himself in his cellar, preserved his house, though twice set on fire. The house of John Buss, the minister, was destroyed, with a valuable library. He was absent; his wife and family fled to the woods and escaped. The wife of John Dean, at whom the first gun was fired, was taken with her daughter, and carried about two miles up the river, where they were left under the care of an old Indian, while the others returned to their bloody work. The Indian complained of a pain in his head, and asked the woman what would be a proper remedy : she answered, occapee, which is the Indian word for rum, of which she knew he had taken a bottle from her house. The remedy being agreeable, he took a large dose and fell asleep ; and she took that opportunity to make her escape, with her child, into the woods, and kept herself concealed till they were gone.

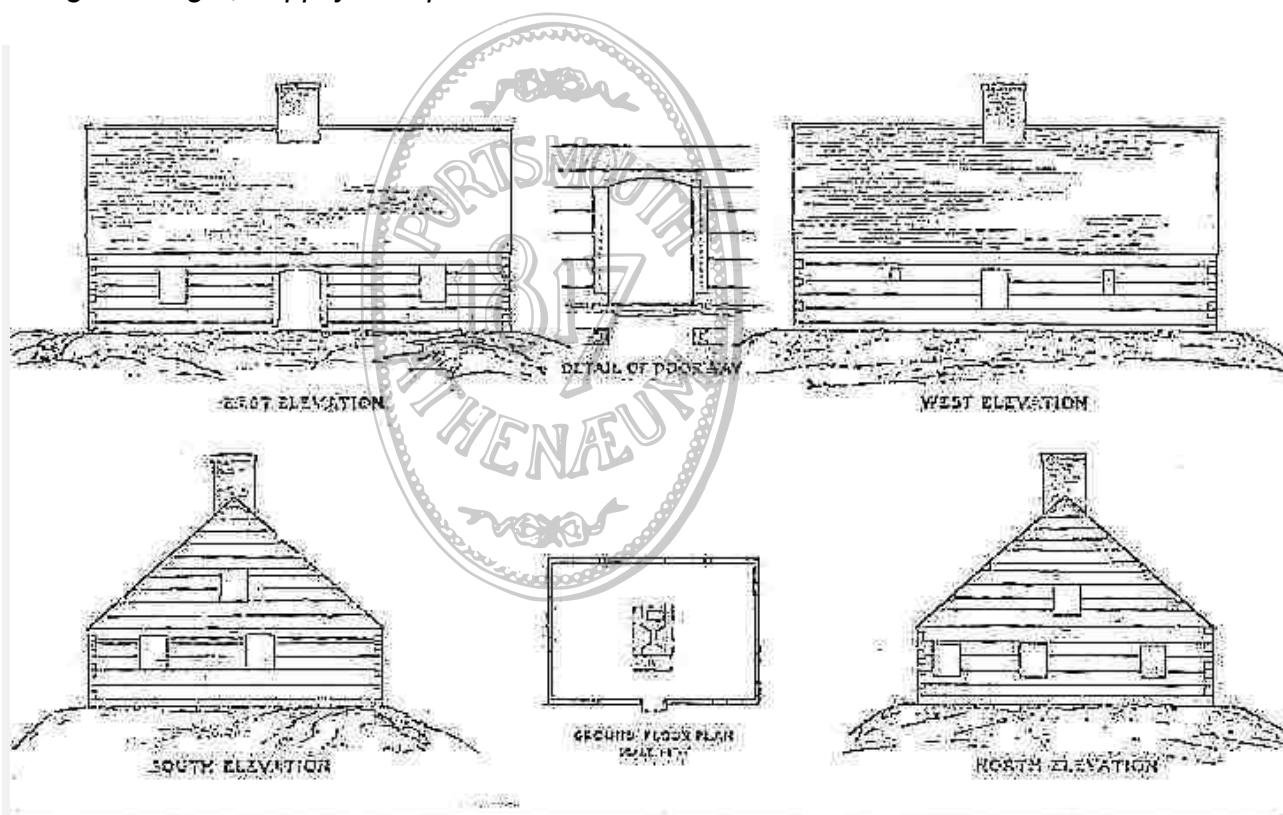


Bunker Garrison House, Durham, N. H.

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James Bunker built a fortified home in 1652 known as Bunker's Garrison (4. on map above) in the Oyster River Plantation area. Two soldiers were assigned to his garrison and he was paid £5/6/0 for their upkeep between 25 Jul 1693 and 24 Nov 1694.

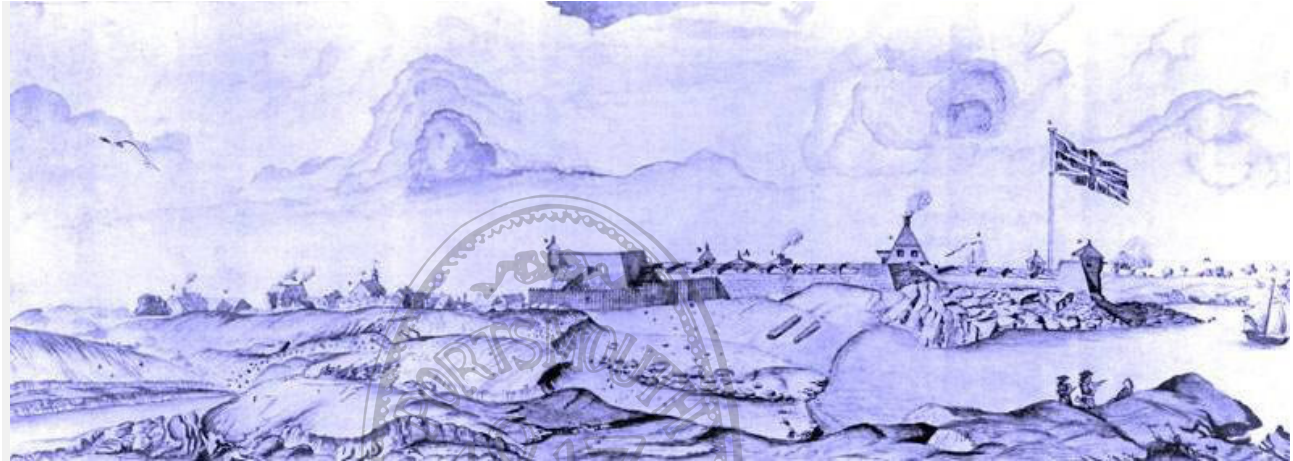
The other seven garrisons, viz. (9.) Burnham's, (12.) Bickford's, (3.) Smith's, (4.) Bunker's, (2.) Davis's, (5.) Jones's and (7.) Woodman's were resolutely and successfully defended. At Burnham's, the gate was left open : The Indians, ten in number, who were appointed to surprise it, were asleep under the bank of the river, at the time that the alarm was given. A man within, who had been kept awake by the toothache, hearing the first gun, roused the people and secured the gate, just as the Indians, who were awakened by the same noise, were entering. Finding themselves disappointed, they ran to Pitman's defenceless house, and forced the door at the moment, that he had burst a way through that end of the house which was next to the garrison, to which he with his family, taking advantage of the shade of some trees, it being moonlight, happily escaped.



Bunker Garrison Plan — The walls, except the gable ends, were of hewn hemlock logs, nine inches in thickness. There were loopholes for defence which were afterward enlarged into windows.

Still defeated, they attacked the house of John Davis, which after some resistance, he surrendered on terms; but the terms were violated, and the whole family was either killed or made captives.

Thomas Bickford preserved his house (12.), in a singular manner. It was situated near the river, and surrounded with a palisade. Being alarmed before the enemy had reached the house, he sent off his family in a boat, and then shutting his gate, he took himself alone to the defense of his fortress. Despising alike the promises and threats by which the Indians would have persuaded him to surrender, he kept up a constant fire at them, changing his dress as often as he could, shewing himself with a different cap, hat or coat, and sometimes without either, and giving directions aloud as if he had a number of men with him. Finding their attempt vain, the enemy withdrew, and left him sole master of the house, which he had defended with such admirable address.



Davis-Smith Garrison – The drawing of the Davis-Smith garrison in what today is Newmarket is shown in its latter days just before being torn down in 1880. Probably built ca. 1694 by David Davis, it was taken over (and perhaps rebuilt) by John Smith around 1701, after Davis had been killed by Indians.

Smith's, Bunker's and Davis's garrisons, being seasonably apprised of the danger, were resolutely defended. One Indian was supposed to be killed and another wounded by a shot from Davis's. Jones's garrison was beset before day; Captain Jones hearing his dogs bark, and imagining wolves might be near, went out to secure some swine and returned unmolested. He then went up into the flankart and sat on the wall. Discerning the flash of a gun, he dropped backward; the ball entered the place from whence he had withdrawn his legs. The enemy from behind a rock kept firing on the house for some time, and then quitted it. During these transactions, the French priest took possession of the meeting-house, and employed himself in writing on the pulpit with chalk; but the house received no damage.

Those parties of the enemy who were on the south side of the river having completed their destructive work, collected in a field adjoining to Burnham's garrison, where they insultingly showed their prisoners, and derided the people, thinking themselves out of reach of their shot. A young man from the sentry-box fired at one who was making some indecent signs of defiance, and wounded him in the heel. Him they placed on a horse and carried away. Both divisions then met at the falls, where they had parted the evening before, and proceeded together to Capt. Woodman's garrison. The ground

being uneven, they approached without danger, and from behind a hill kept up a long and severe fire at the hats and caps which the people within held up on sticks above the walls, without any other damage than galling the roof of the house.

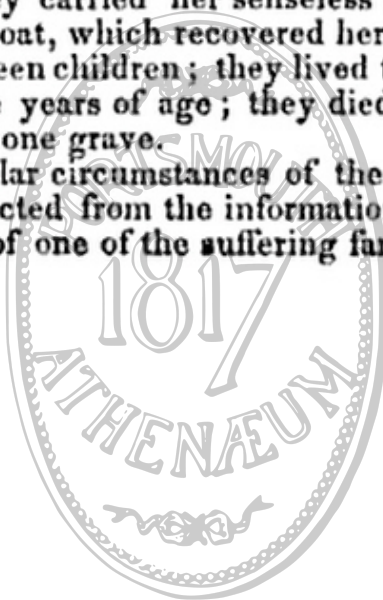
At length, apprehending it was time for the people in the neighboring settlements to be collected in pursuit of them, they finally withdrew; having killed and captivated between ninety and an hundred persons, and burned about twenty houses, of which five were garrisons. The main body of them retreated over Winnipiseogee lake, where they divided their prisoners separating those in particular who were most intimately related.

About forty of the enemy under Toxus, a Norridgewog chief, resolving on farther mischief, went westward and did execution as far as Groton. A smaller party having crossed the river Pascataqua, came to a farm where Ursula Cutt, widow of the deceased president, resided, who imagining the enemy had done what mischief they intended for that time, could not be persuaded to remove into town till her haymaking should be finished. As she was in the field with her laborers, the enemy fired from an ambush and killed her, with three others.¹ Colonel Richard Waldron and his wife, with their infant son, (afterward secretary) had almost shared the same fate. They were taking boat to go and dine with this lady, when they were stopped by the arrival of some friends at their house; whilst at dinner they were informed of her death. She lived about two miles above the town of Portsmouth, and had laid out her farm with much elegance. The scalps taken in this whole expedition were carried to Canada by Madokawando, and presented to Count Frontenac, from whom he received the reward of his treacherous adventure.

* Charlevoix, with his usual parade, boasts of their having killed two hundred and thirty people, and burned fifty or sixty houses. He speaks of only two forts, both of which were stormed. [The Rev. John Pike, in his manuscript Journal, says they "killed and carried away 94 persons and burnt 13 houses." As he then lived in Dover and made a record of the event near the time it occurred, we can probably depend upon the accuracy of his statement.]

† Among these prisoners, were Thomas Drew and his wife, who were newly married. He was carried to Canada, where he continued two years and was redeemed. She to Norridgewog, and was gone four years, in which she endured every thing but death. She was delivered of a child in the winter, in the open air, and in a violent snow storm. Being unable to suckle her child, or provide it any food, the Indians killed it. She lived fourteen days on a decoction of the bark of trees. Once, they set her to draw a sled up a river against a piercing north-west wind, and left her. She was so overcome with the cold that she grew sleepy, laid down and was nearly dead, when they returned; they carried her senseless to a wigwam, and poured warm water down her throat, which recovered her. After her return to her husband, she had fourteen children; they lived together till he was ninety-three, and she eighty-nine years of age; they died within two days of each other, and were buried in one grave.

* * These particular circumstances of the destruction at Oyster river were at my desire collected from the information of aged people by John Smith, Esq. a descendant of one of the suffering families.



* [I have endeavored to collect from various authorities, but principally from a MS. Journal of the Rev. John Pike, of Dover, a summary account of the depredations committed by the Indians in the Eastern part of New-England, during what Cotton Mather calls "Decennium Luctuosum, or the long War with the Indian Salvages," which is presented below in a tabular form, and so far as was practicable, in chronological order. Other depredations doubtless were committed of which no account is preserved.

	<i>Time.</i>	<i>Places attacked.</i>	<i>No. Killed.</i>	<i>Wounded.</i>	<i>Capt'd.</i>
1689.	28 June,	Dover,	23	—	29
	August,	Oyster River, (Durham)	18	—	—
	August,	Andover, Ms.	2(1)	—	—
1690.	2 February,	Schenectady, N. Y.	60	—	27
	18 March,	Salmon-Falls,	27	—	52
	22 August,	York, Me.	—	—	1
		Fox Point, (Newington)	14	—	6
	4 July,	Lamprey River,	8	—	1
	5 July,	Exeter,	8	—	—
	6 July,	Wheelwright's pond, (Lee)	16	—	—
	7 July,	Amesbury, Ms.	3	—	—
	July or Aug.	Maquoit, Me.	1	1	—
	21 September,	Maquoit, (near Casco)	8	24	—
1692.	25 January,	York, Me.	48	—	—
	18 July,	Lancaster, Ms.	6	1	—
	1 August,	Billerica, Ms.	6	—	—
	28 September,	Newichwannock, (S. Berwick)	2	—	—
	29 September,	Sandy Beach, (Rye)	21(2)	—	—
1693.	10 May,	Dover,	1(3)	—	—
1694.	18 July,	Oyster River,	94(4)	—	—
	21 July,	Portsmouth,	4	—	—
	27 July,	Groton, Ms.	22	13	—
	20 August,	Spruce Creek and York,	5	—	—
	24 August,	Long Reach, (Kittery)	8(5)	—	—
	4 September,	Pond Plain, Ms. (6)	2	—	—
1695.	28 March,	Saco Fort, Me.	1	1	—
	6 July,	Kittery, Me.	—	1	—
	7 July,	York, Me.	1	—	—
	July,	Exeter,	2	—	—
		Lancaster, Ms.	1	—	—
		Haverhill, Ms.	—	2	—
	5 August,	Billerica, Ms.	10	5	—
	August,	Saco Fort, Me.	1	—	—

(1) Four from Andover died the same year in the war at the Eastward.—Abbot, Hist. Andover, 43.

(2) This number includes those who were killed and carried away. Pike, MS. Journal.

(3) This was Tobias Hanson, who is not named by Dr. Belknap.

(4) Killed and carried away.

(5) Killed and captured.

(6) Between Amesbury and Haverhill, Ms. with permission of the author, copyright restricted

	<i>Time.</i>	<i>Places attacked.</i>	<i>No. Killed.</i>	<i>Wounded.</i>	<i>Cap't.</i>
1695.	9 September,	Pemaquid, Me.	4	6	—
	7 October,	Newbury, Ms.	—	1	9
1696.	7 May,	Dover, (or near it)	1	—	—
	24 June,	York, Me.	2	1	—
	26 June,	Sagamore's Creek, (Ports.)	24	1	4
	26 July,	Dover,	3	3	3
	13 August,	Andover, Ms.	2	—	—
	15 August,	Haverhill, Ms.	—	—	5
	25 August,	Oxford, Ms.	5	—	—
	25 August,	Sandy Beach,	1	—	—
	27 August,	Lubberland, (1)	1	—	—
	13 October,	Saco Fort, Me.	5	1	—
1697.	15 March,	Haverhill, Ms,	40(2)	—	—
	20 May,	York, Me.	—	—	1
		Groton, Ms.	1	3	—
	10 June,	Exeter,	1	1	1
	10 June,	Salisbury, Ms.	—	—	2
	4 July,	Kittery, Me.	1	—	—
	20 July,	Dover,	3	1	—
	7 August,	Saco Fort, Me.	3	—	3
	9 September,	Damariscotta, Me,	12	12	—
	11 September,	Lancaster, Ms.	21	2	6
	15 November,	Johnson's Creek,	1	—	1
1698.	22 February,	Andover, Ms.	5	—	5
	February,	Haverhill, Ms.	2	—	2
	9 May,	Spruce Creek, Me.	1	—	3
	9 May,	York, Me.	—	1	—

Their cruelty was chiefly exercised upon children, and such aged, infirm, or corpulent persons as could not bear the hardships of a journey through the wilderness. If they took a woman far

advanced in pregnancy, their knives were plunged into her bowels. An infant, when it became troublesome, had its brains dashed out against the next tree or stone. Sometimes to torment the wretched mother, they would whip and beat the child till almost dead, or hold it under water till its breath was just gone, and then throw it to her to comfort and quiet it. If the mother could not readily still its weeping, the hatchet was buried in its skull. A captive wearied with a burden laid on his shoulders was often sent to rest the same way. If any one proved refractory, or was known to have been instrumental of the death of an Indian, or related to one who had been so, he was tortured with a lingering punishment, generally at the stake, whilst the other captives were insulted with the sight of his miseries. Sometimes a fire would be kindled and a threatening given out against one or more, though there was no intention of sacrificing them, only to make sport of their terrors. The young Indians often signalized their cruelty in treating captives inhumanly out of sight of the elder, and when inquiry was made into the matter, the insulted captive must either be silent or put the best face on it, to prevent worse treatment for the future. If a captive appeared sad and dejected he was sure to meet with insult; but if he could sing and dance and laugh with his masters, he was carressed as a brother. They had a

strong aversion to negroes, and generally killed them when they fell into their hands.

Famine was a common attendant on these doleful captivities. The Indians when they caught any game devoured it all at one sitting, and then girding themselves round the waist, travelled without sustenance till chance threw more in their way. The captives, unused to such canine repasts and abstinences, could not support the surfeit of the one, nor the craving of the other. A change of masters, though it sometimes proved a relief from misery, yet rendered the prospect of a return to their homes more distant. If an Indian had lost a relative, a prisoner bought for a gun, a hatchet, or a few skins, must supply the place of the deceased, and be the father, brother, or son of the purchaser ; and those who could accommodate themselves to such barbarous adoption, were treated with the same kindness as the persons in whose place they were substituted. A sale among the French of Canada was the most happy event to a captive, especially if he became a servant in the family ; though sometimes, even there, a prison was their lot, till opportunity presented for their redemption ; whilst the priests employed every seducing art to pervert them to the popish religion, and induce them to abandon their country. These circumstances, joined with the more obvious hardships of travelling half naked and barefoot through pathless deserts, over craggy mountains and deep swamps, through frost, rain and snow, exposed by day and night to the inclemency of

the weather, and in summer to the venomous stings of those numberless insects with which the woods abound ; the restless anxiety of mind, the retrospect of past scenes of pleasure, the remembrance of distant friends, the bereavements experienced at the beginning or during the progress of the captivity, and the daily apprehension of death either by famine or the savage enemy ; these were the horrors of an Indian captivity.

On the other hand, it must be acknowledged that there have been instances of justice, generosity and tenderness during these wars which would have done honor to a civilized people. A kindness shewn to an Indian was remembered as long as an injury ; and persons have had their lives spared, for acts of humanity done to the ancestors of those Indians, into whose hands they have fallen.* They would sometimes “ carry children on their arms and shoulders, feed their prisoners with the best of their provision, and pinch themselves rather than their captives should want food.” When sick or wounded, they would afford them proper means for their recovery, which they were very well able to do by their knowledge of simples. In thus preserving the lives and health of their prisoners, they doubtless had a view of gain. But the most remarkably favorable circumstance in an Indian captivity, was their decent behaviour to women. I have never

read, nor heard, nor could find by inquiry, that any woman who fell into their hands was ever treated with the least immodesty ; but testimonies to the contrary are very frequent.† Whether this negative virtue is to be ascribed to a natural frigidity of constitution, let philosophers inquire : The fact is certain ; and it was a most happy circumstance for our female captives, that in

* Several instances to this purpose have been occasionally mentioned in the course of this narrative. The following additional one is taken from Capt. Hammond's MS. Journal. " April 13, 1677. The Indians Simon, Andrew " and Peter burnt the house of Edward Weymouth at Sturgeon creek. They " plundered the house of one Crawley but did not kill him, because of some " kindness done to Simon's grandmother."

† Mary Rowlandson who was captured at Lancaster, in 1675, has this passage in her narrative, (p. 55.) " I have been in the midst of these roaring lions and savage bears, that feared neither God nor man nor the devil, by day and night, alone and in company ; sleeping all sorts together, and yet not one of them ever offered me the least abuse of unchastity in word or action."

Elizabeth Hanson who was taken from Dover in 1724, testifies in her narrative, (p. 28) that " the Indians are very civil toward their captive women, not offering any incivility by any indecent carriage."

William Fleming, who was taken in Pennsylvania, in 1755, says the Indians told him " he need not be afraid of their abusing his wife, for they would not do it, for fear of offending their God (pointing their hands toward heaven) for the man that affronts his God will surely be killed when he goes to war."

the midst of all their distresses, they had no reason to fear from a savage foe, the perpetration of a crime, which has too frequently disgraced, not only the personal, but the national character of those, who make large pretences to civilization and humanity.

In the days of the French and Indian Wars, the town of Durham, [today home to the University of New Hampshire], was called Oyster River. The scattered farmhouses were guarded by six or eight garrison houses. Nothing lay between the settlements and Quebec, but the unbroken wilderness known only to the Indians, the fur traders and the marauding war parties which were sent out against each other by Catholic Canada and Protestant New England.

Mary Smith lived at the Inn which was kept by her father James Smith and her mother Sarah Davis in Oyster River N.H. The people lived in constant terror of attack. Mary's father was killed by the Indians, and Mary's mother took her five children and moved into the garrison house near by with her brother Ensign John Davis

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July 18, 1694 some 200 Indians led by 20 French Canadians and 2 Catholic Priests burst, without warning, on the sleeping village. The garrison house of Ensign Davis, Mary's Uncle, was quickly surrounded. One of the French leaders and a Catholic priest promised safety for him and his household if he surrendered. He took them at their word, realizing all too well, that alone he could not hold out long. The instant he unbolted the door, he was rushed upon by the Indians, tomahawked and scalped, together with his wife and two of their children while the two older girls were seized as captives. When Mary's mother saw what was happening, she shouted for her children to run for their lives out the back door. Somehow, Mary, her sister Sarah, and brother John made their escape and hid in the woods. [Mary's brothers James (1681 – 1694) and Samuel (1683 – 1694) were not so lucky.]

Twenty-eight of Mary's closest relatives met death that morning. In all, 104 inhabitants were killed and 27 taken captive, with half the dwellings, including the garrisons, pillaged and burned to the ground. But Mary was not to be taken captive. In a few days Captain Tom Freeman from Cape Cod was heading his lumber schooner in toward Oyster River for a load of sawn boards. He found several frightened, bewildered people who told him of the massacre. He loaded no lumber that trip but began to search along the bank and in the woods for all those he could possibly save.

Among this group was our ancestor Mary Smith. She was taken to Tom Freeman's father's home which was in Harwich, Mass. Mary was reared and educated by those fine people and when she grew up she married the youthful sea captain who had rescued her – Captain John Freeman – Mary Smith Freeman.

From the family Bible – we read in Mary's own precise handwriting –

Mary Smith born May 24, 1685 Md Tom Freeman November 13, 1707

In a short ten years her husband was dead and she a widow at thirty-three with four little children. The final line of the record reads – My husband Thomas Freeman deceased March 22, 1718.

EMERSON, JUDAH (DAVIS).

Wife of Capt. Samuel; eleventh and youngest child of Ensign John Davis of Haverhill and Oyster River and Jane Peasley (Haverhill). "Juda Emmerson" was still in the Indians' Hands in January, 1698/9, but she must have been redeemed soon after. Mr. Stackpole says she was ransomed by "a Mr. Morrill" for two shirts, one of which he took off his back.⁴⁴ Captain Samuel believing her dead went to Portsmouth to arrange his second marriage. He met there a friend who told him of the return of some captives and offered to "bet a double drink of grog yr wife is in town" and thereupon took him into his wife's presence.⁴⁵

Judah Emerson — From — New England Captives Carried to Canada Between 1677 and 1760
By Emma Lewis Coleman

In the North American theatre the French had been on the ascendant; all the English assaults on French possessions had been repulsed; Fort Penobscot on the border of Acadia had been destroyed; the frontiers of both New England and New York had been ravaged and forced back; the English outposts in Newfoundland had been destroyed and the island virtually conquered. In addition, throughout the war England's claims to the Hudson Bay had been severely contested in a series of French expeditions culminating in Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville's capture of York Factory shortly before the signing of the treaty.

In spite of this, the Treaty of Ryswick, signed on Sep 1697 returned the territorial borders to where they had been before the war (*status quo ante bellum*). The Iroquois nation, deserted by their English allies, continued to make war on the French colonies until the Great Peace of Montreal of 1701.



Site of Oyster River Massacre

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Bickford's Garrison



This garrison stood at Durham Point, a little below the mouth of Oyster river, but the exact spot is not known. It has often been asserted that this was a mere dwelling house surrounded by palisades, but the owner speaks of it as "my garrison," Nov. 12, 1694, in a certificate about a soldier stationed here, signed "Thomas Bickford, comander of the gareson." (N. H. Prov. Pap., 17: 645.) Two soldiers are mentioned as servins; here from July 25, 1694, till Nov. 24 following, and others from Nov. 2, 1695, till March 6, 1696. (Ibid, pp. 645, 657) This garrison was defended in an admirable manner at the Indian attack of 1694, by Capt. Thomas Bickford, who, warned by the alarm guns at the upper garrisons that the Indians were at hand, had sent his family off by water, and remained to defend his house alone. Shouting forth his orders as if he had a squad of soldiers at his command, and presenting himself every few minutes in fresh guise to blaze away at the enemy, he deceived them so effectually that they speedily gave up the attempt to reduce a hold apparently so well manned. This Thomas, whose wife was Bridget Furber, of Welsh Cove, was the son of John Bickford, who was living at Oyster River as early as July 17, 1645, on which day "Darby ffield of Oyster River, in the river of Piseataqua, county of Norfolk, planter," sold John Bickford his dwelling-house at Oyster River, then "in the tenure of said Bickford," with a lot of five or six acres adjoining, and all the land to the creek on the side towards Little Bay, except the "breadth" on said creek in possession of Thomas Willey. (This was the inlet afterwards known as "Willey's Creek.") June 23, 1684, John Bickford, "with the consent of his wife Temperate," conveyed to his son Thomas "all his houses and lands lying at the point of Oyster river." The Bickford garrison long since disappeared. The land where it stood, with Little Bay on one side, Oyster river on the other, and, directly in front, the river Pascataqua, with its verdant isles, swiftly coursing seaward between Newington at the right and the Back River district at the left, is now owned by Mr. Jeremiah Langley.

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NEAR THE BANK AT THE LEFT OF THE OLD
FERRY LANDING IS THE SITE OF THE
BICKFORD GARRISON

DEFENDED SINGLE HANDED WHEN ATTACKED
BY INDIANS ON JULY 18, 1694 BY
CAPTAIN THOMAS BICKFORD
HE DECEIVED THE ENEMY BY APPEARING
AT WINDOWS WITHOUT COAT OR HAT OR
BOTH WHILE RAPIDLY FIRING AND CALL-
ING ORDERS UNTIL THE INDIANS FLED
OF THE TWELVE GARRISONS ATTACKED
FIVE WERE DESTROYED

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From Historical Memoranda of Dover, NH.....

OLD SERIES, NO. 50, SEPT. 9, 1851. By BALLARD SMITH of DURHAM

Oyster River Massacre, July 18, 1694

the garrison.

OLD SERIES, NO. 50, SEPT. 9, 1851.

By BALLARD SMITH of DURHAM

Oyster River Massacre, July 18, 1694.

Kent upon hearing firing got up and looked out, when he saw a number of Indians by his house waiting for him; he was so surprised that he did not stop to awake his family, but secured himself in a drain that led from the house, where he lay all day; his family were presently after aroused by the firing, about which time the enemy that were around the house retired to assist their brethren that had besieged Drew's Garrison, which gave his wife an opportunity of escaping with her children. (What a coward that husband was in the cellar drain!)

Samuel Adams was killed, his wife, who was pregoant, was ripped up; the grave is still to be seen where fourteen persons lie buried. One or two of the Adams family were captivated.

The inhabitants of Great Bay were unmolested; it fell heaviest on the people by Little Bay, and on the South side of Oyster River. The two companies united at Durham Falls and together attacked Woodman's Garrison, without any other effect than their almost ruining the roof of the house. Those that were on the south side, after having finished their mischief below, collected on a green, a large shot gun distance from Burnum's Garrison, and showed their captives and affronted the garrison. One who had separated himself a little from the body and was making an indecent gesture,

was fired at by a young man from the watch box and wounded badly just above his heel, whereupon they caught a horse belonging to Mr. Burnum whereon they mounted him and carried him to Winnipisseogee, where, on a beach of that pond, it is said some of the young men of the party had an inclination to practice horsemanship; the horse was mettlesome and several were thrown; at length they tied the legs of one under the belly of the horse; the horse started nimbly; the fellow soon lost his seat and came with head down and was presently dispatched; the Indians then shot the horse. There was no instance of this kind before at Casco.

Mr. Thomas Bickford kept his house alone; his family had been sent off on the tide; his house was not a garrison; he changed the appearance of his head; supposed he killed one Indian.

Edward Leathers's wife and a woman by the name of Jackson were killed. William Leathers escaped by running.

Mr. John Edgerly says there were two families of Edgerlys, his grandfather Thomas and his uncle Thomas; his uncle lived at Amblers; upon hearing the Indians, he, his wife and her sister jumped out of bed, got down cellar, leaving their children in bed; the Indians came in killed the children and one or two persons living in the other end of the house were taken; they looked into the cellar but did not go down; they rifled the house and fired it; as soon as they were gone he put the fire out; his grandfather, son Joseph and a daughter were carried captive; the rest got into a canoe and as they were setting off the Indians fired upon them and mortally wounded his son Zachariah.

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Mr. Joseph Drew says his father Thomas Drew had been married six months; he lived with his father and family; John Drew was put out of a window and escaped; there were fifteen; Benjamin was about nine years old; he was carried over Winnipisaukee where they set him to run through the Indians (run the gauntlet) that they might throw their hatchets and tomahawks at him, which they repeated till they dispatched him. His grandfather Francis, on a promise of quarter surrendered; they bound him; he got loose and it is supposed he killed one; his (the Indian's) bones were found in the house after it was burnt. Francis ran towards Adams's Garrison; there the Indians met him, took him, bound him and killed him with tomahawks; his wife was carried into the woods and was rendered so feeble with hunger they left her to die in the woods.

[The End.]

OLD SERIES, NO. 130, JAN. 17, 1854.

THE INDIANS—CONTINUED.

In the attack on Oyster River the enemy seems to have lost but four men; one shot by Ensign Davis; one killed by Francis Drew; one mortally wounded by William (?) Tasker; and one killed by Thomas Bickford. They destroyed five garrisons, eight dwellings, much cattle, desolated a tract six miles in width, and killed or carried away ninety four persons.

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The question mark is for 'T'; William Tasker

(Darby) Field-Bickford Excavation Site



Field-Bickford Garrison Site 2008

The Field-Bickford garrison now under excavation was a homestead, tavern, and ferry center for Darby Field. Darby Field operated a tavern here at a ferry crossing point on the Oyster River as early as 1638. He is best known in New Hampshire history as the first European to successfully summit the White Mountains (then called the Crystal Hills), at Mt. Washington. John Bickford b~1609 in Rattery, Devonshire, England bought the land from Darby Field 16 July 1645 and it passed to his grandson, Thomas Bickford b~1660 (according to a deposition).

Archaeologists hope to prove that the sunken earth at the "dig" site is the cellar hole of Thomas Bickford's garrison. The Fields-Bickford building was torn down in 1830 and, apparently, its exact location was not noted. A team of NH state archaeologists visited the site and found clay

pipe stems, pipe bowls and pieces of domestic dishes dating from the 1630s to the 1680s. The Oyster River Environs Archaeology Project has recovered more than 5,000 artifacts.

Darby Field b~1610 and John Bickford b~1609 were each an 8th great-grandfather to me.....Phil Swan, 2016

Surprisingly little is known about the early days of New Hampshire. Portsmouth (at Strawberry Banke), Exeter, Hampton and Dover were founded in the 1630s. Oyster River was originally one of three Dover settlements that also included Hilton Point and the current town center. Besides the ferry landing, the Oyster River location was ideal for a local sawmill, for fishing and for felling timber and salt marsh farming. A 1667 map shows the location of a number of buildings in a riverside area with a population that may have peaked at 300 settlers before the devastating 1694 Indian raid. The frontier village was difficult to defend and far from the safety of seacoast forts.

The garrison was one of the fortified structures attacked in the famous Oyster River Plantation Massacre of 1694 and survived a determined assault by an Abenaki force through the brave and clever actions of Thomas Bickford. In the massacre, unsuspecting settlers were killed amid the confusion, in what archaeologists believe was an orchestrated attack. Fast-acting men and women escaped. Others holed up in their garrisons -- fortified homes of the day -- and fired at the raiders. Thomas Bickford was one of them. After Bickford saw to it that his family was safely across the river, he arranged himself in his garrison to give the attackers the sense he was one of several men inside. He shouted orders using different voices. He donned different coats. He hustled to and from parts of the garrison as a show of manpower. The gambit worked, and Bickford and his garrison survived. Before the Native American warriors retreated, ultimately taking some of their hostages north to Quebec, they burned half the settlement to the ground.

One summer, the crew brought in ground-penetrating radar, thanks to Peter Sablock, chairman of Geological Sciences at Salem State College in Massachusetts, which helped map out the building foundation. Brown and company now believe the Bickford garrison was much bigger than they believed, or that there was a second building attached to it at some point.

The Langley family, which lets the archaeologists work on its land and embraced a conservation easement to protect it, runs the Little Bay Buffalo Company. As the diggers toil away, fending off pesky no-see-ums and greenhead flies, the occasional buffalo is known to lumber not far away and stare at them. For the most part, the volunteers train their eyes on the dirt.

The diggers have come up with a few French-made musket balls and numerous gun flints, the latter giving weight to Brown's belief the settlers were a significant manufacturer of the flints. The excavation uncovered the remains of a nearly complete hand-painted blue on white pearlware teapot, circa 1780-1820.

One of the finds is a soapstone pipe stem carved by a Native American sometime in the mid- to late- 17th century. What's interesting is that the pipe is fashioned after the European pipe of that day.....which goes to show that the contact between the early Americans and the Native Americans wasn't always hostile.

Bricks from the Bickford-Garrison archaeological site were characterized using X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) and Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM), and the results of the XRF analysis was compared to a brick analysis from other historic seventeenth century buildings in

St. Mary's City, Maryland. K, Ca, Zr, Ti, and Ba values are similar which probably indicates similar clays and temper in the bricks. The K, Ca, and Zr values are higher in the Bickford bricks. Bickford bricks are 57% higher in K, and 38% lower in Zr than the St. Mary's City bricks, which supports a different origin. Polished thin sections from four Bickford bricks were imaged using an SEM. Characteristics such as clay and mineral inclusions in larger mineral grains, regular linear fractures in mineral grains, elongate grains, and sub-angular grains were observed in multiple brick thin sections. Though the bricks differ visually, they have similar characteristics as revealed by the XRF and SEM data and were probably made in the same location.



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My Gateway Ancestor to America – John Bickford b 1609

John Bickford was born in 1609* in Rattery, Devonshire, England. He died in 1676 in Oyster River, NH. He married (1) Temperance Furber in 1624 in Oyster River, Province of New Hampshire. She was born in 1608 in London, England. She died on 15 Aug 1635 in Rockingham County, NH. He married (2) Elizabeth Cator, daughter of Richard Cator, in 1637 in Dover, Strafford County, NH. She was born in 1620. She died in 1672.

*There has been some discussion between Gwyn Lobb and the author as to the birth date of John Bickford. Depositions from 1669 say he was 60 years old. That would make him born in 1609. Gwyn feels that he would not have married at age 15 in 1624. I think it makes no difference if John Bickford was born in 1603 or 1609 or some year in between. I found the following information interesting and I hope you will, too:

New Hampshire in 2016: The state of New Hampshire requires males as young as 14 and females as young as 13 to obtain parental consent before a marriage license will be granted. The statute does not provide specific exceptions, but allows the judge to grant marriage license requests if he or she believes it is in the couple's best interests. Source: FindLaw.com

The laws and policies of the 1620s: This series of definitions of the age someone can legally do something comes from Giles Jacob, *A New Law-Dictionary* (Savoy, 1750):

Man:

- 12: take an oath of Allegiance to the King.
- 14: "age of discretion" so that he can consent to marriage and chose a guardian.
- 16: able to bear arms.
- 21: may alien his lands, goods, and chattels.
- 24: can be ordained a priest.
- 30: can be a bishop.

Woman:

- 09: is dowable, i.e. able to have / receive a dower.
- 12: may consent to marriage.
- 14: "age of discretion" and may chose a guardian.
- 21: may alien her lands, goods, and chattels.

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John Bickford born 1609 is thought to have arrived in New England at Plymouth, MA in June of 1623 on either *The Little James* with Captain Bridges or *The Anne* with Captain Pierce, both sailing out of London, England. He does not show on either passenger list. At his young age, he may have been part of the crew, e.g. a cabin boy.

John Bickford has been mentioned often, in the earlier pages of this chapter. He has been shown to be a man of importance in the church and in the community in the beginnings of Oyster River and of New Hampshire. The following pages have much information on land holdings in New Hampshire and offer information on *relationships* between Bickfords and other settlers.

I have selected a couple of profiles of Bickford descendants from the first five generations and other profiles to present a more interesting insight into the individuals and the life and time of Oyster River. These are to whet your appetite to look into the Descendant Reports which are Indexed at the end of this book. You will find many more profiles in the Descendant Reports with vital data and Notes. If there is any question about data in these profiles which follow, *the DVD Descendant Report is the final and most up-to-date information I have.*

From 'The History of Durham', 1913, by Meserve, Thompson, and Stackpole:

John Bickford of Oyster River Point, according to two depositions made in 1669, was then sixty years of age. There are depositions of a John Bickford which make him to have been born in 1609, 1612, and 1615. There may have been several John Bickfords, and perhaps John, or the clerk, did not know just how old John was. Old depositions show that many persons varied in age from time to time. John Bickford bought of Darby Field, 16 July 1645, house and lot between Little Bay and Oyster River (except the breadth of a lot in the possession of Thomas Willey) and a piece of marsh at Long Point in the Great Bay, containing seven or eight acres, with a point of land adjoining. The first lot was already in the occupation of John Bickford. The second lot was at Fox Point, in what is now Newington. Thirty acres more were granted to John Bickford senior at Fox Point in 1653, showing that there was another John Bickford in Dover at that time, perhaps the Bickford who married a daughter of Richard Cator of Bloody Point.

+++++
Mathews' Creek, otherwise Mathes's. This creek was called "the Great creek" in 1644, when Francis Mathews had a grant of marsh and upland on its northwest side. (See Great Creek.) It is mentioned the 10th, 8 mo., 1653, when John Bickford and Thomas Footman had the grant of a neck of land " on the southwest side of Mrs. Mathews' creek, from the flowing of the tide of the southernmost branch of Mrs. Mathews' creek to the flowing of the tide in the creek at the old tree." This was Mrs. Tamsen or Thomasine Mathews, widow of the above Francis Mathews. Three score and ten acres of land, or thereabout, were laid out to Oleuer (Oliver) Kent the 3d, 2 mo., 1658, bounded by Wm. Drew and Mr. Mathews and Charles Adams, "by the creek side, commonly called Mr. Mathews' Creek." Francis Durgin of Exeter conveyed to John Smith, Dec. 25, 1723, all right and title to " a certain neck of land on the N. W. side of y^e Great bay, adjoining to Matheses Creek, so called, being half of said neck of land which his father Wm. Durgin lived on in his life-time." James Durgin of Dover, in Oyster River parish, conveyed to John Smith, Jr., March 9, 1729-30, one third of a tract of 20 acres on the N. W. side of Great Bay, "adjoining the creek commonly called Mathews' Creek, which land the Governor and council heretofore settled on y^e heirs of my father Wm. Durgin, deceased, Oct. 19, 1706." Lemuel Bickford of Newington, Oct. 10, 1733, conveyed to John Smith a tract of land on the southwest side of Mathises creek, so called," originally granted to his grandfather John Bickford and Thomas

Footman. ... Landmarks of Ancient Dover

+++++
Long Point. This point is on the Newington shore of Great Bay, at the lower side of Laighton's

Cove. It is mentioned July 17, 1645, when "Darby ffield of Oyster River, planter," sold John Bickford (also of Oyster River) "seven or eight acres of marsh at Long Poynt in the great bay, together with one poynt of land thereunto adjoining." By virtue of an order of the general court " that 400 acres of upland should be given to the inhabitants of Dover who had marsh in the Great Bay, Elder Nutter, Wm. Storey, Henry Lancaster, and Wm. Furber, appointed to lay out and bound unto the particular inhabitants their division of upland to their marsh, hiid out the 27th, 11 mo., 1656, thirty acres of upland to John Bickford, Senior, joining to his marsh upon the northeast end over the neck from water to water, joining to Thos. Layton's upland within twoel (12) poll or thereabouts." (Dover Records.) The order of the General Court, above mentioned, refers to a grant to the town of Dover of all the marsh from Hogstye Cove round about the bay up to Cotterill's Delight, with 400 acres of upland adjoining (N. H. Prov. Papers, 1 : 2-22.) The fact that the Bickford land at Long Point, as well as the Loughton land adjoining, was a part of these 400 acres, proves conclusively that the ancient Hogsty cove was not the present Loughton's cove, as many writers have supposed, but must have been below Long Point ; that is, farther down the shore of the Great Bay. Anthony Nutter bought of Wm. Pomfrett of Dover, the 20th, 6 mo., 1651, a marsh on the N. E. side of Great Bay, at the great cove there, above long point. This was at the head of Herod's cove, now Loughton's. Thirty acres of upland (part of the 400 acre grant to Dover) were laid out to Elder Nutter, the 10th, 10 mo., 1656, adjoining his marsh : 22 acres of it on the easterly side of John Dam's upland, and four acres at the head of the creek that runneth through Elder Nutter's marsh, and four acres adjoining Thomas Layton's upland on the S. W. side of the creek. As this grant was part of the 400 acres, it was, of course, above Hogsty cove. Wm. Furber, Sr., " of Dover, in Piscataqua River, in consideration of y^a natural love and tender affection to his dutiful and well beloved son Jethro," conveyed to him, Feb. 14, " in y^e year of o^r Lord God, according to y^e computation of y^e church of England, 1677," a neck of land, containing 100 acres or thereabouts, computation of y^e church of England, 1677," a neck of land, containing 100 acres or thereabouts, within y^e mouth of y^e Great Bay, in y^e township of Dover, commonly called and known by the name of Long Point, bounded on y^e N. W. by the land of Wm. Furber, Jr. ; on y^e S. W. by John Bickford's, on y^e S. E. by the land of Thomas Layton, late of Dover, deceased, and on y^e N. E. by Anthony Nutter's land. As this land was between the Ferry Farm and the Bickford land, it is evident that the name of Long Point, like that of Durham Point, Welch cove, etc., was given, not merely to the point itself, but to the neighboring district. Anna Walker, relict of Samuel Walker of Newington, May 22, 1731, conveyed to her well beloved brother Lemuel Bickford, shipwright, all right to a tract of land in Newington 'at a place called or known by y^e name of Long Point, and is part of y^e farm my honourable father Mr. John Bickford, late of Newington, dyed possess^{er} of, and is yet in y^e possession of my honourable mother Mrs. Susan Bickford." Joseph Bickford of the city of Bristol, mariner, gave a power of attorney, dated at London, Apr. 12, 1740, to his brother Eliakim Bickford, mariner, to receive from his brother Lemuel Bickford of Newington, shipwright, all money and rents due from one ninth part of the land in Newington, adjoining Great Bay at Long Point, and all other lands that belonged to his father John Bickford, deceased. Lemuel Bickford of Newington shipwright, and wife Temperance, for 1250 pounds, new tenor, conveyed to Thomas Pickering, gentleman. Landmarks in Ancient Dover, May 2, 1751, 100 acres of upland, marsh, and thatcheds, with buildings thereon, bounded northerly by the land of Jethro Bickford and Richard Dam, east by Thomas Layton and said Dam, and on all other sides by the Great Bay, being all the tract on which the said Lemuel then lived, except one acre of salt marsh and flats belonging to Jethro Bickford. Thomas Pickering, in his will of Apr 4, 1782, gives his son Nicholas the farm whereon the said Nicholas then lived the same which said Thomas bought of Lemuel Bickford. Nicholas Pickering, in his will of Nov. 21, 1807, gives his grandson Nicholas Woodman (son of his daughter Betsey, who married a Woodman) "all the farm whereon I now live." It was from this Nicholas Woodman that Long Point acquired the name of Woodman's Point by which it is sometimes called. Richard Dame calls it Long Point on his map of

Newington. Properly speaking, Long Point is the whole neck of land on the north side of Laighton's cove, between that cove and Great Bay. At the upper side is a small bluff, called High Point, which is surrounded by marshes and becomes an island at high tide. Both points are now owned by the heirs of Mr. James Alfred Pickering. A pine grove covers the ridge as you go to the end of Long Point, and beyond are oaks, and tall tapering cedars of funereal aspect, that skirt the point itself, which terminates in a broad slaty ledge, from which there is a fine view up and down the Great Bay. Off the point is Nancy's island, green with low shrubs, and all along the shore the wild convolvulus blooms profusely in every direction, lighting up this romantic, but somewhat desolate point. There is a Long Point on the Lubberland shore of Great Bay, at the lower side of Broad Cove. (See Jewel's Point.) Landmarks of Ancient Dover pg 129-130

+++++ Hill's Swamp, Mentioned in 1656, when John Bickford, Sr., had a grant of 100 acres of upland adjacent to Thomas Footman's hundred acres, on the N. W. side of "the swampe sometimes called Mr. Hill's swamp." This Bickford land was afterwards acquired by Joseph Hix, for whom it was laid out anew Ap. 12, 1718, on the N. W. side of hill's swamp). This swamp was apparently the low land in Madbury, adjoining the Boston & Maine R. R., between Hicks's Hill and Pudding Hill. The name may have been derived from Valentine Hill of Oyster River, the only person of the name in Dover at the time of Bickford's grant, who appears to have had the prefix of " Mr." A timber grant to " Mr. Hill" (no doubt Valentine) "on y* north side of y* path from Bellamies Bank towards Oyster River," is mentioned in a grant to Richard Waldron in 1652. In the time of Joseph Hix (or Hicks), however, Wm. Hill lived at the lower side of Pudding Hill. "The mast path that leadeth from Knight's farm to William Hill's," is mentioned Feb. 28, 1705-6. Thirty acres were laid out to Henry Knight's farm to William Hill's," is mentioned Feb. 28, 1705-6. Thirty acres were laid out to Henry Marsh Ap. 4, 1709, "eastward of Moharimet's Hill, beginning at a hemlock tree on the poynt of the plain to the westward of William Hill's plantation."

+++++ Fox Point. This point is so called Sept. 14, 1642. (See Boyal's Cove.) It is on the Newington shore of the Pascataqua river, between Little Bay and Broad Cove. It is nearly half a mile long, and is the most prominent headland on that side of the river. Its name is supposed to have been given by the hunters of early times, who drove the foxes they pursued into this long narrow neck, whence it was impossible to make their escape. It is said to have been an old Indian "drive," where the aborigines brought the wild deer to bay in a similar manner. This point was originally owned by John Bickford of Oyster River. "Thirty acres of upland on fox poynt were granted John Bickford, Sr., by the town of Dover, the 10th, 8 mo., 1653, and laid out by Robert Burnum and John Davis, beginning at a marked tree near Thomas Trickey's marsh on " the letell baye sied," and extending to " a marked tree at the broad cove on the other sied of the necke." May 13, 1677, John Bickford and Temperance his wife, "out of love and affection to their daughter Mary, wife of Nicholas Harryson of Oyster River," conveyed to her " twenty acres of land in Dover, bounded on one part by the river of Piscataqua where it leads into Little Bay, said land known by the name of fox poynt. granted unto said Bickford by the town of Dover.' Nicholas Harrison, in his will of March 5, 1707, gives his son-in-law John Downing and wife Elizabeth, as his eldest daughter, "all his housing, orchards, and lands, at ffox poynt," given him by his father-in-law John Bickford. James Burnam of Oyster River, and Temperance his wife, July 8, 1713, conveyed to John Downing of ffox point in y^ township of Dover, two lots at or near y^ head of broad Cove at ffox point., one containing 11 acres, and the other 19 acres, which lots were granted by Dover to Mr. Nicholas Harrison, and bequeathed by him to Temperance his daughter.

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The Rev. John Pike says, "Nicholas Harrison died strangely insensible of any spiritual good," Apr. 11, 1708. Landmarks in Ancient Dover page 75

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Ragg's Point.) Bickford's Point. Mention is made of " the poynt whearon John Bickford now dweleth," the 7th, 4 mo., 1675. The road from Oyster river falls to Bickfords Poynt is mentioned in a grant to Nicholas ffollett, laid out Ap. 11, 1694. This road is spoken of in a deed from John Downing to Benjamin Mathes, Sept. 7, 1738, as "ye highway ye leads from ye falls to ye ferry called Bickford's Ferry." The Durham records, Aug. 15, 1754, mention "the highway from Bickford's point to Durham falls." Bickford's Point was on the shore of Little Bay, near the mouth of Oyster river, where the Bickford once stood. It is now owned by Jeremiah Langley, Esq.from Landmarks of Ancient Dover

+++++
Charles Adams had a neck of land granted him in 1656, on the south side of Branson's creek, bounded from the western branch upon a south line to the Great Bay. This land was conveyed to Joseph Kent Feb. 15, 1711-12, by Henry Nock and his wife Sarah, daughter of Charles Adams. Jonas Bine had an " out lot' in 1654, on the S. W. side of Bratison's Creek, next Charles Adams' lot, and joining George Webb's, right over against a place called the hay stack. He sold this land to John Bickford and John Hill in 1668. It is called "Brand's Krick," Oct. 9, 1691, when Francis Drew conveyed to Thomas Drew all his right to 60 acres belonging to the estate of his father, Wm. Drew, late of Dover, deceased.....from Landmarks of Ancient Dover

+++++
On the farm owned by John B. G. Dame are the graves of the Dame family and also of the Bickford family, the remains of some of the Bickford family having been taken up near the residence of Hon. Jeremiah Langley and reinterred here...'History Of Durham' page 245

Second Generation

JOHN2 BICKFORD (John1) was born in 1625 in Oyster River, Province of New Hampshire.

He died on 08 Nov 1697 in Oyster River, NH. He married Temperance Hull, daughter of Rev. Joseph Hull, in 1649 in Oyster River, Province of New Hampshire. She was born in 1626 in Weymouth, Devon, England. She died on 07 Oct 1697 in Dover, Strafford County, NH.

Notes for John Bickford:

He arrived in America 1649/1650. May 13, 1677, John Bickford and Temperance his wife, "out of love and affection to their daughter Mary, wife of Nicholas Harryson of Oyster River," conveyed to her twenty acres of land in Dover, bounded on one part by the river of Piscataqua where it leads into Little Bay, said land known by the name of ffox point granted unto said Bickford by the town of Dover.' Nicholas Harrison*, in his will of March 5, 1707, gives his son-in-law John Downing and wife Elizabeth, as his eldest daughter, "all his housing, orchards, and lands, at ffox poynte," given him by his father-in-law John Bickford. James Burnam of Oyster River, and Temperance his wife, July 8, 1713, conveyed to John Downing of ffox point in ye township of Dover, two lots at or near ye head of broad Cove at ffox point., one containing 11 acres, and the other 19 acres, which lots were granted by Dover to Mr. Nicholas Harrison, and bequeathed by him to Temperance his daughter.

* The Rev. John Pike says, "Nicholas Harrison died strangely insensible of any spiritual good," Apr. 11, 1708.....Landmarks in Ancient Dover pg. 74

John Bickford's will, dated 12 Feb. 1685, names only wife, Temperance, and daughter, Joanna. His wife, Temperance, died before 7 Oct. 1697. In the settlement of Temperance Bickford's affairs allusion is made by Thomas Bickford to "brother Smith," to "brother Burnham" and to "brother Bickford."

THOMAS² BICKFORD (John¹) was born in 1640 in Scarborough, Cumberland, Maine.

He died in 1720 in Dover, Strafford County, NH. He married Joanna Libby. She was born in 1640. She died in 1740 in Scarborough, Cumberland, Maine.

Notes for Thomas Bickford:

Thomas Bickford, born 1640, deposed in 1676, aged 36. He married Joanna, daughter of John Libby of Scarborough, Me., where Thomas Bickford had a grant of land before 1681 and signed a petition in 1680. The Indian wars probably drove his family to Dover, and this suggests a relationship between him and John Bickford of Oyster River Point, and the names of their children strengthen the suggestion. Jan. 12, 1727, John Bickford of Dover and wife, Elizabeth, sold to Zebulon Trickey, Samuel Small, Jr., and Moses Hanscom "all that my six acres of land situate in the Township of Scarborough in the county of York which was the ancient possession of my father Thomas Bickford late of Scarborough afores^e deceased." The same deed names also grandfather, John Libby, and mother, Joanna Libby. [See York Deeds, XII, 166.] It is certain, then, that Thomas Bickford had son, John, of Dover, and similarity of family names suggests that he may also have had a son, Benjamin. Some have supposed that John Bickford of Oyster River, Thomas Bickford of Scarborough, and an unknown Bickford who married a daughter of Richard Cator of Bloody Point, Newington, were brothers. I am obliged to leave this undecided.

Third Generation

ELIZABETH³ BICKFORD (John², John¹) was born in 1652 in Dover, Strafford Co., NH.

She died on 25 May 1727 in Oyster River, Province Of New Hampshire. She married Joseph Smith, son of George Smith and Temperance Smith, in 1668 in Durham, Stafford County, NH. He was born in 1640 in Boston, Suffolk, Massachusetts, USA. He died on 15 Dec 1727 in Durham, Strafford Co., New Hampshire.

Notes for Joseph Smith:

He witnessed a deed in 1657. He bought of Matthew Williams, in 1660, 40 acres of land on the north side of Oyster River, near its mouth. The same year he had a grant of a small piece of land on the north side of Oyster River between the lot of Matthew Williams and that of William Williams, Jr. Later he had a grant of ten acres adjoining his home lot on the northwest. In March, 1693-4 he had a grant of 60 acres on the north side of Lamprey River. He built his house on the lot near the mouth of the river, and about 1675 fortified it with a stockade, which made it safe against the attack of Indians. They failed to capture it in 1694, when so many others were destroyed on both sides of the river. His wife was Elizabeth Bickford, daughter of John and Temperance Bickford. He was juryman in 1669 and at other times. He was constable (for Oyster River) in 1670 and later. He was selectman in 1699. He died in his garrison house 15 Dec., 1727. His farm remained in possession of the Smith family, his descendants, until 1918. In his will he gave £12 for repairing the Friends' meeting house at Dover (Neck), which suggests that he was a Quaker, and the suspicion is confirmed by the language of the following paper, found among the Probate Records, Vol. VI, p. 58: "Mary Tasker Dr. to Joseph Smith 1697; total 2-4-9. Friend Henry knock I understand that thou art concerned in the estate of ye deceased tasker estate. I desire thou would take care to pay ye Above mentioned sum to me, or to Samuel Daniels, his reseat for it shall be a discharge, this is ye request. Joseph Smith."

JOHN³ BICKFORD (John², John¹) was born in 1658 in Oyster River, NH.

He died on 05 Sep 1715 in Durham, Strafford Co., New Hampshire. He married Susannah Furber on 05 May 1684 in Dover, Strafford County, NH. She was born on 05 May 1664 in Newington, Rockingham, New Hampshire. She died in Nov 1732.

Notes for John Bickford:

John Bickford (John) b. 1658 married Susanna, daughter of William Furber of Newington. His estate at Long Point was settled in 1715. His wife, born 5 May 1664, made her will 8 Nov. 1731 which was approved 13 Nov 1732.

THOMAS³ BICKFORD (John², John¹) was born in 1660 in Dover, Strafford County, NH.

He died on 31 Oct 1706 in Dover, Strafford County, NH. He married Bridget Furber, daughter of William Furber, on 13 May 1677 in Dover, Strafford County, NH. She was born in 1661. She died in 1700.

Notes for Thomas Bickford:

He was born in 1660, according to a deposition. He married Bridget, daughter of William Furber of Newington. He lived on the homestead at Durham Point, where he successfully defended his garrison house from the attack of Indians in 1694. His will, 31 Oct. 1705-4 March 1706/7, names wife Bridget and four children.

TEMPERANCE³ BICKFORD (John², John¹) was born in 1667 in Durham, Strafford Co., New Hampshire.

She died in 1697 in Durham, Strafford Co., New Hampshire. She married Jeremiah Burnham, son of Robert Burnham and Frances Hill, in 1689 in Durham, Strafford, New Hampshire. He was born in 1653 in Oyster River, NH. He died on 05 Jun 1718 in Oyster River, NH.

BENJAMIN³ BICKFORD (John², John¹) was born on 20 Oct 1672 in Dover, Strafford County, NH.

He died on 02 Jun 1725 in Newington, Rockingham, New Hampshire, USA. He married Sarah Barsham, daughter of John Barsham and Mehitabel, in 1691 in Strafford, New Hampshire, USA. She was born in 1676. She died on 23 Jun 1752 in Rockingham County, NH.

Notes for Benjamin Bickford:

Benjamin Bickford, in 1694, had a grant of thirty acres next to his house on the highway leading from Bloody Point to Greenland, over against John Hudson's house. He was constable about this time. Dec. 7, 1702, he and wife Sarah, deeded to John Knight sixteen acres now in his actual possession, formerly the land of the said Benjamin Bickford's father, lying betwixt Pine Point and Bloody Point, bounded by the river on the east, by road on the west, on the north by land of Henry Langstaff and on the south by land of said Knight, formerly of Richard Cator, with one fourth of a sawmill between Knight's and the land now sold. The will of Benjamin Bickford of Newington, 4 April 1724-2 June 1725, is signed by the same mark as the above deed, a well drawn capital B. The will mentions "wife" and children.

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HENRY³ BICKFORD (Thomas², John¹) was born in 1669. He died in 1760. He married Sarah mnu

Notes for Henry Bickford:

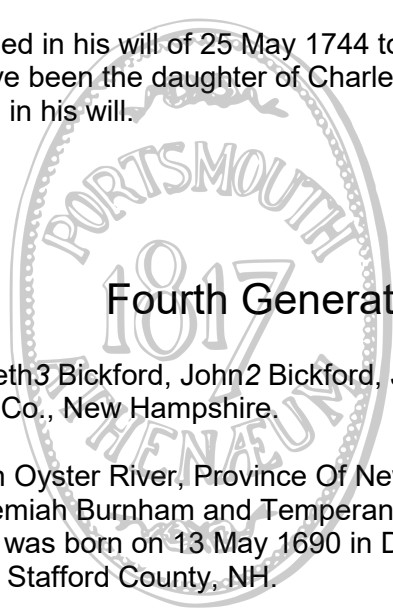
Henry had a grant of land in 1720, bought a house lot in Portsmouth in 1704. He is called weaver and mariner. He had wife, Sarah, probably the one admitted to the North Church, 9 Aug. 1708. He deeded to Titus Salter, mariner, 12 April 1760, "all my dwelling house, with all the land belonging." It may here be said that Nathan Bickford had land at Blue Point, Scarborough, about 1680.

JOHN³ BICKFORD (Thomas², John¹) was born in 1670 in Dover Neck, Strafford, NH.

He died on 27 Apr 1757 in Dover, Strafford County, NH. He married Elizabeth Tibbetts, daughter of Jeremy Tibbetts, on 01 Dec 1691 in Dover, Strafford Co., NH. She was born in 1672 in Dover, Strafford County, NH. She died on 07 Nov 1732 in Dover, Strafford County, NH.

Notes for John Bickford:

His children listed are named in his will of 25 May 1744 to 27 April 1757. The will mentions a wife, Martha, who may have been the daughter of Charles Allen of Greenland, who names a daughter, Martha Bickford, in his will.



Fourth Generation

SAMUEL⁴ SMITH (Elizabeth³ Bickford, John² Bickford, John¹ Bickford) was born on 16 Jun 1687 in Durham, Strafford Co., New Hampshire.

He died on 02 May 1760 in Oyster River, Province Of New Hampshire. He married Hannah Burnham, daughter of Jeremiah Burnham and Temperance Bickford, on 15 Feb 1710 in Dover, Strafford County, NH. She was born on 13 May 1690 in Durham, Stafford County, NH. She died on 14 Jul 1750 in Durham, Stafford County, NH.

JETHRO⁴ BICKFORD (John³, John², John¹) was born on 16 Nov 1689 in Dover, Strafford County, NH.

He died in 1753 in Rochester, Strafford County, NH. He married Hannah Downing in 1715. She was born in 1693.

Notes for Jethro Bickford:

Served as a soldier in the 1710 Queen Anne's War.

Notes for Hannah Downing:

The Downing Garrison was on Fox Point. It was probably built by Nicholas Harrison, who, in his will of March 5, 1707, gives his son-in-law John Downing and wife Elizabeth, "as his eldest daughter," all his housing, orchards, and lands, at ffox pointe, given him by his father-in-law John Bickford (see Fox Point) also half of his lands in New Jersey. John Downing who married Elizabeth Harrison, died Sept. 16, 1744, aged 85. His will of Feb. 23, 1743, proved Sept. 26, 1744, mentions his wife Elizabeth. He is called "Esquire" in the letters of administration. His son

was the Hon. John Downing, generally called "Col. Downing," who was a man of wealth and political influence. He was a member of the Provincial Council of N. H. under the administration of Gov. Benning Wentworth, from 1742 to 1763. He was an extensive landowner in Newington, Portsmouth, Rochester, and Nottingham, besides owning 300 acres in Arundell, Maine, bequeathed him by his father. At his death he gave land for a schoolhouse in Newington, and 500 pounds "put at interest" for the maintenance of a teacher. His will, dated September 5, 1755, was admitted to probate March 12, 1766. In it he mentions his son John as "deceased." The latter died about 1750, in which year, Nov. 28, letters of administration were granted his widow Patience. Mr. Brewster, in his notes to the "Atkinson Silver Waiter" (see Mambles about Portsmouth, Vol. II) wrongly supposes John Downing, 3d, husband of Patience, to have been the Councillor and the same John who died in 1744. Mary, daughter of Col. John Downing, the Councillor, married Thomas Pickering Feb. 7, 1727.

Jethro Bickford and Hannah Downing had the following children:

Notes for John Bickford:

The Doe Garrison, generally called the Fox or French Garrison. This garrison stood in the southwestern part of Lee, "District No. 7." It was no doubt built by Joseph Doe, who, June 23, 1737, bought land here of John Bickford, which had been assigned the latter as his share of the common lands in Durham in 1734.

Jonas' Point. So called from Jonas Binn or Bine, who, in 1651, had a house and lot of six acres which he bought of Thomas Stevenson, on the point at the entrance into Oyster river, compassed with the river every way except the south side, which joined the land of Mr. Francis Mathes. Francis Mathes, Dec. 20, 1748, conveyed to Valentine and Abraham Mathes, Jr., the homestead where he then lived, "beginning at John Bickford's orchard point, so the salt water is y* bounds to Joneses Point, and Oyster river and said point is on y^ northerly side," etc. John Bickford, June 8, 1771, conveyed to his son Winthrop Bickford 25 acres of land, bounded northerly and westerly by land of Valentine Mathes, easterly by the water, and southerly by the land of Stephen Willey. Also another parcel of land near the above, commonly known by the name of Jonas's Point, containing six acres, bounded southerly by land of Valentine Mathes, and westerly, northerly, and easterly by the salt water. Jonas' Point is on the south side of Oyster river, at the very mouth, and now belongs to Miss Dorothy Mathes. The name is still retained, but is generally corrupted to Jones's Point.

Jones's Creek. This name is now generally given to the tidal portion of Johnson's creek, in Durham, from Stephen Jones, who was at Oyster river as early as 1663, and acquired the lands of Thomas Johnson. Jones's creek" is mentioned in the Durham records as early as March 27, 1785. Jones's bridge is also frequently alluded to in the town accounts, meaning the bridge near the mouth of Jones's creek, on the turnpike road.

LEMUEL⁴ BICKFORD (John³, John², John¹) was born on 06 Mar 1704. He married Temperance Downing.

Notes for Lemuel Bickford:

Lived on the homestead at Fox Point, which he sold to Thomas Pickering in 1751. He was a grantee of Barnstead. Has son, John, and probably daughter Susannah who marr. Robert Mason 13 May 1753. Lemuel Bickford of Newington, Oct. 10, 1733, conveyed to John Smith a tract of land on the southwest side of Mathises creek, so called, "originally granted to his grandfather John Bickford and Thomas Footman..... from Landmarks of Ancient Dover

JOHN⁴ BICKFORD (Thomas³, John², John¹) was born in 1690.

He died on 02 Sep 1768. He married Deborah in 1715.

Notes for John Bickford:

He was of Durham, NH 2 Sept 1768 aged 78.

Plum Swamp. This swamp is in the southern part of the Durham Point district, below Long marsh. It is called "plome swamp" in the Willey grant of March 19, 1693-4. A part of " Plumb Swamp " was sold John Ambler, July 12, 1714, by John, son of Thomas Bickford. Nov. 17, 1718, John Rand sold Francis Mathes thirty-one acres of land south of John Ambler's, bounded east by the bay (Little Bay), and extending up towards the woods near y* plumb swaynp, which land was called by the name of " Rand's plantation." Francis Mathes, Dec. 20, 1748, conveyed to Benjⁿ and Samuel Mathes a tract called plum, swamp, bounded N. by Stephen Wille's land, W. by that of John Ambler, deceased, S. by the common land and the highway, and E. by a highway that goes to said Wille's. These roads lead to Lubberland and into Horn's woods. The lower part of Plum swamp lays along a brook of the same name, which crosses the highway near Mr, Henry Davis's. The name is still retained. Plum Swamp, Caulley's Marsh, Long Marsh, Broad Marsh, and Moharimet's Marsh, succeed each other from the vicinity of Little Bay to the bounds of Lee.

.....

Moharimet's Hill, otherwise Hicks's Hill. This beautiful hill, wooded to the very summit, is at Madbury corner, west of the railway station. Its original name was derived from Moharimet or Mahomet, an Indian sagamore of the seventeenth century. (See Moharimet's Marsh and Wadleigh's Falls.) Charles Adams, of Oyster River, had a grant of 100 acres of land at the foot of Moharimet's hill, in 1656, one half of which he conveyed, March 11, 1693-4, to his daughter, Mary, wife of William Tasker. Derry Pitman, Jan. 1, 1723-4, sold Eli Demerit, Sr., thirty acres of land on the southwest side of Moharimet's Hill. Thomas Footman's hundred acre grant in 1656, was laid out anew, at the request of his son John, June 23, 1715, beginning at a white pine bound tree on John Bickford's lot, near the lower end of Moharimet's Hill on the west side. This land, when re-surveyed for John Roberts, July 25, 1729, ran from a white oak W. S. W. 120 rods, to " a heap of stones on the S. E. end of Moharimet's Hill, about a rod from the way leading through Madbury, leaving the space of one rod between the land and the way where it goes down to the turn about 4 rods from Archabel Smith's pit," etc. Col. James Davis, in his will of Oct. 18, 1748, gives his sons, James and Samuel, twenty acres of land on the northwest side of Moharimet's hill. James Davis of Dover, gentleman, conveyed to Joseph Hicks, March 5, 1761, ten acres on the north side of Mahomet's Hill, being half of twenty acres given him in his father's will. The name of Hicks's hill was derived from Joseph Hicks, who, early last century, acquired the greater part, if not all, of this hill, and erected a garrison on the eastern side, traces of which can still be seen. April 15, 1718, John Underwood, of Newcastle, and Temperance his wife (granddaughter of John Bickford of Oyster River), conveyed to Joseph Hicks 100 acres on the east side of Moharimet's Hill, originally granted John Bickford by the town of Dover. Joseph Hicks is called " captain" in the rate-list of 1758. He married Sarah, daughter of Col. James Davis, who outlived her husband, and died at the age of ninety-one. Letters of administration were granted on her estate Jan. 14, 1794. She and her husband lie buried at the foot of Hicks's hill, at the east. A large part of this hill is still owned by their descendants, among whom may be mentioned the Kingman, Miles, and Young families.

.....

John deeded the homestead at Durham Point to son, Winthrop, 8 June 1771.

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ELEAZAR⁴ BICKFORD (Thomas³, John², John¹) was born about 1690.

He died before Jul 1751. He married Sarah Johnson, daughter of Ebenzer Johnson, on 28 Dec 1721.

Notes for Eleazar Bickford:

Eleazar and Sarah were admitted to the church 4 Aug 1728. Sarah was a widow by 2 July 1751.

JOSEPH⁴ BICKFORD (Thomas³, John², John¹) was born in 1696 in Durham, Strafford County, NH.

He died in 1767 in Durham, Strafford County, NH. He married Alice Edgerly, daughter of John Edgerly and Elizabeth Rawlins, in 1720 in Durham, Strafford County, NH. She was born in 1708. She died on 14 Apr 1755.

Notes for Joseph Bickford:

mariner of Bristol, England, 1740.

HANNAH⁴ BURNHAM (Temperance³ Bickford, John² Bickford, John¹ Bickford) was born on 13 May 1690 in Durham, Stafford County, NH.

She died on 14 Jul 1750 in Durham, Stafford County, NH. She married Samuel Smith, son of Joseph Smith and Elizabeth Bickford, on 15 Feb 1710 in Dover, Strafford County, NH. He was born on 16 Jun 1687 in Durham, Strafford Co., New Hampshire. He died on 02 May 1760 in Oyster River, Province Of New Hampshire.

SARAH⁴ BURNHAM (Temperance³ Bickford, John² Bickford, John¹ Bickford) was born in 1696 in Durham, Strafford Co., New Hampshire.

She died in 1756 in Durham, Strafford Co., New Hampshire. She married Capt. Jonathan Thompson, son of John Thompson Sr. and Sarah Woodman, on 23 Jan 1717/18. He was born in 1693. He died in 1756.

Notes for Jonathan Thompson Capt.:

"Both were admitted to the church 4 Feb 1728. He was on the muster roll of Capt James Davis in 1712. Selectman in Dover 1728-29 and in Durham 1733-35, 1738-41, and 1746, representative eight years, deacon in the church at Oyster River. Called lieutenant and captain. His will, 10 Sept 1756-23 Feb 1757, names his wife, Sarah and children living. Married by Reverend Hugh Adams.

Jonathan Thompson Capt. and Sarah Burnham had the following children:

Jonathan was born in 1718. He died in 1792. He married Susanna Runnels, daughter of Job Runnels, on 24 Dec 1755.

Sergt. John was born in Sep 1721. He died on 03 Dec 1794. He married Abigail Emerson, daughter of Micah Emerson, on 03 Oct 1750. She was born on 26 Feb 1731. She died on 11 Nov 1822.

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Hannah was born in 1729. She married Ebenezer Demeritt.

Susannah was born on 17 Apr 1731 in Lee, Strafford, New Hampshire. She died on 23 Oct 1822 in Lee, Strafford, New Hampshire. She married Robert Thompson Jr., son of Robert Thompson Sr. and Abigail Emerson, about 1752. He was born on 08 Jul 1726 in Lee, New Hampshire. He died on 12 Jun 1805 in Lee, Strafford, New Hampshire.

Joseph was born on 29 Nov 1738. He died on 06 Feb 1805 in Conway, NH. He married (1) Abigail Randall, daughter of Miles Randall and Abigail Runnels, on 19 Nov 1763. She was born on 27 May 1740. She died on 20 Dec 1770. He married (2) Hannah Chesley, daughter of George Chesley and Sarah Sampson, on 12 Nov 1772. She was born on 12 May 1742. She died on 15 Aug 1830.

THOMAS⁴ BICKFORD (Benjamin³, John², John¹) was born in 1692. He died in 1774.

He married Sarah Simeson Simpson on 26 Jul 1711.

Notes for Thomas Bickford:

Thomas Bickford (Benjamin) married in Greenland, 26 July 1711, Sarah "Simeson" (Simpson?). He was baptized and admitted to church at Newington 12 Dec. 1736. His will, 3 Jan. 1770-22 Feb. 1775, and the baptisms at Newington indicate the following children (see Descendant Report and Index at the end of this book)

JOHN⁴ BICKFORD (Benjamin³, John², John¹) was born in 1702 in Newington, Rockingham, New Hampshire, USA.

He died in 1761 in Rochester, Strafford County, NH. He married Sarah Hodgson on 23 Feb 1725 in NH. She was born in 1705. She died in 1801 in Greenland, Rockingham, New Hampshire, USA.

Notes for John Bickford:

He and wife and daughter, Sarah, of Newington were baptized at Oyster River, 24 Dec. 1727. He removed to Rochester, where he was one of the selectmen twelve years.

THOMAS⁴ BICKFORD (Henry³, Thomas², John¹). He married Elizabeth Furber, daughter of Jethro Furber, on 04 Oct 1727.

Notes for Thomas Bickford:

Thomas Bickford (Henry) married, 4 Oct. 1727, Elizabeth, daughter of Jethro Furber, granddaughter of William Furber of Newington. He is called schoolmaster. The inscription on his tombstone says that he died in Portsmouth, 18 Dec. 1772, aged 68. Children baptized at the North Church.

THOMAS⁴ BICKFORD (John³, Thomas², John¹) was born on 18 May 1694 in Strafford County, NH.

He died on 27 Feb 1765 in Madbury, Strafford, New Hampshire, USA. He married Esther Adams, daughter of Charles Adams and Temperance Benmore, on 10 Mar 1717 in Dover, Strafford County, NH. She was born in 1695 in Durham, Stafford County, NH. She died in Jun 1742 in Madbury, Strafford, New Hampshire, USA. with permission of the author, copyright restricted

Notes for Thomas Bickford:

married, 10 March 1717, Esther, daughter of Charles and Temperance (Benmore) Adams. He was baptized at Oyster River, 11 Feb. 1721/2, and Esther was baptized 7 June 1719. He lived near Moharimet's Hill in Madbury. His wife united with the church in Dover, 20 June 1742. His will, 26 Jan. 1765-27 Feb. 1765, names wife, Joanna, and the following children, here named in order of the will.

HENRY⁴ BICKFORD (John³, Thomas², John¹) was born on 01 Jan 1702. He died on 27 Feb 1765 in Dover Neck, Strafford, NH. He married Elizabeth Odiorne. She was born in 1709. She died in 1748.

Notes for Henry Bickford:

Both Henry and Elizabeth baptized at Dover on 4 April 1740. Corwainer (shoemaker). Had deed of 20 acres from his father in 1738.

Fifth Generation

WINTHROP⁵ BICKFORD (John⁴, Thomas³, John², John¹) was born in 1731. He died on 01 Mar 1811.

He married (1) Love Cromwell on 30 Nov 1756. He married (2) Esther Ross Langley. She was born in 1722.

Notes for Winthrop Bickford:

married, 30 Nov. 1756, Love Cromwell, daughter of Samuel and Betty (Pinkham) Cromwell. He married (2), 16 May 1780, Esther Langley, widow of Thomas Langley. He lived at Durham Point and died i March 1811, aged 80. The following were his children, all except Winthrop, Jr., named in his will, 6 Nov. 1810: Samuel who d. 28 May 181 1. James, son of Samuel Bickford was b. in Durham 22 Oct. 1786. A James Bickford d. in Durham, 19 July 1808. Winthrop, Jr. taxed 1786; m. Lettice Durgin, 1805 (?) m. Bethiah Rogers, 27 Jan. 1791 (?). II. Robert b. 21 Oct. 1780; m. Hannah M. Dame. John m. a niece of Stephen White of Salem and lived at Pascataqua Bridge. He was a shipmaster. Had dau. Mary who m. Knapp of Salem, Mass., and (2) a lawyer of Boston. Capt. John Bickford d. in S. America but was buried near Pascataqua Bridge. He had sons, John and Joseph, both of whom followed the sea, and daus., Mary and Elizabeth. Thomas, also a shipmaster in the employ of Stephen White. Hannah m. Richard Dame, 2 Dec. 1798. Olive, unm. in 1810. Esther b. 17 May 1766; m. Andrew Drew, his second wife; d. 12 Feb. 1844.

Jonas' Point. So called from Jonas Binn or Biue, who, in 1651, had a house and lot of six acres which he bought of Thomas Stevenson, on the point at the entrance into Oyster river, compassed with the river every way except the south side, which joined the land of Mr. Francis Mathes. Francis Mathes, Dec. 20, 1748, conveyed to Valentine and Abraham Mathes, Jr., the homestead where he then lived, "beginning at John Bickford's orchard point, so the salt water is y* bounds to Joneses Point, and Oyster river and said point is on y^ northerly side," etc. John Bickford, June 8, 1771, conveyed to his son Winthrop Bickford 25 acres of land, bounded northerly and westerly by land of Valentine Mathes, easterly by the water, and southerly by the land of Stephen Willey. Also another parcel of land near the above, commonly known by the name of Jonas's Point, containing six acres, bounded southerly by land of Valentine Mathes,

and westerly, northerly, and easterly by the salt water. Jonas' Point is on the south side of Oyster river, at the very mouth, and now belongs to Miss Dorothy Mathes. The name is still retained, but is generally corrupted to Jones's Point.

Jones's Creek. This name is now generally given to the tidal portion of Johnson's creek, in Durham, from Stephen Jones, who was at Oyster river as early as 1663, and acquired the lands of Thomas Johnson. Jones's creek" is mentioned in the Durham records as early as March 27, 1785. Jones's bridge is also frequently alluded to in the town accounts, meaning the bridge near the mouth of Jones's creek, on the turnpike road.

SUSANNA⁵ THOMPSON (Sarah⁴ Burnham, Temperance³ Bickford, John² Bickford, John¹ Bickford) was born on 17 Apr 1731 in Lee, Strafford, New Hampshire.

She died on 23 Oct 1822 in Lee, Strafford, New Hampshire. She married Robert Thompson Jr., son of Robert Thompson Sr.* and Abigail Emerson, about 1752. He was born on 08 Jul 1726 in Lee, New Hampshire. He died on 12 Jun 1805 in Lee, Strafford, New Hampshire.

*feature the notes on Robert Thompson, Sr.

Notes for Susanna Thompson:
She married her first cousin, Robert Thompson, Jr.

Notes for Robert Thompson Jr.:
The house was at 22 Cartland Road, Lee, NH and was the property of Robert Sr. who left the land in Lee to his son, Robert, Jr. Robert Jr. moved the house from next to the Little River to a hill on the property. The property sat on 80 acres in the year 2000 and the house is still in good condition and is now protected by the National Register. The remains of the Little River saw mill are still by the river's side on the property at 22 Cartland Rd., however the river is little more than a stream. Since the Little River is on the property, I assume that it was used for cutting boards and for preparing tall pines (for ships' masts) to be transported to the sea by way of 'The Mast Parth or Mast Road'. When I first saw the house and property, the owner, Chris Cook, showed me around. It was great to see the place where my great-great-great grandfather, Isaac Thompson was born and raised. The children had carved initials and other graffiti on the walls and railings leading to the second floor. The carvings were accidentally discovered by Chris Cook and visible only with a flashlight or lantern. Robert Thompson, Jr. married his cousin, Susannah. He was chairman of the board of Selectmen of Lee, NH in 1766.....Phil Swan

6th Generation

JOHN⁶ BICKFORD (Jethro⁵, Jethro⁴, John³, John², John¹) was born on 04 Jan 1762 in Rochester, Strafford County, NH.

He died on 01 Nov 1827 in Rochester, Strafford County, NH. He married Love 'Lovey' Brown, daughter of John Brown and Patience Lord, on 04 Apr 1803 in Rochester, Strafford County, NH. She was born on 17 Mar 1778 in Milton, Strafford, New Hampshire, USA. She died on 11 Feb 1869 in Rochester, Strafford County, NH.

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Early News and Newspapers

Clips from 'Historical Memoranda Concerning Persons and Places in old Dover, N. H.'
from The Dover Enquirer, 1850-1888

OLD SERIES, NO. 99, JAN. 11, 1853.
MISCELLANEOUS.

In 1652 John Ault deposes that he was at Dover in 1635. Richard York does the same. Elder Hatevil Nutter was here in 1686; William Furber in 1637.

Pages 386-388:

OLD SERIES Number 157.

News from the Boston Papers -No I.

"The first newspaper published in North America, "says Hon, J. T. Buckingham , "was the *Boston News Letter*, the first number of which appeared on Monday, April 25, 1704." The size of this early specimen was half a sheet of paper, about twelve inches by eight; in process of time, it enlarged somewhat in length and breadth, and doubled itself into a folio. A file of that paper, more or less defective however, is in the Massachusetts Historical Society's Library, and We learn from it that it was "Sold by Nicholas Boone, at his Shop near the Old Meeting House." The paper was principally made up of foreign news but occasional information was received about home and we have thought it worthwhile to glean such "news" as concerns Dover for our own readers. The instalment of this week will be followed by others by and by.

The first item which we find appropriate is; the following, from the paper, dated May 8 15, 1704:

"Pascataqua. May 6. Letters they carry no certain Intelligence of any Indians seen at Mr. Waldron's since last Week only some were track(ed) about three miles, above Nitchewanock, in a Swamp where were Cranberries, and 'tis believed they saw our Scouts, and narrowly escap'd them; the tracts seeming very new. They are making what preparations they can to fortifie the place, in case of any attack by the French and Indians."

This as in Queen Anne's war; and the above date was given the week following the alarm given by Th??in Mesarvey, Mr. Waldern's servant, about when it is doubtful, whether she was actually knocked down by the Indians at the particular 28th of April or whether she chatted too long with her lover: the allusion to last week above refer to that alarm.

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Further information though came with the admirable independence as to punctuation came as follows--

June 1. On Sabbath last, some of the sculking enemy lay in ambush for people at Cocheco, going to Publick Worship, & narrowly escap't being on Horseback, ran safely by them, scouts went out immediately after them, & found some dried Beef, & some pewter bullets in the Thicket where they lay.

Belknap says nothing of the above: though he is quite full in reference to this war, which lasted until 1713.

No further items regarding Dover or Dover people until 1715. In the paper of March 25, 1715, under the heading of 'Pascataqua' appears this obituary, and the interesting piece of information therewith connected—

"On Monday the 21st Currant, Dyed at Exeter the Honourable Peter Coffin, Esq.; in the 85th year of his Age, who was late judge of his Majesty's Superior Court of Adjudicature, and First Member of his Majesty's Council of this Province; a Gentleman very Serviceable in Church and State. We now have a Severe Storm of Snow."

Under the date of July 22, 1715, at Piscataqua, we are informed that—

"Jethro Furber is arrived here from Jamaica, but last from Turks Island Loaden with Salt.

Jethro was doubtless one of the Newington Furbers, though we didn't know that before that he went to sea. William Furber, the first of the name we know anything about, was born in 1614 or 15: 1 Dec. 1676, he testifies (aged 62 or thereabouts,) that he came here in the ship Angel Gabriel, which was wrecked at Pemaquid in Aug, 1636; that in Nov. 1636 he went to Ipswich and hired himself for one year to John Cogswell, who with his three sons (William aged 14 in 1635, John aged 12, and Edward aged 6) came out with him. He came from London: was at Dover in 1637; was freeman in 1653; was taxed in 1648, and at Bloody Point where he lived from 1666 to 1671; in 1642 he was living at Welchman 's Cove, on Newington side: he was alive 1 Dec. 1696, but dead 1699, intestate. William had a grant sometime about 1650 of "Two houses Lotts" on the E. side of Dover Neck, bordering on the 'fore river'. (Niwichwannock) and lying west of Joseph Austin's. At the same time he received marsh in the Great Bay and some where near "Turney Point." Also, 19, 8, 1657 (Aug 19, 1657), he received 30 acres of the 400 reserved to the town of Dover on Newington side' when Dover went under Massachusetts government; 20 of it "on the same side John Tuttell is on the northwest side and tenn accers is on the other sied of Creeke which is tho Soueth sied," This, like all the 30 acre lots on Great Bay, was laid out in pursuance of town vote by "Elder Nutter, William Storey, william ffurher, henry lanklster."

William was a lieutenant. He had a wife, Elizabeth, and five children, viz: William the eldest, born 1646: Jethro; Susan 5 May, 1664, mar. John Bickford; Elizabeth, mar. John Dam, Bridget marr. Thomas Bickford. John and Thomas Bickford were brothers; where John lived we do not know but he had nine children; Thomas lived at Oyster River, and successfully defended his garrison home in 1694, and had four children.

—Jethro, son of William, had a deed of land from his father at Longpoint, 19 Feb. 1677. We do not think he was the sailor, as at that time our Jethro came here from Turks Island he would have been seventy years old. But Capt. Jethro was doubtless either a son or a nephew of the other Jethro.

The first Furber had not a very large family having only two sons, but the descendants remedied the difficulty. The first Furber's grandson, William for instance who was born in 1672, and died 20 March 1757, who lived in Newington, and married Sarah somebody, (born 1675, died 28 April, 1772) had a variety of children, one of whom, Nehemiah, born 21 Jan. 1710, had a wife Abigail (born 14 June, 1710) had nine children, viz: Elizabeth, b. 26 April, 1733; Mary, b. 6 May 1735, d. 18 April, 1736; Jerusha, b. 6 Jan. 1738; Abigail, b. 11 June, 1740; Deborah, b. 9 April 1743; Sarah, b. March, 1745. Nehemiah b. 34 April, 1748, died 23 Feb. 1754; Levi, b. 16 May, 1751; Fabyan, b. 14 June, 1753, died 13 Feb. 1802; this last had thirteen children himself.

The family proceeded to increase and multiply; --their exact relation to Furber's Corner we have no means of tracing. The indefatigable correspondent at Pascataqua writes under the date of June 1, 1716:—Our People up the River are afraid of the Indians breaking out into a war.

They didn't however for seven years.

The next winter was a very hard winter. On the 1st of March 1717, horses could not pass and persons travelled only on snow shoes. The winter after had more snow also; on the 24th of January 1718, the snow was three and a half feet deep on a level. In connection with the weather occurred the following:—Mar. 7, 1718. We are Informed from Dover that the snow lies two Foot deep on the Ground, and that several parts are bare on the Neck.



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Dr. Alphonso Bickford (1817-1869)



Dr. Alphonso Bickford, son of Thomas Bickford of Dover, was born 12 December 1817. He was graduated at Bowdoin Medical College in 1837. He practised in Durham, 1837-48, whence he removed to Exeter, thence to Boston and thence after one or two years to Dover. He was Mayor of Dover in 1861 and 1862 and Alderman in 1866 and 1867. He was a skillful physician and had an extensive practice. He died in Dover 31 December 1869. His daughter married Elisha R. Brown of Dover, President of Strafford National Bank.

The photo below is from 'St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, Dover, NH – Our History – ' by Phillp E. Swan - January 2016.

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Elisha R. Brown donated the 'Supper at Emmaus', windows above the altar, made in Munich, Germany

Charles Ambrose Bickford

An American actor best known for his strong supporting roles in motion pictures, Charles 'Charlie' Ambrose Bickford got his start on the legitimate stage and in silent movies. He was nominated three times for the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor, for 'The Song of Bernadette' (1943), 'The Farmer's Daughter' (1947), and 'Johnny Belinda' (1948). Other notable roles include 'Whirlpool' (1948), 'A Star Is Born' (1954) and 'The Big Country' (1958). Charlie Bickford has two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame for his contributions to the motion picture and television industries. His stars are located at 6780 Hollywood Boulevard for film and 1620 Vine Street for television

'Charlie' is one of 8 actors who have received an Oscar nomination for their performance as a priest. The others, in chronological order, are: Spencer Tracy for 'San Francisco' (1936) and 'Boys Town' (1938); Bing Crosby for 'Going My Way' (1944) and 'The Bells of St. Mary's' (1945); Barry Fitzgerald for 'Going My Way' (1944); Gregory Peck for 'The Keys of the Kingdom' (1944); Karl Malden for 'On the Waterfront' (1954); Jason Miller for 'The Exorcist' (1973); and Philip Seymour Hoffman for 'Doubt' (2008). Tracy, Crosby and Fitzgerald all won Oscars for their performances.



Charlie descends from John Bickford born 1609 in Rattery, Devonshire, England and died 1676 at Oyster River, Province of New Hampshire. His direct line Bickford ancestors moved from Oyster River to Newington, Rockingham County, New Hampshire to Arundel (now Kennebunkport), York County, Maine and to Massachusetts where Charlie was born. They were ship masters and seafarers, in the beginning years. Now, I will proceed to.....

Charlie's great-grandfather, John W. Bickford born 10 April 1768 at Kennebunkport and died 12 June 1836 at Cape Porpoise, York County, Maine.

per 'Arundel Records 1768-1839' by Harold C. Durrell in 1910: John Bickford and Susan Lord filed marriage intentions on 7 April 1827 at Arundel (Kennebunkport)

per 'The Ancestry of Lieut. Amos Towne 1737-1793 of Arundel (Kennebunkport) Maine' 1927 by Walter Goodwin Davis----

"Bickford describing himself as a merchant of Kennebunkport, made his will 24 June 1835 and it was probated 1 Aug 1836; legacies were left to his wife Susan, his daughter Lucy E. Bickford, his son John W. Bickford and the heirs of his daughter Phebe (by of a former marriage); he died 12 June 1836 aged eighty-six (gravestone record); Susan died 16 May 1867 (gravestone record at Cape Porpoise).

From 'History of Cape Porpoise' 1955 by Melville C. Freeman: '....a list of boats on the River and owned here after 1800. It evidentially does not include all the locally owned craft.

	Name of Ship	Tonnage	Master	Owner
1813	Amon Sloop	29	Dimon Wakefield	John Bickford
1814	Otho Schooner	44	Josiah Huff	John Bickford
1816	Penrod Schooner	42	Josiah Huff	John Bickford

"I also found in our finding aids a reference to a note we have in the archives. We also have more ships that he owned listed in our database that we keep on ships built in the area. However, they are all around the years noted in the Cape Porpoise History. Note asking that 'Mr. John March be paid \$1.20, signature removed but witnessed by Mr. John Bickford, dated November , 1808'" Leanne Hayden, Collections Manager, The Brick Store Museum, 117 Main Street, Kennebunk, Maine

Charlie's grandfather, John W. Bickford born 03 Dec 1831 Kennebunkport and died 22 March 1906 Kennebunkport, Maine.

in 1850 he is shown as a fisherman; in 1860 census occupation – carpenter; in 1880 census shows as carpenter; July 1, 1860 Civil War draft registration shows him as 32 years old.

Charlie's father, Loretus Elisha Bickford born March 1854 Kennebunkport and died 1931 Everett, Mass.

Loretus was a coffee roaster for most of his working years.

Charlie's older brother, John W. Bickford born 31 July 1888 Kennebunkport died 8 July 1975 Brooklyn, Kings, NY

John W. Bickford was a graduate of MIT with a degree in Civil Engineering. He initially worked for the Army Corps of Engineers. This caused him to move to New Matamoras, Ohio. He worked on the construction of Locks & Dams that made the Ohio River navigable in that area. The original Locks & Dams were replaced in the mid 1970s but the Lock house still stands.

Charles Ambrose Bickford's childhood—

The fifth of seven children, he was born in the first minute of 1891. Personal Quote: "It's appropriate that I should have come in on the wings of a blizzard. I've been blowing up a storm ever since." Charlie was an intelligent but very independent and unruly child. He had a particularly strong relationship with his maternal grandfather (a sea captain) who was a powerful influence during his formative years. He was a boisterous child and, at nine, was tried and acquitted for attempted murder in the shooting of a trolley operator who had run over his dog. Always more interested in experiencing life than reading about it, he was considered "the wild rogue" of his family, causing his parents frequent dismay.

Charlie Bickford had intended to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to earn an engineering degree. In his late teens he drifted aimlessly around the United States for a time. He worked as a lumberjack and investment promoter and, briefly, ran his own pest extermination business.

Stage and Silent Movies

He was a stoker and fireman in the United States Navy when a friend dared him to get a job in burlesque. (Charlie was also an Engineer Lieutenant in WWI) He became friends with the manager of the burlesque show and he took a role in the show. He debuted in Oakland, California, in 1911. Charlie enjoyed himself so much that he abandoned his plans to attend M.I.T. He made his legitimate stage debut with the John Craig Stock Company at the Castle Square Theatre in Boston in 1912. Soon afterward, he joined a road company and traveled throughout the United States for more than a decade, appearing in various productions. In 1925, while working in a Broadway play called 'Outside Looking In', he and co-star James Cagney (in his first Broadway role) received rave reviews. He was offered a role in Herbert Brenon's 1926 film of 'Beau Geste' but, anxious not to give up his newfound Broadway stardom, turned it down (a decision he later came to regret). Following his appearance in the critically praised but unsuccessful Maxwell Anderson-Harold Hickerson drama about the Sacco and Vanzetti case, 'Gods of the Lightning'. Charlie was contacted by filmmaker Cecil B. DeMille and offered a contract with MGM studios to star in DeMille's first talking picture, 'Dynamite'. He soon began working with MGM head Louis B. Mayer on a number of projects.

Marriage.....

I must interrupt Charlie's acting career for another important event....his marriage to Beatrice Ursula Allen in 1916. Beatrice 'Bee' was born December 27, 1891 in Washington, DC and died March 6, 1969 in Los Angeles, California. Bee also appeared on stage under the name of Beatrice Loring (another actress was using the name of Beatrice Allen, so Bee used her grandmother's maiden name, Loring) and she and Charlie appeared sometimes together on stage. Bee did not follow on into movies. Both Charlie and Bee were married once only and until death parted them.



Beatrice Ursula Allen

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“Yes, Bee and Charlie performed together many times. They also worked with Bee’s sister, Marie, and her husband, Al Roberts. The whole family was in show business. Bee’s mother, Harriet Allen, was also an actress. Only Charlie made the transition to Hollywood and into films.” Michael C. Carlos (Charlie’s grandson)



‘The Tamer’

Charlie and Bee had two children – Doris Marie Ellinor born 1918 and Rex Albert born 1924.



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Talking Pictures--

Charlie became a star, after playing Greta Garbo's lover in 'Anna Christie' (1930), but never developed into a leading man. Always of independent mind, exceptionally strong-willed and quick with his fists, Charlie would frequently argue and nearly come to blows with Mayer and any number of other MGM authority figures during the course of his contract with the studio. During the production of De Mille's 'Dynamite', he punched out his director following a string of heated arguments primarily, but not exclusively, related to the interpretation of his character's role. Throughout his early career on both the stage and later films he rejected numerous scripts and made no secret of his disdain for much of the material he was offered. Not surprisingly, his association with MGM was short-lived, with Charlie asking for and quickly receiving a release from his contract. He soon found himself blacklisted at other studios, forcing him to take the highly unusual step (for that era) of becoming an independent actor. In 1935, he was mauled by a lion and nearly killed while filming 'East of Java'. While he recovered, he lost his contract with Fox as well as his leading man status because of extensive neck scarring suffered in the attack and his advancing age. It was not long, however, before he made a very successful transition to character roles, which he felt offered much greater diversity and allowed him to showcase his talent to better effect.

Television--

Finding great success playing an array of character roles in films and later in television, he quickly became highly sought after. His burly frame and rugged and intense features, together with a gruff and powerful voice lent themselves to a wide variety of roles. Most often, he played lovable father figures, stern businessmen, heavies, ship captains or authority figures of some sort. He served as host of the 1950s television series 'The Man Behind The Badge'.



On April 16, 1958, he appeared with Roger Smith in "The Daniel Barrister Story" on NBC's 'Wagon Train'. In this first season episode, Daniel Barrister, played by Charlie, objects to medical treatment for his wife, Jenny, the victim of a wagon accident. Meanwhile, Dr. Peter H. Culver, played by Smith, has successfully fought a smallpox epidemic in a nearby town. He is brought to the wagon train by scout Flint McCullough,

portrayed by series regular Robert Horton, to treat Mrs. Barrister. Viewers never knew if Barrister yielded to allow Dr. Culver to treat Jenny.

Charlie continued to act in generally prestigious projects right up to his death. He guest-starred on ABC's 'The Islanders' and on NBC's 'The Barbara Stanwyck Show' and 'The Eleventh Hour'. In his final years, he played rancher John Grainger, owner of the Shiloh Ranch, on NBC's 'The Virginian' western series.

Two of the actor's most memorable late-career big-screen roles came in the western 'The Big Country' (1958) (as a wealthy and ruthless rancher) and in the drama 'Days of Wine and Roses' (as the forlorn father of an alcoholic).

In 1965, Charlie Bickford published his autobiography, 'Bulls Balls Bicycles & Actors'. Charlie never placed all his eggs in one basket when it came to his financial security. At one time, he owned a gas station and garage, a half interest in a pearling schooner, a pair of whaling boats, a hog farm, a chicken ranch, a lingerie shop, and purchased an island off the coast of the Indonesian island of Java where coconuts were harvested. Among his outside interests were painting and a gold mine in San Bernadino. By the time of his death, he was a multi-millionaire.



Charles 'Charlie' Ambrose Bickford

(January 1, 1891 – November 9, 1967)

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Michael's email comments:

"Hi Phil,

I found the Alicia Mayer blog, and saw your post. Most of what she wrote came from Charlie's book, "Bulls Balls Bicycles and Actors", in which portrays himself as a fiery two-fisted tough guy with a heart of gold, like most of the roles he played. To what extent he really was like that, I don't know for sure. I can't say I knew him extremely well, I was just a child. I was only 13 when I last saw him. And except for the three years before that, I was only with him occasionally when the family got together. But for those 3 years my mother and I lived a few blocks away, and spent a lot of time there, at Charlie & Bee's place, where we each had a bedroom. That's how I came to be there the night Rex died. Charlie was a little bit scary, a big man, with a big personality. He was often taciturn and gruff, He loved his family, doted on Rex. Bee ran the estate, with Ethel, her housekeeper..... Charlie came and went – often for many weeks at a time on location. As a child I had difficulty separating him from the film characters he played. I remember getting very distressed when I saw him die in "Not As A Stranger", back in the mid 50s. My mom called him on the phone (a big deal because we lived in Tokyo) and he explained to me that he was not dead, just acting. That's how I learned what actors do." Michael C. Carlos (Charlie's grandson)



Michael C. Carlos

I have had the pleasure of corresponding with Michael Carlos for several months and exchanging information. I thank him for the beautiful photos and the stories of his family. In return, I was able to research his Bickford branch and to provide to him an accurate pedigree with lots of notes and stories.

Also, I have had the pleasure of meeting John D. Bickford of Georgia, USA. John D. Bickford is the grandson of Charlie's brother, John W. Bickford (1886-1975).

'Charlie' is my 6th cousin.....our branches split off in different directions, several generations ago.