

TWYFORD OF KIRK LANGLEY AND SPONDON: SOME PROBLEMS RESOLVED

BY M. J. SAYER

Since the publication of my article 'Twyford of Kirk Langley and Spondon' in the *Derbyshire Archaeological Journal XCIV* (1974), I have been alerted by the kindness of Mrs. Wood of 62 Wellington Street, Matlock, to the existence of a collection of Twyford deeds among the Wolley manuscripts at the British Museum (Add. Mss. 6672). These were all copied and a narrative pedigree added in a late 15th century hand.

In the most significant of these deeds for the pedigree, in 19 Edward III, Sir John Twyford entails the manor of Kirk Langley successively on his sons Robert, Edward, Philip and Nicholas and their heirs male in turn, with remainder to John Chandos and finally to his own right heirs.

In 40 Edward III Sir Edward Twyford grants his nephew Robert Twyford the manor of Huntelounde in Hertfordshire for life, the witnesses including Sir Edward's brother Sir Robert Twyford, and John Curzon, and that this second Robert was Sir Robert's son is confirmed by two deeds of 13 Richard II.

In 21 Henry VI, Thomas Twyford grants land late of his father Robert Twyford in Spondon and Chaddesden to John Curzon and in the same year Roger Twyford grants John Curzon his rights in these lands, presumably therefore being a cadet. There are a number of other grants from Thomas to John at this period and eventually a bond of 2 Edward IV. Finally, Ralph Pole and John Curzon are found acting jointly in a number of further deeds at this time.

Having summarised the additional genealogical information from the deeds, we can turn to the pedigree given with them by the compiler of the cartulary. Beginning with Sir John Twyford and Margaret his wife, it states that their sons were Robert and Edward (to which a later hand, perhaps that of Wolley, had added Philip and Nicholas).

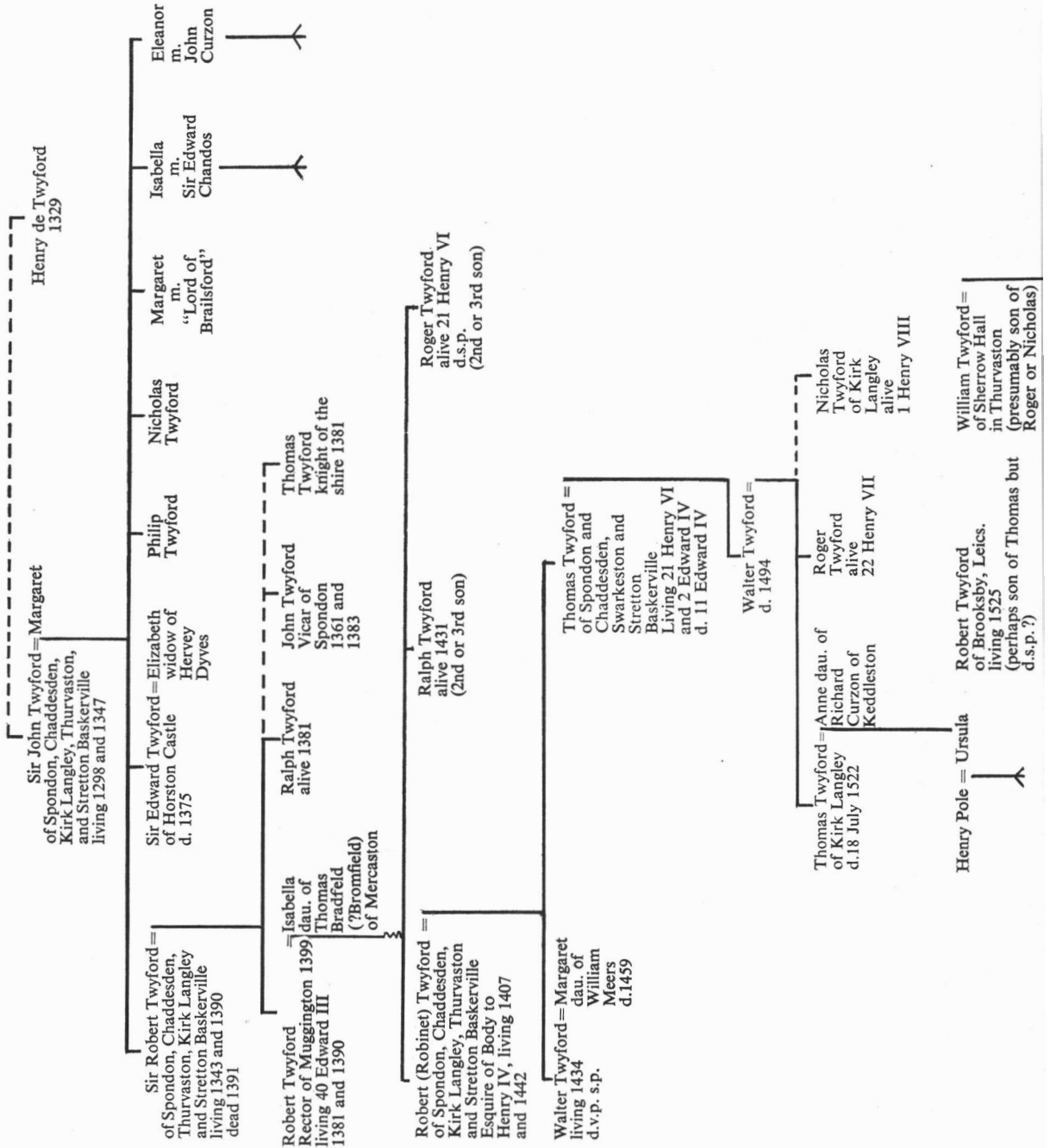
Robert became a knight and had a son Robert who was *infra sacros* and said to have been ordained a priest but nevertheless married Isabell daughter of Thomas Bradfeld of Mercaston and had issue Robert, called Robinet, Rauf and Thomas. The later hand has erased these three names and substituted Roger, Roluff and Robert called Robinet. The pedigree concludes its account of the male line of the family by stating that Robert called Robinet was father of Walter and Thomas, the latter being father of another Walter.

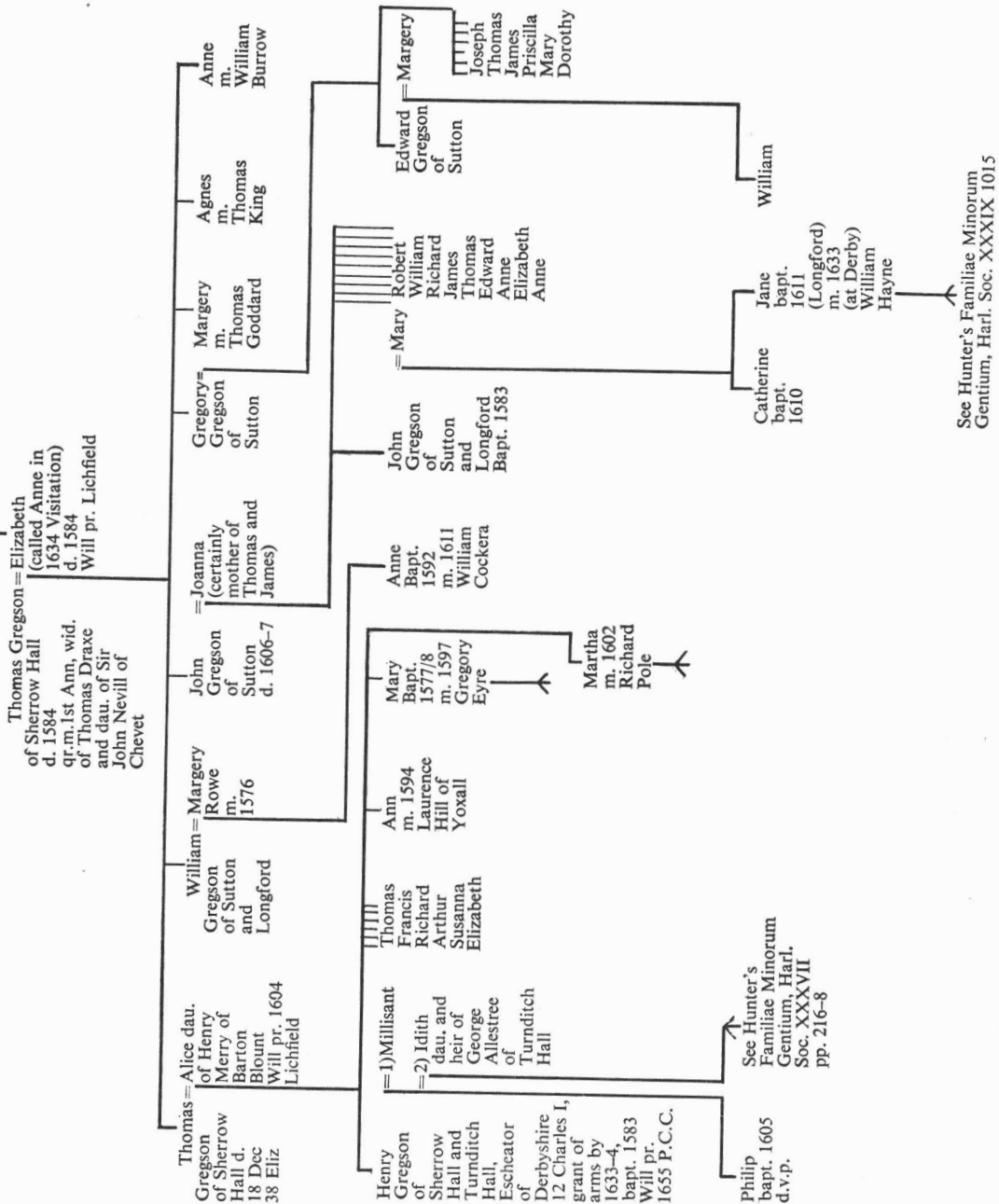
Sir John Twyford's daughters are given as Margaret, who married the lord of Brailsford (no name given) but left no issue, Elizabeth (for whom the later hand has substituted the contemporary alternative Isabel) wife of John (Edward substituted) Chandos and Elinore wife of John Curzon. It then details the descents of the Poles and Curzons from these daughters.

The narrative section of the cartulary explains that the children of the second Robert are considered illegitimate so that the Twyford lands passed by right to the descendants of Sir John's daughters as coheirs, and it also states that Walter Twyford claims the lands by gift of the second Robert to his son Robinet and his heirs male, Walter being son of Thomas son of Robinet and also heir to Roger who left no issue.

Although one regrets the need for the corrections by the later hand (and the change of John Chandos to Edward is the most serious), the basic rationale behind the narrative pedigree is convincing and largely supported by the deeds.

PEDIGREE OF TWYFORD





Gregson additions from register of Sutton-on-the-Hill

It makes it clear that Robert Twyford, Esquire of the Body, must be the third and not the second of that name (identical, therefore, with Robinet) and that both the pedigree at the College of Arms and that in the Bodleian copy of the 1611 Visitation omit a generation, a mistake compounded by serious duplication in the Bodleian pedigree. It also becomes clear that the Curzon and Chandos marriages must have been made by sisters, and why the Curzons and Poles both quartered the Twyford arms. It will also be seen that the pedigree in the Wolley manuscripts corroborates in almost all details that in the Queen's College copy of the 1611 Visitation.

In conclusion, therefore, the pedigree would seem to be as shown on the attached chart (which it seems best to reprint completely) and I think one can now even remove the word probable by letting the remaining uncertainties be clear from the chart itself.