

## THE SUSSEX COLEPEPERS.

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AND THE

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To write a history of the family of Colepeper in all its different branches would take up a good many volumes of the size of these *Collections*, and we have, therefore, confined ourselves to the main branch, and to off-shoots of it which settled in Sussex.

With regard to the derivation of the name Colepeper no satisfactory explanation has ever been given, but as the first of the family of whom we have any mention, the "Recognitor Magnæ Assisæ tempore Regis Johannis," is called Thomas *de Colepeper*, we may fairly conclude that the name either bore a local signification, or it refers to the occupation, or calling in life, of those who first adopted it. If the name is a local one two places have been suggested from which it may be derived, viz., Gollesberghe, in Sandwich, co. Kent, and Goldspur, or Culspore, a hundred in the Rape of Hastings. If, on the other hand, the name is connected in some way with the occupation of those who first assumed it, then it is argued that in the same manner as Coleprophet means a false prophet, and Coletragitour a false traitor, so Colepeper may mean a false pepperer, or sham grocer, *i.e.*, one who traded outside the Fraternity of Pepperers, the Guild whence sprang the Grocers' Company, which was incorporated in 1345. Another suggestion points to the possibility of Colepeper meaning Blackpepper, while another hints at the likelihood of there having been formerly some industry in which the culling or picking of pepper may have formed one of the chief branches.

The armorial bearings of the family, *Arg.*: a bend engrailed, *gu.*, may possibly furnish a clue to its origin. Papworth, in his *Ordinary of British Armorials*, mentions some sixty families as bearing the bend engrailed, but apparently only two of them, viz., Chitcroft and Walrand, displayed identically the same coat as the Colepepers. As Robert Walrand, in the Roll of Arms, *temp.* Henry III., appears as the owner of this coat,<sup>1</sup> the Colepepers probably got it somehow through him, and they were using it as early as 3 Edward III. (1329), when John, the son of Sir Thomas Colepeper, is recorded as bearing it, and his brother Richard differenced it with a label of three points.<sup>2</sup> The Chitcrofts also were probably either Colepepers or closely connected with them, as not only are their arms identical, but we find the two families associated together at a very early period. In 1299 Benedicta, daughter of Thomas de Chitcroft, granted land in Beghal, with a mill in Pepinbury, to Thomas, son of Thomas Colepeper, and Margery his wife,<sup>3</sup> while in 11 Henry IV. (1409) the names of John Chitcroft and Thomas Colepeper, chivaler, appear coupled as defendants in an action brought by John Mortymer, relating to the manor of Asshen, co. Northants.<sup>4</sup> An investigation of the early Walrand and Chitcroft pedigrees would doubtless reveal some connection with Colepeper, but would probably give no clue to the origin of the name, which may, therefore, be left to the choice of the reader or to his further researches.

Thomas de Colepeper is stated to have been a Recognitor of the Grand Assize, on the authority of Phillipott, in his *Villare Cantianum*, where he quotes "Bundels of incertain years in the Pipe Office," but no direct reference being given we have, unfortunately, been unable to trace him. We would, however, point out that a Recognitor was not a Judge, as is asserted in the article referred to.

The Grand Assize was not an assize in the sense which we now use the word, but it was a proceeding or enquiry

<sup>1</sup> S.A.C., Vol. XXIV., 30.

<sup>3</sup> Harl., Ch. 77, f. 20.

<sup>2</sup> Coll. Top. et Gen., VII., 337.

<sup>4</sup> *Genealogist*, Vols. XIV., 252; XVI., 38.

like an assize of novel disseisin, or an assize of mort d'ancestor, &c., while the Recognitors, who were summoned on such tribunal, were the jurors whose function it was to investigate all cases involving questions of right, and who, being probably neighbours of the disputing parties, were bound to "recognise" and speak the truth concerning the matter at issue.<sup>5</sup>

Most pedigrees agree in giving John as the Recognitor's son, followed by Sir Thomas as his grandson. If the pedigrees are correct then this Sir Thomas, of Bayhall, must have been an old man in 4 Edward II. (1310). Assuming that the grandfather was fifty years of age when he served as Recognitor, then the two generations succeeding him must have covered a period of some eighty years. This would make Sir Thomas Colepeper, in 4 Edward II., when his son Thomas and Margery his wife purchased of him 50 acres in Foulsden,<sup>6</sup> a fairly old man, and although indicted in 1305, with his son Thomas, for stealing the goods of the vicar of Ringmer, we can hardly believe that he took any active part in the matter. For this reason it was not probable that it was this Thomas who was porter or janitor of Leeds Castle in 1292; it was more likely his son of the same Christian name. In 1296 (25 Edward I.) there is an important reference to Thomas Colepeper, sen.; the executors of the will of Sir William de Montfort brought an action against Thomas Colepeper and *John* his son concerning the manor of Newenton, in Kent.<sup>7</sup>

From this it is clear that there was, besides his sons Thomas and Walter, who were executed, another son John, and there was doubtless another son named Nicholas. All four were implicated in the Earl of Lancaster's rebellion, but John and Nicholas evidently in a lesser degree than Thomas and Walter. There was an order issued in 1322 to the Sheriff of York to

<sup>5</sup> See Pollock and Maitland's *Hist. of Engl. Law*, Vol. II., p. 627.

<sup>6</sup> Inq. de terris forisfactis, 17 Ed. II., No. 12.

<sup>7</sup> De Banco, Mich., 25 Ed. I., m. 287<sup>d</sup>. In 35 Ed. I. Margaret, daughter of the late William Pykot, granted to Matilda Colpeper and Joan her daughter 15 dayworks (daywercas) of land in Newinton, in a field called "Brechfelde." (*Ancient Deeds*, Vol. IV., A. 7030.)

receive John Colepeper and others into custody in York Castle.<sup>8</sup> This looks as if John Colepeper took part in the Battle of Boroughbridge, and Weaver, in his *Ancient Funeral Monuments*, p. 272, speaks of Sir Thomas Colepeper siding with the Earl of Lancaster and being hanged, drawn and quartered at Winchelsea. The place fatal to the Earl was Pontefract, so it seems certain that both Thomas and John were with Lancaster's forces at Boroughbridge.

After remaining a close prisoner during the remainder of the reign in the Castles of Berkhamstead and Gloucester,<sup>9</sup> John Colepeper was released on the accession of Edward III., and in the restoration of confiscated lands which then took place those of John Colepeper, of Lynlegh, were included.<sup>10</sup> He was alive eleven years later, when John Colepeper, of Lynlegh, with Johanna, his wife, appear as deforciants in a fine relating to 20 acres of land in Wythyham.<sup>11</sup>

With regard to the other two sons of Sir Thomas Colepeper, sen., Walter and Nicholas, they both suffered for their refusal to admit Queen Isabel to Leeds Castle. Walter "sticked not to tell him" (the Queen's marshal) "that neither the Queen nor any other should be lodged there without the commandement of his Lorde the owner." On the Queen coming to the gate in person "the Captaine most malapertly repulsed her, insomuch that shee complained grievously to the King," who besieged the place and eventually took it. "Then tooke he Captaine Colepeper and hoong him up." Captain Colepeper was doubtless Walter, as the release of Nicholas, his only brother yet unaccounted for, forms the subject of the following order issued in 1323 to Henry de Cobeham, Constable of Rochester Castle : "Whereas Nicholas Colepeper and others are imprisoned in Rochester Castle because they adhered to certain rebels who held the King's Castle of Ledes against him. The King, compassionating their estate, and being unwilling to detain

<sup>8</sup> Close Roll, 1322.

<sup>10</sup> Close Roll, 1 Ed. III., m. 21.

<sup>9</sup> Close Roll, 19 Ed. II., m. 22.

<sup>11</sup> Feet of Fines, Sussex, 12 Ed. III., No. 28.

them longer in prison, orders the Constable to release those of them whom he shall find by Inquisition to have no lands, and to cause those of them who have lands to come before the King within 15 days from Easter at their own cost and to do and to receive what the King's Court shall consider in the matter.”<sup>12</sup>

Of the four sons of Thomas Colepeper, grandson of the Recognitor, we can find no trace of John and Nicholas, while from Captain Walter Colepeper sprang the Colepepers of Oxenhoath and Aylesford, with whom, as being more connected with Kent than Sussex, this paper has no concern.

The eldest son, Sir Thomas Culpeper, who was executed at Winchelsea in 1321, seems to have married Margery, a daughter of the Bayhall family, and either by this match, or by purchase, to have acquired their estates. This Thomas is called in 1306 “*fil' Thom' Colepeper de Brenchesle.*” The following evidence is adduced to show that Margery probably belonged to the Bayhall family.

In 1299 there is the grant, mentioned before, by Benedicta daughter of Thomas de Chiteroff, which family bore identically the same arms as the Colepepers (and therefore Thomas de Chiteroff may have been a Colepeper himself, or he and Thomas Colepeper may both by marriage with the Bayhall heiresses have adopted their coat of arms) to Thomas, son of Thomas Colepeper, and Margery his wife of lands at Beghall with part of a mill in Pepinbury.<sup>13</sup>

1308. Charter in which Cecilia, Margeria, Amicia, and Christina, daughters of John atte Bayhalle grant to Thomas the son of Thomas Colepeper, for 5 marcs, all their part of a mill and lands in Peapinbury which they had after the death of their grandfather William atte Bayhalle.<sup>14</sup>

1309. Johanna quæ fuit uxor Johannis atte Beyhalle petit versus Thomam Colepeper juniores.<sup>15</sup>

1312. Grant from Ralph Newman and Agnes daughter and heir of Geoffry atte Beyhalle to Thomas Colepeper and Margery his wife of lands in Pepinbery.<sup>16</sup>

1312. Grant of Walter son of Jeffrey atte Beyhalle and Agnes his sister and Ralph Neweman to Thomas Colepeper and Margery his wife for 26 shillings “quandam granam terræ in Pepingebery.”<sup>17</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Close Roll, 17 Ed. II., m. 14.

<sup>15</sup> De Banco Mich., 2 Ed. II., m. 216<sup>d</sup>.

<sup>13</sup> Harl., Ch. 77, f. 20.

<sup>16</sup> Harl., Ch. 79, d. 45.

<sup>14</sup> Harl., Ch. 76, b. 1.

<sup>17</sup> Harl., Ch. 76, b. 2.

1313. Gilbert ate Beyhalle grants to Thomas Colepeper and Margery for 50 shillings a piece of land in Pepingbery to be held by them and their heirs for ever.<sup>18</sup>

1314. Charter by which Christina daughter of John atte Bayhalle for 4 marcs grants to Thomas Colepeper lands in Pepingbery.<sup>19</sup>

1315. Christina de Beyhalle grants to Thomas Colepeper and Margery his wife for 3<sup>s</sup> 6<sup>d</sup> the pension which William Scrivor owes yearly to her.<sup>20</sup>

1316. Grant from Ralph Newheman to Thomas Colepeper and Margery his wife of lands at Beahalle in fields called "Redest" and "Mesebort" in Pepinbury.<sup>21</sup>

1316. Charter by which Christina daughter of John atte Bayhalle grants to Thomas Colepeper and Margery for two shillings all that part of wood "inter Rodgate et stagna de Bayhalle cum placea super quam boscus crescit."<sup>22</sup>

1317. Christina daughter of John atte Bayhalle grants to Thomas Colepeper and Margery for 4 marcs a messuage and lands in Peapingbury which she had "post decessum Willelmi ate Bayhalle avi sui."<sup>23</sup>

1317. Quitclaim by Johanna widow of John atte Beyhalle to Thomas Colepeper and Margery his wife of a house and lands at Beyhalle for 3½ marcs.<sup>24</sup>

Sir Thomas Colepeper, who "pro bono servicio in partibus Scotie" received a pardon in the 32nd year of Edward I. for breaking the park of the Prior of Christ Church, Canterbury, at Westwell, and the park of the Prior of Michelham, in the 29th year of that King's reign,<sup>25</sup> took the side of the Earl of Lancaster against Edward II., and being Governor of Winchelsea, was there executed in 1321.

Previous to this, however, by a fine levied in 1320, part of his estates, consisting of 2 messuages, 2 mills, 405 acres of land, 20 acres of meadow, 60 acres of pasture, 80 acres of wood and 20 shillings annual rental in Pepyngbery, Thonebregg and Teudele, were settled on himself and Margery his wife for life, with remainder to their sons Walter, John and Richard in succession.<sup>26</sup>

By Inquisition taken at Tunbridge 25th February, 1 Edward III. (1327), it was found that Thomas Colepeper

<sup>18</sup> Harl., Ch. 76, b. 4.

<sup>22</sup> Harl., Ch. 76, a. 52.

<sup>19</sup> Harl., Ch. 76, a. 50.

<sup>23</sup> Harl., Ch. 76, a. 53.

<sup>20</sup> Harl., Ch. 76, b. 3.

<sup>24</sup> Harl., Ch. 77, e. 52.

<sup>21</sup> Harl., Ch. 79, d. 46.

<sup>25</sup> Assize Roll, Sussex, No. 934, m. 6<sup>d</sup>.

<sup>26</sup> Feet of Fines, Kent, Case 101, No. 704.

died seized of Bayhalle, with lands in Pepyngbery, Thonebregg and Teudele, and that Walter was his son and heir, aged 22 years on the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary last past (2nd February, 1327).<sup>27</sup> In the Inquisition de terris forisfactis, 17 Edward II., taken at Lamberhurst, mention is made of Thomas Colepeper's estate in Pepynbery, included in the fine levied in 1320, besides which it is stated that he had acquired 50 acres in ffoghelesdenne from Thomas Colepeper, senr., in 1310, 1 messuage and 1 carucate of land in Bernette and Ramherste from Richard Wych in 1320, 1 messuage and 60 acres of land in Bocstede from Ralph Marscot, 10 acres in Bayrugge from Michael de Bettesfield, and 40 acres in ffernth (*i.e.*, Frant) from Roger de fferrugge. All these lands had been seized by the King on November the 6th, 1321, on account of the felony of the said Thomas, and for no other reason.<sup>28</sup>

It was not long, however, before all these estates were restored to the family. By deed bearing date 1st July, 17 Edward II., Margery, widow of Thomas Colepeper, agreed to grant the Pepinbury estate to the King for the term of her life on the payment of 12 marks per annum from the Exchequer.<sup>29</sup> But apparently she soon repented of this bargain, and addressed a petition to the King praying that "le manoir de la Bayehalle" might be restored to her, the grounds for the request being that the King's ministers had not only neglected to pay the rent, but had let her houses go to ruin, "a g'nt damage de l'avantdite Marg'ie de xl<sup>li</sup>."<sup>30</sup> On this the King issued a commission to Henry de Cobham and others to investigate the matters set forth in the petition,<sup>31</sup> and the direct result of this enquiry was an order for the immediate restoration of all the property. The outlying estates were to be restored unconditionally, and if lands had been "demised at ferm" the farmers were to be satisfied for their expenditure on

<sup>27</sup> Inquis. P.M., 1 Ed. III., No. 68 (b).

<sup>28</sup> Inquis. de terris forisfactis, 17 Ed. II., No. 12.

<sup>29</sup> Close Roll, 17 Ed. II., m. 3.

<sup>30</sup> Ancient Petitions, No. 712.

<sup>31</sup> Harl., Ch. T., 5 (b).

the land,<sup>32</sup> while with regard to Bayhall and the land included in the fine levied in 1320, there was this saving clause, viz., that this portion of the property was to revert to the King in case all the parties mentioned in the fine died without issue.<sup>33</sup>

From this order it appears that Thomas Colepeper acquired the Buxted property mentioned above in 7 Edward II., and in 13 Edward II. he purchased from Reginald, son of Reginald Burgeys, of Boxstede, 1 messuage and 50 acres in Boxstede and Marsefeld. The 40 acres in Fernth (Frant), co. Sussex, is supplemented in this order by 10 acres of wood bought in 10 Edward II. from Roger, son of Richard de Ferrugge, while another 20 acres in the same town is stated to have been acquired from William, son of John de Netteworth.

Walter, the eldest son of Thomas Colepeper, married, first, Elizabeth, widow of Thomas de Cobham, and, secondly, Alice . . . (who re-married Richard Charles, and died about 1386), but died without issue, when his brother, Sir John Colepeper, succeeded to Bayhall.

Sir John, who in 1348 had purchased the manor of Wigsell, in Salehurst, co. Sussex, from Simon de Etchingham,<sup>34</sup> by marriage with Elizabeth, daughter and co-heiress of Sir John Hardreshull, of Hardreshull, co. Warwick, considerably augmented his patrimonial estates, and left at his death an only son and heir, Sir Thomas Colepeper, of Bayhall, in Kent, and Hardreshull, in Warwickshire.

Sir Thomas Colepeper married, first, Alianora, daughter and heiress of Nicholas Greene, of Exton, in Rutlandshire, by whom he had issue:—

- (i.) Alianora, who married Sir Reginald Cobham, of Lingfield, in Surrey.
- (ii.) Sir John Colepeper, of Bayhall, Hardreshull and Exton, who by Juliana, his wife—who remarried, first, John Braunspath, Esq.,<sup>35</sup> and, secondly, Robert Fenne, Esq.,<sup>36</sup>—had issue

<sup>32</sup> Close Roll, 17 Ed. II., m. 1.

<sup>34</sup> Feet of Fines, Sussex, 22 Ed. III.

<sup>33</sup> Close Roll, 17 Ed. II., m. 5.

<sup>35</sup> Harl., Ch. 80, g. 32.

<sup>36</sup> Close Roll, 27 Hen. VI.

an only daughter Katherine, who by her first marriage with John Harrington, Esq., carried the Exton estates to that family, and married, secondly, Bryan Talbot, Esq.

Sir Thomas Colepeper married, secondly, Joyce, widow of John Vyne, Esq.,<sup>37</sup> by whom he had four sons:—

- (iii.) Walter.
- (iv.) Nicholas.
- (v.) Thomas.
- (vi.) Richard.

Sir Thomas Colepeper died a very old man, about 142<sup>8</sup>, and the following is an abstract of his will, partly translated:—

WILL OF SIR THOMAS COLEPEPER.<sup>38</sup>

Moy Thomas Colpeper Ch<sup>r</sup> le dymenge procheyn deuant la feste de lez apostelez Simon et Jude l'an nře sy<sup>r</sup> le Roy henry apres le conqueste vj et de son regne vij ordeyne mon testament. . . . En primez mon alme a dieu et mon corps desire sepelye en l'abbeye de Beggh<sup>me</sup> p cause que l'esglise est de l'annunciation nře dame en le lieu ou mon sepulture d'Alebastre est fait. Et ieo lise a Nicholas mon fitz toutz mes chiualx. Et a Elizabeth sa femme mez paternosterez de or. A Jouce Topemoye si ele soit en vie v marc. A John Bayhalle bastard x marc. à Thomas Payne mon euc xl<sup>s</sup>. a mon Butiller 13<sup>s</sup> 4<sup>d</sup>. mon Bakere 13<sup>s</sup> 4<sup>d</sup>. Christiane Braylez 13<sup>s</sup> 4<sup>d</sup>. John Bosvyle 13<sup>s</sup> 4<sup>d</sup>. John Copyng 13<sup>s</sup> 4<sup>d</sup>. mon parker 13<sup>s</sup> 4<sup>d</sup>. John Devale 13<sup>s</sup> 4<sup>d</sup>. a chescun garson 3<sup>s</sup> 4<sup>d</sup>. a chescun page and hyne 20<sup>d</sup>. a Malyme ma petite chaumberer a son mariage 20<sup>s</sup>. l'eglise de Pepymerby 40<sup>s</sup>. al haute auer la 13<sup>s</sup> 4<sup>d</sup>. S<sup>r</sup> John Trot 20<sup>s</sup>. al Abbot de Beggh<sup>me</sup> 20<sup>s</sup>. a chescun Canon de mesme le lieu 3<sup>s</sup> 4<sup>d</sup>. To the Curates of the seven nearest parishes 6<sup>s</sup> 8<sup>d</sup> for masses and to publish my humble will. To five of the poorest of the same parishes 5<sup>d</sup>. To the Abbot and Convent of Begh<sup>me</sup> 10<sup>s</sup> yearly to keep my anniversary and the anniversary of Joyouse my wife. To Walter my son 200 marcs "condicione sil face lealement et naturelement son devoir en lez ventez pticions et libera-  
tions de mon chatel p tesmoinage de les autres compaignons et assossez. A Nicholas mon fitz 200 marcs pour son bon s̄vices. A Thomas mon fitz 200 marcs sur tiel condicion d'estre paie sil supporte bien et nature-  
lement a mon volunte de mon testament et a mez executours et enfeffeez. A John Colpeper mon fitz £40 (on same conditions as Thomas). To the Abbot and Convent of Begh<sup>me</sup> £35. 6. 8. To the Church of Nonaignez de Malling 40<sup>s</sup>. To the Church of the Priory of Tunbridge 20<sup>s</sup>. The brothers of Aylesford 20<sup>s</sup>. Al freres austynes de Rye pour tenir mon obit et anniversarie 40<sup>s</sup>. A lumer les Taperez de la Shryne de

<sup>37</sup> Harl., Ch. 80, h. 27.

<sup>38</sup> 403b Chichele at Lambeth.

Canterbury 20<sup>s</sup>. Et ieo prie et charge John Colpeper et toutz mes autres fitz quils ne disturbent mes executors ne mes enfeffez de fermez. Goods in Manor of Bayhalle. If any person forfeit the condition half his legacy shall go "a mes fitz de moy et ioiouse ma femme" and of the other half, parcel to the Abbot and Convent of Beghme to find a chaplain to sing for the souls of me and Joyouse my wife at the altar where the bodies lie, and remainder to works of charity. Executors, Sire John Langdon leuesq de Roucester, John Chethm le Abbot de Beghm, Walter et Nicholas mez ffitz, William Burgoyn, Roger Honyton, William Bernes, et Thomas Festynden.

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Ceste la condition et volunte de Monsr. Thoms Colpeper chualer fait en la feste de saint Margarete l'an nre Sy<sup>r</sup> le Roy Henry vj puis le conqueste tierce quil voile et charge q sez enfeffez William Bernes, Rics Ruyton, Sire Robert Clerk, Robert Sprynget queux furont et sount enfesse avec autres q sount mortz come p chrt<sup>r</sup> de fee simple de toutz sez terres et tenementz en les countez de Kent et Sussex portant la Chrt<sup>r</sup> date done a la feste de la natiuite nre dame l'an nre Sy<sup>r</sup> le Roy henry quarte apres le conqueste viij (8 Sept. 1407). Et apres est un chart<sup>re</sup> a Thomas longle leuesq de Durhm, William Cheyne iustice, Walter et Nicholas Culpeper mes ffitz, W<sup>m</sup>. Bernes, Ric. Ruyton, et Robert Sprynget portant le det chre date Done en la feste del annunciation nre dame l'an nre Sy<sup>r</sup> le Roy henry quinte x<sup>me</sup> (25 March 1422) De la sit et mesons del manoir Bayhalle avec toutz les terres et tenementz que furont Auncien temps done p fine a iohn Colpeper mon pere et a sez heires maslez en Pepymbury, Tonbridge et Tudele. The above feoffees are to receive the rents for two years to pay debts.

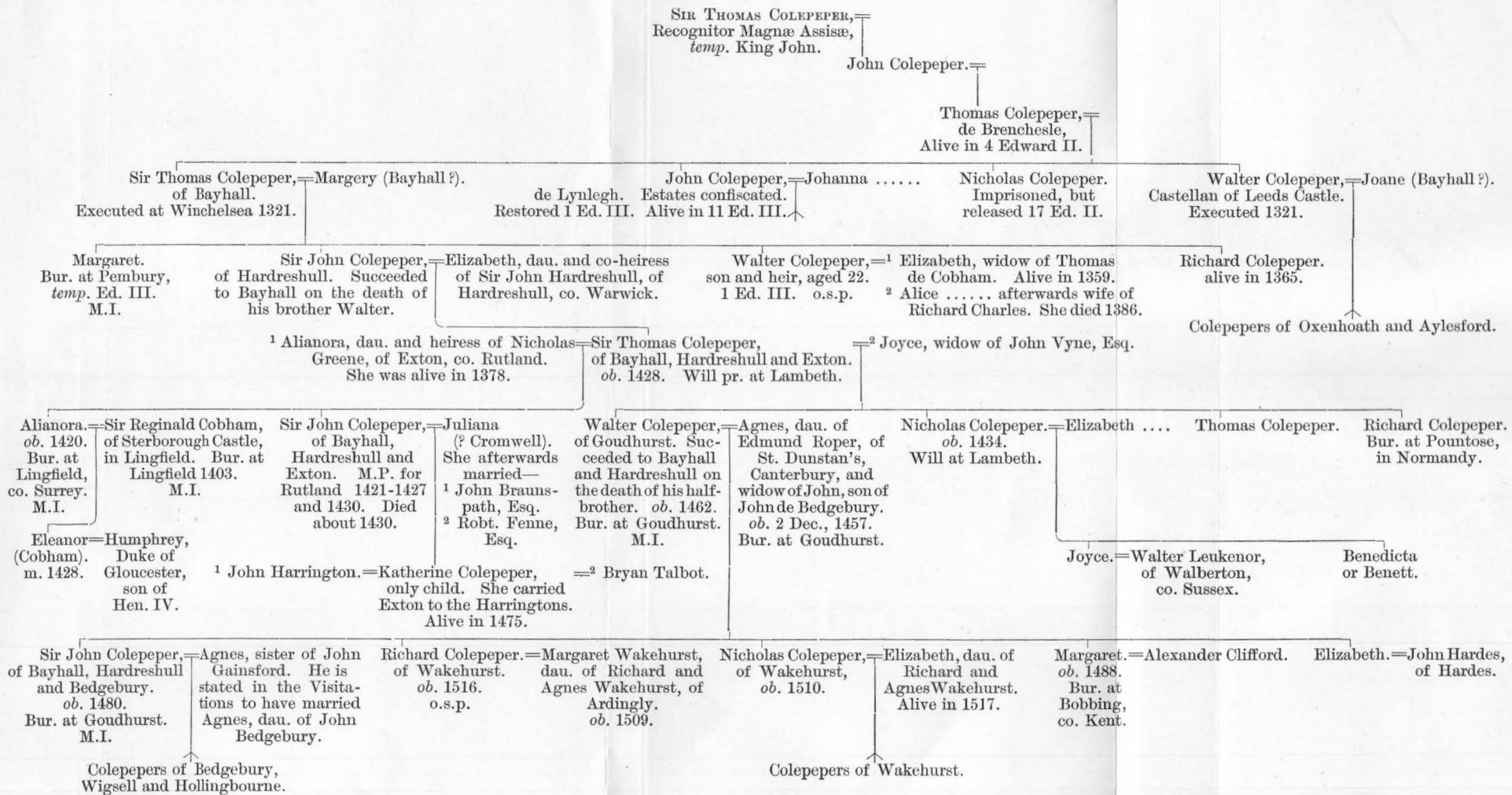
Touching the manor of Badeselle it is to remain to Walter my son and his heirs male, with remainder to the heirs male of myself and Joyce my wife.

Touching the manor of Bernet in Leghe, Penserst, Bitteberg and Tonbregge, with the mill of Greenerssh and lands called Scottegrov in Asshe, Gatewicke mede in Otteford, and rents and farms in Sele and Sevenoaks, to Thomas my son and his heirs, remainder to Nicholas his brother, remainder to the heirs of me and Joyce lately my wife, remainder to my right heirs.

Touching the lands and tenements of Coluerdon, two windmills, Coluerdon mede, the lands and tenements of Bokstede and Marsfelde, lands in Fernth and Wadehurst, the mill of Beckeleghe, and 3 marcs of fee farm the Syr de Ponyngs pays for hasylholte, to Nicholas my son and his heirs male, remainder to the heirs of me and Joyce lately my wife, "et voile q'le dit Nicholas en annu<sup>tage</sup> toutes les terres et tenementez rentez et seruices appurtenant a manoir de Bayhalle q'i fueront purchase p Walter Colpeper mon oncle, John Colpeper mon pierre ou p moy q sount depuis purchase q' le fine de Bayhalle fuit fait.

Touching the manor of Wyggésell and lands in Hernden in Sandherst and Newynden because Wyggesell was settled on me and my wife Joyce and our heirs on our marriage "p chart<sup>r</sup> endente," notwithstanding I have made another feoffment I wish the original gift to stand good.

## COLEPEPER OF BAYHALL.



"Moy Thomas Colpeper le dymenge prochein le Purification nře dame l'an de nře syr. le Roy Henry vj-vij<sup>e</sup>." Nicholas my son to make pilgrimages with various specified offerings to Norwich and the shrine of S<sup>t</sup> Thomas of Canterbury. To the Church of Pountose in Normandy where the body of Richard my son lies a chalice etc. To Maryon Chamberer mon hopland de scarlet and fur. To Alison another hopland. To Nicholas my son a suitable bed and apparel such as my son Walter had at his marriage. Other bequests—Thomas Festynden to have £10 to pay Christian Brayley 20<sup>s</sup> a year for life—Thomas Pech farmer of Wyggsell to be pardoned a debt of 100<sup>s</sup> for last year.

Proved 8 March 1428 (viz 142<sup>8</sup><sub>9</sub>) at Slyndon, and administration granted to Walter Colepeper Roger Honyton and Thomas Festynden executors, and afterwards administration was granted at Lambeth to William Burgoyne and Nicholas Colepeper.

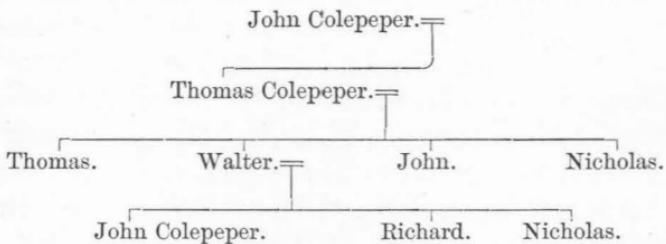
Of the sons of Sir Thomas Colepeper Walter succeeded to all the estates except Exton on the death of his half-brother—Sir John—and was the only one to leave male issue. Thomas is recorded in most pedigrees to have died without issue, and Nicholas, although he does not name her in his will<sup>39</sup> at Lambeth, dated 16th August, 1434, and proved 20th January, 143<sup>4</sup><sub>5</sub>, in which he mentions his brother Walter, his wife Elizabeth and his daughter Benedicta or Bennett, and desires "sepielend" in ecclia annunciacois beate Marie de Begham ante altare sancti laurencii iuxtem (? iuxta matrem) meam," had another daughter Joyce, who married Walter Lewknor, of Walberton, co. Sussex, fifth son of Sir Thomas Lewknor, M.P. for Lewes.

Walter Colepeper, who continued the line, married Agnes, the daughter of Edmund Roper, of St. Dunstans, Canterbury, and is so described on her tombstone at Goudhurst. She was also the widow of John, son of John de Bedgebury, a fact not mentioned in the pedigrees recorded in the Visitations, but which is amply evidenced by an undated Chancery Proceeding, *temp. Hen. VI.*, where Walter Coulpepir and Agneis, his wife, late the wife of John, son of John de Beggebury and Thomas Chaundeler, chaplain, appear as plaintiffs in a dispute relating to property in Goudhurst, Cranbrook and Hawkhurst, which John, son of Roger de Beggebury, left to pay for two chaplains to sing masses for his soul and for that of

<sup>39</sup> Chichele, I., 456b.

Johanna, his wife. By this marriage Walter Colepeper had, with two daughters—Margaret, married to Alexander Clifford, and Elizabeth, married to John Hardes, of Hardes, co. Kent—three sons, Richard, John and Nicholas. Agnes, his wife, predeceased him on the 2nd December, 1457, and was buried at Goudhurst, and Walter himself died on the 24th November, 1462, and was also buried at Goudhurst.

Although the pedigree given above differs in many respects from those recorded in the Visitation, it is substantiated not only by many Inquisitions, Deeds and Grants,<sup>40</sup> but also by a suit entered on membrane 484 of the De Banco Roll, Hilary, 4 Edward IV., whence the following pedigree is deduced:



This suit has reference to the fine levied in 1320, the John at the head of the pedigree being the son of Sir Thomas and Margery, and the plaintiffs, John, Richard and Nicholas Colepeper, claiming one quarter of these lands against Sir John Fogge, according to the customs of gavelkind, in right of their father Walter.

Although Richard is entered in the Visitation in Kent, in 1619, as Walter Colepeper's eldest son, this was not the case, as Sir John, as the eldest son, inherited Hardershull, co. Warwick, Bayhall, co. Kent, and Wigsell, co. Sussex. It appears also from the same Visitation that this Sir John married Agnes, daughter of John Bedgebury, but no mention whatever is there made of the undoubtedly fact that some time before 1460 he was the husband of Agnes Gainsford, which is clearly proved by the Proceedings in Chancery relating to the abduction of the two Wakehurst heiresses by Sir John's brothers, Richard and

<sup>40</sup> Inq. P.M., 9, H. 5, No. 55; Inq. P.M., 16, H. 8, on death of John Harrington.

Nicholas,<sup>41</sup> where it is expressly stated that a sister of John and William Gainsford was wedded to John Culpepyr, and later on in the same suit mention is made of John Culpeper and Agnes, his wife. The marriage is also alluded to in De Banco Roll, Trin., 5 Edward IV., m. 118<sup>a</sup>, and it explains the mention of Ottewell and George Gainsford (grandsons of the above John Gainsford, who married Anne Wakehurst, aunt of the co-heiresses, and sons of Sir John Gainsford, by Anne, daughter of Ottewell Worsley), as *cousins* in the will Walter Colepeper, of Calais, 1514—1516.

The question arises, therefore, as to whether the record of Sir John's marriage with Agnes Bedgebury is not due to a mistake on the part of the heralds. In their pedigree they certainly omit these two important facts, *viz.*, that before 1460 Sir John was the husband of Agnes Gainsford, and also that his father Walter's wife, of the same Christian name, was the widow of John Bedgebury. It seems therefore not improbable that these two marriages have been confused; such, indeed, must have been the case unless Sir John was twice married, and of this the Visitation affords no evidence whatever. Sir John Colepeper died 22nd December, 1480, and was buried at Goudherst.

His two brothers, Richard and Nicholas, under somewhat romantic circumstances, married Margaret and Elizabeth Wakehurst, granddaughters and co-heiresses of Richard Wakehurst, sen., of Wakehurst, in Ardingly. These two girls were confided by Elizabeth, their grandmother, Thomas Echyngham, Thomas Hoo, John Gaynesford and William Gaynesford, their guardians, to the care of John Colepeper and Agnes, his wife, the former of whom "promysed on the faithe and trouthe of his bodye, and as he was a gentylman," that they should not be wronged. In spite of this promise, however, he, with Richard and Nicholas, his brethren, "with force and armes riotously agense the Kynges peas arayed in the man<sup>r</sup> of warre at Goutherst toke and caried" them away

<sup>41</sup> Early Chanc. Pro., Bundle 26, No. 304.

to Bobbing, Alexander Clifford's place in Kent, and afterwards transported them to London to a place of John Gibson, "the seide Margarete and Elizabeth at the tyme of their takyng away makynge grete and pittious lamentacion and wepyng."<sup>42</sup>

This high-handed proceeding on the part of the two fortune hunting brothers was productive of much litigation, as Elizabeth Wakehurst, grandmother of the two heiresses, refused to resign the title deeds of their estates,<sup>43</sup> and it was some time before a peaceable settlement was obtained. Richard died without issue, but Nicholas became the ancestor of the Colepepers of Wakehurst, and as the brass to him and his wife Elizabeth in Ardingly Church shows ten sons and eight daughters, we may conclude that they lived long and happily together.

Sir John Colepeper, of Bedgbury, by Agnes, his wife, had two sons:—

- (i.) Alexander, progenitor of the senior line of Bedgbury, in Goudhurst, co. Kent, whose descendants, as belonging more to Kent than to Sussex, we shall here omit.
- (ii.) Walter, ancestor of the Wigsell branch of the family.

As the Wigsell and Wakehurst Colepepers soon became very numerous, as well as the Bedgbury and Aylesford branches also, it will be better perhaps here to treat of them under their respective houses and, as the senior of the two Sussex lines, we will commence with the

#### COLEPEPERS OF WIGSELL, IN SALEHURST.

Walter, second son of Sir John Colepeper, married Anne, daughter and heiress of Harry Aucher, of Lossenham, co. Kent, and was Under Marshal of Calais at the time of his death in 1514. The following is the abstract of his will:

<sup>42</sup> Early Chanc. Pro., Bundle 26, No. 304.

<sup>43</sup> Early Chanc. Pro., Bdle. 27, No. 218; Bdle. 31, No. 281. De Banco Roll, Trin., 5 Ed. IV., m. 118<sup>d</sup>.

WILL OF WALTER COLEPEPIR 1516<sup>44</sup>

14 Sept 1514 I Walter Colepepir onder mshall of the town of Calays. To be byried in the Resurreccon Chapell within Saint Nicholas Churche, to the whiche chapell my newe poleax and ij of my spere staffs myn Ermite and my swarde. To St George Chapell within the same Churche my cote of plate couered w<sup>t</sup> chamlet and myn old polleax. To Jhūs (Jesus) Chapell w<sup>t</sup>in the seyd Churche my best Javelyn and a copyll of my spere stavys. Unto St John in the wall 6<sup>s</sup> Vnto the reparacons of the said Church of St Nicholas 10<sup>s</sup>. "I wyll that Anne my wyff haue all my lands lying within the Shyre of Kent and Sussex, or in any other place within the Realme of England during hir lyff and after hir decesse to remayne to the heires of my body lawfully begotten after the course of the comen lawe of Ynglond and laudable customes of the seyd Shyres of Kent and Sussex where the lond lyeth. To my seruants that ar sworne in the Retynewe her onder me and in my petie wags ther brigandynes folds standards saletts and musteryn cotes stavys and saletts that they wer wont to were at the musterys." To Richard Payn myn old seruant my gowne of marble colour furred. To Henry hacūplaynt my veluet doblet, my blak jacket and oon sheff of arowes. To Richard Borne my blak cote of cloth bordered with Sarsenet and oon sheff of arowes. To the Churche of Newenden for the discharging of my consciens of such duties as I owe to the same 4 mks sterlinc. Church of Gowtherst 40<sup>d</sup> sterlinc. Church of Sevenoke 3<sup>s</sup>. If the next heires of Thomas Ratlyff of Newenden will pay to my wyff £5 sterlinc then they shall have the croft and house place that was Thomaseys ther fader to them and their heirs. Margaret Swayne my seruant my blak gowne lyned w<sup>t</sup> Sarcenet. To Nanne the bedrede woman's daughter oon payr of myn old hoses and ij of my shirts. To my cosyn George Gaynesford my blak damask cote. To my cosyn Lewes Clyfford my crossebowe and wenlass and my guñe w<sup>th</sup> her apparel. To Henry Tetle my bowe case of tymbre and one sheff of arowes. My galberdyne of scarlet bordered w<sup>t</sup> veluet to my soñe Thomas. To my daughter Elizabeth Welford my grete lewte and oon dosyn of fyne dyaper napkins. To my brodry Alexander Colepepyr my white harnesse complete. Residue to Anne Colepepyr my wyff to se me honestly byried, and to se Anthony and Wiñm our sonnys founde to schole. She is to be executrix. Wrytyn w<sup>t</sup> myn own hand. Witnesses Henry hacūpleynt, Richard Borne and Wiñm Annyley. In the presence of Robert Wyndebanke and of John Wyndebanke who have subscribed ther names w<sup>th</sup> ther own hands. Robert Wyndebank pson of Colne. John Wyndbank solgyer of Calays. Proved at Lambith 28 April 1516 by Anne the relict and executrix.

The will of his widow Anne is at Canterbury,<sup>45</sup> and is dated 4th Sept., 24 Henry VIII. (1532).

## EXTRACTS FROM THE WILL OF ANNE COLEPEPER.

If I happen to dye at Canterbury then I wyll my body to be buryed at the frears there, and yf I happen to dye at Cranbroke then I wyll

my body to be buryed at the frears of Lossenham besyde my ffather there buryed. To Wy<sup>H</sup>m my soñe my weddyngge ryngē and all my platte except my lyttle lowe salt w<sup>t</sup> the couer and vj my best sponys which I wylle to my daught<sup>r</sup> Anne Tooke. To my soñe Wy<sup>H</sup>m Colepeper all my stoke at Lossenham. To every of the children of Elysabeth my daughter xl<sup>s</sup>. She mentions Francis, Anne, Constance, Katheryn and Mary the children of Thomas Wyford, my goddaughters. To my daughter Culepeper ij of my best gownes. Executor and residuary legatee my son Wy<sup>H</sup>m. All my manors and lands in Newenden Rowynden and Biddenden to certain trustees to hold them to the use of my soñe Wy<sup>H</sup>m and his heirs—in default to the right heirs of Harry Ager, Esq., my father.

It would therefore appear that their sons Thomas and Anthony died without issue between 1514 and 1532.

Their eldest son, William Colepeper, about the 4th January, 21 Hen. VIII. (1530), married Cicely, daughter of John Barrett, of Belhowse, in Alvethley, co. Essex, and sister of George Barrett, whose widow Elizabeth, daughter of John Dyngley, by her second marriage with Sir John Baker, of Sissinghurst, co. Kent, was mother of John Tufton, of Hothfield, Esq. On his marriage the Wigsell estates were settled<sup>46</sup> on Anne, widow of Walter Colepeper, for the term of her life, with remainder to William Colepepyr, son and heir of the said Walter, and Cicely Barrett, his intended wife. The following is an abstract of

THE WILL OF WILLIAM COLPEPER, OF WIGSELL.<sup>47</sup>

16 Nov., 1 Eliz. (1559). I Wi<sup>H</sup>m Culpeper of Wigsell in the County of Sussex, Esquire. To be buried in the parish church of Salehurst, in the chapell where my good dere wife Cicely Culpeper doth lye. Poor householders of Bodyam 20<sup>s</sup>. £10 for a tome to sett on my grave. To reparation of Church of Newynden £3. 6. 8. To William Granth<sup>a</sup>m my seruant 20<sup>s</sup>. a yere for life. To Gybson's widow 10<sup>s</sup>. a yere for life. To M<sup>r</sup>. Hyde scolemaster of Wynchester 30<sup>s</sup>. To Elizabeth Wilgosse and Anne Edolf my daughters £5 each for a silver cup with my arms to be graven on it. To Edward Donck of Hawkerst my newe cloth gowne furred and to John Twysden my ffryce coot. Residuary legatee and Executor John Culpeper my eldest son and my nephew John Tufton of Hothfield Esq my overseer to whom my graye curtall geldynge. Witnesses Will<sup>m</sup> Grantham, Will<sup>m</sup> Lopham, John Webbe, George Pix, John Tufton, Marye Tufton, Symon Edolfe, Anne Edolfe, Rich. Lacheford.

As to my lands in Sussex and Kent to John my son, my manors of Lossenham and Louedean in Kent, my m<sup>s</sup>he in Newynden called the

<sup>46</sup> Harl., Ch. 76, h. 12.

<sup>47</sup> P.C.C., 61 Chaynay.

fryers ffshe, my lands called Scotts in Sandherste and Newynden and and a yerely rent of £3 out of Walland marshe, also two parts of my manor of Wigsell in the county of Sussex in three partes divided, if the said John pay unto Fraunces Culpeper my second son, Marten Culpeper my third son, Walter Culpeper my fourth son, Thomas Culpeper my fifth son, Edmonde Culpeper my vij<sup>th</sup> son £5 a year each for life, and to Richard Culpeper my vj<sup>th</sup> son an annuity of £6. 13. 4.—all the above with the right of entry in default of payment on the two parts of the manor of Wigsell. My manor of Heryngden in Kent to John my son to pay my debts and legacies and if he will not to Francis and Martin my sons. Proved 6 Dec. 1559 by John Colepeper executor.

Of the daughters, Elizabeth married John Wildgose, of Salehurst, co. Sussex, and Anne married Simon Edolphe, of St. Radigunds, co. Kent, while the descendants of Martin, Walter and Richard removed to other counties and died out as shown in the pedigree, and Edmund, who held various livings in Kent, apparently died unmarried. The fifth son Thomas was of Wilmington, co. Sussex, and, as he left no issue by his wife Elizabeth, widow of John Gode, of London, the wills of himself and his wife are here inserted. Their marriage licence to marry at Harrietsham is dated 17th Dec., 1579, at Canterbury, Thomas Colepeper being then described as of Hawkhurst, gent. He died on the 7th and was buried at Wilmington on the 10th October, 1603, aged 60. His widow Elizabeth was also buried there 3 July, 1606.

#### ABSTRACT OF THE WILL OF THOMAS CULPEPER OF WILMINGTON.<sup>48</sup>

I Thomas Culpeper, of Wilmington in the County of Sussex Esq. 22 Oct. 1602. My brother John Culpeper of Wigsell c<sup>o</sup> Sussex Esq. his wife Elizabeth and their son Thomas. My cousin Anthony Culpeper of Bedgbury in Kent Esq. and his son Henry. My nephew Culpeper of Fokington c<sup>o</sup> Sussex. My nephew W<sup>m</sup> Steede of Steede Hill Esq. To my wife Elizabeth the relict of John Gode of London merchant taylor my lease of Courtlodge in Wilmington, and the lease of the Rectory of Westham. To her son John Gode of London, gent. To my good M<sup>r</sup> and landlord Lord Buckhurst £20. Servants W<sup>m</sup> Jurden, Edmond Shibbard and Richard Coliar. Leaves his personal property to be divided into 6 parts as follows:—2 parts to John Godes brother in law and my son in law John Leake merchant taylor and Mary Leake his wife. To Anne late the wife of Cassian Cooper my said wife's eldest daughter a third part. To Katheryn Hampson, daughter of my said wife, and wife of Robert Hampson Esq. one of the Aldermen of London a fourth part. To Mary Leake third and

<sup>48</sup> Lewes, A. 11, 218, and P.C.C., 102 Bolein.

now youngest daughter of my said wife, and now wife of John Leake merchant taylor a fifth part, and the sixth of the said six parts to my overseers. My son in law Francis Gode. Wife Elizabeth residuary legatee and executrix, by whom the will was proved 22 Oct. 1603

ABSTRACT OF THE WILL OF ELIZABETH CULPEPER, OF WILMINGTON.<sup>49</sup>

I Elizabeth Culpeper of Wilmington widowe. To be buryed near or in the place where the body of my late husband Thomas Culpeper was buried. To the poor parishioners of Willmington 20<sup>s</sup>. To my cousin Robert Brooke his children 20<sup>s</sup>. Unto Abraham Brooke his brother £20. Unto Elizabeth God my goddaughter and the daughter of my eldest son John God the furniture in the porch chamber. Unto his daughter Dorothy God the furniture of chamber wherein I usually lye. Unto my daughter Cowper the furniture of chamber over kitchen. To my daughter Leake the furniture of chamber next old kitchen. To William Jorden my servant a bed and bedstede. My son John shall have speciall regarde to legacy given to old Shubert and to Richard Collyer by my husbands last will. The residue after payment of my debts to be divided into 6 parts, of which 2 parts to my eldest son John God, one part to my daughter Cowper, a fourth part to my daughter Dame Katherine Hampson, the fifth part to my daughter Leake, and the sixth part to my son Fraunces, the same to be ordered and guided by a codical annexed to my late husband's will. Son John God sole executor to perform the will of my late husband Thomas Culpeper. Friends John Culpeper of Fockington Esq<sup>r</sup> and Herbert Springet, gentleman overseers to whom £5 each. Dated 13 June 1604. Proved by John God 28 July 1606.

We have, therefore, only to consider the descendants of the two eldest sons of William Culpeper, of Wigsell, viz., John and Francis.

John, the eldest son of William Culpeper, of Wigsell, was born in 1530, admitted of the Inner Temple in 1553, married about 1560 Elizabeth, daughter of William Sidley, of Southfleet, co. Kent, Esq., and was buried at Salehurst 21st October, 1612, aged 82. From the Inq. Post Mortem,<sup>50</sup> taken at East Grinstead 7th May, 12 James I. (1614), after the death of their eldest son, Thomas Culpeper, Esq., of Wigsell, we find that John Culpeper, his father, died on the 20th October, 1612, that his mother Elizabeth survived him, and was living in 1614 at Newenden, in Kent, that he had two brothers, John and Alexander, and that by his wife Anne, buried at Salehurst 26th February, 160 $\frac{1}{2}$ , he had a son and heir, Slaney Culpeper, aged 14 years, 10 months and 18 days on the 18th September,

<sup>49</sup> P.C.C., 54 Stafforde.

<sup>50</sup> Chancery Inq. P.M., 12 James I., No. 53.

1613, also that he (Thomas Culpeper) left a will. His mother, Elizabeth Culpeper, was buried at Salehurst 17th May, 1618. All these particulars are important, because Sir John, the first Lord Colepeper, is made out in Wykeham Martin's *History of Leeds Castle*, and in G. E. C.'s *Complete Peerage*, to be the son of Sir John Colepeper, of Wigsell, by Elizabeth Sedley, whereas he was really his grandson, son of his son Thomas, by Anne, daughter of Sir Stephen Slaney, Lord Mayor of London and brother of Slaney Culpeper mentioned above, as is shown not only by the foregoing, but by the Inq. P.M. on 16th May, 16 James I. (1618), of Slaney Culpeper, Esq., which states that he died 12th May, 1617, and that John Colepeper is his brother and heir, and that he was aged 18 years, 9 months and 9 days.

John Culpeper, Esq., of Wigsell, who died in 1612, left no will. He had four sons, Thomas, William, John and Alexander. William matriculated at Hart Hall, Oxford, in 1579, aged 17, and was entered of the Middle Temple, in 1583, as second son of John Colepeper, of Wigsell, Esq., but as John of Fakenham, co. Worcester, is styled on his monument at Hollingbourne to be the second son of John of Wigsell, and aged 70 at his death, 20th December, 1635, it would seem that William, the second son, must have died early without issue. He is the only one of the four sons who left no will.

#### EXTRACTS FROM THE WILL OF THOMAS CULPEPER, OF WIGSELL, ESQ.<sup>51</sup>

I Thomas Culpeper of Wigsell in the Countie of Sussex Esquire. To be buried with littell adoe. To my welbeloved wife the household stuff plate and linnen which she brought. Whereas I have received £500 for certain land which belonged to my wife in c<sup>o</sup> Salop, sometime the Williales or one of them, although I have bin at the charges of above £72 I will a certain farm at Padian to my wife for her life and after her decease to the eldest son I shall beget of her body and for default of such issue to such daughters as I shall beget, remainder to the heirs male of my body, and if I have but one daughter by my now wife then £700 to such daughter at 18, but if she die before 18 then £500 to my wives son at 24, and if he die before then £100 to Elizabeth Mumford and to such children as shall be living if Elizabeth Mumford shall die. Wife shall have use of all jewells she hath, that is to say a border, a chayne of perle, a payer of bracelets, a cup of silver with

<sup>51</sup> P.C.C., 79 Capell.

the lyde thereto belonginge wh<sup>e</sup> I bought, and certain gold wroth buttons which I bought w<sup>ch</sup> she useth to were on her gowne some set w<sup>th</sup> stones and perle and some w<sup>th</sup> perle only during her lyfe and after her decease to such daughter or doughters as shall will them unto begotten by me and for all other Jewells w<sup>ch</sup> her mother Baistone hath geaven I will absolutely to herselfe. All other goods and profits of my lands till my eldest sonne come to the age of 24 yeares to my executors to the good of all my children begotten by my now wife as of my children begotten by my first wife. My daughters portions to be paid at 18 and sons at 24. Executors my brother John Culpeper and my brother Alexander Culpeper to whom all lands parsonages, or leases which I have heretofore bought with authority to sell the same for payment of debts, and the residue to be bestowed among my children at their discretion. Dated 16 Sept. 1613. Witnesses Richard Relfe, John Sleep.

After this I added this much more 6 May 1612. To my dear wife Mary Culpeper a tankard of silver and such goodes as I shall have of her mother Bistone. 6 May 1612. Witness John Sleep. All lands I have by graunt dissent or will from my father unto the said John Culpeper and Alexander Culpeper till my sonne Slaney Culpeper is 21 and my debts paid, after which they shall convey the same to him. 16 Sep. 1613. Witnesses Richard Relfe, John Sleep. All timber on my mannor of Wigsell and on my mannor of Harrenden in Sandherst and Newenden in Kent to my executors for payment of my debts. And I intreate my executors to compound for the wardship of my eldest son and heir if any lands are held of the King in capite. 16 Sept. 1613. Witnesses Richard Relfe, John Sleep. Proved with codicils 25 Sept. 1613 by John Colepeper one of the executors, power being reserved for Alexander Culpeper, the other executor.

The first wife of Thomas Culpeper, of Wigsell, was Anne, daughter of Sir Stephen Slaney, Kt., Lord Mayor 1595, by whom he had two sons:—

- (i.) Slaney, who died 12th December, 1618, when by Inq. P.M. his brother John was found to be his heir, and aged 18 years, 9 months and 9 days.
- (ii.) John, afterwards Lord Colepeper, baptised at Salehurst 17th August, 1600.

And a daughter:—

Elizabeth, baptised at Salehurst, 1601, who married Sir Robert Brooke, of Cobham, and died 22nd July, 1683. She was a woman of some celebrity in her day; see her funeral sermon, by N. Parkhurst, and Wilford's *Memorials of Eminent Persons*.

Anne, first wife of Thomas Culpeper, was buried at Salehurst 26th February, 160 $\frac{1}{2}$ , and he married, secondly, Mary, daughter of Roger Beeston, citizen of London, and widow of Francis Gibbon, of Benenden, in Kent, Esq., by whom he had one son:—

Thomas, bapt. 13th December, 1607, at Hawk-hurst, and buried at Salehurst 30th December, 1607.

And three daughters:—

Mary, bapt. at Salehurst 10th August, 1606.

Cicely, bapt. at Salehurst 8th July, 1610.

Ann, bapt. at Hawkhurst 10th November, 1611, and mar. at Frittenden, Kent, 3rd November, 1636, to Thomas Scott, of Smeeth, Esq.

Thomas Culpeper, of Wigsell, was buried at Salehurst 19th September, 1613, but his widow Mary survived him many years. Her will is at Canterbury, dated 15th August, 1660, and proved 11th April 1661, by Edmund Gibbon, Esq., her son. The following is an abstract of her will:—<sup>52</sup>

To my sonne Thomas Scott £3. To my daughter his wife xl<sup>s</sup>. to buy each of them a ringe. All my old gould to be equally divided between my sonne Edmund Gibbon and my grandchild Robert Scott. The latter to have £20 per annum during his and his father's joyst lives and I do tye my farme in the east end of Benenden for the payment thereof. To my loving son Edmund Gibbon of the Middle Temple, Esq., all my lands and messuages, with remainder to my grandchild Robert Scott. Residue to Edmund Gibbon, who is executor.

From this will it would appear that her daughters Mary and Cicely died without issue.

John, the eldest son of Thomas Culpeper, of Wigsell, was knighted 14th January, 1621, married at St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, 29th October, 1628, Philippa, daughter of George Snelling, of West Grinstead (she was buried at Hollingbourne 16th September, 1630), by whom he had issue a son:—

Alexander, who married Catherine, daughter of Sir Edward Ford, of Harting, and died without issue. Administration of his estate was

<sup>52</sup> A. 71, Avery, No. 70.

granted in P.C.C. to his widow Katherine, then 4th January, 166 $\frac{1}{2}$ , the wife of Ralph Grey, Esq.

And a daughter:—

Philippa, who married Sir Thomas Harlackenden, of Woodchurch, co. Kent.

Sir John Colepeper, who sold Wigsell 30th Jan., 1623, to Cheney Colepeper,<sup>53</sup> married, secondly, by licence, dated at Canterbury 12th Jan., 163 $\frac{1}{2}$ , Judith, daughter of Sir Thomas Colepeper, of Hollingbourne. He served some time in the army, was elected M.P. for co. Kent in the Long Parliament, made a P.C. and Chancellor of the Exchequer 2nd Jan., 1642.<sup>54</sup> He obtained, 28th Jan., 1643, the office of Master of the Rolls and was on 21st Oct., 1644, created Baron Colepeper, of Thoresway, co. Lincoln. In Wykeham Martin's *History of Leeds Castle* it is stated that Sir John bought the Castle from his cousins, Cheyney and Thomas, but this is a mistake, as Sir John fled the country with Prince Charles on March 2nd, 1646, when his estates were confiscated, and he remained in exile till the Restoration. On Oct. 21st, 1651, the Council of State, which had been using the Castle as a magazine, decided to restore it to Sir Cheney Culpeper, *the proprietor*, a gentleman described in the order as "well affected to us."<sup>55</sup>

Sir John died 11th July, 1660, aged 60, and was buried at Hollingbourne. His will, dated 3rd July, 1660, was proved 3rd Aug. following by his wife Judith, who was buried at Hollingbourne in 1691. He had the following children, all baptised at Hollingbourne:—

- (i.) Elizabeth, bapt. and bur. in 1632.
- (ii.) Thomas, bapt. 1638, bur. 1634.
- (iii.) Thomas, bap. 1634, who succeeded his father as second Lord Culpeper, and by his marriage

<sup>53</sup> Close Roll, 21 Jas. I., pt. 26.

<sup>54</sup> Pat. Roll, No. 2,905, 20 Chas. I., No. 4.

<sup>55</sup> Cal. State Papers, Vol. 16, p. 589. See also Feet of Fines, Kent, Trin., 1650. Inter Cheney Culpeper mil. et John Page et alios de manerio et castro de Leeds. See also Feet of Fines, Hillary, 1650.

with Margaret, daughter and co-heiress of Jean Van Hesse, Seigneur de Perschill and Wena in Holland, had an only daughter and heiress,

Catherine, who married Thomas, 5th Baron Fairfax, of Cameron, in Scotland, and had a daughter Frances, who married Denny Martin, Esq., and conveyed the estate of Leeds Castle, in Kent, to his family, now represented by C. P. Wykeham-Martin, of Leeds Castle.

The 2nd Lord Colepeper was not a very estimable character. After his death, 27th Jan., 168 $\frac{8}{9}$ , his widow stated<sup>56</sup> that her late husband had two houses in London, one in St. James' Street, the other in Hammersmith. He died in St. James' Street and she was living at Leeds Castle, not having had the least notice that he was sick until some time after his decease. She immediately went to London and buried him, and wants to administer his estate in order to pay his debts, which she is informed are very great and many. But Susanna Willis, *alias* Weldon, *alias* Laycock, who had been living with him at his house in St. James' Street, has the key of his closets and has possessed herself of everything.

In her answer Susanna Willis mentions her two daughters by Lord Thomas Colepeper, Susan, wife of Sir Charles Englefield, Bart. (married at St. James', Westminster, 22nd Feb., 168 $\frac{5}{6}$ ) and Charlotte, aged 13. By indenture in 1688 Lord Colepeper granted to her daughters land at Solihull, co. Warwick, the tithes of Mayfield, the Manor of Thoresway, 24 acres at Wittersham, land near Kent Bridge, in Wittersham, yielding £7. 10s. 0d. per annum, land in Erith, Lesnes and Plumstead, valued at £72 per annum, land in Buriton, co. Southants, 260 acres of marsh at Lydde and Bromehill, worth £185 per annum, a farm in Loose, Eastfarleigh and Maidstone, yielding £30 per annum. Then she mentions

<sup>56</sup> *Bills and Answers before 1714*, Hamilton, Vol. II., Bundle 85, No. 66. See also Hamilton, Bundle 671.

a will of Thomas Lord Colepeper, in which he revoked all his other wills, especially his last one, Aug. 23rd, 1681, and he settled on his natural daughter Susan, wife of Sir Charles Englefield, an annuity of £100 for life out of Thoresway Manor and £3,000 portion, £3,000 to his natural daughter Charlotte, his house in Hammersmith to Susanna Weldon, *alias* Willis. The Manor of Arreton, Isle of Wight, to his natural daughter, Charlotte. The residue of his property to Katherine, his daughter, who is executrix.

A Bill in Parliament to annul the above gifts, whether by deed or will, to Susanna Willis, *alias* Weldon, *alias* Laycock, and her two illegitimate children, was rejected in the House of Lords 15th January, 16<sup>88</sup><sub>0</sub>.

- (iv.) Elizabeth, bap. at Hollingbourne, 1637; mar., 1661, James Hamilton, Esq., Groom of the Bedchamber to Charles II.; their son, James Hamilton, became 6th Earl of Abercorn.
- (v.) Judith, bap. at Hollingbourne 1638, died 1691.
- (vi.) John, bap. at Hollingbourne 16th March, 1640, became 3rd Lord Colepeper on his brother's death in 168<sup>8</sup>, married 30th June, 1707, Frances, daughter of Sir Thomas Colepeper, of Hollingbourne, by Alice, daughter of Sir William Colepeper, of Aylesford, but died s.p. 8th July, 1719, when he was succeeded by his brother.
- (vii.) Cheney, 4th Lord Colepeper, bap. at Hollingbourne 6th Sept., 1642. On his death, unmarried, 25th June, 1725, the peerage became extinct.
- (viii.) Francis, who died s.p.
- (ix.) Philippa, bap. at Hollingbourne 1649, died 1719. Will in P.C.C., 132 Shaller.

Thomas Colepeper, of Wigsell, father of John, 1st Lord Colepeper, had, as will be seen from his will above, two brothers, John and Alexander.

John died 20th December, 1635, in the 70th year of his age, and on his monument at Hollingbourne is described as “de Fakenham in Com: Wigorn ar. filius secundus Johannis de Wigsell.” In his will, dated 14th December, 1635, and proved in P.C.C., 23rd January, 163 $\frac{5}{6}$ ,<sup>57</sup> he styles himself “John Culpeper, of Greenway Court in the Countie of Kent, Esquier,” and mentions his wife Anne, sons Thomas and John and daughters Cicely and Frances, the wife of James Medlicote.

Sir Alexander Culpeper describes himself in his will,<sup>58</sup> dated 30th January, 1644, with codicils 4th May, 1645, as of “Greenway Court in the county of Kent, Knight, youngest son of John Culpeper, of Wigshell, co. Sussex, Esquire, deceased.” He married Mary, daughter of Sir Thomas Scott, and widow of Anthony St. Leger, Esq., of Illcombe, but died without issue at Bridgwater<sup>59</sup> in August, 1645, while with the King’s forces. His wife’s granddaughter Katherine, daughter of Sir Warrham St. Leger, married his nephew Thomas (son of his brother John) Colepeper, who, it is stated, lost his life and his liberty in the Civil War.<sup>60</sup> Their children were:—

Alexander Colepeper, Surveyor General of  
Virginia in 1671, whose will was proved in  
P.C.C., 5th January, 1694.<sup>61</sup>

Frances, bap. at Hollingbourne 1634, married  
Sir William Berkeley, Governor of Virginia.

John, bap. at Hollingbourne, 1633.

Anne, bap. at Hollingbourne, 1630.

Neither John Colepeper, who died in 1635, nor his brother, Sir Alexander Colepeper, who died in 1645, had any immediate connection with Sussex. Their uncle Francis Colepeper, however, who died on the last day of May, 1591, aged 53, and is described on his monument at Hollingbourne as “filius scđus Wilhelmi de Wigsell,”

<sup>57</sup> P.C.C., 4 Pile.

<sup>58</sup> P.C.C., 157 Rivers.

<sup>59</sup> Royalist Compos. Papers, 2nd Series, Vol. III., p. 734.

<sup>60</sup> Cal. of State Papers, America and West Indies, 1669-74, f. 571.

<sup>61</sup> P.C.C., 3 Irby.

besides issue by his second wife Joan, daughter of John Pordage and widow of William Steede, who continued to reside at Hollingbourne, had by his first wife Philippa,<sup>62</sup> buried at Harrietsham 7th July, 1574, two sons:—

Walter, bap. at Harrietsham 2 November, 1573,  
slain in Holland, and

John, who settled at Folkington, in Sussex, and  
of whom hereafter.

The following is an abstract of the will of Francis Culpeper, Esq.:—<sup>63</sup>

20 May 1590. I ffrancs Culpeper of Greenewaye Court c<sup>o</sup>. Kent Esq. My body to be buried at Hollingbourne if I die in Kent. Six of my servants to carry me to my grave. To be buried at six o'clock in the morning. My good wife Johane Culpeper to be executrix. My very good friend John Tufton Esquire, my loving brothers John Culpepper and Thomas Culpepper Esquires to be my overseers to call upon the performance of my will. My three sons John, Walter and Thomas. To the rest of my brothers 30<sup>s</sup>. apiece. To my daughter in law Suzanne Steed 100 marks over and above the 500 marks I stand bound for to my son in law William Steede. My very good friend and cousin Anthony Sallenger Esquire 5 angells for a ring.

Indenture 20 May 30 Eliz. Between John Tufton of Hothfield c<sup>o</sup>. Kent Esq. John Culpeper of Wigsell c<sup>o</sup>. Sussex and Thomas Culpeper of Wilmington c<sup>o</sup>. Sussex Esquires and Johane Culpeper of Hollingbourne c<sup>o</sup>. Kent, gentlewoman, of the 1<sup>st</sup> part and Francis Culpepper of Hollingborne aforesaid Esq. of the 2<sup>nd</sup> part witnesseth that the said Francis has sold to the first parties all his lands &c. to secure dower to wife and for preferment of his children. Lands in Hollingborne Harrison (Harrietsham) and Leedes (except the Abey of Leedes, and land thereto appertaining) to Johane Culpeper for life paying for the debts of the said Francis £120 a year for two years. She is also to have the horses, jewels, plate, stock &c. for life, with remainder to Thomas Culpepper and John Culpepper sons of said Francis—lands in Hollingborne and Harrison to Thomas, remainder to John, remainder to Walter, lands to be held till son John is 30, then to him with remainder to Walter, remainder to Thomas. To son John the manor of Pennington in Hampshire and the manor and parsonage of Enford in Wiltshire, lands in Hawkhurst, leases in Lidd and Rumney Marsh, and the “Stuardshipp” of Rochester. Son Walter to have out of lands willed to Thomas £15 by yeare.

Proved in P.C.C. 22 Nov. 1591 by Anthony Calton notary of Thomas Culpepper Esq. one of the Executors. Power reserved to Joan, relict of the said deceased and to John Tufton and John Culpepper Esquires the other executors.

<sup>62</sup> Add. MSS., 5,520, fo. 176, gives no Christian name, but makes her dau. and heir of . . . . . of Hinckstead.

<sup>63</sup> P.C.C., 85 Sainberbe.



By Inq. P.M. taken at Sittingbourne 1 Oct. 33 Eliz.<sup>64</sup> it was found that Francis Colepeper Esq. died seized of the manor of Greenway Court in Hollingbourne and Harrietsham, held of the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury by the rent of £3. 12. 8. and worth £26. 13. 4. per ann. and of a water mill at Harrietsham called Holme myll held of the same and worth 40<sup>s</sup>. p. ann. and of a messuage, barn and 12 acres of land in Hawkhurst Kent, held of the said Dean and Chapter worth 40<sup>s</sup>. p. ann. And of the manor of Penton alias Pennyngton in the County of Southampton held in free socage as of the town of Andover and worth £20 p. ann. The said Francis Colepeper made his will 20 May 32 Eliz. and died the last of May 32 Eliz. John Colepeper, gent is his son and next heir and of the age of 23 years and more at the taking of this Inquisition. Joan the widow of Francis is still living. Francis Colepeper's sons Walter and Thomas are also mentioned.

His widow Joan, daughter of John Pordage and widow formerly of William Steede of Harrietsham, esquire (by whom she had :—

William Steede,

Jane Steede, who married Richard Colepeper,

Susanna Steede, who married Edward Partriche,

Elizabeth Steede, who married William Covert),

was buried at Hollingbourne 7th April, 1598, aged 60, and in her will at Canterbury,<sup>65</sup> dated 8th March, 1594, and proved 9th May, 1598, she bequeaths as follows :

#### ABSTRACT OF THE WILL OF JOAN COLEPEPER.

My goods and chattels to my welbeloved son W<sup>m</sup>. Steede of Harrietsham Esq to pay my debts. He is executor. £100 to purchase land for the poor in Harrietsham and Hollingbourne. To my son (i.e. son in law) William Covert. Executor to have 10 rings made for the following :—

To my sonne W<sup>m</sup>. Covert and his wife 2.

To my sonne (i.e. son in law) Richard Colepeper and his wife 2.

To my sonne Thomas Colepeper 1.

To my sonne Edward Patriche and to my daughter Susanna 2.

To my sonne Walter Colepeper 1. (This must mean her stepson, the half brother of Thomas Colepeper above, who in putting up the monument to his parent's memory in Hollingbourne Church, styles himself "unicus iis communis filius" and therefore shows that he was not "slain in Holland" before 1594.)

To my sonne Steed to retain 1 for himself and to deliver 1 other to my daughter his wife.

<sup>64</sup> Inq. P.M. 33 Eliz., pt. 1, No. 125.

<sup>65</sup> C. Liber 38, No. 168.

Residue to my son Thomas Colepeper when 24. As to Greenway Court I give it as I am empowered by my husband's will to my son Thomas for a period of 2 years after my decease.

As Thomas, the only son of Francis Colepeper and Joane Pordage, who was afterwards knighted and married Elizabeth, only daughter and heiress of John Cheyney, Esq., of Guestling, in Sussex, continued with his descendants at Hollingbourne, in Kent, and this paper is only concerned with the Colepepers of Sussex, we will return to John, the son of Francis, by his first wife Philippa.

#### COLEPEPERS OF FOLKINGTON, CO. SUSSEX, PENTON MEWSEY, CO. HANTS, AND SEVENOAKS, CO. KENT.

This John, who, as we have seen from his father's Inquisition, was 23 years of age and more in 1591, and therefore born about 1568, married Anne, daughter of Thomas and Margery Scott, of Sevenoaks, in Kent, and widow successively of Edward Puckering, gent.<sup>66</sup> and of Mr. Bourchier<sup>67</sup> (*vide Visitation of London*, 1634, published by the Harl. Soc.). He matriculated at Oxford from Hart Hall, 18 November, 1586, aged 17, and was admitted of the Middle Temple, 1593, as son and heir of Francis, of Hollingbourne. Soon after this he married and settled at Folkington, in Sussex, and by his wife Anne had two sons:—

Thomas, bap. at St. Mary Woolchurch, Haw, London, 4 January, 1609, as son of Mr. John Culpepper, of Fointon, in Sussex.

John.

And a daughter:—

Frances, who married about 1619, Herbert Hay, of Glyndebourne, near Lewes, Esq.

He was buried at Wilmington, as of Folkington, 6th October, 1607, and his widow re-married at Folkington

<sup>66</sup> Mr. Edward Puckering, gent., buried at St. Mary Woolchurch, Haw, 5 July, 1591. (?)

<sup>67</sup> Thomas Bowcher, citizen and haberdasher, of London, St. Leonards by Bowe, St. Edmund in Lombard Street, and Essex, whose will was proved in P.C.C. in 1594 (87 Dixy). (?)

2nd January, 160<sup>8</sup>, as her fourth husband, Edmund Hayes, or Hay, of Battle, gent., who was buried there 10th November, 1621, leaving her surviving.

The following is an abstract of his will :—<sup>68</sup>

7 Sept. 1607 I John Culpeper of Fogington in the county of Sussex, Esquire. To my daughter Frauncis £500 at marriage or 21, if married with the consent of her mother and my overseers. To Henry Parker, son of my good friend Sir Nicholas Parker, K<sup>t</sup>. and my godsonne, a colt or £5. To John Ranger and Agnes Honny who have attended me in my sickness 10<sup>s</sup>. To the residue of my servants 5<sup>s</sup>. each—land in c<sup>o</sup>. Southampton to myself for life, then to my wife Anne, then to my daughter Fraunces, remainder to my brother Thomas Culpeper (i.e. half brother) and his heirs, with remainder to my right heirs. To my mother in law M<sup>rs</sup>. Margerie Scott a ring of 5 marks. To William Jurden 20 nobles. Residuary legatee and Executrix my wife Anne. Overseers my brothers in law Richard Scott and George Scott and my friend Herbert Springett Esq. Witnesses Jo. Rivers, Clemens Athurst, William Jurden. Proved 28 Apr. 1608 by Anne Culpeper the relict.

By Inquisition taken at Winchester on 14 Sept. 8 James I. (1610)<sup>69</sup> after the death of John Culpeper gent. it was found that he died seized of the manor of Penyton Meysey in the county of Southampton and of a messuage and carucate of land in Penyton Meysey, lately William Peverells, and to the aforesaid John Culpeper a fine was levied in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the now King between George Scott and Edmund Scott plaintiffs and the aforesaid John Culpeper and Anne his wife deforcians of the manor of Pennyngton Mewsey alias Penyton Meysey with the appurtenances 20 messuages 10 cottages, 10 lofts, 3 dovecots, 20 gardens, 12 orchards, 2000 acres of land, 200 acres of meadow 1000 acres of pasture 200 acres of wood, 200 acres of furze and heath and £6 rents with appurtenances in Pennyngton Mewsey, Foscott, and Hatherden, to the use of the said John Culpeper and Anne and the longer liver of them, afterwards to the heirs male on the body of the said Anne, and afterwards to John Culpepers right heirs, according to an Indenture 1 May 4 James I. between the said parties. The said John Culpeper in the brief named had issue male on the body of the said Anne a certain John Culpeper. The said John Culpeper in the brief named was also seized of the Advowson Rectory and church of Penyton Meysey, and so seized died 6<sup>th</sup> Oct. 5 James I. at Penyton Meysey, but Anne survives him and is living at Penyton Meysey. John Culpeper is son and heir of the above John and Anne and was aged 8 years 10 months and 5 days at the death of his father. The manor of Penyton Meysey is held of the King as of the heredity of Thomas Seymor who died without heir, and the messuage and carucate are held of the King as of his honour of Gloucester both by military service. The advowson is held of the King in capite, and is worth nothing because it is filled (quia plena).

<sup>68</sup> P.C.C., 30 Windebank.

<sup>69</sup> Chancery Inq. P.M., 8 James I., pt. 2, No. 116.

By another Inquisition taken at King's Clere, co. Southampton, 8th October, 8 James I.<sup>70</sup>, it was found that John Culpeper, gent., had issue male on the body of Anne his wife a certain Thomas Culpeper, who is his son and heir, and was aged 11 on the 25th December last.

This Thomas, though from the Inquisition it would appear that he was born 25th December, 1598, is presumably the Thomas bapt. at St. Mary Woolchurch, Haw, on 4th January, 160<sup>9</sup>, and was probably the Sir Thomas Culpeper knighted at Whitehall 10th December, 1628. From the Visitation of Sussex in 1634 he married Elizabeth, da. of . . . . Goodridge, of . . . . in co. York, sister to Henry Goodridge, by whom he had the following children, all baptised at Folkington on the dates given :—

Anne, da. of Thomas Culpepper, Kn<sup>t</sup>., 21st June, 1632. She married at Wilmington, 1st August, 1648, John Honey, of Ditchling, gent., but died s.p., and was buried at Wilmington 4th April, 1649.

John, son of Thomas Culpepper, Kn<sup>t</sup>., 18th Feb., 163<sup>3</sup><sub>4</sub>.

Francis, son of Thomas Culpepper, Kn<sup>t</sup>., 16th June, 1635.

William, son of Thomas Culpepper, Kn<sup>t</sup>., 26th October, 1637.

His wife Elizabeth was buried at Folkington 5th May, 1638, and Sir Thomas himself was buried there 19th March, 163<sup>8</sup><sub>9</sub>. He left no will, but by an Inq. taken at Winchester 30th July, 1639,<sup>71</sup> the jurors found that :—

On a day before the death of the said Sir Thomas Culpeper, a certain John Culpeper father of the aforesaid Thomas was in his lifetime seized in fee simple of the manor of Pennington Mewsey alias Penyton Mewsey with appurtenances in the county of Southampton, and of and in one messuage and one carucate of land with appurtenances in the parish of Pennington Mewsey alias Penyton Mewsey, lately the

<sup>70</sup> Chancery Inq. P.M., 8 James I., pt. 2, No. 75.

<sup>71</sup> Chancery Inq. P.M., 15 Chas. I., pt. 2, No. 78.

lands of William Peverell, and that the aforesaid John Culpeper by Indenture dated 1 May 4 James, late King of England (1606) made between the aforesaid John Culpeper by the name of John Culpeper of Pennington c<sup>o</sup>. Southampton Esq. and Anne his wife of the first part and George Scott and Edmund Scott of the other part agreed with the said George and Edmund Scott that he the said John and Anne his wife should before Easter term next ensuing levy a fine of all the premises to the use of the aforesaid John Culpeper and Anne his wife for the term of their lives, and after their decease to the use of their heirs male, with remainder to the right heirs of the aforesaid John. And the said fine was accordingly levied by which fine and Indenture and Act of Parliament of 4 Feb. 27 H. 8, the aforesaid John Culpeper and Anne his wife were seized of the aforesaid manor in lordship as of a free tenement for the term of their lives. The aforesaid John Culpeper was also seized of the advowson, Rectory and Church of Pennington Mewsey alias Pennyton Mewsey, and having issue by the aforesaid Anne died on 6<sup>th</sup> Oct. 5 James (1607) and that the aforesaid Anne survived him, and is yet living. After the death of the said John the advowson of Pennington Mewsey and the reversion of the premises descended to the aforesaid Sir Thomas Culpeper Knight named in the brief and afterwards he had a release out of the hands of the King of so much of the premises as devolved on the King by the death of the aforesaid John Culpeper. The aforesaid Sir Thomas Culpeper died on the 6<sup>th</sup> May last past and John Culpeper Esq is his son and next heir, and at the time of the death of Thomas Culpeper his father was aged 5 years 2 months and 21 days. The aforesaid Anne widow of the aforesaid John is still alive. The Manor of Pennington Mewsey is held of the King as of the heredity of Sir Thomas Seymour Knight, who died without heirs, by military service and is worth 20<sup>s</sup>. p. ann. The messuage and carucate is held of the King as of his Honour of Gloucester by military service and is worth 5<sup>s</sup>. The advowson is held of the King in capite and is worth nothing because it is filled.

The Visitation of Sussex, 1634, however, makes Thomas, then aged about 4 years (and *not John*, as in the above Inq.), the son and heir, and this is the Thomas Culpeper, of Penton, co. Hants, who married at St. Olave, Marygate, York,<sup>72</sup> 18th June, 1653, Mary, daughter of Henry Austin, Alderman of London, and widow of William Ellis, of Kiddall, co. York, Esq., slain in 1647. By her first husband she had a daughter, Fridiswide, wife of William Culpeper, citizen of London, and two sons, William and Henry. On 9th February, 166 $\frac{2}{3}$ , administration of the goods of Thomas Culpeper, late of Penton, co. Southton, Esq., was granted to Edward Noyes, the principal creditor, but on 1st June, 1663, this administration was revoked

<sup>72</sup> *Genealogist*, New Ser., Vol. XIV., p. 107.

and granted to William Culpeper, his brother. His widow's will<sup>73</sup> is as follows:—

I Mary Culpepper the relict of Thomas Culpeper late of Penton in the County of Southampton, Esquire. Whereas by deed of articles between my said late husband of the one part, and Henry Parker Esquire and Nicholas More, gentleman on the other part, dated 20 Dec. 1653, several sums of money are due from his heirs, executors and administrators to the appointment of me Mary Culpeper—in case my daughter Frydiswide shall be legally acquitted and discharged of a marriage pretended to be had between her and John Henshawe, gentleman, so as the said John Henshawe shall not have any right to her estate, then I will and appoint the whole benefit of the said deed (except £5 to Henry my son) to the use of the said Frydiswyde, otherwise to my executors to pay to such persons as my daughter Frydiswyde shall appoint. And where as divers monies are due to me by my brother Edward Austin as administrator of Henry Austin my father, one moiety to my son Henry at 25, and the other moiety to my daughter Frydiswyde when acquitted of her pretended marriage to John Henshawe. Executor's son William Ellis and my cousin Nathaniel Parker, Esquire to manage my estate with the consent of Sir Phillip Parker, Bart. and my cousin Henry Parker the elder, Esquire. If my daughter Frydiswyde die without issue then to my son Henry at 25. Executors £10 each. Cousin Henry Parker £5. To Master William Culpepper my brother in lawe £5. To my Lady Chester my sister in lawe 40<sup>s</sup>. To Master Watts of Fish Street Hill, woollen draper 40<sup>s</sup>. £20 for poor of Eling c<sup>o</sup>. Middlesex. Dated 9 March 1663 (15 Chas. II. viz. 1662<sup>½</sup>). Witnesses W<sup>m</sup>. Culpeper, W<sup>m</sup>. Gaseley, the x of Eliz<sup>th</sup>. Finch. Proved by Nathaniel Parker and W<sup>m</sup> Ellis 14 May 1664.

The children mentioned in Mary Culpeper's will were her children by her first husband, William Ellis, and Lady Chester was William Ellis's sister Mary, who married Sir Anthony Chester, Bart., of Chicheley, Co. Bucks, from which the inference is that Thomas and Mary Culpeper had no children. Whether Frydeswyde Ellis was "acquitted" of her pretended marriage to John Henshawe and afterwards married William Culpeper, her mother's brother-in-law, we have not yet been able to ascertain, nor what became of the Penton Mewsey property.

The next son of Sir Thomas Colepeper, John, born in 163<sup>¾</sup>, seems to have settled at Riverhead, in Sevenoaks, as in 1653 there is an Indenture<sup>74</sup> between Anne Hay, of Riverhead, and John Culpeper, of Riverhead, gent., which witnesses that for the natural love and affection

<sup>73</sup> P.C.C., 50 Bunce.

<sup>74</sup> Close Roll, 1653, pt. 9.

which she bears to her said grandson, John Culpeper, she has granted him all those messuages called the George and the Royal Exchange Tavern, situate against the Stocks, in the parish of St. Mary Woolchurch, London. There appear to have been several dealings with this property between the brothers, for a few years later John, son and heir of John Culpeper, late of Riverhead, deceased, complains<sup>75</sup> that whereas Francis Culpeper, late of ——, deceased, was seized about 9th November, 1656, of a messuage in St. Mary Woolchurch, and by Indenture, 1st November, 1656, between the said Francis Culpeper and John Culpeper, father of your orator for £60, and in consideration of the natural love and affecon which he, Francis, did beare unto his name and blood, did covenant that he, Francis, should stand seized of the premises for the use of himself and his heirs, and in default of issue to the said John Culpeper, the father, being the brother of the said Francis, and his heirs male, and in default to his right heirs. About April, 1668, the said Francis married Mary Wigge, spinster, and about July, 1669, the said Francis died without issue, and about 1670, Mary, wife of the said Francis, died. The property had been destroyed in 1666 by the dreadful fire in London. About the time of the fire your orator's father died, leaving your orator an infant about 12 years old. And now Thomas Wigge, senr., Thomas Wigge, junior, and a whole horde more have got hold of the site, which they claim under Mary Colepeper's will.

In 1658 there is an Indenture<sup>76</sup> between William Colepeper, citizen and leatherseller, of London, and John Colepeper, of Riverhead, gent. For £400 William has sold to John the premises known as the Gridiron, lying at the Stockes over agaynst the markett place, in the parish of St. Mary Woolchurch, with all that passage heretofore part of the said messuage and used for and as a shop or warehouse, but lately converted into an entry passage or way into the Taverne adioyning called the Royall Exchaunge.

<sup>75</sup> Bills and Answers before 1714, Collins, Bundle 228.

<sup>76</sup> Close Roll, 1658, pt. 16.

John Culpeper, of Sevenoaks, died about 1663 and administration of his effects was granted on 16 July in that year to Frances, his relict.<sup>77</sup> By her he had two children :

- (i.) John, son and heir, the complainant in the above-mentioned bill. He is therein stated to be 12 years old in 1666. He matriculated at Queen's College, Oxford, 4 July, 1673, aged 18, married a lady of the name of Bridget and died about 1693. His will<sup>78</sup>, in which he describes himself as of Riverhead, in Sevenoaks, Esq., was dated 14th Jan., 1692, and proved by his wife Bridgett 6th July, 1693. He mentions his lands in Littlington, county Sussex, in the occupation of himself and William Blackman. "Unto my loving friend Edmund Attrée, Gent. who lives with me £20;" mentions also his kinsman, Sir Thomas Culpeper, Bart., of Aylesford, and his sister.
- (ii.) Frances, who appears on 31 May, 1693,<sup>79</sup> as Frances Culpeper, spinster, in answer to the bill of complaint of Bridgett Culpeper, widow, in which she says that it may be true that her brother John died seized of lands and manors in Kent and Sussex of considerable value. She does not know if he made a will as alleged. She hopes to show that the said John could not dispose of his estate by will. She will receive the legacy of £400 without prejudice to any claim she may have on the estate. She has good reason to believe that her father John, on his marriage with Frances, her mother, did settle the estate on his wife as jointure, remainder to his heirs male, remainder to his heirs female. Her mother Frances enjoyed the premises after her husband's death.

<sup>77</sup> P.C.C., Admōn, July, 1663.

<sup>78</sup> P.C.C., 106 Coker.

<sup>79</sup> Bills and Answers before 1714.

It is to be presumed that the suit terminated in favour of Bridgett, the widow, as in 1695 she sold the manor of Littlington to James Greene.

Francis Colepeper, the third son of Sir Thomas Colepeper, of Folkington, born 1635, was, from his will, sometime of Battle, and afterwards of St. Sepulchre's, county Middlesex, gentleman. He married Mary Wigge. His will,<sup>80</sup> dated 19th Feb., 1668, was proved 3rd Nov., 1669, by Mary, his widow and executrix, to whom, after various legacies, he left the residue of his property.

On the 20th June, 1670, his widow Mary made her will<sup>81</sup> as "widow and executrix of Francis Culpeper gent." as follows:

Executor to pay my husband's legacies which I have not paid, and £5 more to my loving friend M<sup>r</sup> John Purfield of Battell. Executor then to pay my deare and loving father Thomas Wigge the interest of my estate (debts and legacies being paid) for life, and the principal after his death to be equally divided between my four brothers George Packe, William Packe, Thomas Wigge and John Wigge, and my two sisters Anne the wife of George Godfrey and Joane Wigge, Executor William Packe, my brother who proves 22 Nov. 1671.

Of William, the fourth son of Sir Thomas Colepeper, of Folkington, born 1637, we have discovered at present no further records, but he was probably the citizen and leatherseller of London mentioned in the Close Roll of 1658, and was possibly the father of Anne, wife of James Hougham, M.D., of Ditchling,<sup>82</sup> and mother of Culpeper Hougham, as William Culpeper's sister Anne married John Honey, of Ditchling, Esq., who in his will,<sup>83</sup> dated 7th Nov., 1694, pr. at Lewes 15th Jan., 169 $\frac{4}{5}$ , mentions his kinsman Culpeper (blank in transcript but ? Hougham) and one of the witnesses James Hougham.

<sup>80</sup> P.C.C., 136 Coke.

<sup>81</sup> P.C.C., 130 Duke.

<sup>82</sup> S.A.C., Vol. XXVIII., 133.

<sup>83</sup> Lewes A. 42, 86.

(To be continued).