

CUCKFIELD FAMILIES: THE MICHELLS.

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OUR late much-esteemed Chairman, the Rev. Canon Cooper, who very kindly gave me every facility in his power, on more than one occasion asked me to compile a short paper on this family, and I therefore dedicate this account of them as a slight tribute to his memory.

The family of Michell was connected with Cuckfield from very early times, as is evidenced by two deeds from the Cartulary of Lewes Priory, Cottonian MSS., Vesp. F. XV., fo. 125, in one of which, dated Tuesday before 20th July, 7 Edward I. (1279), "Richard Mychell acknowledges that he holds of the Prior and Convent of Lewes the land of la Monhill in Cuckfield by the yearly sum of 1½ marks of silver with suit of Court." And in the second, dated the same year, Feast of St. Margaret, 7 Edward I. (20th July, 1279), "Richard Mychell granted to the Prior and Monks of St. Pancras lands in Cuckfield called la Monhelle."

On the 25th June, 1279, Richard Michel, of Bolyng (Bolney),¹ had sought to recover one virgate of land in Cuckfield from John, Prior of Lewes, of which William de Foville, a former Prior, had unjustly disseized Margaret, widow of Richard Michel, his mother. The Prior states that he ought not to reply to this, as Alice de Bradeford holds one messuage and one acre of the land. Richard replies that if the Prior does not hold the whole of it he will relinquish his claim. The grant above seems to show that he did relinquish it.

From the fact of a small copyhold property, called Lower Moonhill, held of the Manor of Pangdean, the descent of which was to the youngest son,

¹ Assize R., 914, m. 6; he also occurs in a similar suit on m. 2, as Richard Mich^l of Bolne.

remaining for some centuries after in a junior branch of the family of Michell, of Stammerham, in Horsham, and from the Horsham and Cuckfield families, both bearing the same arms—*sable*, a chevron between three escallop shells, *argent*—the Horsham family with a mark of cadency, it seems likely that the Cuckfield Michells were the oldest branch, and that the Stammerham Michells obtained their subsequent importance in the county by the marriage of the heiress of Stammerham.

With respect to the presumed origin of the family in that of the distinguished house of Aquila, from whom the Honor of the Eagle was named, and for some remarks upon the coat of arms, the reader is referred to *S.A.C.*, Vol. VI., p. 88. I do not, however, propose in this paper to enter upon controversial theories, and will therefore proceed to adduce the evidence on which the accompanying pedigree is founded, regretting that, owing to the late commencement of the Cuckfield Registers, and to the absence of earlier Inquisitions, and to not having been able to ascertain to what parish or county the family subsequently moved, I have not been able to carry the pedigree farther backwards or onwards. The earliest documentary evidence is taken from Chancery Inquisitions Post Mortem, Series II., Vol. 85, No. 30.

At the Inquisition taken at Steyning on the 14th November, 1547, after the death of John Michel, of Cuckfield, gent., the jurors say:—That a certain John Michel, father of the said John Michel, was seized of and in the Manors of Tyes and Othale in Cuckfield, and of a tenement in the town of Cuckfield called Okendenes, &c., &c., and by deed, dated 20th January, 1520, enfeoffed thereof Ninian Burrell, Clerk, and others, to hold in trust by the name of the Manor of Tyes, and afterwards by his last will, dated 22nd December, 1524, left it to his son, the said John Michell and his heirs. John Michel, senior, died 1st February, 1525.

John Michel, the son, was also seized of and in the Manor of Othale, in Cuckfield, Balcombe and Lindfield, and, so seized by his deed, dated 15th February, 1533, in consideration of a marriage between Edmund Michel,

his son and heir apparent, and Joan Hensley, settled the Manors of Tyes and Othale after his decease on Edmund and Joan, and the heirs of Edmund. And afterwards, on the 9th December, 1533, the said Edmund married the said Joan Hensley.

John Michel in the writ named (viz., the son) died on the 15th October, 1546. Edmund Michel is his son and heir, and was aged 38 at his father's death.

The Inquisition gives extracts from the will of John Michel, who died in 1546, but as a summary of the will itself is given below they are not introduced here.

With reference to the information given in the above Inquisition, it is unfortunate that the will of the elder John Michel, who died in 1525, is no longer discoverable. He appears, however, to be the same John Michell who, in 1502, was one of the arbitrators who divided the old Manor of Otehall, in Wivelsfield, into two parts (*S.A.C.*, Vol. XXXV., p. 35), awarding that part of it in Cuckfield, Lindfield, Keymer, Balcombe and Hurstpierpoint to William Bust and Richard Bust; this part John Michell subsequently acquired.² His wife is commemorated by a loose brass in Cuckfield Church, which has been copied wrongly both in Horsfield's *Sussex* and in *S.A.C.*, Vol. XXIII., p. 152, and, as it was shown to me by Canon Cooper not so many years ago, it has been again recovered, after being lost since 1828. The inscription reads:—

Of go^r charite pray for the soule of Mylicent wyfe to
John Mychell here buryed which decessid the x^h day of
November an^o dni m^o b^o xxiiijth on who^s soule jhu habe mei

Besides his son and heir John, John Michell, gent., had another son, Thomas, who was ranger of Worth Forest, but died without issue, an extract from whose will follows that of his brother.

EXTRACTS FROM THE WILL OF JOHN MICHELL (Lewes A I, 125).

"I John Michell of Cokefeld thelder" "the 5 day of September in the 38 yere of the reign of o^r most dredd sour^e lorde Henry the 8" "do make" "my last will." "Wherea^s one Ri. Sherley Knyght by the name of Ri. Sherley Esq & an oth^r in the cort of our saide

² Feet of Fines, Sussex, Easter, 33 Henry VII.

souerein Lord the Kyng at Westminster in Hillary terme" "the 12 yere in the 756 roull by write of entre in the post have recouered to the use of me the said John Michell & myne heires against me the said John Michell all my lands & ten^{ts} w^t appt^{nces} called Anstye Hoolars Bradford Inholmes & Breches" "in" "Cokefeld" "and also one watermylne" "in Cokefeld" "I bequeathe all the foresaide landes" "to Margaret my wiffe" "duryng such tyme only as she shall lyve sole and unmarried" "and if the said Margaret" "fortune to mary then" "the said interest of the said Margaret" "shall sease" "and then I" "bequethe to the said Margaret an yerely rent of £8" "during her naturall lyff" out of the premisses "which landes and ten^{ts}" "I do assertaine to be of Socage Tenure & none otherwise" (clause for re-entry in default of payment within 14 days). After the death or remarriage of the said Margaret "I will and devyse" the above lands & tenements "to my brother Thomas Michell my son John Apsley John Michell and Richard Michell my sonnes" "untill" "they" "have leuyed or receyved" 100 marks "for the performance of" my "last will" "& after" "I devyse all the said landes" "to Edmond Michell my son & heyre apparent & to the heires of his body" "Item I will" £40 "pcell of the said" 100 marks "to 4 of my youngest sons Ninian William Thomas & Henrie to eche of them" £10 and "40 marks residue of the said 100 marks I gyve" "to Margaret Michell, Cicely Michell, Elizabeth Michell & Blanche Michell dowghters to my son Edmond Michell to be equally" "devyded betweene them." "I will" "to Thomas Michell my son the rent & pfts of a peell of landes" "in Cokefeld called Spyrkes" "for" "20 yeres," but if he be a priest and "be prefered to a spyrytual promotion or dignity to the value of 20 marks sterling by the yere" "then" my son Edmond Michell shall have the said "land" "to him and his heires for euer." "I will" "to Margaret my wiff a peell of land called Enbrithe and a croft of land called Redyngs conteyning by estimacion 4 acres" "in Cokefeld" "for" "liff" "and after her decese" "to Henry Michell my son & to his heires," remainder "to Ninyan Michell my son" remainder "to William Michell and to his heires for euer." "I will" "that the rent & profitts" "of my ten^t called Walters" "shall be gevyn" "during the space of 20 yeres" "immediatly after my decese" "amongst the poore people wⁱⁿ the pishe of Cokefeld." "If it fortune my son Edmond Michell or his heires after the deathe of Margaret my wiff fynd sufficient suretye to my brother Thomas Michell my son John Apsley John Michell Henrie Michell & Ri. Michell my sonnes" "to" "pay the said som of" 100 marks "to the above named Ninian Michell William Michell Thomas Michell & Henry Michell & to the daughters of my son Edmond above writen" that then it shall be lawful for the said Edmond or his heirs to "entre." "To be buried wⁱⁿ the pishe church of Cokefelde," bequests to godchildren, for Masses and for the poor. "To Margaret my wiffe 10 kyne & a bull 8 oxen 10 two yering bollokes 20 hoges a young spade mare colt & a gelding," "all the corne wⁱⁿ the barne of Anstye" "3 quarters whete & 4 quarters malte" "to be had fr^me the farm of pingdene" "the occupying of my gilt salt & the chalice during her liff & after her decese" "I will"

“them” “to Ed. Michell.” “I will” “to Edmond Michell my son 8 siluer spones the rest of all my household stuffe I gyve to Margaret my wiff. It(em) I bequethe to Ninyan Michell and to Will Michell & to eche of them £30 & to Henrie Michell £20 to be levyed of my stocke of Pingdene.” “I will that my wiff & Ri. Michell my son shall haue the farme of ballysdene duryng my terme of yeres” “joyntly together” “residue of the said yeres and the stocke to remayn to the exor of the said Ri. Michell.” “I gyve to my son Edmond Michell” 100 “wethers in their mole” “to my son John Michell one hundred and an halfe of lambes fyve kyne and a mare and a colt” “to my saide wiff all my terme of yeres which I have to come of and in my farme of pingdene with” “shepe corne & cattell” upon cond^{tn} she shall se the sòm of £80 paid to Ninian Michell Will Michell & to Henry Michell my sonnes. “& other my legacies & detts” “my wiff shall yerely in Lent give the bread of 2 quarters of whete to the poore of Cokefeld.” “I will that my saide wiff shall immediately after my decese be bound by obligation to my brother Thomas Michell John Apsley my son John Michell & Ri. Michell my sonnes in such a some of monie as they” “shall thinke most convenient” “that she shall” “pform & fulfill all things in the same declared” “if my wiff do refuse” “Thomas Michell & John Apsley shall immediately” “haue the saide farme of Pingdene w^t all my stocke of shepe” &c. “that they shall pay the saide some of £80 as is before declared & all other my detts & legacies” “and the overplus of the said stockes” “I will & gyue to Margaret my wiff whom I ordeyne to be my sole executrix” “These bering witnesse John Michell Edmond Michell, John Michell jun^r Thos. Michell, Edmond Hensley & Richard Michell.”

In Additional MSS., 5,691, in the British Museum, it is stated that John Apsley, Esq., who died 14th May, 1587, married, as his first wife, “Jane da. of John Michell of Tyes Cuckfield *and of Cicely Shelley his wife,*” and this statement seems likely to be correct, for although he mentions no daughters in his will, the above John Michell had, besides the above, Jane and a daughter Alice, who married Thomas Colbrand, a daughter Cicely, who married John Gainsford, of Blockfield, in Lingfield, Surrey (died 1580), by whom she was mother of Thomas Gainsford (died 1588), and Sir William Gainsford (died 1608), one of whose daughters, named Cicely, was baptised at Lingfield, 5th April, 1592. The family of Gainsford was of great distinction and antiquity in the County of Surrey, and the old house at Blockfield, described in the Ordnance Survey map as on the site of the Old County Hall, is still to be seen, not many miles from East Grinstead.

Before proceeding to give the extracts from the will of Thomas Michell, brother of the above John Michell, I would venture to offer here a few remarks as to the descendants of these marriages with Apsley and Colbrand. John Apsley, who married first the above Jane, and secondly, curiously enough, Mary, the daughter of Edward Lewkenor, of Kingston Bucey, and widow of John Michell, of Stammerham, in Horsham, was succeeded in possession of Apsley, in Thakeham, by his grandson, afterwards Sir Edward Apsley, whose son, Edward, having died unmarried, Apsley went to the descendants of Anthony Apsley, a brother of Sir Edward's. This Anthony, son of William Apsley and Elizabeth his wife, was baptised at Poynings 26th September, 1572; married, about 1600, Judith, daughter of John Randolph, by whom he was father of John, Henry, Randolph and William. Henry Apsley by his will, as "of Ticehurst, Esquire," dated 17th December, 1666, and proved at Lewes (A 30, 307), left the Manor of Hammerden and the farm of Apsley to his nephew, Henry Apsley, son of his brother, the Rev. Randolph Apsley, of Pulborough, clerk (by his wife Anne Swale, whom he married at Hurstpierpoint on the 15th October, 1640); Henry Apsley, the nephew, whose marriage licence, dated 9th June, 1676, to Cordelia, daughter of Samuel Boys, of Hawkhurst, is in the Vicar General's Office, died in 1692, aged 42, leaving three children—Henry, who died unmarried; John Apsley, of Lewes, Esq., who died 24th January, 1770, aged 82; and Ann, who married William Brett, of Lewes, apothecary. These notes seem necessary, as this descent is not given in the *Castles and Mansions of Western Sussex*, and Berry, in his *Sussex Genealogies*, p. 151, makes the ridiculous mistake of making the last-named John the grandson of a man whose will was proved in 1594.

Thomas Colbrand, husband of Alice Michell, died on the 2nd August 1552 (Chancery Inq. P.M., Series II., Vol. 101, No. 104), when James Colbrand was found to be his son and heir, aged eight years and more. This James (died 1600, whose sister, Walsingham, married at

Poynings on the 22nd July, 1565, Thomas Michell, of Rudgwick), by his wife, Martha, daughter of Oliver, Lord St. John, of Bletsho, and widow of Richard Cheyney, had a son, John, who was created a baronet in 1621, and died in 1628, leaving a son, Sir James. The marriage licence of Sir John to his first wife, Anne Wilson, is dated 21st December, 1609, and she was buried at Ditchling 31st December, 1612. The baronetcy became extinct on the death of Sir Robert Colbrand on the 2nd June, 1709.

We now come to the

WILL OF THOMAS MICHELL (P.C.C., 31 Bucke).

The 6 June 1551 I Thomas Mychell of Worthe Gent—"to be buried in the Chancell of Worthe by my wief" "to Alyce Mychell my newewe Edmund Mychell's daughter" 100 marks to be paid one year after her marriage if married with the advice and good will of her father & mother otherwise 100 marks to other children of Edmund—to Alyce Benke 3 keen—to John Elyott my servant 2 bullocks—to Anne Gaynsford my goddaughter £20—to John Gaynsford my newewe my damaske gowne and a jacket of black satten garded with velvet—to Thomas Pratt my wyeff's newewe £6 13 4—to Johane Pratt his sister now in London £6 13 4 & if she die before marriage then equally to Thomas Pratt & Thomas Coulstocke the younger my late servant, also to said Thomas Coulstocke £10—to Thomas Colbrond & Alice his wife £20 for the marriage of their children—to Johane a yonge child now being in my house £20 at marriage—to poor Browne that worketh at the ffurness (furnace) £6 13 4 to every one of my godchildren and of my late wief Alice Mychell 12^d—to Mother Johane a gowne of my wyefs furred with grey coney—to Richard Mychell my newewe my lease which I have of the Avnage of Hampshire which ys to me £10 per annum—whereas I have a lease of the park of Hale granted to Thomas Palmer for 20 years which I bought and of the farms of Cacchis & Rosyers in Fletching for certain monies paid by him I leave to Thomas Coulstocke my late servant—my lease of my other half of hayle to my nephew John Mychell—whereas I have half a farm in Falmer called Bevingdene of the grant of John Colpeper Esq and the other half at the will of Mr^r Covert, I leave said farm to Thomas Coulstocke & 600 sheep paying my executors £10 yearly for 2 years—Cecilye Gaynsford my niece—cousin Roger Chaloner—nephews Edmund & his brothers John, Nynian, William, Henry and Thomas residuary legatees and executors. Proved 5 Nov 1551.

From the will of Edmund Michell he apparently inherited a good deal more of real property than mentioned above from his uncle, Thomas Michell, who was Ranger of Worth Forest (*S.A.C.*, Vol. XIII., p. 130)

in 1549, and one of the Commissioners of Sewers for the Lewes Levels in 1534 (*S.A.C.*, Vol. X., p. 97).

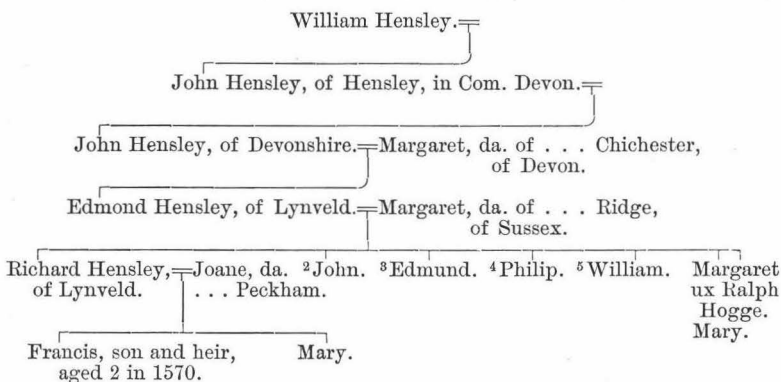
It will be seen from the above that John Michell, who died in 1546, had seven sons and three daughters—

1. Edmund, son and heir.
 2. John.
 3. Richard.
 4. Ninian.
 5. William, of whom no further mention.
 6. Thomas, of whom no further mention.
 7. Henry.
1. Jane, who married John Apsley.
 2. Alice, who married Thomas Colbrand.
 3. Cicely, who married John Gainsford.

Some account of the daughters and their issue has already been given, and I will now take the sons in their due order.

1. EDMUND.

Edmund Michell, who was aged 38 at his father's death in 1546, must have been born about 1508, married on the 9th December, 1533, at the age of about 25, with Joan Hensley. This family is thus recorded in the Visitation of Sussex in 1570 (*Harl. MS.*, 1562, fo. 115a):—



Although not mentioned in the above pedigree, Joan, from dates, must have been sister of Edmund Hensley, of Lindfield, who is a witness to John Michell's will, as

Richard, the eldest son, died 29th December, 1574. The wills of John and Edmund, the second and third sons, as of Buxted, and dated respectively 13th July, 1591, and 16th December, 1591, were administered 15th April, 1592, by Philip Hensley, their brother. This Philip Hensley, or Henslowe, who was Gentleman Sewer of His Majesty's Chamber—and bore as arms *gules*, a lion statant guardant *or*, a chief *azure*, semée-de-lis of the second—was the author of the Diary, and died an old man in 1615, having married about 1577 Agnes Woodward, widow, whose daughter, Joan Woodward, married in 1592 Edward Alleyn, the founder of Dulwich College. There is some account of Philip Henslowe in the *Genealogist*, Vol. IV., new series, p. 149, from which it appears that Margaret re-married . . . Cuxon, and that Mary, his other sister, is described in 1615 as Walters, *alias* Addington. See also *S.A.C.*, Vol. XIV., pp. 47, 51, 82 and 159, as to this family.

The will of Edmund Michell is as follows:—

14th August 1557 I Edmunde Michell of Cukfelde in the Countie of Sussex Esquyer." "to be buryed w^tout any pompe in any wise" "Executours Joane my wif my brother M^r John Apeslye Esquyer and Thomas my sonne" "Oūsears" "Nynyan Warde Willm Apeslye John Michell and Richarde Michell gentlemen" "my children shalbe honestlie and vertuously founde and brought vpp." Inventory of "goods catalls and vtensils as well of householde as of husbandrye" to be made & "vtensils to remayne in the custodye of Joane my wif" "untill such tyme as Thomas my sonne or such other of my children as shall inherite my lande shall accomplishe thage of 24 yers" except son Thomas or such other child "chaunce to marye and kepe house by hymselfe" before 24 when overseers are to divide household stuff & utensils equally between wife—(to have occupation thereof "duriinge her lif if she lyue sole and unmarried") and son Thomas. wife to have "her jewels and apparell" "8 oxen and 8 kyne towardes the stockinge of her grounde" "all the corne and grayne" "upon my landes of Tyes or elleswhere w^tin the parishe of Cukfelde" "where I have sold unto John Heaver and Nynyan Warde gentlemen seuerally certayne landes whiche were my wifes ioynture I requyre my said wife that she shall not vexe nor disturbe them" otherwise legacies to her to be void. "Where my vnclie Michell by his last will" "gave unto my daughter Alice Michell, to her marriage" 100 marks. "I will" "to the said Alice" 50 marks more at marriage. "to eūye of the rest of my daughters" £100 if they claim no legacy given by my father by his last will out of my lands of Anstye Holars Bradforth Inholmes the Mylne or any other my lands. "to the child my wif

goth wthall” if “a man childe” 200 marks if “a woman childe” £100. “to e^{dy} of my sonnes except myne heyre” 200 marks at 24, my “wif shalhaue the north portion of Cuckfelde psonage called the Staplefeld portion” for life if unmarried with remainder of term of years to “Thomas Michell my sonne” or such other of my children as shall inherit my lands—wife to have 5 quarters of wheat & 5 quarters of barley yearly “out of my ferme of Clayton” “towards the mayntenance of her house and the bringinge vpp of my children”—Son who inherits land not to have the 200 marks—bequests to servants Alice Jeffery, John Reede, Clement Mutton “My executours shall aunswere yelde and paie vnto my nephewe James Colbronde the inste value of all the proffetts whiche I have receued of his landes and heredytaments since the death of Thomas Colbronde his father” at 21. “saue and excepte to be reasonably allowed thereout the greate chardges of his fyndinge bringing vpp and schooling” “of which allowances I will my nephews and neces thother children of the said Thomas Colbronde to have suche convenyent portion thereof as myne ouersears shall thinke best” “as touching” “my landes” “ffurst I declare that at this p^{sent} I am not seased of any manours lands or heredytaments holden of the Kinge in capite whereof I am right well assured neyther of any other by Knyghts seruice.” “Unto Joane my wif my manours of Tyes and *(sic)* in Cuckfelde and Balcombe” for life, lands in Cuckfelde called the Northlandes Okyndens with all other my lands late in the tenure of John Mytten deceased on condition she claim no jointure. “Where myne uncle Thomas Michell by his last will willed unto me the mano^r of Worthe w^t all other his landes and tenements called Crabbed haselwicke mylle and mylle landes” paying to his executors yearly £10 “and where also I had of the graunte of John Apeslye Esquyer the survivor of the executours” “one lease” of a parcell of ground called Allen of Warwicks all of which I sold unto John More Esquyer my executor John Apeslye shall take yearly £9 out of my lands at East Grinstead & 3^s/4^d rent for Allen of Warwicks and £6 3 4 for the manor of Redstone towards the performance of my uncles will until it be performed—“to Elizabeth Apeslye my neces and goddaughter £6 13 4” at marriage or before by discretion of my said brother Apeslye her father—servant Thomas Stanbridge—“Where I have couen^{anted} w^t John Cooke my fermo^r of Anstye to repair my house barnes buyldings of Anstye” exors to see the same done My exors “shall finysse and ende my house of Tyes throughlie in allthings as I have begonne and that the chympney be made in the galarye and other plac as I have purposed and as my wif knoweth.” Exors to pay £32 15 0 to “the children of my suster Colbronde” “which I had at the death of my said suster.” Proved in P.C.C., 18 Jan, 155⁸, by the Proctor of the Executors (31 Welles).

The widow, Joane Michell, did not re-marry, and the following is a short extract from her will:—

I Johane Michell of Cookfield widow late the wiffe of Edmund Michell Esquyer deceased 1st Oct 1569—to be buried in the Church of

Cookfeld near my late husband—son Thomas M & his wife—son John M—son Edmund M—son Richard M—daughter Morley wife of Anthony Morley gent—daughter A Tree the wife of John A Tree—daughter Monke the wife of John Monke—John Michell the son of my son Thomas Michell—son John Michell sole executor—my brother in law M^r John Apsley Esquire & M^r Richard Shelley Esquier & M^r Richard Bellingham Esquier overseers. On the 1st Sept 1580 John Michell the executor having renounced administration was granted to Thomas Michell her son. Inventory £128 6 1 (Lewes A 7, 192, B 1, 89).

Although Edmund Michell mentions only one daughter, Alice by name, and his widow mentions none by their Christian names, it is clear from other sources that they had at least six, viz. :—

Margaret, who, I think, married John Monke, of Rusper, gent., who with Margaret, his wife, were deforciantes of the Manor of Corte in Rusper in 1588 (Feet of Fines, Trinity, 30 Eliz.).

Cicely, who married Ninian Chaloner, of Cuckfield, gent. (*S.A.C.*, Vol. XLIV., p. 130), and was possibly dead at the date of her mother's will, 1569, October 1st.

Elizabeth Michell, who married John Attree, of Theobalds, in Wivelsfield, gent., about 1558 (*S.A.C.*, Vol. XXXV., p. 59) and died in November, 1603.

Blanche, who was living in 1546, but of whom I find no further mention.

Alice, living in 1551 and 1557, but apparently not in 1569.

Bridget, who was the second wife (Joan, daughter of John Fenner, and widow of Edward Shurley, Esquire, being his first wife), and widow of Anthony Morley, second son of Thomas Morley, of Glynde, Esq., who died 9th Jan., 1559. Anthony died about 1586, leaving four children, all minors, Herbert, William, Margaret and Anne. Bridget, his widow, re-married before 1589 John Watkins. These particulars are taken from Chancery Bills and Answers, Elizabeth M. m. 6, No. 53, in which Edmund Michell, of Weston, co. Hereford, is called

the brother of Bridget, widow of Anthony Morley, the ironmaster of Llanwyno and Merthyr Tydvil. The case is peculiar in that the ironworks were sold to Thomas Menyffe or Mynefee for more than the amount of the debts, and the purchaser agreed to pay £40 a year for eight years, but, after the death of Anthony Morley a little more than a year after the purchase, discontinued the payment. On complaint being made the commissioners in bankruptcy ordered payment to be made "at or upon the great stone of Cardiff" in the High Street there between 12 and 4 p.m. This was not complied with, and Elizabeth, now (20th October, 1589) widow of Thomas Menyffe or Mynefee, says that she and her late husband only wished to know how "mytch" to pay to the widow and how much to the children.

Anthony Morley was married to Bridget Michell before 1569: in 1579 they bought lands in Lindfield of John Attree and Elizabeth, his wife, sister to Bridgett (Feet of Fines, Sussex, Hilary, 21 Eliz.). There is some account of Anthony Morley and his ironworks at Merthyr Tydvil in *S.A.C.*, Vol. XVIII., pp. 13 and 14, but it there appears as if it were Joane Fenner, the widow of Edward Shurley, who brought the action as widow of Anthony Morley, whereas she must have died before 1st October, 1569, the date of Joan Michell's will.

Having thus disposed of the daughters of Edmund Michell, we may proceed to consider the sons, who at the time of Joan Michell's will in 1569 were four in number, viz. :—

- (A.) Thomas, son and heir.
 - (B.) John.
 - (C.) Edmund.
 - (D.) Richard, living in 1569 and perhaps 1580, but of whom there is no further record.
- (A.) Thomas Michell, the eldest son and heir, who was probably born about 1546 and married about

1566 to a lady whose Christian name was Jane, appears to have parted gradually with the large property to which he succeeded, as he is a frequent deforciant of lands in Cuckfield in Fines of Elizabeth's reign. He was living at Bolney in 1617, as appears by one of the Cuckfield School Deeds dated 2nd December in that year, in which he as Thomas Michell, of Bolney, gent., the surviving trustee, enfeoffs, among others, John Michell, Esq., and Henry Michell, his sons, and John Michell (son of the said John Michell), his grandson, and appoints Edmund Michell, his brother, and Thomas Michell, his son, attorneys. He is probably the Thomas Michell, of Bolney, who was buried at Wivelsfield 27th April, 1625, where he may have been staying with his nephew, Edmund Attree, of Theobalds, but as he is not described in the Registers as "Mr.," "gent." or "Esq.," and I have not been able to find any will or administration for him at Lewes or in London, this cannot be stated with absolute certainty. They had issue:—I., John; II., Henry; III., Thomas.

- I. John, born about 1567, a student of Gray's Inn in 1583, knighted 9th November, 1619, a Master in Chancery, died about 1644, but left no will or administration; he was married and had a son living in 1617, named John, who signs one of the School Deeds 20th June, 1641, in which he is described as "John Michell, Esquire, son and heir apparent of the said Sir John Michell," but, as I have been unable to discover any will or administration for him, the pedigree of himself and his descendants cannot be further continued.

On the 31st July Sir John Michell sent the following letter "To my worthy and much esteemed kinsmen and friends Thomas Chaloner and Walter Burrell Esqrs." :—

S^{rs}

This last of July I rec^d y^r tre dated y^e 26th of this moneth on w^{ch} daye I rec tres from M^r Viccars & M^r Booth by w^{ch} it is ptended y^t

there was a newe schoolmaster chosen 13^o of this moneth being y^e daye before my tres came to M^r Vicars hands ; I sent my tres to them on ffridaye last thereby signifying y^t I feared there pceeding hearin would breed a fraccōn for I did not conceive y^t y^e free elecōn of ye M^r was in them but y^e appbaçōn of his sufficiency nor do I thinke y^e trustees were named for shadowes y^o & I are trustees assure y^rselfe I will ioyn wth y^o hand & harte for y^e good of y^e schoole & if y^o please to come to London I will goe wth y^o to both y^e lords & will use my best endeavours as y^rselves shall witness for y^o knowe I am now no pishione^r of Couckfeild yet will I ioyn most willingly wth y^o and vis vrita fortior. It is good obstare principijs for mora trahit periculum. I therefore desier y^r speedy resolucōn y^t wee maye prevent his admission & installm^t y^e hast of this messenger pventeth me of much w^{ch} must rest till wee meete till when & eū I will rest.

31 Julij
1637

Y^r loving kinsman most
ready to furthe^r y^e good designs
J. Mychell

The seal used by these Michells, of Cuckfield, was a chevron between three escallop shells. Whereas Edward Michell, of Stammerham, on a deed dated 1st August, 1620, in Cuckfield Church, uses the same coat, with a crescent for cadency, thus showing that he belonged to a junior branch, the arms on the seal of Sir John Michell to a deed of 20th June, 1641, are:—Quarterly, 1 and 4 a chevron between three escallop shells, 2 and 3 Paly of 6, impaling a griffin segreant, holding a shield charged with a griffin segreant. He is probably the individual referred to in the Duke of Rutland's MSS., Historical MSS. Commn. XII., Pt. iv., p. 54.

II. Henry. This may be the "Henry Michell, gent.," buried at Bolney 26th May, 1637, but in this case also there is, unfortunately, no will or administration to prove it, and possibly the baptism there on the 25th February, 1617, of Jane, daughter of Henry Michell, gent., is that of his daughter.

III. Thomas Michell, of whom, after 1617, I find no further record.

(B.) John Michell, the second son of Edmund, resided for some time at Plumpton, where the following

entries from the Registers probably apply to him:—

1578. Mr. John Michell and Mary Jefferay were maryed
iiijth of february.
1583. Jane Michell, daughter of M^r John Michell (baptised)
vjth of January.
1600. William Huntly and Jane Mychell were maryed
xijth of Meye.

He was buried at Lingfield, where he seems to have resided for some time with his cousins, the Gainsfords, at Blockfield, on the 9th July, 1612, as "Johannes Michell generosus," and administration of his effects was granted in P.C.C. on the 16th June, 1613, to Thomas Michell, his brother, from which fact apparently he left no issue.

- (C.) Edmund, the third son of Edmund Michell, is described in the Chancery Proceedings relating to his sister, Bridget Watkins, formerly Morley, in 1589, as of Weston, co. Hereford. He was buried at Cuckfield on 14th April, 1618, as "Mr. Edmund Mychell, an olde man." I cannot find any will or administration for him.

2. JOHN.

John, the second son of John, who died in 1546, left a will proved in P.C.C. 30th July, 1573 (24 Peter), of which the following is an abstract:—

"The 25th daie of June 1573." "I John Michell of Cokfeld within the Countie of Sussex thelder" "to be buried in the churche" "to Margaret my daught^r" £20 "within twoe yeres" "to Marie and to Elizabeth my daughters and to eürie of them" £40 at marriage if they "shalbe ruled in their mariage by my sone in lawe M^r John Hussey and my daughter his wief" "to my sone John Michell all my plate hereunder written that is to saie twoe greate gilte saultes one with a cover twoe little saltes parcell gilte wth covers twoe bolles parcell gilte one gilte cuppe with a couer fouer siluer potts pcell gilte wth covers whereof one cover is lose a flatt pece pcell gilte a little gilt pott wth a couer twoe stone potts wth gilt couers and foote twoe goblets parcell gilte and two dozen of siluer spoones lackinge one spoone and all my household stuffe and ymplements of householde" said son and daughter M^r Hussey and his wife to have custody thereof "with my house and buildings where I dwell" "and the messuage and gardeine late boughte of John Standynge" "until" "my sone John Michell

shall accomplishe the age of xx^{ti} yeres yff he marrye not before” “excepted allwaies one Cipres chest in the new chamber the largest diap clothe and a little pott of bullen brasse w^{ch} I giue to the saied Johan Hussey my daughter.” If son John die before 20 or unmarried my daughter Hussey shall have my plate before bequeathed paying the just value “to my other daughters Jane Morton, Margaret German, Marie and Elizabeth indifferetly and by equall porçons” and half the household stuff and also the other half if she pay said other daughters the value of that half. “Item I give to my sonne John Michell all my ferme goods cattell and corne.” Overseers to expend profits also on daughters until of age or married and “to transpose an olde house which I late bought of John Stenyng and his wief to their pleasure” and in paying “the right heires of henry Mose late of Cuckfeld deceased” £6 13 4, also a legacy of 40/- “latelie giuen to Izabell Lyverie my serūnt by my wief” also 40/- “giuen by my mother in lawe to the prisoners in London” “my cozen M^r Warde shall not be putt oute of those lands w^{ch} he farmeth of me” “to Anne Colbrande” £6 13 4 “to be paid to her when it shalbe thought meete and convenient by my executour and ouerseers.” Executor son John Michell. Overseers sons in law M^r John Hussey and John German. Witnesses Nynian Warde John Hussey John German John Carver Edmund Pye. “Item to Isabell Lyuerie my servant” 20/- “Edmond Chaloner shall haue” 6^s/8^d “which my wief gaue him being hir godson” to “Julian somtyme my serūnt” 6^s/8^d “my sonne hussey shall haue all my woods w^{ch} I bought of my cozen Mychell in the parke to bestowe” “as I have declared unto him.” Last will as to lands:—To son John house and lands I dwell in called Stophames Cuckfelds and Cookes and a tenement and garden late bought of John Stenyng and his wife at 20 or marriage, remainder to daughter Johane Hussey—also to son John a tenement and garden in little London in Cuckfield and Langeridges the little Swansfeld and the loke in Brokestrete in Cuckfied and Williamsfelds and my part of messuage barns and lands in Brighthelmston and Aburthen (Edburton) called “Earles Land w^{ch} I hadd and purchased of Thomas Mychell Esquier deceased my uncle” remainder to my heirs male remainder to my daughter Johan Hussey. Also to son John and his heirs the manor of Redstone in Reigate co. Surrey with like remainder. If daughter Johane Hussey succeeds to the lands she is to pay to daughters Margaret Marie and Elizabeth £40 each and to daughter Jane Morton £30.

Administration granted 30th July, 1573, to John Hussey and John German during the minority of John Michell, the son and executor.

The words “my cozen Mychell in the parke” refer to his nephew Thomas Michell (see *S.A.C.*, Vol. XLI., p. 91).

The only son, John Michell, did not die a minor, but married at Twineham, on the 7th November, 1582, with Elizabeth, daughter of William Stapley, of Hixted, and

the following extracts from the Registers of that parish seem to show that at all events for some time he resided there:—

BAPTISMS.

John son of John Michell of Hixted	1 Nov. 1583
Edmund ,, ,, ,, ,,	2 Aug. 1586
Elizabeth daughter ,, ,,	4 Feb. 1587

MARRIAGE.

M ^r John Michell of Cuckfield & Elizabeth Stapley of Twineham	7 Nov. 1582
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BURIAL.

Elizabeth daughter of John Michell of Hixted. .	11 Feb. 1587
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The sons, John and Edmund, probably also died soon after, and the father re-named three subsequent children after the first three, as his sons John and Edmund were minors at the date of their father's will, 4th August, 1609. They were most likely baptised at Cuckfield, the Registers of which are now deficient before 1598. The Visitation of Sussex in 1634 informs us that his house was called Sidney, but beyond this and the following extract from his will I have no further particulars of him:—

EXTRACT FROM THE WILL OF JOHN MICHELL.

4 Aug. 7 James "I John Michell of Cookefeild gentleman" "to be buried in the Church or Chauncell of the parish Church of Cookefeild" to poor of Cuckfield £5—to "Elizabeth my wief my freehold land with the house standing thereupon with all my household stuff "in my now dwelling house" "dunge only the naturall lief of the sayd Elizabeth Provided allwayes that" "she bring and trayne vp Edmund Michell my yongest sonne in good learning and manners as my Overseers shall thinke fitt" "giving vnto him for that purpose some reasonable yearelie allowance when he shall be placed forth abroad by their direction." "Item" "vnto Elizabeth my wief" £50 "out of the stocke now being upon the lands." "Item" "unto Elizabeth my daughter" £500 viz. £300 within 12 months of my decease & £200 within 6 months after her marriage if she "match herself to such a man as my wief her mother and my two overseers shall thinke well and fitly of" "Elizabeth my daughter shall have allowance towards her mainten^ance for that year she hath not her stocke" £20 out of the use of the money. "Item" "vnto John Michell my eldest sonne" £1000 to be put forth to his best advantage and "payd vnto the said John my sonne" "when he shall accomplish the full age of" 21 "Provided alwayes that John my sonne being of the age of" 21 "shall passe over vnto Edmund Michell his brother by deede" all right in my now dwelling house "with the freehold land belonging thervnto"—if he refuse,—to have

only £500—"Item" "vnto Edmund Michell my yongest sonne my freehold land in Cookefeild with the house standing on it" and £200 to be used to his best advantage by my overseers "Item" "vnto Elizabeth Pye my neece" £30 within 3 years of my decease "Item" "vnto Anne Franke my neece and to her twoe daughters Anne and Mary" £10 "vnto Joane Sivier my sisters daughter" £5 "I make Edmund Michell my sonne my Executor" "I make Drue Stapley citizen dwelling in Southwark Henry Colthurst citizen and Abraham Franke Mynister of God's word my overseers to whom I commit the care and oversight of the trayning vp my children" giving them authority to put out and employ my childrens stockes and account to them when of age. Witnesses Abraham Franke, Drue Stapley Henry Colthurst, William Sater, John King, Elizabeth Pye 1 Nov. 1609 Commission to Drew Stapley Henry Colthurst and Abraham Franke overseers during the minority of Edmund Michell the son & executor 3 Jan. 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{9}{10}$ Commission to John Michell son of the said John Michell deceased to administer according to the tenor and effect of the will because Edmund Michell the Executor departed this life before taking vpon himself the burden of Execution.

As Abraham Franke, the Vicar of Ashburnham, married Anne, daughter of Edmund Pye, of Newton Tony, Wilts, and an Edmund Pye is a witness to the will of testator's father, and Elizabeth Pye is a witness to the above will, it may be surmised that Edmund Pye married the testator's sister, Elizabeth Michell.

The son Edmund having died without issue, and the daughter Elizabeth having married, according to the Visitation of Sussex in 1634, Henry Albery, one of the Cursitors, we have now only to deal with the remaining child John.

This John Michell married at Southover on the 24th August, 1620 (the Marriage Licence, to which Henry Albery, of Southover, gent., is a surety, being dated 18th August, at Lewes), with Dorothy, daughter of Henry Shelley, of Patcham, Esq., and recorded his pedigree in the Visitation of Sussex in 1634. They had the following children:—

1. Thomas, baptised Southover 8th April, 1624, not mentioned in the Visitation, 1634.
2. Henry, baptised Southover 14th April, 1625, also not mentioned 1634.
3. Edward, apparently the eldest son, and aged eight in 1634, also living in 1663.

4. Anthony Michell, also recorded in the Visitation, baptised Cuckfield 9th August, 1627.
5. John, buried Southover 21st November, 1629, not recorded in Visitation.
6. Elizabeth, baptised Southover 31st January, 163 $\frac{3}{8}$, and recorded in the Visitation.
7. James, baptised Southover 28th February, 163 $\frac{9}{1}$, recorded in the Visitation 1634, and living 1663.
8. Dorothy, baptised Southover 21st October, 1632, and recorded 1634, married before 1663 to . . . Wood.
9. A second Elizabeth, baptised Southover 6th January, 163 $\frac{3}{4}$, and living in 1663.
10. Judith, baptised at Southover 14th February, 163 $\frac{5}{6}$, and buried there 29th February following.
11. Judith, baptised Southover 11th August, 1639, living in 1663.

He left a will as John Michell, of Wighdeane (Withdean), in Patcham, gent., dated 12th September, 1663, and proved at Lewes 3rd December, 1663 (A 30, 72), by which he desires to be buried in the chancel, and mentions his sons, Edward and James, and his daughters, Wood, Elizabeth and Judith, making the latter his residuary legatee and executrix. He also mentions his kinsmen, Anthony Shirley, Esq., and Henry Shirley, gent., of Preston, who were probably connected with him by the marriage of Thomas Shirley to Elizabeth, daughter of Drew Stapley.

I have not been able to trace the sons Edward and James any further, so here the account of this branch of the Michells, of Cuckfield, must end.

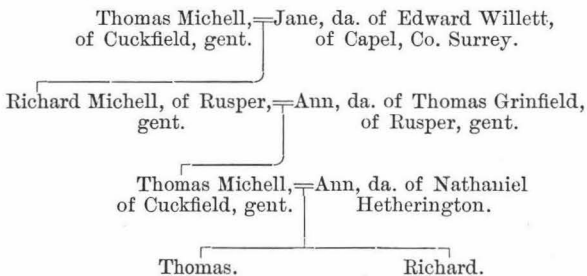
3. RICHARD.

Richard, the third son of John Michell, who died in 1546, and to whom his father left the farm of Balsdean, in Rottingdean, left a will as Richard Michell, of Cuckfield, gent., dated 15th March, 1566, and proved at Lewes 27th May, 1567 (A 5, 434), in which he speaks of his farm of Ballisden, his brother, Harry Michell, and his

nephew, Thomas Michell, and leaves to his daughters Anne, Mary and Margaret £20 each on marriage, and the rest of his property to his sons Thomas (eldest), Richard and George.

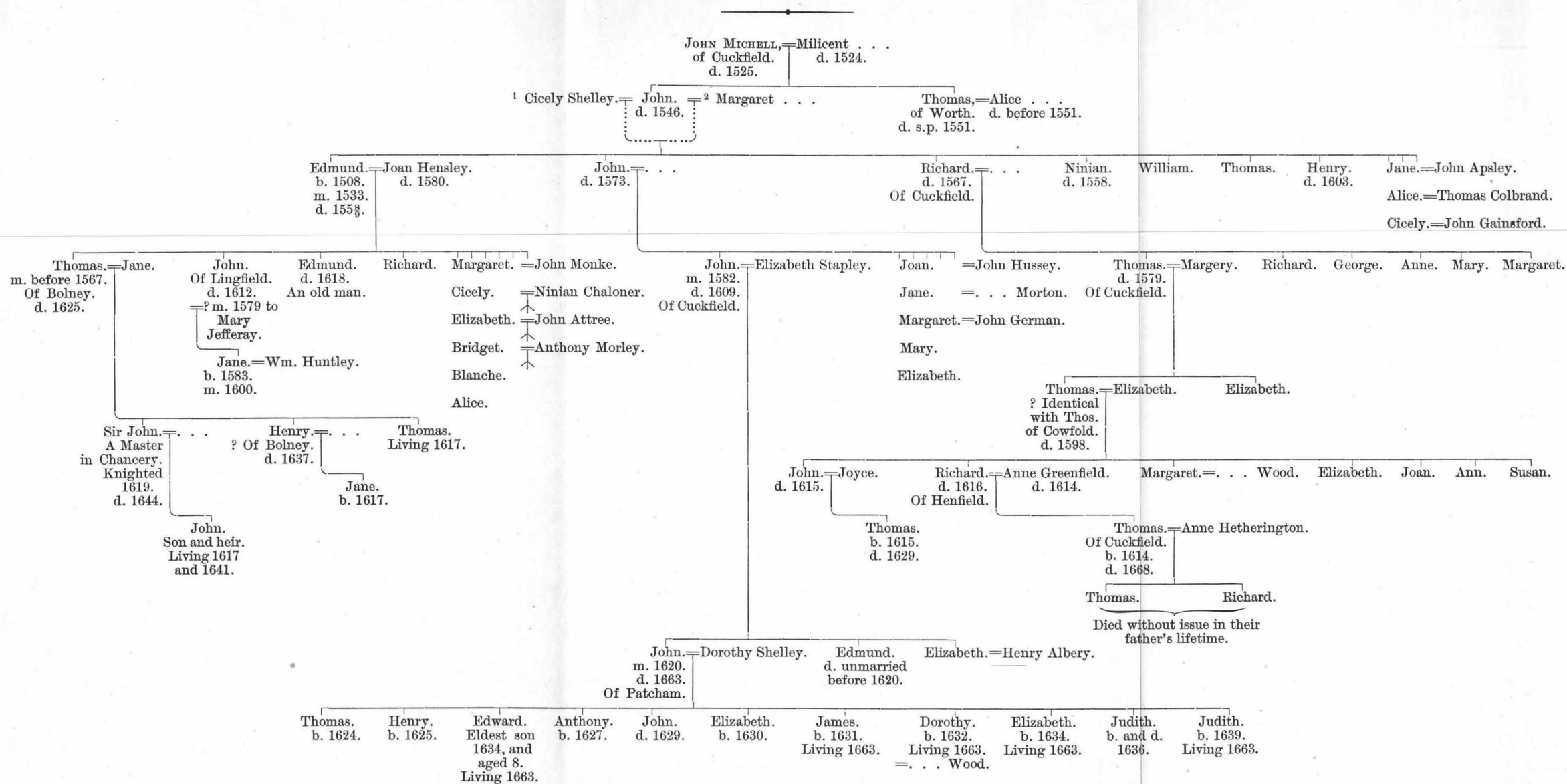
Thomas, the eldest son, also of Cuckfield, gent., left a will dated 6th November, 1578, and proved at Lewes 19th March, 1578 (A 7, 94). He makes his wife Margery, his uncle Henry Michell and his cousin John Michell, of Plumpton, executors, to sell his land at Newick and to pay his brother Richard £20, brother George £6. 13s. 4d., sister Anne M. £10, sisters Mary M. and Margaret M. £6. 13s. 4d. each. He leaves to Elizabeth M., his daughter under 18, his lands in Billingshurst, and the remainder of his lands to his son Thomas, a minor, with remainder to his daughter Elizabeth, remainder to his brother Richard, remainder to his brother George. The will was proved by Margery, the widow, Henry Michell renouncing, and power being reserved for John Michell, the other executor (Lewes B 1, 71).

The following extract from the Visitation of Sussex in 1662 may refer to this Thomas:—



This pedigree may be analysed by wills and Inquisitions. Thomas Michell, at the head of the pedigree, made his will as of Cowfold, yeoman, 17th April, 1598, which was proved at Lewes by Elizabeth, his relict and executrix, on the 6th June, 1598 (A 10, 126). In it he mentions his brother, John Michell, and his brother-in-law, Stephen Agate, and his children, John, Richard, Margaret, Elizabeth, Joane, Anne and Susan, all minors.

PEDIGREE OF MICHELL OF CUCKFIELD.



John Michell, the son, was of Cowfold, mercer, and in his will, 17th March, 1614-5, proved 17th August, 1615 (Lewes, A 15, 39), mentions his brother Richard Michell, of Henfield, his sister Joane Michell, and his wife Joyce (who subsequently married Thomas Gratwick, of Cowfold), then "great with childe"; he died on the 6th July, 1615, when Thomas was found by Inquisition to be his son and heir, aged 2 months 20 days; the son Thomas, however, died on the 2nd May, 1629, when his cousin Thomas, son of his uncle Richard, was found to be his heir, and aged 14 years 6 months and 4 days.

Richard Michell, the other son, left a will dated 27th April, 1616, and proved in P.C.C. 10th July, 1616, as of Henfield, yeoman. In it he mentions his sisters, Margaret Wood and Joane, Thomas, son of his brother John Michell, his brothers-in-law Thomas Grinfield, of Capel, co. Surrey, and John Constable, of Ockley, in the said county, his uncle Stephen Agate, of Herst, and leaves all for the benefit of his son Thomas, whom he describes as very young.

Thomas Michell, the son, who was baptised at Henfield 20th October, 1614, in his will dated 3rd July, 1662, and proved in P.C.C. (38 Hene) 3rd March, 1667-8, in which he is described as of Cuckfield, gent., mentions his brother-in-law John Hetherington, his deceased sons Thomas and Richard, and Elizabeth, his daughter-in-law, who had re-married William Richards, and leaves his wife Anne residuary legatee and executrix.

4. NINIAN.

Ninian Michell, the fourth son of John Michell, who died in 1546, left a will dated 26th July, 1558, and proved in P.C.C., 21st October, 1558 (60 Noodes), as Nyneon Michell, of Lingfield, Surrey, gentleman. In it he desires to be buried in the church, and with a bequest of 20s. to his kinswoman, Alice Michell, leaves all the rest to his sister Cicely Gaynsford, whom he makes his executrix.

From the place where he made his will and the name of his executrix, it may be presumed that he was living

at the time of his death at Blockfield with his brother-in-law, John Gainsford.

7. HENRY MICHELL.

Of Henry Michell, the youngest son of John Michell, there is little I find to record, as if, which is probably the case, he was the "Henry Michell sen^r Gent" buried at Cuckfield, 11th January, 160 $\frac{2}{3}$ (Henry Michell, junior, being the son of his nephew Thomas), he has left no will or administration at Lewes or in P.C.C. He is doubtless the person mentioned in Feet of Fines, Easter, 1 Eliz.

Henry Michell querent and John Attree deforciant of one message, two barns, one orchard, 100 acres land, 24 acres meadow, 60 acres pasture, 50 acres wood, 20 acres furze and heath and 4^d rent, with appurtenances in Lindfield and Wivelsfield. John admits it to be the right of Henry, who for the admission grants it to John and his heirs for ever.

From the fact that no consideration in money is mentioned in the Fine, and that the marriage of John Attree and Elizabeth Michell took place in this year, it may be assumed that this was a settlement on his niece.

It was probably part of this property that John Attree and Elizabeth, his wife, parted with in 1579 to her sister Bridget and her husband Anthony Morley, the unfortunate ironmaster (Feet of Fines, Hilary, 21 Eliz.).

Here this very imperfect account of the Michells, of Cuckfield, may conclude, perhaps fortunately, in an unsatisfactory manner, as had it been easy to trace the descendants afterwards, at a time when the name became so common and widespread that it is very difficult to identify the various families, this paper might have extended to a tedious length.

The following notes have been added, and Plates A and B presented, by a Member of the Society.

F. W. T. ATTREE.

PLATE A.

FIG. 1.—Brass in Cuckfield Church, noted by Burrell (B.M., Add. MS. 5,698) as being then “On a Grave Stone”; recently placed on the wall of the north aisle, after lying loose in the vestry probably since the restoration of the church in 18—. Actual size, 1 ft. $7\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $3\frac{3}{4}$ in. Burrell gives with the inscription a sketch of the coat of arms which evidently accompanied it in his time, but which has now disappeared:—Per pale. 1. *Gules* (properly *sable*), a chevron between 3 escallops *argent* (Michell). 2. Paly of six, *or* and *azure*, on a chief of the first a griffin passant, *sable* (White). The sinister coat (White) appears to have misled Burrell into reading “Mylicent wyfe of” on the brass, as “Mylicent Wyte &”.

FIG. 2.—Letter of Sir John Mychell, formerly of Cuckfield, dated 31st July, 1637, about the appointment of a schoolmaster; among Cuckfield School Deeds in Cuckfield Church. Endorsed “To my Worthy and much esteemed kinsmen and frends Thomas Chaloner & Walter Burrell esqf.” Sealed in red wax with a griffin segreant (? his wife’s arms). Cf. signature and seal on Plate B, No. 3.

PLATE B.

No. 1.—Signature of Thomas Michell “of Ansty in Cokefeld gentleman” on Cuckfield School Deed of 1st October, 31 Eliz. (1589). Seal lost.

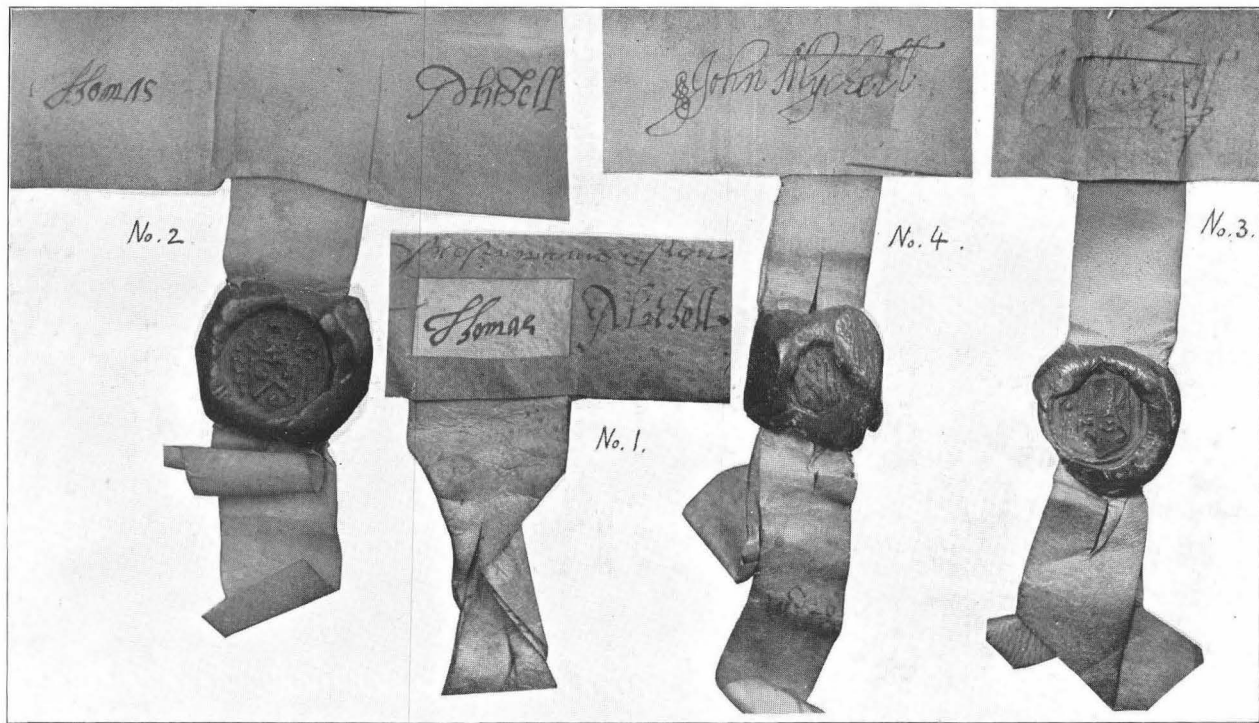
No. 2.—Signature of the same, as “of Bolney Sussex gent:” on Cuckfield School Deed of 2nd December, 15 Jac. I. (1617), with seal of yellow wax:—A shield charged with a chevron between 3 escallops, with foliated mantling and helmet bearing crest, a goat’s (?) head erased.

No. 3.—Signature of Sir John Mychell “late of the parish of Cuckfeild,” on Cuckfield School Deed of 20th June, 17 Car. I. (1641), with seal of red wax:—A shield charged, Per pale. (1.) *Qrly.* 1 and 4. A chevron between 3 escallops. 2 and 3. Paly of six. (2.) A griffin segreant holding a shield (charged with a griffin segreant?). Cf. the signature and seal referred to above, Plate A, Fig. 2.

No. 4.—Signature of John Mychell, Esquire, “son and heir apparent” of Sir John Mychell, on the same deed of 20th June, 1641, with seal of red wax:—A shield charged, Per pale. 1. A chevron between 3 escallops. 2. Paly of six.

PLATE C.

Monument in Thakeham Church, Sussex. Arms of Apsley (Barry of six, a canton *ermine*), impaling 1. Michell (A chevron between 3 escallops), and 2. Lewknor (Three chevrons); with helmet bearing the crest of Apsley (A fleur-de-lys between 2 wings erect). The monument surmounts an altar-tomb, apparently erected at another time, bearing the arms of Apsley impaling Lewknor alone.





MONUMENT IN THAKEHAM CHURCH.