

MATHIAS SPRINGHAM, 1561-1620

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Mathias, son of Richard Springham, was born in the city of London in August 1561.¹ During his son's early years Richard Springham, who was a Mercer, enjoyed an acknowledged position in his Company and among the merchants of London,² but the tide had definitely turned against him by 1568, when he was given protection for a year, as "he is bound to the Crown in a great sum . . . and many of his creditors propose to sue him for debt within that period".³ Indeed, he eventually found himself in so great financial difficulties that he appealed to his Company for help on 9 March 1575/6, and, as a result, was granted a pension of £20,⁴ the last payment of which was made to his widow in July 1579.⁵ The fact that his father had had the uncomfortable experience of receiving relief from the Mercers' Company may have been a reason why Mathias Springham did not seek the freedom of that Company. Whatever the reason may have been, it was of the sister company the Merchant Taylors, that he sought to be a freeman. After serving his apprenticeship to Charles Hoskyns, he was made a freeman on 11 November 1588.⁶ So, at the age of 27, a later age than was usual, he began to trade for himself.

TRADING ACTIVITIES

At first he was lent "dyvers great summes of mony to relieve his wants when he was destitute of other means" by Edward Elmer, Grocer, who had married Mathias Springham's maternal aunt, Elizabeth, when she was widowed by the death, in 1580, of Matthew Field, Mercer.⁷ When in 1598 a lawsuit arose between Mathias Springham and his aunt and her third husband, Otto Nicolson, she stated in her pleadings before the Court of Chancery that it was on her entreaties that Edward Elmer had made these loans and that he had protested "that if it were not for her sake he would not trust any Alderman of London with so great estate".⁸ In spite of this unpromising beginning he has established himself sufficiently by 1595 to become one of the Livery members,⁹ who, as Clode comments, were "men of substance able to bear the sacrifice of time and money which the choice entailed, as of attending civic ceremonies, paying higher assessments, acting as stewards or providers for public entertainments".¹⁰

Some pieces of information have survived which illustrate how wide-ranging his business activities were. He had trading connections with Ireland *ante* 1602, because in that year, when Exchanges were set up for the adjustment of the value of English and Irish coins after the debasing of the Irish coinage, he claimed at the Royal Exchange in London one sum of £500 and another of £298.13.7 for goods which he had supplied to merchants in Ireland.¹¹ In 1607, when the Merchant Taylors' Company entertained James I and Henry, Prince of Wales, to a banquet in their Hall, Mathias Springham supplied, as the accounts show, "19 ells $\frac{1}{2}$ taffite to make clothes for the three singers in the shipp and for him that made the speech to his Ma^{ty} at 13s.4d. an ell".¹² In 1608 he was a member of a syndicate which dealt in land in Yorkshire.¹³ On 16 July 1611 he was in debt £10 or £12 to Lionel Cranfield, Mercer, later Earl of Middlesex, one of the merchant magnates of the time.¹⁴ On 20 June 1612 he headed a list of London merchants who made an appeal to the Corpora-

tion of Exeter for Valentine Tooker, who was in danger of being deprived of the New Inn there.¹⁵ It is probable that Mathias Springham and the other signatories had made use of the New Inn for exhibiting their cloth at the four fairs which were held annually in Exeter.¹⁶ There is a hint that his trading connexions with Ireland continued, for, when he came over in 1613, as will be explained later, as a commissioner to make enquiries into the progress of the Londonderry plantation, he remained behind when his colleagues returned to London, not only to continue oversight of the plantation but also “for some affairs of his own”.¹⁷ The absence of any information about his trading activities in the later years of his life may be fortuitous. It may, however, be due to the fact that instead of earning profits by trading he had turned to money-lending. *A tract against usury* by Sir Thomas Culpeper, 1621, points out that “generally all merchants when they have gotten any great wealth leave trading and fall to usury, the gain thereof being so easy, certain and great”.¹⁸ As evidence of this in the case of Mathias Springham, there are the loans of sums of £300 and £600 he made to Sir John Bouchier¹⁹ and of £800 to Sir Ralph Bingley.²⁰

EAST INDIA COMPANY

Of the three great trading and colonizing ventures of the last days of Elizabeth I and the early days of James I, in which the members of the London Livery Companies took part, in a corporate capacity or as individuals, the first was the Honourable the East India Company, the charter of which was granted on 31 December 1600. As Mathias Springham was not named in the charter, it is clear that he was not a member at the beginning. But a service which he rendered to the East India Company in November 1613, when he was in Ireland, suggests that he may then have been financially interested. This service consisted in going to Sir Arthur Chichester, the Lord Deputy of Ireland, and from him to the Earl of Ormond, Vice-Admiral of Leinster, to ask for the release of the *Peppercorn*, which had on board a cargo reputed to be worth £300,000, and which had been detained in Waterford Harbour because of a charge of piracy brought against its captain by a member of the crew.²¹ His action in this matter may only indicate a desire to help his fellow merchants in London and the fact that the East India Company repaid his expenses is perhaps support for this view.²² He certainly possessed stock in the East India Company later. One of the sentences in his Will made in September 1620 was as follows: “I . . . give unto . . . Henry Springham my stocke w^{ch} is in the Easte India Company and all the profitts w^{ch} will arise thereby and doe intreat the said Companye to accept of him and make hime a lovinge brother amongst them”.²³ The continuing interest of the family in the East India Company is shown by the purchase in 1621 by his widow of £200 stock.²⁴ A further link between Mathias Springham and the East India Company is provided by Christopher Newport, who has been described as “a sort of sailor of fortune ready to enter the service of any group of men who wanted him”. After being employed by the Virginia Company from 1606 to 1611 he entered the service of the East India Company.²⁵ Before he sailed on what proved to be his last voyage he made his Will on 16 November 1616 and named his “very good friends, Mathias Springham and John Goodfellow”, as overseers with Sir Thomas Smythe, first Governor of the East India Company, as executor.²⁶

VIRGINIA COMPANY

When the second Virginia Company received its charter on 23 May 1609, Mathias Springham was among those named in it as having taken shares.²⁷ He had thus a part in this

venture, of which it has been said that "to read the names of the Adventurers is like hearing the roll-call of the most active elements of the society of the last days of Shakespeare".²⁸

LONDONDERRY PLANTATION

The same spirit which animated the subscribers to the Virginia Company appears in those London citizens who were concerned with the plantation of what became known as the County of Londonderry. They indeed regarded the plantation of Ulster, as a whole, and, in particular, the area assigned to them by James I as having greater possibilities than that of Virginia. They shared the opinion of Sir Arthur Chichester, the Lord Deputy of Ireland, who declared that he would "rather labour with his hands in the plantation of Ulster than dance or play in that of Virginia".²⁹

It is important to observe the part played by Mathias Springham in the Londonderry plantation. Though a body, consisting of a Governor, Deputy-Governor and 24 assistants, had been formed on 30 January 1610/11 in the City of London to manage the Plantation,³⁰ the first time that Mathias Springham's name occurs in connection with it is when he was appointed on 8 January 1612/13 an Assistant along with his fellow Merchant Taylor, John Slany.³¹ When that body, later called the Honorable the Irish Society, received its charter on 29 March 1613, he was named in it as an Assistant as representing the Merchant Taylors' Company, which had provided a larger sum of money for the Plantation than any other company, along with John Slany, already mentioned, John Gore, and Robert Jenkinson.³² The fact that the Governor of the Irish Society and five of the Assistants were to be Aldermen and the rest of the Assistants were to be commoners suggests that Mathias Springham was a member of the Common Council.

Shortly after the grant of its charter to the Irish Society, there was a general feeling that commissioners should be sent from London to Londonderry to investigate on the spot what progress had been made and to present a detailed report. The Common Council, therefore, decided on 24 June 1613 that "some great and worthy maiestrat of this citty, accompanied and assisted by some commoner of special countenance and credit, be sent . . ." It was because of this decision that Alderman George Smithes, Goldsmith, as "the great and worthy maiestrat" and Mathias Springham as "the commoner of special countenance and credit" undertook the task, "preferring the general profit and service of the city before their own private".³³ The two commissioners in due course set off for Ireland, taking with them silver-gilt chalices and patens for the churches in Londonderry and Coleraine,³⁴ the chalice for the church in Londonderry bearing this inscription: ECCESIAE DEI IN CIVITATE DERENSI DONUM LONDINENSIVM.³⁵ By 5 August they had arrived in Dublin, and the Lord Deputy of Ireland, who had received instructions from the Privy Council in England to show them special favour,³⁶ reported in his reply on that day that they were "in point to goe down thither" (*i.e.* to Londonderry and Coleraine).³⁷ Having arrived there they spent a busy two months inquiring into the state of the Plantation, rectifying abuses and taking measures to forward the work. Their most important task was to divide the land of the County (as distinct from the City of Londonderry and the town of Coleraine, which were reserved for the Irish Society) into twelve parts, which were later assigned by lot to the Companies. On their return to Dublin they drew up and signed, on 15 October, their report, which Alderman Smithes presented to the Common Council on 8 November.³⁸ Before this at a meeting of the Merchant Taylors' Court held on 3 November a letter from Mathias Springham was

read, in which he said that he had decided “for good causes and considerations as well for the good of the whole citty as for the good of the company and some affairs of his own” to stay in Ireland for the winter.³⁹ It was not until 27 August 1614 that on his return Mathias Springham presented his supplementary report to the Common Council and received commendation for his efforts.⁴⁰ Now back in London, he was still busy with the affairs of the Londonderry Plantation. A letter from him, the text of which is extant, was addressed on 14 September 1614 to Peter Benson, a citizen of London, Tyler and Brick-Layer. In it *à propos* of a suggestion that Benson should submit a tender for the building of the walls of Londonderry he gave him cautious encouragement: “I will not doubt that doing it as cheap as anyone else you shall have the refusal”.⁴¹ In the sequel, as Benson obtained the contract for the building of the famous walls,⁴² which were to provide security for the citizens in three sieges, particularly that of 1689, some credit is due to Mathias Springham for his part in the transaction.

As the charter of the Irish Society required that Assistants should go out of office after two years, presumably Mathias Springham ceased to be an Assistant in February 1615. In spite of this he was called upon in 1616 to go for a second time to report on conditions in Londonderry and Coleraine and in the County of Londonderry. His companion on this occasion was Alderman Peter Proby, Grocer. The gifts which Alderman Peter Proby and Mathias Springham took with them were swords for use on civic occasions at Londonderry and Coleraine. After about three months spent in inquiring into and speeding the work of the Plantation they presented their report on 1 October. Embodied in this report was the promise which Mathias Springham had given, to build in Londonderry in the next year, “at his own charge” a free school for which his colleagues and he had “allotted” 300 acres, as an endowment.⁴³ In allotting this land they were providing for the school in Londonderry what had been already provided, as the conditions of the Plantation required, for the schools in the other five escheated counties of Ulster. For some reason this proposed land endowment for the free school of Londonderry did not materialize and in its stead the Irish Society granted, at their pleasure, an annual sum of 20 marks (£13.6.8) for the school master.⁴⁴

SCHOOL HOUSE IN LONDONDERRY

Mathias Springham duly performed his promise to build a free school in Londonderry. As he could not supervise in person the building of the schoolhouse, that duty was discharged for him by Robert Goodwin, the chamberlain and town clerk, who revealed this fact some years later when writing to the Drapers’ Company.⁴⁵

The plans of the City of Londonderry made in 1618–19,⁴⁶ 1622,⁴⁷ and 1625⁴⁸ show that the schoolhouse was in the south-western quarter between Bishop’s Gate and New (now Butcher’s) Gate. It had on its left, as one looks towards the river, Lord Docwra’s Bastion (later the Royal Bastion and now the site of Walker’s Monument). Behind it were the Bishop’s residence and the church, which, formed out of the ruins of an Augustinian monastery, was used by the citizens as a place of worship until St. Columb’s Cathedral was finished in 1633. It was on the upper side of what was called, at the time of the siege in 1689, Schoolhouse Lane and is now known as Society Street. The measurements of the building were 67 feet by 25 feet.⁴⁹ It was made of lime and stone and slated, with a “base court” (*basse cour*) or yard. The epithet applied to it is “fair”, which here may mean “handsome”.⁵⁰

On a stone placed over the door the following inscription was cut:⁵¹

MATHIAS SPRINGHAM AR [miger]
AD HONOREM DEI ET BONARUM
LITERARUM PROPAGATIONEM
SCHOLAM HANC FUNDAVIT
ANNO SALUTIS 1617°

This inscription indicates that the type of school envisaged was a grammar school, as the study of *bonae literae* (i.e. Classical Latin) was the distinguishing mark of a grammar school, which was indeed the typical school of the period. Expression is also given to the religious aim, which was a feature of education in the Middle Ages and which was intensified by the Reformation. The *pietas literata*, which is set forth as the aim of Mathias Springham's school was the aim also of many schools at this time in the British Isles, but no similar inscription in Latin has yet been found.

MERCHANT TAYLORS' COMPANY

At this point some account may be given of the part played by Mathias Springham in the Merchant Taylors' Company. As has been stated, he became a freeman on 11 November 1588 and a livery member on 23 June 1595. When pageants were presented at the time of the coronation of James I, he paid the two amounts at which he was assessed.⁵² In 1607 in connection with the banquet at which James I and Henry, Prince of Wales, were entertained by the Company, he not only provided, as a matter of business, the taffita required for the garments of those who entertained the royal personages, but also, when it was decided that "some competent judge of wine must be appointed to make the selection and give directions in these matters", he was "entreated to be chiefe and master butler to command all the butlers that shall be used in this service".⁵³ As John Hudson was paid £5 "for his paynes being chief butler",⁵⁴ Mathias Springham's services, if he undertook the duty assigned to him, were in an honorary capacity. He became a member of the Court on 24 March 1611/12 at the same time as Thomas Marsham,⁵⁵ who had married his youngest sister, Magdalen, and who became Master, 1621/2.⁵⁶ He was elected renter warden on 20 July 1613, but "in regard to his extraordinary occasions being chosen a committee to goe into Ireland [he] could not stay dinner and therefore took the oathe for the faithful and due execution of his place on his return and soe departed".⁵⁷ As he was not able to discharge his duties as renter warden because of his decision to remain in Ireland for a longer period than was first envisaged, he was relieved of the wardenship and another appointed in his stead.⁵⁸ However, office in the Company came to him on 17 July 1615, when he was elected head or upper warden. Then two years later came the final honour, the office of Master.⁵⁹

His year as Master was marked by his attendance, accompanied by the four wardens, three former masters and two associates, at the reception in November at Tower Wharf of the Russian Ambassador. A precept had been issued by the Lord Mayor for ten members of the Company to be present on the occasion "apparrelled in velvet coates, with rhaynes of gold, well mounted on horseback in comely and decent order".⁶⁰ He was present at the "probations" (examinations) of the Merchant Taylors' school.⁶¹ On these occasions his thoughts may have turned to the schoolhouse which he had built in Londonderry. He was certainly reminded of the Londonderry Plantation, when it was decided on 8 May 1618 that he and the wardens should go to the Clothworkers' Hall to have a conference about the Clothworkers' estate in County Londonderry in which his Company had a share.⁶² On the same occasion he made a proposal "on the behalfe of the Almsmen of the Livery w^{ch} dwell

in the Company's Almshouses neere unto theire Hall for the taking in of the new river water for the ease and benefite of the poore men and sweete keeping of the said house". This proposal, which was approved, reflects Mathias Springham's kindly concern for the almsmen and also his shrewd business sense in realizing the importance of the new water system for London which Sir Hugh Middleton had devised.⁶³

FAMILY

When his father was in financial difficulties, Mathias Springham was taken into her home by his maternal aunt, Elizabeth, then the wife of Matthew Field. She had shown a similar kindness to Elizabeth Costerdine, a niece on her husband's side, who continued to live with her after her (Elizabeth Field's) marriage to Edward Elmer. After his death in July 1593, in her desire to bring about a marriage between Mathias Springham and Elizabeth Costerdine, she offered to forgive him £100 of his debt to Edward Elmer and treat that as a dowry for Elizabeth Costerdine. The prospective bridegroom, not satisfied with this offer, asked that £254 of the debt should be cancelled, which would leave a round figure of £400.⁶⁴ The marriage was arranged on these terms and took place on 11 November 1593.⁶⁵

Some details of the children born to Mathias Springham and Elizabeth his wife are now given which throw a light on the social standing of the family. The eldest was Anne, born in 1594.⁶⁶ In 1608 she married Henry Cutts,⁶⁷ who, as an apprentice of her father, had obtained the freedom of the Merchant Taylors' Company in 1607.⁶⁸ He was the third son of Robert Cutts, Ironmonger, who was Master of his Company for the second time in the year of the marriage of his son Henry to Anne Springham.⁶⁹ The next child was Elizabeth, born in 1596.⁷⁰ She was married in 1610 on the anniversary of her parents' marriage, to Benjamin Valentine.⁷¹ She died in 1616, probably in giving birth to a son, who was called Mathias after his grandfather.⁷² Her husband has a place in British history, for he was one of the M.P.s who took part with Sir John Eliot and others in the lively scene in 1629, when the Speaker of the House of Commons was held down in his chair, while resolutions protesting against the arbitrary rule of Charles I were read, and for his part in this episode was kept in prison until 1640.⁷³ The third child was Mary, born in 1599.⁷⁴ In 1615 she married Arthur Puckle, Leatherseller,⁷⁵ whose Will made in May and probated in July 1617 shows that he was a man of means.⁷⁶ She married Thomas Cowen as her second husband.⁷⁷ Of him all that is known is that he fell foul of his mother-in-law, for in a codicil to her Will, made on 4 Oct. 1625, she instructed her son Henry, as executor, to take legal steps to obtain from Thomas Cowen a sum of £36.13s.4d. which he had received in her name and had retained.⁷⁸ The fourth child was Henry, born in 1601.⁷⁹ He entered Gray's Inn in 1610.⁸⁰ This was not with a view to the study of law but for a training in the social graces, which the Inns of Court provided for young boys, usually the sons of the nobility.⁸¹ In 1616 he went to Christ Church, Oxford, but did not take a degree.⁸² Henry Springham's training would seem to have been of a kind to fit him for an appointment at the Court. This he obtained as Cup-bearer to Charles I.⁸³ While Henry was still a minor, his maternal uncle, Thomas Costerdine, as his guardian *ad lites*, sought unsuccessfully to establish Henry's claim under the Will of Richard Springham, his uncle, of Kingsclere, Hants., against his cousins, Robert Tower(s), son of Mercimite Springham by her first husband, the Rev. Robert Tower(s), and Edward Kynaston, son of Martha Springham, who had married Brian Kynaston, of Moose, Essex.⁸⁴ In 1637 Henry Springham married Frances Boyers of Hertford.⁸⁵ Another son, called Mathias after his father, died at an early age.⁸⁶

WILL AND DEATH

Mathias Springham "being at this present sicke in bodye but of perfect minde and memorie" made his Will on 23 September 1620.⁸⁷ It contains some interesting features. He left £2000 to his wife, who was also his residuary legatee and executrix, £1000 to Henry, his son and heir, and, as has been already stated, his stock in the East India Company, £50 to his daughter Anne Cutts "in full satisfaction of her portion beinge formerlie advaunced", £50 to his other surviving daughter, Mary Puckle, "beinge likewise formerlie advauced, £50 to his grandchild, Mathias Valentine, and smaller sums to other relatives and his servants. The interest of £80 per annum on the loan made to Sir Ralph Bingley⁸⁸ was to be divided between Mary Puckle (now a widow), Henry Springham, and George and Matthew Costerdine, brothers-in-law, the first two to receive £30 each, the last two £10 each, and if the loan should be repaid, then the capital sum was to be divided among the four above-mentioned in the same proportions. He left "to the poore people of the hospitall ioyninge to the hall" £6.10s.0d, which he had lent to the Merchant Taylors' Company to buy corn,⁸⁹ and to the poor of Richmond £3 to be distributed on the day of his funeral. Personal gifts were his "best standing cupp all guilte" to his brother Richard, and to Richard's wife "a like guilte cupp" and to his brother-in-law, Thomas Costerdine, and his wife his "neste of sacke bowles w^{ch} agree newe and gilt". He left sums of £5 and £2 to several people to buy, in accordance with the custom of the time, memorial rings. Of these beneficiaries the most interesting is "My Ladie Herick". Her husband, Sir William Herrick, Goldsmith, money-lender and principal jeweller to James I, and uncle of the poet, Robert Herrick, signed first of the witnesses to the Will.⁹⁰

Mathias Springham lived only a short time after making his Will. He was buried in the parish church of Richmond on September 29.⁹¹ In the pavement at the west end of the church is a memorial slab with the following inscription:

MATTHIAS /S/PRINGHAM ESQUIRE
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE THE
25th SEPTEMBER ANNO 1620.
HERE LIETH INTERRED UNDER THIS STONE
A MAN OF CHARITIE ALONE
WHICH WHILE HE LYVED DID GOOD TO ALL
HE WAS AN HELP TO GREAT AND SMALE
HE LEFT THE WORLD ALL FULL OF SINN
HE LYVED IN CHRIST AND DYED THEREIN
HE HOPED IN GOD HIS SOULE TO SAVE
AMONG THE SAYNTS WHICH NOW THEY HAVE.

REFERENCES

1. The entry in the parish register of St. Bartholomew ye litle (Guildhall Library, MS 4374) at August 1561, is as follows:

"The 27th day
Mathias Springham the sonne of Richard Springham christened".

A question arises about his Christian name: should it be Mathias (Matthias) or Matthew(e)? The latter form is found chiefly in the records of the Merchant Taylors' Company. The evidence for Mathias is clear. It is the name used, among other places, in the parish register (as quoted above), at his christening, in the preamble to his Will, which he signs "Math." (Somerset House, P.C.C. 93, 94 Soame), in the Will of his brother Richard (P.C.C. 8 Dale), in the codicil to his widow's Will (P.C.C. 154 Hele), in the charter of the Hon. the Irish Society (*An historical narrative . . . of the . . . Irish Society*, London, 1865, p. 22), and on the *fundavit* stone of the schoolhouse he built in Londonderry, to which reference will be made later. It is easy to understand how Matthew, a better known name, came to be substituted for Mathias.

2. There is a good deal of material available for a biography of Richard Springham, but it must suffice here to indicate his importance by two facts: (i) that he was elected a Warden of the Mercers' Company on 26 July 1562 (Mercers' Hall, Acts of the Court of Mercers, 1560–95, f. 36); (ii) that he was named with other London merchants in the revised charter granted to the Merchant Adventurers on 18 July 1564 (*Cal. pat. rolls, Eliz. 1563–6*, pp. 178–9). He married in 1547 Mary Meredith (*Allegations for marriage licences issued from the faculty office of the Archbishop of Canterbury, 1543–1869*, p. 10). She was the eldest daughter of Robert Meredith, Mercer, who by his Will made on 28 Dec. 1546 and proved on 28 Jan 1546/7 (P.C.C. 26 Alen) entrusted the bringing up of his children to Richard Springham and Thomas Nicolls. C. M. Clode, *The early history of the Merchant Taylors' Company*, London, 1888, ii, 59fn., mistakenly asserts that Richard Springham was a Merchant Taylor. He was, however, intimately associated with Richard Hilles and other prominent Merchant Taylors (Clode *op. cit.* ii, pp. 141, 149). I have made considerable use of the work of C. M. Clode, the historian of the Merchant Taylors' Company, and given references, wherever possible, to his two books, *Memorials of the Guild of Merchant Taylors*, London, 1875, and *The early history of the Merchant Taylors' Company*, 2 vols., London, 1888. I have, however, used also the original records in Merchant Taylors' Hall and given references to them where they deal with matters not mentioned by Clode. In the latter part of the reign of Mary I, Richard Springham was an exile in Germany, living at Basle and later at Strasburg. He was accompanied by his wife, to whom a daughter, Mercimite, was born during their stay on the Continent (C. H. Garrett, *The Marian Exiles, 1553–1559*, Cambridge, 1938, pp. 292–3).
3. *Cal. pat. rolls, Eliz. 1566–9*, p. 265.
4. Acts of the Court of Mercers, 1564–95, f. 292.
5. Rentwardens' accounts of Mercers' Company, 1577–1603, f. 28.
6. Clode, *Early History*, ii, 344–5. Charles Hoskyns was Master of the Company in 1582.
7. *The register of St. Lawrence Jewry, 1538–1676*, pt. i., Harl. Soc. LXX, 1940, p. 122.
8. P.R.O. C.2 Eliz. S 2/60: "The joynte and severall answers of Otto Nicolson and Elizabeth his wife to the bill of Mathias Springham complainant". This action was brought by Mathias Springham in furtherance of his claim to property in Hackney, which he averred his aunt and promised to him before her third marriage.
9. C. L. Hopkinson, *Report on the records in the possession of the Merchant Taylors' Company, 1563–1603*, privately printed, 1915, p. 107.
10. Clode, *Early History*, i, 44.
11. *Cal. S. P. Ire., 1601–3*, p. 400 (where Martin is given for Mathias); and p. 508 (where he is stated to be a Mercer).
12. Clode, *Memorials*, p. 177, *Early History*, i, 317:
"In the shipp which did hang alofte in the Hall three rare men sang to his majtie, and 'a very proper child delivered a short speech . . . devised by Mr. Ben Johnson [Jonson] the poet". (Clode, *Early History*, i, 290, quoting from the original record).
13. *Yorkshire fines for the Stuart period*, ed. W. Briggs, Yorks. Arch. Society, 1915–17, i, 1603–14, p. 82.
14. *Sackville MSS.* (Hist. MSS. Comm.), i, 348.
15. Exeter City Archives, Ancient Letter, 147; *Report on the records of the City of Exeter* (Hist. MSS. Comm., 1916), p. 86.
16. W. T. MacCaffrey, *Exeter, 1540–1640: the growth of an English town*, Harvard University Press, 1958, p. 80.
17. Minutes of the Court of Merchant Taylors Company, vii, 1611–20, f. 102.
18. Quoted in L. Stone, *The crisis of the aristocracy*, Clarendon Press, 1965, p. 532.
19. For Sir John Bouchier, see *D.N.B.* and for Sir Ralph Bingley see note 88 given later. The loans to the former led to lawsuits after the death of Mathias Springham, Bouchier Miles v. Elizabeth Springham (P.R.O., C.2. Jas. I B 5/41), and Eliz. late widow of Mathias Springham v. Sir John Bouchier (P.R.O. C.2 Jas. I S 10/55).
20. See details of the Will of Mathias Springham.
21. *Cal. S.P. Ire., 1611–14*, pp. 425–6, 428–9, 433–5 and 438; "Chichester letter book", ed. R. D. Edwards in *Analecta Hibernica* viii (1938), p. 133. The voyage of the *Peppercorn* was the sixth and last of the separate voyages (G. Birdwood and W. Foster, *The register of letters of the Governor and Company of Merchants trading with the East Indies 1600–1619*, London, 1893, pp. 46 fn., 318 fn.).
22. *Cal. S.P. Col. East Indies etc., 1513–1616*, p. 272.
23. P.C.C. 93, 94 Soame.
24. *Cal. S.P. Col. East Indies, etc., 1513–1616*, p. 516.
25. A. L. Rowse, *The Elizabethans and America* (Trevelyan lecture), London, 1959, p. 66.
26. P.C.C. 92 Meade.
27. S. M. Kingsbury, *The records of the Virginia Company of London*, 4 vols., Washington, 1933, iii, pp. 88, 334.
28. Rowse, *op. cit.* p. 70.
29. *Cal. S.P. Ire., 1608–20*, p. 250.
30. T. W. Moody, *The Londonderry Plantation, 1609–41*, Belfast, 1938, p. 81.
31. City of London Records Office, Journal of the Court of Common Council of London, 29, f. 16v. John Slany was Master of the Merchant Taylors' Company, 1620, (Clode, *Early history*, ii, 345).
32. *An historical narrative . . . of the Irish Society*, p. 22. Moody, *op. cit.*, pp. 122–142 describes the charter in detail without, however, naming the individual members of the Irish Society. John Gore became Lord Mayor of London in 1625. G. E. Cokayne, *Some account of the Lord Mayors and Sheriffs of London, 1600–1625*, London, 1897, p. 99. Robert Jenkinson who had been first warden of the Merchant Taylors' Company in 1612, was named as Master for 1615, (Clode, *Early history*, ii, 344–5).
33. Moody, *op. cit.*, p. 144; Letter-book of the City of London, E.E. f. 136 and Journal of the Court of Common Council of London, 28, f. 75.
34. J. Betts, *The story of the Irish Society*, London, 1913, p. 57.
35. A vignette of the chalice and paten given to the church in Londonderry in 1613 and now in St. Columb's Cathedral there, appears on p. 35 of the above-mentioned book.
36. *Acts, Privy Council, 1613–14*, p. 120. *Cal. S.P. Ire., 1611–14*, p. 382.

37. "Chichester Letter-Book" in *Analecta Hibernica*, viii (1938), pp. 124-5.
38. Moody, *op. cit.*, pp. 145-154, gives a full account of their work and a summary of their report.
39. Minutes of the Court of the Merchant Taylors' Company, vii, 1611-20, f. 102.
40. Moody, *op. cit.*, pp. 156-7.
41. *Londonderry and the London Companies, 1609-29*, ed. D. A. Chart, Belfast, 1928, pp. 45-6.
42. Moody, *op. cit.*, p. 275.
43. Moody, *op. cit.*, pp. 167-176 deals with the appointment of the commissioners and their work. Peter Proby was Sheriff, 1614-15, and Lord Mayor of London, 1622-3 (G. E. Cokayne, *op. cit.*, pp. 94-5). "Free School", about the meaning of which there has been much discussion, almost certainly meant a school of which the master, because there was an endowment in money or land, was required to give free tuition to a limited number of pupils. The term was nearly always applied to a grammar school. In the "Project" of the Ulster Plantation, Jan. 1608/9, before the citizens of London had been invited by the Crown to be responsible for the settlement of Co. Coleraine (later Co. Londonderry), 693 acres in the County of Donegal were to be "equally allotted to 2 freeschooles one at Derry the other at Dunegalle", while in the County of Coleraine 6 balliboos (townlands), which for the purposes of the plantation were reckoned to contain 60 acres each, were "allotted to the maintenance of a free schoole to be erected at Lemivaddy". ("Ulster plantation papers" in *Analecta Hibernica*, viii, pp. 291, 289).
44. "The estate of the diocese of Derry", 1622, in *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, 2nd ser. ii, pt. 4 (July 1896), p. 225, B.M. Add. MS. 4756 f. 115v., *Londonderry and London Companies*, p. 54. The Irish Society in assigning to the schoolmaster in Londonderry a salary which was below that usually given to grammar schoolmasters may have thought that he would have an income also from the proposed land endowment. £13.6.8 per annum was the amount which Sir James Deane in 1618 by his Will provided for the maintenance of a petty (*i.e.* elementary) schoolmaster at Basingstoke: "Who shall teach little children to write and read but especially to read and learn the catechism in the principles of religion" (F. Watson, *The English grammar schools to 1660*, Cambridge, 1908, p. 153).
45. Robert Goodwin was admitted to the Middle Temple on 5 Aug. 1612 (A.C. Sturgess, *Register of admissions to the Middle Temple*, 3 vols., London, 1949, I. 98). "5 Aug. 1612 Mr Robert Goodwin, gent., second son of Robert Goodwin, late of London, gent. deceased, specially by assent of . . . and by request of John Gordon, dean of Salisbury, because of the transmigration of the said Robert to Ireland on account of the plantation there by the citizens of London; his fine was assessed at 13s 4d (*Middle Temple Records*, 4 vols., London, 1904, ed. C. P. Hopwood, including Minutes of Parliament of the Middle Temple translated and edited by C. T. Martin, II, 1603-49, p. 552. Robert Goodwin played a significant part in the plantation as chamberlain and town clerk of Londonderry for many years) (Moody, *op. cit.*, pp. 281, 450), as one of the M.P.s for Londonderry in the Irish parliament, 1634-9 (*Cal. S.P. Ire.*, 1633-47, p. 65), and as collector of customs for Londonderry, his successor in the last-named office being named on 22 Jan. 1647, in anticipation of Goodwin's death, if indeed it had not already taken place (*op. cit.* p. 598). Robert Goodwin to John Watters, clerk to the Drapers' Company, 16 Dec. 1622 (Drapers' Hall, Drapers' Company documents classified as Manor of Drapers, B.264).
46. Moody, *op. cit.* facing p. 186.
47. *Londonderry and the London Companies, 1609-29*, facing p. 12.
48. Moody, *op. cit.*, facing p. 276. O.S. *Memoir, Londonderry*, Dublin, 1837, between pp. 98 and 99.
49. Pynnar's survey, 1618-19 (*Cal. Carew MSS.*, 1603-24, p. 419).
50. George Downham, Bishop of Derry, Report to regal visitation, 1622: "The estate of the diocese of Derry", *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, 2nd ser., ii, pt. 4 (July 1896), p. 225; Report of the commissioners, Sir Thomas Phillips and Richard Hadsor, 1622 (B.M. Add. MS. 4756, f. 115v); Petition of citizens of Londonderry c. 1622 (*Londonderry and the London Companies*, pp. 54-5).
51. City of London Records Office, Irish Society records, Transcript book, entitled "Entry of Leases and Company's proportion and other Valuable Entries", flyleaf somewhat scorched. Moody, *op. cit.*, p. 188 fn. in quoting this inscription gives "Matthias" instead of "Mathias" and omits the raised "o" after 1617. "Ar." in the inscription stands for Armiger. The arrangement in five lines, here adopted, is that of the O.S. *Memoir, Londonderry*, p. 140. As given in the transcript, above referred to, it is in one long line ending with "hanc" and a much shorter second line. The date of the disappearance of the stone is not known.
52. Clode, *Memorials*, p. 591.
53. Clode, *Memorials*, p. 148, and *Early history* 1,279.
54. Clode, *Early history* 1,308.
55. Minutes of the Court of the Merchant Taylors' Company, vii, 1611-20, f. 32.
56. Thomas Marsham became Master (Clode, *Early history*, ii, 345). He was married to Magdalen, Mathias Springham's youngest sister, who was christened on 3 Aug. 1567 (Guildhall Library, MS. 4374, Parish Register of St. Bartholomew ye little). See also *Familiae minorum gentium*, iv, Harl. Soc. XL, 1896, p. 1,307, under Locke family, and *Miscellanea genealogica et heraldica and the British Archivist*, vii, 5th ser., 1929-31, p. 35.
57. Minutes of the Court of the Merchant Taylors' Company, vii, 1611-20, f. 88.
58. Clode, *Early history*, ii, 344.
59. *ibid.* p. 345.
60. Clode, *Memorials*, p. 547, and Minutes of the Court of the Merchant Taylors' Company, vii, 1611-20, f. 433.
61. Minutes *op. cit.*, ff. 426, 454, 464.
62. *op. cit.* f. 458.
63. Clode, *Memorials*, p. 48.
64. An account was given by Elizabeth Nicolson (previously Elmer) in her pleadings in the case brought by Mathias Springham against her and her husband in 1598 (P.R.O. C.2 Eliz. S 2/60). She revealed also that she gave money for the bride's wedding dress and for the wedding banquet and provided a home for the pair for more than a year after their marriage.

65. Record Office, County Hall, London (Parish Register of St. John, Hackney). Transcript of this register is in Guildhall Library, MS 479).
66. Christened on 17 Feb. 1594 (*The Register of St. Lawrence Jewry, 1568–1676*, Harl. Soc. LXX, 1940, pt. i, p. 24).
67. 19 June 1608 (Register of St. Mary Stoke Newington, of which there is a transcript in the Society of Genealogists, London).
68. Freemen's Register, Merchant Taylors' Company, vi, 1607–18, f. 5.
69. *The visitation of London anno 1633, 1634 and 1635*, Harl. Soc., xv, p. 213, J. Nicholl, *Some account of the . . . Company of Ironmongers*, 2nd ed., London, 1881, p. 535.
70. Baptized on 18 April 1596 (Guildhall Library, MS 4392, Parish register of St. Martin Pomeroy, Ironmonger Lane).
71. Guildhall Library MS 4293 (Parish register (marriages) of St. Martin Pomeroy). Benjamin Valentine may have been a relative (? a son) of Thomas Valentine, who, as an apprentice of Mathias Springham's father, had obtained the freedom of the Mercers' Company in 1560 (Typescript list of freemen of the Mercers' Company in Mercers' Hall).
72. Buried on 18 Sept. 1616 (Guildhall Library, MS 4392, Parish register of St. Martin Pomeroy). Mathias Valentine was baptized on 16 Sept. 1616 (*op. cit.*).
73. D.N.B., Benjamin Valentine.
74. Baptized on 23 Dec. 1599 (Guildhall Library, MS 4392, Parish Register of St. Martin Pomeroy).
75. 29 May 1615 (Guildhall Library, MS 4292, Parish register (marriages) of St. Martin Pomeroy).
76. P.C.C. 66 Waldon.
77. *The parish register of Richmond, Surrey*, pt. i (Surrey Parish Register Society, i), London, 1903, p. 144. Gewin is here given in error for Cowen.
78. P.C.C. 154 Hele.
79. Baptized on 26 July 1601 (Guildhall Library, MS 4392, Parish register of St. Martin Pomeroy).
80. 4 March 1609/10 (*Gray's Inn Admission Register*, ed. J. Foster, p. 123).
81. J. Fortescue, *De laudibus legum Angliac*, ch. 49., edited and translated by S. B. Chrimes, Cambridge, 1942. The practices of the Inns of Court described in this book, which was written in 1468/71 and first published in 1545/6, continued to a much later date.
82. *Alumni Oxonienses*, ed. J. Foster.
83. *The visitation of the county of Northampton in 1681*, Harl. Soc. No. LXXVII, 1935, p. 95.
84. P.C.C. 8 Dale, Sentence 82 Dale. P.R.O., C. 2 Jas. I S1/22; Chancery Inquisitions post mortem II, vol. 395, no. 92; Wards Inquisitions, vol. 63, no. 56.
Mercimite Springham, born in Germany c. 1557, was married to the Rev. Robert Tower(s), prebendary of St. Paul's Cathedral, 1571, and incumbent of Northall or Northolt, Middlesex, 1571–5, and of Great Leighs (Much Lees), Essex, 1575–85, (G. Hennessy (*Alumni Cantabrigenses*, ed. Venn), *Novum repertorium ecclesiasticum parochiale Londinense*, London, 1898, pp. 54, 353), *Lincoln pedigrees*, Harl. Soc., no. LII, p. 1,006, *The visitation of Essex*, i, Harl. Soc., no. XIII, 1878, under Bristow family, *The visitation of Sussex in 1530 and 1633–4*, Harl. Soc., no. LII, 1905, p. 196., and P.C.C. 16 Windsor, Will of the Rev. Robert Tower(s) made on 10 Nov. 1585, proved on 3 March 1585/6. Mercimite (Mercy) Tower(s) married on 7 April 1586 Richard Bristow of Pitsey, Essex (*Essex Parish Registers*, London, 1914, p. 109).
Martha Springham, christened 4 Sept. 1559 (Guildhall Library, MS 4374, Parish register of St. Bartholomew ye little) was married at Hackney in 1579 to Brian Kenneser (Kynaston) of Moose, Essex (*Allegations for marriage licences by the Bishop of London, 1520–1610*, Harl. Soc., XXIV, 1887, p. 89; *London marriage licences, 1521–1869*, ed. J. Foster, London, 1887, p. 89; and *The Visitation of London anno 1533, 1634 and 1635*, ii, Harl. Soc. no. XV, p. 39).
See also *Familiae minorum gentium IV*, Harl. Soc., XL, 1896, under Locke family; and *Miscellanea genealogica et heraldica and the British archivist*, vii, 5th ser., 1929–31, p. 35.
85. 15 June 1637, County Record Office, Hertford, Parish Register of All Saints and St. John's, Hertford.
86. Buried on 1 Jan. 1604/5 (Guildhall Library, MS. 4392, Parish Register of St. Martin Pomeroy).
87. P.C.C. 93, 94 Soame.
88. Sir Ralph Bingley who had borrowed £800 at 10 per cent interest from Mathias Springham was named as Alderman of Londonderry in the charter of the Hon. the Irish Society, 1613, and was Mayor of Londonderry 1624 (Moody, *op. cit.*, pp. 132, 448).
89. The Merchant Taylors' Company, like the other Livery Companies, was under obligation to buy foreign corn (as the supply of home-grown corn was insufficient) for the citizens of London. Each company called on its individual members to advance money for the purchase of corn. (W. Herbert, *The history of the twelve great livery companies of London*, 2 vols., London, 1837, i, 147).
90. D.N.B., Sir William Herrick.
91. *The parish registers of Richmond, Surrey*, pt. i (Surrey Parish Register Society I), London, 1903, p. 177.
92. A. C. Piper, *A history of the parish church of St. Mary Magdalene, Richmond, Surrey*, London, 1947, p. 49.

EDITOR'S NOTE: It is noted with regret that W. S. Ferguson, the author of this article, died in Londonderry on July 31st, 1972.