

*The Manor of Alderton
in Wiltshire :*

Its owners and some historical connections

by

Tony Pratt

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The Family Trees were initially produced using WinGenea v1.7, an effective and, above all, *simple* shareware program

Tony Pratt, Chippenham, 2002

As always time allows further and more detailed research, and new material becomes available; for example in 2010 a large number of documents relating to Alderton in the late medieval period came up for auction and the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre was able to buy a number of them and acquire copies of others. The information from some of these documents has been incorporated into this account, New information is shown in blue, as are hyperlinks.

My ability to use the features available with online documents has also, thankfully, improved over time and this new version of the Alderton story utilises some of these to make it easier to use. Hyperlinks will now take you from the indexes to the relevant section, Appendix or figure, by clicking on the underlined link. At the end of each section, Appendix or figure there is a return link, clicking on this will return you to the relevant place in the document. .

All the illustrations in the account have been drawn by the author for this work. The blazons, where not credited, are by the author.

The current versions of the family trees have been produced using MS Paint (version 6 build 760.1)

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All coats of arms and the heraldic devices are by the author, following published blazons. Although these arms are as accurate as I can make them, no claim can be made for the legitimacy of any of the Arms depicted.

Alderton

The early history of Alderton is unclear; the area has been inhabited for a very long time, in common with most of Wiltshire. There is evidence for stone age occupation - the butt of a Neolithic stone axe was found near Drews Pond ¹ and three undated flint implements ² were found east of the village. Indications of a possible Iron Age settlement have been found ³ in the opposite direction, just north of the lane leading towards Hebden Leaze. There are other, undated, field-system features in the nearby areas that *may* relate to these pits. There is little Roman evidence, only two Romano-British finds are known ⁴; this lack probably indicates little activity during this period.

Although few Saxon remains have been found, the area was important. Malmesbury housed one of the Royal Mints and Alderton was certainly a settlement in Saxon times - the church has Saxon pillars and doors ⁵. From the fact that the Church is dedicated to St Giles it is certain that its dedication was not earlier than the eighth century; St Giles was an Abbot of the 8th century. He is said to have been an Athenian noble named Gidius who visited France in 715 and stayed for two years with Caesarius, the Bishop of Arles. The story goes that he lived in retirement as a hermit and was "*nourished by the milk of a hind in the forest*". The King of France hunted this hind, which took shelter at St Giles' feet in the hermitage. The king afterwards

¹ SMR ST88SW102, (Devizes Museum Day Book 1584)
Neolithic is defined as being between 4000 and 2500 BC

² ST88SW550

³ ST88SW616, "*circular feature west of Alderton, an undated ring ditch visible on aerial photograph associated with possible settlement site*" and also crop signs of four small ring pits

⁴ ST88SW303 *an enamelled bronze plate brooch in the form of a hen, and part of a bronze fleur de lyes key handle Romano-British 43-410 CE*

⁵ Thomson, James (undated, but before 1845) *On the hagnoscope and other parts of Alderton Church*, original publication unknown, from a copy included in Thomson, James (1845) *Alderton*, which is a photocopy of Thomson's notebook, Wiltshire Local History Library, W&SHC Chippenham, BRN 0429263 LUC

built a monastery on the site and made Gidius abbot. He died aged 80 and was buried in the abbey ⁶.

Thomson ⁷ was of the opinion that the church was late ninth or early tenth century in foundation. It was extensively rebuilt in the eighteen forties, see below.

After the Norman Conquest the major part of the Manor of Alderton was held by two lords -

*Hugh holds Alderton from Drogo. Eldric held it before 1066; it paid tax for three hides. Land for 3 ploughs of which 2 hides and three virgates of land are in lordship; 1 plough there, with 1 slave [feruo]; 2 smallholders [bordars]
From one part of a mill, 22s; meadows, 15 acres
The value is and was 60s ⁸*

But also

Richard holds 3 hides in Aldritone from Ralph: Walter also holds 1 hide. Alric, Godwin, Algar and Godric held it in the time of Edward: it paid tax for 4 hides. Land for 4 ploughs. There are 4 villagers

⁶ Thomson, J (undated, but before 1845) *On the hagioscope and other parts of Alderton Church,*

Thomson goes on to say that " *St Giles is esteemed the patron saint of cripples from his refusing to be cured of accidental lameness that he might be enabled to mortify himself more completely. Saints day Sept 1st "*

⁷ Thomson J (<1845) *ibid* reproduced as Appendix A in *Alderton : A brief History of Alderton in Wiltshire etc*

⁸ Thorn, Caroline & Thorn, Frank (eds) (1979) *Domesday Book: vol 6 Wiltshire* in the series *History From the Sources : Domesday Book* Morris, John (gen. ed.) Phillimore, Chichester pp 41-9.

It is interesting that the original text uses *feruo/ferui*, which is usually translated as "serf/serfs" and is here given as "slaves" (Although not a great deal of difference, but see Jones, Rev Prebendary WHJ (1865) *Domesday in Wiltshire* for discussion.) A more literal translation of this term is given as *fierce, wild, savage, untamed*
<http://www.sunsite.ubc.ca/LatinDictionary/HyperText/f.html>

[uitti] 5 smallholders [bordars] and 2 slaves [feruii]. A mill at 37d: meadow, 25 acres in Malmesbury 1 burgess pays 7d. It was and is valued at 60s⁹

The tenant in chief, holding directly from the King, was Roger de Mortimer, while Hugo held his part of the Manor from Drogo FitzPoynz (Drogo son of Poynz). [s](#)

⁹ Thorn, Caroline & Thorn, Frank (eds) (1979) *Domesday Book: vol 6 Wiltshire* p49-3

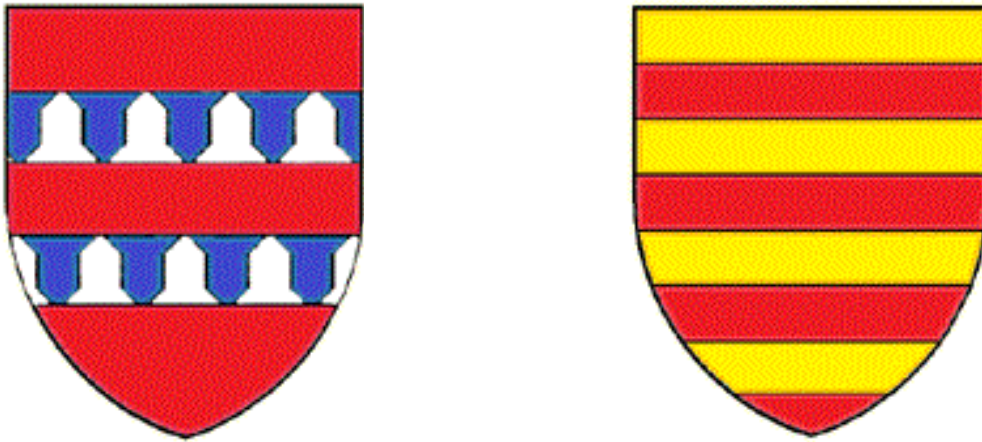


Fig 1 a) The Mortimer ¹⁰ and b) Poyntz families ¹¹ *
(1084 - 1240)

¹⁰ http://www.briantimms.net/rolls_of_arms/rolls/caerlaverockK.htm
Gules two bars vair

¹¹ http://www.briantimms.net/rolls_of_arms/rolls/caerlaverockK.htm
Barry of eight or and gules

The Mortimer family mainly held land in the Welsh Marches and their history is intimately tied up with that area and the centuries long period when England was absorbing Wales, not without serious and effective resistance from the Welsh. Alderton can never have been a major part of their concerns, but they held for a long time. They had land in the area in the mid thirteenth century and beyond: Ralph de Mortemer held Tockenham, Bradfield, Surrendell and Alderton in knights fee in 1242-3¹². The Mortimores were involved with affairs that affected the entire kingdom, and this entanglement with the great and the not-so-good resulted in the "*ignominious end of the first Earl of March in 1330*"¹³ although the family held on to its Wiltshire estates until later.

The Poyntz's had much more local connections and it seems possible that they held the Manor until late in the fourteenth century. The family was mainly located in the west and south of Gloucestershire and the north of Wiltshire right from the Conquest.

Written records for the village do not start before the thirteenth century - one of the earliest is dated 1249, a report of the Wiltshire Eyre (Court) -

*William Pache was found drowned in a marl pit in Kyngeswet. The first finder comes and is not suspected. Judgement : misadventure. The townships of Aldrinton' Lukinton' Sopeworth and Kyngeswod did not come fully to the inquest etc so they are in mercy*¹⁴

that is Alderton was fined for not sending the correct number of people to the Eyre.

Court records are some of the earliest that survive, and provide information on people living in the area.

¹² Victoria County History for Wiltshire (henceforth VCH *Wiltshire*) ii pp111-112

¹³ McKisack M (1959) *The Fourteenth Century 1307 - 1399* The Oxford History of England, OUP p255

¹⁴ Meekings CAF (ed) (1961) *Crown Pleas of the Wiltshire Eyre 1249* WANHS Record Branch Vol XI no 195

In the early part of the fourteenth century the country suffered from wandering groups of bandits who were commonly called "trailbastons" ¹⁵. Commissions were set up to hear trials concerning them and were commonly called by the same names; they were officially "*commissions of oyer and terminer*". The first trailbaston commission for Wiltshire, appointed in 1305, comprised William Martin, Henry Spigurnel ¹⁶, Gilbert de Knovill, Roger de Beufoy and Thomas de la Hyde (who was later replaced by Thomas de Snyterton). Some Alderton residents featured in these courts:

In 1305 there was a fracas at Alderton, when Philip le Clerk of Newetton was apparently assaulted. The Justices of the commission sat in May 1305, when Adam de la Forde, a knight, was accused of "*beating, wounding and ill-treating*" Philip, because Philip took the part of Sir John le Dun against Adam's mother in law, Agnes de Perci. What the dispute was about is unknown. Nothing is known for certain about Philip but there is a record of a Philip, the *clerk of Nieuton*, being fined half a mark for not attending a court in 1276, 29 years earlier ¹⁷.

William Hamelyn of Devizes was also charged with attacking Philip and "*breaking his arm*" ¹⁸ and in July 1305 it came to a trial by jury at Wilton - a long trek in the

¹⁵ Pugh RB (ed) (1978) *Wiltshire Gaol delivery and Trailbaston results* WRS vol XXXIII, p5 because they "trailed" or carried "bastons" or clubs.

¹⁶ Henry Spigurnel (1263? - 1328) has an entry in the DNB vol XVIII pp809-810. The name Spigurnel was originally given to the court officer who sealed the writs in chancery, and probably the post was hereditary, hence the surname. Henry sat in the Parliaments of Edward I and II and was appointed a Justice of Oyer and Terminer on 15 April 1300. In February 1311 he was sent to the papal court, accompanied by John de Benstede and he acted overseas at other times. In the "Outlaws Song of Traillebaston" Spigurnel and Roger de Bella Fargo (gent de cruelte) are contrasted with William Martyn and Gilbert de Knovill (gent de piete). Spigurnel lived at Kenilworth and was lord of towns in 5 counties and had property in two others.

¹⁷ Pugh RB (ed) (1978) *Wiltshire Gaol delivery and Trailbaston results* WRS vol XXXIII p59 no 173, in the section titled *Delivery in 6 Edw 1 by W. le Dwne, H of the marsh and Roger de Calestone*

¹⁸ Pugh RB (ed) (1978) *Wiltshire Gaol delivery and Trailbaston results* WRS vol XXXIII, p110 no 607

William Hamelyn of Devizes, for beating, wounding, and ill-treating Philip de Neweton and breaking his arm against the peace etc at Aldryngton of malice aforethought.

fourteenth century - when Philip brought charges of assault against six people (but not, interestingly, Adam de la Forde). At this court

Nicholas de Percy, William de Percy, Gilbert de Wyk¹⁹, Peter de Eketon, John le Vox, William Hamelyn and Agnes de Percy were attached to answer Philip le Clerk, of Nyweton, in a plea of trespass, whereon Philip complains that on Thursday in Easter week 32 Ewd I [2 Apr 1304] at Aldryngton they beat and wounded him, broke his left arm, broke two ribs on the left side and threw him in the stew [pond]²⁰ there and inflicted other enormities to his damage in £20 and more and thereon he brings his suit²¹

Trespass was not the offence meant by the term today, it is nearer to the meaning of the line in the Christian Lord's Prayer "*forgive those who trespass against us*" ie those who do us wrong, and it was a common offence.

It is noted that two male members of the de Percy family were indicted as well as Agnes.

William was obviously a rough character - in the same period, but in the *still* of Bedewynd, Melksham etc he was indicted for "*beating, wounding, and ill-treating Nicholas Payn against the peace etc*" p113, no 658

¹⁹ This may indicate he came from Wick, but there was a de Wik family in the area at the time - in 1276 "Walter de Wik, was *tithingman of Lacok of William Bluet's part*. It is noted that this is not the first time the de Wik family has been seen - [*In about 1264*] Richard de Wik was a witness to two of the agreements between William Bluet and Beatrice abbess of Lacock" (Pratt, T & Repko K 2008 *The Manor of Lackham Vol 2 : The Bluets - a baronial family and their historical connections 1066-1400* Lackham Museum of Agriculture and rural Life Trust p74. Available online at http://www.lackham.co.uk/history/the_bluets_09.pdf), and later on "*Agnes de Wyke was abbess of Lacock between 1380 and 1403*" (VCH *Wiltshire* vol IV p315)

²⁰ a shallow pond that was used to hold fish temporarily until they were wanted for the Manor table

²¹ Pugh RB (ed) (1978) *Wiltshire Gaol delivery and Trailbaston results* WRS vol XXXIII section *Roll of complaints for Wyltes'* probably from a court held at *Wylton, co Wyltes'*, Friday after the *quindene of St John the Baptist* 33 Edw I [9 July 1305] p127 no 811,

The jurors found all the defendants not guilty except William Hamelyn, and fined Philip 10d for "*for a false claim*". William Hamelyn, however, was guilty of everything except breaking Philip's arm (one wonders whether they thought the arm wasn't broken but the ribs were or that person or persons unknown were responsible?) and William was sentenced to prison. Philip was awarded damages of 40s. A year later, in the commission court of September 1306, William was back in trouble:

"William Hamelyn of Devizes with others unknown, for breaking the bishop of Salisbury's park at Poterne and thence carrying away a doe against the peace" ²²

William didn't turn up - later on in that year he was one of the people that the sheriff of Wiltshire, John de Gerberd of Odstock ²³ was ordered to catch and hold because they hadn't appeared to answer similar charges, including one William Poyntz. ²⁴

²² Pugh RB (ed) (1978) *Wiltshire Gaol delivery and Trailbaston results* WRS vol XXXIII in the section *Indictments of Wiltshire done at Wilton before W Martyn, H Spigurnel, and their fellows, justices of oyer and terminer in that county, Friday the morrow of Michaelmas 32 Edw I* [30 Sept 1306]

The same event was referred to in a record for a court for Swanbrugg, Bishop's Rouborough, Bishop's Cannyng and Remmesbury, no 970 p 147, where the charges read *William Hamelyn of Devizes and Robert Bysshop of Bromham for breaking the Bishop of Salisbury's park at Poterne and there hunting and taking a doe*

This would have been Bishop Simon of Ghent (1297-1315), the earliest Bishop for whom registers survive. Payne, N (2002) *A Recent Geophysical Survey on the Site of the Residence of the Medieval Bishops of Salisbury at Potterne* WAM 95, p275

²³ Jackson, Rev JE (1857) *The Sheriff's of Wiltshire* WAM III p197

²⁴ Pugh RB (ed) (1978) *Wiltshire Gaol delivery and Trailbaston results* WRS vol XXXIII p160 no 1130

To answer for divers trespasses of parks and stews and of conspiracy, on Monday after the Octave of Michaelmas [10 Oct 1306] as they had failed to appear sucessively on the Monday after Michaelmas [3 oct 1306] and the octave of Michaelmas [6 Oct 1306]: Henry de Cumb, Richard, son of Olive, of Bath, Richard atte Mere, Ralph de Cumb, Walter de Westwell, Nicholas Messenger, who was with Henry de Cumb, William Hamelyn of Devizes, John nephew of the vicar of Stippelavyngton, Simon Turketil, William Poynz son of Nicholas parson of Bradeford, Walter de Hertrygg, William Baxman the younger and Robert Bysshop of Bromham. They have no chattels

His relationship to the family holding Alderton at this time is unknown. This wayward sheep of the Poyntz family had failed to turn up when charged with taking deer from the King's park at *Cosham*²⁵ (Cosham in Hants? or more likely Corsham?)

At the same time there is mention of one Simon le Serjaunt, who stole 3 oxen from William Wyot of Lokynton (Luckington) and 2 oxen from John le White²⁶. Simon failed to attend and so also appears in a restraint order, later in the same year, along with two other men of Alderton, Richard de Laz²⁷ and John, son of William, Broun²⁸. They were three out of a total of 39 people in the same order. [s](#)

.The six before William Hamelyn were charged to appear in court for "*breaking the earl of Cornwall's park of Cosham, and thence taking away 20 bucks and does*", same indictments, p143, no 926

²⁵ Pugh RB (ed) (1978) *Wiltshire Gaol delivery and Trailbaston results* WRS vol XXXIII p no 931

²⁶ Pugh RB (ed) (1978) *ibid* the same court at Wilton, no936, p 143. It is noted that the White family were important in the area several centuries later, when they bought Grittleton from the Gore family.

²⁷ Pugh RB (ed) (1978) *ibid* p149, no 999 *Richard le Laz of Aldryngton stole 12 sheep at Heldebury and is a common thief*

²⁸ Pugh RB (ed) (1978) *ibid as above* p 160, no 1129. John Broun was accused of stealing *seven shepp at Grutlynton (Grittleton?) and is a common thief* (Pugh RB (ed) (1978) *ibid* p149, no 1001)

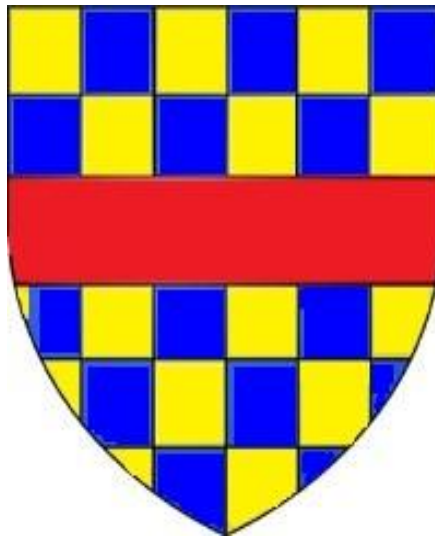


Fig 2 The Clifford family ²⁹ *

(1240 - 1382)

²⁹ http://www.briantimms.net/rolls_of_arms/rolls/caerlaverockK.htm

Checky or and azure a fesse gules

Shortly after this the Manor was owned by another branch of the Poyntz family, the Cliffords, who were certainly descended from the first English generation of the Poyntz family and, according to Jackson, held Alderton

*Aldrington was held of the Crown by the Mortimers at the Domesday Survey, afterwards by the Cliffords of Clifford's Castle. Under these the principal estate belonged to William Hartham*³⁰

It is known that Henry de Hertham held³¹ in 1242-43 but details of others are rare. However in March, 1316, King Edward II sent to all the Sheriff's of England asking

"what cities, boroughs and townships there were in each Hundred or Wapentake, and who were the Lords thereof"

The return for Wiltshire shows the owners of *Aldrynton* as Johannes de Hertham [*John of Hartham*], Hugo de Davereswell and Robert de Harlegh³². The Hartham family held for some time, and as late as 1442 they were still remembered - some lands in the Manor, then occupied by Ralph Ivy of another important northern Wiltshire family, were

*Charged from ancient time with providing one chaplain to celebrate Divine Service in the Church of Aldrington for the souls of the ancestors of Lord Hartham*³³

In the 14th century Alderton was a small farming community based around the Great Field system of Mediaeval agriculture, with the land divided up into strips of about half an acre and people holding strips spread around the fields to even out the

³⁰ Jackson, Rev JE (1862), editing Aubrey's *Topographical Collections, I North Wiltshire* in a footnote to Aubrey's text, p51

³¹ VCH Wiltshire vol II pp 111-112

³² Jones, Rev WH (1870) *The Nomina Villarum for Wiltshire 9th Edw II (1316)* **WAM** vol XII no XXXIV p 23

³³ Jackson, Rev JE (1862), editing Aubrey's *Topographical Collections, I North Wiltshire* in a footnote to Aubrey's text, p51

possession of good and bad land. These field strips can still be seen in today's landscape as the undulating features known as "ridge and furrow"

There are records that give details of this type of landholding, and several survive for Alderton, one from 1317³⁴. From this it is known that Alderton had at least two great Fields, the East and the West, although the total extent of these areas is unknown. The East Field lay to the east of the church, between the village and what is now the Sherston Road³⁵; presumably the other lay opposite.

In a deed dated 29th November 1317, *John atte Hurne* granted the lands of his grand father (John Gyleberd) to his son, also John.

"to wit five acres ad a half in the east field. And six acres and a half and one rood in the west field to the aforesaide town of Aldrynton adjacent. Whereof in the east field a half acre lies in Lyncroft, between land of Parnel (Petronelle) daughter of the lady Joan of Walton and land of John Seman. And a half acre lies at Chastles between land of William Sporon and land of Nicholas Ruffyn. And a half acre lies at Arleye between land of Robert Lycame and land of Henry Palmer. And a half acre lies at Smalstret between land of Richard Eode and land of the late John de Hertham. And a half acre lies at Langebyschoprithi between land of Henry Magan and land of John de la Hurn. And a half acre lies

³⁴ Page-Turner F A (1916) *Six deeds etc Put into English. Relating to Alderton co wilts presented, with others to the Wilts. Arch. and Nat. Hist. Soc* Wilts N & Q vol VIII 1914-1916 pp 308-309.

At least three of these deeds are held in the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre (W&SHC 212B/ 15 - 17), they came there via WANHS, to whom they had been donated by Page-Turner. In 1933 Mr Cunnington of WANHS sent the deeds to the Rev Budgen, who ran the Sussex Archaeological Society's Deeds and Documents department. Their correspondence is also held at the W&SHC (W&SHC 212B/19) which includes Budgen's translation of the deeds, which he thought "*might be helpful...as they are so full of field names that they ought to be important to anyone working on the place concerned*".

Witnesses to this deed were Thomas de Pedeworth, John de Corvele, Nicholas Elys, John de Pedeworth and William Levyot

³⁵ I hadn't noticed this on previous visits to the village, but on the eve of the new Millennium there was water lying in the fields from heavy rain during the previous two weeks, and the ridge and furrow showed up very plainly.

at Eitacram next land of John Seman. And a half acre lies at Ordwell next land of John of Pedeworth. And a half acre lies at "le Brewe" next land of Nicholas Wymark. And a half acre lies in Schertebischoprithi next land of the abbot of Kyngewod. And one rood lies at "la Grenesplotte" next land of Henry la Palmar. And a half acre lies in "le Medlond" next land of Henry la Palmar. And one rood lies in "le Banforlong" next land of the abbot of Kyngeswod."

and so on for the West field as well. It is interesting that one of the strips is said to have belonged to the *late* John de Hertham. Was this the same John mentioned in the Sheriff's return above?

Little has been learnt of the areas mentioned, but the area known as *Schertebischoprithi* may have been the *Bishopstree* and *Bishoptree Meade* (covering about 3 acres) of 1665³⁶. In 1665 *Castles* may have been known as *Chesseils*, if so some was owned by the Parson of Luckington and the Lord of Luckington, the two owning between them just over 13 acres³⁷. There was also a "Castle weir" in Surrenden of about 12 acres³⁸. In 1839 there were two fields, to the north west of the village, known as "*Chiswells*", covering just over 8 acres³⁹. Interestingly they were occupied by William Palmer, is it this Palmer a descendent of the Palmer or Palmar mentioned five hundred years earlier?

John atte Hurne appears in a later deed⁴⁰, transferring to "*Robert Welle, his wife Margaret and their son Robert thirteen and a half acres of arable and meadow lying in*

³⁶ Jacob C (1665) *Manors of Wiltshire* in the section titled *An Exact And Perfect Survey And View Of Surrenden In The Hundred Of Chippenham In The County Of Wilts 17 Chas II AD 1665* W&SHC 1909

³⁷ Jacob C (1665) *ibid* in the section titled *An exact and perfect survey and view of the manor of Aldrington or Alderton in the hundred of Chippenham In The County Of Wilts*

³⁸ Jacob C (1665) *ibid*

³⁹ *Tithe map of the Parish of Alderton 1839* W&SHC

⁴⁰ W&SHC 212B/16

Dated "*Monday, the Feast of St Vincent, 31 Edw III*" (22 January 1358)

Witness to this deed, as well as Thomas, were Walter Hardyng, John Beneton, John Vicar of Schorston (Sherston or Corston?) and John Serjant. The Serjants are a family that appear

the fields of Aldrynton". One of the witnesses to this deed was Thomas de Pedeworth, possibly the *mesne* tenant from whom the Gore's bought Alderton in 1382. He was also witness to the third of the deeds mentioned, dated Pentecost, 1378 ⁴¹ [s](#)

here and there in North Wiltshire history and even in the 1850's the chief tenant farmer at Alderton itself was named David Sergant.

⁴¹ W&SHC 212B/17

Walter Hardyng also witnessed this deed (along with William Walshe and Nicholas Wakur)

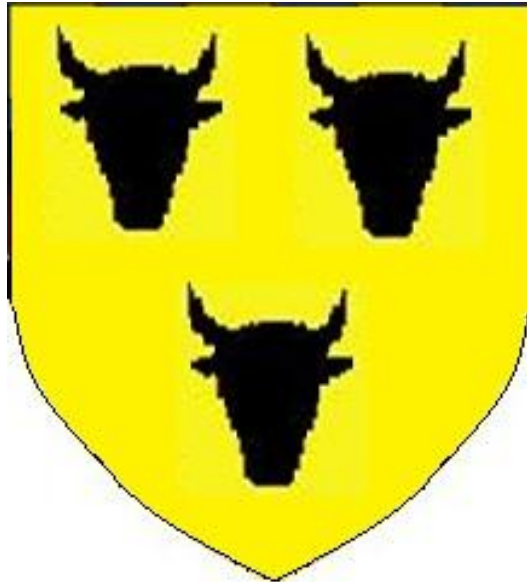


Fig 3 The Gore family ⁴² *

(1382 - 1714)

⁴² Buckeridge, D (1995) *Church Heraldry in Wiltshire*
or, three bulls heads cabossed sable. Thomas Gore, in his 1666 work shows the heads with red, lolling tongues but these are not mentioned in the blazon for these arms

Much of the early history of Alderton is known from the writings of the seventeenth century antiquarian, Thomas Gore ⁴³ and the nineteenth century historian the Rev Canon JE Jackson, who did so much to preserve and publish Wiltshire's history. Much of Jackson's work on Alderton resulted from his possession of the Family Register which Thomas Gore compiled ⁴⁴. This manuscript was given to Jackson by George Poulett Scrope of Castle Combe (a descendent by marriage of Thomas' sister Anna and her husband John Scrope); the book itself appeared lost, although it was "*fully described and a copious pedigree given by Joseph Hunter*" ⁴⁵. It was not in the British Museum, which only has few works by Thomas⁴⁶, although it is known he published many more - The Dictionary of National Biography lists 7 in all ⁴⁷. The author found a reference to it, however, in a footnote in Pafford :

⁴³ Gore, Abbe (1999) reply at

<http://cgi.rootsweb.com/~genbbs/genbbs.cgi/FamilyAssoc/Gore?read=40>

The English surname GORE is local in origin being one of those surnames based on the place where a man once lived or once held land. In this case the surname is derived from the Old English word "gara" which in actual fact was a dress making term used to describe a three cornered slip of cloth let in a slit to widen the girth of a garment. This translation leads us to believe that the original bearer of this surname resided near, or even on a triangular piece of land, probably the piece of land left over after oblong plots had been allocated. It is also interesting to note that GORE serves as a placename in Kent and Wiltshire, the placename no doubt evolved in this fashion as the surname

⁴⁴ This volume was entitled "*SYNTAGMA GENEALOGICUM or a Genealogical Treatise of the Family of the GORES of ALDRINGTON alias ALDERTON IN THE Hundred of Chippenham and County of Wilts*" (1666), but see next in main body of text.

⁴⁵ BM Addit. MSS 24481 ff 45-8, in DNB *ibid*

⁴⁶ one of which is BM Addit. MSS 28020 "*An Alphabet in Blazon of the paternall Coates, Crests, and Mottoes of all (or the Major part) of the Gentrey in the County of Wiltshire*" (1663) and BM Addit. MSS 28209 "*Notes on the Family of Scrope, from 1389 to 1660*" This last was donated by G Poulett-Scrope and EC Lowdnes, it is a pity they didn't include the *Syntagma Genealogicum* at the same time! These manuscripts are now in the British Library Manuscript Department.

⁴⁷ Safely tucked away in Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre (W&SHC 1078/13) is a second edition of one of these works - Thos Gore's *Catalogus In cera Capia, feu Classes Alphebetico Ordine Concinnatus Pleoru nque Authorum (am antiquorum quam recentiorum) Qui de re Heraldica Latine, Gallice, Italice, Hispanie,, Germanice, Anglice, Scripserunt: Interspersione hic illie, qui claruerunt in re Antiquaria & Jure Civili ea saltem parte qe Heraldriae facem ascendit*

An apparently unpublished and important manuscript on this family [the Gore's] is in the Library of the Victoria and Albert Museum in its Clements Collection of Armorial Bindings (Pressmark: Clements S.7. Inventory no. L.1376=1948) it is entitled Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton....Containing a true... account of their Armes, Births, Baptizings, Marriages, Issue, Lands, Last Wills.... Deaths.... Inventories By Thomas Gore Esq The MS is undated but appears to be after 1670 and before 1700, The Gore armorial stamp is on the covers and the bookplate of Thomas Hedges, of Alderton, is inside the front cover ⁴⁸.

It is interesting that the book had not, apparently, been consulted since Jackson's use but it still exists in the V&A collection, and it proved very helpful in compiling this account of the Gores, up to Thomas' time ⁴⁹.

- a bibliography of works on heraldry from all over Europe. It includes sections from other author's works, as was customary at this time. It was printed at Oxford 1674.

Inside the front cover, in Jackson's handwriting, is the following inscription: *This copy of the 2nd edition of Thos Gore's Catalogue of Authors on Heraldry, dated Aldrington alias Alderton 1674 is presented to the Parish Register Chest of the Author's Parish by JE Jackson Rector of Leigh Delamere 1853.*

⁴⁸ Pafford isn't totally accurate here; it has *two* bookplates, one for "Thomas Hedges, Esq, of Alderton Wilts" and one of "JB Clements". From letters preserved in the back of the manuscript it is known that Clements (called HJB Clements in the letters) bought it in July 1906, from Bernard Quaritch "*dealer in Ancient Manuscripts, London*"; Clements' collection is now held by the National Art Library at the V&A. Pafford is also incorrect when he says that it isn't dated - the book itself isn't, but Thomas Gore's Introduction *is*, to January 23, 1666 to be precise.

The history of this manuscript is unclear; Jackson owned it - on the flyleaf of the manuscript Jackson has written, in pencil as was often his habit, "*JE Jackson Leigh Delamere Chippenham. Given to me by G Poulett Scrope Esq on his selling Castle Combe and leaving Wiltshire*". However Jackson didn't keep it, he made efforts to buy it when it came up for sale in 1871 - there are cuttings advertising its sale in the back of the folio, with a comment in Jackson's handwriting "*Sold before I wrote for them*". When, why, and to whom Jackson delivered the manuscript is unknown.

⁴⁹ Thanks to the good offices of Steve Hobbs, County Archivist at W&SHC I learnt that the History Centre holds a micro-film copy of the book W&SHC microfilm x3/87; like all

The first records of the Gore family known are those transcribed in Thomas Gore's book, and they refer to William Gore, who lived at Whitley (just outside Melksham) and his wife Gode, in 1333⁵⁰. William was still there in 1351, in that year he, his wife and his son were given three acres of land at Whitley and Shaw by Ralph de Gras⁵¹

Also recorded is John Gore, who was rector of Whaddon in 1349, and was probably related to William. A William was Lord of the Manor of Whaddon in the 1380's⁵² when he "presented" (ie was the person who recommended the appointment of the Vicar) in 1382, 84 and 85. He sold the right (the "avowson") in 1388

to William Byde, John Chitterne clerk, Simon Beste (or Geste), Peter Cheyne, Adam at Wells and others, for £200⁵³

Several interesting records of land deals remain for this period. The name of William's wife is unknown, but they had at least one son, Robert.

microfilms it is in black and white and is not the easiest thing to read but it has proved invaluable. My very sincere thanks to Steve for his continued help and interest over many years and for being incredibly pro-active, as indeed are all the staff at Cocklebury Road

⁵⁰ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum* A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton. Gore's book includes transcriptions of the deeds and documents he had available relating to the Gore family, in part it is a Cartulary for the Gore family. A document from 1333 refers to *Willi Gore de Witlegh et Gode uxor ejus* (William Gore of Whitley and Gode his wife) p33

⁵¹ W&SHC 469/2 dated 10 March 1351

Gift by Ralph de Gras to William Gore of Witleigh and his wife and heir of 2 acres and the moiety of an acre of land with appurtenances in a certain field in Witleigh and Shawe next to Melksham called Litelfeld in a cultivation called Stansterland lying between the l and of Beatrice Chelle and the dean and chapter of Salisbury to have and hold at payment annually of 1d on the feast of St Michael Witnesses John de Shawe, Ralph de la Cousand John Alexandre, John Littlershelle, Roger Mauchet and others

⁵² Jackson, Rev JE (undated)

⁵³ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum* A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton, p37

Robert married Margaret⁵⁴ and they had three children, William, Robert and Maud as Thomas Gore records her. She is not, however, referred to by that version of her name in the records, but as the alternative and, at that time, more common one of Matilda⁵⁵. She was probably known to the family as Matilda and that is used here. She married one Nicholas Poyntz. The exact identity and lineage of this member of the Poyntz family is not clear, there is no member of the family known at that time called Nicholas but as the early lineage's are often only those directly concerned with the inheritance of property it is more than likely that a younger son could now be unknown.

Robert Gore's date of birth is unknown but it must have been earlier than about 1340 - the first record mentioning Robert is dated 1361 and this mentions his *daughter*⁵⁶.

At this time the Gores had land in the manor of Hilperton; Robert was quitclaimed for land at Hilperton in 1371⁵⁷ when John and Thomas Gore appear in the witness list.

⁵⁴ See [Fig. 3](#) (use [return](#) to return here)

⁵⁵ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p46 there is a charter dated 1361 which refers to *Margrite uxor ejus et Matilde filie de Robertus* and this is repeated *Robertus, Margarite et Matilde*

⁵⁶ Gore, T (1666) *ibid* p43 "*Matild filio de Robert*"

⁵⁷ W&SHC 469/3 *Quitclaim to Robert Gore and Roger Reaper of Melksham by Ralph Cheigne and Doris his wife of land and tenements in the manor of Hilperton formerly Isabelle atte Stuches* Witnesses Henry de la Ryvere, Robert Russel chevalier Thomas Gore John Bartllet John Gore Ralph Okell John Bennett Richard Parker John Vache Walter Gousold.

This grant is worryingly similar to one transcribed by Thomas that is supposedly dated 1387 and that records, in translation, that Robert Cheyneyh and Johanna his wife sold land, held by Isabelle atte Hutt, to Robert Gore and Richard Regner. The witnesses were Henry de la Ryver, *Dominus*, Robert Russell, Thomas Gore, John Bertinell and John Gore. It seems very unlikely that such a similar, but so different in places, list of people would be involved and possibly Thomas Gore got it wrong; the author has not seen the 1381 original and so cannot say how accurate Thomas' transcription was....

The Manor of Alderton 3rd edition

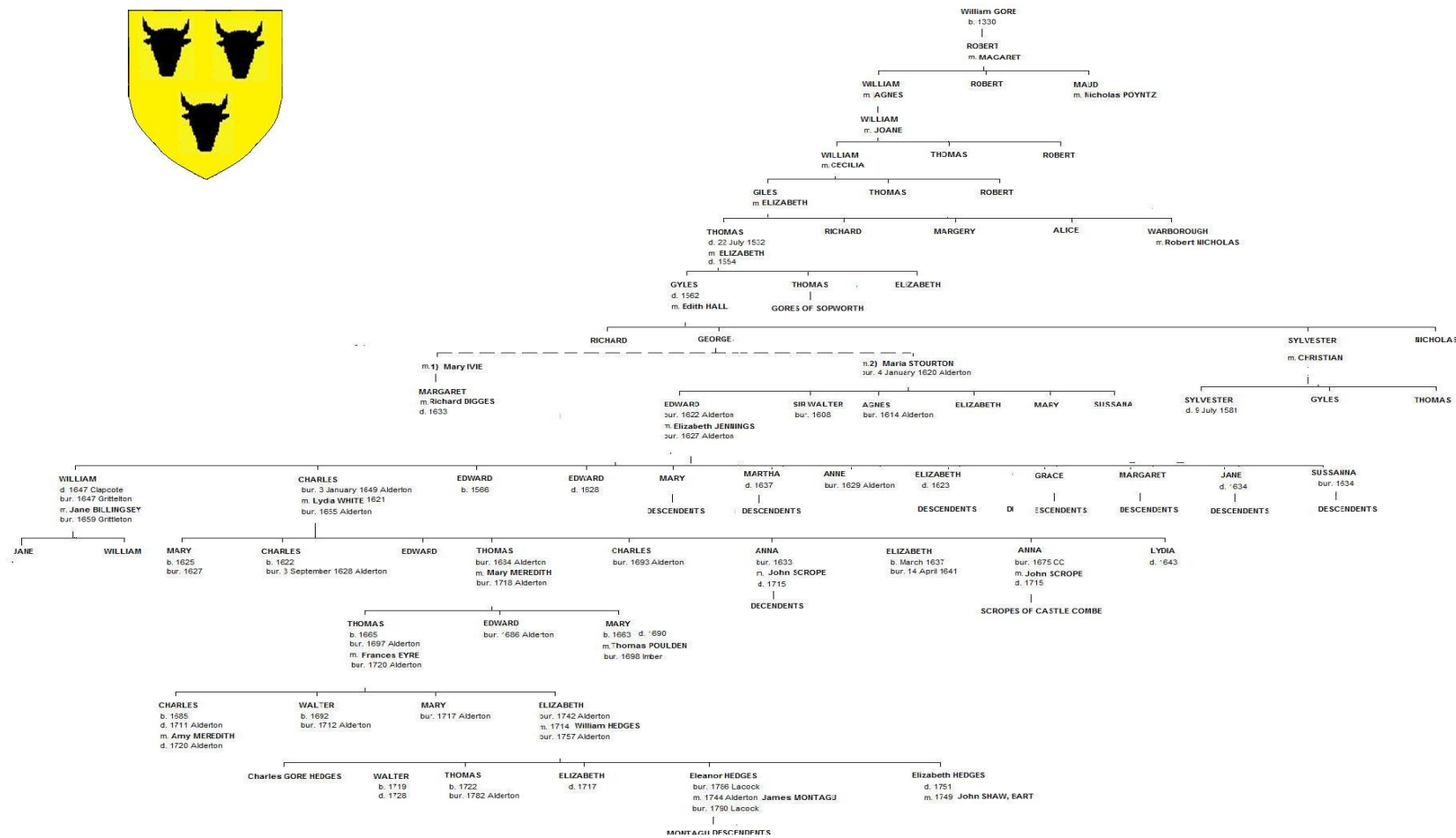
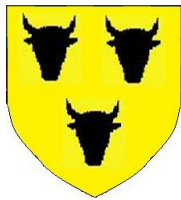


Fig. 4 Pedigree of the Gore, family *

It is appreciated that this is not easy to read, relevant sections are reproduced below more clearly

What relationship the Thomas and John Gores who witnessed this charter were is unknown. Thomas Gore claims that he was alive between 1301 and 1387 ⁵⁸

Robert died in 1387 and was succeeded by William, who had purchased Alderton in 1382 ⁵⁹. There may have been Gore's at Alderton before the purchase. Jackson reports "*there was already a John Gore and his wife Amie who were living in Mabyleslond, this with a right of pasture for 8 cows in Le Grove and certain small rents*" ⁶⁰. Which was bought on "Monday after Midsummer Day ad 1392" by William Gore and on same day he bought a messuage and 4 acres in Alderton ⁶¹ The full Gore family tree as it relates to Alderton is given above but appropriate extracts are included where required below.

There are Gores known locally that are not shown on the family tree and not mentioned by Thomas; one of these was *Richard Goer* who was a witness at an inquisition in 1308 ⁶². And one *John de Gor* was a witness at the inquisition held after the death of Henry Estmond, at Devizes 17 April Edw II (1327) ⁶³.

⁵⁸ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p44

⁵⁹ The deeds relating to this purchase do not appear to have survived, there is nothing in Thomas Gore's manuscript that mentions it.

⁶⁰ Jackson, Rev JE *Mss*

⁶¹ Jackson, Rev JE *Mss*

From John London, who was occupier of Leggeses Place.

William bought more of his land in 1393, 1395, 1397 and 1400 (Gore, T (1666) *ibid* p10)

⁶² Fry, EA (1908) (ed) *Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem Henry III, Edward and Edward II AD 1242-1326* British Record Society, Ltd p 347
The Inquisition of Reginald de Argentem, held at Cheldrington 22 March 1 Edw II

⁶³ *Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem Edw III* WANHS p19

"in the presence of Robert de Batlescoumbe, then constable of the castle of Devizes, before Robert de Hungerford and Ralph de Gras, by the oath of Jhn Bomlerk (?) Walter Bochard, William Cod...hou, Ralph Ysaac, William de Deuises,

In 1374 John Goore witnessed an inquisition at Devizes⁶⁴. Less than six months later Thomas and Robert Goore were involved in another inquisition, also at Devizes⁶⁵.

There is a Thomas who appears in the records of Lacock Abbey at exactly this time - in 1371 he witnessed a charter of the abbess Faith⁶⁶ and twenty one years later another for her successor Agnes and the chaplain William Payn.

In 1371 John Gore gave land to the Convent of Monkton Farleigh⁶⁷ and in the last decade of the fourteenth century two more Gores are known locally - Robert Gore resigned as the Priest of the Free Chapel in Marlborough Castle in 1397 and two years later Nicholas Gore resigned the same position⁶⁸. The relationship between these two - if any - and their relationship to the Gores of Alderton, if any, are not known. There *is* a Robert on the pedigree at this time, brother to William.

Reginald Deneys, John Gosselin, John de Gor, Nicholas Gotacre, Roger le Fowler, William le Greye and Johnen."

⁶⁴ *Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem Edw III WANHS*
Inquisition held 23 Oct 49 Edw III

⁶⁵ *Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem Edw III WANHS*
Inquisition held 11 Feb 50 Edw III

⁶⁶ Rogers, KH (1979) *Lacock Abbey Charters* WRS vol XXXIV no 209 p 55,
dated 25 June 1371

⁶⁷ Land given was at Chippenham, Langley Burrell and Slaughterford (*Inquisitions Post Mortem 5 Rich III*, quoted in Jackson, Rev JE *Mss ibid*)

⁶⁸ Wordsworth Rev Chr (1910) *Marlborough Chantries and the supply of the Clergy in Olden Days* WAM XXXVI no CXIV pp 525-585 - section "*List of Chaplains, Chantry Priests, Chantry Ornaments and Masters of St John's Hospital*" subsection "*Priests of the Free Chapel of St Nicholas in the Castle, Marlborough*"

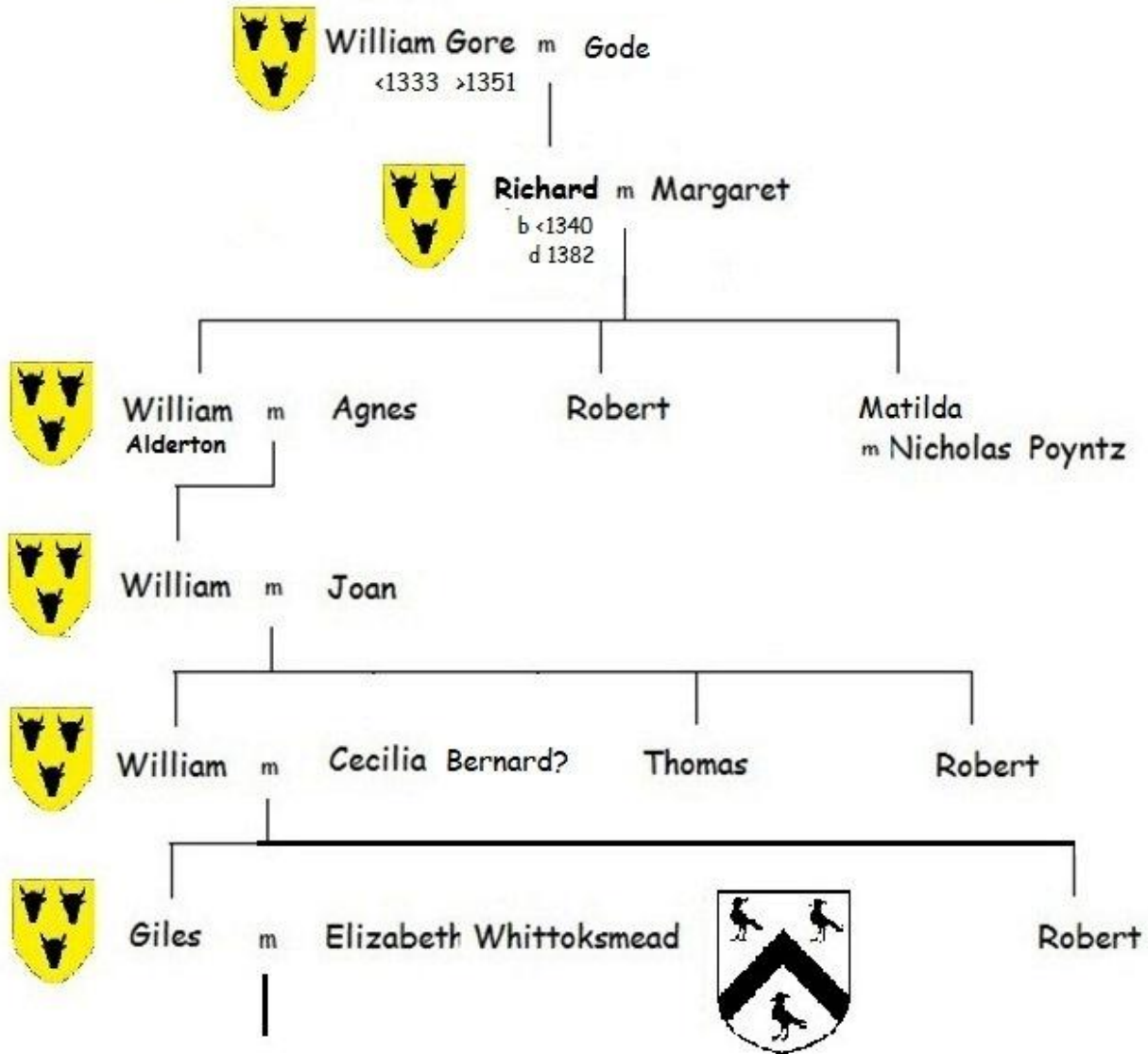


Fig 5 Early Gore pedigree * [To return to the text click here,](#)

One of the earliest records known for Alderton *not* in Thomas Gore's manuscript is a rent roll that starts with a Court Baron held by William⁶⁹ on 20th October 1414. From this it is known that land in Alderton was held by Sir Walter de Poole and Roger Hure, who was the parson of Sherston⁷⁰.

⁶⁹ married to Agnes, generation three in Fig. 3

⁷⁰ Jackson, Rev JE Mss

The title of this roll is not given in the section dealing with it but later on in the manuscript Jackson mentions that "*the first court held by the Gores was in 1414*" and gives a reference of *Curia manerii Willi Gore tenta apud Aldrington*

William was *senschal* to William Dauntsey⁷¹, Thomas records a letter to William, from Dauntsey, dated 1402⁷² and two William Gores appear in records of 1433⁷³

William and Agnes had a son, also William, who married Joan, the widow of John Brown. Little is known of them, but they had three sons, the fourth

diedunce xx ante festum Nativ John Bapt AR Dni Hen V. It is likely this is the roll referred to.

⁷¹ William Dauntsey

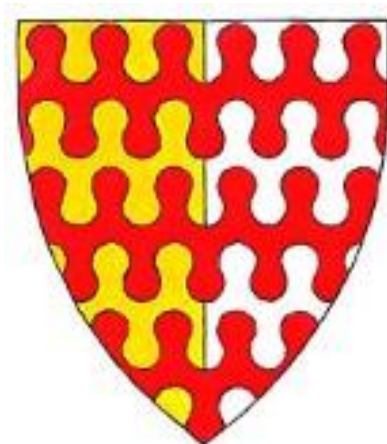


Fig 6 Arms of de Dautesey *
Per pale or and argent three bars nebule gules

⁷² Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p61 There is a pencilled note above this entry, in Jackson's handwriting, that "in William Dauntsey's will of 1420 he leaves a legacy to William Gore his Seneschal (Sir Richard C Hoare *Modern Wilts History of Alderbury* p83)"

A bond dated 17th July 1437 (Pafford, JHP (1956) *Wiltshire Deeds in the Bath Public Library* p169) indicates that William Gore the elder had the rights of the annual rent "issuing from the manor of Wynterborne Dauntsey" - it is tempting to speculate that this Manor was the legacy R C-H and JEJ mention

⁷³ Gore, T (1666) *ibid* p74

"Among the names of the Gentry of the County of Wilts recorded by the Commissioners of the Twelfth year of King Henry the sixth lately printed by Thomas Fuller DD in the book entitled The Worthies of England are found William Gore, sen, and William Gore, jun". Thomas Fuller was, as will be seen, Thomas Gore's tutor at Oxford and godfather to one of his sons

William in five generations (their heir), Thomas and Robert. The last date we have for William is one of 1442, when he had lands at Alderton, Luckington, and Melksham.⁷⁴ It is possible that the Thomas in this generation was the Thomas Gore who was MP for Devizes in 1455⁷⁵

William, grandson of the first William of Alderton, possibly married Cecilia, the daughter and co-heiress of John Bernard of Bishop's Lavington. Thomas Gore doesn't give a name for his wife but pencilled in Canon Jackson's hand is *Cecelia Bernard*, with pencilled arms of *aqua rampant*. It is unknown whether this is the sigil of the Bernards of West Lavington. It is, however, the case that John Bernard's wife was Cecilia⁷⁶ and it is not unusual for daughters to have the same name as their mothers. William and Cecilia had two sons, Giles and Robert. s

William and Cecilia's heir was Giles, who married Elizabeth, the daughter and heiress of John Whittokesmede,⁷⁷ an interesting man in his own right⁷⁸. A document from Somerset confirms this marriage; sometime between 1445 and 1470 Richard Clavelleshay, wrote to the under-sheriff of Somerset and Dorset, asking for his help in recovering debts owed by *William Gore of Melksham and Giles Gore of Aldrington*. He also expected

*that Wyttockesmede of Wyltshire woll speke therof
for Giles Gore hathe weddid his dowghter and yf he*

⁷⁴ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p70. The first record for William is dated 1428. In 1429 John London of Alderton issued a deed in favour of Robert and Thomas "*filiis Willi Gore Junioris*"

⁷⁵ Maney, Canon FH (1935) *A list of the representatives in Parliament from 1295 - 1832 for the County and Borroughs of Wiltshire as given in the Palriamentary return of 1872* WAM XLVII no CLXIII pp 177-264

⁷⁶ VCH *Wiltshire* vol 7 p198 *In 1428 Cecily widow of John Bernard held land in West Lavington*

⁷⁷ Gore, T (1555) *ibid* p103

⁷⁸ Driver, JT (1999) *The Career of John Whittookesmede, a Fifteenth Century Wiltshire Lawyer and Parliamentary "Carpet-Bagger"* WAM 92 pp92-9

*speke of hyt y pray yow tell hym y wyll sue wt [with]
effecte tyle y be payde etc* ⁷⁹

Giles and Elizabeth are recorded as having land at Alderton, Melksham, Lacock, Lockington and Sherston. A marginal note by Jackson ⁸⁰ indicates Giles was living in 1474 but "*died before his father*". That Giles died young is evident because William the elder arranged for trustees to look after the manor "*until his grandson reached age after [Gile's] early death*" ⁸¹. The last record with Giles' name is dated 1474 ⁸² and this led Jackson to suggest that Giles may have died in 1480. The indenture setting up the trusteeship is recorded in Gore's book ⁸³ and is dated 1480. Interestingly William signs himself "William of Chipping Sodbury". This suggests that when Giles took over at Alderton William moved to Chipping Sodbury and set things up from there - it is noteworthy that one of the Trustees was also from Chipping Sodbury ⁸⁴.

The property that was transferred to the Trustees was Kingswood Grange, which Jackson speculated *might* have been the first residence of the Gores in Alderton ⁸⁵.

⁷⁹ Dilks TB (1948) (ed) *Bridgwater Borough Archives, vol 4 ; 1445 - 1468* Somerset Record Society vol 60) in Driver, JT (1999) *The Career of John Whittookesmede, a Fifteenth Century Wiltshire Lawyer and Parliamentary "Carpet-Bagger"* WAM 92 pp92-9

⁸⁰ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p83

⁸¹ Jackson, Rev JE Mss

The trustees were Sir Richard Beauchamp of Bromham, Sir John Reynolds and William Codrygton.

⁸² Gore, T (1666) *ibid* p93

⁸³ Gore, T (1666) *ibid* p96

⁸⁴ Gore, T (1666) *ibid* The Overseers were *Sir Richard Beuchamp of Bromham, Sir John Seyntlow of Tormarton and Thomas Codryngton of Chepyng Sodbury*, signed at Lockyngton 1st March. These are the names on the indenture renting Alderton to the Pophams.

⁸⁵ However, I feel it is more likely that the first residence was The Grove, as this is the property mentioned on the record dealing with William's purchases at Alderton in 1392

There appear to be, or have been, records for this trusteeship in Bath Public Library ⁸⁶:

an indented gift by William Gore son of William Gore to Edmund Hungerford, knight, John Botler, Thomas Poynes John Dewall, Robert Blake, Henry Longe, John Lyght, esquires (armigerii), Master Hugh Thomas, clerk Robert Unwyn, Thomas Hasard and Richard Kaynall his manor of Aldryngton and all his lands and tenements, meadows, pastures, feedings, rents, services and reversions in Melkesham, Yatton Kaynall, Aldryngton, Sherston, Llockyngton and Lacok except a messuage and a cotland in Melkesham called Johoseppes and a messuage and 2 virgates of land in Aldryngton called Kyngeswodes grange. Covenant for re-entry and distraint if the feoffees shall, on request, refuse to re-effeoff [ie give back] the donor or, after his death, his son Thomas

but *this* record is dated 25 January 1447 and Pafford records that Letters of Attorney were issued to the same people in July of 1448 ⁸⁷ However an addition ⁸⁸ indicates that the date is "*In reddish-brown ink : ? 16-17th century*" - in other words possibly / probably a later insertion; it is not impossible that the "47" was a mistake for "74", in which case there is no conflict with the other records . The bulk of the evidence, and not only from Thomas Gore, is that this happened in the 1480's not the 1440's.

⁸⁵ On the same day they also bought Legges Place but The Grove is the property that appears in the records most often.

⁸⁶ Pafford, JHP (1956) *Wiltshire Deeds in the Bath Public Library* p171

⁸⁷ Pafford, JHP (1956) *ibid* p173

⁸⁸ Pafford, JHP (1956) *ibid* gives the names of the witnesses to this transfer - *John Harres of Cheppynham, Thomas Gore son of said William Gore, Nicholas Gore, John Tanner, Nicholas Pont', William He', Richard Lucane, John Bacon, John Neline, William Hobbys & 6 others* (all of Alderton)

In an indenture dated April 1480 Alderton Manor was let to *Richard Popham and his wife Elizabeth for their lives, the remainder [of the Manor] to Thom Gore*", (William's brother) ⁸⁹.

Giles' and Elizabeth's children are known, as well as some dates -

Giles was the last of the Gores to have as their arms the simple *or three bulls heads cabossed*, *After this they quartered other arms with theirs. This may be because they started marrying with armigerous families!*

Thomas I was the eldest son, and heir to the estate. He had a brother Richard and three sisters, Margery, Alice and Warborough. The latter married Robert Nicholas of Roundway. ⁹⁰ [^](#)

⁸⁹ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Aldertomp*107

The Overseers rented the Manor to the Pophams but it reverted to Thomas Gore eventually (The name given in Gore's book is actually *William* here, but that just doesn't fit with any of the Gores of the time, it is taken to be a mistake, although presumably the Antiquarian was copying from the original documents?). It was arranged so that, in the event of Thomas' death the Manor would go to his brother Richard or Richard's heirs.

⁹⁰ Gore only mentions Thomas and Margery, the others are from Jackson. Jackson made a pencil annotation of Gore's manuscript to mention Richard, but the other two daughters only appear in Jackson *Mss*

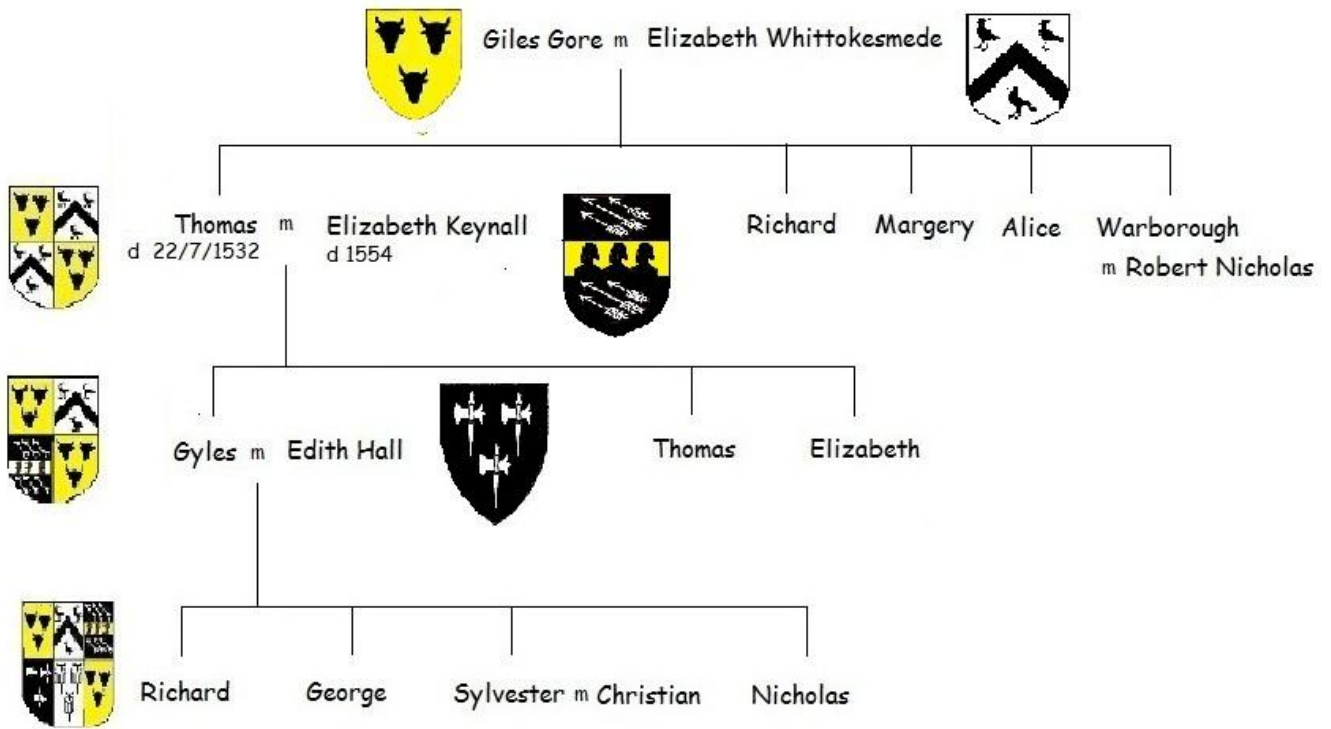


Fig 7 Descent from Giles and Elizabeth *

Thomas' arms quartered Gore with Whitoxmead as below.



Fig. 8 Gore quartering Whittokmead, arms of Thomas Gore I *
 (after Gore, T) ⁹¹

⁹¹ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p103.
 1 and 4 GORE quartering 2 and 3 argent a chevron between three lapwings sable [WHITTOKMEAD, Thomas' mother]

Thomas married Elizabeth Kaynall or Keynell. She was the daughter of William Kaynall (living 1483) and his wife Sybil.⁹² This marriage brought the Manor of Yatton Keynell into the Gore estates, about 500 acres there and elsewhere, but Yatton Keynell manor itself was sold after 25 years.

⁹³

Fig. 9 The birds in the Whittoksmead arms are depicted as Thomas Gore rendered them in his book, they would appear to be lapwings, unfortunately Gore only gave visual representations of the arms, he did not blazon them An example of a heraldic lapwing is, for example, found in the arms of Rusell of Charlton Park, Gloucestershire *



The Keynell arms appear on the exquisite screen which was erected in Yatton Keynell church. This screen is really very fine, and is in stark contrast to the plain interior that the remodelling of the mid nineteenth century has left us.

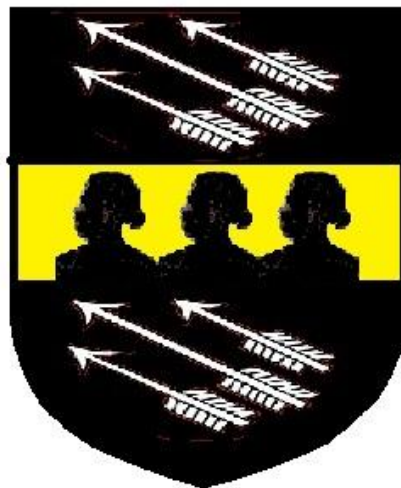


Fig. 10 Arms of Keynell * (after Gore, T⁹⁴)

⁹² Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum* or *A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p108. William Kaynell was the son of Richard of Yatton Kaynell by his wife Edith, daughter of Richard Hall

⁹³ Elyard SJ (1894) *Some Old Wiltshire Houses* p24

"The Manor was purchased by the Snells of Kington St Michael and remained in that family until sold by the extravagant Sir Charles Snell to partly defray the cost of the ship which he had built for Sir Walter Raleigh"

⁹⁴ Gore, T (1666) *ibid* illustration p121. Buckeridge, D (1995) *Church Heraldry in Wiltshire* p33 gives the Keynell arms as *"Sable on a fesse or, between six arrows bendwise points upwards, three moors heads in profile couped at the*

The Gore arms are carved on the northern side of one of the aisle pillars. Thomas was patron of two rectors of Yatton Kaynell - Thomas Mitchell (1501 - 1521) and Thomas Pontynge (1521 - 1561). Thomas was supposedly also patron to Pontynge's successor, David Griffeth, but this isn't possible as Thomas died 22 July 1532.

Thomas was involved in many land deals ⁹⁵ - this generation had land at Alderton, Yatton Kaynell, Trowbridge, Southwick, Bishop's Fountell, Steeple Ashton and Luckington in Wiltshire, and Catewick and Swainswick just outside Bath. The land near Bath was purchased from Isabella, widow of John Campbell of Sherbourne and some land in the south and western fields (*campo australis & cam occidentalis*) of Luckington was acquired ⁹⁶ from Edward More of Trowbridge.

Thomas Gore died Monday 22nd July 1532 and was buried in an altar tomb on the south side of the chancel with a lost monument that was recorded by the eponymous Antiquarian:

"He departed this mortal lyfe on Monday the 22nd day of July in the 24th year of the reign of King Henry the Eighth Anno Domini 1532 and lyes buried under an alter tombe of freestone (carved and painted) on the north side of the Chancel of the Parish Church of Aldryngton als Alderton and which said tomb is adorned in several places with his Parternall Coate of the family of the Gores impaled with the coat of the Kaynalls and others. Over the tombe is a plate of Brass fastened to the wall with the following inscription :

neck" but Schomberg, A (1886) *The Pedigree of John Stokes of Seend, co Wilts* p7 gives the fesse as argent

⁹⁵ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum* or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldryngton or Alderton p102 earliest date given is 1503

⁹⁶ Gore T (1666) *ibid* p112 Indenture dated 14 October 1510 and included land at Short Ockley (?) and Alyne Grove, witnesses Richard Dudley, Richard Snell, Thomas Pyle and John Oubury. Edward More sold other land in Luckington at this time when Henry Long of Draycot bought an area that he subsequently sold to Thomas Gore on 12 October 1511 for £65 (equivalent to £31,435 in 2005 currency [<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/currency/results.asp#mid>])

"Of your charyte pray for the soule of Thomas Gore esq late lord of this Town the whyche deceased the XXIind daie in Iuly A Dmi mdxxxv on whose soule Jhu have mercy Amen"⁹⁷

This is a different arrangement of the arms to the quartered version seen above and gives



Fig. 11 Gore impaling Keynall, *

It has been noted that

[Thomas Gore] was the last of his family to be buried by a priest of the old religion with a requet inscribed above his bones that those who survived him would pray for his soul⁹⁸

Elizabeth survived him by 22 years and later married George Worth of Dauntsey. She was buried at Dauntsey in 1554⁹⁹

Thomas was the ancestor of the branch of the Gore family that lived at Sopworth¹⁰⁰. They had two sons, Gyles and Thomas, a daughter Elizabeth and they lived at Sherston. Elizabeth married Richard Bremman¹⁰¹ [s](#)

⁹⁷ Gore, T (1666) *Gore, T (1666) Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p114 .

⁹⁸ Badeni, J (1966) *Wiltshire Forefathers* p1

⁹⁹ Thursday January 24th 1554

Their son, Giles II, inherited the estate. It may well be that Giles was named after the patron saint of the village, St Giles¹⁰². Giles II bore the combined arms of Gore, Whitoksmead and Keynell

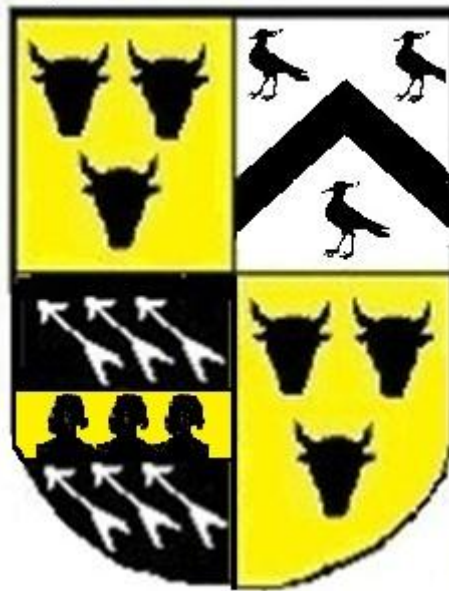


Fig. 12 Arms of Giles Gore II *
After Gore, T 1666¹⁰³

During his lifetime Giles II had land at Alderton, Trowbridge, Melksham, Whitley, Shaw, Beanacre, Seend, Seend Row, Woodrow, Woolmere, Westport, Burton, Foxley, Brokenburgh, Steeple Ashton, Chippenham, Hullavington, Luckington, Langridge and Grittleton.

¹⁰¹ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p 116

In his will Giles bequeathed land in the hundred of Malmesbury that was "late in the tenure of his brother in law Richard Bremman", and Elizabeth is the only sister we know of. As Giles' will is dated 1562 Richard must have died after this.

¹⁰² Badeni, J (1992) *Past People in Wiltshire and Gloucestershire* p1
"the Church is dedicated to St Giles and the village revel was held annually on the Sunday after St Giles' day"

¹⁰³ 1 and 4 GORE quartering 2 WHITTOKMEAD and 3 KEYNALL

Giles bought the Manor of Grittleton, the neighbouring Manor to the east. At the time of the Conquest it was held by the Abbot of Glastonbury, and the monks retained possession until the general dissolution of the monasteries in 1537 when it was seized for the King. After this

by patent dated 7 July 36 Hen VIII (1544) the King granted the manor and the avowson of the parish church of Grittleton to Charles Gore, of Surrendel, in consideration of the sum of £591 15s 7d and they remained in this family for 58 years¹⁰⁴

which was a lot of money. The organisation of the estates is not known with any accuracy but Giles made Griffith Curtys Steward of Alderton and Grittleton in 1550. This was an important position, and paid well -

Of all his [Giles] estates there to be holden and pay to him a grant of £314 4s¹⁰⁵ annually out of the Lordship of the manor of Alderton, the accounts to be rendered and paid twice yearly on the feast of St Michael the Archangel¹⁰⁶ and the Annuciation of Our Lady the Blessed Virgin Mary¹⁰⁷

There were charges on the estates that had to be paid out to others, as well, including the rent that had to be paid to the Royal exchequer. The earliest noted was for "£7 6s for half a yeares rent due to the Queens majestestie for lands once belonging to the Abbey of Kyngewoode"¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁴ Hanley Rev Canon FH (1928) *The Society's MSS : Grittleton Manor Deeds* WAM vol XLIV no CXLIX equivalent to £118,657 in 2005 currency [<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/currency/results.asp#mid>]

¹⁰⁵ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p130 equivalent to £63,000 in 2005 currency

¹⁰⁶ Mid October, around 11-15th

¹⁰⁷ Gore, T (1666) *ibid* Dated 5th May 1550, the Feast of the Annunciation is 25th March

¹⁰⁸ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p132 ff equivalent to £1,243 in 2005 currency. This was dated 23 October 1558, the first year of the new

The buying and selling of land, carried on in the previous generation, continued with Giles - in 1544 he was involved, along with his mother and her new husband George Worth, with selling property in Trowbridge¹⁰⁹ and Melksham¹¹⁰

Giles married Edith Hall of Bradford (on Avon) who is remembered by the earliest monument left in Alderton church, a stone in the floor inscribed

Queen's reign. These records of payment give information on the owners of record of Alderton, and also the Bailiffs of Chippenham Hundred - these are *not* the Bailiffs of Chippenham, as recorded by Goldney; this was a different office. The first receipt was made out by Thomas Coleman, who held the position for some time - he also issued receipts for the same rent on 28 Oct 1561. His name also appears on receipts made out to Giles' son, Richard, in 1567, 1569, 1570, 1575, and 1576. The receipts for the other half of the year 1576 do not appear and the next record is for *April* of 1577, 1578 and 1580 so Thomas was Bailiff for at least 22 years. The receipts for 1581 to 1583 are under the hand of Roger Smythe, Bailiff, as was the one for April 1584 which is to Mrs Mary Gore, Richard having died in that year. The next is made out to Mr Wroughton of Alderton (whom Mary had married not very long after her previous husband's death), and in the receipts of 1585 and 1586 The Grange is mentioned by name, those of 1587 and 1588 only mention Alderton again.

By 1594 the bailiff was John Bryggs, who receipted for two years' rent, and finally Richard Taylor was paid £30 [£3,019] for two years' rent in 1597 by George Wroughton.

Probably, I think I need the context here, it might be a question an exclamation: "Wjhat?"

¹⁰⁹ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p127 Sold property to Walter Bayliff of Devizes May 23rd and Alexander Longford senior and junior "Castle Mill in Trowbridge and diverse other land in Trowbridge" (Heading of an indenture that Thomas did not transcribe in full)

¹¹⁰ Gore, T (1666) *ibid* p132 The property in Melksham was sold on 5th July to Henry Brouckner "all his houses and their messuages, lands and tenements, meadows, pastures, commons, wood etc in the townes parishes and fields of Melksham, Wytley Shaw, Send, Sendrewe, Woodrow and Wolmer for £100 [£20,051] in hand"

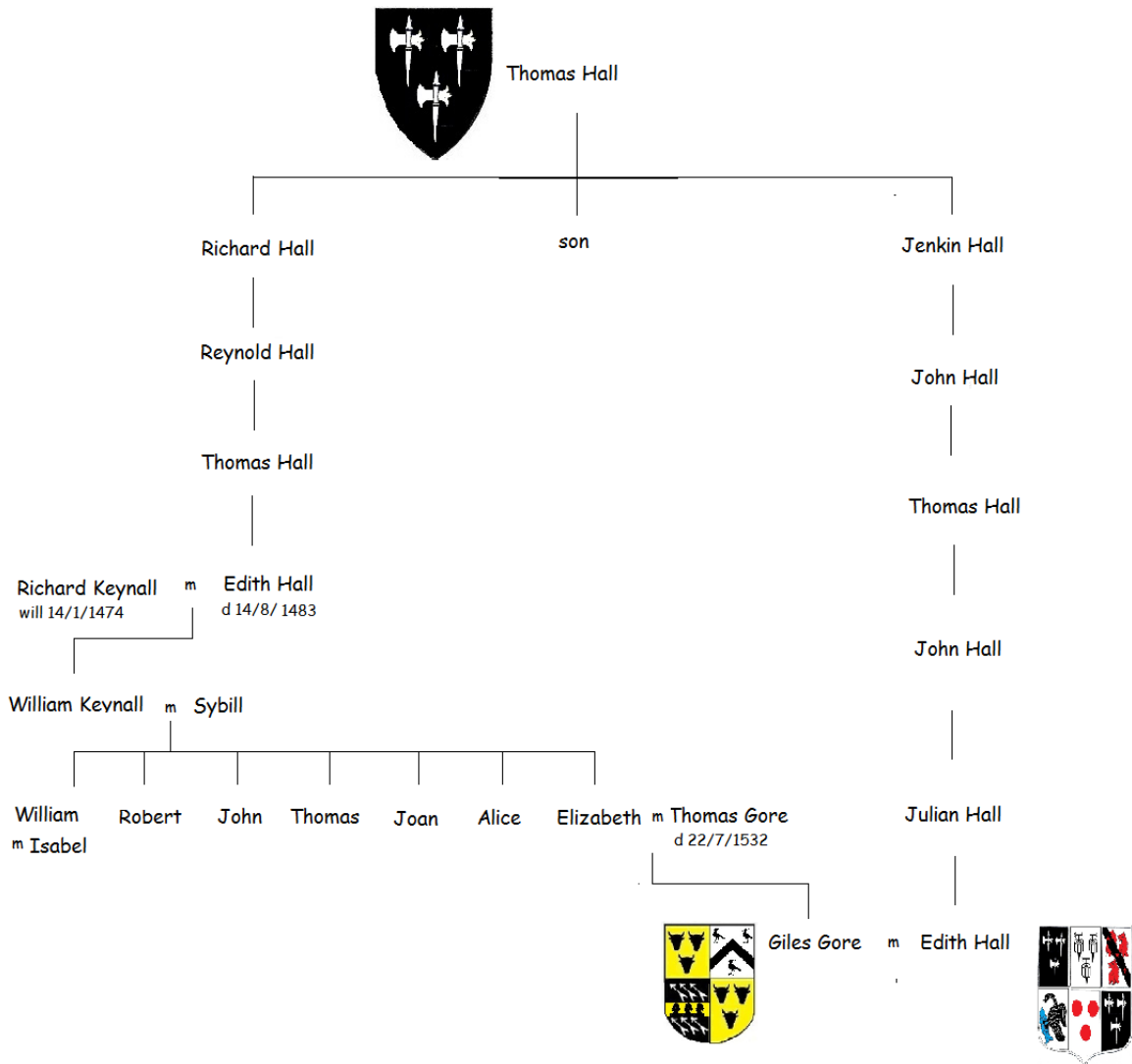


Fig. 13 Simplified Pedigree of the Hall family, according to Gore ¹¹¹. [*](#)

"EG 1560" ¹¹² - "She is buried under a gravestone whose inscription is worn out only some part of a cross remaining visible towards the upper part of the south isle of the parish church" ¹¹³

¹¹¹ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p116 for the descent of Edith; this is the same as in the 1623 *Visitation of Wiltshire* p34-5 "Gore", from which the other side of the tree is taken. It is noted that only the direct lines are shown, both Gore and the *Visitation* of 1565 gives other offspring .

¹¹² Midwood, H (1995) *A Short History of Alderton, in Wiltshire* **Error!** *Bookmark not defined.* in Anon (1995) *Alderton : A brief history of Alderton,*

There is a relationship between Edith and her mother in law, Elizabeth Keynall (see Hall pedigree, Fig. 14, above ¹¹⁴). Elizabeth's father William Keynall was the son of Richard Keynall and another Edith Hall .

It is difficult to reconcile the descent given by Gore with that of the herald's *visitation* in 1565 (shown below) although it does explain where the *tortreaux* in quarter 5 of the Hall arms come from. These arms are discussed below, where they form part of the arms of Giles and Elizabeth's son, Richard.

The earliest record for Giles is in 1534, but at this time his mother still held title to the manor - he appears as "*son and heir apparent*" to Elizabeth and her second husband George Worth as late as

Edith doesn't appear in records until 1553, when property that was Edith's by inheritance was sold ¹¹⁵

in Wiltshire Its village and Church with extracts from some old records p3.
Private pub. Available from the Church (1999)

¹¹³ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p114

¹¹⁴ Squibb GD (1954) (ed) *Wiltshire Visitation Pedigrees 1623* (original "*under the hand of William Cambden, Clarenceux*")

¹¹⁵ Gore, T (1666) *ibid* this was the *avowson and all the property at Langridge* to Thomas Walker of the same place for £84

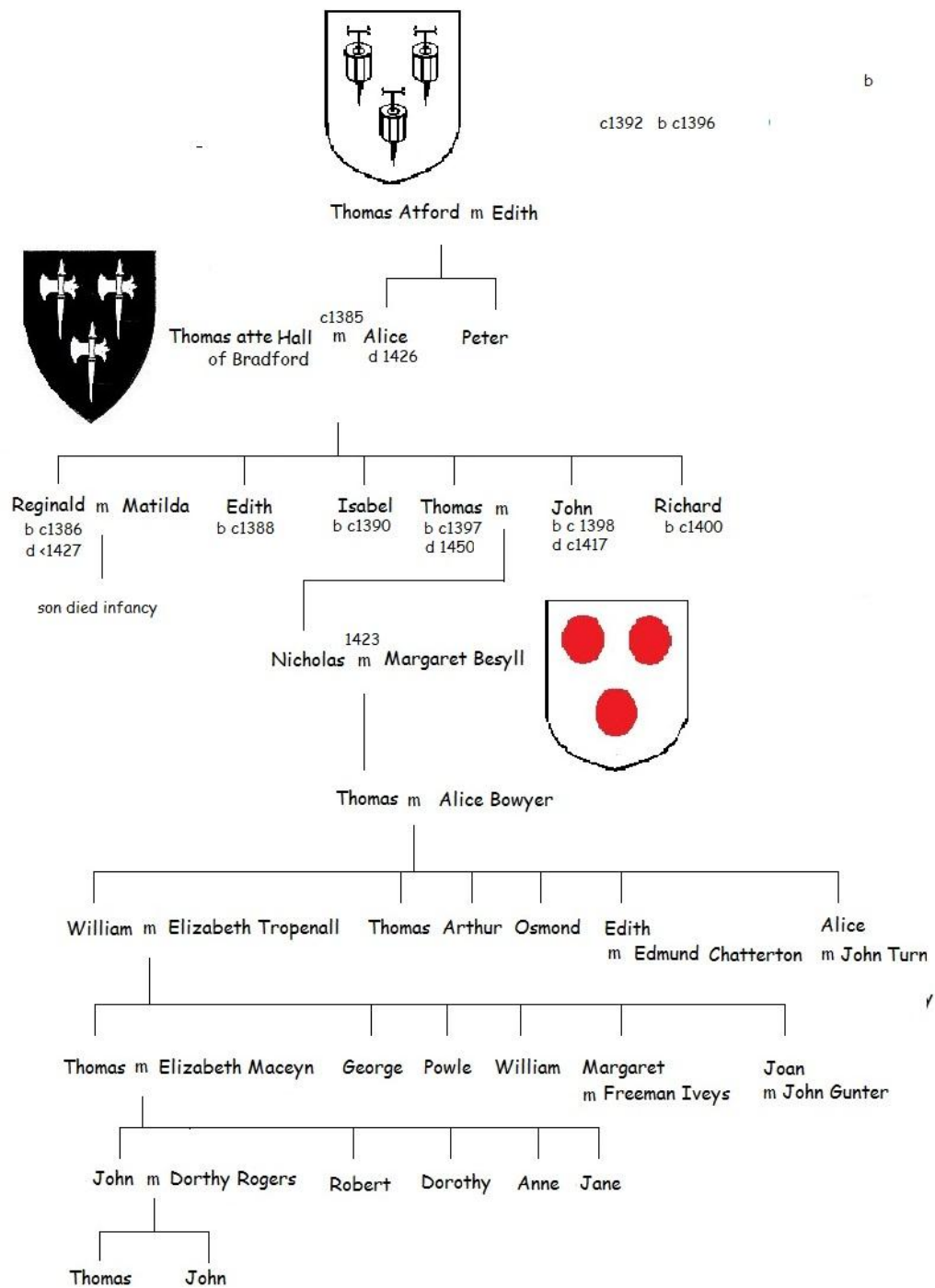


Fig. 14 Hall of Bradford as in the 1565 *Visitation* *

Giles was important in the area, in 1546 he was the collector for the taxes, granted to Henry VIII, for a number of parishes and boroughs in

northern Wiltshire, a position of some responsibility ¹¹⁶. He was a JP for Wiltshire in the first year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth (1558)

A few names other than the Gore's have come down to us from this period and context gives a view of aspects of life in the sixteenth century; in these records Rafe Coxe ¹¹⁷(in 1563), Mathew Davis ¹¹⁸, Thomas and George Emly ¹¹⁹, Thomas Sheppard ¹²⁰ and Arthur Tyrell (all at Easter 1587) are recorded as receiving licenses to be *badgers*. Badgers were

the persons licensed to buy corn and other victuals in one place and carry them elsewhere to sell at a profit. They were exempt from the punishment laid down for engrossers ¹²¹

Badgers ¹²² had to be more than 30, married and householders to apply for a license but this doesn't mean they were people of great substance, those listed above are given as labourers and yeomen. The records show that the applicant was sponsored by someone else, but in none of the Alderton licenses was this the case - it is uncertain what this implies, if

¹¹⁶ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p115
"Collector for the fifteenths and tenths granted by parliament 37 Hen 8 for Swanburgh, Stoforde, Roughborough regis, Roughbourn Ep. Calne, Chippenham, Bishop's Cannings, Wonderditch, Cheggelowe, Sterkley and the Burrough of the Divizes, Calne, Chippenham, Rowden and Malmesbury with the liberties of Rowden and Bromham"

¹¹⁷ Johnson, H C (ed) (1949) *Minutes of the Proceedings in sessions 1563 and 1574 to 1592* Wilts. Rec. Soc. p 2

¹¹⁸ Johnson, H C (ed) (1949) *ibid* p5

¹¹⁹ Johnson, H C (ed) (1949) *ibid* p6

¹²⁰ Johnson, H C (ed) (1949) *ibid* p12

¹²¹ Johnson, H C (ed) (1949) *ibid* Introduction ppxvi-xvii

¹²² The derivation is unclear - it may be that the licensed traders had to wear or carry a badge to show their licensed state - the penalty for unlicensed trade was high, £5 fines a time and, presumably, constraint of the goods involved (although the license itself was 5l a year....)

anything. It is noted that both *Coxe* and a *C Emly* appear in the list of landholders of 1665 - see Appendix 2 Table 4

England was in a precarious position at this time, having rejected the authority of the Catholic Church she was at odds with the Catholic Princes of Europe. In 1539, with a serious threat of invasion by the Catholic Princes of Europe, Henry VIII called for the raising of the military tithes each Manor still owed to the Crown ¹²³ [s](#)

¹²³ *North Wiltshire Musters Anno 30 Henry VIII Wiltshire W&SHC 2355*
"The Certifycatt of the vewe of abull men, as well Archars as Byllmen, takyn the x daye of Apryll, in the xxxth yere of the reign of our Sovereign Lorde, King Henry te VIIIth by the Grace of God, Kyng of Englonde and of Fraunce, defender of the fayth, Lorde of Ireland, and in the ertth mooste supreme head of the Churche of Englonde; by Sir Henry Longe, Knight; John Hamlyn, Esquyer and Wylliam Stumpe, Commyssyoners, assigne by vertue of the Kynges Commyssshyon to them and to other dyrected, whiche abull men theyr names hereafter followe, that ys to saye : THE HUNDRED OF NORTHE DAMERHAM, CHYPPENHAM, CALLNE, MALLMESBURY and WHARWELLDOWN"

gives the names of the people mustered at Alderton:

Archer : Thomas Dune
Byllmen : Nicholas Howborowe
Thomas Hockeriche
Richard Mardiche
George Hosterige
Walter Hemley
Thomas Davys
Nicholas Hunt

"the whole tything hath in redynes i horse and ii harnes with other small wepyns"

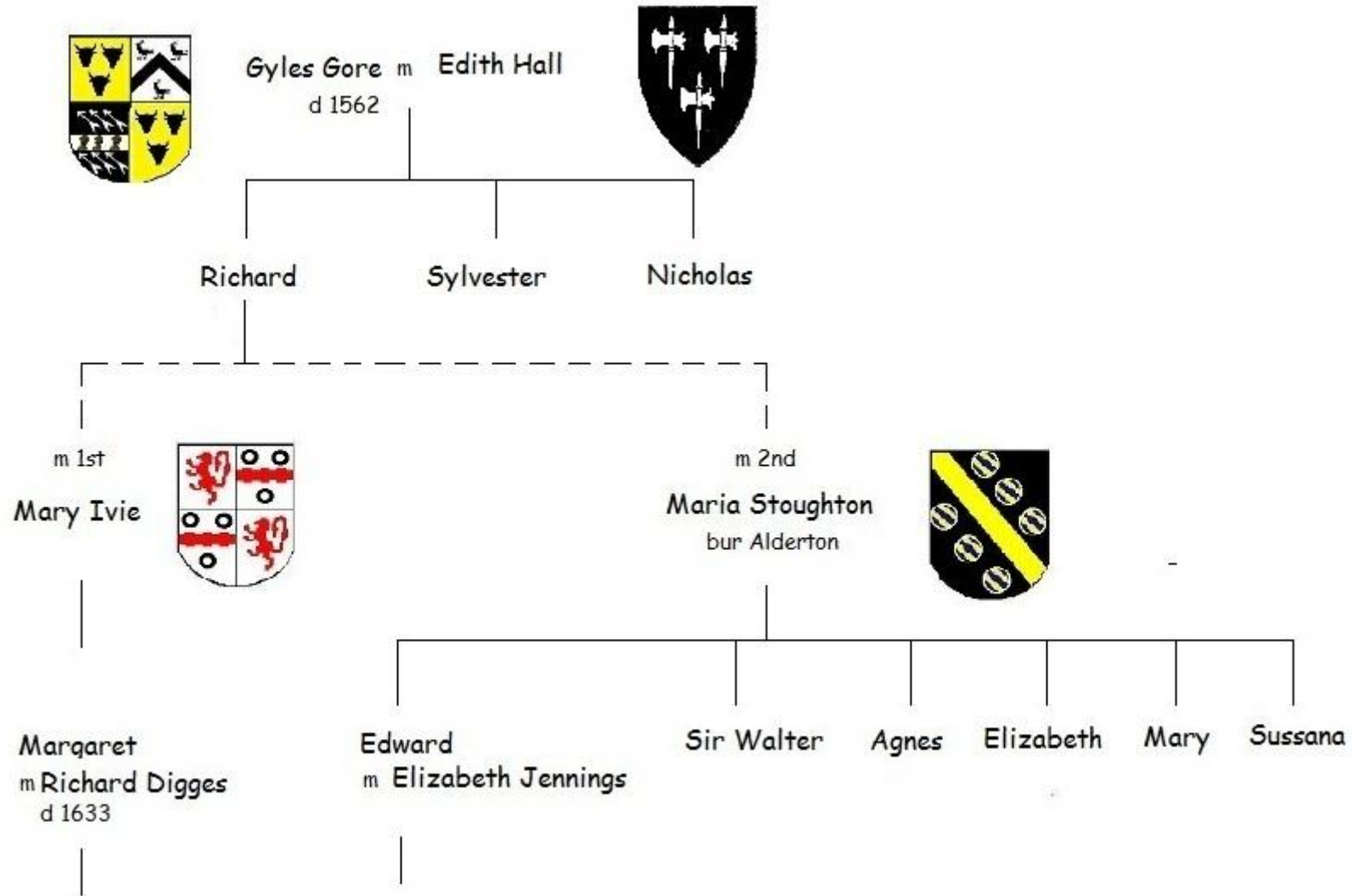


Fig. 15 Descendants of Gyles Gore & Edith Hall *

Giles and Edith had several sons - Richard their heir, George, Sylvester (of whom more below) and Nicholas. Giles' will was dated 18 April 1562 but he died ¹²⁴ twenty years later. In it Giles gave George all his lands at Westport, Burton Foxley and Brokenborough late in the tenure of Richard Bremmen his brother in law, presumably, but not certainly, married to his sister Elizabeth. Giles' son Sylvester was granted the manor of Grittleton for life, with reversion to Richard or his heirs and Nicholas was granted Alderton for life in the right of John Snell Giles' sister Elizabeth was granted 5 marks and meat and drink yearly for, life His brother Thomas was given 5 marks and so was alive in 1562 The executors were his son and heir Richard and Peter Beaufort who received a Gold King's or

Giles was succeeded by his son Richard, who bought Hullavington and, between 1576-78, land at Surrendell. ¹²⁵

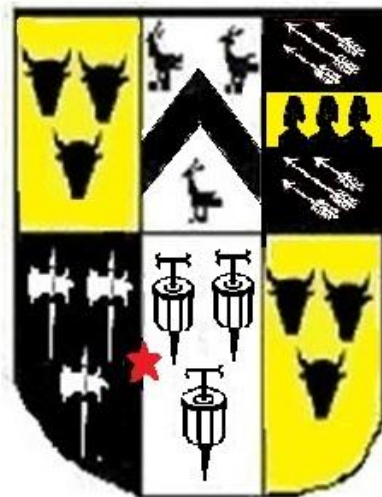


Fig. 16 Arms of Richard Gore (after Gore, T 1666) ¹²⁶ *
—

¹²⁴ according to Jackson's pedigree for the family

¹²⁵ VCH *opp. cit.* The Manor of Surrendell belonged to the Hamlin family from the late fifteenth century, John Hamlin held it in 1545 (*Taxation Rolls* WRS vol X, p27) and on his death the land was divided equally among his three sons William, John and Nicholas. Richard Gore bought land from all three and his son Edward bought the Manor house from John.

¹²⁶ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p137

1 Gore 2 Whittokmead 3 Keynall 4 Hall 5 Atworth? 6 Gore. It is noted that Thomas Gore gives the same arms for three generations, this one, Richard's son Edward and Richard's grandson William.

Richard is known to have owned land in Alderton, Yatton Kaynall, Bishop's Fontell, Christian Malford, Steeple Ashton, Hullavington, Surrenden, Clapcote, Grittleton and Luckington in Wiltshire, Sodbury, Didmarton and Oldbury in Gloucestershire and Totwick and Swainswick in Somerset¹²⁷

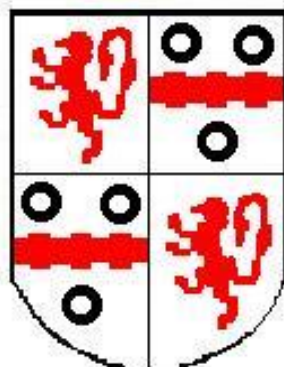


Fig. 17 Arms of Mary Ivy (after Gore, T, 1666)¹²⁸ *
[_](#)

Richard married twice, firstly Mary Ivie or Ivy, daughter of Thomas Ivie of West Kington.¹²⁹, and had a number of children including a daughter Margaret. Margaret was baptized at West Kington¹³⁰, and married Richard Digges of Marlborough,¹³¹ on whose family a digression -

The family of Digges were not originally from Wiltshire. They settled at Marlborough and Purton but were "*descended from William Diggs of Diggs*

¹²⁷ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p137

¹²⁸ Gore, T (1666) *ibid* p238

¹²⁹ Gore, T (1666) *ibid* p128 Married 6 Oct 1562

¹³⁰ Gore T (1666) *ibid* Baptized on Monday 12th July 1563

¹³¹ *Collectanea Topographica and Genealogica* vol V (1838) pub by John Bowyer Nichols and Sons p261, section titled *Extracts from the registers of the parishes of St Peter and St Pauls the Apostles and St Mary the Virgin. Marlborough, with the most important unpublished epitaphs,*

Sergeant at Law (26th June 1623) and MP for Marlborough in all the Parliaments between 1597 to his death in 1634, by his first wife Margaret daughter of Richard Gore of Aldrington

Richard Digges died 1633 (Gore, T)

Court in the parish of Barham, Kent." ¹³² This was a famous family, and included Leonard Digges (the mathematician) ¹³³, Thomas Digges (also a great mathematician), Sir Dudley Digges (Master of the Rolls) ¹³⁴, Leonard Digges (the poet) ¹³⁵ and Dudley Digges ¹³⁶ *an eminent linguist and general scholar*

John Guillam, Pursuivant Herald, noted that the arms of the Digges family were "*gules on a cross argent five eagles displayed with two heads sable*"¹³⁷

¹³² *Collectanea Topographica and Genealogica* vol V (1838) *loc. cit.*

Footnote

¹³³ *Dictionary of National Biography* vol V p975

(d ?1571) "*The family was an ancient an honourable one. Adomarus Digges was a judge under Edward II; served in three Parliaments of Edward III*"

Leonard's father, James Digges, was a Justice of the Peace for many years and sheriff in the second year of the reign of Henry VIII. He was very interested in the mathematics of optics and undertook early work with lenses - "*The assertion that Digges anticipated the invention of the telescope is fully justified*"

¹³⁴ DNB *ibid* p972

(1583-1639) Diplomat and judge, son of Thomas Digges and Agnes Warham St Leger, took a BA at Oxford, knighted 1607. Early shareholder in the East India Company and involved in the search for the north-west passage. Political envoy to Russia (1618), accompanied by John Tradescant, and Holland (1620) MP Tewksbury 1621, 1624-1626, MP Kent 1628, Master of the Rolls 1636. At least four sons, eldest Thomas (and *his* son Maurice created baronet 1665, died without issue), his third son Dudley was a political writer (possibly the Dudley below). Three daughters and one, Anne, was an ancestress to the poet James Hammond.

¹³⁵ DNB (1969) p976

(1588-1635) son of Thomas Digges and Agnes Warham St Leger, BA and MA from Oxford University where he worked, died there. "*Greatest interest [in his work] attaches to two pieces of verse in praise of Shakespeare, one which was prefixed to the 1623 edition of Shakespeare's plays, the other to the 1640 edition of his poems. Few contemporaries wrote more sympathetically of Shakespeare's greatness*"

¹³⁶ DNB (1969) p975

(Possibly the son mentioned in second note above but not certain this is the person meant) (1618-1643) BA and MA from Oxford. Involved in the defence of Oxford (the Royalist capital during the Civil War) against the Parliamentarians. Died of camp fever at Oxford during the war. He was *a devoted Royalist and all his writings were in defence of Charles I.* The entry in DNB does not seem to support the phrasing used in the document quoted in *Collectanea*

¹³⁷ Guillim, J (1724) *A Display of Heraldry* p215

However on his armorial pedigree of the Gore family¹³⁸ Thomas Gore depicted the arms with a single headed eagle



Fig 18 Arms of Richard Digges impaling Gore *

and these are the arms seen in the tenth compartment of the cloisters in Canterbury Cathedral¹³⁹

Richard and Margaret Digges, *née Gore*, had one son, William, who married Ann Edmunds from Henbury in Gloucestershire.

From the *Wiltshire Visitation*¹⁴⁰ of 1623 it is known that they had other children; Katherine who married Francis Mathew of Grays Inn and Lucy who married John Goodard of the Ogbourne branch of the Goddard family.
End of Digression.

Richard Gore's purchase of Hullavington was keeping the property in the family - Hullavington had been another of the Manors of Sir Ralph de Mortimer who gave it to the Abbey of St. Victor de Caux in Normandy¹⁴¹. After the Reformation the property was granted to Eton College, who still owned it in the 1970's.

¹³⁸ W&SHC 241/11 Gore, T (undated but c 1660) *Pedigree of the Gore family of Alderton*
This is a long (5m +) parchment roll with over thirty arms shown.

¹³⁹ Willement, T (1828) *Heraldic Notices of Canterbury Cathedral* p72

¹⁴⁰ *Visitation of Wiltshire 1623* p21

¹⁴¹ Gibbs & Doubleday (1926) *The Complete Peerage* vol V

The Ivy family were Lords of the Manor under lease from the College in the sixteenth century but this branch of the family died out in the early years of the seventeenth century. "Hullavington passed....to their cousins who had long held the Manor of West Kington" ¹⁴² and as has just been seen Richard married a daughter of this side of the family. By marrying Mary, Richard also gained possession of a property in Alderton known as "Ivy's Place" ¹⁴³

Mary died by 1565, because on that year Richard married again. He wed Mary Stourton ¹⁴⁴.



Fig. 19 Arms of Mary Stourton *
(After Gore, T 1666) ¹⁴⁵

¹⁴² Badeni J (1966) *Wiltshire Forefathers* p76

¹⁴³ Jackson, Rev JE Mss

¹⁴⁴ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p154
Richard Gore upon the Thirteenth day of July in this seventh year of Queene Elizabeth covenants with Edward Bayntun of Rowden in the county of Wilts esq. to marry Mary Stourton daughter of Agnes wife of the said Edward before the feast of the exaltation of the Holy Cross [14th September] when next ensuing. and to settle for her fortune the manor of Aldryngton and half the manor of Yetton Keynel (1565)

This transfer was confirmed by an indenture dated 21 April 1570

¹⁴⁵ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p140

The blazon for these arms is *Sable a bend or between six fountains proper*. The fountain in heraldry is not a physical fountain but is instead a very special feature which is described as a *roundel barry wavy argent and azure*. Given that *proper* means *in its natural colours* the term

According to Canon Jackson she was the illegitimate daughter of William, sixth Baron Stourton, and Agnes Ryce (Fig. 2), who "*claimed she was married in the Chapel at Stourton 6th January 1545-6*". Agnes died August 19th 1574 and is buried in the Baynton Aisle in Bromham church¹⁴⁶. The monument in Bromham church can still be seen - it is located in the south east corner of the Baynton Chapel and shows Mary Stourton, Sir Edward and his second wife Anne Bakington and three of the children.¹⁴⁷ This monument causes some confusion, as the eldest daughter is correctly named Anne¹⁴⁸

would seem redundant given that water is, conventionally, blue anyway. In this case it is a *roundel barry wavy of the sixth* (there are six sections three of each colour) In heraldry *barry wavy argent and azure* almost always symbolises water. Here the six fountains of the Stourton arms represent the six source springs of the River Stour from which the name is derived. Gore depicts the stream and springs on a sketch map in the section dealing with Mary Stourton.

¹⁴⁶ Britton, J (1814) *The Beauties of England and Wales - Wiltshire* p 415 quoted in Baynton-Coward H (1977) (ed) *Notes on the Baynton Family* p51. Unfortunately, the burial records for Bromham do not include the period 1568 to 1681 so this date cannot be verified. In fact she does not appear in any of the Bromham parish registers in the period concerned that are available. (Bromham Parish Registers, W&SHC Trowbridge),

¹⁴⁷ The inscription reads :

*Here lieth Sir Edward Baynton, knight, within this marble clad,
By Agnes Ryce his first trew wife that thyrtyne children had
Whereof she left alyve with him at her departure thre,
Henry, Anne and Elizabeth whose pictures here now see).
The XIXth day of Auguste she decesed of Christ ye yere) 1574.
These little figures standing bie present the number here.
Then married to Anne Bakynnton his second wife she was,
For whose rememberance here in tombe these lynes he left in brass
Annon Dni 1578*

One of the daughter figures is missing, from the location probably that of Elizabeth. As this lack isn't mentioned by Britton may it be assumed this loss has occurred in the last hundred and eighty years?

Edward's second marriage wasn't held at Bromham, it is not recorded in the Marriage register for the period 1574 - 1578

¹⁴⁸ "*Lady Ann*" Baynton was buried March 6th 1587 (Bromham Parish Registers, Burials *ibid*)

In 1573, Mary and Richard appointed "*William Askew their attorney to take possession of such inheritance as came to her [Mary] as daughter heir on the death of her father William Lord Stourton*" ¹⁴⁹. As William died in 1548, this would seem to be rather late in the day. The result of this attempt is not known but was probably not successful - Thomas Gore the antiquarian would surely have mentioned it!

In 1577 Richard and Mary sold Yatton Keynell to John Snell, son of Thomas Snell for 140l ¹⁵⁰ and in 1579 sold Steeple Ashton to William Brounker ¹⁵¹ and Didmarton to Simon Godrington ¹⁵²

Rycharde Goore sat as one of the Grande Jury (along with other noteables, such as Edmund Hungerford, John Stump and William Eyres) at the Assizes at the Devizes at Lent 1579 ¹⁵³

For a change we know about someone other than the direct heir - Sylvester Gore, Edward's brother, married Christian and they had three sons - Sylvester who died 9th July 1581, Gyles and Thomas. When Sylvester died, Christian married John Dorney of Wickwar in Gloucestershire. From the records it is clear Sylvester died before 1581, although exactly when is unknown. At this time property passed through the male line, and the rights of a widow had to be looked after by a male relative. In this interesting document we see Christian's senior brother in law, Richard Gore, securing her future should she outlive John Dorney ¹⁵⁴

¹⁴⁹ Jackson, Rev JE Mss The actual date of this appointment, 9th Oct 1573 (Gore, T (1666) *ibid* p 157)

¹⁵⁰ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* *ibid* dated 15 Oct 1577

¹⁵¹ Gore, T (1666) *ibid* dated 10 May 1579

¹⁵² Gore, T (1666) *ibid* dated 17 December 1579

¹⁵³ Johnson, H C (ed) (1949) *Minutes of the Proceedings in sessions 1563 and 1574 to 1592* Wilts. Rec. Soc p48. held 12 March 21 Eliz 1 (1579) "*before Roger Manwood, chief Baron of the Exchequer and Edmund Anderson, Serjeant at Law*" Justices of Quarter sessions, a much more important and powerful court than the usual sessions run by Justices of the Peace

¹⁵⁴ Page-Turner FA (1914) *Ancient Wiltshire Deeds* Wilts N & Q vol VII 1914-1916 pp116 - 117, see Appendix 1.1 for the full text.

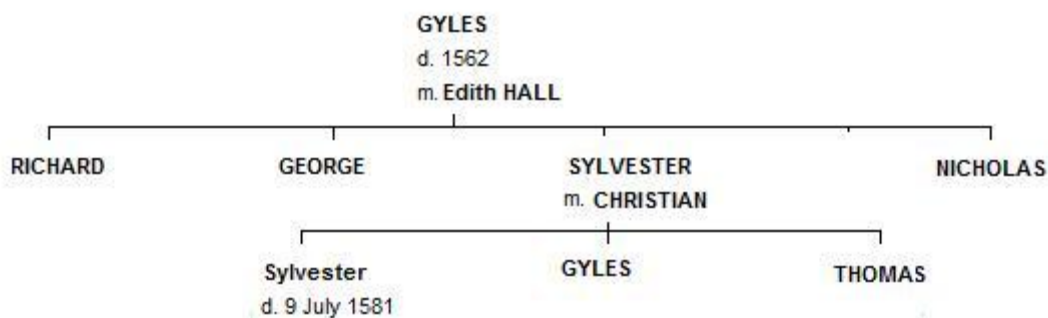


Fig. 20 Children of Sylvester and Christian ^{*} _s

Richard and Mary Stourton had two sons, their heir Edward and Walter, and four daughters - Agnes, Elizabeth, Mary and Sussana.

Walter, the second son, had a distinguished naval career, "*Captaine under ye Lo(rd), Admirall on ye narrow Seas*"¹⁵⁵ He was the Captain of the British Galleon *Swiftsure*¹⁵⁶ in 1589, the year after the Spanish Armada had been defeated. *Swiftsure* was part of the English fleet, under her then captain, Edward Ferrier. Walter was knighted by James I¹⁵⁷ and died without issue.

¹⁵⁵ Marshall, GW (ed) (1884) *The Visitation of Wiltshire 1623* p35

"narrow Seas" here refers to the Channel in general, but see also Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice* Act 3, Scene 1 where a specific location is meant :

SALANIO

Now, what news on the Rialto?

SALARINO

Why, yet it lives there uncheck'd that Antonio hath a ship of rich lading wrecked on the narrow seas; the Goodwins, I think they call the place; a very dangerous and fatal, where the carcasses of many a tall ship lie buried, as they say, if my gossip Report be an honest woman of her word.

¹⁵⁶ http://threedecks.org/index.php?display_type=show_ship&id=11083#B164

Swiftsure was built in 1573 at Deptford. She was a third rate galleon, carrying 41 guns + with a crew of 160, including 40 marines

+ 2 x 60 pdr, 5 x 18 pdr, 12 x 9 pdr, 8 x 6 pdr, 14 smaller guns.[Cooledge, JJ & Warlow, B (2010) 2nd ed *Ships of the Royal Navy* p993]

¹⁵⁷ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* on 4 July 1604

Two of the daughters had descendants; Agnes who married Robert Viner¹⁵⁸ and Susanna, who married Thomas Hurcum¹⁵⁹, of Charlton near Malmesbury. Agnes was buried at Alderton in 1614 and Susanna in 1634¹⁶⁰. Mary was also married - when she espoused George Lewis he indentured Edward Gore¹⁶¹ with "land and houses at Sawbm Pitts in St Jone's parish in Cardiff"

Richard died in 1583, and his will¹⁶² settled 40 marks per annum (about £27¹⁶³) on Walter, paid out of the estates at Grittleton, being 20 marks at "*the feast of St Michael the Archangel*¹⁶⁴ and *the Annuciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*¹⁶⁵"; and "to each of his four daughters 200 l" (about £10¹⁶⁶) and to his wife "12 oxen, 24 cows, 1 bull and all his sheep and pigges at Alderton, 30 quarters of wheat, 40 of barley and divers other things"¹⁶⁷ [s](#)

¹⁵⁸ Gore, T (1666) *ibid* They had 5 children - Thomas Viner bap 22/12/1594, Robert bap 16/6/1596 married Agnes, he later married Grace Gore see below, died 27/10/1681, Walter, Elizabeth and Sussanah

¹⁵⁹ Gore, T (1666) *ibid* They had seven children - Thomas, Reuben bap 24/11/1611, Margaret, Anne bap before 1604, Susanna bap 21/4/1605, Mary bap 14/5/1604 and Elizabeth

¹⁶⁰ Gore, T (1666) *ibid* died 1/2/1634

¹⁶¹ Dated 4th August 1608. this was after Richard's death, hence the indenture to his son, Edward, who was then head of family

¹⁶² Gore, T (1666) *ibid* p168 the will was dated 9th October 1583. The executors were his son and heir Edward and William Brounker and the overseer's were Sir John Danvers, Sir Edward Bayntun, William Ayre and Thomas Ivy. Richard was buried on 18th November 1583 and the Inventory was taken by John Snell and Gyles Ivy on the 9th April the following year

¹⁶³ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* *ibid* a 2005 value of just over £7,000

¹⁶⁴ 29th September

¹⁶⁵ 25th March

¹⁶⁶ a 2005 value of just under £1,500

¹⁶⁷ Jackson, Rev JE Mss *ibid*



Fig. 21 Arms of Edward Gore (after Gore, T 1666)¹⁶⁸ *

Richard's heir, Edward, was born Tuesday 25th February 1566¹⁶⁹ and during his lifetime he is recorded as owning lands at Alderton, Surrenden, Grittleton, Clapcote, Henton, Littleton, Semington, Steeple Ashton, Luckington and Hullavington¹⁷⁰.

He married Elizabeth Jennings, daughter of Ralph Jennings from Churchill¹⁷¹ in Somerset, sometime before 1589. This date is set as there is mention of "*Elizabeth nowe wife of said Edward Gore*" in an Indenture between

*"Edward Gore of Surrenden. co Wilts and Richard Gawen of Gryttleton co Wilts, yeoman, being a lease by the former to the latter of one fourth part of the farm of Gryttleton"*¹⁷².

¹⁶⁸ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p137

¹⁶⁹ Gore, T (1666) *ibid* He was of full age on 25th February 30 Eliz I (1587)

¹⁷⁰ Gore, T (1666) *ibid*

¹⁷¹ Gore, T (1666) *ibid*

Elizabeth bap Churchill Sun 24th Nov 1566, buried Alderton Mon 16 July 1627
Ralph Jennings buried in the Churchill Parish Church 1st April 1572.

¹⁷² Hanley Rev Canon FH (1928) *ibid* This indenture was made 20th July 31 Eliz (1589)

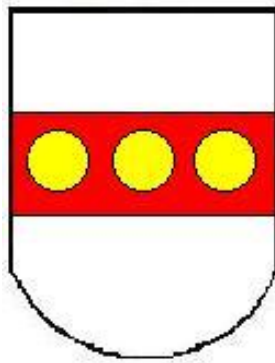


Fig. 22 Arms of Elizabeth Jennings ¹⁷³ *

The Gores had known Elizabeth's family in the 1540's - her mother was Joan Bruckner, a daughter of Henry Bruckner of Melksham - Giles Gore had sold land to Henry's father, or possibly grandfather, Henry Brouckner, in *Beanacre, Melksham, Shawe, Seend, Sendrow, Woodrow and Wolmer*¹⁷⁴. This was land of the Manor and Hundred of Melksham, which was

*originally given by Henry III to the prioress and nuns of Amesbury, for the maintenance of an obit(uary), continued to form part of the possessions of that Monastery until its suppression in 1539 when it passed into the hands of the Crown. The Prioress' estate lay in Melksham, Beanacre, Whitley, Woodrew, Wolmere and Seendrow. In 1544, five years after the Dissolution, we find messuages and lands in these places (apparently, the same property) conveyed by Giles Gore. gent and his wife Elizabeth to Henry Brouncker*¹⁷⁵

Edward bought land and the Manor house of Surrendell / Surrenden from John Hamlin¹⁷⁶ in 1594, he then owned the entire manor. Seven years later he sold the manor of Grittleton to Henry White, who at about the same time bought Langley Burrell¹⁷⁷.

¹⁷³ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p179
Argent three roundels or on a fesse gules

¹⁷⁴ Gore, T (1666) *ibid* p 115

¹⁷⁵ Kite, Edward (1903) *Place House, Melksham, and its owners* Wilts N & Q vol IV 1902-1904 pp242-253, 337-349, 433-440

¹⁷⁶ Jackson, Rev JE *Mss* *ibid*

In the following year Edward sold Luckington to George Russel of Tormarton for £224 10s ¹⁷⁸

In 1600 Edward was made Captain of 150 *trained soldiers* (rather than a general levy) who were part of Col. Henry Bayntun's regiment, the commission was bought from the Earl of Pembroke ¹⁷⁹. He was a "Captayne" ¹⁸⁰ in the regiment for many years.

As a major landowner Edward was involved with politics although he did not take an active part himself; before the election of knights to attend the 1621 Parliament Henry Poole (of Okesey Park) and Sir John Enle both wrote to Edward asking him to support Poole and Sir Francis Seymour. It is noted that Enle's letter, which to the modern reader seems the rather more distant of the two, addresses Edward as "*my very loving kinsman*" ¹⁸¹. What the relationship was is not yet known. Both men were standing with the support of the Earl of Hertford and Poole had hopes this support would serve to deter other candidates from standing

neither doe I heare of any Competitor unless it bee Sir Edward Baynton, who as I have herd hath lately declared himself therein;

"In 1594 he bought of Richard Hamlyn another house there [in Surrendell] *lately built by John Hamlyn, father of Richard Hamlyn*. This was probably the present Surendell farmhouse."
"

¹⁷⁷ Badeni J (1966) *Wiltshire Forefathers* p68

¹⁷⁸ Gore, T (1666)) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* agreement dated 1st April 1595 (exactly 505 years to the day that I read this for the first time!)

¹⁷⁹ Gore, T (1666) *ibid* p178
Which office he discharged for many years together with courage and faithfulness

¹⁸⁰ Gore, T (1666) *ibid* p209, from a letter to Edward from the Earl of Hertford, commanding him to appear before the Earl at Marlborough "*the seventh day of September next by eight of the clock in the morning and to bring with you a muster well of your company if you have any there, to receive further directions touching His Majesties service as shall bee fitt*" dated August 12th 1612. What the muster was for and what service was required of Edward is not known,

¹⁸¹ Letter from Sir John Ernle of Whetham co Wilts to Edw Gore Esq. in *Wilts Miscellaneous Mss 1* p15 (attributed as "From the sale of Canon Jackson's Library") letter in Jackson's hand. WANHS library WT241

*but now the Right Honourable the Earle of Hertford having signified unto him his Lords disposition to stand for mee I am persuaded hee will proceed noe farther therein yet I know not his mind*¹⁸²

Sir Edward Bayntun *did* stand in the election however, he *also* wrote to Edward Gore (in December 1620) asking him to be present at the election at Wilton "on St Stephens day next"¹⁸³. All three men eventually served in the Parliament¹⁸⁴, it is not known whom Edward supported.

Edward and Elizabeth had three sons and eight daughters. The baptism dates for the children are mainly recorded in the Grittleton parish records but some were baptized

¹⁸² Letter from Sir Henry Poole of Okesey Park co Wilts to Edward Gore of Surrenden in WANHS WT241 (*ibid*)

¹⁸³ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p209 Jackson (Jackson, Rev JE Mss *ibid*) stated that Bayntun asked Edward to call at Bromham on his way to the election but the letter is very clear, he asks Edward to support him at *Wilton* the following month.

¹⁸⁴ Manley, Canon FH (1935) *A list of the representatives in Parliament from 1295 - 1832 for the County and Borroughs of Wiltshire as given in the Parliamentary return of 1872* WAM XLVII no CLXIII p216 records that Sir Francis Seymour and Sir Edward Baynton were elected to represent the County and Sir Henry Poole was returned for Malmesbury

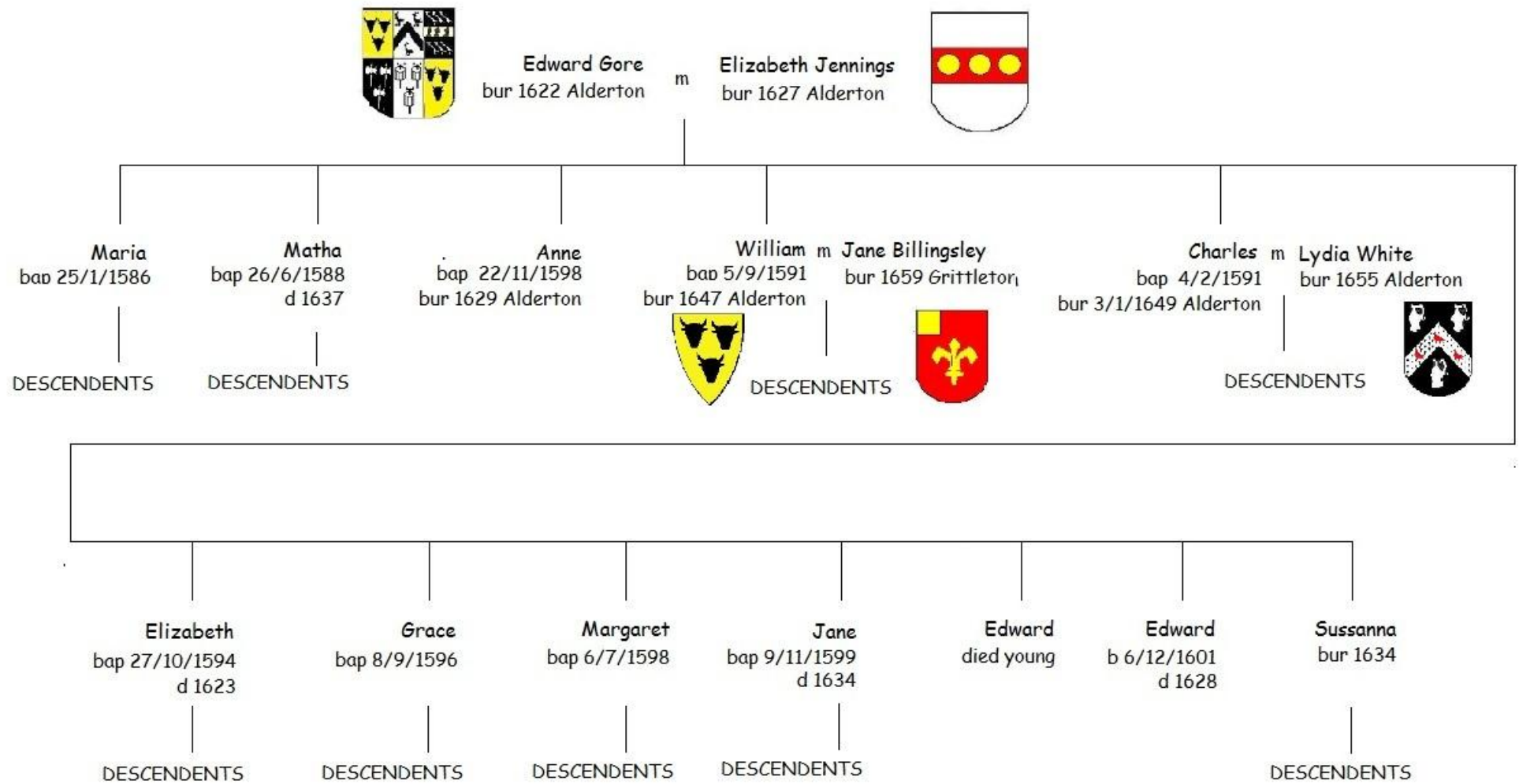


Fig 23 Children of Edward Gore and Elizabeth Jennings *

at Hullavington as well.¹⁸⁵ and little else is known of them. Descendents are known for all the daughters except Mary and Anne, although both of them were married.

In October 1604¹⁸⁶, Edward was witness to an indenture between Walter White (his brother in law) and Edward Smart, both of Grittleton¹⁸⁷. Edward Gore died in 1622 and was buried in Alderton

The eldest son, William, was baptised at Surrenden on 5th September,1591, it is noted that three daughters were born first. Little is known about him,



Fig. 24 Arms of William Gore, 1647 (after Buckeridge¹⁸⁸)*

¹⁸⁵ WFHS (1992) *The Bishops Transcripts & Parish Registers - Baptisms Grittleton*

year	date	Name	of
1581	Jul 09	Goore Silvester	s Silvester
1586	Jan 25	Goore Marie	d Mr Edward
1588	Jun 06	Goore Martha	d Mr Edward
1589	Nov 22	Goore Ann	d Mr Edward esq
1591	Sep 05	Goore William	s Mr Edward
1592	Feb 04	Gaore Charles	s Mr Edward
1594	Oct 27	Gore Elizabeth	d Edward esq
1596	Aug 08	Goare Grace	d Mr Edward
1598	Jul 06	Gore Margaret	d Edward esq
1599	Nov 09	Goore Jane	d Edward esq
1601	Dec 06	Gore Edward	s Edward esq

¹⁸⁶ Hanley, Rev Canon FH (1928) *The Society's MSS : Grittleton Manor Deeds WAM* vol XLIV no CXLIX p216 4th October

¹⁸⁷ Hanley, Rev Canon FH (1928) *ibid*

(Thomas the Antiquarian appears not to have copied any records from this period, which is the only time this happens) but he married Jane Billingsey who survived her husband until 1659, when she was buried at Grittleton.



Fig. 25 Arms of Jane Billingsey ¹⁸⁹ *

They had a son, William, who died young, and a daughter Jane. William the elder died on 20th April, 1647 and was buried at Clapcote, at which time his estates passed to his brother Charles. It is this William who is commemorated in Grittleton church ¹⁹⁰

Quite a few details are known of this generation, they were, after all, Thomas' aunts and uncles, but only selected details are given here of Edward and Elizabeth's other children.

The third son, Edward, died in infancy and is buried in the Chancel of St Giles'. The last child was also called Edward, being born in 1601 and living to 1628 when

¹⁸⁸ Buckeridge, D (1995) *Church Heraldry in Wiltshire* p47 Grittleton or a chevron between three bulls heads cabossed sable William Gore 1647. It is noted that Thomas Gore gives the arms as above but included "ears and tongue gules" Fairly obviously Buckeridge's blazon is followed here

¹⁸⁹ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p237
Gules a fleur-de-lis or, a canton of the second

¹⁹⁰ Grittleton Inscriptions (W&SHC 6074749) *William Gore died 20th April 1647*
The Arms (above) come from this monument

he died without issue "*possibly at Portesmouth but the place is unknown*" ¹⁹¹. Edward was among Wiltshire gentlemen who lent money to the King in 1611. Mary, the eldest child, married George Lewis and had one son Henry. Her sister Martha (June 1588 - 1635) married Anthony Gearing ¹⁹², while Anne (1584 - 1624) married Gyles James with no recorded children.

Elizabeth (1594 - 1623) married William Bayley of Gloucester and they had a son William, who married Radigund Scudamore, and had children¹⁹³. Offspring also blessed the marriages of Grace and Robert Viner ¹⁹⁴, Margaret and Paul Dalshay ¹⁹⁵, Jane (1599 - 1634) and John Forde of Freshford ¹⁹⁶ and Susannah (? - 1634) and Henry James ¹⁹⁷. This Susannah was buried at Hullavington.

The marriage of Martha and Anthony Gearing was said, by his mother, "*to be against his parents wishes but he would not take their advice*". Despite this Anthony's father Thomas gave the young couple the estate of Brinkworth and Edward Gore gave £300, the marriage taking place at Surrendell on September 22nd 1608. Anthony was apparently a "*lewd, idle, debased fellow*" and was disinherited by his father in 1621. It seems Anthony and Martha had five children living at this time, when the family was in Ireland. ¹⁹⁸

There was a memorial to Anne Gore in St Giles' church, recorded by Aurbey:

¹⁹¹ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p 180

¹⁹² They had seven children - Thomas, Anthony, William, Mary, Elizabeth, Dorothy and another daughter whose name is unknown.

¹⁹³ Nine, in fact - Not all the names are known, Jackson only records that Elizabeth married Roland Savage and that their daughter Jane married Thomas Stokes of Kington St Michael.

¹⁹⁴ Children : Charles, Richard, Jane, Elizabeth and Anne

¹⁹⁵ Thomas, Walter, Paul, Mary, Anne, Francis, Elizabeth, Helena and Margaret

¹⁹⁶ Charles, William, John, Lydia and Mary

¹⁹⁷ Simon, Elizabeth, and Margaret

¹⁹⁸ Badeni, J (1992) *Past People in Wiltshire and Gloucestershire* Norton Manor pp122-124

Here lies the body of Anne James, third daughter of Edward Gore, Esqr. (by Eliz. His wife) wife to Gyles James, gent. of Great Sherston in Com. Wilts: who departed this mortall life on Sunday the 4th of Oct. 1629 aet sue 40¹⁹⁹

Anne and Gyles were not married until late in life and they didn't have children; evidence for this is found in the verse attached to her inscription

*"Expectans expectavi" Psalm. 40
With Jacob's Rachel I (a James his wife)
Waited full long before our married life.
In me it was a matchless expectation,
More to farre than matche's consummation,
Which once enjoyed, and scare three yeares in all,
A lingering sickness ridd mee out of thrall;
For this my change all my appointed days
I waited still, and waiting gave God praise
That had so fitted me for heaven, where
My soul now rests, as doth my bodie here.
"Usque quo Domine" Apocal.6. 10
"Veni Domine Jesu" Apocal 22. 20
One of her sexe's worthies doth here lye,
A wife, a patterne for posteritie;
To husband loyall, gracious unto all,
Pious to God, to th' poore most liberal²⁰⁰*

The second son, and heir, of Edward Gore and Elizabeth was Charles, who was born 4th February 1592. [s](#)

When he was nineteen he married Lydia White, heiress of William White, draper, of London²⁰¹. Although William is given as a citizen of London it is

¹⁹⁹ Jackson, Rev JE (1862) (ed) *Aubrey's Topographical Collections 1 North Wiltshire* p48

²⁰⁰ Jackson, Rev JE (1862) (ed) *ibid*

²⁰¹ Stephens & Lee (1921) *Dictionary of National Biography* vol VIII p240. This is strange as this age would mean Charles married Lydia in 1612 when the records show it was 1621.

likely that he was related to the Whites who owned Grittleton. The Gore family were resident at Lincolns Inn up to 1622 and Charles was born at "Bednall Green [sic], Stepney"²⁰² and was in law at Lincolns Inn himself²⁰³. The marriage contract is dated 1621, the actual date of the marriage is not known, possibly before June 1621 (given the date of birth for the first child....)



Fig. 26 Arms of Lydia White²⁰⁴ *
—

Edward and Lydia removed to Alderton sometime in late 1622 and at this time Edward

settled the whole manor of Surrendell²⁰⁵ on Charles. They also gained the "manor house of Aldrington als Alderton in the county of Wilts and all houses, buildings, dovehouses gardens, orchards, courts, conygeres and other appertunances"²⁰⁶

²⁰² Gore, T (1666) *loc.cit* at eight o'clock in the morning of 1st March 1622.

²⁰³ Bayliffe, BG (1999) *Bayliffe Revisited* author pub. p86
Charles was admitted to Lincoln's inn 4 Feb. 1618, he was bound with William Baylyffe and Edmund Bulocke

²⁰⁴ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p303
Sable, on a chevron ermine between three jugs argent, as many martlets of the first

²⁰⁵ VCH *Wiltshire I*

²⁰⁶ Gore, T (1666) *ibid* p218

and details are given of the land that they owned (see Appendix 2, Table 3)

Both the Gores and the Whites were well to do - apart from leaving her son a hundred pounds in twenty-shilling gold pieces²⁰⁷, Lydia bequeathed various costly personal items that Thomas, mentioned in his will, for example

my guilt (sic) standing cup with a cover as also a faire wrought guilt salt with a cover, and two little wrought guilt trencher salts, and also three wrought guilt wine-bowls. All of which guilt plate was formerly my Grandfather's²⁰⁸ by my mother's side and also....my chaine of gold which was given me by my grandmother²⁰⁹ on my mother's side [ie William White's wife, name unknown] and her wedding ring of gold....and also of a gold scale-ring having WW engraven upon it, which was my grandfather's on my mother's side ...and also my wrought silver watch with divers motions in it which was my dear Mother's²¹⁰

Other valuables belonging to Lydia White detailed in Thomas' will were a "wrought guilt bottle with a guilte chaine affixed thereunto which was my

²⁰⁷ Jackson, Rev JE (1873) *The Last Will of Thomas Gore, the Antiquary* WAM XLIV, no LX pp 5-9.

Thomas' original will is held in the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre (W&SHC 212B/18) and is a very large document covering several full sized parchments - Jackson's transcription in WAM is *much* easier to follow!

²⁰⁸ There was a memorial to this gentleman, recorded by Aubrey (Jackson, Rev JE (1862) (ed) *ibid* p50) in St Giles' church:
An epitaph upon the death of Mr William James, Gentleman, who departed this life the 28th March 1637 (aet. suae 56)

²⁰⁹ Jackson, Rev JE (1862) (ed) *Aubrey's Topographical Collections 1 North Wiltshire* p73

There is also a memorial inscription to this lady in Alderton Church :
An Epitaph upon the death of that godly and grave Matron MRS ANNE JAMES. Wife of Mr William James, Gentleman, and Mother of mrs. Lydia Gore, wife of Charles Gore of Aldrington Esquire, whose body heare lieth interred in hope of the Resurrection. Obiit 20 Decembris An Salutis 1636 aet. suae 70

It is noted that James survived his wife by only 13 weeks

²¹⁰ Jackson, Rev JE (1873) *ibid*

grandmother's on my mother's side", and a "gold ring, enameled, and set with Nine Diamonds which was my deare Mother's"

As with all gentlewomen of the period Lydia was proficient in embroidery and her son treasured her work, bequeathing

My Bible covered with white satin wrought in divers coloured silks and embroidered with gold and silver, the worke of my deare Mother... also a sweet Bag of my said mother's working with silk in Tent stitch containing the story of Abraham's servant meeting with Rebecca; as also a purse wrought of coloured silk and gold in cross stitch by my said mother²¹¹

From which it can be seen that Lydia did fine and costly work, and that her son both honoured her and was almost unbearably exact.

The Gore family were, at this time, very closely linked with another local family the James' - Charles' sister Sylvana married Henry James and her sister Anne married Giles James, a merchant of Sherston. Giles James and Charles Gore didn't get on - so much so that in 1630/31 Charles brought an action for slnadeer against Giles, which resulted in Giles having to make a public apology "*for having violently and willingly uttered diverse and scandalous proclamations and barbarous speeches...against Mr Charles Gore*"²¹². The Earl Marshall of England, the Duke of Arundel and Surrey, wrote to the Justices of the Peace for Wiltshire to have them call Giles to the next Sessions to "*publiquely to read before them*" his confession. Sir John Ernle and Sir Edward Bayntun wrote to Giles calling him to comply, which he presumably did ²¹³ One suspects that relations between the different parts of the family were somewhat strained by this episode.

²¹¹ Jackson, Rev JE (1873) *The Last Will of Thomas Gore, the Antiquary* WAM XLIV, no LX p6

²¹² Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p273ff. The text of the apology is given in full in Appendix 1.2

²¹³ Gore, T (1666) *ibid* p274 The record of the letter from Arundell & Surrey is dated 30 November 1631, whereas, curiously, the one from Ernle and Bayntun is dated 12 November 1631. Obviously Thomas got the dates wrong, are they just switched around or was the "November" of the Earl Marshall actually September or October?

In the following year Charles commissioned the Tenor bell in the Church, the inscription reads "*Personae tunc sono laudes et Katerinae*" "*The Worshipful Charles Gore esq. 1632*"²¹⁴ and one of the pieces of church plate also dates from this time "*a very old plate marked LG*"²¹⁵

Charles was a Justice of the Peace for Wiltshire and as such sat on civil cases as well as criminal. An example is known from 1636 when he sat in a case, with Henry Bayliffe²¹⁶, dealing with money owed to William Dyke²¹⁷. Charles and Henry Bayliffe also served together as Commissioners on the "*fateful subsidies*" collected in the area "*for the further relief of his Ma'tyes Army*" on 8 October 1641 when the tax was set at 8s in the pound on land. "*This is only one of several subsidies that had to be paid, a precursor to the Civil War*"²¹⁸

The Gores seem to have actively supported the Royalist cause during the Civil War - in late January or early February 1642 Charles sent

*two geldings. saddles and bridles, one case of pistols, two carbines, two musketts with bandoleres one buffe coat and two horseman's arms*²¹⁹

²¹⁴ Goddard, F et al (1928) *Alderton alias Aldrington Parish Notices of Aldrington parish to be kept in the parish chest* W&SHC 1678/8

²¹⁵ Goddard, F et al (1928) *ibid*

There is a side note in Hutchins' hand (vicar in the early years of the twentieth century) that says "*this is a very curious and valuable "taster" or "comfit bowl" of the seventeenth century, it's date is 1639. Such small vessels were made for domestic use. The dish is 5³/₄ " in diameter with projecting shell handles, The pattern is formed by a series of embossed punch marks, the Tudor rose in the boundaries centre. Inscribed "LG 1639" probably for Lydia wife of Charles Gore of Alderton.*

²¹⁶ A relative of his fellow at Lincolns Inn, either a brother or son.

²¹⁷ Bayliffe, BG (1999) *Bayliffe Revisited* author pub p78

²¹⁸ Bayliffe, BG (1999) *ibid* p81

²¹⁹ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p288, letter dated 14th February 1642.

to the Royalist stronghold at Cirencester. Charles received two Royal "Protections" for this, the first ²²⁰ from Prince Maurice, ²²¹ who was in command at Cirencester and another from the King himself ²²²

There is also a receipt from the following year, by Captain Francis Revesby, for a "*horse, saddle, bridle, carbine and case of pistols, bark and Broft Buff Coat and a sword and an able sufficient rider in full discharge of Light Horse and Arms for his Majesties service*" ²²³

After the Restoration Charles was made Steward of Corsham Manor ²²⁴ and High Steward of Malmesbury. He continued to acquire land in the local area, for example in 1648 he bought land from Roger Kilbury. This was a year before Charles' death in 1649, Lydia surviving her husband by six years. [She died 3 January 1665 and a memorial to her was recorded by Phillipps](#) ²²⁵

*Reader, if thou hast a tear,
Do not grudge to drop it here:
Think not it can fall alone,
Flouds are due unto this stone.
Here lies (ah! how that word does pierce,
And double blacks the mournfull hearse;)
Vertue's fair copie, Heaven's delight,
Not fitt for mens' but angles' sight.
In whose pure breast sweet innocence
(Exil'd by most) found sure defence;
Where no black thought, the sire of shame
(Charm'd by her vertues' magick) came;*

²²⁰ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p287, protection dated February 9th 1642

²²¹ *Count Palatrie of the Rhyne, Duke of Bavaria & Colonel of Horse*

²²² Gore, T (1666) *ibid* p288 see Appendix 1.3 for the text of this warrant.

²²³ Gore, T (1666) *ibid* p291 dated Feb. 28th 1643

²²⁴ Jackson, Rev JE Mss

Corsham then belonged to Sir Edward Hungerford. Charles' appointment as Steward was made by a committee of "*his late Majesty's Revenue*" on 17th September 1646

²²⁵ [Sherlock, P \(2000\) \(ed\) *Monumental Inscriptions of Wiltshire : an edition, in facsimile, of Monumental Inscriptions in Wiltshire by Sir Thomas Phillipps, 1832* WRS vol 57 p48](#)

*Lov'd by the rich, the poor did blesse
Her as theyre Sovereigne Almonesse;
Wife, Mother, Friend, better no age
E're shewed upon the world's stage.
Then reader, if thou hast a tear,
Canst thuo chuse but drop it here"!*

[To return to the footnote below click [here](#)]

Charles and Lydia had four sons - Charles, born in 1622 and buried [six](#) years later at Alderton, Edward who died at the age of nine weeks, Thomas the heir and another Charles who outlived all his siblings, surviving to 1693²²⁶. This Charles Gore is recorded as owning land and houses in the area in 1665,²²⁷

²²⁶ [Alderton Parish Registers W&SHC fiche](#) baptized 23rd Feb 1635, died 21st Feb 1693.

[There was a memorial to him in the south Aisle of the church](#)
[Near this place is interred the Body of Charles Gore, Esq, Uncle of Thomas Gore, esq,](#)
[the present lord of this Manor, qho changed this mortal for an immortal life on the 21st](#)
[day of February Anno Aerae Christinae 1692 AEtat suae 57](#)
[Sherlock, P (2000) (ed) *Monumental Inscriptions of Wiltshire : an edition, in facsimile, of Monumental Inscriptions in Wiltshire by Sir Thomas Phillipps, 1832 WRS vol 57 p40*]

Note that this was actually 1693 by current calendars, the year still ended on the last day of March at this period, so dates in January to March inclusive show the previous year to our convention of dating. This applies to dates before 1750, when Britain adopted the Gregorian calendar (by way of the Calendar (New Style) Act 1750)

²²⁷ Supervis J (1665) *Surveys of the Manors of Wilts: Aldrington, Surrenden and Clapcote* W&SHC 1909/1.

It is noteworthy that Thomas Gore, in his Will, refers to "an exact and perfect Survey and View of the Mannors of Aldrington alias Alderton, and Surrenden &c" which sounds suspiciously like the volume referred to here, but Thomas gives the author, or at least the *surveyor*, as Christopher Jacob. It seems unlikely but maybe Thomas got the names mixed up (almost unbelievable for a man *so exact*) and a bit later on he refers to a "*chest of Drawers of oak not long since made by Christopher Jacob*" (my emphasis). If it wasn't a mistake Mr Jacob was a talented individual. "*Supervis*" translates as "Overseer"

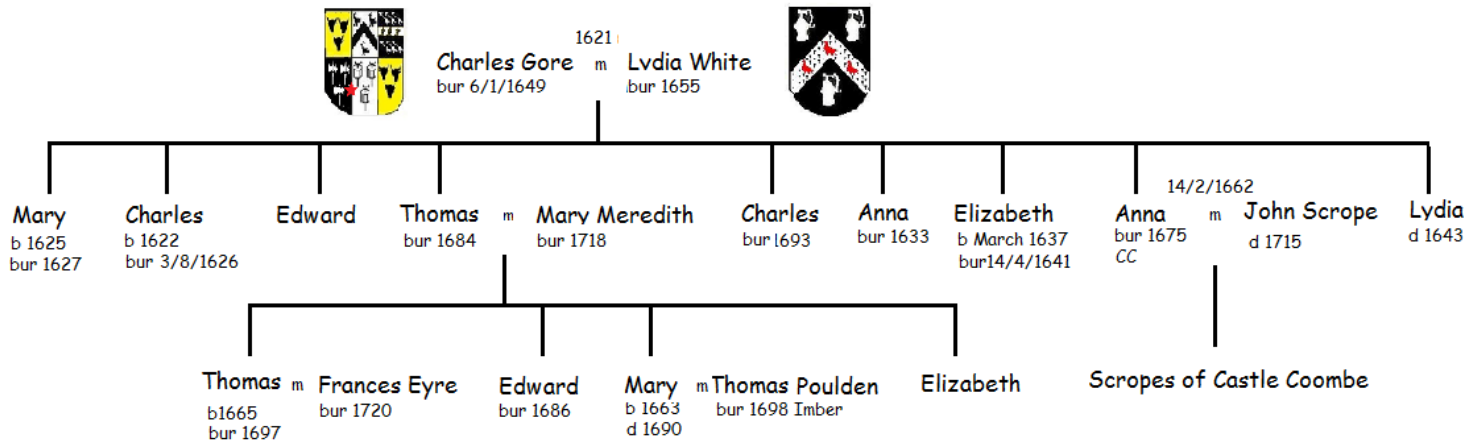


Fig. 27 Descendants of Charles and Lydia *

Charles and Lydia's first son was commemorated in St Giles by a small freestone figure of a kneeling child with the following inscription:

Here lies the body of Charles Gore, eldest sonne of Charles Gore, Esqr. who dyed the 3d day of Sept. 1628
"Hic jacet ingenii splendor, pietatis amator
Vita morte, pius, cum tamen ipse Puer! ²²⁸"

This figure may have been made from stone quarried on the estate as Aubrey records that

In Alderton-field is a freestone quarrie, discovered a little before the civill-warres broke forth ²²⁹

²²⁸ Jackson, Rev JE (1862) (ed) *Aubrey's Topographical Collections 1 North Wiltshire* p49

It is possible that Jackson was working from another source, but Phillip's *Inscriptions* records different text (Sherlock, P (2000) (ed) *Monumental Inscriptions of Wiltshire : an edition, in facsimile, of Monumental Inscriptions in Wiltshire by Sir Thomas Phillipps, 1832 WRS vol 57* p47)

On a monument in the Chancel

Here under resteth the Body of Charles Gore, Sonne and Heire of Charles Gore, Esq. Who cheerfully surrendered His soule into the Handes of his Redeemer, September 3, An^o Dom 1628, Aetatis suae 16

which would seem to indicate that he was born after September 1622

²²⁹ Aubrey (1969 reprint) *Natural History of Wiltshire* David & Charles Reprints ISBN 7153 4670 9 p42

Anna was the only daughter of Charles and Lydia to survive childhood, the second to bear the name ²³⁰. Her date of birth is not known but she married John Scrope, of the ancient Scrope family of Castle Combe, in February 1662 ²³¹, and their descendants continued to own Castle Combe for over two hundred years. It is noteworthy that Dr Tully, (*Thoma Tullie Sacrae Theologiae Doctore*), who was Thomas Gore's tutor at Tetbury, officiated at this marriage. It was from one of their descendants that Jackson received the copy of Thomas Gore's manuscript. John and Anna had four sons - Charles, Stephen, John and Thomas - and three daughters - Anne, Lydia and Helena who were living in 1683 (omitted from Fig. 24 above)

Land details for Charles Gore, Anna Gore and her husband John Scrope survive for the years 1625 and 1665 (see Appendix 2 [Tables 1 & 2](#)), which give field names for the time.

Some of the people named in these documents also appear in 1676, complaining of lack of pastoral care from Mr Henry Hayes the Vicar of Great Sherston and Curate of Alderton. He was

a person very insufficient (by reason of his age and because he hath lost his sight and hath been long blind and hath many other infirmities to serve) ²³²

This letter was not prompted solely by concern over Mr Hayes' abilities - the livings at both Sherston and Alderton were originally in the gift of the Abbey of Tewksbury, but after the Dissolution these rights were granted to the Dean & Chapter of Gloucester Cathedral and they then granted them to their tenants - at this time a new tenant had been appointed, one William Hodges of Sherston. Alderton was very concerned to learn that a change had been made to the lease and that

²³⁰ [See below for details](#)

²³¹ Phillimore, WPW (1905) (ed) *Wiltshire Parish Registers* vol 1 WRS p134
Nuptiae inter Johannem Scroope, de Cast-Combe, in Argo Wiltoniae Armiegrum & Annam Gore, filliam Caroli Gore, de Aldrington als Alderton, in Agro pr'dito, Armigeri, celebratae erant a Thoma Tullie Sacrae Theologiae Doctore, Decomi Quarto de Ferburarii, Anno Salutis a Christo partae 1662 15 regni Car 2nd Regis Angliae etc

²³² Badeni J (1966) *Wiltshire Forefathers* p4

*The Parishoners of Aldrington suspect that they may have an improchment made upon them in continuance of time, & being here named a Chapell may lose their parochial Rights, & be represented a Chapell annexe a part of the parish of Sherstone.*²³³

They advanced several good arguments in support of their case²³⁴. This dispute went on for a long time, but eventually Alderton prevailed.

Names that are found in both the land and this letter are Thomas Gore, Charles Gore, George Bushell and John Jaques²³⁵. The Jaques were a well-established family locally - Richard Jaques was rector of Grittleton at about this time and his brother George was sponsor for Dr Tully in 1657.

Much of the written evidence of Alderton is lost to us, even the manuscript by Thomas has mainly transcripts of some of the material that was in existence. There is, for example, reference in Charles' writings to a lost "register" from the years 1614 -1629. Terrible things happen to manuscripts - "*This register is not now extant, it is said to have been eaten by some greyhound puppies in the memory of man!*"²³⁶

²³³ Gore T (?) An (undated) letter to the Bishop of Sarum, but inscribed in a later hand on the outside "*Aldrington case*" [Originally this was located in W&SHC 212a/27/40 it is now to be found in W&SHC 84/43.](#)

²³⁴ Gore T (?) *ibid* see Appendix 1.5 for the text.

²³⁵ Assuming the G Bushell of 1665 was *George* and J Jaques was *John* The same families also appear, William Watts in 1665, Andrew and Samuel Watts in 1676 and it maybe that the *Rolfe* of '65 is the same family as *Riffe* of '76

²³⁶ Gesland, Francis (1858) manuscript dated Oct 6th 1858, bound into the front of Jackson's Mss in the Library of the Society of Antiquaries, London. There is, however, a pencil written note in the margin that states "*The greyhound puppies were not guilty of this crime. The old registers were, in 1858, discovered by JE Jackson in the bottom of one of Mr. Neeld's boxes of Title Deeds which had been lying at his bankers in London since he purchased Alderton. They have been restored to the Register Chest!*". What has happened to the documents, or the chest, is unknown.

Charles and Lydia had four daughters who didn't survive their childhood; Mary was born in 1625 and died two years later, Anna lived for only 12 weeks in 1633, Elizabeth was born in 1637 and lived for four years and Lydia died in infancy in 1643²³⁷,

The children who died young are all, [with the unexplained exception of Lydia](#), commemorated by a brass plate, originally on the south wall of St Giles next to Charles Gore's monument but relocated to the north wall by 1873. It reads

Here lies the bodies of Charles Gore, aged 6 yeares old and 18 weekes; Edw. Gore aged 9 weekes; Mary Gore, aged 1 yeare and 14 weekes; Anna Gore aged 12 weekes; and Elizabeth Gore, aged 4 yeares and one month: all children of Charles Gore, of Aldrington, Esq. And Lydia, his wife, expecting the second coming of Christ

Four year old Elizabeth also had a personal brass memorial in the chancel of St Giles:

Elizabeth Gore, dau. of Charles Gore Esqr. departed this mortall life April 14 1641, aet suae 4

*So rare a piece of beauty, grace and witt,
Though God had showed us, yet he thought not fit
For us to gaze upon too long; 'twas He
That tooke her to himself, himself to see.
Admired she was by all that did behold her;
Much more shall be when God anew shall mould her"*

*By Mr Parson William Noble of Sutton Benger*²³⁸

²³⁷ Sherlock, P (2000) (ed) *Monumental Inscriptions of Wiltshire : an edition, in facsimile, of Monumental Inscriptions in Wiltshire by Sir Thomas Phillipps, 1832* WRS vol 57 p48

"Here lyeth the Body of Lydia Gore, daughter of Charles Gore, Esq,m who dyed the 11th of September 143, aged 1year and nine months"

²³⁸ Jackson, Rev JE (1862) (ed) *Aubrey's Topographical Collections 1 North Wiltshire* p49

I am indebted to Dr. P. Sherlock for informing me that this was a perfectly normal way of writing a reverend doctor's name at this time.

Phillipps records ²³⁹ a different head to this inscription - "*An Epitath upon Mrs* ²⁴⁰*Elizabeth Gore, daughter of Charles Gore, of Aldrington, Esq, and Lydia his Wife, who departed this life Anno Domini 16412, aetat suae 4*"

S

As has been seen the first two male children died in childhood and so the Manor passed to Thomas.

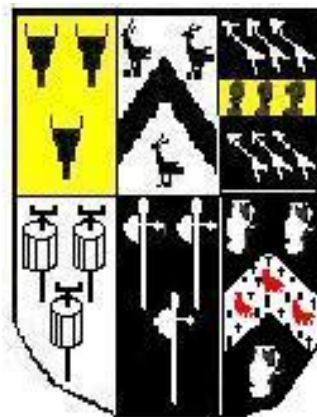


Fig. 28 Arms of Thomas Gore *
(after Gore, T 1666) ²⁴¹

He was probably the most famous of all the Gore's of Alderton, being a well-known antiquarian and genealogist, and a friend of Aubrey, (who was born in Kington St Michael) amongst others. Thomas was born at Alderton Tuesday

²³⁹ Sherlock, P (2000) (ed) *Monumental Inscriptions of Wiltshire : an edition, in facsimile, of Monumental Inscriptions in Wiltshire by Sir Thomas Phillipps, 1832* WRS vol 57 p48

²⁴⁰ The honorific "Mrs" appears strange here but indicates that Elizabeth was not of common stock, the prefix Mrs appears in the Parish Registers before several females associated with the Gore family who had definitely not been married before their appearance in the Registers, for example (see below) "*Mrs Elizabeth Flower*" but it does not necessarily indicate marital status as it can be short for Misstress.

²⁴¹ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p303

20th March 1631²⁴² and lived "during the stirring events of the seventeenth century"²⁴³.

Thomas Gore was baptised at Grittleton on Easter Tuesday of 1632, the preacher being Elias Woodroffe. As was common his godfathers were related to him, being William James²⁴⁴ of Alderton and Thomas Ivey²⁴⁵, his godmother was Anne Venner, wife of Tobias Venner of Bath.

Thomas was educated at Tetbury, then Magdalen College, Oxford in either May 1650²⁴⁶ or May 1654²⁴⁷ depending on the authority consulted. As Thomas' own writings give May 1650²⁴⁸ this is more likely to be the correct date. He was first tutored by John King and then, when this scholar obtained a country living he received permission to have Thomas Tully²⁴⁹ as his tutor. He needed permission for this as Tully was at that time senior tutor at Queens College.

²⁴² Gore, T (1666) *ibid*

²⁴³ Stratford, J (1882) *Wiltshire and its worthies: Notes technical and Biographical* Bron & Co London p20

²⁴⁴ His aunt Anne was married to Gyles James

²⁴⁵ The relationship here is rather distant, his great grandfather's first wife was Mary Ive, but the families were still local to each other.

²⁴⁶ BM *Addit. MSS* 28020 ff 130-7, quoted in DNB

²⁴⁷ Bliss (ed) *Wood's Athanae Oxonensis*, iv, 132 quoted in Stephens & Lee, *ibid*

²⁴⁸ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p303 p 305

²⁴⁹ DNB vol XIX p1237

Thomas Tully BA, MA was born in Carlisle in 1620 and was educated at Queens College, Oxford and was a Fellow of the College (1643). He retired to be headmaster of the Grammar School at Tetbury after the Parliamentarians occupied Oxford, where he tutored Thomas Gore [*Gore makes no mention of this and it may not be correct - author*]. He returned to Oxford in 1657 and in 1658 was appointed Principal of St. Edmund Hall and also Rector of Grittleton. Despite his "*strict adherence to Calvinism*" (which according to Wood hindered his advancement) he was a Royal Chaplain after the Restoration and was appointed Dean of Ripon in 1675.

He was at one time engaged in a dispute with Mr Bull, the rector of Suddington near Cirencester, over Catholic doctrine as "*Dr Bull was a zealous Catholic*" (Jackson, Rev JE (1843) *History of Grittleton* Wiltshire Topographical Society)

Thomas gained a BA and then went to Lincoln's Inn to practice Law, but retired to his inheritance at Alderton on his mother's death in January 1654.²⁵⁰ She died in her house at Hummerton or Humberston Street in Hackney where she had moved from Alderton "*for the better education of her children*"²⁵¹

Thomas achieved public office - he was made a Gentleman of the Privy Chamber in Ordinary 13 Nov 1667²⁵² and he was elected High Sheriff of the county in November 1680, to "*take the place of John Jacob of Norton and The Rocks who, on petition, was excused*"²⁵³

As a result of "*dishonourable acts*" by some of his subordinates when he was High Sheriff, he published a declaration, "*Loyalty Displayed and Falsehood Unmasked or a Just Vindication of Thos. Gore Esq. High Sheriff of Wilts in a letter to a Friend*"²⁵⁴. The Countess Badeni states that this was after *some trouble at the County Election due to the misbehaviour of some of Gore's subordinates*"²⁵⁵.

Thomas distanced himself from their actions -

When he officiated at the marriage of Anna Gore to John Scrope (see page 31) he was back in Oxford.

The dates given here do not fit with Thomas' writings at all, Tully wasn't at Oxford when Gore was there. It might be that Thomas *was* taught by Tully at Tetbury and not Oxford and "changed" things - it being rather finer to be tutored by Tully as an Oxford gentleman than as a schoolboy?

²⁵⁰ See [above](#)

²⁵¹ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p227

²⁵² DNB vol XIX p1237 and Jackson, Rev JE (1857) *ibid* p35,

²⁵³ Badeni J (1966) *Wiltshire Forefathers* p3

²⁵⁴ Published in London, 1681 (DNB *ibid*)

²⁵⁵ Badeni J (1966) *ibid*

*Whereas the writ for the Election of Knights citizens and burgesses for the county of Wilts to serve in the ensuing parliament was broken up before it came into, my hands by such as had no authority to do it; and precepts therefore immediately issued out to the boroughs of Old Sarum, Marlborough, Great Bedwyn and Lugershall: To clear and exempt myself from the blame and other ill effects and damage which might accrue unto me thereby and to prevent the lie unworthy acts for the residue of the time of my continuance in my office I do hereby fully, freely and ingeniously profess (which I shall be ready to affirm upon oath, if required) that it was done without my knowledge priority, consent or orders (I having reserved the entire management of the affair in mine owne hands by the Articles of Agreement with my under sheriff) And that seeing it hath pleased his Majesty to make me High Sheriff for the said County (though the most unfittest person for so great a undertaking) I am fully resolved (by God's help) that neither the favour of great men nor the applause of the vulgar, promises of reward nor threats of revenge, kindness of Friends nor unkindness of enemies shall make me act any wise unbecoming a true son of the Church of England, a loyal subject of my Prince, and a hearty lover of my country And it is my desire that all my under officers would take up the same resolution and shall use the utmost endeavour to persuade them thereunto both by precept and practice. but if they will not do it the blame and shame thereof will, I hope, in the end lye at their own doore
Thomas Gore, High Sheriff of the Co of Wilts. ²⁵⁶*

Thomas does not seem to have followed his father's Royalist lead - Thomson²⁵⁷ says that he

Was censured by many of the country gentlemen for want of loyalty, because his conduct in office was directed by moderation towards those of the Republication or Whig faction"

²⁵⁶ Jackson, Rev JE Mss *ibid*

²⁵⁷ Thomson J (<1845) loc. cit.

For the rest of his life after returning to Alderton he devoted himself to the study of antiquities and heraldry, becoming "*one of the greatest proficient of his age*"²⁵⁸, and it was in this connection that he became a great friend of John Aubrey, there are frequent "*Quere T. G.*" in *Aubrey's Wiltshire Collections*²⁵⁹. Alderton has a further connection with this important work by Aubrey: for many years it was thought that the "*second volume in folio*" which Aubrey refers to in this work, was the second part of the book in the Bodleian Library. Jackson, however, found that there had in fact been another volume, which had been borrowed from the Ashmolean Museum by William Aubrey, John's brother, in August 1703 and never returned.²⁶⁰ William died without issue four years later, the last of the family - he is buried in Kington St Michael.

*The rest of the story was later discovered, mainly by Jackson himself. He found a note in Warton's History of Kiddlington (1783) which stated that the manuscript was at this time partly in the Ashmolean and partly in the Library at Alderton*²⁶¹

At that time Alderton was owned by the Montagu's and it seems likely that the manuscript was dispersed in the sale of the Montague property in 1815/16. No further trace has been found.

Aubrey had mortgaged his estate at Broad Chalk to Thomas and Charles²⁶². Thomas and Aubrey eventually fell out and Aubrey is recorded as having called Thomas "*a fiddling, peevish fellow*"²⁶³ and "*a bore and the narrow soul'd*

²⁵⁸ Thomson J (<1845) *ibid* A2

²⁵⁹ Jackson, Rev JE (1862) (ed) *Aubrey's Topographical Collections 1 North Wiltshire* p49

²⁶⁰ Jackson, Rev JE (undated) *Lost Volume of Aubrey's M.S.S.* a pamphlet bound into Jackson *Aubrey and a Liber 'B' Lost*, WANHS Library

²⁶¹ Ponting KG (1975) *Wiltshire Portraits* p68 Moonraker Press, Bradford on Avon

²⁶² Jackson, Rev JE (1857) *John Aubrey and North Wiltshire* WAM IV p107

²⁶³ Jackson, Rev JE (1873) *The Last Will of Thomas Gore, the Antiquary* WAM XLIV, no LX p1. Jackson gives the full text for this quote in his earlier 1857 work (Jackson, Rev JE (1857) *ibid.*) where he says that

cuckold of Aldrington alias Alderton - a figure that steps straight out of the comedies of the past, obsessed with his own importance" ²⁶⁴. This wasn't an isolated insult - in 1680 Aubrey asked Wood to "*write to the cuckold at 'Alderton, alias Aldrington' to enquire &c &c. But he is a yare man and afraid of my queries as many people are when we want to preserve the memories of their Relations"* ²⁶⁵. This seems to suggest that Aubrey wanted information on a family skeleton that Thomas wouldn't provide. What this might be, if this is the case, is unclear but a possibility was suggested in the records of Oxford University. The entry for Charles Gore (Thomas' brother) reads

*Gore Charles arm fil nat Queen's Col matric 24 June 1653
2nd son Charles late of Aldrington brother of Thomas 1650*
²⁶⁶

A natural son was nothing unusual, but there is no indication in the parish records or in Jackson's pedigree of this - one might wonder if this was what Aubrey thought was behind Thomas' refusal to answer his *quaeries*. Another possibility is suggested by Aubrey's reference to the "*cuckold of Aldrington*" but this is probably just seventeenth century nastiness. Aubrey had, by this time "*lost all his property*" ²⁶⁷, so he may have just been upset that Thomas (presumably) owned the property Aubrey had mortgaged to him.

Thomas Gore's writings indicate an excessive pedantry; see for example the accuracy of his descriptions in his will. He was always much concerned that the village name was incorrect, having originally been Aldrington. He almost invariably used the older spelling, but he frequently also used "*Aldrington alias Alderton*" ²⁶⁸ and was almost certainly extremely tedious on the subject. Much

"Aubrey writes thus (to A. Wood) "*Pray remember me to Mr. Browne. If he writes or sees Mr Gore let him not tell him that he saw me: for he is a fiddling peevish fellow and something related to my adversaries*"

²⁶⁴ "EJK" (1961) *Wiltshire Gazette* 23 Feb 1961 article on a visit to Alderton.

²⁶⁵ Jackson, Rev JE (1873) *The Last Will of Thomas Gore, the Antiquary* WAM XLIV, no LX p1

²⁶⁶ *Alumni Oxoniensis 1600 - 1715*

²⁶⁷ Pitcairn Hill (1985) *A History of Kington St Michael in Wiltshire* p48

²⁶⁸ See, for example, Jackson, Rev JE (1873) *ibid* p3, line 14

of Jackson's pedigree for the Gore family is from the Family Register, which Thomas compiled. He wanted his descendents to continue making a family record - he charges them so in his will and in many places where he deals with people alive at the time of writing he laid out paragraphs for marriages and deaths with blanks that could be filled in later - sadly this was not done.



Fig. 29 Arms of Gore and Meredith *
(after Buckeridge 1995 ²⁶⁹)

On 18th September 1656 ²⁷⁰ Thomas married Mary, the daughter of Michael Meredith of Southwood in Gloucestershire. *She was born on 11th June 1640, her mother being Elizabeth, daughter of John Langton, an Alderman of Bristol,* ²⁷¹.

It is suggested that given the spelling, and the honour in which Thomas held his ancestors, that the monuments to the immediate past family in St Giles Church were erected by Thomas Gore rather than his father Charles. This is not certain,

²⁶⁹ Meredith, D (1995) *ibid* p74

[Gore] *impaling Argent, a lion rampant, sable, gorged with a collar, and a chain affixed thereat, reflexed over the back or.*

²⁷⁰ Alderton Parish Registers W&SHC fiche

²⁷¹ Phillimore, WPW (1905) (ed) *Wiltshire Parish Registers* vol 1 WRS p135

anno Domini 1656

Michael Meredith was the son of William Meredith and his wife Eleanor, the daughter of Jacob Buck of Netherhall in Gloucestershire, and Gore gave arms for all of them:



Fig 30 a) Arms of Meredith & Langton

b) Arms of Meredith & Buck ²⁷²

*
—

There is little else known about Mary, except that Thomas bought her a necklace of eight rows of pearls. It has been said that he also bought her a gold ring with diamonds ²⁷³ (gold ring enamelled, and set with nine diamonds) but in his will he says this "*was my deare Mother's*" ²⁷⁴. [Mary died on the 10th August 1668, aged only 28 years.](#)

A marriage Consumated and solemised the Eighteenth day of September in the yeare aforesaid, Between Thomas Gore of Aldrington in the county of Wiltes, Esq, and Mary Meredith, daughter of Michael Meridtih, of the City of Bristoll, gent, by William Cann, one of the Aldermen of the City aforessaid, in the pr'nce of Charles Gore, gent, Robert Cann, Junior, Merchant, William Langton, Clerke, John Merdith, gent, Henry Weare & div's others

but it is recorded in the Alderton Marriage register (ref Alderton 1078/2, W&SHC) and the photocopy of the original entry in the Alderton register shows that the marriage was carried out by "*William James of the avowson of Bristol*", which is at odds with Philimore.

²⁷² [After Gore, T *Armorial roll of the Gores of Alderton*](#)

²⁷³ Badeni J (1966) *Wiltshire Forefathers* p6

²⁷⁴ Jackson, Rev JE (1873) *The Last Will of Thomas Gore, the Antiquary* WAM XLIV, no LX p6

Throughout most of its history the Manor was the major administrative unit for the village. The transfer of tenancies and copyholds between people, and their inheritance from one generation to the next, had to be approved by the Court and this invariably involved paying the Lord of the Manor. For example in 1659²⁷⁵ Thomas Cox, one of the copyholders of the manor and who appears in the Manorial Court records as far back as 1632, died. His son, also Thomas, paid "four pounds in lieu of heriot"²⁷⁶ to take up his father's copyhold.

The court was also active in maintaining the Lord of the Manor's rights and privileges, just as it had from the time of the Conquest. For example in 1663 the same Thomas Cox jun appeared before the court and the record contains a

Memorandum that upon the third day of July 15 Cha 2nd AD 1663 Thomas Cox one of the copy holders of the manor aforesaid did come and personally Acknowledge unto Thomas Gore esq Lord of the Manor aforesaid his great fault and oversight in selling timber belonging to his messuage within the aforesaid manor & did humbly petition the said lord of the manor to pardon his said offence & not to take advantage thereof & promising never to offend in the same manner again & the said Thomas Gore thereupon pardoned and remitted unto him the conversion of the said Tymber by the said Thomas Cox paying unto the said Thomas Gore Ten Shillings of Good and Lawfull English money being the like summe he did sell the tymber for. In witness thereof the aforesaid Thomas Cox hath himself set his hand the Day and yeare above written

In the presence of Charles Gore William Knock? George ? The mark of Tho Cox X

This is a formulaic layout; exactly the same wording was used when Gyles Bushell appeared before the court 3 days later for the same offence²⁷⁷. He was fined only two shillings.

Thomas and Mary had two sons and at least one daughter (see Fig. 17 above). Their first child was Mary, who was born in February 1663²⁷⁸. When Mary

²⁷⁵ W&SHC 1305/1 *Manor of Alderton Court Rolls 1416-1676*

²⁷⁶ *Heriot* was an inheritance tax that heirs had to pay to their lord to receive their parent's property.

²⁷⁷ W&SHC 1305/1 *Manor of Alderton Court Rolls 1416-1676*

senior was confined for the birth of Mary Thomas bought her a "cloath Bed of a sad²⁷⁹ colour lined with Lemmon-coloured sarsnet"²⁸⁰. Mary junior married Thomas Polden of Imber²⁸¹ and died in 1690²⁸², without children. She was left £2,200, for her marriage portion, in her father's will.

It has always been thought, and is so shown in Gore's book, that Mary jun was the only daughter however in the Alderton Parish Registers there is an entry recording the birth of "Elizabeth Gore, daughter of Thomas Gore and Mary born 19 December 1669, baptized 31 December 1669" No other record of Elizabeth has so far been found, it is likely she died young but this is not recorded in the Alderton registers

The eldest son and heir, also named Thomas, was born 10th December 1665²⁸³, and the youngest was Edward who was born in 1669, died in 1686 and was buried at Alderton²⁸⁴ ***insert DNB bit***

Thomas Gore the Antiquarian died at Aldrington alias Alderton on 31st March, 1684²⁸⁵ and was buried in the church, his monument is against the north wall of the chancel²⁸⁶. [s](#)

²⁷⁸ *Maria filia Thomae Gore de Aldrington als Alderton in agro Wiltoniae armigeri and Mariae uxoris juxta die Februario 16 Car Ann dom 1663* (Alderton Parish Registers W&SHC 1078/2).

²⁷⁹ June Badeni here has "sage", which makes more sense (Badeni J (1966) *Wiltshire Forefathers*)

²⁸⁰ Jackson, Rev JE (1873) *The Last Will of Thomas Gore, the Antiquary* WAM XLIV, no LX p6

²⁸¹ Thomas Polden was the son of Thomas Polden and Elizabeth Eyre, the eldest daughter of Robert Eyre of Chalfield.

²⁸² 12 November 1690

²⁸³ Alderton Parish Registers, W&SHC fiche. Thomas Gore senior's book has, strangely, December 17th, but this may have been the date of his baptism rather than birth.

²⁸⁴ According to Jackson's pedigree, but 1676 according to the DNB

²⁸⁵ Alderton Parish Registers W&SHC fiche

Thomas Gore junior inherited. His godfather was Tully, as was Sir Thomas Eastcourt of Pinkney, Master in Chancery; his godmother was Mary Montagu, daughter and heiress of Robert Baynard of Lackham.

Thomas Gore junior married Frances Eyre ²⁸⁷, the fifth and youngest daughter of John Eyre of Little Cheldfield, (Chalfield) Wilts



Fig 31 Arms of the Eyre family ²⁸⁸ *

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*Thomas Gore, de Aldrington, Arm.
Cujus exumae hic juxtanhæres
Honoris ergo posuit, filius et hæres
ejusdem nomini
Obiit Martii 31, Anno Salutis 1684, Aetat suae 51*

*Virtutem exemplar cultor pietas alumnus
Castali dum patria fama decusq. Iaris
Succubuit saevis infirmo corpore fatis,
De quibus exceisa mente trophaea tulit
Plenaq. priscorum monumenta reliquit honorum
Uno cumfatis intentura die
His fruimirbgrati Supernuis, ille aethera victor
Non ementitipignus honoris habet
Nam cum Caelicolis Caelistis praecox triumphans,
AEterno celebrat laudis honore Deum*

²⁸⁷ 3rd April 1683

²⁸⁸ Burke (1863) *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland* vol 3 p290 *Argent, three quatrefoils or on a chevron sable*

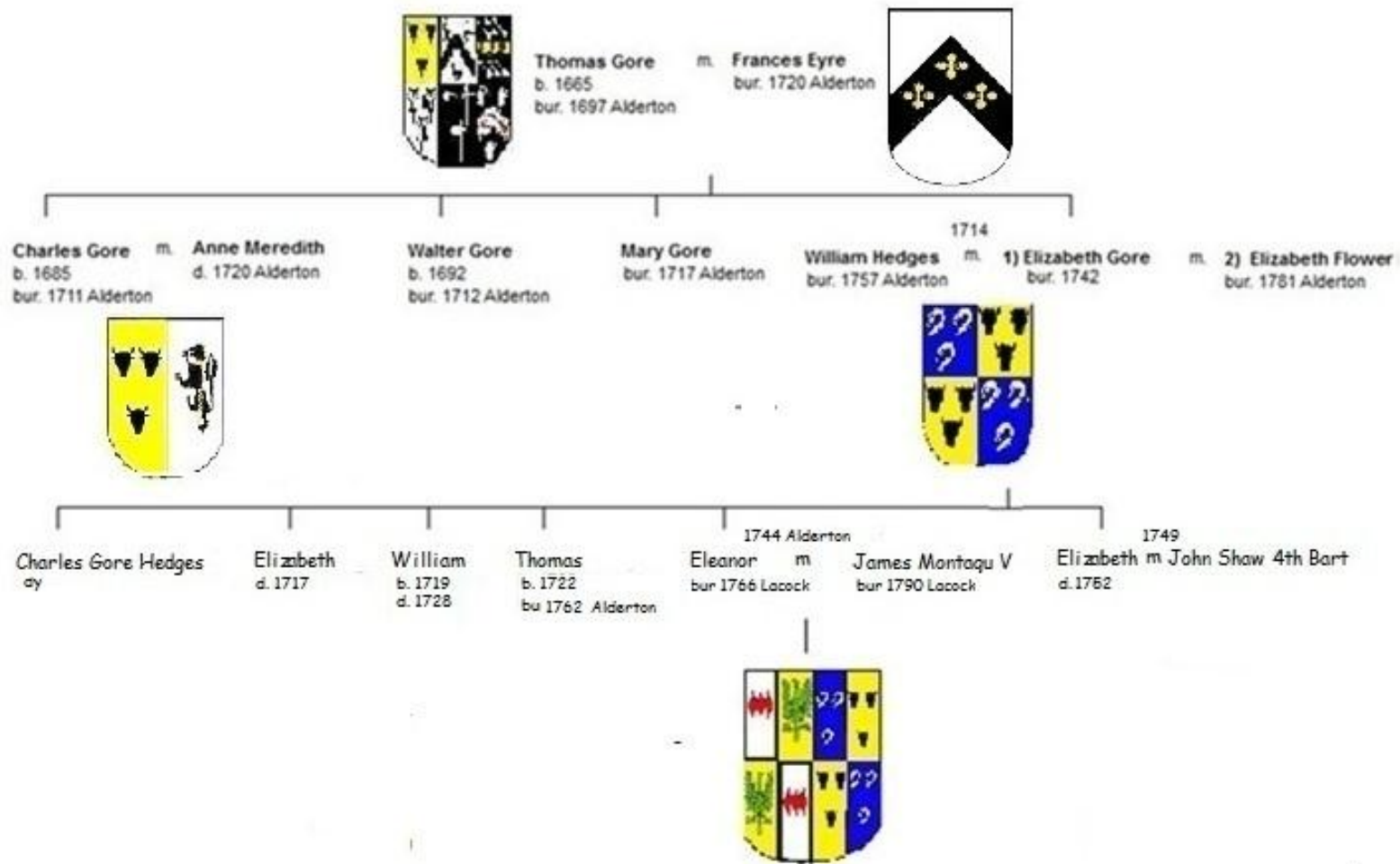


Fig. 32 Gore and Hedges of Alderton *

No representation of the Eyre arms are given in Gore's book as Thomas jun was unmarried at the time of his father's death.

Thomas and Frances had two sons and two daughters Charles, Walter, Mary and Elizabeth

In one of the few documents that has been found Thomas is seen asking Archbishop Sencroft to find a position for "*Mr Tomlinson.. my kinsman*"²⁸⁹. There is no Tomlinson apparent in the family tree so far known; he may have been a distant relation or related to his wife. The phrase "*and[so] better support himself and his family*" may be just designed to engage the Archbishop's sympathy or it might indicate that Thomas was helping to support the family.

Thomas obviously took an active interest in politics - there are records of a couple of letters written by him to the MP for Chippenham, Walter White, the owner of Grittleton. Walter White was elected as MP for Chippenham in November 1695 and was a member of the Whig faction, who supported William III and the Protestant succession. *A number of his letters are in existence*; the earliest is of interest as it mentions Thomas' support for the recent introduction of coins with milled edges, which was done to stop the practice of "clipping" and debasing the coins in circulation²⁹⁰. In the second, written in early March 1695, the talk was of a recently foiled French-Jacobite invasion plan²⁹¹. Thomas died in 1697²⁹² and Frances in 1720, both being buried at Alderton. *His son, Charles, was born in 1685 and so was under age at Thomas' death. From the Manor Court records it is known that the Manor was administered by trustees set up by Thomas' will, Mary Gore, Thomas' mother,*

²⁸⁹ Transcription of a letter from Thomas Gore, dated 19th September 1681, to Archbishop Sancroft bound into the back of the volume of the elder Thomas's "*An alphabet in Blazon*" held in the British Library (See [Appendix 1.6](#) for the text)

²⁹⁰ Marquess of Lansdowne (1929) *Wiltshire Politicians (c 1700)* WAM XLVI no CLVII p64

²⁹¹ Marquess of Lansdowne (1929) *Wiltshire Politicians (c 1700)* WAM XLVI no CLVII p65

²⁹² Alderton Parish registers W&SHC fiche died 15th,m buried 18 September 1697.

being one of these. There are numerous leases ²⁹³ from the period between 1698 and 1707, when Charles starts issuing leases in his own name.

Charles married Amy Meredith. Charles was involved in a number of land and house sales, for example in 1709 he sold Tunley House in Alderton to Anne Goldney "widow of Chippenham" for £200 ²⁹⁴. It is possible that he was in financial difficulties at this time, there are records of a number of mortgages between Charles Gore and others, all dating from the first decade of the eighteenth century, and in 1709 these were being assigned by Charles to Giles Hitchins to cover money borrowed from Hitchins.

"Tunley House" may have been owned by John Tunley, who was granted a lease on Alderton land in September 1701, but nothing else is known of him ²⁹⁵.

Charles died without issue in 1710 ²⁹⁶, and Anne died in the same year as her mother in law, 1720. It is unknown whether Anne is related to Thomas Gore's wife Mary but it seems likely, especially as Mary's mother was also named Elizabeth. However Elizabeth is an *extremely* common name at this time.....

A note, on the second page of the Alderton Church records, provides one of the few records of this lady, although it refers to her as "Amy":

Be it remembered that in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and sixteen, Mrs Amy Gore (widow of Charles Gore, esq, late Lord of this Manour) beautified the Chancell of Aldrinton, alias Alderton with a Wainscott-Altar-Peece; and with a Communion-Table-Cloth and Cushion, both of Purple Velvet, embroidered with gold and having deep Gold fringe: and also gave at the same time, for the use of the Minister when he administereth the Sacramaent of the

²⁹³ W&SHC 84/46 For example a lease of land dated 25 April 1701 by "Mary Gore widow surviving trustee of Thomas Gore her late son during the minority of Charles Gore her grandson" to Sir John Ffabian

²⁹⁴ W&SHC 1306/3 indenture dated 29 Oct 1709

²⁹⁵ W&SHC 84/46 lease dated 13 September 1701 granted by Mary Gore during Charles Gore's minority. This lease shows that John had a daughter Mary, who had been born in 1689.

²⁹⁶ Alderton Parish registers (W&SHC fiche) died 8 Jan1710, buried 12th January

Lord's Supper there, a large Common-Prayer-Book, bound in Turkey-leather and neatly Gilded; with Strings of broad Purple Riband, and Gold Fringe ²⁹⁷

After Charles' death the Manor passed to Walter, Thomas and Frances' second son, who was born in 1692, but he only survived his brother by a year. When he died in 1712 Elizabeth ²⁹⁸ inherited the estate. She married William Hedges on 3rd February 1714 ²⁹⁹

At the start of the following year the manor Court met to confirm various leases held by the villagers and it is from this record that the arrangements during the minority of Charles Gore are known.

Elizabeth and William had little more luck with their family than the last Gores. The eldest, Charles Gore Hedges, ³⁰⁰ "died young" ³⁰¹ and his brother, William, died in 1728 ³⁰² aged not quite 9 ³⁰³. A daughter Elizabeth was born in October 1716 but died the following year ³⁰⁴. Another Elizabeth survived to marry Sir John Shaw, Bart of Eltham, Kent ³⁰⁵

²⁹⁷ Phillimore WPW (ed) (1905) *Wiltshire Parish Registers* vol 1 WRS p135 this memorandum is on page 2 of vol II of the parish register book of Alderton, written the wrong way up.

²⁹⁸ Born 1694

²⁹⁹ Phillimore, WPW (1905) (ed) *Wiltshire Marriages* p137. It is unusual for Philimore to be wrong but the original Alderton Parish Registers clearly show that William Hedges "of Compton Bassett" married Elizabeth Gore "Lady of this Manor" on 18th May 1714 and this is what is shown in Fig. 28 above.

³⁰⁰ Jackson, Rev JE (1873) *The Last Will of Thomas Gore, the Antiquary* WAM XLIV, no LX Pedigree facing p41

³⁰¹ Alderton Parish Registers baptised 27 March 1715

³⁰² Alderton Parish Registers buried 17 August 1728

³⁰³ Alderton Parish Registers baptised 20 Aug 1719

³⁰⁴ Alderton Parish Registers baptised 20 Oct 1716 buried 4 June 1717

³⁰⁵ *Gentleman's Magazine - Letters* vol V New Series, April 1836 pp276-7

Elizabeth Hedges herself died in 1743³⁰⁶ and William rapidly married Elizabeth Flower, in the following September³⁰⁷. It is probable that she is the Elizabeth Flower who witnessed the will of Elizabeth Montagu³⁰⁸. She was possibly the daughter of Mary Flower, "*wife of Mr Henry Flower³⁰⁹ of the Devizes*", who was given as a *cousin* in Elizabeth Montagu's (Eyles) will and left a bequest. That Henry's wife was Mary is given in the will of James Montagu of Lackham³¹⁰, Elizabeth's husband³¹¹, which will Elizabeth Flower also

³⁰⁶ Alderton Parish Registers buried 19 December 1743

³⁰⁷ Alderton Parish Registers 10 September 1744

³⁰⁸ W&SHC 212b/3671 *Will of Elizabeth Montagu nee Eyles* dated 2 November 1741

³⁰⁹ Henry Flower was Mayor of Devizes 5 time, in 1719, 22, 27, 34 & 38 [Kite, E (1858) *The Guild of Merchants, formerly in Devizes* WAM vol IV p173] and Receiver for Wiltshire [Ide, I (1990) *Wiltshire Members of Parliament and Their Involvement with the South Sea Company* WAM 80 p140]. His Mayoralty in 1827 was after Edward Watton died in office [Bull, H (1859) *A History, Military and Municipal, of the Ancient Borough of the Devizes* p579] It has been said that a monument in St Mary's Church, Devizes records that Henry died in 1768 aged 51 and that Mary in 1748 aged 70 [Waylen, J (1839) *The Devizes* etc), These details are incorrect in a number of ways; firstly the memorials are actually at the west end of St James Church, at the north end of the Green in Devizes, and Henry died in 1750 aged 85. From the memorials in St James it is clear that Mary Flower was a daughter of Thomas Jones of Usk. Her younger sister Sarah is also buried in St James (died 1743 aged 50) as is Henry Flower's son Edward, who died in 1769 aged 51 [Sherlock, P (2000) (ed) *Monumental Inscriptions of Wiltshire : an edition, in facsimile, of Monumental Inscriptions in Wiltshire by Sir Thomas Phillipps, 1832* WRS vol 57 p 370]. These dates make much more sense than those given by Waylen.

³¹⁰ James Montagu's mother was Diana Hungerford and her mother was Rachel Jones, who married Anthony Hungerford of Black Bourton, Oxon. Rachel died in 1679, and was a daughter of Rhys Jones [<http://www.tudorplace.com.ar/HUNGERFORD.htm>]. He was either Rice Jones senior or his son, also Rice, who purchased Asthall Manor, Oxon, in 1612. [VCH *Oxfordshire* (2006), Vol 15 , *Bampton Hundred* (Part Three) '*Asthall: Manors and other estates*']

It is most likely Rachel's father was Rice senior, "*(c.1570-?) of Asthall, Oxfordshire, England who married Frances Hopton. Their children included 1. Rice2 Jones who married Jane Bray, d/o Gyles Bray of Barrington, Oxfordshire, England and Anne Chitwood, and 2. Rachel Jones who m. Anthony Hungerford.*" Michaelm (2002) posting at <http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/EFSS/2002-03/1016630765>]

witnessed. This fits with this Elizabeth Flower being the one who married William Hedges, as she would not have been Elizabeth Hedges until the following year. The close connections between the Montagus and the Flowers and the Montagus and the Hedges supports the idea that it is this Elizabeth who married William Hedges after the death of Elizabeth Hedges, nee Gore. There is a much stronger link between the Montagus and the Hedges families however, see below

Elizabeth Flower and William Hedges had no children and when William died in 1757 the third son, Thomas, inherited. Little is known of his time at Alderton but he lived there until his death, unmarried, in 1762 ³¹².

Once again the estate devolved to the eldest daughter, Eleanor. In 1741 ³¹³ or 1744 ³¹⁴, she had married James Montagu IV of Lackham. That the Hedges were a wealthy family is demonstrated by the fact that Eleanor's marriage portion was £5,000 ³¹⁵. James Montagu was the great grandson of Mary Baynard, who was godmother to Thomas Gore (see above). Eleanor only inherited Alderton four years before her own death.

It has been said that Eleanor was the *daughter* ³¹⁶ of Charles Hedges,

³¹¹ W&SHC 212b/3671 will of James Montagu dated 2 April 1743. James gave £30 to "Mary Flower as a small acknowledgment for the many favours shown to my dear wife and myself wife of Henry Flower of the Devizes"

³¹² Little is known of him, but Countess Badeni (Badeni, J (1966) *Wiltshire Forefathers*) tells that "he seems to have been a gay character, for he used to have dancing in the study...and used to invite the girls of the village to take part...[an eyewitness] said that it was "a noble room and held 12 couples" . The source for this quote is unknown.

³¹³ Lacock Parish Registers dated 3 December 1741

³¹⁴ Alderton Parish Registers *James Montagu of Lackham and Mrs Eleanor hedges, eldest daughter of William Hedges*, dated 26 July 1744

³¹⁵ W&SHC 212B /3676
Marriage agreement dated 19/30 July 1744.

³¹⁶ *Bath Chronicle & Weekly Gazette* 7 Sept 1786 vol XXIV no 1347 (sic) p3 col b

Secretary of State to Queen Anne ³¹⁷ but, as both the DNB ³¹⁸ and Burke attest, she was actually *his grand daughter* ³¹⁹, being the daughter of William Hedges.

Eleanor was certainly the granddaughter of Thomas Gore, the Wiltshire antiquarian and contemporary of John Aubrey. There is no way such a meticulous genealogist as Gore would get his own immediate family connections wrong, and he clearly identifies her as his granddaughter ³²⁰.

³¹⁷ Charles Hedges was the son of Henry Hedges of Wanborough, Wiltshire, and his wife Margaret, daughter of Richard Pleydell of Childrey, Berkshire and lived at Compton Bassett, Wiltshire. He was judge of the Admiralty Court under William III until his death. He was returned as an MP in 1698 but was unseated that time. He was an MP for many years, however, at times for Malmesbury and also Calne in Wiltshire. In 1700 he was sworn in as Secretary of State and a Privy Councilor. He attended Queen Anne at Bath in August 1702 and for two months in 1704 was the sole Secretary, both Home and Foreign, until a successor to the Earl of Nottingham was appointed.

His chief residence from 1696 was Richmond Green in Surrey but in 1700 he bought the estate of Compton Camberwell in Compton Bassett, just outside Calne in Wiltshire. He owned many properties in Wiltshire and was buried, as was his widow who survived him, at Wanborough. His wife was Eleanor, the daughter of George Smith of London and they had four children, a daughter and sons Henry, William and Charles [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_Hedges 1649/50 - 10 June 1714] and it was William who was Eleanor's father

³¹⁸ DNB vol XIX p693 tells how she was a granddaughter of Queen Anne's secretary, Sir Charles Hedges. Burke (1858) *History of the English Commoners* p54 has her name as "*Elizabeth*"

³¹⁹ DNB (1954) p693 tells she was a granddaughter of Queen Anne's secretary, Sir Charles Hedges. Burke (1858) *Peerage* p54 has her name as "Elizabeth"

³²⁰ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderon... containing a true account of their Armes, Birthes, Baptizings, Marriages, Issue, Last Wills, Deaths and Inventories*. From which his consistent and incredibly wearying exactitude can be guessed. Microfiche copy held in W&SHC, original consulted in the British Art Library, V&A Museum London.

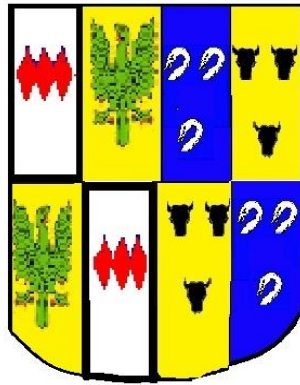


Fig. 33 Arms of Montagu and Hedges. *

The arms above are shown on the death shield for James Montagu over the solar window in Grimm's illustration of the house at Lackham, *juxta Lacock*, in 1790. The Hedges arms, on the right hand side of the shield, show the swan necks of the Hedges family quartered by the bull's heads of the Gores

A few years later the Alderton church tower needed repairing - the Church account book records that the old bells of the church were sold for £31, to cover the cost.³²¹ The number of bells involved is not given

There was a younger Hedges daughter, Elizabeth, who married John Shaw, Bart. of Eltham in Kent in 1740 but their only child died young in 1794.

Eleanor Montagu (nee Hedges) died in 1766 and was buried in the Montagu family aisle in Lacock Church ³²². The estate passed to the Montagu family.

³²¹ Gesland, Francis (1858) manuscript dated Oct 6th 1858, bound into the front of Jackson's Mss in the Library of the Society of Antiquaries, London.

³²² see Pratt, T & Repko, K (2010) *Manor of Lackham Vol 3: The Montagus of Lackham and their historical connections* for details. Available on line at http://www.lackham.co.uk/history/vol3_montagu.pdf

**The Montagu family
(1751 - 1827)**

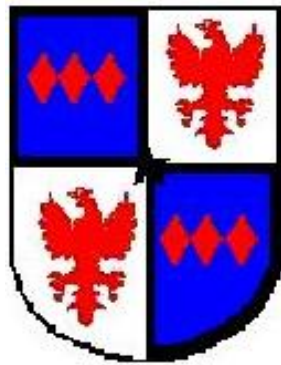


Fig. 34 Arms of the Montagu family of Lackham
(after Buckeridge, 1995³²³)*

³²³ Buckeridge, D (1995) *Church Heraldry in Wiltshire*
*Quarters 1 & 3 Azure three lozenges gules in a fesse ,bordre sable, 2 & 4 an eagle
gules displayed, a star for difference*

James was a magistrate, one of the few records that show this dates from 1782 -

*12 Dec 1782 Devizes prison Elizabeth Palmer committed by James Montagu esq as a rogue and vagabond; died of infirmity and disease*³²⁴

The records for the Montagu family are uneven in their coverage, and those for their ownership of Alderton seem to be largely missing; nothing has been found during the lifetime of James and Eleanor. James Montagu died in 1790, hence the death shield referred to above. His memorial stone is now in the south aisle of St. Cyriacs church in Lacock, having been moved from its original position in the church during the nineteenth century.

James and Eleanor had seven children, two sons and five daughters,. The children were named James, George, Arabella, Harriet, Eleanor, Charlotte and Elizabeth.³²⁵ but only James and George are shown on the pedigree below for clarity

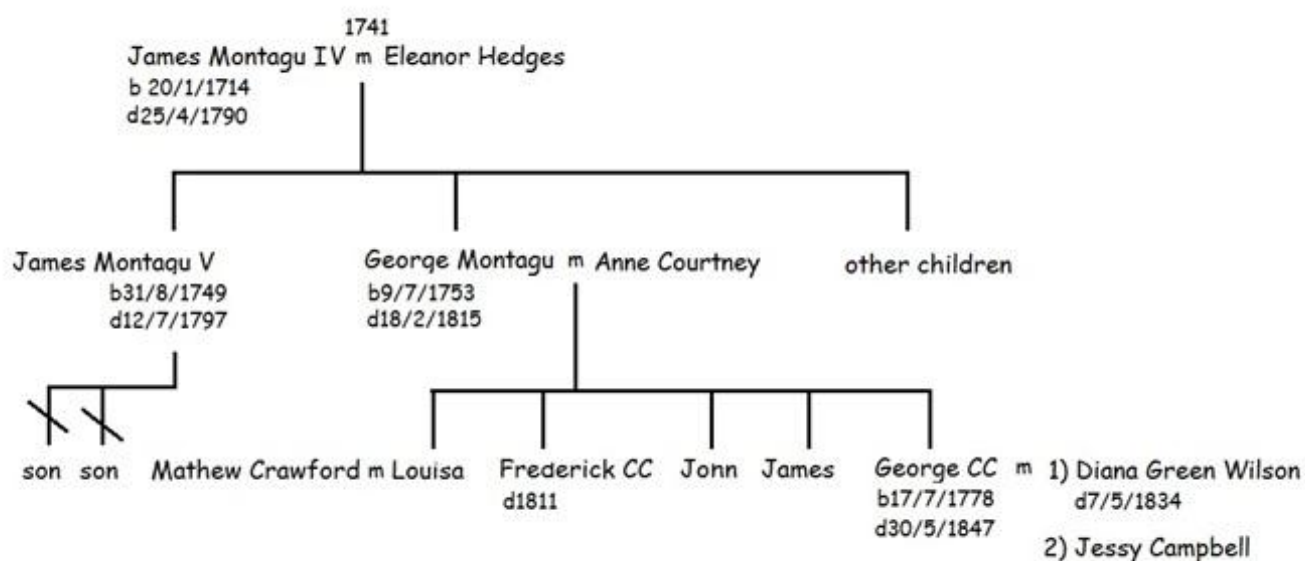


Fig. 35 Last of the Lackham / Alderton Montagus *

³²⁴ Hunnisett, RF (ed) (1981) *Wiltshire Coroners' Bills 1752-1796* WRS p83 no 1325

³²⁵ Burke (1858) *History of the English Commoners* vol IV records that Arabella married Ralph Woodford of Devon in October 1794, Harriet married the Rev Daniel Curnel (who died in May 1809) in July 1792, Charlotte married Mr Smith from Hill Hall in Essex and Elizabeth married the Rev Higgeson, who was the Rector of Rode in Wiltshire.

His son James V inherited. Little is known of his early life but in 1772 both James senior and junior appear in a poll of the freeholders of Wiltshire. They met at Wilton to elect a Knight of the Shire to replace Edward Popham, the poll being conducted by Henry Penruddocke, the High Sheriff ³²⁶.

Sometime before James V's death in 1797 he borrowed £25,000 from Lord Chief Justice Ellenborough³²⁷, in order to complete the purchase of lands that had formed part of Pewsham Forest next to Lackham, on the opposite side of the river³²⁸. Cunnington reports that "*a provision was made in his will for the gradual liquidation of this debt*"³²⁹. Unfortunately although much was repaid, at the time of his death there was £8,000 outstanding. This, complicated by the problems of succession detailed below, eventually led to serious problems [for Lackham and disastrous ones for Alderton](#).

In 1797 Lackham and Alderton came briefly under the control, but not the ownership, of James' brother, George Montagu.

He was born at Lackham in 1751³³⁰ and joined the 15th Regiment of Foot ³³¹ in 1770 ³³², when he was 16 years old. He married Ann, the eldest daughter of William Courtenay

³²⁶ The candidates for the election were Ambrose Goddard and Henry Herbert, result unknown.

³²⁷ Cunnington, W (1882) *Memoir of George Montagu* WAM III p91

³²⁸ In 1604 James I presented the area to the Earl of Anglesey, Christopher Villiers (Jackson, Rev JE *On the history of Chippenham* WAM p35) The Earl gave the area to his granddaughters in his will. One of the two heiresses, Elizabeth, married James Touchet "*and the portion now belongs to Mr Ludlow Bruges*" (Jackson *ibid*) and the other married Mr Cary of Tor Abbey, Devon. Their son George Cary sold the principal part of Pewsham to James Montagu V

³²⁹ Cunnington, W (1852) *ibid*

³³⁰ DNB vol XIX p 693 give 1751, Cunnington *ibid* p87 has 1755

³³¹ <http://www.pwstubbs.force9.co.uk/15th/15th.htm>

Raised at Nottingham in June 1685 by Col. Sir William Clifton as by Col. Sir William Clifton's Regiment of Foot. It was then named after the Colonels of the Regiment until 1751, when it became the 15th Regiment of Foot, in 1782 being renamed as the 15th (The Yorkshire East Riding) Regiment of Foot, in 1881 the East Yorkshire Regiment, in 1935 the East Yorkshire Regiment [The Duke of York's Own] before finally, in 1958, it

and Lady Jane Stuart. Ann was a granddaughter of the Earl of Bute, Prime Minister to George III.

In 1775 George was promoted to the rank of Captain and 5 weeks later the regiment was sent to America³³³, during the American War of Independence and it was here that the Regiment earned one of its nicknames, *The Snappers*³³⁴. While in America George was promoted to Captain but left the Army on November 16th 1777³³⁵. This may have been due to his unhappiness with the experiences he had:

*the misery which often fell on the inhabitants of the scattered villages and lonely dwellings, from the brutality and licentiousness of the soldiery, was painful to him in the extreme; and in narrating anecdotes of the war to his children in after years, he was wont to allude to circumstances of this nature with abhorrence*³³⁶.

George and Anne had two sons, George Conway Courtenay Montagu and

was amalgamated with the West Yorkshire Regiment [The Prince of Wales's Own] to form the Prince of Wales' Own Regiment of Yorkshire. The West Yorkshire regiment was raised in the same year as the 15th and was formerly known as the 14th Regiment of Foot.

³³² The Army List for the Fifteenth Regiment of Foot gives that he was an ensign in the regiment 22 June 1770, made Lieutenant 8th January 1773 and Captain 1st December 1775.

³³³ Embarked 10 January 1776 but did not actually sail until 12th February "*because of shortage of transports, unfavourable winds, etc*"

³³⁴ <http://www.pwstubbs.force9.co.uk/15th/15th>.

"The Regiment had exhausted its supply of musket balls, but still had powder. They were told to keep "snapping" which was the act of charging a musket with powder only and firing it off (rather similar to today's blank ammunition) By doing this the Regiment convinced their attackers that they still had ammunition and the attack was beaten off"

This was at the Battle of Brandywine

³³⁵ Jones, Robert J (c 1959) *A History of the 15th (East Yorkshire) Regiment, Duke of Yorks 1685 - 1914*

³³⁶ Cunnington, (1852) *Memoir of George Montagu WAM III* p 88

Frederick Conway Courtenay Montagu³³⁷ and two daughters.

George received a commission in the Wiltshire Militia after leaving the Army, he rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. At this time (1794) a subscription was raised to augment the regiment by purchasing two field pieces, *that one of the companies may be trained to the guns*³³⁸.

He was a famous naturalist, publishing several books, the best known of which were the *Ornithological Dictionary* (1802) & *Testacea Brittanica* (1803)³³⁹; his bird collection went to the British Museum and the Montagu Harrier is named after him³⁴⁰. He also named many species, an example being the sea slug³⁴¹. He was one of the earliest members of the Linnaean Society, joining in 1788. It has been said that he "*played a not insignificant role in the development of modern biology*"³⁴².

"His great contribution was to establish scrupulous standards in the acceptance of evidence which for many years were not to be surpassed. This was precisely what [natural history] needed at that particular stage in it's history: a man without blinkers, prepared to

³³⁷ Cunnington, (1852) *Memoir of George Montagu* WAM III p 91 He was brigade Officer in the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers under Lord Baesford when he was killed at the Battle of Albuera in Portugal, aged 26

³³⁸ Kite (1899) *Old Lackham House and its contents* Wilts Notes and Queries III

³³⁹ see Dictionary of National Biography for a full publication list. He was a correspondent of Gilbert White's.

³⁴⁰ *Falco cineraceus*, identified by Montagu, was given the name Montagu's Harrier by L. P. Viillot after Montagu's death (Badeni (1992) *ibid* p 71)

³⁴¹ *Thecacera pennigera* (Montagu, 1815)

Order: NUDIBRANCHIA

Suborder: DORIDINIA

Family: Polyceridae

Subfamily: Polyceridae

Distribution : originally reported from the Atlantic coast of Europe, it is now known from South Africa, Pakistan, Japan, Brazil, eastern Australia and New Zealand.

³⁴² http://www.Montagumillennium.com/research/h_1815_george.htm

*charge about the country making certain of his facts by looking at them with his own eyes"*³⁴³

Charles Darwin said that "*few more careful observers ever lived than Montagu*"³⁴⁴ and quotes from George's works in several places.

George had little income, but he received a bequest from Thomas Hedges, his uncle by marriage, of £200 per annum from the Alderton estate. He lived at Easton Grey, where one of his daughters was born,³⁴⁵ and then, on Thomas Hedges' death, at Alderton House.

*Towards the end of the eighteenth century [George] formed a deep and lasting attachment to another lady, Mrs. Dorville, the wife of a city merchant*³⁴⁶, *a woman of talent and education, who made beautiful drawings for his books*³⁴⁷

It is probable that George was already associating with Mrs Dorville when he moved to Easton Grey - an elderly resident of Alderton recalled that one of the Montagu's kept a Mistress at the Manor House and this would have been possible after the Montagu's moved out.

Mrs. Dorville moved, with George, as he was posted around the country with the Regiment, while his family lived at Alderton and Easton Grey³⁴⁸. She and George Montagu had several children, who were acknowledged by him. In his will³⁴⁹ George gives an annuity to Eliza Dorville - "*my beloved friend*" - with

³⁴³ Allen, David *The Naturalist in Britain: A Social History*, quoted in http://www.Montagumillennium.com/research/h_1815_george.htm

³⁴⁴ Darwin, Charles (1896) *The descent of Man and Selection in Relation to Species* quoted at http://www.Montagumillennium.com/research/h_1815_george.htm

³⁴⁵ June, the Countess Badeni *pers.comm.* July 99

³⁴⁶ "*John, merchant/Londor*" Transcript of Will PROB11/1570-389 dated 10/3/1805, transcription held at WANHS Museum, Devizes

³⁴⁷ Lacock inscriptions *ibid*

³⁴⁸ Cleavelly, R *pers. Comm.*

³⁴⁹ . Will of George Montagu

the provision that, should she die the money goes to "her younger children who may be alive and born since the separation from her husband, Henry, Isabella, Gerogina D". There was another daughter, Elizabeth, "the first born through their relationship"³⁵⁰ who is not mentioned in the will at all. It is noted that George's sister Arabella, married Ralph Dorville Woodforde some three or four years before this; it is tempting to speculate that it was through his brother in law that George came to know Mrs Dorville, but this is unknown.

In 1795 George was elected to be a Fellow of the prestigious Linnean Society; he was already much respected as a naturalist.³⁵¹

The association with Mrs Dorville was one of the factors involved when, in 1799, three of the officers in the Wiltshire Militia (Captains Awdry, Houlton and Phayre) brought Col Montagu before a courts martial on four counts of abusing his position as Commanding Officer and conduct unbecoming a commanding office. He was found guilty and dismissed from the Regiment³⁵².

Mrs Dorville was certainly the reason that, George couldn't inherit the estates from James, because under the terms of the will George could only inherit if he was living with his wife, Ann. In a codicil his will³⁵³ James Montagu stated "my brother George shall not live at my Mansion at Lackham unless he shall live and cohabit with his wife".

In 1801 the Trustees were ordered to

Enquire whether the defendant George Montagu the elder had resided in the Mansion House at Lackham since the Testator's decease and under what circumstances, and whether Ann Montagu his wife had resided there and under what circumstances, and was it

³⁵⁰ Cleevely, R *pers. Comm.* June, 2002

³⁵¹ My thanks to Gina Douglas, Librarian and Archivist to the Linnean Society for her assistance. George was nominated by J. Latham, W. Peete and T. Lamb and was elected a Fellow on 21 July 1795.

³⁵² Badeni (1982) *Past People in Wiltshire and Gloucestershire* p70 gives details of the actual charges, Allen (*ibid*) expresses it as being after "some provocative marital skirmishing"

³⁵³ Badeni (1982) *ibid*. The original will *did* leave Lackham clearly to George, but the codicil was added 4th July 1797

*proper*³⁵⁴

Ann refused to return to George, although she did live at Lackham afterwards.

The problems of the succession were not made public - in 1797 the Rev. Samuel Denne FSA wrote that a friend of his was staying with Colonel Montagu who had been left "*by his brother a noble house built within the last five years situated in the midst of a good estate and the manor extensive to the river Avon meandr'ing by a considerable part of it*"³⁵⁵

George and Mrs Dorville eventually moved to Knowle, near Kingsbridge in Devon, where he died of lockjaw on 28th August 1815. George's wife continued to live at Lackham until about 1808-1809.³⁵⁶

George and Anne's son, George Courtenay Conway (henceforth George CC) Montagu was a spendthrift and

*even in 1797 he had already started to sign promisory notes for ready cash, and by 1799 he was living in the north of England and elsewhere under an assumed name (sometimes more than one!) in an effort to dodge his creditors. Thereafter he spent some time, on and off, living under Kings Bench Rules and thus came the gradual sale of the estate*³⁵⁷

George CC Montagu married Margaret Green in 1803. She was the daughter of Richard Green Wilson of Lancaster. They had two sons, Frederick Courtenay, born in 1805 and Humphrey. There was also a daughter, Eleanora Christine Courtenay Montagu, who was born in 1811, and married Thomas Keeld Harvey in 1842, having two children.

³⁵⁴ W&SHC 137/59-6, a very large (53 pges of A2 sheets) compilation of judgements from the Courts over the Estate.

³⁵⁵ Lacock Inscriptions *ibid*

³⁵⁶ She died at Hotwells, Bristol, then in the county of Somerset, on 10th February, 1816

³⁵⁷ Lacock inscriptions *ibid*

Records for Alderton are scarce for this period; few of the Montagu papers that have survived from the late eighteenth century mention it.

Some details are known, the names of some of the wealthier people living in Alderton in the mid 1790's are available as a result of the Hair Powder Tax.

This rather strange example of taxation was introduced in May 1795 and "*every person who shall use or wear powder, commonly called hair powder of whatever materials the same shall be made shall previously enter his or her place of abode and annually take out a certificate*" ³⁵⁸

The powder was used to dust the wigs commonly worn by the well to do, both male and female. It was commonly chalk or flour. The annual certificates cost £1 1s each and, not surprisingly, the use of hair powder quickly went out of fashion. In 1796, however, certificates were issued in Alderton to Lewis Brotherson, his wife and two daughters and to Mr Verecfield, the only records we have of these people.

A small glimpse of late eighteenth century society that we rarely think about today is given in the Wiltshire & Swindon History Centre *précis* of an Alderton will. [In 2009 this read](#)

Will of Lewis ?Brothman formerly of St Christopher, now of Alderton Wilts 1799 bequeathing his property, including slaves and negroes to nephew Lewis B Verchild of Alderton Wilts ³⁵⁹

[But now that the actual will can be seen it is clear that the name is actually Lewis Brotherson, as in the Hair Powder Tax return.](#)

³⁵⁸ Hurley, Beryl (ed) *The Hair Powder Tax Wiltshire 1796 & 1797* WFHS W&SHC A1,395

³⁵⁹ [W&SHC 254/4](#)

[When undertaking the research for the 2009 edition this document was too fragile to be viewed and so I had no other details of what it actually said. However since then the conservators at Chippenham have worked on the will and it is now \(2012\) available . Because of the poor condition parts are missing but a transcription has been made by the author and is presented as \[Appendix 1.7\]\(#\).](#)

It is interesting that in the will Mr Bortherson doesn't mention any children but he does leave a considerable amount of money to his two nieces, it would appear that the two young females mentioned in the Hair Powder tax may not have been daughters after all.

St Christopher here is the West Indian island, not the valley north of Bath and Lewis Brotherson is named as a "*Planter, St Kitts*"³⁶⁰ in the West Indies in the correspondence archives of the Glasgow company of Houston, Alexander and Co³⁶¹ sometime between 1776 and 1799³⁶².

Lewis B Verchild, the nephew, was actually Lewis Brotherson Verchild, who was the rector of St Anne's Church³⁶³ Sandy Point, on St Kitts, between 1810 and his death in 1818. He was the first son and heir of James George Verchild (and, presumably, one of Lewis Brotherson's sisters). Lewis Verchild was educated at

³⁶⁰ ie he owned a plantation

³⁶¹ Founded by Alexander Houston. In 1783 his sons Andrew and Robert Houston were partners in the firm, as were William Macdowall, MP, LL and his brother the Provost, Robert Macdowall [<http://gdl.cdlr.strath.ac.uk/stecit/stecit14060.htm>]

³⁶² Ingram, ENK (2000) *Manuscript Sources for the History of the West Indies* section *Houston, Alexander and Co Glasgow letterbooks and accounts 1776-1806* p475 The University of the West Indies Press.

The 1799 upper limit comes from the fact that is the date of Brotherson's will.

³⁶³ Oliver, V L (originally 1927, edition consulted 1993 by The Borgo Press) *The Monumental Inscriptions of the British West Indies* section *Monumental Inscriptions of St Kitts* p168

"St Anne's is one of the original English parishes and contains the town of Sandy Point situated on a bay and guarded by Fort Charles (now used, I think, as a leper asylum). The great rock fortress of Brimstone Hill, 750 feet above sea level, is also about a mile off, and when it was fully garrisoned, many of the officers resided in the adjacent town.

By Act of Legislature, the inhabitants were allowed to erect houses within the fortification, to which their families could resort in times of invasion.

The Church is of the usual plain type, with a Tower at the west end. It stands on rising ground, close to the sea, facing St Eustatius, and is surrounded by a large churchyard."

Eton about 1793³⁶⁴. A "Mr Verchild" was a passenger on the *Duke of Cumberland* packet when she sank at Antigua in 1805³⁶⁵, but whether this was LB Verchild is unclear. The Verchilds were a very well established family on the island, as early as 1705 "Philip Verchild had a house valued at £250"³⁶⁶

A valuation of the Alderton estate was carried out in 1812, either for the court of Chancery or with a view to the sale of the property. The tenant farmers and the names and sizes of the Alderton farms can be gleaned from this appraisal³⁶⁷ and the farms covered an area of over 1800 acres between them.

There is a slight mystery relating to the later stages of George CC's life : George apparently died in 1819 "On Friday last, aged 43, suddenly George Conway Montagu esq of Lackham House in this county"³⁶⁸, which agrees with Vernon and also with an article about George Conway Montagu published in the *Wiltshire Times* by Kite³⁶⁹. Doubts is cast on this, however; Kite's articles provoked a letter, in 1931, from a granddaughter of George Conway, then living in Armadale, Australia. In a letter to the Editor she says that he "was born on June 24th 1776 and died on May 30th 1847, aged 71, his death having been caused by a painful internal malady through the last three months of which my mother was his devoted nurse"³⁷⁰. The discrepancy between this and the dates above is difficult to explain but it does fit with the date given by both Brocklebank and the *National Dictionary of Biography*. For Jane Courtenay Montagu to have been George's daughter he would have had to survived beyond 1819. The writer states that six years after the death of his first wife in

³⁶⁴ Strangely only one Verchild appears in *Alumni Cantagriensis* and its Oxford counterpart *Alumni Oxiensis*, and this is Jasper Verchild "adm. Pens. Emmanuel May 16 1724. Of St Kitts, West Indies" [*Alumni Cantagriensis* Part 1 From the earliest times to 1751 vol 4 p298.] Where LB Verchild was trained remains unknown.

³⁶⁵ *Naval Chronicle* Vol 12 1805 p471

³⁶⁶ Dunn, RS (1972) *Sugar and Slaves: the Rise of the Planter Class in the English West Indies 1624-1713* UNC Press

³⁶⁷ see [Appendix 2, Table 5](#)

³⁶⁸ *Devizes and Wilts Gazette* September 2nd 1819

³⁶⁹ *Wiltshire Times* February 7th and 14th, 1929

³⁷⁰ *Wiltshire Times* 1931, *Lacock Inscriptions* *ibid*

1834 he married Jessy, daughter of John Elphinstone Campbell and they had 2 daughters - the author of the letter, Jane Stewart Courtenay Montagu and Edith Mary Wortley, who died in 1911 aged 64 ³⁷¹. This would mean he was 58 when he married Jessy and died the same year as his youngest daughter was born. It would seem possible that the reports of his death were much exaggerated and that he actually just disappeared to escape his creditors - it seems a rather *romantic* suggestion but it is not unheard of and may well represent the truth. Whatever happened it is known that George died in Beromndsey, and Jessy Campbell emigrated to Australia three years later with her children.

³⁷¹ No records for Jane have been found, but the Victoria State records show that Mary Wortley Montagu married Frederick William Matthews in 1854. Unfortunately neither of her parents are named (Victoria State register number 3693).

The Neeld family



(1827 -1965)

Fig. 36 Arms of Joseph Neeld
(after Buckeridge, 1995)³⁷² *

³⁷² Buckeridge, D (1995) *Church Heraldry in Wiltshire* p67
*per pale Argent, and azure, a lion passant between three greyhound heads erased
counter charged*

The next owner of Alderton was Joseph Neeld ³⁷³, who was not a native of the area, yet his family became extremely influential in northern Wiltshire for many years.

It has been suggested that Joseph Neeld was born in 1789 *to a Bath surgeon* ³⁷⁴ but this is confusion with his great uncle's family. Joseph Neeld's great uncle on his mother's side was Phillip Rundell of the famous London jewellers Rundell, Bridge and Rundell. Philip Rundell

was born at Philip St Norton [sic] near Bath in 1767, the youngest in a family of 16. His elder brother Thomas was articled to a surgeon and apothecary at Bath and [lived] there ³⁷⁵

Joseph Neeld was actually the eldest son of a family of 10, whose parents lived in Hendon, Middlesex.

His father, also named Joseph, "*was a solicitor and perpetual president of Clements Inn in the Strand founded 1478*" ³⁷⁶. Brief details are to be found in Devizes museum - he was born in 1754 in Hendon, Middlesex, was married there on March 29th 1788 and died on the 20th December 1828 at 101 Gloucester Place, Portman Square, London ³⁷⁷.

³⁷³ I am much indebted to Mr Keith Woodman, who kindly shared his extensive knowledge of the Neeld family. He pointed out numerous factual and typographical errors that would otherwise litter this section.

³⁷⁴ Melhuish, K (1979?) *Mid 19th Century Architecture on the Neeld Estate at Grittleton, Wiltshire* folio MSS in Wilts. Local Hist Library, W&SHC

³⁷⁵ Fox, George (1843/1846) *An account of the firm of Rundell, Bridge & Rundell, London Jewellers*, an unpublished MSS (with a typewritten transcription dated 1957) National Art Library (V & A Museum) 276. E. 3

³⁷⁶ Joseph Neeld Esq MP DL JP Sevington School 150th Anniversary project Commemorative Programme WANHS Library box WT241, no 14

³⁷⁷ Jackson JE (unknown, after 1856) *Mss* WANHS box 120 Mss 1298

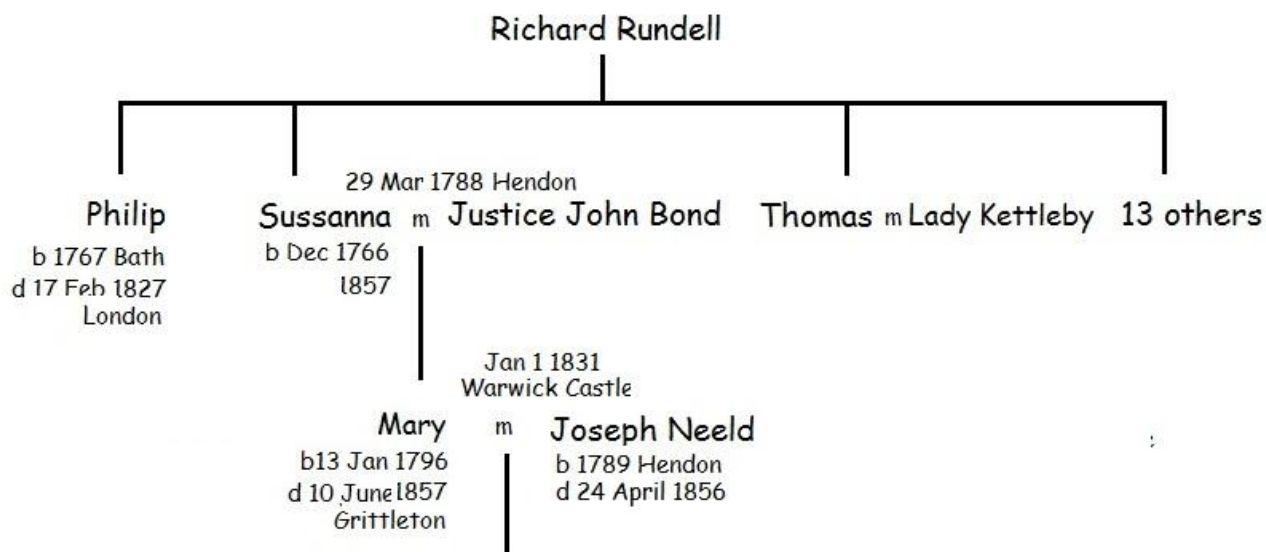


Fig. 37 Rundell / Neeld *

Fox gives fuller details

*Joseph Neeld was the son of Mr. Neeld, a solicitor of Norfolk Street, the Strand, who was in partnership with Mr. Fludgate and they carried on their profession in the name of Neeld and Fludgate. This Mr. Neeld married a daughter of Justice Bond of Bow Street and his wife's mother was a sister of Mr. Phillip Rundell - consequently Joseph Neeld was the son of a niece of Mr. Rundell*³⁷⁸

Mary Bond died at Grittleton on 10th June 1857.

Phillip Rundell started with nothing but eventually became a partner of the firm during its great years³⁷⁹. He was careful with his money - "by steady gains and

³⁷⁸ Fox, George (1843/1846) *An account of the firm of Rundell, Bridge & Rundell, London Jewellers*, an unpublished Mss (with a typewritten transcription dated 1957) National Art Library (V & A Museum) 276. E. 3 p 94

³⁷⁹ They were the Society jewellers - for example in 1823 the *Gentleman's Magazine* reported (1823, vol 2 p27 *An account of the Money expended at His Majesty's Coronation, stating the Amount, under the several heads, expended, and from what sources the Money was supplied*) "Messrs Rundell and Bridge for snuff boxes for foreign ministers £8,205 15s" (This was the sixth largest amount for the entire Coronation and equates to £384,000 in 2005 values, see fourth reference below)

continued parsimony he amassed this enormous wealth. He never spent anything and lived wretchedly."³⁸⁰

It is said that he made his fortune by buying jewellery from those fleeing the French Revolution who sold their jewels in London "*often at prices favourable to the purchaser*"³⁸¹

When he died at the advanced age of eighty ³⁸² Rundell was worth between £1.4m and £1.5m - an incredible amount in the early nineteenth century ³⁸³. He made Joseph Neeld his residuary legatee, ie Joseph got everything left after the other bequests were honoured, in a will Rundell made sixteen days before his death; Joseph Neeld became a very wealthy man indeed. *It is generally believed that he got around £900,000 but it has been suggested that the actual amount was £600,000* ³⁸⁴

Joseph Neeld owned property at Norton St Philip, between Frome and Bath in Somerset, presumably part of his inheritance from Philip Rundell. It was here that he first employed the architect who was to work with him on his estates for the next thirty years, Thomson.

Another association from this time that was to last for many years was with JE Jackson who was the Vicar at Farleigh Hungerford. The two got on so well that Joseph offered the good Canon the post of Vicar at Leigh Delamere, where he remained for the rest of his life, and was closely involved with the Neeld family, hence much of his information was gained at first hand.

³⁸⁰ *Badeni J (1966) Wiltshire Forefathers*

³⁸¹ *Badeni J (1966) ibid*

³⁸² on the morning of Saturday February 17th, 1827

³⁸³ Between £68m and £74m at 2005 values (using the Currency Converter provided by the National Archives at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/currency/results.asp#mid>)

³⁸⁴ Given in the account of Joseph Neeld by Stephen Farell in *The History of Parliament 1840-1832* online edition at <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1820-1832/member/neeld-joseph-1789-1856>,
Amounts equate to £44,541,000 and £29,694,000 in 2005 values as above

Alderton was the first estate, but by no means the last, that Joseph bought in this corner of northern Wiltshire. His purchase of the manor brings yet more uncertainty to the last days of the Montagu's tenure and tends to support the suggestion that George was still living in 1827, and maybe still in England. In the Wiltshire Record Office there is a document which indicates that George and his son, Frederick, dealt directly with Joseph Neeld for the sale of Alderton estate through their agent John Knipton ;

*The said John Hannam Knipton agreed to sell and the said Joseph Neeld agreed to buy all the hereditaments comprised in the announced particulars consisting of one thousand eight hundred and ninety six acres three rood and thirty six perches or thereabouts situate at Alderton and Hull Lavington near Badminton in the County of Wilts at the sum of sixty one thousand pounds and all the timber and lees thereon being at the further sum of one thousand pounds*³⁸⁵

This agreement allowed Joseph Neeld access to the estate as he was

*desirous of taking advantage of the present season of the year for planting Ornamental and other trees and Shrubs in certain parts of the said estate..... in such manner as to him shall seem fit*³⁸⁵

It is likely that large numbers of trees were planted at this time, the location of some of the planting is known precisely. The Rev. Goddard mentions that Joseph Neeld had planted those which "form the avenue from the field called Tinings to the entrance of the village running beside the church"³⁸⁶

It has always seemed likely that Joseph bought Grittleton and Alderton because they lay next to each other, but it also happens that John Houlton,

³⁸⁵ "Memorandum of agreement as to the planting of the Alderton Estate without prejudice to the pending investigation of the site" W&SHC 1305/16

³⁸⁶ Goddard Rev F. *et al*, (1928) *Alderton alias Aldrington Parish Notices of Aldrington Parish to be kept in the parish chest* W&SHC 1678/8
Goddard was the second Vicar of the refurbished church at Alderton. He was the sixth son of Rev Edward Goddard Lord of the Manor and Vicar of Clyffe Pypard. Born 21-22 Jan 1814 died Nov 22 1893 educated Grammar School of Edward VI at Marlborough and then Brasenose College Oxford.

from whom Joseph purchased Grittleton in 1828³⁸⁷, also owned estates at "Farley"³⁸⁸ and so was a neighbour of Joseph when he was at Norton St Philip (see above).

Exact details of the manor at the time Joseph bought it are not available but a survey was carried out two years previously³⁸⁹ and again the names of the tenant farmers can be found (see Appendix 2 Table 7). The farms total about 1700 acres.

Alderton was in a terrible state by the time it became Neeld's property, it had been in Chancery for years and had

*Suffered all the evils of non resident proprietorship. Its noble house had been pulled down and the materials and furnishings sold, its stately timber everywhere felled and fences neglected*³⁹⁰

The old Manor house was demolished sometime between 1814 and 1845, the exact date is unknown³⁹¹ although it may be that it was "taken down not long before 1828"³⁹².

³⁸⁷ W&SHC 1142/1 deed between John Houlton and Joseph Neeld
"The said Manor of Grittleton... in the said county of Wilts were in the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty eight sold conveyed and assured by the said John Houlton & John Forraine ? Houlton to Joseph Neeld esquire"

³⁸⁸ Jackson JE (unknown, after 1856) *Mss* WANHS box 120 *Mss* 1298

³⁸⁹ From data in Raynes, I (1825) *Particulars of sundry estates in the County of Wilts* W&SHC 1305/16

³⁹⁰ Thomson, J (undated <1845) *On the hagioscope and other parts of Alderton Church* original publication unknown but possibly the *Gentleman's Magazine*. Copy held in W&SHC.

³⁹¹ Aubrey (1814) *The Beauties of England and Wales* quoted in Thomson, J (1845) *Alderton* which is a photocopy of Thomson's notebook W&SHC BRN0429263 LUC
"The old manor house, which is still standing, is situated north of the village church and is now the property of a family called Hedges"

³⁹² Goddard Rev F. *et al*, (1928) *Alderton alias Aldrington Parish Notices of Aldrington Parish to be kept in the parish chest* W&SHC 1678/8

*Alderton was in the keeping of the Montagues then of Lackham in this county who had despoiled it of the magnificent timber (for which the old inhabitants recalled it to have been remarkable) and destroyed the Manor House situated in what is still called the Bowling Green, a paddock opposite the church to the north above the old manor pond. The house had its face toward the farm now in the occupation of Mr David Sargent called the Manor Farm*³⁹³

The villagers had suffered greatly from this lack of proper ownership - Thomson and John Crocker (agent for Joseph Neeld) surveyed the village in 1827 and reported that

We were struck [by] the wretchedness and destitution of the inhabitants and their dwellings. The latter were not only dilapidated and dirty from the number of inmates compressed into each narrow house but the styes and Privies which everywhere stood in front of their hovels were placed so that the channels on each side of the road might receive the odious filth from each.

*These circumstances joined to the barely clad condition of the parents and their poor squalid children [here there is a footnote - Many of the children had but one ragged garment / a smock shift / and without shoes or stockings to their feet or covering to their heads some about almost in a state of nature -] mixing in communion with the swine, the whole scene as revolting to humanity as it was astonishing to find that in the middle of one of the most prosperous counties of England such a state of things could exist*³⁹⁴

³⁹³ Goddard Rev F. *et al*, (1928) *Alderton alias Aldrington Parish Notices of Aldrington Parish to be kept in the parish chest* W&SHC 1678/8

³⁹⁴ Thomson J (1845) *Alderton* W&SHC BRN0429263 LUC I am indebted to Mr Midwood and Mrs Doyle for their work on this same record, (Midwood, H (1995) *A Short History of Alderton, in Wiltshire* p5) as there were several phrases in the original that I was unable to read but which they had successfully deciphered. Thomson's handwriting is frequently difficult.

It should not be thought that Alderton was unique, although being under absentee landlords would have made its situation worse than most. There was much unrest in the rural areas in the early nineteenth century and the generally terrible conditions and poor pay of the agricultural labourers were mainly responsible. The "planned village" movement and ideals can be seen, in *part*, as a response to this.

This dreadful state of affairs was not allowed to continue. The entire village was rebuilt to designs by Thomson, and this is the village that we see today. The houses were laid out down the existing street pattern with large gardens and good drainage. Writing some forty years later the Rev. Goddard said that

the cottages as they now stand werebuilt on the site (rather thrown back) of the old cottages pulled down to make room for them, This occurred some years before the church was built they are chiefly on what is called a model principle of different patterns more or less praiseworthy as the case may be. Two that were erected later just before I came here, are perhaps the largest and the best. They are all, I believe, let to the cottagers for an annual payment of £2 12 0. Each house has two bedrooms, a sitting room and a back kitchen (a scullery) ³⁹⁵

Surprisingly, however, these new villages

found no welcome with the poor. At Grittleton.... and at Alderton on [Neeld's] estate, the families ejected from their old hovels refused to occupy the new tenements and some families in the latter place encamped under the hedges for the greater part of one winter. ³⁹⁶

Sometime later, in 1843, Thomson and Neeld turned their attention to the Church, which was "nearly taken down, only the stump of the tower and the pillars of the nave with the north door and the porch remaining of the old

³⁹⁵ Goddard Rev F. *et al*, (1928) *Alderton alias Aldrington Parish Notices of Aldrington Parish to be kept in the parish chest* W&SHC 1678/8

³⁹⁶ Goddard F (printed 1928) *Reminiscences of a Wiltshire Vicar : 1814-1893* Wilts Gazette June 7th 1928 in six parts, reprinted as a MSS, WANHS Library, shelf 19

fabric"³⁹⁷. Joseph Neeld rebuilt the Church and made a new vicarage. Three of the original bells were recast and a new one made³⁹⁸ and another commemorates Mary Neeld, Joseph's mother³⁹⁹.

Commemorative plate in the Church was donated by the Rev Goddard⁴⁰⁰; an alms bowl marked "1853 Edward Hungerford Goddard bapt^d January ye 18th 1854 For Alderton Church Wilts"⁴⁰¹ and a platen marked with 1857 hallmarks and inscribed "Cecil Vincent Goddard bapt^d Febuary ye 28th 1858 For Alderton Church Wilts"⁴⁰². (The only other plate described by Nightingale was from the time of Charles Gore - Thomas Roffe⁴⁰³ bought a chalice for the church that was inscribed "Thomas Roffe of Alderton Church Warden Bought this Communion Cupe cost Three Pounds Anno Domini 1663"

Joseph Neeld also built, and endowed, a school for the village. It was constructed from material of the old church. In Goddard's time the schoolmistress was Jane White; from his description she was a formidable woman "Jane was an admirable disciplinarian if not a good penwoman⁴⁰⁴ ... the face of Jane White was enough to keep order in any school"⁴⁰⁵

³⁹⁷ Goddard Rev F. et al, (1928) *Alderton alias Aldrington Parish Notices of Aldrington Parish to be kept in the parish chest* W&SHC 1678/8

³⁹⁸ The inscription on the new one reads "I was cast AD 1843 when the church was restored by Joseph Neeld esq. Lord of the Manor"

³⁹⁹ Goddard Rev F, et al *ibid*
I (Treble) "I'm put here to make a peal
And sing the praise of Mary Neal"

"In memory of Madam Mary Neeld"

⁴⁰⁰ Nightingale, JE (1891) *The Church Plate of the County of Wiltshire* pp208-9

⁴⁰¹ This was the Rev EH Goddard who became a well-known and important local historian.

⁴⁰² Nightingale JE (1891) *ibid*. Cecil Vincent was later Vicar of Chideock, Devon in 1890.

⁴⁰³ In the list of landholders in 1665 (see [Appendix 2 Table 4](#)) there is a *Rolfe*, this may well be a misspelling of Roffe and this is the same person.

⁴⁰⁴ Goddard F (printed 1928) *Reminiscences of a Wiltshire Vicar : 1814-1893*

The Schoolmistress received very little pay - sometime after John Neelds death in March 1856 it was only £10 per annum, although the house was rent free and she also received the money the children paid for schooling⁴⁰⁶. The teaching was mostly reading, writing, and sewing for the girls. Goddard recorded that Mr Neeld paid for the firewood. The quality of the education gained was not high, the Vicar certainly felt that there was scope for improvement⁴⁰⁷

Three years later there was a Schools Inspection; the quality of instruction was not recorded but from this visit we know that the population was 182 a slight increase from the census of 1851 but only 6 more than thirty years earlier⁴⁰⁸.

The Neeld family house was located at Grittleton, and the focus necessarily changes away from Alderton at this time. Specific references to Alderton

Wilts Gazette June 7th 1928 in six parts, reprinted as a MSS, WANHS Library, shelf 19

"Funny as it may sound, I do not believe that she ever learned to write, but taught herself after she was schoolmistress."

⁴⁰⁵ Goddard F (printed 1928) *Reminiscences of a Wiltshire Vicar: 1841-1893* Wilts Gazette June 7th 1928 in six parts, reprinted as a ss WANHS library shelf 19

⁴⁰⁶ Goddard, F. (printed 1928) *ibid* They paid 1d per week each (assuming it was actually paid which may not always have been the case. This came to "about £20 per annum"

⁴⁰⁷ Goddard, F. (printed 1928) *ibid* "as regards the education of the children it is time there should be an improvement we did not move rapidly in Alderton, or the small parishes near it, in the matter of education".

⁴⁰⁸ Warburton (1859) *Census of Wiltshire Schools - An account of all Day schools for children of the Labouring Classes arranged by Parishes in the County of Wiltshire by the rev William Warburton MA, one of her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools*

The population was fairly steady. Goddard gives the following census figures :
Census dates pop.

1821	176
1841	180
1851	178

become less common from this period onwards, although the trials and tribulations, the successes and triumphs of the owners of an estate necessarily had an effect on that estate and its people.

When Joseph Neeld bought Alderton and Grittleton he was unmarried, but *soon 'laid siege to the heart of the daughter of a sinecurist Tory lord; and set up for a most magnanimous Tory himself'*⁴⁰⁹. On January 1st 1831 he married Lady Caroline Ashley-Cooper, *the lady in question* and daughter of Lord Shaftesbury, at Warwick Castle. This marriage was *"the unfortunate event of Mr Neeld's life. ..his family foresaw the extreme unsuitability of the marriage and almost up to the day of it urged him to desist"*⁴¹⁰. Unfortunately they were correct and the marriage did not last long and *"Mr Neeld and Lady Caroline never cohabited as husband and wife"*⁴¹¹. She only remained at Grittleton (which at that time was a Tudor mansion, only being rebuilt much later) for six weeks after the marriage and in that time

*She conducted herself in the most extraordinary manner. The story was that she found his clothes in a wardrobe in her room, pulled them out and threw them over the gallery into the hall. Mr. Neeld wrote to his sister Mrs Boldero 3 days after the marriage that he was miserable - Lady Caroline spent all her time in discussing him noting down every circumstance and his sayings and doings*⁴¹²

One is tempted to feel that such behaviour might lend credence to Jackson's view that Lady Caroline *"had only one object in view viz to get a handsome settlement any rate"*⁴¹³

⁴⁰⁹ Quote in the account of Joseph Neeld by Stephen Farell in *The History of Parliament 1840-1832* online edition at <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1820-1832/member/neeld-joseph-1789-1856>

⁴¹⁰ Jackson JE (unknown, after 1856) *Mss WANHS* box 120 *Mss* 1298

⁴¹¹ Jackson, JE *ibid.* citing Lord Denman, *via* his son Capt Joseph Denman

⁴¹² Jackson JE *ibid.*

⁴¹³ Jackson was naturally very well disposed towards his patron, was made an executor of Joseph's will and the two men were personal friends, so his account may be biased

Things went from bad to worse, for under the headline '*Delicate Discovery*', it was soon reported that Lady Caroline Neeld had recently been taken ill and delivered of '*a little stranger*', much to the consternation and humiliation of her husband of four months. It further alleged that she had had an affair with a Guards officer shortly before their wedding, was entitled under their marriage settlement to £10,000 a year in the event of a separation, for whatever reason, and that Neeld, whom the authors would not have thought was '*over-encumbered with brains, were we not assured to the contrary*', had been thoroughly imposed upon ⁴¹⁴.

After only a short time the couple removed to 6 Grosvenor Square, the Neeld London home. Joseph moved into Coulston's Hotel nearby and threatened to sell the house and even went so far as to order a broker to value the things and "*stuck up a Bill to Let with his own hand*"⁴¹⁵

In June of 1832 it was reported ⁴¹⁶ that the couple were separated or about to separate ⁴¹⁷ and in the same month Lady Caroline brought suit against Joseph for "*restoration of conjugal rights*" claiming that he had left her after two months; on 14th July Joseph was ordered by the court to take her back. At a meeting that evening at Coulston's Hotel Joseph reluctantly agreed that he had no option but to allow Caroline's return but presented her with a statement specifying the terms on which they were to live ⁴¹⁸. Joseph made sure these conditions were known to his acquaintances ⁴¹⁹

⁴¹⁴ *The Satirist* 8 May 1831

⁴¹⁵ Jackson, JE (unknown, after 1856) *Mss WANHS* box 120 Mss 1298

⁴¹⁶ Baddeni, J (1966) *Wiltshire Forefathers* p69 In the *Morning Herald*

⁴¹⁷ The separation may well have already taken place, although the length of time the two were together is not certain. Melhuish (1979? *Ibid*) suggests 4 days, but no evidence is presented, whereas Badeni (1966 *ibid*) mentions a fortnight's honeymoon.

⁴¹⁸ See Badeni J (1966) *ibid* pp 70-71 for a copy of the letter.

⁴¹⁹ Jackson, JE *ibid*. The copy of the letter Jackson reports seeing was sent to the Rev C G Coles of Stanton. Jackson felt that this was all very proper - "*Mr Neeld's letters were throughout most kindly and properly expressed and he was perfectly justified in all that he did*"

Things didn't work out, and in December of 1831 Lady Caroline was back at the Court, suing for divorce on the grounds of cruelty . It was said, for example, that Neeld had

used every means in his power to vex and harass his said wife; that he grossly abused her; that he frequently treated her with sullen silence and 'pretended' contempt; that he abused her family, and said they were a set disgraceful to be connected with, and declared that he would bring her "lower, lower and lower " ⁴²⁰

and a sensational case developed (with much mud slinging and accusations) which was referred to in the local paper as "*the farce of Low Life Above Stairs*" ⁴²¹. Although the case was dismissed, eventually, there was obviously no chance of reconciliation and a separation was arranged⁴²². Lady Caroline was granted £1200 per annum in 1832

The two never met again in England but

Once, by chance when travelling abroad at Wiesbaden, driving up to the hotel gate slowly one evening another carriage whipped in the gate before his. The party in it got out and went upstairs and he and his party followed. He said that something crossed his mind as the carriage passed him as to the truth but he did not know until following a lady upstairs she turned round on the landing place to see who was coming after her and lo there was her husband his daughter (Mrs Bradford) and the Boldero's were with him. He said nothing to her then but.... saluted her by raising the cap he had in his hand⁴²³

⁴²⁰ Quote in the account of Joseph Neeld by Stephen Farrell in *The History of Parliament 1840-1832* online edition at <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1820-1832/member/neeld-joseph-1789-1856>

⁴²¹ *Devizes Gazette* 1 December 1831

⁴²² 17th May 1832

⁴²³ Jackson, JE (unknown, after 1856) *Mss WANHS* box 120 Mss 1298

Obviously Joseph and Caroline had no children but Joseph did have an illegitimate daughter who was brought up in his house and was "*said to have been the child of a French woman of great beauty*"⁴²⁴ Local legend has it that

*When Lady Caroline arrived at Grittleton after the honeymoon she immediately asked who was the little girl running about the house and that this started the break up of the marriage*⁴²⁵

This is probably incorrect as Anna Maria is described on the marriage certificate, as "*filia illega nomen matris Shafto*"⁴²⁶, and therefore Caroline would presumably have known about her. Also if she was a *major* cause of the marriage breakdown it seems strange that she is never mentioned in the Court reports, given the tenor of the rest of the evidence where no stone remained unflung, let alone unturned - at least on Caroline's part.

Jackson's pedigree indicates that Joseph also had two illegitimate sons, but these both died before him, one "*early*" and the other in India in 1838 - no other details are known.

Anna Maria married Major William⁴²⁷ Inigo Jones (11th [Prince Albert's] Hussars) at St Mary's Marylebone on the 14th August 1844. Thomas Wylde, the rector of North Wraxall⁴²⁸ and Joseph's brother in law (see below) conducted the ceremony. Joseph settled £4,000 on Maria at her wedding, a considerable sum.

⁴²⁴ Baddeni, J (1966) *Wiltshire Forefathers* p72. This seems very likely, it may be recalled that Joseph's uncle had, it was rumoured, made his money by purchasing gems from French gentry fleeing the Terror, so both Rundell and Neeld would presumably have known many French ladies of beauty, quality and breeding...

⁴²⁵ Baddeni, J (1966) *ibid* p73

⁴²⁶ Sevington memorial programme 1999 *ibid* WANHS WT241 This indicates her mother's surname was Shaft? Hardly a French name, surely?

⁴²⁷ Keith Woodman *pers. comm.*

⁴²⁸ Undated and unassigned newspaper clipping in WANHS box 120, Mss 1280 as above

The Manor of Alderton 3rd edition

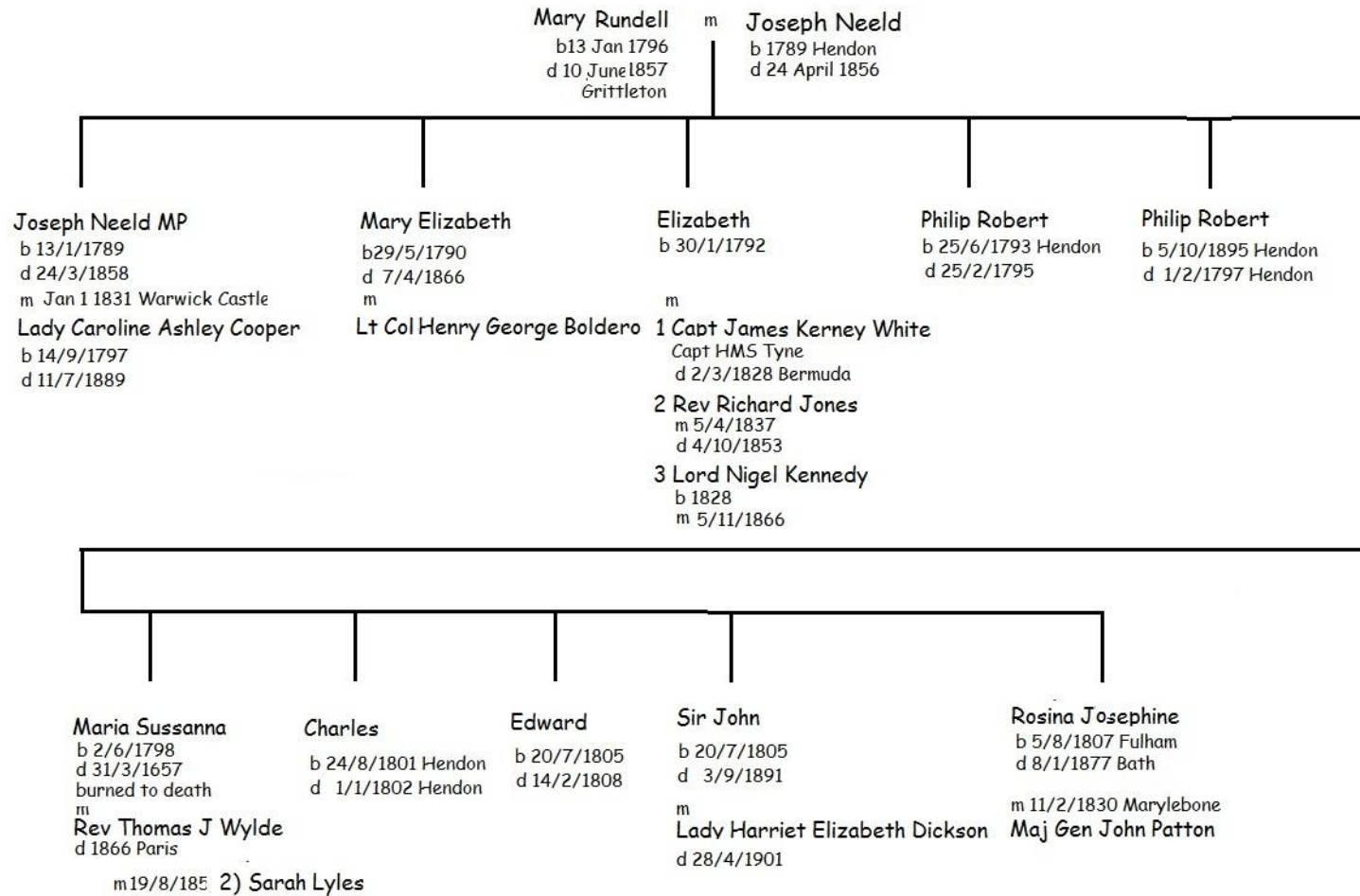


Fig 38 Siblings of Joseph Neeld *

Inigo Jones entered the Army in 1828, made Lieutenant in 1830 and Captain in 1837 ⁴²⁹. He joined the 11th Hussars two years later ⁴³⁰

Shortly before his death Joseph gave Kelston Park, near Bath, to the Inigo-Jones'. Joseph had owned the estate for some time, in 1835 he is said to have built Kelston Tower House (designed by Thomson) "*for his women folk and his love child, his mother and his beautiful French Mistress lived there from 1835 to 1850*" ⁴³¹. We shall see William Inigo Jones again later

Joseph was not an only child; he had 5 brothers and 4 sisters, [see above](#). Four of these brothers died young. The only other Neeld male to survive childhood was Joseph's eventual heir, John (born July 1805).

Family ties were even more important than now, and when Joseph was MP for Chippenham - at a time when the town returned two MP's - he arranged for his brother in law, Henry George Boldero, to serve with him as the town's second Member.

Boldero had married Joseph's oldest sister Mary Elizabeth in 1828. The two men were, as seen above, joint Members of Parliament for Chippenham until the town lost its second MP after the Reform Act (1832). The two families were obviously long term friends, it has already been seen that the Bolderos were in Joseph's party in Wiesbaden some time later (the exact date is unknown).

Henry Boldero was born in 1794, the second son of John Boldero, who was rector of Ampton in Suffolk and who died in 1796 ⁴³². Henry Boldero had a military career; he entered Sandhurst in either 1809 or 10 and became a 1st Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers in 1814 and was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant a year later. In the lull after the Napoleonic war he was on half pay between

⁴²⁹ *The New Army List 1841* vol IX p37

⁴³⁰ War Office *A List of the Officers in the Army and Royal Marines 1841* p130 February 4th 1839

⁴³¹ Mowl, T (1987) *A Taste for Towers* Country Life Oct 1 1987 p154

⁴³² *Gentleman's Magazine* vol 66 part 1 p530 *Obituaries* dated June 5
"The Rev John Boldero, rector of Ampton co Suffolk; while officiating at a funeral he was suddenly taken ill and died within 12 hours"

1819 and 1823 when he returned to duty and full pay ⁴³³. It may not be a coincidence that a year later he married his first wife, Louisa Lambert. They had a son who died young as did Louisa. Although her date of death is unknown it was before 1828. Henry Boldero was appointed Captain in the Engineers in 1827 and a year later he married his second wife, Joseph Neeld's sister Mary Elizabeth. The extensive and very detailed marriage contract for this union, which was drawn up by Joseph Neeld senior, is preserved in the Wiltshire & Swindon archives.

Boldero went back onto half pay in 1830, exchanging his full time position with Capt. the Honourable Henry Howard ⁴³⁴, and a year later he stood as Neeld's 'running mate' in the General election. As expected he was elected in second place behind Neeld ⁴³⁵. During his year representing the town he spoke against the proposed reforms that would have removed Chippenham's entitlement to a second MP. Boldero stood down as an MP at the general election in 1832 ⁴³⁶, and was presented with a silver cup to mark his defence of Chippenham's representation (and, it must be admitted, his own position) ⁴³⁷. Soon afterwards he moved to Hurst Grove, near Reading, Berkshire. In 1835 he was again elected for Chippenham, where he sat as a Conservative and Protectionist until he retired in 1859

Capt. Boldero was breveted Major in 1841 ⁴³⁸, at which time he was in the 38th Foot. This would have been helped by the £1000 Joseph Neeld had put in trust for him on his marriage to put towards purchasing a majority should "*Henry George Boldero becoming qualified for and actually purchasing the Rank of Major in the Army during the life of the said Mary Elizabeth Neeld.*" ⁴³⁹ It is

⁴³³ *London Gazette* 18493 Tuesday August 5th 1828 p1 He replaced Beauclark, who moved to the 23rd Foot. The appointment is actually dated 24 July 1828

⁴³⁴ *Edinburgh Gazette* 3922 Friday 24th December 1830 p1

⁴³⁵ Farrell, S *Henry George Boldero* in the History of Parliament online edition <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1820-1832/member/boldero-henry-1794-1873>

⁴³⁶ *Devizes Gazette*, 12 July 1832

⁴³⁷ *Devizes Gazette*, 13 Dec 1832

⁴³⁸ *London Gazette* 21344 November 23rd 1841

⁴³⁹ W&SHC 1035/288

worth recalling that the agreement for this was made only months after Joseph Neeld inherited Rundell's immense fortune.

In 1842 ⁴⁴⁰ Maj Boldero fought a duel with Craven Fitzhardinge Berkley, MP for Cheltenham ⁴⁴¹, in Osterley Park ⁴⁴².

with pistols. [Boldero] was charged with utterances disrespectful of the Queen by Berkeley. The two gentlemen were attended by Hons. W Ridley Colbourne ⁴⁴³ and WF

Marriage settlement between Capt Henry George Boldero, captain in the Army, of Portsmouth, Joseph Neeld the elder of Rockstone House S'hampton, Mary Elizabeth Neeld, spinster of the same place daughter of the said Joseph Neeld, Joseph Neeld the younger of Inner Temple London and John Brereton of Blakeney Norfolk. Dated 29 April 1828

The relevant bit of the agreement, on page four, runs "*And whereas upon the treaty of the said intended marriage and in consideration thereof the said Joseph Neeld the younger did out of his regard and affection for his sister the said Mary Elizabeth Neeld propose and agree to give his Bond to the said Henry George Boldero for securing the payment to him of the sum of One thousand pounds in the event of the said intended marriage taking effect and of the said Henry George Boldero becoming qualified for and actually purchasing the Rank of Major in the Army during the life of the said Mary Elizabeth Neeld*"

⁴⁴⁰ July 15th

⁴⁴¹ William, WR (1898) *The Parliamentary History of the County of Gloucestershire* p145 private printing

1805-1855, seventh and youngest son of the fifth earl of Berkeley

He has been described as one of the "*well-heeled beaux*" who were members of the aristocracy who were involved in this late phase of duelling (Banks, S (2010) *A Polite Exchange of Bullets: The Duel and the English Gentleman 1750-1850* p185)

⁴⁴² http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/osterley_park.pdf "*Osterley Park and its surrounding gardens, park and farmland is one of the last surviving country estates in London.*

⁴⁴³ Spencer, H & Terry, T article on *RIDLEY COLBORNE, Nicholas William (1779-1854), of West Harling, Norf* in the online edition of *The History of Parliament* at <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1820-1832/member/ridley-colborne-nicholas-1779-1854>

This would appear to be Nicholas William Ridley Colborne, 1779-1854 who was an MP for various boroughs between 1805 and 1837, after which he was elevated to the Peerage in 1839 [*Nicholas William Ridley Colborne, Esq. by the name, stile, and title of Baron Colborne, of Westharling, in the county of Norfolk*]. *London Gazette*: no. 19730.

*Mackenzie*⁴⁴⁴, *Members of Parliament, who terminated the meeting after a harmless exchange of shots*⁴⁴⁵

In fact "each of them fired twice".⁴⁴⁶

Boldero was made a Colonel in 1851 after which he retired from the Army. He died, intestate, in April 1873

Henry and Mary Boldero had two children. *The eldest became a Major General in the Royal Scots Fusiliers.* The younger of Henry and Mary's two sons, the Rev. Henry Kearney Neeld Boldero, was Rector of Yatton Keynall between 1856 and 1864, when his patron was Sir John Neeld (the only rector of Yatton Keynall to be patronised by the Neeld family)⁴⁴⁷. After this he was rector at Grittleton for the remaining 36 years of his life, dying in 1900⁴⁴⁸. Henry Kearney married Grace Cecilia Wylde. She was his cousin, being the second child of the Rev Thomas Wylde and Mary Susannah Neeld, another of Joseph's sisters.

p. 928. 3 May 1839.] It seems a little strange that he is given as an MP in Truman (although of course he was a member of the House of Lords) rather than as Baron Colborne.

⁴⁴⁴ *A manual of Queen Victoria's Second Parliament* (1941) no page numbers MP for Peebles, Conservative

⁴⁴⁵ Truman, BJ (1884) *The Field of Honor* p249

⁴⁴⁶ DNB vol 4 p343

⁴⁴⁷ From the display of Rectors of the church, on the north wall. The church is dedicated to St Mary of Antioch and "heavily remodelled in 1868" (information in display, supporting an appeal for funds, in the south nave August 2000).

⁴⁴⁸ south chancel between windows Grittleton church

The memories of the just are blessed

In thankful and loving remembrance of Henry Kearney Boldero 36 years Rector of this parish who died February 18th 1900 aged 68

This brass was erected by his three surviving children

If any man minister let him do it as of the ability which God giveth that God in all things may be gloried through Jesus Christ 1 Peter IV ii

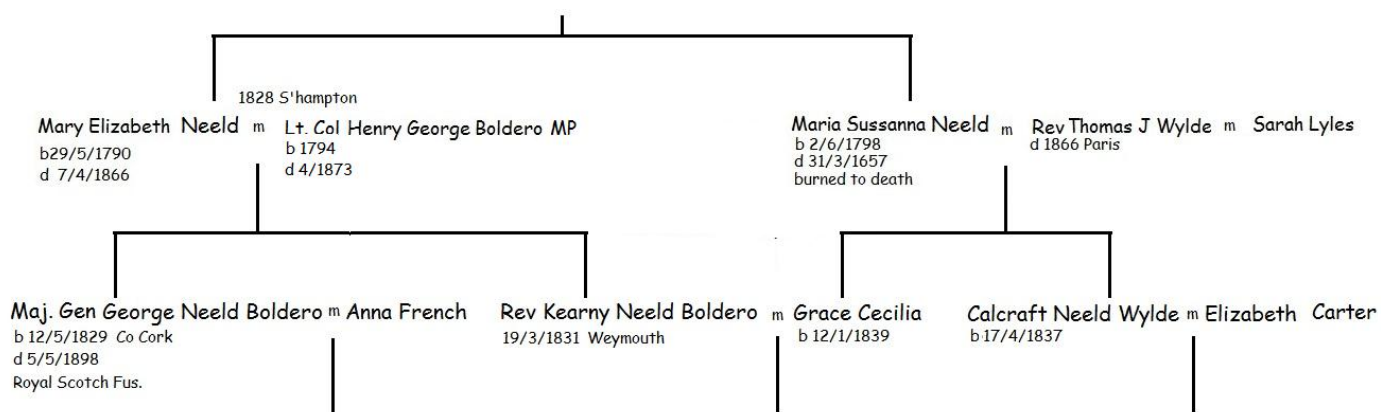


Fig. 39 Neeld ties to Baldero and Kearney *

Grace was born on the 2nd June 1795 and died 5 December 15th 1888.⁴⁴⁹ They had three children, the oldest was Walter, born in 1864. The second son, Arthur Henry, was born in 1872 but only lived for eight months⁴⁵⁰. Jackson records that there was a daughter born in January 1874⁴⁵¹ but no further details are known. *

Joseph Neeld's sister, Maria Susannah Neeld, married the Rev Thomas John Wylde at St Mary's Church in Marylebone, London in June 1836⁴⁵². Thomas Wylde was a younger son of the Walker-Heneage family of Compton Bassett⁴⁵³ in Wiltshire. They had two children, the eldest was a boy, Calcraft Neeld, born 17th April 1837. Calcraft married Elizabeth Carter and was Vicar of Maiden Bradley in Dorset and then Rector at Grittleton. The only memorial fixed to the outside of Grittleton church is to him. Engraved into the northern side of the West doorway is

*in memoriualrat Neeld Wylde ob 23 March 1919 aetat 81
To the glory of God*

⁴⁴⁹ Grittleton Inscriptions WFHS

⁴⁵⁰ Grittleton Inscriptions *ibid*
Arthur Henry Boldero died 7th May 1873, aged 8 months

⁴⁵¹ Jackson JE WANHS box 120 Mss 1298

⁴⁵² *Gentleman's Magazine* July 1846 p 85

⁴⁵³ Burke, John (1838) *History of the English Commoners* vol IV p370

in remembrance of the 12 years incumbency of the Rev C Wylde the figure of the patron saint of this church was placed in the tower niche by his grateful parishioners 1919.

Mary Susanna burned to death in 1857, the local paper carried a report of the tragedy :

Melancholy death of a lady

We are saddened to report the death, under distressing circumstances, of Mrs Wylde wife of the Rev T J Wylde of North Wraxall and sister of Sir John Neeld. The deceased lady had been suffering from illness for some time past one Monday morning about two o'clock her husband left her in bed and went into an adjoining room. After being absent for some time he perceived a smell of smoke, which appeared to proceed from the room which he had quitted. He ran to the door and found the room filled with smoke, so much so that he was totally unable to get in. The other inmates were immediately aroused, and the alarm given to neighbours. A large supply of water was procured and thrown into the room, which, to some extent, cleared away the smoke. A man named Pullen, a deputy surveyor of roads, then succeeded in getting into the room by crawling on his knees, when he found the unfortunate lady sitting in a chair in flames, and quite dead. One of her hands was raised and clutched the bell-handle, near the fire place, as though she had endeavoured to ring the bell. She was burnt almost to a cinder. There was a fire in the grate at the time but it is supposed that she got out of bed and that her clothes caught fire from the taper she was carrying ⁴⁵⁴

Joseph Neeld's sister, Elizabeth Charlotte, was unlucky in her marriages; she was first married to James Kearney White who was the first captain of HMS *Tyne* and who died in Bermuda ⁴⁵⁵. He and Elizabeth had the only recorded

⁴⁵⁴ *Trowbridge Advertiser* Sat April 11 1857

⁴⁵⁵ HMS *Tyne* was a 28-gun warship, launched at Woolwich in 1826. Capt. James K. White was her first captain in November 1826 (according to Philips), followed in 1828 by Capt. Sir Richard Grant, and in 1830 Captain Charles Hope took command in the West Indies. The vessel was ordered home in 1833. Capt. Viscount Ingestrie took

offspring of Elizabeth's marriages, Elizabeth Charlotte, who eventually married John Mogg of Farrington Gurney.

Eleven years after Capt. White's death Elizabeth married the Rev Richard Jones and the marriage lasted 16 years, Richard dying in 1857. Elizabeth was 61 years old at this time and looked likely to remain a widow for the rest of her life, but in 1866, when she was 74, she married the 38-year-old aristocrat, Lord Nigel Kennedy⁴⁵⁶. It may be wondered why Lord Kennedy married such an elderly lady - Elizabeth by this time was the second eldest surviving relation to Joseph, but her elder brother John already had seven children and there was no chance she would inherit the Neeld fortune. She may well have had a goodly estate, of course.

Joseph's youngest sister, Rosina Josephine, was born in Fulham in August 1807 and married Colonel (later Major General) John Patton⁴⁵⁷ in February 1830. He was the son of Admiral Patton of the Board of the Admiralty. Rosina and Col. Patton were married at St Mary's Church, Marylebone 11th February 1830.

command at Portsmouth in 1834 and Capt. John Townsend commanded in the Mediterranean in 1837-38. HMS *Tyne* was sold in 1862.

<http://www.cronab.demon.co.uk/T.HTM>

© 1995, 2000 Michael Phillips acknowledged.

According to HMS *Tyne's* log (Public Record Office ADM/51/3511) Kearney White commissioned what was apparently a new ship - they spent the first few months putting the mast trees in place, and loading rope, canons, ballast and so on. The last entry made by James was 26th March, 1826 and the next in the log is in October of that year, the ship under the command of Captain Grant. James must have died between these entries but the precise date has not been determined.

⁴⁵⁶ Foster, Joseph (1882) *The Baronetage and Knightage of the British Empire* p12 (Ailsa) Lord Nigel Kennedy born May 1828, died 18 March 1878 married 19th June 1858 May the youngest daughter of Major James Frere, she died 1st February 1862, and then married Elizabeth Charlotte widow Rev Richard Pranker Jones 1st November 1866, children by first marriage. Nigel was the fourth son of Archibald Kennedy the 12th Earl of Ailsa and his wife Margaret Eskine.

⁴⁵⁷ Jackson JE in WANHS box 120 Mss 1289 has Patton / Pulton which might indicate the possibility of an alternative spelling but the memorial in Grittleton church to Rosina it is shown as Patton -
in memory of Rosina Josephine Patton died 8th January 1877 aged 78 this window was erected by her children [north aisle window]

Joseph Neeld was well known for his good works and financial support in the local area. He rebuilt several churches (Alderton, Leigh Delamere ⁴⁵⁸), built several schools (Alderton, Sevington ⁴⁵⁹), rebuilt at least one entire village (Alderton) and significantly developed another (Grittleton), all for the benefit of his tenants.

An insight into some of the institutions of Alderton at this time can be gained from Goddard's valuable records. He tells of the various charitable clubs that were organised, for example

There is a clothing club originally started by Mr Deer which contained (1848) 27 people of whom all but two paid 2d per week. Mr Neeld donated £5 and the Rabbits killed on the estate were formerly sold for this fund in the several parishes but this has been discontinued and Mr Neeld raised his subscription from the £3 0 0 at which it stood to £5 0 0
⁴⁶⁰

And then there was

*a coal club into which each householder of the labouring class puts 5s to provide 10 cwt of coal. At Xmas [sic] the farmer bring the coal from Pit gratis, the turnpikes are repaid to the farmers - a portion of this I have paid myself and a portion I have put to the charge of the surplus of the Clothing Club. The coals are weighed in the village before given out they are usually given out in Xmas week the cost at the pit 10s per ton
The purchases of each farmer are thus ;*

⁴⁵⁸ Heetham, JH & Piper, J (1968) *Wiltshire* p 113

The old church here was pulled down in 1846 and it's reusable parts taken to Sevington, where they form features in the strange village school. Thompson also designed the present St Margaret's, whose Gothic bell turret is a fair copy of the one that Neeld had previously pulled down! [sic]

⁴⁵⁹ See above

⁴⁶⁰ Goddard Rev F. *et al*, (1928) *Alderton alias Aldrington Parish Notices of Aldrington Parish to be kept in the parish chest* W&SHC 1678/8

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwt</i>
<i>Mr Sergent</i>	4	10
<i>Mr B Kingston</i>	3	0
<i>Mr Wheeler</i>	2	10
<i>Mr Spencer</i>	2	0
<i>Mr J Kingston</i>	2	0
<i>Mr Bath</i>	1	10

David Sergent was Churchwarden ("*although he became a dissenter in later life*"⁴⁶¹) and was influential in the Sunday school. As Churchwarden he collected the farmer's contributions towards the cost of running the school and "*if there has been a deficit it has been made up by Mr Sergent*"⁴⁶²

Joseph Neeld, although an immensely wealthy man, was maybe not as well off as people thought. Jackson recalls⁴⁶³ a conversation where

Mr Neeld told me that people generally supposed that he was hoarding large sums of money, it was not so. When all his income came from the funds⁴⁶⁴, and at one time he was the largest holder of 3 per cent, he had a large unencumbered fortune; since investing in land it was greatly reduced both in interest and in expenses and drawbacks... He had spent his income every year for the last few years

Land may not have been as profitable as stocks and bonds, but Joseph became one of the great landowners of the county - the tithe records show that in 1832 he owned land in 14 parishes with a total of 8848 acres, which equates to

⁴⁶¹ Goddard et al *Alderton alias Aldrington Parish Notices of Aldrington Parish to be kept in the parish chest* W&SHC 1678/8

⁴⁶² Goddard Rev F. *et al*, (1928) *ibid*

⁴⁶³ Jackson JE in WANHS box 120 Mss 1289

⁴⁶⁴ ie stocks and bonds - Joseph held significant stocks in the East India Company and the South Sea Company

approximately a quarter of the entire titheable land in these parishes ⁴⁶⁵ and his holdings were above average for the parishes in all but one of them (Lydiard Millicent). Goddard, writing about c1860, gives details of the farms at Alderton:

The extent of the parish is 15,000 acres divided into 5 [he then consistently lists 6] farms. At this time the farms [were] occupied by

David Sergent Manor Farm near church

John Kington Glebe Farm near rectory

Eli Spencer

John Beard Kingston New Farm

Mr Wheeler

Mr Butler Grove Farm

the largest of these, Manor Farm, is about 400 acres, the smallest about 130 acres Manor Farm is rented at about £600. The farms were mainly running shorthorn dairy cows: "the yield from these magnificent beasts can sometimes be as great as 30 quarts per diem but this is not often achieved. Sheep are not generally found, the whole parish being not above £300"

The farms were mainly down to pasture, and this had not changed later in the century when, at the time that Joseph's brother John Neeld was Lord of the Manor ⁴⁶⁶, about a quarter of the land was arable, the rest pasture.

When Joseph first bought the estates he was a keen huntsman, he was "*driven.. to seek for excitement and amusement in trifles.. he was hunting every day*" ⁴⁶⁷. This is borne out by a remark he once made to Jackson who noted that "*at that*

⁴⁶⁵ From data in Brown, T (1812) *Valuation of the Lackham and Alderton Estates* W&SHC 1305/16

⁴⁶⁶ Estate records of Sir John Neeld (Wilts W&SHC 1780/16)

Farm	Acres	Arable	% arable
Grove	246	56	26.8
New	274	74	27.0
Manor	438	118	27.0
Town	246	40	16.3

⁴⁶⁷ Sevington memorial programme 1999 *ibid* WANHS WT241

time he did not attend to matters as much as latterly as he was hunting every day with a large loose establishment and not careful of business." ⁴⁶⁸. Shooting was also part of the estate use, and as well as the farms Alderton was "surrounded by plantations and covers, many of them newly planted by Mr Joseph Neeld" ⁴⁶⁹. It was in one of these that events, recorded in Smith's "Birds of Wiltshire" ⁴⁷⁰, took place:

It was a large plantation of very low young trees with laurels thickly planted beneath them, a cover, one would suppose, most unsuited to the roosting of such a multitude of birds when they might have chosen, immediately adjoining, a grove of full-grown trees of all kinds better suited to the accommodation of their lodgings. However it was in these small larch firs that they chose to rest. Multitudes innumerable began to assemble opposite my house every evening not on the ground but in the air where they formed into groups and exercising the most fantastic figures, among them that of a vast balloon turning itself inside out and continually reforming itself, they performed for perhaps an hour before they were ready to settle for the night. Then, having been reinforced by vast contingents from every point of the compass they drew near their night's quarters and suddenly descended with an immense clatter upon the slender branches of the large fir trees close to the keepers house, where were many sporting dogs generally making a great barking, and the guns of the sportsmen fired off after the sport of the day This went on for several years, and it was found that their presence was injurious to the plantation, which, especially the laurels, began to decay However by some unintentional offence they removed their

⁴⁶⁸ Jackson JE in WANHS box 120 Mss 1289

⁴⁶⁹ Goddard, Rev F (printed 1928) *Reminiscences of a Wiltshire Vicar : 1814-1893* Wilts Gazette June 7th 1928 ff, a reprint is held in WANHS Library, Devizes

⁴⁷⁰ Smith, Rev AC (1887) *The Birds of Wiltshire* "a comprehensive (588-page) account of all species seen in Wiltshire by the late 19th Century, though many of the Rev AC Smith's anecdotes are from his travels in Europe and Africa. Naturally, it reflects the avifauna at the time, with 26 pages devoted to Great Bustard alone" [Quote from the Wiltshire Ornithological Society at <http://www.wiltshirebirds.co.uk/publications/early-publications/>]

quarters and it was found that they had left behind them hundreds of cartloads of guano, which were afterwards used by the farmers on the estate ⁴⁷¹

Joseph Neeld, for all his protestations of "cash-flow" concerns, was generous to his family. However although he gave £30,000 amongst his relatives this "failed to satisfy them" ⁴⁷². He also gave Rev T J Wylde £2000 "in his difficulties a few years ago". What these difficulties were is not known.

On Joseph's death, in March 1856, the estate passed to his brother Sir John Neeld. The trustees of the estate were Sir John, Colonel William Inigo Jones and the Rev Canon Jackson. Joseph was the first to be buried in the new family crypt that he had built under Canon Jackson's restored church at Leigh Delamere. There was a slight problem here, the coffin was too large to go through the crypt door and had to be lowered into the crypt through the roof ⁴⁷³. A tablet in the choir at Grittleton records that "To the glory of God and in memory of Joseph Neeld Esq the east window was erected by his (18) friends and Tenants (71)". Church bells throughout the local area were rung in respect ⁴⁷⁴.

From records held in the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre it is clear that not all of Joseph's fortune passed to his brother, the trustees of the will were still exercising their powers and had control of substantial amounts even as late as the 1870's. There are numerous letters from Jackson showing him dealing with the financial aspects of the Neeld estate. For example, in 1873 Robert &

⁴⁷¹ Smith, Rev AC (1887) *The Birds of Wiltshire* quoted in Goddard, Rev F (printed 1928) *Reminiscences of a Wiltshire Vicar : 1814-1893* Wilts Gazette June 7th 1928 ff,

⁴⁷² Jackson JE in WANHS box 120 Mss 1289

⁴⁷³ *Devizes & Wilts Gazette* 3 April 1856

The entrance to the crypt, in, which Mr Neeld had directed his body to be interred, had unfortunately been formed in the original vestry on the north side of the church, but in consequence of the staircase being too narrow to allow the coffin to be carried down, part of the flooring was taken up, and at the proper time, and with aid of a windlass and pulleys, the body was lowered to its resting place

⁴⁷⁴ Goldney FH (1899) *Records of Chippenham* p254

"1856 Paid Benjamin Wick for Tolling Bell on Funeral of the late Mr. Neeld 5s"

Co were looking after bonds to the sum of £7450 18s 2d on behalf of the Trustees and during the year they were instructed to sell £2843 12s 6d worth. In the following year Jackson instructed them to sell almost the same amount (£2843 12s 8d) and to

invest the proceeds in Madras Railway 4½ [%] guaranteed [stock] in the names of

Col George Neeld Boldero Grittleton Rectory Wilts

Robert Ruthsen Pym Esq 1 Cavendish Sq

Rev Caldcraft Neeld Wyld Maiden Bradley Bath

Hon & Rvd Henry Bligh Nettlebed Henley on Thames ⁴⁷⁵

John Jackson and Inigo Jones were not just co-trustees, they were friendly acquaintances; in one letter to Jackson Jones discusses his family

My dear Jackson,

Many thanks for your letter and for having disposed so cleverly of rather a knotty point of trust money - We only got home last evening and I am rather swamped with correspondence

Let me know when you may be inclined to pay us a visit - I expect Dick to be at home about Xmas

I heard, last night, from my son Christopher who had passed the full examination in Hindustanee, which opens the door to employments of various kinds in India. Mrs Jones and my daughters desire to be very kindly remembered to you

yours very truly

Inigo W Jones ⁴⁷⁶

And in another it is clear that Canon Jackson was as indefatigable a worker at his duties as a Trustee as in his local history studies; a letter written by Inigo Jones in 1873 says

⁴⁷⁵ W&SHC 1035/288 Letter from Jackson to Robart and Co dated 24 Oct 1874 Leigh Delamare

⁴⁷⁶ W&SHC 1035/288 Letter from Kelston Park dated Dec 8 1874 to JE Jackson

My dear Jackson

*You are the best Co Trustee in the world, for you do everything yourself
I shall be quite ready to meet you on any occasion*

Yours very truly Inigo W Jones⁴⁷⁷

However from 1856 the estate, including Alderton, came under the control of Joseph's brother, Sir John Neeld

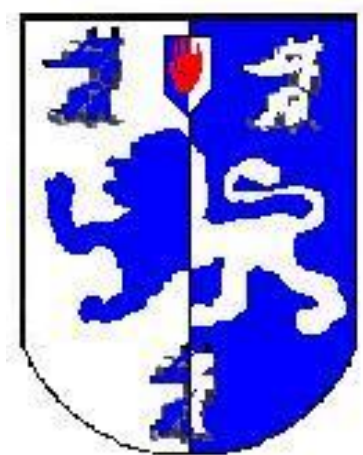


Fig 40 Arms of Sir John Neeld, Bart (after Debrett, 1919)⁴⁷⁸ *
—

⁴⁷⁷ W&SHC 1035/288, headed "*Kelston Park, Bath, 22nd March, 1873*"

⁴⁷⁸ Debrett's *Peerage* 1919 edition p1019. The shield with the red hand in it, (top centre) is the sigil for a baronet:

*The order of baronets is a hereditary rank or degree below the peerage, baronets were first created in 1611 by James I in connection with the colonisation of Ulster [particularly the need for finance:] A lump sum had to be paid by anyone who wanted the honour and they had to [have] three generations of armigers before them as well as possessing a good estate Pine, LG (1969) *Genealogist's Encyclopedia* p228]*

*Argent, a sinister hand erect, coupled at the wrist and appaurtine, gules (Brooker-Wilke JP (ed) (1970) *Boutell's Heraldry* 7th ed p201*

The arms are also sign of the Neeld Arms public house in Grittleton, although here the whole shield is blue and the armorials are gold:

John Neeld was born in 1805; his twin brother Edward died aged three.

John Neeld was educated at Harrow and then at Trinity College, Cambridge where he gained a BA in 1827 and an MA 3 years later.

He was the MP for Cricklade for nearly a quarter of a century, between 1835 and 1859 and MP for Chippenham from 1865 to 1868

When Joseph first bought Grittleton John lived there for a time. When, in 1843, John was made a Gentleman in Waiting to the Queen ⁴⁷⁹ (a position he held until 1847) he was living at "Red Lodge".

John married Lady Eliza Harriet Dickson ⁴⁸⁰ in August 1845 but all was not well - Joseph was "long opposed to this marriage, no one knew why and it was sometimes a cause of complete severance between the brothers" ⁴⁸¹ They were



Fig. 41 Pub sign version of Neeld arms [*](#)

⁴⁷⁹ *Gentleman's Magazine* March 1843 p309

Jan 31st George Marton of Capenwray Hall Lancaster esq. MP and John Neeld of Red Lodge, Wilts esq. MP to be Gentlemen of the Privy Chamber in Ordinary

The location of Red Lodge is unknown.

⁴⁸⁰ Newspaper clipping, unassigned but dated in pencil 1845 25 Aug. WANHS box 120 Mss 1298

The marriage of John Neeld Esq MP for Cricklade with Eliza daughter of General Dickson of Beneham House Reading was solemnised on Monday 25th instant in St George's Hanover Sq. The lovely bride, who was attired in rich white silk trimmed with Honiton lace, and a veil of the same material, was attended to the altar by four bridesmaids, Ms Fanny Dickson, the misses Meade and Miss Wylde [this was probably Grace Cecilia Wylde, she would have been 5 at this time]

Also *Gentleman's Magazine*, November 1845, p522

⁴⁸¹ Jackson JE in WANHS box 120 Mss 1289

later reconciled. Indeed, John had an income of £600 per annum, rent charge from Leigh Delamere, that Joseph had settled on him.

The brothers were not only reconciled but John took Joseph's opinions and advice very much into account. This is clearly shown in an event recalled by Jackson. In 1852 Lord Derby became Prime Minister and offered John the position of Junior Lord of the Treasury. After consulting with Joseph, John declined it and on telling Lord Derby why Darby laughed and said, "*why what an obedient brother you must be*"⁴⁸²

After their marriage John and Eliza lived in London, they had twins, their first son Algernon William Neeld and his sister Ada Mary were born in Portman Square in June 1846⁴⁸³, the family then lived for some years at "Avondale" at Bathford, where their third son Audley Dallas (January 1849) was born. It is uncertain where the second son, Edward John Neeld, was born but he was baptised in Canon Jackson's church at Leigh Delamere in August 1847. He died at Harrow school in June 1862, and was buried, by Jackson, at Leigh Delamere.⁴⁸⁴

In 1850, the family moved to Holt. Their last three sons - Reginald Rundell (1850)⁴⁸⁵, Mortimer Graham (1851)⁴⁸⁶ and Elliot Arthur (1853) -⁴⁸⁷ were born

⁴⁸² Jackson, JE *ibid*

⁴⁸³ Jackson, JE *ibid*

This was not the same house as Josphe Neeld senior had lived in, that was in Gloucester place, this was a house in York Street

⁴⁸⁴ *North Wilts Herald* vol II no IV Saturday June 28 1862 p8

On the 24 inst at Harrow in his 15th year, Edward John, second son of Sir John Neeld, Bart, of Grittleton House.

The Herald wasn't quite correct - Edward was 14 years 10 months (Leigh Delamere *Burials* W&SHC fiche 1620/5)

⁴⁸⁵ Reginald Rundell joined the Royal Navy and rose to the rank of Rear Admiral. He married Beatrice Fisher in 1896 but they had no children. He died at 14, Chichester Terrace in Brighton but was buried in the family vault on 4th August 1939 (Leigh Delamere *Burials* *ibid*)

⁴⁸⁶ Mortimer Graham Neeld was a Lt Colonel in the 17th Lancers. He lived at Langley Lodge, Langley Burrell and didn't marry. He died in 1929 and was buried at Leigh Delamere 2nd Oct 1929, aged 78

there as was, presumably, their daughter Evelyn Mary (1854), but neither Jackson or Foster ⁴⁸⁸ mention the location.

John Neeld was elevated to the Peerage when he was made a Baronet for his political services in 1858. Fox, although talking about Joseph and writing over a decade before John's elevation, would not have been surprised -

The honourable Gentleman [Joseph], his brother [John] and brother in law [Boldero] deserve well from the Tories and Conservatives for they have been most steady and consistent supporters of every measure emanating from that side of the house and quite as steady and consistent in opposing every measure at all calculated to extend either civil or religious liberty! ⁴⁸⁹

John Neeld continued to expand the estate, and in 1872 he was the seventh largest landowner in Wiltshire [by area \(eighth by rental income\)](#), a county renowned for its large estates ⁴⁹⁰. This was the year in which he was the High Sherriff of Wiltshire

In 1873 Sir John's third son, (and eventually the third baronet) Audley Dallas Neeld, married Edith second daughter of Lord Vivian. Jackson was invited to the wedding ⁴⁹¹, which took place in London and was performed by Henry Kearney Boldero. ⁴⁹²

⁴⁸⁷ Foster, J (1882) *The Baronetage and Knightage of the British Empire* p459
He lived at Kilmarston House, and was buried at Leigh Delamere three months after brother, Algernon William. (Leigh Delamere Burials, *ibid*, Keith Stonehuse *pers. comm*)

⁴⁸⁸ Foster (1882) doesn't mention the daughters at all

⁴⁸⁹ Fox, G (1843/1846) *An account of the firm of Rundell, Bridge & Rundell, London, Jewellers* p99

⁴⁹⁰ [Extracted from](#) Watkin, B (1989) *A History of Wiltshire* ISBN 0 85033 692 9
see Appendix 2, [Table 8](#) for details. [By looking at the gross annual rental income per acre it is possible to see how land rental values varied throughout the County.](#)

⁴⁹¹ WANHS Library (box 120 Mss 1298) contains this invitation
Lord and Lady Vivian request the pleasure of Rev Canon Jackson's company on Saturday July 26th at St Paul's Church Knightsbridge at 11 o'clock
Breakfast at Langham Hotel, Portman Square at $\frac{1}{4}$ past 12 o'clock

⁴⁹² Untitled newspaper cutting, WANHS box 120 mss 1298.

Both daughters married - in 1874 Ada Mary married Maj. Gen. George Willis, MP for Portsmouth ⁴⁹³ and Evelyn Mary married Philip Wroughton MP in 1875 ⁴⁹⁴

One of his last public acts of munificence ⁴⁹⁵ was to donate the site of the Jubilee Institute building in the Market Place in Chippenham. ⁴⁹⁶

In March 1891, the County lost one of its great men when the Rev. Canon John Edward Jackson, who had been Rector of Leigh Delamere for more than 56 years, died ⁴⁹⁷. He was buried in the churchyard, and Algernon William Neeld, John's son and heir, was present at the funeral ⁴⁹⁸. Six months later he was back, with a much larger gathering of the rich and mighty, for his fathers funeral.

Henry Kearney was assisted by the Hon Rev R Lidell (from the bride's side) and the bridesmaids were Edith's sister Maud, Miss F Codrington, Miss L Spicer and Miss Pouncefoot

⁴⁹³ Keith Woodman *pers.comm.*

"In his will Sir Algernon William Neeld bequeathed £100 to each of their four (unnamed) sons, one of whom, John, was involved in a suicides scandal in Paris"

⁴⁹⁴ *Devizes and Wilts Gazette* Sept 3 1891 *ibid*

Philip and Evlyn Wroughton lived at Woolley Park, Wantage, Berks.

"In his will Sir Algernon bequeathed money to each of their five daughters. Only one was mentioned by name (Dorothy, the eldest) but there are three others mentioned in the 1881 census - Murial, Florence and Winifred" Keith Woodhouse, *pers. comm.*

⁴⁹⁵ *Devizes and Wilts Gazette* Sept 3 1891 *ibid*

⁴⁹⁶ Goldney, FH (1899) *Records of Chippewnham* p181 *Chippenham Celebration of Her Majesties Jubilee - Programme of proceedings* Upon leaving the Church the Procession (of Yeomanry Cavalry, Volunteers and Friendly Societies) will reform and proceed past the site given by Sir John neeld bart for the local Memorial Institute"

⁴⁹⁷ I have already noted my indebtedness to Canon Jackson, but I must record here my deep appreciation of an antiquarian of the first order, whose incredible knowledge of the history and families of Northern Wiltshire leaves me breathless with admiration. We would all be the poorer, by far, without his sterling efforts. .

⁴⁹⁸ *Devizes and Wilts Gazette* Sept 3 1891 p6

Sir John Neeld, Bart. died at Grittleton on September 3rd 1891 and was succeeded by his son Sir Algernon William Neeld. A few days before his death [Sir John](#) was at the Grittleton flower show and when congratulated on his hale appearance he replied "*I am an old man but I am not tired of life*"

The funeral was very grand, with most of the County aristocracy attending, as well as John's tenants; the representative of Alderton were Mr and Mrs Monkton, Misses L and H Hall, Miss Scott and Mrs Wheeler.

At the hour appointed for the funeral and at intervals earlier in the day the death peal was tolled and at night the ringers rang a muffled peal. Among the wreaths one of the most beautiful was from the parishioners of Alderton with the message "In grateful and affectionate memory"⁴⁹⁹

John's eldest son, who had been running much of the estate for many years, inherited the estate. He was Sir Algernon William Neeld, the second Baronet.*

Algernon William Neeld was educated at Harrow and took a BA at Christ's Church College, Oxford, in 1868 and an MA at the same College eight years later. He then lived at Grittleton "uninterruptedly"⁵⁰⁰, and helped his father to run the estate and, 25 years later took over on his father's death.

His tenants described him as a model landlord and, on his fiftieth birthday (in 1896), they presented him with a substantial token of their regard⁵⁰¹. He appears to have been a supportive landlord throughout the long period of agricultural depression in the late nineteenth century.

AW Neeld continued his family's tradition for munificence; he supported the establishment of the Chippenham Cottage Hospital⁵⁰² and was a regular

⁴⁹⁹ *Devizes and Wilts Gazette* Sept 3 1891 *ibid*

⁵⁰⁰ *Devizes and Wilts Gazette* Aug 16 1900 p8

⁵⁰¹ *Devizes and Wilts Gazette* Aug 16 1900 *ibid*

⁵⁰² Which was located on the north side of the London Road. It was closed and demolished in 1993. It was a nice little hospital; I was treated in the accident department there, once, after my shoulder blade was broken in an assault at Lackham. The local Health Authority felt that Chippenham didn't need two small Hospitals and

contributor to its funds. Just before his death he gave £100 towards the proposed County Secondary School but didn't live to see it established.

In 1897 Queen Victoria celebrated her Diamond Jubilee, and national celebrations were held. The local paper ⁵⁰³ reported that Alderton

celebrated the Jubilee with great heartiness and general good feeling.....On Jubilee Day the bells rang out a rejoicing peal instantly the day was begun and at 5 o'clock in the morning the booming of cannon waked any that might yet be sleeping. From the church tower floated the Union Jack, and the Royal Standard or the St George's Cross or other loyal emblems on farms and cottages made the whole village bright and gay. Among the mottoes were at the entrance to the church "Be thou my strong habitation" over the Vicarage gateway "Peace be within thy gates" at the school "God bless all the children" at the manor farm "God bless the queen". Sir Algernon Neeld and the Vicar gave a splendid supper to which everybody in the parish was invited and the children and infants had tea and cake provided for them. Mrs Maidment of the Manor farm most kindly gave the use of her excellent rooms for the festivities and took charge of the cooking of the round of beef and the several other joints and Mrs Wheeler of the Townfield farm kindly took charge of the making of the puddings and Mr Wheeler and Mr Arthur Maidment looked to the general arrangements. Music and song, and dance and games, and athletic sports succeeded supper, and were continued until the dusk of evening closed the happy day. The notice of invitation asked that the guests should bring with them kindly feelings for one another and "loyal hearts and true; they seem to have done that, and the day was one that will long be pleasantly remembered"

closed it. Houses have now been built on the site, Larkham Rise runs north along what was the centre of the Hospital site.

⁵⁰³ Newspaper clipping, newspaper unidentified, date unidentified *Diamond jubilee The Wiltshire Festivities* WANHS Library Wiltshire Collection 7.145

In the same year the Great Western railway-line between Swindon and the South Wales, the line that runs through Bristol Parkway, was being constructed just south of the village (it isn't noticeable when travelling to the village, as the railway is in a tunnel where the Grittleton road passes over its course). The navvies building the railway were housed in huts close to the work and had their families with them - the school records for this year include the following entries:

April 21st Edith Shepherd's and Francis Fletcher's parents have left the village, their fathers are gone to work on another part of the new line which is being constructed through the neighbourhood

May 22nd Being Whit Monday, which the men keep as a holiday, not a child has come from the railway huts

Oct 26th Admitted Frank Cox, another boy from the line huts.

Four days later Frank ran away from home but was "*forced to return*"

AW Neeld died in 1900 . He had been ill since the previous Christmas, when he contracted a cold, but seemed to recover. Some months later he suffered an "internal malady" which confined him to bed and, by August 9th, the local paper reported that he was "*in a critical condition*"⁵⁰⁴; he died two days later. His three brothers, his cousin the rector of Grittleton and his "*Faithful attendant, Nurse Pacey*"⁵⁰⁵ were with him.

The funeral took place on August 15 1900, AW Neeld was buried in his family vault under Leigh Delamere church, "*his body was in an elm shell in a lead coffin, and these were enclosed in a polished oak coffin with raised panels and massive brass ornamentation*"⁵⁰⁶ ,*

Algernon William's brother, Audley Dallas Neeld, inherited the estate and the baronetcy, becoming the third Baronet.

⁵⁰⁴ *Devizes and Wilts Gazette* Aug 9 1900 p5

⁵⁰⁵ *Devizes and Wilts Gazette* Aug 16 1900 p8 *Death of Sir A W Neeld*

⁵⁰⁶ *Devizes and Wilts Gazette* Aug 23 1900 p5

As ever, changes were made to the estates with the change in ownership - within a year Audley Dallas sold the Red Lodge estate (3,000 acres) ⁵⁰⁷

Queen Victoria died on January 22nd 1901. Five days later Alderton held a memorial service for the late Queen, taken by the Rev. Hutchinson. The new altar lights were first lit for this service ⁵⁰⁸ - the "*two candles have been lighted (sic) before every celebration of the holy communion ever since*" ⁵⁰⁹.

Later that year John Neeld's widow, the Dowager Lady Harriet Elizabeth Neeld, died at her house in Eaton Square in London, and was buried in the family vault. ⁵¹⁰

Given the relatively large amount of information generally available from the mid nineteenth century onwards there appears to be remarkably little for Alderton. It was, and still is, a small village tucked away from the main thoroughfares and concerns of the area ⁵¹¹. Some records can be found however, often concerning the weather - of three such, the first dates from 1906, when the Rev Charles Hutchinson recorded that

On the night of Jan 5-6 1906 a violent hurricane of wind blew down 3 elm trees in the vicarage garden one falling diagonally across the churchyard gate smashing it and the lamp on its stone pedestal besides doing irreparable injury to the end (nearest the road) of the yew tree hedge between the vicarage and the churchyard. Two large elms in the small paddock belonging to the vicarage opposite the vicars gate were also overthrown. ⁵¹²

⁵⁰⁷ *Devizes and Wilts Gazette* Sept 26 1901 p6

⁵⁰⁸ Altar lights were only "legalised" after the Lincoln Agreement for their use, in 1890.

⁵⁰⁹ Goddard, Rev F *et al* *Alderton alias Aldrington Parish Notices of Aldrington Parish to be kept in the parish chest* W&SHC 1678/8

⁵¹⁰ *Leigh Delamere Burials* *ibid* buried 3 may 1901 aged 81

⁵¹¹ For which it is probably very grateful.

⁵¹² Hutchinson, Rev Charles, in Goddard, Rev F *et al* *Alderton alias Aldrington Parish Notices of Aldrington Parish to be kept in the parish chest* W&SHC 1678/8

In 1915, the whole area of Malmesbury suffered from another great storm, the results of which were reported in the local newspaper :

*On Sunday afternoon Alderton was visited by a thunderstorm of unusual severity. There had been thunder more or less all the afternoon at intervals, and the sky became covered with black menacing clouds. The storm commenced soon after three o'clock, when it became almost dark, and the hail and rain were terrible. Many of the hailstones were as big as hens' eggs. The lightning, especially one flash, was very vivid and alarming, and the thunder almost deafening. Many persons were greatly frightened. Much glass was broken by the hail and a great deal of damage done to the gardens and fruit trees. It is a great mercy that no one was killed. The oldest inhabitants cannot remember such hail.*⁵¹³

The size of the hailstones may not have been hyperbole, measurements carried out at Eastcourt found hailstones measuring 6.5 inches circumference and here young poultry were killed and a hen house smashed to pieces.

In 1925 the Rev Perry noted in the parish record book that

*A great storm visited England, with wind between 80 and 100 mph. All the roads around here were blocked by fallen trees. Sir Audley Neeld had a narrow escape when his car coming from Chippenham was crushed by a falling tree. Four people in the district were killed. Between Alderton and the Front Lodge at Grittleton 49 trees were down, 13 across the road. It is said 500 were down in Badminton Park*⁵¹⁴

Sir Audley and Lady Neeld celebrated their Golden wedding in 1923 although Lady Edith was ill and "perforce had to be wheeled in a bath chair". She

⁵¹³ *Wiltshire Gazette* July 8 1915 WANHS cuttings 14 282

This appears to have been a much more severe event than that of 1906, and very widespread, causing damage over most of north-western Wiltshire.

⁵¹⁴ Goddard, Rev F *et al Alderton alias Aldrington Parish Notices of Aldrington Parish to be kept in the parish chest* W&SHC 1678/8

Friday, November 16, 1928

recovered, however, surviving until 1926. She was buried in a large plot just inside the eastern gate of the churchyard. It is the most obvious feature as you enter the churchyard from this side and dominates the area - it is also the only Neeld memorial that isn't inside the church itself ⁵¹⁵.

Sir Audley survived his wife by 15 years, dying in May 1941, the last Baronet of the Neeld line, at the age of 92.

He was described as "*a great Wiltshire man*" and "*the grand old man of Wiltshire*" ⁵¹⁶. His coffin was carried to the family crypt in Leigh Delamere church

on a farm wagon lined with laurel leaves. The black horse was led by the oldest estate carter, Mr Charles Gough, who ha[d] been on the estate for nearly 50 years" ⁵¹⁷

The rectors of Leigh Delamere, Yatton Keynell and Alderton were present at the service.*

Captain L W Inigo-Jones, the direct descendant of Joseph's daughter Anna Maria, inherited the estate ⁵¹⁸. This is not surprising, there were no direct lineal descendants of Sir John and the Neeld's and Inigo-Jones's were presumably close - it will be recalled that Lt Col William Inigo-Jones was a trustee for Joseph's will. Under the terms of Audley Dallas' will Captain Inigo-Jones changed his name to Neeld in order to inherit.

Captain L W Neeld died in 1956 and was followed by his son Ralph Christopher Inigo Jones.

⁵¹⁵ The Inscription reads

To the memory of Edith Neeld wife of Sir Audley Neeld Bart CB daughter of 2nd Baron Vivian

Died July 15th 1926 aged 75 years

I thank God upon every remembrance of you

⁵¹⁶ *Wiltshire Gazette* 8 May 1941, p8

⁵¹⁷ *Wiltshire Gazette* 8 May 1941 *ibid*

⁵¹⁸ I gratefully acknowledge my debt to Mr Richard Neeld of Somerset for his very kind assistance in providing details of his family and the latter part of the family tree

In 1966 the estates were sold off. Much of the land was purchased by the Duke of Beaufort, and became part of his extensive Badminton estate. After this date Ralph Christopher Inigo Jones and his wife Anne Denise (nee Chapell) lived at Sevington Manor. Anne Denise died there in 1977⁵¹⁹ and, two years later, so did Ralph Christopher⁵²⁰. As direct descendants of the Neelds they were buried in the Neeld family crypt at Leigh Delamere.

Not having the skills of Canon Jackson, I do not feel competent to take this history any closer to the present, and leave this for others.

⁵¹⁹ Leigh Delamere Burials *W&SHC fiche*

Anne Denise Inigo Jones of Sevington manor buried 18 July 1977, 83

⁵²⁰ Leigh Delamere Burials

Ralph Christopher Inigo Jones of Sevington Manor buried 5 Nov 1979

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Texts

1.1

This Bond by John Dorney of Wyckwarre, co Gloucester, gentleman, to Richard Goare of Aldrington, co Wilts, esquire is conditioned as follows :

The condycion of this present obligacion ys such that wheras thabove bounden John Dorney shall by the sufferance of God shortly marrye and take to wyef one Christian Goare wedowe the late wyef of Sylvester Goare gentleman deceased yff therefore yt shall happen after the same mariage solemnised that the sayd John Dorney shall decease before the sayd Chrystyan his wyef Then yf the sayd John Dorney by his last will and testament, or otherwise, Doe geve and leave unto the same Chrystyan, Tenne reasonable good jyne, and all such howshoud stuff, s the sayd Christian brought unto him at their marige or the reasonable value therefor, As bye an Inventorye indented therof made mor or at large appeareth, Soe that the sayd Christian shall and maye have the same delyvere unto her, to her owne use within one month next after the deceasse of the sayd John Dorney by his heyres Executours Admynistratours or assignes, And further yf the sayd Christyan after the deceasse of the sayd John Dorney shall and maye have should occupie and quyetye enjoye all those the landes tenementes and heredytamentes whatsoever of the syad John Dorney sett lying and being in Cromemall in the countye of Glocest'r, for and duringe the terme of the naturall lief of the same Christyan in the name of her joynter or dower according to an ffeffment therof made bearing date even with the day and yeare of the date of these presents whout anye manner of lett troble evyccion hynderaunce molestacion denysl or encombraunce whatsoever had made done comytted or suffered to be done by the sayd John Dorney his heyres executours or assignes or by any other person or persons claymyng in bye from or under them or anye of the, one lease alreadye granted of the premisses to one Susanne Martyn Susanne wedowe, for the terme of nynetene yeares, whereof ther are yet ffower years or the about to come and unexpired (only excepted) that then this present obligacion to be 7utterlye ffristrate and voyd, otherwise in his full power and strengthe effecte and vertue jy setto stand and ayde" ⁵²¹.

Dated 19 October 23 Elizabeth. Signed by mark. Signed, seled and delyvered in the presens of Henri Bollton (?) George Punter (?) Issac Tyler

⁵²¹ Page-Turner FA (1914) *Ancient Wiltshire Deeds* Wilts N & Q vol VII 1914-1916 pp 116 -117, [The regnal year equates to 1581](#), To return to the index click [here](#)

1.2

A true copy of the Acknowledgement of Giles James ^(sic) made before the right honourable the Earl Marshall of England for uttering diverse scandalous and untrue speeches about Charles Gore in Lincolns Inn

7th November 1631

Whereas I James Giles have been tormented before the right honourable the Earl Marshal of England for having violently and willingly uttered diverse scandalous proclamations and barbarous speeches upon several occasions in many places against Mr Charles Gore of Lincolns Inn Esq for which I have justly received punishment by imprisonment I now see my error therewith am heartily sorry for the same and being desirous (in as much as in me lies) to give all possible satisfaction for the wrong I have done him that I may shortly remove all aspersions that may be upon his reputation by my said intemperance. I do hereby freely acknowledge that I spake the said words out of passion and heat, and not from any just grounds whatever. I desire that it may now be past over and remitted and this my acknowledgement accepted to whom hereafter I shall bear my self temperately and as becomes me. In witness whereof I have hereto sett my hands this 7th day of November 1632

Giles James

Signed in the presence of John Coser

To return to the index click [here](#)

1.3

A copy of a protection from his Majesty to Charles Gore, Esq ⁵²²

Charles R

Charles by the Grace of God King of Greate Britayne, France and Ireland Defender of the faith &c, Our will and pleasure and we do hereby straightly Charge and Command as well all officers and soldiors of our Army now or hereafter Billed or Quartred in our County of Wiltes or in any other Counties enjoining that they neither by themselfe or otherwise (inserted in different ink above, same hand as in letter from Maurice) permit, do or suffer any injury violence robbing or oppression of any kind to be offered or done to the person goods or estate of our Trusty and well beloved Charles Gore of Alderton in our said County Esq who hath voluntarily sent us two horses and Armes for our and heretooft they and every of them are to take notice, and to observe it as they and every of them will Answer the Contrary at their utmost peril. Given at our Court at Oxford the 26th day of February 1642

To all Officers in Chief, both of horse and foote; and all other of our Officers and soldiors of our Army whom it may Concerne

To return to the index click [here](#)

⁵²² Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p288

1.4

A true copy of a letter sent by Sir Edward Bayntun of Bremhill in the County of Wiltshire, Knight of the Noble Order of the Bath
For his much Honoured Kinsman, Thomas Gore esq at his house in Alderton, Wiltes

Sir,

On Tuesday night I intend (God willing) to make my Sonne, which it hath pleased the Lord lately to bless our Family with, a Christian and it is my Wifes desire as well as mine to have your good Company then to join with Mr William Glanvil; of Broad Hinton, Mrs Thynne (my wife's Kinswoman)who are intended for the other Gossips in giving it a name. If your Wife Brother (to whom I desire to have my Respects presented) and other Relations and friends can conveniently come along with you I shall be very glad to see them here and also That it may be your Time before this time twelve months (though I shall not presume to obtrude myself) to receive the like ??? and the hearty knights of Bremhill

Your kinsman

*Edward Bayntun
10.8.1666*

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1.5

Letter from Alderton to the Church regarding the living of Alderton

The village and manor of Aldrington in the county of Wilts hath time out of mind been accounted a different parish, and hath had all parochial Rights and Marks and Priviledges of a different parish , vis

1 A faire Countrey Church and Chancel wherein the sacrements of Baptism and the Lords Supper are and were time out of mind administered, and a Churchyard and it doth marry and bury as in other parish Churches

2 It hath a Psonage House, a Psonage Barne and Glebe Lands and Tythes payed in some cases by ancient custom time out of mind in a different manner from the way of pying tythes in Sherstone in the said County: And the Parsonage of Aldrington hath been commonly accounted a different pasonage.

3 The said village of Aldrinton hath Churchwardens and Sidesmen who are subject to the Bishop of Sarum, and goe to his visitation, & other visitations, as churchwardens and Sidesmen within the Diocesse of Sarum and make different presentments , and doe all things else belonging to Churchwardens of a distinct parish. And hath never any maintenance of any Curate from Sherston, or any other Paris, and hath always repaired their Church at their own distinct charges.

4 Aldrington hath always had different overseers of the Poore, & all other officers & hath time out of mind bin severally and by itself, as a distinct Parish rated to all public Taxes and payments whatsoever.

.....the Dean and Chapter (as the Abbots did before tem) have usually granted both the parsonages of Sherstone and Aldrington to one tenant and there being a small vicarage at Sherstone, the Vicar there hath supplied the Care of that Parish; and the Church of Aldrington hath been supplied by a distinct Curate which Vicar of Sherstone is presentative, and hath usually been presented by the lessee of the Deane & Chapter; & the same Lessee hath usually appointed a Curate to serve the Church of Aldrington & allowed 20l per annum for a long time for his maintenance this being as a donative

To return to the index click [here](#).

1.6

Transcription of a letter from Thomas Gore, dated 19th September 1681, to Archbishop Sancroft bound into the back of the volume of the elder Thomas's "An alphabet in Blazon" held in the British Library (see fn 46). This transcription had obviously been published, but where is not noted, and this remains unknown. Given the location of the transcript it is thought likely that the person who included it might have considered that this was a letter from Thomas Gore the antiquarian, but the dates make it clear which Thomas Gore was the author, namely the Antiquarian's son.

The letter is endorsed "Mr Thomas Gore for Mr. Tomlinson"

May it please your Grace -

that it has been so long since I payd my duty in waiting upon your grace (to whom I am much obliged for your great and signal respect and favour towards me) was only occasioned by the many great and weighty affairs with this year I have been invironed, by reason n the office of sheriff, which my gracious Soevreign was pleased to impose on me; but as soon as I shall be discharged thereof (which according to ancient custom cannot be farr off), I live in hopes to give myself the honour and satisfaction of kissing your Grace's hand, and then, in a more ample manner than now, express how much I am your Grace's servant. The gentleman who humbly presents this paper unto yuor Grace is my kninsman, for whom I have a very great respect - a very honest and sober person, a true Nathaniel, in whom there is no guile, a true son of the Church of England, a very loyal subject to his Pnnce, one who ever had and yet retains a great zeal for his Majestie service. If, therefore, your Grace (so great an encourager of loyalty and all laudable practices) would be pleasd to vouchsafe to use your authourity and interest (which is very considerable) hereby he might atttain some office and serve the king, and better support himself and his family it would, not only forever ooblige himself, but also him who esteems it his greatest honour to bear the title of my Lord, your grace's most humble and obedient servant Thomas Gore

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1.7 Will of Lewis Bretherton W&SHC 254/4

This will has recently (2011) been conserved but is in poor condition with parts missing entirely and some text indecipherable. [] indicates part of the page and text missing, ? indicates a missing word if on its own and uncertainty about the correctness of the transcribed word if placed at the

end of a word. The layout does not reflect the layout on the original pages although paragraph breaks have been maintained.

In the name of God amen I Lewis Brotherson late of the Island of St Christopher in America but at present residing in Alderton in the County of Wiltshire considering the uncertainty of life do declare this to be my last will and testament as follows

Where by a deed being dated I believe sometime in the year 1781 or 1782 I did assign to Mr L^o Chisholme and [] Barber^o Esq^s in trust ~~for Mrs~~ my wife the sum of five [] ~~assembly~~ to be paid by Barbara [] so a settlement of my de[] is my wish and desire to com[] & I do hereby [] as far as this is in my power

Whereas it is my intention to convey^o Mm effects & do indeed, to my dear nephew Lewis B Verchild Esq of Alderton in the said county of Wiltshire I do hereby give and bequeath to him (LB Verchild)⁵²³ everything or whatsoever remain which I may die possessed of, my negroes & other slaves together with all my personal effects to him and his heirs forever.

I do not know exactly how far my power extends but my wish & desire is that my nephew the said Verchild shall come into the^o possession of all [] which I have a right give devise [] had I lived a righteous^o ? [] and made a prvision for my two nieces of my brother M Brotherson Esq but I must [] to my nephew came^o & a ? [] his wish do everything in his power for [] & whereas I am indebted to my dear beloved^o wife & good friend Annabella Fre[] Markham & Grittleton in the County of Wiltts the sum of five pounds to [] death hereby prevented me I must [] remembered her to the protection of my brother aforesaid & request he as soon as convenient to fulfil this my intention

The ? ? I meant to give me aforesaid⁵²⁴ nieces was £400 to be equally divided between them on their attaining the respective ages of twenty five years & if they married sooner to hold in trust an amount equal to the sum

⁵²³ This name, bracketed in the original, is inserted above the line after the word *him*

⁵²⁴ *Aforesaid* is inserted above the line after the word "my"

I ? ? this & [] and whose generosity to [] and now being [] wishes and intention I hope [] my ? [] draft and this my will I do [] nephew Lewis Verch[] my executor and assigns & request him to [] just in execution accepting [] good wishes

Alderton May 11 1799

Lewis Brotherson

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Appendix 2 - Land holdings at Alderton etc

Table 1

Land of Charles Gore & Lydia White on their marriage 1621 ⁵²⁵

Field	Manor	acres
Bowling Alley Field	Alderton	15
New Tynings	"	30
Townsendfield	"	60
Broadmead	"	30
Chaune Mead	"	9
The Ridges	"	6
Taggle Hay	"	3
Little Bowling Alley	"	1
Little Meade	"	12
Earley	"	16
The New Leaze	"	40
Grange	"	2
Butthayes	"	8
New Spring	"	5
Grone Leaze	"	70

⁵²⁵ Gore, T (1666) Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Aldertonpp 218 - 220
Bowling Alley field is probably the one opposite the current church north of the old Manor ponds and the one in which the old house was situated.

Dry Leaze	"	24
Aldryngton Grove	"	20
Kingsthorne	Surrenden	30
West end	"	
Surrenden wood	"	
Cornefield	"	60
Castle Wheir	"	11
Westeade	"	33
West Leaze	"	37
Dunley Field	"	30
Wheir Meade	"	4
Dunley Hill	"	11

To return to index click [here](#), to the text here

Table 2

Land of John Scrope belonging to Anna Gore at her marriage and held in 1665 at Aldrington :

	Acres	rods	poles
Broad Meade (once belonging to Anthony White deceased now John Scrope in right of his wife Anna,)	2	1	30
also in the Close a garden		1	5
Whites Oddleaze but once etc	6	0	1
Normoore next Chawne Mead Lane 2	0	1	
Middle Normoore	4	0	14
Normoore Meade	2	0	17
Perchil	2	1	30
Land next Ditchers Lane	3	0	30

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And another survey from the same year, gives Charles holdings

Table 3
Land in Aldrington and Surrendell 1665 belonging to Charles Gore

	Acres	rods	poles
<i>Aldrington:</i>			
Part of Broad Meade	1	3	11
The Close & Housing	0	3	0
Another	0	1	32
The garden of GF, gent, enclosed in 1676	0	9	0
Old Leaze	4	0	33
	9	0	31
Oldleaze Meade	3	3	22
Moore Close	0	0	6
Moore Leaze	7	0	12
Normoore	2	2	20
Normoore Meade	2	0	25
<i>Surrenden:</i>			
The Long Bottom Meade	2	2	20
Little Bottom Meade, called the Picked Meade	1	2	35
The over ground parcell of Dunley Hill	21	1	21
Dunley Hill Mead enclosed by C(harles) G(ore)	7	3	4

It is unknown whether the enclosure of Dunley Hill Mead was carried out by the present Charles Gore or his father, the date of enclosure is not given - enclosures were going on in the locality at this time, but continued into the nineteenth century⁵²⁶

This manuscript allows a table of previous land holders to be developed

⁵²⁶ In the same document we read of *Marden Bottome, not long since enclosed out of Grove field by Thom Gore esq 4 2 1* Some land was enclosed as late as 1809 (Tomlins, TE (1809) *The Statutes of Great Britain and Ireland* Vol III AD1807 47 Geo III to Ad 1809 49 Geo III pxiv *Local and Personal Acts not printed* An Act inclosing Lands in the Parish of Alderton in the county of Gloucester)

Table 4	Name	Previous owner
	Beames	
	Bushell, G (1681)	
	Chapman	
	Coxe	
	Davis ap Powell (1682)	
	Emley, C	
	Essington	
	Gingell	
	Giles	
	Gore, Charles	Rolfe
	Jaques, J	Hutchings, N
	Jordon of Luckington	Snell
		Phels, Thomas di<1656
	Lord of the Manor	Bullock, Jo
	Lord of the Manor	Haynes, W
	Lord of the Manor	Hutichings, N
	Marsh	Haynes
	Melksham, H	
	Messiter	
	Osborne, John	Higgins, Jo
	Parson of Luckington	
	Penn	
	Rolfe	
	Scrope, J & A	White, Anthony
	Watts, A,	Bullock, Jo.
		Osborne, John
	Wilkinson	

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Table 5
Farms at Alderton in 1812 ⁵²⁷

Farm	Tenant	Acres	Rods	Poles	Value		
					£	s	d
Alderton Farm	John Browning	309	2	13	929	16	0
Dunlow Farm	Isaac Lane	206	1	10	362	16	8
Furlease Farm	James Banning	204	0	10	290	6	3
Grove Farm	Mrs Anne Pill	231	2	16	333	11	9
Hughes Farm	Thomas White	146	1	7	244	5	5
New Farm	Isaac Marsh	289	2	21	510	13	11
Town Farm	William Kington	350	0	38	625	5	3
Proposed Farm instead of the one now occupied by							
	James Kington	39	2	12	71	9	0
Land on Lease to	Mrs Sarah Futsell	10	1	17	38	10	0
Land belonging to	William Jones	4	2	13			
Lands proposed to be let separate		2	3	39	33	17	6
Gastons Common Field	22	3	18	30	19	5	
Glebe Land		56	1	22			
Encroached Gardens		1	2	24			
Totals		1894	1	26	3475	7	10

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⁵²⁷ From data in Brown, T (1812) *Vasluation of the Lackham and Alderton Estates W&SHC 1305/16*

Table 6

Farms at Alderton in 1825 ⁵²⁸

Value

Farm	Tenant	Acres	Rods	Poles	£	s	d
Alderton Farm	Bridges	412	1	31	622	10	8.5
Dunlow Farm	Isaac Lane	206	1	0	266	13	10.5
Furleaze Farm	James Bennings	202	0	10	234	17	8.5
Grove Farm	Gingal	210	3	7	244	14	10.75
Hughes Farm	Thomas White	146	1	7	193	14	2
New Farm	Lessiter	290	0	6	369	12	8.5
Town Farm	William Willis	345	2	15	475	2	9.5
Land in Alderton	James Hillington	57	2	36	77	0	6.75

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In 1830 it is known that Mr Hanning was tenant at Grove Farm and Mr Willis still leased Town Farm ⁵²⁹

⁵²⁸ Raynes (1835) *Particulars of sundry estates in the County of Wilts* W&SHC 1305/16

⁵²⁹ Unattributed (1830) *Alderton estate a/c Lady Day 1830, addressed to Mr Burton, 20 South Bank Regents Park* W&SHC 1305/16

Table 7 ⁵³⁰ **Joseph Neeld's Lands 1832**

Parish	Acres of Neeld	Acres of Parish	No of owners in Parish	Average Neeld ⁵³¹ holding	> av.
Alderton	1536	1584	8	198.0	y
Chippenham	1033	4187	83	50.4	y
Cricklade					
St Sampson	251	5250	42	125.0	y
Grittleton	1274	1955	18	108.6	y
Hullavington	938	3098	40	77.5	y
Kington St Michael	479	3935	92	42.8	y
Leigh Delamere	412	1270	12	105.8	y
Littleton Drew	163	913	10	91.3	y
Lydiard Millicent	54	2130	33	64.5	n
Norton	149	948	10	94.8	y
Preshute					
Langdon Wyke	743	1143	2	571.5	y
Purton	269	6023	267	22.6	y
Purton Braydon	1478	1479	1	1479.0	y
Yatton Keynell	69	1667	61	27.3	y

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⁵³⁰ Data in Sandell RE (1975) (ed) *Abstracts of Wiltshire Tithe Apportionments* WRS vol XXX

⁵³¹ This column indicates where Joseph's holding in the parish was greater in extent than the average holding. It is a crude measure but does show that he was the major holder of land in every parish in which he had land, except Lydiard Millicent.

Table 8

Results of a Parliamentary enquiry into land ownership set up in 1872.
 The 10 estates below covered about 23% of the entire area of the county
 Note GARI = Gross Annual Rental Income in £

a) 1872 values

Landowner	acres	GARI	GARI per acre
Earl of Pembroke (Wilton)	39,600	43,200	1.09
Marquess of Ailsbury (Savernake)	38,000	40,000	1.05
Marquess of Bath (Longleat)	20,000	29,000	1.45
Earl Radnor (Longford)	17,200	21,500	1.25
S. Watson Taylor (Erlestoke)	15,000	21,000	1.40
Richard Long (Rood Ashton)	13,600	22,000	1.62
Sir John Neeld (Grittleton)	13,100	18,799	1.44
Sir Henry Meux's trustees (Vastern)	11,900	16,200	1.36
Marquess of Lansdowne (Bowood)	11,100	20,800	1.87
Earl of Suffolk (Charlton)	11,100	13,200	1.19

b) 2005 values

Landowner	acres	GARI	GARI per acre
Earl of Pembroke (Wilton)	39,600	<u>1,974,240</u>	49.85
Marquess of Ailsbury (Savernake)	38,000	1,828,000	48.11
Marquess of Bath (Longleat)	20,000	1,325,300	66.27
Earl Radnor (Longford)	17,200	982,550	57.13
S. Watson Taylor (Erlestoke)	15,000	959,700	63.98
Richard Long (Rood Ashton)	13,600	1,005,400	73.93
Sir John Neeld (Grittleton)	13,100	859,114	65.58
Sir Henry Meux's trustees (Vastern)	11,900	740,340	62.21
Marquess of Lansdowne (Bowood)	11,100	950,560	85.64
Earl of Suffolk (Charlton)	11,100	603,240	54.35

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Appendix 3 Heraldry

3.1 The Heraldry of the arms of Richard Gore and the Hall family of Bradford on Avon

Richard Gore's arms were

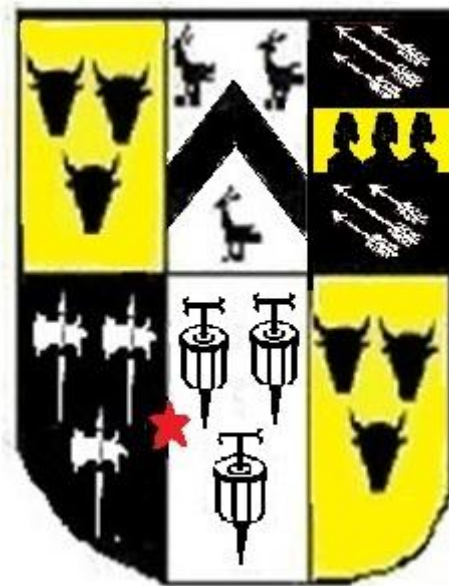


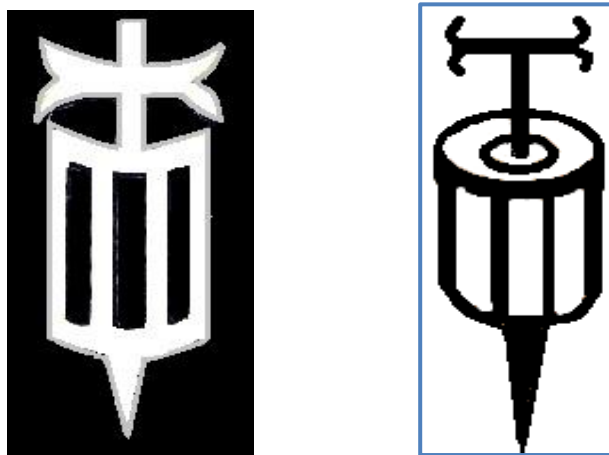
Fig 42 Arms of Richard Gore *
(after Gore, T 1666) ⁵³²

Richard's arms include in quarters 4 & 5 (the bottom left and middle of the shield) the two elements seen as the Hall arms in Gore's book; the Hall family arms are basically the three argent poleaxes, seen above but there is another charge used in Richard Gore's arms.

⁵³² Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p137

1 Gore 2 Whittokmead 3 Keynall 4 Hall 5 Atworth? 6 Gore. It is noted that Thomas Gore shows the same arms for three generations, this one, Richard's son Edward and his grandson William.

Jackson ⁵³³, maintained that quarter 5 shows three pieces of equipment from the woollen industry (or maybe *weels*, see below) and this seems to be the accepted interpretation of the arms. Given that Bradford on Avon has been a wool town from time immemorial it seems likely. Jackson rendered them as



a)

b)

Fig. 43 The charge as shown by Jackson ⁵³⁴ and Gore ⁵³⁵ *

An alternative is suggested by Schomberg ⁵³⁶; he gives the arms as *Gore impaling 1 & 4 sable three battleaxes argent 2 & 3 three eelpots * argent*. The * gives "Taken by some to be *Atworth* and the charge to be either a *weel* [see below] or some sort of *spindle*". Whether the argent refers to the background or the "eelpot" is moot. The initial thought is that it is the eelpots (or whatever) that are argent but if so what is the background? Gore shows the charge as Argent, three (whatevers) sable and that is what is followed above and below. This gives the arms as :

⁵³³ Jackson, JEJ (1854) *Kingston House Bradford WAM* vol 1 part III p 266

⁵³⁴ Jackson, JEJ (1854) *Kingston House Bradford WAM* vol 1 part III p 265

⁵³⁵ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p137 redrawn by the author

⁵³⁶ Schomberg, (1886) *The Pedigree of John Stokes of Seend, co Wilts* p8



Fig 44 Gore impaling Hall *
(after Schomberg)

The "weel" in heraldry is a *"Fish weel or Fish-basket... a contrivance still used in rivers to catch fish. The charges appear to be drawn in various ways"⁵³⁷* and the charge shown is given as below. This looks very unlike the charge seen on the Gore seals etc.

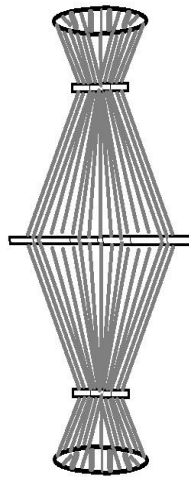


Fig. 45 "weel" or fish trap *
(drawn for this work by the author following Parker)

⁵³⁷ Parker J (1894) *Parker's Heraldry: A glossary of terms used in Heraldry* online edition at <http://karlwilcox.com/parker/?e=weel>

Whatever they may be it is likely, as Schomberg mentions, that they are the arms of Atford, as "in a herald's book there is a just discernible "Atford" against them in a representation of the Gore arms". This makes sense as "Thomas Hall of Bradford Co Wilts Esq mar Alys, sister and heir to Peter Atford son and heir of Thomas Atford, next Bradford" ⁵³⁸

A "final" answer, however, may be found in the herald's "Visitation" of Wiltshire in 1565; here they give the arms of Hall of Bradford as being :
Quarterly of six 1 and 6 sable three battleaxes argent, 2 argent three ropemaker's winches sable 3 Argent three lions heads erased gules over all on a bend sable as many mullets 4 argent a pelican preying upon a fish proper 5 Argent three torteaux [Besyll] impaling Quarterly 1 and 4 argent a demi lion rampant sable [Marvyn] 2 and 3 ermine a squirrel sejant devouring a nut Or [Squire]

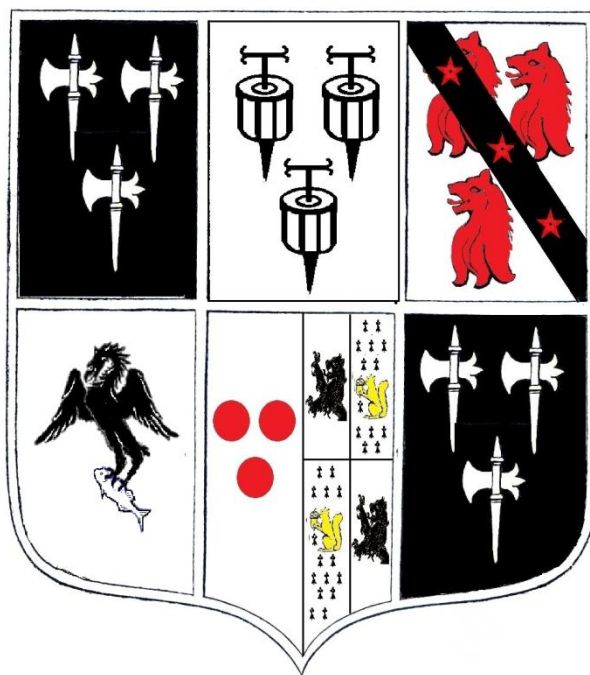


Fig. 46 The arms of Hall (after *Visitation*) *

⁵³⁸ *Visitation of Wiltshire 1565* p22

Which is almost the same as Jackson's figure 1⁵³⁹ except that he has 4 *argent an eagle preying on a fish azure* and only shows the *torteaux*, not the impaled quarterings in 5. Why Jackson gives *azure* for the fish rather than proper (ie silver or argent) is unclear, no source being given.

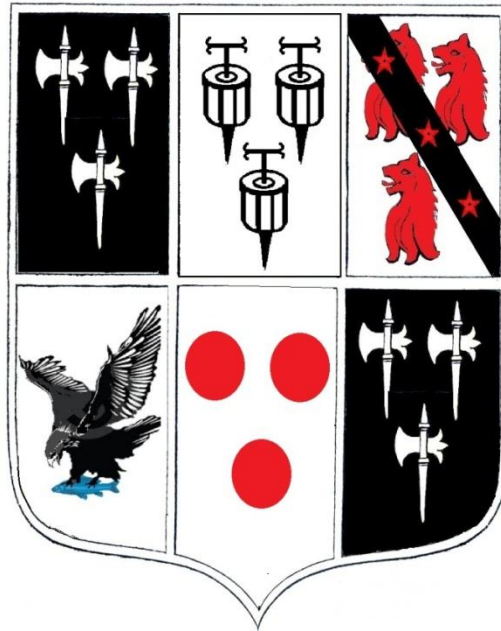


Fig. 47 Arms of Hall (after Jackson⁵⁴⁰) *

In the figure above the eagle used is heraldic rather than the, rather strange, bird drawn by Jackson

⁵³⁹ Jackson, JEJ (1854) *Kingston House Bradford WAM* vol 1 part III p 265

⁵⁴⁰ Jackson, JEJ (1854) *Kingston House Bradford WAM* vol 1 part III p 265

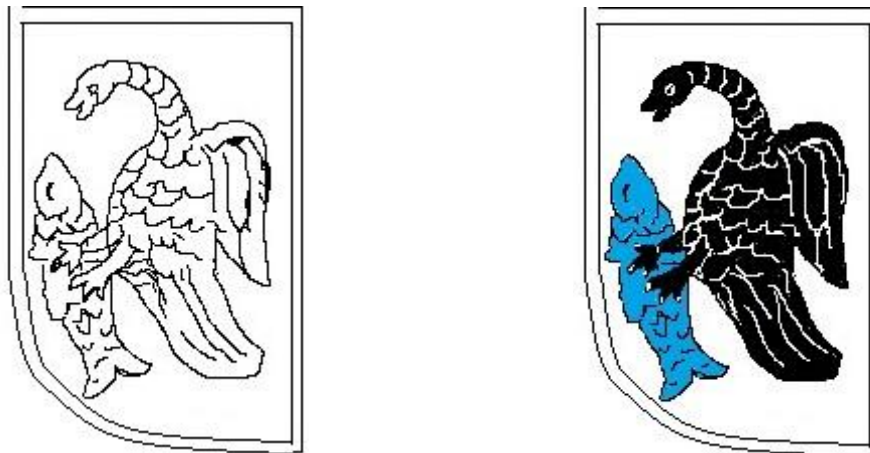


Fig 48 a) "Eagle" as drawn by Jackson b) with tinctures given by Jackson ⁵⁴¹ *

The look of the bird can be explained by reference to the original carving which still exists in the Hall (the "Kingston House" of Jackson's article) at Bradford on Avon ⁵⁴². It does indeed look as Jackson drew it but he appears to have misinterpreted the charge. It is a heraldic pelican not an eagle, the legs are clearly visible and clutching the fish in its talons (which is not, of course, how a pelican actually catches fish). However the neck and head are clearly those used in heraldic pelicans. Further research into this aspect may be worthwhile.

From this carving it is also clear that the charge is a spindle of some sort, but slightly different from those shown by Gore and Jackson; there would appear to be two handles at the top that end in a spherical bulb and there are hemispherical bulbs at the top and bottom of the spindle. It is

⁵⁴¹ Jackson, JEJ (1854) *ibid* redrawn, from the original, for this work by the author

⁵⁴² Thanks to the good offices of Dr Alex Moulton, CBE, of The Hall; he very kindly allowed me access to see the carving for myself. His kindness and generosity in spending so much time showing me around and discussing The Hall and his family was, and is, very much appreciated.

possible that there were actually three handles the third not being visible here.

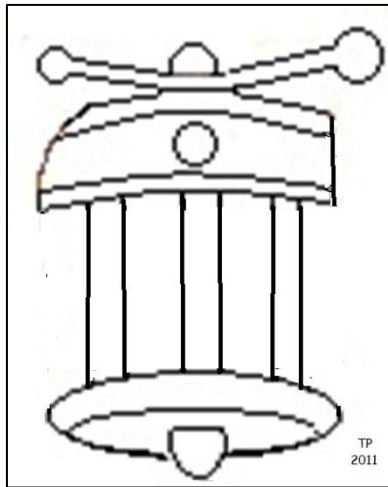


Fig. 49 "Spindle" as seen on the Hall carving ⁵⁴³ [*](#)

To return to the main text click [here](#), to return to the index [here](#)

⁵⁴³ Drawn by the author

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