

# A FAMILY OF MERCERS IN MEDIEVAL LONDON

by Shirley Garton Straney<sup>1</sup>

## ABSTRACT

A fourteenth century family coordinating elements of English life, the academy, the church, the crown, land, commerce and family connections to become significant participants in London life.

*Foundations* (2005) 1 (5): 324-337

© Copyright FMG

A study of medieval London describes Hugh Garton as a Yorkshireman and one of the "three leading Wardrobe mercers" in that city, and also Sheriff in 1313 and Alderman of Coleman Street ward from 1319 until his death in 1327 (Williams, 1963, pp.134-135 & 140). Although the study refers to him as an immigrant to London, he was not the first of the name there.

The first found in the Corporation of London's books is William Garton, Citizen and Mercer of London who on Thursday, 19 March 1292/3 was granted a shop in Sopers Lane in the parish of St. Pancras by Hugh Chelmeford, Citizen of London and his wife Alice<sup>2</sup>. Thus began the family in Sopers Lane in Cordwainer ward in London, centre of the Mercers and Pepperers, and near to the Guildhall, where the Citizens met.

In this period the Citizens, including William Garton, agreed to send twenty men with horses to accompany Sir Edward, the king's son, to protect the coast of Kent and stay four weeks<sup>3</sup>. On 25 April 1311 William was one of the receivers of 1,000 marks to be sent to the king in Scotland<sup>4</sup>. They delivered this by messenger to the king, and purchased a horse from William Garton for the use of the messenger. When the mayor and aldermen, and "good men from each ward" elected citizens to attend the Parliament at York on 15 August 1314 at the Guildhall, William de Garton was among those chosen<sup>5</sup>. Everyone was assessed one penny to pay for their expenses.

William was succeeded in the records by Hugh, who, though alderman of Coleman Street ward, lived in Cordwainer Street ward in one of two houses adjoining the rectory of St. Antonin's church. He took apprentices from Lincolnshire<sup>6</sup>. He made connections with the Heyrouns, Hauteyns, Romayns, Burfords, Chaucers, Corps, and most importantly with the king, in dealing directly with the king's household, and by putting one of his sons in his business, another as a king's scholar and cleric at the Exchequer and a third as an attendant to the king.

---

<sup>1</sup> Shirley Straney is a former chief financial officer, and is a board certified genealogist in the USA, a member of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, New England Historic Genealogical Society, and Foundation for Medieval Genealogy.

*Contact address:* 8336 Beverly Road, Kew Gardens, NY 11415 USA

<sup>2</sup> Husting Rolls of the City of London, 22:47 & 48; [film number (MCFP) 80 (Rolls 13-29)]; Sharpe (1899-1912) Letter Book B: 37.

<sup>3</sup> Sharpe (1899-1912) Letter Book C: 23 & 67.

<sup>4</sup> Sharpe (1899-1912) Letter Book D: 256 & 269.

<sup>5</sup> Sharpe (1899-1912) Letter Book E: 33.

<sup>6</sup> Sharpe (1899-1912) Letter Book D: 217; Recognizance Rolls of the City of London, Roll 6, m.12-13, Corporation of London Record Office.

Hugh's neighbour and landlord in the other house was his father-in-law, John Heyroun, Pepperer, whose daughter Joan was Hugh's wife<sup>7</sup>. John Catchgere was killed in the house of Hugh Garton, and on 15 March 1324/5 the king at the Tower was given a writ of all appeals and indictments in the case, with no apparent consequence to Hugh (Sharpe, 1913, p.111). On 25 March 1324 Simon de Paris, a London alderman, was killed at the end of Sopers Lane by William Wallingford, Brewer, with whom he had been quarreling (Sharpe, 1913, pp.80-82). "*Good men*," among them William Garton, were summoned from the nearest wards, and witnesses were taken into their custody.

Hugh served one year as sheriff, in 1313. A writ to the sheriffs dated 24 October 1314 notified them of the appointment of Hervey Staunton, John Merkinfeld, Henry le Scrope and Ralph Stokes, the king's justices, to inquire into the misconduct of Hugh de Garton and Robert de Burden, late Sheriffs of London and Middlesex, and all the complainants were to appear before the justices, but a general release was given on 14 October 1315 to Hugh and Burden of any trespass committed when they were Sheriffs of London<sup>8</sup>. The witnesses to this were Simon Corp, John Sellin, Richard Gubbe, Geoffrey de la Chaumbre, Geoffrey Southbury and William de la Croys, citizens of London.

In 1324 at Easter Term, Thomas Cauntegrigge and Alice his wife charged to the king at Westminster that Nicholas le Clerk and John Stynton together with Hugh de Garton, John Somer, Henry Cheney, Simon Howes, "*apprentiz of Gartone*," William Heaubergier and Robert le Goldbeter forcibly entered their house and carried away goods worth £200, and the Mayor and Commonalty made the same claim<sup>9</sup>. The group received the king's mercy.

In 1318 the Citizens were asked to provide two hundred soldiers for the king<sup>10</sup>. Every citizen of "*the more powerful and better class*" was to find one armed soldier to serve. Among "*the better class*" were John Romayne, Hugh Garton, John Dalling, Hamo Chigwell and Henry Garton. There were no Gartons among the named armed soldiers.

Hugh granted tenements in St. Benet Shorhog and St. Peter Bradstreet to Sir John Duraunt for life on 25 January 1319/20, the witnesses the mayor Hamo Chigwell, the sheriffs, and Simon Corp, alderman of Cordwainer Street ward, where St. Benet's was situated<sup>11</sup>.

The Lay Subsidy Roll for 1319 shows Cordwainer Ward headed by Simon Corp, the Alderman for the ward and Pepperer of Soper Lane at £10, Hugo de Garton, Mercer and alderman of Coleman Street ward at £10, and Juliana Romayn at £20 (Ekwall, 1951). An analysis of this roll posits that the list consists of first the alderman of the ward, then others associated together, by occupation or family. Cordwainer was a rich ward, and these are among the highest assessed. They were taxed on movable property, which included household articles and merchants' wares, but excluded

---

<sup>7</sup> See Redstone (1937). The article shows the connection between the Heyrouns and the poet Chaucer's family (note the Chaucers in this article). It has a map detail of the exact location of the tenement occupied by Hugh.

<sup>8</sup> Sharpe (1899-1912) Letter Book E: 40-41; CPR 1893-1901, vol.2, Edw.II, pp.243-244; CCR, 1900-1908, vol.2 Edw.II, p.311.

<sup>9</sup> Sharpe (1899-1912) Letter Book E: 189.

<sup>10</sup> Sharpe (1899-1912) Letter Book E: 93.

<sup>11</sup> Sharpe (1899-1912) Letter Book E: 112.

armour, horses, jewels, clothing, precious metal vessels. The total assessment for the ward was £73.

Hugh acquired a tenement with houses in the parish of St. Brigid in Fleet Street on 5 June 1318 and a house and garden in the parish of St Alphege within Cripplegate next to London Wall on 17 January 1321/22. During this period he gave loans to persons who pledged their lands in default of the sums they owed him<sup>12</sup>.

The will of Hugh de Garton dated London, Sunday 24 August 1327, leaves to his wife Agnes 200 marks or her dower at her election<sup>13</sup>. Each of his children is given £60 sterling, to be given to trustworthy and accountable merchants to trade with until they become of marriageable age. Rents and tenements in the parishes of St. Benedict Shorhog, St. Brigid de Fleetstreet, St. Peter the Less, St. Mary Magdalen de le Fishstreete were entailed to his sons Thomas, Hugh and John and daughter Johanna. His daughter Katherine is given a shop in the parish of St Nicholas Shambles. Alice, relict of William Garton is given a tenement in the parish of St Alphege near Cripplegate, for their lives. This was proved 2 November 1327. On 1 July 1344 John Causton and John Dalling are shown to be the executors of the will of Hugh Garton in a prosecution for arrears of a recognizance of £200 due to Hugh<sup>14</sup>.

At probate, John King was found guilty by a jury of claiming the tenement in St. Nicholas Shambles and having unlawfully taken possession of it, raising the hue and cry against the sheriffs when they came to execute the terms of the will (Thomas, 1926). King had to pay the sheriff 20 marks for damages.

Inquisition for Hugh de Garton on 12 February 1328/9 found that, in addition to his London property, he held at Chinkford, in Essex, a messuage, 40 acres of land and 4 acres of meadow of the abbot of Waltham in Essex for 2s yearly and nothing else in that county, and that John, his son, aged 26 years, was his heir<sup>15</sup>. On the same day there was an order to the escheator in Yorkshire to take into the king's hand the lands of the late Hugh Garton deceased tenant in chief, and also to Hamo Chigwell, mayor of London and the escheator there, but the Close Rolls for 23 January 1330/1 show an order "not to meddle further" with the lands of Hugh because the king had learned by inquest that Hugh at his death held no lands in chief, so the king had no interest in his estate<sup>16</sup>.

From this, it seems that the order of Hugh's sons were John, the eldest, his heir, and then because of how his estate was entailed, Thomas and Hugh. Thus Hugh would be Thomas' heir. The entailment suggests that Katherine, being omitted, was perhaps the daughter of Agnes, Hugh's wife at his death, which would mean that Joan Heyroun died young. Alice seems not to have been a daughter-in-law, since no children are mentioned, and it is not the way one would refer to his mother, so perhaps she was a sister-in-law, or some other relative for whom he felt responsible.

## Issue of Hugh Garton:

- + i. John Garton, Citizen and Mercer of London c.1300-1363.

---

<sup>12</sup> Husting Rolls of the City of London, 46:164 [Film MCFP 82 (Rolls 45-55)]; CCR vol.4 Edw.II, pp.323 & 337.

<sup>13</sup> Court of Husting, Calendar of Wills, Roll 55, no.82, p.326.

<sup>14</sup> CCR vol.7 Edw.III, p.450.

<sup>15</sup> CIPM Series 1, vol.7, Edw.III, p.97.

<sup>16</sup> CFR 1911-1962, vol.4 Edw.III, p.80; CCR vol.1 Edw.III, p.515.

- + ii. Master Thomas Garton, 2nd baron of the Exchequer, c.1300-1332.
- +iii. Hugh Garton, the king's yeoman, c.1300-after 1361.
- iv. Johanna Garton
- v. Katherine Garton

## JOHN

John<sub>2</sub> (Hugh<sub>1</sub>) Garton was born about 1300 and was a Citizen and Mercer of London. In 1324 he was given the rent of a tenement that John Heyroun, his grandfather, had in the parish of St. Antonin in London for two marks yearly, for four years<sup>17</sup>. It was between the message of the rector of the church of St. Antonin on one side and the tenement of Hugh Garton on the other. The witness to this was Richard le Chaucer, and it is dated at London, Tuesday, 19 March 1324/5.

This lease would expire in 1328/9, after the deaths of both his father and his grandfather. John seems to have lived there, in one of two adjoining tenements occupied by his family members. The London Lay Subsidy of 1332 shows John de Garton, taxed at 26s 8d, Thomas de Garton taxed at 13s 4d and Johanna Heyroun, taxed at 6s 8d, living contiguously in Cordwainer Ward<sup>18</sup> (Curtis, 1962).

In Breadstreet Ward was William de Garton, taxed at 8d, and in Cripplegate Ward within was Simon de Garton, taxed at 2 marks. Simon Garton was Customer of the wool export trade of the port of London in the early part of the century, and Robert Garton was later customer of the port of Kingston upon Hull (Lister, 1924)<sup>19</sup>. As the heir to Hugh, and with one brother an official of the Exchequer and the other a personal attendant of the king, together with customers of the two major ports in the wool export trade his undoubted relatives, John was very well positioned in London.

John's eldest surviving son was born in 1340, so he was married by then, to Joan. John Heyroun, his grandfather, had married Emma Plessis who inherited a one-third interest in lands in Somerset as tenant in chief, and he held the two adjacent tenements in Cordwainer Street, where he and Hugh Garton lived, as well as property in Enfield, Middlesex (Redstone, 1937). The property in Enfield was held in chief of the Earl of Hereford, and had been the earl's seat in the 13th century (Cockburn, 1911). The manor house was a crenellated capital message with a dovecote.

John's grandfather Heyroun died in 1326; his will dated 13 January 1325 leaving his son John (1296-1335) the Enfield and Somerset property and the two tenements to his unmarried daughter Margaret, born in 1295, and his daughter Joan, wife of Hugh Garton<sup>20</sup>. Then after the death of his uncle, John Heyroun the younger, on 22 January 1336, the escheator was ordered to make partition of his lands into two equal parts in the presence of Margaret, his sister, and to deliver to John Garton, son and heir of

---

<sup>17</sup> Husting Rolls 53:43, [Film MCFP 82 (Rolls 45-55)].

<sup>18</sup> Thomas was not his brother, who was exempt.

<sup>19</sup> Extracts from the custom accounts at Hull, which show wool delivered by John Garton and Thomas Garton, a mercer, made a freeman at York in 1353/4. Robert is shown as "late" customer in 1398; see pp. 43, 60 & 113. For Simon see CCR, Edw.III, vols.2:123; 6:293; 7:400, 8:108,131 & 559.

<sup>20</sup> Husting Rolls 56:49, Corporation of London Record Office.

Joan Garton, his other sister, his portion as senior heir, he having done homage, and to have the partition enrolled on the rolls of chancery<sup>21</sup>.

John Heyroun the younger's widow, Agnes, lived at Haliwell, where she was to receive annual payment for life for her dower interest in his property<sup>22</sup>. If John Garton defaulted on this annuity, Agnes would take possession. The witnesses to this were Sir Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford, Sir William de Bohun, Earl of Northampton, Sir John de Fauconberg, knight, William Causton, Simon Fraunceys, Thomas Brandon, and Nicholas atte Mersh. Agnes later married Piers Oxford, and was still receiving this in 1362. After John's death this agreement was renewed from his son John in 1367 (Historical Manuscripts Commission, 1914, pp.603, 625, 627.).

John participated in the mercer's life, as did his father, and was often present in the Guildhall. On 1 March 1339/40 the king's clerk came to the Guildhall to ask the citizens for a loan of £20,000<sup>23</sup>. They offered 5,000 marks. The king rejected this and ordered memoranda of all the wealthier citizens in writing. The wealthier instead got together and agreed to offer £5,000, which the king accepted. John de Garton contributed £10 jointly with Richard Chaucer. John was assessed again in 1346, as was Simon de Garton<sup>24</sup>. John Garton was noted as on the Livery of the Mercers Company for 1348/9, among their earliest records<sup>25</sup>.

On Monday, 25 April 1362, in London, John de Garton, Citizen and Mercer of London, made his will, witnessed by John de Southam and William Brekles<sup>26</sup>. He desired to be buried in the church of St Antonin, London, next to Joan, his wife. His tenement beside the church of St Antonin between the tenement of his daughter Joan on one side and the tenement of Seuell de Fulsham on the other side was to be sold for the payment of his debts. The residue of all goods and chattels was to go to John de Garton, his son and heir. The executors were William Heyroun and John Garton, his son.

Inquisition for John de Garton was taken before the Mayor in London on 12 July 1363<sup>27</sup>. John died 30 April 1363 seized of 5 messuages, 4 shops, and a garden in the parish of St Peter Breadstreet, 5 shops in the parish of St Pancras, a messuage in the parish of St Nicholas Shambles, a messuage in the parish of St Peter Old Fish Street, and a messuage in the ward of Cordwainer Street, all held of the king in free burgage. His heir was his son John, aged 22. At Somerset he had a third interest in a manor in Newton Plessis held of the king as a tenth of a knight's fee; in Exton, he had a third interest in a manor held of the king and others; also in Middlesex at Enfield he held a chief messuage with pasturage, a dovecote then in ruins, a watermill also in ruins, held of the heir of the Earl of Hereford, a minor in the king's wardship. There is also an order to the escheator at Somerset to deliver to John, son of John Garton, lands of his father as the king has taken his homage and fealty<sup>28</sup>.

---

<sup>21</sup> CFR vol.4, Edw.III, p.470; CCR vol.3, Edw.III, pp.561 & 563; CIPM, vol.7, Edw.III, p.462.

<sup>22</sup> CCR vol.5, Edw.III, p.469 & 470.

<sup>23</sup> Sharpe (1899-1912) Letter Book F: 45-49.

<sup>24</sup> Sharpe (1899-1912) Letter Book F: 147 & 152.

<sup>25</sup> Wardens' Account Book, 1348/9, ms in custody of The Mercers Company, Mercers Hall, Ironmonger Lane, London.

<sup>26</sup> Court of Husting Wills, 90:79, [Film MCFP (Rolls 89-94)].

<sup>27</sup> CIPM vol.11, Edw.III, p.265.

<sup>28</sup> CFR vol.7, Edw.III, p.228.

## Issue of John Garton:

- i. Joan Garton, married Roger Walton, Citizen and Pepperer of London.
- ii. John<sub>3</sub> Garton

John<sub>3</sub> (John<sub>2</sub> Hugh<sub>1</sub>) Garton, son and heir of John Garton, was born about 1341, since he was 22 when his father died. At London, on 2 March 1365/6, John asserted his right as next of kin and his father's heir to take control of his sister's inheritance, the house of Margaret Heyroun beside St Antonin's church. Stating that, whereas his father had given that house to Joan and Roger and their heirs, and Roger had died without issue to Joan, John granted the reversion of that house to William Writes, Citizen and Pepperer of London, after the death of his sister Joan<sup>29</sup>.

With this, both the houses behind St Antonin's were disposed of, and John held tenements in St Peter Breadstreet parish, in St Pancras parish, in St Nicholas Shambles parish, in St Peter Old Fish Street of the king in London, with manors in Somerset and Middlesex. Unlike his father, or perhaps at the instigation of his father, John married an heiress, who brought him additional tenements in London, and in Surrey, West Sussex, Kent and Southampton. He disposed of some of his London tenements and expanded his county holdings, so that he was no longer styled as Mercer, but became John Garton of Erith, his home in Kent, though he remained a Citizen of London.

John's bride was Margaret Burford, the only child of Sir James Burford of Erith. She was also the grandchild of John Burford, wool merchant and spicer to the king's Wardrobe (Thrupp, 1948). John Burford acquired a fortune by virtue of his association with Thomas Romayn, Pepperer, Citizen of London, Sheriff in 1290, Mayor in 1309, and Alderman of Cordwainer Ward from 1294 until his death in 1313. Romayn, an Italian supplier to the king, had married Juliana Hauteyn (Williams, 1963, pp.143-144). John Burford married one of their four daughters, Roesia. John and Roesia had Katherine, Johanna and James, their only son. James Burford married Joan, a daughter of Sir John Hardishull of Hartshill, Margaret's mother, and then, secondly, Katherine. Margaret was his only child.

James de Burford had been aged 9 years and more as heir to Roesia de Burford on 12 April 1330<sup>30</sup>. She left, in Sussex, Warnham Manor; in Kent, the manor of Erehithe (Erith), on the Thames, held in gavelkind; in Surrey, the manor of Stockwell, held of the Earl of Hereford; cottages at Southwarkbarre held of the prior of Bermondsey, and other property, some in London.

The will of Roesia de Burford, dated in her chamber at Charlton, near Erith, on 25 March 1329, left bequests to the work of the London Bridge, and mentions her son James, her daughters Katherine and Johannah, wife of Thomas de Betoyn. John de Polteney was made guardian of James and Katherine<sup>31</sup>.

Very soon after their marriage, on 18 October 1367, at London, John de Garton and Margaret his wife granted to John Peche, citizen and Alderman of London and Robert Bayton, their claim to the property of James Burford, knight, in the City of London or in its suburbs, which they held in chief<sup>32</sup>. This was an exchange to extend their

<sup>29</sup> Husting Roll 98:62, [Film MCFP 89 (Rolls 95-98)].

<sup>30</sup> CIPM vol.7, Edw.III, pp.165-166.

<sup>31</sup> Husting Rolls 57:132; 80:61, [Film MCFP 86 (Rolls 67-83)].

<sup>32</sup> Husting Rolls 95:173, [Film MCFP (Rolls 95-98)].

holdings and Katherine's at Stockwell and Warnham, together with twelve messuages in Southwark in Surrey, and was signed in 1368 (Salzman, 1916). Katherine was to hold this during her life, with the remainder to John and Margaret and the contingent remainder to the heirs of Margaret Garton.

Margaret produced a son, John, born 30 September 1369 and baptised the same day in the church of Erithe. She died soon after, and John married, second, Juliana or Joan<sup>33</sup>. John died in 1376<sup>34</sup>. His son John was found to be his heir at an inquisition taken at Briggewater in Somerset on 28 June 1377. John held property in Somerset. He also held land in Southampton at Middletons of the Bishop of Winchester as of the manor of Drakensford. He had of the inheritance of his first wife, Erithe in Kent, held of Edmund, the earl of March as of the manor of Erehithe in gavelkind.

The nature of John's holdings, that they were held of the king, and that there were other interested parties, made them at issue. For a period after his death, until disposal was made, they were held by the widow. On 23 July 1376 a license was issued for the king's widow, Juliana, late the wife of John de Garton, who held in chief, to marry Thomas Bradley, who was esquire of the king's son John, king of Castile and Leon and Duke of Lancaster<sup>35</sup>.

The marriage between Juliana and Bradley seems not to have taken place, or he died almost immediately, because on 12 February 1377 the escheators of Southampton and Somerset were ordered to assign Robert Louthe and Juliana his wife, who had been the wife of John Garton, tenant in chief, her dower of lands taken in the king's hand by his death. At the same time Juliana was pardoned for marrying Louthe without the king's license<sup>36</sup>. Louthe was the king's esquire. He was compensated for his service as *de facto* guardian of John Garton, and he had letters patent dated 17 November 1377 to this effect, and since John Basse of London was appointed the wardship of John, Louthe was compensated for that as well, and given the wardship of any child that John might have and leave as a minor<sup>37</sup>.

On 26 September 1376 the escheator in Kent was ordered to keep in hand the lands of John held in chief at his death, but to meddle no further in any held in gavelkind<sup>38</sup>. His son John was to be given the income.

On 20 November 1376, the guardianship of John, son of John de Garton, aged nine years, was committed by Adam Stable, the Mayor, and William Eynsham, the Chamberlain, to John Basse, Draper, "*whose daughter the orphan had married during his father's lifetime.*"<sup>39</sup> The guardian was not to allow his ward to marry again during his minority, in case his wife should die, without the assent of the Mayor and Aldermen. Sureties were John Blanket, Skinner, William Lumbourne, Draper, and William Wyrtehowe. Afterwards, on 16 October 1388, John Basse rendered an account of his guardianship before John Walcote, Alderman, Thomas Noket and Roger Abbot, Draper, Richard

---

<sup>33</sup> Both are used in reference to his estate.

<sup>34</sup> CIM vol.5, #257.

<sup>35</sup> CPR vol.16, Edw.III, p.301.

<sup>36</sup> CPR vol.16, Edw.III, p.383. But on 17 Nov. 1376, a pardon had been given to Joan (*sic*), late the wife of John Garton, who held in chief, for marrying Robert Louthe without the king's license.

<sup>37</sup> CPR vol.16, Edw.III, pp. 386-387; vol.1, Ric.II, p.145; CCR, vol.1, Ric.II, p.58.

<sup>38</sup> CCR vol.14, Edw.III, pp.418 & 482.

<sup>39</sup> Sharpe (1899-1912) Letter Book H: 52; CFR vol.8, Edw.III, pp.363, 364, 377 & 378; CFR vol.9, Ric.II, p.17.

Odyham the Chamberlain and John Tremayn the Common Pleaser, which included "the sum of £46 for the table of the orphan and his wife for nine years out of the twelve, when the wife died, being at the rate of 2s a week."

### Issue of John<sub>3</sub> Garton:

i. John<sub>4</sub> Garton, Esq. of Erith (1369-c.1420).

John<sub>4</sub> (John<sub>3</sub> John<sub>2</sub> Hugh<sub>1</sub>) Garton, Esquire, was born on 30 September 1369 and baptised that day at Erith. His godparents were two servants in the household, William Bryan and the wife of William atte Wood<sup>40</sup>. His mother died while he was an infant, and by the age of about six, during his father's life, he was married to the daughter of John Basse. Then his father died, and his stepmother quickly married Robert Louthe, the king's esquire. His child bride also died, leaving his own choice of wife to the consent of the Mayor and aldermen of London.

On 15 September 1384, in disposing of certain property, John identified himself at age 15 as "John Garton, Esquire, kinsman and heir of James Burford, knight, my grandfather, that is, son of Margaret, daughter of the said James."<sup>41</sup> Katherine, the widow of James, held "all the lands and tenements, with the shops and their appurtenances" which belonged to James, which upon Katherine's death were to belong to John. John gave these rents to John Norton, Citizen and Grocer of London, during Katherine's life, and also after her decease. Katherine, John's stepmother, controlled his property throughout most of his life, and is shown to have married the above John Norton, and later someone named Strecche.

In addition to Katherine, John had his guardian and his associates managing his property. During his minority John and his guardians were dispossessed of rents in St Pancras parish and in the parish of St Peter Breadstreet (Chew, 1965). On 8 August 1386 John Bradfield quit-claimed to his brother property in Erith, that was "sometime" that of John, and had been given by enfeoffment of John Basse, *et al.* on 3 February 1385<sup>42</sup>. A recognizance for £24 was levied on John, son of John Garton of Erith to John Basse on 12 February 1390, just as John came of age<sup>43</sup>.

But by 1 July 1390 the Somerset escheator was ordered to give John Garton seisin of his property, as he had proved his age. This began the process of clearing of titles, a series of transactions which took years to effect. They are invaluable for those researching related families. John's affairs were in many ways a community effort, since they involved his relatives and business connections.

On 28 March 1396 Thomas Colpepper, knight, quit-claimed to John Garton the manor of North Kilsey in Lincoln, formerly of John Hardishull, knight<sup>44</sup>. John in turn quit-claimed to Thomas Colpepper the manor of Saleby, also Hardishull's, on 5 May 1396, thus settling his Hardishull inheritance.

Between June 1397 and September 1398, John settled with Norton, who gave to John all the land Norton had enfeoffed to him, and John gave Norton a recognizance for £200 to be levied in default on his lands and chattels in London.<sup>45</sup> They also made an

<sup>40</sup> CIM vol.5, #257.

<sup>41</sup> Husting Rolls 127: 19-23 & 28.

<sup>42</sup> CCR vol.3, Ric.II, p.248.

<sup>43</sup> CCR vol. 4, Ric.II, pp.145, 203, 268 and 350.

<sup>44</sup> CCR vol. 5, Ric.II, pp.505 & 508.

<sup>45</sup> CCR vol. 6, Ric.II, pp.131-133 & 398-402.

indenture of this on condition that Norton would, after the decease of Katherine, late wife of James Burford, knight, peaceably hold tenements with shops in St Benet Shorhog parish without recovery of John Garton or his heirs or encumbrances. John acknowledged this in chancery on 23 September 1398 at Westminster. In these transactions it is shown that John at this time had a wife named Alice.

At the same time, John de Garton "*kinsman and heir of Hugh de Garton, son of John, son of John, son of the aforesaid Hugh,*" gave to William Norton, Citizen and Clothier of London and Alice his wife, tenements in Westcheap Ward in the parish of St Pancras London, which Hugh Garton formerly held by the gift and feoffment of John Hauteyn, former Citizen and Mercer of London<sup>46</sup>. John attached his seal before Richard Whittington, Mayor of the City of London, Thomas Welford and William Parker, sheriffs of London, and William Staunton, Alderman of the ward. Witnesses were William de Coventry, William Horston, Robert Detorgne, John Alham, Robert Salman and William Bethune among others, and it was dated 13 July 1398.

On 25 June 1400, Henry IV pardoned, for 20 marks, Humphrey Stafford, knight, Thomas Stowell, knight, John Juhn, John Warre, Hugh Pyke, Hugh Cary, Robert Geoffrey, John Bivent, William Gascoigne of Brokley and Martin Jacob for having acquired without royal license the hundred of Exton with a third of the manor of Exton and Newton Plessis and the advowsons of the church of Haukerigg and the chapel of Newtown Plessis in Somerset which John Garton had held in chief under Richard II<sup>47</sup>.

On 20 October 1400 there was a release by Richard Cliderowe, Esq., John Compedin, clerk, John Ikelington, clerk and William Norton, Citizen and Clothier of London to John Garton, Esq. of Kent and his heirs of all right to lands, which they had by feoffment of John in London, Kent, Surrey, Middlesex, Southampton, Lincoln, Somerset and Devon<sup>47</sup>. Then on 2 May 1401 Richard Mayn surrendered to John and his heirs, property in Somerset which John had lately granted him for his life<sup>47</sup>.

John Norton, and several clerks quit-claimed to John all land and other property in London, Kent, Surrey, Middlesex, Southampton, Lincoln, Somerset and Devon, then in John's possession which they had by his feoffment on 20 October 1402<sup>48</sup>. John Bradfield, Citizen and Grocer gave quit-claim to him of a manor called Burfords in Erith and tenements in London, and a general release on 26 November 1403, and John gave a general release to Bradfield in turn of all personal actions against him. On 15 June 1407 John quit-claimed to certain persons, all his interests in Middleton, Southampton<sup>49</sup>.

The manor of Warnham, co. Sussex was given on 10 July 1410 to William Bretoun, Esq. and Margaret his wife, tenants of Katherine Strecche, late wife of James Burford, knight, who was a tenant for life with a reversion to John Garton as heir of James Burford, and of the homage, services, wards, marriages, heriots, aids and suits of court<sup>50</sup>. The witnesses were William Cheyne, knight, John Rous, Henry Thorp, William Westbury, and John Westbury. John conveyed all his lands in Lambeth to Thomas Stanmore (called Denny) prior to 1411/12<sup>51</sup>. On 1 May 1416 John paid to the hanaper

---

<sup>46</sup> Husting Rolls 126:118-119.

<sup>47</sup> Historical Manuscripts Commission (1914) pp.651-652.

<sup>48</sup> CCR vol.1, Hen. IV, p.519.

<sup>49</sup> CCR vol.2, Hen. IV, pp.274 & 281; vol.3, pp.278 & 490; vol.4, pp.121, 206, 298, 300, 302 & 416.

<sup>50</sup> CCR vol.4, Hen. IV, p.117.

<sup>51</sup> Add. Chart 18686, British Library manuscript.

to grant the remainder of his Somerset property to Richard Bruton, clerk and William Gascoigne of Briggewater<sup>52</sup>.

John sued for debts owed him on 19 November 1417, and again on 21 October 1420 for debts in Middlesex, so he was living at this time<sup>53</sup>. But by 16 June 1423, John Holden and Joan, his wife, "*late the wife of John Garton, deceased,*" released her dower right to a third of the manors in Somerset to Humphrey Stafford and others which they had by reason of Joan's dower after the death of John Garton<sup>54</sup>.

An undated bill for funeral charges for John Garton, grandson of Sir James Burford and Joan Hardishull and great-grandson of Sir John Hardishull of co. Warwick includes an office fee, a velvet pall and the man's attendants, four escutcheons on buckram of all the quartered coats impaled, and nine escutcheons of single coats impaled<sup>55</sup>. The pedigree notes that John died without issue.

### THOMAS

Thomas<sub>2</sub> (Hugh<sub>1</sub>) Garton attended Cambridge, where Edward II subsidized scholars who then became civil servants in his household (Emden, 1963). The king may have personally selected Thomas, both for Cambridge, and for his benefice. On 25 February 1318 he was presented to the church of Over in Cambridgeshire in the diocese of Ely by the king's gift at Byfleet<sup>56</sup>. At the same time, Thomas was clerk to the king's steward, Sir William Montague<sup>57</sup>.

In October 1319 the king and the wardrobe clerks were in York. Parliament was summoned to York for 20 January 1320 (Haines, 2003). On 23 February 1320 and again on 3 June 1320 Thomas was granted safe conduct for "*going beyond the seas on the king's services.*"<sup>58</sup> On 15 January 1322 at Shrewsbury, Thomas was granted the king's protection for staying with Peter de Monte Forti in the Marches of Wales on the king's services<sup>59</sup>. "*Master Thomas Garton, treasurer of the wardrobe at Newcastle on Tyne*" (and Hugh de Garton his brother at York) was given safe conduct for going with the king to Scotland on 3 August 1322<sup>60</sup>.

A writ to the sheriff of Cambridge dated 22 December 1327 notes that "*unknown men came to Over to the parsonage of Master Thomas de Garton by night and sold to John Steynton, merchant, beasts worth more than 40s and carried away Master Thomas, whither the jurors know not.*"<sup>61</sup> This was perhaps connected to his function as a Keeper, having charge of estates from the escheator held by the king until a new tenant could be found.

Thomas Garton was controller of the Wardrobe from 11 June 1328, and a keeper from 24 September 1329 to 16 October 1331<sup>62</sup>. On 14 May 1329 he was given protection

<sup>52</sup> CPR vol.2, Hen.V, p.32.

<sup>53</sup> CPR vol.2, Hen.V, pp. 96, 216 & 287.

<sup>54</sup> Historical Manuscripts Commission (1914) p.665.

<sup>55</sup> Harleian ms.1562, fo.107, for which see Bannerman (1905). This has been erroneously applied to a much later Sussex family; for discussion see Straney (2002).

<sup>56</sup> Haines (2003); CPR vol.3, Edw.II, pp.108, 418, 422 & 447.

<sup>57</sup> Tout (1920-33) 3: 29n, 14, 37 & 77.

<sup>58</sup> This could have been to Gascony.

<sup>59</sup> CPR vol.4, Edw.II, pp.68 & 185.

<sup>60</sup> CPR vol.4, Edw.II, p.185.

<sup>61</sup> CIM vol.2, #924.

<sup>62</sup> Tout (1920-33) 4:76; 5:278, and 6:27 & 29.

for going with the king; and on 24 June of that year he was sent to bring "*certain things*" (money) to the king from Scotland, and again on 26 August of that year to bring certain things from Doncaster to the king<sup>63</sup>. On 3 April 1330 Master Thomas was to pay to Queen Isabella the 5,000 marks that the king had received by Thomas' hands from David, the king of Scotland<sup>64</sup>.

Master Thomas had custody of the manor of Kilham in Yorkshire on the 25 June 1331<sup>65</sup>. He was to get the hospital of Boulton in co. Northumberland under the patronage of the abbot of Rievaulx and the prior of Kirkham on 25 Jun 1331, but because of the intervention of William Ros of Hamelake, the king granted it to Thomas Baumburg instead<sup>66</sup>. In return, Thomas Baumburg acknowledged that he owed Thomas £113 6d in default of Boulton hospital, and they made an indenture to that effect. Then on 21 April 1332 Thomas Chigwell, citizen of London, acknowledged he owed Thomas £100 of his lands in London in default. They made an indenture on 23 April when Master Thomas Garton was canon of Wells church, and Thomas acquired Chigwell's tenement in Breadstreet in default. This entry is the last found referring to Thomas.

Thomas is mentioned by Tout as one of the supporters of Edward III, led by Montague, who assisted him in gaining control of his government. Edward had reason to know Thomas and to be grateful to him and his family. After the ascension of Edward III, the list of his benefices in the short period before his death included, in addition to Over, which he held all his life, from 1329 to 1332, Canon of Wells, by papal provision at petition of Queen Isabella, Canon of Beverley, Canon of Sarum and Prebendary of Durnford, Prebend of Henstridge in Wells, Prebend of Whitchurch in Wells, Canon of Litchfield, Canon of Lincoln by papal provision at the king's petition, and prebend of Sandiacre<sup>67</sup>.

He was appointed 2nd baron of the Exchequer on 17 October 1331<sup>68</sup>. The Close Rolls note a bill that had been sealed by "the late" Master Thomas Garton by September 1332, and another dated 31 December 1332 was an order to admit the executors of the will of Master Thomas Garton<sup>69</sup>.

## HUGH

Hugh<sub>2</sub> (Hugh<sub>1</sub>) Garton, the king's yeoman, was born early in the 14th century. His tenure was prior to the formation of the Yeomen of the Guard, but he is described as the king's yeoman. Given his family connections and later rewards, it is assumed he was a personal attendant to Edward III. At the time when Parliament was at York, on 21 July 1322, Hugh de Garton at York was given safe conduct for going to Scotland with the king (as was his brother Thomas)<sup>70</sup>.

Although the will of Thomas was not found, Hugh described himself as his brother's heir, and on 20 June 1335 Hugh Garton and John Thorp, executors of Thomas Garton,

---

<sup>63</sup> CPR vol.1, Edw.III, pp.390, 420 & 437.

<sup>64</sup> CCR vol.2, Edw.III, p.41.

<sup>65</sup> CCR vol.2, Edw.III, p.247.

<sup>66</sup> CCR vol.2, Edw.III, pp.281, 330 & 559.

<sup>67</sup> Emden (1963) gives details of his ecclesiastical career. The Patent Rolls are filled with references to him, as he was clerk.

<sup>68</sup> CPR vol.2, Edw.III, p.182.

<sup>69</sup> CCR vol.2, Edw.III, pp.490 & 518.

<sup>70</sup> CPR vol.4, Edw.II, p.185.

prosecuted certain recognizances made to Thomas in chancery<sup>71</sup>. A year after Thomas' death, on 12 April 1333, Hugh, as "*tenant of the lands of Master Thomas Garton, late parson of Ovre,*" sent John Fleet to the Exchequer to defend certain related debts<sup>72</sup>.

Hugh at this time dealt with William Garton's widow, Alice, mentioned in his father's will, who had rights to William's property in Breadstreet and the tenement in St. Alphage. Alice seems to have married Ralph Berkway, Citizen and Chandler of London. Whatever the case, on 31 March 1335 Hugh acknowledged owing Roger Berkway, goldsmith of London, £20 to be levied by default on his property in London, and Roger gave a release to Hugh of all claims to a messuage, cellar and four shops in Breadstreet previously held by Roger's father Ralph and for which tenements Roger had recently impleaded Hugh before the mayor and sheriffs of London, and now Hugh was fully seised in the property<sup>73</sup>. The witnesses to this were all Citizens of London, and it is dated 1 April 1335 at Nottingham.

Hugh, as brother and heir of Master Thomas de Garton, granted to Gilbert le Palmer, Citizen and Ropemaker of London, a tenement with houses that had been held by Thomas in Breadstreet in the parish of St. Nicholas Olaf in Queenhythe Ward, London<sup>74</sup>. With this he also granted the dower right in a tenement of Alice, the widow of Ralph de Berkway, which she held for life, and that after her death reverts to Hugh or his heirs. This is dated at London, Friday, 21 March 1336/7.

Hugh had married Joan, daughter of Edmund Crepyn by 1335, when Hugh and Joan established his tenure of land near Driffield in Yorkshire by way of Robert atte Kelde, chaplain; they held 14 bovates of land and 6s 8d rent in Garton on the Wolds, a messuage, 4 tofts, 2 gardens and 2 bovates of land near Wetwang, and 2 messuages and 3 bovates of land in Cottam, nearby (Thrupp, 1948; Baidon, 1910).

Hugh's Yorkshire associates included Sir John Mounceaux. On 28 May 1336 the sheriff of York was given an order to supercede the arrest of Mounceaux, who had been named in a petition by his countrymen as being one of a group of armed men who were "*lying in wait for ecclesiastical persons, merchants, rich men and other lieges, imprisoning them and extorting them with threats of robbery, rape*" and other things<sup>75</sup>. The king ordered Mounceaux to be imprisoned. However, Mounceaux himself went to chancery with Peter Nuthill, Thomas Hauteyn, and Hugh Garton "*of that county*" who gave assurance that they would produce him for trial, and that he would conduct himself well in the meantime, so he was not arrested.

An amazing complaint was taken on 7 June 1347 that the same John Mounceaux, knight, with Simon de Garton, chaplain, and others at Berneston in Yorkshire had taken livestock worth £200, felled trees and mowed and carried away crops<sup>76</sup>. Found guilty, the fine they were assessed for this was ½ mark, "*because they were poor.*"

The records of the king's Wardrobe show that 24s 4d was due to the Wardrobe by Hugh de Garton, esquire of the hospital of Edward III for purchases and the costs of

---

<sup>71</sup> CCR vol.3, Edw.III, p.496.

<sup>72</sup> CCR vol.3, Edw.III, pp.105, 119, 476, 496 & 515.

<sup>73</sup> CCR vol.3, Edw.III, p.515.

<sup>74</sup> Husting Rolls 64:85; Film MCFP 84 (Rolls 64-71).

<sup>75</sup> CCR vol.3, Edw.III, p. 682; CPR vol.3, Edw.III, p.289.

<sup>76</sup> CPR vol.7, Edw.III, p.377.

his horses between 31 July 1335 and 30 August 1338 in the time of Richard de Ferriby, then guardian of the Wardrobe<sup>77</sup>.

An acquittance by Hugh, son of Hugh de Garton, late Mercer, to John de Causton and John Dalling, his father's executors, for money due under his father's will was witnessed by William de Causton, Nicholas atte Mersshe, John de Garton, William de Panetria, Simon de Garton and others, on Friday 18 October 1342<sup>78</sup>.

On 30 January 1339 at Berkhamstead, Hugh de Garton, the king's yeoman, was appointed to the bailiwick of the stewardship of the forest of Galtres to hold for life<sup>79</sup>. But after a few years, on 26 July 1346 this was given to Adam Walton, the king's sergeant at arms, with the assent of Hugh de Garton, who had surrendered the appointment into the king's hands<sup>80</sup>.

Hugh received payment for wages for service to the king beyond the sea on 22 June 1340 and on 12 March 1341<sup>81</sup>. And on 4 January 1341 Hugh, the king's yeoman, was given a grant for life of a tun of the king's prize wine in the port of Kingston upon Hull annually, to be delivered by the hands of the king's butler<sup>82</sup>.

Later in his life, Hugh killed Roger Wilde of Garton, for which he was indicted, and on 30 January 1361 he was pardoned by the king for "*good service in times past*" and at the request of the king's yeoman, Peter de Routh and of "*any consequent outlawry*."<sup>83</sup>

The Inquisition Post Mortem for William, Baron Greystoke, taken 10 February 1375 shows that Broughton (near Garton on the Wolds) in Yorkshire was then occupied by William Garton, son of Hugh, and by Agnes, daughter of John, son of Hugh Garton<sup>84</sup>.

Issue of Hugh Garton:

- i. John Garton
- ii. William Garton

Thus the descent of this family returned to its roots in Yorkshire.

## Acknowledgement

The writer wishes to acknowledge the estimable assistance of Michael J Wood of London with translations from old Latin.

---

<sup>77</sup> Wardrobe Debentures E/404/492; National Archives.

<sup>78</sup> Sharpe (1899-1912) Letter Book F: 80.

<sup>79</sup> CPR vol.4, Edw.III, p.202.

<sup>80</sup> CPR vol.6, Edw.III, p.101.

<sup>81</sup> CCR vol.6, Edw.III, pp.85 & 383.

<sup>82</sup> CPR vol.5, Edw.III, p.74;

CCR vol.6, Edw.III, pp.383 & 411; CCR vol.7, Edw.III, pp.68, 295 & 541.

<sup>83</sup> CPR vol.11, Edw.III, p.543.

<sup>84</sup> CIPM vol.14, Edw.III, p.31.

## References<sup>85</sup>

- Baldon, W P (1910, editor). *Feet of Fines for the County of York (1327-1347)*. Leeds: *Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Record Series*, 42:106.
- Bannerman, W Bruce (1905, editor) *The Visitation of the County of Sussex*. London: The Harleian Society, 53: 132.
- Chew, Helena M (1965, editor). *London Possessory Assizes: A Calendar*. London: London Record Society, p.133.
- Cockburn, J S H, King, P F & McDonnell, K G T (1911- , editors). *The Victoria History of the County of Middlesex*. London: Institute of Historical Research, 5: 225.
- Curtis, M (1962). The London Lay Subsidy of 1332. In: *Finance and Trade under Edward III*. New York: A M Kelley, pp.35-92.
- Ekwall, Eilert (1951, editor). *Two Early London Subsidy Rolls* [with biographical notes]. Lund: CWK Gleerup, p.261.
- Emden, A B (1963, editor). *Biographical Register of the University of Cambridge to 1500*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, p.252.
- Haines, Roy Martin (2003). *King Edward II*. London: McGill-Queens University Press, pp.119-120.
- Historical Manuscripts Commission (1914). *Calendar of mss of the Dean and Chapter of Wells*. Report #12, vol.2, London: HMSO.
- Lister, John (1924, editor). The Early Yorkshire Woollen Trade. Leeds: *Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Record Series*, 64:10.
- Redstone, Vincent B & Lilian J (April 1937). The Heyrouns of London. *Speculum*, [a Journal of Mediaeval Studies]. Cambridge, MA: The Mediæval Academy of America, pp.182-195.
- Salzman, L F (1916, editor). Feet of Fines for Sussex 1308-1509. *Publications of the Sussex Record Society*, 23:166.
- Sharpe, Reginald R (1899-1912, editor). *Calendar of Letter Books preserved among the archives of the Corporation of the City of London at the Guildhall*, London: J E Francis.
- Sharpe, Reginald R (1913, editor). *Calendar of Coroners Rolls of the City of London 1300-1378*. London: Richard Clay & Sons, Ltd.
- Straney, S G (2002). Editing Matters. London: *Genealogists' Magazine*, 28(2): 57-61.
- Thomas, A H (1926, editor). *Calendar of Plea and Memoranda Rolls preserved among the archives of the Corporation of the City of London at the Guildhall*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, vol. 1 (1323-1364), pp.46-47.
- Thrupp, Sylvia L (1948). *The Merchant Class of Medieval London, 1300-1500*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, p.345.
- Tout, Thomas Frederick (1920-33). *Chapters in the Administrative History of Mediaeval England*. Manchester: The University Press.
- Williams, Gwyn A (1963). *Medieval London: From Commune to Capital*. London: University of London, Athlone Press, pp.134-135 & 140.

---

<sup>85</sup> **Note:** see inside rear cover of the journal for standard abbreviations of frequently cited sources.