

# JOHN KINGSMILL (1626-1694), ESQ, OF ANDOVER, HANTS: HIS ANCESTRY AND MEDIEVAL ROYAL DESCENT

by Michael P Bodman<sup>1</sup>

## ABSTRACT

John Kingsmill (1626-1694), Esq, of Andover, Hampshire, son of a parish church vicar and a cadet branch of the Kingsmills of Sydmonton Court, Hampshire, has medieval royal ancestry through his maternal great-grandmother Elianor Pistor (d. bef. 13 May 1560). But, surprisingly, it has not been documented. It was obscured and forgotten by dint of a copyist's error, making a muddle out of the chronology of the two wives of William Pistor, Esq, of Metheringham, Lincolnshire, on the pedigrees of Pistor in the visitation of Lincolnshire in 1562-4 and the *Larken Collection* in the custody of the College of Arms, in London. By examining contemporaneous evidence recently discovered at TNA, this article gives the correct chronology of the two wives of William Pistor and documents the 15th- and 16th-century generations by which John Kingsmill derives his medieval royal ancestry.

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Since the reign of John, king of England 1199-1216, the Kingsmills have resided in Hampshire, originating from Basingstoke in that county. According to tradition, their putative ancestor surnamed Chastayne was given a grant of the King's Mill in Basingstoke for having saved King John from imminent death while hunting. William Chastayne de Kingsmill, a descendant, married Margaret FitzOliver, maternal aunt of Walter de Merton (c.1205-1277), chancellor of England 1261-1263 and 1272-1274, bishop of Rochester 1274-1277, and founder of Merton College, Oxford University.<sup>2</sup> Rupert Willoughby states, "*Walter de Merton was a true pioneer in that he had founded the first wholly self-governing university college in England, the model for all subsequent colleges. He also introduced the system whereby the preferred candidates for scholarships and fellowships were to be the founder's own kin... Ironically, Walter's kinsfolk took so half-hearted an interest in their privileged status at Oxford that eventually they forgot that they were related to him and, by sheer neglect, allowed their privileges to lapse, although they were only formally abolished by Statute in 1854... It seems also that descendants of Merton's maternal aunt Margaret FitzOliver, many of whom would have been eligible for Founder's Kin scholarships, can be traced to the present day... Hugh de Kingsmill, William's eldest son by Margaret, Walter de Merton's aunt, was cited before the Bailiffs of Basingstoke in 1277, having rashly attempted to sell it [the King's Mill] without a licence. The mill was taken back into the hands of the Crown, but the name Kingsmill had stuck, and three millrinds remain in the family's arms.*"<sup>3</sup>

Walter de Merton was buried in Rochester Cathedral (Fig 1) as described by Alexander Chalmers: "*He was interred on the north side of St. William's Chapel, at the north end of the cross aisle in Rochester Cathedral, with a marble monument, which had probably been injured or*

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<sup>2</sup> Edmund Hobhouse, *Sketch of the Life of Walter de Merton, Lord High Chancellor of England, and Bishop of Rochester; Founder of Merton College* (1859), 6-8, 36, Appendix III (2) Pedigree of Chastayne, or Kingmsmylle;  
George Drewry Squibb, *Founders Kin: privilege and pedigree* (1972), 34.

<sup>3</sup> Rupert Willoughby, *Basingstoke and its Contribution to World Culture* (2010), 31-34.

decayed, as in 1598 the present beautiful alabaster monument was erected by the society of Merton college, at the suggestion of the celebrated sir Henry Savile, then warden of the college." <sup>4</sup>

**Fig 1. Effigy c.1598 of Walter de Merton (c.1205-1277) in Rochester Cathedral<sup>5</sup>**



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At the heralds' visitation of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight in 1686, a six-generation pedigree was recorded for John Kingsmill, Esq, (1626-1694) of Andover, Hampshire.<sup>6</sup> The following restates the pedigree along with some additional biographical details:

1. Richard Kingsmill (d.1511) of Barkham, Berkshire, bailiff of Barkham, received Katherine of Aragon and her entourage in early November 1501, while on their way to her marriage with Prince Arthur. Richard married Alice or Amy, daughter of Richard Ingpen of Longparish, Hampshire.<sup>7</sup>
2. Sir John Kingsmill (senior) (c.1460-1509), son and heir; appointed Justice of the Common Pleas by Henry VII on 2 July 1504; and Chief Justice for Lancaster on 9 January 1507. He married Jane, daughter of John Gifford of Ichell, Hampshire.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Alexander Chalmers, *The General Biographical Dictionary: Containing an Historical and Critical Account of the Lives and Writings of the Most Eminent Persons in Every Nation; Particularly the British and Irish; from the Earliest Accounts to the Present Time* **22** (1815), 83-85.

<sup>5</sup> Reproduced from Flickr by permission of "maineexile."  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/maineexile/6949836056> [accessed September 2014].

<sup>6</sup> G D Squibb, ed., "The Visitation of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight 1686," *Harleian Society Publications, New Series* **10** (1991): 35-6.

<sup>7</sup> Willoughby, *op. cit.* (2010), 35;  
Ronald H Fritze, "Kingsmill family (per.c.1480-1698)," *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, [ODNB] Oxford University Press, 2004; online edn, January 2008.  
<http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/75326> [accessed 27 July 2014];  
William Harry Rylands, ed., "Pedigrees from the visitation of Hampshire, 1530... [etc.]," *Harleian Society Publications, Visitation Series* **64** (1913), 147-8.

<sup>8</sup> Fritze, *ODNB, op. cit.*

3. Sir John Kingsmill (junior) (c.1497-1556), of Sydmonton, Hampshire, son and heir; admitted to Lincoln's Inn in October 1516; called to the bar on 9 May 1521; knighted by Henry VIII in 1530; appointed JP in 1337; served as sheriff of Hampshire in 1538-9 and 1543-4; and died 11 August 1556. He married Constance (d.1580/1), daughter of John Goring of Burton, Sussex.<sup>9</sup> Rupert Willoughby says "*Sir John Kingsmill, being one of the commissioners for the dissolution of such monasteries, acquired much of the spoil locally, including, in 1540, the manor of Sydmonton, a former possession of the Abbey of Romsey. Sir John resided at Sydmonton and was buried in 1556 in nearby Kingsclere Church. He is commemorated, with his seventeen children, in a brass in the Kingsmill Chapel, which was regrettably converted in 1978 into a kitchen and meeting room. Coincidentally, the rectory of Kingsclere had (from 1261) been one of the many livings held by his ancestor Walter de Merton*".<sup>10</sup>
4. Thomas Kingsmill (d. after 1605) of Enham, Hampshire, ninth but fifth-surviving son; a demy of Magdalen College, Oxford, in 1558; fellow of Magdalen in 1559, and graduated BA on 27 November 1559; reader in natural philosophy 1563; public orator 1565-69; MA in 1564; resigned his fellowship in 1569 and become Oxford University's first regius professor of Hebrew on the recommendation of Robert Dudley, earl of Leicester. His chair as regius professor was for the term of life. However, he suffered a bout of mental illness from about 1579 and had to step down, recovering sufficiently to return to his chair at the university in 1591.<sup>11</sup> He published two books in 1602 and 1605.<sup>12</sup> He married Anne, daughter of Cuthbert Warcop of English, co. Oxford, had issue four sons and one daughter.<sup>13</sup>
5. William Kingsmill (c.1579-1649) was fourth son, but eventual heir; BD New College, Oxford in 1618; and vicar of Portland, Dorset 1642. He married Margaret, daughter of Rev Robert Pistor (d.1627), rector of Havant, Hampshire, by an unidentified wife, and had issue, a son and heir, John, and two daughters, Bridget the wife of Daniel Kingsmill, son of Sir Henry Kingsmill of Sydmonton Court, Hampshire, and Elizabeth the wife of Thomas Toking of London, afterwards to James Tazwell (or Taswell) of Limington, Somerset.<sup>14</sup>

Figure 2 shows a detail photograph of the arms of Sir Henry Kingsmill (d.1672), of Sydmonton Court, Hampshire, in the Church of St. Mary, Kingsclere, Hampshire, carved in alabaster.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Fritze, *ODNB*, *op. cit.*

<sup>10</sup> Willoughby, *op. cit.* (2010), 35.

<sup>11</sup> Leslie Stephen & Sidney Lee, eds., *Dictionary of National Biography*, 31 (1892), 184; Charles Plummer, ed., *Elizabethan Oxford: reprints of rare tracts*, (1887), 212.

<sup>12</sup> Stephen & Lee, *op. cit.* (1892).

<sup>13</sup> Squibb, *op. cit.* (1991), 36; William Henry Turner, ed., "The Visitations of the County of Oxford, 1566 [etc.]...", *Harleian Society Publications, Visitation Series* 5 (1871), 163.

<sup>14</sup> Squibb, *op. cit.* (1991).

<sup>15</sup> Reproduced by permission of Rupert Willoughby. <http://www.rupertwilloughby.co.uk/cuttings/walter-de-merton%20-son-of-basingstoke-rector-of-kingsclere/> [accessed September 2014].

**Fig 2. Kingsmill arms in the Church of St. Mary, Kingsclere, Hampshire**



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6. John Kingsmill (1626-1694) of Andover, Hampshire, son and heir; Major of the Regiment of Foot of Andover Extra; married, firstly, Frances, daughter of Francis Reade, Esq, of Facombe, Hampshire, by Frances, daughter of Anthony Shelley, of New Sarum, Wiltshire.<sup>16</sup> They had issue two sons and four daughters, namely, William, matriculated Magdalen Hall, Oxford 14 March 1672/3, died unmarried; John died an infant; Mary wife of Edmond Evans Doctor of the Civil Law; Frances wife of John Brind of Callais, Wanborough, Wiltshire; Anne wife of James Tazwell of Lymington, Somerset;<sup>17</sup> and Constance wife of William Grove of Donegal, Ireland. Major Kingsmill married, secondly, Elianor, daughter of Joseph Hinxman, of Andover. They had issue a daughter Elianor, who was born in 1671.<sup>18</sup>

Major John Kingsmill descends through his mother Margaret Pistor from Edward I, king of England, 1272-1307 (Fig 3), and from Owain Glyndŵr, the last Welsh-native prince of Wales, 1400-1415 (Fig 4). Surprisingly this descent has not been documented. It was obscured and forgotten by dint of a copyist's error, making a muddle out of the chronology of the two wives of William Pistor, Esq, of Metheringham, Lincolnshire, on the pedigrees of Pistor in the visitation of Lincolnshire in 1562-4 and the *Larken Collection* in the custody of the College of Arms, in London. By examining contemporaneous evidence recently discovered at TNA, the remainder of this article gives the correct chronology for the two wives of William Pistor and documents the 15th- and 16th-century generations by which Major John Kingsmill derives his medieval royal ancestry.

<sup>16</sup> Wiltshire and Swindon Archives, 212B/139 (27 Dec 1637), an indenture between "Edward Reade of Facombe in the County of Southampton Esquire, Francis Reade of Facombe aforesaid, Esquire, and Frances Reade now wyfe of the said Francis Reade and daughter of Anthony Shelley of the City of Neve Sarum in the Countie of Wiltes., gent., of the one parte, and Thomas Husey of Chilton Foliat in the said Countie of Wiltes Esquire of the other partie..."

<sup>17</sup> Major John Kingsmill's grandson William Tazewell immigrated to the Eastern Shore of Virginia in 1715, settling in Northampton County, Virginia. See Michael P Bodman "William Tazewell, Immigrant to the Eastern Shore of Virginia in 1715: His Ancestry and descent from Edward III," *Foundations* 5 (2013): 65-76.

<sup>18</sup> Squibb, *op. cit.* (1991).

Fig 3. Descent of Major John Kingsmill from King Edward I

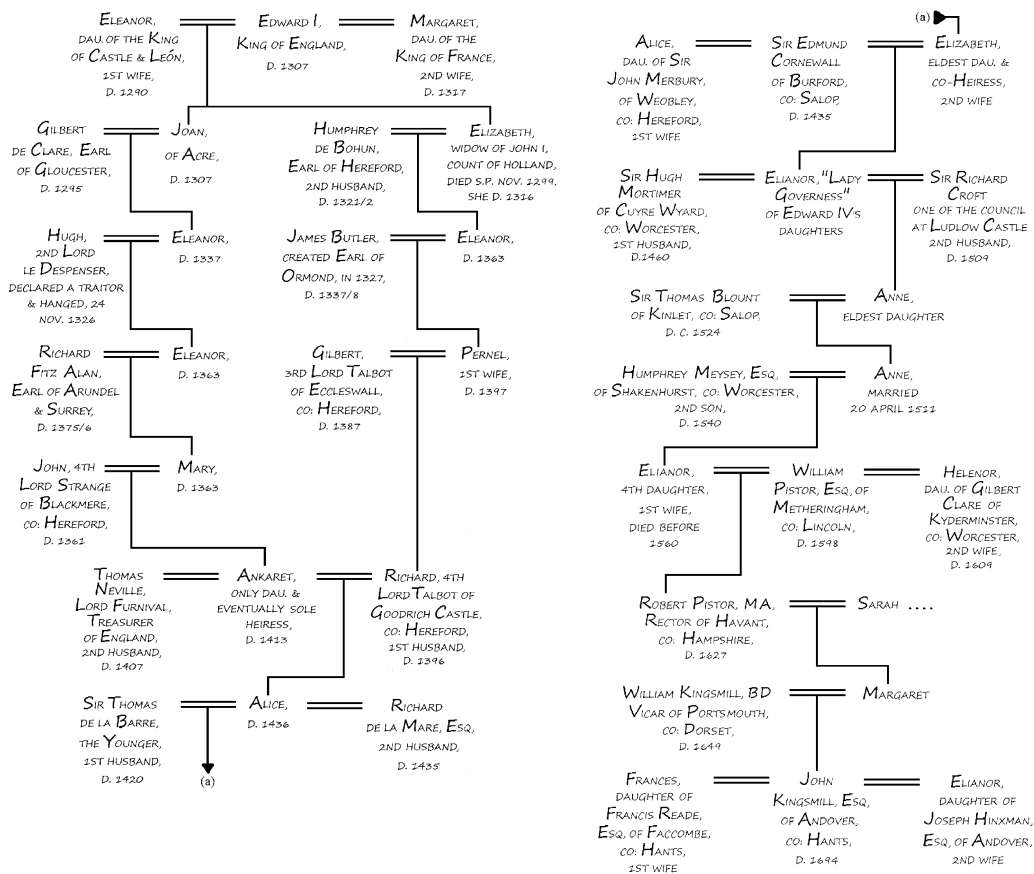
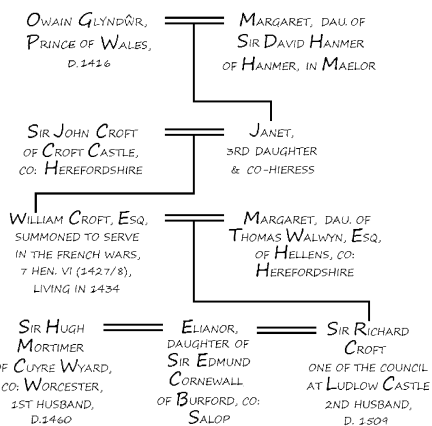


Fig 4. Descent of Sir Richard Croft from Owain Glyndŵr



## PISTORS OF METHERINGHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE

The Pistors of Metheringham, Lincolnshire, are a cadet branch of the Pistors of the manor of Upper Eldon, Hampshire, whose sixteen-generation pedigree is given in *Pedigrees from of the Visitation of Hampshire*.<sup>19</sup> Tristram Pistor, son and heir of Robert Pistor, of Upper Eldon, aforesaid, by his wife Dorothy, daughter of John Fauntleroy of Folke, Dorset, served as MP for Stockbridge 1571 and 1572.<sup>20</sup> William Pistor (d.1598), second son of Robert and Dorothy Pistor, and great-grandfather of Major John Kingsmill, settled at Metheringham.<sup>21</sup> In the *Visitation of Lincolnshire in 1562-4*, William Pistor is shown as twice married.<sup>22</sup> But, it is unclear which wife is his first and which is his second [see later].

Robert Pistor (also Pistar/Pister/Pystor), son of William Pistor (d.1598),<sup>23</sup> was a scholar at Corpus Christi College, Oxford 1569; BA 24 May 1574; fellow of Balliol College 1575-79; MA 10 July 1578; vicar of Odiham 1581; vicar of Hambledon 1588; rector of Havant, Hampshire 1601-1627; and died of natural causes, 20 October 1627.<sup>24</sup> In 1609, his wife's name is Sarah (parentage unknown).<sup>25</sup> Robert Pistor had at least three children, a son Robert (junr) and two daughters, Elianor and Margaret. On 2 March 2 Charles I [1626/7] Robert Pistor the elder, of Portsmouth, Hants, clerk, quitclaimed Robert Pistor his son, of Havant, Hants, gentleman, all of his title to a messuage in Portsmouth called Angell, with a barn, stable and garden, etc.<sup>26</sup> Elianor (d.1671, "verie aged"), married the Rev Thomas Cole, scholar of Corpus Christi College, Oxford 1568; BA 18 March 1571/2; fellow of Corpus 1575-76; MA 13 March 1575/6; BD 22 June 1584; public orator 1597-1601, rector of Heyford at Bridge (on the death of his father William, dean of Lincoln) in 1600; and died in May 1658.<sup>27</sup> Margaret married the Rev William

<sup>19</sup> Rylands, *op. cit.* (1913), 148.

<sup>20</sup> P W Hasler, ed., *The History of Parliament; The House of Commons 1558-1603* 3 (1981) 224-25.

<sup>21</sup> Rylands, *op. cit.* (1913).

<sup>22</sup> A R Maddison, ed., "Lincolnshire Pedigrees," *Harleian Society Publications, Visitation Series* 52 (1904), Pt.3, 786-7. <https://archive.org/details/lincolnshirepedi03madd> [accessed September 2014]. Walter C. Metcalfe, ed., *The Visitation of the County of Lincoln in 1562-4* (1881), 99. [https://openlibrary.org/books/OL24184393M/The\\_visitation\\_of\\_the\\_county\\_of\\_lincoln\\_in\\_1562-4](https://openlibrary.org/books/OL24184393M/The_visitation_of_the_county_of_lincoln_in_1562-4) [accessed September 2014].

<sup>23</sup> Andrew Clark, ed., *The Life and Times of Anthony Wood: Antiquary, of Oxford, 1632-1695, Described by Himself* (1891) 1: 180. "Robert Pistor, Clerke, son of . . . Pistor of Metheringham in com. Lync.," Pedigree of Cole, Wood MS. F. 33 fol. 205; IPM of William Pistor of Metheringham, Lincolnshire, 1598 [see Appendix].

<sup>24</sup> Andrew Clark, ed., *Register of the University of Oxford vol.2, pt.3: Degrees*, (1888), 42; "Robert Pister," *Clergy of the Church of England Database*, [accessed Jul 2014] <http://ccedb.cch.kcl.ac.uk/jsp/persons/CreatePersonFrames.jsp?PersonID=74122>; Foster, Joseph, ed., *Alumni Oxonienses: The Members of the University of Oxford, 1715-1886: Their Parentage, Birthplace and Year of Birth, with a Record of Their Degrees: Being the Matriculation Register of the University*, (1891-92), 4: 1168.

<sup>25</sup> Charles John Longcroft, *A Topographical Account of the Hundred of Bosmere, in the County of Southampton Including the Parishes of Havant, Warblington, and Hayling* (1857), 43. In 1609, Sarah is described as "wife of Robert Pystor clerk". It is unclear whether Sarah is the mother or step-mother of Robert, Elianor and Margaret.

<sup>26</sup> TNA, Public Record Office, T48/27, Deed of Release and Indenture of Fine relating to Properties of Robert Pistor of Portsmouth, Latin, 1626. Abstract English translation was kindly provided by Hilary Clare, personal communication, December 2014.

<sup>27</sup> Clark, *op. cit.* (1891); Foster, *op. cit.* (1891), 302; James Charles Blomfield, "History of Lower and Upper Heyford," *History of the Present Deanery of Bicester, Oxon* 6 (1892), 59.

Kingsmill, vicar of Portland.<sup>28</sup> A final concord, Trinity term 1 Charles I [1625], by a legal fiction records the sale of a messuage, barn and garden etc in Portsmouth, Hants, by Robert Pistor gentleman and Ursula his wife, and William Kingsmill clerk and Margaret his wife, to Henry Holton the elder, gentleman for £60.<sup>29</sup>

As stated above, William Pistor is shown as twice married. However, when the pedigree of Pistar [*sic*] in *The Visitation of Hampshire* is juxtaposed with the pedigree of Pister [*sic*] in the *Larken Collection* at the College of Arms, in London, a contradictory and confusing picture arises in regards to the chronology of William's two wives. The problem becomes even more difficult to understand when one reads the proven will of William Pistor and that of his second wife and widow, Elinor Pistor.

Timothy Duke informed me, "*The correct sequence is set out in a pedigree of Pister in the Larken Collection, a collection of Lincolnshire pedigrees in the College of Arms compiled by Arthur Staunton Larken (1816-1889), Richmond Herald. The relevant part reads:*

*"William Pister 2nd son of Metheringham died 13 July 40 Eliz. will dated ... Oct. 1596 proved 21 Nov. 1598 codicil 15 July 1598 Justice of the Peace & [?] quorem 1st wife: Helenor daur. of Gilbert Clare of Kyderminster co. Worcester 2nd wife: Eleanor daur. of Massey or Meseý of Spokenhurst co. Worcester or Shakerhest Exix of her husband Will dated 15 Nov. 1609 proved 24 Oct. 1610.*

*"This wording is almost identical to that in the pedigree of Pistor of Metheringham in Lincolnshire Pedigrees, vol. 3, ed. A. R. Maddison, Harleian Society vol. 52 (1904)."*<sup>30</sup>

However, a Court of Chancery sentence dated 13 May 1560, recently discovered at TNA, and the IPM of William Pistor, 1598, give contemporaneous evidence contradicting the information in the *Larken Collection*. This evidence is presented below in three stages: First, a synopsis of the contradictory accounts of the chronology of William Pistor's two marriages; second, analysis of its evolution over time; and, third, analysis of the Court of Chancery sentence and the IPM of William Pistor.

According to the *Visitation of Hampshire*,<sup>31</sup> William Pistor married firstly a daughter of Meysey of Shakenhurst, Worcestershire, with issue: Robert, Gilbert and Elizabeth (to the left side of William Pistor in the pedigree); and married secondly a daughter of Gilbert Clare of Kidderminster, Worcestershire, with issue: Edward, Charles, Alexander, Gilbert and Anne (to the right side of William Pistor) (Fig 5).

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<sup>28</sup> Squibb, *op. cit.* (1991), 36.

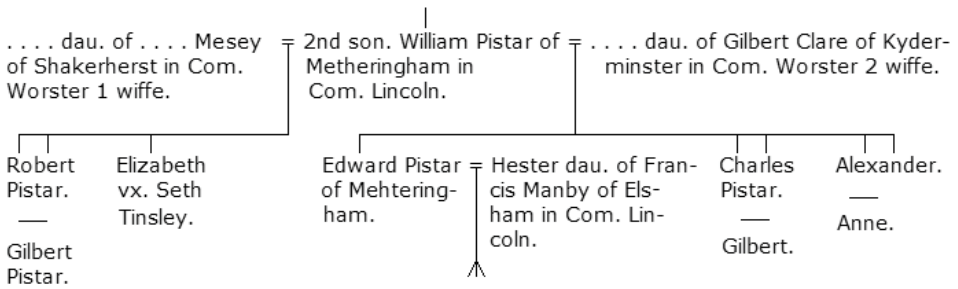
<sup>29</sup> TNA, T48/27, *op. cit.* (1626).

<sup>30</sup> Timothy Duke, Chester Herald [now Norroy and Ulster King of Arms], personal communication, 6 November 2013.

<sup>31</sup> Rylands, *op. cit.* (1913).

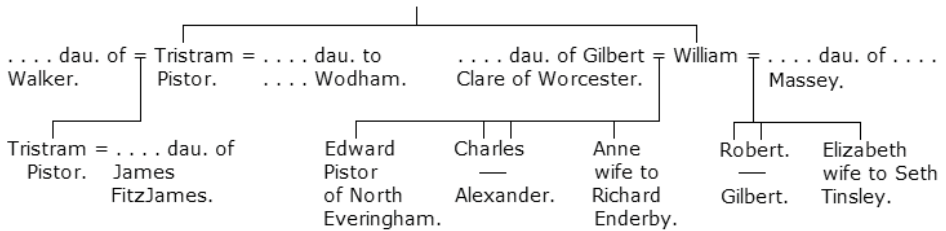


**Fig 5. Pedigree from the Visitation of Hampshire (1530)**



The pedigree of Pistor [*sic*] in *The Visitation of the County of Lincoln in 1562-4*<sup>32</sup> does not give the chronology of William Pistor's two marriages, unlike *The Visitation of Hampshire*. It does give similar descriptions of his two wives and their children. However, there is one noticeable difference. The two wives, along with their respective children, are transposed so that Clare is now on the left side and Meysey on the right side of the pedigree. On the face of it, this change appears to be merely cosmetic to facilitate fitting the pedigree to one page (Fig 6).

**Fig 6. Pedigree from the Visitation of the County of Lincoln in 1562-4**



In *Lincolnshire Pedigrees*,<sup>33</sup> Maddison arbitrarily set out the sequencing of William Pistor's two wives based on the *Visitation of Lincoln* (Fig 6) assuming that William Pistor's first wife was a daughter of Clare, shown on the left, and the second wife a daughter of Meysey, shown on the right. However, to Maddison's credit, he left a cautionary note at the end of the pedigree.

Unfortunately, these contradictory accounts of the chronology of William's two wives cannot be reconciled from his will, nor that of his second wife and widow, Elinor Pistor. However, their wills do establish the biological children vs the stepchildren of his second wife and widow, Elinor.

William Pistor died 1598 between 15 July, when he signed a codicil to his will, (originally dated October 1596) and 21 November, when it was proved.<sup>34</sup> After making bequests to his son Robert "*my Ringe ingraven with mine Armes if he doe demande*

<sup>32</sup> Metcalfe, *op. cit.* (1881).

<sup>33</sup> Maddison, A R, ed. "Lincolnshire Pedigrees," *Harleian Society Publications, Visitation Series* 4 vols, 50-2, 55 (1902-6).

<sup>34</sup> Will of William Pistor of Metheringham, Lincolnshire, TNA, PROB11/92/354.



the same in peaceable and quiet manner," certain money legacies, and forgiveness of certain debts, it continues "my will is further that he the saide Robert Pistor shall not by sute in lawe or otherwise molest or trouble my wiefe or anie of hers or annie claymeinge under them for or concerninge annie of my landes or goodes to her or them given bequeathed limited or appointed contrarie to annie Deede or Deedes conveyance or conveyances by me hereafore made or contrarie to this my present will or contrarie to the true meaneinge thereof But if he shall so doe as I hope he will not Then I will and appointe that neither he nor anie childe of his shall take anie benefitte by this my will, nor by anie bequest sentence matter of thinge herin contened whatsoever... And I doe also make the saide Elinor my wiefe my full and whole Executrix of this my last will and Testament... And if my wiefe be contented as I hope she will to stande to my will and to be my Executrix and to put in goode bonde accordinglie to performe my will whollie and as I trust she will and she hath good cause to doe according as is above mentioned Then my will and meaning is that she shall have and take to her owne use the profite of the reste of all my goodes and chattells not before given dureinge her liefie and the profittie of the occupyinge and increase thereof payinge my debtes and legacies and performinge my will honestlie as before god she will answere it as I trust she will doe And at her last ende when god shall call her my will and meaneing is that she shall have to dispose give and bequeath to whome she will the whole moitie or halfe parte of all my goodes (my debtes and legacies being paide out of the whole) and the other halfe of all my goodes I give and bequeath as followeth viz to Charles and Alexander Pistor her sonnes and mine the one halfe of that moitie or halfe parte and of the other halfe or moitie thereof twentie poundes to Robert Pistors children and tenne poundes to the children of my daughter Tynsley to be devidid amoungest them by the appointment and discretion of my saide sonnes Charles and Alexander or the one of them ; trusting in god that my wiefe wilbe good and kinde to her owne loveinge children whome I praie god to blesse quide and prosper in his true feare faith and love and to be comfortable and dutifull to their mother dureing all her liefie tyme and theirs together that god in all their behaviours one towards an other maie be glorified and themselves in god and godlines everlastinglie comforted aswell in this world asin the world to come So be it good Lord so be it for Christs sake to whome be glorie for ever Amen. "

It is interesting to note that William bequeathed to Elinor, his second wife, the use of his messuages, lands and etc, with certain limitations, and after her decease, they would pass to their eldest son Edward Pistor. This explains the reason why William admonished Robert Pistor, who is his eldest son by his first wife, not to contest his last will or bring any lawsuit against his step-mother Elinor or her children over any deed or conveyance made by him to them. It is uncommon that a younger son, begotten by a second wife, inherits his father's estate. Robert Pistor, Edward's elder brother by their father's first wife, is named son and next heir of William in his IPM [see Appendix].

Elinor Pistor, executrix of her husband's will, made her will 15 November 1609, proved 24 October 1610.<sup>35</sup> It states in part "I do and bequeath unto Charles and Alexander Pistor my sonnes the one halfe of all my goods and chattels (one gold chaine and all my plate onely excepted) equally to be divided between them... Item all my plate I give to Charles Pistor my sonne... I bequeath unto Edward Pistor my sonne twenty shillings in money for his portion to be paide within one half yeere next after my decease... Item I give to Gilbert Pistor of Boston one Angell of gold to be delivered unto hym within moneth next after my decease. Item I give unto Mr. Robert Pistor one peece of gold of xiiij. and also one ringe with a diamond stone in yt... Residue to Charles Pistor my sonne whome I make sole executor."

The children of William Pistor and his second wife and widow, Elinor, are thus identified as Edward, Charles, Alexander, and Anne. His children by his first wife are also identified as Robert, Gilbert, and "daughter Tynsley" (Elizabeth). However,

<sup>35</sup> Arthur Roland Maddison, *Lincolnshire Wills, 2nd series AD 1600-1617* (1891), 44-5.

neither of the proven wills establishes the chronology of the two wives of William Pistor.

William and Elinor Pistor filed several lawsuits in the Court of Chancery. Although these documents are mutilated, it is possible to ascertain certain family relationships within them, namely, Gilbert Clare had as issue three sons, Nicholas, Simon, and Anthony, and one daughter, Elinor. Unfortunately, the documents are given only a date range of 1501-1600, except one giving 13 May 1560.<sup>36</sup> In the later document, Elinor is described as "*Elinor Clare alias Pystor*". As a result, one can conclude that "*Elinor Clare alias Pystor*" is the second wife of William Pistor. The reasoning is that, firstly, Edward Pistor is shown as aged 47 in 1598, as shown in Maddison's *Lincolnshire Pedigrees*, and, secondly, in 1609, in the last will of Elinor, who is the second wife and widow of William, Edward Pistor is named her son, therefore "*Elinor Clare alias Pystor*" must be the second wife of William because there is a time span of nine years from the birth of Edward (b.c.1551) to 13 May 1560. However the IPM of William Pistor, 1598, shows that it is Robert who is aged 47 in 1598, not Edward [see Appendix]. Fortunately, the IPM of William Pistor contains the crucial evidence which solves the conundrum.

In the IPM of William Pistor, there is a tripartite indenture quoted in English which shows a relationship between Elinor Pistor, wife of William Pistor, and their son Edward to Francis Clare, Esq, of Kidderminster, Worcestershire. The indenture settled the manor of Taylbois, for various causes there stated and in consideration of a marriage made and solemnised between Edward Pistor, eldest son of William and Eleanor, and Hester Manby. Francis Clare is one of the three parties named in the indenture.<sup>37</sup> He is the nephew of Eleanor Pistor and the son of her brother Simon Clare.<sup>38</sup> This proves that *Elinor Clare alias Pystor* is the second wife and widow of William Pistor.

## MEYSEYS OF SHAKENHURST, WORCESTERSHIRE

It is said that the ancestor of the Meyseys of Shakenhurst, Worcestershire, came to England from Meysey, in Brittany, with William I 'the Conqueror', who gave them Hampton Meysey. They continued to hold this estate up until the reign of Richard II, when it was sold after the acquisition of Shakenhurst.<sup>39</sup> Edward III granted Shakenhurst to his vassal, John de Meysey, for services rendered overseas.<sup>40</sup>

Humphrey Meysey, Esq, (d.1540) of Shakenhurst, Worcestershire, was a descendant of John de Meysey. On 20 April 1511 he married Anne, fifth daughter

<sup>36</sup> TNA, C4/101/14, 1501-1600 (William Pyster and his wife Eleanor vs. John ?Pogen: answer); C4/101/17, 1501-1600 (William and Elinor Pistor vs. Simon Clare); PROB11/41/312, 1560 (William and Elinor Pistor vs. Simon Clare. Latin). Abstract English translation was kindly provided by Hilary Clare, personal communication, July 2014.

<sup>37</sup> IPM of William Pistor of Metheringham, Lincolnshire, 1598: TNA, C142/254/113.

<sup>38</sup> W P W Phillimore, ed., "The Visitation of the County of Worcester made in the year 1569; with other pedigrees relating to that County from Richard Mundy's collection," *Harleian Society Publications, Visitation Series 27*, (1888), 95.

<sup>39</sup> John Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland...* [etc.], 2 (1835), 676.

<sup>40</sup> The estate of Shakenhurst made national news in Great Britain in 2014, when it was sold for just the second time in its 650-year history, for £16m. See *Daily Mail*, London, 28 March 2014.

of Sir Thomas Blount (d.c.1524), of Kinlet, Shropshire,<sup>41</sup> by his wife, Anne, daughter of Sir Richard Croft, of Croft Castle, Herefordshire.<sup>42</sup> Sir Thomas Blount served as Esquire of the Body, sheriff of Salop 5 November 1479, and Master Forester and Ryder of Cleobury Park in 1485, which was granted to the Earl of Leicester in 1563.<sup>43</sup>

## ENGLISH ROYAL DESCENT

Sir Richard Croft (1438-1509) of Croft Castle, Herefordshire, and of Cure (Kyre), Worcestershire, married, c.1460, Elianor, widow of Sir Hugh Mortimer (d.1460), of Kyre, and daughter of Sir Edmund Cornewall (d.1435), of Burford, Salop. Sir Edmund Cornewall married firstly Alice, *dsp*, daughter of Sir John Merbury of Weobley, Herefordshire, and secondly Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Thomas Barre (junior).<sup>44</sup> In the will of Otis Cornewall, brother of Edmund, dated 8 Edward IV [1468/9], he enfeoffed Sir John de la Barre and others the manor of Brymfield, Hereford, to the performance of his last will, with a remainder to "Dame Aliano," late the wife of Sir Hugh Mortimer and now the wife of Richard Croft, Esq, "my sister" and her heirs.<sup>45</sup>

Sir Edmund Cornewall died while travelling, in Cologne, Germany, 15 Henry VI [1435].<sup>46</sup> His body was buried in Cologne, but his heart was brought back to England by one of his servants and was buried in Burford Church, Shropshire (Fig 7).<sup>47</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> Phillimore, *op. cit.* (1888); Arthur Thomas Bannister, ed., *The Register of Richard Mayhew, Bishop of Hereford (1504-1516)* (1919), 103. AD 1511 Apr 20 - Licence for the marriage of Humphrey Meysy and Anne Blount, at Kinlet. *LICENCIA SOLEMPNIZANDI MATRIMONIUM - Vicesimo die mensis Aprilis, anno Domini ut supra, emanavit commissio domini vicario parochie de Kynlet ad solempnizandum matrimonium inter Humfridum Meysy, generosum, parochie de Leystone, et Annam Blont, filiam domini Thome Blonte de Kynlet, bannis nisi unica vice editis et proclamatis*; George Grazebrook & John Paul Rylands, eds., "The Visitation of Shropshire, Taken in the Year 1623... [etc.]," *Harleian Society Publications, Visitation Series 28/29* (1889), Pt.1, 53.

<sup>42</sup> Henry Southern & Nicholas Harris Nicolas, eds., "Biographical Memoirs. Sir James Croft, Privy Counsellor and Comptroller of the Household of Queen Elizabeth," *The Retrospective Review, and Historical and Antiquarian Magazine 1* (1827): 469-498, @ 471.

<sup>43</sup> *CFR*, 1471-1485 (1961), 178; William Elliot, "The History of Far Forest," *Wyre Forest Study Group Review* (2011); 30-35, @ 30. <http://www.wyreforest.net/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/2011-WE-History-of-Far-Forest.pdf> [accessed September 2014]; J B Blakeway, "Notes of Kinlet," *Transactions of the Shropshire Archæological and Natural History Society*, Part 1, 3<sup>rd</sup> Series **8** (1908): 83-150, @ 121-23.

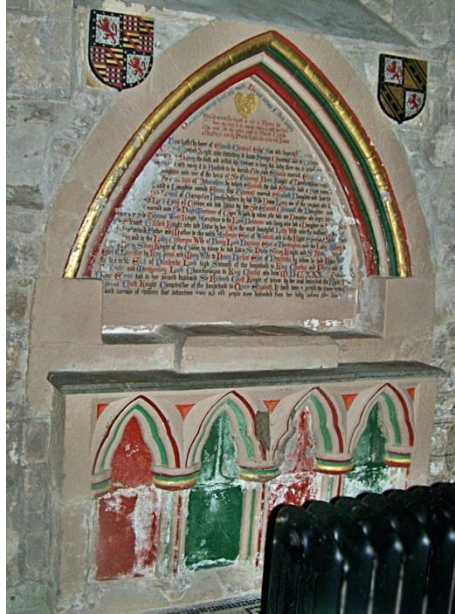
<sup>44</sup> Cecil George Savile Foljambe & Compton Reade, *The House of Cornwall* (1908), 194-96.

<sup>45</sup> Foljambe & Reade, *op. cit.* (1908), 195.

<sup>46</sup> *The Register Books of the Parishes of Burforde* (volume for 1598 by Francis Kerie, parson), <http://www.melocki.org.uk/salop/Burford.html> [accessed September 2014].

<sup>47</sup> George W Marshall, "The Barons of Burford. No. 1," *The Genealogist 3* (1879); 225-30, at 227.

Fig 7. Monument to Sir Edmund Cornewall of Burford, where his heart is entombed<sup>48</sup>



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At the top left of the monument is a heraldic shield displaying arms quarterly, 1 & 4, Cornewall of Burford, with 2 & 3 quarterly, 1 & 4 Barre, 2 & 3 Pembridge. At the top centre of the monument is a gold heart with the inscription, "O Lord my contrite heart and meeke, Do not refuse I Thee beseeke. O God my soule I do bequeath to rest in Heaven hie, And there my corps to be enterr'd where I shall hap to die, My heart unto my native soyle for burial I betake, My fayth unto my friends I yield, this is the will I make." The inscription in the centre of the monument provides genealogical information, "HERE LYETH THE HEART OF EDMOND CORNEWAYLE, ESQ., sonne and heyre unto Sr. Rychard Cornewayle of Burford, Kt., who travelling to know forraigne countries died at Colenne the xv year of Hen. VI., and willed his servants to bury his body there and to enclose his heart in lead and carry it to Burford to be buried. The sayd Edmond married Elizabeth the elder daughter and one of the heires of Sr. Thomas Barre, Esqre., of Herefordshire and cousin and heir to the Countess of Devonshire, by wch. Elizabeth the sayd Edmond had a son named THOMAS and a daughter named ELIANOR... The daughter ELIANOR, who married SR. HUGH MORTIMER, of CUYRE WYARD, by whom she had one daughter and heire, which was married unto Sr. Thomas West, Kt. . . The aforesaid DAME ELIANOR had to her second husband SR. RICHARD CROFT, KT., of whom by her was descended the Rt. Hon. Sir James Croft, Kt., Comptroler of the Household to Queen Elizabeth. IT HATH been reported the same Dame Elinor so computed had such increase of children that seventeen score and odd people were descended of her bodye before she died."<sup>49</sup>

This information is corroborated by a grant of royal licence given to Sir John Barre to found a perpetual chantry at the altar of St Anne, in Clehonger Church, Herefordshire. The licence states, in part, "1474 Feb 5. Westminster. Licence for John Barre,

<sup>48</sup> Reproduced by permission of "jmc4 – church explorer – Shropshire 3." <https://www.flickr.com/photos/52219527@N00/8544972201/> [accessed August 2014].

<sup>49</sup> *The Register Books of the Parishes of Burford*, op. cit (1598).

*Knight, or his heirs and executors to found a perpetual chantry of one chaplain to celebrate divine service daily at the altar of St. Anne in the parish church of St. Mary, Clehungre, co. Herefords, in the diocese of Hereford, for the good estate of the king and his consort Elizabeth, queen of England, and the said John Barre and Joan his wife... for their souls after death and the souls of Richard Pembrigg, Knight, and Petronilla his wife, Thomas Barre the elder, knight, and Elizabeth his wife, Thomas Barre the younger, knight, their son and Alice his wife, parents of the said John Barre... Edmund Cornewaile, knight, and Elizabeth his wife the elder sister of the said John Barre... Thomas Delamere son of Richard Delamere and the said Alice his wife, mother of the said John Barre... and all who may lay hands to the sustenance of the chantry, to be called the chantry of John Barre, knight, in the said church; and to grant in mortmain to the said chaplain, after inquisition, lands, tenements and rents, not held in chief, to the value of 8l. yearly".<sup>50</sup>*

Both the monument and the licence give certain family relationships: firstly Elizabeth Barre is elder sister of Sir John Barre, and is wife of Sir Edmund Cornewall of Burford, Salop; secondly Elizabeth (Barre) Cornewall is a daughter and co-heir of Sir Thomas Barre (junior) by his wife Alice; and, thirdly Alice, wife of Sir Thomas Barre (junior), was also at some time the wife of Richard Delamere.

Sir John de la Barre (c.1420-1483), the grantee of the above royal licence, is a grandson and heir of Sir Thomas de la Barre (senior) (c.1349-1419), of Barre's Court in Holmer and Rotherwas, Herefordshire, and Ayot St. Lawrence, Hertfordshire, by his wife, Elizabeth (d.1420), daughter of Sir William Croyser of Stoke Dabernon, Surrey. Sir Thomas de la Barre (senior) was MP for Herefordshire in 1386, 1402, and March 1416; MP for Hertfordshire in 1401, 1407, and 1411; and held numerous other offices in Essex, Gloucester, Herefordshire and Hertfordshire. Charles Kightly says *"By an inquisition post mortem held on 24 September 1420 it was established that his heir was his infant grandson, John, the son of Sir Thomas de la Barre junior (who had died between July and September that year) and his wife Alice, sister of John Talbot, Lord Furnival, subsequently earl of Shrewsbury. Sir Thomas the elder's widow also died in 1420, whereupon custody of all his lands, together with the marriage of the heir was granted to Lord Furnival and his sister... Little is known about Thomas junior's earlier life, but by 1410 he had married Alice Talbot, and as a retainer of her brother, Lord Furnival, accompanied him to Ireland in 1414, when he was sent there as King's lieutenant. That it was Sir Thomas the elder, and not his son, who sat in the Parliament of 1416 (Mar.), is certain, for the son was probably then in Ireland, nor was he yet a knight. In 1419 Sir Thomas junior had letters of protection to join the King's retinue in France, but claimed to have been prevented from leaving home because of a false indictment by John Abrahall".<sup>51</sup>*

It is through Alice, sister of John Talbot, earl of Shrewsbury, and wife of Sir Thomas de la Barre (junior), that Major John Kingsmill descends from King Edward I of England.

In the will of Dame Jane Barre, widow of Sir John Barre, dated 3 February 1484, proved PCC 23 July 1485,<sup>52</sup> she bequeaths legacies to the chantry in All Saints Church, Clehonger, and to her sister-in-law Elizabeth (Barre) Cornewall. *"I Dame Jane lady Barre late the wiff of Sir John Barre Knyghte in my pure wedowede in this wise make new my testament in hole and good mynde... Item I bequethe to the chauntry auter of saint Anne in the parish chirche of Clehunger In primis a pair of vestmentes of blew velvet enbrowdered with my lordis armys and myne... Memd. to Elizabeth Cornewale Maistres of Buford. In primis my grete matens booke covered*

<sup>50</sup> CPR, 1467-1477 (1900), 425.

<sup>51</sup> Charles Kightly, "Barre, Sir Thomas de la (c.1349-1419), of Barre's Court in Holmer and Rotherwas, Herefs. and Ayot St. Lawrence, Herts.," In: J S Roskell, L Clark, C Rawcliffe, eds., *The History of Parliament: the House of Commons 1386-1421* (1992), [accessed online September 2014]: <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1386-1421/member/barre-sir-thomas-de-la-1349-1419>

<sup>52</sup> TNA, PROB11/7/202.

with russett. Item a long rolle with xv oys and other divers prayers. Item a long cheyne of gold with ij Agnus Dei closid in gold one grete another lesse with diverse other reliks closid in gold hanging on the same cheyne for her nycke. Item a long corse of cloth of tyssue redde and the harnys of clene gold. Item a ryng of gold with a grete ruby in hym. Item a depe saltsaler of silver and gilt. Item a good featherbed with a bolster of feders. Item ij good pellowes. Item a paire of large blankettes a paire of shetes of ij breidis. Item a hed shete. Item a coverlet of grene arasse and diverse colours with a ymage and an unicorn, with testure of the same colth".<sup>53</sup>

A beautiful wall brass representing Sir John Barre and his wife is in All Saints Church, Clehonger, Herefordshire (Fig 8).<sup>54</sup> The monument has four components. The first is a heraldic shield at top left showing the arms of Pembridge, of Ayot St. Lawrence, Hertfordshire. A second shield at the top right shows arms quarterly, 1 & 2 Pembridge, aforesaid, and 2 & 3 Barre. The brasses represent, on the left Sir John Barre in full armour with hands joined together in prayer, his head resting on a helm with a crest of a talbot's head, and feet resting on a lion; and on the right Dame Jane Barre wearing a large butterfly head-dress, looking towards her husband with her hand raised up to her chest, her back is arched as if she is swooning over her husband, and there are two small dogs by her feet.

**Fig 8. Wall Brass of Sir John Barre (d.1483) and his wife in All Saints Church, Clehonger, Herefordshire**



<sup>53</sup> John Gough Nichols, ed., "The Will of Dame Jane Lady Barre, 1484 (Extracted from the Registry of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, Logge 16)," *The Herald and Genealogist* 8 (1874); 392-400, at 395 & 397.

<https://archive.org/stream/heraldgenealogis08nich#page/392/mode/2up> [accessed Jan 2015]

<sup>54</sup> Reproduced by permission of John Bromilow, Publicity Officer, Church Monuments Society. <http://churchmonumentsociety.org/Herefordshire.html> [accessed September 2014].



The arms of Pembridge of Ayot St. Lawrence, Hertfordshire, were inherited by the Barres when Sir John Barre's great-grandfather Thomas de la Barre of Rotherwas, married Hawise, sister and co-heiress of Sir Richard Pembridge (c.1320-1375), KG, of Ayot St. Lawrence, and daughter of Sir Richard Pembridge of Clehonger, Herefordshire. Anthony Gross writes that [*Sir Richard Pembridge*] represented Herefordshire in the parliaments of September 1337 and February 1338 and died in 1345/6. His tomb together with his wife, Petronilla, survives in the chantry chapel which he endowed at Clehonger church in April 1342.<sup>55</sup>

Sir Thomas de la Barre (junior), who died *vp* between July and September 1420, married Alice, youngest daughter of Richard, 4th Lord Talbot of Goodrich Castle, Herefordshire, by Ankaret, *suo jure* Baroness Strange of Blackmere, only daughter of John, 4th Lord Strange of Blackmere, by his wife Mary, daughter of Richard FitzAlan, Earl of Arundel.<sup>56</sup> His widow Mary (FitzAlan) Strange married, as his second wife, Thomas Neville, Lord Furnivalle, who died *spm*.<sup>57</sup> See figure 3 for the descent from Edward I.

## CYMRIC ROYAL DESCENT

Richard Croft, a Yorkist, having captured Prince Edward of Lancaster, son of Henry VI, at the Battle of Tewkesbury was knighted there 3 May 1471. According to William Retlaw Williams, "*On taking Edward of Lancaster, Prince of Wales, son of Henry VI, prisoner at Tewkesbury, Sir Richard brought him before Edward IV in reliance on that King's Proclamation that his life would be spared, but the Prince was barbarously murdered, probably at the instigation of the Dukes of Gloucester and Clarence.*"<sup>58</sup> However others are skeptical of this story of the capture of the Prince of Wales.<sup>59</sup> Richard Croft was one of the council at Ludlow Castle; Sheriff of Herefordshire 1470, 1474-5, 1480, and 1486; was made knight banneret at the Battle of Stoke 1487; and remained treasurer of the household of Henry VII until 1500. His will dated 19 June was proved 11 November 1509.<sup>60</sup> He married Eleanor, widow of Sir Hugh Mortimer (d.1460), of Kyre, Worcestershire, and daughter of Sir Edmund Cornwall (d.1435), of Burford, Salop (of whom later).<sup>61</sup> Eleanor (Cornwall) Croft was lady governess to the daughters of Edward IV, and she may have been with them in their flight to sanctuary at Westminster.<sup>62</sup> Figure 9 shows the tomb of Sir Richard and Elizabeth Croft in St. Michael and all Angels Church, in the grounds of Croft Castle, Herefordshire.

<sup>55</sup> Anthony Gross, "Pembridge, Sir Richard (c.1320–1375)", *ODNB*. <http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/21826> [accessed 26 July 2014].

<sup>56</sup> *CP* 1:242-43, 7:344, 7:614-16.

<sup>57</sup> *CP* 5:589-91; Kightly, *op. cit.* (2014).

<sup>58</sup> William Retlaw Williams, *The Parliamentary History of the County of Hereford, including the City of Hereford, and the Boroughs of Leominster, Weobley, Bromyard, Ledbury, and Ross. From the Earliest times to the Present Day, 1213-1896* (1896), 35.

<sup>59</sup> Josiah C Wedgwood & Anne D Holt, eds., *History of Parliament: Biographies of the Members of the Commons House 1439-1509* (1936), 237, footnote 2, 237.

<sup>60</sup> Southern & Nicolas, *op. cit.* (1827), 473; TNA, PROB11/16/553.

<sup>61</sup> W R Williams, *op. cit.* (1896); Southern & Nicolas, *op. cit.* (1827), 472.

<sup>62</sup> Wedgwood & Holt, *op. cit.* (1936).



**Fig 9. Tomb of Sir Richard and Elizabeth (Cornewall) Croft with (R) a detail of the heraldic carving**



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Sir Richard Croft was son and heir of William Croft, Esq, of Croft Castle, Herefordshire, by Margaret, daughter of Thomas Walwyn, of Hellens, Herefordshire.<sup>63</sup> William Croft was escheator of Herefordshire in 1425 and was summoned to serve in the French wars in 7 Henry VI [1427/8].<sup>64</sup> He was still alive when his father-in-law died in 1434.<sup>65</sup>

William Croft, Esq, was son and heir of Sir John Croft MP, of Croft Castle, Herefordshire, by his wife Janet, third daughter and co-heiress of Owain Glyndŵr, by the latter's wife, Margaret, daughter of Sir David Hanmer of Hanmer, in Maelor, north-east Wales, king's serjeant and justice of the king's bench in 1383 (see figure 4).<sup>66</sup> Sir John Croft's descendants quartered their arms with those of Glendower (the anglicised form as used by Shakespeare), which can still be seen today in the arms of the Croft Baronets.<sup>67</sup>

<sup>63</sup> W R Williams, *op. cit.* (1896); William Henry Cooke, *Collections towards the History and Antiquities of the County of Hereford. In Continuation of Duncumb's History* 3 (1882), 21.

<sup>64</sup> Southern & Nicolas, *op. cit.* (1827).

<sup>65</sup> Cooke, *op. cit.* (1882).

<sup>66</sup> Southern & Nicolas, *op. cit.* (1827), 471, footnote 6, 471. In Croft Church stood the arms of Croft with Glyndŵr's daughter, but they do not now exist; Wedgwood & Holt, *op. cit.* (1936); W R Williams, *op. cit.* (1896), 24; David Williams, *The History of Monmouthshire* (1796), 54-55 footnote 6; Philip Yorke, *The Royal Tribes of Wales* (1799), 117-8; William Jacob Youde Lloyd, *The history of the Princes, the Lords Marcher, and the ancient nobility of Powys Fadog, and the ancient Lords of Arwystli, Cedewen, and Meirionydd* 1 (1881), 211 & 215.

<sup>67</sup> Arthur Charles Fox-Davies, *The Art of Heraldry: An Encyclopædia of Armory* (1904), 36v Plate XI, 58, 58 footnote b.

Mica Gould says “Owain Glyndŵr was born Owain ap Gruffydd Fychan (Owain son of Gruffydd) around 1354. His father Gruffydd Fychan ap Madog, baron of Glyndyfrdwy and Cynllaith Owain in north-east Wales, was a descendant of the princes of Powys, while his mother was connected to the royal line of Deheubarth in South Wales. These two lines caused contemporary Welsh poets to note that he was ‘descended from illustrious ancestors’ and allowed him to claim the right of rule over Wales.”<sup>68</sup>

Owain Glyndŵr, the last Welsh-native prince of Wales, fought the English for an independent Welsh State from 1400 to 1415, known as the “Fifteen Years’ Revolt”.<sup>69</sup> His place in history is well documented (see for example the *Wales History* website<sup>70</sup>). Henry IV defeated Glyndŵr's army in 1415, but the English never apprehended him. They offered to grant him a pardon, once in 1415 and again in 1416, but he remained in hiding until his death in 1416.<sup>71</sup>

## Conclusion

*Caveat lector* when using 16th- or 17th-century heralds' visitation pedigrees. These can be unreliable by modern genealogical standards. Whenever possible, they should be verified against other contemporary records. The chronology of the two wives of William Pistor, Esq, (d.1598) of Metheringham, Lincolnshire, is ambiguously recorded on the pedigree of Pistor in the visitation of Lincolnshire in 1562-4. After establishing that Eleanor née Meysey (d. bef. 13 May 1560) was the first wife of William Pistor, and therefore a great-grandmother of Major John Kingsmill, Esq, (1626-1694) of Andover, Hampshire, this article has documented for the first time Major John Kingsmill's medieval royal descent through Eleanor, née Meysey.

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<sup>68</sup> Mica Gould, “Two Tales of Owain Glyndwr,” in: Thomas H Ohlgren, ed., *Medieval Outlaws: Twelve Tales in Modern English Translation* (2005), 248-63.

<sup>69</sup> Edward Laws, *The History of Little England Beyond Wales: And the Non-Kymric Colony Settled in Pembrokeshire* (1888), 194.

<sup>70</sup> [http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/history/sites/themes/figures/owain\\_glyndwr.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/wales/history/sites/themes/figures/owain_glyndwr.shtml)

<sup>71</sup> CP 12/1: 618; Gould, *op. cit.* (2005), 240 & 252, footnote b.

## Appendix

### ***Inquisition post mortem of William Pistor of Metheringham, Lincolnshire, 1598***

*Abstracted and translated from Latin by Hilary Clare*<sup>72</sup>

TNA reference: C 142/254/113

Inquisition post mortem of William Pistor [Pystor elsewhere in text] of Metheringham, Lincs, gent.

Writ of *Diem Clausit Extremum* attached, dated 7 Sept. 40 Eliz. [1598]

Inquisition taken at Horncastle, Lincs, before Leonard Pury, Eschaetor on 12 October 40 Elizabeth I [1598]

Jury said on oath that William Pystor held:

the Manor in Metheringham called Taylbois

various other messuages &c & c in Metheringham and Blankney

a third part of various other messuages, cottages, lands & tenements in Metheringham once in the possession of the monastery of Nocton

a messuage and 22 acres of arable land, 12 acres of meadow and 32 acres of pasture in Metheringham, recently bought of William Buylting alias Buylton and Margaret his wife

a messuage or tenement and one barn in Metheringham recently bought of William Rothwel the elder

The Manor of Taylbois was settled by William Pystor and Eleanor his wife by a tripartite indenture made 12 May 35 Elizabeth [1593] by them of the first part, Francis Clare of Kidderminster, Worcestershire, Esquire, and Henry Wingfeild of Harnwath [?] Lincs, gentleman, of the second part, and William Manby of Elsham, Lincs, gentleman, and William Quadringe of Ierby, Lincs, of the third part, for various causes there stated and in consideration of a marriage made and solemnized between Edward Pystor, eldest son of William and Eleanor, and Hester Manby, one of the daughters of Anne Manby, Widow, lately wife of Francis Manby of Elsham, Esquire, deceased; property settled to the use of Edward and Hester and the male heirs of Edward legitimately begotten on Hester, with various other limitations etc.

Part of the indenture quoted in English, to the effect that the rest of William Pystor's property left unsettled was to be held to the use and behoof of William for his life and after his death to the use and behoof of Eleanor, and after her death to the use and behoof of Edward and his heirs male.

Eleanor has survived William and is still living.

The Manor of Taylbois was held by William of the Crown as of the Duchy of Lancaster by military service of one knight's fee and the jury does not know of what rent or other services. Worth per annum £5.

The 3rd part of the Nocton Priory property was held of the Crown by service of knight's fee, but the jury does not know of what part of a fee. Worth 26s 8d per annum.

The messuage etc in Metheringham bought of William Buylting alias Boylton and Margaret his wife was held of the Crown as lately of the priory of St John of Jerusalem in England for a rent of 18d per annum. Worth 20s per annum.

The Messuage and barn in Metheringham bought of William Rothwel gent were held of the heirs of Anthony Tharrol, knight as of his manor of Blankney for rent and suit of court, 51s per annum. Worth 10s per annum.

William Pystor died on 23 July 40 Eliz [1598].

Robert Pystor is the son and next heir of William and was 47 years old and more at the time of the taking of this inquisition.

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<sup>72</sup> Personal communication, December 2014.

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