

CAKE AND COCKHORSE



Banbury Historical Society

Autumn 1970

2s.6d.

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* * * * *

The Society was founded in 1957 to encourage interest in the history of the town of Banbury and neighbouring parts of Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire and Warwickshire.

The Magazine "Cake & Cockhorse" is issued to members four times a year. This includes illustrated articles based on original local historical research, as well as recording the Society's activities. Publications include "Old Banbury - a short popular history" by E.R.C. Brinkworth (2nd edition), "New Light on Banbury's Crosses", "Roman Banburyshire", "Banbury's Poor in 1850", and "Sanderson Miller of Radway and his work at Wroxton", and a pamphlet "History of Banbury Cross".

The Society also publishes records volumes. These have included "Clockmaking in Oxfordshire, 1400-1850"; "South Newington Churchwardens' Accounts, 1553-1684"; "Banbury Marriage Register, 1558-1837" (3 parts) and "Baptism and Burial Register, 1558-1723" (2 parts); and "A Victorian M.P. and his Constituents: The Correspondence of H.W. Tancred, 1841-1859". "Wigginton Constables' Books, 1691-1836", "Banbury Wills and Inventories, 1591-1650", "Bodicote Churchwardens' Accounts, 1700-1822" and "Banbury Politics, 1830-1880" are all well advanced.

Meetings are held during the autumn and winter, normally at 7.30 p.m. in the Conservative Club. Talks on general and local archaeological, historical and architectural subjects are given by invited lecturers. In the summer, excursions to local country houses and churches are arranged. Archaeological excavations and special exhibitions are arranged from time to time.

Membership of the Society is open to all, no proposer or seconder being needed. The annual subscription is 40/-, including the annual records volume, or 20/- if this is excluded. Junior membership is 5/-.

Application forms can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary or the Hon. Treasurer.

CAKE AND COCKHORSE

The Magazine of the Banbury Historical Society. Issued to members four times a year.

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Our Cover: shows the gatehouse at Broughton Castle, from an engraving in Skelton's *Antiquities of Oxfordshire*, 1823.

The current Newsletter of the Oxford City and County Museum is largely devoted to an examination by Don. Benson and Trevor Rowley of what has been described as the crisis in British archaeology. Many of their observations have particular relevance for those concerned with local history in the Banbury area. Excavation, the traditional warm season activity of the archaeologically minded, must, it is stressed, be approached with some reserve and with a sense of discipline. Other sorts of field work, aerial photography, surveying, the observation of parch marks, even mere careful observation can often be a more profitable use of the amateur archaeologist's time and energy, and they are much less likely to earn him the opprobrium of future generations of scholars. Fortunately the record of the Banbury Historical Society in this sphere is one of which we have no reason to be ashamed. The Society has not sponsored any irresponsible plundering of major sites of proven importance, but has restricted itself, in the absence of any lead until recent years from resident professional archaeologists, to providing assistance at major investigations carried out by archaeologists not resident in the district (as at the Ministry of Works investigations at Wigginton and Sulgrave), a few limited follow-ups of field work on unproven sites (as at the Broughton Roman villa), and some last resort emergency digs, as at Castle Wharf and the White Horse. The Society's recent interest in the Roman site at Deddington shows what useful results can be achieved by a local group by a policy of restraint from full scale excavations.

The need to publish archaeological findings is also acknowledged in the Newsletter. Publication does not mean just printing or duplicating. The results of research, at whatever level, deserve a wide audience, and must be made available to anyone likely to have need of them. Hence it is essential that they should appear in a journal like *Cake and Cockhorse* or *Oxoniensia* which goes as a matter of course to most of the principal libraries in Britain and the United States. In this journal we are always ready to include reports of field work, however seemingly insignificant. Articles of value to archaeologists need not even be the results entirely of field work. One of the most valuable services to archaeologists which this journal has rendered was the publication of Mr. Bromley's gazetteer of Roman sites in the Banbury area. The cause of archaeology can be served as much by concentrated thinking as by devoted trowelling.

Another theme which runs through the Newsletter is the need for archaeological training and preparation. Trevor Rowley stresses that the coming session of extra-mural classes in archaeology will have a strong practical bias. Naturally one of the factors which dictates this approach is the threat of the M40 motorway to archaeological sites in south Oxfordshire. It is clear that within the foreseeable future the projected Oxford-Birmingham motorway, whatever line it takes, will pose similar threats in the Banbury region. The rebuilding of Banbury town centre may well expose and ultimately destroy evidence of the earliest years of the town's history, and there may be opportunities for excavations as fruitful as those of recent years at Hereford and Worcester. It is essential that these threats be met by knowledgeable and skilled volunteers, and it is to be hoped that Mr. Rowley's projected classes on the Archaeology of North Oxfordshire at the Borough Library this autumn will be well supported by Historical Society members, and that these members will be willing to get their boots muddy afterwards.

SOCIETY NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Autumn Programme

Thursday, 24th September. Dr. W. Urry of St. Edmund Hall, Oxford will lecture on "The Death of Becket". This is the 800th anniversary of England's most famous martyrdom and we are very fortunate to have a visit from the leading authority on Becket's death. Dr. Urry has written and broadcast on this subject and has a reputation as a very interesting speaker.

Thursday, 22nd October. Brigadier Peter Young will lecture on the "Battle of Cropredy Bridge". Members who recall Peter Young's lecture on Edgehill will be delighted at this return visit of this expert on the Civil War, who has also a commanding verbal delivery.

Friday, 20th November. Annual Dinner. White Lion Hotel. 7.30 for 8.00 p.m.

Thursday, 26th November. "An evening of reminiscences". This is an experiment in drawing together several senior residents of the town and prompting their memories of Banbury's past by means of slides. We are pleased to have Miss Bromley, Mr. Braggins and Mr. Anker on the panel under the chairmanship of the relatively youthful Dr. Brinkworth.

All meetings are in the Town Hall, 7.30 p.m.

Summer Visits

In addition to the successful visit to Broughton Castle for the A.G.M. the Society has made several excursions. Quite unofficially, a good number of our members attended Mr. Trevor Rowley's evening visits to places of archaeological interest in the locality. This was a continuation of his winter W.E.A. classes which he intends to resume.

A small party had an interesting tour of the City and County Museum at Woodstock in May. We had beautiful weather for our visits to Farnborough Hall (unfortunately restricted to the grounds – superb as they are) and to Compton Wynyates.

The organizing committee would be glad of suggestions for summer visits at any time. We are grateful to all who helped and guided us on these excursions this year.

Oxfordshire Traditions

Lt. Col. Henry Birch Reynardson of Box House, Bampton, Oxford, OX8 2JJ, is organising the collection of oral traditions in Oxfordshire, stories about the past which have been handed down from generation to generation without having been recorded in print. He would be very pleased to hear from anyone willing to collect traditions of this sort in the Banbury area.

Lord North

Members of the Historical Society who have tried to find out about the only Prime Minister to have sat in the House of Commons as M.P. for Banbury will have been impressed by the complete lack of any readable introduction to the career of Lord North. This deficiency has now been remedied by the publication in the Historical Association's pamphlet series of "Lord North, the Noble Lord in the Blue Ribbon" by John Cannon (General Series No.74. 1970. Price 5s.0d./25 np. Obtainable from the Historical Association, 59a Kennington Park Road, London, S.E.11. Post 6d.) This is an excellent work of compression which gives serious and scholarly consideration to most of the major controversies surrounding Lord North's career. Little is said about North's connections with his constituency, largely because his relationship with the Borough of Banbury was an uneventful one. He was returned for the borough at the general election of 1754 when he was twenty-two, and was returned unopposed at twelve subsequent elections and re-elections.

B.S.T.

Calendars for 1971

An ideal Christmas present is the 1971 calendar of Old Banbury produced by the Elizabeth Calendar Company, with six enlarged engravings taken from Beesley and other sources, size 11½" x 15". Copies are available through the Society, and will be on sale at meetings, price 15s., or post free, 16s.

THE OWNER OF BROUGHTON CASTLE IN 1729

Visitors to Broughton are shown an uninspired engraving of the castle by S. and N. Buck dated 1729. After some account of its inheritance from Wykeham to Fiennes the inscription ends with the sentence "This Estate is now in the possession of Col. Twisselden". The visitor will also see, in pride of place in the great hall where until recently was a Victorian extravaganza of the meeting between Jack Cade and the first Lord Saye and Sele, two late seventeenth century portraits of George Twisleton and his wife Cecilia or Cecil. "Col. Twisselden", or more properly Colonel Fiennes Twisleton, was the son of George and Cecil. He was also the grandfather of the present Lord Saye and Sele's great-grandfather's great-grandfather in direct male line of descent.

The visitor, being told by the guide that Broughton has come down to the present Lord Saye and Sele by inheritance from the second Lord Saye and Sele who acquired it by marriage to a Wykeham girl in the middle of the fifteenth century, may well wonder at this Fiennes Twisleton complication, and at the honour done to George and Cecil. But he will not wonder half as much as the Fienneses and Twisletons of the seventeenth century, looking down or up at those proud pictures in the great hall from wherever they may be. For George was written off as a wastrel; Cecil, an undutiful daughter, was cut out of her father's will. Fiennes had thirty pounds a year provided, secured on the rents of the Bull Inn at Dartford, in order that he might "be educated and brought up so that he may be fitted either to be an apprentice to a merchant or other trade, or to study the law, phisick or any other learning".¹ Yet the offspring of George's and Cecil's love-match lived to succeed to the Fiennes inheritance of Broughton; his son John became the heir to the rich Twisleton estates in Yorkshire and Kent. Perhaps it is only natural and not really to be regretted that George's genes of extravagance emerge at intervals among his descendants, who have managed to dissipate the inheritance except for the Broughton estate itself.

Broughton, built originally as a fortified moated manor house at the beginning of the fourteenth century, was bought late in that century by William of Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester and founder of both Winchester College and New College, Oxford. He settled it on his sister's grandson Thomas, who was his heir and changed his name to Wykeham. Thomas's grand-daughter and heiress, Margaret Wykeham, married William Fenys (or Fenes or any one of many other spellings), the second Lord Saye and Sele, in the middle of the fifteenth century.²

From then until 15th March 1673/4 Broughton passed by male line inheritance in the family of Fenys, by now spelt Fiennes to match the current spelling of the village in Artois from which ancestor Giles had emigrated to England in the thirteenth century, following in the train of his second cousin Queen Eleanor of Castile when she came to marry the future Edward I.³

When James the second Viscount Saye and Sele died in 1674 he left behind him his Viscountess and two daughters. The Viscounty, which might only be inherited by male line heirs of William the first Viscount (Old Subtlety of Civil War fame), passed to William, the second but eldest surviving son of Old Subtlety's second son Nathaniel. William's son Nathaniel became fourth Viscount in 1698 and died in 1710, when the title passed to Laurence the fifth son of John, Old Subtlety's third son. Finally the Viscounty was inherited by Richard Fiennes, grandson of Old Subtlety's fourth son Richard, and with his death in 1781 became extinct, as did apparently the complete male line of Giles of Artois.⁴

But it went differently with both Broughton and the Barony of Saye and Sele, which then as now descends to heirs general. The barony de jure was in abeyance between the two daughters of James the second Viscount and their descendants. With the death of the only child (another Cecil) of the younger daughter in 1715, Cecil the only child of the elder daughter became de jure Baroness Saye and Sele. But it was not until 1781, one month before the death of the last Fiennes and sixth Viscount Saye and Sele, that the Barony of Saye and Sele was successfully claimed by Thomas Twisleton, Cecil's great-grandson. However the Broughton estate, which on the death of James the second Viscount in 1674 followed the Viscounty to his nephew William and then to William's son Nathaniel the fourth Viscount, reverted to James's descendants on Nathaniel's death though not without much dispute by Laurence Fiennes, the



Fig. 1.
Colonel John Twisleton (d. 1682), who married Elizabeth Fiennes, daughter of James, 2nd Viscount Saye and Sele, and was father of Cecil Twisleton.

fifth Viscount. So it came about that, on the death of his first cousin in 1715, Fiennes Twisleton inherited a half interest in Broughton under her will, he and his mother already holding the other half since the death of Nathaniel in 1710.⁵

Fiennes Twisleton's great-grandfather's great-grandfather in the male line was John Twisleton, a London goldsmith who made and repaired plate for Henry VIII. He was a younger son of a family of near-gentry, connected by marriage with the Yorkshire landed family of Copley, who also provided lawyers to the Middle Temple.⁶ Coming probably from Darrington in Yorkshire he was apprenticed in 1488 to Robert Johnson, a London goldsmith. Despite (or perhaps because of) his cantankerous temper he made money and before he died bought, in addition to other estates, the manor of Barley (now Barlow) near Selby in Yorkshire. His son Christopher was Comptroller of the Port of Hull and married Ann Bere of Dartford in Kent.⁷ Christopher's son George inherited, and George's second son John, on the death without children of his nephew Sir George Twisleton Bart. in 1635, added Barlow to his own lands in the neighbouring parish of Drax. He had already in 1628 inherited Horsman's Place in Dartford and a Kent estate from his cousin Edward, the last of the Beres. He thus became a very wealthy man.

John had four sons, of whom the three eldest (John, Philip and George) are relevant to this story. All became Cromwellian colonels. The eldest, John, inherited the Barlow and Kent estates and was a colonel of Kent Militia. (He was nearly late for the battle of Worcester, but eventually made it. [27 August 1651 Council of State to Colonel John Twisleton: "We are sorry that, in a time when there is such a necessity for forces, there should arise such difficulties to get out your regiment, and we desire you to march forthwith with it to Lieut. Gen. Fleetwood . . . March with your regiment with all the expedition you can to Lieut. Gen. Fleetwood at Banbury, or to such other place as he shall direct, and use all diligence as the regiment is so far behind."] John had married Elizabeth Fiennes elder daughter of James Fiennes two years before, but there is no reason to think it had anything to do with his tardiness for the battle of Worcester.⁸



Fig. 2.

Elizabeth Twisleton (1631–1674) daughter of James, 2nd Viscount Saye and Sele, wife of Colonel John Twisleton and mother of Cecil Twisleton.



Fig. 3.
George Twisleton (b. 1646), son of George Twisleton and husband
of Cecil Twisleton.



Fig. 4.
Cecil Twisleton (d. 1723), daughter of Colonel John and Elizabeth
Twisleton, and wife of George Twisleton.

John married four wives; the first was Elizabeth daughter of Augustine Skinner of Kent; the second was Lucy fifth daughter of Samuel Dunch which provided him with an interesting Cromwellian connection (see Table C); thirdly in May 1649 he married Elizabeth Fiennes and by her had his only child to survive, Cecil born at Dartford on 27 September 1653.⁹ His fourth wife, Anne Mayern, a German, survived him. John was desperately wanting a son; something of the feeling of the time emerges when the bare plebeian English words of the Dartford register break into almost incoherent Latin to announce that Fines Twisleton, grandson through his mother of the Lord Viscount Saye and Sele, had been born on 17th April 1665 and baptised on the 21st. But hopes were dupes, for on 10 May 1665 the register records in plain English the death of Fines Twisleton. So John was left with no son but only Cecil, not yet twelve, and a quondam as to whom to marry her, great estates and all. He seems to have made a logical dynastic decision for his daughter which, like so many such decisions, went bad on him. His brother Colonel Philip Twisleton, who had inherited the Drax estate from their father, had an eldest son John, aged fifteen. The ages were right, three years difference; the Twisleton estates would be re-united, and in a Twisleton. And in the event dynastic feeling was stronger than paternal love; John left his estates to his nephew John, even though Cecil did not marry him.

The storm broke in 1668, three days after Cecil's fifteenth birthday. John, kind though stern, had made the mistake of entertaining in the peaceful affluence of Horsmans Place in Dartford a young cousin, George Twisleton, then supposedly studying at Jesus, Cambridge, and Gray's Inn to both of which he had been admitted in 1664. (Colonel Philip's son John was also at Gray's Inn from 1666). George was twenty-two and his father was dead. As Cecil's second cousin, he came from a relatively poor and junior branch of the Twisletons living at Womersley in Yorkshire.¹⁰ It is possible that John the ex-Cromwellian baronet and convinced Protestant (his wife Elizabeth was to be buried in Bunhill Fields, the cemetery for dissenters) was being somewhat condescending to the young man who, whatever his own beliefs, had Catholic connections too close to have been healthy at least until the Restoration. George's grandmother had been Prothesia Gascoigne; through her he had a Gascoigne cousin who was an Abbot in Saxony, another Abbess of Cambrai, another Prioress of an English nunnery in Paris, and others also in the Roman priesthood.

Let the record now speak direct, first from the Vicar General's Marriage Licence:

"1668 Sep. 30. George Twisleton of Gray's Inn, Gent. Bach^r abt 22, and Mrs Cecilia Twisleton, of Dartford, Kent, Sp^r, about 17; her father's consent, at St Andrew's, Holborn, or Gray's Inn Chapel." Second, the King against Twisleton and Others (one of three records of the trial which took place in November 1668).

"Information, for that the defendants using to come and to be entertained at the house of another, Twisleton seduced his daughter, being his heir apparent to a great estate, to marry him; and that the defendants Twisleton and the others, without the father's assent, carried the daughter from her father's house and the defendant Twisleton married her: and on a trial at Bar it appeared in evidence that the defendant Twisleton being a remote kinsman, and of small fortune, and being frequently entertained at the father's house, made love to the daughter; but no proof was of any seducements, but common compliments among young people; and it was offered in evidence that the encouragement to this affair proceeded from the daughter, whom the father intended to marry to another kinsman of his own name, of a more considerable estate, whom the daughter did not love so well: and that the daughter by agreement between her and the defendants went from her father's house to a place appointed, and there met the defendants, and was married to the defendant Twisleton; whereupon the Court directed the jury that the daughter being of tender years, viz. about sixteen, and a great fortune, this was an offence in the defendants in the information, and that they ought to find them guilty, which they indeed did, but it seemed with some doubt: and afterwards, before any fine imposed, the parties agreed."¹¹

The story is now best followed by jumping to John Twisleton's will dated 21 June 1679. (He died 4 December 1682 and is buried in Dartford Church).

"Whereas I have no child liveing but only one Daughter named Cecill Twisleton, who has been very disobedient and married herself without my consent and her mother's to one Mr George Twisleton who have both of them lived very extravagantly since they soe married and



Fig. 5.
Cecil Twisleton (d. 1673).

Acknowledgements: the photographs of the portraits were taken by Blinkhorns, South Bar, Banbury, and are reproduced by kind permission of our President.

runne into great Debts soe that I have paid redeemeing his Land at Woodhall in the parish of Wormesley in the County of Yorke out of mortgage and other his debts, soemuch money as together with the Interest thereof amounts to above the summe of Two Thousand pounds soe that by his Occasion I have contracted many Debts and much trouble upon my selfe having had four severall mortgages upon his Land and house at Woodhall aforesaid which are all forfeited to me for non payment of the money I have paid for him as aforesaid which comes to much more than the land is worth. Yet nevertheless I have by Deed settled all the said house and lands upon Josuah Sprigge Esq and my nephew John Twisleton Esq Councillor at Law and their heires Upon divers trusts and confidences therein mentioned in behalfe of her and her children . . . the said settlement being to the value of two Thousand pounds which is as much as I had with her mother being all that I intend for her and her children. I shall therefore neither give her nor them any parte of my Lands or hereditaments by this my will, but I give and bequeath to her and her said husband George Twisleton or if he dye before her to his said wife Cecill one hundred pounds”¹²

Even this hundred pounds was subject to twenty-seven lines of conditions requiring Cecil and George to sign statements that they had no other claim against the executors of his estate. Apart from minor legacies the whole of John’s estate was bequeathed to his nephew John, eldest son of his brother Philip with remainder to his male line heirs, or failing heirs to Philip’s two younger sons and their male line heirs, then to the three sons of his brother, George, and their male line heirs and then to George’s daughters. The line of inheritance was later repeated in the will of nephew John who died in 1721, who however added at the bottom of the list, number eight in order of priority “Cousin Fiennes son of Cousin Cecil”.¹³ He was also godfather to Fiennes’s son John and left him £100. The emotions of the old scandal were beginning to cool. Yet all died out in the male line except Fiennes and his son John who inherited the Twisleton estates in 1757, subject to a widow’s life interest and some small loss to a man called Cockshutt who married a Twisleton.¹⁴

As already mentioned a small provision was made for the education of Cecil’s son Fiennes Twisleton, left in the hands of John’s fourth wife, a German, and of Joshua Sprigge as trustees. Sprigge had been born at Banbury, “son of Will. Sprigge sometime servant to Will, Lord Say” according to Wood.¹⁵ The facts of his public career may be found in the Dictionary of National Biography. Wood called him “a great favourer of factions and blasphemous persons, particularly that great impostor James Naylor Quaker”. James Fiennes, Second Viscount Saye and Sele, father of Elizabeth Twisleton, grandfather of Cecil, died in March 1673/4. In March 1675 Joshua Sprigge married the widowed Viscountess with whom, according to Wood, “he had great familiarity, to the jealousy of her husband, during the time of her first husband”, and was her “gallant”.

James had for long had trouble with his wife. As early as 1648 a Verney was writing “Your Coussen James Fines and his wife are parted; and they say the reason is because they canott agree in disputes of Conscience; and that she doth nott think him holy enough; butt in my opinion there is very little Conscience in parting from their husbands”.¹⁶

Frances Viscountess Saye and Sele, Mrs Joshua Sprigge, must have been a strange, intolerant and intolerable woman. She was a Cecil (hence probably the frequent use of Cecil as a Christian name by her descendants), daughter of Viscount Wimbledon, granddaughter of the first Marquess of Exeter and great-granddaughter of Lord Burghley.¹⁷ Through her Neville grandmother she was descended from Joan Beaufort, daughter of John of Gaunt and Catherine Swynford. Poor Fiennes Twisleton, son of gay extravagant George and Cecil, George with his Roman Catholic Gascoigne cousins, put in the financial care of a German step-grandmother and of Joshua Sprigge, well under the thumb one may guess of Mrs Sprigge, Fiennes Twisleton’s aristocratic and dissenting great-grandmother the Viscountess.

One feels that few were sorry when both Sprigges died in 1684, only eighteen months after John Twisleton – not even the Corporation of Banbury who received £500 under his will to build a workhouse and set the poor to work.¹⁸ Frances the Viscountess, however, was not ungenerous in her will; she left money to both Cecil and Fiennes. She passed on her duties as trustee to her younger daughter Frances Ellis, and added £300 to the educational trust.

What is known of Fiennes Twisleton himself need not take long to tell. The drama of history



Fig. 6.
James Fiennes, 2nd Viscount Saye and Sele (ca. 1603–1674), son of 'Old Subtlety' and grandfather of Cecil Twisleton.



Fig. 7.
Frances Fiennes, née Cecil, daughter of Lord Wimbledon and grand-daughter of Lord Burleigh, wife of James, 2nd Viscount Saye and Sele.

is in his background and not in himself. The Complete Peerage says he was born about 1670 (his parents having been married in 1668). Somewhere there may be an entry in a parish register, but none has been found; his name is not in that of Dartford.¹⁹ His tomb, a fine plain slab in the south aisle of Broughton Church, says he died on 11 September 1730 in his sixtieth year. The Dartford register shows the birth of two daughters to George Twisleton, on 25 November 1671 and 28 November 1673; both were called Cecil and both died within months of birth. So Fiennes was probably born in the last quarter of 1670, making him twelve at the death of his grandfather and thirteen and a half when the Spriggs died.

In 1683 Fiennes Twisleton emerges as a personality, no longer a pawn. He turns up as a Commoner at Winchester College.²⁰ In 1684 he entered College as a scholar by right of being Founder's Kin by descent from the sister of William of Wykeham. He spent five years at Winchester, three in the bottom form, before leaving in 1688. His cousin Pharamus Fiennes, eldest son of Old Subtlety's fourth and youngest son Richard, was a Fellow of Winchester at the time; in 1686 he was joined in College by his cousin Richard Fiennes, Pharamus' youngest brother, whose son was later to be the sixth and last Viscount Saye and Sele. A minor but interesting point is that in the roll of scholars for 1684 the age of eleven is put after his name. The ages given are those at the time of election, not of admission. As the numbers of Founder's Kin were so prolific there was a system of rationing their admittance as scholars, which explains why Fiennes Twisleton spent one year as a Commoner. But, if the record is correct, he must have been elected, for admission when there was a Founder's Kin vacancy, in 1681 or (more likely) 1682 – that is to say before the death of his grandfather John Twisleton and well before the deaths of the Spriggs. It may just have been parsimony as there was nothing to pay at Winchester; but one likes to think that old John got together with the dissenting viscountess and decided that, though Fiennes might be cut out of his grandfather's estates, he might at least benefit from the traditions of his grandmother's family, at no cost.

On leaving Winchester he joined the army, being commissioned Ensign in Colonel Oliver Nicholas's Regiment of Foot on 25 November 1688.²¹ He was Captain in 1695 and on 1 March 1710/1 was appointed Adjutant General under Brigadier General Hill, with rank of Colonel of Foot, for an expedition to America. In 1718, under the Charter of George I, he was an Assistant on the Banbury Borough Council and a magistrate.²²

Little more is known of him, except his inheritance of Broughton, being in very fact the heir general of William of Wykeham. When his grandson Thomas was successfully claiming the Barony of Saye and Sele in 1781 before the Lord's Committee of Privileges, counsel had this to say about him:

"It does not appear that the said Fiennes Twisleton who, after the death of Cecil Mignon in 1723, stood entitled, as the heir general of the body of Sir Richard Fenys, to the barony of Say and Sele, ever preferred his claim, nor can the present claimant, his grandson, assign any other reason for such neglect or omission of his grandfather, than that he has heard and believes that after long and hard services in the army, in Ireland, Flanders, Spain and America, soon after the peace of Utrecht he settled himself at his seat at Broughton Castle, and was for several years before his death in a declining state of health; and having but a small fortune, and several children, probably preferred retirement to a more public situation."²³

In 1692 he married Mary Clarke at Dublin Castle. When he died in 1730 he left John, his heir, born in Dublin in January 1697/8, and three daughters.²⁴ There is one piece of inconclusive evidence that he had an elder son, Fiennes, who accompanied him in the army to America as Ensign in 1711.²⁵

This is the inscription on his tomb:—"Here lies the Honourable Colonel Fiennes Twisleton who served his country in various parts of the world during the whole course of two long wars, MDCLXXXIX he commanded the party that relieved Londonderry, was afterwards present at many of the greatest actions in Flanders and Spain and MDCCXI went Adjutant General in the expedition to Canada in America. Soon after the peace of Utrecht he retired to his seat at Broughton where September XI MDCCXXX in the LX year of his age he departed this life leaving issue one son and three daughters viz. John, Alicia, Idonea, Charlot, and the justly acquired reputation of a person of honour and integrity, of a most faithful zealous friend and sincere Christian".

Table A FIENNES - TWISLETON RELATIONSHIP

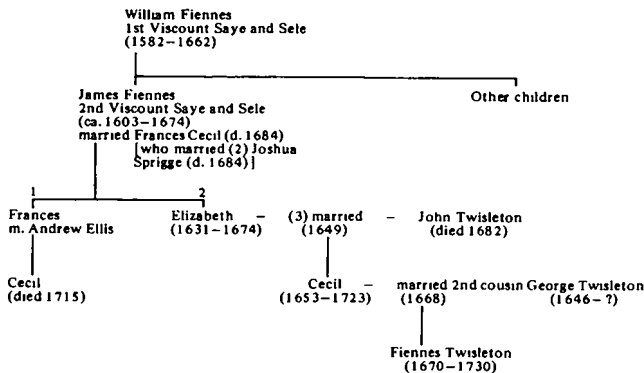
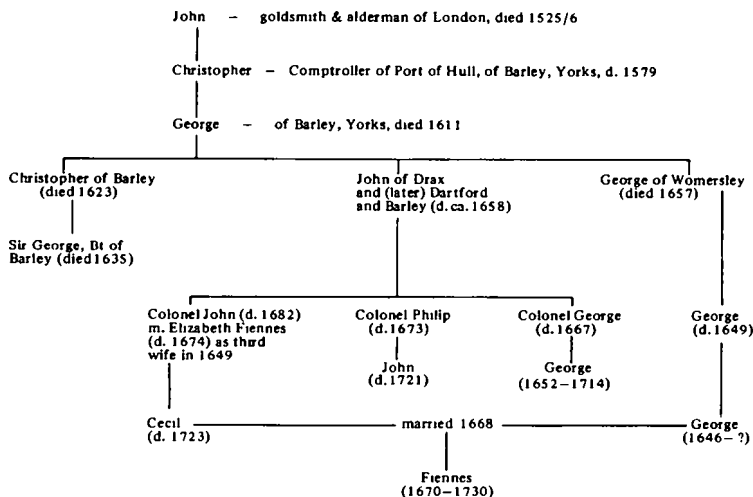
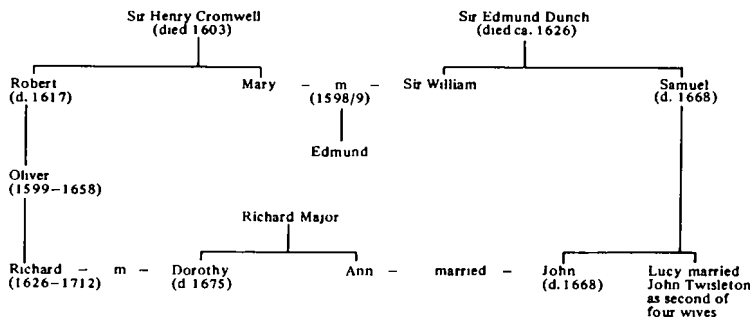


Table B TWISLETON RELATIONSHIP
(Many other children not relevant to this story are omitted)



Note The dates of the three successive Georges of Womersley rest on insufficient evidence. The name of the mother of Cecil's George is not known, though in the Broughton portrait there is a coat of arms which may provide the answer when identified. Information from any reader will be welcome.

Table C A TWISLETON - CROMWELL CONNECTION



Cecil lived to old age having married Robert Mignon as her second husband; she died in 1723. Of George nothing has been found as to the place or reason of his death which certainly occurred before 1700. It is possible that he was the George Twisleton who served in Sir Thomas Newcomen's Regiment of Foot in Ireland and in 1689 was appointed Captain in Sir Edward Dering's Regiment of Foot.²⁶ But one has a feeling that George, having taken Cecil on a horse from Kent to London to marry her, would not have demeaned himself in a regiment of foot. More likely it was his cousin George, son of Colonel John's brother George, with whom indeed the Complete Peerage confuses him.

David Fiennes

Note. The Complete Peerage, quoting partly from Collin's Peerage of 1812, itself misled by one of the many inaccuracies of Noble's Protectoral House of Cromwell, says that George was "probably the George Twisleton who was born 6 and baptised 14 Dec. 1652 at Clapham, Surrey, son of George Twisleton, a Lieut. Col. in the Parl. Army, sometime Gov. of Denbigh Castle". The evidence from Foster's Gray's Inn Admission Register, Foster's Alumni Oxonienses, Alumni Cantabrigienses and the will of John Twisleton makes it quite clear that there were two George Twisletons of nearly the same age. George, son of Colonel George, Governor of Denbigh Castle, was Cecil's first cousin, hardly the "remote kinsman" mentioned in the record of the trial of George and Cecil. Cecil's George was of Womersley (see John's will) and certainly descended from the George of Womersley who married Prothesia Gascoigne and was third son of George of Barley (see Table B). The evidence for the intervening generation is slender, a probable not a certainty. Nothing is at present known of George's father except that his name was George. George of Womersley had a son George and it is presumed that they were they same person. It is also known that a George Twisleton died in 1649 leaving sons George aged three and John aged one, and a widow Ellen.²⁷

References

1. Will of John Twisleton, York Registry vol.60 fol.344.
2. V.C.H. Oxon. vol.9, p.88.
3. Harleian Soc., Knights of Edward I; Sussex Archaeological Collections IV.
4. Complete Peerage XI, Saye and Sele and Appendix I.
5. Will of Cecil Langley, copy in library of Society of Genealogists; Will of Fiennes Twisleton, Somerset House 1731 Oxf.
6. Hunter, Familiae Minorum Gentium; Will of John Twisleton, York Registry vol.6 fo.98; Will of John Twisleton, PCC 18 Porch; Records of the Goldsmiths' Company; Surtees Soc. Yorkshire Wills vol.IV and Dugdale's Visitation of Yorkshire for Copley.
7. Dodsworth's Church Notes (York. Arch. Soc.); London Marriage Licences 1521-1869; Inscriptions in Dartford Church; Burke's Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies.
8. Calendar of State Papers Domestic 1651.
9. Canterbury Marriage Licences; Dartford Parish Register.
10. Gray's Inn Admission Register; Alumni Cantabrigienses; Prestwich Respublica 1787; GEC Complete Baronetage vol.3; Strype's Survey of London 1720; Thoresby Soc. History of Barwick-in-Elmet & Dugdale's Visitation of Yorkshire for Gascoigne.
11. I Levinz. 257.
12. Will of John Twisleton, York Registry vol.60 fo.344.
13. Will of John Twisleton, P.C.C. 1721 Bedf.
14. Hasted's Kent; Nicholl's Leicestershire.
15. *The Life and Times of Anthony Wood, antiquary, of Oxford, 1632-1695* ed. Andrew Clark. Vol.1. 1632-63. Oxford Historical Society. XIX.1891. p.177; Joshua Sprigge was baptized at Banbury 19 April 1618.
16. Verney Memoirs vol.II.
17. Complete Peerage, Viscount Wimbledon.
18. Beesley *History of Banbury*, pp.468-9.
19. Will of Frances, Viscountess Saye and Seel, P.C.C. 1684, fo.96.
20. Kirby, Winchester Scholars; Holgate, Winchester Long Rolls.
21. English Army Lists.
22. Beesley *History of Banbury*, pp.516-7.
23. Quoted in Collin's Peerage 1812 edition vol.VII.
24. Complete Peerage.
25. English Army Lists.
26. English Army Lists.
27. Womersley Parish Register; Will of George Twisleton 1657, Wootton Register fo.193; Alumni Cantabrigienses; York Registry Administrations, Pontefract, fol.133.

Cropredy Bridge, 1644. *The Campaign and the Battle*. Margaret Toynbee and Peter Young, Roundwood Press. xvi, 156 pp., 27 plates, 2 maps. 55s. (£2.75).

The co-authors of this book have established national reputations as authorities on the mid-seventeenth century. They are also well-known locally and have greatly advanced our knowledge of, and interest in the Civil War in this area. Brigadier Young's fine work on Edgehill set the pattern for his subsequent works on Civil War battles, and this recent volume on Cropredy Bridge adds to our admiration of his insight into the military affairs of the period. There is no obvious division of labour in the book, but one assumes that Dr. Toynbee was responsible for much of the local topographical and biographical detail. These references to local figures and places give a special interest to the narrative.

As in *Edgehill*, Brigadier Young sets out his sources to begin with, in a clear, orderly fashion, and was especially pleased to have had access to the original manuscript of Sir Edward Walker's, "Happy Progresse and Successe," though of course, the printed version of 1705 has been frequently used (see Beesley page 360). There follows a detailed survey of the rival armies and their manoeuvrings from March to June 1644, through Oxfordshire, the Cotswolds, to the Severn-Avon valley and back to Cropredy. This is a well documented campaign and it is possible to share the problems which tormented Charles I, Essex and Waller, as they strove to keep their armies together through a rather bewildering set of manoeuvres. Long term objectives get lost in the day to day jostle for position, prestige and supplies, until it becomes a little uncertain who is pursuing whom. One needs to follow the map in the appendix very closely throughout the first twelve chapters. This is a trifle tedious but worth the effort.

The battle itself (which, incidentally might well have been fought at the foot of Crouch Hill) is made as clear as possible by using Walker's account for the basic strategy and weaving into this, relevant extracts from other sources. The whole is punctuated with Brigadier Young's sensible clarifications and suppositions which his experience enables him to make with confidence. Despite all the manoeuvrings, the battle was an ill-organized affair between two tired and depleted armies, but what dash and zeal there was is brought out in this account. The plan showing the first Parliamentary assault is very helpful, and one wishes that an attempt had been made to follow this with another showing the effects of the Royalist counter-attacks.

After surveying the results of the battle, which of course were quickly overshadowed by the Royalist defeat at Marston Moor, the authors devote a good proportion of the book to re-producing sources. There is a bibliography, index, 28 plates and 2 maps.

Such a summary of the book gives no impression of the beauty of this publication. It should be read at one sitting, at least up to the Appendices. This will ensure that the reader is carried along to the battle fully aware of the feeling on both sides. The book can then be safely put on a prominent shelf for reference, since it is a most attractive volume, superbly bound, illustrated and covered. Mr. Beck's intriguing and occasionally humorous tailpieces are just another delightful feature of the work.

It will be argued in some quarters that Cropredy Bridge was a minor incident scarcely worthy of such research or emphasis. In Miss Wedgwood's work on the Civil War, *The King's War*, this battle is dealt with in one page in a 700 page volume. This argument however, will not deter the local historian, and many students wanting a deeper insight into military organization will find this a valuable addition to Brigadier Young's other authoritative works. There are other important insights. It becomes very clear why the Self-Denying Ordinance was needed, and a thorough New Model Army constructed for Parliament. The King's naivety in offering a pardon after the battle is probably a better insight into his character than the graphology of Nadya Olyanova in the Appendix – surely a somewhat bizarre insertion.

Without doubt then, this is another good book, with which authors and publisher deserve success. After witnessing the vigour and enthusiasm of Brigadier Young and his latter-day cavaliers in the field this summer, one cannot doubt that if he had been at the same place 326 years ago, the encounter would have been a good deal more decisive!

The Country Seat, presented to Sir John Summerson and edited by Howard Colvin and John Harris. Allen Lane The Penguin Press. 1970. 295 pp. £6.50.

This fascinating volume of 48 essays on country houses in the British Isles has been written by friends and colleagues of Sir John Summerson to celebrate his sixty-fifth birthday. The essay that concerns our area is the first in the book: "A 'Fontainebleau' Chimneypiece at Broughton Castle, Oxfordshire", by Martin Biddle.

Richard Fiennes, 6th Lord Saye and Sele, altered the external and internal appearance of what was a medieval house by the insertion of a flat ceiling in the hall, the creation of two floors above this, and the addition of two stairways on the south side to serve these floors. On the north side, a gallery was made, and a series of rooms, including the Star Chamber, opened off it.

What makes this work particularly interesting is its date: 1554. English architecture was beginning to reflect more strongly the influence of the Renaissance. Patrons like Somerset, Northumberland and Sharrington were employing architects and carvers in an attempt to establish Renaissance plans and elevations as well as details. But the Renaissance style of their buildings was not Flemish, as in Elizabeth's reign, but French, from Fontainebleau in particular. The movement had begun before Edward VI's reign, for this court style was best exemplified by Nonsuch Palace, built for Henry VIII. It did not last long beyond Edward's reign. The chimneypiece in the Star Chamber at Broughton is one of its products.

Mr P. S. Spokes (in C&CH IV, pp. 13-15, Autumn 1968) has shown that the stone chimneypiece in Queen Anne's Room at Broughton is also of 1554 and thinks that it was made by John Chapman, who was working at Lacock for Sir William Sharrington. Mr Biddle regards the Star Chamber piece, which is made of stucco and not of stone, as being of higher quality than the other. Its central scene is of Dryads dancing round an oak. This is to illustrate Ovid's *Metamorphoses* (VIII. 738 ff.), and the cartouche below it contains a few words from this work. The scene is copied from an engraving by Boyvin, itself based on a fresco at Fontainebleau. We know that Henry VIII had such stucco chimneypieces made for his palace at Nonsuch by Nicholas Bellin of Modena, and this piece may be another of Bellin's works.

The history of Renaissance architecture in 16th century England has yet to be written. When it is, these two chimneypieces, and the other mid-century work at Broughton, are sure to find their places in it.

F. J. Willy.

Warwickshire Printers' Notices, 1799-1866

edited by Paul Morgan, M.A., F.S.A., The Dugdale Society (Shakespeare's Birthplace Library, Stratford-upon-Avon), vol. XXVIII, 1970, xl, 84 pp., 42s.

In the eighteenth century, the liberty of the press existed to such an extent that it could be misused; libellous and seditious writings were often published without any means of identifying the author, printer or publisher. Accordingly, in 1799 there was enacted the Seditious Societies Act which included provisions requiring printers to be registered with their local Clerk of the Peace.

Mr. Morgan has made a research in the Warwickshire County Records and other sources. He has tabulated and annotated all the existing registration notices and in an Appendix, compiled from entries in local directories, imprints, etc., he lists those printers who failed to register. As Mr. Morgan states, these notices can be an important supplementary source for the history of printing in a particular locality even though, as he points out, his researches show that at least 35% of the active printers in Warwickshire failed to register.

A great part of the Act was repealed in 1869 and the registration of printers was discontinued; but there remains on the Statute Book to this day the requirement that the printer's name and address must appear on all printed papers which would include quite ephemeral printing, e.g. menu cards.

A. H. Cheney.

TWO OXFORDSHIRE MANORIAL COURT BOOKS

The Bodleian Library has recently acquired two 16th century Oxfordshire Manorial Court books of considerable local relevance, relating to estates owned by the Pope family of Wroxton Abbey.

The earlier book records twice-yearly courts for Marsh Baldon, Broadwell, Broughton Poggs, Cogges, Enstone, Hook Norton, Northleigh, Swerford, Tadmarton, and Wigginton, 1591–93, and single courts for just Marsh Baldon and Wigginton, 1588. At this time the manors were held by Lady (Elizabeth) Paulet, widow of Sir Hugh Paulet of Hinton St George, Somerset (her third husband, died 1571), whose second husband had been Sir Thomas Pope, died 1559. She was born a Staffordshire Blount. She is not to be confused with the Elizabeth Paulet, relict of William Paulet, on whom, as his second wife, Richard Fiennes (later to be confirmed as 7th Baron Saye and Sele) in 1587 settled the manor of North Newington (VCH Oxon IX 88).

Lady Paulet died in 1593, just before her nephew William Pope (later Earl of Downe) became of age and able to take possession of the manors, so the earlier book covers the final years of her tenure. The later book, 1594–1603, is for the first years of this William Pope. It records courts held annually during each or most of these years for the manors of Broadwell, Broughton Poggs, Cogges, Enstone, Hook Norton, Northleigh, Swerford, Tadmarton, and Wigginton, and single courts for Kencot, 1595, Wroxton, 1600, and Shotteswell (Warw.), 1603. Series of orders relating mainly to the management of open fields and commons for most of the manors are to be found in each volume.

Both volumes are in the hand of Robert Perrot of Northleigh, steward of the Pope estates (whose family was later to give hospitality to King Charles I after his famous 'night march' from Oxford in 1644 – recounted in *Cropledy Bridge, 1644*, and in greater detail by Margaret Toynbee in *Oxoniensia*, XI and XII, p.133). He died in 1605, but his widow, Mary, lived until 1622, and there is a note in the court book by a later servant of Sir William Pope: '... this is one of the bookes which was received from Mistress Parratt And delivered by Mr Tustin to my master the 3 day of April 1618...' Mr Tustin was probably Martin Tustian of Banbury, gentleman, who was acting as steward of at least one Pope manor, Tadmarton, between 1615 and 1617.

The two volumes are referenced respectively MS. North adds. c.7 and MS. North adds. c.2. Information on the later book is given in the current issue of *The Bodleian Library Record*, VIII, 4, April 1970, pp. 228–9, from which it is largely repeated verbatim; and on the earlier book and on Lady Paulet was kindly provided by our member Dr D. M. Barratt. We are grateful too to our member Mr Igor Vinogradoff who first drew our attention to this earlier book when it came up for sale at Sotheby's in March this year.

J.S.W.G.

The activities and publications of some or all of the following bodies should interest readers:

- Arts Council of Banbury (Miss Rosemary Hall, Flat 33, 20 Calthorpe Road, Banbury).
Minimum 21/-.
- Banbury Art Society (Hon. Sec., R. Edgson, Print's Cottage, Bloxham, Banbury) 20/-.
- Banbury Geographical Association (B.E. Little, 2 Burlington Gardens, Banbury) 10/6d.
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- Buckinghamshire Record Society (Hon. Sec., E.J. Davis, County Record Office, New Council Offices, Walton Street, Aylesbury, Bucks.). 42/-.
- Council for the Preservation of Rural England, Oxfordshire Branch (Mrs. E. Turner, Woodside, Woodgreen, Witney, Oxon.). Minimum 10/-.
- Dugdale Society (publishes Warwickshire records) (Shakespeare's Birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon). 42/-.
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- Historical Association (59a Kennington Park Road, London, S.E.11.) (Oxford Branch: A.J.P. Puddephatt, 93, Old Road, Headington, Oxford). 20/-; or to include "History", 35/-.
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- Oxford Architectural and Historical Society (Ashmolean Museum, Oxford). 15/- or to include "Oxoniensia", 42/-.
- Oxford Preservation Trust (The Painted Room, 3 Cornmarket Street, Oxford). Minimum 5/-.
- Oxfordshire Record Society (Dr. W.O. Hassall, Hon. Sec., Bodleian Library, Oxford). 40/-.
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