

A FIFTEENTH-CENTURY PEDIGREE

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The late Mr. F. G. Gurney was not, it appears, the first of his family to display a lively interest in genealogy.¹ Nearly five hundred years ago, his kinsman, Thomas Gurney of Halton, compiled a pedigree showing his descent from their common ancestor, a certain John Gurney the elder, who flourished about the middle of the fourteenth century. To this he added, a few years later, particulars of his own three marriages and of the births of his thirteen children, most of whom died in infancy.

That these documents were found, with other memoranda concerning his lands, among the court-rolls of the manor of Halton, recently deposited at Aylesbury, may be accounted for by the fact that his grandson, Henry Bradshaw, purchased that lordship of Henry VIII.

Thomas Gurney, sometime of East Marsh in the parish of Great Kimble, was, for many years prior to his death, deputy sheriff for the counties of Beds., Bucks, and Oxon. He was evidently bred to the law and he seems to have followed his calling with considerable success, for he augmented his inheritance in East Marsh by the purchase of fairly extensive lands in Halton, Edlesborough and Weston Turville. One of the earliest of these purchases was made in 1438 when he acquired a messuage in Halton called Mountagues place "for the greater part newly built." Here he settled about 1452. He died in 1480 and his death was presented at the court held on Thursday before the Translation of St. Edward, King and Martyr (20th June). His third wife Joan, to whom he gave, by a deed which bears his signature dated 8th March 1480, an annuity of 20s. issuing out of his lands in Great Kimble and Stone;² survived him for many years and was still living in 1513 when, on her surrender, Henry Bradshaw was admitted to a grove of wood in Halton.

Both the documents are in Thomas Gurney's hand. The earlier records all that he could discover about his ancestors and kinsmen. The later, which was perhaps written about 1472, for the birth of his youngest daughter Alice seems to have been added subsequently; gives particulars of his own family.

The more important of his numerous interlineations and additions have been printed in italics.

So detailed and early a pedigree must be quite exceptional and, although it would have added little to his knowledge of his forebears, it is much to be regretted that Mr. Gurney did not live to see this remarkable account of his family.

ISTE LIBER COMPOSITUS FUIT DECIMO DIE JANUARI ANNO REGNI REGIS HVj^{ti} XXXVIJ

A certain Gurney had issue John Gurney the elder son and heir John Gurney the younger Robert Gurney of Stoke Edmund Gurney of Aspele and Geoffrey Gurney of Bisshoppeston

The aforesaid John Gurney the elder had issue Bartholomew Gurney de la Merssh son and heir Richard Gurney of Bisshoppeston and William Gurney of the same *the third son*

The aforesaid Bartholomew Gurney had issue Simon son and heir and Maud formerly the wife of William Kyngeston of Wendovere and Alice formerly the wife of John Cochyn late of Wendovere *and Agnes formerly married to John Broune late of Stoke Maundevyle*

The aforesaid Simon has issue Thomas Gurney of Halton William John and Joan formerly the wife of Simon Broun of Stoke Maundevyle *aforesaid son and heir of the aforesaid John Broune*

Maud Kyngeston sister of the same Simon Gurney had issue Henry Kyngeston son and heir

The same Henry Kyngeston had issue John and Maud the wife of Thomas Foord of Wendovere

The aforesaid Alice sister of the said Simon Gurney had issue *Cochyn late of London fishmonger*

Now follows of the abovesaid John the younger brother of the aforesaid John Gurney the elder

The same John Gurney the younger had issue Reginald Gurney late of Aylesbury son and heir

The same Reginald Gurney had issue William Gurney now of Bisshoppeston *son and heir*

The same William Gurney has issue *Richard Agnes married to Giles Fryday of Hadnam and Joan married to a certain Est of Radenage*

Now follows of Robert Gurney the third brother of the aforesaid John Gurney the elder

The same Robert Gurney of Stoke had issue John son and heir William and Mary formerly the wife of Thomas Medmenham late of Ascote in the parish of Monks Risburgh

John Gurney died without heir

William brother of the same John had issue William Gurney now of Stoke Maundevyle *son and heir Mary married to John Touressey of Weston Turvyle and Elizabeth married*

The aforesaid Mary Medmenham daughter of the said Robert had issue Joan formerly the wife of John Medhill *otherwise called Taillour otherwise called Clerk of Ascote aforesaid And they had issue Thomas Clerk son and heir*

Joan daughter of the same Mary has issue Thomas son and heir

Now follows of Edmund Gurney of Aspele the fourth brother of the aforesaid John Gurney the elder

The same Edmund Gurney had issue John Gurney the elder *of Aspele son and heir James Gurney late de la Mershe and John Gurney the younger late of Weston*

Turvyle married to Anne late daughter and heir of John Crystian and Joan his wife late of Weston aforesaid And the same John Gurney afterwards died and then the said Anne took as husband Thomas Wedon late of la Lye

John Gurney the elder *late of Aspele* had issue Joan the wife of Thomas Bulbek of Aspele

James brother of the same John had issue Edmund Gurney of Woddesdon and Thomas Gurney of Wendovere

John Gurney the younger of *Weston Turvyle* brother of the same James had issue James Gurney of Pottersrewe and *John³ Gurney late of Drayton Beauchamp*

Now follows of Richard Gurney brother of the aforesaid Bartholomew Gurney

Richard Gurney brother of Bartholomew had issue Robert Gurney⁴ now of Aylesbury and Agnes formerly the wife of John Sothecote of Hertwell

William Gurney brother of the same Richard and Bartholomew had issue Maud and Joan *co-heirs*

The same Maud took as husband William Cok late of Hertwell and they had issue Elizabeth *daughter and heir*

Elizabeth took as husband William Pardon and they had issue William son and heir of the said Elizabeth

The aforesaid Joan took as husband Thomas Kene now of Princes Risburgh and they had issue William Kene *of Princes Risburgh*

And Geoffrey Gurney the fifth brother died without heir.

(Membrane ends)

Memorandum that Thomas Gurney of Halton, son and heir of Simon Gurney formerly de la Mersshe in the parish of Great Kymbell in the county of Buckingham first married Agnes the daughter of Thomas Walrond of Wodesdon and Alice his wife And the nuptials between the said Thomas Gurney and Agnes were celebrated at Great Kymbell on Sunday the feast of St Anne the mother of the most blessed Virgin Mary Anno Domini mccccxliij and in the xxij year of the reign of King Henry VI

And afterwards the aforesaid Thomas Gurney and Agnes had issue between them to wit Alice the first born who was born at Est Merssh on Saturday the morrow of St Michael the archangel Anno Domini mccccxlvij *which certain Alice was married to a certain Thomas Kegill then of Edlesburgh near Dunstaple and they had issue between them to wit Joan⁵ the first born*

And the same Alice died at Eyton in the county of Bedford on Sunday to wit the xvij day of July Anno Domini mccccclxxix and in the xix year of the reign of King Edward IV And she is buried in of the same town of Eyton.

And also the said Thomas Gurney and Agnes had issue between them a certain Robert who was born at Halton on Saturday the xxvij day of September Anno Domini mccccxlix which certain Robert died at Astwyke the sixth day of April Anno Domini mcccccl and he is buried in the churchyard of Great Kymbell

And the aforesaid Agnes the wife of the said Thomas Gurney died at Halton on the sixth day of October Anno Domini mccccxlix and she is buried there in the churchyard

Memorandum also that afterwards the aforesaid Thomas Gurney married Margery Bernard the daughter of John Bernard formerly of Chepyng Wycombe And the nuptials between them were celebrated there on Sunday the thirteenth day of September Anno Domini mcccccl And the same Margery died on the morrow of the Apostles Simon and Jude then next following and she is buried in the churchyard of Wycombe aforesaid

And afterwards the same Thomas married Joan Brightwell formerly the daughter of William Brightwell of Cherdesele and Edith his wife And the nuptials between them were celebrated at London in the church of the parish of St Laurence in the Old Jewry London to wit on Monday the morrow of Holy Trinity on the feast of St Botolph abbot Anno Domini mccccliiij And they had issue between them to wit Edith the first born Agnes John Joan Marion William Elizabeth Thomas the elder Thomas the younger Alice

Memorandum that the aforesaid Edith Gurney was born at Halton on the morrow of St Barnabas the Apostle Anno Domini mccccv And she died at Halton on the xxvj day of August Anno Domini mcccclix

And the aforesaid Agnes sister of the same Edith was born on the xxvij day of August Anno Domini mcccclvj And she died on the xxvij day of September then next following

And the aforesaid John Gurney brother of the said Edith and Agnes was born at Halton the xxvj day of September Anno Domini mcccclvij And he died at Halton aforesaid on Thursday the ninth day of September Anno Domini mccccxxix And he is buried in the churchyard of Halton aforesaid near the south door of the same church

And the aforesaid Joan sister of the aforesaid Edith Agnes and John was born at Halton on the fourteenth day of September Anno Domini mccccx And she died without issue⁶

And the aforesaid Marion sister of the aforesaid Edith Agnes John and Joan was born at Halton on the fifth day of September Anno Domini mccccxii And she had issue Thomas and Elizabeth⁷

And the aforesaid William Gurney brother of the aforesaid Edith Agnes John Joan and Marion was born at Halton on the feast of the Decollation of St John the Baptist Anno Domini mccccxvj And afterwards he died at Oxford to wit on Saturday the twenty-first day of August Anno Domini mccccxxix and in the xix year of the reign of King Edward IV And he is buried at Oxford in the chapter house of the Carmelite brethren of the order of St Augustine called frere austyns

And the aforesaid Elizabeth sister of the aforesaid Edith Agnes John Joan Marion and William was born at Halton on the eve of the Nativity of the Lord Anno Domini mccccxviij And she died the last day of January Anno Domini mccccxxj

And the aforesaid Thomas the elder first above named brother of the aforesaid Edith Agnes John Joan Marion William and Elizabeth was born at Halton on the feast of the Conception of the blessed Virgin Mary Anno Domini mccccxx And he died there on the morrow of St Matthew the Apostle Anno Domini mccccxxj

And the aforesaid Thomas the younger second of the above named brother of the aforesaid Edith Agnes John Joan Marion William Elizabeth and Thomas was likewise

born on Tuesday the feast of the Conception of the blessed Virgin Mary Anno Domini mccccxij And afterwards he died at Halton aforesaid to wit on Monday the sixth day of September Anno Domini mccccxix and he is buried in the churchyard of Halton aforesaid And in the xix year of the reign of King Edward IV

And the aforesaid Alice⁸ sister of the aforesaid Edith Agnes John Joan Marion William Elizabeth Thomas and Thomas was born at Halton on the eighth day of October to wit then Tuesday Anno Domini mccccxxvj And in the xvj year of the reign of King Edward IV

(Membrane ends)

¹ On his death in 1947, a collection of charters, dating from the fourteenth to the seventeenth century, relating to his family, was given, in accordance with his wishes, to the Society.

² Aylesbury Deeds, 60/49.

³ John has been written over a partially deleted Richard.

⁴ He was the ancestor of the Gurneys of Bishopstone (Inq.p.m. William Gurney, 12 Henry VIII).

⁵ She married William Podyfat of Toternhoe. Aylesbury Deeds, 74/49.

⁶ The addition is in William Bradshaw's hand.

⁷ These children were by her first husband Thomas Sankey of Edlesborough. She married secondly Thomas Emery of Halton (Aylesbury Deeds, 74/49) and finally one Grene. She died 24 May 1522 (Inq.p.m. Marion Grene, 15 Henry VIII). The addition is in William Bradshaw's hand.

⁸ She married William Bradshaw and, with him, is commemorated by a brass in Wendover Church. Her will—now lost—was dated 31 December 1553 (Charity Commissioners' Report, 1815-1839).