

Papist Estates

Biographies

(compiled by Anthony Williams)

Mary ANNE

Descended via Thomas Anne of Sutton, Wiltshire from a West Riding Romanist family whose Wiltshire relatives (also of Grovely in Barford St Martin) were convicted of persistent recusancy under Charles II. Mary occurs in the 1706 papist returns and left a delectably Catholic will mentioning co-religionist families and alluding to a number of identifiable priests. The grouped surnames of Martin, Bannister, Cornforth and Coniers are those of clergy linked with Wiltshire and its adjoining counties. Mary's 'cousin' Bonaventure Codrington (brother of William) was certainly a priest and John Philipson may have been a Benedictine monk associated with Fonthill.

George BROOKMAN

Death in August 1766 of a George Brookman of Ansty aged 91 is recorded in the first Wardour mission register.

Sir George BROWN

4TH Baronet and third of the sons of Sir John Brown of Caversham, Oxon. Uncle and namesake was the grandfather of Arabella Fermor, the Belinda of 'The Rape of the Lock' in which Pope represents Sir George as the blustering beau Sir Plume. Brown had formerly been Lord of the Manor of Ludgershall which Sir George sold in 1703 but where a Lady Brown was living three years later. Almost exactly a year after this enrolment, itself a consequence of Catholic involvement with Jacobitism, Sir George's name headed a list of gentlemen arrested at Bath and sent under armed guard to London in the run-up to the 'Nineteen', the abortive Spanish-backed attempt to restore the Stuarts. Little more than ten year after this, Sir George died and was buried in the porch of St Paul's, Covent Garden.

Mary BUTT

Parish recusants of this name occur nearby at Ansty in Charles II's reign.

Francis CARNE

Francis Carne was a considerable citizen of Bath: lodging house keeper, playhouse owner and, in James II's reign, Master of King Edward VI's Grammar School. He died in 1721 bequeathing only this Wiltshire estate plus £10 in cash to 'my unfortunate son, Edward Carne', who did not himself re-register it though Elizabeth Guest, possibly his cousin, did so in 1727.

Edward CARY and Elizabeth, Dowager Countess of CASTLEHAVEN

Edward Cary was the son of Sir George Cary (d. 1678). Described as a 'very rigid papist' in November 1688 when William of Orange had his and other papists' premises searched for weapons and horses. He occurs in the 1705 papist returns for Exeter diocese. His support for the Jacobite cause gained him a portrait of James II and in 1717 he duly registered, as a papist, the ancestral estate in Devon. The Wiltshire properties had originally been part of the shared inheritance of his wife and her sister, the Countess of Castlehaven.

Cary/Castlehaven connection;

Edward Cary had married the younger of two daughters, Mary and Elizabeth, of Richard Barres or Pelson of St Andrews, Holborn and his wife, the widowed Countess of Sussex, heiress to the Forests of Pewsham and Blackmore which James I had granted to her father, the first Earl of Anglesey and which Mary and Elizabeth inherited jointly from him. After Mary Cary's death in 1709, the lands were split and 'by lott upon a dividend' (i.e. divided). The Melksham property fell to her sister, widow of the fifth Earl of Castlehaven and the Chippenham portion to Edward Cary. (They also divided some house property in London, each registering in 1717 half the income derived from it.) Edward Cary's holdings encompassed property close to Bowood Park or King's Bowood, an area excluded from the Jacobean grant, subsequently coveted by the second Earl of Shelburne for the improvement of his Bowood estate, an earlier owner of which, Sir Orlando Bridgeman, is mentioned in Edward Cary's enrolment. Reflected in his and his sister-in-law's enrolments are the original Anglesey connection with the undivided Wiltshire estate and the interest of the Countess of Aylesbury's second husband, the Hon Benjamin Weston while the proprietorship of her daughter, the Countess of Sussex, in both former Forests is noted. The ensuing Cary/Castlehaven ownership prior to Mary Cary's death is reflected in a lease of 1698 and in a document of 1700 wherein Edward Cary and Elizabeth 'widow and relict of James, Earl of Castlehaven late deceased' appoint Robert Tarrant, clothier, of Notton in Lacock as their Wiltshire steward. Another entry concerns the Countess's (and Mary Cary's) nephew the Earl of Cardigan, son of their half sister Lady Frances Savile (daughter of the Countess of Sussex's first marriage) who married Francis Lord Brudenell in 1688 and through whom the Savile estates in Yorkshire passed to that family. Edward Cary died in 1718 and the dowager Countess of Castlehaven in 1733, in which year their heirs re-registered their respective estates.

George CARY

Nephew and heir of George Cary who had died in September 1758. He was the son of the latter's brother William (d. 1750). He occurs in the Exeter diocesan return of papists in 1767 and later provided Catholics in the Torquay area with a chapel in the former guest hall of Torr Abbey. In this estate enrolment he includes a group of Bowood leases granted by his predecessor or trust but not registered by him.

Thomas CHAMPION

Connected with the Odstock recusant family of this surname. His widowed mother, Joan Champion of Odstock, mentions him in her will (dated 1719, proved 1726). In addition to the two holdings returned whose location is not stated, Thomas Champion registered a house at Wimbourne, Dorset and two houses in Great Newport Street,, London.

Francis COTTINGTON

Brother of John Cottington and grandson of Lord Cottington, Charles's I Chancellor of the Exchequer. Francis was awarded a Jacobite peerage by the Old Pretender in 1716 as Baron Cottington of Fonthill Gifford. In 1717 he registered estates in five other counties: Berkshire, Bucks (at West Wycombe where he died in 1728 shared with his brother John), Hants, Kent and Somerset.

William ESTCOURT

William Estcourt, son of Sir Thomas Estcourt (d. 1683) was Lord of the manor of Bremilham in the Hundred of Malmesbury and which included land in Brokenborough. He lived for a time at Cowage Farm and was brother to Thomas Estcourt (twice M.P. for Malmesbury) 'smeared' apparently mendaciously with allegations of a Catholicism derived from their father's second wife, which may better fit William Estcourt.

Edward FARNELL

In 1696 Edward Farnell, butler to Charles Cottington of Fonthill, had been indicted for concealing a papish priest, though proceedings were later dropped in response to his master's petition to the Privy Council. Ten years later he and his wife occurred in the papist returns for this parish and in 1717 Francis Cottington's estate enrolment includes in greater detail the same three properties, twice mentioning Farnell's wife, Anne. In 1721 Mr and Mrs Farnell are referred to in the correspondence of the priest then associates with Fonthill, Dom Obed Alban Dawney O.S.B., as is a 'house upon the Park Wall formerly William Furnell's' [ref Royal Archives].

Hon Elizabeth GODOLPHIN

The preamble refers to the 1722 Act (9 Geo I c24) requiring non-jurors to register their estates in the same manner as papists. Elizabeth proclaims herself to be 'a protestant and member of the Church of England well affected to his majesty and the present happy constitution and no waies concerned in continuing, setting up or supporting any rebellious insurrection or conspiracy whatsoever, but wanting capacity to understand the oaths prescribed to be taken by the statutes of the realm then passed and set down'. She also registered estates in Middlesex and Somerset, using a similar form of words. Her brother-in-law was Sidney, Lord Godolphin, Lord Treasurer under Queen Anne and her grandfather, Sir William Godolphin, a fervent convert to Rome, who died in Spain in 1696 surrounded by papists and Jesuits. Bequests following Elizabeth Godolphin's death in 1726 went towards the foundation of the Godolphin School in Salisbury and the beautifying of East Coulston church.

Elizabeth GUEST

This property had earlier been registered by Francis Carne whose sister Mary (a widow by 1720 with two daughters) had married Richard Guest and who herself occurs in a Grand Jury presentment of 1683 among eight Bath residents 'being reputed to be Papish Recusants'. If Elizabeth was their daughter, she was a cousin of the 'unfortunate son Edward' to whom Francis Carne had originally left this property in 1721.

Matthew HAYLOCK

Matthew Haylock is not in the Wiltshire papist return of 1706, probably because he was then domiciled at Breamore, Hants (for which no 1706 return survives). As butler to the late Lord Arundell; the latter so described him in a schedule of annuities to servants and others which gave Haylock and his wife £5 and £6 a year respectively free of 'any manner of taxes, ordinary or extraordinary or otherwise and his registration of these chargeable on the 5th baron's Herefordshire estate was subsequently cancelled by the Forfeited Estates Commissioners.

John HORTON

John Horton's father, Coplestone Horton, mentioned below, was the third son (born 1620) of an earlier John Horton of Woolverton who had married a Mary Coplestone. The John Horton of 1717 also registered in Somerset the family estate at Woolverton and he may be the papist of that name reported at Salisbury.

John HUSSEY

Father of the Marlborough Benedictine Edward Hussey. He was the nominal proprietor of the Benedictine run Bell Tree House in Bath (a lodging house containing a chapel) and on his death in 1736 this role passed to his son Giles, an artist patronised by Catholic families including the Arundells and Stourtons. One of his many likenesses of the Young Pretender hung at Wardour and may have been among the medals and pictures in the passage 'locked away at the time of the Forty-five'. In 1717 John Hussey registered estates in four counties: Wilts, Somerset (Bath property), Dorset (Nash Court, the family seat) and Cornwall.

Mary JENKINS

Described as of Breamore ,Hants, then the Arundell's principal residence when this lease was granted. Mary Jenkins was a member of that household. She is named as one of the servants to whom the fourth baron left tax-free annuities (the registration of hers was subsequently cancelled by the Forfeited Estates Commissioners) and is doubtless the Mrs Jenkins whose wages are recorded in the Arundell accounts shortly before an entry of expenses 'for 8 journeys from Breamore unto Wardour with goods', signifying the family's return to their Wiltshire seat in 1716. Mary Jenkins's annuity was registered in Herefordshire, it being then paid out of the 5th Lord Arundell's estates in that county. The register of Wardour Castle Mission records her death on 20 July 1744 and four years later the mentioned property passed into the hands of the English Jesuits.

Susanna KENION

There were Catholic Kenions (variously spelt) at Box, close to Bath, in the second half of the 17th century and in that city itself in the 18th century.

Abigail KINGSMILL

She also registered an estate in Berkshire in which county she was returned as a papist in 1706. For the descent of the manor of Cholderton acquired by the Kingsmills in the reign of Elizabeth, see VCH Wiltshire vol 15 p.73

George KNYPE

George Knype or Knipe and John his brother registered in 1724 in Somerset several properties and two annuities in compliance with the Registration Act of 1722.

Thomas KNYPE

Thomas Knype also registered in 1717 an income of £103 9s from properties in the adjoining county of Dorset. He was brother to the George Knype deceased mentioned in this enrolment and uncle to the brothers, George, John and Thomas Knype, all named in his will together with Edward, another brother.

Jeffery LODDER

He was one of four Lodders registering in Dorset properties at Stour Provost; a fifth Margaret Lodder of Ansty, described as a servant of Lord Arundell of Wardour, registered in Herefordshire an annuity from him, the registration being subsequently annulled by the Forfeited Estates Commissioners as twice registered.

William MOORE

Younger son of Sir Henry Moore of Fawley, Berks; son-in-law and trustee of Charles Wells of Brambridge, Hants; brother-in-law of Thomas Wells. He also registered estates in Berkshire (£100 of which was cancelled by the Forfeited Estates Commissioners as 'double registered') and in Hampshire (as Charles Wells's trustee). He was of the same Berkshire family as Francis Moore or More of Wootton Bassett.

James MORGAN

James Morgan also registered an estate in the West Riding of Yorkshire with which he had connections through his marriage to Mary, eldest daughter of Christopher Cresacre More (a descendant of St Thomas More) of Barnborough. Described both in his own will and in that of Lord Arundell's uncle, the then Henry Arundell (1720), as of Southampton Street, London, he was left £100 by the latter as well as the annuity here declared left to him by the third Lord Arundell (as stated in a memorandum by the 4th Baron) and recorded in the 5th Baron's estate enrolment. James Morgan's declaration was subsequently annulled by the Forfeited Estates Commissioners as duplicating Lord Arundell's own registration.

John NEWEL

The preamble refers to the Act of Parliament lately made i.e. 9 Geo I c24 requiring non-jurors as well as papists to register their estates. Upton Farm is shown on the map in VCH Wiltshire vol 11 and mentioned in the East Knoyle section of that work.

Ann PERKINS

Of Upton Court, Berks. Ann's stepson, Francis Perkins jnr, was stated in 1722 to have taken the oaths and his stepmother's transfer to him of much of her property resulted in a sizeable reduction in her assessment towards the Wiltshire quota of £100,000 levy or 'Papist' Tax imposed by 9 Geo I c.18. Other Perkins property at Steeple Langford was not registered in 1717.

[**Maurice Belson** witness. Maurcie Belson's role as a witness reflects his double marriage relationship with the Perkins family. Francis Perkins snr husband of Ann (above) had married as his first wife Katherine, daughter of Augustine Belson (briefly on of James II's Catholic Fellows of Magdalen College, Oxford) while Ann's eldest sister Mary (d. 1715) had married Maurice Belson who himself registered estates in Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire in 1717. An earlier member of this lastingly Catholic family was the young layman Thomas Belson executed at Oxford in 1598 for assisting priests.]

Miles PHILIPSON

Cousin, executor and residuary legatee of Mary Anne of the same place on whose death in 1726 he inherited the properties here re-registered. Mary Anne's will names another local Philipson cousin, John, probably a priest of that surname mentioned as being at Sutton Mandeville by a fellow

Benedictine who, writing in 1721, also sends 'my humble service to Mr Philipson and all at Sutton'. The Philipsons were a mainly Westmoreland family linked both with the Knypes (who likewise had a Wiltshire branch) and with the Arundells at Wardour through the marriage of the first baron to Anne, daughter of an earlier Miles Philipson (the Christian name is recurrent in the family). This Miles Philipson died in 1733 and was buried at Sutton Mandeville. An entry in that year in the Benefactors' Book of the English Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre then at Liege reads 'Mr Miles Philipson to pray for his soul £83 6s 2d'

Thomas PIPPEN

His property here enrolled appears to be Semley property in Lord Arundell's own estate enrolment, rented at 12s 4d a year to Thomas Phippen of Ansty, husbandman. A Thomas Pepin of Ansty died aged 91 years in January 17673.

John RING

He also registered a small estate in Hampshire, the county in which Plaitford lies. That manor was acquired by Sir Stephen Fox in 1679 and passed in 1716 to his son and namesake - the lord of the said manor - here referred to, eventually first Earl of Ilchester, uncle of Charles James Fox. In some lists and documents he appears as King. But the act that Ring is the correct surname is demonstrated not only by the unmistakable signature on his Wiltshire estate enrolment but also by Hampshire documentation in the National Archives and in the County Record Office at Winchester.

George Talbot SHREWSBURY (Commonly called Earl of Shrewsbury)

Son of Hon. George Talbot and not yet Earl of Shrewsbury when on coming of age he made this estate registration. He was a nephew of the Jesuit 13th Earl, then still living, on whose death in July 1743 he succeeded to the title, exemplifying its failure to descend from father to son for two centuries. His brothers James and Thomas Talbot became Catholic bishops - vicars apostolic of the London and Midland Districts respectively - and his devout and philanthropic widow Elizabeth (nee Horner) kept a Catholic chaplain at Lacock with whom and members of her household she took the oath required by the Catholic Relief Act of 1791. Her chaplain, George Witham, produced on his printing press at Lacock Abbey, a quarto 'History of Lacock Abbey or Locus Beatae Mariae' (1806) dismissed as 'a sorry performance' by the respected priest-antiquary Dr George Oliver of Exeter.

Charles Talbot SHREWSBURY , Earl of

15th Earl, nephew and heir of George Talbot (above), he was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, was of a retiring and studious disposition and was not only 'much addicted to music and mechanics' but was also involved as, even more so, was his own nephew and heir the 16th Earl in that transfiguration of their Staffordshire estate (Alton Abbey or Towers with its associate buildings and grounds) which came so spectacularly to embody a romantic view of Catholic medievalism with assorted embellishments.

Hon George Talbot SHREWSBURY (Commonly called Earl of Shrewsbury)

Cousin of the 12th Earl who had renounced Catholicism in 1679, signed the invitation to William of Orange in 1688, received a dukedom (which expired with him) in 1694 and signed the proclamation off the Elector of Hanover as King George I in 1714. On his death in 1788, the earldom of Shrewsbury passed to his cousin Gilbert Talbot, a Catholic priest and Jesuit (alias Grey in 1743) who

although entitled to do so, never assumed that title and it was his younger brother the Hon George Talbot who, following the Duke's death, although no entitled to adopt the earldom 'did pretend to it' and made the estate registration here enrolled (but signed G. Talbot). The Hon George died in 1733 and it was his son and namesake (b. Dec 1791) who, upon coming of age, made the next registration in 1741, two years before succeeding to the title.

Bartholomew SMITH

Bartholomew Smith (the third of that name) who also registered properties in Hampshire and Sussex, was a nephew of the Roman Catholic prelate Bishop James Smith, James II's appointee as first vicar apostolic of the Northern District of England. This manor had been acquired from the Tichbornes by an earlier Bartholomew Smith and it subsequently devolved via two daughters of Bartholomew Smith III first upon Alexander Wells and then upon the Sheldons, another Catholic family.

Thomas STOURTON 14th Baron of Stourton

He was the Benedictine educated 14th Lords Stourton who had succeeded to the barony on the death of his brother Edward in 1726 and the delayed enrolment may arise from the Registration Act of 1722. His wife, mentioned, was his distant cousin Elizabeth Stourton of Overmoigne, Dorset. As the Hon Thomas Stourton he had purchased the fee simple of the manor of Bonham in the parish of Stourton which he had registered in Somerset in 1717 and which he had settled on his heirs, providing the family with a footing in the locality after the sale of Stourton House (later demolished by Henry Hoare and replaced by Stourhead) and their maintenance of a Catholic chapel and a resident priest is reflected in the consistently impressive papist returns. The great grandfather was William 11th Lord Stourton.

William TICHBORNE

William Tichborne provided the two Wiltshire estate enrolments, the first in 1729/30, the second in 1743/4. The Tichbornes were a notable recusant family, connected by marriage with other such families including the Arundells of Wardour and registered estates in Hampshire and Surrey in 1717. William Tichborne and his brother, Michael, had purchased the first estate from the former's father-in-law Henry Eyre in 1722 and William later came into possession of the second, a former Eyre estate at Etchilhampton, originally registered by Henry's widow Susan (nee Eyre) on the same occasion and re-registered by William Tichborne fourteen years later. A further registration including both estates was subsequently made by William's son, another Michael and this shows that the former was still alive in April 1757 but died before the end of 1760 when his son refers to him as deceased.

[**Wadham Locke** Witness. A Devizes attorney. The same names were borne by subsequent members of the family including the borough M.P. (d.1835) in the first reformed Parliament. Correspondence re. an abortive sale (negotiated by Wadham Locke) of William Tichborne's Etchilhampton estate to William Wyndham of Salisbury in 1752. Tichborne hoped for about £4,500, Wyndham's offer was £3,800. The estate remained with the Tichbornes and was registered by William's son Michael in January 1761.]

Michael TICHBORNE

Eldest son of William Tichborne who had previously registered those properties which passed to Michael on his marriage in 1759 to Mary Sayer of Yarm in the North Riding of Yorkshire, an historic

recusant centre close to Stockton-on-Tees where the couple lived from roughly that date. In the 1767 papist return for the diocese of Durham they were stated to have been resident in Stockton-on-Tees for 7 years, to be aged 38 and 39 years respectively and to have an eight year old daughter Teresa (the return also mentions a Michael Tichborne, a 50 year old labourer.) Michael Tichborne died in the early 1790s and his widow in 1805. Meanwhile Teresa had succeeded to these Wiltshire estates which she sold in 1797.

Catherine and Mary WATSON

The Watson family of Besford Court near Pershore are represented in the 1717 estate enrolments not only by Catherine and Mary but also by William Watson who registered estates in three counties (Leicestershire, Shropshire and Staffordshire) and whose wife Helena is doubtless one of the witnesses to the original register of which the enduing document is the enrolled version, as her husband was in the case of Mary Watson.

Sir John WEBB

Third baronet also of Hatherop, Gloucester and elsewhere. He remained wealthy despite his strong Romanist and Jacobite associations and registered estates not only in Wiltshire but many other counties – Berkshire, Dorset, Durham, Gloucester, Hampshire, Lincolnshire, London and Middlesex. Northants, Oxfordshire, Sussex and Yorkshire North Riding. Registrations in 1723 by Sir John Webb (Lincolnshire) and John his son (Berks and Northants) are in the National Archives E174/1/17. Wiltshire 776/759 comprises genealogical and other papers relating to this family including the McKnight scandal.

Sir Thomas WEBB

Fourth baronet, second son of Sir John Webb whose elder son and namesake predeceased him. Sir John's second wife and widow Helen nee Moore survived him and is mentioned as Sir John's Lady in this estate enrolment which is dated 25 September 1746 and which incorporates a copy of Sir Thomas's warrant of attorney. A Wiltshire lease dated 30 June 1746 (to Roger Jefferys of Salisbury, yeoman WRO 490/424) appears to have escaped enrolment – it involves buildings and lands at Homington for the lives of himself, his nephew John Jefferys aged 8 years and James Mitchell of Coombe Bissett, innholder, aged 30. Rent 1s a year. Fine one guinea.

Sir John WEBB

5th baronet. This Sir John Webb, one of the greatest landowners in England, married Mary, daughter of Thomas Salvin of Easingwold, but had no legitimate male issue and, being displeased with the marriage of his only brother Joseph Webb of Welford, Northants, he cut the entail of the family estate. Sir John Webb had a number of illegitimate children and though he bequeathed the more important of his possessions to his only legitimate daughter, Barbara afterwards Countess of Shaftesbury, he devised Raskelf manor and his other Yorkshire estates to a natural son, James Webb.

Thomas WELLS

Second surviving son and executor of Charles Wells (d.1698) of an ancient Hampshire recusant family whence came the Catholic schoolmaster Swintin Wells executed in 1591 who, for a time, kept a clandestine school at Monkton Farliegh and Mrs Barabara Skilling (nee Webb, the 'Valiant Woman' who many years later sheltered priests in her house at Wilcot and whose 'church stuff', implying a

secret chapel, is mentioned in her will. Thomas Wells's £200 annuity out of the manor of Heddington is included as an 'incumbrance' on that estate at the end of its registration by his father's son-in-law and trustee, William Moore, and was recorded by the Forfeited Estate Commissioners as 'twice registered' to be deducted from the total of the rents of the county. His father's will included bequests to Theodore Lewis, gentleman, identifiable as the family's Jesuit chaplain and to Sir Charles Ingleby, serjeant at law, a leading Catholic lawyer.

Simon WHITE

Describe as 'my servant' by Lord Arundell who left him an annuity of £12 chargeable on his Herefordshire estate, registered in that county in 1717, the registration being subsequently cancelled by the Forfeited estates Commissioners. As well as this estate Simon White (described as 'gentleman' in both instances) also registered in Hampshire a house in the Arundell manor of Ringwood. A 'Mr White' then of Breamore, Hants was mentioned c. 1709 in a Jesuit memorandum concerning an advantageous property transaction and a Simon White was enrolled a year later, with members of the Rabbits family (later to occur in the Wardour mission register) in the rosary fraternity under the auspices of the English Dominicans – evidently a devout Catholic. As this estate enrolment indicates, Simon White was based at Wardour by 1717 like his fellow servant Mary Jenkins and his death there in December 1722 aged 50 is recorded on a memorial inscription at Winchester.

Charles WOOLMER

In 1696 while steward of the Cottington's Fonthill estates he had been indicted with Edward Farnell the butler for failing to disclose the presence of a priest (however the case was dropped as a 'malitious prosecution') and ten years later he and his wife occur in the papist return for the parish of Fonthill Gifford. He died 31 January 1718/9 bequeathing ten pounds to the poor of the neighbourhood and naming his widow, Mary Woolmer (73, possibly his second wife as her own estate enrolment mentioned Charles Woolmer's deceased wife) as his residuary legatee after the bequests, one being to his sister Mary Berkeley who married the Catholic Thomas Berkeley of Spetchly, Worcs, younger brother of the protestant Robert Berkely whose widow married Gilbert Burnet, Bishop of Salisbury.