

The Manor of Alderton

Its owners and some historical
connections

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2004

[This online version last updated December 08]

Lackham Museum of Agriculture and Rural Life Trust

Acknowledgements

I must express my very sincere thanks to the great number of people who have been so helpful and generous with their time:

- Gina Douglas, Librarian & Archivist to the Linnean Society
- Dr. Kate Harris, Librarian & Archivist to the Marquess of Bath
- Dr. Lorna Haycock, Sandwell Librarian and Archivist at WANHS (join them today)
- Mr. James, Librarian at the Society of Antiquaries
- June, the Countess Badeni
- Dr. Peter Sherlock
- Mike Stone, Manager & Curator, Chippenham Heritage Centre & Museum
- Stella Vain and the Library staff at Wiltshire College, Lackham
- Keith Woodman
- Ron Cleevely

And the Librarians and Archivists at

- Chippenham Library
- The National Art Library, Victoria & Albert Museum, London
- The British Library, London
- Wiltshire County Local History Library at Trowbridge
- Wiltshire County Record Office

Thanks to you all.

Finally I must thank my partner Lynne Thomson for her support, help and understanding, and for uncomplainingly listening to far too many cases of "guess what I've just found"! It must have got tedious.

The Family Trees were produced using WinGenea v1.7, an effective and, above all, *simple* shareware program. These were then transferred into Treedraw and the selected portions refined using Paint (it's longwinded but gives reasonable results!)

Tony Pratt, Chippenham, 2002, 2008

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All coats of arms are by the author, following published blazons. Although these arms are as accurate as I can make them, no claim can be made for the legitimacy of any of the Arms depicted.

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Alderton

The early history of Alderton is unclear; the area has been inhabited for a very long time, in common with most of Wiltshire. There is evidence for stone age occupation - the butt of a Neolithic stone axe was found near Drews Pond ¹ and three undated flint implements ² were found east of the village. Indications of a possible Iron Age settlement have been found ³ in the opposite direction, just north of the lane leading towards Hebden Leaze. There are other, undated, field-system features in the nearby areas that *may* relate to these pits. There is little Roman evidence, only two Romano-British finds are known ⁴; this lack probably indicates little activity during this period.

Although few Saxon remains have been found, the area was important. Malmesbury housed one of the Royal Mints and Alderton was certainly a settlement in Saxon times - the church has Saxon pillars and doors ⁵. From the fact that the Church is dedicated to St Giles it is certain that its dedication was not earlier than the eighth century; St Giles was an Abbot of the 8th century. He is said to have been an Athenian noble named Gidius who visited France in 715 and stayed for two years with Caesarius, the Bishop of Arles. The story goes that he lived in retirement as a hermit and was "*nourished by the milk of a hind in the forest*". The King of France hunted this hind, which took shelter at St Giles' feet in the hermitage. The

¹ SMR ST88SW102, (Devizes Museum Day Book 1584)
Neolithic is defined as being between 4000 and 2500 BC

² ST88SW550

³ ST88SW616, "*circular feature west of Alderton, an undated ring ditch visible on aerial photograph associated with possible settlement site*" and also crop signs of four small ring pits

⁴ ST88SW303 *an enamelled bronze plate brooch in the form of a hen, and part of a bronze fleur de lyes key handle Romano-British 43-410 CE*

⁵ Thomson, James (undated, but before 1845) *On the hagioscope and other parts of Alderton Church*, original publication unknown, from a copy included in Thomson, James (1845) *Alderton*, which is a photocopy of Thomson's notebook, Wiltshire Local History Library, Trowbridge, BRN 0429263 LUC

king afterwards built a monastery on the site and made Gidius abbot. He died aged 80 and was buried in the abbey ⁶.

Thomson ⁷ was of the opinion that the church was late ninth or early tenth century in foundation. It was extensively rebuilt in the eighteen forties, see below.

After the Norman Conquest the major part of the Manor of Alderton was held by two lords -

Hugh holds Alderton from Drogo. Eldric held it before 1066; it paid tax for three hides. Land for 3 ploughs of which 2 hides and three virgates of land are in lordship; 1 plough there, with 1 slave [feruo]; 2 smallholders [bordars]

*From one part of a mill, 22s; meadows, 15 acres
The value is and was 60s ⁸*

But also

⁶ Thomson, James (undated, but before 1845) *On the hagioscope and other parts of Alderton Church*, original publication unknown, from a copy included in Thomson, James (1845) *Alderton*, which is a photocopy of Thomson's notebook, Wiltshire Local History Library, Trowbridge, BRN 0429263 LUC

Thomson goes on to say that "*St Giles is esteemed the patron saint of cripples from his refusing to be cured of accidental lameness that he might be enabled to mortify himself more completely. Saints day Sept 1st*"

⁷ Thomson J (<1845) *ibid* reproduced as Appendix A in Anon (1995) *Alderton: A brief History of Alderton in Wiltshire* etc

⁸ Thorn, Caroline & Thorn, Frank (eds) (1979) *Domesday Book: vol 6 Wiltshire* in the series *History From the Sources: Domesday Book* Morris, John (gen.ed.) Philimore, Chichester pp 41-9.

It is interesting that the original text uses *feruo/ferui*, which is usually translated as "serf/ serfs" and is here given as "slaves" (Although not a great deal of difference, but see Jones Rev Prebendary WHJ (1865) *Domesday in Wiltshire* for discussion. A more literal translation of this term is given as *fierce, wild, savage, untamed*

<http://www.sunsite.ubc.ca/LatinDictionary/HyperText/f.html>

Richard holds 3 hides in Aldritone from Ralph: Walter also holds 1 hide. Alric, Godwin, Algar and Godric held it in the time of Edward: it paid tax for 4 hides. Land for 4 ploughs. There are 4 villagers [uitti] 5 smallholders [bordars] and 2 slaves [feruui]. A mill at 37d: meadow, 25 acres in Malmesbury 1 burgess pays 7d. It was and is valued at 60s⁹

The tenant in chief, holding directly from the King, was Roger de Mortimer, while Hugo held his part of the Manor from Drogo FitzPoynz (Drogo son of Poynz).

⁹ Thorn & Thorn (1979) *ibid* p49-3

The Mortimer and Poyntz families

(1084 - 1240)

The Mortimer family mainly held land in the Welsh Marches and their history is intimately tied up with that area and the centuries long period when England was absorbing Wales, not without serious and effective resistance from the Welsh. Alderton can never have been a major part of their concerns, but they held for a long time. They had land in the area in the mid thirteenth century and beyond: Ralph de Mortemer held Tockenham, Bradfield, Surrendell and Alderton in knights fee in 1242-3¹⁰. The Mortimores were involved with affairs that affected the entire kingdom, and this entanglement with the great and the not-so-good resulted in the "*ignominious end of the first Earl of March in 1330*"¹¹ although the family held on to it's Wiltshire estates until later.

The Poyntz's had much more local connections and it seems possible that they held the Manor until late in the fourteenth century. The family was mainly located in the west and south of Gloucestershire and the north of Wiltshire right from the Conquest.

Written records for the village do not start before the thirteenth century - one of the earliest is dated 1249, a report of the Wiltshire Eyre (Court) -

*William Pache was found drowned in a marl pit in Kyngeswet. The first finder comes and is not suspected. Judgement : misadventure. The townships of Aldrinton' Lukinton' Sopeworth and Kyngeswod did not come fully to the inquest etc so they are in mercy*¹²

that is Alderton was fined for not sending the correct number of people to the Eyre.

¹⁰ Victoria County History for Wiltshire (henceforth VCH *Wiltshire*) ii pp111-112

¹¹ McKisack M (1959) *The Fourteenth Century 1307 - 1399* The Oxford History of England, OUP p255

¹² Meekings CAF (ed) (1961) *Crown Pleas of the Wiltshire Eyre 1249* WANHS Record Branch Vol XI no 195

Court records are some of the earliest that survive, and provide information on people living in the area.

In the early part of the fourteenth century the country suffered from wandering groups of bandits who were commonly called "trailbastons"¹³. Commissions were set up to hear trials concerning them and were commonly called by the same names; they were officially "*commissions of oyer and terminer*". The first trailbaston commission for Wiltshire, appointed in 1305, comprised William Martin, Henry Spigurnel¹⁴, Gilbert de Knovill, Roger de Beufoy and Thomas de la Hyde (who was later replaced by Thomas de Snyterton). Some Alderton residents featured in these courts:

In 1305 there was a fracas at Alderton, when Philip le Clerk of Newetton was apparently assaulted. The Justices of the commission sat in May 1305, when Adam de la Forde, a knight, was accused of "*beating, wounding and ill-treating*" Philip, because Philip took the part of Sir John le Dun against Adam's mother in law, Agnes de Perci. What the dispute was about is unknown. Nothing is known for certain about Philip but there is a record of a Philip, the *clerk of Nieuton*, being fined half a mark for not attending a court in 1276, 29 years earlier¹⁵.

¹³ Pugh RB (ed) (1978) *Wiltshire Gaol delivery and Trailbaston results* WRS vol XXXIII, p5

because they "trailed" or carried "bastons" or clubs.

¹⁴ Henry Spigurnel (1263? - 1328) has an entry in the DNB vol XVIII pp809-810. The name Spigurnel was originally given to the court officer who sealed the writs in chancery, and probably the post was hereditary, hence the surname. Henry sat in the Parliaments of Edward I and II and was appointed a Justice of Oyer and Terminer on 15 April 1300. In February 1311 he was sent to the papal court, accompanied by John de Benstede and he acted overseas at other times. In the "Outlaws Song of Traillebaston" Spigurnel and Roger de Bella Fargo (*gent de cruelte*) are contrasted with William Martyn and Gilbert de Knovill (*gent de piete*). Spigurnel lived at Kenilworth and was lord of towns in 5 counties and had property in two others.

¹⁵ Pugh RB (ed) (1978) *Wiltshire Gaol delivery and Trailbaston results* WRS vol XXXIII p59 no 173, in the section titled *Delivery in 6 Edw 1 by W. le Dwne, H of the marsh and Roger de Calestone*

William Hamelyn of Devizes was also charged with attacking Philip and "breaking his arm"¹⁶ and in July 1305 it came to a trial by jury at Wilton - a long trek in the fourteenth century - when Philip brought charges of assault against six people (but not, interestingly, Adam de la Forde). At this court

Nicholas de Percy, William de Percy, Gilbert de Wyk¹⁷, Peter de Eketon, John le Vox, William Hamelyn and Agnes de Percy were attached to answer Philip le Clerk, of Nyweton, in a plea of trespass, whereon Philip complains that on Thursday in Easter week 32 Ewd I [2 Apr 1304] at Aldryngton they beat and wounded him, broke his left arm, broke two ribs on the left side and threw him in the stew [pond]¹⁸ there and inflicted other enormities to his damage in £20 and more and thereon he brings his suit¹⁹

Trespass was not the offence meant by the term today, it is nearer to the meaning of the line in the Christian Lord's Prayer "forgive those who

¹⁶ Pugh RB (ed) (1978) *Wiltshire Gaol delivery and Trailbaston results* WRS vol XXXIII, p110 no 607

William Hamelyn of Devizes, for beating, wounding, and ill-treating Philip de Neweton and breaking his arm against the peace etc at Aldryngton of malice aforethought.

William was obviously a rough character - in the same period, but in the *still* of Bedewynd, Melksham etc he was indicted for "beating, wounding, and ill-treating Nicholas Payn against the peace etc" p113, no 658

¹⁷ This may indicate he came from Wick, but there was a de Wik family in the area at the time - in 1276 "Walter de Wik, was tithingman of Lacok of William Bluet's part. It is noted that this is not the first time the de Wik family has been seen - [In about 1264] Richard de Wik was a witness to two of the agreements between William Bluet and Beatrice abbess of Lacock" (Pratt, T 2002 *The Manor of Lackham*, 2nd edition, pp 22), and later on "Agnes de Wyke was abbess of Lacock between 1380 and 1403" (VCH *Wiltshire* vol IV p315)

¹⁸ a shallow pond that was used to hold fish temporarily until they were wanted for the Manor table

¹⁹ Pugh RB (ed) (1978) *Wiltshire Gaol delivery and Trailbaston results* WRS vol XXXIII section *Roll of plaints for Wyltes'* probably from a court held at Wylton, co Wyltes', Friday after the quindene of St John the Baptist 33 Edw I [9 July 1305] p127 no 811,

trespass against us" ie those who do us wrong, and it was a common offence.

It is noted that two male members of the de Percy family were indicted as well as Agnes.

The jurors found all the defendants not guilty except William Hamelyn, and fined Philip 10d for "*for a false claim*". William Hamelyn, however, was guilty of everything except breaking Philip's arm (one wonders whether they thought the arm wasn't broken but the ribs were or that person or persons unknown were responsible?) and William was sentenced to prison. Philip was awarded damages of 40s. A year later, in the commission court of September 1306, William was back in trouble:

"William Hamelyn of Devizes with others unknown, for breaking the bishop of Salisbury's park at Poterne and thence carrying away a doe against the peace" ²⁰

William didn't turn up - later on in that year he was one of the people that the sheriff of Wiltshire, John de Gerberd of Odstock ²¹ was ordered to catch and hold because they hadn't appeared to answer similar charges, including one William Poyntz. ²²

²⁰ Pugh RB (ed) (1978) *Wiltshire Gaol delivery and Trailbaston results* WRS vol XXXIII in the section *Indictments of Wiltshire done at Wilton before W Martyn, H Spigurnel, and their fellows, justices of oyer and terminer in that county, Friday the morrow of Michaelmas 32 Edw I* [30 Sept 1306]

The same event was referred to in a record for a court for Swanbrugg, Bishop's Rouborough, Bishop's Cannyng and Remmesbury, no 970 p 147, where the charges read *William Hamelyn of Devizes and Robert Bysshop of Bromham for breaking the Bishop of Salisbury's park at Poterne and there hunting and taking a doe*

This would have been Bishop Simon of Ghent (1297-1315), the earliest Bishop for whom registers survive. Payne, N (2002) *A Recent Geophysical Survey on the Site of the Residence of the Medieval Bishops of Salisbury at Potterne* WAM 95, p275

²¹ Jackson, Rev JE (1857) *The Sheriff's of Wiltshire* WAM III p197

²² Pugh RB (ed) (1978) *Wiltshire Gaol delivery and Trailbaston results* WRS vol XXXIII p160 no 1130

His relationship to the family holding Alderton at this time is unknown. This wayward sheep of the Poyntz family had failed to turn up when charged with taking deer from the King's park at *Cosham*²³ (Cosham in Hants? or more likely Corsham?)

At the same time there is mention of one Simon le Serjaunt, who stole 3 oxen from William Wyot of Lokynton (Luckington) and 2 oxen from John le White²⁴. Simon failed to attend and so also appears in a restraint order, later in the same year, along with two other men of Alderton, Richard de Laz²⁵ and John, son of William, Broun²⁶. They were three out of a total of 39 people in the same order.

To answer for divers trespasses of parks and stews and of conspiracy, on Monday after the Octave of Michaelmas [10 Oct 1306] as they had failed to appear successively on the Monday after Michaelmas [3 Oct 1306] and the octave of Michaelmas [6 Oct 1306]: Henry de Cumb, Richard, son of Olive, of Bath, Richard atte Mere, Ralph de Cumb, Walter de Westwell, Nicholas Messenger, who was with Henry de Cumb, William Hamelyn of Devizes, John nephew of the vicar of Stippelavyngton, Simon Turketil, William Poyntz son of Nicholas parson of Bradeford, Walter de Hertrygg, William Baxman the younger and Robert Bysshop of Bromham. They have no chattels

.The six before William Hamelyn were charged to appear in court for "breaking the earl of Cornwall's park of Cosham, and thence taking away 20 bucks and does", same indictments, p143, no 926

²³ Pugh RB (ed) (1978) *Wiltshire Gaol delivery and Trailbaston results* WRS vol XXXIII p no 931

²⁴ Pugh RB (ed) (1978) *ibid* the same court at Wilton, no936, p 143. It is noted that the White family were important in the area several centuries later, when they bought Grittleton from the Gore family.

²⁵ Pugh RB (ed) (1978) *ibid* p149, no 999 *Richard le Laz of Aldryngton stole 12 sheep at Heldebury and is a common thief*

²⁶ Pugh RB (ed) (1978) *ibid* p160, no 1129. John Broun was accused of stealing *seven shepp at Grutlynton (Grittleton?) and is a common thief* (Pugh RB (ed) (1978) *ibid* p149, no 1001)

The Clifford family

(1240 - 1382)

Shortly after this the Manor was owned by another branch of the Poyntz family, the Cliffords, who were certainly descended from the first English generation of the Poyntz family and, according to Jackson, held Alderton

*Aldrington was held of the Crown by the Mortimers at the Domesday Survey, afterwards by the Cliffords of Clifford's Castle. Under these the principal estate belonged to William Hartham*²⁷

It is known that Henry de Hertham held²⁸ in 1242-43 but details of others are rare. However in March, 1316, King Edward II sent to all the Sheriff's of England asking

"what cities, boroughs and townships there were in each Hundred or Wapentake, and who were the Lords thereof"

The return for Wiltshire shows the owners of *Aldrynton* as Johannes de Hertham [*John of Hartham*], Hugo de Davereswell and Robert de Harlegh²⁹. The Hartham family held for some time, and as late as 1442 they were still remembered - some lands in the Manor, then occupied by Ralph Ivy of another important northern Wiltshire family, were

*Charged from ancient time with providing one chaplain to celebrate Divine Service in the Church of Aldrington for the souls of the ancestors of Lord Hartham*³⁰

²⁷ Jackson, Rev Canon JE (1862), editing Aubrey's *Topographical Collections, I North Wiltshire* in a footnote to Aubrey's text, p51

²⁸ VCH Wiltshire vol II pp 111-112

²⁹ Jones, Rev WH (1870) *The Nomina Villarum for Wiltshire 9th Edw II (1316)* **WAM** vol XII no XXXIV p 23

³⁰ Jackson, Rev Canon JE (1862), editing Aubrey's *Topographical Collections, I North Wiltshire* in a footnote to Aubrey's text, p51

In the 14th century Alderton was a small farming community based around the Great Field system of Mediaeval agriculture, with the land divided up into strips of about half an acre and people holding strips spread around the fields to even out the possession of good and bad land. These field strips can still be seen in today's landscape as the undulating features known as "ridge and furrow"

There are records that give details of this type of landholding, and several survive for Alderton, one from 1317 ³¹. From this it is known that Alderton had at least two great Fields, the East and the West, although the total extent of these areas is unknown. The East Field lay to the east of the church, between the village and what is now the Sherston Road ³²; presumably the other lay opposite.

In a deed dated 29th November 1317, *John atte Hurne* granted the lands of his grand father (John Gyleberd) to his son, also John.

"to wit five acres ad a half in the east field. And six acres and a half and one rood in the west field to the aforesaide town of Aldrynton adjacent. Whereof in the east field a half acre lies in Lyncroft, between land of Parnel (Petronelle) daughter of the lady Joan of Walton

³¹ Page-Turner F A (1916) *Six deeds etc Put into English. Relating to Alderton co wilts presented, with others to the Wilts. Arch. and Nat. Hist. Soc* Wilts N & Q vol VIII 1914-1916 pp 308-309.

At least three of these deeds are held in Wiltshire CRO (CRO 212B/ 15 - 17), they came there via WANHS, to whom they had been donated by Page-Turner. In 1933 Mr Cunnington of WANHS sent the deeds to the Rev Budgen, who ran the Sussex Archaeological Society's Deeds and Documents department. Their correspondence is also held at the CRO (CRO 211B/A1 1-3) which includes Budgen's translation of the deeds, which he thought "*might be helpful...as they are so full of field names that they ought to be important to anyone working on the place concerned*".

Witnesses to this deed were Thomas de Pedeworth, John de Corvele, Nicholas Elys, John de Pedeworth and William Levyot

³² I hadn't noticed this on previous visits to the village, but on the eve of the new Millennium there was water lying in the fields from heavy rain during the previous two weeks, and the ridge and furrow showed up very plainly.

and land of John Seman. And a half acre lies at Chastles between land of William Sporon and land of Nicholas Ruffyn. And a half acre lies at Arleye between land of Robert Lycame and land of Henry Palmer. And a half acre lies at Smalstret between land of Richard Eode and land of the late John de Hertham. And a half acre lies at Langebyschoprithi between land of Henry Magan and land of John de la Hurn. And a half acre lies at Eitacram next land of John Seman. And a half acre lies at Ordwell next land of John of Pedeworth. And a half acre lies at "le Brewe" next land of Nicholas Wymark. And a half acre lies in Schertebischoprithi next land of the abbot of Kyngewod. And one rood lies at "la Grenesplotte" next land of Henry la Palmar. And a half acre lies in "le Medlond" next land of Henry la Palmar. And one rood lies in "le Banforlong" next land of the abbot of Kyngeswod."

and so on for the West field as well. It is interesting that one of the strips is said to have belonged to the *late* John de Hertham. Was this the same John mentioned in the Sheriff's return above?

Little has been learnt of the areas mentioned, but the area known as *Schertebischoprithi* may have been the *Bishopstree* and *Bishopstree Meade* (covering about 3 acres) of 1665³³. In 1665 *Castles* may have been known as *Chesseils*, if so some was owned by the Parson of Luckington and the Lord of Luckington, the two owning between them just over 13 acres³⁴. There was also a "*Castle weir*" in Surrenden of about 12 acres³⁵. In 1839 there were two fields, to the north west of the village, known as "*Chiswells*",

³³ Jacob C (1665) *Manors of Wiltshire* in the section titled *An Exact And Perfect Survey And View Of Surrenden In The Hundred Of Chippenham In The County Of Wilts 17 Chas II AD 1665* W&SHC 1909

³⁴ Jacob C (1665) *ibid* in the section titled *An exact and perfect survey and view of the manor of Aldrington or Alderton in the hundred of Chippenham In The County Of Wilts*

³⁵ Jacob C (1665) *ibid*

covering just over 8 acres³⁶. Interestingly they were occupied by William Palmer, is it this Palmer a descendent of the Palmer or Palmar mentioned five hundred years earlier?

John atte Hurne appears in a later deed³⁷, transferring to "*Robert Welle, his wife Margaret and their son Robert thirteen and a half acres of arable and meadow lying in the fields of Aldrynton*". One of the witnesses to this deed was Thomas de Pedeworth, possibly the *mesne* tenant from whom the Gore's bought Alderton in 1382. He was also witness to the third of the deeds mentioned, dated Pentecost, 1378³⁸

³⁶ *Tithe map of the Parish of Alderton 1839 W&SHC*

³⁷ Wiltshire CRO 212B/16

Dated "*Monday, the Feast of St Vincent, 31 Edw III*" (22 January 1358)

Witness to this deed, as well as Thomas, were Walter Hardyng, John Beneton, John Vicar of Schorston (Sherston or Corston?) and John Serjant. The Serjants are a family that appear here and there in North Wiltshire history and even in the 1850's the chief tenant farmer at Alderton itself was named David Sergant.

³⁸ Wiltshire CRO 212B/17

Walter Hardyng also witnessed this deed (along with William Walshe and Nicholas Wakur)

The Gore family

(1382 - 1714)



Fig. 1 Arms of the Gore family
(After Buckeridge)³⁹ [***](#)

³⁹ Buckeridge, D (1995) *Church Heraldry in Wiltshire*
or, three bulls heads cabossed sable. Thomas Gore, in his 1666 work shows the heads
with red, lolling tongues but these are not mentioned in the blazon for these arms

Much of the early history of Alderton is known from the writings of the seventeenth century antiquarian, Thomas Gore ⁴⁰ and the nineteenth century historian the Rev Canon JE Jackson, who did so much to preserve and publish Wiltshire's history. Much of Jackson's work on Alderton resulted from his possession of the Family Register which Thomas Gore compiled ⁴¹. This manuscript was given to Jackson by George Poulett Scrope of Castle Combe (a descendent by marriage of Thomas' sister Anna and her husband John Scrope); the book itself appeared lost, although it was "*fully described and a copious pedigree given by Joseph Hunter*" ⁴². It was not in the British Museum, which only has few works by Thomas ⁴³, although it is known he published many more - The Dictionary of National Biography lists 7 in all ⁴⁴. The author found a reference to it, however, in a footnote in Pafford :

⁴⁰ Gore, Abbe (1999) reply at

<http://cgi.rootsweb.com/~genbbs/genbbs.cgi/FamilyAssoc/Gore?read=40>

The English surname GORE is local in origin being one of those surnames based on the place where a man once lived or once held land. In this case the surname is derived from the Old English word "gara" which in actual fact was a dress making term used to describe a three cornered slip of cloth let in a slit to widen the girth of a garment. This translation leads us to believe that the original bearer of this surname resided near, or even on a triangular piece of land, probably the piece of land left over after oblong plots had been allocated. It is also interesting to note that GORE serves as a placename in Kent and Wiltshire, the placename no doubt evolved in this fashion as the surname

⁴¹ This volume was entitled "*SYNTAGMA GENEALOGICUM or a Genealogical Treatise of the Family of the GORES of ALDRINGTON alias ALDERTON IN THE Hundred of Chippenham and County of Wilts*" (1666), but see next in main body of text.

⁴² BM *Addit. MSS 24481 ff 45-8*, in DNB *ibid*

⁴³ one of which is BM *Addit. MSS 28020 "An Alphabet in Blazon of the paternall Coates, Crests, and Mottoes of all (or the Major part) of the Gentrey in the County of Wiltshire"* (1663) and BM *Addit. MSS 28209 "Notes on the Family of Scrope, from 1389 to 1660"* This last was donated by G Poulett-Scrope and EC Lowdnes, it is a pity they didn't include the *Syntagma Genealogicum* at the same time! These manuscripts are now in the British Library Manuscript Department.

⁴⁴ Safely tucked away in Wiltshire County Record Office (1078/13) is a second edition of one of these works - Thos Gore's *Catalogus In cera Capia, feu Classes Alphebetico Ordine Concinnatus Pleoru nque Authorum (am antiquorum quam recentiorum) Qui de re*

4

An apparently unpublished and important manuscript on this family [the Gore's] is in the Library of the Victoria and Albert Museum in its Clements Collection of Armorial Bindings (Pressmark: Clements S.7. Inventory no. L.1376=1948) it is entitled Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton...Containing a true... account of their Armes, Births, baptizings, marriages, Issue, Lands, Last Wills.... Deaths.... Inventories By Thomas Gore Esq The MS is undated but appears to be after 1670 and before 1700, The Gore armorial stamp is on the covers and the bookplate of Thomas Hedges, of Alderton, is inside the front cover ⁴⁵.

Heraldica Latine, Gallice, Italice, Hispanie,, Germanice, Anglice, Scripserunt: Interspersis hic illie, qui claruerunt in re Antiquaria & Jure Civili ea saltem parte qe Heraldriae facem ascendit - a bibliography of works on heraldry from all over Europe. It includes sections from other author's works, as was customary at this time. It was printed at Lichfield 1674.

Inside the front cover, in Jackson's handwriting, is the following inscription: *This copy of the 2nd edition of Thos Gore's Catalogue of Authors on Heraldry, dated Aldrington alias Alderton 1674 is presented to the Parish Register Chest of the Author's Parish by JE Jackson Rector of Leigh Delamere 1853.*

⁴⁵ Pafford isn't totally accurate here, it has *two* bookplates, one for "Thomas Hedges, Esq, of Alderton Wilts" and one of "JB Clements". From letters preserved in the back of the manuscript it is known that Clements (called *HJB* Clements in the letters) bought it in July 1906, from Bernard Quaritch "*dealer in Ancient Manuscripts, London*"; Clements' collection is now held by the National Art Library at the V&A. Pafford is also incorrect when he says that it isn't dated - the book itself isn't, but Thomas Gore's Introduction *is*, to January 23, 1666 to be precise.

The history of this manuscript is unclear; Jackson owned it - on the flyleaf of the manuscript Jackson has written, in pencil as was often his habit, "*JE Jackson Leigh Delamere Chippenham. Given to me by G Poulett Scrope Esq on his selling Castle Combe and leaving Wiltshire*". However Jackson didn't keep it, he made efforts to buy it when it came up for sale in 1871 - there are cuttings advertising its sale in the back of the folio, with a comment in Jackson's handwriting "*Sold before I wrote for them*". When, why, and to whom Jackson delivered the manuscript is unknown.

It is interesting that the book had not, apparently, been consulted since Jackson's use but it still exists in the V&A collection, and it proved very helpful in compiling this account of the Gore's, up to Thomas' time.

The first records of the Gore family known are those transcribed in Thomas Gore's book, and they refer to William Gore, who lived at Whitley (just outside Melksham) and his wife Gode, in 1330.

Also recorded is John Gore, who was rector of Whaddon in 1349, and was probably related to William. A William was Lord of the Manor of Whaddon in the 1380's⁴⁶ when he "presented" (ie was the person who recommended the appointment of the Vicar) in 1382, 84 and 85. He sold the right (the "avowson") in 1388

to William Byde, John Chitterne clerk, Simon Beste (or Geste), Peter Cheyne, Adam at Wells and others, for £200⁴⁷

Several interesting records of land deals remain for this period. The name of William's wife is unknown, but they had at least one son, Robert.

Robert married Margaret and they had several children, these being William, Robert and Maud. She was married to one Nicholas Poyntz. The exact identity and lineage of this member of the Poyntz family is not clear, there is no member of the family known at that time called Robert but as the early lineage's are often only those directly concerned with the inheritance of property it is more than likely that a younger son could now be unknown.

Robert Gore's date of birth is unknown but it must have been earlier than about 1350 - the first record mentioning Robert is dated 1361 and this

⁴⁶ Jackson Rev Canon JE (undated)

⁴⁷ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton*, p37

mentions his *daughter*⁴⁸. Robert died in 1387 and was succeeded by William, who had purchased Alderton in 1382⁴⁹. There may have been Gore's at Alderton before the purchase. Jackson reports "*there was already a John Gore and his wife Amie who were living in Mabyleslond, this with a right of pasture for 8 cows in Le Grove and certain small rents*"⁵⁰. Which was bought on "*Monday after Midsummer Day ad 1392*" by William Gore and on same day he bought a messuage and 4 acres in Alderton⁵¹

There are Gores known locally that are not shown on the family tree and not mentioned by Thomas; one of these was *Richard Goer* who was a witness at an inquisition in 1308⁵². And one *John de Gor* was a witness at the inquisition held, after the death of Henry Estmond, at Devizes 17 April Edw II (1327)⁵³.

⁴⁸ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p43 "*Matild filio de Robert*"

⁴⁹ The deeds relating to this purchase do not appear to have survived, there is nothing in Thomas Gore's manuscript that mentions it.

⁵⁰ Jackson, Rev Canon JE *Mss*

⁵¹ Jackson, Rev Canon JE *Mss*

From John London, who was occupier of Leggeses Place.

William bought more of his land in 1393, 1395, 1397 and 1400 (Gore, T (1666) *ibid* p10)

⁵² Fry, EA (1908) (ed) *Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem Henry III, Edward and Edward II AD 1242-1326* British Record Society, Ltd p 347

The Inquisition of Reginald de Argentem, held at Cheldrington 22 March 1 Edw II

⁵³ *Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem Edw III* WANHS p19

"*in the presence of Robert de Batlescoumbe, then constable of the castle of Devizes, before Robert de Hungerford and Ralph de Gras, by the oath of Jhn Bomlerk (?) Walter Bochard, William Cod...hou, Ralph Ysaac, William de Deuises, Reginald Deneys, John Gosselin, John de Gor, Nicholas Gotacre, Roger le Fowler, William le Greye and Johnen.*"

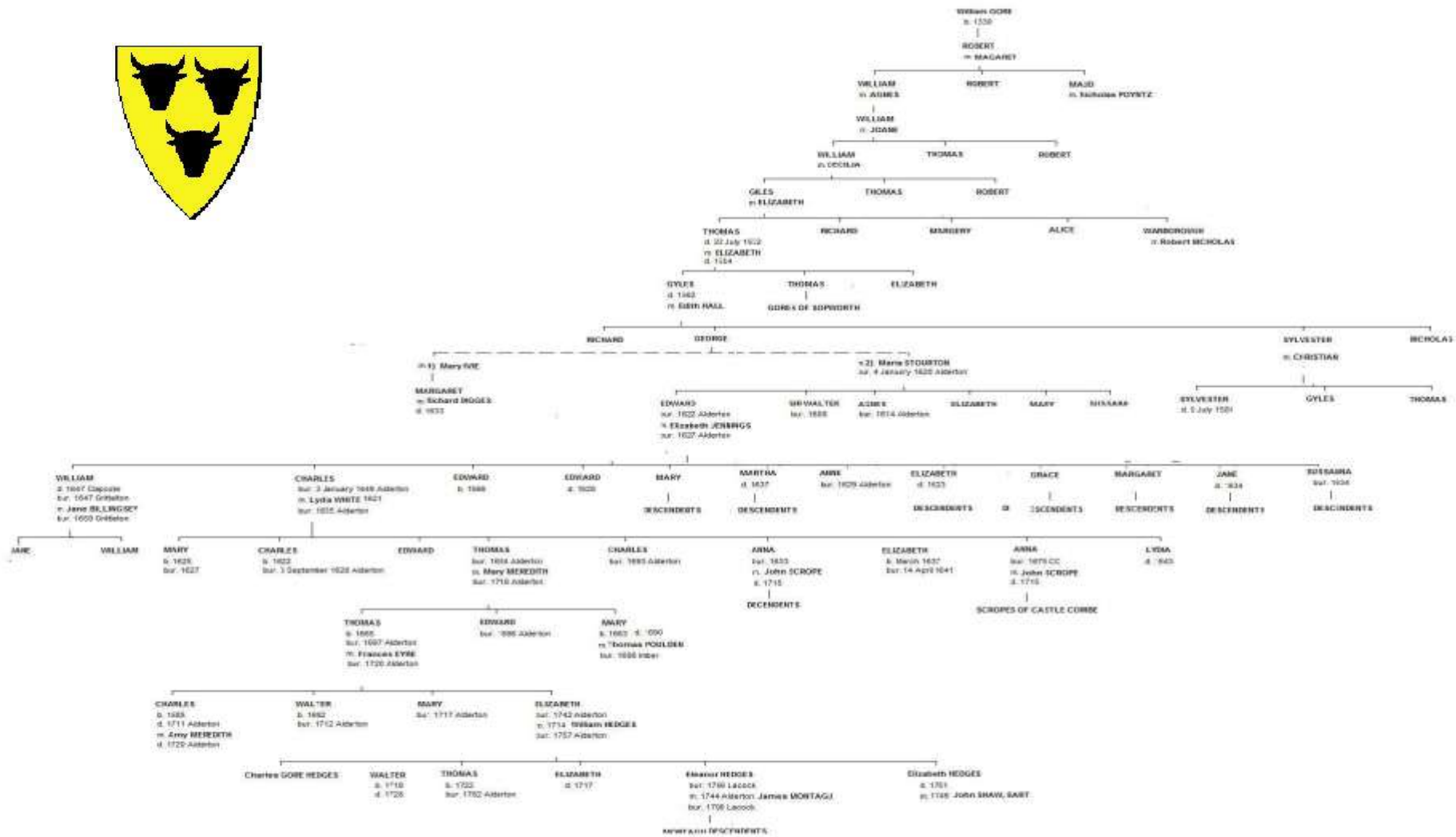


Fig. 2 Pedigree of the Gore, family***

In 1374 John Goore witnessed an inquisition at Devizes ⁵⁴. Less than six months later Thomas and Robert Goore were involved in another inquisition, also at Devizes ⁵⁵.

There is a Thomas who appears in the records of Lacock Abbey at exactly this time - in 1371 he witnessed a charter of the abbess Faith ⁵⁶ and twenty one years later another for her successor Agnes and the chaplain William Payn.

In 1371 John Gore gave land to the Convent of Monkton Farleigh ⁵⁷ and in the last decade of the fourteenth century two more Gores are known locally - Robert Gore resigned as the Priest of the Free Chapel in Marlborough Castle in 1397 and two years later Nicholas Gore resigned the same position ⁵⁸. The relationship between these two - if any - and their relationship to the Gores of Alderton, if any, are not known. There *is* a Robert on the pedigree at this time, brother to William.

⁵⁴ *Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem Edw III* WANHS
Inquisition held 23 Oct 49 Edw III

⁵⁵ *Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem Edw III* WANHS
Inquisition held 11 Feb 50 Edw III

⁵⁶ Rogers, KH (1979) *Lacock Abbey Charters* WRS vol XXXIV no 209 p 55, dated 25 June 1371

⁵⁷ Land given was at Chippenham, Langley Burrell and *Slaughterford (Inquisitions Post Mortem 5 Rich III*, quoted in Jackson, Rev Canon JE *Mss ibid*

⁵⁸ Wordsworth Rev Chr (1910) *Marlborough Chantries and the supply of the Clergy in Olden Days* WAM XXXVI no CXIV pp 525-585 - section "List of Chaplains, Chantry Priests, Chantry Ornaments and Masters of St John's Hospital" subsection "Priests of the Free Chapel of St Nicholas in the Castle, Marlborough"

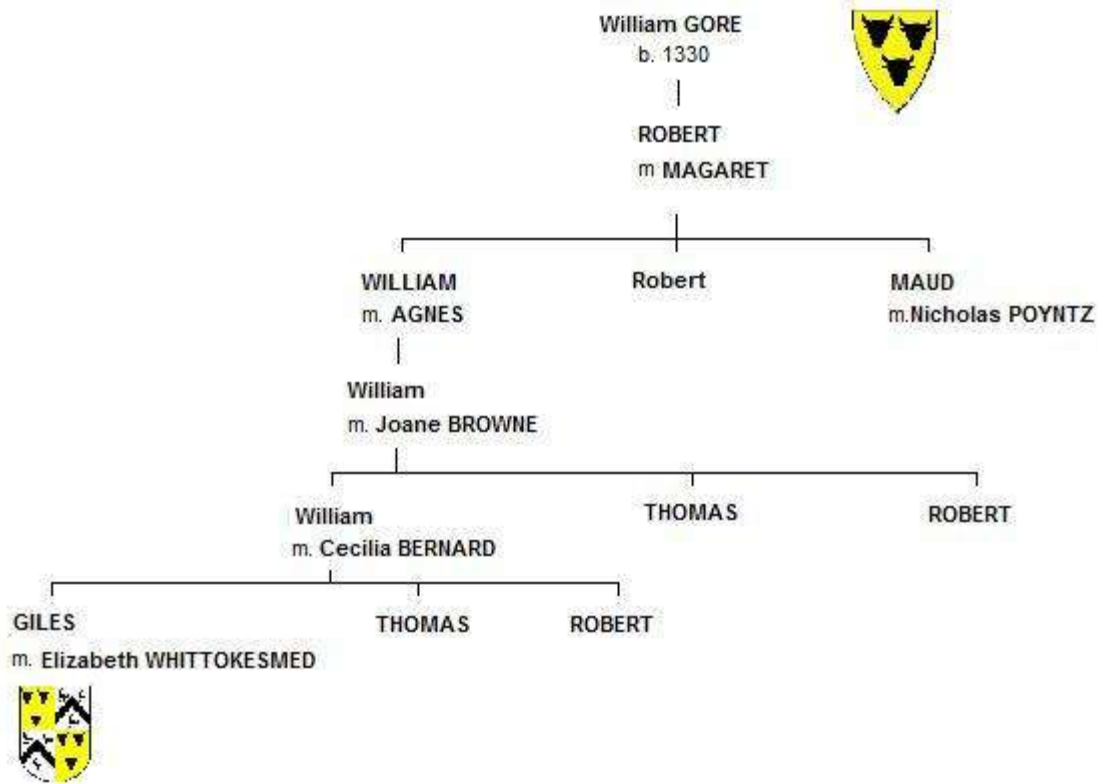


Fig 3 Early Gore pedigree [***](#)

One of the earliest records known for Alderton *not* in Thomas Gore's manuscript is a rent roll that starts with a Court Baron held by William⁵⁹ on 20th October 1414. From this it is known that land in Alderton was held by Sir Walter de Poole and Roger Hure, who was the parson of Sherston⁶⁰.

William was *senschal* to William Dauntsey, Thomas records a letter to William, from Dauntsey, dated 1402⁶¹ and two William Gores appear in records of 1433⁶²

⁵⁹ married to Agnes, generation three in Fig. A

⁶⁰ Jackson Rev Canon JE Mss

The title of this roll is not given in the section dealing with it but later on in the manuscript Jackson mentions that "the first court held by the Gores was in 1414" and gives a reference of *Curia manerii Willi Gore tenta apud Aldrington diedunce xx ante festum Nativ John Bapt AR Dni Hen V*. It is likely this is the roll referred to.

⁶¹ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p 61 There is a pencilled note above this entry, in

William and Agnes had a son, also William, who married Joane, the widow of John Brown. Little is known of them, but they had three sons, the fourth William in five generations (their heir), Thomas and Robert. The last date we have for William is one of 1442, when he had lands at Alderton, Luckington, and Melksham.⁶³ It is possible that the Thomas in this generation was the Thomas Gore who was MP for Devizes in 1455⁶⁴

William, grandson of the first William of Alderton, married Cecilia, the daughter and co-heiress of John Bernard of Bishop's Lavington. They had three sons, Giles, Thomas and Robert.

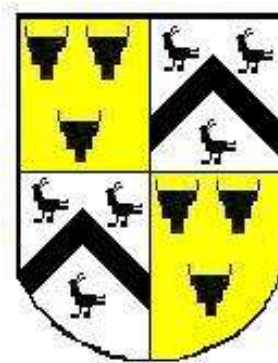


Fig. 4 Arms of Gore and Whittokesmede
(after Gore, T)⁶⁵ [***](#)

Jackson's handwriting, that "in William Dauntsey's will of 1420 he leaves a legacy to William Gore his Seneschal (Sir Richard C Hoare Modern Wilts History of Alderbury p83)"
A bond dated 17th July 1437 (Pafford, JHP (1956) *Wiltshire Deeds in the Bath Public Library* p 169) indicates that William Gore the elder had the rights of the annual rent "issuing from the manor of Wynterborne Dauntsey" - it is tempting to speculate that this Manor was the legacy R C-H and JEJ mention

⁶² Gore, T (1666) *ibid* 74

"Among the names of the Gentry of the County of Wilts recorded by the Commissioners of the Twelfth year of King Henry the sixth lately printed by Thomas Fuller DD in the book entitled The Worthies of England are found William Gore, sen, and William Gore, jun"

⁶³ Gore, T (1666) *ibid* 70. The first record for William is dated 1428. In 1429 John London of Alderton issued a deed in favour of Robert and Thomas "filiis Willi Gore Junioris"

⁶⁴ Maney, Canon FH (1935) *A list of the representatives in Parliament from 1295 - 1832 for the County and Boroughs of Wiltshire as given in the Parliamentary return of 1872* WAM XLVII no CLXIII pp 177-264

⁶⁵ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p103

William and Cecilia's heir was Giles, who married Elizabeth, the daughter and heiress of John Whittokesmede, an interesting man in his own right ⁶⁶. A document from Somerset confirms this marriage; sometime between 1445 and 1470 Richard Clavelleshay, wrote to the under-sheriff of Somerset and Dorset, asking for his help in recovering debts owed by *William Gore of Melksham and Giles Gore of Aldrington*. He also expected

that Wyttockesmede of Wyltshire woll speke therof for Giles Gore hathe weddid his dowghter and yf he speke of hyt y pray yow tell hym y wyll sue wt [with] effecte tyle y be payde etc ⁶⁷

Giles and Elizabeth are recorded as having land at Alderton, Melksham, Lacock, Lockington and Sherston. A marginal note by Jackson ⁶⁸ indicates Giles was living in 1474 but "*died before his father*". That Giles died young is evident because William the elder arranged for trustees to look after the manor "*until his grandson reached age after [Gile's] early death*" ⁶⁹. The last record with Giles' name is dated 1474 ⁷⁰ and this led Jackson to suggest that Giles may have died in 1480. The indenture setting up the trusteeship is recorded in Gore's book ⁷¹ and is dated 1480. Interestingly William signs himself "William of Chipping Sodbury". This suggests that when Giles took

⁶⁶ Driver, JT (1999) *The Career of John Whittookesmede, a Fifteenth Century Wiltshire Lawyer and Parliamentary "Carpet-Bagger"* WAM 92 pp92-9

⁶⁷ Dilks TB (1948) (ed) *Bridgwater Borough Archives, vol 4 ; 1445 - 1468* Somerset Record Society vol 60) in Driver JT (1999) *loc.cit*

⁶⁸ Gore, T (1666) *ibid* p83

⁶⁹ Jackson Rev Canon JE Mss

The trustees were Sir Richard Beauchamp of Bromham, Sir John Reynolds and William Codrygton.

⁷⁰ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p93

⁷¹ Gore, T (1666) *ibid* p96

over at Alderton William moved to Chipping Sodbury and set things up from there - it is noteworthy that one of the Trustees was also from Chipping Sodbury ⁷².

The property that was transferred to the Trustees was Kingswood Grange, which Jackson speculated *might* have been the first residence of the Gores in Alderton ⁷³.

There appear to be, or have been, records for this trusteeship in Bath Public Library ⁷⁴:

an indented gift by William Gore son of William Gore to Edmund Hungerford, knight, John Botler, Thomas Poynes John Dewall, Robert Blake, Henry Longe, John Lyght, esquires (armigerii), Master Hugh Thomas, clerk Robert Unwyn, Thomas Hasard and Richard Kaynell his manor of Aldryngton and all his lands and tenements, meadows, pastures, feedings, rents, services and reversions in Melkesham, Yatton Kaynell, Aldryngton, Sherston, Llockyngton and Lacok except a messuage and a cotland in Melkesham called Johoseppes and a messuage and 2 virgates of land in Aldryngton called Kyngeswodes grange. Covenant for re-entry and distraint if the feoffees shall, on request, refuse to re-efeoff [ie give back] the donor or, after his death, his son Thomas

but *this* record is dated 25 January 1447 and Pafford records that Letters of Attorney were issued to the same people in July of 1448 ⁷⁵ However an

⁷² Gore, T (1666) *ibid* The Overseers were Sir Richard Beuchamp of Bromham, Sir John Seyntlow of Tormarton and Thomas Codryngton of Chepyng Sodbury, signed at Lockyngton 1st March. These are the names on the indenture renting Alderton to the Pophams.

⁷³ I feel it is more likely to have been The Grove, as this is the property mentioned on the record dealing with William's purchases at Alderton in 1392

⁷³ On the same day they also bought Legges Place but The Grove is the property that appears in the records most often.

⁷⁴ Pafford, JHP (1956) *Wiltshire Deeds in the Bath Public Library* p171

⁷⁵ Pafford, JHP (1956) *Wiltshire Deeds in the Bath Public Library* p173

addition ⁷⁶ indicates that the date is "*In reddish-brown ink : ? 16-17th century*" - in other words possibly / probably a later insertion; it is not impossible that the "47" was a mistake for "74", in which case there is no conflict with the other records. The bulk of the evidence, and not only from Thomas Gore, is that this happened in the 1480's not the 1440's.

In an indenture dated April 1480 Alderton Manor was let to *Richard Popham and his wife Elizabeth for their lives, the remainder [of the Manor] to Thom Gore*", (William's brother) ⁷⁷.

Giles' and Elizabeth's children are known, as well as some dates -

Thomas was the eldest son, and heir to the estate. He had a brother Richard and three sisters, Margery, Alice and Warborough. The latter married Robert Nicholas of Roundway. ⁷⁸

⁷⁶ Pafford, JHP (1956) *ibid* gives the names of the witnesses to this transfer - *John Harres of Cheppynham, Thomas Gore son of said William Gore, Nicholas Gore, John Tanner, Nicholas Pont', William He', Richard Lucane, John Bacon, John Neline, William Hobbys & 6 others* (all of Alderton)

⁷⁷ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p107

The Overseers rented the Manor to the Pophams but it reverted to Thomas Gore eventually (The name given in Gore's book is actually *William* here, but that just doesn't fit with any of the Gores of the time, it is taken to be a mistake, although presumably the Antiquarian was copying from the original documents?). It was arranged so that, in the event of Thomas' death the Manor would go to his brother Richard or Richard's heirs.

⁷⁸ Gore only mentions Thomas and Margery, the others are from Jackson. Jackson made a pencil annotation of Gore's manuscript to mention Richard, but the other two daughters only appear in Jackson *Mss*

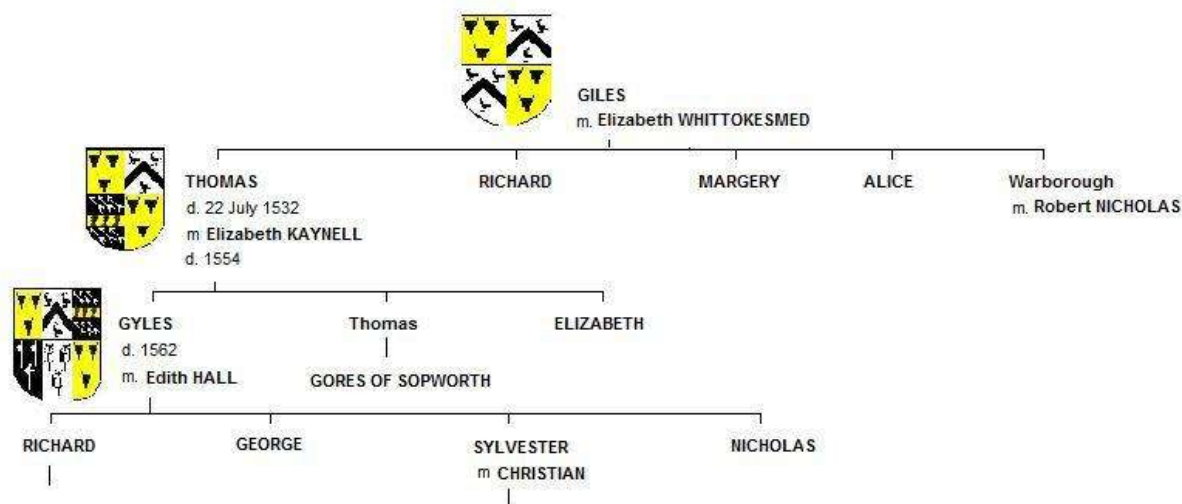


Fig. 5 Descent from Giles and Elizabeth ***

Thomas married Elizabeth, Kaynell or Keynell. She was the daughter of William Kaynell (living 1483) and his wife Sybil.⁷⁹ This marriage brought the Manor of Yatton Keynell into the Gore estates, about 500 acres there and elsewhere, but Yatton Keynell manor itself was sold after 25 years.⁸⁰

The Keynell arms appear on the exquisite screen was erected in Yatton Keynell church. This screen is really very fine, and is in stark contrast to the plain interior that the remodelling of the mid nineteenth century has left us.

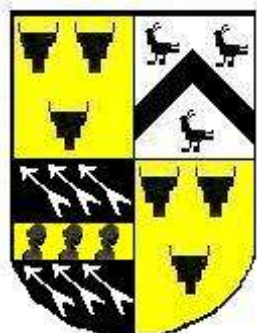


Fig. 6 Arms of Gore and Keynell
(after Gore, T⁸¹) ***

⁷⁹ Gore T (1666) *ibid* p108. William Kaynell was the son of Richard of Yatton Kaynell by his wife Edith, daughter of Richard Hall

⁸⁰ Elyard SJ (1894) *Some Old Wiltshire Houses* p24

"The Manor was purchased by the Snells of Kington St Michael and remained in that family until sold by the extravagant Sir Charles Snell to partly defray the cost of the ship which he had built for Sir Walter Raleigh"

⁸¹ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* illustration p121. Buckeridge, D (1995) *Church Heraldry in*

The Gore arms are carved on the northern side of one of the aisle pillars. Thomas was patron of two rectors of Yatton Kaynell - Thomas Mitchell (1501 - 1521) and Thomas Pontynge (1521 - 1561). Thomas was supposedly also patron to Pontynge's successor, David Griffeth, but this isn't possible as Thomas died 22 July 1532.

Thomas was involved in many land deals ⁸² - this generation had land at Alderton, Yatton Kaynell, Trowbridge, Southwick, Bishop's Fountell, Steeple Ashton and Luckington in Wiltshire, and Catewick and Swainswick just outside Bath. The land near Bath was purchased from Isabella, widow of John Campbell of Sherbourne and some land in the south and western fields (*campo australis & cam occidentalis*) of Luckington was acquired ⁸³ from Edward More of Trowbridge.

Thomas Gore is buried in Alderton church, his monument has been lost but it was recorded by Thomas Gore the Antiquarian:

"He departed this mortal lyfe on Monday the 22nd day of July in the 24th year of the reign of King Henry the Eighth Anno Domini 1532 and lyes buried under an alter tombe of freestone (carved and painted) on the north side of the Chancel of the Parish Church of Aldryngton als Alderton and which said tomb is adorned in several places with his Parternall Coate of the family of the Gores impaled with the coat of the Kaynells and others. Over the tombe is a plate of Brass fastened to the wall with the following inscription :

Wiltshire p 33 gives the Keynell arms as "Sable on a fesse or, between six arrows bendwise points upwards, three moors heads in profile couped at the neck"

⁸² Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldryngton or Alderton* illustration p121 earliest date given is 1503

⁸³ Gore T (1666) *ibid* p 112 Indenture dated 14 October 1510 and included land at Short Ockley (?) and Alyne Grove, witnesses Richard Dudley, Richard Snell, Thomas Pyle and John Oubury. More sold other land in Luckington at this time, Henry Long of Draycot bought an area that he subsequently sold to Thomas on 12 October 1511 for £65

"Of your charyte pray for the soule of Thomas Gore armiger late lord of this Town the whyche deceased the XXIind daie in Iuly A Dmi mcxxxv on whose soule have mercy Amen" ⁸⁴

Jackson recorded the inscription above the altar as being:

There are Gores known locally that are not shown on the family tree and not mentioned by Thomas; one of these was *Richard Goer* who was a witness at an inquisition in 1308 ⁸⁵. And one *John de Gor* was a witness at the inquisition held, after the death of Henry Estmond, at Devizes 17 April Edw II (1327) ⁸⁶.

Of your charyte pray for the Soule of THOMAS GORE, Esquier, late Lord of this Towne, the wych descesyd the Xxii daie of July Anno Dni MD.xxxii. On whos Soul Jhu have marcy. Amen ⁸⁷

It is noted that the dates given in Thomas's manuscript and that on the brass memorial are different. It is also interesting that Jackson, who was presumably quoting from Gores book, has a different text for the Inscription. Phillips ⁸⁸ gives the same phrasing as Jackson. It has been noted that

he was the last of his family to be buried by a priest of the old religion with a requet inscribed above his bones that those who survived him would pray for his soul ⁸⁹

⁸⁴ Gore, T (1666) *ibid* p114 .

⁸⁵ Fry, EA (1908) (ed) *Abstracts of Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem Henry III, Edward and Edward II AD 1242-1326* British Record Society, Ltd p 347
The Inquisition of Reginald de Argentem, held at Cheldrington 22 March 1 Edw II

⁸⁶ *Wiltshire Inquisitions Post Mortem Edw III* WANHS p19
"in the presence of Robert de Batlescoumbe, then constable of the castle of Devizes, before Robert de Hungerford and Ralph de Gras, by the oath of Jhn Bomlerk (?) Walter Bocharde, William Cod....hou, Ralph Ysaac, William de Deuises, Reginald Deneys, John Gosselin, John de Gor, Nicholas Gotacre, Roger le Fowler, William le Greye and Johnen."

⁸⁷ Jackson, Rev Canon JE Mss

⁸⁸ Sherlock, P (2000) (ed) *Monumental Inscriptions of Wiltshire : an edition, in facsimile, of Monumental Inscriptions in Wilton by Sir Thomas Phillipps, 1832* WRS vol 57 ISBN 0 901333 30 1
p48

⁸⁹ Badeni, J (1966) *Wiltshire Forebears* p1

Elizabeth survived him by 22 years (based on Gore's date), and married George Worth of Dauntsey. She was buried at Dauntsey in 1554⁹⁰

Thomas was the ancestor of the branch of the Gore family that lived at Sopworth⁹¹. They had two sons, Gyles and Thomas, a daughter Elizabeth and they lived at Sherston. Elizabeth married Richard Bremman⁹²

Giles inherited the estate. It may well be that Giles was named after the patron saint of the village, St Giles⁹³.

During his lifetime Giles had land at Alderton, Trowbridge, Melksham, Whitley, Shaw, Beanacre, Seend, Seend Row, Woodrow, Woolmere, Westport, Burton, Foxley, Brokenburgh, Steeple Ashton, Chippenham, Hullavington, Luckington, Langridge and Grittleton.

Gyles bought the Manor of Grittleton, the neighbouring Manor to the east. At the time of the Conquest it was held by the Abbot of Glastonbury, and the monks retained possession until the general dissolution of the monasteries in 1537 when it was seized for the King. After this

by patent dated 7 July 36 Hen VIII (1544) the King granted the manor and the avowson of the parish church of Grittleton to Charles Gore, of Surrendel, in consideration of

⁹⁰ Thursday January 24th 1554

⁹² Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p 116

In his will Giles bequeathed land in the hundred of Malmesbury that was "late in the tenure of his brother in law Richard Bremman", and Elizabeth is the only sister we know of. As Giles' will is dated 1562 Richard must have died after this.

⁹³ Badeni, J (1966) *ibid*

"the Church is dedicated to St Giles and the village revel was held annually on the Sunday after St Giles' day"

*the sum of £591 15s 7d and they remained in this family for 58 years*⁹⁴

The organisation of the estates is not known with any accuracy but Giles made Griffith Curtys Steward of Alderton and Grittleton in 1550. This was an important position, and paid well -

*Of all his [Giles] estates there to be holden and pay to him a grant of £314 4s annually out of the Lordship of the manor of Alderton, the accounts to be rendered and paid twice yearly on the feast of St Michael the Archangel*⁹⁵ *and the Annuciation of Our Lady the Blessed Virgin Mary*⁹⁶

There were charges on the estates that had to be paid out to others, as well, including the rent that had to be paid to the Royal exchequer . The earliest noted was for " £7 6s for half a yeares rent due to the Queens majestestie for lands once belonging to the Abbey of Kyngewoode"⁹⁷

⁹⁴ Hanley Rev Canon FH (1928) *The Society's MSS : Grittleton Manor Deeds WAM* vol XLIV no CXLIX

⁹⁵ Mid October, around 11-15th

⁹⁶ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p130 Dated 5th May 1550

⁹⁷ Gore, T (1666) *ibid* p132 ff This was dated 23 October 1558, the first year of the new Queen's reign. These records of payment give information on the owners of record of Alderton, and also the Bailiffs of Chippenham Hundred - these are *not* the same as the Bailiffs of Chippenham, as recorded by Goldney; this was a different office. The first receipt was made out by Thomas Coleman, who held the position for some time - he also issued receipts for the same rent on 28 Oct 1561. His name also appears on receipts made out to Giles' son, Richard, in 1567, 1569, 1570, 1575, and 1576. The receipts for the other half of the year 1576 do not appear and the next record is for *April* of 1577, 1578 and 1580 so Thomas was Bailiff for at least 22 years. The receipts for 1581 to 1583 are under the hand of Roger Smythe, Bailiff, as was the one for April 1584 which is to Mrs Mary Gore, Richard having died in that year. The next is made out to Mr Wroughton of Alderton (whom Mary had married not very long after her husbands death), and in the receipts of 1585 and 1586 The Grange is mentioned by name, those of 1587 and 1588 only mention Alderton again. By 1594 the bailiff was John Bryggs, who receipted for two years' rent, and finally Richard Taylor was paid £30 for two years' rent in 1597 by George Wroughton.

The buying and selling of land, carried on in the previous generation, continued with Giles - in 1544 he was involved, along with his mother and her new husband George Worth, with selling property in Trowbridge⁹⁸ and Melksham⁹⁹

Gyles married Edith Hall of Bradford (on Avon) who is remembered by the earliest monument left in Alderton church, a stone in the floor inscribed "EG 1560"¹⁰⁰ - "*She is buried under a gravestone whose inscription is worn out only some part of a cross remaining visible towards the upper part of the south isle of the parish church*"¹⁰¹

There is a relationship between Edith and her mother in law, Elizabeth Keynell (see Hall pedigree, Fig. 5, above¹⁰²). Elizabeth's father William Keynell was the son of Richard Keynell and another Edith Hall. *This* Edith's great great grandfather was the same as the great great great great grandfather of the Edith Hall who married Gyles Gore - this side of the family seems to have managed one less generation than that which married into the Keynalls. Assuming similar generation times figure 5 indicates that the Thomas Hall at the top of this figure was roughly contemporary with the William Gore at the top of figure 2, sometime in the early fourteenth century.

⁹⁸ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p127 Sold property to Walter Bayliff of Devizes May 23rd and Alexander Longford senior and junior "*Castle Mill in Trowbridge and diverse other land in Trowbridge*" (Heading of an indenture that Thomas did not transcribe in full)

⁹⁹ Gore, T (1666) *ibid* The property in Melksham was sold on 5th July to Henry Brouckner "*all his houses and their messuages, lands and tenements, meadows, pastures, commons, wood etc in the townes parishes and fields of Melksham, Wytley Shaw, Send, Sendrewe, Woodrow and Wolmer for £100 in hand*"

¹⁰⁰ Midwood, H (1995) *A Short History of Alderton, in Wiltshire* in Anon (1995) *Alderton : A brief history of Alderton, in Wiltshire Its village and Church with extracts from some old records* p3. Private pub. Available from the Church (1999)

¹⁰¹ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p 114

¹⁰² Squibb GD (1954) (ed) *Wiltshire Visitation Pedigrees 1623* (original "*under the hand of William Cambden, Clarenceux*"

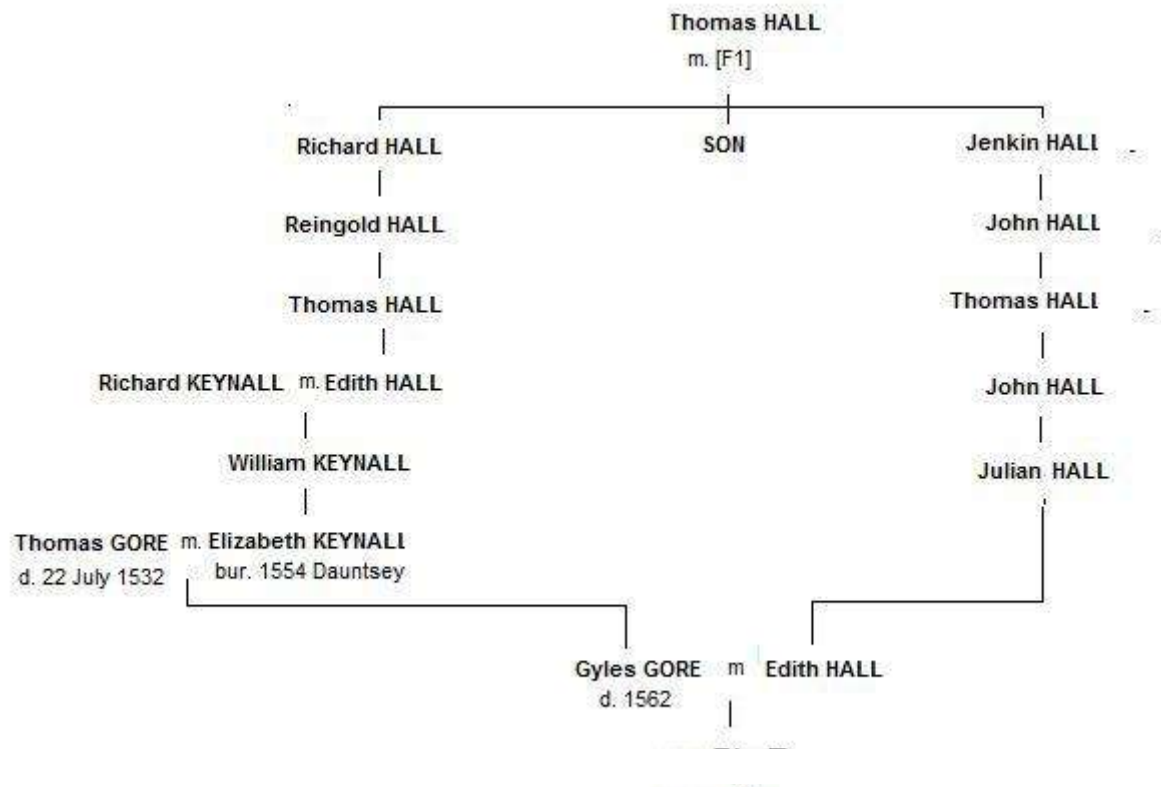


Fig. 7 Pedigree of the Hall family 1544 ¹⁰³. [***](#)

The earliest record for Giles is in 1534, but at this time his mother still held title to the manor - he appears as "son and heir apparent" to Elizabeth and her second husband George Worth as late as

Edith doesn't appear in records until 1553, when property that was Edith's by inheritance was sold ¹⁰⁴

Giles was important in the area, in 1546 he was the collector for the taxes, granted to Henry VIII, for a number of parishes and boroughs in northern

¹⁰³ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p116. The Gores were letting houses in Trowbridge.

¹⁰⁴ Gore, T (1666) *loc.cit* this was the avowson and all the property at Langridge to Thomas Walker of the same place for £84

Wiltshire, a position of some responsibility¹⁰⁵. He was a JP for Wiltshire in the first year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth (1558)

A few names other than the Gore's have come down to us from this period and context gives a view of aspects of life in the sixteenth century; in these records Rafe Coxe¹⁰⁶ (in 1563), Mathew Davis¹⁰⁷, Thomas and George Emly¹⁰⁸, Thomas Sheppard¹⁰⁹ and Arthur Tyrell (all at Easter 1587) are recorded as receiving licenses to be *badgers*. Badgers were

the persons licensed to buy corn and other victuals in one place and carry them elsewhere to sell at a profit. They were exempt from the punishment laid down for engrossers
110

Badgers¹¹¹ had to be more than 30, married and householders to apply for a license but this doesn't mean they were people of great substance, those listed above are given as labourers and yeomen. The records show that the

¹⁰⁵ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p115

"Collector for the fifteenths and tenths granted by parliament 37 Hen 8 for Swanburgh, Stoforde, Roughborough regis, Roughbourgh Epi. Calne, Chippenham, Bishop's Cannings, Wonderditch, Cheggelowe, Sterkley and the Burrough of the Divizes, Calne, Chippenham, Rowden and Malmesbury with the liberties of Rowden and Bromham"

¹⁰⁶ Johnson, H C (ed) (1949) *Minutes of the Proceedings in sessions 1563 and 1574 to 1592* Wilts. Rec. Soc. p 2

¹⁰⁷ Johnson, H C (ed) (1949) *ibid* p5

¹⁰⁸ Johnson, H C (ed) (1949) *ibid* p6

¹⁰⁹ Johnson, H C (ed) (1949) *ibid* p12

¹¹⁰ Johnson, H C (ed) (1949) *ibid* Introduction ppxvi-xvii

¹¹¹ The derivation is unclear - it may be that the licensed traders had to wear or carry a badge to show their licensed state - the penalty for unlicensed trade was high, £5 fines a time and, presumably, constraint of the goods involved (although the license itself was 5l a year....)

applicant was sponsored by someone else, but in none of the Alderton licenses was this the case - it is uncertain what this implies, if anything. It is noted that both *Coxe* and a *Ĉ Emly* appear in the list of landholders of 1665 - see Appendix 2 Table 4

England was in a precarious position at this time, having rejected the authority of the Catholic Church she was at odds with the Catholic Princes of Europe. In 1539, with a serious threat of invasion by the Catholic Princes of Europe, Henry VIII called for the raising of the military tithes each Manor still owed to the Crown ¹¹².

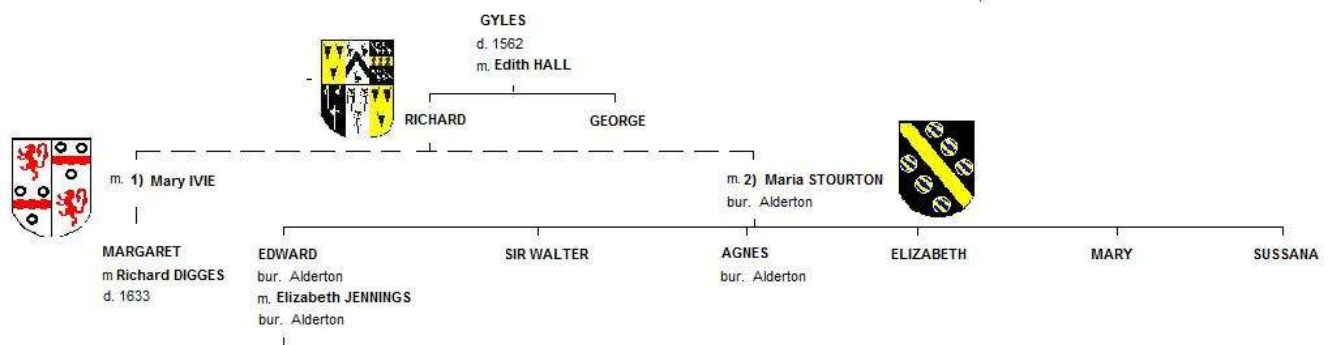


Fig. 8 Descent from Gyles and Edith ***

¹¹² *North Wiltshire Musters Anno 30 Henry VIII Wiltshire CRO 2355*

"The Certyfycatt of the vewe of abull men, as well Archars as Byllmen, takyn the x daye of Apryll, in the xxxth yere of the reign of our Sovereign Lorde, King Henry te VIIIth by the Grace of God, Kyng of Englonde and of Fraunce, defender of the fayth, Lorde of Ireland, and in the erth mooste supreme head of the Churche of Englonde; by Sir Henry Longe, Knight; John Hamlyn, Esquyer and Wylliam Stumpe, Commyssyoners, assigne by vertue of the Kynges Commysshyon to them and to other dyrected, whiche abull men theyr names hereafter followe, that ys to saye : THE HUNDRED OF NORTHE DAMERHAM, CHYPPENHAM, CALLNE, MALLMESBURY and WHARWELLDOWN"

gives the names of the people mustered at Alderton:

Archer : Thomas Dune

Byllmen : Nicholas Howborowe
Thomas Hockeriche
Richard Mardiche
George Hosterige
Walter Hemley
Thomas Davys
Nicholas Hunt

"the whole tything hath in redynes i horse and ii harnes with other small wepyns"

Gyles and Edith had several sons - Richard their heir, George, Sylvester (of whom more below) and Nicholas. Gyles' will was dated 18 April 1562 but he died ¹¹³ twenty years later. He was succeeded by his son Richard, who bought Hullavington and, between 1576-78, land at Surrendell. ¹¹⁴

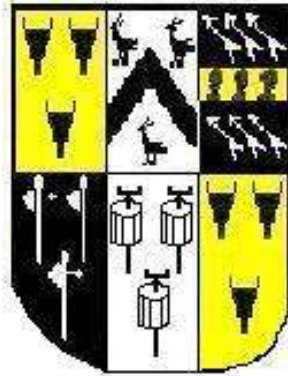


Fig. 9 Arms of Richard Gore
(after Gore, T 1666) ¹¹⁵ ***

He is known to have owned land in Alderton, Yatton Kaynell, Bishop's Fontell, Christian Malford, Steeple Ashton, Hullavington, Surrenden, Clapcote, Grittleton and Luckington in Wiltshire, Sodbury, Didmarton and Oldbury in Gloucestershire and Totwick and Swainswick in Somerset ¹¹⁶

¹¹³ according to Jackson's pedigree for the family

¹¹⁴ *VCH Wiltshire* vol II pp 111-112 The Manor of Surrendell belonged to the Hamlin family from the late fifteenth century, John Hamlin held it in 1545 (*Taxation Rolls* WRS vol X, p27) and on his death the land was divided equally among his three sons William, John and Nicholas. Richard Gore bought land from all three and his son Edward bought the Manor house from John.

¹¹⁵ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p137

It is noted that Thomas Gore gives the same arms for three generations, this one, his son Edward and his grandson William.

¹¹⁶ Gore, T (1666) *ibid*

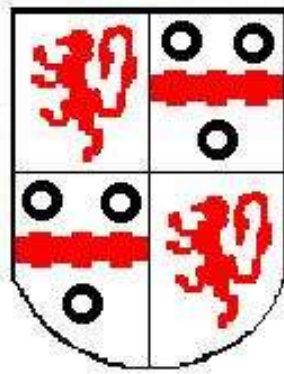


Fig. 10 Arms of Mary Ivy
(after Gore, T, 1666)¹¹⁷ [***](#)

Richard married twice, firstly Mary Ivie or Ivy, daughter of Thomas Ivie of West Kingston, and had a daughter Margaret. Margaret was baptized at West Kingston¹¹⁸, and married Richard Digges of Marlborough,¹¹⁹ on whose family a digression -

The family of Digges were not originally from Wiltshire. They settled at Marlborough and Purton but were "*descended from William Diggs of Diggs Court in the parish of Barham, Kent.*"¹²⁰ This was a famous family, and included Leonard Digges (the mathematician)¹²¹, Thomas

¹¹⁷ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p238

¹¹⁸ Gore, T (1666) *loc. cit*
Baptized on Monday 12th July 1563

¹¹⁹ *Collectanea Topographica and Genealogica* vol V (1838) pub by John Bowyer Nichols and Sons p261, section titled
Extracts from the registers of the parishes of St Peter and St Pauls the Apostles and St Mary the Virgin. Marlborough, with the most important unpublished epitaphs,

Sergeant at Law (26th June 1623) and MP for Marlborough in all the Parliaments between 1597 to his death in 1634, by his first wife Margaret daughter of Richard Gore of Aldrington

Richard Digges died 1633 (Gore, T)

¹²⁰ *Collectanea Topographica and Genealogica* vol V (1838) *loc. cit.*
Footnote

¹²¹ *Dictionary of National Biography* (11969) vol V p975

Digges (also a great mathematician), Sir Dudley Digges (Master of the Rolls)¹²², Leonard Digges (the poet)¹²³ and Dudley Digges¹²⁴ *an eminent linguist and general scholar*

Richard and Margaret Digges, *née Gore*, had one son, William, who married Ann Edmunds from Henbury in Gloucestershire. William and Anne had two daughters - Katherine, married Francis Matthew of Grays Inn and Lucy, John (married John Goddard of Ogborne). End of Digression.

(d ?1571) *"The family was an ancient an honourable one. Adomarus Digges was a judge under Edward II; served in three Parliaments of Edward III"*

Leonard's father, James Digges, was a Justice of the Peace for many years and sheriff in the second year of the reign of Henry VIII. He was very interested in the mathematics of optics and undertook early work with lenses - *"The assertion that Digges anticipated the invention of the telescope is fully justified"*

¹²² DNB *ibid* p972

(1583-1639) Diplomat and judge, son of Thomas Digges and Agnes Warham St Leger, took a BA at Oxford, knighted 1607. Early shareholder in the East India Company and involved in the search for the north-west passage. Political envoy to Russia (1618), accompanied by John Tradescant, and Holland (1620) MP Tewksbury 1621, 1624-1626, MP Kent 1628, Master of the Rolls 1636. At least four sons, eldest Thomas (and *his* son Maurice created baronet 1665, died without issue), his third son Dudley was a political writer (possibly the Dudley below). Three daughters and one, Anne, was an ancestress to the poet James Hammond.

¹²³ DNB (1969) *ibid* p976

(1588-1635) son of Thomas Digges and Agnes Warham St Leger, BA and MA from Oxford University where he worked, died there. *"Greatest interest [in his work] attaches to two pieces of verse in praise of Shakespeare, one which was prefixed to the 1623 edition of Shakespeare's plays, the other to the 1640 edition of his poems. Few contemporaries wrote more sympathetically of Shakespeare's greatness"*

¹²⁴ DNB (1969) *of National Biography* (11969) vol V p975

(Possibly the son mentioned in second note above but not certain this is the person meant) (1618-1643) BA and MA from Oxford. Involved in the defence of Oxford (the Royalist capital during the Civil War) against the Parliamentarians. Died of camp fever at Oxford during the war. He was *a devoted Royalist and all his writings were in defence of Charles I.* The entry in DNB does not seem to support the phrasing used in the document quoted in *Collectanea*

Richard Gore's purchase of Hullavington was keeping the property in the family - Hullavington had been another of the Manors of Sir Ralph de Mortimer who gave it to the Abbey of St. Victor de Caux in Normandy¹²⁵. After the Reformation the property was granted to Eton College, who still owned it in the 1970's.

The Ivy family were Lords of the Manor under lease from the College in the sixteenth century but this branch of the family died out in the early years of the seventeenth century. "Hullavington passed....to their cousins who had long held the Manor of West Kington"¹²⁶ and as has just been seen Richard married a daughter of this side of the family. By marrying Mary, Richard also gained possession of a property in Alderton known as "Ivy's Place"¹²⁷

Richard married again in 1565, he wed Mary Stourton¹²⁸.



Fig. 11 Arms of Mary Stourton
(After Gore, T 1666)¹²⁹ ***

¹²⁵ Gibbs & Doubleday (1926) *The Complete Peerage* vol V

¹²⁶ Badeni J (1966) *Wiltshire Forebears* p76

¹²⁷ Jackson, Rev Canon JE Mss

¹²⁸ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p154

Richard Gore upon the Thirteenth day of July in this seventh year of Queene Elizabeth covenants with Edward Bayntun of Rowden in the county of Wilts esq. to marry Mary Stourton daughter of Agnes wife of the said Edward before the feast of the exaltation of the Holy cross when next ensuing. and to settle for her fortune the manor of Aldryngton and half the manor of Yetton Keynel (1565)

This transfer was confirmed by an indenture dated 21 April 1570

¹²⁹ Gore, T (1666) *ibid* p140

According to Canon Jackson she was the illegitimate daughter of William, sixth Baron Stourton, and Agnes Ryce (Fig. 2), who "*claimed she was married in the Chapel at Stourton 6th January 1545-6*". Agnes died August 19th 1574 and is buried in the Baynton Aisle in Bromham church¹³⁰. The monument in Bromham church can still be seen - it is located in the south east corner of the Baynton Chapel and shows Mary Stourton, Sir Edward and his second wife Anne Bakington and three of the children.¹³¹ This monument causes some confusion, as the eldest daughter is correctly named Anne¹³²

A year before her death, Mary and Richard appointed "*William Askew their attorney to take possession of such inheritance as came to her [Mary] as daughter heir on the death of her father William Lord Stourton*"¹³³. As William died in 1548, this would seem to be rather late in the day. The result

¹³⁰ Britton, J (1814) *The Beauties of England and Wales - Wiltshire* p 415 quoted in Baynton-Coward H (1977) (ed) *Notes on the Baynton Family* p51. Unfortunately, the burial records for Bromham do not include the period 1568 to 1681 so this date cannot be verified. In fact she does not appear in any of the Bromham parish registers in the period concerned that are available. (Bromham Parish Registers, CRO Trowbridge),

¹³¹ The inscription reads :

*Here lieth Sir Edward Baynton, knight, within this marble clad,
By Agnes Ryce his first trew wife that thyrtyne children had
Whereof she left alyve with him at her departure thre,
Henry, Anne and Elizabeth whose pictures here now see).
The XIXth day of Auguste she decesed of Christ ye yere) 1574.
These little figures standing bie present the number here.
Then married to Anne Bakynnton his second wife she was,
For whose remembrance here in tombe these lynes he left in brass
Annon Dni 1578*

One of the daughter figures is missing, from the location probably that of Elizabeth. As this lack isn't mentioned by Britton may it be assumed this loss has occurred in the last hundred and eighty years?

Edward's second marriage wasn't held at Bromham, it is not recorded in the Marriage register for the period 1574 - 1578

¹³² "*Lady Ann*" Baynton was buried March 6th 1587 (Bromham Parish Registers, Burials *ibid*0

¹³³ Jackson Rev Canon JE Mss The actual date of this appointment, 9th Oct 1573 (Gore, T (1666) *ibid* p 157)

of this attempt is not known but was probably not successful - Thomas Gore the antiquarian would surely have mentioned it!

Rycharde Goore sat as one of the Grande Jury (along with other noteables, such as Edmund Hungerford, John Stump and William Eyres) at the Assizes at the Devizes at Lent 1579 ¹³⁴

For a change we know about someone other than the direct heir - Sylvester Gore, Edward's brother, married Christian and they had three sons - Sylvester who died 9th July 1581, Gyles and Thomas. When Sylvester died, Christian married John Dorney of Wickwar in Gloucestershire. From the records it is clear Sylvester died before 1581, although exactly when is unknown. At this time property passed through the male line, and the rights of a widow had to be looked after by a male relative. In this interesting document we see Christian's senior brother in law, Richard Gore, securing her future should she outlive John Dorney ¹³⁵

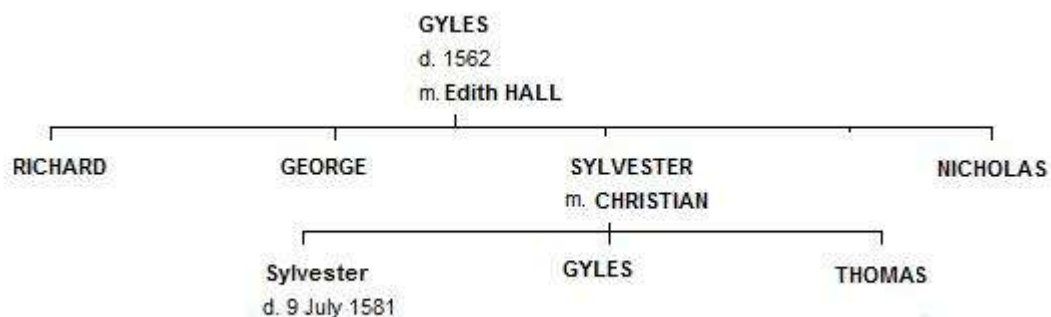


Fig. 12 Children of Sylvester and Christian [***](#)

Richard and Mary Stourton had two sons, their heir Edward and Walter, and four daughters - Agnes, Elizabeth, Mary and Sussana.

¹³⁴ Johnson, H C (ed) (1949) *Minutes of the Proceedings in sessions 1563 and 1574 to 1592* Wilts. Rec. Soc p 48. held 12 March 21 Eliz 1 (1579) "before Roger Manwood, chief Baron of the Exchequer and Edmund Anderson, Serjeant at Law" Justices of Quarter sessions, a much more important and powerful court than the usual sessions run by Justices of the Peace

¹³⁵ Page-Turner FA (1914) *Ancient Wiltshire Deeds* Wilts N & Q vol VII 1914-1916 pp 116 -117, see Appendix 1.1 for the full text.

Walter, the second son, had a distinguished naval career, "*Captaine under ye Lo(rd), Admirall on ye narrow Seas*"¹³⁶ nothing is known than that he was buried in 1608.

Two of the daughters had descendants; Agnes who married Robert Viner and Susanna, who married Thomas Hurcum¹³⁷, of Charlton near Malmesbury. Agnes was buried at Alderton in 1614. Mary was also married - when she espoused George Lewis he indentured Edward Gore¹³⁸ with "*land and houses at Sawbm Pitts in St Jone's parish in Cardiff*"

Richard died in 1583, and his will settled 40 marks per annum (about £27) on Walter, paid out of the estates at Grittleton; "*to each of his four daughters 200 l*" (about £10) and to his wife "*12 oxen, 24 cows, 1 bull and all his sheep and pigges at Alderton, 30 quarters of wheat, 40 of barley and divers other things*"¹³⁹

¹³⁶ GD (1954) (ed) *Wiltshire Visitation Pedigrees 1623* *ibid*

"*narrow Seas*" here refers to the Channel in general, but see also Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice* Act 3, Scene 1 where a specific location is meant :

SALANIO

Now, what news on the Rialto?

SALARINO

Why, yet it lives there uncheck'd that Antonio hath
a ship of rich lading wrecked on the narrow seas;
the Goodwins, I think they call the place; a very
dangerous flat and fatal, where the carcasses of many
a tall ship lie buried, as they say, if my gossip
Report be an honest woman of her word.

¹³⁷ They had seven children - Thomas, Robert, Margaret, Anne, Susanna, Mary and Elizabeth (Jackson, Rev Canon JE Mss *ibid*)

¹³⁸ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* 4th August 1608. this was after Richard's death, hence the indenture to his son, Edward, who was then head of family.

¹³⁹ Jackson, Rev Canon JE Mss *ibid*

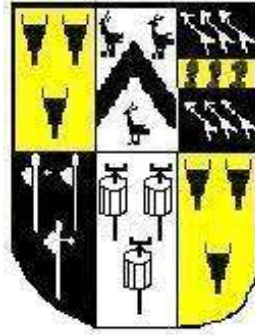


Fig. 13 Arms of Edward Gore
(after Gore, T 1666) ¹⁴⁰ ***

Richard's heir, Edward, was born Tuesday 25th February 1566 and during his lifetime he is recorded as owning lands at Alderton, Surrenden, Grittleton, Clapcote, Henton, Littleton, Semington, Steeple Ashton, Luckington and Hullavington ¹⁴¹.

He married Elizabeth Jennings, daughter of Ralph Jennings from Churchill ¹⁴² in Somerset, sometime before 1589. This date is set as there is mention of "*Elizabeth nowe wife of said Edward Gore*" in an Indenture between

"Edward Gore of Surrenden. co Wilts and Richard Gawen of Grittleton co Wilts, yeoman, being a lease by the former to the latter of one fourth part of the farm of Gryttleton" ¹⁴³.

¹⁴⁰ Gore, T (1666) p137

¹⁴¹ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton*

¹⁴² Gore, T (1666) *loc.cit*

Elizabeth bap Churchill Sun 24th Nov 1566, buried Alderton Mon 16 July 1627
Ralph Jennings buried in the Churchill Parish Church 1st April 1572.

¹⁴³ Hanley, Rev Canon FH (1928) *The Society's MSS : Grittleton Manor Deeds WAM* vol XLIV no CXLIX This indenture was made 20th July 31 Eliz (1589)

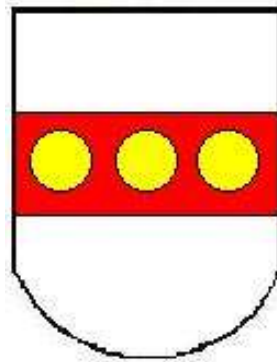


Fig. 14 Arms of Elizabeth Jennings ¹⁴⁴ [***](#)

The Gores had known Elizabeth's family in the 1540's - her mother was Joan Bruckner, a daughter of Henry Bruckner of Melksham - Giles Gore had sold land to Henry's father, or possibly grandfather, Henry Brouckner, in *Beanacre, Melksham, Shawe, Seend, Sendrow, Woodrow and Wolmer* ¹⁴⁵. This was land of the Manor and Hundred of Melksham, which was

originally given by Henry III to the prioress and nuns of Amesbury, for the maintenance of an obit(uary), continued to form part of the possessions of that Monastery until its suppression in 1539 when it passed into the hands of the Crown. The Prioress' estate lay in Melksham, Beanacre, Whitley, Woodrew, Wolmere and Seendrow. In 1544, five years after the Dissolution, we find messuages and lands in these places (apparently, the same property) conveyed by Giles Gore. gent and his wife Elizabeth to Henry Brouncker
¹⁴⁶

¹⁴⁴ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p179

¹⁴⁵ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p 115

¹⁴⁶ Kite, Edward (1903) *Place House, Melksham, and its owners* Wilts N & Q vol IV 1902-1904 pp242-253, 337-349, 433-440

Edward bought land and the Manor house of Surrendell / Surrenden from John Hamlin ¹⁴⁷ in 1594, he then owned the entire manor. Seven years later he sold the manor of Grittleton to Henry White, who at about the same time bought Langley Burrell ¹⁴⁸.

In the following year Edward sold Luckington to George Russel of Tormarton for £224 10s ¹⁴⁹

In 1600 Edward was made Captain of 150 *trained soldiers* (rather than a general levy) who were part of Col. Henry Bayntun's regiment, the commission was bought from the Earl of Pembroke ¹⁵⁰. He was a "Captayne" ¹⁵¹ in the regiment for many years.

As a major landowner Edward was involved with politics although he did not take an active part himself; before the election of knights to attend the 1621 Parliament Henry Poole (of Okesey Park) and Sir John Enle both wrote to Edward asking him to support Poole and Sir Francis Seymour. It is noted that Enle's letter, which to the modern reader seems the rather more distant of the two, addresses Edward as "*my very loving kinsman*" ¹⁵². What the

¹⁴⁷ Jackson, Rev Canon JE *Mss* *ibid*

"In 1594 he bought of Richard Hamlyn another house there [in Surrendell] *lately built by John Hamlyn, father of Richard Hamlyn*. This was probably the present Surendell farmhouse. "

¹⁴⁸ Badeni J (1966) *Wiltshire Forefathers* p68

¹⁴⁹ Gore, T (1666)) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* agreement dated 1st April 1595 (exactly 505 years to the day that I read this for the first time!)

¹⁵⁰ Gore, T (1666) *ibid* p178

Which office he discharged for many years together with courage and faithfulness

¹⁵¹ Gore, T (1666) *ibid* p209, from a letter to Edward from the Earl of Hertford, commanding him to appear before the Earl at Marlborough "*the seventh day of September next by eight of the clock in the morning and to bring with you a muster well of your company if you have any there, to receive further directions touching His Majesties service as shall bee fitt*" dated August 12th 1612. What the muster was for and what service was required of Edward is not known,

¹⁵² Letter from Sir John Ernle of Whetham co Wilts to Edw Gore Esq. in

Wilts Miscellaneous Mss 1 p15 (attributed as "From the sale of Canon Jackson's Library") letter in Jackson's hand. WANHS library WT241

relationship was is not yet known. Both men were standing with the support of the Earl of Hertford and Poole had hopes this support would serve to deter other candidates from standing

*neither doe I heare of any Competitor unless it bee Sir Edward Baynton, who as I have herd hath lately declared himself therein; but now the Right Honourable the Earle of Hertford having signified unto him his Lords disposition to stand for mee I am persuaded hee will proceed noe farther therein yet I know not his mind*¹⁵³

Sir Edward Bayntun *did* stand in the election however, he *also* wrote to Edward Gore (in December 1620) asking him to be present at the election at Wilton "on St Stephens day next"¹⁵⁴. All three men eventually served in the Parliament¹⁵⁵, it is not known whom Edward supported.

Edward and Elizabeth had three sons and eight daughters. The baptism dates for the children are mainly recorded in the Grittleton

¹⁵³ Letter from Sir Henry Poole of Okesey Park co Wilts to Edward Gore of Surrenden in WANHS WT241 (*ibid*)

¹⁵⁴ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p209 Jackson (Jackson, Rev Canon JE Mss *ibid*) stated that Bayntun asked Edward to call at Bromham on his way to the election but the letter is very clear, he asks Edward to support him at *Wilton* the following month.

¹⁵⁵ Manley, Canon FH (1935) *A list of the representatives in Parliament from 1295 - 1832 for the County and Borroughs of Wiltshire as given in the Parliamentary return of 1872* WAM XLVII no CLXIII p216 records that Sir Francis Seyomour and Sir Edward Baynton were elected to represent the County and Sir Henry Poole was returned for Malmesbury

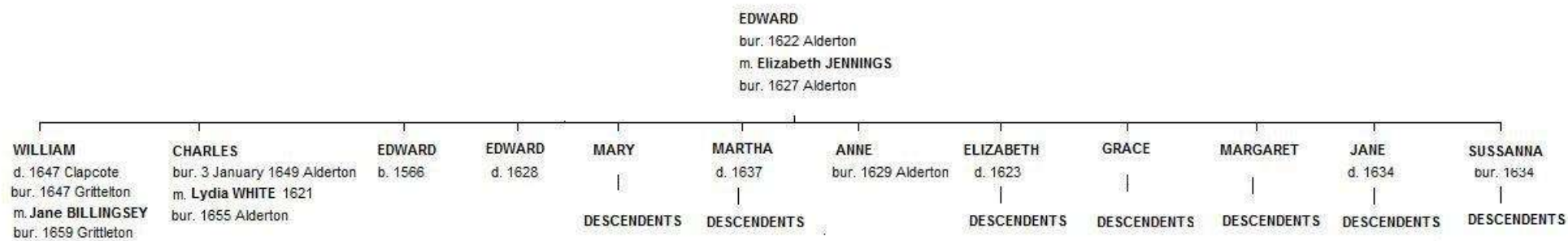


Fig. 15 Children of Edward Gore [***](#)

parish records but some were baptized at Hullavington as well.¹⁵⁶ and little else is known of them. Descendents are known for all the daughters except Mary and Anne, although both of them were married. (see Appendix 3 for individual charts)

Edward died after 4th October 1604, when he was witness to an indenture between Walter White and Edward Smart, both of Grittleton¹⁵⁷.

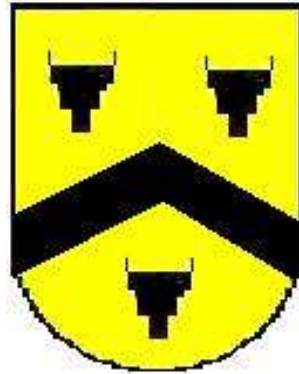


Fig 16 Arms of William Gore, 1647
(after Buckeridge¹⁵⁸) [***](#)

¹⁵⁶ WFHS (1992) *The Bishops Transcripts & Parish Registers - Baptisms Grittleton*

| year | date | Name | of |
|------|--------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1581 | Jul 09 | Goore Silvester | s Silvester |
| 1586 | Jan 25 | Goore Marie | d Mr Edward |
| 1588 | Jun 06 | Goore Martha | d Mr Edward |
| 1589 | Nov 22 | Goore Ann | d Mr Edward esq |
| 1591 | Sep 05 | Goore William | s Mr Edward |
| 1592 | Feb 04 | Gaore Charles | s Mr Edward |
| 1594 | Oct 27 | Gore Elizabeth | d Edward esq |
| 1596 | Aug 08 | Goare Grace | d Mr Edward |
| 1598 | Jul 06 | Gore Margaret | d Edward esq |
| 1599 | Nov 09 | Goore Jane | d Edward esq |
| 1601 | Dec 06 | Gore Edward | s Edward esq |

¹⁵⁷ Hanley, Rev Canon FH (1928) *The Society's MSS : Grittleton Manor Deeds WAM* vol XLIV no CXLIX p216

¹⁵⁸ Buckeridge, D (1995) *Church Heraldry in Wiltshire* p47 Grittleton
or a chevron between three bulls heads cabossed sable William Gore 1647

The eldest son, William, was baptised at Surrenden on 5th September, 1591, it is noted that three daughters were born first. Little is known about him, (Thomas the Antiquarian appears not to have copied any records from this period, which is the only time this happens) but he married Jane Billingsley who survived her husband until 1659, when she was buried at Grittleton.



Fig. 17 Arms of Jane Billingsley ¹⁵⁹ [***](#)

They had a son, William, who died young, and a daughter Jane. William the elder died on 20th April, 1647 and was buried at Clapcote, when his estates passed to his brother Charles. It is this William who is commemorated in Grittleton church ¹⁶⁰

Quite a few details are known of this generation, they were, after all, Thomas' aunts and uncles, but only selected details are given here of Edward and Elizabeth's other children.

The third son, Edward, died in infancy and is buried in the Chancel of St Giles'. The last child was also called Edward, being born in 1607 and living to 1628 when he died without issue "*possibly at Portsmouth but the place is unknown*" ¹⁶¹. Edward was among Wiltshire gentlemen who lent money to the King in 1611.

¹⁵⁹ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p237

¹⁶⁰ Grittleton Inscriptions (W&SHC 6074749) *William Gore died 20th April 1647*
The Arms (above) come from this monument

¹⁶¹ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p180

Mary, the eldest child, married George Lewis and had one son Henry. Her sister Martha (June 1588 - 1635) married Anthony Gearing ¹⁶², while Anne (1584 - 1624) married Gyles James with no recorded children.

Elizabeth (1594 - 1623) married William Bayley of Gloucester and they had a son William, who married Radigund Scudamore, and had children¹⁶³. Offspring also blessed the marriages of Grace and Robert Viner ¹⁶⁴, Margaret and Paul Dalshay ¹⁶⁵, Jane (1599 - 1634) and John Forde of Freshford ¹⁶⁶ and Susannah (? - 1634) and Henry James ¹⁶⁷. This Susannah was buried at Hullavington.

The marriage of Martha and Anthony Gearing was said, by his mother, "*to be against his parents wishes but he would not take their advice*". Despite this Anthony's father Thomas gave the young couple the estate of Brinkworth and Edward Gore gave £300, the marriage taking place at Surrendell on September 22nd 1608. Anthony was apparently a "*lewd, idle, debased fellow*" and was disinherited by his father in 1621. It seems Anthony and Martha had five children living at this time, when the family was in Ireland. ¹⁶⁸

There was a memorial to Anne Gore in St Giles' church, recorded by Aurbey:

Here lies the body of Anne James, third daughter of Edward Gore, Esqr. (by Eliz. His wife) wife to Gyles James,

¹⁶² They had seven children - Thomas, Anthony, William, Mary, Elizabeth, Dorothy and another daughter whose name is unknown.

¹⁶³ Nine, in fact - Not all the names are known, Jackson only records that Elizabeth married Roland Savage and that their daughter Jane married Thomas Stokes of Kington St Michael.

¹⁶⁴ Children : Charles, Richard, Jane, Elizabeth and Anne

¹⁶⁵ Thomas, Walter, Paul, Mary, Anne, Francis, Elizabeth, Helena and Margaret

¹⁶⁶ Charles, William, John, Lydia and Mary

¹⁶⁷ Simon, Elizabeth, and Margaret

¹⁶⁸ Badeni, J (1992) *Past People in Wiltshire and Gloucestershire* Norton Manor pp122-124

*gent. of Great Sherston in Com. Wilts: who departed this mortall life on Sunday the 4th of Oct. 1629 aet sue 40*¹⁶⁹

Anne and Gyles were not married until late in life and they didn't have children; evidence for this is found in the verse attached to her inscription

*"Expectans expectavi" Psalm. 40
With Jacob's Rachel I (a James his wife)
Waited full long before our married life.
In me it was a matchless expectation,
More to farre than matche's consummation,
Which once enjoyed, and scare three yeares in all,
A lingering sickness ridd mee out of thrall;
For this my change all my appointed days
I waited still, and waiting gave God praise
That had so fitted me for heaven, where
My soul now rests, as doth my bodie here.*

"Usque quo Domine" Apocal.6. 10

"Veni Domine Jesu" Apocal 22. 20

*One of her sexe's worthies doth here lye,
A wife, a patterne for posteritie;
To husband loyall, gracious unto all,
Pious to God, to th' poore most liberal*¹⁷⁰

The second son, and heir, of Edward Gore and Elizabeth was Charles, who was born 4th February 1592.

When he was nineteen he married Lydia White, heiress of William White, draper, of London¹⁷¹. Although William is given as a citizen of London it is likely that he was related to the Whites who owned Grittleton. The Gore family were resident at Lincolns Inn up to 1622 and Charles was born at

¹⁶⁹ Jackson, Rev Canon JE (1862), editing Aubrey's *Topographical Collections, I North Wiltshire* p48

¹⁷⁰ Jackson, Rev Canon JE (1862), editing Aubrey's *Topographical Collections, I North Wiltshire*

¹⁷¹ Stephens & Lee (1921) *Dictionary of National Biography* vol VIII p240. This is strange as this age would mean Charles married Lydia in 1612 when the records show it was 1621.

"*Bednall Green* [sic], *Stepney*"¹⁷² and was in law at Lincolns Inn himself¹⁷³. The marriage contract is dated 1621, the actual date of the marriage is not known, possibly before June 1621 (given the date of birth for the first child....)



Fig. 18 Arms of Lydia White¹⁷⁴ [***](#)

Edward and Lydia removed to Alderton sometime in late 1622 and at this time Edward

*settled the whole manor of Surrendell*¹⁷⁵ on Charles. They also gained the "*manor house of Aldrington als Alderton in the county of Wilts and all houses, buildings, dovehouses gardens, orchards, courts, conygeres and other appertunances*"¹⁷⁶

¹⁷² Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* at eight o'clock in the morning of 1st March 1622.

¹⁷³ Bayliffe, BG (1999) *Bayliffe Revisited* author pub. p86

Charles was admitted to Lincoln's inn 4 Feb. 1618, he was bound with William Baylyffe and Edmund Bulocke

¹⁷⁴ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p303

¹⁷⁵ VCH *Wiltshire* vol II pp 111-112 I

¹⁷⁶ Gore, T (1666) *ibid* p 218

and details are given of the land that they owned (see Appendix 2, Table 3)

Both the Gores and the Whites were well to do - apart from leaving her son a hundred pounds in twenty-shilling gold pieces ¹⁷⁷, Lydia bequeathed various costly personal items that Thomas, mentioned in his will, for example

my guilt (sic) standing cup with a cover as also a faire wrought guilt salt with a cover, and two little wrought guilt trencher salts, and also three wrought guilt wine-bowls. All of which guilt plate was formerly my Grandfather's¹⁷⁸ by my mother's side and also....my chaine of gold which was given me by my grandmother¹⁷⁹ on my mother's side [ie William White's wife, name unknown] and her wedding ring of gold....and also of a gold scale-ring having WW engraven upon it, which was my grandfather's on my mother's side ...and also my wrought silver watch with divers motions in it which was my dear Mother's¹⁸⁰

¹⁷⁷ Jackson, Rev Canon JE (1873) *The Last Will of Thomas Gore, the Antiquary* WAM XLIV, no LX pp 5-9.

Thomas' original will is held in Wiltshire CRO (CRO 212B/18) and is a very large document covering several full sized parchments - Jackson's transcription in WAM is *much* easier to follow!

¹⁷⁸ There was a memorial to this gentleman, recorded by Aubrey (Jackson, Rev Canon JE (1862), editing Aubrey's *Topographical Collections, I North Wiltshire* p50) in St Giles' church:

An epitaph upon the death of Mr William James, Gentilman, who departed this life the 28th March 1637 (aet. suae 56)

¹⁷⁹ Jackson, Rev Canon JE (1862), editing Aubrey's *Topographical Collections, I North Wiltshire* p51

There is also a memorial inscription to this lady in Alderton Church :

An Epitaph upon the death of that godly and grave Matron MRS ANNE JAMES. Wife of Mr William James, Gentleman, and Mother of mrs. Lydia Gore, wife of Charles Gore of Aldrington Esquire, whose body heare lieth interred in hope of the Resurrection. Obiit 20 Decembris An Salutis 1636 aet. suae 70

It is noted that James survived his wife by only 13 weeks

¹⁸⁰ Jackson, Rev JE (1873) *The Last Will of Thomas Gore, the Antiquary* WAM XLIV, no LX *ibid*

Other valuables belonging to Lydia White detailed in Thomas' will were a "*wrought guilt bottle with a guilte chaine affixed thereunto which was my grandmother's on my mother's side*", and a "*gold ring, enameled, and set with Nine Diamonds which was my deare Mother's*"

As with all gentlewomen of the period Lydia was proficient in embroidery and her son treasured her work, bequeathing

*My Bible covered with white satin wrought in divers coloured silks and embroidered with gold and silver, the worke of my deare Mother... also a sweet Bag of my said mother's working with silk in Tent stitch containing the story of Abraham's servant meeting with Rebecca; as also a purse wrought of coloured silk and gold in cross stitch by my said mother*¹⁸¹

From which it can be seen that Lydia did fine and costly work, and that her son both honoured her and was almost unbearably exact.

The Gore family were, at this time, very closely linked with another local family the James' - Charles' sister Sylvana married Henry James and her sister Anne married Giles James, a merchant of Sherston. Giles James and Charles Gore didn't get on - so much so that in 1630/31 Charles brought an action for slnadeer against Giles, which resulted in Giles having to make a public apology "*for having violently and willingly uttered diverse and scandalous proclamations and barbarous speeches...against Mr Charles Gore*"¹⁸². The Earl Marshall of England, the Duke of Arundel and Surrey, wrote to the Justices of the Peace for Wiltshire to have them call Giles to the next Sessions to "*publiquely to read before them*" his confession. Sir John Ernle and Sir Edward Bayntun wrote to Giles calling him to comply, which he

¹⁸¹ Jackson, Rev JE (1873) *The Last Will of Thomas Gore, the Antiquary* WAM XLIV, no LX p6

¹⁸² Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p273ff. The text of the apology is given in full in Appendix 1.2

presumably did ¹⁸³ One suspects that relations between the different parts of the family were somewhat strained by this episode.

In the following year Charles commissioned the Tenor bell in the Church, the inscription reads "*Personae tunc sono laudes et Katerinae*" "*The Worshipful Charles Gore esq. 1632*"¹⁸⁴ and one of the pieces of church plate also dates from this time "*a very old plate marked LG*"¹⁸⁵

Charles was a Justice of the Peace for Wiltshire and as such sat on civil cases as well as criminal. An example is known from 1636 when he sat in a case, with Henry Bayliffe ¹⁸⁶, dealing with money owed to William Dyke ¹⁸⁷. Charles and Henry Bayliffe also served together as Commissioners on the "*fateful subsidies*" collected in the area "*for the further relief of his Ma'tyes Army*" on 8 October 1641 when the tax was set at 8s in the pound on land. "*This is only one of several subsidies that had to be paid, a precursor to the Civil War*" ¹⁸⁸

The Gores seem to have actively supported the Royalist cause during the Civil War - in late January or early February 1642 Charles sent

¹⁸³ Gore, T (1666) *ibid* p274 The record of the letter from Arundell & Surrey is dated 30 November 1631, whereas, curiously, the one from Ernle and Bayntun is dated 12 November 1631. Obviously Thomas got the dates wrong, are they just switched around or was the "November" of the Earl Marshall actually September or October?

¹⁸⁴ Goddard, F *et al* (1928) *Alderton alias Aldrington Parish Notices of Aldrington parish to be kept in the parish chest* W&SHC 1678/8

¹⁸⁵ Goddard, F *et al* (1928) *ibid*

There is a side note in Hutchins' hand (vicar in the early years of the twentieth century) that says "*this is a very curious and valuable "taster" or "comfit bowl" of the seventeenth century, it's date is 1639. Such small vessels were made for domestic use. The dish is 5³/₄ " in diameter with projecting shell handles, The pattern is formed by a series of embossed punch marks, the Tudor rose in the boundaries centre. Inscribed "LG 1639" probably for Lydia wife of Charles Gore of Alderton.*

¹⁸⁶ A relative of his fellow at Lincolns Inn, either a brother or son.

¹⁸⁷ Bayliffe, BG (1999) *Bayliffe Revisited* author pub. p78

¹⁸⁸ Bayliffe, BG (1999) *ibidi* p81

*two geldings. saddles and bridles, one case of pistols, two carbines, two musketts with bandoleres one buffe coat and two horseman's arms*¹⁸⁹

to the Royalist stronghold at Cirencester. Charles received two Royal "Protections" for this, the first¹⁹⁰ from Prince Maurice,¹⁹¹ who was in command at Cirencester and another from the King himself¹⁹²

There is also a receipt from the following year, by Captain Francis Revesby, for a "*horse, saddle, bridle, carbine and case of pistols, bark and Broft Buff Coat and a sword and an able sufficient rider in full discharge of Light Horse and Arms for his Majesties service*"¹⁹³

After the Restoration Charles was made Steward of Corsham Manor¹⁹⁴ and High Steward of Malmesbury. He continued to acquire land in the local area, for example in 1648 he bought land from Roger Kilbury. This was a year before Charles' death in 1649, Lydia surviving her husband by six years.

Charles and Lydia had four sons - Charles, born in 1622 and buried ten years later at Alderton, Edward who died at the age of nine weeks, Thomas the heir and another Charles who outlived all his siblings, surviving to 1693¹⁹⁵.

¹⁸⁹ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p288, letter dated 14th February 1642.

¹⁹⁰ Gore, T (1666) *ibid* p287, protection dated February 9th 1642

¹⁹¹ *Count Palatrick of the Rhyne, Duke of Bavaria & Colonel of Horse*

¹⁹² Gore, T (1666) *ibid* p288 see Appendix 1.3 for the text of this warrant.

¹⁹³ Gore, T (1666) *ibid* p291 dated Feb. 28th 1643

¹⁹⁴ Jackson, Rev Canon JE Mss

Corsham then belonged to Sir Edward Hungerford. Charles' appointment as Steward was made by a committee of "*his late Majesty's Revenue*" on 17th September 1646

¹⁹⁵ baptized 23rd Feb 1635, died 21st Feb 1693

This Charles Gore is recorded as owning land and houses in the area in 1665,¹⁹⁶

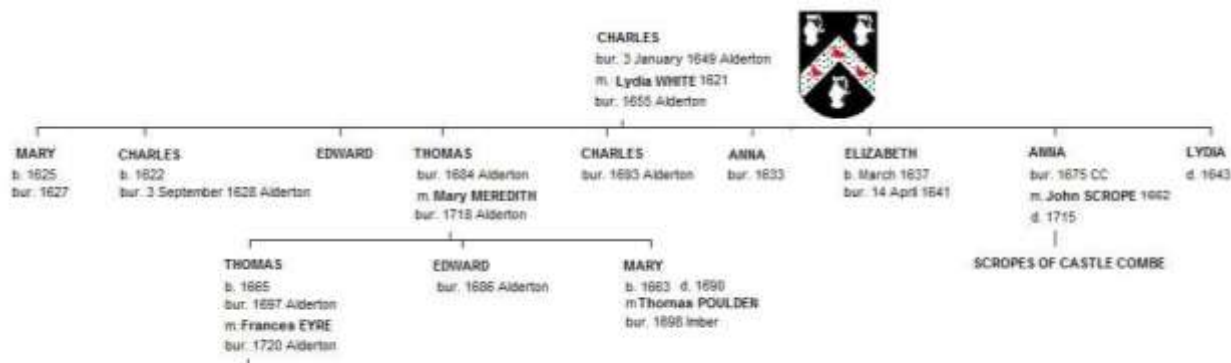


Fig. 19 Descendents of Charles and Lydia [***](#)

Charles and Lydia's first son was commemorated in St Giles by a small freestone figure of a kneeling child with the following inscription :

Here lies the body of Charles Gore, eldest sonne of Charles Gore, Esqr. who dyed the 3d day of Sept. 1628
"Hic jacet ingenii splendor, pietatis amator
Vita morte, pius, cum tamen ipse Puer!¹⁹⁷"

¹⁹⁶ Supervis J (1665) *Surveys of the Manors of Wilts: Aldrington, Surrenden and Clapcote* W&SHC 1909/1.

It is noteworthy that Thomas Gore, in his Will, refers to "an exact and perfect Survey and View of the Mannors of Aldrington alias Alderton, and Surrenden &c" which sounds suspiciously like the one referred to here, but Thomas gives the author, or at least the surveyor, as Christopher Jacob. It seems unlikely but maybe Thomas got the names mixed up (almost unbelievable for a man so exact) and a bit later on he refers to a "chest of Drawers of oak not long since made by Christopher Jacob" (my emphasis). If it wasn't a mistake Mr Jacob was a talented individual. "Supervis" translates as "Overseer", a *nom de plume*

¹⁹⁷ Jackson, Rev Canon JE (1862), editing Aubrey's *Topographical Collections, I North Wiltshire* p49

It is possible that Jackson was working from another source, but Phillip's *Inscriptions* (Sherlock, 2001, p47) show

On a monument in the Chancel

Here under resteth the Body of Charles Gore, Sonne and Heire of Charles Gore, Esq. Who cheerfully surrendered His soule into the Handes of his Redeemer, September 3, An^o Dom 1628, Aetatis suae 16

This figure may have been made from stone quarried on the estate as Aubrey records that

*In Alderton-field is a freestone quarrie, discovered a little before the civill-warres broke forth*¹⁹⁸

Anna was the only daughter of Charles and Lydia to survive childhood, the second to bear the name¹⁹⁹. Her date of birth is not known but she married John Scrope, of the ancient Scrope family of Castle Combe, in 1662²⁰⁰, and their descendants continued to own Castle Combe for over two hundred years. It is noteworthy that Dr Tully, (*Thoma Tullie Sacrae Theologiae Doctore*), who was Thomas Gore's tutor at Tetbury, officiated at this marriage. It was from one of their descendants that Jackson received the copy of Thomas Gore's manuscript. John and Anna had four sons - Charles, Stephen, John and Thomas - and three daughters - Anne, Lydia and Helena who were living in 1683.

Land details for Charles Gore, Anna Gore and her husband John Scrope survive for the years 1625 and 1665 (see Appendix 2 Tables 1 & 2), which give field names for the time.

Some of the people named in these documents also appear in 1676, complaining of lack of pastoral care from Mr Henry Hayes the Vicar of Great Sherston and Curate of Alderton. He was

¹⁹⁸ Aubrey (1969 reprint) *Natural History of Wiltshire* David & Charles Reprints ISBN 7153 4670 9 p42

¹⁹⁹ Sherlock, P (2000) (ed) *Monumental Inscriptions of Wiltshire : an edition, in facsimile, of Monumental Inscriptions in Wilton by Sir Thomas Phillipps, 1832* WRS vol 57 ISBN 0 901333 30 1 p47 gives that her sisters were Anne (survived 2 weeks) and Elizabeth, who died aged 4years and 1 month.

²⁰⁰ Phillimore, WPW (1905) (ed) *Wiltshire Parish Registers* vol 1 WRS p134
Nuptiae inter Johannem Scroope, de Cast-Combe, in Argo Wiltoniae Armiegrum & Annam Gore, filliam Caroli Gore, de Aldrington als Alderton, in Agro pr'dito, Armigeri, celebratae erant a Thoma Tullie Sacrae Theologiae Doctore, Decomi Quarto de Ferburarii, Anno Salutis a Christo partae 1662 15 regni Car 2nd Regis Angliae etc

a person very insufficient (by reason of his age and because he hath lost his sight and hath been long blind and hath many other infirmities to serve)²⁰¹

This letter was not prompted solely by concern over Mr Hayes' abilities - the livings at both Sherston and Alderton were originally in the gift of the Abbey of Tewksbury, but after the Dissolution these rights were granted to the Dean & Chapter of Gloucester Cathedral and they then granted them to their tenants - at this time a new tenant had been appointed, one William Hodges of Sherston. Alderton was very concerned to learn that a change had been made to the lease and that

The Parishoners of Aldrington suspect that they may have an improchment made upon them in continuance of time, & being here named a Chapell may lose their parochial Rights, & be represented a Chapell annexe a part of the parish of Sherstone.²⁰²

They advanced several good arguments in support of their case²⁰³. This dispute went on for a long time, but eventually Alderton prevailed.

Names that are found in both the land and this letter are Thomas Gore, Charles Gore, George Bushell and John Jaques²⁰⁴. The Jaques were a well-established family locally - Richard Jaques was rector of Grittleton at about this time and his brother George was sponsor for Dr Tully in 1657.

Much of the written evidence of Alderton is lost to us, even the manuscript by Thomas has mainly transcripts of some of the material that was in

²⁰¹ Badeni J (1966) *Wiltshire Forefathers* p4

²⁰² Gore T (?) A, (undated) letter to the Bishop of Sarum, undated, Wiltshire CRO 212a/2740 but inscribed in a later hand on the outside "Aldrington case" (one of a large number of documents in this CRO package. I am not certain the handwriting is Thomas Gore's.)

²⁰³ Gore T (?) *ibid* see Appendix 1.4 for the text.

²⁰⁴ Assuming the G Bushell of 1665 was *George* and J Jaques was *John* The same families also appear, William Watts in 1665, Andrew and Samuel Watts in 1676 and it maybe that the *Rolfe* of '65 is the same family as *Riffe* of '76

existence. There is, for example, reference in Charles' writings to a lost "register" from the years 1614 -1629. Terrible things happen to manuscripts - "*This register is not now extant, it is said to have been eaten by some greyhound puppies in the memory of man!*"²⁰⁵

Charles and Lydia had four daughters who didn't survive their childhood; Mary was born in 1625 and died two years later, Anna lived for only 12 weeks in 1633, Elizabeth was born in 1637 and lived for four years and Lydia died in infancy in 1643,

The children who died young are all commemorated by a brass plate, originally on the south wall of St Giles next to Charles Gore's monument but relocated to the north wall by 1873. It reads

Here lies the bodies of Charles Gore, aged 6 yeares old and 18 weekes; Edw. Gore aged 9 weekes; Mary Gore, aged 1 yeare and 14 weekes; Anna Gore aged 12 weekes; and Elizabeth Gore, aged 4 yeares and one month: all children of Charles Gore, of Aldrington, Esq. And Lydia, his wife, expecting the second coming of Christ

Four year old Elizabeth also had a personal brass memorial in the chancel of St Giles: *Elizabeth Gore, dau. of Charles Gore Esqr. departed this mortall life April 14 1641, aet sue 4*

*So rare a piece of beauty, grace and witt,
Though God had showed us, yet he thought not fit
For us to gaze upon too long; 'twas He
That tooke her to himself, himself to see.
Admired she was by all that did behold her;*

²⁰⁵ Gesland, Francis (1858) manuscript dated Oct 6th 1858, bound into the front of Jackson's Mss in the Library of the Society of Antiquaries, London. There is, however, a pencil written note in the margin that states "*The greyhound puppies were not guilty of this crime. The old registers were, in 1858, discovered by JE Jackson in the bottom of one of Mr. Neeld's boxes of Title Deeds which had been lying at his bankers in London since he purchased Alderton. They have been restored to the Register Chest*". What has happened to the documents, or the chest, is unknown.

Much more shall be when God anew shall mould her"

*By Mr Parson William Noble of Sutton Benger*²⁰⁶

As has been seen the first two male children died in childhood and so the Manor passed to Thomas.

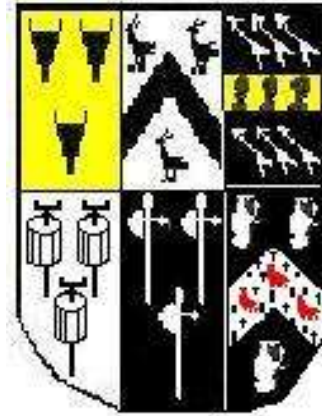


Fig 20 Arms of Thomas Gore
(after Gore, T 1666)²⁰⁷ [***](#)

He was probably the most famous of all the Gore's of Alderton, being a well-known antiquarian and genealogist, and a friend of Aubrey, (who was born in Kington St Michael) amongst others. Thomas was born at Alderton Tuesday 20th March 1631²⁰⁸ and lived "during the stirring events of the seventeenth century"²⁰⁹.

Thomas Gore was baptised at Grittleton on Easter Tuesday of 1632, the preacher being Elias Woodroffe. As was common his godfathers were

²⁰⁶ Jackson, Rev JE (1862), editing Aubrey's *Topographical Collections, I North Wiltshire*. I am indebted to Dr. P. Sherlock for informing me that this was a perfectly normal way of writing a reverend doctor's name at this time.

²⁰⁷ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p303

²⁰⁸ Jackson, Rev Canon JE Mss "at 12 of the clock at night"

²⁰⁹ Stratford, J (1882) *Wiltshire and its worthies: Notes technical and Biographical* Bron & Co London p20

related to him, being William James²¹⁰ of Alderton and Thomas Ivey²¹¹, his godmother was Anne Venner, wife of Tobias Venner of Bath.

Thomas was educated at Tetbury, then Magdalen College, Oxford in either May 1650²¹² or May 1654²¹³ depending on the authority consulted. As Thomas' own writings give May 1650²¹⁴ this is more likely to be the correct date. He was first tutored by John King and then, when this scholar obtained a country living he received permission to have Thomas Tully²¹⁵ as his tutor.

²¹⁰ His aunt Anne was married to Gyles James

²¹¹ The relationship here is rather distant, his great grandfather's first wife was Mary Ive, but the families were still local to each other.

²¹² *BM Addit. MSS 28020 ff 130-7*, quoted in Stephens & Lee, *ibid*

²¹³ Bliss (ed) *Wood's Athanae Oxonensis*, iv, 132 quoted in Stephens & Lee, *ibid*

²¹⁴ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p 305

²¹⁵ DNB vol XIX p1237

Thomas Tully BA, MA was born in Carlisle in 1620 and was educated at Queens College, Oxford and was a Fellow of the College (1643). He retired to be headmaster of the Grammar School at Tetbury after the Parliamentarians occupied Oxford, where he tutored Thomas Gore [*Gore makes no mention of this and it may not be correct -author*]. He returned to Oxford in 1657 and in 1658 was appointed Principal of St. Edmund Hall and also Rector of Grittleton. Despite his "*strict adherence to Calvinism*" (which according to Wood hindered his advancement) he was a Royal Chaplain after the Restoration and was appointed Dean of Ripon in 1675.

He was at one time engaged in a dispute with Mr Bull, the rector of Suddington near Cirencester, over Catholic doctrine as "*Dr Bull was a zealous Catholic*" (Jackson, Rev JE (1843) *History of Grittleton* Wiltshire Topographical Society)

When he officiated at the marriage of Anna Gore to John Scrope (see page 31) he was back in Oxford.

The dates given here do not fit with Thomas' writings at all, Tully wasn't at Oxford when Gore was there. It might be that Thomas *was* taught by Tully at Tetbury and not Oxford and "changed" things - it being rather more fine to be tutored by Tully as an Oxford gentleman than as a schoolboy?

He needed permission for this as Tully was at that time senior tutor at Queens College.

Thomas gained a BA and then went to Lincoln's Inn to practice Law, but retired to his inheritance at Alderton on his mother's death in January 1654.²¹⁶ She died in her house at Hummerton or Humberston Street in Hackney where she had moved from Alderton "for the better education of her children"²¹⁷

Thomas achieved public office - he was made a Gentleman of the Privy Chamber in Ordinary 13 Nov 1667²¹⁸ and he was elected High Sheriff of the

²¹⁶ Jackson, Rev Canon JE (1862), editing Aubrey's *Topographical Collections, I North Wiltshire* p51 The Chancel inscription read :

"Here lieth the body of Mrs Lydia Gore, the wife of Charles Gore, Esq. Late lord of this manor of Aldrington, who dyed the 3rd day of Jan Anno. Dni 1654" - it is uncertain whether the date was the 3rd or the 6th of January.

Dr. Tully wrote this epitath:

*Reader, if thou hast a tear,
Doe not grudge to drop it here:
Think not it can fall alone,
Flouds are due unto this stone.
Here lies (ah! how that word does pierce,
And double blacks the mournfull hearse;)
Vertue's fair copie, Heaven's delight,
Not fitt for mens' but angles' sight.
In whose pure breast sweet innocence
(Exil'd by most) found sure defence;
Where no black thought, the sire of shame
(Charm'd by her vertues' magick) came;
Lov'd by the rich, the poor did blesse
Her as theyre Sovereigne Almonesse;
Wife, Mother, Friend, better no age
E're shewed upon the world's stage.
Then reader, if thou hast a tear,
Canst thuo chuse but drop it here!"*

By Dr Tully (Rector of Grittleton)

²¹⁷ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p227

²¹⁸ DNB vol XIX p1237 and Jackson, Rev JE (1857) *The Sheriff's of Wiltshire WAM III* p35,

county in November 1680, to "take the place of John Jacob of Norton and The Rocks who, on petition, was excused"²¹⁹

As a result of "dishonourable acts" by some of his subordinates when he was High Sheriff he published a declaration, "*Loyalty Displayed and Falsehood Unmasked or a Just Vindication of Thos. Gore Esq. High Sheriff of Wilts in a letter to a Friend*"²²⁰. The Countess Badeni states that this was after *some trouble at the County Election due to the misbehaviour of some of Gore's subordinates*"²²¹.

Thomas distanced himself from their actions -

Whereas the writ for the Election of Knights citizens and burgesses for the county of Wilts to serve in the ensuing parliament was broken up before it came into, my hands by such as had no authority to do it; and precepts therefore immediately issued out to the boroughs of Old Sarum, Marlborough, Great Bedwyn and Lughtershall: To clear and exempt myself from the blame and other ill effects and damage which might accrue unto me thereby and to prevent the lie unworthy ats for the residue of the time of my continuance in my office I do hereby fully, freely and ingeniously profess (which I shall be ready to affirm upon oath, if required) that it was done without my knowledge priority, consent or orders (I having reserved the entire management of the affair in mine owne hands by the Articles of Agreement with my under sheriff) And that seeing it hath pleased his Majesty to make me High Sheriff for the said County (though the most unfittest person for so great a undertaking) I am fully resolved (by God's help) that neither the favour of great men nor the applause of the vulgar, promises of reward nor threats of revenge,

²¹⁹ Badeni J (1966) *Wiltshire Forefathers* p3

²²⁰ Published in London, 1681 (DNB *ibid*)

²²¹ Badeni J (1966) *loc.cit.*

kindness of Friends nor unkindness of enemies shall make me act any wise unbecoming a true son of the Church of England, a loyal subject of my Prince, and a hearty lover of my country And it is my desire that all my under officers would take up the same resolution and shall use the utmost endeavour to persuade them thereunto both by precept and practice. but if they will not do it the blame and shame thereof will, I hope, in the end lye at their own doore
Thomas Gore, High Sheriff of the Co of Wilts. ²²²

Thomas does not seem to have followed his father's Royalist lead - Thomson²²³ says that he

Was censured by many of the country gentlemen for want of loyalty, because his conduct in office was directed by moderation towards those of the Republication or Whig faction"

For the rest of his life after returning to Alderton he devoted himself to the study of antiquities and heraldry, becoming "one of the greatest proficient of his age"²²⁴, and it was in this connection that he became a great friend of John Aubrey, there are frequent "Quere T. G." in Aubrey's *Wiltshire Collections*²²⁵. Alderton has a further connection with this important work by Aubrey: for many years it was thought that the "second volume in folio" which Aubrey refers to in this work, was the second part of the book in the Bodleian Library. Jackson, however, found that there had in fact been another volume, which had been borrowed from the Ashmolean Museum by William Aubrey, John's brother, in August 1703 and never returned.²²⁶

²²² Jackson Rev Canon JE Mss *ibid*

²²³ Thomson, James (undated, but before 1845) *On the hagioscope and other parts of Alderton Church*, original publication unknown

²²⁴ Thomson J (<1845) *ibid* A2

²²⁵ Jackson, Rev Canon JE (1862), editing Aubrey's *Topographical Collections, I North Wiltshire* p57

²²⁶ Jackson, Rev Canon JE (undated) *Lost Volume of Aurbey's M.S.S. a pamphlet bound into Jackson Aubreyana Liber 'B' Lost*, WANHS Library

William died without issue four years later, the last of the family - he is buried in Kington St Michael.

*The rest of the story was later discovered, mainly by Jackson himself. He found a note in Warton's History of Kiddlington (1783) which stated that the manuscript was at this time partly in the Ashmolean and partly in the Library at Alderton*²²⁷

At that time Alderton was owned by the Montagu's and it seems likely that the manuscript was dispersed in the sale of the Montague property in 1815/16. No further trace has been found.

Aubrey had mortgaged his estate at Broad Chalk to Thomas and Charles²²⁸. Thomas and Aubrey eventually fell out and Aubrey is recorded as having called Thomas "a fiddling, peevish fellow"²²⁹ and "'a bore and the narrow soul'd cuckold of Aldrington alias Alderton - a figure that steps straight out of the comedies of the past, obsessed with his own importance"²³⁰. This wasn't an isolated insult - in 1680 Aubrey asked Wood to "write to the cuckold at 'Alderton, alias Aldrington' to enquire &c &c. But he is a yare man and afraid of my queries as many people are when we want to preserve the memories of their Relations"²³¹. This seems to suggest that Aubrey wanted information on a family skeleton that Thomas wouldn't provide. What this might be, if this is

²²⁷ Ponting KG (1975) *Wiltshire Portraits* p68 Moonraker Press, Bradford on Avon

²²⁸ Jackson, Rev Canon JE (1857) *John Aubrey and North Wiltshire* WAM IV p107

²²⁹ Jackson, Rev JE (1873) *The Last Will of Thomas Gore, the Antiquary* WAM XLIV, no LX p1. Jackson gives the full text for this quote in his earlier 1857 work (Jackson, Rev Canon JE (1857) *ibid*) where he says that "Aubrey writes thus (to A. Wood) "Pray remember me to Mr. Browne. If he writes or sees Mr Gore let him not tell him that he saw me: for he is a fiddling peevish fellow and something related to my adversaries"

²³⁰ "EJK" (1961) *Wiltshire Gazette* 23 Feb 1961 article on a visit to Alderton.

²³¹ Jackson, Rev JE (1873) *The Last Will of Thomas Gore, the Antiquary* WAM XLIV, no LX

the case, is unclear but a possibility was suggested in the records of Oxford University. The entry for Charles Gore (Thomas' brother) reads

*Gore Charles arm fil nat Queen's Col matric 24 June 1653
2nd son Charles late of Aldrington brother of Thomas 1650
232*

A natural son was nothing unusual, but there is no indication in the parish records or in Jackson's pedigree of this - one might wonder if this was what Aubrey thought was behind Thomas' refusal to answer his *quaeries*. Another possibility is suggested by Aubrey's reference to the "*cuckold of Aldrington*" but this is probably just seventeenth century nastiness. Aubrey had, by this time "*lost all his property*" ²³³, so he may have just been upset that Thomas (presumably) owned the property Aubrey had mortgaged to him.

Thomas Gore's writings indicate an excessive pedantry, see for example the accuracy of his descriptions in his will. He was always much concerned that the village name was incorrect, having originally been Aldrington. He almost invariably used the older spelling, but he frequently uses "Aldrington alias Alderton" ²³⁴ and was almost certainly extremely tedious on the subject. Much of Jackson's pedigree for the Gore family is from the Family Register, which Thomas compiled. He wanted his descendents to continue making a family record - he charges them so in his will and in many places where he deals with people alive at the time of writing he laid out paragraphs for marriages and deaths with blanks that could be filled in later - sadly this was not done.

²³² *Alumni Oxiensis 1600 - 1715*

²³³ Pitcairn Hill (1985) *A History of Kington St Michael in Wiltshire* p48

²³⁴ See, for example, Jackson, Rev JE (1873) *The Last Will of Thomas Gore, the Antiquary* WAM XLIV, no LX p3, line 14

It is suggested that given the spelling, and the honour in which Thomas held his ancestors, that the monuments to the immediate past family in St Giles Church were erected by Thomas Gore rather than his father Charles. This is not certain



Fig. 21 Arms of Gore and Meredith
(after Buckeridge 1995 ²³⁵) [***](#)

On 18th September 1656 Thomas married Mary, the daughter of Michael Meredith of Southwood in Gloucestershire. Her mother was Elizabeth, daughter of John Langton, an Alderman of Bristol,²³⁶. There is little else known about Mary, except that Thomas bought her a necklace of eight rows of pearls. It has been said that he also bought her a gold ring with diamonds ²³⁷ (gold ring enamelled, and set with nine diamonds) but in his will he says this "was my deare Mother's" ²³⁸.

²³⁵ [Gore] *impaling Argent, a lion rampant, sable, gorged with a collar, and a chain affixed theret, reflexed over the back or.*

²³⁶ Phillimore, WPW (1905) (ed) *Wiltshire Parish Registers* vol 1 WRS p135

anno Domini 1656

A marriage Consumated and solemnised the Eighteenth day of September in the yeare aforesaid, Between Thomas Gore of Aldrington in the county of Wiltes, Esq, and Mary Meredith, daughter of Michael Meridtih, of the City of Bristoll, gent, by William Cann, one of the Aldermen of the City aforessaid, in the pr'nce of Charles Gore, gent, Robert Cann, Junior, Merchant, William Langton, Clerke, John Merdith, gent, Henry Weare & div's others

but it is recorded in the Alderton Mariage register (ref Alderton 1078/2, W&SHC) and the photocopy of the original entry in the Alderton register shows that the marriage was carried out by "William James of the avowson of Bristol", which is at odds with Philimore.

²³⁷ Badeni J (1966) *Wiltshire Forebears* p6

²³⁸ Jackson, Rev JE (1873) *The Last Will of Thomas Gore, the Antiquary* WAM XLIV, no LX p6

Thomas and Mary had two sons and a daughter (see Fig.17 above). Their first child was Mary, who was born in February 1663²³⁹. When Mary senior was confined for the birth of her daughter Thomas bought her a "cloath Bed of a sad²⁴⁰ colour lined with Lemmon-coloured sarsnet"²⁴¹. Mary junior married Thomas Polden of Imber²⁴² and died in 1690, without children.

The eldest son and heir, also named Thomas, was born 17th December 1665, and the youngest was Edward, who died in 1686 and was buried at Alderton²⁴³

Thomas Gore the Antiquarian died at Aldrington alias Alderton on 31st March, 1681 and was buried in the church, his monument is against the north wall of the chancel. Mary survived until 1717²⁴⁴.

Thomas Gore junior inherited. His godfather was Tully, as was Sir Thomas Eastcourt of Pinkney, Master in Chancery; his godmother was Mary Montagu, daughter and heiress of Robert Baynard of Lackham.

²³⁹ *Maxia filia Thomae Gore de Aldrington als Alderton in agro Wiltoniae armigeri and maxiae uxoris juc quinot die February 16 Car Ann dom 1663* (W&SHC 1078/2)

It is noted that both the old and new spellings of the manor name are used here. Was this due to insistence by Thomas ?

²⁴⁰ June Badeni here has "sage", which makes more sense (Badeni J (1966) *ibid*)

²⁴¹ Jackson, Rev Canon JE (1873) *ibid*

²⁴² Thomas Polden was the son of Thomas Polden and Elizabeth Eyre, the eldest daughter of Robert Eyre of Chalfield.

²⁴³ According to Jackson's pedigree, but 1676 according to the DNB

²⁴⁴ DNB vol XIX p1237

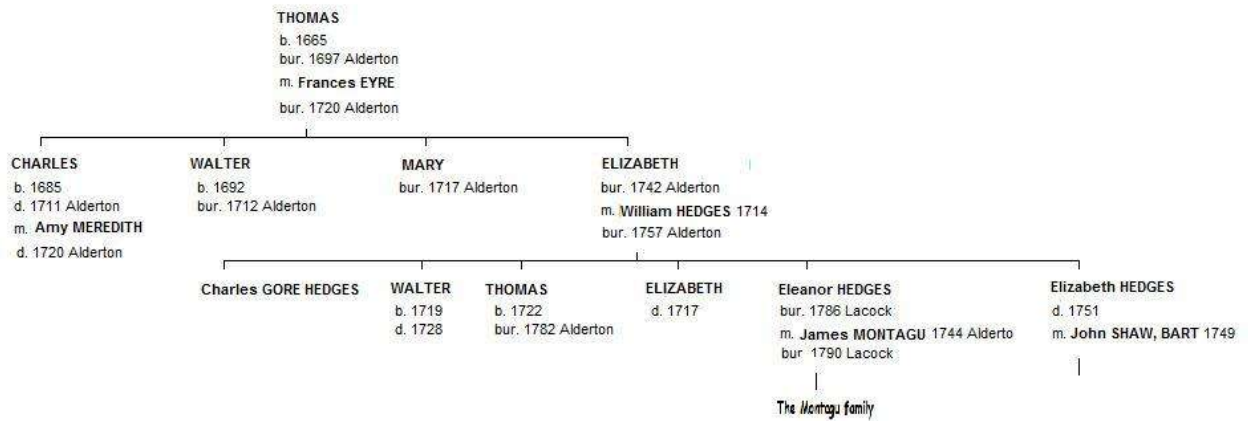


Fig. 22 The last of the Alderton Gores [***](#)

Thomas Gore junior married Frances Eyre, the fifth and youngest daughter of John Eyre of Little Cheldfield, Wilts and they had two sons and two daughters. Little is known of them, and it seems strange that Thomas the elder, who wrote so much on his ancestry and immediate past family, has so little to say about his own children....

In one of the few documents that has been found Thomas is seen asking Archbishop Sencroft to find a position for "*Mr Tomlinson.. my kinsman*"²⁴⁵. There is no Tomlinson apparent in the family tree so far known; he may have been a distant relation. The phrase "*and [so] better support himself and his family*" may be just designed to engage the Archbishop's sympathy or it might indicate that Thomas was helping to support the family ?

Thomas obviously took an active interest in politics - there are records of a couple of letters written by him to the MP for Chippenham, Walter White, the owner of Grittleton. Walter White was elected as MP for Chippenham in November 1695 and was a member of the Whig faction, who supported William III and the Protestant succession. The earliest letter is of interest as it mentions Thomas' support for the recent introduction of coins with milled edges, which was done to stop the practice of "clipping" and debasing the coins in circulation²⁴⁶. In the second, written in early March 1695, the

²⁴⁵ Transcript ion of a letter from Thomas Gore, dated 19th September 1681, to Archbishop Sancroft bound into the back of the volume of the elder Thomas's "*An alphabet in Blazon*" held in the British Library (See Appendix 1.5 for the text)

²⁴⁶ Marquess of Lansdowne (1929) *Wiltshire Politicians (c 1700)* WAM XLVI no CLVII p64

talk was of a recently foiled French-Jacobite invasion plan²⁴⁷. Thomas died in 1697 and Frances in 1720, both being buried at Alderton.

Their eldest son was Charles, born in 1685, who married Anne Meredith, and he died without issue in 1711, and Anne died in the same year as her mother in law, 1720. A note, on the second page of the Alderton Church records provides one of the few records of this lady, although it refers to her as "Amy":

*Be it remembered that in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and sixteen, Mrs Amy Gore (widow of Charles Gore, esq, late Lord of this Manour) beautified the Chancell of Aldrinton, alias Alderton with a Wainscott-Altar-Peece; and with a Communion-Table-Cloth and Cushion, both of Purple Velvet, embroidered with gold and having deep Gold fringe: and also gave at the same time, for the use of the Minister when he administereth the Sacraement of the Lord's Supper there, a large Common-Prayer-Book, bound in Turkey-leather and neatly Gilded; with Strings of broad Purple Riband, and Gold Fringe*²⁴⁸

After Charles' death the Manor passed to Walter, Thomas and Frances' second son, who was born in 1692, but he only survived his brother by a year. Walter probably bequeathed Alderton directly to his younger sister Elizabeth as she inherited in 1712. Elizabeth was born in 1694 and when she married William Hedges on 3rd February 1714²⁴⁹ the estate passed to the Hedges family. She survived her husband, who died in 1757, and in 1758 she remarried

Elizabeth and William had little more luck with their family than the last Gores. The eldest, Charles Gore Hedges, "*died young*" and his bother,

²⁴⁷ Marquess of Lansdowne (1929) *ibid* p65

²⁴⁸ Phillimore, WPW (1905) (ed) *Wiltshire Parish Registers* vol 1 WRS p135
this memorandum is on page 2 of vol II of the parish register book of Alderton, written the wrong way up.

²⁴⁹ Phillimore, WPW (1905) (ed) *ibid* p137

Walter, died in 1725, aged 6. The third son, Thomas, inherited and lived at Alderton until his death, unmarried, in 1782 ²⁵⁰.

Once again the estate devolved to the eldest daughter, Eleanor. In 1744 ²⁵¹, she married the fourth James Montagu of Lackham. This James Montagu was the great grandson of Mary Baynard, who was godmother to Thomas Gore (see above p 65).

A few years later the church tower at Alderton needed repairing - the Church account book records that the old bells of the church were sold in 1753 for £31, to cover the cost. ²⁵² The number of bells involved is not given.

There was a younger Hedges daughter, Elizabeth, who married John Shaw, Bart. of Eltham in Kent in 1740 but their only child died young in 1794.

Eleanor Montagu (nee Hedges) died in 1751 and was buried in the Montagu family aisle in Lacock Church ²⁵³. The estate passed to the Montagu family.

²⁵⁰ Little is known of him, but Countess Badeni (Badeni, J (1966) *Wiltshire Forebears*) tells that "he seems to have been a gay character, for he used to have dancing in the study...and used to invite the girls of the village to take part...[an eyewitness] said that it was "a noble room and held 12 couples" . The source for this quote is unknown.

²⁵¹ DNB vol XIX p693 tells how she was a granddaughter of Queen Anne's secretary, Sir Charles Hedges. Burke (1858) *ibid* p 54 has her name as "Elizabeth"

²⁵² Geslands, Francis (1858) ,, *loc. cit.*

²⁵³ see my own *The Manor of Lackham* (2005) for details.

**The Montagu family
(1751 - 1827)**

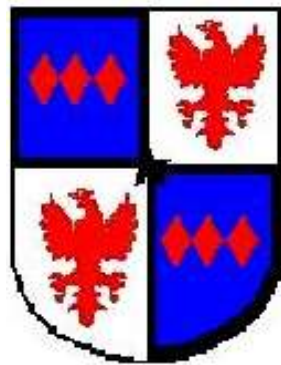


Fig. 23 Arms of the Montagu family of Lackham
(after Buckeridge, 1995 ²⁵⁴) ***

²⁵⁴ Buckeridge, D (1995) *Church Heraldry in Wiltshire* no imprint
*Quarters 1 & 3 Azure three lozenges gules in a fesse ,bordre sable, 2 & 4 an eagle gules
displayed, a star for difference*

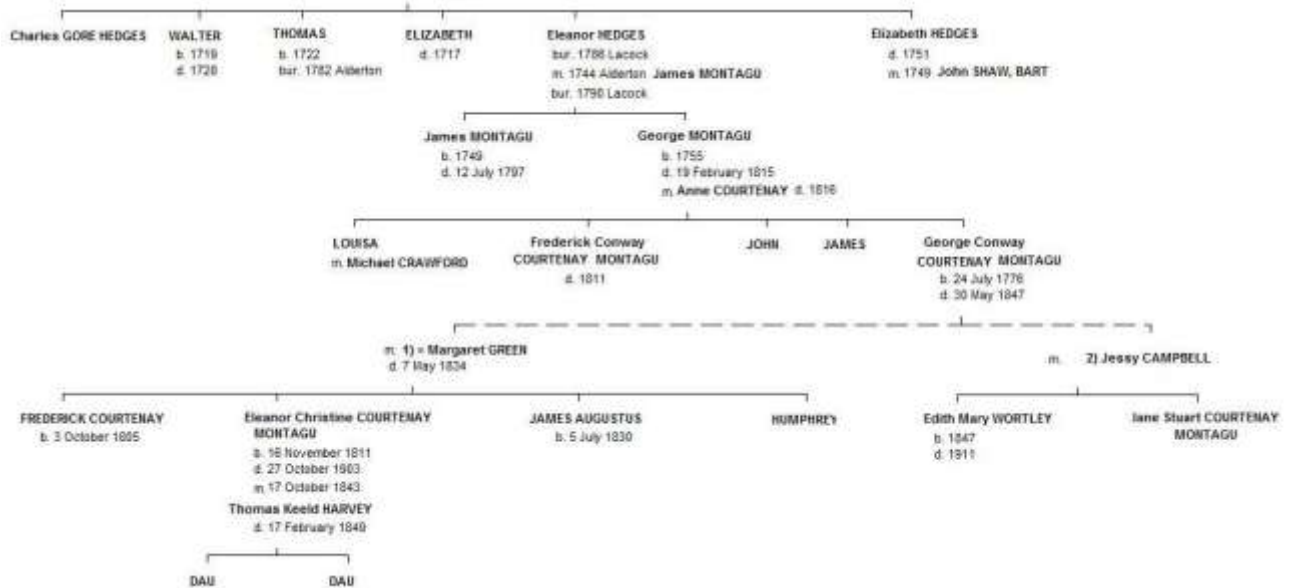


Fig. 24 Pedigree of the Lackham Montagu family ***

James Montagu and Eleanor Hedges had seven children, two sons and five daughters, for clarity some of these are omitted from the Gore pedigree. The children were named James, George, Arabella, Harriet, Eleanor, Charlotte and Elizabeth.²⁵⁵

James was a magistrate, one of the few records that shows this dates from 1782 -

12 Dec 1782 Devizes prison Elizabeth Palmer committed by James Montagu esq as a rogue and vagabond; died of infirmity and disease
256

James Montagu died in 1790. His memorial stone is now in the south aisle of St. Cyriacs church in Lacock, having been moved from its original position during the nineteenth century.

²⁵⁵ Burke, John (1838) *History of the English Commoners* vol IV records that Arabella married Ralph Woodford of Devon in October 1794, Harriet married the Rev Daniel Curnel (who died in May 1809) in July 1792, Charlotte married Mr Smith from Hill Hall in Essex and Elizabeth married the Rev Higginson, who was the Rector of Rode in Wiltshire.

²⁵⁶ Hunnisett, RF (ed) (1981) *Wiltshire Coroners' Bills 1752-1796* WRS p83 no 1325

His son James inherited. Little is known of his early life but in 1772 both James senior and junior appear in a poll of the freeholders of Wiltshire. They met at Wilton to elect a Knight of the Shire to replace Edward Popham, the poll being conducted by Henry Penruddocke, the High Sheriff ²⁵⁷.

Sometime before James' death in 1797 he borrowed £25,000 from Lord Chief Justice Ellenborough ²⁵⁸, in order to complete the purchase of lands that had formed part of Pewsham Forest next to Lackham, on the opposite side of the river ²⁵⁹. Cunnington reports that "*a provision was made in his will for the gradual liquidation of this debt*" ²⁶⁰. Unfortunately although much was repaid, at the time of his death there was £8,000 outstanding. This, complicated by the problems of succession detailed below, eventually led to serious problems.

In 1797 Lackham and Alderton came briefly under the control, but not the ownership, of James' brother, George Montagu.

He was born at Lackham in 1751 ²⁶¹ and joined the 15th Regiment of Foot ²⁶² in 1770 ²⁶³, when he was 16 years old. He married Ann, the eldest daughter of

²⁵⁷ The candidates for the election were Ambrose Goddard and Henry Herbert, result unknown.

²⁵⁸ Cunnington, W (1852) *Memories of George Montagu* WAM III p91

²⁵⁹ In 1604 James I presented the area to the Earl of Anglesey, Christopher Villiers (Jackson, Rev JE *On the history of Chippenham* WAM p35) The Earl gave the area to his granddaughters in his will. One of the two heiresses, Elizabeth, married James Touchet "*and the portion now belongs to Mr Ludlow Bruges*" (Jackson *ibid*) and the other married Mr Cary of Tor Abbey, Devon. Their son George Cary sold the principal part of Pewsham to James Montagu V

²⁶⁰ Cunnington, W (1852) *Memories of George Montagu* WAM III p91

²⁶¹ DNB vol XIX p 693 give 1751, Cunnington *ibid* p 87 has 1755

²⁶² <http://www.pwstubbs.force9.co.uk/15th/15th.htm> accessed 30/6/01

Raised at Nottingham in June 1685 by Col. Sir William Clifton as by Col. Sir William Clifton's Regiment of Foot. It was then named after the Colonels of the Regiment until 1751, when it became the 15th Regiment of Foot, in 1782 being renamed as the 15th (The Yorkshire East Riding) Regiment of Foot, in 1881 the East Yorkshire Regiment, in 1935 the East Yorkshire Regiment [The Duke of York's Own] before finally, in 1958, it was amalgamated with the West Yorkshire Regiment [The Prince of Wales's Own] to form the Prince of Wales' Own

William Courtenay and Lady Jane Stuart. Ann was a granddaughter of the Earl of Bute, Prime Minister to George III.

In 1775 George was promoted to the rank of Captain and 5 weeks later the regiment was sent to America²⁶⁴, during the American War of Independence and it was here that the Regiment earned one of its nicknames, *The Snappers*²⁶⁵. While in America George was promoted to Captain but left the Army on November 16th 1777²⁶⁶. This may have been due to his unhappiness with the experiences he had:

*the misery which often fell on the inhabitants of the scattered villages and lonely dwellings, from the brutality and licentiousness of the soldiery, was painful to him in the extreme; and in narrating anecdotes of the war to his children in after years, he was wont to allude to circumstances of this nature with abhorrence*²⁶⁷.

George and Anne had two sons, George Conway Courtenay Montagu and

Regiment of Yorkshire. The West Yorkshire regiment was raised in the same year as the 15th and was formerly known as the 14th Regiment of Foot.

²⁶³ The Army List for the Fifteenth Regiment of Foot gives that he was an ensign in the regiment 22 June 1770, made Lieutenant 8th January 1773 and Captain 1st December 1775.

²⁶⁴ Embarked 10 January 1776 but did not actually sail until 12th February "because of shortage of transports, unfavourable winds, etc"

²⁶⁵ <http://www.pwstubbs.force9.co.uk/15th/15th.htm> accessed 30/6/01

"The Regiment had exhausted it's supply of musket balls, but still had powder. They were told to keep "snapping" which was the act of charging a musket with powder only and firing it off (rather similar to today's blank ammunition) By doing this the Regiment convinced their attackers that they still had ammunition and the attack was beaten off"

This was at the Battle of Brandywine

²⁶⁶ Jones, Robert J (c 1959) *A History of the 15th (East Yorkshire) Regiment, Duke of Yorks 1685 - 1914*

²⁶⁷ Cunnington, W (1852) *Memories of George Montagu* WAM III p 88

Frederick Conway Courtenay Montagu²⁶⁸ and two daughters.

George received a commission in the Wiltshire Militia after leaving the Army, he rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. At this time (1794) a subscription was raised to augment the regiment by purchasing two field pieces, *that one of the companies may be trained to the guns*²⁶⁹.

He was a famous naturalist, publishing several books, the best known of which were the *Ornithological Dictionary* (1802) & *Testacea Britannica* (1803)²⁷⁰; his bird collection went to the British Museum and the Montagu Harrier is named after him²⁷¹. He also named many species, an example being the sea slug²⁷². He was one of the earliest members of the Linnaean Society, joining in 1788. It has been said that he "*played a not insignificant role in the development of modern biology*"²⁷³.

"His great contribution was to establish scrupulous standards in the acceptance of evidence which for many years were not to be surpassed. This was precisely what [natural history] needed at

²⁶⁸ Cunnington, (1852) *ibid* p 91 He was brigade Officer in the 23rd Royal Welsh Fusiliers under Lord Bessford when he was killed at the Battle of Albuera in Portugal, aged 26

²⁶⁹ Kite (1899) *Old Lackham House and its owners* Wilts Notes & Queries VI

²⁷⁰ see Dictionary of National Biography for a full publication list. He was a correspondent of Gilbert White's.

²⁷¹ *Falco cineraceus*, identified by Montagu, was given the name Montagu's Harrier by L. P. Viellot after Montagu's death (Badeni (1992) *Past People in Wiltshire and Gloucestershire* p 71)

²⁷²

Thecacera pennigera (Montagu, 1815)

Order: NUDIBRANCHIA

Suborder: DORIDINIA

Family: Polyceridae

Subfamily: Polyceridae

Distribution : originally reported from the Atlantic coast of Europe, it is now known from South Africa, Pakistan, Japan, Brazil, eastern Australia and New Zealand.

²⁷³ http://www.Montagumillennium.com/research/h_1815_george.htm

*that particular stage in it's history: a man without blinkers, prepared to charge about the country making certain of his facts by looking at them with his own eyes"*²⁷⁴

Charles Darwin said that "*few more careful observers ever lived than Montagu*"²⁷⁵ and quotes from George's works in several places.

George had little income, but he received a bequest from Thomas Hedges, his uncle by marriage, of £200 per annum from the Alderton estate. He lived at Easton Grey, where one of his daughters was born,²⁷⁶ and then, on Thomas Hedges' death, at Alderton House.

*Towards the end of the eighteenth century [George] formed a deep and lasting attachment to another lady, Mrs. Dorville, the wife of a city merchant*²⁷⁷, *a woman of talent and education, who made beautiful drawings for his books*²⁷⁸

It is probable that George was already associating with Mrs Dorville when he moved to Easton Grey - an elderly resident of Alderton recalled that one of the Montagu's kept a Mistress at the Manor House and this would have been possible after the Montagu's moved out.

Mrs. Dorville moved, with George, as he was posted around the country with the Regiment, while his family lived at Alderton and Easton Grey²⁷⁹. She

²⁷⁴ Allen, David *The Naturalist in Britain: A Social History*, quoted in http://www.Montagumillennium.com/research/h_1815_george.htm

²⁷⁵ Darwin, Charles (1896) *The descent of Man and Selection in Relation to Species* quoted at http://www.Montagumillennium.com/research/h_1815_george.htm

²⁷⁶ The Countess Badeni *pers.comm.* July 99

²⁷⁷ "*John, merchant/London*" Transcript of Will PROB11/1570-389 dated 10/3/1805, transcription held at WANHS Museum, Devizes

²⁷⁸ Lacock inscriptions *ibid*

²⁷⁹ Clevely, R *pers. Comm.*

and George Montagu had several children, who were acknowledged by him. In his will ²⁸⁰ George gives an annuity to Eliza Dorville - "*my beloved friend*" - with the provision that, should she die the money goes to "*her younger children who may be alive and born since the separation from her husband, Henry, Isabella, Gerogina D*". There was another daughter, Elizabeth, "*the first born through their relationship*" ²⁸¹ who is not mentioned in the will at all. It is noted that George's sister Arabella, married Ralph Dorville Woodforde some three or four years before this; it is tempting to speculate that it was through his brother in law that George came to know Mrs Dorville, but this is unknown.

In 1795 George was elected to be a Fellow of the prestigious Linnean Society; he was already much respected as a naturalist. ²⁸².

The association with Mrs Dorville was one of the factors involved when , in 1799, three of the officers in the Wiltshire Militia (Captains Awdry, Houlton and Phayre) brought Col Montagu before a courts martial on four counts of abusing his position as Commanding Officer and conduct unbecoming a commanding office. He was found guilty and dismissed from the Regiment ²⁸³.

The association with Mrs Dorville was certainly the reason that, George couldn't inherit the estates from James, because under the terms of the will George could only inherit if he was living with his wife, Ann. In a codicil his will ²⁸⁴ James Montagu stated "*my brother George shall not live at my Mansion at Lackham unless he shall live and cohabit with his wife*".

In 1801 the Trustees were ordered to

²⁸⁰. Will of George Montagu as fn 277

²⁸¹ Cleevely, R *pers. comm.* June, 2002

²⁸² My thanks to Gina Douglas, Librarian and Archivist to the Linnean Society for her assistance. George was nominated by J. Latham, W. Peete and T. Lamb and was elected a Fellow on 21 July 1795.

²⁸³ Badeni (1982) *Past People in Wiltshire and Gloucestershire* p70 gives details of the actual charges, Allen (Allen, David *The Naturalist in Britain: A Social History*) expresses it as being after "*some provocative marital skirmishing*"

²⁸⁴ Badeni (1982) *ibid.* The original will *did* leave Lackham clearly to George, but the codicil was added 4th July 1797

*Enquire whether the defendant George Montagu the elder had resided in the Mansion House at Lackham since the Testator's decease and under what circumstances, and whether Ann Montagu his wife had resided there and under what circumstances, and was it proper*²⁸⁵

Ann refused to return to George, although she did live there afterwards.

The problems of the succession were not made public - in 1797 the Rev. Samuel Denne FSA wrote that a friend of his was staying with Colonel Montagu who had been left "*by his brother a noble house built within the last five years situated in the midst of a good estate and the manor extensive to the river Avon meandr'ring by a considerable part of it*"²⁸⁶

George and Mrs Dorville eventually moved to Knowle, near Kingsbridge in Devon, where he died of lockjaw on 28th August 1815. George's wife continued to live at Lackham until about 1808-1809.²⁸⁷

George and Anne's son, George Courtenay Conway (henceforth George CC) Montagu was a spendthrift and

*even in 1797 he had already started to sign promisory notes for ready cash, and by 1799 he was living in the north of England and elsewhere under an assumed name (sometimes more than one!) in an effort to dodge his creditors. Thereafter he spent some time, on and off, living under Kings Bench Rules and thus came the gradual sale of the estate*²⁸⁸

²⁸⁵ W&SHC 137/59-6, a very large (53 pges of A2 sheets) compilation of judgements from the Courts over the Estate.

²⁸⁶ Lacock Inscriptions *ibid*

²⁸⁷ She died at Hotwells, Bristol, then in the county of Somerset, on 10th February, 1816

²⁸⁸ Lacock inscriptions *ibid*

George CC Montagu married Margaret Green in 1803. She was the daughter of Richard Green Wilson of Lancaster. They had two sons, Frederick Courtenay, born in 1805 and Humphrey. There was also a daughter, Eleanora Christine Courtenay Montagu, who was born in 1811, and married Thomas Keeld Harvey in 1842, having two children.

Records for Alderton are scarce for this period, few of the Montagu papers that have survived from the late eighteenth century mention it.

Some details are known, the names of some of the wealthier people living in Alderton in the mid 1790's are available as a result of the Hair Powder Tax.

This rather strange example of taxation was introduced in May 1795 and "*every person who shall use or wear powder, commonly called hair powder of whatever materials the same shall be made shall previously enter his or her place of abode and annually take out a certificate*" ²⁸⁹

The powder was used to dust the wigs commonly worn by the well to do, both male and female. It was commonly chalk or flour. The annual certificates cost £1 1s each and, not surprisingly, the use of hair powder quickly went out of fashion. In 1796, however, certificates were issued in Alderton to Lewis Brotherson, his wife and two daughters and to Mr Verecfield, the only records we have of these people.

A small glimpse of late eighteenth century society that we rarely think about today is given in the County Record office *precise* of an Alderton will

Will of Lewis Brothman formerly of St Christopher, now of Alderton Wilts 1799 bequeathing his property, including slaves and negroes to nephew Lewis B Verchild of Alderton Wilts ²⁹⁰

²⁸⁹ Hurley, Beryl (ed) *The Hair Powder Tax Wiltshire 1796 & 1797* WFHS W&SHC A1,395

²⁹⁰ W&SHC 254.4

Unfortunately this document was too fragile to be viewed and so I have no other details of what it actually says. (Hopefully it can be restored or at least copied and made available soon).

From this brief note, it can be seen that Mr Brothman ²⁹¹? was fairly wealthy, although he doesn't appear on any of the papers so far consulted from this period; it is interesting that a distinction is drawn between "*slaves and negroes*", does this imply that the Negroes were not slaves or simply that they were seen as a separate category from the rest of the slaves? If they weren't slaves could they have been included as "property" ? It is known that servants were sometimes mentioned in this way in wills of the period. (St Catherine here is the West Indian island, not the valley north of Bath)

A valuation of the estate was carried out in 1812, either for the court or with a view to the sale of the property. The tenant farmers and the names and sizes of the Alderton farms can be gleaned from this appraisal ²⁹² and the farms covered an area of over 1800 acres between them.

There is a slight mystery relating to the later stages of George CC's life : George apparently died in 1819 "*On Friday last, aged 43, suddenly George Conway Montagu esq of Lackham House in this county*"²⁹³, which agrees with Vernon and also with an article about George Conway Montagu published in the Wiltshire Times by Kite ²⁹⁴. Doubts is cast on this, however; Kite's articles provoked a letter, in 1931, from a granddaughter of George Conway, then living in Armadale, Australia. In a letter to the Editor she says that he "*was born on June 24th 1776 and died on May 30th 1847, aged 71, his death having been caused by a painful internal malady through the last three months of which my mother was his devoted nurse*"²⁹⁵. The discrepancy between this and the dates above is difficult to explain but it does fit with the date given by both Brocklebank and the National Dictionary of Biography. For Jane

²⁹¹ The W&SHC's "?" before the name is noteworthy. Given the name of his heir it is possible that these might be the very same people mentioned in the Hair Tax returns of only three years earlier? Could Lewis Brotherson = Lewis Bothman and Mr Verecfield = Lewis B Verchild? It seems more than likely

²⁹² see Appendix 2, Table 5

²⁹³ *Devizes and Wilts Gazette* September 2nd 1819

²⁹⁴ *Wiltshire Times* February 7th and 14th, 1929

²⁹⁵ *Wiltshire Times* 1931, *Lacock Inscriptions* *ibid*

Courtenay Montagu to have been George's daughter he would have had to survived beyond 1819. The writer states that six years after the death of his first wife in 1834 he married Jessy, daughter of John Elphinstone Campbell and they had 2 daughters - the author of the letter, Jane Stewart Courtenay Montagu and Edith Mary Wortley, who died in 1911 aged 64 ²⁹⁶. This would mean he was 58 when he married Jessy and died the same year as his youngest daughter was born. It would seem possible that the reports of his death were much exaggerated and that he actually just disappeared to escape his creditors - it seems a rather *romantic* suggestion but it is not unheard of and may well represent the truth. Whatever happened it is known that George died in Beromndsey, and Jessy Campbell emigrated to Australia three years later with her children.

²⁹⁶ No records for Jane have been found, but the Victoria State records show that Mary Wortley Montagu married Frederick William Matthews in 1854. Unfortunately neither of her parents are named (Victoria State register number 3693).

The Neeld family



(1827 -1965)

Fig. 25 Arms of Joseph Neeld
(after Buckeridge, 1995) ²⁹⁷ [***](#)

²⁹⁷ Buckeridge, D (1995) *Church Heraldry in Wiltshire* no imprint p67
per pale Argent, and azure, a lion passant between three greyhound heads erased counter charged

The next owner of Alderton was Joseph Neeld²⁹⁸, who was not a native of the area, yet his family became extremely influential in northern Wiltshire for many years.

It has been suggested that Joseph Neeld was born in 1789 *to a Bath surgeon*²⁹⁹ but this is confusion with his great uncle's family. Joseph Neeld's great uncle on his mother's side was Phillip Rundell of the famous London jewellers Rundell, Bridge and Rundell. Philip Rundell

*was born at Philip St Norton [sic] near Bath in 1767, the youngest in a family of 16. His elder brother Thomas was articled to a surgeon and apothecary at Bath and [lived] there*³⁰⁰

Joseph Neeld was actually the eldest son of a family of 10, whose parents lived in Hendon, Middlesex.

His father, also named Joseph, "*was a solicitor and perpetual president of Clements Inn in the Strand founded 1478*"³⁰¹. Brief details are to be found in Devizes museum - he was born in 1754 in Hendon, Middlesex, was married there on March 29th 1788 and died on the 20th December 1828 at 101 Gloucester Place, Portman Square, London³⁰². Fox gives fuller details

Joseph Neeld was the son of Mr. Neeld, a solicitor of Norfolk Street, the Strand, who was in partnership with Mr. Fludgate and

²⁹⁸ I am much indebted to Mr Keith Woodman, who kindly shared his extensive knowledge of the Neeld family. He pointed out numerous factual and typographical errors that would otherwise litter this section.

²⁹⁹ Melhuish, K (1979?) *Mid 19th Century Architecture on the Neeld Estate at Grittleton, Wiltshire* folio MSS in Wilts. Local Hist Library, Trowbridge

³⁰⁰ Fox, George (1843/1846) *An account of the firm of Rundell, Bridge & Rundell, London Jewellers*, an unpublished Mss (with a typewritten transcription dated 1957) National Art Library (V & A Museum) 276. E. 3

³⁰¹ Joseph Neeld Esq MP DL JP Sevington School 150th Anniversary project Commemorative Programme WANHS Library box WT241, no 14

³⁰² Jackson JE (unknown, after 1856) *Mss* WANHS box 120 Mss 1298

*they carried on their profession in the name of Neeld and Fludgate. This Mr. Neeld married a daughter of Justice Bond of Bow Street and his wife's mother was a sister of Mr. Phillip Rundell - consequently Joseph Neeld was the son of a niece of Mr. Rundell*³⁰³

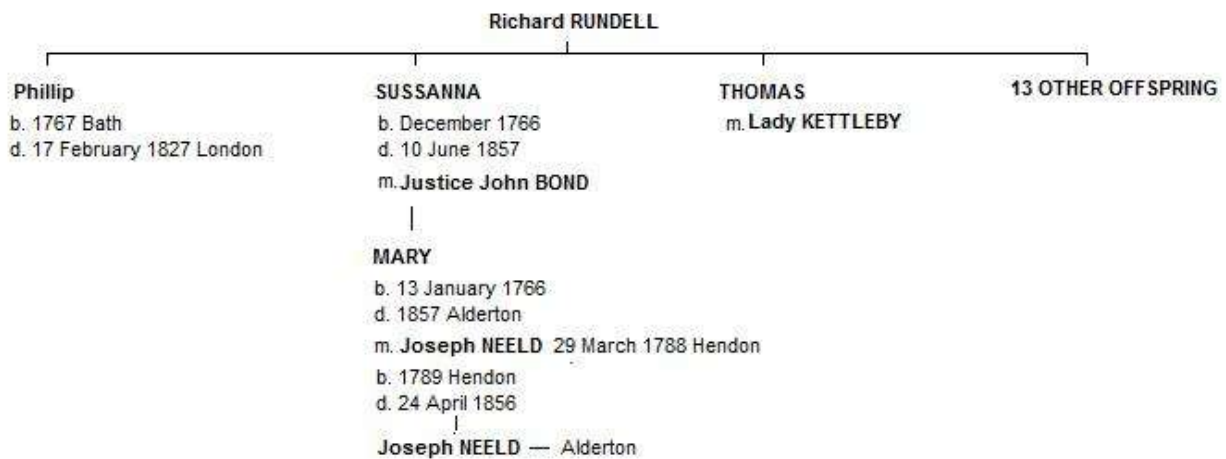


Fig. 26 Pedigree of Rundell ***

Mary Bond died at Grittleton on 10th June 1857.

Phillip Rundell started with nothing but eventually became a partner of the firm during its great years³⁰⁴. He was careful with his money - "*by steady gains and continued parsimony he amassed this enormous wealth. He never spent anything and lived wretchedly.*"³⁰⁵

³⁰³ Fox, George (1843/1846) *An account of the firm of Rundell, Bridge & Rundell, London Jewellers*, p 94

³⁰⁴ They were *the* Society jewellers - for example in 1823 the *Gentleman's Magazine* reported (1823, vol 2 p27 *An account of the Money expended at His Majesty's Coronation, stating the Amount, under the several heads, expended, and from what sources the Money was supplied*) "Messrs Rundell and Bridge for snuff boxes for foreign ministers £8,205 15s"

(This was the sixth largest amount for the entire Coronation)

³⁰⁵ Badeni J (1966) *Wiltshire Forefathers*

It is said that he made his fortune by buying jewellery from those fleeing the French Revolution who sold their jewels in London "often at prices favourable to the purchaser"³⁰⁶

When he died at the advanced age of eighty³⁰⁷ Rundell was worth between £1.4m and £1.5m - an incredible amount in the early nineteenth century. He made Joseph Neeld his residuary legatee, ie Joseph got everything left after the other bequests were honoured, in a will Rundell made sixteen days before his death; Joseph Neeld became a very wealthy man indeed.

Joseph Neeld owned property at Norton St Philip, between Frome and Bath in Somerset, presumably part of his inheritance from Philip Rundell. It was here that he first employed the architect who was to work with him on his estates for the next thirty years, Thomson.

Another association from this time that was to last for many years was with JE Jackson who was the Vicar at Farliegh Hungerford. The two got on so well that Joseph offered the good Canon the post of Vicar at Leigh Delamere, where he remained for the rest of his life, and was closely involved with the Neeld family, hence much of his information was gained at first hand.

Alderton was the first estate, but by no means the last, that Joseph bought in this corner of northern Wiltshire. His purchase of the manor brings yet more uncertainty to the last days of the Montagu's tenure and tends to support the suggestion that George was still living in 1827, and maybe still in England. In the Wiltshire Record Office there is a document which indicates that George and his son, Frederick, dealt directly with Joseph Neeld for the sale of Alderton estate through their agent John Knipton ;

The said John Hannam Knipton agreed to sell and the said Joseph Neeld agreed to buy all the hereditaments comprised in the announced particulars consisting of one thousand eight hundred and ninety six acres three rood and thirty six perches or thereabouts situate at Alderton and Hull Lavington near Badminton in the County of Wilts at the

³⁰⁶ Badeni J (1966) *ibid*

³⁰⁷ on the morning of Saturday February 17th, 1827

*sum of sixty one thousand pounds and all the timber and lees thereon being at the further sum of one thousand pounds*³⁰⁸

This agreement allowed Joseph Neeld access to the estate as he was

*desirous of taking advantage of the present season of the year for planting Ornamental and other trees and Shrubs in certain parts of the said estate..... in such manner as to him shall seem fit*³⁰⁸

It is likely that large numbers of trees were planted at this time, the location of some of the planting is known precisely. The Rev. Goddard mentions that Joseph Neeld had planted those which "form the avenue from the field called Tinings to the entrance of the village running beside the church"³⁰⁹

It has always seemed likely that Joseph bought Grittleton and Alderton because they lay next to each other, but it also happens that John Houlton, from whom Joseph purchased Grittleton in 1828³¹⁰, also owned estates at "Farley"³¹¹ and so was a neighbour of Joseph when he was at Norton St Philip (see above).

³⁰⁸ "Memorandum of agreement as to the planting of the Alderton Estate without prejudice to the pending investigation of the site" W&SHC 1305/16

³⁰⁹ Goddard, F *et al* (1928) *Alderton alias Aldrington Parish Notices of Aldrington parish to be kept in the parish chest* W&SHC 1678/8

Goddard was the second Vicar of the refurbished church at Alderton. He was the sixth son of Rev Edward Goddard Lord of the Manor and Vicar of Clyffe Pypard. Born 21-22 Jan 1814 died Nov 22 1893 educated Grammar School of Edward VI at Marlborough and then Brasenose College Oxford.

³¹⁰ W&SHC 1142/1 deed between John Houlton and Joseph Neeld

"The said Manor of Grittleton... in the said county of Wilts were in the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty eight sold conveyed and assured by the said John Houlton & John Forraine (? Surname not certain, Houlton's solicitor?) Houlton to Joseph Neeld esquire"

³¹¹ Jackson JE (unknown, after 1856) *Mss* WANHS box 120 *Mss* 1298

Exact details of the manor at the time Joseph bought it are not available but a survey was carried out two years previously³¹² and again the names of the tenant farmers can be found (see Appendix 2 Table 7). The farms total about 1700 acres.

Alderton was in a terrible state by the time it became Neeld's property, it had been in Chancery for years and had

*Suffered all the evils of non resident proprietorship. Its noble house had been pulled down and the materials and furnishings sold, its stately timber everywhere felled and fences neglected*³¹³

The old Manor house was demolished sometime between 1814 and 1845, the exact date is unknown³¹⁴ although it may be that it was "taken down not long before 1828"³¹⁵.

*Alderton was in the keeping of the Montagues then of Lackham in this county who had despoiled it of the magnificent timber (for which the old inhabitants recalled it to have been remarkable) and destroyed the Manor House situated in what is still called the Bowling Green, a paddock opposite the church to the north above the old manor pond. The house had its face toward the farm now in the occupation of Mr David Sargent called the Manor Farm*³¹⁶

³¹² From data in Raynes, I (1825) *Particulars of sundry estates in the County of Wilts* W&SHC 1305/16

³¹³ Thomson, J (1845) *ibid* possibly originally published in the Gentleman's Magazine. Copy held in W&SHC.

³¹⁴ Anon (1814) *The Beauties of England and Wales* quoted in Thomson, J (1845) loc.cit "The old manor house, which is still standing, is situated north of the village church and is now the property of a family called Hedges"

³¹⁵ Goddard, F et al (1928) *Alderton alias Aldrington Parish Notices of Aldrington parish to be kept in the parish chest* W&SHC 1678/8

³¹⁶ Thomson, James (1845) Alderton, which is a photocopy Thomson's notebook, Wiltshire Local History Library, Trowbridge, BRN 0429263 LUC

The villagers had suffered greatly from this lack of proper ownership - Thomson and John Crocker (agent for Joseph Neeld) surveyed the village in 1827 and reported that

We were struck [by] the wretchedness and destitution of the inhabitants and their dwellings. The latter were not only dilapidated and dirty from the number of inmates compressed into each narrow house but the styes and Privies which everywhere stood in front of their hovels were placed so that the channels on each side of the road might receive the odious filth from each.

These circumstances joined to the barely clad condition of the parents and their poor squalid children [here there is a footnote - Many of the children had but one ragged garment / a smock shift / and without shoes or stockings to their feet or covering to their heads some about almost in a state of nature -] mixing in communion with the swine, the whole scene as revolting to humanity as it was astonishing to find that in the middle of one of the most prosperous counties of England such a state of things could exist³¹⁷

It should not be thought that Alderton was unique, although being under absentee landlords would have made its situation worse than most. There was much unrest in the rural areas in the early nineteenth century and the generally terrible conditions and poor pay of the agricultural labourers were mainly responsible. The "planned village" movement and ideals can be seen, in *part*, as a response to this.

This dreadful state of affairs was not allowed to continue. The entire village was rebuilt to designs by Thomson, and this is the village that we see today.

³¹⁷ Thomson, James (1845) *ibid*, BRN 0429263 LUC

I am indebted to Mr Midwood and Mrs Doyle for their work on this same record, (Midwood, H (1995) *ibid* p5) as there were several phrases in the original that I was unable to read but which they had successfully deciphered. Thomson's handwriting is frequently difficult.

The houses were laid out down the existing street pattern with large gardens and good drainage. Writing some forty years later the Rev. Goddard said that

the cottages as they now stand werebuilt on the site (rather thrown back) of the old cottages pulled down to make room for them, This occurred some years before the church was built they are chiefly on what is called a model principle of different patterns more or less praiseworthy as the case may be. Two that were erected later just before I came here, are perhaps the largest and the best. They are all, I believe, let to the cottagers for an annual payment of £2 12 0. Each house has two bedrooms, a sitting room and a back kitchen (a scullery) ³¹⁸

Surprisingly, however, these new villages

found no welcome with the poor. At Grittleton... and at Alderton on [Neeld's] estate, the families ejected from their old hovels refused to occupy the new tenements and some families in the latter place encamped under the hedges for the greater part of one winter. ³¹⁹

Sometime later, in 1843, Thomson and Neeld turned their attention to the Church, which was "nearly taken down, only the stump of the tower and the pillars of the nave with the north door and the porch remaining of the old fabric" ³²⁰. Joseph Neeld rebuilt the Church and made a new vicarage. Three of the original bells were recast and a new one made ³²¹ and another commemorates Mary Neeld, Joseph's mother ³²².

³¹⁸ Thomson, James (1845) Alderton, which is a photocopy Thomson's notebook, Wiltshire Local History Library, Trowbridge, BRN 0429263 LUC

³¹⁹ Goddard F (1928) *Reminiscences of a Wiltshire Vicar : 1814-1893* Wilts Gazette June 7th 1928 in six parts, reprinted as a MSS, WANHS Library, shelf 19

³²⁰ Goddard, F (1928) *ibid*

³²¹ The inscription on the new one reads "I was cast AD 1843 when the church was restored by Joseph Neeld esq. Lord of the Manor"

³²² Goddard, F et al (1928) *Alderton alias Aldrington Parish Notices of Aldrington parish to be kept in the parish chest* W&SHC 1678/8

Commemorative plate in the Church was donated by the Rev Goddard ³²³; an alms bowl marked "1853 Edward Hungerford Goddard bapt^d January ye 18th 1854 For Alderton Church Wilts" ³²⁴ and a platen marked with 1857 hallmarks and inscribed "Cecil Vincent Goddard bapt^d Febuary ye 28th 1858 For Alderton Church Wilts" ³²⁵. (The only other plate described by Nightingale was from the time of Charles Gore - Thomas Roffe ³²⁶ bought a chalice for the church that was inscribed "Thomas Roffe of Alderton Church Warden Bought this Communion Cupe cost Three Pounds Anno Domini 1663"

Joseph Neeld also built, and endowed, a school for the village. It was constructed from material of the old church. In Goddard's time the schoolmistress was Jane White; from his description she was a formidable woman "Jane was an admirable disciplinarian if not a good penwoman ³²⁷ ... the face of Jane White was enough to keep order in any school" ³²⁸

*I (Treble) "I'm put here to make a peal
And sing the praise of Mary Neal"*

"In memory of Madam Mary Neeld"

³²³ Nightingale, JE (1891) *The Church Plate of the County of Wiltshire* pp208-9

³²⁴ This was the Rev EH Goddard who became a well known and important local historian.

³²⁵ Nightingale, JE (1891) *The Church Plate of the County of Wiltshire* pp208-9. Cecil Vincent was later Vicar of Chideock, Devon in 1890.

³²⁶ In the list of landholders in 1665 (see Appendix 2 Table 4) there is a *Rolfe*, this may well be a misspelling of Roffe and this is the same person.

³²⁷ Goddard F (1928) *Reminiscences of a Wiltshire Vicar : 1814-1893*

Wilts Gazette June 7th 1928 in six parts, reprinted as a MSS, WANHS Library, shelf 19

"Funny as it may sound, I do not believe that she ever learned to write, but taught herself after she was schoolmistress."

³²⁸ Goddard F (1928) *ibid*

The Schoolmistress received very little pay - sometime after John Neelds death in March 1856 it was only £10 per annum, although the house was rent free and she also received the money the children paid for schooling ³²⁹. The teaching was mostly reading, writing, and sewing for the girls. Goddard recorded that Mr Neeld paid for the firewood. The quality of the education gained was not high, the Vicar certainly felt that there was scope for improvement ³³⁰

Three years later there was a Schools Inspection; the quality of instruction was not recorded but from this visit we know that the population was 182 a slight increase from the census of 1851 but only 6 more than thirty years earlier ³³¹.

The Neeld family house was located at Grittleton, and the focus necessarily changes away from Alderton at this time. Specific references to Alderton become less common from this period onwards, although the trials and tribulations, the successes and triumphs of the owners of an estate necessarily have an effect on that estate and its people.

When Joseph Neeld bought Alderton and Grittleton he was unmarried, but on January 1st 1831 he married Lady Caroline Ashley-Cooper, daughter of Lord Shaftesbury, at Warwick Castle. This marriage was *"the unfortunate event of Mr Neeld's life. ...his family foresaw the extreme unsuitability of the*

³²⁹ Goddard F (1928) *ibid* They paid 1d per week each (assuming it was actually paid which may not always have been the case. This came to "about £20 per annum"

³³⁰ Goddard F (1928) *Reminiscences of a Wiltshire Vicar : 1814-1893* Wilts Gazette June 7th 1928 in six parts, reprinted as a MSS, WANHS Library, shelf 19 *"as regards the education of the children it is time there should be an improvement.... we did not move rapidly in Alderton, or the small parishes near it, in the matter of education"*.

³³¹ Warburton (1859) *Census of Wiltshire Schools - An account of all Day schools for children of the Labouring Classes arranged by Parishes in the County of Wiltshire by the rev William Warburton MA, one of her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools*

The population was fairly steady. Goddard gives the following census figures :
Census dates pop.

| | |
|------|-----|
| 1821 | 176 |
| 1841 | 180 |
| 1851 | 178 |

*marriage and almost up to the day of it urged him to desist*³³². Unfortunately they were correct and the marriage did not last long and " *Mr Neeld and Lady Caroline never cohabited as husband and wife*"³³³. She only remained at Grittleton (which at that time was a Tudor mansion, only being rebuilt much later) for six weeks after the marriage and in that time

*She conducted herself in the most extraordinary manner. The story was that she found his clothes in a wardrobe in her room, pulled them out and threw them over the gallery into the hall. Mr. Neeld wrote to his sister Mrs Boldero 3 days after the marriage that he was miserable - Lady Caroline spent all her time in discussing him noting down every circumstance and his sayings and doings*³³⁴

One is tempted to feel that such behaviour might lend credence to Jackson's view that Lady Caroline " *had only one object in view viz to get a handsome settlement any rate*"³³⁵

After only a short time the couple removed to 6 Grosvenor Square, the Neeld London home. Joseph moved into Coulston's Hotel nearby and threatened to sell the house and even went so far as to order a broker to value the things and " *stuck up a Bill to Let with his own hand*"³³⁶

In June of 1832 it was reported³³⁷ that the couple were separated, or about to separate³³⁸ and in the same month Lady Caroline brought suit against

³³² Jackson JE (unknown, after 1856) *Mss* WANHS box 120 *Mss* 1298

³³³ Jackson JE (unknown, after 1856) *Mss* citing Lord Denman, *via* his son Capt Joseph Denman

³³⁴ Jackson JE (unknown, after 1856) *Mss* *ibid*.

³³⁵ Jackson, of course, was very well disposed towards his patron, was made an executor of Joseph's will and the two men were personal friends, so his account may be biased

³³⁶ Jackson JE (unknown, after 1856) *Mss*

³³⁷ Baddeni, J (1966) *Wiltshire Forebears* p69 In the Morning Herald

Joseph for "restoration of conjugal rights" claiming that he had left her after two months; on 14th July Joseph was ordered by the court to take her back. At a meeting that evening at Coulston's Hotel Joseph reluctantly agreed that he had no option but to allow Caroline's return but presented her with a statement specifying the terms on which they were to live³³⁹. Joseph made sure these conditions were known to his acquaintances³⁴⁰

Things didn't work out, and in December of 1831 Lady Caroline was back at the Court, suing for divorce on the grounds of cruelty and a sensational case developed (with much mud slinging and accusations) which was referred to in the local paper as "*the farce of Low Life Above Stairs*"³⁴¹. Although the case was dismissed, eventually, there was obviously no chance of reconciliation and a separation was arranged. Lady Caroline was granted £1200 per annum in 1832

The two never met again in England but

*Once, by chance when travelling abroad at Wiesbaden, driving up to the hotel gate slowly one evening another carriage whipped in the gate before his. The party in it got out and went upstairs and he and his party followed. He said that something crossed his mind as the carriage passed him as to the truth but he did not know until following a lady upstairs she turned round on the landing place to see who was coming after her and lo her husband his daughter (Mrs Jones) and the Boldero's were with him. He said nothing to her then but.... saluted her by raising the cap he had in his hand*³⁴²

³³⁸ The separation may well have already taken place, although the length of time the two were together is not certain. Melhuish (1979? *Ibid*) suggests 4 days, but no evidence is presented, whereas Badeni (1966 *ibid*) mentions a fortnight's honeymoon.

³³⁹ See Badeni J (1966) *ibid* pp 70-71 for a copy of the letter.

³⁴⁰ Jackson JE (unknown, after 1856) *Mss* The copy he saw was sent to the Rev C G Coles of Stanton. Jackson felt that this was all very proper - "*Mr Neeld's letters were throughout most kindly an properly expressed and he was perfectly justified in all that he did*"

³⁴¹ Wiltshire Gazette

³⁴² Jackson JE (unknown, after 1856) *Mss*

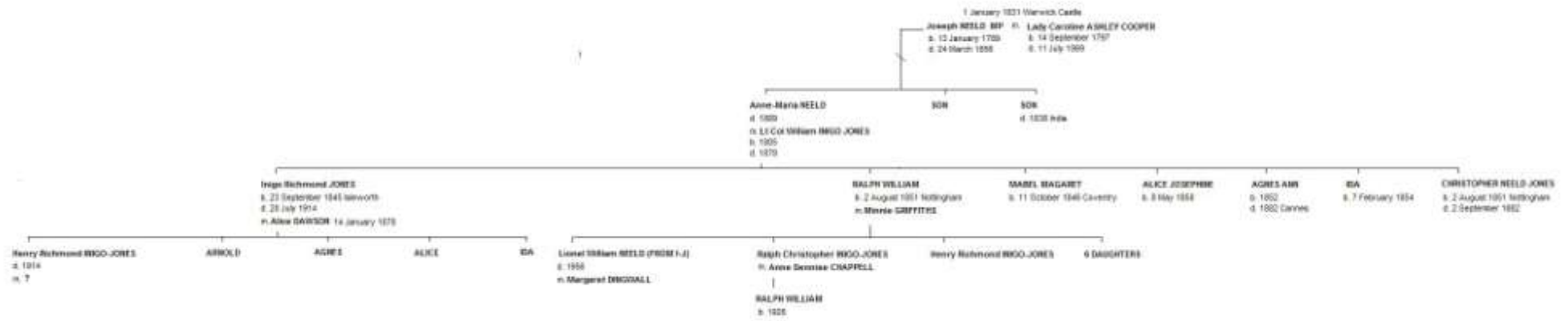


Fig. 27 Descendents of Joseph Neeld [***](#)

Obviously Joseph and Caroline had no children but Joseph did have an illegitimate daughter who was brought up in his house and was "*said to have been the child of a French woman of great beauty*"³⁴³ Local legend has it that

*When Lady Caroline arrived at Grittleton after the honeymoon she immediately asked who was the little girl running about the house and that this started the break up of the marriage*³⁴⁴

This is probably incorrect as Anna Maria is described on the marriage certificate, as "*filia illega nomen matris Shafto*"³⁴⁵, and therefore Caroline would presumably have known about her. Also if she was a *major* cause of the marriage breakdown it seems strange that she is never mentioned in the Court reports, given the tenor of the rest of the evidence where no stone remained unflung, at least on Caroline's part.

Jackson's pedigree indicates that Joseph also had two illegitimate sons, but these both died before him, one "*early*" and the other in India in 1838 - no other details are known.

Anna Maria married Major William³⁴⁶ Inigo Jones (Prince Albert's Hussars) at St Mary's Marylebone on the 14th August 1844. Thomas Wylde, the rector of North Wraxall³⁴⁷ and Joseph's brother in law (see below) conducted the ceremony. Joseph settled £4,000 on Maria at her wedding, a considerable sum.

³⁴³ Baddeni, J (1966) *Wiltshire Forebears* p72. This seems very likely, it may be recalled that Joseph's uncle had, it was rumoured, made his money by purchasing gems from French gentry fleeing the Terror, so both Rundell and Neeld would presumably have known many French ladies of beauty, quality and breeding...

³⁴⁴ Baddeni, J (1966) *ibid* p73

³⁴⁵ Sevington memorial programme 1999 *ibid* WANHS WT241 This indicates her mother's surname was Shaft? Hardly a French name, surely?

³⁴⁶ Keith Woodman *pers. comm.*

³⁴⁷ Undated and unassigned newspaper clipping in WANHS box 120, Mss 1280 as above

Shortly before his death Joseph gave Kelston Park, near Bath, to the Inigo-Jones. Joseph had owned the estate for some time, in 1835 he is said to have built Kelston Tower House (designed by Thomson) "*for his women folk and his love child, his mother and his beautiful French Mistress lived there from 1835 to 1850*"³⁴⁸

Joseph was not an only child; he had 5 brothers and 4 sisters. Four of these brothers died young. The only other Neeld male to survive childhood was Joseph's eventual heir, John (born July 1805) (see Fig. 22 - next page)

Family ties were even more important than now, and when Joseph was MP for Chippenham - at a time when the town returned two MP's - he arranged for his brother in law, Henry George Boldero, to serve with him as the town's second Member.

Boldero had married Joseph's oldest sister Mary Elizabeth in 1826. The two men were, as seen above, joint Members of Parliament for Chippenham until the town lost its second MP after the Reform Act (1832). The two families were obviously long term friends, it has already been seen that the Boldero's were in Joseph's party in Wiesbaden some time later (the exact date is unknown).

Henry and Mary Boldero had two children. The younger of Henry and Mary's two sons, the Rev. Henry Kearney Neeld Boldero, was Rector of Yatton Keynall between 1856 and 1864, when his patron was Sir John Neeld (the only rector of Yatton Keynall to be patronised by the Neeld family)³⁴⁹. After this he was

³⁴⁸ Mowl, T (1987) *A Taste for Towers* Country Life Oct 1 1987 p154

³⁴⁹ From the display of Rectors of the church, on the north wall. The church is dedicated to St Mary of Antioch and "*heavily remodelled in 1868*" (information in display, supporting an appeal for funds, in the south nave August 2000).



Fig. 28 Joseph Neeld and siblings [***](#)

Henry Kearney married Grace Cecilia Wylde. She was his cousin, being the second child of the Rev Thomas Wylde and Mary Susannah Neeld, another of Joseph's sisters.

Grace was born on the 2nd June 1795 and died 5 December 15th 1888.³⁵⁰ They had three children, the oldest was Walter, born in 1864. The second son, Arthur Henry, was born in 1872 but only lived for eight months³⁵¹. Jackson records that there was a daughter born in January 1874³⁵² but no further details are known.

Joseph Neeld's sister, Maria Susannah Neeld, married the Rev Thomas John Wylde at St Mary's Church in Marylebone, London in June 1836³⁵³. Thomas Wylde was a younger son of the Walker-Heneage family of Compton Bassett³⁵⁴. They had two children, the eldest was a boy, Calcraft Neeld, born 17th April 1837. Calcraft married Elizabeth Carter and was Vicar of Maiden Bradley in Dorset and then Rector at Grittleton. The only memorial fixed to the outside of Grittleton church is to him. Engraved into the northern side of the West doorway is

*in memoriualrat Neeld Wylde ob 23 March 1919 aetat 81
To the glory of God
in remembrance of the 12 years incumbency of the Rev
C Wylde the figure of the patron saint of this church was
placed in the tower niche by his grateful parishioners 1919.*

Mary Susanna burned to death in 1857, the local paper carried a report of the tragedy :

³⁵⁰ Grittleton Inscriptions *ibid*

³⁵¹ Grittleton Inscriptions *ibid*
Arthur Henry Boldero died 7th May 1873, aged 8 months

³⁵² Jackson JE (unknown, after 1856) WANHS box 120 Mss 1298

³⁵³ *Gentleman's Magazine* July 1846 p 85

³⁵⁴ Burke, John (1838) *History of the English Commoners* vol IV p370

Melancholy death of a lady

We are saddened to report the death, under distressing circumstances, of Mrs Wylde wife of the Rev T J Wylde of North Wraxall and sister of Sir John Neeld. The deceased lady had been suffering from illness for some time past one Monday morning about two o'clock her husband left her in bed and went into an adjoining room. After being absent for some time he perceived a smell of smoke, which appeared to proceed from the room which he had quitted. He ran to the door and found the room filled with smoke, so much so that he was totally unable to get in. The other inmates were immediately aroused, and the alarm given to neighbours. A large supply of water was procured and thrown into the room, which, to some extent, cleared away the smoke. A man named Pullen, a deputy surveyor of roads, then succeeded in getting into the room by crawling on his knees, when he found the unfortunate lady sitting in a chair in flames, and quite dead. One of her hands was raised and clutched the bell-handle, near the fire place, as though she had endeavoured to ring the bell. She was burnt almost to a cinder. There was a fire in the grate at the time but it is supposed that she got out of bed and that her clothes caught fire from the taper she was carrying ³⁵⁵

Joseph Neeld's sister, Elizabeth Charlotte, was unlucky in her marriages; she was first married to James Kearney White who was the first captain of HMS *Tyne* and who died in Bermuda ³⁵⁶. He and Elizabeth had the only recorded

³⁵⁵ Trowbridge Advertiser Sat April 11 1857

³⁵⁶ HMS *Tyne* was a 28-gun warship, launched at Woolwich in 1826. Capt. James K. White was her first captain in November 1826 (according to Philips), followed in 1828 by Capt. Sir Richard Grant, and in 1830 Captain Charles Hope took command in the West Indies. The vessel was ordered home in 1833. Capt. Viscount Ingestrie took command at Portsmouth in 1834 and Capt. John Townsend commanded in the Mediterranean in 1837-38. HMS *Tyne* was sold in 1862. <http://www.cronab.demon.co.uk/T.HTM>

© 1995, 2000 Michael Phillips acknowledged.

According to HMS *Tyne's* log (Public Record Office ADM/51/3511) Kearney White commissioned what was apparently a new ship - they spent the first few months putting the

offspring of Elizabeth's marriages, Elizabeth Charlotte, who eventually married John Mogg of Farrington Gurney.

Eleven years after Capt. White's death Elizabeth married the Rev Richard Jones and the marriage lasted 16 years, Richard dying in 1857. Elizabeth was 61 years old at this time and looked likely to remain a widow for the rest of her life, but in 1866, when she was 74, she married the 38-year-old aristocrat, Lord Nigel Kennedy³⁵⁷. It may be wondered why Lord Kennedy married such an elderly lady - Elizabeth by this time was the second eldest surviving relation to Joseph, but her elder brother John already had seven children and there was no chance she would inherit the Neeld fortune. She may well have had a goodly estate, of course.

Joseph's youngest sister, Rosina Josephine, was born in Fulham in August 1807 and married Colonel (later Major General) John Patton³⁵⁸ in February 1830. He was the son of Admiral Patton of the Board of the Admiralty. Rosina and Col. Patton were married at St Mary's Church, Marylebone 11th February 1830.

Joseph Neeld was well known for his good works and financial support in the local area. He rebuilt several churches (Alderton, Leigh Delamere³⁵⁹), built

mast trees in place, and loading rope, canons, ballast and so on. The last entry made by James was 26th March, 1826 and the next in the log is in October of that year, the ship under the command of Captain Grant. James must have died between these entries but the precise date has not been determined.

³⁵⁷ Foster, Joseph (1882) *The Baronetage and Knightage of the British Empire* p12 (Ailsa) Lord Nigel Kennedy born May 1828, died 18 March 1878 married 19th June 1858 May the youngest daughter of Major James Frere, she died 1st February 1862, and then married Elizabeth Charlotte widow Rev Richard Prankerd Jones 1st November 1866, children by first marriage. Nigel was the fourth son of Archibald Kennedy the 12th Earl of Ailsa and his wife Margaret Eskine.

³⁵⁸ Jackson JE in WANHS box 120 Mss 1289 has Patton / Pulton which might indicate the possibility of an alternative spelling but the memorial in Grittleton church to Rosina it is shown as Patton -
in memory of Rosina Josephine Patton died 8th January 1877 aged 78 this window was erected by her children [north aisle window]

³⁵⁹ Heetham, JH & Piper, J (1968) *Wiltshire* p 113
The old church here was pulled down in 1846 and it's reusable parts taken to Sevington, where they form features in the strange village school. Thompson also designed the prsetn

several schools (Alderton, Sevington ³⁶⁰), rebuilt at least one entire village (Alderton) and significantly developed another (Grittleton), all for the benefit of his tenants.

An insight into some of the institutions of Alderton at this time can be gained from Goddard's valuable records. He tells of the various charitable clubs that were organised, for example

There is a clothing club originally started by Mr Deer which contained (1848) 27 people of whom all but two paid 2d per week. Mr Neeld donated £5 and the Rabbits killed on the estate were formerly sold for this fund in the several parishes but this has been discontinued and Mr Neeld raised his subscription from the £3 0 0 at which it stood to £5 0 0
361

And then there was

a coal club into which each householder of the labouring class puts 5s to provide 10 cwt of coal. At Xmas [sic] the farmer bring the coal from Pit gratis, the turnpikes are repaid to the farmers - a portion of this I have paid myself and a portion I have put to the charge of the surplus of the Clothing Club. The coals are weighed in the village before given out they are usually given out in Xmas week the cost at the pit 10s per ton

The purchases of each farmer are thus ;

St Margaret's, whose Gothic bell turret is a fair copy of the one that Neeld had previously pulled down! [sic]

³⁶⁰ See above

³⁶¹ Goddard, F et al (1928) *Alderton alias Aldrington Parish Notices of Aldrington parish to be kept in the parish chest* WSHC 1678/8

| | <i>Tons</i> | <i>Cwt</i> |
|----------------------|-------------|------------|
| <i>Mr Sergent</i> | <i>4</i> | <i>10</i> |
| <i>Mr B Kingston</i> | <i>3</i> | <i>0</i> |
| <i>Mr Wheeler</i> | <i>2</i> | <i>10</i> |
| <i>Mr Spencer</i> | <i>2</i> | <i>0</i> |
| <i>Mr J Kingston</i> | <i>2</i> | <i>0</i> |
| <i>Mr Bath</i> | <i>1</i> | <i>10</i> |

David Sergent was Churchwarden "*although he became a dissenter in later life*"³⁶² and was influential in the Sunday school. As Churchwarden he collected the farmer's contributions towards the cost of running the school and "*if there has been a deficit it has been made up by Mr Sergent*"³⁶³

Joseph Neeld, although an immensely wealthy man, was maybe not as well off as people thought. Jackson recalls³⁶⁴ a conversation where

Mr Neeld told me that people generally supposed that he was hoarding large sums of money, it was not so. When all his income came from the funds³⁶⁵, and at one time he was the largest holder of 3 per cent, he had a large unencumbered fortune; since investing in land it was greatly reduced both in interest and in expenses and drawbacks... He had spent his income every year for the last few years

Land may not have been as profitable as stocks and bonds, but Joseph became one of the great landowners of the county - the tithe records show that in 1832 he owned land in 14 parishes with a total of 8848 acres, which equates

³⁶² Goddard, F *et al* (1928) *Alderton alias Aldrington Parish Notices of Aldrington parish to be kept in the parish chest* WSHC 1678/8

³⁶³ Goddard, F *et al* (1928) *ibid*

³⁶⁴ Jackson JE in WANHS box 120 Mss 1289

³⁶⁵ ie stocks and bonds - Joseph held significant stocks in the East India Company and the South Sea Company

to approximately a quarter of the entire titheable land in these parishes ³⁶⁶ and his holdings were above average for the parishes in all but one of them (Lydiard Millicent). Goddard, writing about c1860, gives details of the farms at Alderton:

The extent of the parish is 15,000 acres divided into 5 [he then consistently lists 6] farms. At this time the farms [were] occupied by

David Sergent Manor Farm near church

John Kington Glebe Farm near rectory

Eli Spencer

John Beard Kingston New Farm

Mr Wheeler

Mr Butler Grove Farm

the largest of these, Manor Farm, is about 400 acres, the smallest about 130 acres Manor Farm is rented at about £600. The farms were mainly running shorthorn dairy cows: "the yield from these magnificent beasts can sometimes be as great as 30 quarts per diem but this is not often achieved. Sheep are not generally found, the whole parish being not above £300"

The farms were mainly down to pasture, and this had not changed later in the century when, at the time that Joseph's brother John Neeld was Lord of the Manor ³⁶⁷, about a quarter of the land was arable, the rest pasture.

When Joseph first bought the estates he was a keen huntsman, he was "*driven.. to seek for excitement and amusement in trifles.. he was hunting every day*" ³⁶⁸. This is borne out by a remark he once made to Jackson who

³⁶⁶ From data in Brown, T (1812) *Valuation of the Lackham and Alderton Estates* W&SHC 1305/16 (see Appendix)

³⁶⁷ Estate records of Sir John Neeld (W&SHC 1780/16)

| Farm | Acres | Arable | % arable |
|-------|-------|--------|----------|
| Grove | 246 | 56 | 26.8 |
| New | 274 | 74 | 27.0 |
| Manor | 438 | 118 | 27.0 |
| Town | 246 | 40 | 16.3 |

³⁶⁸ Sevington memorial programme 1999 *loc. cit* WANHS WT241

noted that "*at that time he did not attend to matters as much as latterly as he was hunting every day with a large loose establishment and not careful of business.*"³⁶⁹. Shooting was also part of the estate use, and as well as the farms Alderton was "*surrounded by plantations and covers, many of them newly planted by Mr Joseph Neeld*"³⁷⁰. It was in one of these that events, recorded in Smith's "Birds of Wiltshire", took place:

It was a large plantation of very low young trees with laurels thickly planted beneath them, a cover, one would suppose, most unsuited to the roosting of such a multitude of birds when they might have chosen, immediately adjoining, a grove of full-grown trees of all kinds better suited to the accommodation of their lodgings. However it was in these small larch firs that they chose to rest. Multitudes innumerable began to assemble opposite my house every evening not on the ground but in the air where they formed into groups and exercising the most fantastic figures, among them that of a vast balloon turning itself inside out and continually reforming itself, they performed for perhaps an hour before they were ready to settle for the night. Then, having been reinforced by vast contingents from every point of the compass they drew near their night's quarters and suddenly descended with an immense clatter upon the slender branches of the large fir trees close to the keepers house, where were many sporting dogs generally making a great barking, and the guns of the sportsmen fired off after the sport of the day This went on for several years, and it was found that their presence was injurious to the plantation, which, especially the laurels, began to decay However by some unintentional offence they removed their quarters and it was found that they had left behind them

³⁶⁹ Jackson JE in WANHS box 120 Mss 1289

³⁷⁰ Goddard, Rev F (printed 1928) *Reminiscences of a Wiltshire Vicar : 1814-1893* Wilts Gazette June 7th 1928 ff, a reprint is held in WANHS Library, Devizes

hundreds of cartloads of guano, which were afterwards used by the farmers on the estate ³⁷¹

It is not certain if the author of this report was Goddard, which would imply the woodland was opposite the Rectory, or Smith, or some unacknowledged source.

Joseph Neeld, for all his protestations of "cash-flow" concerns, was generous to his family. However although he gave £30,000 amongst his relatives this "failed to satisfy them" ³⁷². He also gave Rev T J Wylde £2000 "in his difficulties a few years ago". What these difficulties were is not known.

On Joseph's death, in March 1856, the estate passed to his brother Sir John Neeld. The trustees of the estate were Sir John, Colonel William Inigo Jones and the Rev Canon Jackson. Joseph was the first to be buried in the new family crypt that he had built under Canon Jackson's restored church at Leigh Delamere. There was a slight problem here, the coffin was too large to go through the crypt door and had to be lowered into the crypt through the roof ³⁷³. A tablet in the choir at Grittleton records that "To the glory of God and in memory of Joseph Neeld Esq the east window was erected by his (18) friends and Tenants (71)". Church bells throughout the local area were rung in respect ³⁷⁴.

Joseph's brother, John Neeld, inherited his estates and developed and enlarged them for the next 34 years.

³⁷¹ Goddard, F et al (1928) *Alderton alias Aldrington Parish Notices of Aldrington parish to be kept in the parish chest* WSHC 1678/8

³⁷² Jackson JE in WANHS box 120 Mss 1289

³⁷³ *Devizes & Wilts Gazette* 3 April 1856

The entrance to the crypt, in which Mr Neeld had directed his body to be interred, had unfortunately been formed in the original vestry on the north side of the church, but in consequence of the staircase being too narrow to allow the coffin to be carried down, part of the flooring was taken up, and at the proper time, and with aid of a windlass and pulleys, the body was lowered to its resting place

³⁷⁴ Goldney FH (1899) *Records of Chippenham* p254

"1856 Paid Benjamin Wick for Tolling Bell on Funeral of the late Mr. Neeld 5s"



Fig 29 Arms of Sir John Neeld, Bart
(after Debrett, 1919) ³⁷⁵ ***

John Neeld was born in 1805; his twin brother Edward died aged three.

John Neeld was educated at Harrow and then at Trinity College, Cambridge where he gained a BA in 1827 and an MA 3 years later.

³⁷⁵ Debrett's *Peerage* 1919 edition p1019. The shield with the red hand in it, (top centre) is the sigil for a baronet:

*The order of baronets is a hereditary rank or degree below the peerage, baronets were first created in 1611 by James I in connection with the colonisation of Ulster [particularly the need for finance:] A lump sum had to be paid by anyone who wanted the honour and they had to [have] three generations of armigers before them as well as possessing a good estate Pine, LG (1969) *Genealogist's Encyclopedia* p228]*

Argent, a sinister hand erect, coupled at the wrist and appaurtine, gules (Brooker-Wilke JP (ed) (1970) *Boutell's Heraldry* 7th ed p201

The arms are also sign of the Neeld Arms public house in Grittleton, although here the whole shield is blue and the armorials are gold: ***

Fig. 29 b)



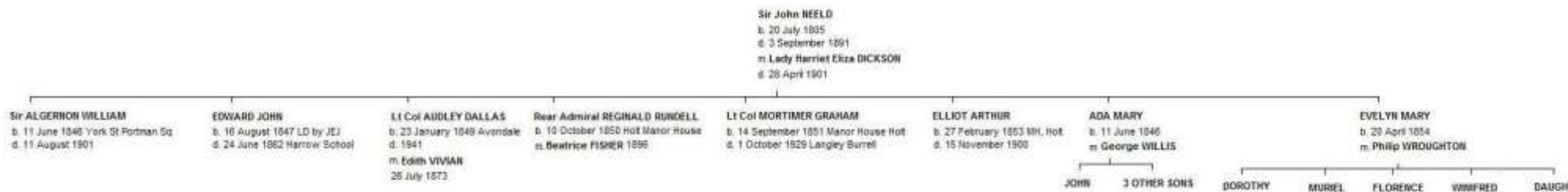


Fig 30 Children of Sir John Neeld, Bart ***

He was the MP for Cricklade for nearly a quarter of a century, between 1835 and 1859 and MP for Chippenham from 1865 to 1868

When Joseph first bought Grittleton John lived there for a time. When, in 1843, John was made a gentleman in Waiting to the Queen³⁷⁶ (a position he held until 1847) he was living at "Red Lodge".

John married Lady Eliza Harriet Dickson³⁷⁷ in August 1845 but all was not well - Joseph was "*long opposed to this marriage, no one knew why and it was sometimes a cause of complete severance between the brothers*"³⁷⁸ They were later reconciled. Indeed, John had an income of £600 per annum, rent charge from Leigh Delamere, that Joseph had settled on him.

The brothers were not only reconciled but John took Joseph's opinions and advice very much into account. This is clearly shown in an event recalled by Jackson. In 1852 Lord Derby became Prime Minister and offered John the position of Junior Lord of the Treasury. After consulting with Joseph, John declined it and on

³⁷⁶ *Gentleman's Magazine* March 1843 p309

Jan 31st *George Marton of Capenwray Hall Lancaster esq. MP and John Neeld of Red Lodge, Wilts esq. MP to be Gentlemen of the Privy Chamber in Ordinary*
The location of Red Lodge is unknown.

³⁷⁷ Newspaper clipping, unassigned but dated in pencil 1845 25 Aug. WANHS box 120 Mss 1298

The marriage of John Neeld Esq MP for Cricklade with Eliza daughter of General Dickson of Beneham House Reading was solemnised on Monday 25th instant in St Georges Hanover Sq. The lovely bride, who was attired in rich white silk trimmed with Honiton lace, and a veil of the same material, was attended to the altar by four bridesmaids, Ms Fanny Dickson, the misses Meade and Miss Wylde [this was probably Grace Cecilia Wylde, she would have been 5 at this time]

Also *Gentleman's Magazine*, November 1845, p522

³⁷⁸ Jackson JE in WANHS box 120 Mss 1289

telling Lord Derby why he laughed and said, "*why what an obedient brother you must be*"³⁷⁹

After their marriage John and Eliza lived in London, they had trwins, their first son Algernon William Neeld and his sister Ada Mary were born in Portman Square in June 1846³⁸⁰, the family then lived for some years at "Avondale" at Bathford, where their third son Audley Dallas (January 1849) was born. It is uncertain where the second son, Edward John Neeld, was born but he was baptised in Canon Jackson's church at Leigh Delamere in August 1847. He died at Harrow school in June 1862, and was buried, by Jackson, at Leigh Delamere.³⁸¹

In 1850, the family moved to Holt. Their last three sons - Reginald Rundell (1850)³⁸², Mortimer Graham (1851)³⁸³ and Elliot Arthur (1853) -³⁸⁴ were born there as was, presumably, their daughter

³⁷⁹ Jackson, JE *ibid*

³⁸⁰ *This was not the same house as Josphe Neeld senior had lived in, that was in Gloucester place, this was a house in York Street (Jackson JE, Mss *ibid*)*

³⁸¹ *North Wilts Herald vol II no IV Saturday June 28 1862 p8*

On the 24 inst at Harrow in his 15th year, Edward John, second son of Sir John Neeld, Bart, of Grittleton House.

The Herald wasn't quite correct - Edward was 14 years 10 months (Leigh Delamere Burials W&SHC fiche 1620/5)

³⁸² Reginald Rundell joined the Royal Navy and rose to the rank of Rear Admiral. He married Beatrice Fisher in 1896 but they had no children. He died at 14, Chichester Terrace in Brighton but was buried in the family vault on 4th August 1939 (Leigh Delamere Burials *Ibid*)

³⁸³ Mortimer Graham Neeld was a Lt Colonel in the 17th Lancers. He lived at Langley Lodge, Langley Burrell and didn't marry. He died in 1929 and was buried at Leigh Delamere 2nd Oct 1929, aged 78

³⁸⁴ Foster Joseph (1882) *The Baronetage and Knightage of the British Emp* p459 He lived at Kilmarston House, and was buried at Leigh Delamere three months after brothr, Algernon William. (Leigh Delamere Burials, *ibid*, Keith Stonehuse *pers. comm*)

Evelyn Mary (1854), but neither Jackson or Joseph ³⁸⁵ mention the location.

John Neeld was elevated to the Peerage when he was made a Baronet for his political services in 1858. Fox, although talking about Joseph and writing over a decade before John's elevation, would not have been surprised -

The honourable Gentleman [Joseph], his brother [John] and brother in law [Boldero] deserve well from the Tories and Conservatives for they have been most steady and consistent supporters of every measure emanating from that side of the house and quite as steady and consistent in opposing every measure at all calculated to extend either civil or religious liberty! ³⁸⁶

John Neeld continued to expand the estate, and in 1872 he was the seventh largest landowner in Wiltshire, a county renowned for its large estates ³⁸⁷. This was the year in which he was the High Sheriff of Wiltshire

³⁸⁵ Foster (1882) *ibid* doesn't mention the daughters at all

³⁸⁶ Fox, George (1843/1846) *An account of the firm of Rundell, Bridge & Rundell, London Jewellers* p99

³⁸⁷ Watkin, B (1989) *A History of Wiltshire* ISBN 0 85033 692 9
Results of a Parliamentary enquiry into land ownership set up in 1872. The 10 estates below covered about 23% of the entire area of the county :

| Owner | Acres | Gross rental per annum (£) |
|-------------------------------------|--------|----------------------------|
| Earl of Pembroke (Wilton) | 39,600 | 43,200 |
| Marquess of Ailsbury (Savernake) | 38,000 | 40,000 |
| Marquess of Bath (Longleat) | 20,000 | 29,000 |
| Earl Radnor (Longford) | 17,200 | 21,500 |
| S. Watson Taylor (Erlestoke) | 15,000 | 21,000 |
| Richard Long (Rood Ashton) | 13,600 | 22,000 |
| Sir John Neeld (Grittleton) | 13,100 | 18,799 |
| Sir Henry Meux's trustees (Vastern) | 11,900 | 16,200 |

In 1873 Sir John's third son, (and eventually the third baronet) Audley Dallas Neeld, married Edith second daughter of Lord Vivian. Jackson was invited to the wedding ³⁸⁸, which took place in London and was performed by Henry Kearney Boldero. ³⁸⁹

Both daughters married - in 1874 Ada Mary married Maj. Gen. George Willis, MP for Portsmouth ³⁹⁰ and Evelyn Mary married Philip Wroughton MP in 1875 ³⁹¹

One of his last public acts of munificence ³⁹² was to donate the site of the Jubilee Institute building in the Market Place in Chippenham. ³⁹³

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Marquess of Lansdowne (Bowood) | 11,100 | 20,800 |
| Earl of Suffolk (Charlton) | 11,100 | 13,200 |

³⁸⁸ WANHS Library (box 120 Mss 1298) contains this invitation
Lord and Lady Vivian request the pleasure of Rev Canon Jackson's company on Saturday July 26th at St Paul's Church Knightsbridge at 11 o'clock Breakfast at Langham Hotel, Portman Square at $\frac{1}{4}$ past 12 o'clock

³⁸⁹ Untitled newspaper cutting, WANHS box 120 mss 1298.
Henry Kearney was assisted by the Hon Rev R Lidell (from the bride's side) and the bridesmaids were Edith's sister Maud, Miss F Codrington, Miss L Spicer and Miss Pouncefoot

³⁹⁰ Keith Woodman *pers.comm.*
"In his will Sir Algernon William Neeld bequeathed £100 to each of their four (unnamed) sons, one of whom, John, was involved in a suicides scandal in Paris"

³⁹¹ *Devizes and Wilts Gazette* Sept 3 1891 *ibid*
Philip and Evlyn Wroughton lived at Woolley Park, Wantage, Berks.

"In his will Sir Algeron bequeathed money to each of their five daughters. Only one was mentioned by name (Dorothy, the eldest) but there are three others mentioned in the 1881 census - Murial, Florence and Winifred" Keith Woodhouse, *pers. comm.*.

³⁹² *Devizes and Wilts Gazette* Sept 3 1891 *ibid*

³⁹³ Goldney, FH (1899) *Records of Chippenham* p181 Chippenham Celebration of Her Majesties Jubilee - Programme of proceedings *Upon leaving the Church*

In March 1891, the County lost one of its great men when the Rev. Canon John Edward Jackson, who had been Rector of Leigh Delamere for more than 56 years, died ³⁹⁴. He was buried in the churchyard, and Algernon William Neeld, John's son and heir, was present at the funeral ³⁹⁵. Six months later he was back, with a much larger gathering of the rich and mighty, for his fathers funeral.

Sir John Neeld, Bart. died at Grittleton on September 3rd 1891 and was succeeded by his son Sir Algernon William Neeld. A few days before his death he was at the Grittleton flower show and when congratulated on his hale appearance he replied "*I am an old man but I am not tired of life*"

The funeral was very grand, with most of the County aristocracy attending, as well as John's tenants; the representative of Alderton were Mr and Mrs Monkton, Misses L and H Hall, Miss Scott and Mrs Wheeler.

At the hour appointed for the funeral and at intervals earlier in the day the death peal was tolled and at night the ringers rang a muffled peal. Among the wreaths one of the most beautiful was from the parishioners of Alderton with the message "In grateful and affectionate

the Procession (of Yeomanry Cavalry, Volunteers and Friendly Societies) will reform and proceed past the site given by Sir John neeld bart for the local Memorial Institute"

³⁹⁴ I have already noted my indebtedness to Canon Jackson, but I must record here my deep appreciation of an antiquarian of the first order, whose incredible knowledge of the history and families of Northern Wiltsire leaves me breathless with admiration. We would all be the poorer, by far, without his sterling efforts.

³⁹⁵ *Devizes and Wilts Gazette* Sept 3 1891 p6

memory"³⁹⁶

John's eldest son, who had been running much of the estate for many years, inherited the estate. He was Sir Algernon William Neeld, the second Baronet.

Algernon William Neeld was educated at Harrow and took a BA at Christ's Church College, Oxford, in 1868 and an MA at the same College eight years later. He then lived at Grittleton "uninterruptedly"³⁹⁷, and helped his father to run the estate and, 25 years later took over on his father's death.

His tenants described him as a model landlord and, on his fiftieth birthday (in 1896), they presented him with a substantial token of their regard³⁹⁸. He appears to have been a supportive landlord throughout the long period of agricultural depression in the late nineteenth century.

AW Neeld continued his family's tradition for munificence; he supported the establishment of the Chippenham Cottage Hospital³⁹⁹ and was a regular contributor to its funds. Just before his death he gave £100 towards the proposed County Secondary School but didn't live to see it established.

³⁹⁶ *Devizes and Wilts Gazette* Sept 3 1891 *ibid*

³⁹⁷ *Devizes and Wilts Gazette* Aug 16 1900 p8

³⁹⁸ *Devizes and Wilts Gazette* Aug 16 1900 *ibid*

³⁹⁹ Which was located on the north side of the London Road. It was closed and demolished in 1993. It was a nice little hospital; I was treated in the accident department there, once, after my shoulder blade was broken in an assault at Lackham. The local Health Authority felt that Chippenham didn't need two small Hospitals and closed it. Houses have now been built on the site, Larkham Rise runs north along what was the centre of the Hospital site.

In 1897 Queen Victoria celebrated her Diamond Jubilee, and national celebrations were held. The local paper ⁴⁰⁰ reported that Alderton

celebrated the Jubilee with great heartiness and general good feeling.....On Jubilee Day the bells rang out a rejoicing peal instantly the day was begun and at 5 o'clock in the morning the booming of cannon waked any that might yet be sleeping. From the church tower floated the Union Jack, and the Royal Standard or the St George's Cross or other loyal emblems on farms and cottages made the whole village bright and gay. Among the mottoes were at the entrance to the church "Be thou my strong habitation" over the Vicarage gateway "Peace be within thy gates" at the school "God bless all the children" at the manor farm "God bless the queen". Sir Algernon Neeld and the Vicar gave a splendid supper to which everybody in the parish was invited and the children and infants had tea and cake provided for them. Mrs Maidment of the Manor farm most kindly gave the use of her excellent rooms for the festivities and took charge of the cooking of the round of beef and the several other joints and Mrs Wheeler of the Townfield farm kindly took charge of the making of the puddings and Mr Wheeler and Mr Arthur Maidment looked to the general arrangements. Music and song, and dance and games, and athletic sports succeeded supper, and were continued until the dusk of evening closed the happy day. The notice of invitation asked that the guests should bring with them kindly feelings for one another and "loyal hearts

⁴⁰⁰ Newspaper clipping, newspaper unidentified, date unidentified *Diamond jubilee The Wiltshire Festivities* WANHS Library Wiltshire Collection 7.145

and true; they seem to have done that, and the day was one that will long be pleasantly remembered"

In the same year the Great Western railway-line between Swindon and the South Wales, the line that runs through Bristol Parkway, was being constructed just south of the village (it isn't noticeable when travelling to the village, as the railway is in a tunnel where the Grittleton road passes over its course). The navvies building the railway were housed in huts close to the work and had their families with them - the school records for this year include the following entries:

April 21st Edith Shepherd's and Francis Fletcher's parents have left the village, their fathers are gone to work on another part of the new line which is being constructed through the neighbourhood

May 22nd Being Whit Monday, which the men keep as a holiday, not a child has come from the railway huts

Oct 26th Admitted Frank Cox, another boy from the line huts.

Four days later Frank ran away from home but was "forced to return"

AW Neeld died in. He had been ill since the previous Christmas, when he contracted a cold, but seemed to recover. Some months later he suffered an "internal malady" which confined him to bed and, by August 9th, the local paper reported that he was "in a critical condition"⁴⁰¹; he died two days later. His three brothers, his cousin the rector of Grittleton and his "Faithful attendant, Nurse Pacey"⁴⁰² were with him.

⁴⁰¹ *Devizes and Wilts Gazette* Aug 9 1900 p5

⁴⁰² *Devizes and Wilts Gazette* Aug 16 1900 p8 *Death of Sir A W Neeld*

The funeral took place on August 15 1900, AW Neeld was buried in his family vault under Leigh Delamere church, "*his body was in an elm shell in a lead coffin, and these were enclosed in a polished oak coffin with raised panels and massive brass ornamentation*"⁴⁰³

Algernon William's brother, Audley Dallas Neeld, inherited the estate and the baronetcy, becoming the third Baronet.

As ever, changes were made to the estates with the change in ownership - within a year Audley Dallas sold the Red Lodge estate (3,000 acres)⁴⁰⁴

Queen Victoria died on January 22nd 1901. Five days later Alderton held a memorial service for the late Queen, taken by the Rev. Hutchinson. The new altar lights were first lit for this service⁴⁰⁵ - the "*two candles have been lighted (sic) before every celebration of the holy communion ever since*"⁴⁰⁶.

Later that year John Neeld's widow, the Dowager Lady Harriet Elizabeth Neeld, died at her house in Eaton Square in London, and was buried in the family vault.⁴⁰⁷

⁴⁰³ *Devizes and Wilts Gazette* Aug 23 1900 p5

⁴⁰⁴ *Devizes and Wilts Gazette* Sept 26 1901 p6

⁴⁰⁵ Altar lights were only "legalised" after the Lincoln Agreement for their use, in 1890.

⁴⁰⁶ Goddard, F *et al* (1928) *Alderton alias Aldrington Parish Notices of Aldrington parish to be kept in the parish chest* W&SHC 1678/8

Alderton alias Aldrington Parish Notices of Aldrington parish to be kept in the parish chest WSHC 1678/8

⁴⁰⁷ *Leigh Delamere Burials* *ibid* buried 3 may 1901 aged 81

Given the relatively large amount of information generally available from the mid nineteenth century onwards there appears to be remarkably little for Alderton. It was, and still is, a small village tucked away from the main thoroughfares and concerns of the area⁴⁰⁸. Some records can be found however, often concerning the weather - of three such, the first dates from 1906, when the Rev Charles Hutchinson recorded that

*On the night of Jan 5-6 1906 a violent hurricane of wind blew down 3 elm trees in the vicarage garden one falling diagonally across the churchyard gate smashing it and the lamp on its stone pedestal besides doing irreparable injury to the end (nearest the road) of the yew tree hedge between the vicarage and the churchyard. Two large elms in the small paddock belonging to the vicarage opposite the vicars gate were also overthrown.*⁴⁰⁹

In 1915, the whole area of Malmesbury suffered from another great storm, the results of which were reported in the local newspaper :

On Sunday afternoon Alderton was visited by a thunderstorm of unusual severity. There had been thunder more or less all the afternoon at intervals, and the sky became covered with black menacing clouds. The storm commenced soon after three o'clock, when it became almost dark, and the hail and rain were terrible. Many of the hailstones were as big as hens' eggs. The lightning, especially one flash, was very vivid and

⁴⁰⁸ For which it is probably very grateful.

⁴⁰⁹ Hutchinson, Rev Charles, in Goddard F, et al (1928) *Alderton alias Aldrington Parish Notices of Aldrington parish to be kept in the parish chest* W&SHC 1678/8

*alarming, and the thunder almost deafening. Many persons were greatly frightened. Much glass was broken by the hail and a great deal of damage done to the gardens and fruit trees. It is a great mercy that no one was killed. The oldest inhabitants cannot remember such hail.*⁴¹⁰

The size of the hailstones may not have been hyperbole, measurements carried out at Eastcourt found hailstones measuring 6.5 inches circumference and here young poultry were killed and a hen house smashed to pieces.

In 1925 the Rev Perry noted in the parish record book that

*A great storm visited England, with wind between 80 and 100 mph. All the roads around here were blocked by fallen trees. Sir Audley Neeld had a narrow escape when his car coming from Chippenham was crushed by a falling tree. Four people in the district were killed. Between Alderton and the Front Lodge at Grittleton 49 trees were down, 13 across the road. It is said 500 were down in Badminton Park*⁴¹¹

Sir Audley and Lady Neeld celebrated their Golden wedding in 1923 although Lady Edith was ill and "*perforce had to be wheeled in a bath chair*". She recovered, however, surviving until 1926. She was buried in a large plot just inside the eastern gate of the churchyard. It is the most obvious feature as you enter the

⁴¹⁰ Wiltshire Gazette July 8 1915 WANHS cuttings 14 282

This appears to have been a much more severe event than that of 1906, and very widespread, causing damage over most of north-western Wiltshire.

⁴¹¹ Goddard, F *et al* (1928) *Alderton alias Aldrington Parish Notices of Aldrington parish to be kept in the parish chest* WSHC 1678/8 Friday, November 16, 1928

churchyard from this side and dominates the area - it is also the only Neeld memorial that isn't inside the church itself ⁴¹².

Sir Audley survived his wife by 15 years, dying in May 1941, the last Baronet of the Neeld line, at the age of 92.

He was described as "*a great Wiltshire man*" and "*the grand old man of Wiltshire*" ⁴¹³. His coffin was carried to the family crypt in Leigh Delamere church

on a farm wagon lined with laurel leaves. The black horse was led by the oldest estate carter, Mr Charles Gough, who ha[d] been on the estate for nearly 50 years' ⁴¹⁴

The rectors of Leigh Delamere, Yatton Keynell and Alderton were present at the service.

Captain L W Inigo-Jones, the direct descendant of Joseph's daughter Anna Maria, inherited the estate ⁴¹⁵. This is not surprising, there were no direct lineal descendents of Sir John and the Neeld's and Inigo-Jones's were presumably close - it will be recalled that Lt Col William Inigo-Jones was a probate for Joseph's will. Under the terms of Audley Dallas' will Captain Inigo-Jones changed his name to Neeld in order to inherit.

⁴¹² The Inscription reads

To the memory of Edith Neeld wife of Sir Audley Neeld Bart CB daughter of 2nd Baron Vivian

Died July 15th 1926 aged 75 years

I thank God upon every remembrance of you

⁴¹³ Wiltshire Gazette 8 May 1941, p8

⁴¹⁴ Wiltshire Gazette 8 May 1941 *ibid*

⁴¹⁵ I gratefully acknowledge my debt to Mr Richard Neeld of Somerset for his very kind assistance in providing details of his family and the latter part of the family tree

Captain L W Neeld died in 1956 and was followed by his son Ralph Christopher Inigo Jones.

In 1966 the estates were sold off. Much of the land was purchased by the Duke of Beaufort, and became part of his extensive Badminton estate. After this date Ralph Christopher Inigo Jones and his wife Anne Denise (nee Chapell) lived at Sevington Manor. Anne Denise died there in 1977⁴¹⁶ and, two years later, so did Ralph Christopher⁴¹⁷. As direct descendents of the Neelds they were buried in the Neeld family crypt at Leigh Delamere.

Not having the skills of Canon Jackson, I do not feel competent to take this history any closer to the present, and leave this for others.

⁴¹⁶ Leigh Delamere Burials

Anne Denise Inigo Jones of Sevington manor buried 18 July 1977, 83

⁴¹⁷ Leigh Delamere Burials

Ralph Christopher Inigo Jones of Sevington Manor buried 5 Nov 1979

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Texts

1.1

This Bond by John Dorney of Wyckwarre, co Gloucester, gentleman, to Richard Goare of Aldrington, co Wilts, esquire is conditioned as follows :

The condycion of this present obligacion ys such that wheras thabove bounden John Dorney shall by the sufferance of God shortly marrye and take to wyef one Christian Goare wedowe the late wyef of Sylvester Goare gentleman deceased yff therefore yt shall happen after the same mariage solemnised that the sayd John Dorney shall decease before the sayd Chrystyan his wyef Then yf the sayd John Dorney by his last will and testament, or otherwise, Doe geve and leave unto the same Chrystyan, Tenne reasonable good jyne, and all such howshould stuff, s the sayd Christian brought unto him at their marige or the reasonable value therefor, As bye an Inventorye indented therof made mor or at large appeareth, Soe that the sayd Christian shall and maye have the same delyvere unto her, to her owne use within one month next after the deceasse of the sayd John Dorney by his heyres Executours Admynistratours or assignes, And further yf the sayd Christyan after the deceasse of the sayd John Dorney shall and maye have should occupie and quyetlye enjoye all those the landes tenementes and heredytamentes whatsoever of the syad John Dorney sett lying and being in Cromemall in the countye of Glocest'r, for and duringe the terme of the naturall lief of the same Christyan in the name of her joynter or dower according to an ffeffment therof made bearing date even with the day and yeare of the date of these presents whout anye manner of lett troble evyccion hynderaunce molestacion denysl or encombraunce whatsoever had made done comytted or suffered to be done by the sayd John Dorney his heyres executours or assignes or by any other person or persons claymyng in bye from or under them or anye of the, one lease alreadye grannted of the premisses to one Susanne Martyn Susanne wedowe, for the terme

of nynetene yeares, whereof ther are yet ffower years or the about
to come and unexpired (only excepted) that then this present
obligacion to be utterlye ffristrate and voyd, otherwise in his full
power and strengthe effecte and vertue jy setto stand and ayde"
418 .

Dated 19 October 23 Elizabeth. Signed by mark. Signed, seled and
delyvered in the presens of Henri Bollton (?) George Punter (?)
Issac Tyler

⁴¹⁸ Page-Turner FA (1914) *Ancient Wiltshire Deeds* Wilts N & Q vol VII 1914-
1916 pp 116 -117,

1.2

**A true copy of the Acknowledgement of Giles James ^(sic) made
before the right honourable the Earl Marshall of England for
uttering diverse scandalous and untrue speeches about Charles
Gore in Lincolns Inn**

7th November 1631

Whereas I James Giles have been tormented before the right honourable the Earl Marshal of England for having violently and willingly uttered diverse scandalous proclamations and barbarous speeches upon several occasions in many places against Mr Charles Gore of Lincolns Inn Esq for which I have justly received punishment by imprisonment I now see my error therewith am heartily sorry for the same and being desirous (in as much as in me lies) to give all possible satisfaction for the wrong I have done him that I may shortly remove all aspersions that may be upon his reputation by my said intemperance. I do hereby freely acknowledge that I spake the said words out of passion and heat, and not from any just grounds whatever. I desire that it may now be past over and remitted and this my acknowledgement accepted to whom hereafter I shall bear my self temperately and as becomes me. In witness whereof I have hereto sett my hands this 7th day of November 1632

Giles James

Signed in the presence of John Coser

1.3

A copy of a protection from his Majesty to Charles Gore, Esq

419

Charles R

Charles by the Grace of God King of Greate Britayne, France and Ireland Defender of the faith &c, Our will and pleasure and we do hereby straightly Charge and Command as well all officers and soldiors of our Army now or hereafter Billested or Quartred in our County of Wiltes or in any other Counties enjoining that they neither by themselve or otherwise (inserted in different ink above, same hand as in letter from Maurice) permit, do or suffer any injury violence robbing or oppression of any kind to be offered or done to the person goods or estate of our Trusty and well beloved Charles Gore of Alderton in our said County Esq who hath voluntarily sent us two horses and Armes for our and heretooft they and every of them are to take notice, and to observe it as they and every of them will Answer the Contrary at their utmost peril. Given at our Court at Oxford the 26th day of February 1642

To all Officers in Chief, both of horse and foote; and all other of our Officers and soldiors of our Army whom it may Concerne

⁴¹⁹ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* p288

1.4

Letter from Alderton to the Church regarding the living of Alderton

The village and manor of Aldrington in the county of Wilts hath time out of mind been accounted a different parish, and hath had all parochial Rights and Marks and Priviledges of a different parish , vis

1 A faire Countrey Church and Chancel wherein the sacraments of Baptism and the Lords Supper are and were time out of mind administered, and a Churchyard and it doth marry and bury as in other parish Churches

2 It hath a Psonage House, a Psonage Barne and Glebe Lands and Tythes payed in some cases by ancient custom time out of mind in a different manner from the way of pying tythes in Sherstone in the said County: And the Parsonage of Aldrington hath been commonly accounted a different pasonage.

3 The said village of Aldrington hath Churchwardens and Sidesmen who are subject to the Bishop of Sarum, and goe to his visitation, & other visitations, as churchwardens and Sidesmen within the Diocesse of Sarum and make different presentments , and doe all things else belonging to Churchwardens of a distinct parish. And hath never any maintenance of any Curate from Sherston, or any other Paris, and hath always repaired their Church at their own distinct charges.

4 Aldrington hath always had different overseers of the Poore, & all other officers & hath time out of mind bin severally and by itself, as a distinct Parish rated to all public Taxes and payments whatsoever.

.....the Dean and Chapter (as the Abbots did before tem) have usually granted both the parsonages of Sherstone and Aldrington to one tenant and there being a small vicarage at Sherstone, the Vicar there hath supplied the Care of that Parish; and the Church of Aldrington hath been supplied by a distinct Curate which Vicar of Sherstone is presentative, and hath usually been presented by the lessee of the Deane & Chapter; & the same Lessee hath usually

appointed a Curate to serve the Church of Aldrington & allowed 20l per annum for a long time for his maintenance this being as a donative

Transcription of a letter from Thomas Gore, dated 19th September 1681, to Archbishop Sancroft bound into the back of the volume of the elder Thomas's "*An alphabet in Blazon*" held in the British Library (see fn 43). This transcription had obviously been published, but where is not noted, and this remains unknown. Given the location of the transcript I think it is likely that the person who included it might have thought this was a letter from Thomas Gore the antiquarian, but the dates make it clear which Thomas Gore was the author, the Antiquarian's son. The letter is endorsed "*Mr Thomas Gore for Mr. Tomlinson*"

*May it please your Grace -
that it has been so long since I payd my duty in waiting upon your grace (to whom I am much obliged for your great and signal respect and favour towards me) was only occasioned by the many great and weighty affairs with this year I have been invironed, by reason n the office of sheriff, which my gracious Soevreign was pleased to impose on me; but as soon as I shall be discharged thereof (which according to ancient custom cannot be farr off), I live in hopes to give myself the honour and satisfaction of kissing your Grace's hand, and then, in a more ample manner than now, express how much I am your Grace's servant. The gentleman who humbly presents this paper unto yuor Grace is my kninsman, for whom I have a very great respect - a very honest and sober person, a true Nathaniel, in whom there is no guile, a true son of the Church of England, a very loyal subject to his Pnnce, one who ever had and yet retains a great zeal for his Majestie service. If, therefore, your Grace (so great an encourager of loyalty and all laudable practices) would be pleasd to couchsafe to use your authourity and interest (which is very considerable) hereby he might atttain some office and serve the king, and better support himself and his family it would, not only forever ooblige himself, but also him who esteems it his greatest honour th bear the title of my Lord, your grace's most humble and obedient servant Thomas Gore*

Appendix 2 - Land holdings at Alderton etc

Table 1

Land of Charles Gore & Lydia White on their marriage 1621 ⁴²⁰

| Field | Manor | acres |
|----------------------|-----------|-------|
| Bowling Alley Field | Alderton | 15 |
| New Tynings | " | 30 |
| Townesendfield | " | 60 |
| Broadmead | " | 30 |
| Chaune Mead | " | 9 |
| The Ridges | " | 6 |
| Taggle Hay | " | 3 |
| Little Bowling Alley | " | 1 |
| Little Meade | " | 12 |
| Earley | " | 16 |
| The New Leaze | " | 40 |
| Grange | " | 2 |
| Butthayes | " | 8 |
| New Spring | " | 5 |
| Grone Leaze | " | 70 |
| Dry Leaze | " | 24 |
| Aldryngton Grove | " | 20 |
| Kingsthorne | Surrenden | 30 |
| West end | " | |
| Surrenden wood | " | |
| Cornefield | " | 60 |
| Castle Wheir | " | 11 |
| Westeade | " | 33 |
| West Leaze | " | 37 |
| Dunley Field | " | 30 |
| Wheir Meade | " | 4 |

⁴²⁰ Gore, T (1666) *Syntagma Genealogicum or A genealogical treatise of the family of the Gores of Aldrington or Alderton* pp 218 - 220

Bowling Alley field is probably the one opposite the current church north of the old Manor ponds and the one in which the old house was situated.

Dunley Hill

"

11

Table 2

**Land of John Scrope belonging to Anna Gore at her marriage
and held in 1665 at Aldrington :**

| | Acres | rods | poles |
|---|-------|------|-------|
| Broad Meade (once belonging to Anthony White deceased now John Scrope in right of his wife Anna,) | 2 | 1 | 30 |
| also in the Close a garden | | 1 | 5 |
| Whites Oddleaze but once etc | 6 | 0 | 1 |
| Normoore next Chawne Mead Lane2 | 0 | 1 | |
| Middle Normoore | 4 | 0 | 14 |
| Normoore Meade | 2 | 0 | 17 |
| Perchil | 2 | 1 | 30 |
| Land next Ditchers Lane | 3 | 0 | 30 |

And another survey from the same year, gives Charles holdings

Table 3

Land in Aldrington and Surrendell 1665 belonging to Charles Gore

| | Acres | rods | poles |
|--|-------|------|-------|
| <i>Aldrington:</i> | | | |
| Part of Broad Meade | 1 | 3 | 11 |
| The Close & Housing | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Another | 0 | 1 | 32 |
| The garden of GF, gent, enclosed in 1676 | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| Old Leaze | 4 | 0 | 33 |
| | 9 | 0 | 31 |
| Oldleaze Meade | 3 | 3 | 22 |
| Moore Close | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Moore Leaze | 7 | 0 | 12 |
| Normoore | 2 | 2 | 20 |
| Normoore Meade | 2 | 0 | 25 |
| <i>Surrenden:</i> | | | |
| The Long Bottom Meade | 2 | 2 | 20 |
| Little Bottom Meade, called the Picked Meade | 1 | 2 | 35 |
| The over ground parcell of Dunley Hill | 21 | 1 | 21 |

Dunley Hill Mead enclosed by C(harles) G(ore) 7 3 4
 It is unknown whether the enclosure of Dunley Hill Mead was carried out by the present Charles Gore or his father, the date of enclosure is not given - enclosures were going on in the locality at this time, but continued into the nineteenth century⁴²¹. This manuscript allows a table of previous land holders to be developed

| Table 4 | Name | Previous owner |
|---------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Beames | |
| | Bushell, G (1681) | |
| | Chapman | |
| | Coxe | |
| | Davis ap Powell (1682) | |
| | Emley, C | |
| | Essington | |
| | Gingell | |
| | Giles | |
| | Gore, Charles | Rolfe |
| | Jaques, J | Hutchings, N |
| | Jordon of Luckington | Snell |
| | | Phels, Thomas di<1656 |
| | Lord of the Manor | Bullock, Jo |
| | Lord of the Manor | Haynes, W |
| | Lord of the Manor | Hutichings, N |
| | Marsh | Haynes |
| | Melksham, H | |
| | Messiter | |
| | Osborne, John | Higgins, Jo |
| | Parson of Luckington | |
| | Penn | |
| | Rolfe | |

⁴²¹ In the same document we read of *Marden Bottome, not long since enclosed out of Grove field by Thom Gore esq 4 2 1* Some land was enclosed as late as 1809 (Tomlins, TE (1809) *The Statutes of Great Britain and Ireland Vol III AD1807 47 Geo III to Ad 1809 49 Geo III* pxiv *Local and Personal Acts not printed An Act inclosing Lands in the Parish of Alderton in the county of Gloucester*)

Scrope, J & A

Watts, A,

Wilkinson

White, Anthony

Bullock, Jo.

Osborne, John

Table 5
Farms at Alderton in 1812 ⁴²²

| Farm | Tenant | Acres | Rods | Poles | Value | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------|----------|-----------|-------------|----------|-----------|
| | | | | | £ | s | d |
| Alderton Farm | John Browning | 309 | 2 | 13 | 929 | 16 | 0 |
| Dunlow Farm | Isaac Lane | 206 | 1 | 10 | 362 | 16 | 8 |
| Furlease Farm | James Banning | 204 | 0 | 10 | 290 | 6 | 3 |
| Grove Farm | Mrs Anne Pill | 231 | 2 | 16 | 333 | 11 | 9 |
| Hughes Farm | Thomas White | 146 | 1 | 7 | 244 | 5 | 5 |
| New Farm | Isaac Marsh | 289 | 2 | 21 | 510 | 13 | 11 |
| Town Farm | William Kington | 350 | 0 | 38 | 625 | 5 | 3 |
| Proposed Farm instead of the one now occupied by James Kington | | 39 | 2 | 12 | 71 | 9 | 0 |
| Land on Lease to | Mrs Sarah Futsell | 10 | 1 | 17 | 38 | 10 | 0 |
| Land belonging to | William Jones | 4 | 2 | 13 | | | |
| Lands proposed to be let separate | | 2 | 3 | 39 | 33 | 17 | 6 |
| Gastons Common Field | | 22 | 3 | 18 | 30 | 19 | 5 |
| Glebe Land | | 56 | 1 | 22 | | | |
| Encroached Gardens | | 1 | 2 | 24 | | | |
| Totals | | 1894 | 1 | 26 | 3475 | 7 | 10 |

⁴²² From data in Brown, T (1812) *Valuation of the Lackham and Alderton Estates* WSHC 1305/16

Table 6

Farms at Alderton in 1825 ⁴²³

Value

| Farm | Tenant | Acres | Rods | Poles | £ | s | d |
|------------------|------------------|-------|------|-------|-----|----|-------|
| Alderton Farm | Bridges | 412 | 1 | 31 | 622 | 10 | 8.5 |
| Dunlow Farm | Isaac Lane | 206 | 1 | 0 | 266 | 13 | 10.5 |
| Furleaze Farm | James Bennings | 202 | 0 | 10 | 234 | 17 | 8.5 |
| Grove Farm | Gingal | 210 | 3 | 7 | 244 | 14 | 10.75 |
| Hughes Farm | Thomas White | 146 | 1 | 7 | 193 | 14 | 2 |
| New Farm | Lessiter | 290 | 0 | 6 | 369 | 12 | 8.5 |
| Town Farm | William Willis | 345 | 2 | 15 | 475 | 2 | 9.5 |
| Land in Alderton | James Hillington | 57 | 2 | 36 | 77 | 0 | 6.75 |

In 1830 it is known that Mr Hanning was tenant at Grove Farm and Mr Willis still leased Town Farm ⁴²⁴

Joseph Neeld's Lands 1832

Table 7 ⁴²⁵

| Parish | Acres of Neeld | Acres of Parish | No of owners in Parish | Average Neeld holding | Neeld ⁴²⁶ > av. |
|----------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Alderton | 1536 | 1584 | 8 | 198.0 | y |

⁴²³ Raynes, I (1825) *Particulars of sundry estates in the County of Wilts* WSHC 1305/16

⁴²⁴ Unattributed (1830) *Alderton estate a/c Lady Day 1830, addressed to Mr Burton, 20 South Bank Regents Park* W&SHC 1305/16

⁴²⁵ Data in Sandell RE (1975) (ed) *Abstracts of Wiltshire Tithe Apportionments* WRS vol XXX

⁴²⁶ This column indicates where Joseph's holding in the parish was greater in extent than the average holding. It is a crude measure but does show that he was the major holder of land in every parish in which he had land, except Lydiard Millicent.

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Chippenham | 1033 | 4187 | 83 | 50.4 | y |
| Cricklade | | | | | |
| St Sampson | 251 | 5250 | 42 | 125.0 | y |
| Grittleton | 1274 | 1955 | 18 | 108.6 | y |
| | Acres | Acres | No of owners | Average | Neeld⁴²⁷ |
| Parish | of Neeld | of Parishin | Parish | holding | > av. |
| Hullavington | 938 | 3098 | 40 | 77.5 | y |
| Kington St Michael | 479 | 3935 | 92 | 42.8 | y |
| Leigh Delamere | 412 | 1270 | 12 | 105.8 | y |
| Littleton Drew | 163 | 913 | 10 | 91.3 | y |
| Lydiard Millicent | 54 | 2130 | 33 | 64.5 | n |
| Norton | 149 | 948 | 10 | 94.8 | y |
| Preshute | | | | | |
| Langdon Wyke | 743 | 1143 | 2 | 571.5 | y |
| Purton | 269 | 6023 | 267 | 22.6 | y |
| Purton Braydon | 1478 | 1479 | 1 | 1479.0 | y |
| Yatton Keynell | 69 | 1667 | 61 | 27.3 | y |

⁴²⁷ This column indicates where Joseph's holding in the parish was greater in extent than the average holding. It is a crude measure but does show that he was the major holder of land in every parish in which he had land, except Lydiard Millicent.

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