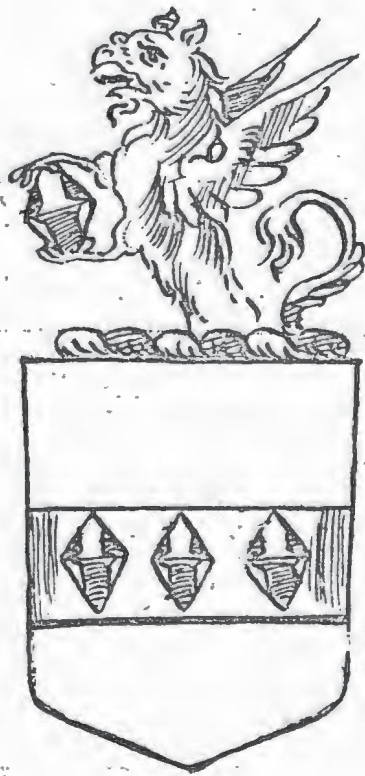
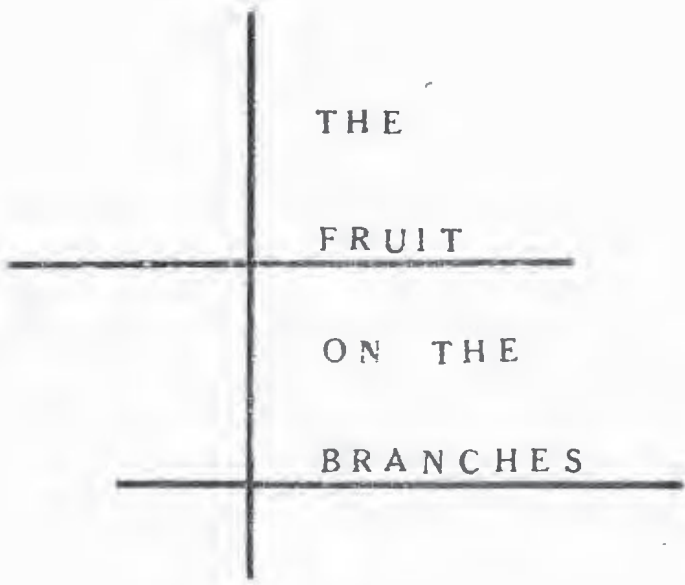






THE

FRUIT

ON THE

BRANCHES

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THE FAMILY OF APLETREE

INTRODUCTION

The construction of a family tree is a long and painstaking pursuit. The research that goes into providing proof of relationship and descent occasionally unearths material that could well enliven the rather prosaic statements of dates of birth, marriage and death, so important in the production of a pedigree.

The following pages are an attempt to hang the fruit of that research on the bare branches of the family tree.

The method employed has been to divide the pedigree into a series of charts:- P.1, P.2, P.3 etc. The names on the charts have numbers, which are also used in the text, the numerals commencing at 1 on each individual chart. The numbering is sometimes 'lateral' and sometimes 'vertical'. Reference to the chart is therefore advisable when reading the text, particularly bearing in mind that one can "go back in time many many years" when moving in sequence from a 'vertical' to the next 'lateral'

Each chart bears a reference to its continuation sheet (e.g. see P2) and is headed by the number of the chart from which it originates.

Except where presumption is indicated the text is provable fact.

THE FAMILY OF APLETREE

In published medieval secular and ecclesiastical records the name of Apletree in its various spellings occurs almost exclusively in the South Midlands. The diocesan records of the see of Lincoln which prior to 1541 reached as far south as Oxfordshire, have the following:-

- 1200(Approx) Henry de Apeltre 12th reader at Oxford - 17th Master of the Friars Manor at Cambridge
- 1239 Adam de Appeltre vicar of Minster Lovel Oxfordshire
- 1254-1267 Richard de Apeltre Abbot of Oseney Abbey where he entertained King Henry III with great revelry and mirth in 1265.
- 1280-1298 Nicholas de Appeltre appointed Rector of Bilsthorpe, then Warsop, then Twyford. Resigned the latter for Barnak.
- 1322 Roger de Appeltre Rector of Kings Cliffe (Cleeve) but in 1343 he had to appear in Chancery for unduly receiving tithes outside his parish of Cleeve.
- 1322 Ralph de Appeltre - Sub Deacon at Bordesly.
- 1331 John de Apeltre - cleric, appointed Attorney to John de Hildeslie. Presented to East Merseye in 1349 in the King's gift.
- 1352 Thomas de Appeltre, monk of Peterborough.
- 1318-1349 William de Apletre. Rector of Wallington, diocese of Lincoln 1318. Vicar of Tachbrook 1324. Assistant Dean of Stafford 1330. Commissary General to Bishop of Lichfield 1335. Dean of Chester 1336. Prebendary of Dernford 1340. On his death in 1349 he held the Canonries of Lichfield, Romsey and Chichester, archdeaconry of Stafford and St.Chads. In 1331 he founded a Chantry in St.Georges Church, Evenle for a daily service for the soul of William and Nicholas de Appeltre and their ancestors, the cost to be defrayed out of land in Evenle,

Northamptonshire.

1363 Ralph de Appeltre. Vicar of Fritwell, Oxon.

Secular Records mention:-

- 1175 Gilbert de Appeltre. Fined 13s.4d. at Northampton Assizes for taking part in the rebellion of the Earl of Norfolk.
- 1283 Henry de Apeltre - appears in the Remembrance Rolls for fines due to the Crown.
- 1301 Henry de Appeltre pays a fine for land in Weedon Pinkney, Northampton rented from Henry de Pynkney.
- 1302 William de Appeltre goes to London as a member of Parliament for Worcester.
- 1358 John Appultre held a croft called Taillourscroft at Stoke Poges.
- 1428 John de Apeltre. Land at Evenle divided between John de Apeltre and others previously held by William de Apeltre.

The most interesting records, however, are:-

- 1199 Concordat held at Northampton between Matilda, daughter of Isabella and Isabella, daughter of Iselle holding 2 virgates of land in Apeltre in the right of deceased ancestors.
- 1301 Subsidy Roll for the village of Apiltre shows Isabel de Apiltre as a taxpayer.
- 1524 On a Subsidy Roll for Woodford, Northamptonshire appears a Thomas Appeltre as a taxpayer.

It seems most probable that the origins of the family and its name were from the village of Appletree in Northamptonshire but who were the progenitors of the family that for many years lived in Deddington? Maybe there is still a link or two somewhere that will take the following pedigree even further back in time.

Before dealing with the family tree in detail it would be useful to

mention that Deddington, an ancient market town, was from Tudor times divided into three manors. Each owned their own farms, fields and woodland which were let either in whole or more often in small holdings or yardlands. A yardland measured 30 acres. The Duchy of Lancaster held the "Duchy" manor, Christ Church Oxford owned another and the biggest estate with the advowson or right to appoint the vicar was the property of St. Georges Chapel, Windsor and known as the Windsor lands.

The management of each Manor was exercised by its Lord, or his Steward, at meetings known as Courts Baron, Court Leets, Manor Courts and Homage Courts. At these rents were fixed, fines and heriots imposed, disputes between tenants settled, leases and copyhold leases issued or renewed all in accordance with the established customs of the Manor. Unfortunately only a few of these records have survived.

Crown lands and Customs duties provided the revenue for the King's Exchequer. To meet the ever recurring shortfall between the Monarch's income and expenditure, taxation was levied on his subjects under various guises like Poll Tax, Ship Money, Hearth Tax or most commonly by subsidy. Lists called Rolls giving names and the amount paid by each person were prepared by appointed Collectors who sent the Rolls to Westminster. Many are still extant at the Public Records Office.

The names appearing on the genealogical charts which follow are supported by documentary evidence but there are those whose names have not been included because of the absence of proof of parentage and who cannot be positively identified and incorporated in the pedigree.

For example John Apletree of Egham in Surrey who with his wife Bridget and one Thomas Apletree, Agnes Ayer and John Ayer indulged in sheep

stealing. Thomas escaped but the other four were remanded in custody at Croydon Assizes on 27th February 1570 and sent for trial by jury.

They were accused of breaking into a close at Deane Heath at Egham in 1569 on 1st May to steal 1 sheep belonging to Robert Bateman;

On 4th May to steal 3 sheep belonging to Robert Skete

On 28th July to steal 5 sheep belonging to Robert Skete

On 4th August to steal 4 sheep belonging to Christopher Pinkney

On 10th August to steal 3 sheep belonging to Robert Skete

On 10th September to steal sheep belonging to Robert Skete

On 20th September to steal 3 sheep belonging to Christopher Pinkney

Thomas was described as "at large" and the others were found guilty although John was allowed "benefit of clergy" and so escaped the death penalty.

Agnes and Bridget stated they were pregnant and a jury of Matrons was formed to examine them. In March 1571 they were remanded in custody so their claim appears unfounded. According to a Patent Roll of May 1571 they petitioned the Crown for clemency.

Then there was a Thomas whose activities could, by a matter of six feet, have changed the entire history of this country. The incident on 17th July 1579 is recorded by Stow in his Survey of London. Queen Elizabeth I and the French Ambassador were being rowed up the River Thames to Greenwich. It chanced that Thomas Appletree, a young man and servant to Mr. Henry Carey with two or three children of Her Majesty's Chapel and one Barnard Alton were rowing up and down firing at wild fowl. Thomas, shooting at random very rashly and by great misfortune shot one of the Queen's oarsmen clean through both his arms. Although Elizabeth was within six feet of the man she apparently maintained

her composure admirably and took great compassion on the poor man. Thomas was apprehended and examined by the Queen's Council with great diligence (which must have been a frightening and painful procedure) who pronounced the act most barbarous and wicked and sentenced him to death. He was committed to the Marshalsea Prison in Southwark. On the Tuesday following he was taken out by the Knight Marshal's men, marched over London Bridge through the City, up Tower Hill along Radcliffe Highway to Blackwall and down to the waterside where a gibbet had been erected. Here he fell on his knees and prayed long and earnestly confessing his sins and disclaiming any intention of hurt to the Queen or anyone else. Then ascending the ladder the Executioner put the rope around his neck. But suddenly Sir Christopher Hatton rode up with the Queen's pardon and the hangman was commanded to take the rope off Thomas's neck and Thomas was taken back to the Marshalsea. There is in the Library of Lambeth Palace a broadsheet published at the time which tells the full story and gives Thomas's speech on the gallows as well as his prayer to the Queen written the night before he was due to be executed.

He was fortunate that Henry Carey was a Courtier in favour at Court and a relative of Sir Christopher Hatton and Elizabeth's great favourite John Carey, otherwise he may well have suffered death. Thomas subsequently petitioned the Earl of Leicester for release from the Marshalsea.

In July 1606 a Francis Apletree, a catholic, of St. Andrews Holborn was indicted for recusancy and incarcerated in Newgate Prison.

On 30th April 1669 at the Middlesex Sessions it was decreed that Thomas Appletree a labourer of East Smithfield was to remain in gaol without bail upon special warrant for treason as the Court wished to deliberate

further on the matter. He was accused with others of raising a multitude against the King and inciting a riot on the pretence of pulling down bawdy houses.

At the Monmouth Spring Assizes in 1679 James Appletree was indicted as a Catholic Priest but died before the Summer Assizes. The Catholic Record Society have noted that several Appletrees lived in Michel Troy in Monmouth and that it was an old Catholic family long resident in that Parish.

In 1717 Thomas, a pensioner of the Royal Chelsea Hospital died.

John Apletree joined H.M.S. Drake as an able seaman on 1st January 1743. On 1st May 1744 he was "discharged dead" his ship having been blown up by a Spanish man-of-war. His net wages of £3.3.5d. was paid to his father John on 4th January 1747.

And an unwilling voyager was Richard Appletree aged 24 - 5'6" in height, dark complexion, dark brown hair, grey eyes and a butcher by trade. On the 27th June 1796 he was sentenced to death for coining but pardoned on 3rd August 1796, to be transported for life instead. In December 1796 he was removed from prison to the hulks at Portsmouth and in September 1797 sailed in the "BARWELL" for New South Wales.