

FROM
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P5

THOMAS
1 JANE
BUSTARD
2 MARGARET
BABINGTON

THOMAS
2

1 HESTER
SAVAGE
2 GRACE
APLETREE

WILLIAM

ANNE

JANE

WILLIAM
DRAPER

GEORGE

LETTICE

FRANCIS
HENRY
CAREY

MARGARET

PHILIP
3

POSSIBLY ILLEGITIMATE - SEE P6

JOHN
4

ANNE
VERTON

ELIZABETH

MATHAMIEL
APLETREE

FRANCES

DANIEL
HEYFORD

BARNEY

HENRY
WARD

JANE

THOMAS

CHARLES

THOMAS
5

JOHN
6

WILLIAM
7

SAVAGE
8

PHILIP

HESTER

-
HOSKYNIS

ANNE

RICHARD
COWPER

MARY

THOMAS
GOODMAN

MARGARITA

LETTICE

ELIZABETH

P.5.

Thomas (1) the eldest son of Thomas (P.3-6) was born in 1606. In 1628 his maternal grandfather George Mathew died leaving all his estate to Thomas and precious little to his own son George Mathew. The latter had settled his estate on his son Henry, much to the annoyance of grandfather George, for Henry was said "to have been begotten by one Trymnell, brother unto Mr. Trymnell an Attorney at the Common Pleas."

In 1632 he married Jane Bustard of Adderbury. The Bustards were notably prolific. A memorial in Adderbury Church to one of Jane's forbears reads "nearby lieth John and Elizabeth Bustard and their son Anthony and his wife Jane - which John had by the said Elizabeth XXII children and the said Anthony by the said Jane XI children. Blessed are the dead which died in the Lord for they do rest from their labours." Thomas was not so fortunate. In the eleven years of their marriage they only had Thomas (2), William born in 1637 and who died in 1661 and Anne born in 1639.

He was more fortunate in other ways. His marriage portion was the then princely sum of £2,300. Moreover Jane was quite accomplished, she could read and write and cast accounts and deal in corn and cattle. No wonder Thomas married her. Before her marriage she had placed £540 with a Jasper Richardson against security of land and at good interest. Her brother-in-law Mathew Cherington had £500 on loan to Thomas Pink, a brewer in Oxford; whose debts were increasing and it seemed likely to Cherington that he might well lose his money. When Richardson repaid his loan, Cherington tried to persuade Jane that as Pink was very rich and making a good yearly profit a loan to Pink would be a safe investment particularly as Pink's new wife's brother, Mr. Farmer, was also very rich.

So Jane lent Cherington £300 which he held on to and persuaded Pink to give him a Covenant in favour of Jane for £300. Jane decided there was insufficient security in the covenant and sent it back to Cherington to have the leases which he said he held to be included, which Cherington failed to do.

In the meantime Pink had disappeared and had then been made bankrupt. In 1632 Jane sued Cherington on the grounds that he knew "Pink was decayed" and merely used her money to recover some of his own loan.

The Court ordered Cherington to pay Jane £125 and if anything could be obtained from the bankruptcy it was to be shared equally between the two of them.

In addition to his wife's valuable dowry of £2300 he had his grandfather Mathew's property at Barkswell in Warwickshire as well as his father's lease of east and west fields of the Windsor Manor four land and Clifton and Hempton tithes.

Gradually he acquired further leases:- the Leaden Porch Farm, the Fishweir, the Castle fields and parts of the Christ Church Manor. He bought land at Ilbury, Barford and Adderbury and finally obtained the whole of the Windsor Manor Lease. He was not only a wealthy farmer but also a man of much local influence.

With three brothers in business in London and one an apprentice there he undoubtedly visited the City from time to time and London was also a huge market for grain, cattle, sheep and wool. It was also a vociferous centre of opposition to the King's belief in his Divine Right to rule, even without the sanction of Parliament, which finally led to Civil War.

In the many histories and records of the War from 1642 to 1646 there appears to be no evidence of any Apletree being mentioned (apart from Robert) as either a Royalist or Parliamentary soldier. Even the comment that the King stayed the night at the Parsonage in Deddington does not give the name of his host.

The State Papers of the post war Commonwealth period, however, give a clue to the activities of Thomas during the conflict which may well explain the sudden emergence of a local landowner to a position of power in Oxfordshire after the War.

Certain it is that within a week of the cessation of hostilities the Parliamentary Committee at Westminster appointed Thomas a member of the Oxford Committee for the Sequestration of Royalists' property.

Thomas was appointed to the Sequestration Committee on 10th June 1646. On the 12th June Thomas appeared at the Manor House at Forest Hill near Oxford, the residence of a Royalist Sir Richard Powell, with a Warrant for Sequestration. Four carts and a haywain were loaded with the whole of the contents of the Manor House and carted off to London. They were there appraised on 16th June and sold to Mathew Apletree.

In 1647 Parliament imposed a monthly contribution of £779 on Oxfordshire for the maintenance of the forces of the United Kingdom. The County Commissioners for its execution and collection were Lenthall, Wenman, Danvers, Fiennes, Temple, Pye, Cobb, Thynne, Whitelocke (names well known from history books) - and Thomas Apletree (who sadly never was).

For many years he took part in the collection of the general assessment to maintain the forces and the monthly collection of £259 for the relief of forces in Ireland.

In 1648 he was involved in settling the numbers of the militia throughout England and Wales - although he did not become a Captain in the Horse Militia until 1650. He was appointed in 1653 to judge the affairs of poor prisoners in the County gaols and in 1654 to carry out the ejection of scandalous and ignorant Ministers and teachers in Oxfordshire. In 1657 in addition to the collecting of the general assessment for Oxfordshire he was also required to make the Warwickshire Collection.

Thomas appointed Edward Kempster as Parish Clerk and Registrar of **Deddington**, but it was not until 1672 that the first school was opened with Kempster as the teacher.

A troop of horse, commanded by Captain Henry Smyth and quartered in **Deddington**, complained that they had not been paid for more than two months. Thomas was ordered to pay the arrears of £729 and to meet the troops weekly pay of £72 out of sequestration funds.

In July 1650 Thomas and Sir Peter Wentworth had a bright idea to provide a living of £20 per annum for the minister they had appointed to Nether Worton. As members of the Committee for the compounding of Royalists' estates they fined John Parsons of Nether Worton £450 but if he should settle £20 per annum on the Minister the fine would be abated by £200.

On sequestration of land two thirds of the property was taken over by the Commissioners who then let the land to tenants. Thomas found himself swamped with work, badgered by tenants for repairs, whether the underwood may be cut, or a new mill stone provided, all of which has to be referred to London for approval and then waiting two or three months for a reply. His requests for further commissioners to assist him had no results so he decided to resign - until he got the following letter from London in 1652.

"We think it strange that in two years we have received no account of the sequestered estates under your management. We hope you will speedily perfect them without further trouble as before that we cannot discharge you of your employment!"

His prompt but plaintive reply said:-

"I cannot plead ignorance of your instructions and I am troubled not to send fit returns but I have waited months and no man appears to join me and I have no power to act alone. I undertook the trust only for the public interest and feared it might be a prejudice if I were to lay it down. Draper (his kinsman) will soon be in London and give an exact account from our first acting till our leaving off. No one has been trusted with the money but honest Robert Leicester."

Old Thomas Carter years later said that "Thomas Apletree was a very severe man and in the time of the usurpation in this Kingdom by Oliver Cromwell he behaved himself very morosely towards others and treated his neighbours that were of the King's party in a very ill manner."

When he was appointed a Justice of the Peace he sat at the Shire Court at Chipping Norton and was described as being "very strict and severe with the country people and would make them pay money for swearing and being drunk and used to have such people marked with the letters S and D in red colour to signify that they were swearers and drunkards."

Under the Commonwealth the Church was not permitted to conduct the service of marriage. This had to be a civil registration carried out by a Justice of the Peace. Thomas performed many of these and as such was often called Parson Apletree. Among these marriages were that of his friend Thomas Higgins to Joan Rawles (little did Thomas know the trouble he was storing up for his Uncle's descendents).

Deddington Parish Register records in February 1657 that:-

"Thomas Higgins of this Parish and Miss Joan Rawles ye daughter of George Rawles gentleman of Ditchley in the Parish of Enstone being both of this county of Oxon were published by me three Lords Days at ye close of ye morning exercise in this Parish Church of **Deddington** that is to say on ye 17th and ye 24th and ye 31st days being all in January 1657 - Ed Kempster Registrar were married ye 8th day of February 1657 by Thomas Apletree, Esq."

It is also rather interesting that in August 1656 he carried out the marriage of Richard Fermor (from a wealthy Catholic family in Oxfordshire and related to the Babingtons) to Frances Brooke.

His task as a "Visitor" to Oxford University was no sinecure.

After the surrender of Oxford in 1646 Parliament decided to reform the University. Most students were then devoted Royalists and many a plot was hatched to help the King during his imprisonment. So six Presbyterian Preachers were sent to prepare the members of the University for the change in religious doctrine. The students described them as two fools, two knaves and two madmen. Despite their appointments as heads of colleges, the resistance to the authority of Parliament was considerable. In 1647 Visitors were appointed to examine why there was so much opposition and finally had College Heads and Fellows called before them to answer if they "would submit to the authority of Parliament in this Visitation." Those who refused were expelled, and replaced by Puritans. Having eliminated the main opposition it was then the turn of the students.

On 6th February 1649 Thomas was appointed a Visitor to the University. He promptly summoned all graduates and fellows to take the "Engagement", that is to observe Parliament's directions for public worship and to absolve the use of the book of Common Prayer. Those who refused were expelled - stern Thomas again?

In May 1649 General Fairfax and Oliver Cromwell came to the University to see what reformation had been achieved, and if the imposition of Puritanical ideology had at last been accepted. No doubt Cromwell was satisfied as in 1650 he accepted the supreme dignity of Chancellor of the University.

In 1650 John Clowes of London printed a pamphlet "Licensed according to order and published for the general use and benefit of all the Saints of Jesus Christ, in England, Scotland and Ireland" the contents being "Three hymns or certain excellent new Psalms composed by those three Reverend and Learned Divines, Mr. Goodwin, Mr. Powel and Mr. Appletree sung in their respective congregations at St. Stephen Coleman Street, and at St. Mary Abchurch on Thursday 8th October 1650 being a day set apart for the total routing of the Scots Army in Mussleborough by His Excellency the Lieut. General Cromwell.

All twenty three verses of Thomas's hymn were sung at Mr. John Goodwin's Church in Coleman Street after the sermon in the afternoon.

On the 13th March 1653 Thomas wrote the following letter to Cromwell from Deddington.

"Mr. Apletree to the Protector

May it please your Highnesse

The Enclosed (if it prove true) discovers divers notable treasons which I was the rather imbouldened me humbly to tender your highnesse, for that I was informed by the within named Thomas Stevens, he was formalie in custody by your highnesse special command, and that not with-standing (as he affermes) had mercie offered him, runn away, and was apprehended in this countie of Oxford, for robbing upon the highway. Immediately after he was convicted (being desired by Judge Atkins) I examined him; who declares as in the said inclosed is sett forth.

That your highness may ever be adorned with all spirituall and temporal blessings is the harte's desire and daily praire of

Your highnesse' faithful

though unworthy servant

Thomas Apletree"

The letter enclosed with the above, listed several people in London and its neighbourhood and their activities in coining false money.

One hopes that Cromwell was duly impressed with the zeal of his unworthy servant in discovering such notable treasons!

It is intriguing that he wrote direct to Cromwell and not one of the numerous Committees running the country. Did he know Cromwell that well - or was he seeking preferment.

In March 1649 the Supreme Council of State instructed him and William Draper to report on delinquents in Oxfordshire. (I wonder if the reports are still extant). Also he was to see that Captain Smith's Troop of Horse cleared the highways of thieves and robbers. Long after the King's surrender notorious bands of ex-Royalist soldiers plagued the countryside around Oxford. This may account for the commendation of Captain Smith received for his diligence in foiling a conspiracy against Thomas and William Draper and an order to apprehend any disturbers of the peace.

It was three years later that the Council of State wrote to Thomas concerning his report of "scandalous words spoken by Obadiah Andrew against the State." The Council "took notice of your care and readiness in that as in other things that concerned the service and well approve thereof. If Andrew is about to march away as a soldier give him liberty to do so, but if he makes his abode at Islip take his Bond in £100." When, in 1655, Henley-on-Thames decided to replace its Town Clerk, one Tyler a Parliamentarian, with Whistler, believed to be a Cavalier, it was Thomas who was given the task of putting out Whistler and re-instating Tyler.

He may have been well acquainted with the most powerful people in the country and ready to run at their command but he had also made enemies.

On 17th May 1651 John Watkins "discovereth to the Committee for Advance of Money sitting at Haberdashers Hall, on behalf of Colonel Robert Lilburne, that Thomas of the County of Oxon is a delinquent within the Acts and Ordinances of Sequestration for acting against Parliament and that he hath an estate in the said county in goods and lands to the value of £10,000 and upwards."

On the 28th May 1651 John Watkins entered into a bond for £200 not to cease or desert the prosecution of Thomas and the Committee sat to hear the case, duly recorded in the Commonwealth State Papers.

The initial defence of Thomas was that he had already suffered a similar accusation in 1646 and had been acquitted by the Oxford Committee for Sequestration.

The London Committee sent for the relevant papers of 1646.

This time it was Captain Richard Barrow that had submitted articles of delinquency claiming the following:-

1. That Thomas Apletree in the beginning of these unhappy wars pretended himself to have good affection to the Parliament but underhand aided and assisted the King's party against the Parliament and to that purpose joined in confederacy and held correspondence with one Huntingdon Hastings Corney a known Papist in arms against the Parliament and residing at Oxford sometimes and at other times at Woodstock and a great and dangerous stickler against the Parliament.

2. That Thomas Apletree joined with the said Huntingdon Hastings Corney in the sending of great store of corn and other provisions into Oxford when it was a garrison for the King and went thither himself sundry times

secretly to give information to the King's party against the Parliament and at his being at Oxford one time among the rest when the King's Commissioners were there, he feasted some of them and then drank an health which he named confusion to the Parliament.

3. That Thomas Apletree since the beginning of this unnatural war presented to one of the Byrons (who was in arms for the King against the Parliament) a great horse of service in the war of £80 price or thereabouts and other ways contributed underhand to the King's forces raised against the Parliament.

4. That the said Apletree to colour his false and underhand dealings against the Parliament prepared himself to be made one of the Committee of Parliament for the said County of Oxon and therupon contrary to his oath and the trust in him reposed by the country he converted and concealed and took into his protection divers goods household stuffs, trunks, plate and money of one that was a known Papist and in arms against the Parliament and being charged by some of the said Committee for concealing the said goods and trunks he utterly denied the having of them yet afterwards they were found in the possession of one Higgins whither they were carried and conveyed from his the said Apletree's house and placed there by the said Apletree's direction or privity.

5. That Thomas Apletree sent into Oxford 100 quarters of malt of the said Corney's which he had placed in his house at **Deddington** to be conveyed to Oxford.

6. That the said Apletree finding Mistress Corney wife of the said Corney to be well affected to the Parliament did convey out of her house in trunks and otherwise all the plate, linen and even her own wearing apparel and divers bonds bills and money to a very great value. And finding her discontented thereat he brought her a threatening message from her husband that in case she went to London to complain to the Parliament her husband would never more concert with her but sell all that he had and leave her not worth a groat.

7. That the said Apletree was the chief means and assistant to one Colonel Palmer for the raising of twenty horse of war for the King against the Parliament and encouraged his neighbours to give them weekly pay.

8. That the said Apletree since he hath been a Committee Man for the Parliament hath contrary to his oath and the trust reposed in him given private intelligence and intelligence to shift away, embezzle and dispose of the goods of known delinquents whom he knew to have been in arms against the Parliament and to sell or remove them so that they should not be seized or not sequestered for the State.

If true, a fearsome indictment of skulduggery.

Was Thomas running with the hare and hunting with the hounds?

The witnesses produced by Captain Barrow did not materially aid his case. Three of them failed to appear John Bearnley of Mangorsbury in Gloucestershire, Mistress Elizabeth Croshawe of Southwark and Mistress Dorothy Couch of Horsmonden, Kent.

But John Croker was another matter. He was a gentleman living at Sandford not far from **Deddington**. He swore that in his hearing Sir Thomas Byron told Captain Edward St. John that Thomas Apletree had given him a horse and "would have had twenty more of him had not Huntingdon Hastings Corney procured a protection for Thomas from the King".

He also said Thomas was responsible for the raising of twenty horse for Captain Palmer, the King's Marshall for Oxfordshire, and arranging for the local yeomanry to meet the cost of the troops weekly pay. He did, however, admit that Thomas had persuaded Huntingdon Hastings Corney to intercede with the King's Commissioner to raise a troop of horse to secure the county from robberies and violence committed by the King's soldiers.

Croker claimed Thomas had secretly advised Colonel Gerrard Croker that his goods and property were to be sequestered implying that the Colonel could spirit away his valuables before the sequestration could be made. When Colonel Gerrard Croker was "beating up a drum for the raising of a Company of foot soldiers for the King at **Deddington** Winter Fair next following Edgehill fight" Croker said Thomas invited the Colonel to dinner and recommended his servant Henry Beere to the Colonel as being as "stout a man as any in the King's Army".

Confirmation of this evidence was given by William Croker of Sandford.

Why did John Croker, a Royalist, give evidence to Parliamentary

Committee? Had he felt the heavy hand of Thomas? On the restoration of the monarchy John Croker became a County Tax Commissioner an opportunity to get his own back'

Why ever did Captain Barrow call Henry Beere to give evidence against his Master Thomas. It hardly helped as his sworn statement, given verbatim shows.

" Saith that he did wait at table at Deddington at Mr. Apletree his house at dinner at Deddington Winter Fair next after Edgehill fight but saith he did not hear Mr. Apletree say anything to Captain Gerrard Croker to entertain this deponent into his foot company but in regard to some differences betwixt him, this deponent, and some of his friends he purposed to have listed himself into the said company and had so done had he not the self same day after dinner aforesaid been dissuaded by the said Mr. Apletree from so doing telling and promising him this deponent if he would not go upon that service he should never want so long as he the said Mr. Apletree had anything for his own subsistence. And further saith that Captain John Croker of Sandford did two or three times encourage him this deponent to go into the service of the King in his cousin Gerrard Croker's company saying that he would speak to his said cousin to look upon him this deponent and to prefer him so soon as he possibly could and further saith that he this deponent was a solder for the Parliament serving under Colonel Fiennes and others and that Mr. Thomas Apletree aforesaid did furnish him with horse and bridle saddle pistols and his sword at his first going out on the service and also with money for the present and divers times afterwards and saith he had relief and maintenance from the said Mr. Apletree for the space of two years and upwards while he was upon the Parliaments service which service he entered upon about the fourteenth of May 1644."

No evidence seems to have been submitted on the other charges.

Thomas undoubtedly knew Huntingdon Hastings Corney. Elizabeth the widow of Edward Crawshawe had been left a life interest

in her late husband's property in Steeple Barton. She married Huntingdon Hastings Corney who continued in possession after her death in 1661. The ultimate beneficiary of Crawshawe's Will, Francis Woodcock, sued Corney for possession and included Thomas Apletree in the suit accusing him of confederating with Corney to retain possession. Moreover Thomas's brother George had leased some property at Barton to Huntingdon Hastings Corney and was a Trustee of the marriage settlement when Corney married Elizabeth Crawshawe.

Gerrard Croker, too, was probably not unknown to Thomas. When Croker died around 1649 he had still failed to declare Dymock Manor for compounding. Had he made use of the private intelligence mentioned in article 8? In 1642 Croker had borrowed £600 from William Draper, a close friend of Thomas (whose daughter married Draper's son) and a fellow Committee man.

Higgins (mentioned in Article 4) was also a very close friend of Thomas.

But the Committee for Oxfordshire had no hesitation in rejecting the charges. Sitting at Banbury on the 29th February 1646 John Fiennes, James Fiennes, John Cartwright, William Draper, John Wilmer, William, Allen and Robert Barber recorded the following decision.

Whereas this day being appointed to hear and examine witnesses upon ye article preferred to this Committee by Captain Barrow against Mr. Thomas Apletree, a member of this Committee, we have heard and examined such witnesses accordingly, as have been produced before us which we having weighed and considered do not find them to be anyway material to prove any delinquency against the said Mr. Apletree for which by any ordnance of Parliament he is sequestrable. And finding also by the said Mr. Barrow's own information that he has only two or three witnesses to be examined to two articles which (if they should be proved) will not be sufficient to have delinquency within ye compass of Sequestration. And having this day also received a Petition from many of the best affected gentlemen and others in ye county expressing their grief that a gentleman so well affected to ye Parliament as they know none better in ye whole County offering their testimony for his zeal and good affection to ye Parliament and adventuring of himself and his estate for the

service thereof and of his readiness to do all ye real service he was able for any honest man in ye county and his adventuring himself to give intelligence from Oxford to ye Parliament forces testified also by the Certificates of divers Commanders in Chief should by any malicious persecution be blemished in his reputation. Upon ye whole matter we cannot see any cause to bring him within ye compass of ye ordnance of Parliament for sequestration. But rather deserves encouragement for his good services than blame.

However, the Committee for Advancement of money decided to compare the old charges with the new charges submitted by John Watkins on the 17th May 1651 which were:

1. That the said Thomas Apletree a little before the last siege of Oxford by the Parliament's forces kept servants to lodge in a Papist's house at Staple Barton in the said County which said servants by the direction of the said Thomas Apletree carried several carts loaded with wheat, bacon, pulse and other provisions by night into Oxford to furnish the King's granaries against the siege.
2. That the said Thomas Apletree hath been a great contenancer of papists and did protect divers goods and trunks stuffed with linen plate Popish vestments belonging to a papist priest and other goods of Huntingdon Hastings Corney a papist in arms and one who was tried for his life as a papist priest which goods were found in the house of the said Thomas Apletree by the officers of Sequestration of the late Committee of Oxford upon information thereof given into the said Committee and at this time the said Thomas Apletree was a Committee man in the said County.
3. That the said Thomas Apletree sent in a horse and arms to the King to Oxford in or about the month of April 1644.
4. That the said Thomas Apletree in the years 1643, 1644 and 1645 held correspondence with the King's party at Oxford and Banbury and had a protection under the King's hand whilst he was a Committee man for the Parliament.

The London Committee held their deliberations for a month before

they decided to reject the four new charges but decided to resurrect the second and sixth charge of the original charge of 1646. The State papers unfortunately do not give any further information but it would not have given Thomas much trouble to counter those charges particularly bearing in mind the testimony of Colonel Purbeck Temple, made on the 17th June 1651, as follows:

Colonel Purbeck Temple maketh oath that he had a direction from the late Committee of both Kingdoms formerly sitting at Derby House sometime before the first siege at Banbury anno 1644 to advise with Mr. Thomas Apletree of Dedington in the county of Oxon concerning the carrying on the Designs of Parliament for subduing the enemy in the said county and particularly in Banbury Castle which said Committee declared to this deponent that they knew Mr. Apletree was a person well affected to the Parliament's service and therefore they the said Committee appointed this deponent to be directed by the said Mr. Apletree which accordingly he was and further saith that he received so much assistance from the said Mr. Apletree that (next to God) he doth attribute the success he had there to the assistance and intelligence he received from the said Mr. Apletree and this deponent further saith that he doth not know any man that hath showed more affection to the Parliament or hath been more active in executing their commands during the War than the said Mr. Apletree and that this deponent had great reason to know his affection having many occasions to try him being Governor, by Commission from the Parliament, of Henley and Philis Court in the said County of Oxon and constantly kept intelligence with the said Mr. Apletree and upon occasions hath often received great assistance of horses from the said Mr. Apletree which he did voluntarily contribute out of his affection to the Parliament Service during the time of the late Wars.

There is no doubt that Thomas was an effective and highly esteemed spy for Parliament.

His first wife Jane died in 1641 and during the war years he remained single.

But in 1648 Thomas married Margaret Babington at St. Dunstan in the West in London. She was the daughter of Sir Henry Babington of Ogle Castle Northumberland and distantly related to Anthony Babington who was executed for his part in the plot to rescue Mary Queen of Scots. She brought no dowry with her which implies that the once rich Catholic family were now impoverished. (Another strange Catholic link for a Protestant of the new order).

Their children were Jane, George, Margaret, Lettice and Philip, all born in **Deddington**.

Jane was baptised on 24th February 1649. In December 1670 she married William Draper at St. Sepulchre Northampton, but died in 1674 shortly after the birth of her son William. Under her father's Will she received £2500 at age 21 which was when she married. Probate of her mother's Will was granted to her in 1671 from which she received a half share of Margaret's estate.

George was baptised on 9th March 1650 and buried on 30th May 1651.

Lettice was baptised on 4th April 1652 and married the Reverend Francis Henry Carey in 1667 when she was 15 years old without the consent of her father's Executors or her mother. Her husband had to wait until she was 21 before he received the legacy of £2000 left to her by father Thomas in 1666.

Also her mother left Lettice a half share of her estate, in 1671. She had a son and daughter and died at the early age of 24 in 1676. In the Vestry of **Deddington** Church is a tombstone recording her death on 10th April 1676. Her son Carey died following a duel with John Young in Hyde Park on 23rd June 1695. He was carried, wounded on a horse to **Deddington** but died the same night 3rd July and buried 4th July.

Margaret was baptised on 8th August 1654 but as she is not mentioned in the Wills of father or mother she undoubtedly

died young although there is no record of her burial at **Deddington.**

His children by his first wife were Thomas, Anne and William, although the latter two died in infancy.

With a growing importance and family, Thomas decided to enlarge the Parsonage and behind his purchase of stone and timber for the building lies a strange and ghostly story.

Where Blenheim Palace now stands, once stood the ancient Manor and Royal Palace of Woodstock, a favourite residence of the Kings of England since Henry II.

And weird happenings took place when Cromwell's County Commissioners set up their quarters there and met "The Devil of Woodstock Manor". A contemporary writer told the story thus:

"October 13th 1649 the Commissioners with their servants being come to the Manor House they took up their lodging in the King's own rooms, the bedchamber and withdrawing room; the former whereof they made their kitchen, the council hall their brewhouse, the chamber of presence their place of sitting to dispatch business, and a wood house of the dining room, where they laid the wood of that ancient standard in the high park, known to all by the name of the King's Oak which, that nothing might remain that had the name of the King attached to it, they plucked up by the roots. October 14th and 15th they had little disturbance but on the 16th there came, as they thought, somewhat into the bedchamber where two of the Commissioners and their servants lay in the shape of a dog did, as it were, gnaw the bed cords.

October 17th something to their thinking removed all the wood of the King's Oak out of the dining room into the presence chamber and hurled the chairs and stools up and down the room: from whence it came into the two

chambers where the Commissioners and their servants lay and hoisted up their bed's feet so much higher than their heads, that they thought they should have been turned over and then let them fall down with such a force that their bodies rebounded from the bed a good distance and then shook their bedsteads so violently, that themselves confessed their bodies were sore with it. October 18th something came into the bedchamber and walked up and down and fetching the warming pan out of the withdrawing room made so much a noise, that they thought five bells could not have made more, October 19th trenchers were thrown up and down the dining room and at them that lodged there. October 20th. The curtains of the bed in the withdrawing room were drawn to and fro and eight great pewter dishes and three dozen of trenchers thrown about the bedchamber. October 21st. The keeper of their Ordinary, and his bitch, lay in one of the rooms with them, which night they were not disturbed at all. But October 22nd both they and the bitch were in a pitiful taking. October 23rd. They had all their clothes pluckt off them in the withdrawing room, and the bricks fell out of the chimney into the room. And the 24th there was a repetition of the noises and throwing of trenchers. October 25th.

The curtains of the bed in the withdrawing room were drawn to and fro and the bedstead shaken as before and in the bedchamber glass flew thick about, and yet not a pane of the chamber window broken. October 29th. Something walked in the withdrawing room about an hour and going to the window opened and shut it, then going into the bedchamber it threw great stones for about half an hours time, during these noises, as great as though forty pieces of ordnance had been shot off together, they were struck with great horror.

November 1st there was a repetition of the walking and throwing stones and glass. November 2nd came something into the withdrawing room treading, as they

conceived, much like a bear. This night they set candles all about the rooms and made fires up to the mantle trees of the chimneys, but all were put out, nobody knew how.

On November 3rd they "removed their lodgings to Ewelme". The Commissioners had had more than enough.

On the restoration of Charles II a Royal servant, Joseph Collins, admitted that he had obtained the position of Secretary to the Commissioners and with his knowledge of the secret panels and passages within the Manor had successfully contrived the hauntings without discovery.

The Commissioners decided to pull down Woodstock Palace and sell the stone and timber for which Thomas paid £1500. Another of the King's properties, Holmby Manor, was also razed to the ground, and Thomas purchased a further quantity of building materials.

By 1654 he had completely transformed the old house by the addition of a new wing of three stories, a balustraded tower and a curved bay window on one face of the old building. The large rooms were pannelled in oak and the oak staircase up the tower has been described as having excellent period workmanship. An interesting article on the house was published in Country Life 20th June 1908. No doubt his dinner parties and guest lists were equally impressive which may account for his appointment as an Officer Extraordinary in the Court of Common Pleas on 28th July 1655.

Having reached the age of 21 it was time his eldest

son Thomas got married and the search for a suitable well connected and wealthy bride began.

It ended with a marriage contract between Hester daughter of Mary and George Savage of Inkberrow in Worcestershire and Thomas. To provide his son with an estate on 21st September 1658 Thomas purchased 300 acres at Compton Scorphim from the heirs of John Savage for £500 and a half share of Compton Scorphim Manor from George Savage for £2,800. In addition as part of the marriage settlement on 7th April 1659 Thomas settled his 4 yard lands in **Deddington** on Hester, her male issue and Thomas her husband for life with remainder to himself. (The renewal of the Lease of the 4 yard lands for 21 years for £1300 was signed in 1660 by both father and son).

In **Deddington** Paris register there is an entry on 25th March 1659, written in an entirely different and meticulous handwriting compared with prior and subsequent entries, stating that "Thomas Apletree son of Thomas Apletree Esquire married L. East" that is so mystifying. No Christian name as was always customary, merely a letter "L". No further description of her which one would expect having stated the groom was the son of Thomas. It seems the only possibility was that the caligrapher employed to make the special entry in the register was unable to read a scrawled note of the entry he was required to make and translated Hester as L. East and gave up completely when confronted by Savage. The date of 25th March 1659 is of course most logical and likely for the wedding.

On 3rd September 1658 Oliver Cromwell died and was

succeeded by his eldest son Richard Cromwell as Lord Protector. An instruction from Richard requiring Thomas to appoint William Draper Sheriff of Oxfordshire was one of the final acts of power and importance of Thomas. Richard, a mild and inoffensive man could not cope with the problems of government and abdicated in 1659. A period of chaos and confusion ended on 29 May 1660 with the Restoration of Charles II.

His Majesty's Signet Office records in its Pardon Book that in "July 1660 a pardon in the usual form granted unto Thomas Apletree of Deddington subscribed by the Attorney General under His Majesty's sign manual". It does not state what princely sum it cost Thomas to purchase the King's forgiveness for the Royal coffers were very bare.

Thomas now seems to have led a quiet life and approaching 60 years of age he made his Will on 9 April 1664. On the 31st March 1666 Thomas lying sick in bed made a codicil to his Will and died shortly after. His burial took place on 2 April.

His Will of seven closely written pages in a little trunk at the foot of his bed, was proved on 12 July 1666 and can be briefly stated as follows:-

1. Twenty gowns to ten poor men and ten poor women and ten pounds for the poor of Deddington.
2. £10 apiece to the family for mourning.
3. Land and property to his Executors in Trust.
4. Wife to inhabit house and use household stuff until son Philip is 21.

5. Jane £2500, Lettice £2000.
6. Thomas to have Windsor Manor Lease.
7. Philip to have proceeds of sale of other properties when 21.
8. Legacies to brothers William, Mathew and John and their children.

His Executors had the contents of the Parsonage listed and valued as follows.

f. s. d.

In the parlour

One drawing table and frame one round
table and frame, 12 leather chairs
one great cloth chair, a couch a pair of
brass andirons a pair of tongs an iron to make
the fire on and 10 cushions 2 green carpets
and a red cupboard cloth 3.10. 0.

In the hall

One table and frame, three forms, six leather
buckets, one round table, one old chair
one iron grate, one cowbell, one new
suit of armour 1.10. 0.

In the Dining Room

A dozen and a half turkeywork
chairs, a little square table, three
window curtains and rods, a pair of
brass andirons and tongs, a pair
of iron dogs, an iron back, a pair
of bellows, a large looking glass, three
pieces of arras hangings 35. 0. 0.

On the Staircase

A clock

1. 6. 8.

In the chamber over the dining room

One standing bedstead with red kersey
curtains and double vallance, two feather
beds, one feather bolster and two
pillows, three white blankets and a red
coverlet, six leather gilt chairs,
a couch, a close stool and six
cushions two stands, a pair of brass andirons
one pair of iron dogs, fire shovel and tongs
two large window curtains and the
old arras hangings about the room

17. 0. 0.

In the High Room

One standing bedstead. one
feather bed, one flock quilt,
feather bolster, two feather
pillows, curtains and double valance
of half cloth, two blankets and
a coverlet, three large red window curtains and
rods, 6 turkey work chairs, two pieces
of turkey work hangings, one close stool, two
stands, one pair of brass andirons, one pair
of iron dogs and fire shovel

30. 0. 0.

In the little room

One bedstead, feather bolster, red
coverlet, one red chair

13. 0.

In the mens Chamber

One old bedstead, one old feather
bed three blankets, one coverlet, one old
coffer and two bolsters

1.10. 0.

In the old chamber

Half headed bedstead, one flock bed,
feather bolster, feather pillow, two
blankets and one coverlet and lumber

2. 0. 0.

In Mistress Jane's Closet

Four cloth chairs and three stools,
one old table, one pair of bellows
one pair of tongs and four pieces
of hangings

1. 0. 0.

In Pithams chamber

One half bedstead, feather bed
feather bolster, two blankets

1.10. 0.

In Mrs. Apletrees chamber

One standing bedstead and half
bedstead, three feather beds, two feather
bolsters, three feather pillows, old
curtains and valance, eight blankets, one white
rug, two drawing chests, two trunks
one box of drawers, three chairs, one chest
one stand, one looking glass, one pair
of dogs, fire shovel, tongs, bellows,
andiron, a set of old hangings, a close
stool, three hanging shelves

15. 0. 0.

In the nursery

One low bedstead with a canopy and
striped curtains, one feather bolster
one pillow, one new blanket, one red
coverlet, one feather bed, one low
court cupboard, one red chair, one
stand, one pair of tongs, one
table board

4. 0. 0.

In the maids chamber

One half bedstead, feather bed, flock
bolster, three blankets one still 4. 0. 0.

In the old maids chamber,

One old chest, one old trunk and
lumber 16. 0.

In the passage

One old press, one old chest,
one old trunk, one odd piece of
new turkey work hanging and iron axetree 6. 0. 0.

In Mistress Janes Chamber

One standing bedstead, one down bed,
and feather bolster, two blankets, three
old red curtains, two stands two red chairs
three red stools, two other stools
two hanging frames, four glasses
one pair of iron dogs, one pair
of tongs, one pair of bellows and the
old hangings. 7. 0. 0.

In Mistress Jane's Maids Chamber

One half headed bedstead, one
feather bed, one feather bolster, two
blankets, one coverlet, one court
cupboard, one red stool
one shelf 2. 0. 0.

In the store chamber

Four dozen of diaper napkins, one
dozen of damask napkins, one
dozen of holland napkins, one
damask table cloth, six diaper table
cloths, one holland table cloth, three
pairs of fine sheets, three pairs
of fine pillow cases with the trunk they
are in 10. 0. 0.

A parcel of pales and lumber
in the room

2. 0. 0.

One hide of white leather

8. 0.

In the buck chest

Eighteen pairs of hempen sheets

4.10. 0.

Eight pairs of flaxen sheets

6. 0. 0.

Eight dozen flaxen napkins

2. 0. 0.

Three flaxen table cloths
and a pair of damity sheets
and four towels

2. 0. 0.

Two pairs of flaxen pillowbers
three coarse table cloths

5. 0.

Pewter

One dozen of new trencher
plates, two dozen of ordinary
trencher plates, four pie
plates, six large pewter
dishes, six lesser dishes
and other old dishes, flaggon
and basins, candlesticks in
all weighing 11b. 2ozs. besides
the lesser flaggon, five
saucers and seven chamber
pots and one pasty plate

8.16. 0.

In the meal house

The dough kiver and some other
lumber

5. 0.

In the Kitchen

One pair of rakes and irons
for the fire, fire shovell,
tongs, two dripping pans of
iron, one old jack, three
spits, one gridiron and flesh
fork, one cleaver.

1.10. 0.

One brass pot, one spice mortar,
two brass kettles, two skillets
one frying pan. one scummer,
two old brass candlesticks,
one stew pan

1. 6. 8.

In the back kitchen

The brewing vessel, one malt
mill and furnace, three kettles,
one brass pan, the great vat
besides four cowls, three kivers
and other lumber

12. 0. 0.

In the chamber over the back
kitchen

Sheepskins trays and other lumber

1.10. 0.

In the chamber over the dairy
house

The ropes and old iron and lumber
and an ironbeam and scales

3. 0. 0.

In the dairy house

One cheese press, two tables,
11 shelves, four leaden kivers,
one pair of scales, one churn,
one milk cowl, one kiver with
other dairy vessell, one old
powdering tub and trough

2. 0. 0.

In the street barn

The coals

4. 0. 0.

The wood poles and etc.

3. 0. 0.

In the old parlour

One pitch pan, wool, wainscott
and other lumber

1. 6. 8.

In the cellar

7 Pipes and 9 hogsheads 2.15. 0.

In the pantry

One safe, one little cupboard
one round table, one napkin
presser 10. 0.

In the rick yard

The hay 6.13. 4.
The peas rick 25. 0. 0.
The maslin rick, helm rick and
straw rick with the stadles
under, the two ricks 22. 0. 0.
The wood abroad in the yard
and faggots 6.13. 4.
All the waggons, carts, wains
and wood and lumber under the
hovel except the chariot 30. 0. 0.
All the wood in Pritchetts house
and in the hovel at the end of it 8. 0. 0.
All the hurdles in the cow house
and over the gate house and
all the sheep racks 5. 0. 0.

In the cow yard

All the muck wheresoever 7. 0. 0.
12 cribs 1. 0. 0.
15 cows, one bull, 2 weaning
calves, 5 sucking calves 40.10. 0.
5 stores 4. 0. 0.
2 hogs up a feeding 2.10. 0.
the straw at the stable end 10. 0.

In the stable

The three carthorses 8. 0. 0.
The 2 mares and roan horse 13. 6. 8.

The boards over the stable and 2 ladders 7. 0. 0.

In the upper malthouse

The malt 7. 6. 8.

The maslin and wheat 12. 0. 0.

The barley 8. 0.

In the middle floor there

The oats 30. 0. 0.

The peas 3. 10. 0.

The hemp picked and unpicked 4. 0. 0.

In the long barn

The furze 4. 0. 0.

The wood in the street 2. 0. 0.

The crop of corn, hemp, oats, peas in the castle 14. 10. 0.

The harpsichord, virginals and organ, an old violin and lute 6. 13. 0.

The chariot being old and broken 1. 0. 0.

One picture of the Earl of Pembroke, 2 pictures of Sir Compton Read and his lady with gilt frames, 2 pictures of Mr. Apletree and his wife, one picture of Prince Henry and one of Mistress Babington 4. 0. 0.

Weights and Seals 13. 4.

Several pieces of plate

(viz) one great salt, six little trencher salts, four tumblers, three tankards, two great candlesticks and sockets, a hand candlestick a pair of snuffers, a cawdle cup with a cover

six bowls, six plates and chafing dish a basin, a dozen spoons with round handles, fourteen spoons with ordinary handles, one little spoon, all weighing four hundred and fortynine and a half ounces at five shillings the ounce.

112. 7. 6.

In the grounds called Grove Ash 254 sheep	170. 0. 0.
In those grounds 9 dry beasts, 5 cows and calves and a bull	30. 0. 0.
In the grounds at Ilbury 9 dry cows	22. 0. 0.
100 Ewes	75. 0. 0.
182 wether sheep and a ram	91. 0. 0.
2 old sheep racks	2. 0.
2 old ladders and 3 ladder poles	13. 4.
	£981. 5. 2.

Examined:

Mathew Weston

Richard Coles

William Aplebee

Timothy Smith

The rents arising from his property were considerable as evidenced by the rental schedule prepared by his Executors on 27 September 1666 for the half year's rent then due:

From Bennett & Timothy Smyth for the tithes of Deddington	115. 0. 0.
From Henry Church for Clifton tithes and fenlands called Fritwell Hook and Theeves	50. 0. 0.
From Mr. Thomas Apletree for a rent issueing out of Windsor 4 yard	25. 0. 0.
From Richard and Job Coles for 4 yard lands at Leaden Porch	35. 0. 0.
From Hollyer for the Fishweir	
From Giles Ibell for Hempton tithes due 11th November	34. 0. 0.

From Henry Lambly for lands in Ilbury
Dunstew and Hempton and ten
acres in Barford field held by lease
from Sir Thomas Chamberlain

12. 0. 0.

From Edward Turner for a yard land and
a half part of Savidges farm

9.15. 0.

From John Coles for the like

9. 0. 0.

From William Mathews for the like being
all the four yard lands
and a half belonging to
the farm.

9. 0. 0.

From Tim Smith for a yard land
and a half of Windsor
land

9. 0. 0.

From Anthony Rymell for a yard land and half
of the glebe

9. 0. 0.

From Edward Maynard the like

9. 0. 0.

From John French for a yard land of Windsor land
For carriage of coals.

5. 0. 0.

Edward Turner for carriage of 1500 of coals
at Michelmas

12. 6.

John Coles for the like

12. 6.

John Mathews for the like

12. 6.

Timothy Smith the like

12. 6.

Anthony Rymell the like

12. 6.

Edward Maynard the like

12. 6.

John French for carriage of 1000 of coals

8. 4.

William Turner for land at Thorpe Common Northampton 100. 0. 0.

Mr. Yateman for meadows Stocky and Goosy near
Abingdon

38. 0. 0.

Thomas Trulock for Sheemisham Meads near Abingdon	5.15.0.
Sir George Stonehouse for Radley Brizlyhill ground	3.15. 0.
Copyhold	
Walter Rand for a little pightel in Deddington	3. 4.
Another little Pightel rented by Swetnam in Gatton	
Park which lay void and nothing made of it valued	5. 0.
William Apleby a close near the Bowling Alley	1. 2. 6.
John Williams for Ilbury Mill and a quartertern land	
in Dunstew	5.10. 0.
John Mason for a rick yard for the whole year	
due at Michaelmas	5. 0.
Thomas Grove close let and valued at per annum	3. 0. 0.
The tithe hay with Binney acre let to Tim Smith	
per annum at	20. 0. 0.
The Castle valued at p.a.£15	7.10. 0.
Thomas Barret for the Ram Close at Ilbury £13 p.a.	6.10. 0.
William Hollyer for 10 acres in Barford	
field and half a yard land at £5 p.a. one year and	
£13.9.0. the next	2. 5. 0.
Daniel Harris for the garden to the house at £3 p.a.	1.10. 0.
<u>Copyhold Rents payable half yearly</u>	
£24 John Carter for half a year	10. 0.
£36 Thomas Bates three yard lands	14. 0.
£24 William Try two yard land	9. 4.
£7 Thomas Try half a yard land	2. 4.
£20 Alexander Hawtin two yard land	10. 0.
£7 Samuel Churchill half a yard land	3. 4.
£10 Richard Rymel a yard land	10. 0.
£15 Ezekiel Weston a yard land and a half	7. 6.
£13 Widow Gibbs a yard land so valued at p.a.	
£75.10.0. there was demanded 8 years purchase for	
adding two lives being 604. £90 was taken at last	6. 8.
£10 Anthony Rymel a yard land	5. 0.
£24 William Appleby a yard land and a half	10. 0.

Customs for a Mortuary

If any one die in the parish worth £40	
he pays to the Lord	10. 0.
If worth £20 he pays	6. 8.
If not worth £20	3. 4.

Heriots

Every copy holder to pay his best good
at death and at Alienation

All free holders

Upon death and Alienation pay a release
of double the rent

John Cartwright for a parcel of land near the Lion Inn	4. 0.
Mr. Browne for two yard land and half in Clifton.	8. 0.
John Lane for a parcel of land called the Guild	12. 2.
Mathew Weston for the house called the Bell	4. 6.
Mathew Weston for a house over against the church	8.
Edward Moreton for a freehold and land to it	2. 0.
Timothy Bignell for the house he dwells in	2. 0.
For a house against the Lion which Mr. Nut hath	2. 0.
Job Nut for Ellyot's house 1 shg and Skilmans house 8d.	1. 8.
Edward Kempster for a house by lease 2s. and an addition on the waste 6d.	2. 6.
Thomas Rouse for his freehold cottage	2. 4.
Francis Carter for his freehold cottage	6.
John Bignell for his house and land in Hempton	4.

Widow Harris for a messuage and a half a yard land freehold	5. 0.
Richard Coles for a freehold cottage in New Street	7.
William Acres for a messuage yard land and a half freehold	8. 0.
Thomas Smith for a freehold cottage	6.
Henry Wills for a freehold cottage	6.
Mr. Edmonds for a messuage and 6 yard land freehold in Raund	1. 8.
William Polton for his lease in Little Barford	4.
Thomas Taylor for a messuage and yard land there	8.
John Coles for a little piece of ground to his back side	1. 4.
Samuel Belcher for an encroachment on the waste	1. 0.
James Apleby for a messuage and a half a yard land	6.
Edward Tusmer for a freehold cottage	4.
George Elkinton for 8 stalls on the waste	8. 0.
Henry Tey for a close of freehold called Stony Close	6.
Widow London for a shop on the waste at will	6.
Edwards Parsons a cottage by Lease	6.
Widow Prat a cottage by lease now Kempsters	6.
Anthony Basely for a stall on the waste	1. 8.
Job Mason for a shop on the waste	1. 8.
John Ward for the Swan Inn freehold	2. 4.
Anthony Rymel 4 stalls on the waste at will	4. 8.
John Davis for an addition of six foot to his house	8.
Thomas Stevens for a cottage on the waste at Hempton at will	4.

Thomas Jakeman for a cottage at the mill in Clifton	8.
Edward Hutchins for a cottage on the waste at Hempton	4.
Mr. Nathaniel Apletree for cummin seed and in money 4d valued at 8s for Blounts Farm	8.
Philip Manning for a freehold cottage	8.
Mr. M. Loversage the Lion	8.

In November 1671 William Apletree produced an account that was given him by his uncle Thomas of the latter's estate as it was let in the year 1665:-

Benet and Timothy Smith, the tithe of Deddington they paying taxes	230. 0. 0.
Henry Churchill the tithe of Clifton	100. 0. 0.
Giles Ibel the tithe of Hempton	68. 0. 0.
The ten yard land to divers persons	120. 0. 0.
Richard and Job Coles Leadenporch 4 yard land	60. 0. 0.
John Holier the great fish weir	32. 0. 0.
William Aplebee the Bowling Alley Close	2. 5. 0.

At the same time he held in his own hands the tithe hay the Castle the Grove the Parsonage house and homestall.

Despite the embargo in his Will that no litigation should take place over the disposal of his estate several law suits did in fact ensue, much of it due to the slowness in disposing of his property and the deaths of his Executors.

Thomas (2)

His eldest son Thomas was probably a bright lad. He studied at Oxford University, became a scholar at Magdalen in 1648 and a Fellow of All Souls in 1649, a Master of Arts in 1652 and after being admitted to the Inner Temple in 1650 became a Batchelor of Law in 1654. He probably returned to **Deddington** soon after to conduct the search for a suitable wife.

The mystery of the entry in **Deddington** Parish Register concerning his marriage has already been mentioned and is further complicated by an entry in the register of St. Mary's Church in Warwick which records him as marrying Hester Savage there on 15th May 1659. Presumably he had two ceremonies for the negotiations over the marriage settlement had commenced in 1658, so there is no likelihood of him marrying some mysterious "L. East" on the 25th March and Hester on the 15th May.

It was not until 1662 that Thomas took up residence in his manor house of Eglocke. A Year later his son John was born. But from subsequent pleas in the Court of Chancery it is evident that domestic differences arose between them. Thomas claimed that she was extravagant, expected to be maintained above her station in life and ran up such an immense amount of debt that he was forced to flee from his creditors. Friends and relations of Hester declared in Court that Thomas had taken an "unjust unkindness" towards her. It was said that he threw meat dishes on the floor, struck his son John at table although he was not doing anything reprehensible at the time, broke glasses by throwing them at the servant. He had seized Hester by the throat and forcibly took her

necklace, threw her on the floor and tore off her rings. With a hand riding whip had struck her and John. Alice Gower said Thomas would take up Hester's coats and whip her bare breech belly and thighs. He also struck her about the neck and breasts. Anne Dyson saw whip marks on Hester when she was lying ill.

For Hester it was said that Thomas's debts were not incurred by his wife who was a virtuous frugal and good woman.

In 1666, to avoid his creditors, Thomas collected his cattle and horses and drove them off to Herefordshire where it was said "he lived in a scandalous manner with another woman or women and lived obscurely under another name with no certain place of abode.

Nevertheless he was cited to appear before Sir Timothy Baldwin in the Hereford Diocesan Court.

Hester also had him excommunicated by the Bishop of Warwick's Court. In 1668 when he knew of the Bishop's decree he appeared before his Court and the Writ was quashed and probably the same happened over his citation before the Bishop of Worcester.

In each case the Courts were either talked into the belief that Hester had sufficient maintenance or that he was actively taking steps to provide it.

If so it took him a long time. In 1671 discussions with various relations ended in 1672 with Thomas finally signing an agreement, but not before ending up in the King's Bench prison for contempt of Court.

The agreement required him to sell the Egiock and Compton Scorphim estates to Trustees who in turn re-demised them to Thomas, who was to pay them a rent of £90 per annum for 5 years and £70 per annum thereafter, the rent to be used for the maintenance

of Hester and son John.

When Thomas left Hester in 1666 he valued the contents of the Eglocke Manor House at £400. He said it was well furnished with several pieces of plate, two or more dozen silver spoons value £50, ten or more table bords worth £10, 15 feather beds 5 flocked £60, 40 pairs of sheets, 20 dozen napkins, 20 table clothes and other linens £50, 40 chairs and stools £10, 2 trunks and chests £5, 50 dishes of pewter, 6 dozen pewter plates £40, 6 brass pots, 10 brass scuttles, 5 skillets etc. £15, brewing and mashing vats, tubs, hogsheads, barrels, pipes etc £20, 1 clock and a bell £16, 1 furnace £10. 2 wagons six carts and ploughs 2 pair of harrows ten pair of horses gear £20, 1 horse 10 swine £10 household goods bacon and cheese £80 and £40 in ready money.

Hester broke open his desk and removed the £40 (£30 of which she placed out at interest) and went to live with various relatives, John Wiggot of Feckenham, John Dison and John Kendricke both of Inkberrow and for a short while with Arthur Jeffs of Clerkenwell in London. To defray the costs of her maintenance they sold the contents of the Manor House and let the farm land to Thomas Walker. Her son John was probably brought up by Hester's uncle Sir Thomas Rouse.

In 1662 Mary Savage, his mother-in-law, died and he took out letter of administration in 1664 after Henry Jackson the physician who attended her and trustee of her estate, refused to hand over to Thomas the legacy left to Hester. Jackson said that before she died on 12th November 1662 Thomas was not to have one penny of her money. But as Thomas later said, "an unfortunate discontent arose

between him and Hester and as he was then living in remote parts there was no convenience to prosecute the suit."

In 1664 whilst still in Eglock he took the oath of allegiance to King Charles II.

Thomas seems to have been always short of money. In 1665 he borrowed £250 from friends of his father with annual repayments of £50 but they appear to have had difficulty in getting their money back after his disappearance.

His whereabouts from 1666 until 1674 or 1675 are a mystery but about then he had returned to Deddington. Thomas had been appointed as a guardian to a minor, Thomas Butler, who possessed a house in New Street and three cottages in Deddington. Thomas had agreed with John Langston of Aynho to sell them but there was so much delay in arriving at a decision that poor Thomas Butler and his sister Anne were in dire need for meat, drink and clothes.

John Langston advanced them money and had incurred bills of £46 for repairs to the cottages. Eventually a sale was agreed on 1 May 1675 but then Thomas refused to hand over the deeds as Thomas Butler now intended to sell to someone else. John Langston asserted that Thomas Apletree had so advised Thomas Butler and feared that he may not recover the money already advanced if the sale was not concluded. John Langston then sued Thomas for enforcement of the sale.

In 1676 Thomas was outlawed for non payment of a bill of exchange which he had signed some years previously. On appeal the outlawry was set aside. Apparently Thomas owed Francis Oldfield £25 who being short of money borrowed £25 from a William Gibson against a bill for that amount signed by Thomas. Although Thomas had paid Gibson £12.50 nothing had been paid by Oldfield who said in Court that he had merely signed as collateral. So the attempt by

Thomas to leave Oldfield with payment of half the bill failed.

In 1679 Hester died and Thomas commenced a suit in Chancery to have the agreement of 1672 nullified.

He was not successful for the Trustees retained the estate for the maintenance and ultimate tenure of son John.

It must have come as a nasty shock when in May 1680 a certain R. Philips was granted by the Treasury certain sums due to the King from Humphrey Jones of London - Treasurer under the pretended Act of 1649 for the sale of the King's goods or chattels unjustly withheld or concealed from the King by Humphrey Jones and nine other persons, one of whom was Thomas. One wonders if anything was obtained from so slippery a customer as Thomas.

Samuel Belchier, an apothecary of Deddington sued Thomas for medicines supplied to Thomas Butler the elder and Thomas Butler the younger. Thomas said he was merely a guardian and had no funds of theirs to meet bills. As for medicines for his brother Philip, Belchier should look to Philip's Executor.

There is yet another mystery about Thomas. There is no record in Deddington Parish Registers of his marriage to Grace the daughter of his uncle William or the birth of their eldest daughter Elizabeth who was born in 1678 (Hester did not die until 1679). Deddington Parish Registers, however, record the birth of Frances and Barney his daughters "by Grace his wife" and yet all three are described in Chancery law suits as the "daughters of Thomas and Grace his wife".

After lengthy law suits a Chancery Court decree in 1677 ruled that Thomas was not entitled to the residue of his father's estate as Philip (brother of Thomas) died before reaching 21 years of age, nor to the share of his sisters Jane and Lettice, who had obtained the age of 21 years, even though Jane died before Philip and Lettice was also dead. The four yard land was to be held in trust for Thomas and the other beneficiaries of his father's Will.

He was, however, interested in selling some of his property to his brother-in-law Francis Cary. A letter from a relative, William Gannock, to Francis Cary of the 8 March 1683 is rather illuminating. It says "since I last writ our business with Mr. Apletree hangs but odly. I offered £800 provided that we were well secure of the estate without future disturbance about it for we knowing the man I think we ought to deal with him with all the caution it may become us to avoid all future inconveniency by him but since he has slipped out of the Town and I never hear more from him or of him." Ambrose Holbech was deputed to treat with Thomas in the country. As Thomas had property in Rider Street in London he obviously spent time there as well as in Deddington where he was buried on the 6th June 1692.

His Will, a lengthy document, made on the 2 April 1692 can be summarised as follows:-

George Carter and George Ellis to be Executors and Trustees of the Windsor 4 yard lands, one half of the rents arising therefrom to be paid to his daughter Elizabeth and one quarter each to Frances and Barney. Jane and Elizabeth to have £200 each and Barney to have the rents of property in Compton Scorphim.

All the girls were described as being under twenty years of age and had to obtain the approval of the Executors if and when they married. As Thomas had received no marriage portion with Grace, which remained in her father's hands although intended for her, he left her merely £10 for mourning. The only reference to his son John was "twenty shillings to buy him a ring". £60 borrowed from Captain William Apletree was to be repaid out of the rents of his houses in Rider Street in London. No mention is made of the disposal of his Rider Street property, presumably he in turn rented it.

The last mystery concerning Thomas are the references in his Will to his sons Thomas and Charles (neither were born in **Deddington**). Thomas was to have £200 when he came out of his apprenticeship with Robert Davies an apothecary in the City of London and Charles £100 when his apprenticeship with Mr. Beeling, an upholsterer in Westminster, ended. Is there any connection with a Court action that took place in January 1683. Mary Martin the widow of William Martin a barber of Stratford-on-Avon, had Thomas arrested for failure to pay the fees payable to her late husband for boarding two children Thomas and Charles, the sons of Catherine Cary. Catherine had refused to pay the fees as Thomas had undertaken to pay them. Mary Martin failed to attend the Court hearing and the claim was quashed.

What happened to his sons Thomas and Charles is not known. Elizabeth married her cousin Nathaniel Apletree, Francis married Daniel Heyford a sword cutler of St.Clement Danes in 1703, Barney married Henry Ward of St.James Westminster in 1706 and Jane married John Carey at St.Annes Westminster in 1704. Grace went to London after the death of Thomas for

it is known that the Executors paid for her board and keep at Hackney and that Barratt's of King Street Covent Garden supplied physic for Barney. The Vicar General issued a marriage licence in 1709 for a Thomas Parker to marry a Grace Apletree but if the marriage took place it has not been traced. It is said Grace died in 1728 but had a son born out of wedlock years after the death of her husband.

Philip (3)

Thomas's brother Philip was the favourite of both his parents. Thomas complained that his step-mother Margaret set his father against him and used undue preference for her own children.

Philip was born at Deddington on 1 November 1655 and baptised on 28 December. He was only 11 years old when his father died and his mother died a year later leaving her personal property and jewellery to Jane and Philip. His uncle William Apletree was appointed his guardian until such time as Philip became 21. In 1672 the Domestic State Papers record that a licence for a Presbyterian House was applied for and granted to Philip. He was then 17!

On the 20th February 1674 he wrote a sad little letter to his sister Lettice, the wife of Francis Henry Cary, at Brinkworth saying:-

I received your letter of the 16th February which was very welcome to me. But it pleased God it found me desperately sick in bed where I am yet forced to continue. But bless God I am now in a hopeful way of recovery although to the judgment of all that were about me it was very doubtful whether I should live or die. My distemper has not continued very

long upon me falling ill but on Monday the 15th of this month. But it has been very tedious and severe occasioned chiefly by an extreme cold and surfeit I took. Dear sister I wrote a letter to you immediately upon my dear sister's death to acquaint you of it and appointed a messenger to carry it to Brinkworth with all speed. But he neglected it so long that I thought you might as soon hear of it otherways. My little cousin is at Captain Gannocks who takes upon him the management of the estate and the tuition of him though I understand it does not of right belong to him but to me it being also my sisters particular desire that I should have the tuition of him. I am at present with my uncle at **Deddington** as soon as it pleases God I am able I intend to see you at Brinkworth and then I shall give you a more particular account of all things and shall ever think myself most happy of all occasions to express myself your very affectionate brother Philip. He then added - pray remember my kind love and service to my brother Cary. My brother Apletree desires the like to you both.

Sadly he died shortly after and was buried on 28th February.

John (4)

Thomas's eldest son John (born 1662) was sent off to boarding school run by a Mr. John Groves. He later went to St. Mary Hall Oxford where he matriculated on 5 March 1679.

On the 22 July 1679 he married Ann Vernon the daughter of William Vernon of Norton in Gloucestershire.

They had an enormous family. Thomas (5) was born in 1680 (probably at Norton). The Inkberrow baptismal

register records John(6) baptised on the 8th November 1681; William(7) on 21 March 1682; Philip on 12th September 1684 but who did not survive; Hester on 25th November 1685 who married a Mr. Hoskyns and had a son called Savage Hoskyns; Ann on 20 January 1686 who married Richard Cowper a widower at St.Martins in the Fields on 24th June 1718; Philip on 5th February 1689 who died shortly after birth; Savage(8) on 12th September 1692; Philip on 6th January 1693 but who died on 19th July 1694; Margarita baptised on 11th March 1697 at Worcester Cathedral. From other sources it appears that there were also Mary who married Thomas Goodman an ivory turner of St.Andrews London, Lettice and Elizabeth of whom nothing else is known.

Almost immediately after his marriage he was involved in a law suit. A William Peploe of St.Brides, Middlesex and Henry Jackson of Inkberrow "had put it about that John would not succeed to his father's estate because he is said not to be the first issue male nor lawfully begotten nor Hester's child nor his Majesty's liege subject." John accordingly wanted the Court to interrogate witnesses to his birth before they became too old to appear in Court or die and so establish his identity and preserve his inheritance of which he feared Peploe intended to deprive him. Peploe promptly admitted John to be the son and heir of Thomas and Hester and blamed Henry Jackson for making such statements.

Henry Jackson was the physician who had attended Mary Savage and was trustee of her estate which he had managed for a long time, evading all efforts by Thomas to obtain it. It would seem he was still trying to prevent John from having it as well.

John's next move in 1680 was to obtain the title deeds to the late Mary Savage's property in Eglock Inkberrow and Feckenham as well as those of his father Thomas's estate. The latter were in the custody of Ambrose Holbech but John failed to obtain them as his father was only a life tenant. The former had been sent by Thomas Baskerville of Collington, a friend of Hester, to Thomas Dyson a relation of Hesters who said he was prepared to deliver "50 pieces of parchment 30 pieces of paper or more tied together and 4 letters patent under the Great Seal of England in a deal box" to whomsoever the Court directs. These John duly obtained, for in 1685 he settled the estate on Anne his wife with remainder to sons Thomas John and William. The marriage contract required John to provide for any younger children so on 5 March 1685 he sold the Compton Scorphim estate, consisting of "the Ram Meadow, the Town Meade, the feeding ground, the new diggings and the Rouse ground and the house erected thereon "to Thomas Rowney of Oxford for £2,600. £1,200 remained owing by Rowney which was secured by a mortgage, the interest thereon to be for the maintenance and benefit of the younger children.

The reason for his sale of the Compton Scorphim estate arose from an action by Sir John Huband, the executor of his brother Tevora Huband. Some years previously John being in straightened circumstances and suffering from the harsh treatment of his father and a threat to cut off his allowance went to his friend Tevora for a large loan. It was secured on the Windsor 4 yard lands which John expected to come to him on his father's death. Tevora died before Thomas the father and Sir John found that John was in no way likely to get the anticipated legacy. So John had to find the money to repay the loan.

According to the Treasury State Papers various sums were paid to John when he was Sheriff of Worcester from 1693 to 1698 for apprehending various malefactors including 3 counterfeitters and two highwaymen Gabriel Dubourgh and James Alexander. According to Nash's History of Worcestershire his arms when Sheriff were "sable a lion rampant or."

When a duty was imposed by the Government on Houses and Windows in 1699 the summary of the collection of the tax for Oswaldston Pershore and Blackenhurl was signed by John. He does not appear as collector in subsequent years however.

He took his community services very seriously.

In 1701 he had printed a long treatise on his proposals for the better maintenance of the poor of the County of Worcestershire (a copy of which is in the British Library). Briefly he suggested imposing a special rate to be used in building a workhouse in each parish to which all Beggars, Vagrants without passes and suspicious persons should be sent. Food and clothing to be provided out of the rate and from the rents of common or waste land to be set aside for that purpose. Work was to be provided, idle or incorrigible persons to be whipped. Any residue from the rate and rents was to be used on the maintenance of all "Lame Decrepit Old Impotent and Lunatic persons in the parish."

In December 1717 John petitioned the Government for the office of Water Bailiff of the River Severn.

The Treasury replied that he could have it for £3000. John answered that the river was over-fished and that it was not worth more than £100. Needless to say he did not get it.

He decided an easier way to make a fortune was to try commerce.

On the 23rd May 1718 he obtained a patent for the production of raw silk. On the 14th October he floated a company with an offer of 5000 shares of £5 per share of which £1 was to be paid on allotment and the rest by four yearly payments. He also had 5000 shares allotted to him. Chelsea Park in London was leased for 122 years at a rent of £200 per annum and 2000 mulberry trees planted (a few still survive in Chelsea). Silk worm eggs were imported and reared in specially designed incubators.

The silk worms were fed on mulberry leaves, their cocoons spun into silk and the eggs from the resulting moth were in turn incubated to provide a continuous supply of silk.

The silk farm and weaving business was, for a few years, successful. The shares were popular on the stock market. Thoresby's Diary mentioned in 1723 that the Princess of Wales wore a dress of Chelsea Silk.

A copy of John's treatise on his project, the patent and the company prospectus are in the British Library.

But for some unknown reason the business failed. Was it because it was an uneconomic venture or because of the death of John. It is known that he died before 1728 for the Will of his son Thomas mentions a legacy of £30 towards his late father's debts.

John does not appear to have left a Will, nor has the place and date of death been traced as yet.

His wife Ann died at Droitwich in 1732, letters

of Administration being given to her spinster daughter Margarita.

Thomas (5)

John's eldest son Thomas studied at Balliol College Oxford where he matriculated on 9 March 1695 at the age of 15. Four years later he obtained his Bachelor of Arts and on 7th December 1699 was admitted to the Middle Temple, London.

On 10 March 1711 his father settled the Manor of Egiock on Thomas who mortgaged it in 1713 for £1450.

As executor of the will of his brother Savage he was sued in 1716 by his sister Mary and her husband Thomas Goodman for a legacy of £20 which Savage had bequeathed to her. Despite several appeals they were told that Thomas had not got the money. Presumably Savage had left very little.

Thomas died unmarried in 1728. His will required the estate to be sold (which was sold to Francis Baber for £5,315) and the following legacies made:-

Cousin George Vernon a broad piece of gold and 30/- for a ring.

The parish clerk of Hanbury half a guinea.

The poor of Inkberrow £5, of Hanbury £5, half a crown to every poor family of Egiock, a further £20 to the poor of Inkberrow to be paid in quarterly instalments, £5 to the poor of Feckenham.

Mr. Mugg, vicar of Inkberrow 30/- for a ring. £5 to Charles Bennett, £3 to William Mogg, £3 to Elizabeth Laughner his servant, £40 to Edward Hallis and £60 to Anne Hallis his servants. £5 to John Roper £10 to Thomas Milborne, £10 to Anthony Harper his tenant

farmers.

£30 towards his late father's debts in Worcestershire and Warwickshire and £40 to his mother Anne towards payment of her debts, £5 for mourning and 30/- for a ring.

£200 to sister Hester Hoskyns

£100 to her son Savage Hoskyns

£300 to sister Anne Cowper

£300 to sister Mary Goodman

£400 to sister Margarita Apletree.

To his executors he left ten broad pieces of gold and his silver hilted sword to Thomas Perks and twenty broad pieces of gold and a silver watch to Robert Hunt.

He wished his body "to be decently buried in Hanbury Churchyard on the north side of the Church about eight or nine feet from the rails" and "to be carried there on coach wheels or such like as a hearse and to have sixteen or eighteen of my poor neighbours to attend on my corpse and that they may have hatbands and gloves and five shillings apiece."

John (6)

Other than the record of his birth to John and Anne at Inkberrow in 1681 nothing is known about him except that as he is not mentioned with his father's surviving children in a court case in 1699 he must have died before that date. Neither of his brothers mention him in their Wills. He too, then died at an early age.

William (7)

At the age of 18 William volunteered for the navy.

A warrant of 4th March 1700 appointed him as a gentleman volunteer on HMS WINDSOR under the command of Captain Gifford. On 15th April 1701 he was transferred to the WEYMOUTH under the same captain and later to the NOTTINGHAM.

Apparently he then fell ill for on 7th December 1704, being sick in body but of sound mind, he made his will, leaving his share of the £1200 set aside by his father for his younger children to be shared equally between Savage, Hester, Ann, Letitia, Margarita and Mary, his brother and sisters.

Bowater Vernon was named as Executor. William died somewhere in the Parish of St. Andrews, Holborn. On 19th January 1707 Bowater Vernon declared the possessions of William to be:-

A parcel of old clothes given to the deceased's nurse who looked after him in his sickness 40/-

A small gold ring set with sparks and a red stone given to his sister Hester. 40/-

A sword and belt and a case of pistols whose value Vernon did not know.

A share in £1200 settled on him, his brother and sisters, no part of which had been paid to John or Vernon as Executor.

Savage (8)

Savage too died at an early age for he was only 22 when he was buried in St. Martin's Church Worcester on 26 February 1713.

Nash's History of Worcester says that on a monument in the chancel of that church are his arms "or on a fesse gules 3 lozenges vair argent and sable.