

Connections :-

THOMAS CROMWELL to ROBERT E. LEE.

All researchers know that the normal sources of information concerning lineal ancestors soon dries up, and one has to go hunting in obscure byways

Wives families, Brothers and sisters of Wives families, Geographical areas are all straws to be grasped.

In one adventure down an ancestral bywater I found connections between Thomas Cromwell who was chief adviser to King Henry 8, and Robert E. Lee. of fame in the American Civil War. The story is worth relating as it shows that no small, trivial, or apparently irrelevant fact should be ignored

My story begins in 1523 with the Will of Walter Taverner of North Weald Bassett in Co Essex:

He left goods, and money to his children Katherine, John, Ralf, Alice, Jane and Walter

He mentions Margaret Taverner

His brother Andrew Taverner

His wife Alice

He mentions his 'Howse' in the Parish of Roxwell, Essex.

His Executor was John Colyere of Writtle

Next, in 1552, we have the will of John Taverner of Theydon Garnon, Co Essex

He mentions Brother Walter of Hatfield

Brother Ralf of Hemingham

He has a mistress, 'Mystress Branche'.

His mother-in-law is named Wyberd.

He left money to his brother George Raynesford

He mentioned brothers John Glascocke of Stanford Rivers and a brother ... Maynard

He mentioned his father-in-law

John Wyberd of Copersale.

His 4 children were Christopher Jane, Johanne & Katherine.

John was obviously the son of Walter Taverner

Leaving Walter and John let me introduce Rycharde Taverner, born in Norfolk in 1505, Rycharde became a clerk of the signet to King Henry 8, and

High Sheriff of Oxfordshire. Oliver Cromwell Earl of Essex was Rycharde's benefactor and close friend. Rycharde's is a fascinating story in itself, however that, another day. Rycharde married twice, his second wife was Mary Harcourt of the famed Harcourts of Stanton Harcourt, they married about 1565.

Rycharde and Mary had two children Harcourt, and Penelope. Penelope Taverner married Robert Petit and had a daughter Mary. Mary Petit married Thomas Wood.

Thomas and Mary had a son Anthony Wood, the Antiquarian.

When Rycharde died in 1575 Mary remarried in about 1577 to a Cromwell hee. Cromwell hee was a godson of Thomas Cromwell

Anthony Wood, in *Athenæ Oxoniense* mentions Cromwell hee who was obviously quite a character. I can do no better than quote him in full:-

By Anthony Wood.

CROMWELL LEA a younger Son of Sir *Anth. Lea* or *Lee* of *Burton* in *Bucks*, Knight, (by his Wife the Daughter of Sir *Thomas Wyat* Knight,) descended from the *Lees* of *Quarendon* in the said County, was educated in all inferior Arts in this University, and afterwards travelling and spending several Years in *Italy*, he attained to so great knowledge in the common Language of that Country, that at his return he wrote,

A Dictionary in *Italian* and *English*.—Which tho' it reaches but to the Word *Tralingnato*, and so consequently wanteth the following Letters to the end of the Alphabet, yet it is as big as a Church-Bible. This Book the Author giving in MS. to the Library of *St. John's* Coll. in this University, (of which Coll. he had been sometimes a Commoner, about its first Foundation,) the Society did so highly value it, that one of them named *Tho. Poticarie*, M. of A. and Bach. of the Civil Law, did transcribe it in a very fair Character. Which being so done, it was reposed in their Library as a choice thing, and is at this day among the printed Books, B. 31. This *Crom. Lea*, who had married *Mary*, the Relict of *Rich. Taverner*, mentioned under the Year 1575, died at his House in *Holywell*, in the Suburb of *Oxon*, about the beginning of Winter in sixteen hundred and one, but where buried I know not. Whereupon this Epitaph was made on him by an *Oxford* Scholar,

Here lieth old Cromwell,
Who, living, lov'd the Bum well.
When he dy'd he gave nothing to the poor,
But half to his Bastards, and half to his Whore.

Thomas Cromwell's Titles included:—

Earl of Essex
KE of Privy Seal
KE of the Sater
Vicar General
Earl Chamberlain

A pedigree exists of the family of LEE, showing the lineal descent of the late General Robert E. Lee of Virginia from Sir John Lee, Knt. This was published in Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica.

In it Cromwell Lee is mentioned as the 4th son of Anthony Lee, and Mary Wyatt. Cromwell Lee's brother, Robert had a daughter, who married Edward, Eldest son of Hercules Raynsford of Great Tew Co Oxford.

So... from Rycharde Cadernet we connect to Edward Raynsford, and from Walter Cadernet we connect to George Raynesford.

Can we now connect Edward to George?

In the Raynsford Pedigree is noted that "George Rainsford married Katherine, da. of ---- Cadernet of co. Essex... Confirmation of the connection with Walter Cadernet which Katherine Raynsford was his daughter.

George and Katherine Raynsford had children, Richard, Hercules, John, and Henry.

Georges eldest brother was Sir William Raynsford, whose children included Hercules, lord of Tew Magna.

So the connections are made
between Rycharde Eavner and
Walter Eavner and from
Thomas Cromwell and Robert E.
Lee.

Further Connections :-

William Rainsford was high
sherriff of Bucks & Oxfordshire 1461

Rycharde Eavner was high
sherriff of Oxfordshire 1562 to 1575

Robert Lee, George's Grandfather
was sherriff of Bucks 1521 & 1533.

7

Will of John Tavenar of Theydon Garnon, 1552

In the name of God Amen.

The 16th day of the monethe of August in the yere of our lord God M vC LIII^o (1552) and in the Sixt yere of the Raigne of our most Dread Soferaign Lord Edward the Sixt, by the grace of God of England, Fraunce and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, and of the Church of England and also of Ireland the Supreme heade,

I, John Tavenar of Theydon Garnon in the Countie of Essex, yeoman, beyng of perfitt mynd and memory, Make this my present testament and last will in manner and Forme following.

Fyrst I bequeth my Soule to the mercy of Almyghtie God, And my body to be buryed in Christian buriall.

Item, I geve in recompence of my tythes to the parson 3s 4d.

Item, I geve to the poore mens boxe, for the behoufe of the poore, 5s.

Item, I geve to my brother Walter Tavenar of Hatfeld the £10 which my brother Rafe Tavenar of Hemingham doth owe me, and yf my said brother Walter Tavenar fortune to die afore I departe, then I will the same £10 to be equally devyded emong his Chyldren.

I geve to my brother Raffes Children 20s a pece.

I geve to my godsonne John Raynsford 20s.

Item, to my syster Johanne Pyck 20s, and to my goddawghter her daughter 3s 4d, and to all other godchyl dren 12d a pece.

I geve to my Mystrys, Mystrys Branche, my best gray colte.

To my mother Wyberd, my hays gelding.

To my syster Maynard, a gowne.

Item, I give to the mending of the highwayes 40s.

Item, I geve to my poor Neighboures underwritten, that ys to say, Symond Raynold, Frauncys Newman, Grenes children, Father Wood, Deryng widdowe, Johanne Carter, Thomas Runnyngton, Patches wyfe, mother Mundaye, Richard Martyns Chyldren, and to mother Sparowe, and to every one of them, one bussell of wheate, and to the Poultar a bussell.

Item, to Johanne Leonard my mayd 3s 4d.

Item, to Thomas Tanner my boye I geve 2 bease [beasts].

Item, to Agnes Yong a Cowe, 2 payer of Sheetes and £10 in money.

Item, I give to Kateryne my daughter £20, to be delyveryd her att the day of her mariage.

Which Kateryne, with her £20, I will my brother George Raynsford to have, he to bring upp unctuously my sayd dawghter, and to Invest the sayd £20 to the most advauntage for her behouf, and I give to him for his paynes therein Taken fyfty Shelinges.

Item, I geve to my dawghter Johanne £20, to be delyveryd her at the daye of her mariage.

Which Johanne, with her £20, I will my brother John Glascocke of Stanford Ryners to have the governaunce of her, and he lykewyse unctuously to bring her uppe, and her sayd £20 to occupye to the moost advauntage for her behoufe, and I geve him for his paynes with her, fyfty shelinges.

Item, I geve to Jane my daughter £20, which shalbe delyveryd to her at the day of her mariage.

Which Jane, with her £20, I will my father in lawe John Wiberd of Copersale to have, to bring her uppe unctuouslye and to use her £20 to the moost advauntage for her behoufe, and he to have for his paynes 50s,

Provyded alwayes, that yf it fortune any of my said daughters to dye before the day of her mariage, that then I will her parte So deceasyd to be equallye devyded amonge my other daughters, then lyving, and that to be delyveryd to here behoufe Immediatly after any of there deceasys,

And yf they all Fayle afore there daye of mariage, then I wyll there hole legaces of £60 to Remayne to Chrystopher my Sonne.

Item, I will all my howsehould stuffe shalbe equally devyded among my 4 Children.

Item, I geve to Christopher my Sonne my farme callyd Garnoshe Myll and all the terme of yeres therein, with all the stocke and store thereupon, which Christopher I make Executor of this my testament and last will,

And I will that my brother Maynard have the Ordering and bringyng upp of my sayd Sonne during his nonage, and I give him for his paynes 50s.

The Resydewe of all my goodes and dettes, my dettes being payd, my will Fulfilled, and my sayd Farme well and sufficiently Stocked, I will be equally devydyd emong my 4 Children,

And where [whereas] my sayd Sonne ys nowe in his minoritie and nonage, I will that my brother Maynard and my brother Glascocke shall have the keypyng and occupying of my sayd farme and the Stock thereupon, to the use and behoufe of Christopher my Sonne, duryng his nonage and to such tyme as he shall cume to his Full age of 21 yeres,

And that yerely they do make there accompt of all the Renewes [revenues] and profittes to my brother Raynsford, my father in lawe Wyberd, and my neighbure Thomas Shingleton, all which revnewes and profittes I will to be devyded among my 4 children, as my brother Raynsford, my father Wiberd, my brother Glascocke and my brother Maynard shall thinke moost best,

And my will ys, that all Reasonable charges shalbe alowed att all tymes in the sayd accompt,

And yf it fortune my Sonne Christopher to dye before he shall cume to the age of 21 yeres, and withoute Issue of his body lawfully begotten, then I will his parte to be equally devyded emong his systers then lyving, So that my brother Maynard and my brother Glascocke shall thene occupye my sayd farme, and all the stocke thereupon, to the use of my sayd daughters during the terme of yeres therein, and yerely to make there accompt to there behoufe,

And yf all my Chyldren dye withoute Issue, then I will that all my goodes shalbe equally devydyd Emong my brothers and systers chyldren by the discretyon of my brother Glascocke, my brother Maynard, my father in lawe Wibard and my brother Raynsford, my Overseers,

And fynally I will that my brother Maynard and my brother Glascocke shall have th'administracion of my goodes during the nonage of my Sonn, and they to pay my dettes and Fulfyll the legaces of my wyll, and to make there accompte thereof to him at his Full age.

These being witnes, Gerad Michell, clerke, Thomas Shingleton, with other.

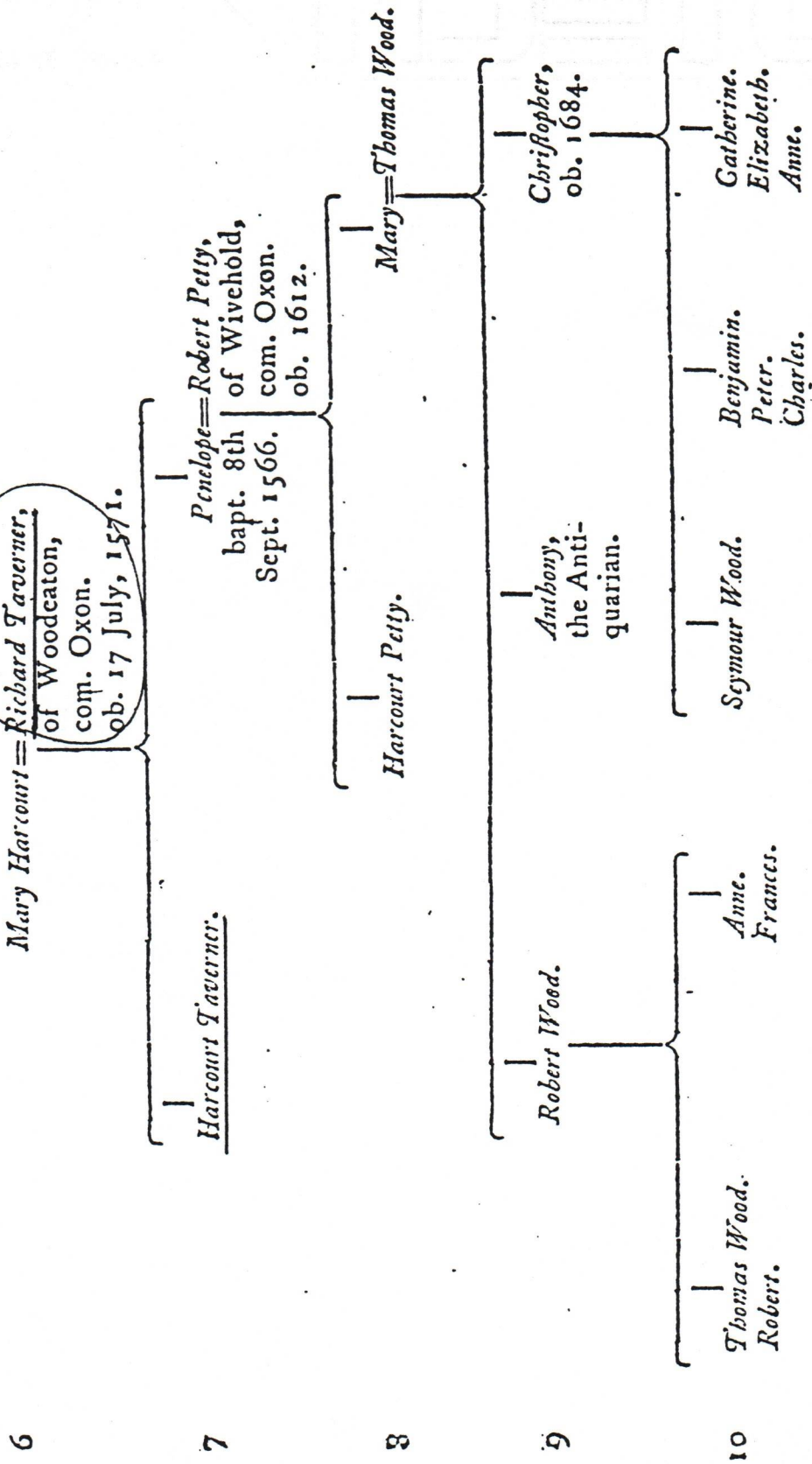
HARCOURT.
end

wife of
RICHARD T.

Later
she married
Gronwell Lee.

N° 470. (N° 278 new drawn.)

From N° 219 and N° 469.



§ From the MSS. of *Ant. Wood* in Mus. Ashm. N° 8495. f. 189. See also *Chauncy's Herts*, p. 519. and *Ant. Wood's Life*, p. 492. in *Hearne's CAIUS*. Vol. II.

B | C | D |

Joane, daughter of William Robert Lee of Burston,³ Quarrendon, and Hardwicke, = Letitia, his second wife, second daughter of Sir Thomas Peniston, Lord Cope of Banbury, co. Oxon, co. Bucks. Received a grant of arms from Thomas Wrothlesley and Thomas Benolt 18 April 1513: Knt. of the Body to Henry VIII., and Sheriff of Bucks in 1521 and 1533. Knighted at Whitehall in 1529. Died 23 Feb. 1538-9. Will dated 8 Oct. 1537; proved 10 May 1539.

Sir John Clerke, Knt. = Jane Lee. Died 19 Oct. 1516. Buried at Quarrendon. M.I. preserved in the MSS. of Nicholas Charles (Lansdowne MSS., No. 874).

(For Pedigree see 'History of Thame Church,' by Rev. Dr. LEE, p. 309. London MITCHELL and HUGHES; folio, 1883.)

Margaret, daughter = Anthony Lee of Burston aforesaid. Educated at St. John's College, Ox. = Anne of Sir Henry Wyatt M.P. for Bucks, 1517. Lessee of tithes of Quarrendon from the Dean and Chapter of Rochester, 1542. Knighted. Died 24 Nov. 1549. Buried in St. Peter's, Quarrendon, co. Bucks.⁵ Post Mortem Inquisition taken at Aylesbury in 1550.

ANTHONY LEE

Russell Lee. Letters of Sir Richard Lee, Knt., M.P. for = His first wife was the widow administration granted Woodstock. Died sine prole of a knight named Hall; to his brother Richard 22 Dec. 1608. Will dated 4 Oct. his second, Lady Croker of 23 Dec. 1609. 1608; proved 23 Jan. 1608-9. Hook Norton.

Henry Lee, son and heir, Lord of Quarrendon, Fleet. = Anne, third daughter of William, first Lord Pagel, K.G., of Beaufort, co. Stafford, and of West Drayton, co. Middlesex, by Anne, daughter and heiress of Henry Preston of Preston Patrick and Lower Nevens, co. Westmoreland. Died in 1584. Buried in the north transept of St. Mary's, Aylesbury, co. Bucks. Altar-tomb remaining.⁷

Henry Lee

Edward, eldest son of Hercules Raynsford, = Dorothy Lee, only daughter of Great Tew, co. Oxon, Esq. and heiress of her father.

Henry Lee Raynsford. William Raynsford. Dorothy Raynsford.

Thomas Lee, second son. Died in 1573. Letters of administration granted to his brother, Sir Henry, 29 Oct. 1573. Will dated 27 Jan. 1597-8; proved 30 June 1598.

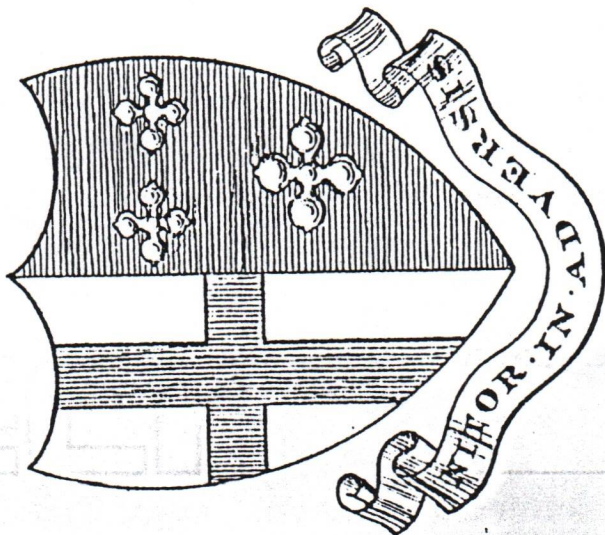
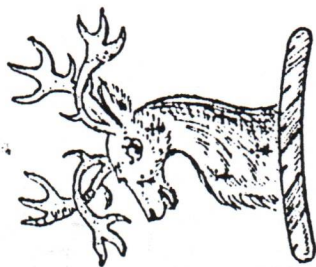
Robert Lee, third son. Keeper of Hatfield Chase, near Doncaster, in Yorkshire.⁸ Will dated 27 Jan. 1597-8; proved 30 June 1598.

Jane, daughter of Edward Westwold of The Vache, Aston Clinton, co. Bucks, and widow of Sir Francis Hastings of Fenwick, Knt.

	B	C	D	E
Cromwell Lee, fourth son of St. John's Coll., Oxon. God-son of Thomas, Earl of Essex. Afterwards of Holywell in Oxford. Died sine prole viv. 21 Dec. 1602. Post Mortem Inquisition 7 July 1603.	Joyce Lee, second wife of John Chayne, Esq. Married at Chessham Bois 29 Nov. 1561. She was buried at Dryton Beauchamp 11 July 1579.	Leticia Lee. Married Nicholas Cooke of Linstead, co. Suffolke.	Catherine Lee. Married Giles, son of John Symonds of Cleve, co. Norfolk, Esq., and had at least three children—Lee Symonds, a clerk in the Office of the Armoury and Ordnance; William Symonds; and Elizabeth Symonds, who married Sir Lawrence Taulfield, whose daughter Elizabeth married Sir Henry Carey, first Lord Falkland, from whom came Lucius Carey, Viscount Falkland, who fell at the battle of Newbury.	
John Lee of St. John's Coll., Oxon. M.A. 1591; D.D. 1601. Rector of Fleet Marston, co. Bucks, and of Wootton, co. Oxon. Chaplain to Sir Henry. Died unmarried. Left £70 to the Choir of St. John's College, where he was buried. Will dated 19 Oct. 1609; proved 9 Oct. 1610.				
Francis Lee of Fleet Marston, co. Bucks, elder brother of Benedict. Died sine prole.	Benedict Lee of Baggington, co. Bucks, Esq. Margaret, daughter of Robert Packington of the city of London, Citizen and Mercer, Lord of the Manor of Aylesbury, by Catherine, daughter and coheir of Chief Justice Sir John Baldwin, of Aylesbury, Knt., and his wife Agnes, daughter of William Dornor of Chepping Wycombe, co. Bucks, and granddaughter of Geoffrey Dornor, Stapler of Calais, and of Baldington's Manor, Thame, co. Oxon, Esq. On the death of Benedict Lee she married Thomas Scott of Yorkshire, and had issue a son William Scott, who penned the inscription for Sir Henry Lee's tomb at Quarrendon.	Roger Lee. John Lee. Diet young.	Thomas Lane=Margaret of Matesdon, co. Gloucester, and of Little Hampton, co. Bucks. Married before 1527. Died in 1545, leaving a son Thomas, aged 18 years at that date.	William,=Eliza= Walter Vachell of Cowley or Colley, near Reading, co. Berks.
Thomas Lee, son and heir of Benedict. Born circa 1550. Of Castle Robon, in the parish of Narragh and co. of Kildare, in the kingdom of Ireland. Executed in 1601.	Henry Lee. Born circa 1585. Knighted 19 May 1618. Died unmarried Oct. 9, 1657, aged 72. Buried at Tortworth, co. Gloucester. M.I. remaining. ¹²	Jane Lee. Married William Symonds of Wadron, co. Cornwall, and is presumed to have died before 1558.	Jane Lee. Married William Symonds of Wadron, co. Cornwall, and is presumed to have died before 1558.	Elizabeth, daughter of Cutbert Pepper of Ireland, and widow of William Binstace, of the family of Lord Viscount Balinglass of the kingdom of Ireland. ¹¹
				Sir Charles Manners, Knt., son of Sir Thomas Manners, first Earl of Rutland, K.G., by Theodosialis wife, daughter of Sir Thomas Newton, Knt. Lee.

H 2

Ædighet of Raynsford.



RAYNSFORD impaling VINCENT.

John Rainsford of Rainsford Hall, co. Lancaster. =

Henry Rainsford of Great Tew, co. Oxon. = Elizabeth, da. and coheiress of John Wilcotts of Great Tew.

Humphrey Rainsford.

William Rainsford of Great Tew. = Anne, da. of William Anne of North Aston, co. Oxon.

Sir John Rainsford, Knt., died s.p.

Julian = Sir William Waigrave of Sussex, Knt., died 2 May 1554.

John Rainsford of Great Tew. = Alice, da. of Sir William Danvers of Cothorp, co. Oxon; married 1542.

William Rainsford. = Brooke.

Henry Rainsford, died s.p.

Margaret = Thomas Holway of co. Oxon.

Anne = Thomas Langston of Charkham, co. Berks.

Mary. = Francis Grevill of Charlton Kings, co. Gloucester. (See Visitation of Gloucester, 1682-3.)

Sir William Rainsford of Great Tew. = Jane, da. of John Osbaldeston of Chaldington.

John Rainsford.

George Rainsford. = Katherine, da. of Taverner of co. Essex.

Richard Raynsford of Gyles in Epping, co. Essex, purchased Drayton near Daventry, co. Northampton; died 14 February 1603-4.

Hercules Raynsford, died s.p.

John Raynsford, died s.p.

Henry Raynsford, died s.p.

Further Connections :-

Cromwell Lee's step-brother was Sir Richard Lee M.P. for Woodstock.

He was a military Engineer, and is credited with the restoration of the fortifications of Calais & Boulogne.

King Henry VIII rewarded Richard with a number of estates, including St. Albans & they, and in 1544 the manor of Hexton. Probably an absent landlord, Sir Richard gradually sold off the Hexton Estates, but kept the lordship of the Manor. His daughter married Edward Sadler, and in 1591 Henry Sadler transferred the manor to William Brand and Henry Kinge.

In 1593 they sold it to Peter Taverner, the stepson of Mary Taverner, widow of Richard Taverner and on her second marriage wife of Cromwell Lee.

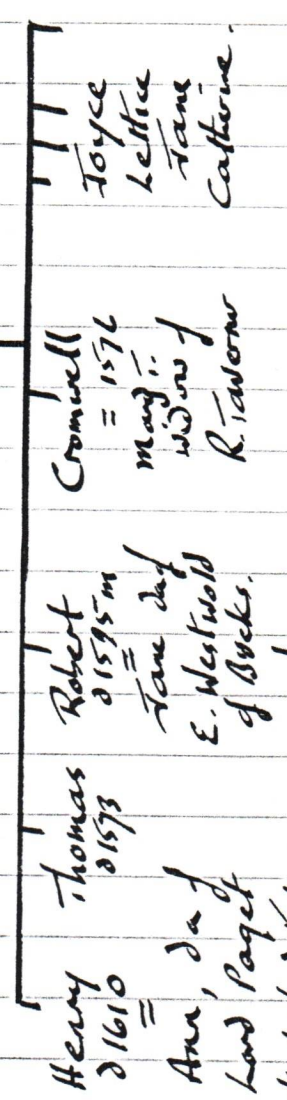
More Further Connections

Mary's first husband, Richard Taverner, clerk of the signet to King Henry Henry VIII was at one time paid £333 as wages for the soldiers of Boulogne, where Sir Richard Lee was restoring the fortifications.

Like Sir Richard Lee, Edmund Taverner, Grandson of Richard Taverner became M.P. for Woodstock in 1626.

① Margaret Wyatt = Anthony Lee
 sister of Thomas M.P. Bucks
 (Poet) d 1564

② Ann Hassell



Robert Cromwell = 1576
 Jane inf E. Westwood of Bucks.
 Dorothy Lee = Ed. Raynesford

Henry Thomas d 1610 = Ann, da of Lord Paget Lt of Woodstock.

Joyce Leticia Jane Catherine.

Russell Lee d 1569

= Sir Richard Lee = Lady Croker of Hook Norton
 mp Woodstock d 1608

Widow of Sir ? Hall

Ann = Edward Sadler.

(1591 Henry Sadler sold Hexton Manor to W^m Brand and My Kinge.
 1593 they sold it to Peter Taverner, (Mary Taverners step son))