

**THE JOSLINS OF ESSEX
UNDER THE
TUDORS AND STUARTS**

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Charts of the family groups prepared by Ben Joscelyne

The Joslins of Essex under the Tudors and Stuarts.

Introduction

This article begins where 'The Jocelins of Hyde Hall in the Middle Ages' ends. It attempts to trace the descendants of the children of John Joslin of Stortford and his wife Eleanor, who are mentioned in his Will of 1525/6, John the elder, Simon, John the younger, Thomas, Agnes and Alice, through the reigns of the Tudors and the Stuarts.

I have corrected a number of omissions, misinterpretations and errors in my previous articles for the Josselin Society on the Joslin family in Essex. My hope is that this study now provides clear links between the medieval Jocelins of Hyde Hall, the Joslin families in Essex and the USA, and the Joscelyne families of Braintree and Leigh on Sea. Inevitably there are a number of conjectures and loose ends. It has not been possible to account for all the Joslins in documents of the period. It is my hope however that it may provide a framework within which other researchers of the Essex Joslins can develop their own family trees.

For convenience and clarity, except occasionally when quoting from other texts, I have used the spellings Joslin, Josselyn and Jocelyn to distinguish between the great grandchildren of Geoffrey of Hyde Hall and their probable descendants, thus: John Joslin of Stortford, Ralph Josselyn of Sheering and John Jocelyn of Newhall. In describing the medieval family I have used the spelling Jocelin. There was of course no settled spelling of the name before the 18th century. It is only then that the spelling Joscelyne is used consistently to describe the descendants of Simon of Felsted. Some notes on the relationships and interactions between the Joslins, Josselyns and Jocelyns will be found in the Appendices.

Ancestry.

A Memorial Brass to Geoffrey Jocelin of Hyde Hall (c.1367/8 to 1424/5) and his two wives Catherine and Joan still lies in the parish church of Sawbridgeworth in Hertfordshire.

From Geoffrey's eldest son Thomas descend the Jocelyns of Hyde Hall and the Earls of Roden.

From his second son Geoffrey 11 two lines descend:

the Josselyns of Little Horkesley trace their lineage back to the younger Geoffrey 11's eldest son, John of Sheering

the Joslins of Roxwell, Braintree, Felsted and Rayne (which include the Joslins who migrated to New England in 1635) descend from Geoffrey 11's second son Thomas of Stortford.

Location

The family of Beatrice de Beseville, the wife of Ralph Jocelin (c.1170-1212) and the mother of Sir John Jocelin (c.1200-1248) had lived in Essex from the first half of the 12th century, their principal place of residence being the manor of Springfield Hall just outside Chelmsford. Sir John, although probably born in Northamptonshire, was in possession of the manors of Hyde Hall in Sawbridgeworth and Shellow Bowells in Essex from about 1220: they seem to have been acquired by Ralph Jocelin early in the 13th century. The family thereafter lived in Essex and Hertfordshire. John Joslin the Elder, his brothers, Simon, John the Younger and Thomas, born in Stortford in the first quarter of the 16th century, lived as children with their mother and stepfather in Fyfield before moving to the neighbouring villages of Chignal, Mashbury and Roxwell.

John the Elder and his descendants continued to farm in and around Roxwell for several generations. John the Younger moved some miles further north when he purchased Naylinghurst, a property between Rayne and Braintree, from his sister Alice and her second husband John Holmsted in 1552. Simon moved from Roxwell to Felsted a few miles down the road from Naylinghurst sometime before 1559. Thomas Joslin and his wife Margaret lived in Little Rayne before their deaths in the 1570's.

The family of John of Stortford (Will 1525/6)

There is a good deal of information about John and his children contained in John's Will, in the Parish register of Fyfield, and in the Wills of Eleanor (often Helenora) (1547), Eleanor's second husband John Nevell (1537) and Gilbert Nevell (1551) her son in law.

Eleanor bequeathed 40 shillings to her son Thomas, 40 shillings to her daughter Alice Neville, £3. 6s. 8d. to her daughter Agnes and 40 shillings to Joan her niece. The residue was divided between John the Elder, Simon and John the Younger. John the Younger was appointed supervisor and one of the witnesses was Richard, John of Stortford's brother.

Gilbert Neville must have married Alice Joslin sometime before 1545. His Will makes it clear that John the Younger of Mashbury, his brother in law and one of his executors, was negotiating the purchase of Gilbert's property at Naylinghurst, at the time of his death. There are references also in Gilbert Nevell's Will to both John the Elder of Chignal and Simon of Roxwell his other brothers in law, who were appointed wards of two of their four children.

Gilbert Nevell's Will also refers to Joan and Thomas Joslin. Although the text is obscure, it is probable they had been sent by their families to work for Gilbert Nevell as servants or apprentices. Joan was possibly the same 'niece' given 40s. in Eleanor's Will. Thomas may have been the Thomas 'servus Robert Alite' whose burial is recorded in the Fyfield Register in 1585. They were probably the children of John of Stortford's younger son Richard.

John the Elder married Alice Nevell a widow in Fyfield in 1544/5. Her previous marriage may have been to a brother of Gilbert Nevell the testator of 1551. Their two elder daughters, Helenora and Alice, were baptized at Fyfield in 1546/7 and 1550. John the Elder had moved to Chignal-Smealy by 1547 and to Roxwell by 1556/7. In 1566 and 1573, he purchased two properties from William Walter: Thistle Downs in Shellow Bowells for £40 and Bollinghatch in Roxwell for £140. John the Elder and Alice (the widow Neville) had a family of thirteen children. He died on 20 February 1579/80.

Simon Joslin, the second son of John of Stortford, married Margaret Poole in Fyfield in 1544. Simon was taxed in Roxwell in 1546 although their eldest son Ralph was baptized in Fyfield in the same year. In 1553 he purchased a messuage, 3 acres of arable land and 2 acres of pasturage in Great Baddow for 40 marks, which he sold in 1572. But he had moved to Felsted by 1559, as his younger children John, Joan and Elizabeth were baptized there. Another son Geoffrey is mentioned in Simon's Will (1577/78).

John the Younger, the third son, was Supervisor of his Mother's Will in 1547 and that of his brother in law Gilbert Nevell in 1551. He bought the substantial property of Naylinghurst from his sister Alice and her second husband John Holmsted in 1552 for 130 marks, a year after Gilbert's death. The last clear evidence of John is from 1571/2 when he is mentioned with his elder brother Simon as an Executor of the Will of John Tarnitch, the husband of his sister Agnes. He may be the John Joslin who purchased 3 properties in Braintree and Rayne between 1580 and 1589.

'John the Elder of Braintree', who made his Will in 1597 is possibly, but by no means certainly, this same 'John the Younger' of John of Stortford's Will.

Thomas, the youngest son of John of Stortford, may have been the Thomas Joslin of Little Rayne who was buried in Rayne on 13 June 1574. He married Margaret who made her Will on 13 February 1575/6 showing four surviving children Thomas, Philip, John, and Alice. In 1550 with his brother in law Gilbert Nevell and John Ashedon, he was a party in the purchase of Naylinghurst Hall from Ralph of Naylinghurst and his wife Elizabeth.

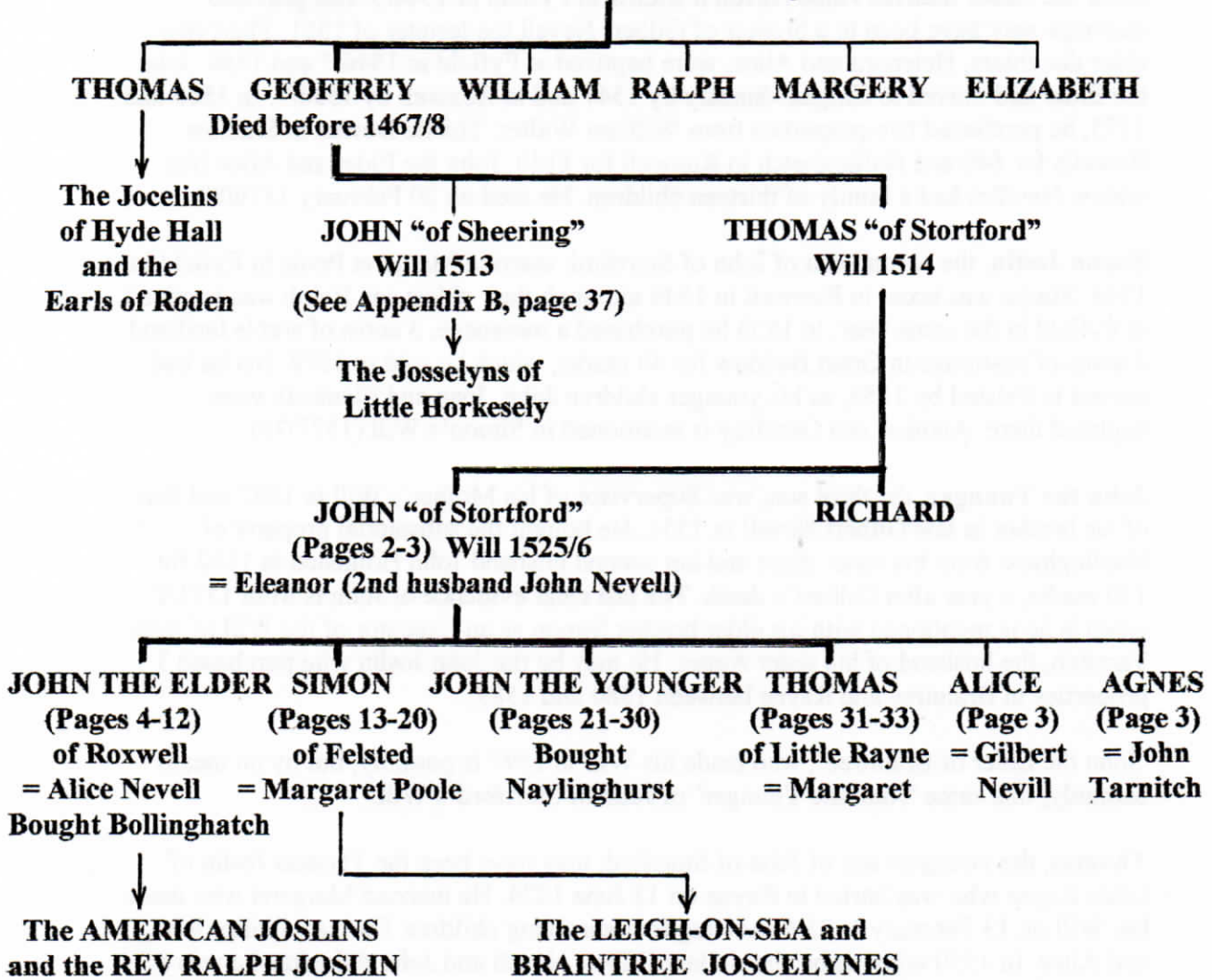
Alice Nevell, later Holmsted, (nee Joslin), we know from her husband Gilbert's Will, had four children, a daughter Elizabeth and sons John, William and Edward Nevell, two of whom became wards of her brothers John the Elder and Simon. She evidently married John Holmsted very soon after Gilbert's death, as she, with her second husband, was a party to the sale of Naylinghurst to her brother John Joslin the younger in 1552

Agnes married John Tarnitch in Fyfield on 14 September 1544. John's Will (29th January 1571/2) appointed his wife's brothers Simon and John (probably the Younger) as his executors. No children of the marriage are mentioned in the Will.

GEOFFREY JOCELIN

of Hyde Hall c.1367/8 - 1424/5

= Catherine and Joan Brass in Sawbridgeworth Church



John the Elder of Roxwell and his family.

My information on John the Elder and his family is largely based upon the documents transcribed, translated and edited by Elizabeth French and published on pages 19-33 of the New England Historical and Genealogical Review for January 1917, although I have corrected her information and suppositions in several places. NEHGR follows John and his family over four generations, from 1525/6 to about 1680. More work is needed to take this branch of the family into the 18th century, although the descendants of the Thomas Joslin, who settled in New England, have been very extensively researched.

The First Generation.

John the Elder of Roxwell (before 1525 to 20 February 1579/80).

John married Alice Nevell, a widow, in Fyfield on 15 January 1554/5 and had a family of thirteen children: seven sons Thomas, Richard, John the elder of Mountnessing, Ralph, Simon, John the younger of Rivenhall and Phillip; and six daughters Helenora, Alice married to Peter Saul, Joan married to Robert Lee, Elizabeth married to Sumner, Phillipa married to John Gooday and another daughter married to Baillie. The five younger daughters all had children.

We do not have a copy of the Will of John the Elder and can derive the distribution of his estate only from the Wills of his sons Thomas 'of Rochford', John the Elder 'of Mountnessing', Ralph and John the Younger 'of Rivenhall'. Of his other sons, Richard died 10 months after his father (December 1579) and Simon seems to have been in some way handicapped and entrusted to the care of his brother Ralph. Phillip was baptized in Roxwell on 21 August 1566 and died before 1600.

Although we have no copy of his Will, it seems that John, as was customary, left the larger part of his estate to his eldest son Thomas, although making provision in land or cash for his large family. In 1600 however Thomas for whatever reason sold a large part of his estate, including Bollinghatch, to his younger brothers Ralph and Simon for £160. Joan, the widow of his younger brother Phillip, and John, perhaps John the elder, were also parties to the sale.

Thomas and John the Elder both moved, then or earlier, some distance from Roxwell, Thomas to Rochford and John to Mountnessing, although Thomas retained the Thistle Downs in Shellow Bowells and Willingale. Thomas is recorded in 1598 as having purchased a messuage, a garden and 2 acres of arable land in Rochford.

The considerable landed wealth of John the Elder may also have included lands in Little Rayne and Writtle although these may have been given to his children before his death. His estates, as recorded in 15th century feet of fines and in his Writ of Mandamus of 1579/80, diminished gradually as small parcels of land, or sums of money probably

derived from the sale of land, were given to each of the succeeding generations of children. We know however that a number of the more enterprising and ambitious of the succeeding generations did in fact increase their estates: among them Ralph Joslin the Vicar of Earls Colne and Thomas Joslin in New England.

The Writ of Mandamus from his Inquisition Post Mortem dated 27 February 1578/9 shows that John Joslin the Elder

'long before his death was seised in his demesne as of fee and in one messuage in Roxwell called Searles and of and in all lands meadows, feedings, and pastures to the same belonging, , and of and in one messuage or tenement in Roxwell, within the hamlet of Newlande called Bollinghatch, with all lands, meadows, feedings, pastures, and other hereditments to the same belonging, and of and in certain parcels of land called Thystell downes lying and being in the parishes of Skellowbowells and Willingall. And that John Josselyn so thereof being seised of such his estate, died thereof seised 20 February last past before the taking of this inquisition, and that Thomas Josselyn is his son and next heir and was aged at the time of the death thirty years and more. And they further say that the messuage or tenement called Searles and other premises to the same belonging are held of the Queen in chief by the hundredth part of one knight's fee' and they are worth by the year beyond reprises £6. 3s. 4d. And that one little grove and a parcel of land, part of the messuage called Bollynghatche, is held of the manor of Fambridge Ende, in free socage by fealty and rent of 2s. yearly. And that the residue of the messuage or farm and other premises called Bollynghatche, are held of Edward Elliot esq. and Jane his wife as their manor of Newlande Haul, in free socage by fealty and suit of court and by the rent of 4s., that it is worth by the year beyond reprises £9. 10. and the parcels of land called Thisteldownes are worth 40s. yearly, and are held of Henry Josselyn esq. and his wife as of their manor of Torrells Haul, in free socage and rent of 4s. yearly. And that John Josselyn at the time of his death had nor held any other or more lands as tenements or in demesne, reversion or service in the county aforesaid, besides that which is above named.'

Henry Josselyn (Jocelyn) was a distant cousin (see Appendix A). The Elliots were also connected, if rather obscurely: John Josselyn of Sheering's granddaughter Katherine Wiseman married Thomas Young of Young's Newland in Roxwell. Their grandson Thomas Young married Elizabeth, the daughter of their neighbours Edward and Jane Elliot in Newland Hall.

John was buried in Roxwell on 20 February 1578/9.

The Second Generation.

Thomas of Rochford (1548-1606).

It is clear from his will dated 5 March 1604/5 that Thomas, John's eldest son, married twice, but had no children of his own, although both his wives had children from

previous marriages. A man of evidently intense religious beliefs, he left charitable donations to a number of Puritan clergymen, including his kinsman Rev. Geoffrey Jocelyn of Good Easter, and, through an elaborately devised trust, to the poor people of Rochford. Although many of his brothers and their children received bequests in his Will, both in his many charitable donations and his bequests to his widow and step-children, the family evidently thought that his Will scattered Thomas's remaining portion of the family estate too widely. It was unsuccessfully disputed by members of his family.

John the Elder II of Mountnessing (1554-1602) and his heirs.

John had three sons Henry and, in the family tradition, two Johns by his wife Joan Weld. His family must have been quite young at the time of his death as he asks his brother Simon in his Will (1602) to assist Henry for three or four years in the husbanding of his farm. He would have been the principal beneficiary of the Will of his brother Thomas had he not predeceased him. These bequests, including Thistle Downs in Shellow Bowells, therefore passed to his eldest son Henry. Henry, however died in 1611 apparently without surviving heirs, and his properties then passed to his younger brother the elder of the two Johns. This John and his younger brother, also John, who was a citizen and merchant tailor of London, were living in 1620 when they were parties to a chancery suit. He had received in the Will of his brother Henry lands in 'Writtle, Rockswell, Shelloe, Willingale and elsewhere in Essex.' This would have included the 40 acres of Thistle Downs. Further research is needed into this line of the family.

Ralph (1556-1632).

Ralph was the fourth son. In 1601 he purchased from his brother Thomas and other members of his family the larger part of his father's estate: the substantial property of Bollinghatch in Roxwell. He had a family of 11 children by his two wives Mary Bright and Dorothy (unknown): John (1584), Mary (baptized in Roxwell on 4 September 1586), Agnes (baptized in Roxwell on 25 August 1588), Ralph (1590), Thomas (probably 1591), Simon (1594), Dorothy (1598), Richard (also 1598?), Joseph (1600), Nathaniel (1602) and Elizabeth (baptized in Roxwell on 23 September 1604). John, Simon and Dorothy were baptized by their kinsman Rev. Geoffrey Jocelyn in Good Easter on 20 December 1584, 5 April 1594 and April 1598 respectively. Ralph's second wife Dorothy survived him. Pleasant though it must have been to have such a large and apparently healthy family, it led to real problems and a protracted law suit in the disposition of his estate. He attempted to solve the problem by giving substantial sums of money in lieu of land to five of his seven sons and leaving Bollinghatch jointly to Ralph and Simon.

Simon (1561-1643).

Simon was baptized in Roxwell on 12 October 1561. He is mentioned in a feet of fines of 1600 together with Ralph, as the buyer of a large part of the land left to his eldest brother Thomas. He seems to have been in some way handicapped, although his elder brother John asks him to help his young son Henry with the husbanding of his farm for three c

four years. His brother Ralph left him an annuity of £25 and the right to live in the upper room of the house 'in recompense of his brotherly love towards me and the care of my children'. He seems not to have married or to have had children of his own.

John the Younger of Rivenhall (1563-1597) and his heir.

John was baptized in Roxwell on 27 November 1563. He describes himself in his Will (7 February 1596/7, proved 17 March in the same year) as a husbandman, married Mary Cave and had two children John and Mary. We know from his Will that he had received £100 and an annual rent of £3.6s.8d. from his father. This he left to his son John with £20 to Mary. A legacy of John's eldest brother Thomas passed also to his son John: the lease of the Wickhouse grounds in Childerditch and West Hornedon. Further research is needed into his son John, who was only 21 when his father died.

Phillip (1566-before 1600)

Phillip was baptized in Roxwell in 1566. He married Joan. In 1584 he and his wife, together with John and Dorothy Innew, sold to John Joslin (possibly his uncle John of Naylinghurst aka John the Elder of Braintree) 1 messuage, 1 garden, 12 acres of arable land and 1 acre of pasturage in Little Rayne for £40. In 1600 his widow Joan together with her brothers in law Thomas and John sold to her brothers in law Ralph and Simon 1 messuage, 1 curtilage, 2 gardens, 130 acres of arable land, 4 acres of meadow and 6 acres of pasturage in Newland, Roxwell and Writtle for £160.

The Third Generation: the sons of Ralph.

John (1584-1635).

John married twice. To his first wife Anne were born his eldest daughter Mary (30 June 1611), Ralph (18 February 1616/17), Anne (c.1617) another Mary (1619) and Rebecca (1624); the elder Mary and Rebecca died as infants; a second Rebecca was born to his second wife Helen in 1630.

John might, as the eldest son, have expected to have received the larger share of his father's estate. He seems to have farmed for a while at Chalk End in Roxwell, part of the family estate, before moving in 1619 to Stortford, where he was a maltster. On receipt of his inheritance from his father in 1631, he purchased a farm in Bumpstead. It seems to have been an unsuccessful venture. Although he educated his son Ralph at Jesus College Cambridge, he seems to have left him very little in land or money.

Ralph (1590-1657).

Ralph was baptized in Roxwell on 8 July 1590. He inherited the Bollinghatch estate jointly with his brother Simon in the Will of his father in 1628. Part of the estate was sold sometime between then and 1635, and he seems to have purchased Cranham Hall with

his share of the proceeds. He lived there until his death and was an elder of the church. He married Grace Leggate in 1626. His two sons died in infancy and he was probably survived by three daughters: Dorothy, unmarried, Grace who married Robert Johnson and Elizabeth who married Robert Lukyn. Another daughter Anne was baptized in Roxwell on 9 August 1633 and evidently predeceased her father.

Thomas (1591-1661) the Settler in New England.

Thomas married Rebecca Judd in about 1615. As he received only £5 in the Will of his father it is probable that he received a gift of land during his father's lifetime. He farmed at Barham in Suffolk before leaving for New England.

In the Will of his younger brother Simon (1649) there is reference to 'a deed of the division of the two parts of the farm called Bollinghatch between Ralph Joslin of Roxwell Essex yeoman, Thomas Joslin of Barham, Suffolk, yeoman, and Rebecca his wife and me the said Simon Joslin, on the one part and Aron Renton and John Parcy of London, gent, on the other part'. This suggests not only that Thomas had some residual rights in Bollinghatch, but that the sale of part of the farm after their father's death allowed Ralph to buy his own separate property and Thomas to raise money for his venture to New England.

Thomas and Rebecca had a family of six children. The five younger ones (Rebecca, Dorothy, Nathaniel, Eliza and Mary) accompanied Thomas and Rebecca on their voyage to America in 1635 on the Increase; the eldest, Abraham, evidently joined them at a later date.

Thomas and his family first settled in Hingham where he was a proprietor and town officer and bought land of his son in law Thomas Nichols in 1638. He and his son Nathaniel sold their lands in Hingham in 1652/3 and moved to Lancaster where Thomas signed the Civil Compact on 12 November 1654.

His will of 9 May 1660, of which his wife Rebecca was Executrix, mentions his sons Abraham and Nathaniel, Abraham's son Abraham, and his daughters Rebecca wife of Thomas Nichols, Mary wife of Roger Sumner, and Elizabeth 'Emons' (?Hemans). He died on 3 January 1660/61 in Lancaster, Mass.

Simon (1594-1656).

Simon was married twice. By his first wife Anne he had four children: Simon his heir, and Thomas, Geoffrey and Sarah who were baptized in Stortford in 1619, 1626 and 1628. The last three evidently predeceased him. By his second wife also Anne, the daughter of Peter Avcroft, whom he married in Roxwell on 2 April 1629/30, he had another son Peter and four daughters Margaret, Anne, Sarah and Grace of whom the last three survived him. Simon seems to have married a third time as Agnes a daughter of Simon and Mary was baptized in Stortford on 7 July 1638. Agnes must have died in infancy and Mary perhaps in childbirth as neither are mentioned in his Will.

He bequeathed Peter land in Rettingdon in Essex, and gave his daughters £100 each on reaching the age of 21, in addition to the bequests in the Will of their grandfather Peter Avecroft.

Simon inherited Bollinghatch jointly with his elder brother Ralph. As Ralph decided to move to Cranham Hall, part of Bollinghatch was sold sometime before 1635. His Will of 1649 leaves to his eldest son Simon his messuage of Bollinghatch lying in the parishes of Roxford and Newland Fee, and lands called Flax Hoppett or Willow Lease, land called Brickhill Mead, Badhams, Aspenfield, Chalke, Pearecrofte, Leather Liese and also as much as Moateshott whereof no use is limited by the deed of division of the two parts of Bollinghatch. He also received part of the 'mansion,' presumably Cranham Hall, which Simon had purchased from the executors of his brother Ralph after his death.

In 1646, Simon and his brother Ralph were sued by Daniel Hudson the second husband of their sister Anne or Agnes and their brother Richard as executors of the Will of their youngest brother Joseph. Evidently the bequest of his father Ralph amounting to some £160, or land in lieu of payment, had not been paid by his sons Simon and Ralph. Ralph's nephew Ralph, (the son of his elder brother John and Vicar of Earls Colne) asserted a claim to Joseph's land for reasons which are obscure. Eventually the issue was resolved with Ralph of Earls Colne paying £100 to the executors of Joseph's estate for ownership of his land.

Richard (1598-after 1656).

Richard is known to us only as executor of the Will of his younger brother Joseph and his actions in the subsequent court case, and as an overseer, with Nathaniel, of the Will of his elder brother Simon which was proved in 1656. He married Anne.

In the Will of his father Ralph he received £200 which was to include £15 left him by his uncle Thomas. Ralph's Will adds 'if my executors make default of payment of the said £200, then I bequeath to my son Richard 20 acres of land called Highfield, in Roxwell and (?in) my said farm called Bollinghatch, to him and to his heirs for ever, with a foot-, horse-and cartway, for himself and his servants, etc., through a field called the field before the gate, parcel of said farm, to be directly leading next the hedge against Nyne acres, parcel of land called Foulchers, from the King's highway into said Highfield.' It is not known whether he received the cash or the land. Judging from the experience of his younger brother Joseph, he may have had to be firm with his brothers Ralph and Simon (his father's executors) to receive his inheritance.

The children of Richard, a son Francis and a daughter Theba, were baptized in Roxwell in 1637 and 1643. His wife Anne was buried on 12 November 1643.

Joseph (1600-1645).

Joseph was baptized in Roxwell on 6 June 1600. He describes himself in his Will as a Yeoman of Cranham, in the same village as his elder brother Ralph.

His father Ralph left him £160 'for his portion and in recompense of £15 given him by the Will of my brother Thomas.' This was to be paid within two years of the death of Ralph's wife and of his brother Simon; or, if they should predecease him, within five years of his death. Whatever the case, Joseph by the time of his death in 1645 had received nothing, and his executors, his brother Richard and brother in law Daniel Hudson, had to take their brothers Ralph and Simon to the Court of Chancery on behalf of his legatees.

The elder Ralph in his Will states specifically that if his executors 'make default of payment of the said £160', he then bequeaths to Joseph and his heirs forever all those parcels of wood and land called Woodfields, Spicers Crofts and Bollinghatch Grove with part of Mottshott next to the lane leading to Funbridge end, and to be divided at the path from Woodfield to Fowchers, 'all of which closes before devised to my son Joseph are parcels of my said farm'.

From his Will it is clear that Joseph was at the time of his death unmarried and without children. From the £160 left to him by his father he gave monetary bequests to his brothers: Thomas (who was of course already in New England), Richard, Nathaniel and his brother in law Daniel Hudson and their sons and daughters; to the daughters of his elder brother John and to various cousins. He adds that 'if my brother Simon does not pay the sum of £160 then Richard Joslin and Daniel Hudson, my brothers shall enter in the four parcels of land and hold them for ever, paying my legacies'.

Nathaniel (1602-after 1656).

Nathaniel was baptized in Roxwell on 29 September 1602. He received £100 in the Will of his father, and £10 in the Will of his brother Joseph. He was an overseer of his brother Simon's Will, which was proved in 1656.

The Fourth Generation.

1. The son of John (1584-1635).

Rev. Ralph Joslin (1617-1683).

Ralph was educated at Jesus College, Cambridge, graduating in 1636/7, was ordained deacon in 1639 and Priest in the Peterborough Diocese in 1640. He then preached in Cranham (the parish of his uncle Ralph) before being presented to the living of Earls Colne by Richard Harlakenden in March 1640/1. He was a notable Puritan preacher: during the Civil War, chaplain to Col. William Harlakenden's regiment, he preached the Assize sermon at Chelmsford in 1646, and was invited by the Lord Mayor of London to

preach at St Paul's Cathedral in 1652 and 1659/60. His chief claim to fame however lies in his remarkable diary, which is an important source of information about domestic life in the 17th century.

Apart from his parish duties he was busy in the development of his landed estate, so that he was able to give substantial gifts of land to his daughters on their marriages. In particular he was instrumental in settling the vexed question of his Uncle Joseph's estate, to which he laid claim on very dubious grounds, by buying the land in 1646 for the knockdown price of £100.

He married Jane Constable and had 10 children: Mary, Thomas, Jane, Ralph, Ralph, John, Anne, Mary, Elizabeth and Rebecca. Of these only Jane, John, Mary, Elizabeth and Rebecca survived him. John (1651-after 1683) seems to have been something of a disappointment to his father.

Ralph kept in touch with his uncle Thomas and his cousins in New England raising money for the settlement and for the education of Native Americans. Abraham's visit to England in 1644/5 after a 'perilous voyage' is noted in Ralph's diary.

2. The sons of Thomas (1591-1661).

Abraham (1619-1670).

The eldest son of Thomas, he followed his family to New England sometime after 1635. He seems to have been by profession a Mariner and died at sea. He married Beatrice Hampson perhaps on his trip to England in 1644/5; Ralph's diary suggests an earlier marriage, and the birth of a son who evidently did not survive. Abraham and Beatrice had 8 children: his eldest son, also Abraham, his wife and child were killed in an Indian massacre in 1675/6. At one point he moved to Scarborough Me. where his distant cousin Henry lived, and presumably under Henry's patronage, but seems not to have remained there long.

Nathaniel (1626-1694).

The second son of Thomas, Nathaniel, married Sarah King and they had 8 children. He travelled with his parents to New England and lived with them in Lancaster Mass. where his first 6 children were born. After the massacre of 1675/6, he moved to Marlborough where he lived for the rest of his life.

3. The sons of Simon (1594-1656).

Simon (before 1629-after 1656).

The son of Simon by his first wife. His father's Will leaves him his message of Bollinghatch lying in the parishes of Roxford and Newland Fee, and land called Flax

Hoppett or Willow Lease, land called Brickhill Mead, Badhams, Aspenfield, Chalke, Pearecrofte, Leather Liese and also as much as Moateshott whereof no use is limited by the deed of division of the two parts of Bollinghatch. He also received part of the 'mansion' presumably Cranham Hall which the elder Simon had purchased from the executors of his brother Ralph. Further research is needed into Simon and his heirs.

Peter (about 1630-after 1656)

Simon's second son by his second wife Anne AVECROFT whom he married on 2 February 1629. Peter was left land in Rettingdon in Essex in his father's will.

A son of Richard (1598-after 1656).

Francis (1637-)

Francis was baptized in Roxwell on 14 October 1637.

The Family of Simon Joslin of Felsted.

The First Generation.

Simon Joslin (about 1515 to 1578).

Simon Joslin was the second son of John Joslin of Stortford. Although his exact date of birth is not known, it was certainly before 1525/26, when his father made his Will. He may well have been born in Stortford, moving to Fyfield on his mother Eleanor's remarriage to John Neville. He married Margaret Poole in Fyfield on 12 October 1544.

His eldest son Ralph was baptized there on 5 December 1546. A reference in the 1551 Will of his brother in law Gilbert Nevell suggests that Simon at that time resided at Roxwell; the Parish Register shows that he had moved to Felsted by 1559. He had four surviving children: Ralph, John, Geoffrey and Joan.

In his Will of 1578, Simon's entire estate was effectively bequeathed to his eldest son Ralph with elaborate provision for his wife Margaret during her life time and monetary bequests of £100 and £30 for his two younger sons; Joan also received £30. John married Elizabeth Flack in 1577, and there is mention of a debt forgiven Geoffrey in the Will of his cousin Thomas (1606). Elizabeth French's suggestion that this Geoffrey might have been the long serving Puritanical vicar of Good Easter is doubtful. He was more probably a grandson of Sir Thomas Jocelyn (see Appendix A).

Simon refers in his Will to his lands, tenements, meadows and pastures held by copy of Court Roll of the Manor of Felsted; lands, meadows and pastures lying within the parish of Bocking; and lands, meadows and pastures lying in the parish of Rayne.

The Second Generation.

Ralph Joslin I (1546-1617).

Ralph, the eldest surviving son of Simon, was baptized in Fyfield on 5 December 1546 and married Jane Man in Felsted on 12 November 1584. The Felsted Parish Register records Simon born in 1585 who died in infancy, Jane born in 1586, Ralph in 1588, William in 1591, Sarah in 1593, Joseph in 1596, Catherine in 1598, a second Simon in 1601, and Peter in 1608.

Ralph made his Will on 11 July 1617 and was buried in Rayne on 19 September of the same year. In his Will Ralph makes elaborate arrangements for the maintenance of his wife out of his farm and land called Swaynes in Felsted. His wife Jane made her Will in 1631 and was buried in Felsted in July 1633. Although much of her Will is illegible, it

shows a number of small bequests to her sons William, Simon, Joseph and Peter and their wives and her married daughters Sarah Smith, Katherine Spooner and Jane Emberson.

The Third Generation: the sons of Ralph Joslin I (1546-1617).

Ralph II (1588-1638).

In the Will of his father the household stuffs were divided equally between Ralph and his mother Jane. His father also bequeathed him 'those crofts of customary land called Lyzmonts (perhaps the land later called 'The Leys') by estimation 23 acres more or less lying in Felsted and all the residue of (his) moveable goods upon condition to discharge and pay those legacies aforegoven to (his) children aforesaid and also to discharge and pay to Jane (his) wife her yearly annuity of £15. The farm and land of Swaynes in Felsted out of which the younger Ralph was bound to pay his mother her annuity presumably also came to him, although his father's Will is not clear on this point.

Ralph married twice. His eldest son Ralph 'the son of Ralph and Agnes' was baptized in Felsted on 7 April 1617; Sarah and Rebecca 'daughters of Ralph and Elizabeth' were baptized in Felsted in 1630 and 1632. A second son Robert is referred to in the will of Ralph III as 'my loving brother'. A third son Tyrrell or Torrell was baptized on 18 August 1635 and buried in Rayne on 22 August 1636.

Ralph was buried in Rayne on 19 August 1638.

William (1591-after 1633).

William, Ralph's second surviving son, received only £5 in the Will of his father. He had probably received a gift of land during his father's lifetime. He married Sarah. The Rayne Parish Register records the baptism of possibly twin daughters Sarah and Rebecca on 14 March 1615/16 (Rebecca was buried in Rayne 25 January 1616/17), a son William baptized in 1618 (and buried in Rayne 6 October 1620), Mary baptized in Rayne in 1620, Jane in 1623, Susan in 1625, Dorothy in 1629 and a second William in 1631. William was an Overseer of the Parish of Rayne in 1615-17, and again in 1631- 1633.

Joseph (1596-after 1633).

In the Will of his father Joseph received 'two customary tenancies with the appurtenances called Marshalls situated and being in Felsted and four acres of land belonging to the same parish called Grove Croft'. He was evidently married as his mother, in her Will of 1633, gives a small bequest to his wife. Nothing further is known of this family.

Simon (1601-after 1652/4).

In the Will of his father Simon received a bequest of £100 to be paid to him at the age of 24. He was married to Mary and had a daughter Anne baptized in Felsted in 1620. Both

he and his wife received small bequests in the Will of his mother. A Simon Joslin was Surveyor of the parish of Rayne 1652-4. Nothing further is known of this family.

Peter (1608 to after 1633).

In his father's Will, Peter is given one croft of meadowland 'being and lying within the parish of Rayne' and the sum of £13 to be paid to him at the age of 21. His brother Ralph is also instructed to 'provide for the keeping and bringing up of Peter until he be at one and twenty years of age'. The marriage of Peter Joslin and Hannah Marshall recorded in Rayne on 22 September 1658 is more likely to have been that of a son. This second Peter was Churchwarden of Rayne in 1660.

The Fourth Generation: the sons of Ralph II (1588-1638).

Ralph III (1617-1668/9).

Ralph married first Mary Sewell on 3 December 1640 and secondly Hester Choate. Ralph and Mary had eight children: Ralph (baptized in Felsted 1641), Mary (1642), John (1643), Robert (1644), another Mary (1647), Anne (1649), a second Anne (1651) and Sarah. Both Marys and the first Anne predeceased their father.

In his Will of 1664, he left to John a messuage and tenement called Clements and two crofts of arable land containing two and a half acres in Felsted. To Robert he left his customary meadow commonly called Ayrton's Mead of about two and a half acres in Felsted. His goods and chattels were equally divided among his five surviving children. He left all his other lands, tenements and hereditaments both freehold and copyhold in Felsted and Bocking to his son Ralph: however from Ralph's inheritance £400 was bequeathed to Samuel and Elizabeth Choate, the children of Hester Choate from her first marriage. Ralph III was Chief Constable of the Hundred of Hinckford in 1638 and Overseer of the Poor in the Parish of Rayne 1642-1646.

Robert I (about 1628 to 1690).

Robert was 'the loving brother' (probably half-brother being born to his father's second wife Elizabeth) and supervisor of Ralph's Will. He was married to 'Eedie' (? Edith) who was buried in Felsted among Quakers and an affidavit brought to Felsted on 15 May 1681. There seem to have been no children of the marriage. Robert was a Constable in the Parish of Rayne in 1657, 1661, and Churchwarden in 1658 and 1662. His nephew Robert II followed his uncle's interest in parish affairs from 1678. Robert I was buried in Rayne on 27 September 1690.

The Fifth Generation: the sons of Ralph III.

Ralph IV (1641-1725).

The Parish Registers of Felsted show that Ralph evidently married twice. To his first wife Rebecca (who was buried in Rayne on 21 August 1672) were born Rebecca (baptized 1670), Sarah (1671) and Mary (1672). He married Sarah Devenish in Rayne on 10 December 1674 and from this marriage the births of Ralph (1675), Anne (1676/7), John (1678) and Elizabeth (who was buried as an infant on 5 March 1683/4) are recorded in the Rayne Register. The births of Simon (buried 1701), Joseph (born about 1682/3) and Hester do not seem to have been recorded in Rayne.

Ralph's Will of 30 October 1717 shows six surviving children, two sons: Ralph and Joseph; and five daughters: Hester, unmarried, Sarah married to Thornall; Mary married to Cross, Anne married to Thomas Hills. Another daughter mentioned in his Will, 'Mrs. Tye,' who could have been Susanna born as early as 1659, was very probably deceased at the time Ralph IV wrote his Will, with surviving children for whom Ralph made provision. Simon and John were buried in Rayne in 1700 and 1701.

Ralph IV left generous portions of land to his two surviving sons and his unmarried daughter Hester. The latter received 'all that croft or parcel of freehold land called Flowers Croft by estimation two acres more or less and also one croft of freehold land called Marden Croft containing by estimation five roods more or less, which two crofts are lying and being in Felsted ...'. Ralph Joslin of Felsted was buried in Rayne on 23 October 1725. His widow Sarah was buried on 5 June 1727.

For Ralph IV's bequests to Ralph V and Joseph, see below.

John 'of Rayne' (1643-1690) and the Joscelynes of Faulkbourne.

It is probable that John Joslin married Mary Hickford of Felsted (?) on 22 June 1671 in Rayne and was buried in Faulkbourne as 'John Joscelyne of the Parish of Rayne' on 27 May 1690. He was bequeathed Clements and other land in Felsted in his father's Will, but seems to have moved to Faulkbourne where he was buried. He must have sold Clements to his nephew Ralph V as it is mentioned in the latter's Will. John had evidently followed his brother Ralph IV in adopting the spelling of Joscelyne.

John and Mary appear to have had two sons: Benjamin, and a Joseph who was buried in Faulkbourne in 1735. Benjamin married Jane. Their four sons Benjamin (baptized in 1708), Simon (1709/10), Henry (1711) and William (born and died 1714) and two daughters Jane (1712) and Anne (1713) are recorded in the Faulkbourne register. There appear to have been two other children, James (although perhaps the son of Joseph) and Sarah.

It seems likely that this Benjamin moved with his family to Black Notley some time after 1714. Sarah married John Snow on 18 April 1736 and Anne married William Holmstead, widower, on 20 January 1736/7 both in Black Notley. Benjamin himself, widower of the Parish, married Jane Chesney or Chertsey on 19 April 1737 and was buried on 1 April 1743.

James Joscelyne we know from the Settlement Certificate of 1737 permitting him to move with his family from Faulkbourne to White Notley. He must have been the son of either Benjamin or Joseph. He was married to Sarah and had a daughter Mary. Both James and Sarah were buried in White Notley in 1760. Mary married Francis Raven in 1753. They had a daughter Mary baptized in 1756. The elder Mary died before 1660.

The elder Benjamin's eldest son must have been Benjamin Joscelyne 'of Terling'. From his Will of 27 September 1775 (probate 1780) we know that his niece Sarah and John Snow had children Simon, John and Sarah; and that Anne and William Holmstead had a son William. Sarah Rignall is mentioned as a cousin. Benjamin Joscelyne the Elder had a cousin Frances, the daughter of Ralph V, married to Edward Rignall. This was probably their daughter. Benjamin II was a wealthy man, owning a water mill at Witham called Madines, a farm in Felsted, a messuage in Witham, Maiden Fields in Felsted and a farm called Whitmores in Witham. He also left 12 legacies totalling £1785 and Trusts to teach the children of Terling and Kelveden to read and write.

It is evident from his Will that this Benjamin had no surviving children of his own. His younger brothers Simon and Henry and his sister Jane do not seem to have survived or had issue. However a Benjamin Joscelyne married Mary Glansford in Black Notley on 23 September 1777; perhaps this was a late marriage to bring Benjamin some comfort in his old age. But he did not alter his will to accommodate her.

Robert II (1644-1719/20).

Robert was bequeathed Ayrton's Mead in Felsted, land of about 2 ½ acres, in the Will of his father: he would have received his inheritance in about 1668/9. As his uncle Robert had no children of his own, it is also possible that he inherited his uncle's estate. He followed his uncle Robert as a Parish Officer in Rayne as Constable and Overseer from perhaps 1678 and was chosen Churchwarden in 1696 'by consent of the Minister and Parish Meeting.'

He married first Ann Anger or Auger in Bocking on 13 May 1679 by whom he had two daughters, Ann baptized in 1681 and Susan in 1683 both in Bocking. He married secondly Mary Joscelin in Panfield on 18 February 1685/6. Mary and her infant son Richard (baptized 13 December 1685) were buried in Rayne in 1686/7. He married thirdly Sarah Josseline in Panfield on 2 October 1687. From this marriage, John was baptized in Rayne in 1688/9. On 18 September 1689, also in Panfield, he married fourth Sarah Taylor: from this marriage, Richard was baptized in Rayne in 1691, Samuel in 1693, Sarah in 1694/5 and Mary in 1708.

Robert was buried in Rayne on 2 February 1719/20.