

The Sixth Generation:

(1) The sons of Ralph IV.

Ralph V (1675-1731).

In his father's Will Ralph is bequeathed the main family property called Swains or Swines in Felsted after the death of his mother Sarah who died in June 1727 some two years after her husband. Ralph V left a Will dated 27 March 1731 with Probate dated 1 October of the same year: however there is no mention of Swains in his Will; the property 'called or known by the name of Clements' in Felsted was mortgaged to Ralph's sister Hester, who is given instructions as soon as possible after his death, to sell the property and distribute any money remaining after the repayment of the mortgage among Ralph's three daughters, Frances the wife of Edward Rignall of Hatfield, Sarah the wife of Samuel Brock, husbandman of Felsted, and Hester Joscelyne, Spinster. Similarly, the copyhold property called The Leys, mortgaged to James Malden, was to be sold and any 'overplus' moneys distributed to Ralph's three daughters. Ralph's sister Hester, evidently a person of some competence, was appointed Executrix of the Will.

This Will marks the end of the line of five Ralphs. What remained of the family property in Felsted was in the hands of Ralph's brother Joseph and his son, also Joseph.

Joseph (1682/3 to after 1733).

In his father's Will, Joseph received two parcels of freehold lands called Broomes containing 4 ½ acres more or less, Gatwards Croft containing 2 acres more or less, a parcel of land called Underwood Croft, 2 1/2 acres, 'and also that parcel of land adjoining Grove Croft called Shepherds containing 3 acres more or less'. All these parcels of land were 'lying and being in Felsted'.

Family tradition holds that Joseph 'came over from Hanover or Brunswick' which suggests that he ventured out as a young man to join his distant cousins in New England, possibly returning to Felsted to receive his inheritance around the time of his father's Will (1717) and death (1725). He married, aged 49, Sarah Picknett, on 11 April 1732 in Braintree. They had one son, also Joseph, a Baker in Bocking, who, in his Will of 3 August 1794, leaves to his son James what appears to be the remaining part of his father's inheritance in Felsted with instructions to put it up for sale and so satisfy the provisions of the Will.

This marks the end of the tradition of farming in this branch of the family but they subsequently established the Furniture and Estate Agency and Surveying businesses which still survive today in Braintree and Bishops Stortford (and branches).

(2) The sons of Robert II

John (born 1688/9).

He was baptized in Rayne on 24 March 1688/9. Nothing further is known of this John: he is possibly the John of Braintree who was buried in Rayne on 7 September 1705.

Richard (1691-1742).

Richard seems to have been apprenticed to a blacksmith in Broomfield. Settlement Papers dated 1714 allowed Richard Jocelyn, Blacksmith and Singleman, to move from Broomfield to White Notley. He married shortly afterwards in Broomfield, although the name of his wife is not given in the Parish Register, and a son Richard was born there on 20 August 1715. This Richard must have died in infancy. A second child Elizabeth was born to Richard and his wife Elizabeth, and was baptized in White Notley on 20 October 1719. Elizabeth married Joseph Runnicle, had a large family, and was the administrator of her father's estate after his death in 1742. A second Richard lived only 1723-1732. John was born on 20 October 1723, and it is from his marriage to Sarah Staines, a widow of Bocking on 24 January 1748/49, that the line of Joscelynes, Innkeepers and Blacksmiths of Notley and Leigh on Sea, descends.

Samuel (1693 to after 1733).

Samuel married Mary Dorster by banns in Panfield in 1732 and had a daughter Mary baptized in Rayne in the same year. Nothing further is known of this family.

From Joslin to Joscelyne.

Although the spelling Joscelyne is occasionally found in documents from the early 17th century, it was not used consistently to indicate a particular branch of the Joslin family until the 18th century. The first consistent use of the spelling Joscelyne is in the Wills of Ralph IV and V in 1719 and 1723, although the spelling of their names is given differently in the Parish Registers for their births, marriages and burials.

The brothers of Ralph IV evidently attempted to follow his lead. The Faulkbourne family of John used the spelling Joscelyne and Josceline quite consistently; and when James moved from Faulkbourne to White Notley in 1727 his surname is clearly written Joscelyne in the Settlement Order. Robert has his name twice spelled Josceline in the Panfield marriage Register. Although his son Richard's name is spelled Jocelyn in the Settlement Order of 1714 permitting him to move from Broomfield to White Notley, in the White Notley Parish Register although there are several variations, his name is most frequently spelled Joscelyne or Joscelyn. For the following generations of the White Notley and Leigh on Sea family, Joscelyne is standard.

Of Ralph IV's surviving sons, Ralph V uses the spelling Joscelyne consistently in his will in referring to himself, his sister and his unmarried daughter. Joseph has the spelling Joscelyn in the Braintree marriage register for his wedding in 1732, but Joscelyne thereafter became the standard spelling for the Braintree family.

Apart from our interest in the evolution of the family name, the fairly consistent use of the spelling Joscelyne for the eventual heirs to Simon and the five Ralphs seems to confirm the relationships between the members of this branch of the family: in particular that Richard, the Blacksmith of White Notley, was the son of Robert II, and that Joseph was the second surviving son of Ralph IV. Joseph and Richard the founders respectively of the Joscelyne families of Braintree and White Notley (which later moved to Leigh on Sea) were almost certainly first cousins. So too was Benjamin Joscelyne of Faulkbourne, son of John, who probably moved to Black Notley in the opening decades of the 18th century.

The Family of John Joslin the Younger (before 1525-1597).

The First Generation.

John the Younger/John the Elder of Braintree (about 1517 to 1597).

The only sure indication we have that John Joslin the Younger had a family is the Will of John Joslin of Naylinghurst dated 1647. We know that John the Younger purchased Naylinghurst from the Will of Gilbert Neville dated 1551 and it is reasonable to assume that the second John of Naylinghurst was his great grandson. The problem is to identify the intervening generations.

It is very possible that John Joslin the Elder of Braintree who made his Will in 1597 was in fact the person known in his younger days as John the Younger and who had bought Naylinghurst some 46 years earlier. John the Elder, in this case, would have been some 80 years old at the time of his death.

From John's Will (1597) we know that he was married to Mary. She would have been considerably younger than her husband because she survived him by some 20 years. John's two eldest sons, Gabriel, probably a clergyman, and Gilbert, a husbandman, were clearly born to a previous wife. From reading the Wills of John and Mary one concludes that there were four sons from their marriage, John 'of Rayne,' a younger John who is mentioned in Mary's but not John's Will, Henry, and Richard who is likewise mentioned by Mary but not John. In John the Elder's Will three daughters, one married to John Baker, Agnes married to Rayner (who may have married John Raye, a Glover, as her second husband) and another married to John Ellis (who may have married Thomas Rust as her second husband).

He bequeathed to his son Henry and his grandson John Baker his lease and term of years current 'the which I have of and in the land and ground called Hinbolette in Braintree and all my right and title on the same.' His other bequests are of household goods, farm stock, livestock and small sums of money. One must assume that the larger part of his landed estate would have been given to his children during his lifetime.

There is enough evidence in the Will of Mary Joslin, widow of Black Notley (1611, Probate 1617) to show that she was indeed Mary, widow of John the Elder of Braintree. However there are, as we have seen, some considerable discrepancies between the two Wills: she refers to two sons, Richard and a younger John, and two sons in law Thomas Rust and John Raye, none of whom are mentioned in her husband's Will. The reason for this can only be guessed at. Richard and the younger John may have been amply provided for previous to their father's death; perhaps there were family conflicts. The daughters may have remarried. John Raye is mentioned in John the Elder's Will as a servant and in Gilbert's Will (1632) as a Glover. There were two children of this marriage, John and Mary Raye.

An alternative explanation, which cannot be completely discounted, is that Mary had four children by a previous marriage: two sons John and Richard and two daughters later married to John Raye and Thomas Rust. In this case the first marriage must also have been to a Joslin (even perhaps to the John the Younger who purchased Naylinghurst in 1551). The John Joslin of Rayne in the Will of John Joslin the Elder I, would then have been the younger and not the older of the two Johns.

But the evidently close relationship between Richard and his sons and both Johns leads me to believe that the family relationships were more likely, but not certainly, to have been as outlined below.

The Second Generation: the sons of John the Elder I of Braintree.

Gabriel (about 1555 to after 1597).

Gabriel was a person of some education. In his Will of 1571, Richard Adams of Little Rayne left 6 shillings and eight pence to be equally divided between four scholars of Cambridge, one of them being Gabriel Joslin. Although he is not to be found in Venn's Alumni Cantabrigiensis this is no reason to doubt that he was a Cambridge scholar, and very probably a clergyman. There is good evidence to suggest that his father's Will is written in his hand. I have calculated the date of his birth on the basis of his being 16 or 17 at the time of Richard Adam's Will. He does not seem to have been married.

His father in his Will gave him, with his stepmother Mary, a share of the grain on the ground and in the barn, carts, harnesses and farm machinery; and various household furnishings and utensils.

Gilbert (about 1560 to 1632).

One supposes that John the Elder had no great opinion of his second son Gilbert: he bequeaths him a feather bed and a pestle and mortar the second of these only to come to him after Mary's death. Gilbert describes himself in his short Will of 1632 as a husbandman of Braintree, and so seems to have inherited less land than his younger brothers. He divides his goods and chattels between Agnes his wife and his children John, Agnes, Richard, Gabriel and Edward. An elder son Gilbert was buried in Felsted in 1612. His Executor is John Raye, Glover of Braintree, probably his brother in law. John seems to have been the 'Black John' given a sanded pig in the Will of his grandfather's Will. Emmison in Town Meetings records that Black John was on Poor Relief in Braintree in 1625 and that Edward had a bastard daughter. Nothing further is known about this family.

John Joslin 'of Rayne' (circa 1560 - after 1630).

John the Elder gave John 'his son of Rayne' 'a feather bed and bolster thereto belonging with a bedstead as it standeth in the parlour where I now dwell, called John's Parlour. I give to the said John Joslin of Rayne the rents, commodities and profits that does raise from and grow from my hop grounds for the term of three years next after my decease and give all the harvest now growing on the said ground towards the main house thereof.' He also gave " John Joslin the son of the aforesaid John Joslin of Rayne one milch cow not of the worst sort and two ewe sheep to be delivered to him by March of next year with all and perfect." John was taxed on his goods in Rayne in 1608/9 and 1620.

His mother Mary gives and bequeaths "unto John Joslin my eldest son three pounds five shillings and eight pence... three spoons of pewter, one blanket, one sheet, one table cloth, one pillow bere, one napkin, one joined table and one pillow."

In his Will (1605) his nephew John, Tanner of Braintree, son of his brother Richard, made 'John Joslin the Elder my uncle my sole executor.' In his Will (1625) Henry, Richard's youngest son, gives to John Joslin, the grandson of John Joslin the Elder II 'my brass pot;'; he also gives the residue of his estate to John Joslin the Elder of Rayne aforesaid 'where I now do dwell' and makes him his sole executor.

Richard (died 1600).

Richard is not mentioned in the Will of John Joslin the Elder I; his five surviving children are each given 6s 8p in the Will of their grandmother Mary.

The Will of Richard Joslin, of West Mersea, is dated 1 July 1600 (Probate September 1600). He divides his land among his three sons Richard, John and Henry. To John goes one piece of free land in Stebbing called Starkly, by estimation ten acres. To Henry goes one piece of free land called Chandlers in Stebbing and £20 which 'is in the hands of John Joslin, my elder brother.' The eldest son Richard has the rest of his estate. His daughters Mary, Rose and Sarah get £20 'at their several ages of 18.' The executors of the Will are his 'younger brother John of Rayne' and his eldest son Richard. His brother Henry of Braintree is made Supervisor of the Will.

Young John Joslin (died after 1630).

Young John is not mentioned in the Will of John the Elder. In the Will of his mother, Mary, he is bequeathed £3 5s 8p, three spoons of pewter, one candlestick, one table cloth, one table napkin, one sheet, one pillow bere, one pillow, one coverlet and one chest.

His elder brother Richard in his Will of 1600 ordains and makes 'my younger brother John Joslin of Rayne and Richard Joslin my eldest son to be mine executors for the bringing up of my children and to see this my last Will and testament well and truly fulfilled...' Finally, Richard's son John Joslin 'Tanner of Braintree' in his Will (1605)

ordains 'for the overseer of this my last Will and Testament my uncle young John Josselyn and I give him for his pains 3s 4p.'

He was possibly John Joslin, Yeoman of Great Saling, the testator of 1630, who married Mary, a widow. They had a son John, the executor of his father's Will. Mary's daughter Mary by her previous marriage was herself a widow, with a son Thomas Rust. This Rust family must be related to the Thomas Rust who was John the Younger's brother in law and son in law of his mother Mary, mentioned in her Will of 1611 (probate 1617). Young Mary Rust may thus have married Young John's nephew.

Young John's wife may have been Mary Levett who married a John Joslin in Rayne in 1594.

Henry I (before 1597-1631)

John the Elder I bequeathed to his son Henry and his grandson John Baker his lease and term of years current 'the which I have of and in the land and ground called Hinbolette in Braintree and all my right and title on the same.'

He probably married Mary Goodsafe in Broomfield in 1600. His son Henry II was baptized in Rayne on 11 June 1604, John in 1607, Mary in 1610, Anne in 1612 and Elizabeth in 1615. Henry, John and Mary receive small bequests from their grandmother Mary in her Will of 1611 (probate 1617). (i.e. the two youngest children, Anne and Elizabeth, had not been born at the time of Mary's Will). Henry was buried in Rayne on 6 December 1631.

The Third Generation.

1. The Son of John 'Senior of Rayne' (c.1560-after 1630).

John 'Junior' (about 1585-before 1670).

We know from the Will of John the Elder that he had a grandson John who received "one milch cow not of the worst sort and two ewe sheep to be delivered to him by March of next year with all and perfect."

This is probably the John Joslin referred to in the Rayne register as 'John Junior' while his father was still alive, who married Eleanor Burton in Rayne on 3 September 1617 and had five children all baptized in Rayne: Mary (1617/18), Dorothy (1620), Eleanor (1622), John (1624), and Richard (1627/8). He may have been an Overseer of the Parish of Rayne in 1623. John and Ellen witnessed the Will and Codicil of his cousin Henry in 1625. Eleanor, by then a widow, was buried in Rayne on 16 January 1670/1.

2. The Sons of Richard of Mersea.

Richard II.

As the eldest son Richard inherited the larger part of his father's estate, much of it apparently in Stebbing although he is described in his brother John's Will as 'a husbandman of Hodsdon (Hoddesdon in Hertfordshire).' He married Jane Hepworth and had two children, William and Jane. Jane Hepworth was the daughter of Julia Hepworth nee Loftus. Richard's children, who were then both under 21, were beneficiaries of the Will (9 September 1619) of Julia's brother Henry Loftus, Gentleman, of Broxbourne, Hertfordshire, who owned land in Hoddesdon, Broxbourne and Amwell and had no direct heirs.

John, Tanner of Braintree (died 1605).

In his Will of 1605, John describes himself both as a tanner and as the servant of John Joslin, his Uncle, John the Elder II, with whom he lived and who was the executor of his Will. He left all his land in Stebbing to his elder brother Richard, and sums of money to his younger brother Henry and his sisters. The Overseer of his Will was his 'uncle young John Joslin' and among the witnesses were his sister Rose, Richard Lamson (probably the Father Lamson to whom he left a suit of clothing), and John Joslin and Gabriel Joslin.

Henry (died 1625).

Henry's Will shows that, at the time of his death, he was unmarried and had no children of his own. It is of interest in recounting the members of his family who were living at that time. He bequeaths various gifts of money and furniture to Jane the daughter of his brother Richard; to his brother Richard; to his sister Mary Thurgood and Thomas Thurgood her son; the grandson of John Joslin the Elder (II); his sister Sarah Johnson and her son Edward; and his sister Rose Hughes, previously married to Wood, and her three daughters Rebecca, Mary and Ellen Wood; and her children by her then husband Richard and Elizabeth Hughes

His uncle John Joslin the Elder of Rayne is the executor and residual beneficiary. His cousin, John Junior, the son of John the Elder II, is a witness; and John Junior's wife Ellen is a witness of a codicil concerning a bequest to Thomas Thurgood.

He refers on two occasions to his furniture and 'stuffs' at Rottendon Hall. He was, at the time of making his Will, living with his Uncle John, as, indeed, was the case also with his elder brother John in 1605. It is not clear whether Rottendon Hall was the residence of his uncle John in Rayne or whether Henry had moved to stay with his uncle during his last illness.

3. The son of young John Joslin.

John (living 1630) and the Joslins of Saling.

John was the son of John of Great Saling, mentioned in the latter's Will of 1630. Our knowledge of John of Great Saling is sporadic; another Will, of Richard Joslin dated 1690/91, shows that he had three sons John, Richard and Thomas and a daughter Margaret. A John Joslin of 'the Mount', a farm of some 150 acres which straddles the parish boundaries of Rayne and Great Saling, was an Overseer of the Poor for the Parish of Rayne from 1690. Ralph, the son of Ralph Joslin of Saling, and his mother were buried in Rayne in 1724.

There is an unproven connection with the Joscelyne family of Braintree. The second Joseph married, as his first wife, Mary the daughter of Solomon and Anne Isaacs nee Joslin. Anne was 23 at the time of her marriage in 1725 which may identify her with Anne the daughter of John and Elizabeth Joslin of Old Saling who was baptized in Rayne on 16 May 1702.

Another Saling connection is with Richard Joslin, farmer of Bocking, who was married aged 29 to Elizabeth Smith in Panfield in 1723. He was probably born the son of Richard Joslin and Margaret Farrer, who were married in Little Saling in 1695. This Richard has often been confused with Richard Joscelyne, blacksmith, of White Notley, also married to an Elizabeth.

4. The sons of Henry I (about 1580 - 1631).

Henry II (1604-1664/5).

Henry had five children by his first wife Mary: Henry (baptized in Rayne 1636, died 1640), Joseph (1639), Mary (1642), and twins John and Henry (1645). Mary and her son John died in 1645. Henry subsequently married Hannah Joslin, Mary Cook, Elizabeth Bradley and a Mary mentioned in his Will but seems to have had no further children.

Henry held parish offices as Overseer of the Poor, Surveyor and Constable between 1628 and 1660. He describes himself in his Will as a tanner. His Will shows him as the owner of a number of scattered properties: a messuage or tenement in Braintree with one acre of land where he lived; 8 acres also in Braintree called Thistleys; four acres called Brownings and a parcel of land of about an acre called Flowers Mead, in Felsted; and three other messuages or tenements in Braintree and Rayne. One concludes that he ran a successful tannery business and invested his profits in land.

Henry Joslin made his Will on 15 February 1664/5 and was buried in Rayne on the following 24 February.

The Fourth Generation.

1. The sons of John 'Junior' (1585 - before 1670)

John of Naylinghurst (1624-1647)

The identification of John the Elder I of Braintree (d.1597) with John the Younger rests upon the identification of John of Naylinghurst as his great grandson. Naylinghurst, purchased in 1552 would have passed down the senior line of the descendants of John the Younger of Naylinghurst (?alias John the Elder I of Braintree): John 'of Rayne' and his son John 'Junior' to John of Naylinghurst in 1647/8.

John Joslin Yeoman "of Naylinghurst" made his Will on 20th March 1647. He was married to Martha and had two sons John and Robert and four daughters Elizabeth, Anne, Sarah and Mary. He bequeathed to John 'his houses and lands situate and being in Dunmow and Banson and five acres of land be it more or less lying in Braintree aforesaid commonly called or known by the name of Harding.' His wife, his second son Robert, and his four daughters were each given forty or fifty pounds to be received, in the case of Elizabeth and Robert at the age of twelve, Anne at fifteen, Sarah at eighteen and Mary at 21. Martha's legacy of £10 a year was to be reduced as her daughters received their bequests. All his 'cattle, chattels, household stuff, moveable and unmovable goods whatsoever in or about my said dwelling house' were to be equally divided between his 'said three children John, Martha and Mary' (clearly a mistake as no child Martha is elsewhere referred to in his Will).

The difficulty with this attribution is that John, the son of John Junior, would have been only 23 at the time 'John of Naylinghurst' made his Will mentioning six children. We would therefore have to assume that he married at about the age of 16. His Will shows clearly that his children were all younger than 12 years old at the time. The eldest, perhaps Elizabeth, who was especially favoured in the Will, could not have been older than six. On the other hand, he names a brother, Richard, together with Joseph Manning, as a Supervisor of the Will and we know that John Junior had a second son Richard.

John names his son John (then possibly only five years old) his son as his executor: one supposes that the two Supervisors would have overseen the provisions of the Will until the younger John came of age.

I have been unable to find any certain records of John of Naylinghurst or his brother Richard or John's children John, Robert, Elizabeth, Anne, Sarah and Mary, in Parish Registers. Martha may have married Richard Betts in Rayne on 20 September 1653 or she may have been the Widow Joslin who was buried in Rayne on 1 July 1649; Sarah and Mary who were buried in Rayne in 1648 and 1650 may have been her daughters. John, Robert, Samuel and Sarah the children of John and his wife Sarah were baptized in

Braintree between 1684 and 1717 which is a just possible, although rather unlikely, time-frame for this John to be the son of John of Naylinghurst.

2. The sons Henry II (1604 -1664/5).

Joseph I (1639-1716).

Henry bequeathed Joseph 'all that Messuage or Tenement in Rayne wherein I now dwell, barns, stables and outhouses, yards, gardens, orchard, and one acre of land more or less thereunto belonging with appurtenances'; eight acres of land in Braintree called Thistleys; a parcel of land in Felsted called Flowers Mead containing one acre; two tenements in Rayne; another in Braintree; and four acres of land called Brownings in Felsted.

Joseph was baptized in Rayne on 15 September 1639. He married Anne in 1668/9 and had five children: two sons, Joseph baptized in Rayne in 1671, and Benjamin (baptized 1688) and three daughters: Anne (baptized 1669/70, died 1721/2) who married John Burton in 1695; Mary died 3 months after her baptism in 1675; and Sarah (baptized 1685) who married George Ward and had a son George. Special provision is made for this young George in Joseph's will as George the elder had an illegitimate child Elizabeth, born to Ellen Taylor, on 14 April 1704, and Sarah died in 1709. Joseph's wife Anne was buried in Rayne on 14 August 1697.

Joseph acted as a church officer for the Parish of Rayne almost continually between 1669 and 1706 holding the posts of Churchwarden, Overseer of the Poor and Constable. In 1690 it was 'ordered by a consort of townsmen that none of the officers shall pay any letters of request but only Joseph Joslin.' In 1694 he carried soldiers and their baggage from Braintree to Chelmsford, for which he was paid 6s 3d.

He seems to have added to his father's estate. He had land, much of it 'lately purchased' in Braintree, Bocking and Black Notley. He owned Cockers in Braintree, which had been left to his brother Henry, and also other land in Braintree bought or inherited from Henry, who died some ten years before him.

Joseph's Will is dated 18 April 1716. He was buried in Rayne on the 20th December following.

Henry III (1645-1706).

Henry was the surviving twin of Henry II's first wife Mary. Henry may have married Mary Hudson in Rayne on 20 November 1673. His father left him Cokers and other land in Braintree which passed by bequest or sale to his elder brother Joseph.

The Fifth Generation.

The sons of Joseph I (1639 – 1716)

Joseph II (1671-1730)

Joseph I bequeathed Joseph II a freehold messuage or tenement with appurtenances in Bocking lately purchased from Mary and Jonathon ffrank; and the leaden malt cistern 'belonging to the house wherein I now dwell and all my other goods, chattels, and ready money and personal estate.' Much of Joseph I's Will is taken up with the provisions for George Ward Junior his grandchild. George must have died while still a minor as the properties left for his maintenance and eventual inheritance, seem to have passed to Joseph II and Benjamin. These were the 'copyhold fields ... commonly known by the name of Cokers' a copyhold messuage in Braintree, and three copyhold messuages in Black Notley. Joseph may also have bought land from his younger brother Benjamin or perhaps exchanged the land in Black Notley for Cokers. He bought the property of 'Turners' in 1711. His son Joseph III sold it to Thomas Emberson in 1732.

Joseph II married Hester or Esther Clarke in Bocking on 31 October 1699 and had three sons and six daughters: Hester baptized in Rayne in 1700, Joseph III (1701/2), twins Richard and Mary (1704/5), Anne (1708, buried 1721), Elizabeth (1709), Benjamin (1711), Sarah (1715) and Ester Anne (1722). There is also a burial record in the Rayne Register for 'Elener daughter of Joseph Joslin' in 1711.

Benjamin I (1688-1742).

Joseph I bequeathed his son Benjamin a copyhold messuage in Braintree 'with all and singular the lands, meadows and pastures thereto belonging' lately purchased of Arthur Harris deceased; and another messuage in Braintree 'with all the lands and grounds both freehold and copyhold... purchased of John Underwood.' Joseph I also left him 'the copyhold fields commonly known by the name of Cokers containing by estimation six acres lying and being in Braintree' with the proviso that £60 should be paid to George Ward on his 21st birthday, and until then a half yearly payment of £3.

He may have married first before 1712 as a son of Benjamin Joslin was buried in Felsted on 17 June 1712. Benjamin Joslin 'of the parish of Rayne' married Mary Brett in Bocking on 14 December 1715 and Benjamin Joslin 'of Black Notley widower' married Mary Jobson widow in Braintree on 26 July 1719. Benjamin's eldest surviving child Mary was probably born to Mary Brett, although she was baptized in Rayne only three days before her father's second wedding. Benjamin was born on May 23 1720, although he was baptized almost a year later (probably like his half sister Mary), and was buried in Rayne on 2 July 1725; and Joseph was born on 12 September 1721, being both baptized and buried in Rayne on 12 March 1721/2. Four children were baptized to Benjamin and

Mary in Braintree: Esther was baptized in 1723 and was buried in Rayne on 20 February 1731; a second Joseph baptized in 1725, buried on 30 March 1730; Elizabeth in 1726 and another Elizabeth in 1727, buried in Rayne 25 June 1728; and Anne in 1731.

Mary Jobson at this point seems to have died, perhaps in childbirth with Anne, because Benjamin's subsequent children, all baptized in Braintree, were born to Sarah and Elizabeth. To Sarah was born a third Joseph baptized on 31 January 1732/33 and buried in Rayne on 14 October 1740; and to Elizabeth a daughter, a third Elizabeth, baptized in April 1734 and a son, a second (or third) Benjamin, baptized in March 1734/35 and who may have been buried in Rayne in 1737. I have been unable to find burial records for Mary, his child with Mary Brett, Anne or Elizabeth his youngest daughter. They may have survived him.

The three copyhold messuages in Black Notley mentioned in the Will of Joseph Joslin I, originally destined to be the inheritance of George Ward were, in the case of George's early death, bequeathed to Joseph II. Joseph seems to have preferred Cokers; the Black Notley messuages may thus have passed to Benjamin on the death of his father in 1716 to care for during George's life-time and inherit after George's death. In 1719 he is referred to at the time of his second marriage as Benjamin Joslin widower of Black Notley and on his burial in Rayne on 16 April 1642 as Benjamin Joslin of Notley.

Some confusion has been caused by the presence also of a family of Joscelynes, also using the given name Benjamin, in Black Notley in the first half of the 18th century. A Benjamin Joscelyne evidently moved from Faulkbourne to Black Notley early in the 18th century (see 'The Family of Simon Joslin'). He married Jane Chertsey or Chesney as a widower on 19 April 1737 and was buried in Black Notley on 1 April 1743.

A Sad Ending.

The Joslin families of this branch are characterized in the first half of the 18th century by their multiple births and their high rates of infant mortality.

We know nothing further about Mary, Anne and Elizabeth the perhaps surviving children of Benjamin I, Joseph II's brother. Joseph II had three sons Joseph III, Richard and Benjamin II. Joseph III had fourteen children from two wives both named Elizabeth, of whom only one son, John, may have survived. Richard had eight children from three wives, Rebecca, Mary and Judith, of whom only Sarah (1746) may have survived infancy. There is no trace of Benjamin II beyond his baptism in 1711.

The Family of Thomas Joslin (about 1520-1574).

The First Generation.

Thomas was the youngest son of John Joslin of Stortford. He received 40 shillings in the Will of his mother Eleanor in 1547. He probably was not the servant or apprentice who received a small legacy in the Will of Gilbert Nevell (1551), but he may have been the Thomas Joslin 'servus Robert Alite', who was buried in Fyfield in 1585.

He may also have been the Thomas Joslin who was buried in Rayne on 13 June 1574. This Thomas was married to Margaret who in her Will of 18 February 1575/6, mentions three sons and a daughter Thomas, the eldest, Phillip, John and Alice. She was buried in Rayne on 1 May 1576. Her son John 'of Manningtree' is her Executor. This suggests an alternative descent from Thomas Gostlyn of Manningtree who made his Will in 1520.

The Second Generation

Thomas II (about 1545-after 1593).

The Parish Register of Felsted in the period 1559-1588 records the baptisms of the children of Simon, Ralph and Thomas Joslin. We know that Ralph was the son of Simon; it seems probable that Thomas was Simon's nephew, the son of his brother Thomas. There is a striking similarity in the given names of all their children.

Thomas Joslin married Elizabeth Mott in Rayne on 9 September 1565. Joan was baptized in Felsted on 16 August 1567, followed by John (1570), Agnes (1573), and Simon (January 1575). It is possible that he also had children baptized in Rayne although the parents of children baptized there are not recorded until 1604. The Rayne Registry records Elizabeth (1568), Ann (1572), Alice (November 1575), and then Thomas (1582), Margaret (1586), another Thomas (1592/93), and John (1593/94). These last five children, if they were indeed Thomas's, are likely to have been from a second marriage. A John Joslin was buried in Rayne in 1592. Eleanor and Elizabeth, daughters of Thomas, were buried in Rayne on 23 April 1612 and 9 November 1614 respectively and another John Joslin was buried on 12 January 1613. It is not possible to make perfect sense of all these early baptisms and burials.

The Third Generation: the sons of Thomas II.

John (? 1570-1629).

John Joslin of Fosters in the Parish of Little Rayne, married to Margaret, made his Will on 30 May and died on 9 July 1629. No surviving children are mentioned in his Will.

Simon (1575-after 1617).

Simon, the son of Thomas Joslin, was baptized in Felsted on 10 January 1575. He had a daughter Sarah baptized in Felsted in 1593 and buried in Rayne in 1613. His other children were baptized in Rayne: Simon (baptized in 1602 and buried in 1614.), Mary (1604), Thomas (1607), and Matthew (1608). It is probable that he also had a son Richard. He was given a small bequest in the Will of Ralph I of Felsted in 1617.

The Fourth Generation: the sons of Simon (1575-1614).

Thomas (1607-1669/70).

Thomas was buried in Rayne on 12 January 1669/70. His wife Phoebe who made her Will on the day of her husband's funeral and died three days later. Their nephew Matthew II and his wife Frances were witnesses to the Will. There were no surviving children of the marriage.

Matthew I (1608-1677).

Matthew married Helena Corby or Corbly in Felsted on 18 April 1634. Their son Matthew was baptized in Rayne on 22 January 1634/5 and their daughter Elizabeth on 16 August 1636. Three further children Simon, Hannah and Priscilla are mentioned in his Will of 1677. He was a Surveyor for the Parish of Rayne 1655-57, 1662-64 and 1671.

Richard (about 1605-after 1634/5).

Richard Joslin married Susan Walsh in Rayne on 14 July 1633. Their daughter Susan was baptized in August 1634 and their son Richard on 16 January 1634/35 in Felsted.

The Fifth Generation.

(1). A son of Matthew I.

Matthew II (1634/5-1701) and his heirs.

Matthew II married Frances Harvey in Rayne on 17 May 1660. Their eldest son Henry was baptized in Rayne on 22 December of the same year, followed by Charles (buried 1666/7) Elizabeth (1664), Sarah (1668), Thomas (1671), and John (1675). A son and daughter were buried in Rayne in 1682. From Matthew's Will of 1701, we know that they had a third son Matthew III and that Sarah and Thomas died before their parents. Elizabeth was then married to Hall and had a daughter Rhoda. John and his mother Frances were the executors of his Will, made in Woodham Ferrers. We know nothing further about their children. Matthew Joslin was a witness at the baptisms of John (born 1682) and Robert (born 1683) the sons of John Joscelyn and Sarah his wife in Braintree on 19 June 1684. I have not been able to discover where this John, married to Sarah, fits in.

(2). A son of Richard I

Richard II (1635/36-1715).

The younger Richard married Mary in about 1657/8. They had five daughters all baptized in Felsted: Susan (1659), Jane (1660), Sarah (1663/4), Anne (1665) and Martha (1 December 1667). Martha had also been baptized in Rayne on 1 November 1667. Anne was buried in 1668, Martha in 1670, and Mary, Richard's wife, in 1685, all in Rayne. Richard Joslin of Felsted was buried in Rayne in 1715; he must have been 80 years old.

Sources

Essex Feet of Fines. Volumes V and VI (Emmison)

Joslin Wills.

- 1424/5. Geoffrey of Hyde Hall (Allnut).
- 1513. John of Sheering (Allnut).
- 1514. Thomas of Stortford. (Allnut).
- 1525. John of Stortford (Allnut)
- 1576. Margaret, Widow of Rayne (ERO).
- 1578. Simon, Yeoman of Felsted (ERO).
- 1591. Thomas of Much Canfield (ERO).
- 1597. John, the Elder of Braintree (ERO).
- 1597. John of Rivenhall (NEHGR).
- 1600. Richard, Yeoman of West Mersea (ERO).
- 1602. John of Mountnessing (NEHGR).
- 1605. Thomas of Rochford (Kew).
- 1605. John, Tanner of Braintree (ERO).
- 1611. Henry of Mountnessing (NEHGR).
- 1617. Mary, Widow of Black Notley (ERO).
- 1617. Ralph, Yeoman of Felsted (ERO).
- 1625. Henry, of Rayne (ERO).
- 1626. Ralph, Yeoman of Roxwell (NEHGR).
- 1629. John, of Fosters in Little Rayne.
- 1632. Gilbert, Husbandman of Braintree (ERO).
- 1632. John, Yeoman of Great Saling (ERO).
- 1633. Jane, Widow of Felsted.
- 1642. Joseph, Yeoman of Cranham (NEHGR).
- 1647. John Yeoman of Naylinghurst (ERO).
- 1656. Ralph, Yeoman of Cranham Hall (NEHGR).
- 1665. Henry, Tanner of Rayne (ERO).

- 1669. Ralph, Yeoman of Felsted (ERO).
- 1670. Phoebe, late of Felsted (ERO).
- 1677. Matthew, of Chelmsford (ERO).
- 1683. Ralph of Earls Colne (NEHGR).
- 1701. Matthew, of Woodham Ferrers (ERO).
- 1717. Joseph, Yeoman of Rayne (ERO).
- 1726. Ralph, Yeoman of Felsted (Joscelyne) (ERO).
- 1731. Ralph, Yeoman of Felsted (Joscelyne) (ERO).
- 1775. Benjamin, Yeoman of Terling (Joscelyne) (ERO).
- 1794. Joseph, Baker of Bocking (Joscelyne) (ERO).

Nevell Wills.

- 1537. John of Fyfield (AHJ).
- 1547. Eleanor/Helenora (AHJ).
- 1551. Gilbert of Nalingsworth (ERO).

Parish Registers.

- Bishops Stortford, Herts. (NEHGR).
- Black Notley (ERO).
- Bocking (ERO).
- Braintree (ERO).
- Chelmsford (NEHGR).
- Faulkbourne (ERO).
- Felsted (ERO).
- Fyfield (ERO).
- Good Easter (ERO).
- Great Saling (ERO).
- Little Saling (ERO).
- Moreton (NEHGR).
- Panfield (ERO).
- Rayne (ERO).
- Roxwell (NEHGR).
- Stebbing (ERO).
- White Notley (ERO).

Key.

Allnut. Translation of documents researched (by an unknown researcher) before 1976.

ERO. Essex Record Office.

Kew. UK National Archives.

NEHGR. New England Historical and Genealogical Review January 1917, pages 19-33.

Research of Elizabeth French: she quotes from a number of Parish Registers published by Frederick Arthur Crisp 1884-1890 and Phillimore and Blagg's Essex Parish Registers. She also quotes from Subsidy Rolls and other documents.

Appendix A

John Jocelyn of Newhall Jocelyn and his family.

Like John Joslin of Stortford, **John Jocelyn of Newhall in High Roding** was a great grandson of Geoffrey of Hyde Hall; both Johns made their Wills in 1525/6. They were second cousins. John of Newhall's father George was the heir to his uncle Ralph Joslin, Lord Mayor of London; John was George's younger son.

John Jocelyn accumulated very considerable landed wealth during his life time. His fortune was probably partly based on his father's inheritance from his uncle Ralph. In 1513 he bought Hyde Hall from George Jocelyn II, the son and heir of his elder brother Ralph, although most of his property was in Essex: High Roding, King's Hatfield (Hatfield Broad Oak), Shellow Bowells, Great Waltham, the Canfields and Little Hallingbury. Some of this land seems to have been leased to members of his extended family.

Sir Thomas Jocelyn (1507-1582/3), John's only surviving son and heir, was born to his second wife Phillipa Bradley. He was created a Knight of the Bath at the Coronation of Edward VI in 1547/8. He married Dorothy Gates, the sister of Sir John Gates Captain of the Guard of Edward VI, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and a member of the Privy Council.

He had seven sons **Humphrey, Richard, Thomas, John, Leonard, Henry and Edward** and two daughters **Mary and Jane**. Of these, Humphrey and Leonard died young.

Thomas and John graduated from Queens' College, Cambridge, the latter going on to a career of great academic distinction. An outstanding Linguist, he was Latin secretary to Archbishop Parker. In his Will (1602) he left £100 to his old college to found a lectureship in Hebrew. This was augmented in 1670 by a further bequest from his great nephew John who also left a bequest to his old college, Emmanuel, where he, his father and his son had been educated.

Thomas is probably the Thomas Jocelyn of Much Canfield who made his Will in 1590. He was perhaps a clergyman and the vicar of Much Canfield, a benefice likely to have been in the gift of his father. This Thomas's eldest son Geoffrey was probably the same Geoffrey who was Vicar of Shellow Bowells, and then Good Easter for 50 years 1585-1635. If this were so, it is curious that Geoffrey is not mentioned in his uncle John's Will, as many of his cousins were. One may suggest some doctrinal differences as Geoffrey seems to have been sympathetic to the more extreme wing of Puritanism; or some other falling out between the two brothers.

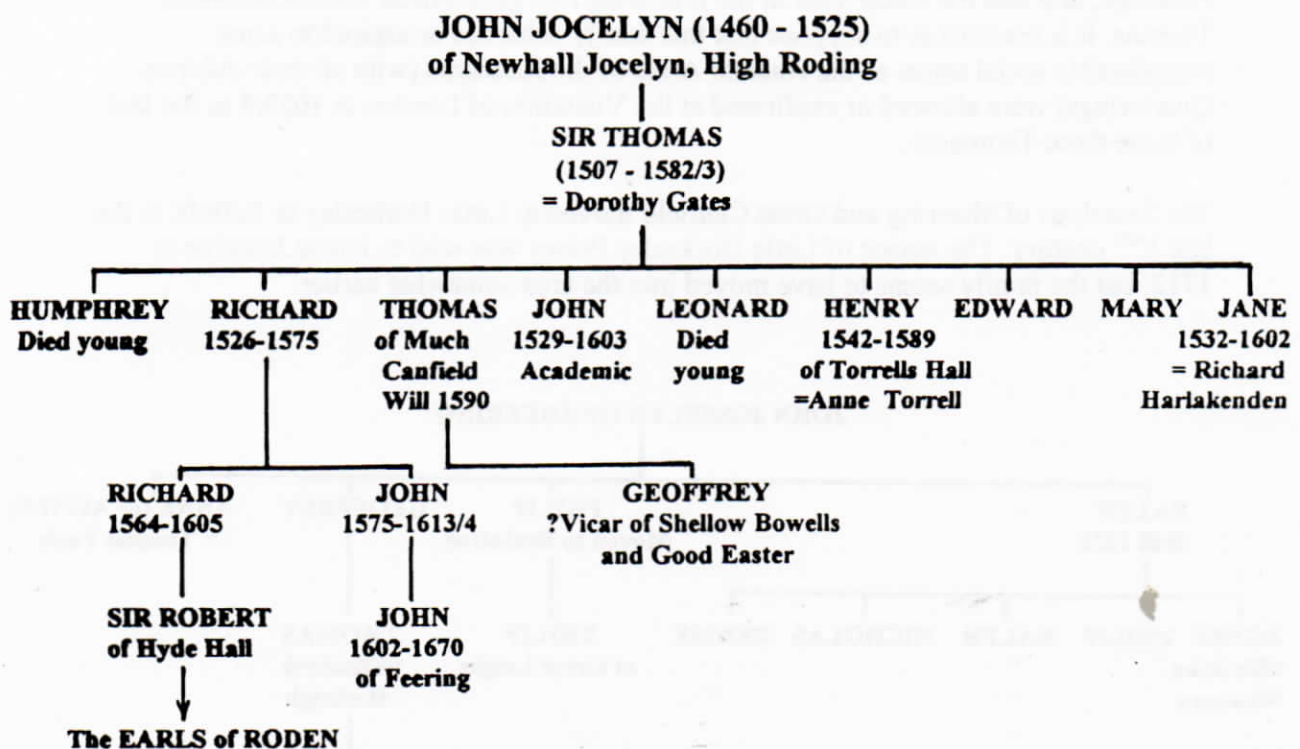
Richard Jocelyn I (1526-1575), John's heir had three children, the eldest being Richard II (born 1564) whose eldest son Robert was the father of a line of Roberts. It is this line which leads to the Earldom of Roden created in the peerage of Ireland in 1771.

Richard I's younger brother **Henry Jocelyn (1542- 1589)** of Torrells Hall in Willingale Doe, married Anne Torrell the daughter and heiress of Humphrey Torrell and his wife Alice Leventhorp, thus returning to a property owned by his ancestors: Shellow Bowells and Willingale are neighbouring parishes.

In the Inquisition Post Mortem of John Joslin the Elder of Roxwell, the parcels of land called Thistle Downs in the parishes of Shellow Bowells and Willingale are stated 'to be worth 40s. yearly and are held of Henry Jocelyn and his wife Anne as of their manor of Torrells Hall in free socage by fealty and rent of 4s yearly.' Thistle Downs remained in the hands of John's descendants for at least three generations.

There is a continuing interplay between the Jocelyn and Joslin families however distant cousins they may have been. The grandsons of Henry and John, Henry II and Thomas migrated to New England within a year of each other. It is clear that the younger Henry Jocelyn who rose to be deputy Governor of Maine gave Thomas Joslin, a distant cousin and son of a near-neighbour, a helping hand: the two families had no doubt encouraged Thomas in his enterprise.

Henry I's younger sister Jane (1532-1602) married Roger Harlakenden of Earls Colne. In March 1640/1 Richard Harlakenden, a grandson of Roger, presented the living of Earls Colne to John Joslin's great grandchild Rev. Ralph Joslin. John Jocelyn, the benefactor of Queens' and Emmanuel Colleges in Cambridge (a great grandson of John of Newhall) made Ralph a distributor of his charities in his Will (1670). One of his two sons Edward and Robert, both of Colchester, was surely the 'Cousin Josselin' mentioned in Ralph's diary who gave Ralph encouraging legal advice in his rather spurious, although successful, claim on his Uncle Joseph's estate.



Appendix B

John Josselyn of Sheering and his family.

John of Sheering was the elder brother of Thomas who, with John's son Ralph, was executor of his Will in 1514. Thomas of Stortford made his Will a year later and it is reasonable to suppose that this is the same Thomas mentioned in John's Will. Elizabeth French in NEHGR (1917) speculated that John and Simon Joslin were the sons of John Josselyn's grandson Ralph II. There is absolutely no evidence to support this.

John of Sheering is known to have had four children Ralph, Philip, Geoffrey and Anne/Agnes. These would have been John of Stortford's first cousins. Ralph and John, together with their second cousin John of Newhall, made their Wills within the same year 1525/6. The Josselyn family had property in Sheering and Great Canfield, the latter probably held of John of Newhall and his heirs.

Ralph, John of Sheering's eldest son and co-executor, made his own Will in 1525. It is among the most interesting and entertaining of the whole series. But of his five children only the eldest Agnes, married to Sir John Wiseman, is well documented: her great grandson Thomas Young married into the Elliot family of Elliot Newlands in Roxwell, from whom John Joslin and his family held Bollinghatch in socage. Unfortunately his other children Philip, Ralph's heir, Ralph II, Nicholas and his second daughter Denise have passed into history with hardly a trace. Denise could not have been the Dionisia Josselyn of Great Canfield who was tried for Witchcraft in 1630, although she no doubt came from the same family.

John of Sheering's second son Philip was the first of the Josselyn/Joslin family to move to Braintree: he is on a subsidy list there in 1524/5. He had a son, Philip of Great Leighs, but no male grandchildren. John's daughter Anne/Agnes married Thomas Poole, probably related to Margaret the wife of Simon Joslin of Felsted.

The descent of this branch of the family is thus from John of Sheering's youngest son Geoffrey. Elizabeth French (NEHGR) notes that his son Thomas married Elizabeth Hadleigh, and that the eldest sons in the following two generations were both named Thomas. It is reasonable to suppose that this family achieved or aspired to some considerable social status as the Ancient Arms of the Josselyns (with all their dubious Quarterings) were allowed or confirmed at the Visitation of London in 1633/4 to the last of these three Thomases.

The Josselyns of Sheering and Great Canfield moved to Little Horkesley in Suffolk in the late 17th century. The manor of Little Horkesley Priory was sold to James Josselyn in 1712, but the family seems to have moved into the area somewhat earlier.

