

**THE JOCELINS
OF
HYDE HALL**

1200 to 1525

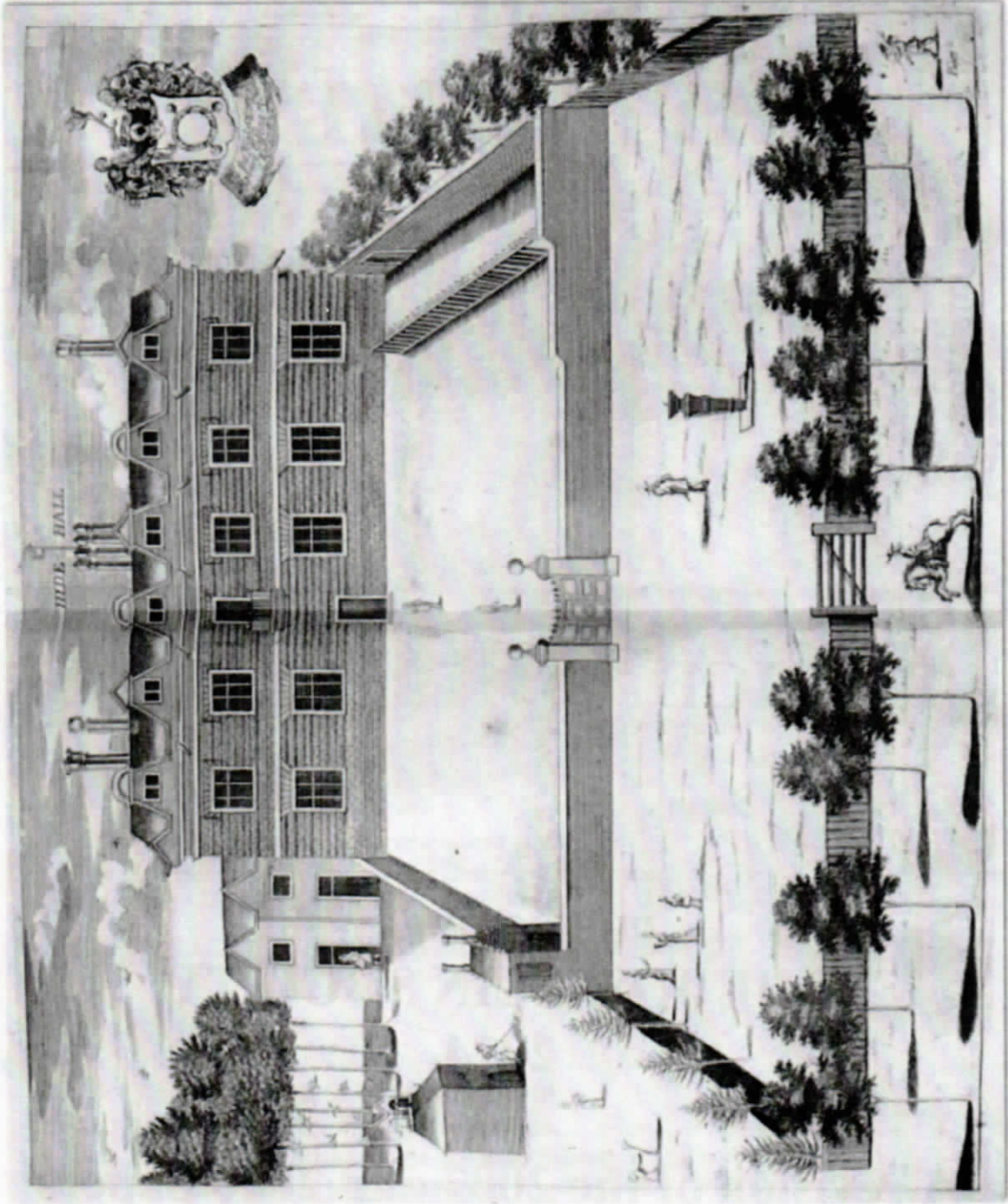
BY RICHARD JOSCELYNE

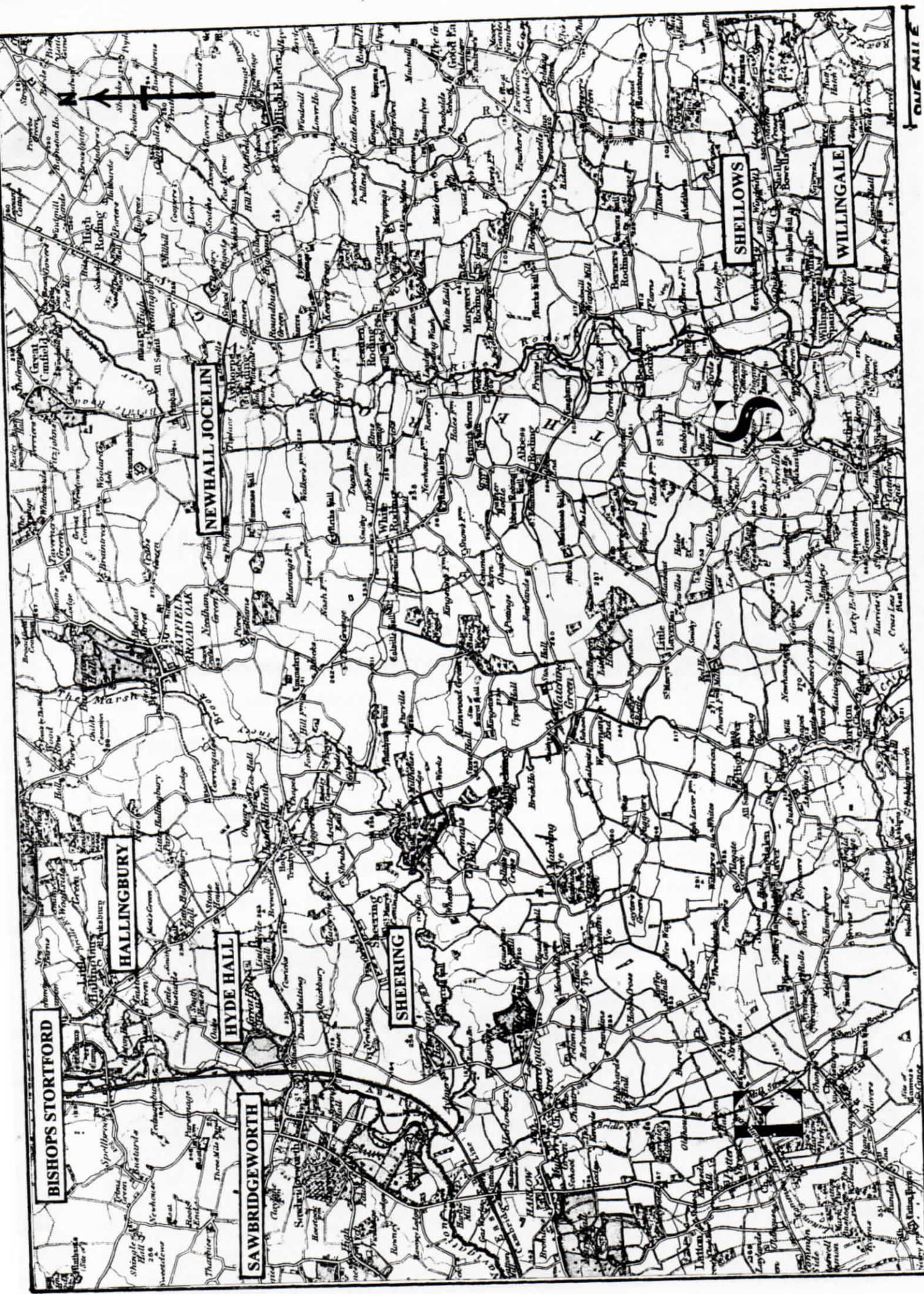
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HYDE HALL.

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**GEOFFREY II AND HIS WIVES
JOAN AND KATHERINE**

Photos by courtesy of Sawbridgeworth PCC

GREAT ST. MARY, SAWBRIDGEWORTH, HERTS

HYDE HALL, SAWBRIDGEWORTH





Above: The twin churches at
WILLINGALE, ESSEX

St. Christopher (Left)
St. Andrew (Right)

Photos by Ben Joscelyne



ST. LEONARDS CHURCH

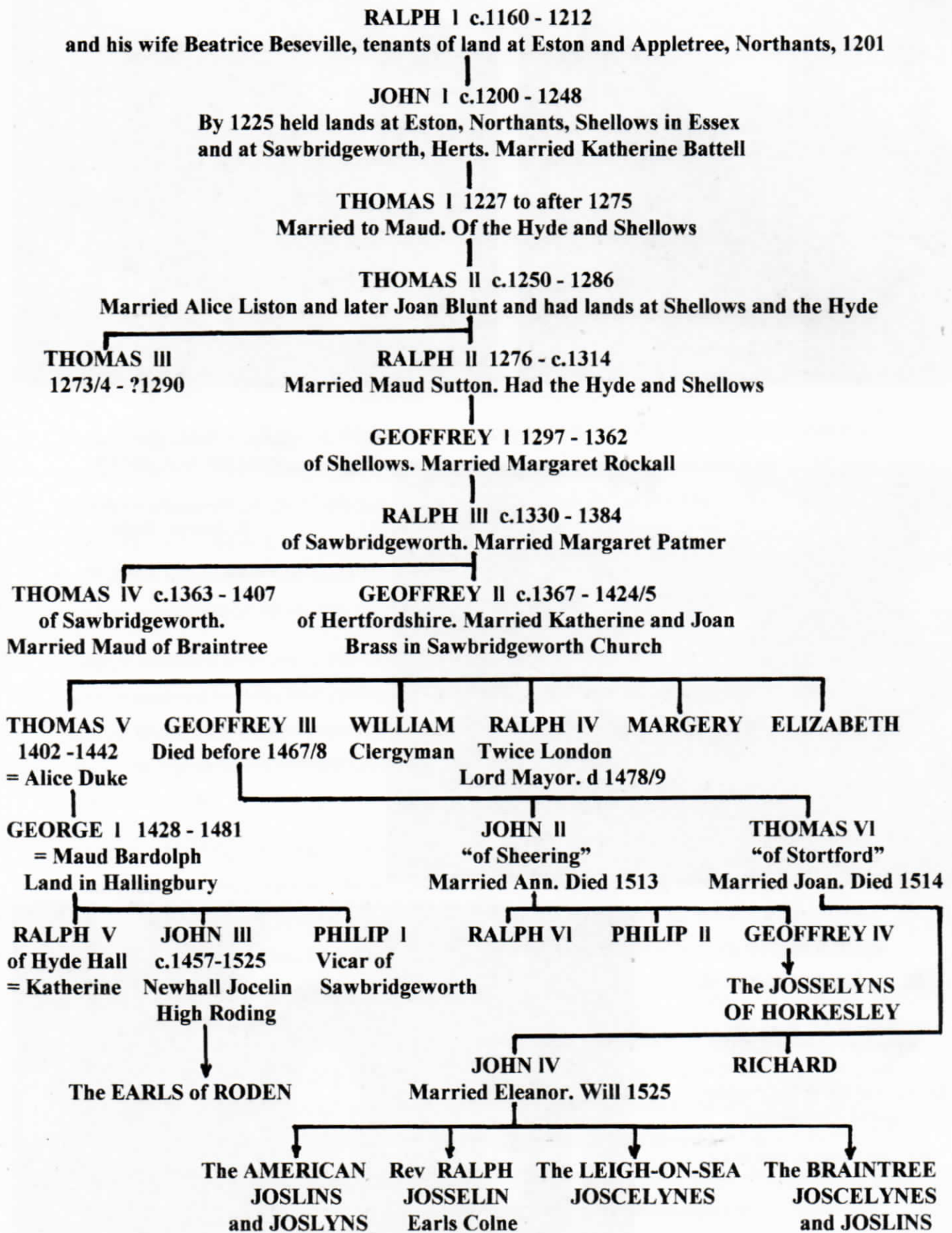
**ASTON LE WALLS
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

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THE JOCELINS OF HYDE HALL 1200 to 1525



THE JOCELINS OF HYDE HALL 1200 to 1525.

The Jocelin Family.

Historical records dating from the early 13th century show that the Jocelins 'of Hyde Hall' were Lords of the Manor of Eston or Easton and Apeltre (now Aston le Walls and Appletree) in Northamptonshire, the Hide (now Hyde Hall) in Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire, and Selewes (now Shellow Bowells) in Essex both as tenants in chief and as subtenants of the Mandeville and Bohun families. Over the next 250 years there seems to have been a relative decline in the family's fortunes until, in the 15th century, first Ralph Jocelin, Lord Mayor of London, and then John Jocelin 'of Newhall' established a firm basis for the family's subsequent prosperity.

These and other members of the family had distinguished careers during the Wars of the Roses, the Tudor and Stuart periods and in the eighteenth century. In 1635 a family of Jocelins settled in New England.

Sir Ralph Jocelin (c.1410-1478) a younger son of Geoffrey (1370 to 1424), worked himself up through the Draper's Company to become twice Lord Mayor of London (1464 and 1476). He was an MP for the City of London and was knighted at the Coronation of Elizabeth Woodville in 1465. He may have been one of a group of Aldermen who rallied the City Militias to defeat the 1471 incursion into London of Sir Thomas Neville 'the Bastard of Falconbridge' and his Lancastrian army.

His great nephew John (c.1457 to 1525) was from 1487 Auditor General and Counsellor to John de Vere, 13th Earl of Oxford. This line of the family prospered, was well connected and dedicated to public service. John's son Thomas married a sister of Sir Robert Gates a man of considerable power and influence during the reign of Edward VI, who was executed during the reign of Queen Mary as a supporter of Lady Jane Grey. Thomas was a Commissioner in Essex for the dissolution of the monasteries and was knighted at the Coronation of Edward VI. His third son John, a distinguished scholar, historian and linguist, was Latin Secretary to Archbishop Parker.

A grandson of this Thomas, a second Sir Thomas, was appointed by Sir Ferdinando Gorges to be Deputy Governor of all his possessions in New England, but his stay was brief (1638-39). His son, Henry Jocelyn, had already settled in New England (from 1634) where he became Sir Ferdinando's Steward General (1635) and Deputy Governor of Maine (1645). John, Henry's brother, made two voyages to New England during this period and used these

experiences to write 'New England's Rarities Discovered' and 'An Account of Two Voyages to New England'.

It was, however, Thomas Joslin and his family, distant cousins as well as neighbours and tenants of the second Sir Thomas, who, in 1635, migrated to New England and established the numerous Jocelin/Joslin/Josselin family in America.

A cousin of this emigrant family, Rev. Ralph Josselin of Earl's Colne, wrote a comprehensive diary which has made an important contribution to our understanding of family life in 17th century England.

The line descending from John and the first Sir Thomas rose to prominence in the 18th century. Robert Jocelyn became Lord Chancellor of Ireland and was elevated to the Irish Peerage as Baron Newport (1743) and Viscount Jocelyn (1755). The Irish earldom of Roden was created for his son Robert Jocelyn, Auditor General of Ireland, in 1770. Their descendants have continued to reside in Ireland although they retained the ownership of Hyde Hall until the early 20th century.

As with many old families the Jocelins have recorded their origins and progress in the Middle Ages with pride and a certain romanticism, often careless with the facts. The present study re-examines the family's story from its first established appearance in the late 12th century through to the early Tudor period.

The Name and its Origins

P.H. Reaney's Dictionary of English Surnames suggests that the name Jocelin derives from the Scandinavian tribe of Gaut with a diminutive form of Gautlin. The name which is found in England from about the 10th century is perhaps more likely to have been adopted as a form of homage to the Celtic St. Judoc, popularly known as St. Josse, a son of the 7th century Breton King Juthael. He lived part of his life near Ponthieu in Normandy and was buried in the Abbey of St. Josse sur Mer. In 902 a group of refugee monks from the Abbey brought the Saint's relics to the New Minster at Winchester where they were much venerated. The names Josse, Joce, and their diminutives Josselin and Jocelin may have described the early devotees of St. Josse both in Northern Europe and in England.

The Domesday Book (1086) records a good number of Breton and Norman settlers in England with the given names Goscelin, Gozelin and Joislan. The given names Gosselin, Josselin and Jocelin are found in English documents in the two hundred years following the

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Conquest, but were not used as surnames until the late 12th century. The spellings of the surname thereafter are many and various: Jocelyn, Jocelin, Josselin, Joscelyn, Joscelyne and Joslin are the most common; but until the 19th century they vary even within close families. I have used the spelling 'Jocelin' throughout this article for convenience and simplicity.

I have found absolutely no evidence in early documents to support the notion that the Chateau de Josselin in Brittany or perhaps that of Josselies near Charleroi in Belgium formed the bases for a toponymic or hereditary surname 'de Jocelin' in England during the 11th and 12th centuries. Nor have I found any evidence to support the conjecture that the Jocelin family is related to the 11th and 12th century St. Gilbert of Sempringham – one of the most treasured and often repeated family myths.

A passage from the Book of Abingdon (folio 159) dating from the reign of Henry I concerning a 'Jocelinus' refers to a member of the de Riviere or Rivers family and is not an early usage of Jocelin as a surname.

Early appearances of the surname from 1185.

Reaney refers to a Robert Goselin, probably a son of Goselin of Engleby in Lincolnshire, whose name is recorded as a benefactor of the Templars (1185). The Amundeville family, from whom this Goselin was probably descended, repeatedly used Joislán or Jollan as a given name in the late 11th and 12th centuries although descendants of Robert's family do not seem to have adopted it as a surname.

In 1203 William of Windsor granted a virgate of land in Stanwell in Middlesex to Jocelin Fitzhugh, rector of Stanwell, and his heirs. 'Richard son of Jocelin' held land in Stanwell Park by 1231. In 1253 Richard Jocelin son of Ralph leased the Park to Westminster Abbey; in 1271 Ralph Jocelin gave his house, a close called the Park and a carucate of land to Ankerwyke Priory in Buckinghamshire.

In 1207, Raymond Jocelin, a citizen of Winchester, pledged 5 shillings to Roger son of Adam sheriff of Hampshire. Stephen Jocelin, possibly his son, and Claremund his wife appear in a court case of 1241 in Hampshire, against Matilda de Buttstorn. In the same year Stephen, a merchant of Hampshire, had a claim concerning the wreck of one of his ships submitted to arbitration. It is just possible that this family is related to Joscelinus de Castele, a Portuguese merchant, who, in 1226, was given a licence by Henry III to trade in England.

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'Jocelin, son of Osbert' was Bailiff of the Hundreds of Calne in Wiltshire in the middle of the 13th century holding 1 ½ virgates in Bishopstrow in the Hundreds of Warminster, Wiltshire; his son Robert Gascelyn held Bishopstrow in about 1280. Robert left a son John Gacelyn who was 'of Bishopstrow' in 1311; Osbert Goscelyn lived there in 1319. Edmund Gacelyn was a Warden of the Royal Forest of Clarendon 1282-91 and Walter Jocelyn held the same post 1313-1324. Walter Gascelyn (presumably the same person) and Annice his wife asserted their disputed claim to a moiety of the manor of Norridge and held it until 1333, when it passed to his son William and then his sister Julia.

There are also a number of 'stray' Jocelins in the 13th and 14th centuries: Gilbert Jocelin witnessed a lease in Berkshire in about 1250, Roger Jocelin was a Burgess of Bristol in 1280, John Jocelin and his son Andrew were in business in Berkhamstead from 1290 and John Jocelin was a merchant of Norwich from 1350.

The Jocelin Family in the Thirteenth Century

RALPH JOCELIN (c.1160 – 1212).

There is no evidence to suggest that the family 'Jocelin of Hyde Hall' is related to any of the above families. Many standard reference books among them Burke's Peerage assert that Ralph's father was named Henry Jocelin and his grandfather James. These assertions are based upon the 17th century Raven and the Latin Pedigrees of the College of Arms (see Sources and Further Reading below). I have found no corroborative evidence in contemporary documents to support them.

The fact is that the ancestry of Ralph Jocelin is at present unknown. It is probable that he derived his surname from the given name of his father. He may have been a son of Goscelin (Goscelinus) de Rumeille whose name is recorded on an Essex Pipe Roll of 1180/1 (26 Henry II); or of Joce de Botendon, a near neighbour of the Beseville family in Northamptonshire.

We know from the records of the 'Fines of the Bench' that Ralph Jocelin and his wife Beatrice held the manor of Eston and Appletre in Northamptonshire in 1201. The manor, a substantial holding of some 700 acres (7 hides), had originally been part of a wedding gift given by Geoffrey I de Mandeville on the marriage of his daughter Beatrice to Geoffrey de Boulogne between 1066 and 1086 (the marriage is mentioned in the Domesday Book for Surrey); it passed into the de Beseville family through the marriage of a granddaughter of

Geoffrey and Beatrice to Hugh de Beseville. Ralph Jocelin acquired the property through his marriage to Beatrice de Beseville (Hugh's granddaughter) in the late 12th century.

In 1203 Ralph and Beatrice began a dispute with Beatrice's first cousin Maude (nee Beseville) and her second husband William Fleming over the ownership of three hides of land in Alton in Hampshire which had been purchased by Hugh de Beseville the grandfather of Beatrice and Maude. The fee to start this legal action remained unpaid for some nine years. The outcome is not known, but the Alton property is not one of those held by William de Duston the guardian of their son John during his minority (1212 to 1221/22).

Ralph must have added the manors of Hyde Hall and Selewes (Shellow Bowells) to his landholdings before his death in 1212, as they were held by William de Duston as John's guardian by 1218. Ralph may have acquired them through a second marriage: the Raven Pedigree suggests that he married Maude Hyde, daughter and heiress of Sir John Hyde. He may have married Maude after Beatrice's death in 1206. No other extant documents refer to this marriage

Ralph and Beatrice had only one known child, their son John.

JOHN JOCELIN (C1200 TO 1248).

While William de Duston was John's guardian, he entered into a dispute with the Prior of Chaucombe over John's right to present a clerk to the church of Eston. This had been ceded to the Priory by John's uncle Thomas de Beseville. In a court case held after John reached his majority (about 1221/2), John claimed that his uncle had been under some pressure from his former guardian, Hugh de Chaucombe, founder of the Priory, but he lost the case.

William de Duston was evidently a man of high ambition. While expanding his estates, he fell into debt both to King John and the young Henry III. When he died in 1217/18 his estates in five counties, including the three manors of Aston ('Eston') in Northamptonshire, the Hide ('Hida') on the borders of Essex and Hertfordshire and Selewes (the Domesday 'Scelga' later Shellows) in Essex which he evidently held in trust for John, were taken into the king's hands.

This seems to have presented a considerable problem when John came of age some three years later. It may be that he had to repay a portion of William's debts before he could receive his inheritance, but this is not at all clear. By a Fine Roll of 1224/5 his properties in Eston and Selewes were again taken into the king's hands. In 1232 he sold the manor of Eston to John of Lexington (a major figure in the court of Henry III), having rented it to him some years earlier. Part of the estate was also given to the Prior of Bradenstok. This may

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have settled his debt to the Crown and allowed him to inherit the manor of Selewes unencumbered.

The Hide does not seem to have been in contention. An undated document of the period refers to him as 'John son of Ralph Jocelin (of the) Hide.'

In the 14th year of the reign of Henry III (1229/30) John was given letters of protection 'for as long as he shall be in the service of the lord king beyond the seas.' This is the date of Henry III's war in France. He may have been rewarded for his service with a knighthood: 'Sir John Jocelin' is cited as a witness in a charter of Clement de Botendon a neighbour of the Jocelins in Northamptonshire.

Both pedigrees state that John was married to Katherine Battell/Battaille. They had a son, Thomas.

THOMAS I (1227-AFTER 1275).

The eldest sons of the next three generations were all called Thomas. The first must have been born in about 1227 as he appeared in a suit in the 33rd year of Henry III (1248/9) against one Robert Gregory, a villein who had run away. He granted to 'God and to the church of Blakemore all that land, with houses, orchards and all other things pertaining, which Richard Pickott once held of John the father of Thomas, in his town of Shellows, to be granted in pure and perpetual alms.'

There is a charter of the same year between the Prior of Blakemere, plaintiff, and Herbert a tenant of 100 acres in Shellows in which 'it is to be known that the aforesaid Herbert has given up to the aforesaid Prior all the charters and muniments which he had of the gift of John Jocelin, William Springfield &c.'

In 1274/5 he claimed to have View of Frankpledge in Shelewe and administration of the assize of bread and ale in the same town.

He married Maud. There is no evidence to support the often repeated claim that she was Maud Hyde and that she brought the Hide into the family. All the evidence shows the Hide to have been in the family since about 1210.

The first Thomas may have had two sons, a second Thomas and John, a merchant with a son Andrew living in Berkhamstead in Hertfordshire from 1290 (see Early Jocelins).

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Thomas II (?1250-86) married Joan, the daughter of John le Blunt from the neighbouring Sawbridgeworth manor of Blunt, possibly as his second wife as both College of Arms pedigrees have him also married to Alice Liston. Joan later married Thomas Marshall.

Thomas enfeoffed all his land in the Hide to John Horne. It was:

'a house (curia) with garden and courtyard, 140 acres of arable land in the fields called Langeland, La Doune, Wrechewellefeld, Hallefeld, Hydewode, Suthfeld and Wodeleye; nine free tenants of whom four paid a yearly rent, another four paid a rent and owed suit of court, and one paid a rent and came to view of frankpledge on St. Andrew's Day and owed two capons at Christmas; six 'molmen' who paid rent and owed suit of court, two of them being tallaged with the customary tenants; and four customary tenants who paid a rent and two works a week from Michaelmas to the Gules of August (forty-one weeks), and five works in the summer for mowing 2 acres of meadow, and sixteen works from the Gules of August to Michaelmas for cutting 4 acres of corn and two acres of oats, and also paid eight eggs and owed tallage and redemption of their blood and suit of court.'

He claimed to have View of Frankpledge in the manor of Shellows in 1284/85. He must have died in about 1286. Thomas II and Joan's two sons Thomas and Ralph were both minors at the time of their father's death.

Thomas III (1273/4-? 90). During the minority of Thomas III the rent from the Hyde was granted by the Tenant in Chief, Humphrey de Bohun, earl of Essex, to Sir Walter de Essex. In 1284 Ralph de Bygod, the executor of the will of Sir Walter, granted to Adam de Stratton the giving in marriage and the guardianship of the body of Thomas.

The widows of Thomas I and Thomas II, both of whom remarried, granted their rights of dower in land in Sawbridgeworth and in the Hide to Adam le Stratton during the minority of their son and grandson.

Thomas III died a minor and Ralph succeeded to his father's property.

The Fourteenth Century.

The fortunes of the Jocelin family may have been in serious decline during the fourteenth century. The main family holding in Scelewes was sold and Hyde Hall rented out. It is

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reasonable to suppose that the cataclysmic natural events of the century, the disastrous harvests of 1315 to 1317 and the Black Death (1348-9) had a direct bearing on this decline. It is not until the 15th century that we find a period of prosperity which laid the basis for the family's rise to power and influence in subsequent centuries.

Ralph II (1276-c1314).

'Essex. Proof of age taken before the king at Westminster at the end of 25 and the beginning of 26 Edw. I (1297). Whereas the said Ralph son and heir of Thomas Jocelyn deceased, whose lands came into the kings hand by the forfeiture of Adam de Stratton, who had the wardship by the demise of Humphrey de Bohun, earl of Hereford and Essex, says that he is of full age and seeks the lands &c. which are in the hands of William de Hamelton by the king's grant, and has been given a day on the octave of St. Michael to prove his age, the sheriff was bidden to summon jurors, and to warn the said William which he did: the parties appeared and the said William gave no reason for delaying.'

He married Maud/Matilda Sutton, a daughter of Sir John Sutton, in about 1296 and held the manorial court at Shellows in 1298. He held one and a half Knights fees in Shellow and Sawbridgeworth. He was in arrears of 'ferm' (tax) for the manor of Spishe (Pishobury) Manor which he ("the lord Ralph') owed from the time when he was 'Keeper ('Custos') of the aforesaid manor by grant of the King.'

Sometime between then and 1309 his two manors of the Hide and Shellow Bowells seem to have been seized by the Crown perhaps for this indebtedness, repurchased or otherwise obtained by his father-in-law Sir John Sutton, and restored by him to Ralph and Matilda. A Charter of 1309 quoted in Ms.4944 (3) records the gift of the Hyde by Sir John Sutton to Ralph and Matilda.

He then became a Commissioner to collect tax in Hertfordshire for the war in Scotland.

Ralph died in about 1314. His wife Maud survived him by some forty years. She married secondly Roger de Berners in 1315, by whom she had a second son, and died in 1354.

Geoffrey I (1297-1362).

Ralph II's son Geoffrey was evidently born in 1297/8. Both pedigrees state that he married Margaret the daughter of Robert Rockell: he signed his first charter in 1319 when he must have been at least 21 and was a witness to various charters between 1319 and 1361/2. In 14 Edward III (1340/41) there is a record of

'a proceeding and a suit which was in the court of the lord king, between Geoffrey Jocelin of Sawbridgeworth, plaintiff, and Robert le Marshall and Margery his wife tenants of the

manor of Shelewe Jocelin, which ought to descend to the aforesaid Geoffrey as son and heir of Ralph Jocelin by the terms of a gift made by John Sutton, knight, to the aforesaid Ralph and Matilda his wife'.

Geoffrey in the same year made acquittance to Robert (referred to in an indenture of 1339/40 as Robert de Morlee, Marshall of Ireland) for money received for the purchase of the reversion of the manor of Scelewes; he gave up to Robert and Margery his right in the manor excepting a payment of £6 a year to his mother; Matilda also ceded them one messuage and certain lands in Willingale.

Geoffrey seems soon afterwards to have acquired the Lordship of Great Hormead as he held his first court there 'on Friday next after the feast of St. Mark the Evangelist in the year of 16 Edward III' (26 April 1342). This is the only mention of the family's Lordship of the manor of Great Hormead.

Geoffrey died sometime after the 35th year of the reign of Edward III (1361/62), when his name appears on a Charter relating to a land transfer.

Geoffrey and Matilda had one known son, Ralph.

Ralph III (c1330-1384).

Ralph III married Margaret the daughter and one of the heirs of John Patmer. In 1373/4 Ralph is recorded as holding a moiety of one knight's fee in the Hide near Sawbridgeworth. His name appears on various charters throughout the remaining years of the reign of Edward III and the first six years of Richard II. He had died by 1384/85. They had two sons Thomas and Geoffrey

Thomas IV (c1363-1407).

In a charter dated the 8th year of Richard II (1384/5), Thomas the son and heir of Ralph Jocelin of Sawbridgeworth granted to Thomas Mandeule, knight, one piece of meadow &c. in the town of Sheering. Various other charters recording land deals cover the years up to 1407 when he seems to have passed his estates onto his brother Geoffrey II and died soon afterwards. The Raven pedigree states that Thomas IV was married to Maud of Braintree. They evidently had no surviving children.

Geoffrey II (c1367-1424/5).

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Thomas's brother Geoffrey married twice to Catherine and to Joan. The maiden names of neither of these wives is certain. It is equally uncertain which of his six children were born of which wife.

Geoffrey's name is found on numerous charters as a principal or witness from 1388/89 to 1394/5. Before inheriting his estates from his brother, Geoffrey took part in the Irish campaign of Richard II in 1394. He returned safely from the wars and was concerned with further charters during the reigns of Richard II, Henry IV, Henry V and Henry VI. In particular, he was first witness to a series of charters concerning Shingle Hall in Dunmow between 1401/2 and 1410/11.

A charter of Richard Ketteringham was witnessed by Geoffrey and his son Thomas in 1423/4. Robert House and others gave up their right in the manor of Hyde Hall by a charter dated on the morrow of St. John the Apostle and Evangelist in the third year of the reign of Henry VI (28 December 1424). Three days later Geoffrey made a charter giving to John Berley and others his manor of Hyde Hall. A letter of attorney dated the following 4 January gave delivery of seisin of the manor in conformity with the charter. On 7 January following he made his will and died probably on 20 February 1424/25.

'The last will of the aforesaid Geoffrey Jocelin, made on the Sunday in Epiphany, the 7th day of January 1424/5 and the third year of Henry VI, by which he willed that the aforesaid John Berley and others, his feoffees of the aforesaid manor of Hyde Hall &c, should surrender their right &c into the hands of Thomas Jocelin, his son and heir, to be held by him and by the heirs of his body in conformity with the charter made by John Sutton, knight, to Ralph Jocelin and Matilda his wife, daughter of the aforesaid John Sutton, knight, provided that Joan the wife of the same Geoffrey should have one third part of the manor aforesaid by way of dower &c. Item, he willed that his feoffees aforesaid should grant his other lands to Joan his wife for the term of her life; remainder therein to Geoffrey his son and to the heirs of his body; and (if these should fail) the remainder to William his son &c; the remainder to Ralph his son &c; and if (he should die without heir) then the remainder to Margery and Elizabeth his daughters'.

A brass memorial to Geoffrey and his two wives Katherine and Joan lies still in the parish church of St. Mary in Sawbridgeworth. It curiously and erroneously states that Geoffrey died in 1470.