

## **The Fifteenth Century.**

### **THE HEIRS OF GEOFFREY II from 1425 to 1525.**

Geoffrey (d.1424/5) gave birth to three branches of the family: the heirs of his eldest son Thomas V and the two lines descending from Geoffrey's second son, Geoffrey III, through his sons John II ('of Sheering') and Thomas VI ('of Stortford'). Geoffrey's two younger sons William (a clergyman) and Ralph IV (Lord Mayor of London) had no surviving children. Ralph IV died on 23 March 1478/9 leaving his nephew **George I** as his heir. Nothing further is known of Geoffrey II's daughters Margery and Elizabeth

**Thomas V 1402-1442.** His name first appears with his father as a witness in a charter of 5 March 1423/4. He was the chief beneficiary of his father's will a year later.

In a charter of 1442 'John Burley and others made over to George Jocelin, the son of Thomas the son of Geoffrey Jocelin of Sawbridgeworth the manor of Hyde Hall with all its lands.' Thomas probably died in that year. He was married according to the College of Arms pedigrees to Alice a daughter of Lewis Duke.

**George I 1428-1481** seems to have been their only child. It is fairly certain that he was born in about 1428 as there is evidence that he was 50 or more at the time of the death of his uncle Ralph in 1478. He must have died in or after 1481/2 when his name is last seen as a witness on a charter. The College of Arms pedigrees state that he married Maud the daughter of Edmund Bardolph. They had three sons Ralph V, John III, and Philip I who was Vicar of Great St. Mary's Sawbridgeworth 1487 to 1509.

George's name first appears as a witness on charters in the 23<sup>rd</sup> year of the reign of Henry VI 1449/50 when he must have attained the age of 21, although, as noted above, John Burley who had been given the tenancy of Hyde Hall by George's Grandfather Geoffrey II in 1424, gave it to George, then aged about 13, at his father Thomas's death in 1442. In a 1454/5 a charter witnessed by Peter Arderne, Chief Baron of the Treasury and John and Thomas Leventhorpe, George gave (one supposes leased) the manor of Hyde Hall with all its lands to Thomas Partrich; but shortly afterwards Partrich passed the lease to George's uncle Ralph 'citizen and draper of London'. Hyde Hall remained in Ralph's possession until he willed it back to George I in 1478. George I bequeathed it to his eldest son Ralph V two years later.

During the 15<sup>th</sup> and early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries George and his son Ralph added to the Halingbury landholdings of the family. In 1456/7, Nicholas Wright gave to George Josselin and others lands and tenements in Halingbury by charter. In another charter of 1480 Roger Hammond

gave to George Jocelin esquire and his son Ralph his right in land in Halingbury. This was followed ten years later by another charter in which Richard and William Clerke and others gave up to Ralph Jocelin and Katherine his wife and Ralph's brothers Phillip and John all their lands and tenements in Halingbury. In 1502 there is an indenture between William Capell, knight, and Ralph Josselin gent touching land in Hatfield and Halingbury.

### **John III of Newhall (before 1457 to 1525)**

The outstanding figure of the following generation was **John III 'of Newhall'** George's second son. He first appears on record in 1478/79 when he was granted the office of Auditor by Sir Walter Devereux, the Lord Ferrers of Chatley. This Sir Walter was a committed Yorkist who was slain at the battle of Bosworth Field (1485) fighting in the van against John de Vere, 13<sup>th</sup> Earl of Oxford. In 1481/2 John Lymbard granted to John Browne and John Jocelin gent the manor of Freres in Sawbridgeworth. In 1494 (probably should be 1484) Henry Bouchier, earl of Essex, a relative of Walter Devereux, granted to John Jocelin the office of receiver. In 1485 William Viscount Beaumont and others gave up to John Jocelin his auditor his house in Maiden Street London by an indenture.

In 1487 he was appointed auditor general and councillor to John de Vere, a post he held, serving the 13<sup>th</sup> earl and his successors, until his death 37 years later. His services to the higher ranks of the aristocracy were apparently so much appreciated that the King in 1487 issued a letter patent declaring that 'John Jocelin of High Roding need not become a knight or a sheriff' i.e. he was exempted from service to the Royal Administration. The letter patent also shows that John Jocelin had by this time moved into Newhall in High Roding which was to remain the principal place of residence of the family in the next two generations.

After the death of his elder brother Ralph in 1504 John set about consolidating the family holdings in the land stretching north from Sawbridgeworth along the river Stort towards Stortford. First he purchased Hyde Hall from his sister in law Catherine and nephews George II and Gabriel; second in 1513 he reorganised the landholdings of his cousins Ralph, Philip and Geoffrey, the sons of John II 'of Sheering', who then or thereafter resided in Canfield Magna, so that their properties in Halingbury passed into his hands.

*'Ralph Josselin of Canfield Magna is bound to John Josselin esquire, by an obligation dated 15 January 1513 for assuring to the same John certain land in Sawbridgeworth and Little Halingbury which formerly was of John Josselin of Sheering, the father of the aforesaid Ralph; and that Philip Josselin and Geoffrey Josselin brothers of the aforesaid Ralph, and John Josselin son and heir of the aforesaid Ralph, should release....Ralph Josselin has given*



*John Josselin Esq and others the land and tenements aforesaid by a charter dated 15 November 1513.*

The extent of the family holdings in Hyde Hall and Halingbury is given in the deed of sale attached to the transaction with his sister in law Catherine and his nephew George II:

*The manor of Hyde Hall: four messuages, four hundred acres of land, forty acres of meadow, one hundred acres of pasture, and twenty acres of wood in Sabrichworth and Little Halingbury in co. Herts, and of sixty acres of land, ten acres of meadow and ten acres of pasture in Little Halingbury in co. Essex. (We suppose that the landholdings he obtained from the children of John of Sheering were additional to this).*

John married twice. His first wife was Cecily FitzHerbert (nee Molineux); the two children of that marriage predeceased him. His second wife was also a widow: Philippa Barley (nee Bradbury) a sister of Thomas Bradbury, Lord Mayor of London. Their only son Thomas succeeded to his father's now considerable estates in 1525 when he was just 18 having married in the previous year Dorothy Gates. There were also two daughters born to John's second marriage, Anne and Joan.

John de Vere earl of Oxford died in 1513 and was succeeded by his nephew whose dissolute ways were a matter of some concern to Cardinal Wolsey who, in 1524, consigned the routine management of Oxford's lands to a small council headed by John Jocelin. This was a short-lived arrangement since Jocelin died in 1525 and the 14<sup>th</sup> earl a year later.

### **John II 'of Sheering' and his descendants.**

John was the eldest of two sons of Geoffrey III, the second son of Geoffrey II. He was married to Anne and had three sons Ralph, Philip and Geoffrey.

He first appears in 1467 when John Bonke of Sawbridgeworth gave 'John Jocelin son of Geoffrey Jocelin deceased' certain lands in Sawbridgeworth by charter.

A long and complex series of charters from 1513 show that 'divers lands' in Sawbridgeworth and Halingbury came to John through the wills or charters of his father and grandfather which he eventually passed on to his son Ralph. These lands then reverted, after Ralph's death to his second cousin John III 'of Newhall Jocelin'. The latter John in his will of 1525 left all his property to his only surviving son Thomas, with reversion to his nephews and then to

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his kinsmen, John of Sheering's three sons Ralph, Philip and Geoffrey. Thomas lived on, and had heirs.

There is a story of uncertain provenance that John of Sheering fought in the Wars of the Roses for the Lancastrian cause and at one stage had his property confiscated by the Yorkists. He made his will on 27 March 1513 and died on 9 April in the same year.

While both Ralph and Philip had male heirs, their descent peters out after the second or third generation. The descent from John of Sheering is through his third son Geoffrey and leads to the family of **Josselin of Little Horkesley**.

#### **Thomas Jocelin of Stortford and his descendants.**

Thomas was witness to the will of his brother John 'of Sheering' in 1513. He died on 15 May 1514 leaving two sons John and Richard and his wife Joan.

Thomas of Stortford's elder son John left a will dated 9 January 1525 leaving a wife Eleanor (or Helenora); and a young family: John the elder, Simon, John the younger and Thomas his sons; Alice and Agnes his daughters; and Richard his brother.

John the Elder's great grandson Thomas and his family left for New England in 1635; another great grandson was Ralph Josselin of Earls Colne, the Diarist; from Simon descended the Joslin families who lived in Felsted, Rayne and Braintree during the 17<sup>th</sup> century, some of whom later adopted the surname Joscelyne.

Eleanor married again, to John Neville: her will is dated 1537; her daughter Alice seems to have married her step-father's brother.

Richard Jocelin, John of Stortford's younger brother, is shown as paying 18 pence in taxes in 1513/14 and 11 shillings and 6 pence in 1523-24, in 'Halingbury Bowser' and Little Halingbury. In 1537 he is a witness to the will of his sister in law Helenora Neville. Finally he is mentioned in the will of his son John 'of Little Halingbury' dated 19 April 1560 when he must have been some 70 years old.



## Sources and further reading

### The Jocelin Family

There is a short biography of Ralph twice Lord Mayor of London in the History of Parliament (currently being revised). John of Newhall's story can be figured out from the various excerpts concerning him in Harlean Ms 4944 in the British Library. His service with the earls of Oxford is described in 'English Noblemen and their Advisors' in the Journal of English Studies No. 25 (April 1986). There are useful short biographies in the Dictionary of National Biography for John, scholar and antiquarian; John and Henry, early visitors and settlers in New England, John the diarist, and the family of the earls of Roden. The 'Raven' pedigree is in Ms.4944; I have been unable to locate the 'Latin' pedigree in the British Library. However they have both been published in the Visitations of Essex by Walter C. Metcalfe (London 1878). My article in the Josselin Journal issue 48 (Summer 2011) 'The Josselyns in the Tudor Courts' may also be of interest.

The standard work on the Jocelin family was written by Elizabeth French for the New England Historical and Genealogical Society in 1917. Inevitably her work was limited by the difficulties of both accessing and assessing source material at the time. But it remains to this day the only serious piece of published genealogical research into the origins of Jocelin family. It is easy to be critical of Mrs French's work: historical and genealogical studies have advanced quite considerably since her time. She accepts the conjectures of many secondary sources, like the two pedigrees of the College of Arms, without question. On the other hand she does seem to question or ignore the veracity of the excerpts from historical documents filed with Harlean manuscript 4944, quite wrongly in my view. She also makes a number of guesses in places where evidence is lacking. The chief value of her work is the scrupulous research she carried out in the printed collections of primary sources and the very clear and orderly way in which she lays out the results of her research

'The Raven Pedigree' (Harlean Manuscript 4944 in the British Library) drawn up by John Raven, the Richmond Herald, after the 1612 Visitations of Essex by the College of Arms, for all its faults, provides a starting point for the construction of the family line. A second pedigree 'The Latin Pedigree' dated 1627 was possibly written in connection with the Grant of Arms to Thomas Josselin in 1633/4 after the Visitation of London. It takes the Jocelin line back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century (a leap in the dark for which there is absolutely no evidence).

Apart from the Raven Pedigree, Harlean Ms.4944 also comprises (as noted above) a collection of excerpts from historical documents relating to the Jocelin family; and descriptions and sketches of Jocelin tombs and monuments with a number of document extracts in addition. The excerpts from historical documents were translated into English

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from the Latin by Mr R.B. Allnutt in 1976. It is probable that it was originally drawn up by the College of Arms during their 1612 Visitation of Essex.

Many of these excerpts can be found in other archives and collections; others remain invaluable as the only remaining copies of key documents.

Much confusion has been caused by the entry for the Earls of Roden in Lodge's Peerage of Ireland revised by Mervyn Archdall in 1789. Its speculation on the origins of the family is wholly fanciful.

The American family, descendants of Thomas Joslin, his wife Rebecca Jude and their two sons Abraham and Nathaniel, has been well documented. In 1999 Donald A and May Joslin published 'Nathaniel and Sarah Joslin and their descendants.' In 2009 Carolyn Treadway revised, expanded and corrected the work of her mother Edith S. Wessler in 'The Josselyn Family in America 1635-2009 – Abraham Josselyn and Beatrice Hampson and their descendants.' They were both published privately.

#### **The Name and its Origins.**

See Reaney and Wilson, a Dictionary of English Surnames. For St. Josse see Butler's Lives of the Saints (Michael Walsh ed. 1991). There is also a useful short article in Wikipedia under St. Judoc.

There is a good biography of St Gilbert of Sempringham by Brian Golding (2004). Gilbert had a brother Roger and a sister Agnes. Roger evidently had no heirs as the inheritance passed to his sister Agnes. See also Domesday Descendants (Keats Rohan) page 901.

For Jocelyn de Riviere see Domesday Descendants page 666.

#### **Early Jocelins**

Reaney and Wilson also refer to the entry for Robert Jocelin in the record of English benefactors to the Templars (1185). This Robert appears in a Foot of Fine of 10 Richard I. Further references to probably the same family are to Goscelin de Engleby and his son William Fitz Jollan in the Red Book of the Exchequer (ed. Hall 1897) and the Book of Fees (HMSO 1920-31) page 192.

Richard son of Jocelin and his family are referred to in Victoria County History of Middlesex Vol. 3 pages 36-41. There is mention of the same family, as descendants of Jocelin Fitzhugh in Daniel Lyson's 'A Historical Account of ... Parishes in the County of Middlesex ....' (1800).

Raymond and Stephen Jocelin, merchants of Southampton, are mentioned in the Fine Rolls of 9 John, 25 Henry III, and the Patent Rolls of 25 Henry III.



The Wiltshire Jocelins are referred to in the Victoria History of Wiltshire Volume VII pages 2, 8, and 81. The Wardens of Clarendon Forest are in Appendix B of Volume IV page 41. There are further references to this family in the Temple and Money-Kyrle archives in the Wiltshire Record Office.

The reference to Roger Jocelin is to be found at the Bath and North Somerset Record Office at BC 151/2/81; to Gilbert Jocelin in the Berkeley Castle Muniments BCM/B/1/1/83; John and his son Andrew of Berkhamstead in Chancery Certificates of Statute C241/14/1 (from 1290) in the UK National Archives; John Jocelin (? Goscelyn) in the Chancery Extent for Debts series 1 C131/1/179//21 (1355-63) in the National Archives.

### ***The Thirteenth Century***

#### **Ralph Jocelin (? 1160-1212).**

Ms.4944 quotes from 'The Fines of the Bench' (records of the Court of Common Pleas) which has a case of 3 John (1201/2) between Ralph Jocelin, plaintiff, and Adam de Eston, tenant of land in Eston, Northamptonshire; and another in 4 John between Abraham the son of Ralph, and Ralph Jocelin and Beatrice his wife, tenants of land in Eston aforesaid. My source is Ms. 4944 (2): I have been unable to locate the Feet of Fines for Northamptonshire for this period.

Ralph appears as a witness to an early 13<sup>th</sup> century charter of William de Stanton giving 5 acres of land to Robert, Prior of Dailenton (Northamptonshire Record Office A9). There are further references to Ralph and Beatrice in the Pipe Rolls for Hampshire and Northamptonshire 1203-1212.

We know Beatrice to be a Beseville from Bracton's Notebook, A Collection of Cases, edited by F.W. Maitland in which young John Jocelin under the guidance of his Guardian William de Duston sought to reverse a charter of Beatrice's brother, Thomas Beseville, granting the advowson of Easton to the abbey of Chaucombe:

*'In 1222 John Joscelin sued to have the right to present to the church of Easton, co Northampton. John stated he was a minor in the custody of William de Duston who had appointed a clerk to this post in John's name. However, the prior of Chaucombe stated that Thomas Beseville, the uncle of John Joscelin, gave the church of Easton by charter to the priory of Chaucombe and that Hugh, Bishop of Lincoln, confirmed the gift. John Joscelin responded that Thomas de Beseville was his uncle and that Thomas made his charter while he was in the custody of Hugh de Chaucombe, founder of Chaucombe Priory. John stated his ancestor, Wm. de Beseville, presented the last person before the charter was made [no date given]. In a subsequent 1224 case, three men swore on oath that Thomas was of full age*

*and held lands and was not in custody when he made the gift. The court found in favour of the Priory'.*

The ancestry of Beatrice de Beseville is given in 'the Jocelins and the Besevilles' (Richard Joscelyne and Kimball Anderson) published by the Josselin Society in 2013.

Goscelinus de Rumeille: there is mention of the Rumeille family in J.H. Round 'Geoffrey de Mandeville A Study of the Anarchy'. He notes that it is an unusual name. Keats Rohan (Domesday Descendants the Boydell Press 2002, pages 674-5) has entries for a Robert de Rumelio who came from Remilly, Manche, Normandy and held the barony of Skipton. His heir was his daughter Cecily who married William de Meschin of Egremont. She had two sons Ranulf and Matthew and two daughters Alice and Avis. Ranulf and Matthew must have predeceased their mother as the inheritance passed on her death in 1151/55 to their sisters. Keats Rohan notes separately a Matthew de Rumilly whose father's lands were confirmed to him in the Empress Maude's Charter to Geoffrey de Mandeville of 1141. He occurs as a benefactor of Biddlesdon priory to which he gave land in Helmdon Northamptonshire, confirmed by Robert Bishop of Lincoln in 1148/51. Given that this name is an unusual one, it seems likely that Goscelin de Rumeille was related to this family, although the exact line of descent is obscure. Richard Fitz Goscelin (possibly Ralph's brother) and his wife Katherine are recorded in a Foot of Fine of 10 Richard (1198) concerning the transfer of 6 acres of land in Springfield in Essex. This suggests a link with the Beseville family which had held the manor of Springfield since the reign of Henry I.

For Joce de Botindon see Keats Rohan, Domesday Descendants page 342. She refers to W. Farrer, Honours and Knight's Fees (Manchester 1923-25); and Franklin, Cartulary of Daventry Priory (1988), No. 434. The Warwickshire County Record Office has an undated Charter (probably of about 1230) in which 'Sir John Jocelin' is the principal witness to a charter of Clement the heir of Robert de Botindon. Another witness is William son of Joce de Botindon (ref. L1/28). Another Charter in the Rutland Record Office of roughly the same date or earlier refers to a 'Robert Champion of Botyndon' probably the same Robert.

#### **John (1203-1248).**

John's guardian William de Duston is mentioned in the extract from Bracton's Cases, see above. The Fine Rolls Project (University College London and others, available on the internet) has an Order to the Sheriff of Essex of 7 September 1218 'to take into the king's hand the land of ..... William of Duston in Hida and in Selewes...'. There is a similar order to the sheriff of Northamptonshire, which includes Eston ('Easton').



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It is odd that the order dated 1225/26 taking John Jocelin's lands in Eston and Selewes back into the king's hands is not available through the Fine Rolls Project, but is known to us through Ms. 4944.

John's holding of the Hide is suggested by an evidently corrupt extract from a charter in Ms.4944: 'John the chaplain, son of Michael of Sawbridgeworth, has given to Simon the son of Roger of the Hide all the land which he held of John the son of Ralph Jocelin the Hide &c'. I guess this should read 'John Jocelin of the Hide'. But it might refer to the piece of land which is being transferred.

The transfer of Eston to Robert of Lexington and the Prior of Bradenstok is recorded in two Charter Rolls:

*February 4 1232. Gift to Robert de Lexinton 'of John Joscelin all his lands in Eston and Apeltre which the said Robert de Lexinton formerly held of him for the term of 20 years'.*

*June 25 1232: grant to the Prior and Canons of Bradenstok of various gifts made to them; 'of the gift of John Joscelin a virgate and a messuage in Apeltre and six acres in the fields of Eston.'*

John's service in France is recorded in a Patent Roll of 14 Henry II (1229/30): 'John Joscelin has Letters of Protection as long as he shall be of service to the lord king abroad.'

### **Three Thomases (1248- 1297).**

Most of our knowledge of these three generations is derived from Ms.4944. The following however is taken from a manuscript still I believe in possession of the Earls of Roden:

*'Thomas, son of John Jocelyn, sendeth greetings &c. grants to God and the church of St Mary and St Laurence de Blackmore and the canons serving God there, for the salvation of his own soul and of his own ancestors, totum terra, cum Domibus et hortis, et omnibus aliis pertinentiis, quan Clericus Pecket aliquando tenuit de Joanne Patre meo in Villa mea de Selges, quae terra vocatur Capell. Testibus, Willielmo filio Thomae de Clare, Tho de la Maca, et aliis.'*

The two Thomases and Ralph were evidently Lords of the Manor of Selewes which they held as Tenants in Chief (i.e. directly from the Crown) and ran the Manorial Court: they were responsible for the organisation of frankpledge and the administration of the assizes of

bread and ale. 'Frankpledge' was the system in which every householder was organised into a group of some 12 people each of which was responsible for the good behaviour of group members. The manorial court was also responsible in rural areas for the regulation and supervision of the price, weight, and quality of bread and ale.

The description of the manorial rights of Hyde Hall comes from the Victoria History of the County of Hertfordshire. It refers to 'Rentals and Surveys Portfolio 8 No. 31'. The County History also refers to a bundle of 'Ministers' Accounts' 868 No. 1-5 for the years Edward I 12-19 which cover the domestic economy of Hyde Hall for those years. This passage illustrates very well the complex system of duties and obligations which characterise the feudal system: a tallage was a form of taxation. 'Suit of Court' entails an obligation to attend the manorial court.

Adam de Stratton was an ambitious and notoriously corrupt and devious official of Edward I. During the minority of Thomas and Ralph he evidently managed to take over the dowers of the widows Thomases I and II. However he was later put on trial for his misdemeanours and being found guilty was stripped of his wealth and offices.

*Nicholas Villiers and Matilda his wife, sometime wife of Thomas Jocelin, has given up to Adam of Stratton all their right in one third part of all the land of the Hide which at one time belonged to the aforesaid Thomas &c. In the year 15 Edward I (1287/8).*

*'Release by Joan de la Le, late wife of Thomas Jocelin the elder, to Sir Adam Stratton, clerk, of all her right of dower in the land and tenements of her late husband in Sabristesworth, during the minority of the heirs of Thomas, son of Thomas Jocelin.'* (Exchequer: Treasury of Receipt. Ancient Deeds Series AE 40/5130. UK Archives).

### **The Fourteenth Century.**

#### **Ralph II and Geoffrey I.**

The issue of Ralph's indebtedness to the Crown was not resolved until some years after his death:

*'Roger de Berners and Matilda his wife, who was the wife of Ralph Jocelin deceased, are exonerated from arrears of the ferm of the manor of Spishe which the lord Ralph owed from the time when he was Keeper ('Custos') of the aforesaid manor by grant of the king, because the same Roger and Matilda do not possess any lands that belonged to the aforesaid Ralph except the manor of the Hide in the parish of Sawbridgeworth and a messuage and land in*



*Shelewe Jocelin, in which the same Matilda was jointly enfeoffed with the aforesaid Ralph before he became a debtor of the king.' The Exchequer Memorandum Rolls for 17 Edward I.*

This of course does not make the situation any clearer: why then did Sir John Sutton have to return the two properties to his son in law and daughter? That he did so is clear as regards Hyde Hall in the charter quoted in Ms.4944 (3) and over a hundred years later in the Will of Geoffrey III in 1424; and as regards Shellows in the 'proceeding and suit' of Geoffrey I is largely recorded in Ms. 4944 (2).

The key event of Geoffrey's life was the sale of the manor of Shelewe Jocelin to Robert Marshall in 1329 although the sale seems to have been a matter of contention. It was held by his mother Matilda 'for the term of her natural life'. She died in 1352.

Sir John Sutton is listed as a Knight of the Shire attending Edward I's 1305 Parliament (Essex Record Office). He and his father Richard were major Essex landowners holding the manors of Sutton in Stapleford Tawney and Theydon Mount among others in the early 14<sup>th</sup> century. The date of birth of his daughter Matilda/Maude show that this family was probably not related to the Sutton/Dudley family of Staffordshire (although this latter family inherited the manor of Easton through marriage from John of Lexinton). See also my article on the Jocelins and the Suttons (Josselin Journal Issue 44 Summer 2009).

### **Ralph III, Thomas IV and Geoffrey II.**

Most of our knowledge of these two generations of Jocelins comes from Ms.4944. The marriage of Ralph III to Margaret Patmore seems to have been of some importance given the decline in the Jocelin family fortunes during the period:

*'Geoffrey Jocelin, brother and heir of Thomas the son and heir of Margaret, the daughter and one of the heirs of John Patmere, the son and heir of John Patmere and Sarah his wife, the which John was the son of Philip.' 13 Henry IV (1411/12) (Ms.4944).*

Geoffrey's war service is well-documented in two Letters Patent (in Calendar of Patent Rolls 1391-1396) also quoted in Ms.4944.

*'An indenture between Thomas de Percey, steward of the King's household, and Geoffrey Jocelin, esquire, for the maintenance of Geoffrey himself with two archers to serve in the kingdom of Ireland. Dated 17 August, 18 Richard II (1394).'*

*'Geoffrey Jocelin of County Hertford, who is about to depart in the service of the king, in the company of the king's beloved and faithful kinsman, Thomas de Percy, steward of his*

*household, has letters of protection of the king for half a year. Witnessed by the king 17th August 18 Richard II (1394).'*

The Raven pedigree got Geoffrey II's sons wrong, omitting Geoffrey III and calling his clergyman son a second Thomas rather than William. The 'Latin' pedigree includes Thomas, Geoffrey, Margery and Elizabeth but omits William and Ralph.

See also my article 'The Sawbridgeworth Brass' (Josselin Journal Issue 46 September 2010.)

### **Thomas V and his heirs.**

There is very little information available about Geoffrey's elder son Thomas V. He seems to have been born quite late in Geoffrey's life, possibly by his first wife Catherine. His son was the first George.

The status of Hyde Hall during this period is uncertain. It is however certain from Geoffrey II's will and other documents that the property was intended by Sir John Sutton to remain permanently in the hands of the Jocelin family. But for whatever the reason the family chose not to reside in it for the larger part of the subsequent period and leased it to a succession of tenants. The lease seems then to have been formally returned to the family as each new generation came into their inheritance.

George inherited from his father Thomas when he was still a minor (in 1442); it is not clear what happened to Hyde Hall until 12 years later when it was leased to Thomas Partrich. Almost immediately Ralph Jocelin, Thomas's uncle, took over the lease from Partrich; returning it back to his nephew George in his will 24 years later. George bequeathed it to his elder son Ralph.

There is a Final Concord from a Feet of Fines made at Westminster on 5 June 1513 between John Jocelin, Thomas Jocelin (his son), John Colt and William Barley (one guesses related to Philippa Barley, John's second wife), querents, and George Jocelin deforciant of the manor of Hydehall which is effectively the sales document passing Hyde Hall from George II to his uncle John 'of Newhall Jocelin':

*'four messuages, four hundred acres of land, forty acres of meadow, one hundred acres of pasture, and twenty acres of wood in Sabricheworth and Little Halingbury on co. Essex. Plea of Covenant. George has acknowledged the manor and tenements to be the right of John Jocelin, and has granted for himself and his heirs the manor and tenements which Katherine Jocelin holds for life for the heirs of the aforesaid George the day on which this concord was made, and which after the death of Katherine ought to revert to George and his heirs; but*



*after the death of Katherine they shall remain wholly to John, Thomas, John and William, and the heirs of John Jocelin the manor and tenements against all men for ever. And for this John, Thomas, John and William have given to George 100 marks.*

Katherine was John's sister in law, the widow of his elder brother Ralph. Thomas Jocelin was John's only surviving son by his second wife Philippa, the two sons from his first wife Cecily having died before 1513. John Colt and William Barley must have helped to finance the sale and may have subsequently held a mortgage on Hyde Hall.

John of Newhall's will of 1524 shows the full extent of the properties he accumulated in his lifetime:

*'My manor farm once called Davyes and now Newhall Josselyn in High Roding. A tenement called Bacon's. Tenements in Canfield and Much Dunmowe called Mayes and Sanders. Land called Bradbuchopes in Aythorpe Rodyng. Manor of Merks in Tyllingham. Manor of Shyngilhalle alias Olives and Medling in Great Dunmowe. Lands in Hatfield called Philpotts and Roberds. An annuity out of lands in Little Canfield called Hodyngs. Lands in Shellow Bowells. Lands in Great Dunmowe called Wallrams. Manors of Keers and Highins in co. Essex. Manor of Hidehall in co. Herts. Messuage and land called FitzJohns in Much Waltham and Wrights in Litell Halyngbury. My lease for nineteen years of the manor of Much Canfield.'*

### **Geoffrey III and his heirs.**

Part of Geoffrey II's estate passed to his second son Geoffrey III through Joan, Geoffrey II's second wife as indicated in his will. This portion then passed to John 'of Sheering' and to his sons and grandsons. In 1513 the inheritance passed to their cousin John III 'of Newhall'. It is not at all clear why John of Sheering's family should have surrendered their inheritance in this way. It is possible that John III resettled the family on his estate in Canfield as a quid pro quo.

A pedigree of the family descending from John 'of Sheering' 'Josselyn of Little Horkesley' was published in 'Genealogical Memoranda showing the Armorial Bearings of the family of Josselin' signed by A.S.Scott-Gatty the York Herald at the College of Arms on 30 September 1902. It opens with John of Sheering. This pedigree is preceded by 'The Josselyn pedigree from A.D.1200 to A.D. 1470' based, it says, on a comparison of the pedigrees in Clutterbuck's and Chauncey's "Histories of co. Hertford", Morant's "History of Essex", Lodge's "Peerage of Ireland" and Harleian "Visitations of Essex". This surprisingly is less

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reliable than other published pedigrees. Since all these pedigrees must have used the Raven Pedigree as their primary source, it is odd that the York Herald should have double-checked with all these subsequently published works.

The key documents are the wills of John of Sheering, and Thomas and John of Stortford. They are quoted in Ms.4944 but were evidently not spotted by Elizabeth French. Mrs French wrongly guessed that the brothers John the elder and Simon of Fyfield were the sons of Ralph a grandson of John of Sheering through his eldest son, also Ralph. An attachment to a letter from the earl of Roden to Roger Joslyn, written by his youngest son James, dated 1 February 1970 gives the now discredited line of descent from the non-existent Geoffrey 'brother of Gilbert of Sempringham;'; and states that only two lines descend from Geoffrey II: the Hyde Hall line and the Josselyns of Little Horkesley. This is surely not so, but this old family tradition may have misled Mrs French.

Extracts from the wills of John of Sheering, Thomas of Stortford, and John of Stortford which establish the descent of John 'the Elder' (the great grandfather of Thomas the migrant to the New England in 1635) are all in Ms. 4944. This descent is confirmed by the will of Eleanor (Helenora) Neville in the collection of Jocelin wills in the Essex Record Office. Eleanor was the wife firstly of John of Stortford and secondly of John Neville. This will names her four sons and two daughters. The progress of this branch of the family from the early 15<sup>th</sup> century to the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century is traced in my paper 'The Joslins of Essex' published by the Josselin Society in 2010.

### **What it is and where to find it.**

The documentation reflects the gradual development of the institutions of the state during period. The three great institutions: the Courts of Law, the Exchequer (Treasury), and the Chancery ('Writing Office') each developed their own series of documents. In addition there are numerous Charters affirming the transfer of property from one party to another; Indentures affirming cash payments between two parties (the name refers to the jagged line by which the two parts of the document had been divided).

A Foot of Fine is similar to an Indenture except that it is a third part of an agreement made in a Court of Law, and the one retained by the Court. This was the preferred means of transferring property during the period, effectively a staged dispute using the authority of the Court to make the final agreement ('fine') indisputable.



The Pipe Rolls are records of taxation. These records were written on parchment, stitched end to end and then rolled for storage.

The letters and charters issued by the Chancery were similarly stored. Hence the Patent Rolls, Close Rolls, Fine Rolls, Charter Rolls and so on all of which had slightly different functions. Their authenticity was affirmed by the attachment of a Royal Seal.

Many of these documents have been transcribed and translated from the original Latin. They have been published mainly in an abbreviated form both by the Stationary Office of the UK Government and private societies (such as the Pipe Roll Society). These volumes mostly published during the 19<sup>th</sup> century are available on the open shelves of the UK National Archives in Kew and have formed the basis of my research. The original documents are for the most part also available at Kew. The original Harlean manuscripts are in the British Library. Many of these published volumes as well as the original manorial records are available in County Archives. Conveniently an increasing amount of this printed material has been digitally scanned and is available on the internet, sometimes as in British History on Line for a fee.

For those who may wish to follow these matters further I recommend:

The Oxford Companion to Local and Family History by David Hey (OUP 1996);

A Companion to Medieval England 1066-1485 by Nigel Saul (Tempus Publishing revised Edition 2000);

And the website 'Medieval Genealogy'.

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**NEW HALL JOCELIN, HIGH ROOTHING, ESSEX**

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