

THE JOSLINS OF RAYNE

In the 16th, 17th and 18th Centuries to 1750

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Forword

Two years ago the Josselin Society kindly distributed to its members a paper of mine entitled "The Origins of the Joscelyne Family of Braintree and Leigh-on-Sea". It brought together the research done by Joscelynes of an older generation (notably Arthur W Joscelyne of Leigh and Lewis Henry Joscelyne of Braintree). It relied mainly on transcripts and memoranda. It did not review the original sources. I am grateful for comments made on that paper by members of the Josselin Society. It included a number of significant inaccuracies, which comments from Josselin Society members and a review of the sources has now enabled me to correct.

The paper wrongly suggested that John Josselyn the Elder of Braintree, the Testator of 1597, was the son of Simon Josslyn of Felsted the Testator of 1578; that Joseph Joslin of Rayne, the Testator of 1716, had an eldest son, John; and that the Braintree family of Joscelyne were descendants of that same Joseph.

These, and other less important errors, I have now corrected by reference to the Parish Registers of Rayne, Felsted and other Essex parishes; and to all the original wills lodged in the Essex Record Office which seem to relate to the same branch of the Joslin family.

The present paper, I am sure, is not free from inaccuracies of transcription and interpretation. Nor is it the complete story. I have not been able to research all the available source in the Essex Record Office or elsewhere. As in all endeavours of this kind, it is necessarily a work in progress.

A note on spelling. In this paper I have used the spelling Joslin throughout, except where a variant spelling is used to make a point. Although not all the Joslins of the 16th and 17th centuries were illiterate, most of them were and Parish Clerks and others used whichever spelling occurred to them. It is only from the 18th century onwards that spelling can be used with any accuracy to identify one or other branch of the family.

Introduction

The genesis of this paper was an endeavour to find the antecedents of Richard Joslin, Blacksmith of White Notley. From this Richard's grandson William a line of farmers of Black and White Notley descends; and from his grandson John the substantial Joscelyne family of Leigh on Sea. I also hoped to find a link between the Joscelynes of Leigh and the family which used the same spelling of Joscelyne and formed a substantial clan in Braintree.

Research into the Parish Register of Rayne and neighbouring Parishes and into the Wills of their Parishioners during the two hundred years from the mid-sixteenth century, has uncovered a story which is interesting in itself. It has also allowed me to push back the line of the "Braintree" Joscelynes a further two hundred years and more, and to speculate on the origins of Richard Joslin of White Notley bringing rather more evidence to bear.

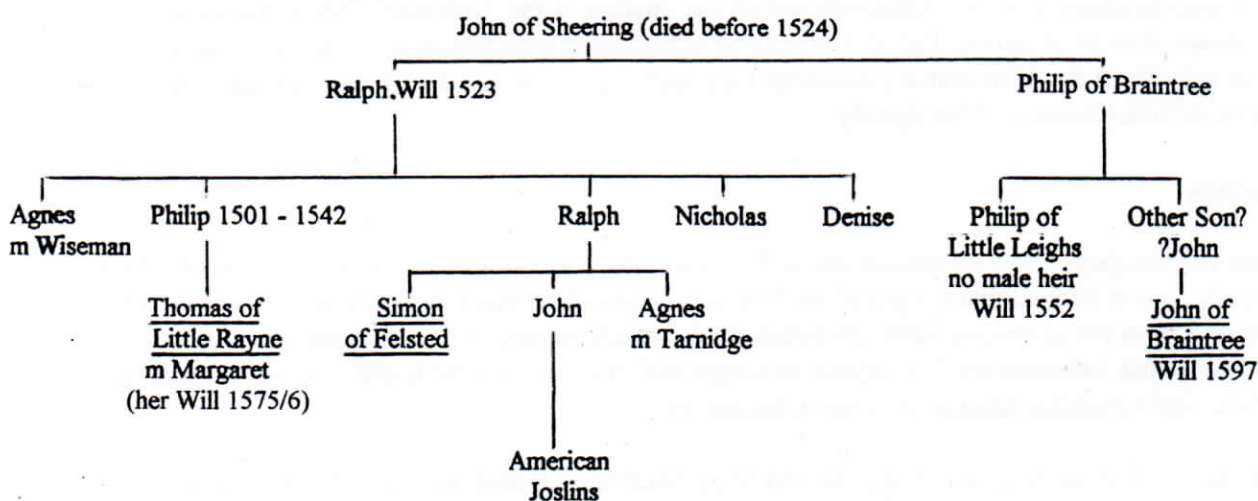
From the early seventeenth century to the mid-eighteenth century the lives of three families of Joslins revolved around the Parish Church of All Saints in Rayne. There are some 350 entries referring to the Baptisms, Marriages and Burials of members of the Joslin Family, and their holding of Parish offices, from the baptism of Elizabeth on 23 July 1568 to the marriage of Richard Joscelyn to Susanna Joyce in 1750. Not all of these Joslins lived in Rayne. The descendants of Simon Joslin lived in Felsted; many of the descendants of John Joslin lived in Braintree (although perhaps on the edge of Rayne); and there are probably related families in Stebbing, the Salings, the Notleys, Faulkbourne, Bocking, Panfield and Braintree.

My working hypothesis is that the heads of the three families, Simon of Felsted, Thomas of Little Rayne and John of Braintree could trace their line back to the children and grandchildren of John Joslin of Sheering, who died before 1524, many of whom lived in Great Canfield. John's eldest son Ralph left a will in 1523 showing three sons Philip, Ralph and Nicholas, and two daughters, Agnes married to Sir John Wiseman, and Denise. John's second son, Philip evidently moved to Braintree, possibly to the property of Nalinghurst purchased by his Father. He had at least one son, Philip, of Little Leighs who seems, from his Will of 1552, to have had no male heirs. The property of Nalinghurst may have passed through another son of Philip to the family of John of Braintree, because the John Joslin who was probably John of Braintree's grandson refers to himself in his Will of 1647/8 as John of Nalinghurst. My guess is also that Thomas of Little Rayne was a son of Ralph's eldest son Philip.

It is only with Simon that we are on somewhat firmer ground. Ralph's second son, also Ralph, moved from Great Canfield to Fyfield. In Fyfield, Ralph's children Simon, John and Agnes were married, and Simon's eldest son Ralph was born in 1546. Simon then moved to Felsted where his sons Geoffrey and John and his daughters Joan and Elizabeth were born and baptised.

It is here in Felsted that Thomas, the eldest son of Thomas of Little Rayne, also began his family, giving his children baptised there the names, Joan, John, Agnes and Simon, which suggests a close relationship with Simon. If my hypothesis is correct, Simon would have been the first cousin of Thomas of Little Rayne.

Figure 1
The possible antecedents of the three Rayne Families



The Joslin line has been well documented by New England researchers because the grandson of Simon's younger brother John, Thomas, sailed for New England on April 17th 1635, and founded the line of American Joslins. John was also the great grandfather of Ralph the Vicar of Earls Colne 1640 - 83, whose diary gives us a unique insight into domestic life in the Seventeenth century.

The three families of Rayne were not, however, of any particular distinction. Neither their political nor their religious adherences in an age of severe political and religious disruption are clear. They were good parishioners, filling the parish offices of Church Warden, Constable, Overseer of the Poor, and Surveyor between 1615 and 1707 on a regular basis. Joseph Joslin is listed as having carried soldiers and their baggage from Braintree to Chelmsford in 1694, a period when there was a threat of a French invasion in support of the Stuart Pretender.

Only Geoffrey Joslin's arraignment at the Essex Quarter Sessions in 1602 gives some flavour of the period's controversy:- "Geoffrey Josselyn of Good Easter, Clerk, being Vicar of the Church there, for saying morning and evening prayer and administering the Lord's Supper in the said Church without wearing the surplice and of the said Josselyn for assaulting John Hardy in the said Church in the time of administering the Lord's Supper and expelling him from the Church. Endorsed John Luckin and John Hardy, witnesses. We find that Jeffrey Josselyn, Clerk, did lay hands and irreverently expel John Hardy out of the Church at the time of celebrating the Communion."

Apart from the appearance of all three families on the records of these parish duties, there is surprisingly little interaction between them. I guess that Simon gave some kind of employment to his cousin's son Thomas; and Thomas's son Simon is mentioned in the Will of the elder Simon's son Ralph. although it is written among a number of small bequests to servants. John of Braintree appointed his "wellbeloved friend" Joseph Man Overseer of his Will: this Joseph was Ralph's brother-in-law. Finally, John of Braintree's grandson Henry married, as his second wife, Hannah, the eldest daughter of Simon's Grandson Ralph. She seems to have lived barely a year after their marriage and to have born him no children.

That is all, although one must assume a much greater interaction among the three families, of which there is no record.

The family was fairly solidly middle class, mostly describing themselves as Yeoman, some, such as Geoffrey's son Hezekiah rising to the status of "Gentleman", and others falling to that of Husbandman. The family of John of Braintree's second son Gilbert seems to have fallen even further: his son "Black John" is described as being on poor relief.

Most of them made their living from the land; there are two clergymen among Simon's descendants; and two Tanners among the descendants of John of Braintree, although they were also farmers and landowners. In the Eighteenth Century there was a general move towards small businesses in Braintree and elsewhere, mostly pursuing artisan crafts: Blacksmiths, Bakers and Furniture Makers.

Some Joslins remained in Rayne after 1750. In order to manage the mass of material I have limited myself to that date: the family had by then splintered and multiplied, although the families of Joseph Joscelyne of Braintree and Richard Joscelyne of White Notley have been well documented, showing clear lines from Joseph and Richard to the present day.

The Family of Thomas Joslin of Little Rayne

The earliest record of a Joslin buried in Rayne is that of Thomas on 13 June 1574. His Wife Margaret was buried two years later, having made her Will on 18 February 1575-6.

Her Will mentions three sons Thomas, Philip and John, and a daughter Alice. John, who is the Executor of her Will is called "of Manningtree". Alice had married a Binyon. Thomas the younger had married Phyllis Mott in Rayne in September 1565 (the seventh year if the reign of Queen Elizabeth) and baptised his eldest daughter Joan in Felsted on 16 August 1567. Thereafter their children seem to have been baptised alternately in Felsted and Rayne.

Thomas may have had eleven children; the second John is uncertain. Whereas the children born in Felsted are clearly identified as having Thomas as their Father, the children recorded as baptised in Rayne do not bear a parent's name until 1600.

THOMAS JOSSELIN #118
m. MARGARET #119

THOMAS #120
m. 16-Sep-1565 PHYLLIS MOTT #124

JOAN (bp. 16-Aug-1567) #125
m. 08-May-1582 FRANCIS CONERTH #136
—ELISABETH (bp. 23-Jul-1568) #126
—JOHN (bp. 20-Jun-1570) #127
m. MARGARET #137
—ANNE (bp. 23-Sep-1572) #128
—AGNES (bp. 31-May-1573) #129
—ALICE (bp. 11-Nov-1575) #130
—SIMON (bp. 10-Jan-1575/6) #131
m. 16-Oct-1601 MARY DRUER #138

**THE FAMILY OF
THOMAS JOSLIN
OF LITTLE RAYNE**

—THOMAS (bp. 29-Sep-1582) #132
—RICHARD (bp. 10-Sep-1586) #133

—THOMAS (bp. 30-Jan-1592) #134
m. PHOEBE (d. 15-Jan-1669/70) #150

—ALICE #121
—PHILIP #122
—JOHN #123

—SIMON (bp. 03-Oct-1602) #139
—MARY (bp. 12-Aug-1604) #140
m. 02-Oct-1622 Unknown #146
—THOMAS (bp. 13-Apr-1607) #141
m. 18-Apr-1634 ELIZABETH ALLEN #147
—MATTHEW (bp. 02-Mar-1608) #142
m. 18-Apr-1634 HELENA CORBY #148

—ANN (bp. 25-Feb-1612/13) #143
m. 07-Oct-1634 THOMAS SMITH #149
—SARAH (bp. 26-Jun-1613) #144
—JOHN (bp. 30-Nov-1617) #145

—MATTHEW (bp. 22-Jan-1634/5-00-00-1701) #165
m. 17-May-1660 FRANCES HARVEY #170

—ELIZABETH (bp. 16-Aug-1636) #166
—SIMON #167
—HANNAH #168
—PRISCILLA #169

—MATTHEW #171
—ELIZABETH (bp. 31-May-1664) #172 — RHODA #177
m. unknown HALL #176
—SARAH (bp. 05-Nov-1668) #173
—THOMAS (bp. 08-Dec-1671) #174
—JOHN (bp. 28-Apr-1675) #175

—RICHARD #154
m. 14-Jul-1633 SUSAN WALSH #155

—RICHARD (bp. 31-Jan-1635/6) #156
m. MARY #159

—SUSAN (bp. 7-Aug-1634) #157
—SUSAN (bp. 00-Aug-1638) #158

—SUSANNA (b. 15-Apr-1659) #160
—JANE (b. 16-May-1660) #161
—SARAH (bp. 29-Feb-1663/4) #162
—ANN (bp. 18-Nov-1665) #163
—MARTHA (bp. 01-Nov-1667) #164

Of Thomas's sons, only one, his second son Simon seems certainly to have had surviving male heirs. I have rather arbitrarily assumed that the eldest son John is the John, married to Margaret, of Forties in Little Rayne, who mentions no children in his Will. Thomas married Phoebe, who made her Will in 1669/70, showing no surviving heirs (two children may have died in infancy).

Richard, Thomas's third son, may have had a son Richard of Felsted who married Susan Walsh in Rayne in 1633 and had children. There were no male heirs in the fifth generation.

Simon, however, had seven children. Only Matthew who made his Will in Chelmsford in 1677 has left any traces. He had five children, including sons Matthew and Simon. The elder Simon is mentioned in Ralph's Will in 1617; his name being among a number of servants receiving small legacies.

The younger Matthew was born in 1634/5 in Rayne and was married to a Frances Harvey or Harny in Rayne in 1660, where a son, Charles was buried in 1666, and an unnamed son and daughter, perhaps Sarah and Thomas buried in 1682. Matthew and Frances were witnesses to the Will of their Great Aunt Phoebe in 1669-70. Matthew, then "of Woodham Ferrers" made his Will in 1701, leaving two sons Matthew and John, and a daughter Elizabeth. John is joint executor of his Father's Will with his Mother Frances. Elizabeth had married a Hall and had had a daughter Rhoda by the time of her Father's death.

Simon was Surveyor in the Parish of Rayne in 1652 and 1654, and his son Matthew held the same office in 1655. Matthew was an Overseer in 1657 and Surveyor again in 1662, 1664 and 1671.

The Family of Simon Joslin Yeoman of Felsted

In following the fortunes of Simon and his Family, it is fortunate that we have a line of wills, from Simon's Grandfather Ralph in 1523 through to Simon's Great Great Great Grandson in 1731 with only two breaks: that of his Father Ralph and his Grandson Ralph. In addition there are, with the exception of the period 1640 to 1660, very good, and mostly legible entries into the Parish Registers of Fyfield, Felsted and Rayne. Fortunately a very detailed Will written by Jane Joslin, Simon's daughter in-law, in 1631 fills in many of the gaps left by her eldest son's failure to make a Will. All these Wills were made by the eldest sons. With the exception of Geoffrey, Simon's second Son, whose grandchildren's Wills survive, none of the lateral branches of the family seem to have written Wills which have survived. (Geoffrey's family appears in a separate section.)

Simon left to his heirs "lands, tenements, meadows, pastures and grounds held by copy of Court Roll" in Felsted, and lands meadows and pastures in both Bocking and Rayne. His eldest son Ralph passed on to his heirs a farm called Swaynes, two copyhold tenancies called Marshalls, four acres of land called Grove Croft and 23 acres of copyhold land called Leighsmount, all in Felsted, as well as a croft of meadow land in Rayne.

As Ralph's son, also Ralph, died intestate, it is not until 1664 that the third Ralph in Simon's line made his Will. His son, the fourth Ralph, is given messuages, lands, tenements and hereditments in Felsted and Bocking. Two other parcels of land in Felsted, one called Ayrton's Mead, together amounting to some five acres, are given to his sons John and Robert.

The fourth Ralph made his Will in 1717 when he was 76 although he was to live for another eight years. He had two surviving male heirs, a fifth Ralph and Joseph, an unmarried daughter Hester, and a second wife Sarah. The property of Swaynes in Felsted, first mentioned in the Will of the first Ralph one hundred years before, together with "all other lands tenements hereditaments and

estates both freehold and copyhold" go to his wife Sarah, and then to his eldest son, the fifth and last in the line of Ralphs on her death or remarriage. The second surviving son, Joseph, is given parcels and crofts of land in Felsted called the Broomes, Gatwards Croft, Underwood Croft and Shepherds totalling some 16 acres.

Finally, the fifth Ralph wrote his Will in 1731. His mother had died only five years previously, but there was precious little left of his inheritance. He instructs his sister Hester to sell the freehold messuage or tenement "wherein I now do dwell in Felsted, near the common there called Clements" and his other property called the Leys (possibly Leighsmount mentioned in the Will of the first Ralph) then mortgaged to a James Malden and the money coming from the sales to be divided equally among his three children. Frances married Edward Rignall of Hatfield, Sarah married Samuel Brock of Felsted, and Hester remained a Spinster.

Further evidence of the activities of Simon's descendants are given in the Parish Records of Rayne. William, the second son of the first Ralph, and the Supervisor of his Will, is made Overseer of the Poor in 1615 and 1616 and again in 1632 and 1633. His youngest brother, Peter, became an overseer in 1627 and Peter's son, also Peter, became a Churchwarden in 1660. In the following generation, the third Ralph was an Overseer from 1643 to 1646 and Chief Constable of the Manor of Hinckford in 1638.

This Ralph's brother, Robert, was a Constable in 1656 and Churchwarden in 1657 and 1658, and an Overseer in 1661 and 1662. A Robert was Constable in 1672, although this was probably his nephew Robert who was born in 1644/5 and at some stage took over Parish responsibilities from his uncle. A Robert was again Constable from 1676 to 1679, and again in 1683, 1689 and 1693. He was Churchwarden in 1696. During much of the later period Robert shared office with Joseph Joslin, the great grandson of John of Braintree.

Robert Senior was thus busy in Church affairs between 1656 and 1662, a period covering the end of the Stuart line. Although evidently a busy man of affairs, we know him only through the Will of the third Ralph in 1664, since his Father died intestate. We know from the Will of his Grandmother Jane, in 1631, that his Father by that time had had two named children, Ralph and Hannah, and "five other children". An eighth child, Fillol, died in early childhood. Robert was probably married to a Quaker lady Eeddie, or Edith, who was buried in a Quaker cemetery, and in an affidavit to this effect taken to Felsted on 15 May 1681. There is no record in Rayne or Felsted of their having children: they may have been buried or baptised as Quakers.

His nephew, the younger Robert, was evidently a much married man. He was the third son, of the third Ralph and appears to have married four times and had eight children. There has been some speculation that he might have been the Father of Richard, the Blacksmith of White Notley. I shall deal with this in a separate section.

Finally, Joseph Joslin the second surviving son of the fourth Ralph, who was left some sixteen acres in Felsted in his Father's Will in 1717. Family tradition has it that he "came over from Hanover or Brunswick". It is certainly possible that he emigrated to the American Colonies as a young man, and joined his distant cousins in Hanover Mass. where they were then settled, returning to receive the inheritance left to him by his Father in his Will (1717), and to marry Sarah Picknett, a widow, in 1732, when he was 49 years old and a "singleman". They had just one child, also Joseph, in January 1732/33. Although he was married and baptised his son in the Church of St. Michael the Archangel in Braintree, he may have brought from America the non-conformist faith of his American cousins, because his son and his family were for two hundred years stalwarts of the Congregational Church in Bocking.

From there on the Braintree family has been well documented; the Joscelynes of Braintree have particularly distinguished themselves in the furniture business, thrilling my sister and me living then in Bristol, with rare glimpses of furniture vans with JOSCELYNE emblazoned on the side. Members of this family emigrated to Australia in 1852 and settled in Tasmania, while another branch became established in South Africa in the early 1900's.

The Family of Geoffrey Joslin

Geoffrey Joslin, the second son of Simon, was probably born in 1554 some four years before his brother John. His baptism is not recorded in the Felsted Parish Register which begins only with the reign of Queen Elizabeth (Geoffrey's younger brother John is recorded as having been born in 1559). He is mentioned in his Father's Will in 1577/8 where he is given £30, rather less than his younger brother John, on the grounds presumably that he would not have to buy himself a farm, being destined for the church. "New England Families" makes a tentative identification of this Geoffrey as the Vicar of Good Easter. It suggests that there is another Geoffrey who could have been the Vicar. This may have been a reference to the 1590 Will of Thomas Joslin of Much Canfield in which he makes a bequest to his son Geoffrey. But this Geoffrey was baptised in Much Canfield in 1557, thus being only fourteen at the time of Geoffrey Joslin's matriculation, which was young even for those days when the usual age of matriculation was 17. Nevertheless an element of doubt still remains about identifying Geoffrey, the son of Simon, as the Vicar.

Geoffrey is mentioned also in the Will of Simon's nephew Thomas, the eldest son of Simon's younger brother John. Thomas Joslin, in his Will of 1604, includes Geoffrey in a list of Puritan Clergymen to whom he makes bequests, "I give unto Mr Josling my kinsman the Preacher of Good Easter six pounds ..." Later in the Will he writes "I give unto Jeffrey Joslin that debt which he oweth me by bill of his hand". The greater formality of the first reference may arise from the context in which it is written; all the Puritan clergymen given legacies are referred to as Mr ---. Nevertheless this does not quite banish the doubt that he may be referring to two separate Geoffreys, the second of whom and not the first may be Simon's son.

However the balance of evidence is that the Vicar of Good Easter was Simon's son. This Geoffrey, according to Venn's Alumni Cantabrigiensis, graduated from Jesus College Cambridge in 1574/5 and was ordained Deacon in 1581 and Priest a year later. He was Vicar of Shallow Bowells 1581 - 85, and Rector of Good Easter from 1584 - 1635/6, a remarkably long incumbency. He married Joan Weald in Shallow Bowells in 1583 and their eldest son, Henry, was born there. His second son Hezekiah, who was Chief Constable of the Manor of Clavering in 1639, had a son Hezekiah who also became a clergyman. As a Cambridge Graduate his life is also recorded in Venn. He graduated in 1633, but seems, rather astutely given the turbulent times in which he lived, not to have taken a Living for some thirty years. He was a Schoolmaster at Harlow from about 1640, and Rector of Copford Essex from 1662 until his death nine years later.

He was a man of considerable wealth as shown by his Will. On the assumption that no one makes much money by being a schoolmaster, it is reasonable to assume that he inherited his wealth from his parents. The elder Hezekiah is described as a Gentleman in Venn, as is the younger Hezekiah's brother Richard, Gentlemen of Much Leighs, in his Will. Apart from bequests of land in Much Leighs, Good Easter and Bishop's Stortford, Hezekiah also leaves to his wife Jane four hundred and fifty pounds "upon security in the hands of Mr Robert Burdett Merchant living in Gravell Lane in Houndsditch near Aldgate".

His brother Richard made his Will in 1695 (Probate 1699). It leaves to his wife Sarah the property of Mayes in Fairsted, and then to his son Hezekiah. All the goods and coin, indoors and outdoors, in Lyon Hall in Great Leighs where he lives, go to his daughters Jane and Elizabeth.

A further Will made in 1670 by John Joslin of Bishops Stortford, gives £100 to his Father, evidently Hezekiah's brother. Finally, the Will of John Joslin of Mashbury, Yeoman, married to Elizabeth (1688, Probate 1714). John is probably related to this branch of the family. There are no named children. He leaves to his wife a property near Harlow Market.

The Family of John Joslin the Elder of Braintree

As I noted in my previous Paper, the Wills of John Joslin and his wife Mary present us with a number of problems. A close scrutiny of the texts of their Wills, and those of his son Richard and Richard's sons John and Henry, has illuminated a number of points, but problems still remain.

Mary's Will, in which she calls John her eldest son, makes it clear that Gabriel and Gilbert the two eldest sons mentioned in their Father's Will were born to a previous marriage, and for this reason omitted from Mary's Will. Mary's two eldest sons, John and Richard are likewise omitted from their Father's Will. It is clear from Richard's Will that, as a Yeoman, he had substantial holdings of land which, I guess, were bestowed on him by his Father before he wrote his Will. The same would be true of the elder of the two Johns. We can therefore infer that John of Rayne in his Father's Will is the younger of the two Johns, the elder being perhaps "John of Braintree" who may have been given the property of Nalinghurst before his Father wrote his Will. It is also possible that the elder John and Richard were the children of a previous marriage of Mary, also to a Joslin, perhaps a brother of her second husband.

John the Elder's eldest son, by his first marriage, was Gabriel. Gabriel was a person of some education. In his Will of 1571/2, Richard Adams of Little Rayne left 6 shillings and eight pence to be equally divided between four scholars of Cambridge, one of them Gabriel Joslin. However Gabriel does not feature in Venn's Alumni Cantabrigiensis which suggests that he may not have matriculated or graduated. But the date 1571 enables us to calculate the date of his birth at about 1554. (This suggests also that his Father was born in about 1530). Gabriel also appears as a Witness in the Will of his nephew John in 1605. A comparison of his signature with the handwriting in his Father's Will shows that this Will was drawn up by Gabriel. He may have been a clergyman or a schoolmaster or a Parish Clerk. His Father in his Will gives him a share of the grain on the ground and in the barn, carts, harnesses and farm machinery and various household furnishings and utensils. There is no indication that he married or had children.

John's second son Gilbert describes himself as a husbandman in his Will of 1632, when he must have been over seventy years old. His wife Agnes survived him. His eldest son, Gilbert, was buried in Felsted in 1612; his surviving children were John, Agnes, Richard, Gabriel and Edward. John, "Black John" in his Grandfather's Will where he is given a Sanded Pig, is probably the Old Black John Joslin on poor relief in Braintree in 1625 (Emmison- "Early Town Meetings") and Edward had a bastard daughter (Emmison). Gilbert is given a Feather Bed and a Pestel and Mortar in his Father's Will, the latter to come to him only after Mary's death.

The elder of John and Mary's four sons, John, is not, I have suggested, included in his Father's Will. His Mother gives (1611) "John Josslin my eldest son three pounds five shilling and eight pence.....and three pewter spoons a blanket a sheet and a tablecloth, a pillow bere a table napkin a joined table and a pillow". John's nephew John, son of his brother Richard makes "John Josselyn the elder my uncle my sole executor (1605)". Finally, Henry, Richard's youngest son, gives (1625)

to" John Josslyn the grandson of John Josslyn the elder my brass pot". He also gives the residue of his estate to "John Josslyne the elder in Rayne aforesaid where I now do dwell whom I make my sole executor". His brother Richard refers to him in his Will (1600) as "John Josling my elder brother".

In his Will (1600), John the Elder and Mary's second son Richard is in some doubt as to whether to leave all his land to his eldest son Richard or to divide it among his sons. He opts for the latter course, giving to John a property of some ten acres called Starkly in Stebbing, to Henry the freehold of Chandlers in Stebbing and the rest to Richard his eldest son. He gives sums of money to his daughters Marie, Rose and Sara. We know from John's Will (1605) that the younger Richard at that time was a husbandman in Hoddesdon Herts; and from Henry's Will (1625) that the younger Richard had children William and Jane. William was probably the founder of the Joslin family in Stebbing. Richard's five surviving children are given 6'8d in their grandmother Mary's Will. All the daughters were married and had children.

John and Mary's third son was John the younger. If he is indeed the "John of Rayne" mentioned in his Father's Will; his Father gives to "John Josselyn my son of Rayne a feather bed and bolster thereto belonging with the bedstead as it standeth in the Cellar where I now live called John's Cellar". He also gives "to the said John Josselyn of Rayne the rents.... and profits that 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 upon the said ground". He also gives to "John Josselyn the son of the aforesaid John of Rayne one Milk Cow not of the worst sort and two ewe sheep to be delivered to him by March next with all and perfect".

John's elder brother Richard, in his Will written three years later, writes "I ordain and make my younger brother John Josling of Rayne in the County aforesaid and Richard Josling 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 and kept according to the intent and meaning therein testified and to see my debts discharged and my body decently buried in the ground".

In the Will of John Josselyn, Tanner of Braintree, in 1605, he writes "I do ordain for the overseer of this my last Will and Testament my uncle young John Josselyn and I give him for his payment three shillings and four pence".

In his Mother's Will of 1611 she gives "to my son John Josselin the younger three pounds five shillings and eight pence to be paid him within two years next after my death also I give him three spoons of pewter, a candlestick, a table cloth a table napkin a pillow bere a pillow a coverlet and a chest".

A "John Jossleyne the younger" is witness to the Will of Henry in 1625, and Ellen the "wife of John Joselin the Younger", is a witness to a codicil of the same Will. It is probable that this "John the Younger", is the son of John the Elder and Mary's eldest son John. He is also referred to as "John Junior" in the Rayne Register recording the baptism of his eldest daughter Mary in 1617-18. John and Eleanor's eldest son John, may be the John of Nalinghurst who made his Will in 1647.

There is more information about this John the Younger in the Rayne Parish Register: John Joslin and Eleanor Bretton were married in 1617. Their children Mary in 1617/18, Dorothy in 1620, Eleanor in 1622, John in 1624 and Richard in 1629 were all baptised in Rayne. He may also have been the John Josling who is appointed overseer of the Poor in Rayne in 1623.

Finally, John and Mary's youngest son Henry. In his Will (1597), his Father gives "to Henry Josselyn my son and to the said John Baker the younger" (his Grandson through a daughter's marriage to John Baker the Elder) "my lease and term of years current the which I have of and in the land and ground called Harabelette in Braintree aforesaid and all my right and title upon and to the same".

In his Will his elder brother Richard makes "my brother Henry, Henry Josling of Braintree... the supervisor or Overseer of this my last Will and Testament".

In her Will (1611), Mary, his Mother, gives "unto Henry Josselin my son twenty shillings a flock bed a feather bolster three pewter spoons an oak settle a sheet a tablecloth a napkin and a pillow bere. She gives "to my son Henry's three children twenty shillings among them".

The eldest daughter of John and Mary's marriage married John Baker and had a son John. We do not know her name since her Mother refers to her as "my daughter Baker". The second daughter Agnes married John Rayne, probably a servant of her Father, who later became a Glover, and is the Executor of his brother-in-law Gilbert's Will in 1631. They had children, John and Mary. A third daughter married first John Ellis, and second Thomas Rust who is the Executor of his mothers-in-law's Estate, and receives the residue of her goods.

John and Mary's two younger sons seem to have been a good many years younger than their elder brothers. John the younger may have married Mary Warner in 1588 and Mary Levett in 1594 and had a son John; his elder brother Richard had already grown up sons by the time he wrote his Will in 1600. Henry seems to have been married in that same year. His children were born from 1604. This may support the thesis that John the Elder and Richard were Mary's sons from a previous marriage.

The Family of Henry Joslin

The families of Henry's elder brothers, the two Johns and Richard are difficult to follow beyond three generations. The family of John and Mary's youngest son is much better documented since both his son and his grandson left wills, and the family can be traced through the Rayne Parish Register for some five generations.

Henry may be the "Harry Joslin" who married Mary Godsafte in Broomfield in 1600 (Boyd). "Henry Josselin the son of Henry Josselin" was baptised in Rayne on 11 June 1604. This baptism was followed by those of John in 1607, Mary in 1610, possibly Ann in 1612 and Elizabeth in 1615. Three of these five children are mentioned, but not named, in the 1611 Will of Henry's mother Mary. Anne may have married Thomas Smith in 1634 or Bernard Lambert in 1639. Elizabeth may have married Francis Porter of Felsted in 1634. Henry was buried in Rayne on the 6 December 1631.

Their eldest son, Henry, had five children by his first wife Mary. Of these the eldest, Henry, born in 1636, died when he was four years old; the second, Joseph, born in 1639 lived until he was 77 years old, and left a Will. Mary, born 1642, married a Matthew Baker in Bocking in 1663; twins Henry and John were born in 1645; John probably did not survive the birth, and their mother, Mary, died also. The surviving twin, Henry may have married Mary Hudson of Braintree, in Rayne in 1673, and may be the Henry buried in Rayne in 1705-6.

Henry seems to have had four wives subsequently: his kinswoman Hannah Joslin, Simon's great-granddaughter, Mary Cook, Elizabeth Bradley and a third Mary mentioned in his Will. None of their children, if any, seem to have survived.

Henry, or his Father, was a Parish Officer in 1628 and 1629; he was Overseer of the Poor in 1639, 40 and 41; a Surveyor in 1654, an Overseer again in 1658 and 1659 and a Constable in 1660. He describes himself in his Will as a Tanner, but he also had fairly extensive holdings of property. He gives to his eldest surviving son, 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 the appurtenances". Joseph also receives eight acres of land in Braintree called Thistleys, a parcel of land in Felsted called Flowers Mead containing one acre, two tenements in Braintree; another Messuage or Tenement in Rayne; another in Braintree and four acres of freehold land called Brownings in Felsted.

He gives to his younger son Henry a messuage or Tenement in Braintree, with some hop grounds and some parcels of land called Cockers. A further messuage or Tenement in Braintree, and another yard in Braintree, are given to his daughter Mary. Many of these properties had evidently been leased out. There is, curiously, no mention of the Tannery. He makes generous provision for his wife. She, or Henry's first wife, were from the family of Strutt. John Strutt is mentioned as his brother-in-law and is witness to his Will. Henry was buried on 24 February 1664-5.

Henry's eldest surviving son Joseph was baptised in Rayne on 15 September 1639. His wife's name was Anne. They had five children born between 1670 and 1688, sons Joseph (1671) and Benjamin (1688), and three daughters, Anne who married John Burton; Mary who died at three months; and Sarah who married George Ward.

Joseph was active as a Parish Officer from 1669 when he was appointed Churchwarden, until 1706, acting as Churchwarden, Overseer of the Poor or Constable in almost every year. In 1690 it was "ordered by a consort of townsmen that none of the officers shall pay to any letters of request but only Joseph Joslin". In 1694 he carried soldiers and their baggage from Braintree to Chelmsford and was paid 6s 3d for his pains.

He made his Will on 18 April 1716 and was buried on 20 December following in Rayne. Like his Father, Henry, he had extensive property holdings.

Joseph had land, much of it "lately purchased", in Braintree Bocking and Black Notley, all of which is left to his sons Joseph and Benjamin with ample provision for his Grandson George Ward, the son of his daughter Sarah. She appears to have died in 1709; but her husband George Ward the elder had had a bastard daughter by an Ellen Taylor five years previously. This would be the reason for these provisions. The Will also mentions a copyhold parcel of land called Cokers in Braintree which had been left to his brother Henry in his Father's Will. He had also bought from his brother Henry "a copyhold messuage or tenement with the yards orchards little meadow or close or parcel of pasture ground there unto belonging in Braintree". Henry had died in 1705-6.

An interesting article by Eliza Vaughan "The Title Deeds of Turners" in Rayne mentions Turners in a 1616 Conveyance as being situated "between the King's Highway from Braintree to Dunnow Magna on one part and a meadow late of Tobias Pratt, late of Henry Josline, called Netherhouse Mead; one end abutting on the garden sometime of Robert Draper, late of Richard Aylett; the other end abutting on a barn of the aforesaid Henry Josline". In 1711 Turners was sold to Joseph Josceline the younger; his son Joseph sold it to Thomas Emberson in 1732; however a Joseph Joslyn seems to have remained in the building as a tenant as late as 1763.

Both the younger Joseph and his brother Benjamin had large families. Joseph (1671-1730) had three sons Joseph, Richard and Benjamin and six daughters. His son Benjamin seems to have died when he was 27; there is no record of his marriage or children. The third Joseph, however seems to have had fourteen children by two wives, both named Elizabeth. No fewer than five of them were baptised Joseph and all may have died in infancy. Two Esthers seem also to have died young. Of his other sons, only John, born in Rayne in 1749 seems to have survived. Richard, a surviving twin, had nine children by three wives, Rebecca, Mary and Judith; of whom only three, Joseph, Jemma and Sara seem to have survived infancy. This Joseph is probably the Joseph noted in Eliza Vaughan's article as a tenant in Turners in 1763.

The first Joseph's younger son Benjamin, who was baptised in Rayne in 1688, and who probably died in Black Notley in 1742, may have been married no fewer than five times and may have had fifteen children. A Benjamin Joscelyne (sic) and his wife Jane had three sons (Benjamin, Simon and Henry) and two daughters (Jane and Anne) between 1708 and 1713 in Faulkbourne. If this Benjamin was the younger son of the first Joseph, then he would have been nineteen or twenty at the time of his marriage to Jane.

A Benjamin Josling "of the Parish of Raine" married Mary Brett in Bocking on 14 December 1715, and this is the most likely to have been Joseph's son. Next, on 26 July 1719, Benjamin Joscelyn "of Black Notley, Widdower", married Mary Jobson of Braintree, Widow, in Braintree. This, however, was only three days after the baptism of Mary, the daughter of Benjamin and Mary Joslin in Rayne (23 July 1719). The child could have been baptised some months after her birth, and the death of her Mother Mary, née Brett or she could have arrived inconveniently a few days before the Wedding of her Mother and Father. Benjamin and Mary had two other children baptised in Rayne in 1721 and 1722, Benjamin and Joseph, and five more children baptised in Braintree between 1723-24 and 1731; of these two, another Joseph and Elizabeth died in infancy.

On 12 April 1734, Elizabeth the daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth Joscelyn was baptised in Braintree, followed by another Benjamin in 1735-6. Finally, Jane Chertsey was married to Benjamin Joscelyn in Black Notley on 19 April 1737, and Benjamin Joscelyne was buried there on 1 April 1743. In all this it is not clear whether we are dealing with one Benjamin or several.

Joseph's son Benjamin seems to have followed his Father's adherence to Public Service, since his name appears on a Legal Settlement, as Benjamin Joslin JP, in Rayne on 17 December 1721.

I have rather arbitrarily cut off my research in 1750. It is probable that some at least of the children of the third Joseph and his brother Richard had families; so too the family of their Uncle Benjamin. Curiously, they appeared to have been singularly unfortunate in their attempts to perpetuate the Christian name of their Father and Grandfather. Most of their Josephs died in infancy, the story of the third Joseph and his first wife Elizabeth being particularly sad.

The Joslins of Saling

The Parish Registers of Great Saling and Little Saling show a good number of Joslins in the two parishes in the period from the end of the Seventeenth Century to the mid-Eighteenth Century. In addition there are two Wills that of John Joslin, Yeoman of Great Saling, in 1630 and Mr Richard Jostlin in 1690-91. From these Wills we know that John was married to Mary, had a son John and a step-daughter Mary Rust, and that Richard had three sons John, Richard, and Thomas and a daughter Margaret.

Great Saling and Rayne are adjoining Parishes. Anne, the daughter of John and Elizabeth Josselyn of Much Saling, was baptised in Rayne in 1702. Ralph, the son of Ralph of Saling, and his Mother were buried in Rayne in 1724. John Joslyn of Mount was Overseer of the Poor in Rayne in 1790. Mount was a substantial farm, of some 150 acres which straddles the two parishes of Saling and Rayne.

My thesis is that the John of Great Saling and John the younger of Rayne were the same person. This John would have been born in about 1570. He may be the John who married Mary Warner on 29 August 1587, and Mary Levett on 17 August 1594 (both in Rayne). A John Josselin was born in Rayne in May 1594, who could have been the John mentioned in the Will of his Grandfather in 1597 and Father in 1630. A likely scenario would have been the death of Mary Warner in childbirth in 1594, and a quick remarriage to Mary Levett, a widow with a young baby Mary, in the following August.

This family may be related to the Joscelynes of Braintree through the marriage of Solomon Isaacs clothier of Braintree to Ann Joscelyn, by licence in 1725. The certificate gives her age as 23, which suggests that she was born in 1702, and may thus have been the daughter of John and Elizabeth of old Saling, although she is described as being of Black Notley. Their daughter Mary Isaac married Joseph Joscelyne in 1757. She may also be related to the Richard Joslin of Bocking who married Elizabeth Smith in Panfield in 1723. This Richard has long been wrongly identified with Richard, Blacksmith of Great Notley. Richard of Bocking may have been a child of the marriage of Richard Joslin and Margaret Farrer in Little Saling in 1695.

Richard Joscelyn Blacksmith of White Notley

The first we know of Richard Joscelyn is in a Certificate of Settlement signed by the Justices of Peace of Bromfield dated 12 October 1714, addressed to the Church Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of White Notley, acknowledging their legal responsibility for Richard, who had evidently moved to White Notley. He is described as a singleman and a Blacksmith. He could not have remained single for long, because a Richard, the son of Richard Joslin and (space left blank) his wife was born on 20 August 1715, and baptised in Bromfield on 3 September. This Richard does not seem to have survived long. A second child, Elizabeth was born to Richard and his wife Elizabeth in White Notley on 20 October 1719. She married Joseph Runnacle in White Notley on 25 December 1738 and had a large family. She was named as the Administrator of her Father's effects when he died intestate in 1742. Another Richard was born on 20 October 1723 and died on 4 October 1732.

John the son of Richard and Elizabeth Joscelyn 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 of Notley and Leigh on Sea descends.

The last child of Richard and Elizabeth's marriage, Mary, was born on 18 February 1727/8.

Elizabeth, Richard's wife, died on 16 March 1729, soon after Mary's birth, although Mary survived. Richard then married Elizabeth Field, née Agur, a widow. She predeceased him, and Richard died in 1742.

Most researchers have assumed that this Richard Joscelyne was the one who married Elizabeth Smith in Panfield in 1723 at the age of 26, suggesting a birth date of 1697. Given the known facts of Richard, this is extremely doubtful. Richard Joscelyn, now well-established as a Blacksmith in White Notley with a four year old child, and his wife heavily pregnant with another, would hardly

have declared himself to be a farmer of Bocking and a singleman in the affidavit attached to the marriage licence.

Since it no longer has to be assumed that Richard, Blacksmith of White Notley, was born in 1697, we can revert to the idea entertained by some previous researchers that he was the son of the much married Robert Josceline of Rayne by his third or fourth wife Sarah Taylor whom he married in 1689, and who gave birth to a son Richard on 12 April 1691.

By making this assumption, we can relate the two Joscelyne families, that of Braintree and that of the Notleys and Leigh on Sea. Richard, Blacksmith of White Notley and Joseph of Felsted would have been first cousins.

Bibliography

(1) Parish Registers - Baptisms, Marriages and Burials (in all cases microfiches of originals in ERO Chelmsford)

Black Notley St. Peter and St. Paul	1570 -1676 1735 -1751 1755 - 1812
Bocking St. Mary the Virgin	1558 - 1639 1655 - 1670 1670 - 1798
Braintree St. Michael the Archangel	1660 - 1740
Faulkbourne St. Germain	1574 - 1765
Felsted Holy Cross	1558 - 1641 1630 - 1722 1678 - 1790 1706 - 1812
Fyfield St. Nicholas	1538 - 1684 1684 - 1812
Good Easter St. Andrew	1538 - 1678
Great Canfield St. Mary	1538 - 1651 1653 - 1778
Great Saling St. James the Great	1715 - 1812
Little or Bardfield Saling St. Peter and St. Paul	1561 - 1735 1754 - 1812
Panfield St. Mary the Virgin	1570 - 1711 1711 - 1812

Rayne All Saints	1558 - 1664 1613 - 1627 1664 - 1750
Stebbing St.Mary the Virgin	1712 - 1812 1754 - 1807
White Notley St. Ethelrida	1538 - 1771

(2) **Wills** (in all cases photocopies of original Wills in ERO Chelmsford)

- 1597 JOSSELYN, John The Elder of Braintree
- 1605 JOSSELYNE, John tanner of Braintree
- 1576 JOSSELYN, Margaret of Rayne
- 1617 JOSSELIN, Mary, Widow of Black Notley
- 1552 JOSSELYN, Philip, Yeoman of Little Leighs
- 1525 JOSSELYN, Ralph of Great Canfield
- 1617 JOSSELYN, Ralph, Yeoman of Felsted
- 1600 JOSLINGE, Richard, Yeoman of West Mersea
- 1579 JOSSELYN, Simon Yeoman of Felstead
- 1591 JOSLEN, Thomas of Great Canfield
- 1632 JOSCELYNE, Gilbert Husbandman of Braintree
- 1625 JOSSELIN, Henry of Rayne
- 1665 JOCELYN, Henry Tanner of Rayne
- 1671 JOCELYN, Hezekiah Clerk of Copford
- 1633 JOSSELINE, Jane, Widow of Felsted
- 1629 JOSELIN, John Yeoman of Rayne
- 1632 JOSELIN, John Yeoman of Great Saling
- 1648 JOSELYN, John Yeoman of Braintree
- 1670 JOCELYNE, John Batchelor of Bishops Stortford
- 1714 JOSLYN, John Yeoman of Mashbury
- 1717 JOSLYN, Joseph Yeoman of Rayne
- 1576 JOSSELYN, Margaret, Widow of Little Rayne
- 1677 JOSLYN, Matthew of Chelmsford
- 1701 JOSLYN, Mathew Yeoman of Woodham Ferrers
- 1670 JOSCELYNE, Phoebe, Widow of Felsted
- 1669 JOSCELYNE, Ralph Yeoman of Felsted
- 1691 JOSTLIN, Richard of Great Saling
- 1695 JOSELIN, Richard Gent of Great Leighs
- 1726 JOSCELYNE, Ralph Yeoman of Felsted
- 1731 JOSCELYNE, Ralph yeoman of Felsted
- 1781 JOSCELYNE, John Blacksmith of White Notley

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Richard Joscelyne
2000

The Descendants of Ralph Joslin of Felsted (1618-1668/9)

Ralph Joslin of Felsted

Ralph Joslin was the third Ralph descending from the Simon Joslin who moved from Fyfield to Felsted in about 1556 and the second Ralph in the line to make a Will. It is probable that he was the progenitor of the several lines of the Joscelyne family, those of Braintree, the Notleys and Leigh on Sea, and hence of particular interest to historians of those families.

Three sons, Ralph, John and Robert, and two daughters, Anne and Sarah, survived him and are mentioned in his Will. Their Mother was Mary Sewell who married Ralph in Rayne in 1640.

As was customary, the eldest son Ralph received the bulk of his Fathers Estate in his Will (1664, Probate 1669) although John and Robert both received a few acres of land, and all five children had a share of the residual goods. Ralph also left generous provision for his two step children Samuel and Elizabeth Choate, the children of Ralph's second wife Hester by her first husband. Hester and her children were obviously popular as the names Hester and Samuel recur in the following generations.

Ralph, the eldest son, is made the Executor of his Fathers Will and the elder Ralph's brother Robert and his brother-in-law John Sewell are made its Supervisors.

The Children of Ralph

Ralph the younger had a long life. He was born in about 1641 (unlike his siblings, his baptism is recorded neither in Rayne nor Felsted) and was buried in Rayne in 1725, although he had made his Will eight years earlier. He had six surviving children. Two children predeceased him: John and a daughter married to Tye by whom she had children. Of the surviving sons, Ralph died leaving no male heirs, while Joseph married late in life and had one child, a son, also Joseph. Of his surviving daughters, Hester was unmarried at the time of her Fathers death and the Administrator of her brothers estate in 1731. Sarah was married to a Thornall, Mary to Gross or Cross and Ann to Hills.

John was baptised in Rayne on 9 July 1643. He appears to have married Sarah Hickford of Halstead in Rayne on 22 June 1671, and may be the John Joscelyne of the Parish of Rayne who was buried in Faulkbourne on 27 May 1690. The Faulkbourne Registry suggests that he may have had three sons: Joseph, Robert and Benjamin.

Joseph had a son William who died when less than a month old in 1714. A Robert Josceline was buried in 1718. He may have been a son of John or a second son for Joseph. Benjamin and his wife Jane had three sons, Benjamin (1708), Simon (1709/10) and Henry (1711) and two daughters Jane (1712) and Anne (1713). There is some uncertainty about Benjamin. He was probably John's son. But another Benjamin was the younger son of Joseph Joslin of Braintree, born in 1688 (see "The Joslins of Rayne").

A James Joscelyne, a labourer, and his family were the subject of a Settlement Order, addressed to the Parish Officers of White Notley by the Parish Officers of Faulkbourne, dated June 1727; it must be assumed that he is a member of this family. James Joscelyne was buried in White Notley in 1760. (See note 1)

Robert seems to have married four times:

First, to Ann Auger or Anger in Bocking in 1679. There were two daughters of the marriage, Ann and Susan, baptised in Bocking in 1681 and 1683;

Second, he married Mary Joscelin in Panfield in 1685/6. They had a son Richard in 1686. Mary died in childbirth and Richard survived barely three weeks;

Thirdly, Robert married Sara Josselin, possibly a cousin of his second wife, in 1687 in Panfield; they had a son John baptised in Rayne on 24 March 1688/9;

Sara does not seem to have survived long for on 18 September 1689, again in Panfield, Robert married Sara Taylor. Two sons of that marriage, Richard and Samuel (See note 2), born in 1691 and 1693 seem to have survived. Two daughters, Sara (1694/5) and Mary (1708) do not seem to have outlived the winter of 1709/10. Their Mother died two years later.

Robert, "Robert Joslin of Felsted" was buried in Rayne on 2 February 1719/20. This Robert seems to have carried on his uncle Robert's duties in the Parish of Rayne, being Churchwarden in 1696.

The Third Generation

We know from his Will that **Ralph** (bap. 1 Mar 1675) had no male heirs. He left only two properties of his inheritance; they were to be sold and the money distributed to his three daughters: Hester, unmarried, Frances Rignall and Sarah Brock;

Of **John's sons**, we are uncertain about Joseph, Robert and Benjamin; however James, who moved from Faulkbourne to White Notley in 1727, may have been a great grandson;

Of **Robert's sons**, we know nothing of John. Richard may have been apprenticed to a blacksmith in Broomfield in about 1705. A Settlement Certificate shows that a Richard Jocelyn, Blacksmith, moved from Broomfield to White Notley in 1714. He had evidently already finished his apprenticeship and must therefore have been older than 21. (See note 3) He must have married soon after because a son, Richard, was born and baptised in Broomfield in August 1715. His wife's name is left blank (an omission repeated several times on the same page of the Register) and the child must have died in infancy, but a second child, Elizabeth, was born to Richard Josselin and his wife Elizabeth in White Notley in 1719. Another Richard was baptised in 1723, John in 1725/6 and Mary in 1727.

The elder Richard was buried in White Notley in 1742, having married a widow, Elizabeth Field (See note 4), after the death of his wife Elizabeth in 1729. His second wife died in 1739.

The Joscelyne family of Braintree is almost certainly descended from Ralph the younger's second surviving son Joseph. He married aged 49 in Braintree, a widow, Sarah Picknett, on 11 April 1732. (See note 5). Their only child, also Joseph, was baptised in Braintree on 31 January 1732/3: the younger Joseph's six children by his wife Mary Isaac (whose Mother was a Joslin, probably from Great Saling) stand at the head of a family tree prepared by the elder Joseph's Great Grandson James in 1826.

According to a family tradition, recorded by James's niece Mary Sharpe, the elder Joseph had "come over from Hanover or Brunswick". This has caused some difficulties for the historians of the Joscelyne family of Braintree. It is at least possible that Joseph had left Felsted to join his very distant Joslin cousins in Hanover, Massachusetts, returning to receive an inheritance in his Father's Will: - "two parcels of freehold land called the Broomes containing four acres and a half more or less and all that parcel of land called

Gatwards Croft two acres and a half and also that customary croft of arable land called Grove Croft lying and being in Felsted and also all that parcel of land adjoining Grove Croft ... called Shepherds containing three acres more or less ...". The Will was made in 1717, but Joseph's father died only in 1725, some seven years before Joseph's marriage. Ralph must have been worried by the lack of a male heir.

The Joscelyne families of the Notleys and Leigh on Sea are certainly descended from Richard Joscelyn, Blacksmith, of White Notley. (See note 6). Whether this Richard was the son of Robert and baptised in Rayne in 1691 is less certain. All the circumstances fit the case, and the use of the spelling Joscelyne suggests a close connection with other members of the family using the same spelling. If my suggestion is correct, Richard and Joseph would have been first cousins. They would also have been cousins of James Joscelyne who moved from Faulkbourne to White Notley in 1727 and, according to some researchers, bought Richard's dwelling house after his death.

It is a coincidence that another Richard Joslin, a farmer of Bocking, and possibly a descendant of the Great Saling family, was born some six years later than Richard of White Notley and also married an Elizabeth, Elizabeth Smith of Wethersfield, on 8 October 1723 in Panfield. In the Affidavit which had been attached to the Licence, Richard declared himself to be a single man, a farmer of Bocking, and 26 years old. He must thus have been born in 1697. This has caused much confusion to historians of the family; but there is little doubt that Richard of White Notley and Richard of Bocking were quite different people.

In "Bocking Deanery" by Ann Hoffmann (1976), Richard Joslin of Bovington Farm, as a tenant of the Deanery, paid £64 a year in rent in 1730; he also promised to furnish the Dean with 20 pounds of "best bright hops".

There is another difficulty. The Rayne Register of Burials shows that a Richard Joslin of Felsted died in 1715. This might indeed have been Robert's son, effectively destroying the connection between the families I have put forward. On the other hand, this Richard might have been Richard Josselyn, the son of Richard and his wife Susan (nee Walsh), who was baptised in Felsted on 31 January 1635/6. He married Mary and had daughters Susanna (1659), Jane (1660), Sarah (1663/4), Ann (1665) and Martha (1667) all baptised in Felsted. If this is the Richard of Felsted buried in Rayne, he would have been 79 years old.

The spelling JOSCELYNE appears occasionally in the seventeenth century: for instance, Gilbert, the second son of John of Braintree, uses this spelling in his Will of 1631. The descendants of Simon of Felsted spell their surname variously in their Wills Josslyn, Josselyn, Josseline and Joslin. Only the two last Ralphs in the line used the spelling Joscelyne in their Wills of 1717 and 1731. Before this, the Faulkbourne family used this spelling from 1690, with variations Josceline and Joslin. James uses the spelling Joscelyne in his Settlement Order in 1727 and in the White Notley Register.

Of James's supposed cousins, both Joseph and Richard usually have the spelling Joscelyn, with variations of Jocelyn, Joclyne and Josselin in the latter's case (White Notley Register). The spelling Joscelyne is consistently used by the following generations of the Braintree, Leigh and Notley families, with the final 'e' occasionally omitted.

Notes

1 James's Settlement Order (1727) is in respect of James and his family. The Mary Joscelyne who married Francis Raven in White Notley in 1753 is probably his daughter. Francis and Mary had a daughter Mary in 1756, but Francis's subsequent children (from 1761) were born to Margaret, so the assumption is that Mary died between 1756 and 1760. Another Mary, born to Richard and Elizabeth Joscelyn in 1727/8 married a Swaile and is mentioned in her brother John's Will in 1781 when she was still living.

2 A Samuel Joselin married Mary Dorster in Panfield in 1732.

3 Richard must have been older than 21 when he moved from Broomfield to White Notley since he could not have finished his Apprentiship before then. Since he was subject to a Settlement Order, he must have been virtually penniless at the time.

4 Elizabeth Agur married John Field in White Notley in 1726. He died in 1734/5. Two children Ann and John were born in 1730 and 1732. Elizabeth died in 1739/40.

5 Sarah's maiden name was Nishey or Nesbey. She had married Moses Picknett of Bocking in Braintree on 21 May 1717. There seem to have been no children of the marriage.

6 The family of Richard Joscelyn, Blacksmith of White Notley
Generation 1

Richard Joscelyn, Blacksmith of White Notley.

Probably the son of Robert Joslin of Felsted baptised in Rayne in 1691.

Married Elizabeth (surname unknown) and had issue -

1 Richard baptised in Broomfield 1715 and probably died in infancy

2 Elizabeth baptised in White Notley in 1719

Married John Runnacle in 1738 and had issue.

3 Richard baptised 1723, buried 1732.

4 John 1725 - 1781 of White Notley whose gravestone still stands in the churchyard there.

5 Mary born 1727. Married Swaile: still living in 1781

Generation 2

4 John. Blacksmith and Innkeeper of White Notley

Married Sarah Staines, widow, in Bocking in 1748 and had issue -

1 William, married Mary Green

2 Mary 1751-1778

3 John 1753- 1830, who moved to Leigh on Sea.

4 Elizabeth born on the 31 January 1755 and buried an infant on 4 May 1755.

5 Elizabeth born on 27 November 1757 who married Christopher Parsons of Leigh as his third wife in 1779. She died on 27 November 1841 aged 84 years.

Richard Joscelyne

Samford, Brisbane, Australia

2000

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The foregoing expands on some aspects of **The Joslins of Rayne** by Richard Joscelyne and published by the Society earlier in the year.