

Addendum to Study Paper No: 4, Pages 1 – 120 (05FEB22)

featuring mainly Staffordshire Record Office (SRO)
photographed files of interest.

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During many years of researching the history of the Drakeford family we have used numerous sources, the most fruitful of which was the SRO(Staffordshire Record Office). At one point in time, Chris and Michael Drakeford, together with their cousin, Lynn Lawrence made a visit to examine a series of files. The list of contents amounts to some 200 papers or boxes of material. A summary showing what is available that can be obtained from the SRO. Most items are found under reference D1798/HM/DRAKEFORD.

A bundle of letters, with many interesting tales to be told



Further material was available at the William Salt Library, mainly relating to the early map showing the early Drakeford shield/crest on a map first drawn by Joseph Browne in 1682, and the research for the Drakeford family by an early amateur genealogist, Thomas Cooper dated 1888. Cooper was previously Mayor of Congleton in 1883/4.

The SRO collection deals to a large extent with the estate of Richard Drakeford 'The Mariner'. His friend Dickenson was an executor to his will, and a great deal was kept by his family's legal firm.

Of particular note are the Abstracts of title that are associated with the proving of the title to estates, being houses or lands noted at the end of this Addendum. These may be about the same property but will contain what the lawyer at the time considered sufficient to evidence good title. One, reference SRO HM Drakeford/D1798/586/1/10 is shown and dated 1810, dealing with Forebridge Hall and the land around and the title of Henry Wright. It runs to about 8 pages listing various transactions. Another is for land sold to Earl Talbot, also mentions Henry Wright, reference D1798/66. A further abstract is of around 1762, which lists the land purchased around Stafford from 1615 to 1762 showing the purchase of Forebridge Hall at £1,203.10.0 on 7th March 1615 by Richard Drakeford from Richard Lee being '*.....Capital house and Lands in Forebridge and the Manor house and lands at Hasely in Cons of £1203.10.0*'.

Copies can be obtained from the Staffordshire Record Office(SRO) on request. They are considered too voluminous to list all of them here. However, with the kind consent of the SRO, a limited number of photographs of the original documents are shown below.

An example of the depth of available information can be cited by referring to just the second of the 'boxes' of material identified as D1798/HM/Drakeford/2. This contains the handwritten records created by Richard Drakeford 'The Mariner':

1726-1740

Purser's letter and store book (1 Vol.)

Purser in HMS Lyon at Jamaica 1726/7-1728

Letter book: mainly Captains direction to Purser

Then a few letters & Accounts (?while on shore) 1728-30

Then in HMS Tiger including lists of crew, notes, tables and surveys on victualling 1732-33

Then HMS Windsor, some items from 1728/9(?) tables more elaborate than previously 1733

Then HMS Lennox 1738-40

At rear. Disbursement Account, various ships (including pay advances 1728-29) 1727-39

Such material should send a naval historian into raptures, and the like abounds throughout these records. Another example listed below is the 'Orders and Letters Sent' pamphlet from HM Ship Adventure. These pages shown are dated 1709-1711. When you appreciate that Richard Drakeford 'The Mariner' is believed to have become a Captain's Writer when he joined the navy in 1709 aged just 10, it is quite possible that this was kept and treasured by our ancestor until he died in 1757. The captain was a Caleb Wade, Commander of His Majesty's ship Adventure.



Captain Caleb Wade's signature is shown at the top of this letter.

I have chosen to be selective about the information that I provide below. The intention is not to provide a blow-by-blow account of the life of our ancestors but to feature the interaction between the relatives at the time. This should support and expand the work in the Study Paper 4 concerning the Stafford family, supported where we can by some of the 700 photographs taken at the SRO. Permission has been obtained to place those selected on our Drakeford Family website. **IMPORTANT These photographs are included for information only and due to copyright should not be copied without the consent of the Staffordshire Record Office. They are identified by the SRO reference. Other photographs also have the source and in the same manner these must not be copied without consent.** The following examples are reproduced mainly in date order with reference to the Study Paper 4, and cross referenced as appropriate to the connection shown in the main part of that and any other Study Papers. These documents will show evidence of money transactions, money disputes, family interactions and so much more. Remember, as you read these letters English was written as it was spoken. Samuel Johnson published the first dictionary as we know them in 1755. Prior to that anything like a dictionary was a series of words listed in relation to a particular topic.

Consider not just the spelling, but the references to the mail, and the expectation of direct delivery:

1635 31 July - Charles I made the Royal Mail service available to the public for the first time with postage being paid by the recipient.

1680 - The first penny post system, known as the London Penny Post, for local delivery was introduced by William Dockwra, but this was restricted to London addresses.

1840 10 January - Uniform Penny Post starts throughout the United Kingdom.

As you read the letters, and in some cases, these have addresses, remember that they were single sheets of paper, folded up, with a personal wax seal 'sealing' the letter, and addresses such as '*Mrs Drakeford, Stafford, Richd Drakeford in Gosport, Hants, or Mr Lewis Dickenson, Apothecary in Stafford, Staffordshire*'.

Today we use the internet, and the art of letter writing is fast disappearing, let alone the use of pens, blotting paper and something they called ink!

Now, remember that Richard Drakeford 'The Mariner' was based in Gosport for most of his career. He went back to the family 'seat' and **purchased Forebridge Hall in 1748** from Richard 'The Town Clerk' thus saving the family fortunes. He left the rump of his fortune to Richard 'The Major', son of Richard 'The Town Clerk' who in turn passed this on after his death to his youngest brother Edward who died without wife or issue in 1814.

We hope that the comments accompanying each letter will help bring to life the events of the time.

Just before you start reading this, let me tell you that a while ago Jeremy Drakeford spotted for sale on an e-bay site an original deed dated 2nd February 1739 between Richard Drakeford, The Town Clerk, Gentleman and his wife Frances and John Withers, of Bearston, Shropshire. I was pleased to purchase this deed. It is signed and sealed by our ancestors, matching the very unusual signature of *Ri Drakeford* visible on all the copies of letters and deeds signed by this Richard and discussed below. The deed concerns the sale of a land for twelve pounds. A transcript is available on request. This really does bring our history to life. For many of the translations from Latin we have used the services of David Bethell for whom we are most grateful.

a) 1508 - John Drakeford of Norton misdemeanor

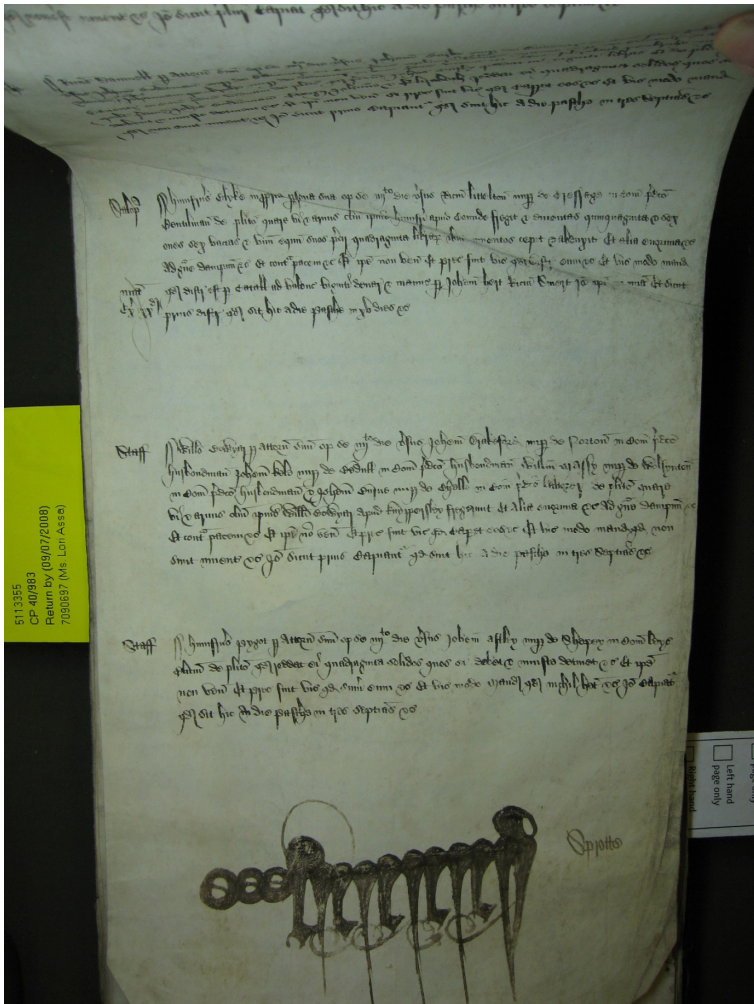
Source: Public Record Office: 5113355 CP 40/983

Title: Common Pleas Hilary 23 Henry VII Hilary 1508 Westminster

Pl'ita apud Westm^r coram Rob'to Rede Milite et socijs suis Justic' d'ni Regis de Banco de Termi'o s'ci Hillarij Anno regni Regis Henrici septimi post conq'm vicesimo tercio

Pleas at Westminster before Robert Rede knight and his fellows, justices of the lord king de Banco, for Hilary term in the 23rd year of the reign of king Henry the seventh after the Conquest Staff'

Will's Bowyar p^r attorn' suu' op se iiiij^{to} die v^rsus Joh'em Drakeford nup de Norton' in Com' p^rd'co Husbandman' Joh'em Kele nup de Bedull in Com' p^rd'co Husbandman' Will'm Massy nup de Wolsynton' in Com' p^rd'co Husbandman' & Joh'em Burne nup de Chelle in Com' p^rd'co Laborer de pl'ito quare vi & armis cl'm ip'ius Will'i Bowyar apud Knypersley fregerunt Et alia enormia &c' Ad g^aue dampnu' &c' Et cont^a pacem &c' Et ip'i no' ven' Et prec' fuit vic' q'd Capet eos &c' Et vic' modo mand' q'd non sunt inuent' &c' I'o sicut prius Capiant' q'd sint hic a die Pasche in tres Septi'as &c' Staffordshire



William Bowyar appeared for a fourth day by his attorney against John Drakeford late of Norton in the county aforesaid husbandman, John Kele late of Bedull in the county aforesaid husbandman, William Massy late of Wolsynton in the county aforesaid husbandman and John Burne late of Chelle in the county aforesaid laborer, in a plea wherefore by force of arms they broke into a close of the said William Bowyar at Knypersley, and (inflicted) other enormities (upon him) &c. to grave damage &c. and against the peace &c. And (the defendants) have not come; and it had been ordered the sheriff to take them &c. And the sheriff now reports that (the defendants) are not found &c. Therefore, as before, let them be taken, to be here three weeks from Easter.

Copyright: National Archives

Comment: This shows that the Drakefords were living in Norton-in-the-Moors during the reign of the first Tudor monarch, Henry VII, and even then they were upsetting the local landowner, William Bowyer at Knypersley. It would not be until the 1600s that the family names were to be joined by marriage.

b) 1537 – Thomas Drakeford of Leigh, failure to re-pay debt

Source: Public Record Office: [6437512 CP 40/1092](#)

Title: Common Pleas, Hilary 28 Henry VIII, Westminster

Pl'ita apud Westmr coram Joh'e Baldewyn Milite & Socijs suis Justic' d'ni Regs de Banco de trmino s'ci Hillarij Anno regni Regis Henrici octaui post conq'm vicesimo octauo

Pleas at Westminster before John Baldewyn knight and his fellows, justices of the lord king de Banco, for Hilary term in the 28th year of the reign of king Henry the eighth after the Conquest

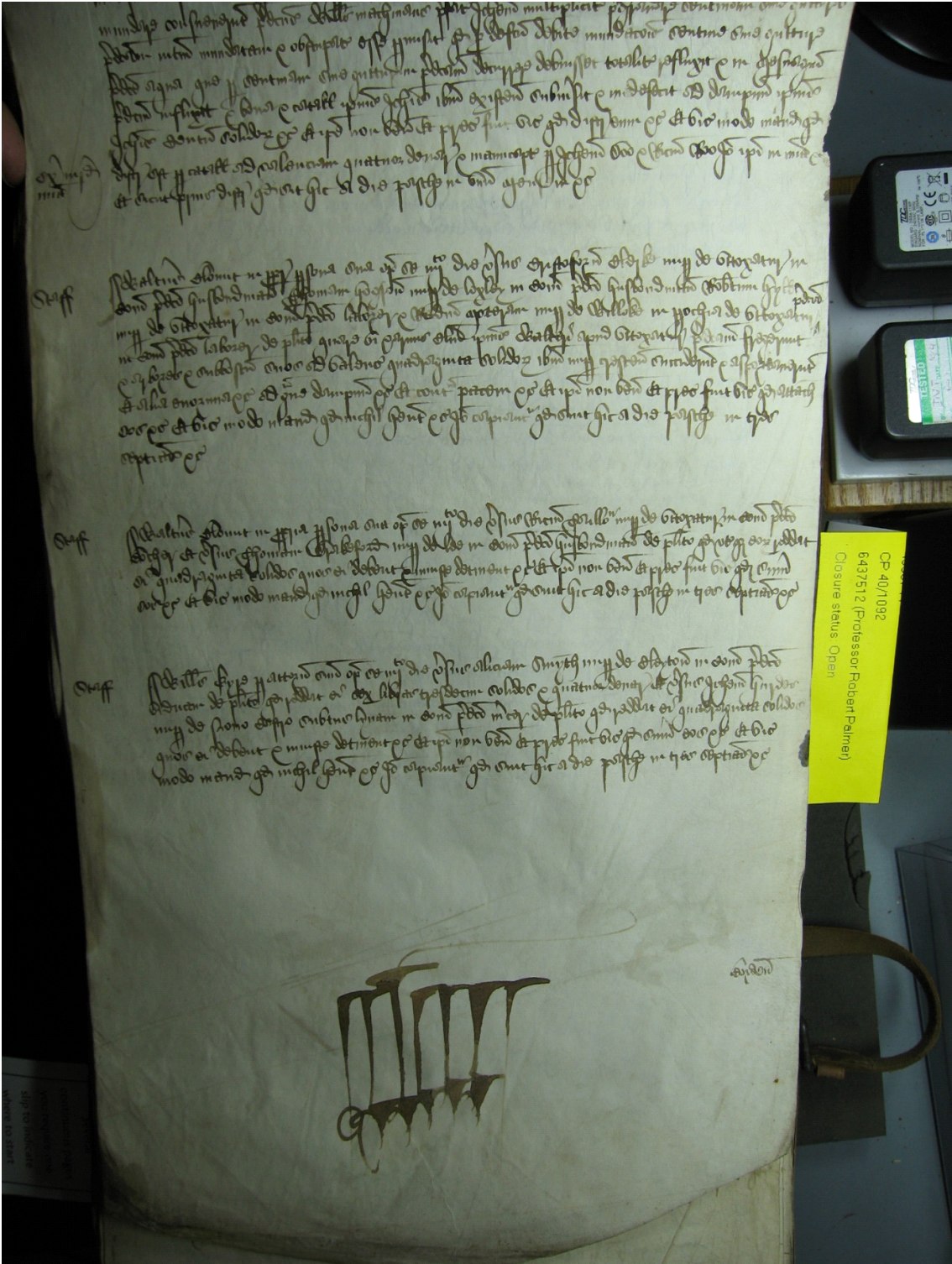
Staff'

Waltrus Blount in ppria psona sua op' se iijto die vrsus Ric'm Tailor nup de Vttoxatur in Com' prd'co Bocher Et vrsus Thomam Drakeford nup de Lee in Com' prd'co Husbandman' de pl'ito q'd vtrq' eor reddat ei quadraginta solidos quos ei debent & iniust' detinent &c' Et ip'i non ven' Et prec' fuit vic' q'd sum' eos &c' Et vic' modo mand' q'd nichil h'ent &c' l'o capiantr q'd sint hic a die Pasche in tres septi'as &c

Staffordshire

Walter Blount appeared in person for a fourth day against Richard Tailor late of Uttoxatur in the county aforesaid bocher, and against Thomas Drakeford late of Lee in the county aforesaid husbandman, in a plea that each of them render him 40s that they owe him and unjustly withhold &c. And (the defendants) have not come; and it had been ordered the sheriff to summon them &c. And the sheriff now reports that (the defendants) have nothing (in his bailiwick in lands or chattels by which they might be attached) &c. Therefore, let them be taken, to be here three weeks from Easter &c.

Comment: This appears to be a simple action for the payment of a debt owe to Walter Blout by Richard Tailor and Thomas Drakeford for the sum of £2. This was a large sum in those days and the defendants clearly could not pay the debt. They were to be called back to court and we can but wonder what their punishment was.



Copyright: National Archives

c) 1580 – Grant/Gift of Premises in Latin from William Drakeford to Richard Drakeford et al, London and Congleton, property in Congleton

Source: Cheshire SRO 1798/71

Omnibus xp'i fidelibus ad quos hoc presens scriptu' Indentat' pvenerit Willus Drakesforde de Novo Hospito in poch' S'ci Clementis extra barr' novi Templi London filius Will'i Drakesford de Congleton' in com' Cestrie yoman saltm Noveritis me prfatu' Will'm Drakesforde filiu' diursis bonis causis et considerac'oibus ad hoc me movent' dedisse concessisse et hoc prsenti script' meo Indentat' confirmasse Ric'o Drakesford de Lostocke Gralam Rogero Dale de Smalwood et Ric'o Drakesford de Congleton prd' in dict' com' Cestr' yomen om'ia et sing'la ill' duo mea burgag' cu' edificijs supastantibus et om'ia et sing'la terr' ten't' turbar' et ceter' hereditament' mea quecu'q' cu' ptin' in Congleton' prd' modo vel nup in tenura et occupac'oe dict' Will'mi Drakesford mei patris et assignat' suor Que quidem om'ia et sing'la prmiss cu' ptin' ego prfat' Will'ms Drakesford filius nup habui et pquisivi mihi et hered' meis de quodam Joh'e Walker Rogero Dale et Ric'o Drakesford de Congleton hered' et assign' suis ad vsu' mei prd' Will'mi Drakesford filij pro et durant' toto termino vite natural' meo dict' Will'mi Drakesford filij Et post meu' decessu' ad vsu' hered' masculor de corpore meo legitti'e pcreat' siue pcreand' Et pro defectu tal' exit' ad vsu' Joh'is Drakesford fratris mei dict' Will'mi et hered' masculor de corpore dict' Joh'is legitti'e pcreat' siue pcreand' Et pro defectu talis exit' ad vsu' Edwardi Drakesford alterius fratris mei dict' Will'mi filij et hered' masculor de corpore dict' Edwardi legitti'e pcreat' siue pcreand' Et pro defectu talis exit' ad vsu' Ric'i Drakesford alterius fratris mei dict' Will'mi filij et hered' masculor de corpore dict' Ric'i legitti'e pcreat' sive pcreand' Et pro defectu talis exit' ad vsu' Thome Drakesford alterius fr'is mei dict' Will'mi filij et hered' masculor de corpore dict' Ric'i legitti'e pcreat' sive pcreand' Et pro defectu talis exit' ad vsu' Rogeri Drakesford alterius fr'is mei dict' Will'mi filij et hered' masculor de corpore suo legitti'e pcreat' sive pcreand' Et pro defectu talis exit' ad vsu' rectoru' hered' dicti Rogeri Drakesford Impp'm. Tenend' de capitalibus d'nis feod' ill' p servic' inde debit' et de Jure consuet'.

Et ego vero prfatus Will'us Drakesford filius et hered' mei prd' duo Burgag' cu' edificijs supastantibus et om'ia et sing'la prd' terr' ten't' turbar' et hereditament' quecu'q' cu' ptin' prfat' Ric'o Drakesford de Lostok Gram Roger Dale et Ric'o Drakesford de Congleton hered' et assign' suis ad vsus et intenco'es prd' contra o'es gentes warrantizabimus et Imp'p'm defendemus p' prsent'. Ac Insuper sciatis me prfat' Will'ms Drakesford filiu' attornasse constituisse ordinasse fecisse locoq' meo p' prsent' posuisse dilectos mi in xp'o Thoma' Rode et Rad'um Maynwaringe meos veros et legitti'os attornat' coniunctim et diuisim ad intrand' et ingrediend' p' me vice et no'ie meo in prd' duo burgag' cu' edificijs supastantibus terr' ten't' turbar' et cetera prmiss' cu' ptin' et in qua'libet vel aliqua' inde pcell' Possessionem et seisina' inde p' me vice et no'ie meo capiend' Et post hm'oi possessione' et seisina' sic inde captam et h'itam deinde plena' legalem et pacificam possessione' et seisina' de et in prmiss' cu' ptin' eisdem Ric'o Drakesford de Lostock Gram Roger Dale et Ric'o Drakesford de Congleton aut eor vni vel eoru' in hac pte certo attornato ad tradend' et deliberand' s'cdm tenorem vim formam et effectum huius prsent' script' mei Indentat' eis inde confect' Rat' et grat' h'ent' et h'ibur' totu' et quicquid dicti Attornati mei seu eoru' alter no'ie meo fecerit vel fecerint in prmiss' p' prsent'. In Cuius Rei testimoniu' vtriq' parti huius present' scripti mei Indentat' ego prfatus Will'us Drakesford sigillu' meu' apposui. Dat' decimo octauo die Julij Anno Regni d'ne n're Elizabeth dei gracia Anglie Fraunc' et Hibernie Regine fidei defensoris & Vicesimo Secundo 1580.

Translation:

To all faithful of Christ to whom this present writing indentate may come, William Drakesforde of the New Inn in the parish of St Clement without the bar of the New Temple, London, son of William Drakesford of Congleton in county Chester, yeoman, greeting. Know that I, the aforesaid William Drakesforde the son, divers good causes and considerations me moving, have given, granted and by this my present writing indentate confirmed to

Richard Drakesford of Lostocke Gram, Roger Dale of Smalwood and Richard Drakesford of Congleton aforesaid in the said county of Chester yeomen, all and singular those two burgages with the buildings standing thereon and all and singular the lands, tenements, turbarry and other my hereditaments whatsoever with appurtenances in Congleton aforesaid now or late in the tenure and occupation of the said William Drakesford my father and of his assigns; all and singular which premises with appurtenances I the aforesaid William Drakesford the son late had and purchased for me and my heirs from one John Walker, Roger Dale and Richard Drakesford of Congleton, their heirs and assigns; for the use of me the aforesaid William Drakesford the son for and during all the natural life of me the said William Drakesford the son, and after my decease to the use of the heirs male of my body lawfully begotten or to be begotten; and for lack of such issue to the use of John Drakesford brother of me the said William and to the heirs male of the body of the said John lawfully begotten or to be begotten; and for lack of such issue to the use of Edward Drakesford another brother of me the said William the son and to the heirs male of the body of the said John lawfully begotten or to be begotten; and for lack of such issue to the use of Richard Drakesford another brother of me the said William the son and to the heirs male of the body of the said John lawfully begotten or to be begotten; and for lack of such issue to the use of Thomas Drakesford another brother of me the said William the son and to the heirs male of the body of the said John lawfully begotten or to be begotten; and for lack of such issue to the use of Roger Drakesford another brother of me the said William the son and to the heirs male of the body of the said John lawfully begotten or to be begotten; and for lack of such issue to the right heirs of the said Roger Drakesford, for ever, to hold from the chief lords of that fee by the services thence due and of right accustomed. And I, the aforesaid William Drakesford the son, and my heirs shall warrant and for ever defend by these presents the aforesaid burgage with the buildings standing thereon and all and singular the aforesaid lands, tenements, turbarry and hereditaments whatsoever with appurtenances to the aforesaid Richard Drakesford of Lostok Gram, Roger

Dale and Richard Drakesford of Congleton, their heirs and assigns, to the uses and intentions aforesaid against all people. And, moreover, know that I, the aforesaid William Drakesford the son, have attorned, constituted, ordained, made and put in my place by these presents my beloved in Christ, Thomas Rode and Ralph Maynwaringe, my true and lawful attorneys jointly and separately to enter and go into for me in my place and in my name the aforesaid two burgages with the buildings standing thereon, the lands, tenements, turbary and other premises with appurtenances and into whatever or any parcel thereof, to take possession and seisin thereof for me, in my place and name; and, after such possession and seison so thereof taken and had, to hand over and deliver full lawful and peaceful possession and seisin thereof of and in the premises with appurtenances to the same Richard Drakesford of Lostock Gram, Roger Dale and Richard Drakesford of Congleton or one of them or their certain attorney in this behalf, according to the tenor, force, form and effect of this my present writing indentate made to them; having and to have by these presents accepted and agreed all and whatever the said my attorneys or either of them shall do in my name in the premises. In witness of which I, the aforesaid William Drakesford, have affixed my seal to either part of this my present writing indentate. Given the 18th day of July in the 22nd year of the reign of our lady Elizabeth by the grace of God queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith &c. 1580.

[endorsed:]

18th July 22d. Elizabeth 1538

<i>Wm. Drakeford</i>	}	<i>Grant of Prem'es</i>
<i>to</i>	}	<i>in Congleton</i>
<i>Ri. Drakeford</i>	}	<i>to sevl. Uses</i>

A copy of this Latin document is available at the SRO.

Comment: This is the full version of the very important 1580 gift from William of London, shown in both Latin and English above. It brings together various factions of the family from London, Congleton, other parts of Cheshire and ultimately Stafford. **A full description is to be found in Study paper 2, Congleton.**

The original Latin document is available at the Staffordshire Record Office.

d) **1589 Indenture for Sir Ralph Edgerton, for 20l land etc., to Richard Drakeford, son of Stephen Drakeford of Stodmerlowe, Joane Deane, previously owned by Richard Bache**

Source: Chester C. 7850

Indenture dated 31 March 31 Elizabeth, witnessing that Sir Ralph Egerton of Wrynehill, knight for a fine of 20l., has demised to Richard Bache, Richard son of Stephen Drakeforde of Stodmerlowe, co. Stafford, and Joan daughter of Ralph Deane, for their lives in survivorship, his messuage, lands, &c. late in the occupation of the said Richard Bache in Newbolde, with housebote, haybote, firebote, cartbote and ploughbote, and liberty of digging marl; rent, 12s., a heriot on the deaths of the said Richard and Richard and of the said Joan if she should survive them, and all duties usually rendered; the lessees to do all repairs, taking timber in Newbolde therefor, and to carry yearly to Wrynhill a quarter of barley, to be bought by Sir Ralph in the parish of Astburie; Sir Ralph to be bound in 40l. for due performance English. Three marks.

Two seals.

Endorsed with signatures of witnesses.

Comment: This is interesting in as much that it involves Richard, a son of Stephen Drakeford. A Stephen Drakeford features heavily in Study Papers 1 and 5. It links Stephen to not just Stodmerlowe, but also land in Newbold, Wrynhill and Astbury. Thus linking those in Congleton, Wolstanton etc., in the 16th century.

e) **1614 – Feoffment, messuage in Forebridge late in the occupation of Robert Cheetham Berisford/Drakeford** **Source: D1798/HMDRAKEFORD/47**

Comment: This has not been translated from the Latin. It appears to be a transaction by Richard Drakeford in Forebridge as a precursor to his purchase of Forebridge Hall and the land around 1615/1616.

f) 1616, 9 March, Feoffment, Capital message in Forebridge, Lee/Drakeford

Source: SRO D1798/HMDRAKEFORD/42

The purchase of Forebridge Hall and land by Richard Drakeford from Mr Lee of London.

Comment: This is an important deed showing the purchase of Forebridge Hall, which was to be owned by the family until the early 19th Century. The writing on the back of the document appears to show a list of signatures:

These appear to be:

Thomas Parnell senior, of Congleton

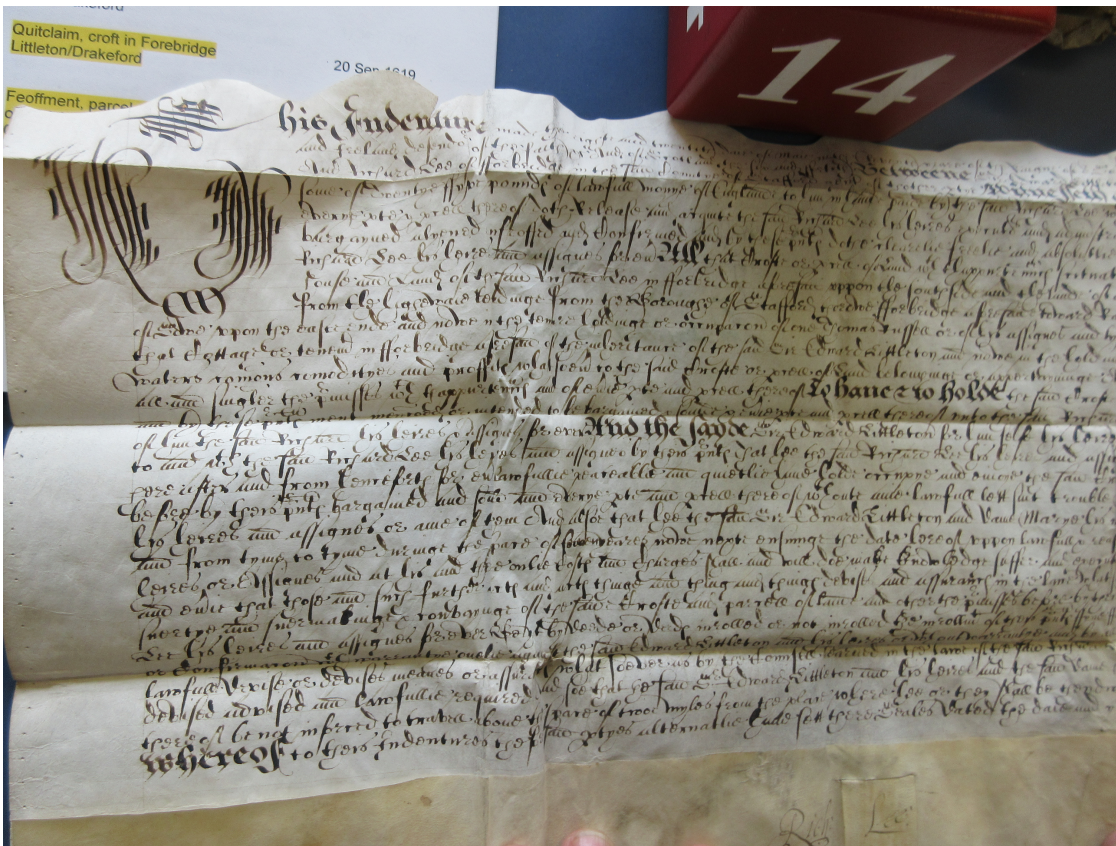
W. Drakeford Alderman

John Dove

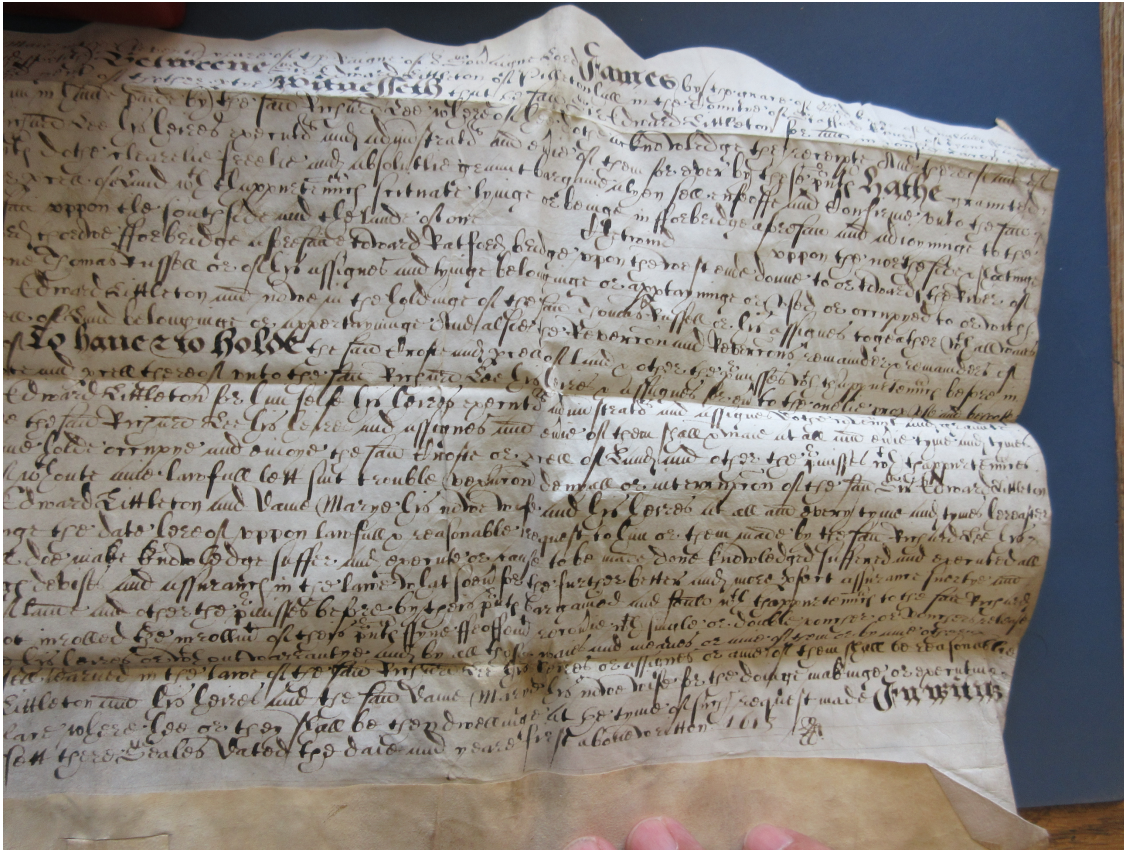
Henrie Haworth

Roger Drakeford and others.

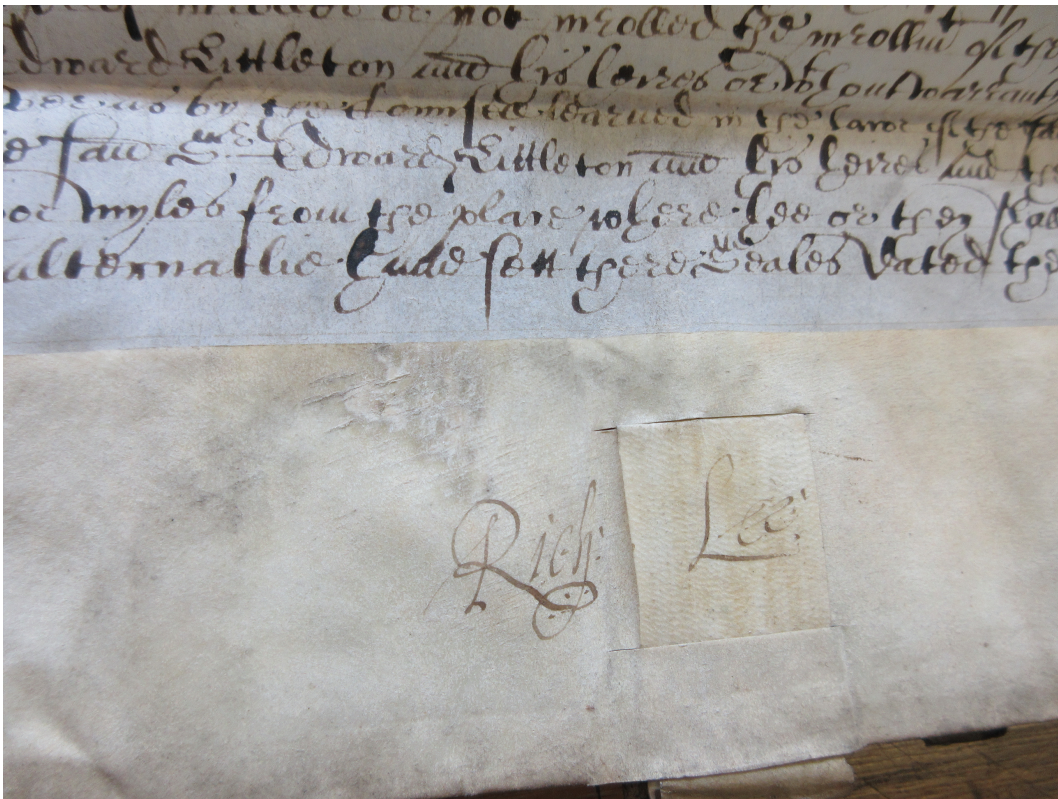
This usefully ties the Richard Drakeford 'The Merchant' who is buying the property, with the Drakefords in Congleton. This document was started in 1615 and completed 1616.



Copyright: Staffordshire Record Office



Copyright: Staffordshire Record Office



Copyright: Staffordshire Record Office

g) 1618 – Richard Drakeford of Stafford and Thomas Drakeford of Congleton.

Source: SRO D1798/HMDRAKEFORD/70

Quitclaim land in Yarnfield to Robert Walker.

Omnibus xp'i fidelibus ad quos hec p'sens scriptum p'venit Ric'us Drakefordē de villa Stafford in Com' Staff gen'osus et Thomas Drakefordē de Congleton in Com' Cestr' gen'osus saltm in d'no sempiternam Noveritis nos p'fat' Ric'um Drakefordē et Thomam Drakeford in accomplementu' et p'formaco'em fidei & confidencie in nobis p' Rob'tm Walker de Yarnefeilde al's Ernefeilde in Com' Staff p'd' yoman reposit' et pro melior' et assuranc' o'ium et sing'lor tentor cum p'tin' inferius in hoc p'sent' script' n'ro menc'onat' Remaner' p'fat' Rob'to Walker hered' et assignat' suis ad eor' vsu' imppum contra nos et hered' n'ros et vtriusq' n'rm remittere n'rm ac contra o'es al' p'sonas clamantes in p' vel subter nos siue vtrunq' n'rm Remisisse relaxasse assurasse et omni'o pro nobis hered' et assignat' n'ris et vtriusq' n'rm remittere relaxare & p' p'sentes confirmare pro nobis et hered' n'ris et vtriusq' n'rm p'fat' Rob'to Walker in sua plena et pacifica possessione inde existent' et assignatis suis Totum n'rm et vtriusq' n'rm Jus titulu' statu' vsu' clam' demaund' et interesse quecunq' de in et ad totum illud mesuagiu' sive ten'tu' et gardinu' eidem adiacen' modo sive nup' in tenur' seu occupac'oe quorundam Thome Clayton et Johanna Wyatt vid' seu eoru' alterius seu eoru' siue alterius eor' assignat' vel tenenciu' Ac etiam de in et ad o'es ill' clausur' prat' pastur' et p'cell' terr' co'iter vocat' Milles croftes modo in duabus p'tibus divis's, Ryley crofte modo etiam in duabus p'tibus divis's, Holywall modo etiam in duabus p'tibus divis's, Further Hill et Bootherstone Ac etiam vnum acr' et dimid' acr' aut eo circiter iacen' in le vndertowne medowe ac dimid' vnus acr' prati aut eo circiter iacen' infra mesuag' p'dict' ac vnam acram et dimidiu' vnus acr' prati aut eo circiter iacen' in sepalibus doleis et p'cellis in campis de Yarnefeilde Ac etiam de in et ad viginti octo acr' terr' arrabilis aut eo circiter iacen' in co'ibus campis de Yarnefeilde p'dict' Ac etiam de in et ad totu' illud mesuagiu' siue ten'tu' modo seu nuper in tenur' siue occupac'oe d'ci Rob'ti Walker siue assignat' vel tenenciu' suor' ac o'es ill' clausur' pastur' prat' et p'cell' terr' co'iter vocat' le Nether croftes et prat' eisdem adiungen' le Riley le Newhey le Holywall le Hylowe lez sixe Riddinges modo in duabus p'tibus divis's le Fall buttes quinq' dolas prat' aut eo circiter iacen' in vndertowne et Riley medowe vnam acr' siue daie math et dimid' aut eo circiter iacen' in Blackfurlonge octo dolas prati aut eo circiter iacen' in Lidgate feildes vnam doleam prati aut eo circiter iacen' in Pilstone feilde et vnam p'cellam prati iacen' in quodam puteo in

Twemlowe feilde viginti quinq' seliones et tres pvas seliones terr' arrabil' continen' p estimac'oem undecim acr' aut eo circiter iacen' in Lidgate feild'¹ seliones et finem vnus selionis terr' arrabil' continen' p estimaco'em duas acr' aut eo circiter iacen' in Blackfurlonge, viginti sex seliones terr' arrabil' continen' p estimac'oem ...² acras et dimidiu' vnus acr' aut eo circiter iacen' in Pilston feilde, viginti septem seliones et quatuor lez endes terr' arrabilis continen' p estimac'oem tresdecim acr' et tres quarter' aut eo circiter iacen' in Twemlowe feilde Que quidem mesuag' siue tenement' ac cetera p'missa p'menc'onat' sunt scituat' iacen' siue existen' vel reputat' fore siue iacere in Ernesfeilde al's yarnefeilde p'd' et in poch' de Swynnerton seu in eor' alter Ac de in et ad o'ia domos edificia structur' horrea stabul' Columbar' pomar' gardin' terr' ten'ta prat' pasc' pastur' vias aquas bosc' subboscus co'ias profic' comoditat' emolument' et hereditament' quecu'q' eisdem sepal' mesuag' siue ten'tis ac ceter' p'missis aut eor' alicui siue alicui p'ti siue p'cell' eor' spectan' siue p'tinen' seu cu' eisdem occupat' vsitat' siue gavis's vel accept' reputat' habit' siue cognit' vt pars p'cell' siue membr' eorund' seu eisdem spectan' cu' o'ibus et sing'lis suis p'tin' Ac etiam in et ad reu'co'em et reu'co'es remaner' et remaner' reddit' et servic' p'missor' et cuiuslibet inde p'tis et p'cell' **Habend' et tenend'** o'ia et sing'la p'd' mesuag' structur' terr' ten'ta Clausur' prat' pasc' pastur' ac cetera o'ia et sing'la p'missa cum p'tin' et quamlibet inde p'cellam Ac reu'co'em et reu'co'es remaner' et remaner' eorund' et cuiuslibet inde p'cell' **Ac** totu' n'rm et vtriusq' nostru' Jus titulu' statu' vsu' clam' demaund' et interesse quecumq' de in et ad o'ia et sing'la p'd' mesuag' terr' ten'ta et cetera p'missa cum p'tin' et quamlibet inde p'cellam ac de in et ad reu'co'em reu'co'es et remaner' eorund' et cuiuslibet inde p'cell' p'fat' Rob'to Walker hered' et assignat' suis ad solu' et propriu' opus et vsum ip'ius Rob'ti Walker hered' et assignat' suor' imp'p'm **Et nos** vero p'fat' Ric'us Drakeforde et Thomas Drakeford et hered' n'ri o'ia et sing'la p'd' mesuag' terr' ten'ta ac cetera o'ia et sing'la p'missa quecu'q' cu' p'tin' et reu'co'em et reu'co'es et remaner' eorund' et cuiuslibet inde p'cell' p'fat' Rob'to Walker hered' et assignat' suis ad vsu' p'd' contra nos hered' et assignat' n'ros et vtriusq' n'rm warrantizabim' et imp'p'm defendemus p' p'ntes **In cuius rei testimonium** huic p'sent' script' n'ro nos p'fat' Ric'us Drakeford et Thomas Drakeford sigilla n'ra apposuer' dat' vicesimo die Julij Anno regni d'ni n'ri Jacobi dei gr'a Anglie Francie et Hib'nie Regis fidei defensor &c' sextodecimo et Scotie quinquagesimo primo 1618

Rich Drakeford

Tho: Drakeford

¹ lost in a crease

² lost in a crease

Translation:

To all faithful of Christ to whom this present writing may come, Richard Drakeforde of the town of Stafford in county Stafford gentleman and Thomas Drakeforde of Congleton in county Chester gentleman, eternal greeting in the Lord. Know that we, the aforesaid Richard Drakeforde and Thomas Drakeford, in fulfilment and performance of the faith and trust reposed in us by Robert Walker of Yarnefeilde alias Ernefeilde in county Stafford aforesaid yeoman, and for the betterment and assurance of all and singular the tenements with appurtenances mentioned below in this our present writing, to remain to the aforesaid Robert Walker, his heirs and assigns to their use for ever, against us and our heirs and of each of us our remise and against all other persons claiming in for or under us or either of us; have remitted, released, assured and completely for us, our heirs and assigns and of either of us, remit, release and by these presents confirm for us and for our heirs and of either of us to the aforesaid Robert Walker being in his full and peaceful possession thereof and to his assigns, all our and of either of us right, title, estate, use, claim, demand and interest whatsoever of in and to all that messuage or tenement and the garden adjoining the same now or late in the tenure or occupation of a certain Thomas Clayton and Johanna Wyatt widow or of either of them or of either of their assigns or tenants; and also of in and to all those closes of meadow, pasture and parcels of land commonly called Milles Croftes (now in two parts divided), Ryley Crofte (now also in two parts divided), Holywall (now also in two parts divided), Further Hill and Bootherstone; and also 1½ acres or thereabouts lying in the Undertowne Medowe and ½ acre meadow or thereabouts lying below the messuage aforesaid and 1½ acres meadow or thereabouts lying in several doles and parcels in the fields of Yarnefeilde; and also of in and to 28 acres of arable land or thereabouts lying in the common fields of Yarnefeilde aforesaid; and also of in and to all that messuage or tenement now or late in the tenure or occupation of the said Robert Walker or his assigns or tenants and all those closes of pasture, meadow and parcels of land commonly called the Nether Croftes and the meadows thereto adjoining, the Riley, the Newhey, the Holywall, the Hylowe, the Sixe Riddinges (now in two parts divided), the Fall

Buttes, 5 doles of meadow or thereabouts lying in Undertowne and Riley Meadowe, 1½ acres or day maths or thereabouts lying in Blackfurlonge, 8 doles of meadow or thereabouts lying in Lidgate Feildes, a dole of meadow or thereabouts lying in Pilstone Feilde and a parcel of meadow lying in a pit in Twemlow Feilde, 25 selions and 3 small selions of arable land containing by estimation 11 acres or thereabouts lying in Lidgate Feild, selions and the end of a selion of arable land containing by estimation 2 acres or thereabouts lying in Blackfurlonge, 26 selions of arable land containing by estimation acres and ½ acre or thereabouts lying in Pilston Feilde, 27 selions and 4 ends of arable land containing by estimation 13¾ or thereabouts lying in Twemlowe Feilde. Which said messuage or tenement and the other premises mentioned above are situate, lying and being or reputed to be or to lie in Ernesfeilde alias Yarnefeilde aforesaid and in the parish of Swynnerton or in either or them. And of and in all houses, edifices, structures, barns, stables, dovecotes, orchards, gardens, lands, tenements, meadows, feedings, pastures, ways, waters, woods, underwood, commons, profits, commodities, emoluments and hereditaments whatsoever to the same several messuages or tenements and other premises or any of them or any part or parcel or member of the same or belonging to the same with all and singular their appurtenances. And, also, in and to the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders, rents and services of the premises and of whatever part and parcel thereof. To have and to hold all and singular the aforesaid messuages, structures, lands, tenements, closes, meadows, feedings, pastures and all and singular other premises with appurtenances and whatever parcel thereof, and the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders of the same and of whatever parcel thereof, and all our and of either of us right, title, estate, use, claim, demand and interest whatsoever of in and to all and singular the aforesaid messuage, lands, tenements and other premises with appurtenances and whatever parcel thereof and of in and to the reversion, reversions and remainder of the same and of whatever parcel thereof, to the aforesaid Robert Walker, his heirs and assigns, for ever. And we, the aforesaid Richard Drakeford and Thomas Drakeford and our heirs, shall warrant and for ever defend by these presents all and singular the aforesaid messuage, lands, tenements and all and singular other premises whatsoever with

appurtenances and the reversion and reversions and remainders of the same and of whatever parcel thereof to the aforesaid Robert Walker his heirs and assigns to the use aforesaid against us, our heirs and assigns and of either of us. In witness of which we the aforesaid Richard Drakeford and Thomas Drakeford have affixed our seals to this our present writing, given the 20th day of July in the 16th year of the reign of our lord James by the grace of God king of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. and of Scotland the 51st, 1618.

Richard Drakeford

Thomas Drakeford

Comment: Again, this shows a firm link between the Stafford and Congleton families through Richard and Thomas respectively. The document identifies various lands held by a Robert Walker, Yeoman his heirs and assigns to their use forever etc., presumably, indicating the land was being sold.

h) 1622, 14th April

Lease Forebridge Hall

Source: SRO- 1798/43

1622 'Lease' for Forebridge Hall between Richard Drakeford of Stafford and Edward Drakeford of Congleton (which is other than a lease)

*This Indenture made the foureteenth daie of Aprill in the nynteenth yeare of the raigne of our sou'aigne lord James by the grace of God of England Fraunce and Ireland Kinge Defender of the faith &c' and of Scotland the four and Fiftieth ³ **Between** [Rich]ard Drakefford thelder of the towne of Stafford in the countie of Stafford gent' of thone ptie **And** Edward Drakefford of Congleton in the Countye of Chester gent' of thother ptie **Witnesseth** that the said Richard Drakefford for and in considerac'on that the said Edward Drakefford standeth bounden with and for the said Richard Drakefford to the psons hereafter herin named in the seu'all summes her'in followinge That is to saie To one maister Wollaston of Oncott in the said County of Stafford gent' the su'me of One hundreth and fyve pound^s by bond forfeyted to one [blank] Scryveno^r of London fiftie pound^s principall for which m^r ⁴ Weye of Stretford and my Cosen m^r Henrye Kent is bound With me one other Debt to the towne of Stafford of tenne*

³ 14 April 1621

⁴ possibly m^{rs}

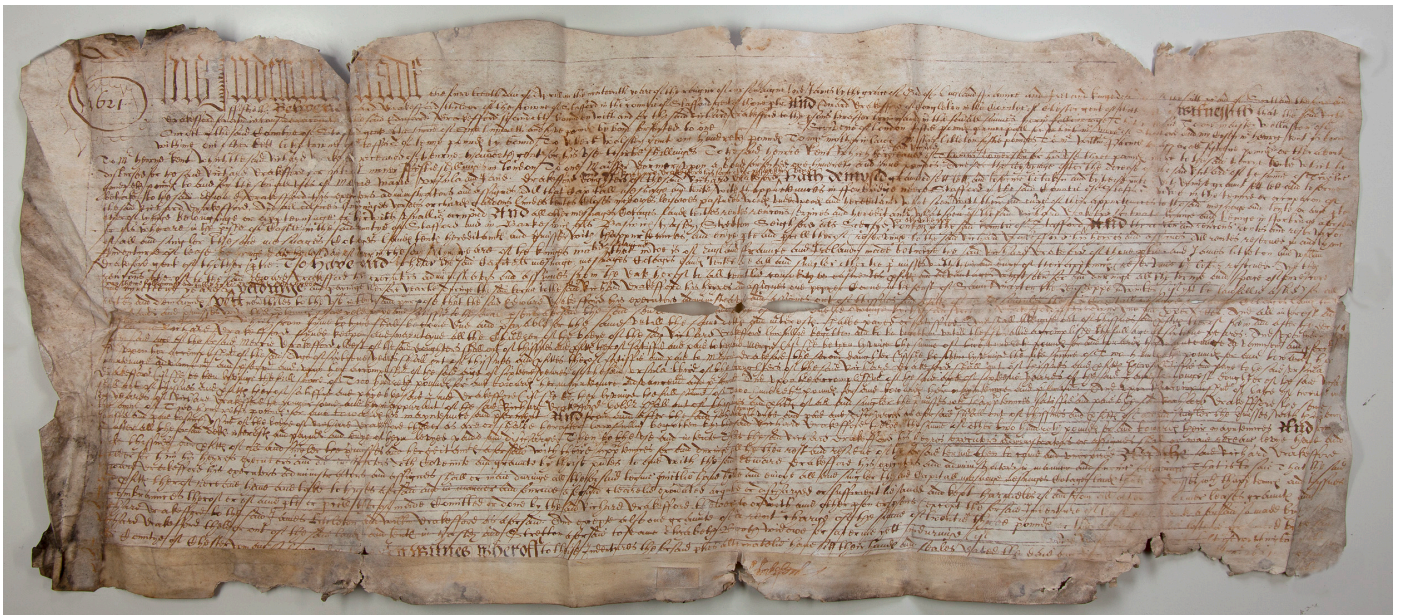
pound^s by bonnd, To Robert Wolsley gent' one hundreth pound^s To my
 motherinlawe Mistris Littleton fiftie poundes, to m^r Will^m Parnell for apparell
 fifteene pound^s or ther about^s To M^r Henrye Kent which the said Richard
 Drakefford receavd of Henrye Haworth gent' for his vse thirtie shillings To
 the said Henrie Kent which he +the said Richard+ receaved of Thomas
 Homersley for his vse three pound^s more to the said Henrye Kente which he
 disbursed for the said Richard Drakefford for interest money Fyftie shillings
 in London To one Maister Dormer vpon a bond forfeyed one hundreth and
 Fyue poundes And for the leyvyng after the decease of the said Richard of
 the su^mme of Twelue hundreth pound^s to and for the sew^rall vses of Mercie
 Marie Vrsula and Jane Drakefford doughters of the said Richard Drakeford
 +and of Richard Drakeford his sonne other yssue of his bodie+ **Hath Demysed**
 graunted sett lett and to ferme be taken and by theise pⁿtes doth demise
 graunt sett let and to ferme betake to the said Edward Drakefford his
 executors administrators and assignes **All** that Capitall mesuage and ten^te
 with thappurtennces in Forbridge neere Stafford in the said Countie of Stafford
 nowe in the tenure or occupacon of the said Richard Drakefford, And all
 edifices buydinges yordes orchard^s gardens landes ten^tes Closes medowes
 leisowes pastures wood^s vnderwood^s and hereditam^{ts} whatsoeu^r with their and
 eu^rye of their appurtennces to the said mesuage and ten^te or anie p^{te} therof
 lyinge belonginge or app^{te}yninge, or therwith vsuallie occupied **And** all other
 mesuages Cotages land^s ten^tes rentes reu^c'ons seruices and hereditam^{ts}
 whatsoeu^r of the said Richard Drakeford scituate lyinge and beinge in
 Forbridge aforesaid or els wheare in the p^{is}he of Castle in the said Countye of
 Stafford and in Barkeswich al^s Baswich Hasley Stretton Seighford al^s
 Sedgford, Ronton +or elswheare+ in the said countie of Stafford **And** the
 reu^c'on and reu^c'ons rentes and reservac'on of all and singler the said
 mesuages Cotages land^s ten^tes hereditam^{ts} and p^rmisses with thappurtenances,
 and eu^rye p^{te} and p^{cell} therof (reservinge to the said Richard Drakefford his
 heyres and assignes All rentes reserued in and by one Indenture of lease
 bearinge date the last daie of March in the seuententh yeare of the Kinges ma^{ties}
 +Raigne+ that nowe is of England Fraunce and Ireland^s made betwene the
 said Richard Drakeford of thone p^{tie} and James littleton and Will^m Drakeford
 gent' of thother p^{tie} **To have and** to holde the said Capitall mesuage mesuages
 Cotages land^s ten^tes and all and singler other the p^rmisses with their and eu^rye
 of their app^{te}tennc^s (reserving the before reserued. And the reu^c'ons thereof to
 the said Edward Drakefford his executors administrators and assignes from
 the Date herof to all tenⁿtlie comodityes easmentes p^{fit}t^s and advantages
 whatsoeu^r for and duringe all the terme and space of fourscore and nyneteene

⁵ 31 March 1619

yeares +from thence followinge and fullie to be complete and ended+ **Yeldinge**
 and payinge therefore yearlie duringe the said terme to the said Richard
 Drakefford his heyres and assignes one pepper Corne in the feast of Saint
 Marten the Bishoppe in Winter (if ytt be lawfullie askd) for all rentes and
 demaunds **Yett** neu'theles to the vse intente and purpose that the said Edward
 Drakefford his executors administrators and assignes out of thissues and pfitts
 of all and singuler the said Capitall mesuage mesuages Cottages Land^s ten'ts
 [hereditaments] and prmisses with th^rapp'ten'nc^s shall yeld paye and satisfie to
 the se^rall prsons aforesaid the said se^r[all debts] due^{lie} owinge by the said
 Richard Drakefford his owne due and pper dettes And all interest and
 [charges] which from tyme to tyme shall become due and payable for the same
 vntill the same dett^s and interest^s shalbe payed or satisfied And shall likewise
 out of thissues and pfitts therof from and after the dea[th of] the said Richard
 Drakefford fynde keepe and maynteyne all the Children of the bodye of the
 said Richard Drakefford lawfullie begotten and to be begotten vntill they
 se^rallie accomplishe the full age of sixteene yeares: And vpon the [coming to
 the] said age of the forsaid Mercie Drakefford eldest of the said daughters shall
 out of thissues and pfitts therof satisfie and paie to the said Mercie (if she be
 then lyvinge the su'mme of two hundreth pound^s for and towards her
 mayntennce advancem^t and prferm^t and vpon her accomplishm^t of the said Age
 of sixteene yeares shall out of thissues and pfitts therof satisfie and paie to
 Marie Drakeford the second daughter (if she be then lyveinge the like su'mme
 of Two hundreth pound^s for and toward^s her mayntenance advancem^t and
prferm^t and vpon her accomplishm^t of the said age of sixteene yeares of the said
 age of sixteene yeares of the said Vrsula third of the daughters of the said
 Richard Drakeford shall out of thissues and pfitts therof satisfie and paye to
 the said Vrsula Drakefford (if she be then lyvinge the full sume of Two
 hundreth pound^s for and toward^s her mayntenance advancem^t and prferm^t
 And vpon the accomplishm^t of the said age of sixteene yeares of the said Jane
 the yongest doughter of the said Richard shall out of thissues and pfitts therof
 satisfie and paye to the said Jane Drakefford (if she be then lyvinge the full
 su'mme of Two hundreth pound^s for and toward^s her mayntenance and prferm^t.
 And vpon th'accomplishm^t of thage of twenty and one yeares of Richard
 Drakefford the yonger sonne and heyre apparant of the said Richard
 Drakefford theld^r shall out of thissues and pfitts of all and sing'ler the prmisses
 wth th^rapp'tennces satisfie and paie to the said Richard Drakefford the sone the
 somme of Two hundreth pownd^s for and toward^s his mayntenance and
prferment **And** from and after the said se^rall +soumes+ levyed and paid and
 discharged as aforesaid shall out of thissues and pfitts of all and sing'ler the

*p^rmisses with thapp^rtennc^s satisfie and paie to such yssue of the bodye of Richard Drakefford thelder as are or shalbe herafter lawfullie begotten by the said Richard Drakefford thelder the su^mme of other two hundreth pound^s for and toward^s their mayntennces **And** from and after all the forsaid dett^s interest^s and paym^{ts} and eu^rye of theym levyed paie and discharged Then to the vse and intente That the said Richard Drakefford his heyres executors administrators or assignes shall or maie receaue lewie have and take thissues and pfitt^s of all and sing^ler the *p^rmisses and hereditam^{ts}* aforssaid with their app^rtennces for and duringre all the then rest and residue of the forsaid terme then to come and vnexpired **And the** said Richard Drakefford elder for him his heyres executors and administrators doth Covenⁿte and graunte by these *p^rntes* to and with the said Edward Drakefford his executors and administrators in manner and fourme followinge That is to saie That the said Edward Drakefford his executors administrators and assignes shall or maie duringe all the forsaid terme quietlie haue holde and enioye all and singler the said Capitall mesuage mesuages Cotages land^s ten^{ts} and *p^rmisses* wth thapp^rtennc^s and thissues and pfitt^s therof receaue haue and take to thuses aforssaid and in manner and fourme aforesaid clearelie exon^rated acquitted or discharged or sufficientlie saued and kept harmeles of and from all other and former leases graunt^s and Incombraunces therof or of anie pte or pcell therof made Comitted or done by the said Richard Drakefford thelder to or with anie other pson or psons (except the forsaid Indenture of lease [granted] as aforesaid so made by Richard Drakefford to the said James Littleton and Will^m Drakefford as aforssaid. And excepte also one graunte of a rent charge of the su^mme of twentie three pound^s or therabout^s granted by Richard Drakefford thelder out of the said land^s and ten^{ts} in Hasley and Stretton aforssaid to Dame Elizabeth Booth widowe for a terme yett induringe Holt of Withington [in] the County of Chester yom..... **In wⁱtnes wheroff** to these Indentures the forsaid *p^rties* alternatelie haue sett their hand^s and seales Dated the daie 1621*

Richard Drakeford



D1798/HM/Drakeford/43 Lease, Forebridge Hall, Richard Drakeford/Edward Drakeford of Congleton - Copyright: Staffordshire Record Office

To summarise this important document, with the help of Sue Drakeford, formerly a legal executive dealing with property conveyancing to who this is easily understood:

Richard of Congleton has entered into an agreement with his cousin Edward of Congleton. It lists Mr **Wollaston** of Oncott, gent, £105 'by bond' of which £50 was forfeited to a Scrivener of London, for which Mr **Weye** of Stretford and **my cousin Henry Kent** is bound with me. A debt of £100 to **Robert Wolsley**, gent £100. To '**my mother in law**' **Mistress Littleton** £50, to Mr **William Parnell** £15 for apparel. Also to Henry Kent, which Richard had received of Henry Haworth gent 30/-. Richard received 'for his use' £3 from **Thomas Homersley** through Henry Kent. To Mr **Dormer** a bond was forfeited for £150. These appear to be amounts to be paid should he die. Also after Richards death £1,200 was to go to for the 'uses' (upkeep?) of his **children Mercie, Marie, Ursula and Jane Drakeford, Richard his son and other issue 'of his bodie'**.

Importantly he grants the use of his lands to **Edward Drakeford** being in Forebridge and also the Parish of Castle, Barkswich a'ls Baswich, Stretton, Seigford, Ronton, & eslwere in Stafford. Edward holds all the lands etc., in trust for the children.

Furthermore, he refers to an Indenture made 1620 by himself with **James Littleton** and **William Drakeford** which is to be include under the control of Edward Drakeford. There is a separate lease granted to Dame Elizabeth Boothe at £23 each year, which is acknowledged.

Should Richard die, he instructs that if his children reach 16 years of age Mercie should get £200, the same for Marie, Ursula and Jane. That money is to go toward their maintenance, advancement, pfermt (?). When his eldest son Richard reached the age 21, he will get the same. At Richard's death his eldest son, Richard inherits all.

During this time Edward is to received rents tythes etc. for the said expenses, except for the lease held by James Littleton and William Drakeford.

Sue Drakeford: *"In summary, this looks like a quasi will. Richard senior agrees that Edward Drakeford, after the death of Richard pays his debts as listed. Holds all his lands, good, rents and basically everything in trust for the four daughters and son, Richard Drakeford junior.*

On the death of RD to pay £1,200 to daughters and RD jnr. Then on each of the daughters attaining 16 to pay £200 and £200 to RD jnr when he attains 21. Same for any legitimate child of RD snr born after this deed which is date 14.4.1622 on attaining 21 RD jnr. inherits all.

I think it says that during the time scale above Edward Drakeford his heirs and assigns can enjoy the lands and property of RD senior not selling of granting any lease etc. There appears to be a lease granted by RD snr to Dame Elizabeth Booth. Can't determine length looks like rent is £23".

Comment: We assume that both Edward and William are his brothers.

In the event, nothing happened to Richard, and he made a full Will in time for his death in 1639. This document served to ensure that his children were looked after. What is slightly strange is that his wife, Mercy is not mentioned. Perhaps as one of the Bowyer family she had her own income and ownership of properties for rents.

Basically, Richard is protecting his assets and family should any problem befall him during a troubled time when he has supported Sir William Bowyer, an MP for Stafford, when James I appears to be indicating a move to cancel Parliament in January 1622 to take action against the Parliamentarians.

i) 1638 – Marriage Arrangement – Lownds

This document is a handwritten copy on probably 19th Century on lined accounts paper, written perhaps by a researcher. It reads:

1st Sept 14 Charles 1638

*Betw'n Margaret Worrall of Sallusford in the coy of Chester Wd late wife of Henry Worrall Esq. dec.d of the 1st part Richard Merrill sonne & heyre apparant of Ralph Merrill of Alsager in the said Coy of Chester Yeom. of the 2nd part & **Richard Lownds** of Bostocke in Bagnall in the said Coy Gent. and Thomas Broome sonne and heyre apparant of Hugh Broome of Beckton in the said County Yeoman of the 3rd Part.*

The deed is a settlement of contemplation of a marriage between the said Richard Merrill & Margaret Walford grandchild of the said Margaret Worrall of an estate in Alsager.

*This was executed by “**Margaret Worrall**” this is like her signature and the following are witnesses. It must have been an important event Signed, sealed and delivered by the willns(?) Margaret Worrall to the said Richard Merrill in the presence of*

*John Kelsall
Samuel Stopford
William Burgess
John Lowndes
Wm Drakeford
George Hall
John Lathome
Edmund X Potter*

Comment:

This is dated 1st September 14th year of Charles I, which is 1638. This is a contract between Margaret Worrall, widow of Henry Worrall Esq., and Richard Merrell, son of Ralph Merrell of Alsager, Co. Chester, Yeoman, 2nd part and Richard Lownds Gent., of Bostocke House and Thomas Broome son and heir of Hugh Broom, Yeoman, 3rdpart.

The deed was a settlement in contemplation of a marriage of Richard Worrell and Margaret Walford, grandchild of Margaret Worrall of an estate in Alsager. This was executed by Margaret Worrall.

This is partly of interest because witnesses included William Drakeford and a John Lowndes. A second sheet also written on 20th century lined paper and therefore not the original starts:

'On the back of this deed there is the following memorandum

22 day of August 1653

This deed was produced unto John Lowndes Gent and George Hall at the time of their Examination at Uttoxeter before us

John Benskyn,

Rich. Brooke

Wm. Cobbe.

In another hand is written in red:

I never saw a deed with an endorsement like this before. Would it be an examination taken to ascertain whether the estate should be confiscated for treason. Merrell was perhaps a roundhead. I cannot explain it.

Further Comment: One can only muse about the fact that that a researcher, who probably knows much more about the history than we do, considers this was the subject of an attempt to discover likely roundhead sympathizers.

It is interesting that the Lownds/Lowndes family are associated with the Drakefords of Congleton. See Study Paper 2.

- j) **1642 A court case brought by Mercy Drakeford a few months before she died in 1642.** Source: Public Record Office: KB 27/1675/2008 m. 447.
7129043/5199846

Title: *Coram Rege Roll Easter 18 Charles I*

27 April 1642 Westminster *Adhuc de T^mi'o Pasche T: J: Bramston*

Staff

Memorand' q'd al's scil't T^mi'o s'ce Trinitatis vltimo p't'it' coram d'no Rege apud Westm' ven' Marcia Drakeford vid' p' Walt^rum Edge Attorn' suu' Et ptulit hic in Cur' d'ci d'ni Regis tunc ib'm quamdam billam suam v'sus Edr'm Cartwright Will'm Chamberlyn' al's Backhouse & Will'm Dixon in Custod' Marr' &c' de pl'ito tⁿsgr' sup Casum Et sunt Pleg' de ps' scil't Joh'es Doo & Ric'us Roo Que quidem billa sequit' in hec v'ba

Staffordshire

Be it remembered that previously, named in Trinity term last past, before the lord king at Westminster came Marcia Drakeford widow, by Walter Edge her attorney, and proffered here in the court of the said lord king then and there a certain bill of hers against Edward Cartwright, William Chamberlyn alias Backhouse and William Dixon, in the custody of the marshal &c., in a plea of trespass upon the case. And there are pledges of prosecution, namely John Doo and Richard Roo. Which said bill follows, in these words:

Staff

Marcia Drakeford vid' querit' de Ed'ro Cartwright Will'o Chamb'lyn' al's Backhouse & Will'o Dixon' in Custod' Marr' Maresc' d'ni Regis coram ip'o Rege existen' p' eo videl't q'd cum p'd'ca Marcia vicesimo quarto die Maij Anno regni d'ni Caroli nunc Regis Angl' decimo septimo apud Forbridge in p'd'co Com' Staff' possessionat' fuisset de & in quatuor vaccis & vna Juvenca vocat' an heyfer p'cij viginti librar' vt de bonis & Catallis ip'ius Marcie p'pr' Et ea inde possessionat' existen' p'd'ca Marcia postea scil't p'd' vicesimo quarto die Maij Anno decimo septimo sup^ad'co apud Forbridge p'd'cam bona & Catalla p'd'ca extra manus & possessionem suas casualiter pdidit & amisit Que quidem bona & catalla p'd'ca postea scil't vicesimo quinto die Maij Anno decimo septimo sup^ad'co apud Forbridge p'd'cam ad manus & possessionem p'd'cor Edr' Will'i & Will'i p' invenc'onem devenerunt p'd'ci tamen Edr'us Will'us & Will'us scient' bona & catalla p'd'ca fore bona & Catalla ip'ius Marcie p'pr' Et ad ip'am

Marciam de iure spectare & pertinere Machinan' tamen & fraudulent' intenden' p'd'cam Marciam de bonis & catallis p'd'cus callide & subdole decipe & defraudare bona & catalla p'd'ca p'fat' Marcie licet sepius requisit' &c' non delib'au'unt sed bona & catalla p'd'ca postea scil't vicesimo septimo die Maij Anno decimo septimo sup'a d'co apud Forbridge p'd' in vsum & co'modu' ip'or Edr'i Will'i & Will'i p'pr' converterunt & disposuerunt vnde eadem Marcia dicit q'd ip'a det'iorat' est Et dampnu' h'et ad valenciam quadragint' librar' Et inde p'ducit Sect' &c'

Staffordshire

Marcia Drakeford widow complains of Edward Cartwright, William Chamberlyn alias Backhouse and William Dixon, being in the custody of the marshal of the Marshalsea of the lord king before the king himself, in that, to wit, that whereas the aforesaid Marcia on the 24th day of May in the 17th year of the reign of lord Charles now king of England, at Forbridge in the aforesaid county of Stafford, was possessed of and in four cows and an heyfer worth £20, as of the own proper goods and chattels of the said Marcia. And being thereof possessed the aforesaid Marcia afterwards, namely on the aforesaid 24th day of May in the abovesaid 17th year at Forbridge aforesaid, by chance lost and mislaid the goods and chattels aforesaid out of her hands and possession. Which said goods and chattels aforesaid afterwards, namely on the 25th day of May in the abovesaid 17th year at Forbridge aforesaid came to the hands and possession of the aforesaid Edward, William and William, by finding; but the aforesaid Edward, William and William, knowing the goods and chattels aforesaid to be the own proper goods and chattels of the said Marcia, although very often requested &c. have not delivered them up; but afterwards, namely on the 27th day of May in the abovesaid 17th year at Forbridge aforesaid converted and disposed of the aforesaid goods and chattels to the own proper use and advantage of the said Edward, William and William; whereby the same Marcia says that she is injured and has damage to the value of £40; and therein brings her suit &c.

Et modo ad hunc diem scil't diem Mercur' p'x' post xv^{am} Pasche isto eod' t'mi'o vsq' quem diem p'd'ci Ed'rus Will's & Will's h'uer' licenciam ad billam p'd'cam int'loquend' & tunc ad respondend' &c' coram d'no Rege apud Westm' ven' p'd'ca Marcia p' Attorn' suu' p'd' Et p'd'ci Ed'rus Will'us & Will'us licet ad eund'm +diem+ solemnit' exact' non ven' sed default' fecer' nec aliquid dic' in barr' sive p'cluc'onem acc'ois p'd' Marcie p' quod eadem Marcia remanet inde v'sus eos indefens'

And now on this day, namely, Mercury next after the quindene of Easter this same term, up to which date the aforesaid Edward, William and William had licence of interlocution on the bill aforesaid, and then to answer &c. before the lord king at Westminster comes the aforesaid Marcia by her attorney aforesaid/ And the aforesaid Edward, William and William, although solemnly exacted at the same day, have not come but have made default, nor say anything in bar or preclusion of the action of the aforesaid Marcia; whereby the same Marcia remains unopposed therein against them

Ob quod consideratum est q'd eadem Marcia dampna sua v'sus p'fat' Edr'm Will'm & Will'm occ'one p'miss' sustin' recupare debeat Et quia Cur' d'ci d'ni Regis hic coram ip'o Rege incogn' exstitit que dampna p'd'ca Marcia occ'one p'missor' sustin' To p'cept' est vic' q'd p' sacr'm pbor & legaliu' ho'ium de balliua sua diligent' inquir' que dampna p'd' Marcia t'm occ'one p'miss' p'd' q'm p' mis' & custag' eius p' ip'm circa sect'm suam in hac parte appo'it' sustin' Et inquisic'onem quam inde fec'it d'no Regi apud Westm' die [blank] p'x' post [blank] sub sigillo suo Et sigill' eor' p' quor' sacr'm Inquisic'onem ill' cepit mittat vna cum br'e d'ni Regis sibi inde direct' idem dies dat' est p'fat' Marcie ib'm &c'

Because of which it is considered that the same Marcia should recover her damages against the aforesaid Edward, William and William by occasion of the premises, therefore it is ordered the sheriff that, by the oath of honest and lawful men of his bailiwick, he shall diligently inquire what damages the aforesaid Marcia has sustained, both by occasion of the premises aforesaid, and for her costs and charges to which she has been put about her suit in this behalf; and that he shall send the inquisition that he shall make thereon to the lord king at Westminster on [blank] day next after [blank] under his seal and the seals of those by whose oath that inquisition is taken, together with the writ of the lord king directed to him thereon. The same date is given to the aforesaid Marcia there &c.

Comment: Mercy was clearly a woman of strong mind backed by both the Drakeford and Littleton families. She was not going to put up with any abuse. In the early 1600s there was no police force as such, or a government justice system unless the abused had the wherewithal to take the accused to court. In this case Mercy did just that.

Through her attorney, Walter Edge she brought a plea of trespass against Edward Cartwright, William Chamberlyn, alias Backhouse, and William Dixon. This gives pledges of prosecution through John Doo and Richard Roo, who are taken to be witnesses. The three accused were put in gaol pending the subsequent court case under the watch of the marshal on Marshalsea. The Marshalsea (1373-1842) was a notorious prison in **Southwark, London**, just south of the River Thames. It housed a variety of prisoners over the centuries, including men accused of crimes at sea and political figures charged with sedition, but it became known, for its incarceration of the poorest of London's debtors.

Mercy valued her loss from Forebridge of four cows and a heifer at £20. Note that the accused are also known at court by their Christian names, Edward, William and William. She claims that she had asked for the return of the stock, but they had not returned them, and instead disposed of them for their own gain. That is to say, sold them! Because of this she gave her loss and damage at £40.

These earlier proceedings had not had the desired effect. The court now ordered that Mercy should recover the damages against the accused and ordered the sheriff should diligently ascertain the loss for Mercy. That was on 27th April 1642. It was assumed that this was not finalised because the dates when the sheriff was to return to the court were left blank on the document.

There is no known end to the story, save that Mercy was buried 4 months later, next to her husband Richard on 29th August 1642.

k) 1672 Marriage of Richard Drakeford '3 Wives' and Elizabeth Brecknock

Richard Drakeford of Stafford and Elizabeth Brecknock of Lichfield spinster(?) married with a license fbey(?) 9 of November 1672.

The handwritten entry in the church records for this wedding is available as given above.

l) 1677 Marriage Settlement Between Richard '3 Wives' and Elizabeth Perrott

*This Indenture Made the sixth day of December in the nine and twentieth yeare of the Raigne of o: Sou'aigne Lord Charles the second by the grace of God King of England Scotland France and Ireland defender of the faith &c' Annoq' D'ni One thousand six hundred seventy seven **Betweene** Richard Drakeford the elder of Forbridge in the County of Stafford gent' and Richard Drakeford the yonger son and heir appent of the said Richard Drakeford the elder of the one part and James Perrott of Over Areley in the said County of Stafford gent' and Humfrey Perrott the yonger of Forefeild Court in the County of Worcester gent' and Edward Birch of Leacrofte in the pish of Cannocke in the said County of Stafford Esq: and Walter Higgs of Stafford in the County of Stafford gent' of the other part **Witnesseth** that the said Richard Drakeford the elder and Richard Drakeford the yonger for and in considerac'on of a mariage intended and agreed vpon with Gods p'mission to bee shortly had and solemnized betweene the said Richard Drakeford the yonger and Elizabeth Perrott spinster eldest daughter of John Perrott now dec'ed who was in his life time eldest son of the said James Perrott and for and in considerac'on of the estate whereof the said Elizabeth is seised in fee tayle to her and the heires of her body lawfully begotten and to bee begotten and whereof the said Richard Drakeford the yonger after the solemnizac'on of such mariage will bee seised in her right and for and in the considerac'on of five shillings of lawfull Money of England to the said Richard Drakeford the elder and Richard Drakeford the yonger by the said James Perrott and Humfrey Perrott Edward Birch and Walter Higgs in hand paid before the ensealing and deli'u'y hereof the receipt whereof the said Richard Drakeford the elder and Richard Drakeford the yonger do hereby acknowledge **Haue** demised granted bargained and sold and by these p'sents **Do** demise grant bargain and sell to the said James Perrott Humfrey Perrott Edward Birch and Walter Higgs their ex'ors*

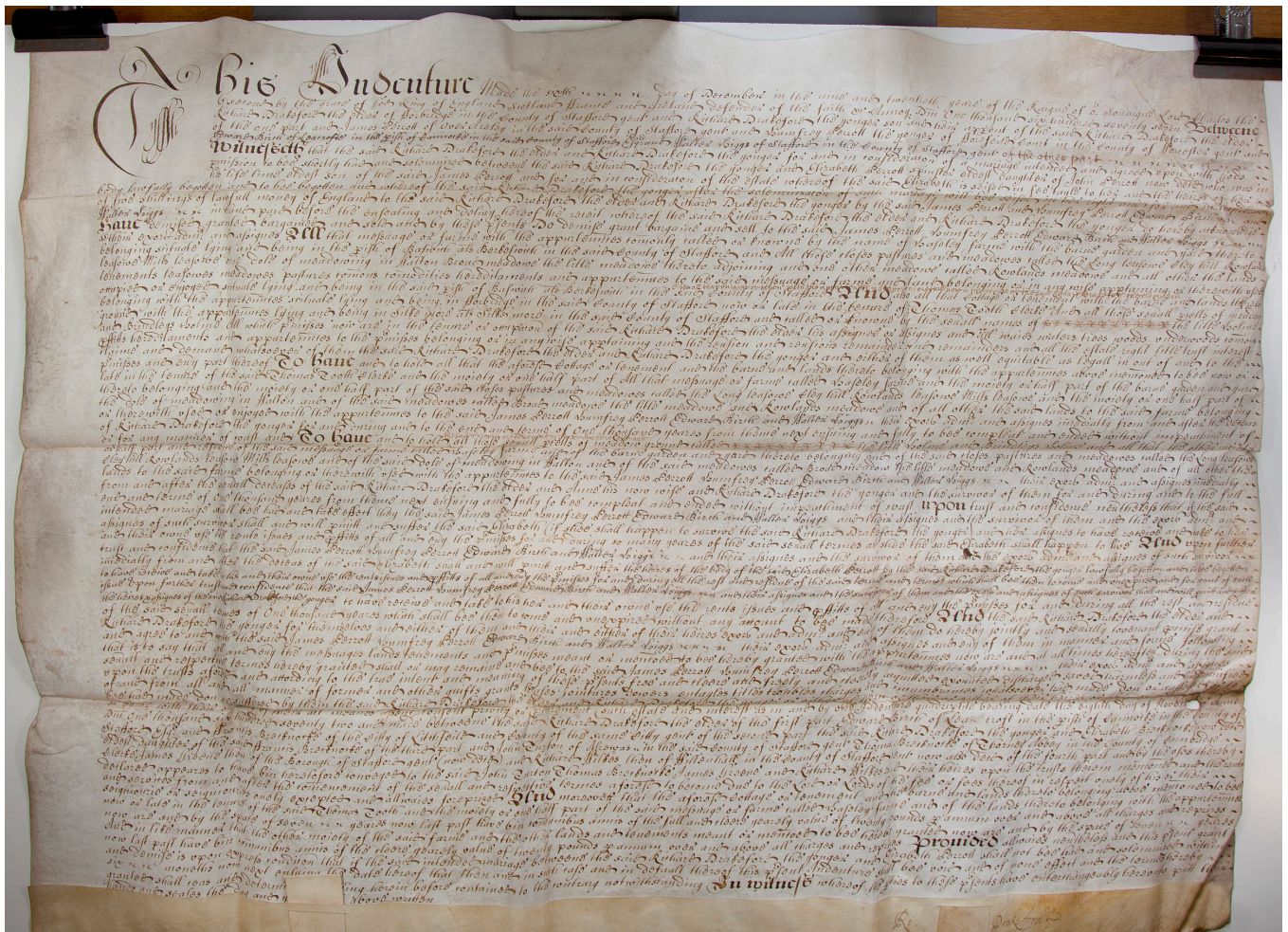
*adm^s: and assignes All that messuage or farme with the appurten'nces co'monly called or knowne by the name of Haseley farme with the barne garden and yard thereto belonging scituate lying and being in the p^rish of Baswick al's Berkeswich in the said County of Stafford and All those closes pastures and meadowes called the Long leasowes Cley hill Rowlands leasowe Mills leasowe one dole of meadowing in Halton Broad meadowe the litle meadowe thereto adjoining and one other meadowe called Rowlands meadowe and all other the lands tenements leasowes meadowes pastures co'mons co'modities hereditaments and appurten'nces to the said messuage or farme and land belonging or in any wise app^rtaining or therewith vsed occupied or enjoyed situate lying and being in the said p^rish of Baswich al's Berkeswich in the said County of Stafford And +Also all that burgage or tenem^t with the appurten'nces in Stafford aforesaid now in the tenure of the said Richard Drakeford the elder And also that Cottage or tenement with the barne and lands thereto belonging with the appurten'nces scituate lying and being in Forbridge in the said County of Stafford now or late in the tenure of Thomas Tooth Clerke And all those sew'all p^rcells of meadow ground with the appurten'nces lying and being in Silke more al's Silkes more in the said County of Stafford called or knowne by the sew'all names of the litle Holme and Brindleys Holme All which p^rmisses now are in the tenure or occupac'on of the said Richard Drakeford the elder his assignes or assignes and all waies waters trees woods vnderwoods co'mons p^rffitts hereditaments and appurten'nces to the p^rmisses belonging or in any wise app^rtaining and the reu'sion and reu'sions remainder and remainders and all the estate right title trust interest claime and demand whatsoever of them the said Richard Drakeford the elder and Richard Drakeford the yonger and either of them as well equitable as legall in out of and to the p^rmisses and ew'y part thereof **To haue** and to hold all that the afores'd Cottage or tenement and the barne and lands thereto belonging with the appurten'nces above menc'oned to bee now or late in the tenure of the said Thomas Tooth Clerke and the moiety or one half part of All that messuage or farme called Haseley farme and the moiety or half part of the barne garden and yard thereto belonging and the moiety or one half part of the said closes pastures and meadowes called the Long leasowe Cley hill Rowlands leasowe Mills leasowe and the moiety or one half part of the dole of meadowing in Halton and of the said meadowes called Broad meadowe the litle meadowe and Rowlands meadowe and of all other the said lands to the said farme belonging or therewith vsed or enjoyed with the appurten'nces to the said James Perrott Humfrey Perrott Edward Birch and Walter Higgs their ex'ors adm^s: and assignes i'mediatly from and after the deceas of Richard Drakeford the yonger for and during and to the end and terme of One thousand yeares from thence next ensuing and fully to bee compleat and ended without impeachment of or for any manner of wast and **To haue** and to hold +the said burgage or tenement in Stafford aforesaid and+ all those sew'all*

*p*cells of meadow ground called the litle Holme and Brindleys Holme and all that the other moiety or half part and residue of the said messuage or farme called Haseley farme and of the barne garden and yard thereto belonging and of the said closes pastures and meadowes called the Long leasowe Cleyhill Rowlands leasow Mills leasowe and of the said dole of madowing in Halton and of the said meadowes called Broad meadow the litle meadowe and Rowlands meadowe and of all other the lands to the said farme belonging or therewith vsed with the appurten'nces to the said James Perrott Humfrey Perrott Edward Birch and Walter Higgs their ex'ors adm^{rs}: and assignes i'mediatly from and after the se' all deceases of the said Richard Drakeford the elder and Anne his now wife and Richard Drakeford the yonger and the survivor of them for and during and to the full end and terme of One thousand yearews from thence next ensuing and fully to bee compleat and ended without impeachment of wast **U**pon trust and confidence notwithstanding that if the said intended marriage shall bee had and take effect they the said James Perrott Humfrey Perrott Edward Birch and Walter Higgs and their assignes and the survivor of them and the ex'ors adm^{rs}: and assignes of such survivor shall and will *p*mitt and suffer the said Elizabeth (if shee shall happen to survive the said Richard Drakeford the yonger) and her assignes to have receive and take to her and their owne vse the rents issues and *p*fitts of all and eu'y the *p*'misses for and during so many yeares of the said se' all termes as shee the said Elizabeth shall happen to live **A**nd vpon further trust and confidence that the said James Perrott Humfrey Perrott Edward Birch and Walter Higgs and their assignes and the survivor of them and the ex'ors adm^{rs}: and assignes of such survivor i'mediatly from and after the deceas of the said Elizabeth shall and will *p*mitt and suffer the heires of the body of the said Elizabeth Perrott by the said Richard Drakeford the yonger lawfully begotten and to bee begotten to have receive and take to his and their owne vse the rents issues and *p*fitts of all and eu'y the *p*'misses for and during all the rest and residue of the said terme and termes which shall bee then to come and vnexpired and for want of such issue vpon further trust and confidence that the said James Perrott Humfrey Perrott Edward Birch and Walter Higgs and their assignes and the survivor of them and the ex'ors and assignes of such survivor shall and will *p*mitt and suffer the heires & assignes of the said Richard Drakeford the yonger to have receive and take to his her and their owne vse the rents issues and *p*fitts of all and eu'y the *p*'misses for and during all the rest and residue of the said se' all termes of One thousand yeares which shall bee then to come and vnexpired without any account to bee made therefore **A**nd the said Richard Drakeford the elder and Richard Drakeford the yonger for themselves and either of them and their and either of their heires ex'ors and adm^{rs}: and eu'y of them do hereby jointly and se'ally covenant *p*mise grant and agree to and with the said James Perrott Humfrey Perrott Edward Birch and Walter Higgs their ex'ors adm^{rs}: and assignes and eu'y of

*them in manner and forme following that is to say that all and eu'y the messuages lands tenements and p'misses meant or menco'ed to bee hereby granted with the appurten'nces now are and at all times hereafter during the said seu'all and respective termes hereby granted shall or may remaine and bee to the said James Perrott Humfrey Perrott Edward Birch and Walter Higgs their ex'ors adm^{rs}: and assignes vpon the trusts afores'd and according to the true intent and meaning of these p'sents free and cleere and freely and cleerely acquitted exon'ated discharged saved harmless and indemnified of and from all and all manner of former and other gifts grants leases iointures dowers entayles titles troubles charges and incumbrances whatsoever had made don or suffered or to bee had made don or suffered by them the said Richard Drakeford the elder and Richard Drakeford the yonger or either of them or their or either of their heires or or by or with their or any of their all meanes assent consent privity or p'curement (such estate and interest as in and by one Indenture quadripartite bearing date the eighth day of November Anno D'ni one thousand six hundred seventy two and made betweene the said Richard Drakeford the elder of the first part Edward Birch of Lea-croft in the p'ish of Cannocke in the County of Stafford Esq^r: and Francis Brecknocke of the Citty of Litchfeild and County of the same Citty gent' of the second part the said Richard Drakeford the yonger and Elizabeth Brecknocke (now dec'd) eldest daughter of the said Francis Brecknocke of the third part and John Turton of Alrewas in the said County of Stafford gent' Thomas Brecknocke of Thorney Abbey in the County of Cambridge Clerke James Greene then of the Borough of Stafford gent' (now dec'd) and Richard Wilkes then of Willenhall in the County of Stafford gent' now also dec'd of the fourth part and by the vses thereby declared appeares to have bin heretofore conveyed to the said John Turton Thomas Brecknocke James Greene and Richard Wilkes and their heires vpon the trusts therein menc'oned and the rents and services from and after the co'mencement of the seu'all respective termes afores'd to become due to the Lord or Lords of the fee or fees thereof in respect onely of his or their seigniourie or seigniouries onely excepted and allwaies foreprized **And** moreover that the afores'd Cottage or tenement and the barne and lands thereto belonging above menc'oned to bee now or late in the tenure of the said Thomas Tooth and the moiety or one half part of the said messuage or farme called Haseley farme and of the lands thereto belonging with the appurten'nces now are and by the space of seven yeares now last past have bin co'munibus annis of the full and cleere yearely value of twenty pounds p^r annum over and above all charges and reprizes And in like manner that the other moiety of the said farme and the other lands and tenements meant or menc'oed to bee hereby granted now are and by the space of seven yeares now last past have bin co'munibus annis of the cleere yearely*

value of twenty pounds p annum over and above all charges and reprints **Provided** allwaies new theless and this p^rsent grant and demise is vpon express condic^on that if the said intended marriage between the said Richard Drakeford the yonger and Elizabeth Perrott shall not bee had and solemnized within six moneths now next ensuing the date hereof that then and in such case and in default thereof this p^rsent Indenture shall bee void and of none effect and the termes hereby granted shall ceas and determi.....ing herein before contained to the contrary notwithstanding **In witness** whereof the ptis to these p^rsents have enterchangeably herevnto putt their hands and seals the day and yeare first above written

Richard Drakeford



1677 Marriage Settlement, Ri. Drakeford and Elizabeth Perrott Source: SRO 1798/39

Copyright: Staffordshire Record Office

Comment: This extensive document is a major link between the Perrott family and the Drakefords. This ties into the will of James Perrott and shows that Elizabeth's father John Perrott had died before the date of this Indenture, leaving his eldest Elizabeth unmarried and her Grandfather James as head of the family, and the only other Perrott mentioned is Humphrey Perrott the younger. The two Drakeford parties to the document are Richard the Elder, 1610-1679, and Richard the younger – 'Three Wives' (1650 to 1700). The latter had already been married to Elizabeth Brecknock who is referred to in the document as being deceased. Indeed this document refers to an Indenture, being a Marriage Agreement dated 8th November 1672 between Richard Drakeford on the 1st part, Edward Birch and Francis Brecknocke (sic) on the 2nd part, and Richard Drakeford the Yonger(sic) and Elizabeth Brecknocke (now Decd) on the 3rd part, and John Turton, Thomas Brecknocke, Clerke, James Greene (now Decd) and Richard Wilkes then of Willenhall (now decd). They married at Shenstone in 1672 and had two children, being Richard 'The Goldsmith', and Ann who was to marry William Winter.

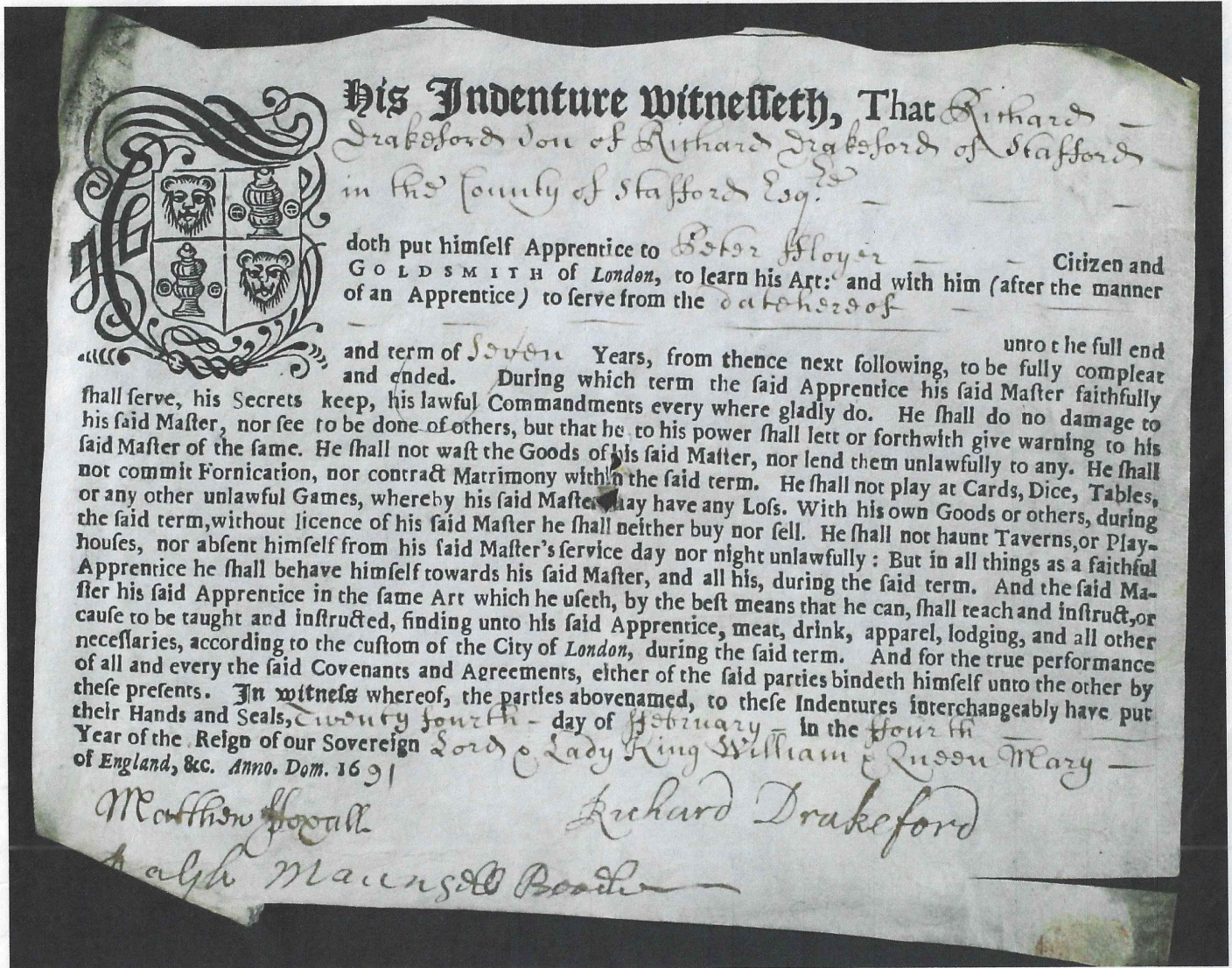
The 1677 Indenture shows Elizabeth Brecknocke/Drakeford as having died, as had Richard Wilkes and James Green.

Elizabeth Perrot had four children by Richard. These were John, born 1678, Diana 1682, Catherine 1684 and finally Elizabeth born 1689. Because Richard re-married Rebecca Compton in 1689, we can assume that Elizabeth nee Perrott died around the time of the birth of baby daughter Elizabeth.

Daughter Elizabeth was to marry a Johannes (John) Drakeford on 2nd January 1722. By James Perrott's Will of 1681 states that he had a deceased son John, a grand-daughter Elizabeth and had a great-grandson, John Drakeford. James Perrott died in 1687. The John referred to was Elizabeth's first child, born 1678. A copy of the Will is shown in the main section of this Study Paper 4.

m) 1691 Indenture

Apprenticeship of Richard Drakeford 1673-1728 - Copyright: National Archives



This is a typical document setting down the term of an apprenticeship. In this case it is for Richard 'The Goldsmith', son of Richard 'Three Wives'. It is dated 24th February 1691, when the boy was 18 years of age. His master was to be Peter Floyer, *citizen and Goldsmith of London* and it was to last 7 years. It is interesting that the sovereign is referred to as 'Lord and Lady King William and Queen Mary'.

*In the name of God Amen I Ann Drakeford of the borough of Stafford widow relict and executrix of the last will and testament of Matthew Drakeford & now dec'd being sick & ??? in body but of sound mind and good memory doe make this my last will & testament in manner following first I recommend my soul to God hoping that the ??? of the Blessed Redeemer Jesus Christ so attain a joyful resurrection & my body to be buried at the discretion of my executors named and as worldly estate God has been pleased to bestow upon me give and dispose thereof as followeth **F**irst my mind & will is that as all such part of my goods and chattels as my executors hereafter named shall think fittest to be sould shall be sould in the money hereby to be raised shall by my said executors be placed out at interest & as well the interest and income thereof as also the interest benefit use and all of my money debts & personal estate whatsoever shall by my executors shall be pay & payed out as so employed for the benefit maintenance & education of my daughter Anne Drakeford until she shall attain the age of one and Twenty years and from & immediately at & after her sd age of one and twenty years I give and bequeath unto my said daughter Anne All my Goods Cattles and Chattels Money and personall Estate whatsoever but in such my said Daughter shall happen to depart this life before she shall attain her said Age of one and twenty years and have no Issue of her Body then living being that then and in such case I do hereby give and bequeath all my said Goods Cattells and Chatells & personall Estate unto my Loving brothers Walter Astley and Matthew Astley & to my Loving Sister Lucritia Wilkes unto such person or persona as such legally represent them in case of any of their deaths to divide amongst them share and share alike and my further mind and will is that in case my daughter shall live to one and twenty years shall dye Intestate leaving no issue of her body or in case and in case she shall leave issue of her body & such issue & shall happen to dye before age or marriage that then likewise I do give and bequeath all my said Good Chattels and personal estate my brothers and sister in manner as aforesaid And my further mind will and desire is that my said executors as soon as Conveniently as they can shall & will lay out & deposit so much & such part of my said Money and personal as will purchase & Obtain an annuity on yearly sum of Twenty Pounds to be issuing and payable out of the Queens Exchequer for the use*

and benefit of my said daughter during the Term of her natural Life And lastly I do hereby nominate and appoint my said dear brothers Walter Astley and Matthew Astley the Executors of this my Last Will and Testament hereof for the benefit of my said Daughter. I do hereby Revoke and make void all former Wills by mee made in witness whereof I have hereunto put my hand and Seale the Second day of December in the third year of the Reign of Queen Ann Anno Dom 1704

*Signed & Sealed, published in the presence of
us who in the presence of the Testator have A Drakeford
subscribed our names as Witnesses.
Katherine Perye, Ri: Brye, Mary Seake*

Comment: The signature by Ann Drakeford on the Will is very poor indeed, as can be seen on the attached copy of the Will. It seems to have improved for the additional instructions.

This is interesting to the effect that Ann was married to Rev. Matthew Drakeford and links to other families joined with the Drakefords. It concentrates on her daughter, also named Anne, but with an 'e'. It refers to her brothers Walter and Matthew Astley and her sister Lucretia Wilkes. Richard Wilkes married her aunt Mercy Drakeford.

On file is a further handwritten instruction shown below for small gifts of a guinea each for various people to buy gold rings. It is signed by Ann Drakeford with the date of 5th December 1707. My guess is that this was perhaps produced as an afterthought by the first Anne Drakeford's daughter, giving each of the recipients a token of her mother.

The recipients include Sister Astley, wife of brother Walter Astley, Brother Wilkes, Mrs Perry (Witness signature on the 1704 Will), Binny and Mrs. John Taylor 15/-, God daughter Anne Wilkes, a little chest of drawers etc.

In the name of God Amen I Anne Drakeford of the Burrough of Telford within
 the County of Shropshire Widow & Executrix of the last Will & Testament of Mathew Drakeford of the said Burrough of Telford within
 the County of Shropshire deceased being sick
 & weak in Body but of sound Mind & memory doe make this my last Will & Testament in
 manner following First I recommend my soule to God hoping thro the merits of my blessed
 Redeemer Iesus Christ to obtaine a Joyfull Resurrection & my Body to be Buried at the
 discretion of my Executors hereafter named & as thinking that worldly Estate God had been
 pleased to bestow upon me I give & dispose thereof as followeth First my Mind & will is that
 all such part of my Goods & Chattells as my Executors hereafter named shall thinke fittest
 to be sold, shalbe sold & the Money thereby to be raised shall by said Executors be placed
 out at Interest & aswell the Interest & Intermitt thereof as also the Interest Cometh
 into & Intermitt of all other my Money Debts & personall Estate whatsoever shall by my
 said Executors bee paid laid out & employed for the Benefit use maintenance & Education
 of my Dear Daughter Anne Drakeford untill she shall attaine to & come to the Age of
 one & twenty yeares And from & immediately after her said Age of one & twenty yeares
 I give & bequeath unto my said Daughter Anne All my Goods Chattells & Chattells money
 & personall Estate whatsoever But in case my said Daughter shall happen to depart
 this life before she shall attaine her said Age of one & twenty yeares & have no Issue of
 her Body then living that then & in such case I doe hereby give & bequeath all my said
 Goods Chattells & Chattells & personall Estate unto my Dear & Loving Brethren Walter
 Astley & Mathew Astley & to my Dear & Loving Sister Susanna Withers & to such
 men or persons as shall legally represent them in case of any of their Deaths to bee
 divided amongst them share & share alike And my further Mind & will is that in
 case my said Daughter shall live to the age of one & twenty yeares & dye Intestate leaving
 no Issue of her Body or in case she shall leave Issue of her Body & such Issue shall happen
 to dye before age or Marriage that then likewise I doe give & bequeath all my said
 Goods Chattells & personall Estate to my said Brethren & Sister in manner as aforesaid And
 my further Mind will & desire is that my said Executors so soon as conveniently they can
 shall & will lay out & deposit so much or such part of my said Money & personall
 Estate as will purchase & obtaine an Annuity or yearely sum of Twenty pounds to bee
 paying & payabill out of the Luddens Exchequer for the use & benefit of my said Daughter
 during the term of her Naturall Life And Lastly I doe hereby nominate & appoint
 my said Dear Brethren Walter Astley & Mathew Astley the Executors of this my last Will
 & Testament & in trust for the Benefit of my said Daughter & I doe hereby revoke &
 make void all former Wills by mee made In witness whereof I have hereunto put
 my hand & Seale the Tenth day of December in the third yeare of the Reigne of
 Queen Anne or Annoq Dni 1704

Signed Sealed & published in the presence of
 us who in the presence of the Testator have
 subscribed our Names as witnesses

Katherine Perge
 Wm. Byng
 Charles Kent

W. Astley

William 19 December 1704
The Honorable Princes
and the Kings Highness
21. St. James's Palace

with 1/4 of further Wale Coombs of 1/4 within named
Ann Drakford her and her doth bequeath unto her sister
Anstey wife of her Brother Wilky a Guinea to buy her a
ring and her Brother Wilky a Guinea to buy him a ring
to Mr. Perry wife of Mr. Humphrey Perry a Guinea to buy her
a ring and a lock of her hair to Do. Gians and Mr. John
Taylor ~~each of them a ring to her God daughter Ann Wilky~~
each of them a ring to her God daughter Ann Wilky
her little best of Drawers to her Sister Wilky a
piece of New Gray ~~to her~~ in her keeping to her Sister
Wilky her Sister her best under petticoats and of black
Callamant a y^e other of wrought Dimohy her Sister
Wilky to have her chair to Doctor Tombs a Guinea to
buy her a ring to buy her a ring to Mr. Albert Kaffer
a Guinea to her Sister Wilky her best hood and scarf to Mr. ~~John~~
a Guinea to her Sister Wilky with a Ring of such value as he can
had after the death of her husband and a certain beaded necklace
and other things he desires may be taken of all of her
now and within is written by her God to be given as above
if necessary signed by the within named Ann Drakford the
testator in the latter the writing of her will is the 10 day
of December 1704 in the 3rd year of

L Perry
Mary Drake

Witnessed by
Ann Drakford

Prima testis
John Perry
Secunda testis
Mary Drake
Tertio testis
John Perry
Quarto testis
Mary Drake
H. M. Widdell

Copyright: Staffordshire Record Office

To save confusion, the Will of daughter Anne is continued below rather than in date order,

1690 -1743 Ann was the sole child of Matthew and Ann. She was baptised at St Mary's Stafford on 17 December 1690. Her father died in 1703. Her mother Ann was buried a year later, on 8 December 1704 when, as main beneficiary of the Will, she was only 13. Probate was granted to her uncles Walter and Matthew Astley. Apart from the Drakefords as relatives, there are links to the Astley and Wilkes families.

There now follows the Will of daughter Anne Drakeford, again including a myriad of associated family members.

1743 Will of Ann Drakeford

Source: SRO B/C/5

*In the name of God Amen I Anne Drakeford of Willenhall in the County of Stafford, being of sound mind & understanding but in indifferent state of health & considering the uncertainty of this life do think it proper to make my Last Will and Testament in manner by first recommending my Soul to God hoping and relying upon the forgiveness of my sins thru the merit of Jesus Christ my Lord & Saviour and afterwards by committing my body to the earth to be buried in a Christian buriall at the discretion of my Executrix hereafter named **Item** I give and bequeath to my cozon Anne, [Wife] of Richard Wilkes, deceased who liv'd in Willenhall aflsd all and every my securities whether Mortgages, Bonds or Notes and Monies both in Principall & interest due on them respectively all Goods & Chattells & effects and other monies that belongs to me & I can dispose of but my will further is if my said Executrix both buy and cause to be bought these goods kind(?) wch I give respectively to Doctor Wilkes, Rachael his wife and John Wilkes Surgeon I do make the said **Anne Wilkes** sole executor *Ann Drakeford**

All rather muddled here!

In witness thereof I the said Anne Drakeford I have to this my last will and testament with my hand and seal the sixteenth day of October in the year of our Lord Christ One Thousand seven hundred and Forty-two.

Anne Drakeford

Signed sealed published and declared By the Executrix Anne Drakeford This to be her last will and testament and no other, in the Sight and presence of us who are witnesses to the same in the presence of the said executive.. all the words between the 16th & the 17th line being ????

Hannah Palmer Walter Astley

Wolverhampton 31st October 1743 et Probate of this will be granted to Anne Wilkes Sole Executrix therein named Oath being made before me, Thos. Cradock Surrogate

In the name of god Amen I Anne Drakeford of Willenhall in the
 County of Stafford being of sound mind & understanding but in an
 infirm state of health & considering the uncertainty of Will do thing
 is proper to make my last Will and Testament in manner
 following by first recommending my soul to god hoping & relying upon
 the forgiveness of my sins thro the merits of Jesus Christ my Lord & Saviour
 & afterwards by committing my body to the earth to be buried in
 Christian burial at the discretion of my Executors hereafter
 named I do give & bequeath unto my Cousin Anne Wilkes
 of Richard Wilkes Gentleman deceased who lived in Willenhall upon
 all and every my secured whether mortgaged Bonds or notes and
 moneys both principle & interest due on them respectively &
 goods Chattells & effects other moneys then belongs to me & I can
 dispose of but my Will further is if my said Executors shall bring
 cause to be bought three good Rings with I give respectively to
 Doctor Wilkes Rachael his wife and John Wilkes Surgeon
 in Willenhall whom I the said Anne Drakeford have to my
 last Will and Testament with my hand & Seal this Twentieth
 day of October in the year of our Lord Christ one Thousand seven
 hundred and forty two
 Anne Drakeford

Signed Sealed published and declared
 by the Testatrix Anne Drakeford
 this to be her last Will and
 Testament and no other in the
 presence and presence of us who are
 witnesses to the same in the
 presence of the said Testatrix
 being first subscribed
 Walter Astley

Wolverhampton 31 October 1743

Let a probat of this Will be granted to Anne Wilkes
 Sole executrix herein named

Coll being made before me
 Tho: Grubb, Surrogate

Copyright: Staffordshire Record Office

Comment: Roger Hall commented...I wonder if the attached (Will) made in 1742... Unfortunately, it is damaged at a critical point, but it refers to 'my cousin Anne Wilkes [????] of Richard Wilkes gentleman deceased who lived in Willenhall' and to Doctor Wilkes, Rachel his wife and John Wilkes Surgeon. And one of the witnesses is Walter Astley. If the missing word is 'sister' 'My Cozen Anne Wilkes could be the child of Matthew Drakeford's sister Mercy and Richard Wilkes, born 1670. Dr. Wilkes would then be the son of Cousin Anne Wilkes's brother Richard (Gentleman deceased) and Lucretia Astley. This is quite a puzzle.

o) 1711 Document signed by Diana(h) and Elizabeth Drakeford of Forebridge

Source SRO: HM Drakeford/1798/102

A copy of this document is available from the Staffordshire Record Office.

Comment: This is an 'informal' document, the first part of which is in Latin, providing a commitment for the sisters Diana and Elizabeth Drakeford, both of Forebridge.

At the top of the document are two impressed stamps for VI Pence each, showing a crown and a rose encircled by the words '*honi soit qui mal y pense*', translating as: shame on him who thinks evil of it (the motto of the Order of the Garter). Clearly these are revenue stamps from 1711; that is 310 years ago.

The document appears to place an obligation on the two sisters, their heirs and assigns to pay £200 within six months of the death of Thomas Banks in the parish of Bromsgrove to Richard Drakeford, also of Forebridge. He is not identified, but is likely to be their brother, 'The Goldsmith' or 'The Mariner', their cousin. It could be that the sisters had asked Richard to lend money to Mr. Banks and if he did not repay the loan, the sisters would do so.

p) 1721 A Bond for £500 involving Edward and Richard Drakeford. John Bridges, and Michael Rawlins act as guarantors.

No reference numbers known, from bundle of family papers.

Comment: There is no particular interest in this document except that it introduces the names of John Bridges, and Michael Rawlins as assisting Edward and Richard Drakeford.

By the date of 1721, it would appear that this is Richard 'The Goldsmith', who we know had money troubles, leaving very little when he died in 1728. It could be that he was being helped by Edward Drakeford of Congleton as there was no other Edward Drakeford of Stafford around. The only possible Edward was a 'glover' of the right time, but we have no details of his wealth. £500 in those days was a real fortune.

q) 1731

8th March 1738

Source: National Archives

Agreement to pay fine for Edward Drakeford, then in prison in London, by Richard Drakeford of Gosport, his brother.

Edward Drakeford Clerk to the Treasury

*Whereas Edward Drakeford late Clerke to the Treasure of his Majesty's Revenue & Excise Together with Willian Jones of Maxwall in the county of Middlsx Gent. became bound unto the sd Treasurer in the sum of five hundred pounds for the fidelity of the said Edward Drakeford in the discharge of his said office or by the said bond bearing rate to the second day of April one thousand seven hundred and eighteen relation being thereunto had may appear **and whereas** by one other bond dated the said second day of April in the said year one thousand seven hundred and eighteen Richard Drakeford then of London Gent. Together with the Said Edward Drakeford became bound to the said William Jones his exors admins and assigns in the like final sum of five hundred pounds with a condition thereunder written to indemnify the said William Jones his exors admins & assigns from all manner of action & actions charges damages & expenses whatsoever which should hereafter be brought promoted by whosoever and sustained against the sd William Jones his exors admins or on account of his being security for the sd Edward Drakeford as aforesaid **and whereas** the said Edward Drakeford was deficient in his cash to the said Treasurer to the amount of three hundred and ninety one pounds ten shillings and four pence which was afterwards paid to the said Treasurer by the sd William Jones by reason whereof the said bond so given to the said William Jones by the sd Richard Drakeford and Edward Drakeford became forfeited **And Whereas** the **said Edward Drakeford dyed** he fol????? So that the sd. bond Hath three hundred and ninety pounds ten shillings and four pence **and whereas** the said William Jones is willing to take the sum of three hundred and twelve pounds in full and final settlement of the said deficiency so made by the said Richard Drakeford as aforesaid **Now know all men** by those involved that the Said William Jones in Consideration of the said sum of Three hundred and twelve*

pounds to him in hand paid by the Said Richard Drakeford Hath satisfied released & forever quitclaim unto the Said Richard Drakeford his exors admins and assigns all and all manner of account & accounts, cause and causes of action such Bills & Bonds writings obligations debts dues duties accomplished sums and sums of money judgements & Claims & quarrels damages & demands both in law and equity or otherwise etc., which against the Said Richard Drakeford he ever had or which the said William Jones his heirs executors admins or assigns shall or may have or should or might claim or challenge or demand for of by reason of the said Bond so entered into by the said Richard Drakeford and Edward Drakeford as aforesaid or any other matter cause or thing whatsoever **In Witness** *whereof the said William Jones hath hereunto set his hand and seal this eighteenth day of March anno Dom 1731*

Signed Sealed and delivered

In the presence of us

Andrw. Needham

William Jones seal

Thos. Barker

Comment: This helps to build a picture for Edward Drakeford Jnr. We know from other records that Edward Drakeford senior was the father of Richard 'The Mariner'. Richard had an older brother, by 8 years who joined the HM treasury. He is mentioned in this Stafford Study Paper No: 4. elsewhere. Until this problem arose, we were not certain that they were brothers.

We have to accept that this was malfeasance on the part of Edward, bringing shame to that part of the family. He clearly had trouble with his work and perhaps was made to make up for errors rather than simply stealing. The following 'case' note will help us to understand why Edward ended up with so much trouble.

There are two parties, A and B, read on. It appears that this started when Edward was aged 24.

'Case'

B In the year 1713 became surety with *A* in joint Bond of £500 to the Treasurer of the Revenue of Excises for *A*'s fidelity in Cash (who was a C8 in the office) About the year 1715 *A* made a deficiency in cash to the amount of £170 whereupon he was discharged from his employ and put in prison at a suit of the Sd Treasurer who immediately applied to *B* for the £170 deficiency *B* paid the same and pray'd that *A* might be continued in custody 'till *B* was reimbursed' whereupon *A* was continued in prison 'till ye year 1718 when the £170 together with Fees and Charges of his imprisonment amounted to £220 for which I gave this bond to *B* in the penalty of £440 under a Condition of paying £220 at £80 pr Annum with interest to *B* his Exectr etc and at the same time gave a warrt of attorney confess judgem.t to *B* for £440 debt besides costs of suit in his malyes Court Kings Bench at Westminster as of yr (thoroneed)? or other subsequent Form which Sd Warrant of Attorney was never entred a/c so no judgmt was obtained thereon

In the year 1731 *A* compounded the debt with *B* who would not produce the Bond given to him by *A* but alledged it was burnt among (...) other papers by the accident of his attorneys house being burnt down soon after the same next given which upon inquiry appeared to be true So ye *A* paid the money he had Compounded the debt for and took a general Release from *B* with a memorandum endorsed on the back of the Sd Release that yr Sd Bond was lost mislaid or burnt.

The underlining is by either the legal adviser, J Ward of Temple, or by Richard Drakeford. On a separate sheet, questions are asked, and replies given by Ward as shown below:

Q Will that release have a sufficient discharge to *A* from any further demands of *B*, should the Bond hereafter appear and an action be commenced thereon by *B*'s execs admins or assgns?

I am of opinion it will

Q As the Treasurer of the Revenue was an Agent for the Crown and the debts on which the action was founded was pecunia Regis could that action be removed for this benefit of B if the Composition had not been made & taken or will that had bar all accounts in general?

The Treasurer being an Agent for ye Crown can give B no advantage because it was a private contract between A & B after the Treasurer was paid

Q If that had is not an absolute bar on behalf of A, what will be the requirement to make it so?

A bond being a personal security I am of the opinion whether it be lost or not, a general Release from the obligee will always be admitted as a plea for the obligor and that it is a good Discharge to A from B in this case.

J. Ward

Temple March 21, 1731.

This is an intriguing look into the court case of 1731, and helps to show how people in trouble, with a shortage of funds, can find themselves incarcerated with little hope of release unless they could find help from family or rich friends. Why Edward became in the mess and was accused of stealing we do not know.

It was at this time that Richard Drakeford 'The Town Clerk' was creating a map of his Stafford estate.

**r) 1738 Indenture 12th August 1738 Agreement to pay Dianah Drakeford
£260 by way of a loan by Richard Drakeford**

Know all men by these payments that I Richard Drakeford of Gosport in the County of South'ton Gent: am held and firmly bound to Dianah Drakeford in the county of Stafford, spinster in Two hundred and sixty pounds of Lawful money of Great Britain to be paid unto the said Dianah her Exors Administrators or Assigns. To the true payments whereof will and faithfully to be paid I bind my self, my heirs executors & Administrators firmly by these presents. Given under my seal the 11th day of August in the twelfth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the second by the Grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith Etc. in the year of our Lord 1738.

Whereas the above named Dianah hath immediately before the execution of these presents advanced and paid unto the above bound Richard Drakeford the sum of three hundred and thirty pounds for which she is to have an annuity of seventeen pound per annum for her life and the disposal of fifty pounds part of the said three hundred and thirty pounds as she shall think fit in case she shall hereafter by writing under her hand define and direct the repayment thereof and not otherwise. The condition therefore of the obligation is such that if the said Richard Drakeford his heirs Exors. Or assigns shall & do well & truly pay or raise to be paid unto the said Dianah Drakeford her Exors., Admis. Or Assigns the sum of seventeen pounds by the year, half yearly by even and equal portion for and during the natural life of her the said Dianah the first payment whereas to be paid on the eleventh day of February next ensuring the date thereof. And also if the said Richard Drakeford his Heirs, Execrs. Or Admins. Shall do well and truly pay unto the said Dianah her Exors. Adms. Or Assigns the sum of fifty pounds at such time & in such manner as the said Dianah by writing under her hand at any time heron order & direct the same then this Obligation (here)after to remain in full force.

Sealed and delivered in presence of:

Cha. Frankland

John Dance

R Drakeford

Comment: At first glance this would appear that Richard 'The Mariner' is being philanthropic. Alas no, Dianah has paid Richard £350, and in return he has promised her repayment of only £250 BUT she will receive for life £17 per half year plus £50 when she calls on it.

This gives her a steady income and letters exist where she does call on the £50. See below. It does mean that after 3 years she is in profit. She was 56 at the time, lived a further 12 years and died before Richard in 1750.

Look at the letter dated 13th May 1747 below from Diana (note the spelling – Richard spells it with an 'h'). She refers to Richard as her 'brother', he was just 15 years younger, and she gives a receipt for annuity funds at the end of the letter. All correctly formal.

s) 1738, November 20th Marriage Agreement for Richard Drakeford, Town Clerk, and Frances Wood - 1738

20th Nov. 1738 - Articles of Agreement betw'n Rd. Drakeford (Son & heir of Rd. Drakeford Gent decd.) of this **1st Part**, Francis Wood Spr. of the **2nd Part**, Priscilla Drakeford Wdw of Sd Rd. Drakeford decd of this **3rd part** Elianor Wood Wdw of Jno Wood dec'd – {sic- Note: see above this should read *Widow of Beaston, being the mother of Francis*} of this **4th part**, Jno Robbins Esq & Isaac Hawkins Gent of this **5th Part** Reciting that a Marriage was intended to be solemnised betw'n sd Rd Drakeford & Frances Wood.

Sd Rd. Drakeford for the cond'ns therein ment'nd. Did coven't. to convey & assure unto s'd Jno. Robbins & Isaac Hawkins & their heirs:

All those sd Messuages lands tenem'ts herediments Situ in Forebridge (that is to say) inter alia the **Near Hill & Meadow, The Far Hill, Broad Meadow, the Little Hough, the Basford Leasow, The Spittle Grounds, the Beast Gates & the fishery** to the S'd Spittle Grounds & belong'g. And all Tithes. To the use of Sd. Rd. Drakeford for life Sans Waste. Remainder to Trustees to preserve and maintain to the use of sd. Frances Wood his int'n'd Wife for life for her jointure & in bar of Dower and To Trustees to be named for 500yrs In Trust to raise portions for daughters & younger sons intended namely viz. two or more £800 to be pd as sd. Rd. Drakeford & Frances Wood his intend. Wife on the son shd. By Deed or Will appoint And in default equally

To this first and every son & sons of Sd. Marriage succeeding in Tail Gent

To the daughters of Sd. Marriage as Tents in common in Tail Gone

To yr right heirs of sd. Richard Drakeford

Written as a marginal note: *There does not seem any settlement made of course no Trustees were appointed & the Term cod not th'fore be legally assigned & its supposed it cannot be set up afsd a Right of Dower. There appears two rsd for £800 so that ye Trusts sworn satisfied.*

For 500 y[ea]rs In Trust to raise porcions for dau[ghte]rs & yo[ounge]r Sons of s[ai]d int[ende]d marr[iage] Viz [=namely] If two or more £800 to be p[ai]d as s[ai]d Richard Drakeford & ff[rances] Wood his int[ende]d wife or he Survivor sh[oul]d by Deed or Will appoint. And in default equally.. [sic] Rem{ainde}r To the first & every o[the]r Son & Sons of s[ai]d marr[iage] successively in Tail Gen[era]l ...[sic] Rem[ainde]r To the dau[ghte]rs of s[ai]d Marr[riage] as Tenanats in Common in Tail Gen[era]l to ye right Heirs of s[ai]d Richard Drakeford

Executed by all Parties

Comment This is an extract from deeds in a land transaction used for the later sale of Drakeford lands from a Mr Wright to Early Talbot, very much written in shorthand wit the missing parts added. It is of special interest because firstly it shows that Richard, 'The Town Clerk', his intended wife Frances Wood and Richard's mother Priscilla Drakeford all entered into a Mortgage whereby they seemed to be anticipating two £800 rights of a dowry for future children.

The interesting point is that we have under this Study Paper 4 featuring Forebridge Hall a plan of the Stafford estates held by the family and dated 1732, the year before the deed, on which the deed would have been based. On this is a diagram of Forebridge Hall and associated building.

t) 1740, 4th April, Indenture between Richard Drakeford and Priscilla Drakeford

*This Indenture made the fourth day of April in the thirteenth year of the reign of our sovereign Lord George the second by the Grace of Great Britain France and Ireland King defender of the Faith and So forth in the year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Forty **Between** Richard Drakeford in the Borough of Stafford in the county of Stafford, Gentleman on the one part and Priscilla Drakeford of Fforebridge in the borough of Castle in the county aforesaid Widow on the other part **Witnesseth** for the better Enabling the said Richard Drakeford to grant release or convey the said tenement with a barnside and garden herein after mentioned the said priscilla Drakeford her heirs and assigns for ever in such sort manner and found as the same are mentioned and intended in and by a certain indenture Intended to be made and bearing date the day next after the day of these presents to be granted released and conveyed and also in consideration of the sum of five shillings to the said Richard Drakeford in hand paid by the said Priscilla Drakeford at or before the sealing and delivery of these presents the receipt thereof he does hereby acknowledge the said Richard Drakeford **Hath** Bargained and sold and by transfer presents **Doth** Bargain a sell unto the said Priscilla Drakeford her exors administrators and assigns **All** messuages or tenements Situate lying and being in Fforbridge aforesaid late in the possession of Richard Tagg with a backside or garden and the hereditments and appurtenances belonging or with the same heretofor held used or enjoyed by the said Richard Tagg **All** all an singular which said messuages and tenements with a backside or garden are lying or being or reputed to be lying and being in Fforbridge aforesaid and now are or lately were in the holding or occupation of the said Richard Tagg his undertenant or undertenants and all other the messuages with a backside or garden thereunto belonging or to or with the same usually used occupied or enjoyed demised or granted or being reputed to be parcel or member thereof **To have and To Hold** the said messuages or tenements with a backside or*

*garden hereby granted or sold with their and every piece of their appurtenances unto the said Priscilla Drakeford her Executors or Administrators and Assignes from the daye and the date of these present for and during and untill the full end and terme of six months from thence next ensuing and fully to be compleat and ended in **Witness** whereof the partys first above named have hereunto have set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.*

Ri. Drakeford seal

An indenture signed by Richard Drakeford between him and Priscilla, widow of Forebridge, whereby he agrees that his mother as executor of his father's will should be able to convey property at Fforebridge with a sitting tenant Richard Tagg.

Comment: This was at the time when the family finances were in trouble and Richard, 'The Town Clerk' was selling the Forebridge property to Richard 'The Mariner', who would provide sufficient money for the said Priscilla and her son to repay debts. The property would come back when 'The Mariner' died, bequeathing it to Richard 'The Major'.

u) 1744, 22nd October Letter from Priscilla to Uncle Richard asking for help with doctor's fees.

It is worth reading this letter from Priscilla to her father's 1st cousin, Richard 'The Mariner'. She was just 35, and sought solace from a father-like figure, having lost her father when she was 18. Take yourself back to 1744, the time when Daniel Defoe and Jonathan Swift were writing. Jane Austen was a little later. As ever, it is all about money...and broken promises.

Dear Uncle,

I have long delayed writing to you hoping I should have had the agreeable news to have sent my friends at Gosport that Doctor Wilkes would have paid me my mony without the trouble lan? But as he will not must give you the troble to let you known the affair & withall must tell you it is imposable for any man uese any person worse than he has done me but thank God I have met with unexpected friends which I belive has & will done justis

one of my friends is counseller Green who happened to be at Stafford when the Doct propose refering the affair to counseller Ford or Counseller Stainne which I approved of & he was to abide by their determination may being his intimate freinds I proposed Mr Green which I proposed into & desired that Mr Gilmore might draw the case which was done by Mr Green approbation & sent to him & he returned it back without this answer to Mr Gilmore the case is so parshally drawn to mislead Mr Green that if you think Mis Drakeford has a right to the monny she & you may have recourse the say in what mannar you pleas the doctor did not know Mr Green drew ye case & he has assured me it must go in my favour for that he never saw a case that would less admit of dispute he is so concerned for me that he has to do all that in him lye & would not take a fee from me he wrote me since he went on to London ye farthest kind letter that could be wrote & desires me to give him leave to profer a bill against the Doctor this term & has he give me so great hopes of sucksess & all the incouragement I could wish for am very willing to strive all that in me lyes to get what I am very sure is my right though might I am very well asured often overcomes justes & as to if 'Doc' he has a long purse & you know mine to be short enuff but notwithstanding that as I am could by all that I have sherved the papers so that he cannot set my title that I have to cosen Drakefords munny aside am very desirous he should appear in his true collours for he has said about this affair to be plane a many lys which I have proved to be so by written letters from under the cosen nannys own hand it would be too tedeous to rlate all the ill behaveour I have met with from that vile man & the uneaseness he has given my mother & me is not to be exprest but since we have had Mr Greens opinion are much satisfied my dear uncle to let you into this affair as much as I can I have got a cobby of the deed & of the case & have sent it by post to you & beg for God sake you be so kind to give me your advice & kind assistance if you have anny counseller in your art of the world to ask there opinion & let me no it by the first post for I don't care to give Mr Green orders till I have yours which way I shall act I have sited Yr Doc & his Brother into the spirituall cort to take out letters of administration which thay have done Mr Green and Mr Gilmore advised me to do that about three weeks ago after Cosn Draakeford had made her last will she insister upon cosen nanny Wilke promising her, she at her death would give all she left to her & she promised to do so thinking I stayed a grate wile in London & she being uneasy thear at related he

promises to the Doctor & he to make he easy wrote her the following will. My last will and desire is that att my death my cosen Priscilla Drakeford may have all the monny that was my coson Ann Drakefords wch is three hundred three score & nine pounds which you,l find resited in the case this maid her easey till I came home & then she sent me the cobby of this short will with all cosen Drakefords close plates & linnin & beg me to ask my Bro^r whether or not that would secure me of the mony, but the thought not which I let her know & upon that she sent own Mr Eliot over to persuaid me to come to Willenhall to have & is a witness to the deed who can avow it was not done in a prevalant manner ehicch the Doctor carges me with

Amungst all the kinfd favours I have received from my Dear Uncle I must still beg one more which is that you'l be so kind to write one of your pritty letters of thanks to Counsellor Green for the favours he has done mamma & me & let him know I have sent you word of it which I think he will take kind there is good understanding between my Bro^r the Doctor so that my Bro^r dose not care to act for me but has spock to cosen Gilbert to act for me gives me grate hopes that I shall conquare my condition I beg my love to my dear sister & thank her for her kind wishes & aunt & she shall hear from me soon all the news for I think I shall quite tire you should I say anny more so must conclude myself

*Your much obliged
& dutifull neece whiilst
Prisc^a Drakeford*

*Mamma & Anny join with
Me in Duty Love & Servis*

*Dear Uncle I am the uneasyst
Creture that ever lived but must
Keep it from my dear mother*

Stafford octo^r ye 22 1744

Comment: The letter speaks for itself. I have kept all the original spellings. This does not show illiteracy far from it, when most of the population were indeed illiterate. Often the words were written as they sounded. As previously mentioned, the first dictionary was not available until 1755.

What it does show, assuming Priscilla was writing it on her own, was an insight into the law which was perhaps unusual for a young lady at this time. She became married to William Vaughan in 1749, five years later, so he was unlikely to be an influence.

I did find that I could read almost every word of this long letter, rather than those by, Richard the 'Town clerk', which are really a problem. Well done Priscilla.

- v) **1745, 23rd October** **Letter from W Bedford attorney to Richard Drakeford regarding monies owed to Elizabeth Drakeford**
Source: SRO D1798/HMDRAKEFORD 97

Mr Richard Drakeford

*By Vertue of a Writt of Subpena to you Directed and herewith shown unto you are personably to be and appear before Sir John Willis Knight our Chief Justice of the Bench at Westminster Hall of Pleas there called Westminster Hall on Wednesday Twentieth Day of November next to testify the truth according to your knowledge in a certain convenience depending and then & there to be tryed between **Elizabeth Drakeford** Plaintiff and **Richard Drakeford gentlemen** one of the attorneys of our Court of the Bench defendant of Plea of Debt on the part of the plaintiff and thereof you are not to fail on Pain of 100 pounds dated twenty third day of October in the Nineteenth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the second^{2nd} by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland King defender of the faith and so forth & in the year of our Lord one Thousand four Hundred and Forty Five.*

W Bedford

Attorney for the Plaintiff

Comment: This would appear to be a situation whereby Elizabeth Drakeford is taking a Richard Drakeford to court for £100. The Elizabeth is either that born in 1689, last daughter of 'Three Wives', or the spinster Elizabeth b. 1707, sister of Richard 'The Town Clerk'. The defendant, Richard is either the 'Town Clerk' or 'The Mariner'.

It is very sad to see when a family member has to take a relation to court.

M^r Richard Drakeford.

By Virtue of a Writ of Subpoena to you Directed and
herewith Shown unto you you are personally to be and appear before
S^r John Willes Knight our Chief Justice of the Bench at Westminster
in the Great Hall of pleas there called Westminster Hall on
Wednesday next being the Twentieth Day of November ¹⁷⁰⁴ to
Testify the Truth according to your Knowledge in a certain
Cause now depending and then to be tried between
Elizabeth Drakeford Plaintiff and Richard Drakeford
Gentleman one of the Attorneys of our Court of the Bench
Defendant in a plea of Debt on the part of the
Plaintiff and thereof you are not to fail on pain of one
Hundred pounds. Dated the Twentieth Day of
October in the Nineteenth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign
Lord George the Second by the Grant of her of Great Britain
Ireland King Defender of the Faith and so
forth in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred
& Forty Two.

W^m Drakeford Attorney for
the Plaintiff

w) 1746, 21st May

Letter from Priscilla to Richard Drakeford

Source: SRO D1798/HMDRAKEFORD/97

This is a letter to Uncle Richard 'The Mariner' from Priscilla, then aged 37. She married William Vaughan, a business colleague of 'The Mariner'. For context, this was a daughter of Richard 'The Goldsmith', which was a first cousin of Richard 'The Mariner'. Hence it was a young lady using a letter to provide news and a bit of gossip. Also, mentioning the problems of the day such as smallpox, we can understand more about how they lived their lives. Spelling mistakes not corrected. Remember there were no dictionaries until 1755!

Dear Uncle

What shall I say to you & the rest of my friends at Gosport for my long silences for I very well know my aunt and sis before this had expected I should have returned with and answer for their kind letters they sent me by my Bro' but the truth is, he put them in his pocket book & left them with a gentleman at Birmingham & they never came till 3rd May which was the day his second son was buried & I have been much there ever since till last Munday nursing too his little Boys of the small pox who are now out of danger so hope you all forgive the neglect as this is the first day I have had to myself since the first of April. I hope you received my last with the note for the money pray let me know if its as you like it for not hearing from you since am fearfull it may miscarry. I have a thousand things to say & twice as many thanks to you for the very grate favour you have done me in persuading my Bro' to be so materiall a witness in my cause. I never took the least notice to him or any creature that I knew it was in his power to serve me not has he never mentioned it once to me upon his coming home home he went to Gilmore & ordered an Into roitury (?) to be sent to him for to examin him as a witness of the Commission but he does not know that I know anything of it & believes he shall give me a pleasing surprise when he is examined which I do assure you I shall gratefully remember both to you who have been the author of it & him the finisher the Commission has been put of upon the account of Elliotts being gone to Bath who came from thence last Monday & about three weeks ago Sneyd wrote to Mr Gilmore to order him to write to the master of the Scolls (?) for an order to force the doctor to deliver up the Bond at yr Comission which order the Doc'r has been served with & now I am to find out proper persons to sware to Mr. Matthew Astley &

Parson Carter handwriting who are witnesses to the Bond given to Coz Drakeford for which evidence I must find out & must set out by four o'clock tomorrow for Willenhall for Parson Carsons hand is to be proved there, & on Fryday for genton to see for to prove Matt Astleys hand & then no ti will be given for the Commision. I don't like these delays for it harases me to death. Stafford is a very Baron place for news but must tell you of a good piece of fortune tht is comen to Cos.n Smith she is released from a chancery sute with great sucksess you, I see it in the papers. Bagshaw against Smith & others. The very old roge was worth fourscore thousand pound & yet would in an unjust cause stand it out to the last it was conserning a lead mine in Darbyshire its grate pleasure to find justis done to the oppressed. Captain Robins is to be discharged next week from his captainship & then if I have aginne that I cant tell what to do with He give it him for a fee my Bro's old house in now even with the ground he begines to lay the foundation next week I should be very glad to hear from you how you have settled affairs with his for he dose not say a word to any of us about it & we long to know how it is & wheather he proposes what you approve of Pray my duty lover to Aunt & sister & tell them thay shall hear from me next week mamma begs her blessing & love & I car uncle give me leave to assure you that I am & ever will be your dutiful

& obedient neices whilst

Prisc Drakeford

Stafford May 21st 1746

Comment: It is difficult to fathom out all the mysteries of this letter due to lack of background. Smallpox is a great issue. It is clear the Richard 'The Mariner' is helping Priscilla in various ways, and there are plenty of letters at the SRO that could be included. As ever, there is friction between brother and sister, and it is not possible to identify to whom she was referring by this letter alone.

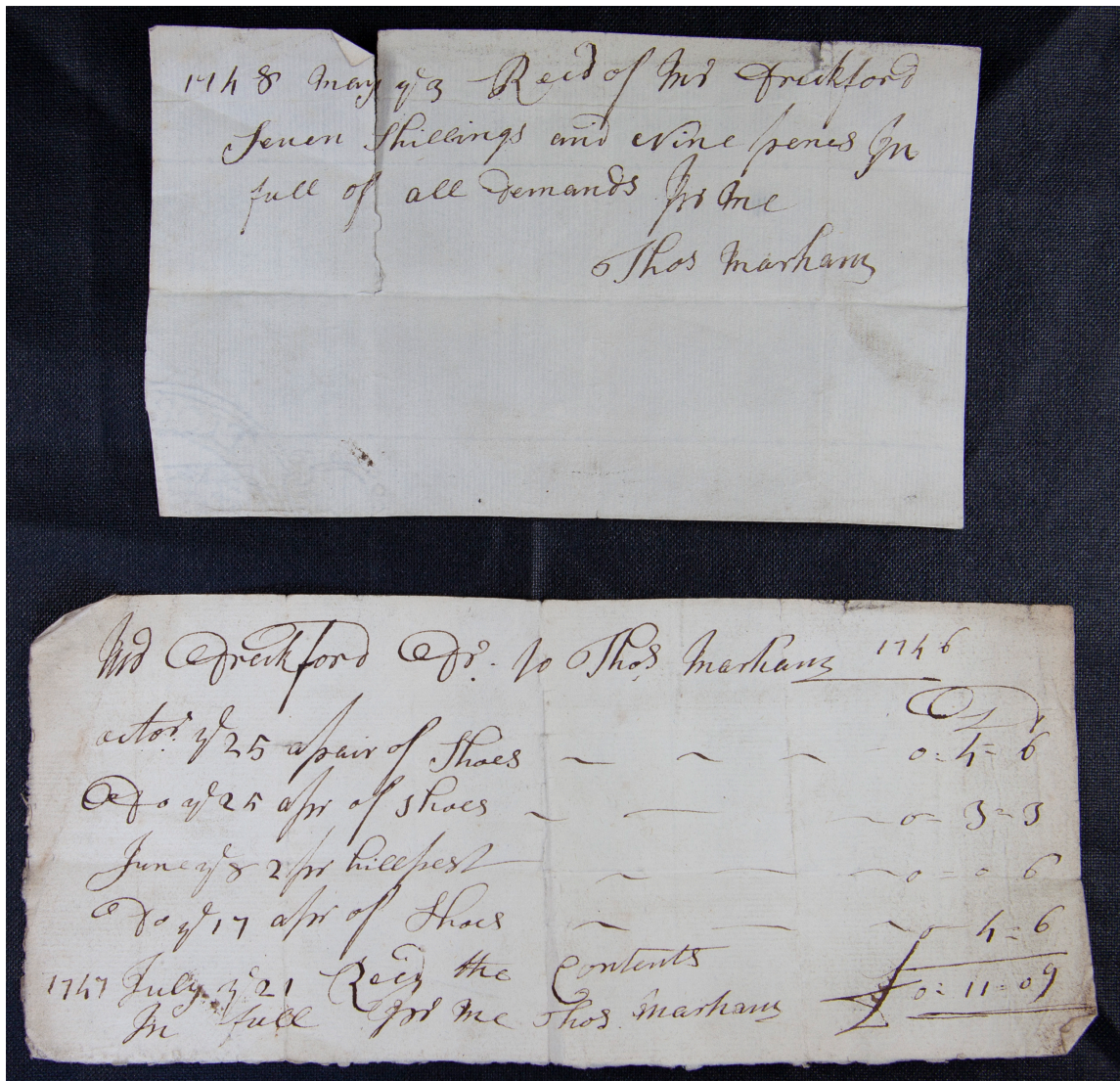
x) 1746, 16th June Lease for possession of Forebridge Source - SRO 1798/44

Comment: This is available at the Staffordshire Record Office, but damage over the years has left parts of it illegible. However, there is no doubt that this is the time when Richard 'The Mariner' purchased Forebridge Hall and allowed the family, that is Richard 'The Town Clerk' and his mother Frances to repay a mortgage of around £800. This saved the family's reputation.

y) 1746/47 and 1748 Receipts for Goods

Source: SRO D1798/HMDRAKEFORD/93

Short written receipts on fragments of paper from Thomas Markam for goods and items supplied to Richard Drakeford.



Comment: Just a small matter, but interesting. No computers in those days. A Mr. Marham is presenting an invoice for clothes and shoes on 21st July 1747 for October and June 1746. Clearly, Richard did not pay quickly for these. A pair of shoes cost 4/6d, which was a lot of money at that time.

The 1748 receipt for seven shilling and nine pence was paid for '*all demands for me, Thos. Marham*'.

z) 11st March 1747 Letter from Priscilla Drakeford to Uncle Richard, The Mariner.

Dear Uncle,

11th March 1747

My mother desires me to inform you since she sent her account my bror paid her four pound four shillings the night before he set out he calld at our house to bid my mother farewell, I beg youl ask him what he ment by telling her that he would never give me a penny, for now I had got a fortune of my own he swore I should have none from him for he would suffer himself to goall, before he would pay that money to [me. I] declare I don't know that I ever the least thing to offend [him] in my life, & why he uses me thus I am quite a stranger [he t]ells his mother I wrote him a letter wherein I threated to a priest(?) him, which is utterly fallse & to convince you its so I have herein sent you the cobby of it. I beg dear uncle youl doe all in your power to settle these misstakes amongst us for which we shall all stand very gratefully Indebted to you. My bror thinks the money the doctor paid me is all mine, he is very much mistaken & shall remain so for me, but admitt it was a thousand pound, that's no reason why I should loose my just property from a brothers hand, & I am well convinced you wont countenance a thing of a sort

My mother and sister join me in love & duty & I am Dear Uncle your Affection & Dutiful Neice

Prisca Drakeford

Stafford, March 11th, 1747.

Comment: Hey Ho! This seems to follow on in the same manner as that to Uncle Richard dated 21st May 1746. Money troubles again. One assumes that Priscilla has received a very large some of £1,000, quite a fortune in those days, and she expects her brother to ignore that fact and continue to support her and her mother notwithstanding her wealth.

We assume that this is addressed to Richard 'The Mariner', and perhaps he endowed her with the large sum. Were I in his shoes, I might have asked Priscilla to return it so that her brother could pay his dues, and everyone would be happy? On the other hand, I probably think not!

It is quite possible that the undated letter below is the repost that Priscilla sent to her brother, bewailing the rather unfortunate inability to do other than seek all the money she can grab....

aa) No Date say 11.3.1747 also Letter from Priscilla Drakeford to her Brother

Dear Bro,

Your never giveing us an opportunitiy of conversing with you, obliges me to take this meathord, & with all cant avoid telling you I think myself and sister extremely ill used by your Detaining from us our just property so many years; you cannot imagein my mothers Income so poorly paid has maintained us, no fair from it, for I have been obliged to borrow money reather than to ask you for it. If its so hard with you to pay the interest now what must it be when your family grows up, it gives us a doubt of the payment of the Principall which you cannot blame us for, therefore in Justice to ourselves I won't any longer omit desireing to know what you propose to doe, fair be it from our inclenation to do anything to distress you or yours, but if you oblige us to it, blame yourself and not us.

So pray consider seriously of this & let me know your intention if the case is so bad with you that you can not pay us our interest to which God forbid should be the case, yet let us know it that we may put ourselves in some way of life whilst we have something to it with.

I am affectionately yours whilst

Prisca Drakeford

Comment: OUCH! A family problem. Good job there was no Zoom at the time.

bb) 1747, May 7th Letter from Diana to Bro' marked Ashford Bowdler May,
Fr 3, 1747

Ashford Bowdler Friday May 3rd 1747

Dr Bro

I cant any longer forbare writing to you fearing you very ill because you are youst to be very good in answering in my letters & this was yr only time I ever asked yu to send me a bill soon & I am afreaid yor leter is miscarr'd being a month ys day since I wrote last, I have sort allmost every post ys fortnight & have fretted my self almost sick for fear yo. Are ill

Since times I choar my self with yr hope yo dosier coming, but then I think yo Would let me know, I beg if ever yo bles me with the sight of yo and mt dear sister & bettsy to let me know the day I'll find a mail @ home to meet you to greet you the best way for the rode hear abouts are very bad for 4 hours while I wrote a long leter to my Sis at the same time. Refering to her by her leter, you was not well & that far water is too much foreign for her pray God bless you both. I found you great blessing health, & all others to make y as happy as he

A friend is just come in who promises to just put this in Leominster bag, which I am glad of, for & has but (????) name, I can't stay to write any more now, because I began by 4 oClock in the morning, & I thought to have wrote to my sister to morow before the post had gone out, & tis allmost 7 & I cant write any more to nite, my poor eyes are so tired & I have rested them teo times for this, I have no news but ye Marvial pond has run more voyallant latly than it has run for this fifty years, which frits ye enjoyed hear abouts Sadly I had like to forget, that it tis but twelve & ten shillings for I had five shillings to much in the last three quarters, my true love atends yo all I am

Dr Bro.

*Your truly loving affect
Sis to yu and of my life
Dianah Drakeford*

Comment: A rather rambling letter from a 65-year-old to her brother. Starting with a scolding for her brother about not getting a letter from him, worrying about his health, explaining how poorly her eyes are and ending up telling him she has too much money sent with her quarterly allowance!

cc) 1747, May 13th Letter from Diana to Bro'

Dr Bro

May Thurs 13 1747

Yr post after I sent my last letter to yo, I received yours, with a bill & return yo thanks. Mr Turner sent me word he sent it by a safe hand yesterday for he did not care to trust it by the post -- You think to laugh me out of my fancy of driving at Midsomer, & for thay doo hoar, but I firmly believe it, I may be desired(?) as well as you, for I remember when I came away from Gosport, yo fancyd yo should not live till Micholmas.

I wish yo may be a true profitt about yo Frinch & ye pretender & yt they may never be about to hurt our church, King, or Nation.

I am hartly sory I shall not for yo, nor my dr sister in yr world, but hope we shall all meet in heaven, you tell me my dr sister is quit gay & hartly, shes very happy, for these four months difrance in our age, & if a few months time indoors to go down but it starts with a crutch & could not do it God fitt me for your Heaven..... I am in my place with Joy, to those who wish for a longer time. Poor Mrs Hall sends her best for us, & she disposes as well as me, we have sent ours, how happy we should be in seeing yo, & and contriving things to make yr crib of a house as agreeable as possible but tis over,

I am in very great pain but do answer my dear bro.

I am sincerely your loving sister to you and your life

Diana Drakeford

May 13th 1747

Received then of my brother Richard Drakeford the sum of 12 pounds 10 shillings being for 3 quarters annuity, 5 shilling being added to your payment which makes you 5 shillings short recorded by me Diana Drakeford

Comment: After ten days she receives a letter from her brother and replies. This rather sad letter from spinster Diana to her 'brother' is unusual. For the first time she is writing in a way that shortens words. Her spelling seems to have become poor, as in the previous letter and she uses commas everywhere. Perhaps that is indicative that she is taking a long while to write the letter.

She is clearly very poorly and contemplating her demise, noting that she can no longer manage stairs, but notes she is not alone. She comments that she was looking forward to meeting her brothers and sisters in Heaven. At the time of the letter, she was 65. In fact, she was to live another 3 years until 1750. At the end of the letter, she manages to include information about her accounts commenting that her brother owes her 5/-!

dd) **1748/9 Letter dated 10th January from William Drakeford to presumably Richard 'The Mariner'**
Source: SRO D1798 HMDRAKEFORD/28

Hono:d Sir

London 10th Jan.y 1748/9

I think it appropriate to acquainte you that yesterday I waited on Admiral Smith, who informed me that he had not yet heard from Captn. Parry, whom he wrote to in favour of me, as I wrote you in my last, in order to take me on board with him till such times his flag was hoisted, which in all probability may be this 6 March Inst. I beg you will do one the favour of leting one heare from you and advice me in what manner you would have me Act, as I have now a good many offers made me of geting into Business again, but I shall not think of accepting anything of the kind without it meets with your Approbation , My sister joines with me, in Duty to you and Aunt, & love to Sister and Nephew, and Am,

Your Dutiful Nephew to Command

Wm Drakeford

PS

My illness and being at Chatham Cost me to provide of £12, and have since bought me one coat, waist co. and two pair of Breeches, so that can't have much left out of what I received for the Intrepid.

Honour Sir
London 10th Jan'y 1718/9

I think it proper to acquainte you that
Yesterday I waited on Admiral Smith, who inform'd me
that he had not yet heard from Cap^{tn} Parry, whom he
wrote too in favour of me, as I wrote you in my last, in order
to take me on board with him till such times his flag
was hoisted, which in all Probability may be this 6th Month
next, I beg you will do me the favour of letting me hear
from you and advice me in what manner you would
have me act, as I have now a good many Offers made
me of getting into Business again but I shall not think
of accepting of any thing of the kind without it meets
with your Approbation, my Sister Joines with me in
Duty to you and Aunt, Love to Sister, and Nephew,
And Am,

Your Dutiful Nephew
His Command W^m Drakeford

P.S. I am being at
my Illness, and being at
Chatham got me up to
of £12, and have since bought me
Coat, waist Co and two Pair of Breeches,
so that can't have much left out of what
I receiv'd for the Intrepid,

Copyright: Staffordshire Record Office

Comment: It is believed that this letter addressed to Honoured Sir, is to William's wealthy uncle, Richard Drakeford 'The Mariner'. As for this William, it is most likely to be the youngest son of Richard 'The Town Clerk' who would have been 25 or 26 at the time.

It is in excellent copper plate writing and well thought through. William is indicating that he is now fit to resume naval duty but wants to make sure he is doing that which he uncle and benefactor agrees is right for him.

It is noteworthy that he also sends regards to his Aunt, presumably Richard's wife. We know he had a wife because he refers to her as his late wife in his will. He also sends love to 'sister and Nephew'. We have no knowledge who these are.

There is reference to William serving on the 'Intrepid'. This is most likely a naval ship, but does not appear to be one on which Richard 'The Mariner' served.

ee) 1749, February 6th Letter regarding a dispute Source: SRO

6th February 1749

Thursday Mr Robins call'd upon me abt. a dispute Nichols and Yr nephew. He informs me Nichols is now sensible of his error and offers to ask Mr D's pardon and pay 20 Gns and will fully indemnifying him from all expenses accrued abt & action cost by Nichols.

Mr Robins tells me Dick declines making an end withot your consent for wht purpose I am applied to to request yr recommendation to him of an amicable determination: I own I was sanguine to have my friends honour vindicated, but if Nichols is now convinced of his own error, and has made such an offer as above, I can't think Mr D will be averse to peace and if you are of the same opinion, as they must live neighbour in the same town, it may be not wrong to give Dick a line upon & subject. Perhaps an act of Generosity may do more good than severity but this must be left to yr own Judgement, for I can only give my sentim'ts on Ech occasion. Mr Parker has not yet done anything towards clearing Ech objection I mentioned to his title, when anything satisfactory is proposed you may depend on hearing from yr most humble servant.

John Lord

February 6th 1749 Mid: Temple

Comment: This is an example where Richard 'The Merchant' has received advice on a matter of dispute and clearly his advocate at Middle Temple has arrived at a settlement with the person who had offended one of Richard's nephews. The letter could well be addressed to Dickenson his legal representative as the letter refers to 'Dick' as an interested third party. The matter is left open for a Mr Parker to respond.

ff) 1748/9, 22nd February Letter from William Drakeford to Richard Drakeford, 'The Mariner', regarding his position in the navy. Source: SRO D1798 HMDRAKEFORD/28

Chatham 22nd February 1748/9

Honour'd Sir

I have received a lettr from Mr Cousins, the contents of which were you to be acquainted with, am confident you would Condemn him for it as you have allways been my friend so of course I have not been dependant upon him, but he writes as if all my happyness was to flow from him, but at the same time layes down what is impossible for me to execute, to goe to sick quarter, there is no ticket to be had for it, but there is for the Hospital, or else to live on Shore or Ship Provn this sir is what you would not enforce, as it is impracticable, was my health to admit it.

I own by your Order I went to sea & was in hope it would have agreed with me but my constitution is so weak that to Oblige you I find I have staid to long that way of life, I should have been very glad it would have done, because that is the way of life that is most agreeable to you to have fixed in, but I hope you will excuse me when I tell you Sincerely it is not from any dislike I have to it, but shall prefer any Situation on Shore that You shall approve or preferable to that.

As it has happened so unfortunate to disappoint you in your Views in Serving one in the Navy I flatter myself you will still be my friend to direct & assist me in what I hope I am to Act as you are the Chief person I have to doe it, I shall be Impatiently wait your Order which I shall Comply with & am with Duty to self and Aunt with Love to Sister and Nephew,

Your Dutiful Nephew
to command

Wm; Drakeford

Chatham 22 Feby 1748/9

I have received a Lett: from Mr. Couvins,
the contents of which were you to be acquainted with, and
consequently you would condemn him for it, as you have
always been my friend so of course I have not been
dependant upon him, but he writes as if all my happy-
ness was to flow from him, but at the same time says
down what is impossible for me to execute, to go to Sick
Quarters, there is no Ticket to be had for it, but there is
for the Hospital, or else to live on Shore on Ships Board
this Sir is what you would not enforce, as it is imprac-
-tible, was my health to admit it,

From by your Order I went to Sea &
was in hope it would have agreed with me, but my con-
-stitution is so weak that its Obliged you. I find I have
staid too long in that way of life, I should have been very
glad it would have done, because that is the way of life
that is most agreeable to you to have fixed in, but hope
you will excuse me when I tell you Sincerely it is not
from any dislike I have to it, but shall prefer any
situation on Shore that you shall approve of preferable
to that,

As it has happend so unfortunate
to disappoint you in your view in serving me in the
Navy I flatter myself you will still be my friend to
direct & assist me in what I have to do, I am to Act as you
are the chief person I have to do it, I shall impatiently
wait your Order which I shall comply with & am
with Duty to self and Aunt, with Love to Sister and
Nephew,

Your Dutyful Nephew
Ho Command your Obedience
Wm Drakeford

Comment: This is a very difficult letter for William to write to his uncle Richard 'The Mariner'. He has been assisted with the chance of a career in the navy, but it does not suit him and believes his failing health is due to being on ships and not an ailment that can be cured in a hospital. He is now throwing himself before his uncle and asking for a shore job.

As round this time his uncle was taking extended sick leave, and was veering towards being a Prize Agent, an onshore role, he might well have been asking at the right time!

gg) 1749, 29th July Articles of Agreement dated 29th July 1749 between Edward Parker of Silkmore in the Parish of Castle and Richard Drakeford of Gosport.

Articles of Agreement made concluded and agreed upon the 29th day Of July 1749 in the year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred and forty nine between Edward Parker of Silkmore in the Parish of Castle in the count of Stafford, Gentleman on the one part and Richard Drakeford of Gosport in the county of Hants, Esquire on the other part as follows

First *The said Edward Parker for himself his heirs Exors and Admins Covenant promise and agree to and with the said Richard Drakeford his heirs and assigns in manner following (that is to say) that he tha said Edward Parker heirs assigns and all and every person or persons in any way interested or intituled to these premises hereafter mentioned or any part thereof in trust for him shall and will at the request Costs Charges of the said Richard Drakeford his heirs or assigns on or before the eleventh day of January next ensueing the date hereof (or soon after as Conveyance can be Conveniently be executed) well and sufficiently as the consoles of the said Richard Drakeford his heirs or assigns shall advise convey and assure unto the said Richard Drakeford his heirs & assigns All that Mannor and Lordship of Silkmore with all the right Royaltys Fishing and rights of Fishery member and Appurtenances in the said Parish of Castle and County of Stafford aforesaid together with All those several pieces and parcels of land to the*

same belonging or the receipt usually used occupied or enjoyed or reputed or part or parcel thereof and commonly called or known by the several names of the Nearer Barnfield the Manor Boon Leasons the Peel Pits The Connay Greaves The Further Spencers Leasow the Nearer Spencers Leasow The Pool Leaded The Lower Spencers Meadow The middle Meadow The Upper Meadow The Two Withey Meadow The Rogner Meadow The Slangs One Dole in a Certain Meadow Called Copnall Meadow in the Said Parish of Castle ntogether with all that messuages or farmhouse thereto belonging and all barns stables and gardens and other buildongs therewith used or enjoyed **All Which Estates** were late in the heritance of Margaret Westen, Widow deceased which said premises are now in the possession of the said Edward Parker, his undertennants or assigns free and discharged of and from all mortgages dues estates and incumbrances whatsoever (Except one mortgage or assignments of mortgages made of the aforesaid premises to Joseph Crowe Clerke for the sumes of Eight Hundred Pounds which is hereby agreed the said Richard Drakeford his heirs or assigns shall deduct and pay off to te said Joseph Crowe with interest and costs out of the purchase moneys hereafter mentioned and which said Mortgages or Assignment it is hereby Agreed shall be assigned to the said Richard Drakeford or some person or persons in Trust for him or then said Richard Drakeford his heirs or assigns shall be advised.

Also It is agreed by and between the said partys and the said Richard Drakeford for himself his heirs Exors and Admins Doth Covenant promise and grant to and with the said Edward Parker his heirs and assigns in manner following that the said Richard Drakeford his exors admis and assigns in consideration of the said Grant and assurance to be made as aforesaid shall and will upon the said 11th day of January next or so soon after as the conveyance can be prepared and the incumbrances be discharged at and upon the sealing and executing the said conveyances well and truly pay and satisfy unto the said Edward Parker his exors and admins the sum of Twelve Hundred and fifty pounds of lawfull Brittish money in full for the purchase of the before mentioned premises the principals interest and costs due to the said Joseph Crowe being first deducted out of the aforesaid sume of Twelve Hundred and Fifty Pounds.

Lastly it is hereby Agreed by and between the said parties to these presents and the said Edward Parker for himself his exors and admins doth covenant and agree to and with the said Richard Drakeford his heirs and assigns Viz that the said Edwd Parker shall and will at the costs and charges in the law of the said Richard Drakeford his exors admins on the said eleventh day of January signs seal and execute unto the said Richard Drakeford his heirs and assigns a lease of all those meadows called Chamberlain Meadow and Backhouses Meadow otherwise Broad Meadow situated and adjoining to the before mentioned premises in the said parish of Castle and County aforesaid subject to the Several Charges thereon to hold to the said Richard Drakeford his heirs and assigns for the Term of ninety-nine years if the said Edward Parker shall be so long lives under the yearly rent of one shilling if demanded

In Witness whereof the parties first above named have herunto set their Hands and Seals the day and year first above written

Edwd Parker

Sealed and delivered in the presence of

C Wimbleton

Ri Drakeford

Comment: This document transfers the rights for fishing, lands and properties etc. with a payment of £800 to Joseph Crowe, and further properties and lands for £1,250 to Edward Parker, with a rental of one shilling per annum for 99 years, if so demanded and as long as the vendor shall live. Presumably, this allows Mr. Parker to show he is still associated with the fishing rights and land.

hh) 1749, 30th October Letter from Rich D, Town Clerk to Richard 'The Mariner' about the title of land in Silkmore

Stafford 10th, 30th 1749

Dear Unkle

The day after I wrote to you I was seized with diobout, (debilitating) ffitt of the gout and have not been able to go out of the house since but thank God I hope I am on a mending time.

On Thursday last I received a letter from Mr. Fford in Rolison to a title of Silkmore who had before him, not only the abstract but **one and a half lines missing here** to acquire the saidconf... with her on that subject who is now inclined on terms with me and wrote to her husband for that Purpose I have advised Mr Fford of this post of your same. If this will not at least comply Mr Fford is determined to make her, & I do not have you look at this Estate upon my arrival at Whatford, it being a good bargain, and very commodious to the other lands. Mr Fford in the bottom of his letter also mentions that by this time Mr Molls may be apportion five he is wrong, and if he should be inclined to and matters are amiably he shd not have this to be averse to have provided a proper satisfaction is openly made for a injury. Now Molls I know has applied to him & the other day he sent his Clerke to him to out matters. I told him I neither could nor would do it, and I hope my dear Unkle will be in the same mind, if I did my friends would never forgive me for if it was in his Power to do and found by my dear Unkle or any of his I'd be

I have by this post wrote to Mr Fford that I would not make it up.

I beg my sincere compliments to Aunt Love to Sister & Dick wishing you the Compliments of the Yr your most affectionate dutiful Nephew to Command

Ri Drakeford

and my wife joins me & same once more.....

Comment: To start with, the date 10th 30th 1749, is an unusual way of writing the date with month, day and year.

The writing is not up to the normal standard by Richard 'The Town Clerk', but it does appear that he is trying to look after the estates for his uncle, the Mariner. He is keeping him informed, and clearly standing his ground against anyone who acts against the family interests and in this case concerns the Parker transaction with the Silkmore land.

ii) 1749, 7th November Letter to Richard Drakeford, 'The Mariner', from fellow officers, exclaiming concerns about his leave of absence.

Navy Office

Mr Drakeford

We have received your letter of the 4th instant desiring a continuity of leave to be absence from your Duty, & in return there of acquaint you that the same has been granted you several times, & as other officers of the ship may likewise in their Turn want leave, to repeat that you should do your own Duty hereafter having for this time renewed your leave for 2 months. We are,

Your affectionate friends

Savage Montyn, Will Corbett, Ian Devert, R Osbourne (plus one other, unreadable)

Purser of the Princess Amelia - Portsmouth

Comment: This is something of a rebuke from Richard 'The Mariner's' fellow officers suggesting that this should be the last such request for leave of absence.

Indeed 'The Mariner' had not been well for a while and had suffered from debilitating periods of sickness while in the West Indies, and he probably knew that life at sea was no longer possible. His fellow officers were clearly either helping him to arrange for a shore posting or were concerned that he was not pulling his weight and they were upset that they had to continually stand in for him.

Not long after this, Richard was a full time Prize Agent.

jj) 1749, 18th November Letter from Edward Parker, following the agreement at item gg), asking where his money is!

*I waited a month money expectation of Mr Drakeford
arriving the money from time to time told
me he had orders and would pay, at last was
credibly informed that the money in London
for me was released to another purpose.
As I had eignained?? you with my ohasions??
I was in hopes you would have given further
Orders about it.*

*I was obliged to rtn to town tho very ill
Prepared for it and as it will be some time
Before I can receive my money I beg you be
Give an order for same requiredd which
Will greatly oblige, Sir
Yo most Humble servt*

18th Nov 1749

Edw Parker

Addendum

Please to be direct to me at my Mother's in Boswell Court Carey Street

Comment: As I was told when young, do not pay until you have to, it is bad form, and do not ask if a cheque 'will do', just give them a cheque, and it is never refused!

I hope Mr Parker received his money.

kk)1749, 30th November Letter to Richard 'The Mariner' from Thomas Smith,
warning about redundances in the navy.

Dear Dick,

I yesterday that you might not fail of having redress recommended your case to Mr Lyttleton who assured me he would do the thing for you, I shall see him on Monday & you shall hear further from me as they are breaking up old ships & among friends & is waging officers unmercifully would it not be right to desire a superannuation for fear your ship should be demolished as she is an old one please to give me your answer on this head my love to your family and believe me to be

Sincerely yours

Thomas Smith

November 1749

Comment: It is not certain what is meant by 'is waging officers unmercifully' means. Could it be assuaging? Certainly, superannuation in this letter refers to getting a pension. Probably good advice indeed.

II) 1749/50, January 27th Letter from William to his uncle, The Mariner, with a later reply to the bottom, probably as a copy sent later in April.

Sir,

London 27th January 1749/50

I have to forward my acct. and Inclose my Will and Power, Which I left with Sister when we Sailed for Spithead, direct & for me at Ms Beding ??? in Friday Street, which I will take care to settle with you in due course, I am,

Sir

Your Humble Serv. T

Wm Drakeford

Sir

Gosport April 18 1750

From the peremptory demand you made on me for your account of the 27th January last I do which by your hand I find you have read I could not but think that before this I should have paid my money, therefore cant give my leave (now in my turn) to tell you that if you don't forthwith send it me as prescribed in my Last I shall Employ another agent to procure me that if I can't Gratitude to R

Comment: William has not pleased his uncle, hence the curt reply Richard drafted as a copy of that he sent back to William.

mm) 1749, 30th July Letter to Uncle Richard from Richard, 'Town Clerk'.

Stafford 30th 7th 1749

Dr Unkle

I recvd the favour of yours the last post and am heartily glad to hear of your Health etc to whom I beg my sincere Compliments and blessings to Dick and I don't fear but by your dissension he will in every respect comfort the intended Expectation.

I Hope before this time you have rec'd my post lttr & that an answer is coming, I made as full an Agreement with this Gent who writes me ltd on the other side hereof as I made out any one, and the same was reduced into writing viz he was to have all in my person at 30th f And I to pay the laudley & he all other etc. but I find sure he's not worth having, and I am heartily glad to hear the agreeable news of your last on this same subject and I will take particular care of & also you are pleased tomorrow to be brewed for the time & for you propose it for, I mean Bottling. As to that affairs of Buckley I wrote to you, I shall give him a full answer by this day tonight's post for as he loathes us so much I shall by that time be prepared to enforce him, I am

Yr most Affectionate & Dutiful

Nephew to Command

Ri Drakeford

Comment: This is a rather odd letter from Richard to his 'Uncle'. He appears to be trying to cheer him up, at the same time dealing with matters of business particularly with difficult contacts. There is a reference to Dick, clearly a Richard but I cannot work out to which he refers. In any event the sending of 'Blessings' does not ring true.

nn) 1749/50, 13th February Letter from William to his brother,
about money etc., indicating displeasure about his uncle, 'The Mariner'.
Source: SRO 1798 HMDRAKEFORD/100

Dear Bro^r

London 13th February 1749/50

I wrote my uncle sometime since

Desiring him to send me my Will & Power & Acct, which I have

Now before me, and find he makes me D^r to him £34.12.2

& C^r by you £10.0.00 which I am Extreamply Obliged to you for but

*Assure you at the same time that this is the very first word I ever heard of it,
Or should have long before this Acknowledg'd thereof.*

We have all here long been in expectation

Of the pleasure of seeing you in Town, & should be very glad

*To be informed by you when we may expect it now, Dear Bro^r & Sister
Vaughan are very well & joine with me in due Compliments to all friends I
am D^r Bro^r*

Yours Affectionally

Will^m Drakeford

*PS You have here inclosed
A paper which I should have
Sent you in D^r Mothers Box
& this paper was Gorman & darnn*

Dear Bro^r

London 13 Febry 1749/50

I write my Uncle sometime since
Desiring him to send me my Will & Power & Act, which I have
now before me, and find he makes me D^r to him £34 12 2
& C. by you £10 0 0 which I am extremely Obliged to you for, but
Afore you at the same time that this is the very first word I ever
heard of it, Or should have long before this. When could I the receipt

We have all here long been in expect-
-ation of the pleasure of seeing you in Town, & should be very glad
to be inform'd by you when we may expect it now, Dear Bro^r &
Sister Vaughan are very well & Joine with me in due Compliments
to all Friends & am D^r Bro^r.

Yours Affectionally
Wm Drakeford

I have here inclos'd
a paper which I should have
sent you in D^r Mothers Box
As this Paper was form'd & dar'm

Copyright: Staffordshire Record Office

Comment: This letter was a very well written, and as interpreter I wish all were like this. Not unusually it is about money, but not a serious amount.

oo) 1751/58 The Chetwynd Family involving the relationship with 'The Mariner'

A number of letters were sent to and received by Richard 'The Mariner' from the Chetwynds. A summary of this important link will help to put into context the letters shown here and the comments in the section of Study Paper No 1, section 6, 'The Drakeford Family Crest and Shield'.

Letters to and from the Chetwynd family, supportive of Richard 'The Mariner' in particular include:

Sec. 42 dated 18th May 1751

Sec. 47 dated 10th March 1753

Sec. 48 dated 29th March 1753

Sec. 49 dated 29th March 1753

Sec. 54 dated 28th December 1758

William (1684-1770) was the youngest son of John Chetwynd (1643–1702) and thus younger brother of Walter Chetwynd, 1st Viscount Chetwynd and John Chetwynd, 2nd Viscount Chetwynd. He was educated at Westminster School (c.1698–1702) and Christ Church, Oxford. In 1706, he became secretary to his elder brother John on his appointment as British envoy to Savoy at Turin, and in 1708 became British Resident at Genoa, whence he was recalled in 1712. He married Honora Baker, the daughter of William Baker, consul at Algiers in 1715.

Political Career: Chetwynd was returned unopposed with his brother Walter as Member of Parliament for Stafford at the 1715 general election and was appointed to office as a junior Lord of the Admiralty in 1717. Both brothers were defeated in a contest at Stafford in 1722 but he also stood for Parliament on the Navy interest at Plymouth and was returned there in 1722. Having voted with his friend Viscount Bolingbroke he lost his post at the Admiralty in 1727 and was not put forward for Plymouth again at the 1727 general election. He was elected MP for Stafford in 1734 in place of his brother Walter and was returned unopposed in 1741. In 1743 he was slightly injured in a duel at Parliament with Horatio Walpole. He was appointed master of the mint in 1744 and held the post until 1769. In 1745 he was appointed under-secretary of state and held the post until 1748. He was returned for Stafford again at the 1747 general election. He was returned for Stafford at the general elections of 1754, 1761 and after succeeding to his brother's Irish peerage, becoming 3rd Viscount Chetwynd, under a special remainder in 1767 at the 1768 general election. These documents will show evidence of money transactions, money disputes, family interactions and so much more. Remember, as you read these letters English was written as it was spoken. Samuel Johnson published

the first dictionary as we know them in 1755. Prior to that anything like a dictionary was a series of words listed in relation to a particular topic. Hence, these letters have been typed in a script facing, with abbreviations such as **Bro** for brother, & for and, Sd for said and so forth.

Now, remember that Richard Drakeford 'The Mariner' was based in Gosport for most of his career. He went back to the family 'seat' and purchased Forebridge Hall in 1748 from Richard 'The Town Clerk' thus saving the family fortunes. He left the rump of his fortune to Richard 'The Town Clerk's' son, Richard 'The Major' who in turn passed this on after his death to his youngest brother Edward who died without wife or issue in 1814.

We hope that the comments accompanying each letter will help bring to life the events of the time.

pp) **1751 May 18th** Chetwynd letter to 'The Mariner' regarding the
Commission of Peace for Stafford

18th May 1751

Dover Street

Dear Sir,

I am favoured with your letter dated 16th inst. with one inclosed to be forwarded to my friend the town clerk, to which I have put my name.

Nothing gave me greater concern than hearing that it would have been agreeable to you to be in the Commission of Peace for Staffordshire after the new Commissioner of Peace Lord Gower has promised that you the first application for filling up vacancy your name shall certainly be inserted & I was with his Lordship this morning purposely to remind him of his promise. As there was a fresh nomination Commissioner of the Land Tax this session I took care you should be one of the additional number for our county & I flatter myself you will find your name upon perusing the list.

I fear my house at Stafford will scarce be fit to receive my family this summer but God willing I intend to be there sometime in July, it gives me a particular satisfaction to find you determined to inhabit your pleasant dwelling at the Green which was hinted to me you had thoughts of postponing to another summer.

Opposition and Contests are always to be expected where ever early spirit is kept up, but I think when you come to reside amongst us you will perceive a considerable alteration both in the County and Town of Stafford, however it is always prudent a good lookout and I assume one of those early call'd into too great a security, my temptation to this could never be stronger than in the present conjuncture from the fresh appearances you are pleased to give of your readiness to support the family interest.

I beg my complements to the Females of your family and that you believe me most sincerely.

Dear sir

Your most faithfull

humble servant

W: Chetwynd

Comment: This shows the support that our Richard, 'The Mariner' is receiving from the Chetwynd family. Both Brothers Walter and William were in parliament prior to spending time in Portsmouth. The Navy was a common interest for the brothers and Richard.

This letter sets out how William was from 1745 to 1748 Under Secretary of State and then MP for Stafford until 1767.

qq) 1751, June 8th Letter from The Town Clerk to Uncle Richard, 'The Mariner'

Dear Unkle,

Stafford 8th June 1751

The last post bought me the favour of yours, and I hope that before you receive this, you will have rec'd mine of Wednesday post last, giving you an Acct. of the safe arrival of your goods at Bristol, and I hope to have most part of them here on Monday next, but As to the Paper I have nothing of it.

The goods mentioned in yours that were here this day are safe arrived, and I hope without damage as to the bottles in the Hogshead and the wine in the casks I have putt safe in the wine vaught, and to the other goods I have locked them safe in a room in the house. I can see no damage in any of them except in one of the Easy Chairs which is a little rubbed at the top thereof, I mean the worked part.

In answer to your last as to the pew in the Church, I work after such one I would not (wording not clear here) with having but apart you make have Mr Grooms as his is your unto the box and won't when lie Christmas next. As to the good for 2 years they will be prepared. As to removing to Gosport (???) you as you remove to the ship I will do it with the greatest of pleasure but must do so early - the post staying saw say no more only that we are all well and my wife sending love and is duly surprised that you should be having trouble for me to find you have fixed your Goods when we hope you are - that you may always command what's in the power of

Your dutifull & affectio: Nephew

Ri: Drakeford

Comment: Make of this what you will. From the signature, this appears to be Richard 'This to be checked on receipt and thereafter stored securely'. The second part would appear to be about an allocation of seating in the church, probably Christ Church, Stafford.

Richard Drakeford, 'The Mariner' was appointed High Sherriff of Staffordshire on 26th February 1752, for 1753. We are fortunate to have copies of the documents making the appointment. The document would appear to be written in numbers to be sent out when required, and the blanks are then filled in for the recipient and the signature and seal added by the Earl Milford, on behalf of the King.

The Letters Patent are as follows:

*George the Second by the State of Great Britain, France, and Ireland
King and Defender of the Faith and soforth TO all to whom these our Letters
patent shall you Continue Know Yee that for
We have remitted to our well beloved Richard Drakeford of Castle Church
Esquire the custody of our county of Stafford with the necessary
appurtenances during our pleasure so that at annually tender unto us our
subjects and answer to sourcing our dues and other matters appertaining to
this office of Sherriff of the county aforesaid, in our court of Exchequer In
Witness warrant to for caused these our letters to be made patent Witness
our self at Westminster this Seventh Day of February in the Twenty-sixth
year of our reign
Strange Milford*

The back of the document is written:

*Letters Patent of the Office of High Sheriff of the County of Stafford granted
unto Richard Drakeford of Castle Church Esq.*

Strange

Milford

(1753) in pencil

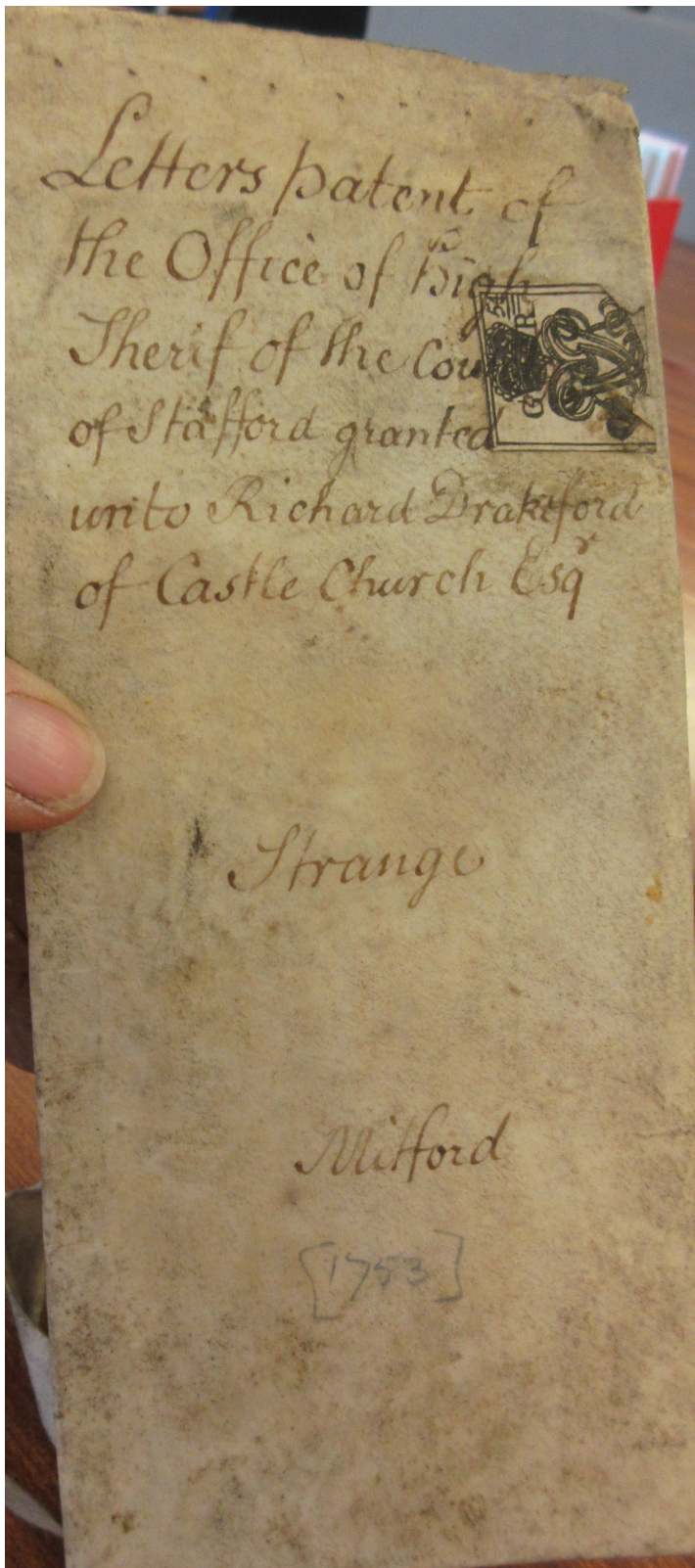
To this is added a large seal

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George

have send by the Grace of Great Brittain France and Ireland
our King Defender of the Faith and Sovereign of these our Kingdomes
Letters patent shall be such that all men know well that we have
committed to our well beloved Richard Drakford of Lincolnshire Esquire
the Custody of our County of Stafford
Appertaines during our pleasure so that he annually render unto us
our due services and answer to standing our dues and all other matters
concerning the Office of Sheriff of the County aforesaid in our Court of
Exchequer. In witness whereof we have caused these our letters to be
patent. Witness our self at Westminster the seventh day of February in the
Twenty sixth Year of our Reigne.
George Mikford.



Copyright: Staffordshire Record Office

Comment: Why this was signed Strange Milford we do not know. So far we have not traced an answer. Suggestions would be appreciated.

Note: This has been typed below in such a way that it extenuates the many promises made by Richard, what are doubtlessly the same made by all recipients of such a post. The actual document is written without paragraphs or punctuation.

I Richard Drakeford _____do swear that I will and truly serve the Kings majesty in the office of Sheriff of the County of Stafford_____and promote his majesty's profit in all things that belong to my office as far as I legally can or may.

I will truly preserve the King's rights and all that belongeth to the crown I will not assent to doings lesson(ing) or concealing of the King's rights or the rights of his franchises and whomsoever I shall knowlege that his rights of the crown are concealed or withdrawn with lands, rents, franchises suits or suits or services or in any other matter or thing.

I will do my utmost to conrealed (concealed) or withdrawn & be it in lands rents franchises suits or services or in any other matters or thing

I will do my utmost to make them to be restored to the crown again and if I may not do it myself I will rectify and inform the King thereof of some of judges

I will not delay to pay the King debts in my gift for promise or reward or favour where I may raise the same without great grievance to the debtor

I will do right to poor as to rich in all things belonging to my office

I will do no wrong to any man for any gift, reward or promise, nor for favour or hatred

I will disturb no man's right and will truly and faithfully acquit at the exchequer all those of whom I shall receive any debts duties belonging to the Crown

I will take nothing by where the King may lose or whereby his right may be disturbed, injured or delayed

I will truly return or truly serve all the kings write according to the best of my skill and knowledge

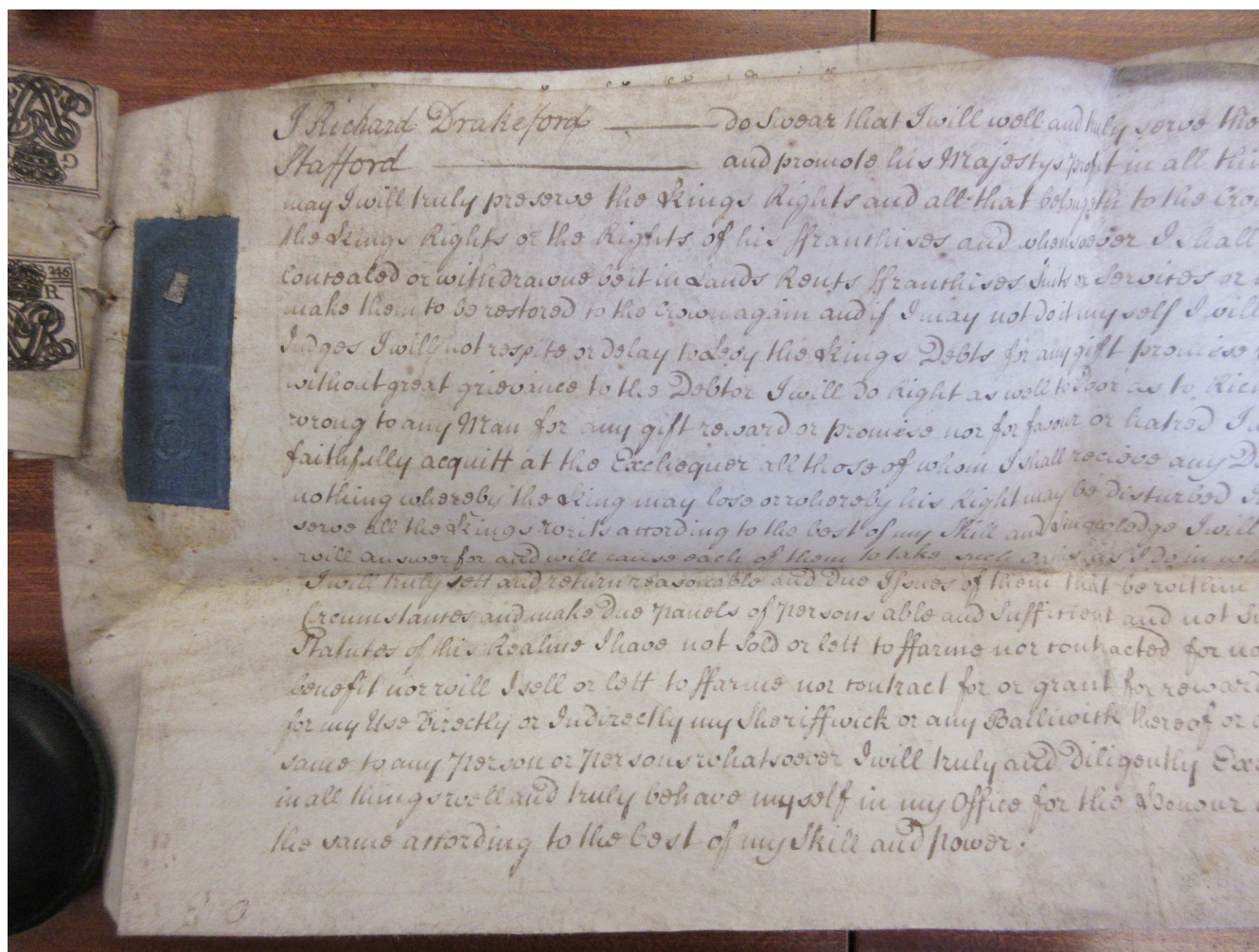
I will take no Bayliff into my service but such ??? will answer for and will

cause each of them to take such oath as I do in what belongeth to their business and occupation

I will truly sort and return reasonable and due allows of those that be within my Bailwick according to their estates or circumstance and make due parts of personable and sufficient and not supported or procured as is appointed by his Statutes of his realms I have not sold or lost to farms nor contracted for, nor have I granted or promised to reward or benefit nor will I sell or let to farms nor retract for or grant for reward or benefit for myself or indirectly my sheriffwick or bailiwick hereof or any office belonging thereunto or the profit of the same to any person or persons whatsoever

I will truly and diligently execute these good laws and statutes of this realm and the same according the best of my skill and power

So help me God



will wolle and truly serve the Kings Majesty in the Office of Sheriff of the County of
Majestys Profit in all things that belong to my Office as far as I legally can or
all that belongeth to the Crown I will not shew to Decree or Concoate
and whosoever I shall have knowledge that the Rights of the Crown are
fraudfully Suits or Suits or in any other matter or thing I will do my utmost to
I may not do it myself I will testify and Inform the King thereof or some of
Debts for any gift promise reward or favour where I may raise the same
do right as well to poor as to rich in all things belonging to my Office I will do no
promise nor for favour or hatred I will disturb no mans right and will truly and
of whom I shall receive any Debts or Duties belonging to the Crown I will take
by his right may be disturbed Injured or Delayed I will truly return and truly
best of my Skill and knowledge I will take no Bribes into my hands but such as
them to take such as I do in what belongeth to their Tenures and occupation
and the Honor of them that be within my Bailiwick according to their Estates and
persons able and sufficient and not suspected or procured as is appointed by the
or lett to Farms nor contracted for nor have I granted or promised for reward or
or contract for or grant for reward or benefit by my self or any other person for
Bailiwick thereof or any Office belonging therunto or the Profit of the
I will truly and diligently Execute the good Laws and Statutes of this Realm
in my Office for the Honour of the King and the good of his Subjects and
and power.

Solobp me God

Copyright: Staffordshire Record Office

Comment: This document is self-explanatory. Richard Drakeford lists his obligations as High Sheriff of Staffordshire. Whether or not this is written in his own hand is a matter of conjecture, but it is certainly attached to other documents and a seal.

There now follows a series of letters concerning the attempt by Richard Drakeford to seek to have acknowledged his newly gained status as High Sheriff with the benefit of the family coat of arms. This was not successful despite the family having used this on their latter seals, monuments and so forth for over 130 years. The full story is shown in Study Paper 1 under the section titled The Drakeford Family Crest and Shield. There is little point repeating that work here.

tt) 1753 March 10th
of Heralds Office

The letter to Richard Drakeford from John Warburton
Source: SRO D1798/HMDrakeford/101

Heralds Office March 10 1753

Sir

A gentleman called me yesterday with the letter I sent you about your Coat of Arms with it an impression of the Coat engraved, which, he says, you can prove to be the Right of your family, and that your ancestors have born them above two hundred years. That they are cut in stone and painted in the Windows of the Drakeford Mansion House, your present residence, and many other authentick evidences, all which I believe true, as the like is frequently met with, and yet the owners cannot make out any real right thereby, unless they are, from time to time, properly Registered in the visitation Books of each respective County, which yours never was.

Neither, is the name Drakeford to be found in any MSS Book in this office or printed book either, except, in Blomes Britania, where in his Catalogue of the Lords, Knights, Esq.s and Gentlemen. Richard Drakeford of Stafford is entered amongst the last.

I must take the liberty further to inform you, that the Arms you have furtherto carried I take to have been made from those formerly born by the name Drakeford, which is an Eagle displayed, and that the Drake swimming in a Ford, has been added in illution to your name, for ancient Arms have no Crests.

Lord Anson your Country man, and neighbour when lately made a peer, could not make out his right to Arms, notwithstanding he produced such ancient Authorities as you mention, and his pedigree featured in the last visitation of Stafford by Sir William Dugdale, Kt., Norroy King of Arms around 1668 and his ancestor at that time not proving his Right to the Arms, they had Usurped.

His father-in-law, the present Lord Chancellor laboured under the like difficulty, and untill a Coat of Arms was assigned him he was not allow'd to bear Supporters.

Had not His Majesty Hon'd you with the High Post of Staffordshire your native County very probably you would not have been called on to prove yourself a Gentleman of Arms for we trouble not ourselves about persons of low Rank and Fortune -----

If you please to send me Drawings of the Arms your letter mentioned or other such like(?) Monuments of Antiquity properly attested or verifyd by an affidavit I will lay them before the Earl Marshall and the King of Arms and obtain you a Confirmation of the same Arms you have hitherto born or if you like it better you may have some additional badge to distinguish your branch from others of your name

With due respects,

I am, Sir, your Humble Servant

John Warburton

Somerset

Records Office London March 10
1753

Sir

A Gentleman called of me yesterday, with
the Letter I sent you about your Coat of Arms, &
with it an impression of a Coat engraved, ~~to~~
which, he says, you can prove to be the Right
of your Family, and that your Ancestors have
born ^{them} above two Hundred years: That they
are cut in Stone, and painted in the Windows
of Drakeford mansion House, your present
residence, and many other authentick
Evidences. all which I believe true, as the
like is frequently met with, and yet, the
owners cannot make out any real Right
thereby, unless they are, from time to time
properly Registered in the Visitation Books
of each respective County; which yours never
was. Neither, is the name of Drakeford to be
found in any MSS. Book in this Office, or

or Printed Book either, except, in Blomes
Britannia where in his Catalogue of the Lords,
Knights, Esq. and Gentlemen. Richard Drakeford
of Stafford is entered amongst the last.

I must take the Liberty further to inform
you, that the Arms you have hitherto carried
I take to have been made from those formerly
born by the name of Daruford, which is an
Eagle display'd, and that the Drake swimming
in a Ford, has been added in illusion to your
name, for ancient Arms have no Crests.

Lord Anson your Country man, and Neigh-
bour, when lately made a Peer, could not
make out his Right to Arms, notwithstanding
he produced such ancient Authorities as
you mention and this Pedigree ~~is~~ in
the last Visitation of Stafford by s^r William
Dugdale K^t. Norroy King of Arms A^o 1668 and
he at that time not proving his Right to
the Arms they had usurped. -

His Father in Law, the present Lord Chancellor
laboured under the like difficulty, and until
a Coat of Arms was assign'd him he was not
allow'd to bear Supporters. -

Had not his Majesty Hon^o you with the High
Post of Staffordshire your native County very
probably you had not been called on to prove
yourself a Gentleman of Arms for we trouble

trouble not our selves about Persons of low
Rank and Fortune —

If you please to send me drawings of the
Arms your Letter mentioned or other Authen-
tick Monuments of Antiquity properly
attested or verify'd by an Affidavit I will
lay them before the Earl Marshall and
the Kings of Arms and obtain you a
Confirmation of the same Arms you have
hitherto born or if you like it better you
may have some additional Badge to
distinguish your Branch from all others
of your name

With due Respects

Yours

S^r

your
Haw

Be sero^r
John Warburton
Somerset

Copyright: Staffordshire Record Office

This was followed by another letter also from John Warburton:

uu) 1753, March 29th
Heralds Office, London

Letter to Richard Drakeford from John Warburton, at
Source: SRO D1798/HMDrakeford/101

Heralds Office March 29th 1753

Sir,

I am favoured with yours by the hand of Mr Chetwynd your worthy representative for Stafford, whom I had not had the honour of knowing when he was with me before. He is certainly the fittest person in your County to be employd in such an affair, having his father's large and learned collections for the antiquities of Staffordshire now in his possession notwithstanding which, I believe he is now convinced that there is neither Arms, or name of Drakeford, either here or in any other office of record or MSS of Authority whatsoever and without such sanction no familys be they ever so antient can properly be stiled Gentleman of Arms QC.

But, be that as it will; If you are the last of your name I cannot but agree with you in opinion that to have your ancient bearing confirmed to an expiring name, will be throwing forty or fifty pounds away unnecessarily.

I am greatly obliged by your respectfull answer to my letter, and wish it had been in my power to have done more for your service.

With all due Respects I remain.

Sir, Your Humble Serv.t,

John Warburton

Somerset

To Richard Drakeford Esq.r

Sir

Heralds Office March 29th
1753

I am favoured with yours
By the Hand of M^r. Chetwin'd your
worthy Representative for Stafford
whom I had not the Honour
of knowing when he was with me
before. He is certainly the fittest
person in your County to be
employ'd in such an Affair, having
his Fathers large and learned
Collections for the Antiquities
of Staffordshire now in his possession
notwithstanding which, I believe
he is now convinced that there
is neither Arms, or Name of
Drakeford, either here or in any
other Office of Record, or MSS
of Authority whatsoever and
without such Sanction no Family
be they ever so antient can properly
be stiled Gentlemen of Arms &c.
verte

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Staffordshire Record
Office

But, be that as it will; If you are
the last of your name, I cannot
but agree with you in opinion
that to have your antient —
bearing confirm'd to an expiring
name, will be throwing for 40
or fifty Pounds away unnecessarily

I am greatly oblig'd by your
respectfull answer to my Letter,
and wish it had been in my power
to have done more for your Service.

With all due Respects I remain

S^r

your Hum^{ble} Serv^t
John Warburton
Somerset

To Rich^d Drakeford Esq^r.

Copyright: Staffordshire Record Office

Note: There now follows a letter from William Chetwynd addressed to Richard Drakeford

v v) 1753, March 29th, Letter to Richard Drakeford from William
Chetwynd

Dover Street

Dear Sir

Monday nights post brought me the favour of your letter dated 24th Inst & yesterday morning I delivered that directed to Mr Warburton into his own hands my inducement for carrying him the letter was more to convince him of your politeness than my occasion you had for his assistance to obtain a grant to bear a Coat of Arms which the family has been so long in possession of. This gentleman expatiated a good deal upon the necessity of having the Arms registered in the Heralds Office & of having them properly confirmed.

I asked whether the same expense attends a confirmation, as a Grant he said yes & and I find the fees amount to forty guineas & Mr Warburton expects ten by way of gratuity. He talk'd of answering your letter. I assured him there was no occasion as you would take time to consider of so important a point & probably would talk it more fully over with me in the Country this summer. You will pardon me in raising an expedient for you to get rid of this correspondence.

I am sorry this last fit of the gout has been so painful & of so long duration. It is to be hoped you will be in a best(?) of health & will be so strong upon your legs as to do the honour of the Summer Assizes when I hear Ld. Chief Baron Barker intends to cover our Circuit.

I beg my compliments to the Ladies of your family that you will believe me most sincerely,

My Dear Sir

Your Most Faithfull, humble Servant

W. Chetwynd

Comment: As a reminder, the full story about Richard Drakeford trying to have the Drakeford Coat of Arms formalised is fully discussed in Study Paper 1. This is an interesting letter giving more background from the SRO. It is from **William Chetwynd**, MP for Stafford 1754-65, later 3rd Viscount, being son of John Chetwynd, 2nd Viscount. Possibly ref. D/1798/101

ww) 1756, 26th September Letter to Richard 'The Mariner' from
Richard 'The Town Clerk'

This letter was written just 4 months before Richard, 'The Mariner' died. It is addressed to The Mariner and refers to work being done on one of the houses owned by the family, clearly supervised by Richard 'The Town Clerk'.

26th September 1756

Stafford

Dear Unkle,

I rec'd the favour our yours and answered the same since which I have not heard from, I mentioned about Nevill the Plasterer, he finished and is gone Mr Gray hath also finished so that they are both got out of the house. The above rooms are also finished with painting and I hope we next work to get clear of them, I have for them to this day. When I left you I told you that Mr Flood getting around would soon be finished, has now of Clg and the next Tuesday we are to sign the writings and herewith I send you the acc.t and the Ballance those of Mr Flood has been so kind to let me have and I have according to your Order drawn a bill upon you for the Ballance next month God willing I will do my self the pleasure of waiting on whom I hope to have the Happiness of finding you all in perfect Health, I am with Duty & Respects to all under yo.r Roof and

*Yo'r most Affectionate &
Dutiful Nephew,*

Ri: Drakeford

Comment: This would appear to be a letter to 'Uncle' Richard, 'The Mariner' from Richard, 'The Town Clerk', who is supervising alteration and improvements perhaps at Forebridge Hall.

Richard, 'The Mariner' died 1756/7

There follow two letters listing and acknowledging items of clothing following the demise of Richard 'The Mariner'.

xx) 1757, March 16th

A list of 'linnen'

March 16th 1757 An account taken of the linnen of the late Richard Drakeford Esq., & this day delivered to Mr Drakeford for the life of his son Richard Drakeford the younger

Thirty seven shirts

Twenty one socks

Eight Cravats of muslin

Four pair of worsted stockings

Two silk handkerchiefs

Two pair of Dresden Ruffles for the hands

& two -do- for the bosom

Two white waistcoats

One white Handkerchief

Two night caps

March 16 1757 I do hereby acknowledge to have had & received from my brother Matthew Drakeford and Lewis Dickenson Executors to the late Richard Drakeford Esq., the above things towards clothing & fitting out my eldest son Richard Drakeford as witness my hand

Ri: Drakeford

On the same date of March 17th 1757 a further lot of clothing was acknowledged by Ri. Drakeford this time for himself, and a further number for his son, 'The Major'.

March 17th 1757 A further Acct. of linnen and other wearing apparell this day delivered to Mr Richard Drakeford the elder for the use of his eldest son, Richard -

Fifteen common handkerchiefs

Nine silk handkerchiefs

Eighteen linnen night caps

Three work'd white wastcoats

One pair of black knit breeches

One horseman's great coat

One red Trice Surboun & Coat

*One pair of red shag breeches
One Coventry staff Banyan?
One light grey cloth coat & breeches trimmed withy black
Rec'd by me* *Ri Drakeford*

*Delivered since to Mr Drakeford for his son,
Ten pair of worsted, cotton & thread stockings,
Three pairs of black silk stockings-----*

**yy) 30th July 1757 Letters regarding investments of £400 South Sea Annuities
from Lewis Dickenson, Executor for Richard Drakeford, addressed to Sir Joseph
Hankey, Sir Thomas Hankey & Co**

Gentlemen,

Inclosed is the Letter of attorney for the sale of 400£ Old South Sea annuities standing in the name of Richard Drakeford Deceased, which I have had some difficulty to get properly executed and attested, Mr Matthew Drakeford the other executor has undertaken to place out his nephew and will give you timely notice for the sale of such part of these annuities as will be wanting for that purpose; I shall want to draw some money for the fitting and Mr Richard Faulknor youngest son of Mrs Frances Faulknor widow deceased to whom Mr Drakeford was Executor for, but I cannot say how much, when I am informed ~~how much~~ what sum will be necessary, will give you instructions for the sale of as much as will answer that demand in due time. I am Sir,

Your most obed't serv

L Dickenson

Stafford July 30th 1757

Coppy sent to Sir Tho's Hankey July 30th 1757 inclosing a letter of Attorney Dated June 15th 1757 to Sir Joseph Hanky Kt. & alderman, Sir Thos. Hankey & Joseph Chaplin Hankey to sell all or any part of 400£ joint Stock of South Sea annuities first and subscription, part of the annuity stock standing in the name of Richard Drakeford Deceased, M.D. & L.D.

Comment: This refers back to Richard Drakeford being the executor for an estate of a fellow officer, providing income for his wife and family, as mentioned previously in this Drakeford tome. A further letter followed on 20th November:

November 20th 1760

Gentlemen,

Inclosed is a Letter of attorney from the execut's of the late Mr. Drakeford for selling the pounds 600£ Old South Sea annuities standing in his name, 400£ of which much be transfer'd to Captain Rich'd Faulkner to replace that sum sold by the s'd Mr. Drakeford in the year 1753 as Executer to Mrs Faulkner, & I suppose some person will wait upon you with authority from Mr. Faulknor on this acct. & also on account of the 400£ now standing in the name of the Mrs Faulkner his late mother, which belongs to him, if a letter of attorney or any other instrument is necessary to be signed by Mr. Drakefords Executors for assigning over the last mention 400£, be pleased to inclose it to me and I will get it executed and return it back to you. The remaining 200 standing in the sd. Mr Drakeford's name will be sorted in a short time, so I chose to include the whole in letter of attorney to save further trouble and whenever it is necessary to have it sold I will you timely notice. I will postpone it as long as I can as they sell very low.

I am Gentlemen,

your obed't serv't,

Lewis Dickenson

Stafford Nov.r 20th 1760

Sent to Sir Joseph Sir Thos. Hankey & Co.

zz) 1758, 11th February A letter from Richard Drakeford, 'The Major',
seeking an allowance from the Executors.

Sir,

I have rec'd a letter from my father in which he tells me that you & my uncle have settled that I shall have 40£ a year so should be glad to have a Qrly allowance the date of my coming being the first of Decr. and I suppose I am to have a Quarter in advance as I have not had any allowance from you since I came from Mrs Crawley & at first entering into this way of life is very Expensive shod be glad to know how this is to be had. I mean whether I may Draw for 20£ on the first day of March and Mr Bedford informs me who I have seen that he has 50£ in his hands for one years rent and as he is so near this place might Easily remit to me what sum you think proper I should be glad of an Answer as soon as you Receive this & I am, Sir,

Yr Humble Servt

R: Drakeford

Winchester Feby 11th 1758

Comment: This letter pleading for an allowance would have been addressed to Lewis Dickenson and the uncle referred to, was the co-executor of 'The Mariner's' Will, Matthew Drakeford and the father was Richard 'The Town Clerk'. The following letter would seem to indicate that this plea for an income from Richard's legacy was not successful. The recipient is of course Richard Drakeford 'The Major', 1740-1789. In 1758, he would have been just 18 and some time off his reaching the age of 21.

The letter below supporting help for the young man is from no less than William Chetwynd and addressed to Lewis Dickenson.

aaa) 28th December 1758 Letter from Chetwynde to Lewis Dickenson

Addressed as: For Mr Lewis Dickenson, Apothecary in Stafford Staffordshire

Dover Street Dec'r 28th 1758

I little intended, my dear sir, by writing to know whether an allowance could not be made to our officer out of the estate bequeath'd to him by his uncle to impose the laborious task of entering into a particular detail of his whole concerns, however I am obliged to you for putting your self to so much trouble, and your account shall be the rule to guide me in giving now & then a word of advice to the youngster who greatly overrates the assets he is to inherit & proposes himself with a notion that the present receipts of the estate are solely applicable to his education. I think I made his sensible of the contrary, when I undertook to use my endeavours with you that he may have a reasonable allowance out of the same. Notwithstanding things don't turnout according to expectation, yet there has to be income sufficient for some allowance the quantum I would propose is ten pounds a quarter & less he can't subsist upon. This sum deducted out of the annual receipts. The overplus would become a growing fund to answer the other purposes of the will provided all debts & legacies are cleared. I think you are very much in the right to secure your own debt & legacy.

I have received a letter Ensign Drakeford since he join the Regiment, I conceive great hopes that he will do well he promises a fair but my best pledge for his future conduct is the Major who has promised to have a watchful eye over him.

You may assure Mr Scot that I shall not forget him when the time of appointing new Sheriffs comes. I have long since requested our Lord Lieutenants speak in his favour.

Lord Chetwynd had an ugly cough seized him at Hillington, his life has now got the better of that order(?) but the Gout in one foot has supply'd it's place.

I hope you and your family keep well pray make them the compliments of the season & accept the same from, Dear Sir, your most faithfull, humble Servant,

W: Chetwynd

Comment: This is interesting in that it appears to indicate that the family wealth was not as high as it once was. It may help explain why Richard 'The Major' did not live in Stafford/Forebridge Hall, but a more modest dwelling on the Shropshire border.

bbb) 1766, 5th November An indenture for the acceptance of Edward Drakeford at the age of 17 to become Clerk to Henry Whateley, one of the Attorneys of His Majesties Court of Common Pleas at Westminster for a period of 7 years. Source SRO ref IMG 0197

The description is to be found in Section q), Edward Drakeford of Charnes, in the main Study Paper 4, Stafford.

The handwritten agreement is extensive and runs to three pages.

ccc) 1777, 16th March Major Drakeford requests £1,000 from his mother

An eye watering letter, whereby Richard Drakeford, The Major, seeks to encourage his mother to raise a mortgage of £1,000, as her duty to provide for this, her 37 year old son. Reading the main Study Paper 4, will tell the whole story.

Madam,

I think proper to Acquaint you that I have an opportunity of Purchasing a Majority, and am to assent or dissent to such Purchase in the space of 14 days.

If you would be inclinable to serve me in your life time a fair opportunity presents itself. The mode of raising the sum which will be about £1,000 might be by our joint Mortgage for that sum and that your Income may not be lessend, I will Execute a Power of Attorney to my Agent to pay you quarterly out of my Pay the amount of interest that the sum of £1,000 can be Procur'd at. And it shall be secur'd not to Admit of a sample(?) of non-Payment.

Our time in this life can be very long and as this request can be no Ways Detrimental to you but on the Contrary, as it should be the duty of every Parent to Promote the interest of her Child.

I Hope you will not Hesitate to comply - by so doing you will I think be discharging your Duty as a Parent, but prevent me from amassing money at a very Extravagant Rate.

I hope you will be very speedy in your Answering And Maturely Consider my Interest which ought to be compatible with your Own.

I am Madam your dutifull son,

R Drakeford

London 16th March 1777

Comment: This appears to be a letter to Frances Drakeford, widow of Richard, 'The Town Clerk', from her son Richard Drakeford, 'The Major'.

The phrase 'purchasing a Majority', is not clear. It could be that The Major was considering going into parliament and buying his way into a safe seat. Comments welcomed by MWD.

Putting on my banker's hat, if a scheme looks too good to be true, it is. Leave it alone. At this time in 1777, Richard would have been 37, an officer in the army, and should know better. His mother wrote her Will 16 months later. We are left to wonder if Francis agreed to the request, but I think not. Read on. What we do know, is that from her Will – No.77 dated 28th July 1778? She left £800 to her younger sons, along with all her properties, some of which she had lately purchased off Richard. To quote "Also I give and bequeath to my son Richard Drakeford my silver candle cup or the sum of five pounds in lieu thereof as my son Edward Drakeford shall think proper". Nowhere else was her eldest son, mentioned in the Will.

The Will of Frances' husband Richard 'The Town Clerk', No 74, dated 4th September 1765 is also worth reading. This refers to the £800 as part of his marriage settlement in 1738, which was to be split among his 3 younger children, which as only Edward and Matthew were alive of the three went to them, Richard, 'The Major' received nothing from his father. There is something in the Will that leads one to suspect the 'The Mariner', at the time of his purchase of Forebridge Hall to save the family finances, agreed to something in the families' favour that did not come about. The inference is that this Richard borrowed money from 'The Mariner' by way of a mortgage on Forebridge Hall, but he did not receive all the money agreed.

Reading between the lines, Frances would have known that 'The Major' was the main beneficiary to his uncle's Will and will have known that he was short of money. Perhaps he had spent the legacy to the annoyance of the rest of the family and she made money available to him by buying land from him, which his siblings were to receive on her death. Clever lady.

ddd) **1780, March 24th/25th This is the Deed for the sale of Forebridge area property to Jno Wright, banker of Stafford. Source SRO 1798/66**

24 & 25 March 1780(Sic. **1790**, see note below) – By indenture of Lease & release between Edward Drakeford of the Borough of Stafford Gent (only surviving brother & heir at law of Sd Rd. Drakeford last named then dec'd) of this one part and **Jno Wright** of this bor. of Stafford Banker of the Sd part In Conson of £1504:11:3 to Sd Edwd Drakeford pd by sd Mr Wright – Sd. Edwd. Drakeford

MWD Note: Apologising for the repetition I repeat: This date of 1780 cannot be correct. From newspaper cuttings Richard died in his 48th year. We understand he was born in 1740, thus he died in 1788/89. If this was so how did Edward claim an entitlement in 1780? This should surely read 1790! Also not only was Richard alive as shown in his mother's Will dated July 1778, so too was his other brother Matthew. See also notes about the Drakeford's land, Richard, and Edward Drakeford, being considered for cutting a canal. This commentary by Roy Lewis, again show Richard alive and owner of land that was being considered for the Stafford Canal in 1787, two years before he died, and later in 1798, correctly, in the hands of Edward Drakeford.

The final clue is that the latter date pre-dates the former date of 3rd/4th May 1780. Thus, 1790 it is!!

'Did grant & unto Sd Jno Wright his heirs & Assigns:

All that close piece or parcel of land situate lying or being in or near Fforbridge in the parish of Castle o'wise Castle outwix Castle Church in sd. Co. Staffd. Com'ly called or known by the name of the **Near Gallows Leasow** cont. by survey or admeasurement **4 acres 3 rod 21perch** or thereabouts be the same more or less then in the holding or occupation of Sd. Edward Drakeford which sd Close piece or parcel of Land lies near to a certain Brook called **Spittle Brook** & on the South West side of the road leadg. from Stafford afsd to Radford bridge And also that Or Close piece or parcel of land Arable Meadow or pasture Ground situate lying & being in or near fforbridge afsd Par. of Castle o'wise Castle Church Co. Stafford afd. Comly called or known by the name of the **Far Gallows Leasow** contain'g by survey or admeasurement **6acres 1rod 38perch** or thereabouts be the same more or less then in the holding or occupation of Sd. Edwd. Drakeford which sd close piece or parcel of Land last ment'd adjoins to the first ment'd close towards the North & is only separated the from by posts and Rails And also all that other Close piece or parcel of Land Meadow or pasture Ground sit' lying in or near Fforbridge afd. In the s'd Par of Castle or'wise Castle Church Co, Stafford afd. Comly called or known by the name of the **Far Spittle Leasow** contain'g by survey or admeasurement **5a:1r:15p** or thereabouts be the same more or less holding or occupant of Jno. Sadler but of the Sd. Edwd. Drakeford tog'er. With ye **barn then erected** & then standing which Sd. Close piece or parcel of land last Ment'd adjoins at the upper part tho'f to the Turnpike Road leading from Stafford afores'd towards Radford bridge & on the east part th'of to the Kings highway leading out of the Turnpike Road tow'ds Silkmore & Rickerscote And also all that other Close piece or parcel of land or pasture Grd. Situate lying or being in or near Fforbridge afsd. In the Sd Parish of Castle o'wise Castle Church afsd. In the Co. of

Stafford afsd comly called or known by the name of the **Near Spittle Leasow** cont by survey or admeasurement **4a:2r:16p** or thereabouts (be the same more or less) & then in the hold or occupation **Edwd. Worsey** which Sd. Close piece parcel of Land last ment'd adjoins to the Sd Close piece or parcel of land called the **Near Gallows Leasow** towards the west to the Sd. Close piece or parcel of land called the **Far Gallows Leasow** towards the East to land belonging to Mr

Thos. Motten towards the South & to the Turnpike Road leadg. from Stafford to Radford Bridge towards the North & all & singular the close pieces or parcels of land intended to be thereby granted & released were part of certain closes then or therefore called the **Spittle Grounds** & were purch'd by one of the ancestors of Sd Edward. Drakeford lineally descended from such ancestor unto sd. Richd. Drakeford of Fforbridge afd. Gent. **Great Grandfather of Sd Edwd. Drakeford & by descent** & some good & sufficient Conveyances & assigns in the Law afterw'ds became legally vested in the Sd Richd. Drakeford first before named who duly made & published his last Will & Testament in writing *Marginal note by the said J.W. from Edward Drakeford Gent. ?out?* and afterwards departed this life without issue & witht revoking or altering the same but did not thby o'wise dispose of or these Sd. Closes pieces or parcels of Land & prem'es intended to the thby granted & released & dying seized th'of in fee simple the same descended to & were legally vested in **Sd. Edwd. Drakeford as the Major's only surviving Brother & heir at Law** or by Whats'r other name or names Quantities Qualities or other descriptions the d. **4 sevl. Closes pieces or parcels of Land primes** intended to be th'by granted & recled or any of them or any part th'of then were or was or th'fore had or had been better or o'wise called known or distinguished And also all & all in manner of Tithes &: Excepting & always in reserving th'out the fishery or right of fishing to the Sd four several closes pieces or parcels of Land intended to be th'by granted & released or any of them or any Pt. th'of the reversion &: And all the estate & Subject nevertheless to & charged & Chargeable with the necessary repairs of one Moiety Or half of such pt. of the Kings Highway leading from the Turnpike Road to Silkmore as adjoins to the Sd. Close Piece parcel of Land called the **Far Spittle Leasow** intended to be thby granted & Reled so far as the Sd. Close piece or parcel of Land last ment'd extends along the side of the Sd. Highway

***MWD note:** All this land is other than that left to Edward by his mother Frances.*

TO HOLD the same unto & to the life of Sd. John Wright his heirs & Assigns

Covt. From Mr Drakeford for production of Deeds

Declaration that Sd J?? possessed of Term shall hold same & conveying these prem'es In Trust for Mr Wright his Heirs & assigns & to Attend the Inheritance.

Executed by Sd Edwd Drakeford.

Footnote: *Bouch thinks neither Edwd Drakeford nor Mr Wright have wives the former was never married & the latter is a widower.*

eee) 1780, 3rd/4th May Indenture of Lease for land with Messrs. Darlington and Radcliffe

Description: 3rd & 4th May 1780

By Indentures of Lease & Rel. this ?? of 3 parts between **Rd. Drakeford of Gravanhanger**** **Coun Salop Esq** of 1st Part, Benjm. Darlington Gent of this 2nd Part & Ralphe Radcliffe, Mercer of the 3rd Part.

Reciting that sd. Rd. Drakeford was seized as Tenant in Tail of the prems therein be described by virtue of the said Articles- the said Rd. Drakeford & Frances his wife the father & mother of the said Rd. Drakeford Parties being both dead with such Rem'm'der over as aff's'd.

It is witnessed that to the intent that all Estates Tail etc. might be barred & destroyed And for this consideration therein ment'd sd. Richard Drakeford.

Did grant etc. unto said Benjn. Darlington his heirs & assgns (int al) The afsd Premes. And all sd. Messuages to hold unto & to the use of Sd B. Darlington his heirs & assigns To make him Ten't for suffering a recovery & which is declared to Endure.

To the use of Sd. Rd. Drakeford his heirs & assigns.

Written as a note in margin: *Is Edward Drakeford married & his wife left a widow as she w'ld be dowerable. He died a Bachelor.*

****Comment: This relates to a land sale and was part of the documentation.**

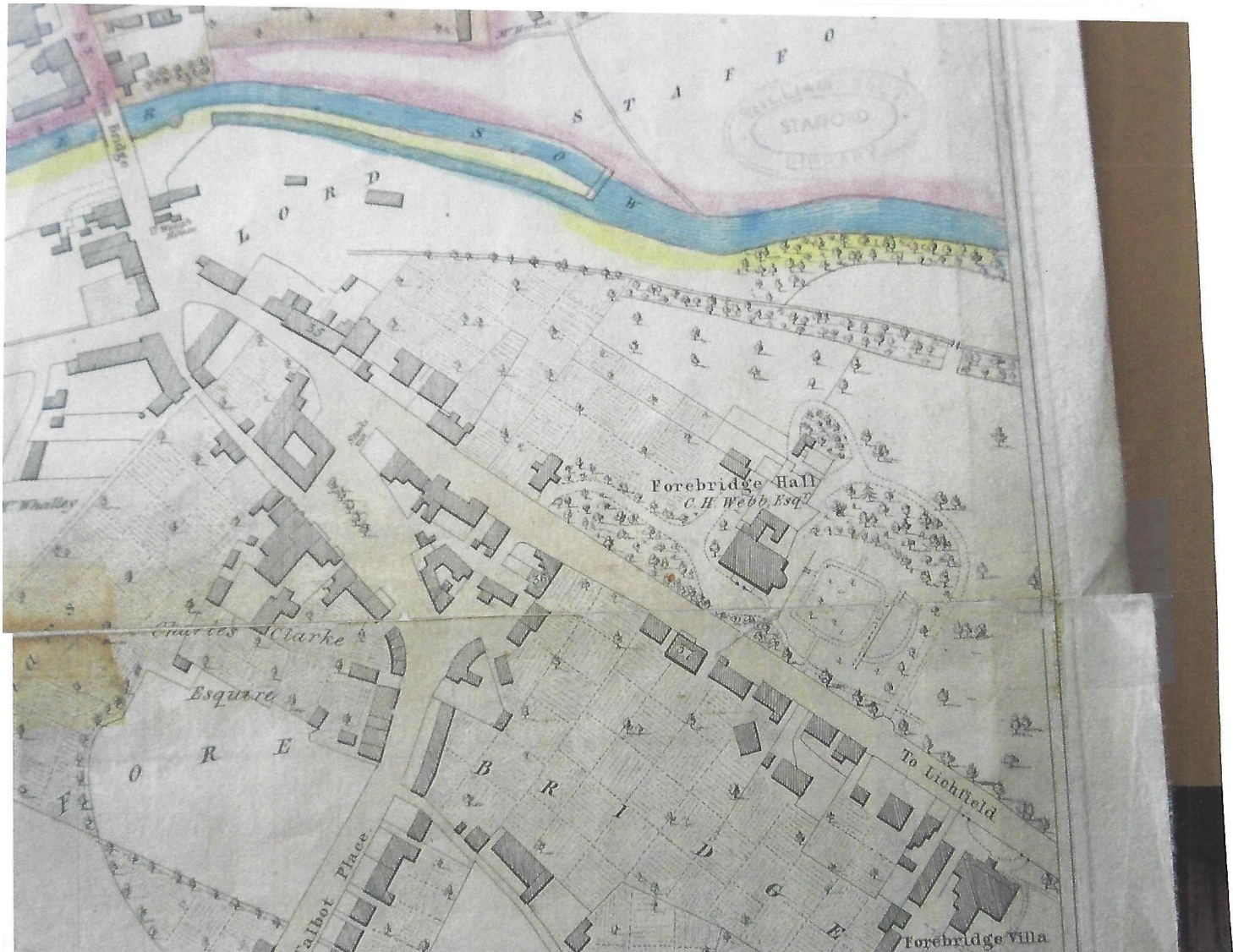
*While the relationship to Gravanhanger is to be determined, this Richard is undoubtedly Richard (1740-1789) 'The Major', who also had a property at Woore, Salop where he was living when he died. Just to make matters more complicated there is a **Gravenhunger** Lane, Woore, Crewe, Cheshire, CW3. In fact, Woore is right on the boundary of Cheshire, and this is one and the same lane that ruins across the boundary, and without doubt Gravenhunger and Gravanhanger are one in the same. There is a Gravenhunger Hall in Gravenhunger Lane, Woore and also a children's book that features a Gravenhunger Hall.*

fff) 1837 approx. Part of a Stafford map. SOURCE: SRO Copyright expired

This town plan or map shows that after replacing the 16th century Forebridge Hall with a Georgian house away from the road the houses nearest to the town still abut the road. The replacement building was built after 1810. This is much further back, allowing a driveway up to and around to the side of the house.

The name Forebridge Hall was retained until it became Green Hall in the latter part of the 19th century.

The houses shown along the road no longer exist, having been replaced by a wide road on the approach to Stafford town centre.



Copyright: Staffordshire Record Office

ggg) 1810 Four Abstracts of Deeds relating to Forebridge Hall and associated properties

Source: Staffordshire Record Office: The four copyright references for these documents are given below.

Introduction: There are two extracts that refer to the purchase of land by a Mr. Wright from the last Stafford Drakeford, Edward, who died in 1814. One refers to a purchase price of £1,504.11.3d. More information is available in Study Paper 4, for Stafford.

- a. The list of information from the SRO shows firstly **D1798/HMDrakeford/66**. This is an excellent abstract of title dated 1810 produced for Edward Drakeford (died 1814) for a title for a piece of land called Taggs Croft at Castle Church involving **Henry Wright**. This commences with the Articles of Agreement dated 20th November 1738. This is between Richard Drakeford, Gent, his father Richard Drakeford Gent, on the 1st part, Frances Wood Spinster on the 2nd part, Priscilla Drakeford, Widow of Richard Drakeford decd., on the 3rd part and on the 4th part Eleanor Wood, widow of John Wood, dec'd.... and so it continues.
- b. **D1798/HM Drakeford/89**, is referred to 'Drafts re schedules of deeds relating to the estates of Richard Drakeford the Younger'. It is as a Schedule following the death of Richard 'The Mariner' in 1756/7. It commences in 1615 with the purchase of Forebridge Hall and lands from Mr. Lee of London. It ends in January 1762 with the annotation as follows: *'Mr. Drakeford Junior rec'd from Mr. Dickenson the original deeds of which this is an abstract except for the marriage Order(?) dated 20th November 1738 which was left in the hands of Mr Dickenson for safe custody'*.
- c. A third is numbered **D1798/586/1/9**, which again refers to purchases of land and describes this as 'abstract of title recites the will of Richard Drakeford' which I have not seen. These are included in the title Deeds also involving 'Taggs Croft' 1740-1877, involving Drakeford & Drakeford, AND Wright/Copstick. These have not been examined.
- d. The fourth is numbered **D1798/586/1/10**, which again refers to purchases of land by Henry Wright, which I have also not seen.

All documents provide an enormous amount of information and are extremely useful for further study.

hhh) The Final Evidence – A Deed of Richard and Frances Drakeford

It is fine to visit the SRO, or other places and look at the documents from the 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. It fills me with awe. Then photographs are taken, or perhaps copy documents obtained and sent to my home.


Jeremy Drakeford rang a while ago and told me that a 'deed', involving a Drakeford and land in Salop, otherwise known as Shropshire, was being sold at auction. Was I interested?

The answer was, of course that I was immensely interested, and a deal was done as an internet bidder. It turned out to be a deed of sale dated 2nd February 1739 for a piece of land from Richard and Frances Drakeford to John Whithers, Yeoman of Bearston, Shropshire for £12 in lawful English money. The seals were not of the Drakeford three eagles, but a man sitting at a desk. Indeed, that was that of Richard 'The Town Clerk', and the signatures were clearly those of him and Frances. Richard also signed the receipt for the money on the reverse.

The land was to be being sold '*To the only proper use and Schoole of the said John Whithers, his heires etc.*' Whether or not this was actually for a school building we cannot be certain. It was at '*Townfield of and belonging to Drayton in Hales*'. That is now known as Market Drayton.


The Richard, the son of Richard and Frances, who was not born until the following year, was later to live at Woore, Salop, near Market Drayton, just 2 miles away from Bearston. From this, we may assume that Edward at Woore might well have been living away from Stafford on family land.

The upshot is that having a document nearly 300 years old, signed by an ancestor is quite something. It is nearly as good as having a Drakeford clock from Congleton, and a 1756 portrait of this Richard's Uncle, Richard Drakeford 'The Mariner'!

and recanted all and every such...
of granting, allowing or...
and behoofe of the said... his...
recruized **Mrs LASTLY** it is covenanted
stated that all and every fine and fines
by fine... to be had made levied
... with the...
... and singular the premises hereby given
and meaning of these premises and to and
...
France,  Drakeford

Source: M.W. Drakeford

A copy of the transcript is available on request from MWD.

... the intent an...
... side levied
... be...
...
Drakeford 

iii) The Stafford Family Tree Connections

In the period from 1590 to 1814 we know more about the Stafford Drakefords than any other line. There are many examples where the Staffords are linked with Drakefords in Congleton, Norton-in-the-Moors and elsewhere. However, these links are often subjective and are linked by deeds rather than Wills of church records. Three prime examples concern the 1580 land deed, the 1594 letter and the Will of Richard Drakeford 'The Elder' dated 1597. We had thought that Richard 'The Merchant' was his son, but the Will clearly states that he only had one son, William. The following shows the connections that we can verify.

We know from the Will of Edward Drakeford of Congleton, who died in 1643, that he was the brother of Richard Drakeford, 'The Merchant' of Stafford. From other sources, such as land transactions we know that that this Richard had a father, also called Richard, living in Congleton.

We have the [1580 land deed](#) whereby **William Drakeford** living in London, son of the **late William Drakeford** of Congleton, gifted land to **Richard Drakeford** of Lostocke Glaham, **Roger Dale** of Smallwood, and **Roger Drakeford** of Congleton. Alternative beneficiaries are his **brothers, John, Edward, Richard, Thomas and Roger.**

William Drakeford senior

|

William of London – brothers :- John D, Edward D, Richard D, Thomas D, and Roger D

Plus: Richards Drakeford of Lostocke Glaham, Roger Dale of Smallwood, Roger D of Congleton

The [1594 letter](#) whereby **John D** of London is writing to **Edward D** of Congleton, refers to a 'sister', and brothers **Richard D and Thomas D:**

John Drakeford had siblings Edward D. – Richard D. – Thomas D. + a sister

The [Will dated 1597](#) for a **Richard the elder in Congleton**, yeoman dated **1597** is evidence that **he** had a **wife Ellene** and a **son William**, his heir. He also had **brothers Thomas and Steven**. He had three **sisters** who married **Rondull Poynton, Richarde Foxholes and Raphe Cleyton:**

Richard Drakeford = Ellene, Siblings: Thomas D. – Steven D. sister (=R.Poynton) sister (=R.Foxholes) sister (=R.Cleyton)

|

William (heir)

From this plethora of family names it is possible to create these mini family trees, but the link from Richard 'The Merchant', 1575-1639, to Congleton is through his brother Edward Drakeford, who left a 'gown' to Richard's son, **Richard(1610-1679)**. Furthermore, the land purchase in 1617 refers to Richard 'The Elder' and Richard. As Richard of Stafford's only son called Richard was just 7, it stands that this refers to 'The Merchant' and his father, who we took to be that mentioned in the 1594 letter. We assume that he was from Congleton, but he could be Richard Drakeford of Lostoke Glaham.

jjj) List of Available Drakeford Wills as at November 2021

The Wills, mainly obtained and listed by George Fitch Esq., have been a great source of information. A number of these were written long before the church records that we have available. If you require a copy of any of these Wills, please apply to Jeremy Drakeford. There will be a charge for copying and providing. Some Wills are recorded in the Study Papers and the references for these are shown in brackets

No.	Date	Name	Town	
49	1691/2	Alice Frodsham,	Cheshire	
28	1639	Anne	Wedgewood, Wolstanton	
41	1665	Anne	Odd Rode, Cheshire	
??	1704	Anne	??	
60	1712	Benjamin	Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, Salop	
32	1645	Cicely	Astbury, Congleton	
43	1668	Cecily	Edgebolton, Shawbury	
31	1643/6/7	Edward	Congleton (wife – Cicely), Alderman	(See SP 2 Sec. 7)
C	1723	Edward	Windsor, Berks	
79	1814	Edward	Charnes Hall, Stafford	(See SP 4 Sec. 8 q)
27	1628	Elizabeth	Hollington (Checkley)	
35	1642/3	Elizabeth	Shrewsbury	
51	1698	Ellen	Congleton	
39	1661/3	Ellen Merrill	Congleton	
77	1778/80	Frances	Stafford	(See SP 4 Sec. 8 o)
36	1647/8	Gregory	Winecote, Warwickshire	
26	1624	Henry	Hollington, (Checkley)	
A	1557/58	John Drakeford	Standwell, Middlesex	
8	1569/70	John	Marchington, Hanbury	
18	1604	John	Wolstanton	
21	1613	John	Burslem	
23	1617	John	Withington	
29	1640	John	Norton-in-the-Moors	
40	1661	John	Congleton	
??	1683	John	Albury, Surrey	
47	1684/6	John	Audley, Calk, Staffs	
52A	1712	John	Calicut, India	
B	1716	John	St James, Westminster Admin no details	
56	1717/8	John	Congleton, cordwainer	

58	1720/1	John	Chilvers coton, Warwickshire	
67	1751	John	Bedworth, Warwickshire	
73	1762/65	John	Stafford	(See SP 4 Sec. 8 m)
78	1799/1800	John	Died at sea, father - Manchester	
48	1690	Joseph	Walsall	
68	1753	Katherine	Congleton (Widow of John -56)	
9	1572	Margaret	Wolstanton	
13	1589	Margaret	Skemerlowe	
38	1657/8	Margaret	Hinkley, Lincs.	
69	1754/64	Margaret	Sutton, Cheshire	
53	1697/1704	Matthew	Stafford	(See SP 4 Sec. 8 g)
75	1761/66	Matthew	Cannock	(See SP 4 Sec. 8 n)
34	1642	Mercy	Forebridge, Stafford	(See SP 4 Sec. 8 c)
72	1755/57	Priscilla	Stafford	(See SP 4 Sec. 8 j)
54	1704	Rebecca	Forebridge, Stafford	(See SP 4 Sec. 8 h)
1	1537	Richard	Wolstanton	
4	1556	Richard	Wolstanton	
16	1597	Richard	Congleton	(See SP 2 Sec. 7)
20	1612/3	Richard	Tulk, Audeley	
25	1621	Richard	Audley	
33	1639	Richard	Forebridge, Safford	(See SP 4 Sec. 8 b)
45	1677/9	Richard	Forebridge, Stafford	(See SP 4 Sec. 8 d)
52	1700/1	Richard	Forebridge, Stafford	(See SP 4 Sec. 8 f)
57	1720	Richard	Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire	
63	1728	Richard	Forebridge, Stafford	(See SP 4 Sec. 8 i)
71	1765/7	Richard	Castlechurch, Stafford	(See SP 4 Sec. 8 k)
74	1760/65	Richard	Stafford	(See SP 4 Sec. 8 l)
76	1767	Richard	Congleton	
7	1570	Roger	Wolstanton	
D	1656	Roger	Falkenham, Suffolk	
70	1756	Sarah	Coventry	
E	1791	Sinai	Hampstead	
10	1572	Stephen	Wolstanton	
3	1552	Thomas	Wolstanton	
5	1563	Thomas	Leigh	
11	1583	Thomas	Marchington	
14	1589	Thomas	Holington	
17	1601	Thomas	Uttoxeter Woodland	
19	1607/08	Thomas	Whitfield, Norton-in-the-Moors	

50	1695	Thomas	Foleshill	
59	1717/8	Thomas	Coleshill	
62	1724	Thomas	Wiskworth, Coleshill	
65	1731/2	Thomas	Bedworth, Warwickshire	
66	1734/35	Thomas	Coventry	
2	1538	William	Wolstanton	
6	1567	William	Hollington (Checkley)	
12	1589	William	Wolstanton	
15	1598	William	Hollington	
22	1616	William	Wolstanton	
24	1619	William	Nobolt, Leigh	
30	1641	William	Buglawton	
37	1648/9	William	Church Lawton, Cheshire	
42	1666	William	Leek, Wolstanton	
44	1670/1	William	Congleton	
46	1685	William	Frodsham, Cheshire	
55	!714	William	Norton-in-the-Moors	
61	1710/23	William	(Leek)	
64	1730/1	William	Congleton, shoemaker	
80	1829/33	William	Congleton	(See SP 2 Sec. 7)
F	1853	William	Wellington, Melbourne Australia	
??	1873	William	Ex Norton	

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