

Drakefords from other parts of Great Britain

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1) Introduction

There are many groups of families with the Drakeford surname that are not mentioned on this website that could well, if investigated, become part of one of these Study Papers.

Many unlisted families may be unaware whether they are part of the Congleton/Norton/Stafford group, which reflects the origins of the name and high concentrations and perhaps would like to know.

We are interested in knowing your Drakeford Family connections and to see whether they might be added to this website record. We would need to ensure that it is relevant to this work; please do send us an email via the ['Contact us'](#) procedure. We shall be certain to respond.

In the meantime there are a number of families that we have come across, yet these are not directly linked to our current website groups. Families in parts 2 & 3 below were initially looked at when we were considering William and Ann Drakeford who were known to have emigrated to Virginia in North America around 1660. **Both these Surrey and Northampton family lines were ruled out for the reasons given in the descriptions.**

Many United Kingdom counties have a Drakeford family link, but prior to 1800 these were generally isolated, and they either moved on, or the line died out.

2) The Drakeford family, in 17th Century Surrey

This is one branch of the Drakeford family line that attracted the attention of the American researcher, Merrill Hill Mosher, who was looking for the first Drakefords to emigrate to the USA.

The research for this material was initiated from contact established by Merrill Hill Mosher with Jeremy Drakeford in early 1998. Merrill had by then already published an authoritative paper in 'The Virginia Genealogist' as noted below:-

'**The Virginia Genealogist**' and in particular a section called *Richard Drakeford and his Descendants* written by Merrill Hill Mosher, C.G., Coos Bay, Oregon. This is in Volume 39, Number 2 issued April-June, 1995. Merrill Hill Mosher is a descendant of Elizabeth Drakeford Gray.

Fuller reference to this published paper is covered in our **Study Paper No: 8 - The Drakeford Family Land in Virginia, America 1660.**

Jeremy Drakeford's work at the Guildford records office provided much information for the search for those early settlers to America but nothing was substantiated. There is no doubt in my mind that these people were from Staffordshire, but exactly where and when they arrived in Surrey we still do not know. The church records are very useful and extrapolated show, in my view, a single family spread through three Surrey villages being **Abinger** (Common) with St James Church, **Shere** - another named St James, and **Albury** with the church of St Peter and St Paul. These villages are situated at the foot of the North Downs along the A25 over a distance of just 4 miles. Arguably they are found along the 'old' A25, being the main road to Guildford from Dorking which until the 20th century formerly ran south on the A248 through Albury. This shows all three churches to be on the same road, entering the Guildford High Street at Tunsgate, where an archway now stands. (Source: 'A History of Abbotswood'!!!) Even when Georgina, my wife, and I lived there it was a road abutting the High Street, rather than the steps evident today.

The parish records below refer mainly to Abinger Parish, and are from the register of the Old Church, now closed.

The following work provided is shown in a different colour for each generation:

Richard Drakeford, no burial known. This yellow highlighting indicates the main line of the generations in the family tree below.

Daughter of Richard Drakeford: **Elizabeth** Bap 21 April 1616, Abinger

Below are a sister Katherine and a brother John. With John marrying in 1656, some 40 years after Elizabeth was baptised, and no mention in the records of the local parish churches for their baptisms or burials, it may be another family or more likely that records have been lost. This is not an unusual occurrence at that turbulent time with the Commonwealth ruling when civic records were often kept rather than ecclesiastical ones. Alternatively, to marry at 35-40 for a man it was not unusual and Mary his wife could have been in her twenties.

Daughter: Katherine Bap. (Date unknown) She married Richard Boswell of East Ham, Essex (Source is not church records but from John's will)

Son: **John Bap. (Date unknown)**

John, butcher of Abinger, married Mary Sheffield of Capell (Capel near Dorking), at Abinger in September 1656, being the widow of Mr Sheffield. She was later married for a third time to Thomas Frost of Shere at Abinger in January 1687, four years after John died (buried at Abinger on 26th May 1683). Mary was buried in Abinger as Widow Frost on 23rd April 1712.

John, the butcher, was married by Peter Hussey, a justice of the peace in 1656. This was because during part of the Commonwealth period 1649-1660, when there was no monarch, there was no rector for the Parish. Marriages became a civil matter, hence the often lack of church records.

They produced the following children:

Daughter: Anne bap, 2nd December 1660 at Abinger who married Thomas Wilkins of Charlwood, son of Nicholas Wilkins

Daughter: Elizabeth bap on 11th May 1663 and buried 1690, both at Abinger **C***

Son: **Richard Bap 20th August 1665 and buried 1715(Abinger)**

Daughter: Mary bap 29th June 1669 (Abinger)

Son: John baptised (date unknown) Buried at Abinger on 15th October 1681 **A***

Son Richard (bap 1665) married (unknown) and produced the following children:

Richard bap 16th January 1703 (Albury)

John bap 16th April 1707, (Albury), buried 19th April 1709 (Albury)

Mary bap 9 July 1710 (Abinger), but father was marked as from 'Allbury'(sic)

David bap 1713 (Abinger)

Richard Drakeford was buried at Abinger on 29th February 1715, and a 'Widow Drakeford', we assume Richard's wife, was also buried at Abinger 2 years later on 19th November 1717. Her maiden name is unknown.

*The notations **A** or **C** against the burials are indicative that there was a required **A**ffidavit and/or **C**ertificate issued to show the deceased had been buried in a woollen sheet as part of the encouragement to support the wool industry.

David Drakeford

A David Drakeford, son of Richard Drakeford, butcher, deceased of Abinger, Surrey was noted at Fleet Ditch, London for the Guild of Spectacle makers, in the year 1736. This would give him the age of 23, possibly being accepted at the end of an apprenticeship.

In turn, his son, also named David Drakeford was apprenticed to George Bass in 1761, when his father was 48 years old.

It is recorded that David Drakeford senior signed a petition against Dollond's Patent 1764.

A letter to the British Journal of Photography from a Mr R D Wood was published in August 1972. This relates to the Patent 1764, which involved making object-glasses of refracting-telescopes, by compounding mediums of different refractive qualities. I summarise this letter:

John Dolland took out a patent for the invention of an achromatic lens in 1758. After he died in 1761, the licence was in the hands of his son and it was not long before a group of London opticians came into conflict with the son about this, and a petition was presented to the Privy Council against the patent in 1764.

In legal actions during the following three years, it was alleged by William Eastland, one of the opticians involved in the legal action brought by Dollond's son that he and James Ayscough (then deceased, but who had a shop in Ludgate Street, London) had made lenses on a principle suggested to Ayscough by Hall. Furthermore, he alleged that they had sold telescopes fitted with these lenses in 1753 and the following years before Dollond's patent was sealed.

Whilst this recollection about Dollond's Patent of 1764 may not light the embers of interest for many, it does show that part of the family were involved in a professional business in London and would explain why the Drakeford family moved away from the Abinger area.

Ab = Abinger Alb =Albury

Richard Drakeford, Abinger

(No burial known)

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|

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|
| Elizabeth Bap21Apr1616Ab | Katherine = Richard Boswell of East Ham | John Bur1683Ab | = | Mary Sheffeild of Capel Sep 1656 (Mary = Thomas Frost of Shere 1687) |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|

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| | | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Anne = Bap1660Ab | Thomas Wilkins of Charlwood | Elizabeth Bap1663Ab Bur1690Ab | Richard = (? wife Bur1717) Bap1665Ab Bur1715Ab | Mary Bap1669Ab | John Bap? Bur1681Ab |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------|---------------------------|

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| | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Richard Bap1703Alb | John Bap1707Alb Bur1709Alb | Mary Bap1710Ab | David = ? wife poss. married in London Bap1713Ab |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|--|

|

David - probably London

This shows the simple and likely male line from **Richard born probably in around 1580**, to David Bap. 1713 **and his son, David**.

Of the possible male lines, **John who was buried 1681** was probably still a young man, of Richard baptised in 1703 there is no trace and John baptised 1707 was buried as an infant.

oooOooo

The above is supported by the **will of John Drakeford dated 21th May 1683, five days before he was buried on 26th May 1683**. This will is evidence that:

He was living in Abinger as a butcher and owned property and parcels of land in Abinger and elsewhere. This included 20 acres known as Ffowles Lands in nearby Ewhurst, and Hoyfield or Hoylands, east of Ewhurst also of 20 acres. Both were tenanted by Edward Cowich. On his death his wife would receive one third of the income from these lands. Additionally there was property and land where they lived in Abinger which his children would receive these after Mary's death.

He could have been considered wealthy in that in addition to the property he was able to allow his three daughters £100 each. Hence he did well for his family.

John had an elder sister, Katherine who married to become Katherine Boswell.

John was quite a character. He is mentioned in many legal records as serving on jury panels in 1661, 1662 and then 1663-1666, during the time of the Great Fire of London. Conversely, he was fined for allowing his ditches to overflow! (source: Jeremy Drakeford)

The above information is produced from the Abinger, Wotton and Oakwood Chapel records 1559-1840, hence it would appear that the family died out or moved away by the mid-eighteenth century. I understand that Merrill Hill Mosher was hoping that this Richard baptised in 1665 is her relative. **It would appear that he was still active in the villages until his death in 1715, which would rule out being the Richard thought to have been born in 1660 in Virginia.**

Nevertheless, this is a good insight into yet another family group that we assume left Staffordshire at the level of yeoman farmers, and succeeded in making a reasonable life for themselves elsewhere.

While the Christian names of Richard and John, Mary and Elizabeth are prolific, as they are in Staffordshire, I can see no immediate correlation for Surrey with the Congleton, Stafford or Norton families.

*The Will of the butcher John Drakeford,
dated 21st May 1683*

(Are we correct to query the first three lines' detail? Charles II was proclaimed King on 25th May 1660!)

*In the name of God Amen the one and twentieth day of May in the five and twentieth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord Charles the Second, King of England AD 1683 I John Drakeford of Abinger in the County of Surrey Butcher being weak in body but sound and perfect in mind and memory (praised be God) do make and ordaine and declare this my last will and testament in manner and form following **First** and principally I bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God - and my body to the earth from whence it was taken to be buried in Christian manner at the direction of me executrix hereafter named **Item** I give and bequeath unto Mary my loving wife for and during and untill my son Richard shall come unto the age of one and twenty years all that Messuage or Tenement Barnes Buildings Gardens Orchard and Lands thereunto belonging and*

called by the name of Ffowles Lands containing by estimation twenty acres more or less now in the tenure and occupation of Edward Cowich or assigns situate and being in Ewhurst in the County aforesaid and also all those closes or parcels of land called or named by the name or names of Hoyfield or Hoylands lying and being in Ewhurst aforesaid containing by estimation twenty acres more or less now also in the tenure and occupation of the said Edward Cowich or his assigns to have and to hold the said messuage lands and premisses and of the wife Richard shall be of the age of one and twenty years and afterwards unto the said Richard my son and to his heirs for ever **And** my Will and meaning is that after such time as the said Richard shall be of the age of one and twenty years and shall enjoy said Messuage Lands and premisses that to the said Richard shall yield and pay yearly unto Mary my said wife one third part of the rent and revenues of all and every the said Messuage Lands and Premisses for and during the terms of her natural life **Item** I give and bequeath unto Mary my said wife for an in the tenure and occupation during the term of her natural life all that my Messuage or Tenement wherein I now dwell and - Cobalishé (?) Hole with the Lands thereunto belonging with the appurtenances situate lying and being in Abinger aforesaid and after her decease unto the said Richard my son and to his heirs forever **And** my will and meaning is that if my said son Richard shall decease without any heirs of his body lawfully begotten that then all those Messuages Tenements Lands and Premisses before in those presents given and bequeathed shall remain and go equally unto those that remain alive of my daughters Anne, Elizabeth and Mary and their heirs forever **Item** I give and bequeath unto Anne my said daughter and wife of Thomas Wilkins of Charlewood in the County aforesaid the sum of one hundred pounds of current English money to be paid within twelve months after my demise if Nicholas Wilkins father of the said Thomas shall before that time (according to his promise) make his said son Thomas worth two hundred pounds of live lawful money otherwise the said hundred pounds to be dispersed of at the discretion of my executrix hereafter named or her assigns as her shall seem to be most for the benefit and behalf of Anne my said daughter **Item** I give and bequeath to my daughter Elizabeth the sum of one hundred pounds in lawful money of England to be paid within twelve months after my decease **Item** I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Mary the sum of one hundred pounds of lawful money of

England to be paid within twelve months after me decease is she be of the age of one and twenty years otherwise to be paid unto her when she shall come to the age of one and twenty years **And** if any of my daughters Anne Elizabeth or Mary shall decease before the said legacies shall be paid aforesaid then my will is that the said legacy or legacies of her or them so deceasing shall remain and be paid equally to those that remain alive of my said Daughters **Item** I give and bequeath unto my sister Katherine Boswell the sum of twenty Shillings of lawful money of England to be paid within one month of my decease **Item** I give unto my son Richard aforesaid the sum of twenty shillings to be paid within one month of my demise **Item** I give and bequeath unto my two overseers hereafter the sums of ten shillings a piece over and above the charges they shall be at in seeing to this my last will executed and performed. All the rest of my goods and chattels whatsoever unbequeathed debts being paid and funeral expenses discharged I do give and bequeath unto Mary my said wife which said Mary my wife I do make executrix to this my last Will and Testament and do revoke and renounce all other wills be formerly made and I do make and appoint my brother-in-law Richard Boswell of East Ham in the county of Essex and my cousin Thomas Eads of Charlwood aforesaid Yeoman to be the overseers to this my last Will and Testament desiring them to be acting and assisting of my said Executrix in the due execution thereof **In Witness** whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and year at the beginning written

John Drakeford

oo seal oo

3) The Drakefords of Little Houghton, Northamptonshire

Another source of the American Drakefords could have been those in Little Houghton, Northamptonshire. There is little substantive information, initially discovered by Jeremy Drakeford who produced two family trees. This research provides another possible William Drakeford who was baptised 3rd September 1620, being the son of Edward and Jane. I can find no links to Congleton, Stafford or Norton, nor are any listed on the many wills that we have. However, I did note that a William Drakeford is listed as a vicar on one of the photocopies of the original church records, but there is no date.

On examination of the 'family trees' there seems to be two descending lines.

They are firstly for Edward born around 1580, who married a Jane. There seems to be four boys, Daniell, William, Richard and another Daniel. The fact that there appear to be two Daniels would lead me to deduce that the first one died, and the second survived. That would throw out the birth of three children to this Daniel, and they were born on and after 1642, when the second and surviving Daniel is 12. The fact that there are two spellings Daniell and Daniel is of interest to the extent that it could be perhaps a male and female, but there is nothing to substantiate this. Look at the images of the original church records below and consider the most likely answer.

All that aside, because this William was baptised in 1620, it is the correct age for the American person who emigrated in 1660 named Ann Trammell, a daughter of John and Mary Trammell was discovered as a possibility. This came from research produced by our American cousins. **The upshot was that the William who travelled to America married an Ann, but it was Ann Mellor and they married in Norton-in-the-Moors, Staffordshire.** They had a son Richard.

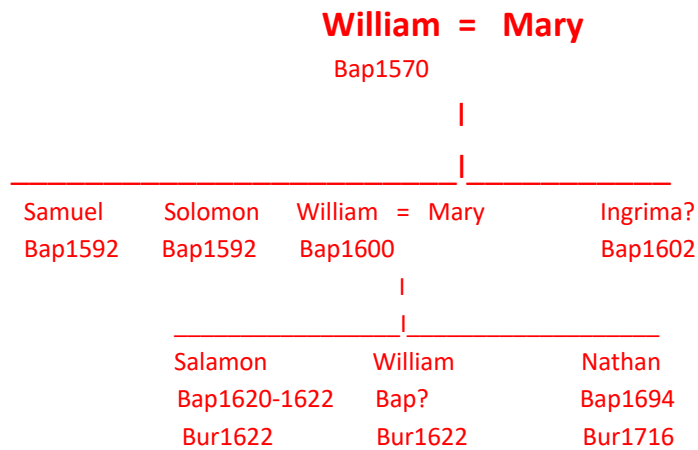
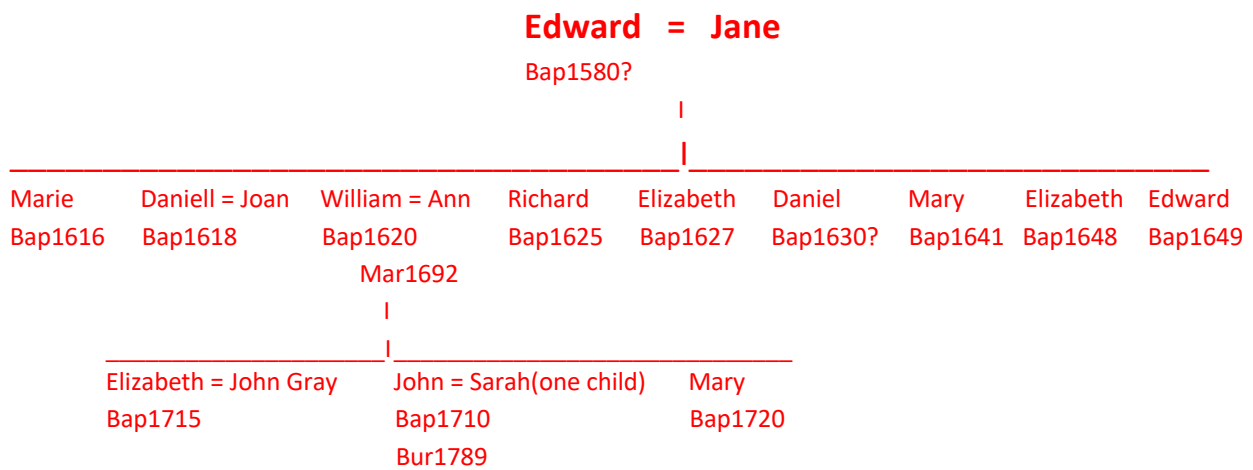
The Anne Trammell married their son Richard Drakeford in America, where there was a strong local link as both families were in Virginia, and involved in the tobacco growing business. Much later we were able to prove the Norton-in-the-Moors link through modern DNA. **Please see Study Paper 8 for full details.**

The second 'family tree' starts around 1570 and features the wedding of William to Mary. They appear to have three boys and a girl, and the third boy William produces two surviving boys, William and Nathan. From a personal point of view it is interesting that they also show two boys called Solomon, as my ancestor born 1760 in Norton was a Solomon. (Which, is of little relevance).

I was rather bemused by the fact that from two Photostats of original ledgers there were two William Drakefords, both with parents Edward and Jane baptised in September 1620, one on third September and the other on eighth day of September. Both are in different writing! Perhaps this was a rewritten ledger, as was sometimes done for the Diocese records.

The two Little Houghton, Northampton, family trees which are as follows:

William (Possible brother to Edward, buried 8.9.1599) –



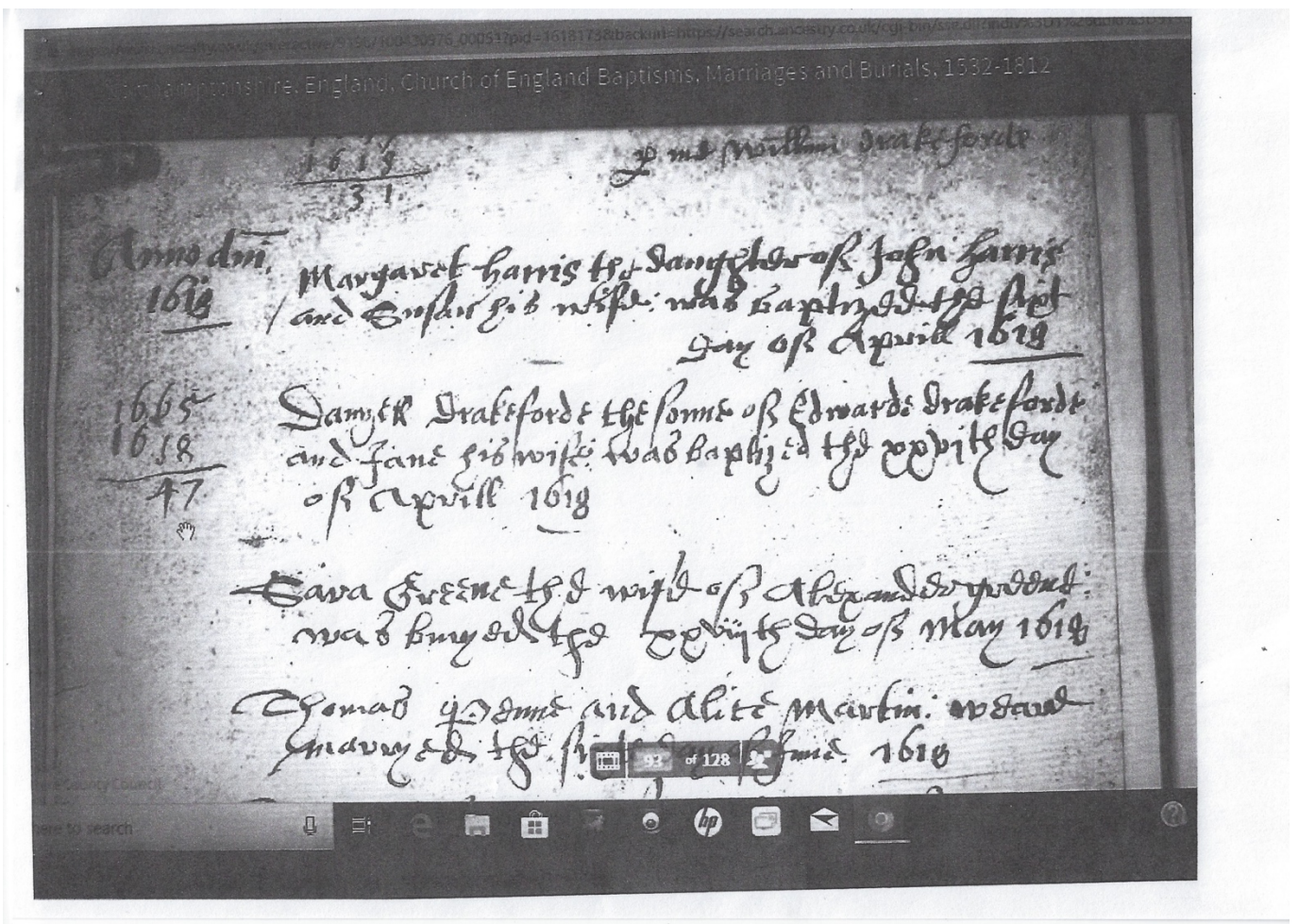
ooo00ooo

Original Church Records

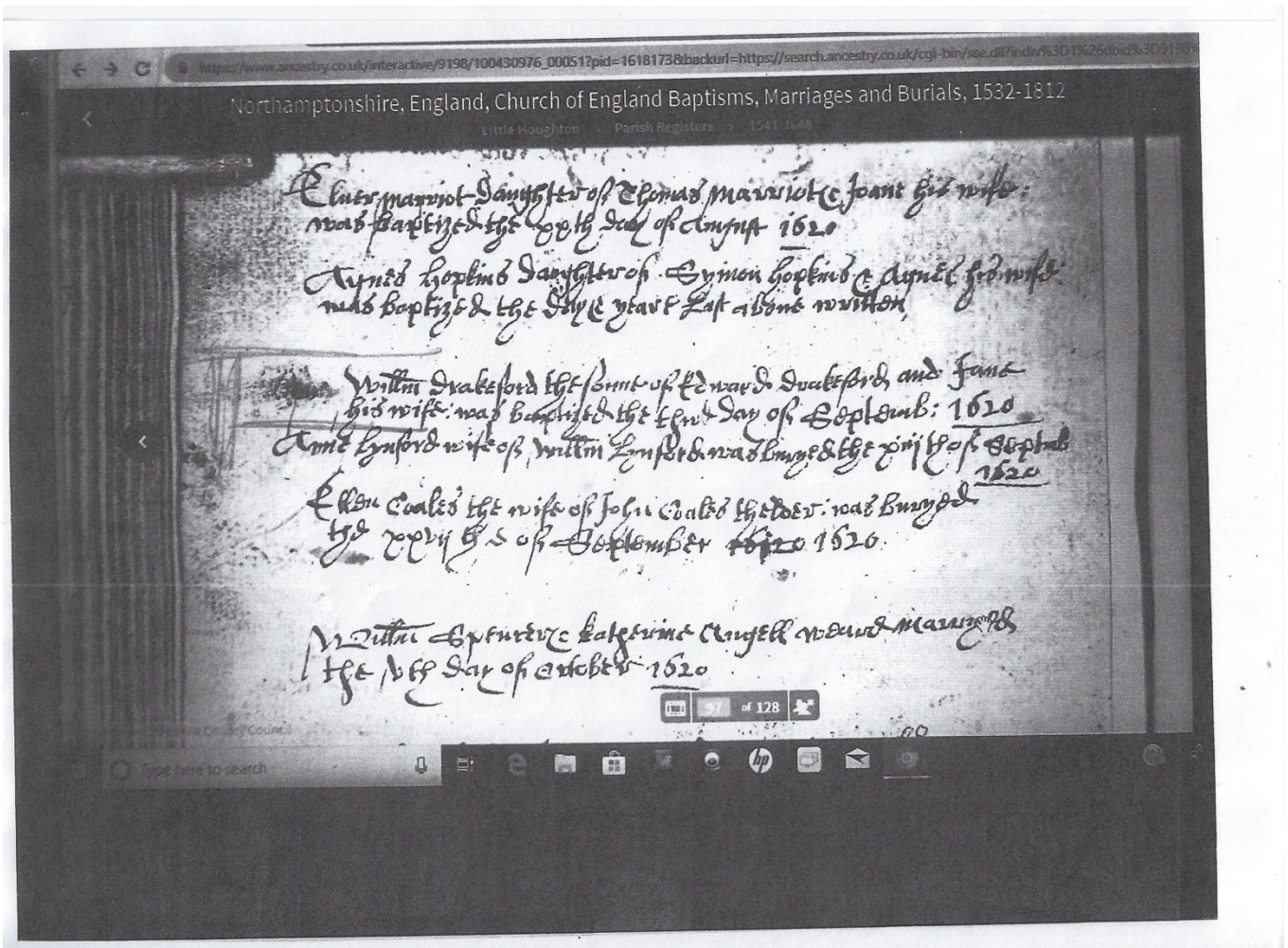
It is always fascinating to be able to read church records that are four hundred years old.

Here goes:

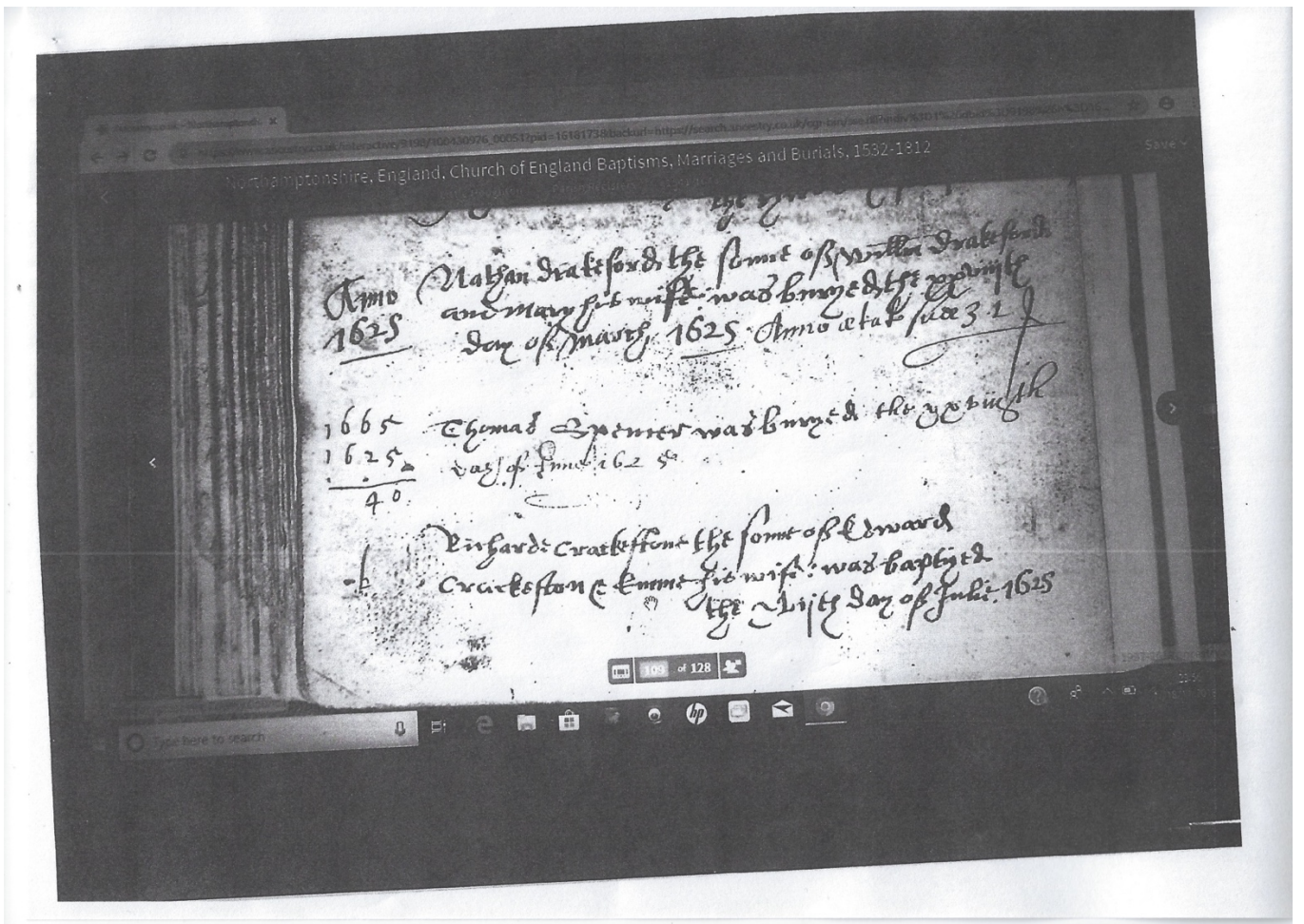
Daniell Drakeford, son of Edward and Jane Drakeford baptised eighth April 1618



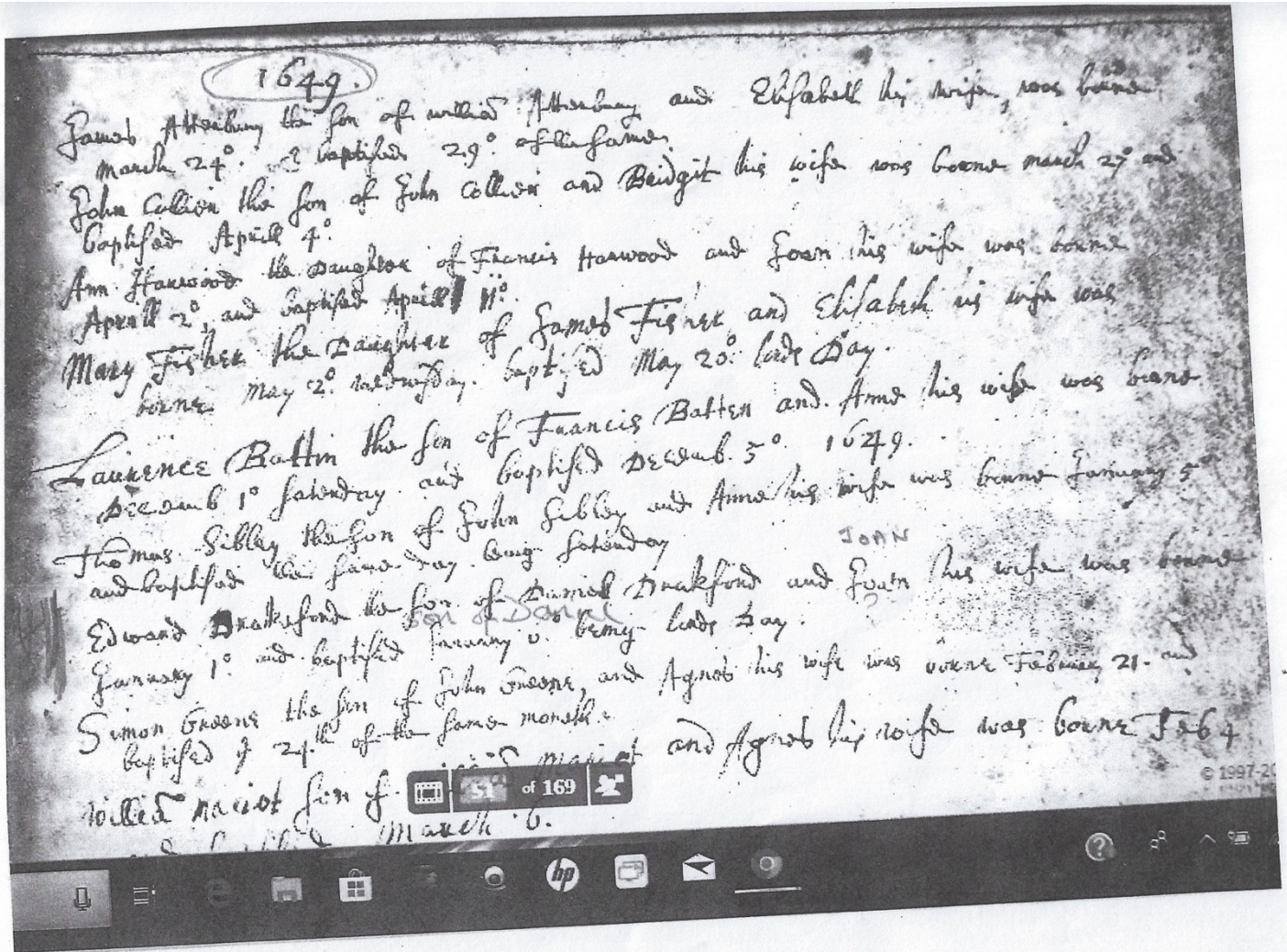
William Drakeford, son of Edward and Jane Drakeford, baptised 1st September 1620



Nathan Drakeford, son of William Drakeford and Mary, baptised 28th(?) March 1625



Edward Drakeford, son of Daniel Drakeford and Joan his wife born 5th January and baptised January 6 being Lady's Day - 1649



My conclusion is that this may be a relevant connection but I see no evidence of immediate connections to the rest of the family. Can anyone advise on this?