

# The Drakeford family in Stafford 1206-1814

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In 1732 Richard Drakeford, 'Town Clerk' had produced a plan to show the extensive properties he owned around Stafford. This included a diagram showing Forebridge Hall, the Drakeford family home for almost 200 years. See Section 19 below for full plan. Source and copyright: Staffordshire Record Office.



This shows the three-bay house, the entrance gate and an extensive barn, what appears to be a dovecote and a further building with a spire, indicating it could have been a small chapel.

## 1) Introduction

The Drakefords of Stafford emanate from families in Congleton, Cheshire and before that Wolstanton, Staffs and its environs. In some ways this is the most interesting part of the family, not least because of the immense amount of historical information about the family to be found at the Staffordshire Record Office and the William Salt Library.

A great deal of associated information that relates to the family as a whole, is cross referenced with other Study Papers within this Family website. Where relevant, the reader will be directed to further reading that will help a better understanding of the issues. This includes such matters as the early traces of the family, the development of the Drakeford name, worldwide connections elsewhere throughout the centuries, the family crest and shield and so much more.

This tome includes a summary of various the **Stafford Drakeford WILLS**, listed in date order, with attachments of the full contents related thereto that may be held separately, and notes about Stafford at relevant times, and a lot of fascinating stories too about other families connected to the Drakefords of Stafford.

The family wills that have been obtained have helped to identify the Drakeford family members and give an insight into the lives of the people concerned. Additionally, they have added to the information comprised in the family trees already gleaned from Church records. As appropriate the trees have been altered. We are grateful to the late George Fitch and his wife Sally, who uncovered this important information about the Drakeford family wills. Where there is a source reference to RKD, this is the author's father **Richard Kenneth Drakeford (RKD)**. He was known as Kenneth or Ken to the family because his father was a Richard, sometimes known as Dick. This is a way of saving the sort of confusion caused by earlier generations! My grandfather's father was Richard born 1882, and his father was Willian born 1852, and his father Richard born 1825. We have photographs of all these ancestors. The earliest, taken in 1851 was in fact a Wet Collodion process, being a painted coloured image on glass. We assume this was taken shortly before the wedding as Elizabeth does not wear a ring. The wedding took place on 22 July 1851.



**Collodion image of Richard Drakeford and his future wife, Mary Elizabeth Bennett, 1851.**

For those interested in photography, the wet process was invented by Frederick Scott Archer in 1851 combining the sharpness of daguerreotypes with then positive/negative advantage of calotypes. It was superseded by dry plates in 1871.

If you look at the vase between the couple, this was made by Richard as a potter. It lasted until around 1925 when it was broken by our uncle Stewart, brother of RKD. His parents were not amused. We still have a coffee pot made by this Richard, and another with a pewter lid exists with cousins in America, belonging at one time to Janet Fletcher whose parents Stuart Fletcher and Martha (Drakeford), known as Pattie, emigrated there around 1920 (?). This line can be traced back from Richard, married in 1825 to Solomon born 1760 and his parents in Norton, John and Elizabeth Drakeford. From that time the males were generally potters, including Solomon. As an example of what is to follow, there is the story about the Drakefords having an ancestor who in 1586 was, at the behest of Queen Elizabeth, hung drawn and quartered on Tower Hill. Another is that the Drakeford family from 1610 were descendants of Edward I through both the Babington and the Littleton families. There is so much more, read on.

## Monarchs, 1199-1820

King John	1199-1216	Edward IV	1461-1483	Charles I	1625-1649
Henry III	1216-1272	Edward V	1483-1483	Commonwealth	1649-1660
Edward I	1272-1307	Richard III	1483-1485	Charles II	1660-1685
Edward II	1307-1327	Henry VII	1485-1509	James II	1685-1689
Edward III	1327-1377	Henry VIII	1509-1547	William & Mary	1689-1702
Richard II	1377-1399	Edward VI	1547-1553	Anne	1702-1714
Henry IV	1399-1413	Mary I	1553-1558	George I	1714-1727
Henry V	1413-1422	Elizabeth I	1558-1603	George II	1727-1760
Henry VI	1422-1461	James I	1603-1625	George III	1760-1820

### 2) NOTES regarding this tome

These notes form an important part of this research and will help the reader understand the content of this research.

**Note 1.** A great deal of the research in the paper is based on the Wills of the Drakeford family. A hard copy of each will listed is available for research unless noted otherwise. Where possible the Wills have been fully typed out in Section 8. There are omissions where words cannot be read from the ancient script from which a lot of the work is derived, and more likely than not there will be some error of interpretation. *If errors are discovered, please advise the scribe- MWD.*

**Note 2. Background of significant and contemporary events:** To better inform the reader there are chronological references to the historical events known at the turbulent times during which these people lived. These include such matters as the religious changes in the Tudor period, the civil war, plague, and general hardship relating to the agricultural life experienced by many. To help this there is included short synopses of the period from when we know that the name of 'Drakeford' was first used, and through the centuries of change for our ancestors.

#### **Note 3. The parishes of St Mary's, St Chad's and Castle Church or Castlechurch**

The parishes used by the Drakefords living in and around Stafford are St Mary's, a collegiate church in Stafford, St Chad's being the oldest church in Stafford, both of which are within the town. A third, St Mary's, Castle Church, is a parish to the south-east of Stafford including Forebridge where the Drakeford family lived from around 1615.

There are Drakeford plaques in the churches of St Mary's Stafford and St Michael's Penkridge. Further items such as burial sites or remaining gravestones have yet to be determined at these churches. The churchyard at St Mary's Castle Church is large but made up mainly of Victorian gravestones from long after the family had stopped using the parish. Those in the churchyard at St Mary's Stafford have been moved so that the area once used for the graves is now grassed and whatever stones remain are either used as paving or placed along walls. In the case of the Drakeford family they had a vault within the church, indicating a certain status in the town.

There are three plaques in St Mary's church Stafford. One is dated 1793 and the other 1814.

The other is in memory of Richard Drakeford (1576-1639) of Stafford and his wife Mercie nee Bowyer. This significant Drakeford plaque has been split and a part has been moved from St Mary's to St Michael's Penkridge. The reason is most probably that the long plaque with figures of the children was broken during renovations to the church. It was then separated from the other part of the monument. Because the name of a child called Littleton appears, and the Drakeford name is not mentioned on that part of the plaque, it was probably presumed to be part of that important family by some misguided person and it was sent to St Michael's to join the many Littleton monuments there. Whilst there are important family connections these were not sufficient to warrant the removal from the Drakeford family church.

[Enquiries are to be made of the Diocese by MWD once this website is complete, with the website used as evidence of the mistake made in Victorian times to split the parts of one plaque into two at 2 different churches.](#)

At St Chad's in Stafford, there are virtually no plaques in the church and few gravestones outside because of the limited space around the church.

## Parish Records

Until the Middle Ages the church had only a limited role in marrying couples, who usually performed a simple ceremony themselves, exchanging vows in a public place before witnesses. The church encouraged the couple to have a blessing by the priest afterwards.

Parish registers were formally introduced in England on 5 September 1538 following the split with Rome, when Thomas Cromwell, minister to Henry VIII, issued an injunction requiring the registers of baptisms, marriages and burials to be kept. Before this, a few Roman Catholic religious' houses and parish priests had kept informal notes on the baptisms, marriages, and burials of the prominent local families.

The new injunction was addressed to the rector or vicar of every parish in England. However, this order had nothing to do with religious doctrine or the papacy and rather indicated the desire of the central government to have a better knowledge of the population of the country. The book was to be kept in a "sure coffer" with two locks and keys. A fine of 3 sols and 4 deniers was to be levied for failure to comply. Many parishes ignored this order because it was commonly thought that it was a precursor to a further tax.

When Queen Elizabeth came to the throne in 1558, she passed a duplicate law and many of the church records started at this time. These records similarly had to be placed in a chest in the church for safe keeping along with other church records such as bastardy bonds, poor benefit accounts, tithe awards and maps, church warden accounts and so on.

In 1578 Queen Elizabeth had ordered that the earlier paper registers be copied onto parchment. The wording of the Act "especially since the 1st year of her majesty's reign" gave the excuse of only copying from 1558 and not those earlier. This did nothing to aid researchers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century who are interested in the Tudor records!

In 1597, the Queen reaffirmed the injunction, adding that the registers were of '*permagnus usus*' and must be kept in books of parchment leaves. Previous records (most found in a less durable form) had to be copied into the new books and copies of each year's entries had to be sent to the Bishop's Registrar, and to be known as the Bishop's transcripts. The parish clerk was paid to copy the old records into a new parchment book in order to keep the record up to date.

During the English Civil War (1643–1647) and during the following Commonwealth period (1648-1660), records were poorly kept, often not properly completed or checked and many are now missing after being destroyed by the secular officials, or more often bored by beetles, chewed by rats or rendered illegible by damp or simply hidden by the clergy and lost. This parsimony and neglect, was partly remedied by much later depositing the registers in county record offices where they were safeguarded and made accessible.

Researchers have gaps for periods during the Commonwealth 1648 - 1660 when registers were also often not properly maintained and, in some cases, destroyed. Indeed, at some point all religious marriages were banned and the registers were put in the hands of secular officials.

Early registers are General Registers containing baptisms, marriages and burials. All registers were subject to the vagaries of the priests. Sometimes loose sheets were used. Sometimes they were in Latin, sometimes a mix of English and Latin, and sometimes the writing was virtually illegible.

In 1754 Hardwicke's Marriage Act aimed to prevent clandestine (secret) marriages by ensuring that all marriages were conducted in the Church of England (Quakers and Jews were exempted). After this time, records of marriages are usually recorded in a separate register.

Concurrently marriages had to be preceded by the reading of banns or purchase of a marriage licence. Parental consent was required for minors (until 1929 boys of 14 and girls of 12 could marry). Rose's Act 1812 provided specially printed forms in separate registers for marriages, baptisms and burials.

After this time the following information is given in parish registers:



\* Baptisms - information varies. Some registers give only the date, name of child and father; others give mother's name, father's occupation, place where they lived - particularly if it was out of parish. After 1812 printed forms should include all the above items, plus by whom the ceremony was performed.

\* Marriages - until 1753 the entries, often in a general register, may just give both names and the date and the place where they lived, sometimes "of this parish" (OTP). From 1754 separate printed registers include the date, their names, status, parish, groom's occupation, signature or mark of both parties, names of two or more witnesses and the officiating minister. Modern registers (after July 1837) also give the ages of the spouses, places of residence, occupations, names and occupations of their fathers and whether the marriage took place by banns or licence.

\* Burials – In the case of an infant death, until 1813 often this gave only the name or in addition the father's name was given. For adults they sometimes give additional details such as age or “widow of...” After 1813 the printed format gives date, name, age, and officiating minister.

#### **Note 4. The importance of Wills as a source of information:**

The wills below relate mainly to the Drakeford family living in the Stafford area, and a few in the Potteries and one from Congleton. Many other ‘Drakeford’ wills are available. This research provides substantive links to three family groups – Stafford, Congleton and the Potteries. This is ‘confirmed’ through the DNA tests carried out in 2014-2015 and also shows several links with the Peplow family. See note 11 below. Each Will listed for the Stafford grouping is followed by an analysis for likely male descendants that could identify a possible DNA link.

The transcriptions of the wills are as accurate as they can be, acknowledging that they can be difficult to read. Where this has not been possible either the word is left blank, or a question mark annotates the query. If translated from Latin, the text will be in modern English. Otherwise, when taken as a direct transcription, the Olde English comes to the fore, such as the letter dated 1594 from **John Drakeford** of London to **Edward Drakeford, under-sheriff of Staffordshire** and for the Will of **Richard Drakeford ‘The Elder’** of 1677.

The earlier wills often have considerable sums owing to the testator from a third party, and some either or also, have money owing by the testator to another thus both lending and borrowing. When there were no banks to lend and take deposits this was a time when people made interest or borrowed when times were hard or wanted to expand their businesses. This was prevalent up to about 1610, and then it was rarely seen in the Drakeford wills after that. This raises an interesting question as to what they did with it after that time because outside the biggest of towns, banks as we now see them were not prevalent until the 1800s.

As an aside, **Mercy Drakeford** married Richard in the late 1500s. Her father was William Bowyer Gentleman. The Bowyer family were large landowners in Staffordshire, emanating from Knypersley, Biddulph, north Staffordshire. The wills show that in 1589 **William Drakeford** of Wolstanton owed money to **Mr Bowyer**, in 1597 **Richard Drakeford of Congleton**, yeoman, owed money to **Mr Bowyer of Knypersley**, and in 1621 **Richard Drakeford** a tailor from Audley owed money to **John Bowyer** (William’s son) and was owed money by William Bowyer, Gent. Perhaps the last was for services relating to apparel.

The early wills had overseers who were charged with ensuring that the wishes of the testator were carried out responsibly. This was prevalent for the wills we know about as early as the 1550s, but the process of using an overseer was nearly over by 1620, with just a few seen after that in 1639, 1647 and the last in 1717.

At this point it is worth analysing the formation of wills to show how little they changed over the years. The wills will generally consist of:

- The name and address of the testator
- Thanks to God for his life.
- The place and terms for a burial
- Appointment of Executors
- Details of gifts and Benefactors
- Appointment of Overseers
- Details of further instructions
- The will, being the last will and testament will be stated as such and signed by the Testator.
- Witnesses will sign and attest that the signature of the Testator was witnessed in the presence of the testator and all other witnesses.

The last will and testament will have to be proved, and this will require an affidavit after death with the required affidavit appointing the Executors to carry out their tasks. The representative of the court will agree the correctness of the will and the actions now to be taken.

Thereafter the Assessors will present a list of assets of the deceased and sign to confirm the trueness thereof.

To a greater or lesser extent all the wills listed will be in this form.

If there is no will, there may be sufficient assets to require the appointment of an Administrator to distribute the assets of the deceased. This would only normally be done if there was an issue over distribution and thus something the family could not agree about and of a value to make administration worthwhile.

**Note 5. The Peplow and Dickenson connections:** Throughout this Drakeford history various names keep cropping up. That of Peplow is one such name. We know that a John Peplow was a trainee clergyman with a Matthew Drakeford in the late 1600s, and another John Peplow emerged as a cleric in the 1700s, and more surprising is the fact that when applying the DNA tests to show family birth contacts, it arrives again. This was because the list of names included in the DNA results are not only ours but also those of several Peplow/Peploe people that are alive today.

Probably the more useful and substantive connection is that of Dickenson. A Rev. Dickenson was a rector at St Mary's Stafford, another of that name was a town clerk and yet another a lawyer. Because of this family connection when a Lewis Dickenson was a friend of Richard Drakeford, 'The Mariner' and his executor, a great deal of paperwork was eventually deposited at the Staffordshire

Record Office. Here hundreds of Drakeford documents relating to our family can be viewed today. Much of our research has been founded on these papers or at least verified by these records.

**Note 6. The Drakeford Coat of Arms, Shields and Mottos:** See below for the sections 5 and 18 regarding **Forebridge Hall** and the Will of **Richard Drakeford (1697-1757) etc.**

These are also reflected on the plaques at St Mary's church, Stafford, the references to the 1747 map of Stafford, and the correspondence with the Herald's office in London all of which are also described in the text.

**Note 7. Possible treasures yet to be found:** The various Wills held identify objects that relate to the family history that have yet to be discovered, perhaps at an auction. Doubtlessly each modern Drakeford family branch has some items of historical interest to the family as a whole. Include in this the many Drakeford clocks that were made in Congleton and it all adds up to a significant number of items. Alas, it is quite likely that over time many silver and gold items have been lost to the family or even melted down!

The Wills provide information about such articles as: Richard Drakeford (1576-1622) seal ring, **Richard Drakeford (1650-1700) gold ring with motto 'Mors Mihi Lucrum'**, translated as '**death is my reward**'. Richard Drakeford (1697-1757) various silver, possibly marked with Drakeford Crest;

Edward Drakeford (1753-1814) watches, seals, seal rings, library of books, presumably marked for ownership – libris, engraved beakers, engraved tankards, also much other silver probably engraved too.

Add to this all the items in the asset lists, which have not been transcribed, and these may also have had Drakeford marks, either name or crest or both, and there could be much yet to be located.

In 2016 we were being advised about the existence of a portrait that was believed to be of Richard Drakeford, 'The Mariner' and High Sheriff of Staffordshire in 1753. In autumn 2017 Michael and Georgina Drakeford travelled for a weekend to Toronto, Canada to purchase this for a nominal sum of Can. \$1,000 and repatriate it. The cost of travelling there was considerably less than the cost of having it professionally packed and sent back to England. Thereafter it was restored and is now to be found in Sussex. Photograph copies available through the family for a nominal sum. Photo of portrait is show in Section in 7(g).

**Note 8. Drakeford Lands:** Where known the land owned by the Stafford Drakefords is listed, including that in Wills. All place names are **emboldened**. It would be very difficult to be precise about the exact whereabouts of these land holdings and properties because there is no direct method of ascertaining the details. This is particularly because so many of the land deeds forming part of the land titles were done away with when a land registration process without physical deeds took place in the second half of the twentieth century.

There is a list of all known transactions in date order in Section 10) below.

**Note 9. What were the occupations of these ancestors?** The Stafford and Cheshire Drakefords were involved in a wide range of activities between 1550 and 1800. Some did extremely well, reaching high ranks of office in the County, and others ended up as paupers. Occupations included: Merchant, Mayor, Town Clerk, Army Officer, Apothecary, Surgeon, Lawyer, Seafarer, Silk Weaver, Baker, Taverner, Cotton Manufacturer, Lawyers, Mercers, Town Clerks (both at Congleton and Stafford), Potter, Under Sheriff, High Sheriff, land owner, Yeoman, Clock and Watch Maker, Rector, Husbandman, Carrier, Cordwainer (shoemaker), and 'The Goldsmith/Refiner'.

**Note 10. Nothing is easy:** As you read through this paper, do remember that when possible statements have been verified. As someone once told me, do not believe everything posted on Wikipedia. This is very sensible advice. I do not entirely accept all that is there but it is a good source to commence a search for information and to sometimes use it to verify information gleaned elsewhere.

Many difficulties arise because a lot of the information is difficult to read as scripted using quill pens. Information is produced by the scribe who has been given words/names by people who could not read, write, or spell vis. Drakefoot for Drakeford, Drakefforde, Draykeford, Drakford and so on. Names are spelled different ways viz. Mercy, Marcie or Marcy. The scribe would have written down what he heard, and this could be dependent on the local dialect and thus differ accordingly.

Confusion sometimes arises due to the fact that it is difficult to differentiate the many individuals who are called Richard Drakeford. Hence the 'nick names' throughout this tome. Richard and Priscilla Drakeford from 1712 had boys called Richard, Edward, Matthew, John, and William. Then the first son Richard had a wife called Frances and sons called Richard, William, Edward, John, Matthew and William. At Astbury church in Congleton in 1573 Richard Drakeford married Ellen Drakeford and in 1723 at St Chad's a John (Johannes) Drakeford married Elizabeth Drakeford. What more needs to be said?

Much has been said about church records. We know that at the parish of Wolstanton where the main mass of 'Drakefords' was living in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century, the church records would have started about 1550. However, those up until 1624 became so badly damaged, probably by the method by which they were kept, that they are lost to the researcher. This makes the completion of our family story even more difficult.

**Note 11. Finding out how the Drakefords families are inter-related:** Linking the Drakeford family members together is a significant task. In order to link various surnames identified in these documents there is a process to search for names using a *find* tab on your computer. Good luck with that when there are so many with the same Christian names. This can reveal family links through marriages, and long-term family friendships through generations. Towns and villages common to the Drakeford families and land purchased and sold are also listed.

Through church records and the Wills listed below it has been possible to determine the direct blood line from 1576 to 1814 for the Stafford family. However, the assumption is that there are links between the Stafford, Congleton and the Potteries Drakeford parts of the family. The Will of Edward Drakeford of Congleton, 1644 links to the Stafford family, and there is another more tenuous connection in the Will dated 1813 for Edward Drakeford of Charnes Hall, Stafford also with Congleton. By chance a letter has been discovered dated 1594 from a John Drakeford in London to an Edward Drakeford deputy high sheriff of Stafford and his siblings in Congleton and Stafford. Around this time there was another Edward Drakeford, Alderman, Congleton. This becomes very confusing. See Section 4).

The DNA testing has confirmed that there is a link between the Potteries side of the family and Congleton. Without a specific connection with the Stafford family, we are using written evidence accumulated over the centuries. There is also a connection with the Peplowe/Peploe family that is possibly both ancient and more recent. Enquiries are ongoing. The Peploe name crops up in a connection through the church in 1676 and a Will of 1765.

By researching the Drakeford settlers into North America, we have been able to discover a DNA connection with the present family in the USA, thus tracing a firm connection from Norton and Stafford around 1660.

If I may I will throw a spanner into the works. The high detail obtained through the DNA 111 stage process reconfigures information already gleaned. There it gave me, Michael Drakeford and my twin brother Chris, from the Potteries, a line closer relationship to the Peplowe DNA family than the Congleton Drakefords. In the initial DNA levels of 37 and 67, I was closer to Roger Hall. These genetic mysteries are more fully explained in the Study Papers 1 and 8. However, the following might also help understanding.

To be more precise the current results show that there are 5 people that are close genetically that have provided samples. The DNA results (dd = David Drakeford, jd = Jeremy, pep = Peplow/Peplowe, rh = Roger Hall, MWD = Michael Drakeford) are as follows:

#### **At the basic level 37**

Genetic distance to MWD	<b>dd 6</b>	<b>jd 7</b>	<b>rh 8</b>	<b>pep 3</b>
4 generations	dd 12%	jd 5%	rh 2%	pep 83%
8 generations	dd 62%	jd 46%	rh 31%	pep 97%

#### **At the intermediate level 67**

Genetic distance to MWD	<b>dd 3</b>	<b>jd 4</b>	<b>rh 2</b>	<b>pep 1</b>
4 generations	dd 47%	jd 47%	rh 47%	pep 47%
8 generations	dd 86%	jd 86%	rh 86%	pep 86%

#### **At the top level 111:**

Genetic distance to MWD	<b>dd 6</b>	<b>jd 7</b>	<b>rh 8</b>
4 generations	dd 12%	jd 5%	rh 2%
8 generations	dd 62%	jd 46%	rh 31%

We are not aware that members of the Peploe/Peplowe family have entered their DNA at level 111.

**Conclusion:** There are numerous individuals who are shown as children and part of the main blood lines, but subordinate to the male heir that inherits the title 'head of the family'. All these are noted at the end of each Will and will be subject to ongoing research. For ease of understanding the first date is the date of recorded baptism rather than date of birth, which is known only infrequently. Individual males are listed who have no known line and are not known to have died and thus could have started another Drakeford line to the Potteries are noted in purple.

The current thinking is that the first Stafford church records with Richard Drakeford (1576-1639) and his wife Mercy Bowyer were the joining of two families from North Staffordshire, around Tunstall/Wolstanton. Marcie also spelt Mercy, was the daughter of William Bowyer, Gent, who was related to Sir William Bowyer, the lord of the manor of Tunstall, and who owned considerable estates in that area, and Richard Drakeford was from a long-established local family of Yeoman farmers. He might well have been sponsored by his father-in-law to establish himself as a merchant in Stafford and as a lawyer trained in London in the mid-1500s.

If we refer back to the DNA sampling, at least one of the results for the Potteries Drakefords shows that the links to Congleton were some 8 generations ago. This would be 250 years from when we were born around 1950 and that is 1700. At that time the Drakefords were strongest in the Norton and Newcastle-under-Lyme areas when those in Congleton were strong too. We have Drakefords inter-marrying as shown later in this Study Paper, and also we acknowledge the family connections listed below. Thus, there is little doubt that our groupings are indeed connected, but we have still to identify the exact lines to group the families as they exist today.

The assumed link for the Potteries Drakefords to Stafford is Johannes Drakeford who married Elizabeth Drakeford of Stafford in 1723. However, as shown below this is rather a further link from the Staffords and shows that the line did not end in 1814. This does in fact enhance the DNA results on the basis that we can establish strong links between Congleton and Stafford through this research including contacts at the time and land sales. This does not mean that there is no contact between the Potteries ie Norton, Wolstanton etc, because there was. But this gives a firm link and explains the now strong link between MWD and Jeremy with DNA checks showing a generation gap of about 400 years.

Against this, we should remember that 'Drakeford' was a place name. There will always be people who are connected geographically, but not by family blood!

**Note 12. Year dating:**

Church records for the early part of a year often refer to two years such as 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1593/4 or similar. This is because our current year commences on 1<sup>st</sup> January and whilst we are used to marking the date as such, at that time the church year started on 25<sup>th</sup> March. Hence until 24<sup>th</sup> March all dates were marked with the two years. This lasted from 1582 until the Calendar Act of 1750 when the Gregorian calendar was adopted.

On occasions this has accounted for some written records of dates of birth, marriage and death being wrong by a year.

**Note 13. Terminology – which might be of some help!**

Administrator	- The person who administrates matters, in these cases a Will.
Appraiser	- A person who values matters such as contents of a Will.
Appurtenances	- Belonging to, such as land attached to property.
Bailiff	- A Sheriff's officer.
Burgages or Burgage Cottage	- tenure by which land or property in a town was held in return for service or annual rent. Or a house or other property held by burgage tenure.
Burgess	- an inhabitant of a town or borough with full rights of citizenship
Burh or Burg	- A burh (Old English pronunciation: [burx]) or burg was an old English fortification or fortified settlement.
Chyrographer	- modern: chirographer, someone who creates specialist handwriting such as that at the beginning of a book or chapter.
Cordwainer	- Shoemaker
Cuirassier	- a cavalry soldier wearing a cuirass, which is a breastplate and backplate fastened together.
Deforcianants	- One who keeps out of possession the rightful owner of an estate ie as when leasing/selling the estate.
DY	- died young.
Ecclesiastical Perculier	- Church of England parish or church exempt from the jurisdiction of the diocese
Executor	- A person appointed by a testator to administer a Will.
Feoffment	- (in feudal law) a grant of ownership of freehold property to someone
Gestive	-Armoured coat
Hearth tax	- A hearth tax was a property tax in certain countries during the medieval and early modern period, levied on each hearth, thus by proxy on each family unit. It was calculated based on the number of hearths, or fireplaces, within a municipal area.

Herediments	-Item of property that can be inherited.
Hundred	- A subdivision of a county or shire, having its own court.
Husbandman	- This was normally a tenant farmer or small landowner, which was one step on the hierarchy below a yeoman who would farm about 100 acres.
Leaso	– grazing or pastureland.
Leet	- a yearly or half-yearly court of record that the lords of certain manors held.
Liberty	- Right, birthright, prerogative, entitlement, privilege, permission, sanction, authorization, exemption, faculty
Life or lives	- a period of 30 years
Messuages	- a dwelling house with outbuildings and land assigned to its use.
Muster Roll	- An official list of officers and men in a military unit
Overseer	- Someone who endeavours to ensure the wishes of a testator are complied with.
Pedigree	- the lineage or history of a family
Relict	– a widow
Scrivener	- a clerk, scribe, or notary.
Scat Bands	- no known definition but in the context used it is assumed to be a hat covering the head with a scarf, the scat, attached at a funeral.
Seisin/Seized of	- in possession of...such as land.
Suborned	- bribe or otherwise induce (someone) to commit an unlawful act such as perjury.
Quitclaim	- a formal renunciation or relinquishing of a claim.
Tennements	- A piece of land held by an owner.
Testator	- the person for who a Will is written.
Tuition Bond	- A bond covering the education of mainly children stipulating those persons responsible and the conditions thereof.
Yeoman	- Man owning and cultivating a small farm/holding.



### 3) The Drakeford Name and Origins

The name 'Drakeford' itself has no specific meaning other than it was a place name. The fact that it was first used with 'de' in front of it indicates that it was indeed a place name. The place if referred back to a Scandinavian or old English link would mean 'dragon's ford or fiord'. It could simply mean a ford where drakes crossed such as a rivulet or a ford across a roadway. The name seems to appear with greatest frequency as a place where various people were living as judged by the evidence in the medieval manor court books of Tunstall and the spelling takes numerous other forms such as Dracford, Drakefoot, Drakefford, Draykeford, Drakeforde, Drakefeilde, and so on. Even the first minister of Wales in 2020, Mark Drakeford, has his name pronounced by the BBC and ITV news channels as Mark Drakefud, probably because they pronounce the city of Oxford as Oxfud too.

In summary, the **Study Paper 1, 'An Introduction to the Drakeford Family History starting in 1206'** will fascinate you. It will show that the name of a manor was Drakeforde at the time of Edward the Confessor. Usually considered the last king of the House of Wessex, he ruled from 1042 to 1066. The name was used in Devon during the over-lording by the Danes before the conquest in 1066. Under a list of manorial fees there is shown a manor of Drakeforde owned or possessed by Alveron at the time of Edward the Confessor. The modern place name could be Drayford spelled Draheforda in 1086 in the Domesday Book. Despite searching records there does not appear to have been a community known by the precise name of Drakeford. Indeed, it could be that no one used a surname in this rural location at this time.

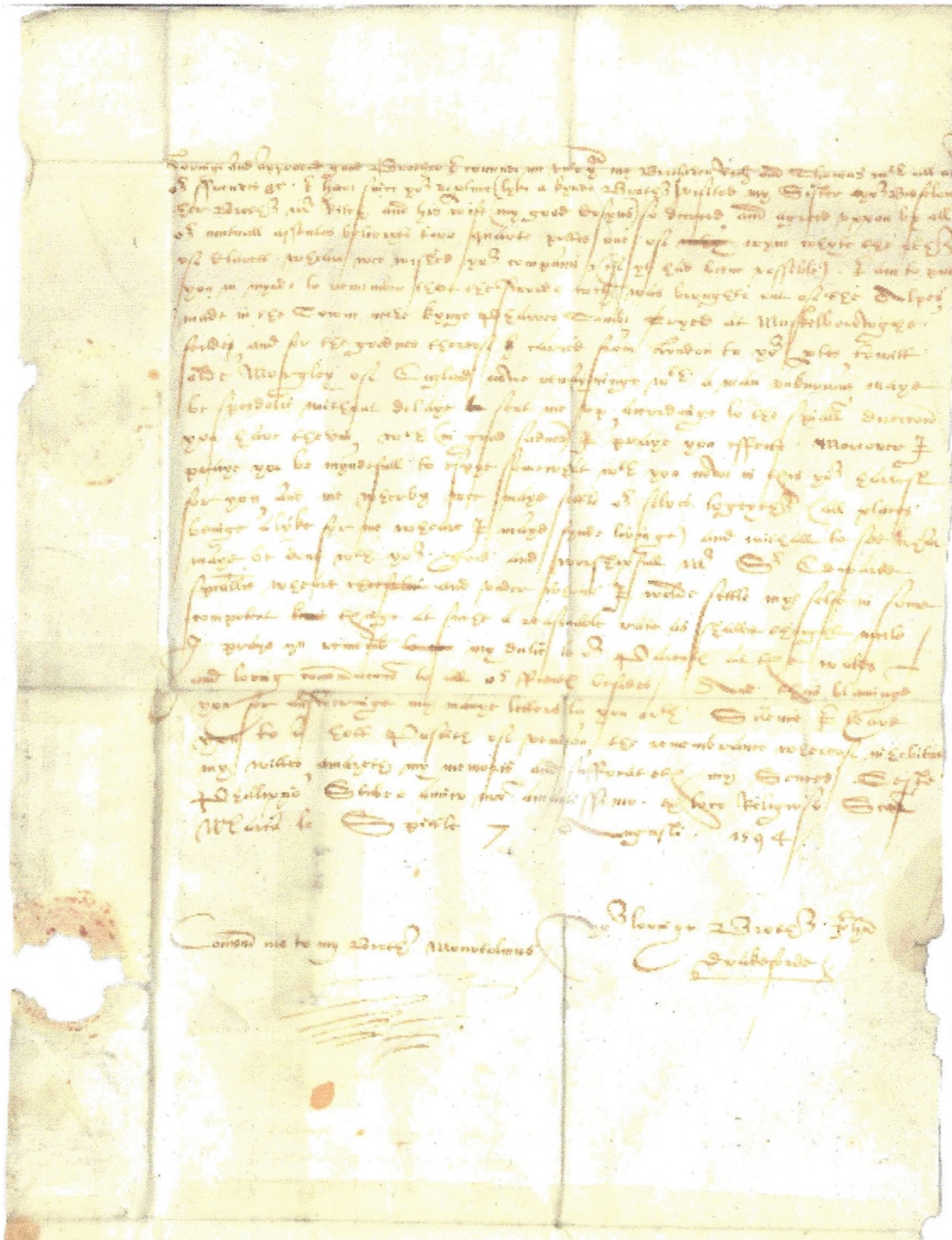
A search of Devon court records has not shown evidence of the surname being used or other use of the Drakeford name save for the Drakeford Bridge.

### 4) An important letter from John Drakeforde to Edward Drakeford dated 1594.

This letter is important because it links disparate parts of the family together. It is based around John Drakeford and his brothers in Congleton and Richard Drakeford who was the founding member of the Drakeford family in Stafford producing a dynasty lasting from the late 1500s to 1814.

Full details are available in **Study Paper 1** and are well worth reading in order to put the Stafford side of the family into context.

The 1594 Letter



An equally important document written in Latin has been found at the Stafford Record Office. This is even earlier and links the family, with a William Drakeford living in London, passing his land as a gift to the family in Congleton and around. This was translated for us by David Bethell.

18<sup>th</sup> July 1580

**Omnibus** xp'i fidelibus ad quos hoc p'sens scriptu' Indentat' p'venerit **Will'us Drakesforde** de Novo Hospito in poch' S'ci Clementis extra barr' novi Templi London filius Will'i Drakesford de Congleton' in com' Cestrie yoman sal'tm Noveritis me p'fatu' Will'm Drakesforde filiu' diu'sis bonis causis et considerac'oibus ad hoc me movent' **dedisse** concessisse et hoc p'senti script' meo Indentat' confirmasse Ric'o Drakesford de Lostocke Gralam Rogero Dale de Smalwood et Ric'o Drakesford de Congleton p'd' 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' p'tin' in Congleton' p'd' modo vel nup in tenura et occupac'oe dict' Will'mi Drakesford mei patris et assignat' suor' Que quidem om'ia et sing'la p'miss' cu' p'tin' ego p'fat' Will'ms Drakesford filius nup habui et p'quisivi mihi et hered' meis de quodam Joh'e Walker Rogero Dale et Ric'o Drakesford de Congleton hered' et assign' suis ad vsu' mei p'd' 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 p'creat' siue p'reand' 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 p'creat' siue p'reand' 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 p'creat' siue p'reand' 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 p'creat' sive p'reand' Et pro defectu talis exit' ad vsu' Thome Drakesford alterius f'ris mei dict' Will'mi filij et hered' masculor' de corpore dict' Ric'i legitti'e p'creat' sive p'reand' Et pro defectu talis exit' ad vsu' Rogeri Drakesford alterius f'ris mei dict' Will'mi filij et hered' masculor' de corpore suo legitti'e p'creat' sive p'reand' 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 p'fatus Will'us Drakesford filius et hered' mei p'd' duo Burgag' cu' edificijs supastantibus et om'ia et sing'la p'd' terr' ten't' turbar' et hereditament' quecu'q' cu' p'tin' p'fat' Ric'o Drakesford de Lostock Gralam Rogero Dale et Ric'o Drakesford de Congleton hered' et assign' suis ad vsus et intenco'es p'd' contra o'es gentes warrantizabimus et Impp'm defendemus p' p'sent'. **Ac Insuper** sciatis me p'fat' Will'ms Drakesford filiu' attornasse constituisse ordinasse fecisse locoq' meo p' p'sent' posuisse dilectos m'i 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 p'd' duo burgag' cu' edificijs supastantibus terr' ten't' turbar' et cetera p'miss' cu' p'tin' et in qua'libet vel aliqua' inde p'cell' 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 p'miss' cu' p'tin' eisdem Ric'o Drakesford de Lostock Gralam Rogero 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 effectu' huius p'sent' 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 p'miss' p' p'sent'. In Cuius Rei testimoniu' vtriq' parti huius present' scripti mei Indentat' ego p'fatus 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.**

See the 18<sup>th</sup> July 1580 translation here below:-

*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 Gralam, 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, turbary 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, turbary and hereditaments whatsoever with appurtenances to the aforesaid Richard Drakesford of Lostock Gralam, 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 lawfull 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 Gralam, 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.*

18<sup>th</sup> July 22<sup>d</sup>. Elizabeth 1538<sup>1</sup>

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W <sup>m</sup> . Drakeford	}	Grant of Prem'es
to	}	in Congleton
Ri. Drakeford	}	to sev <sup>l</sup> . Uses

This date is awry. The 22<sup>nd</sup> year of the reign of Elizabeth I, having come to the throne in 1558, is 1580 as shown in the main text!

**Comment:** William Drakeford, living in London wished to leave his wealth to his family around Congleton. This is better described in the Study Paper 2, Congleton.

For Stafford, it shows that the Drakefords were Richard of Lostocke Glaham, Roger Dale and Richard of Congleton, held land given to this William of London by his father William, and in turn, should he die without issue, the property would pass to his brothers and their kin in age order, thus keeping the family estates with the head of the family. The brothers after the benefactor, William the younger were John, Edward, Richard, Thomas and Roger.

The indications are that the generations were:

Older generation: William Drakeford, 'The Elder', of Congleton – Richard of Lostoke Glaham – Richard of Congleton - (Roger Dale)

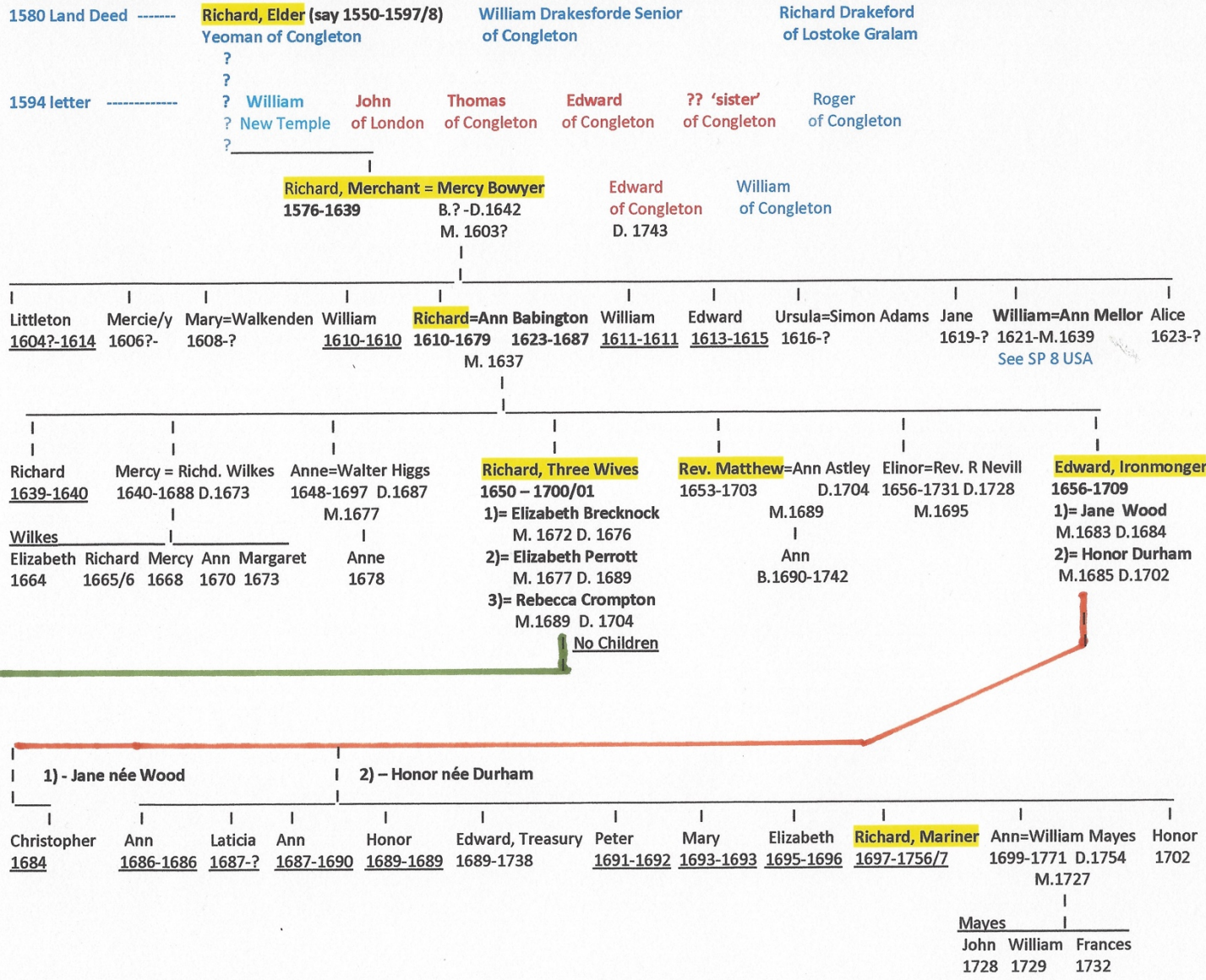
Next Generation: William of London, John – Edward – Richard – Thomas – Roger

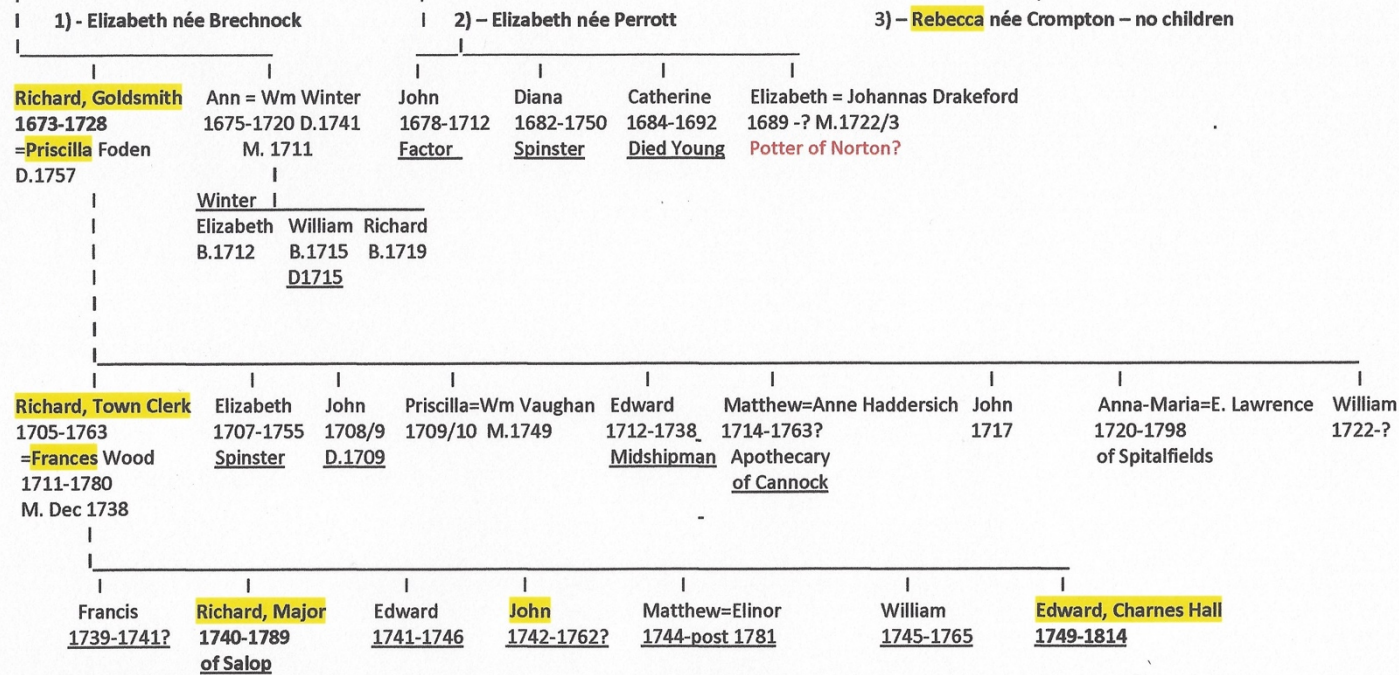
Next Generation: Edward of Congleton – **Richard Drakeford of Stafford** – William of Congleton.

Thus, we have the start of the **Drakefords of Stafford** when Richard moved there and married Mercie Bowyer in 1603.

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**The following family tree is also shown in Section 11:**





An underscore means died young or it is specifically known that there was no issue.

**Highlighted in yellow** means the individuals are listed in the Contents of this paper under Section 8.

Observation: The above trees reveal the only possible continuation of the Drakefords from the Stafford named line between 1576 and 1814 is down to four boys. These would appear to be Edward born 1689, ending up in prison and died around 1738, but we would have seen any child mentioned through Richard 'The Mariner', who took responsibility for Edward. Also, Elizabeth and Johannas Drakeford married 1723, then John Drakeford born 1717, and William born 1722/3. Any one of these last three could have moved away to find their own way in life. These three were all uncles of Edward Drakeford of Charnes Hall, who did not mention them in his will, claiming that he was the last in the line.

Thus, the most likely link remains with Elizabeth Drakeford who married Johannas Drakeford in 1723, and whilst not the male line, does present a Drakeford line and could well link into the Norton family. Solomon Drakeford, a potter, had parents called John & Elizabeth. The time line appears to be a generation out, but the link is quite possibly there.

DEC 2021

## 5) The Drakeford shield, coat of arms, and mottoes

The family was never entitled. Nevertheless, in Stafford from the late 1500s all the way until 1814 it was used in and around the town as will be seen from this part of the family history. Richard Drakeford, 'The Mariner', when he became High Sherriff of Staffordshire in 1753 sought to have the family crest and shield confirmed as authentic so that he could use it during his tenure. He was not successful.

The shield and crest were also seen on documents used by the Congleton Drakeford family; indeed, it is understood that Richard Drakeford, "The Merchant", came from the Drakeford family in and around Congleton, and earlier than that in Wolstanton. This tale of the crest is to be found in the **Study Paper 1**. This link is verified by the 1594 letter and associated land transactions. Because of this the whole story about the **1594 letter**, affecting mainly Congleton, but also Stafford and Norton-in-the-Moors families, it is also described in greater detail in the **Study paper 1**.

At St Mary's Stafford one of the Drakeford plaques has been inscribed the motto reading '*Semper Fidelis*', 'always faithful'.

Drakeford crest as shown on the  
New Map of Staffordshire





A known family item is the large map dated 1747, held by Chris and Sue Drakeford, which has around the borders the coat of arms of the Staffordshire dignitaries at the time. These include not only that for the Drakeford family but also those of the other notable Staffordshire families.



New map of  
Staffordshire  
- 1747

Somewhat ironically the significant families connected to the Drakefords, that is to say the shields of the Babingtons, Bowyers and Littletons were not listed on all editions of the map. From this we can deduce that it was an opportunity for those that wanted it to be known that they were associated with a shield, rather than those that had already climbed up the ladder!

The map has been ascertained as a later version produced in 1747 by James Smith of Newcastle-under-Lyme and John Bowles of London and dedicated to Lord Gower. This was based on an even earlier map by Robert Plot dated 1682. Below there is reference to a claim that in 1753 the coat of arms existed 'above 200 years' before that date. On the other hand Richard Drakeford was trying to substantiate legality/ownership and he would say that, wouldn't he?

[Research is ongoing to determine evidence of the shield prior to 1682 MWD. Any help with this would be appreciated.](#)

The whole story is contained in **Study Paper 1**, along with pictures of the shields.

Correspondence about the Drakeford Coat of Arms dated 1753 comprising of transcripts of two letters from John Warburton, Somerset Herald to Richard Drakeford of Stafford, High Sheriff of Staffordshire in 1753 are also available in **Study Paper 1 and the Addendum below**.

## **6) Richard Drakeford (1576-1639) – changing of the Stafford Constitution 1614**

In 1622 the population of Stafford was just 1,550. As mentioned above James I visited the town in August 1617. Just a few years before the visitation, the leadership of the town had been in disarray.

From 1476 Stafford had been governed by two Bailiffs and 25 capital Burgesses. The bailiffs were chosen by the Burgesses. For an unknown reason, and at a cost of £100, this number was reduced to 21 from 1605. The 'wrong sort' of people were being elected as capital Burgesses, consequently something had to be done to keep the authority in the town on an even keel.

It became so bad that in order to save disgrace for the town in 1612 a group of 'horrified' leading dignitaries, among them 'The **Merchant**' and **Clements Inn Lawyer, Richard Drakeford**, tried to persuade a roguish former bailiff **John Towers** who was described by **Thomas Worswick**, the town's Coroner as having a reputation for being irreligious and 'a common adulterer', from seeking re-election alongside a keeper of an unruly alehouse, **Nicholous Seckerson** alias Woodhouse. The group failed and they were elected and not long after Towers and Seckerson showed that they were incompetent. In April 1613 the Drakeford group resolved to petition the King James I, for a new charter that would establish a better form of town government. Instead of the existing process they wanted a corporation consisting eleven Aldermen, and ten chief Burgesses, and to replace the existing office with two bailiffs and a mayor elected annually from the ranks of Aldermen. The recorder and six members of the corporation, including Drakeford who

had been a Head Bailiff in 1611, were assigned to pursue the matter. **Richard Drakeford** was described by **Matthew Craddock** as *'The primo motor of all this business'*.

For 12 months this created widespread hostility. The ordinary freemen, who were mostly tradesmen, objected to the thought of being disenfranchised. Those in the current corporation realized that they would not be appointed Alderman and thus mayor were equally vociferous. In July 1613 no less than 60 of the borough's 80 freemen petitioned the king to be allowed to retain the old charter. At around this time **Lady Crompton** the widow of **Sir Thomas Crompton**, who nursed a personal grudge against one of the charter's key supporters, Matthew Craddock, notified the **Bishop of Coventry, Richard Neile** that the charter would in effect turn St Mary's, Stafford into an ecclesiastical peculiar. Neile was furious and threatened to use his influence to stop the charter in its tracks. However, **Richard Drakeford** and his friends had their own allies at court, in particular the Lord Privy Seal, the **Earl of Northampton**, 'who above all others' they desired to be their High Steward. By cultivating Lord Northampton and inserting a proviso to protect Neile's interests they smoothed the charter's passage. Meanwhile, back in Stafford they suborned one of their principal opponents by adding his name to the list of prospective Aldermen. Consequently in April 1614 the Charter was finally enrolled.

However, the difficulties encountered led to a spiralling cost of creating the charter from £100 to in excess of £300, quite beyond the town's meagre resources, and were it not for the fact that **Matthew Craddock, Thomas Worswick** and (to a lesser extent) **Richard Drakeford** pledged their own credit, the charter would have proved unaffordable. One would expect that all three would have been to the fore when King James I visited the town in 1617. *Source: The History of Parliament: The House of Commons, 1604-1629. Cambridge University Press.*

On 7<sup>th</sup> May 1614 **Matthew Craddock** aged 30, was sworn in at the Shire Hall as the first Mayor of Stafford. **Richard Drakeford** was mayor in 1620 and again later in 1635. **Thomas Worswick** was mayor of Stafford in 1622.

On a visit by the **'Drakeford family Group' to Stafford in 2017**, we were presented with a list of names resulting from the Stafford Charter of 1614:

The **Charter of 1614**, in a similar manner to the 1605 Charter, named the members of the new corporation, firstly naming "Our beloved Matthew Cradocke, Esq., to become and to be the first and present Mayor of the Borough...."

It also named the ten Aldermen of the Borough whom the next Mayor was to be selected. They were: **John Austen, Thomas Cradocke, Francis Dorrington, Richard Dorrington, Richard Drakeford, Edward Moreton, William Moy, John Wilson, Stephen Winkle and Thomas Worswicke.**

Also named were the first ten Chief Burgesses: **John Lutterford, William Smith, Robert Smith, Nicholas Woodhouse, John Lees, Arthur Hills, Thomas Smith, James Wilson, William Waltho and Hugh Hamersley.**

Both group of officers were “to continue in the same offices during their natural lives”.

**The Stafford Mace.** We were also shown the Stafford maces. The belief is that the Great Mace was purchased in 1614. At one time it was thought that this had been replaced after the Commonwealth from 1649-1660, but close examination revealed otherwise. Two smaller maces were found to be from 1614.

The records show that Richard Drakeford was charged with purchasing a mace of silver weighing a massive 111 1/2ozs at a cost of £48.7s 2d on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1614 from the Goldsmith Anthony Bennett added to this was the cost was the case at 12/-. The receipt at £48.19.2d for this is still held. Richard paid the boys in the shop 4d and for carriage from London paid 5 shillings. Drakeford thus claimed £49.4s 6d.

On 30<sup>th</sup> July, this was paid by Matthew Craddock and receipted by Richard on 30<sup>th</sup> July. He did not get reimbursed by the town and petitioned the Lord Chancellor the following year on 10 February 1615/16. He was successful and received recompense by 1617. We know this because for the town Francis Dorrington complained that there was now insufficient money in the coffers to pay for the forthcoming visit by James I. He suggested that the Mace should be sold to pay for this, which was of course a touch of sarcasm on his part.

The king did visit the town, and as was the custom he remarked that the Mace was as fine as any other carried before him and should thereafter never be allowed to rest in a horizontal position!

Over the years the Great Mace was examined, resulting in a very long explanation to the effect that it was indeed changed during the Commonwealth to suit the powers of the day and changed back when Charles ‘re-took’ the throne in 1660. All this is shown in the booklet titled Stafford Maces, by P.H. Robinson, published by Stafford Borough Council 1978.

**This photograph shows the mace on show during a visit by the Drakeford family in 2017 hosted by the Mayor and Mayoress of Stafford**



**7) Richard Drakeford (1697-1757), of Stafford** known as **'The Mariner'**, Naval career from 1709, later Prize and Pay Agent, Deputy Sheriff 1730, High Sheriff of Staffordshire 1753

This **Richard Drakeford** was the son of **Edward Drakeford (1656-1709) 'The Ironmonger'** and his second wife Honor Durham of Bridewell Precinct, London. Richard made a great deal of money as a captain's clerk, ships purser, and a prize money pay agent. He owned properties in Gosport near the naval base and later in his life in the **Castle Church** area of Stafford, including Forebridge Hall where he died aged 60.

Edward 'The Ironmonger' was the third living son of Richard Drakeford and Anne Babington. Their first son, Richard 'Three Wives' acquired the family estate. The second eldest, **Matthew (1653-1703)**, went into the church and became the vicar of St Mary's, Stafford. Not being the heir, and like other junior Drakeford brothers Edward had to find his own way in life and because of this he left Stafford for London.

The family line shows that Richard 'The Mariner', a grandchild of Richard Drakeford and Anne Babington, has an ancestry back to Edward I.

The records at the Staffordshire County Record Office evidence that in 1730 a Richard Drakeford was appointed **Under Sheriff** by William Robbins, **High Sheriff of Staffordshire**. This is reference D1798/HM39/16/1 which contained the information with fees and profits. It seems unlikely it is 'The Mariner' because he was just 33 at the time and well ensconced with naval matters! His nephew, Richard, later the Stafford Town Clerk, was born 1705 and just completing his articles. Perhaps as Under Sheriff, rather than Deputy Sheriff this was such a role to train a likely Town Clerk?

Failing that supposition perhaps it fell to a Richard of Congleton. At that time, dying in 1747 was Richard Drakeford a silk weaver, but he was less likely to have such a role.

In March 1753, Richard Drakeford (1697-1757) of Castle Church living at the 'Drakeford Mansion House' (no doubt Forebridge Hall where the arms were displayed in a window) made application to have the **Drakeford coat of arms** verified. This was required because he had just been appointed High Sheriff of Staffordshire. There is no doubt that he was 'The Mariner' and was High Sherriff of Staffordshire. Without having issue, he was advised against the high cost of the exercise. The inference was that he was not of sufficient breeding, nor family status for the investigation to proceed. Copies of the correspondence from **John Warburton**, Somerset Herald are provided in Study Paper No: 1 and the Addendum below.

This enquiry was pre-dated by a map with all the coats of arms for Staffordshire gentry showing the **Drakeford family coat of arms and dated 1747**. This was a later edition of one from 1682, which also showed the Drakeford coat of arms. This was some 71 years before the Somerset Herald advised that the right to use the Coat of Arms could not be substantiated. The comment was made that the idea of the Eagle Displayed was from the **Damford** family coat of arms, although today such arms attached to that name is not readily ascertainable. Importantly any substance to such a Drakeford embellishment was not proven, not least because no 'Drakeford' was subject to a regular Visitation by the heraldry that is required to continue the attribution and use of such an emblem..... perhaps it cost the family too much money.

One possibility is that the close ties to **Sir William Bowyer** and **Sir Edward Littleton** through **Mercie Drakeford**, wife of Richard Drakeford (1576-1639), caused the creation of the coat of arms, perhaps without taking the trouble to get them authenticated. It seems most likely that the said coat of arms was created but not used when Richard Drakeford (1576-1639) was invited to appear at the coronation of **King Charles I** in 1625 to receive the order of **Knighthood** but declined. Richard was fined £10 for not attending.

It has become clear that in the late 1500s onwards the Drakeford family was mixing with other families that were bearing arms.

## **The career of Richard Drakeford 'The Mariner' and Prize Agent**

Until recently, that is June 2017, it was assumed by the Staffordshire Record Office that the death of Richard 'The Mariner' indicates the first break in the direct decent in the line since the point where it started with from Richard/Mercy in about 1557; that is just over 200 years. This was mainly because there was marriage with Francis Wood attributed to the wrong Richard. She was in fact married to Richard 'The Town Clerk'.

During initial investigations there appears information at the Staffordshire Record Office that was contradictory. There follows the reason of the discovery of a second line and the reason for the mix-up. For Richard Drakeford, we assumed this one, he is said to have started his naval career in 1709 and died in 1757. He was possibly appointed Under Sheriff in 1730 and was certainly High Sheriff for the year 1753. On the former appointment there is still some doubt.

It was initially assumed that his parents were Richard and Pricilla. However, Stafford parish records do not state when he was baptised. As his assumed father was baptised in 1673, perhaps this son Richard was born at the earliest in 1697, which would make his naval career start at the age 12, which is feasible. HOWEVER, as he would have been ensconced with his naval career there seems no reason why, at the age of 33, he would become a Deputy High Sheriff. Noting that his mother would have given birth after a span of 12 years before her second child, Priscilla was born in 1709, and her last child, William was born in 1723, 28 years after her first born. Even if she had been a child bride of say 16 to still be producing child at the age of 44 is quite something. If this is correct, she would have died at the age of 77 and her life span 1680-1757.

This analysis is only just feasible. As this Richard married Frances in 1738 it is quite possible that Richard's naval career kept him away from home for long periods, and only after he had started to make his fortune could he concentrate on furthering his family life, hence his marriage at the age of 41. Alas, all too late for a family. Further investigation reveals a second line of Drakeford also involving the cross ownership of Forebridge Hall.....Read on.

Richard in his Will leaves a bequest to his sister Anne Maes. It is noted that it was duly attested that Richard was the lawful son of the deceased on all three documents below dated November 1728. Indeed, it has been confirmed that Richard 'The Mariner' described below was indeed the son of Richard and Priscilla. (source: SRO; Staffordshire at Sea)

In summary, the investigation revealed the main line was still intact and the second line through Edward, son of Richard and Anne Babington to Richard 'The Mariner' was a side show that ended after just one generation!! To continue with Richard 'The Mariner' .....

The book entitled 'Corsairs and Navies 1660-1760' under a chapter 'Prize Office and Prize Agency at Portsmouth 1689-1748' gives the following: '*Drakeford had been at sea as early as 1709 and was soon serving as a captain's clerk. By 1731 he was purser and continued until 1744 first on the 'Tiger' and the Lennox, though he was not at sea after 1744*'. The account indicates that at the prize agency he received and sold prize goods through an agency as Prize Agent. The account indicates that the recipients of prize money who risked all on the high seas often thought that they received too little. Many of these accounts for named ships indicate amounts from a few hundred pounds to many thousands of pounds being distributed.

The following scheme for distribution of prize money was used for much of the Napoleonic wars, the heyday of prize warfare. Neither the navy, nor the government received any of the prize money. It was a method whereby the officers and crew were encouraged to risk life and limb for far more than the pittance that was their naval pay. Allocation was by eighths. Two eighths of the prize money went to the captain or commander, generally propelling him upwards in political and financial circles. One eighth of the money went to the admiral or commander-in-chief who signed the ship's written orders (unless the orders came directly from the Admiralty in London, in which case this eighth also went to the captain). One eighth was divided among the lieutenants, sailing master, and captain of marines, if any. One eighth was divided among the wardroom warrant officers (surgeon, purser, and chaplain), standing warrant officers (carpenter, boatswain, and gunner), lieutenant of marines, and the master's mates. One eighth was divided among the junior warrant and petty officers, their mates, sergeants of marines, captain's clerk, surgeon's mates, and midshipmen. The final two eighths were divided among the crew, with able and specialist seamen receiving larger shares than ordinary seamen, landsmen, and boys. The pool for the seamen was divided into shares, with each able seaman getting two shares in the pool (referred to as a fifth-class share), an ordinary seaman received a share and a half (referred to as a sixth-class share), landsmen received a share each (a seventh-class share), and boys received a half share each (referred to as an eighth-class share). **Source: Wikipedia**

'The Mariner' Richard Drakeford (1697-1757) has more evidence about his life on display than any of the other Drakeford family members of any part of Great Britain. This is mostly because he was not only the holder of high office with the navy, but also a sheriff of Staffordshire in his later years. Combined with his personal papers relating to the navy and other matters being held by his friend and executor Lewis Dickenson, who happened to be a professional lawyer, meant that these records were held by his firm for many years and ended up at the Staffordshire Record Office. Here they are available on public display. These papers are partly under the name of Hand Morgan & Owen, solicitors of Stafford.

There is sufficient information for a book to be written about this man alone. The records may show 'just' 180 or so items for inspection, however, each bundle may contain a single item or perhaps 50 letters. It would take many months of concentrated work to read all these items and we have simply tried to identify the most interesting to the family history. Thanks go to Roger Hall for much research to support much of the following.

From other sources we can ascertain a list of ships on which he was purser:

1709 (or 1711)      Age 12/14 **HMS Adventurer**, Captains Clerk

1721                Age 23 **HMS Falmouth**, Writer to Captain Wade

29-30 April 1723      Age 25 **HMS Bredah**; Duties not known but he was enlisted 'in the town' by Capt. Edward St Lo of Portsmouth to join a guardship. This was a vessel with sails and rigging aboard and around a quarter of its full crew, which could be made ready for action in a matter of days or weeks rather than the months it would normally take to recommission a ship that had been laid up.

17 Dec. 1724        Age 27 **HMS Sapphire**, appointed Purser when previous purser moved to the Gloucester.

6 May 1726         Age 28 **HMS Newcastle** Appointed Purser

30 Aug. 1726        Age 29 **HMS Boyne** Appointed Purser. Temporary exchange 'till such time as one of them shall be fitted out to sea and then return to proper ship again.

14 Feb. 1726/7      Age 29 **HMS Lion**. Appointed the day after the ship was commissioned.

24 June 1728        Age 30 **HMS Tiger**. Appointed having been discharged from Lion. Both ships in Jamaica. Local appointment by Capt. Low subsequently confirmed.

19 Nov. 1734        Age 37 **HMS Windsor**. Appointed Purser.



23 Dec. 1737            Age 40 **HMS Lenox**. Appointed Purser, on a temporary exchange while the Windsor remained in commission.

1740    Discharged from HMS Windsor.

23 Feb. 1742/3           Age 45 **HMS Lenox**. Appointed Purser and described as ‘...late of Windsor’.

11 April 1744           Age 46 **HMS Devonshire**. Appointed Purser, following discharge from Lenox and the death of the Devonshire’s purser.

16 Aug. 1745           Age 48 **HMS Chichester**. Temporary exchange during the Devonshire’s voyage.

23 July 1746           Age 49 **HMS Princessa**. An exchange appointment as Purser. This is possibly the **HMS Princess**, captured as the *Princesa* by the Royal Navy in 1740, and used as a 70gun ship of the line thereafter. On 30 May 1747, John Hawker was appointed Purser on board the *Princessa*.

2 May 1749            Age 51 **HMS Princess Amelia**. He asks for leave of absence due to ill health while on service to the Coast of New Guinea and the West Indies.

6 May 1747            It was noted in a letter to Commissioner Richard Hughes, Portsmouth it was requested that Richard Drakeford be granted a further leave of absence due to illness, noting that he had not done any duty since his appointment as Purser. ‘..... has informed Mr Drakeford that he must do his own duty and has ordered him to be left out of his leave warrant’.

This appears to be the end of Richard’s career at sea. On 4 December 1751, aged 54, he was given leave to recover his health. Effectively from 1749 a series of warrants was issued until 1752. It was in June 1752 that *HMS Princess Amelia* was broken up and it would appear that Drakeford never actually did any duty on her.

In summary, Richard Drakeford was Ship’s Purser between 1726 and 1746 on eleven naval vessels. During the latter part of this period, he was able to take leave to act as Prize and Pay Agent based in Gosport. As shown above, the vessels were not limited to those for which he was the Purser. Clearly, he was able to combine both roles. During some of this time he worked in partnership with fellow Prize Agent Edward Jasper from 1744 until 1746.

This information available at the Staffordshire Record Office includes a number of subjects including some of the following:

- a) A copy of the marriage settlement dated 1738 between Richard and his wife, a widow called Francis Wood, formerly of Dorrington Shropshire. This is misleading because this was the Richard, known as 'The Town Clerk'. However, it was the family of this Town Clerk Richard to whom 'The Mariner' left his fortune.
- b) A list of the ships for which he acted as Prize Agent:

Those highlighted in this list **below** are certainly HM's ships on which he was a purser at some time.

**HMS Lennox** – prize ship: Princessa

HMS Eltham – prize ship: Del Carmino \*

HMS Kinsale – prize ship: St Pierre, and St Catherine, and St John the Baptist

HMS Lizard – prize ship: L' Indomptable

HMS Captain – prize ship: Dauphin

Their Majesty's Ships the Chester, Kent, Hampton Court, **Lyon**, Eagle, Advice, Hector, Dolphin and Pluto with the prize being 37 Sail (?) of St Domingo ships with the prize assets being shared among the nine naval vessels.

HMS Inverness and HMS Portland – prize ship: Angelica

HMS Arundel – prize ship: Elvira

\*More details are available in Government records. Here is an example identified by Chris Drakeford:

#### **Treasury Book and Papers 1744**

*Sept.12 Report to the Treasury from Edw. Greenley, King's Proctor in the Courts of Admiralty, dated Doctors Commons.*

*On the memorial from Richard Drakeford, Thomas Fisher, and Edward Jasper, concerning the application of the prize money arising from the Spanish prize "Nuestra Senora del Camino" taken by the "Eltham" in July 1739, and ever since detained at Portsmouth in a perishing condition.*

**Endorsed:** -1744 Sept 3. Read. Agreed to 2 Pages.

**Appending:** - a) Said memorial of Drakeford &o, with order of reference of date 1744 Sept.7 (Sept. 6). 2 pages

b) Affidavit as to the state of the said ship about August 1744. 1 page.

*Treasury Boards Papers CCCXV. No. 3*

A further example, not listed above is the advertisement for the sale of goods at Gosport:

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For SALE by the CANDLE  
At the INDIA ARMS in GOSPORT  
On Thursday, Aug. 27, at Ten o'clock in the morning  
THE following Prize Goods landed there  
Out of the Golden Pearl, bound from Cette for Havre-  
De-Grace, taken by his Majesty's Ship the Arundel, John  
Reynolds Esq; Commander  
518 Pancheons  
3 Butts French Wine Red  
2 Hogsheads )  
66 Pancheons }  
10 Hogsheads }  
10 Pieces of Brandy  
3 Calks of Verdig cafe  
3 Calks of Argol  
1 Calk of Almonds  
53 Chests Soap  
3 Hogsheads  
All for exportation  
*The above Goods may be viewed from this Day to the Time  
Of Sale, by applying to Mr. Richard Drakeford, in Gosport  
where Catalogues may be had, and of  
William and Benj. Vaughan, Brokers\*.*

\* Note the name Vaughan, William was married to Priscilla, daughter of Richard Drakeford, Town Clerk

The details of the prize and the list of recipients from the captain of the naval vessel to the officers and individual crew members are available. Sometimes the crew received just a few pounds, and sometimes a hundred pounds or so. It was normally the former. In the largest prize the captain received about £8,000, the officers £1,000 and the crew £120. This was the exception, but it does indicate just why these people risked life and limb in the most dangerous of circumstances for what was to them a fortune. The western values of society today would abhor this 'business'. However, some parts of the world accept this activity and the taking of vessels on the high seas around Somalia would be a prime example. High risk, and high rewards for the perpetrators.

The records also include sale catalogues, disbursements and receipt records, distribution lists and crew lists, along with a detailed administrative record of Drakeford's work as prize agent.

- c) A summary of the work by Drakeford includes orders and letters sent by him as Captain's clerk on board the *Adventurer*, 1709 – 11.
- d) Furthermore, Richard left his estate mainly to Richard Drakeford 'The Major', the son of Richard Drakeford 'The Town Clerk', his cousin's son.
- e) There are many letters from the family including a letter from William Drakeford, the son of Richard Drakeford 'The Town Clerk' of Stafford, asking that he should be provided with a suitable commission in the navy. There are others simply asking for money. Not least is one after Richard had died in 1757 from 'The Town Clerk's eldest son who was to inherit the fortune of Richard 'The Mariner'. It pleads with his uncle Matthew and Mr Dickenson that he should have an allowance suitable to satisfy his future expectations.
- f) Further sources available include 'Prize Office and Prize Agency at Portsmouth' (1689-1748) – Prof. J.S. Bromley in 'Hampshire Studies' 1981.
- g) A painting being the portrait of Richard Drakeford 'The Mariner' possibly when he held office as High Sheriff around 1750 has been obtained by the family. **Copies by photograph are available from Chris Drakeford.**

The Painting of Richard  
Drakeford, 'The Mariner',  
(copyright M Drakeford)



See 8(k) below for the Will of 'The Mariner'

## 8) Résumé of the Drakeford family incorporating a history of Stafford with reference to the Drakeford Wills from 1639 to 1814.

### a) Richard Drakeford – ‘The Elder’

As a quick guide the following is the direct blood line, we can start with **Richard Drakeford born around 1550** about whom we know very little, save for early documents referring to Richard Drakeford "" but little more. The earliest substantive records for this line include a land deal by way of a gift dated 1580 and an important letter dated 1594.

In this letter **Richard Drakeforde/John Drakeforde/Edward Drakeforde/sister/Thomas Drakeforde** appear. From these we can compare with the land deals from 1608 onwards and deduce that these were the main players and likely to be Richard ‘The Merchant’s’ father, and his uncles involved. See land deals extract below. \*

The main Stafford line is as follows:

**Richard Drakeforde ‘The Elder’ (say 1550 – 1600)**

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**Richard Drakeford (1576-1639) – ‘The Merchant’** = Marcie/Mercie/Mercy Bowyer, daughter of **William Bowyer, gent. and Mercie Stone**

|

**Richard Drakeford (1610 – 1679) – ‘The Babington’** = Anne Babington of Curboro’ daughter of **William Babington and Ellen Littleton**

|

**Richard Drakeford (1650 – 1700) – ‘Three Wives’** =1) Elizabeth Brecknock, married 1672, died 1676, 2) Elizabeth Perrott (with marriage settlement 1677) 3) Rebecca Crompton.

|

**Richard Drakeford (1673 – 1728) – ‘The Goldsmith/Refiner’** = Priscilla Foden, daughter of **Edward Foden** of Stafford

|

**Richard Drakeford (1697 – 1757) – ‘The Town Clerk’** = Frances Wood of Stafford

|

**Richard (1740-1789) – ‘The Major’** - No Issue.

|

**Edward Drakeford (1749 -1814)** = believed unmarried, and certainly no issue.

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**Richard Drakeford (1697-1756) 'The Mariner'** and grandson of Richard Drakeford and Anne Babington purchased the family estates from Richard 'The Town Clerk' and later left them to 'The Major'. Richard 'The Goldsmith' was a first cousin of **Richard 'The Mariner'**, the son of **Edward Drakeford (1656-1709)** who was the **youngest son of Richard Drakeford and Anne Babington**. Therefore, 'The Town Clerk' was also a cousin, but removed. Richard 'The Major' was also a cousin and died in 1789. His brother **Edward (1749-1814)**, was the surviving and youngest son of that family, inherited the estates and when he died, he gave his considerable wealth to friends and servants and just £50 went to a member of the Congleton Drakefords.

\* All this fits in with some of the known land deals in 10) below. For example, in 1617 the purchasers of land from Bowyer were Richard 'The Elder' and Richard Drakeford. The second Richard could not have been described below born in 1610 and aged just 7. Hence it must be a previous generation. This purchased involved 29 acres being tythes of hay at Seighford, Aston and Cookesland (or lane). The Bowyers had land around Seighford, where they lived.

Referring to the 'Important Letter' above, this Richard (1576-1639) had a father Richard and presumably uncles Edward, John. and Thomas. In the land dealings from 1608 to 1623 the following names appeared on one or more occasions.

- 1) Richard Drakeford 1608-1617, 1622,
- 2) Mercy Drakeford with Richard sold land in 1617.
- 3) Thomas Drakeford 1617, twice that year. (Norton and/or Congleton)
- 4) Richard Drakeford 'The Elder' and the Younger 1617
- 5) William Drakeford 'The Elder' 1621, 1622, 1624
- 6) Edward Drakeford 1621
- 7) John Drakeford 1622

This list certainly shows a plethora of Drakefords of note owning land, mainly as Yeomen farmers.

\*\* Richard Drakeford junior married an Elizabeth Barrett, see a marriage settlement dated 1677. This is thought to be a spelling error for the more unusual name of Perrott.

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The question must be - which offspring of the Drakefords listed above provided the connection to the Congleton and Potteries families?

The Congleton/Stafford connection appears to be through Edward Drakeford (15?? – 1646) who appears to be the uncle of Richard Drakeford (1610-1679) 'Three Wives', and thus brother of Richard Drakeford (1576-1639), 'The Merchant' who married Mercy Bowyer.

As for the Pottery connection which, from the present time we can tentatively track back our line to our ancestors **John Drakeford married to Elizabeth around 1750 in Norton-in-the-Moors.**

We believe we could be connected to the Elizabeth Drakeford, daughter of Elizabeth Perrott who married Richard 'Three Wives' in 1677. She was also called Elizabeth and she married Johannes (John) Drakeford in 1723. At this time we cannot trace their children who if existed would have been born from 1724 onwards. Investigations continue.

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**About Stafford** – Before describing in detail the Drakeford Wills it is useful to describe the town of Stafford and the main factors affecting the areas in which the family was first established.

Stafford town had been a settlement since about 750 A.D., and fortified by a ditch and earth bank, with a wooden palisade on top since 913. Evidence of a pottery industry since 800 A.D. has been found. At these early stages of the development Stafford was a burh, a royal town where traders were encouraged to settle and develop a market. The burgesses, those who lived in the 'burh' were so called, made a payment being two thirds to the king and one third to the Earl of Mercia, and the latter was charged with maintaining the defences.

The town flourished and in the 10<sup>th</sup> century when Edward 'The Elder' divided what is now the West Midlands into parts of Warwickshire, Worcestershire and Staffordshire, Stafford became the county town. A wooden church was replaced by one with a stone structure in the 11<sup>th</sup> century being St Chad's. By this time Stafford had a mint for coins of the realm. Coins included those for Ethelred, Canute, Harold and William I. The pottery industry prospered. By 1066 there were 179 houses in the town and a population of around 900.

The Norman invasion did not end in 1066. Early in 1069 a Norman army was defeated in a battle at Durham, and a combined English and Danish army captured York, and Edric the Wild led a rising of the English in Cheshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire. This attracted revenge by William, and he built a number of castles in the area including one at Stafford, which was of wood. The site is no longer known. By the time of the Domesday Book the castle was no longer garrisoned. The later castle was built by Ralph de Stafford from 1347 and was a significant structure.

By the 13<sup>th</sup> century the population of Stafford had grown to at least 1,500 people. Outside the town walls was a small suburb at the Green in Forebridge, south-east of the town and in Lord Stafford's manor of Castle Church had also developed but its inhabitants never acquired the rights of burgesses.

By the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> century the most vulnerable parts of the town wall had been rebuilt in stone and the three entrances to the town were protected by stone gatehouses. The work started around 1224. The gates were shut at night and the townspeople had to stand duty. This was an unpopular role and in 1307 the town was fined for failing to carry out this task.

St Chad's and St Mary's churches were constructed in the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries respectively.

A royal court was sitting in the town in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, presided over by the Sheriff and a gaol for the Sheriff's use was built in 1185.

In 1206, the same year as the proceedings mentioned in Study Paper No: 1, involving the de Drakeford brothers, the borough received its first charter from King John. By this charter the King gave the burgesses various privileges; disputes could be settled in a borough court, and the annual payment of 5 marks would go to the Exchequer rather than to the Sheriff. Further charters in 1228 and 1315 gave the right to the burgesses to appoint their own coroner and build their own gaol. Before the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century the reeve, who had hitherto been appointed by the King and presided over the town court and been responsible for making payments from the borough to the Exchequer, was replaced by two bailiffs chosen annually between the senior burgesses.

The bailiffs would now preside over the town court. The 12 senior burgesses would report to the Court offences against the community such as polluting of wells, selling bad ale, or leaving dunghills by the roadside.

The pottery industry had declined by the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and this was very much overtaken by trade in wool and cloth, and by 1286 the burgesses successfully claimed a monopoly in the selling of wool in the fleece in Stafford.

## **There follows a list of events of interest in date order:**

**By 1290 there was a manor known as Forebridge.** The first mention of the area known as '**The Green**', to the south of the river crossing, was in 1304. (*source: Forebridge Conservation area Appraisal*)

In the 14<sup>th</sup> century Stafford, like many other towns suffered a decline due to various things including poor harvests and plague. Other towns in Staffordshire had become more populous. Most burgesses were in a small way of business such as cappers, smiths, tanners and tailors. Various guilds started to emerge including shoemakers.

There were also a small number of richer men, who were mainly merchants but also included keepers of the larger inns and successful businessmen. The **Craddock** family stood out and had much sway in the community during the 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. They were merchants dealing firstly with London markets and later Calais. One **Matthew Craddock-(1520-92)** was bailiff six times, church warden of St Mary's and Member of Parliament for Stafford.



On **14<sup>th</sup> May 1508**, the time of Henry VII, a certain **John Drakeford of Norton**, Husbandman, was in trouble with the law. He with others caused damage when they broke into a close of **William Bowyer**, the local landowner. Some 70 years later **Mercy Bowyer**, daughter of **William Bowyer Gent** was to marry Richard Drakeford and live in Stafford. Full details of the **Norton** Drakefords are described in the Potteries section in **Study Paper No: 5**.

In **1521** the liberty (*described as the authority*) and leet (*described as annual or semi-annual court*) of Forebridge were valued at £4.16s. 2d, and in 1522 the bailiff's fee was 60s 8d, by when this office was given by the king (Henry VIII) to **Edward Littleton** after the fall of the Duke of Buckingham. The Drakefords were later to marry into this family through **Ann Babington**, the daughter of **Helen Littleton** who married **William Babington** around 1637. In 1524 **Henry Lord Stafford** gave the office of Bailiff to Thomas Barbour at fee and wages of 60s 8d from lands and tenements in Forebridge. In 1552 the courts were held at Stafford castle, but from 1625 to 1631 they were again held at Forebridge. Staff at the Staffordshire Record Office are unable to establish the exact location of the latter.

Before Richard Leigh/Lee sold Forebridge Hall to **Richard** Drakeford in 1615 it was formerly owned by the Barbour family of Flashbrook, most probably descendants of the 1524 Thomas Barbour above.

On **22<sup>nd</sup> April 1537**, another Drakeford was taken to court. This time, along with a **Richard Tailor** of Uttoxeter, **Thomas Drakeford** of Lee (Leigh?) was taken before the bench for not repaying between them 40 shillings to **Walter Blount**. The sheriff reported that neither of them had the wherewithal to pay the debt.

#### **1539 Muster Roll -**

In 1539, Henry, Lord of Stafford, came to Penkhull and inspected the men over 16 years old who were able to serve in King Henry VIII's wars with France. The muster roll covering Pirehill Hundred, listed several local settlements and the number of men they could supply. Trentham had 35 able men, Meir had 33, Fenton and Longton 22 men, Norton 16, Penkhull 18 and Stoke 4; Fulford and Great Fenton 44 men, Tunstall 31 and Hanley 9. (*Wikipedia*)

The **Muster Role of 1539** for Henry VIII revealed that:

*For Tunstall in the Pyrehill Hundred there was noted... These persons following be abull(able) men with bylles (pikes) and have hunes(?) and actillaic(?) as folwith(?) their names ..... **Roger Drakeford** a gestine (Armoured Coat) (Source: Transcribed by RKD)*

This appears to be an early reference to a Drakeford at Tunstall confirming yet again the origin of the place name. Also, Roger appears a much-used Christian name around this time for the Drakefords. The Tunstall records show a land transaction for a Roger Drakeford etc.

**Rev. Sir Thomas Drakeford - Rector 1533-1565.** Prior to becoming rector, Thomas is noted in the Coventry and Lichfield Diocese Ordination Register in 1509 as an acolyte secular and three times in 1510 as Deacons Secular and Priests Secular on behalf of the Monastery of Dieulencres, an abbey near Leek, Staffordshire.

Thomas was noted as a curate in Leigh, Staffordshire some 12 miles north-east of Stafford. In 1533 he is recorded as paying tax of 55.4 (*it is unlikely to be £, but instead a fraction thereof, perhaps it was shillings, in which case the amount was £2 15s 4d*) as a curate, then chaplain at Field Chapel in the parish of Leigh for which he subscribed in 1559 and was described as priest. The William Salt Library has a reference to a Thomas Drakeford as curate in 1565. There is evidence that he is a member of the Drakeford family in Congleton through his being mentioned in various wills. To be a curate he had to be well connected.

Before we celebrate **the knighthood in the family**, the reference is simply a courtesy title allowed to a priest. It is used in his Will dated 1563 and also the earlier Will of William Drakeford dated 1538. It is strange that in the papers by Jennifer Davies mentioned below this is the only time the precursor is found apart from in the Wills. Perhaps this was a distinction for Thomas, about which we find was lost in the mists of time.

It is noteworthy that in modern times a priest and member of the Potteries Drakeford family, the Rev. Cyril Cresswell was the Chaplain at the Chapel Royal of the Savoy was not knighted but received the next best thing. He was a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, providing a CVO after his name. In terms of status, this personal gift from Queen Elizabeth II was just one grade below a KCVO which carries the use of the title 'Sir'. There are now so many holders of this order at various grades that it is no longer possible to hold the ceremony of a gathering of the holders at the Chapel Royal that takes place every four years, causing it now to be held at St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle. Uncle Cyril, the Reverend Cyril Leonard Cresswell (1890-1974), K.C.V.O., M.A., to be Chaplain Emeritus of the Royal Victorian Order was related to our paternal grandmother. He married our parents at St Michael's Church Tettenhall, Wolverhampton in 1938, which was a church that crops up in this family history through the Wilkes family in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. A connection to St Michaels is also mentioned in the History of the Congleton Drakefords.

**Jennifer Davies** prepared a paper on the Wills and Religious changes in the Archdeaconry of Stafford, 1532-1580. In this she refers to the changes from the time when Henry VIII turned away from the Roman Catholic Church. The extensive 300-page treatise details the changes and the effect on the clergy. Among many others she cites the work of **Sir Thomas Drakeford**, and the way he wrote 26 Wills when he was curate at Leigh in Staffordshire between 1533 and 1557, and 1562 when he wrote three Wills as a curate at Gratwich.

Along with another curate he was considered a Catholic sympathiser and wrote the Wills in such a way that his parishioners could have a Will that reflected their desire to retain their previous beliefs for the keeping of their souls after death. For example, in his early Wills, he would refer to

the Virgin Mary rather than Jesus. In his own Will, dated 1563 and No. 5 of the Drakeford Wills compiled by George Fitch, he refers to *'Fyrst I bequeyeth mye Sowll to allmygthye God mye maker and Redeemer, besechyng hym to be narcyfull'*. Perhaps he had by this time been persuaded to change his allegiance.

The Will of Sir Thomas Drakeford and those of his near relatives have been obtained and will be evaluated to determine if there is also a connection with the Stafford Drakefords. The work also refers to Sir Edward Littleton and the way he prepared for his burial at Penkrige. For the time being these Wills are noted in the rear attachment of this tome and are pending further investigation. [Action MWD to track down earlier wording and further details of the burial.](#)

**Plague and disease** were a constant threat. Every householder had to keep the street outside his house clean and the central drain clear so that water could run off. Drinking water came from the town wells and the townspeople were forbidden to wash clothes and clean fish nearby or allow horses to drink from the buckets belonging to the wells. Dung had to be taken to the town dunghills outside the gates, not piled by the roadside. In the latter part of the 16<sup>th</sup> century the town of Stafford was generally in a state of poor repair. Queen Elizabeth visited the town in 1575. In the latter years of that century things did improve and several large houses were built. Importantly the assizes returned after an absence because the Shire Hall had been in such a state of disrepair that the court could not be held in the town.

**1586 - Anthony Babington** was hung drawn and quartered on Tower Hill for his participation in a plot to put Mary Queen of Scots on the English throne. **See Babington Family Connection below.**

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century the town was still very much concentrated within the old town walls except for the suburb of Foregate and a few houses across the bridge at Forebridge. In 1622 there was a population of 1,550 living as 385 households and Stafford was now half the size of Lichfield.

## **People of note in Stafford**

A third of all heads of a household were now burgesses dominated by a small number of wealthy merchants, most of whom traded with London. The **Craddock** family was to the fore with **Matthew Craddock**, born in 1584, who had a legal training. Other important merchants included **John Dorrington**, who built the High House, **Richard Drakeford**, **Edward Moreton** and **William Moye**. When William Moye died in 1636, he owned three houses in the town, and land outside it and his goods were valued at £458. Richard Drakeford and William Moye were great friends.

A little before this **Edward Drakeford** was **Under-sheriff** to Sir Edward Littleton in 1593/94. See *'Important Letter of 1594'* above. William Moye was involved with the Drakeford family, in particular **Thomas Drakeford** of Congleton in 1617 when he was party with Thomas to a purchase of 50 acres of land at Stutton from {Thomas} Feyre. These and other land dealings are summarised in Section 10, below showing Drakeford Land Deals and show the influence of the Drakefords and their friends.

**1614, Matthew Craddock** was appointed the first mayor in May 1614. King James I visited the town in 1617. Richard Drakeford was mayor in 1621 and 1635. By the late 1630s most of the wealthy merchants had moved out of the town. **Matthew Craddock** moved to Caverswall Castle, and he died in 1636. **Richard Drakeford** moved across the river to **Forebridge Hall** in **1616**. It was acquired by Drakeford in 1615 (Doc. Ref. D1798/HM) some twelve months after he had helped to change the civic rules of Stafford and after **Francis Dorrington** had moved to London. When **William Moye** died his son moved to London from where he traded.

Subsequently the places of these influential merchants in the town affairs were mostly taken by local tradesmen.

In the text below, it can be seen that **Richard Drakeford** had close ties with the other wealthy merchants. Not only was he very much part of the pressure group to successfully change the civic constitution of Stafford town, but had also personal connections through intermarriage with the **Moretons**, and a wish to be buried near to his friend **William Moye**. He also had a legal training and helped to devise the civic constitution of Stafford resulting in **Craddock** becoming the first mayor.

Below, and thereafter are records of **land purchases and sales** (See section 10) taken from the Staffordshire Final Concords and involving the **Drakeford family between 1608 and 1624, relating in particular to Richard Drakeford (1576-1639), who accumulated 2366 acres, mostly in Staffordshire, during this period**. We currently have no record of what he held before that time or purchased subsequently.

A commentary on various Drakeford Wills follows, and further transcripts are to follow in the addendum. The Drakefords of Stafford can be traced back to the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century through to the father of Richard Drakeford (1576-1639) about who little is known except that he is likely to be the Richard referred to in the 1594 letter. Thus his son Richard who married into the influential Bowyer family is very much our starting point. Hence the following synopsis prior to the information about his Will.

## **b) Richard Drakeford (1576 - 1639) – ‘The Merchant’**

The major player of the Drakeford family in Stafford appears to be this man. He would have had brains, connections and the ability to create wealth. There is a connection with Congleton as shown above by the *important letter* dated 7<sup>th</sup> August 1594, part of the **Persehowse family of Reynolds’ Hall** collection. **John Drakeford** of London, possibly Spitalfields, wrote to **Edward Drakeford** his brother. Edward was in 1593/94 **undersheriff** to **Sir Edward Littleton**, with whom the Drakefords had both family and business connection through mainly land sales. The connection is that the brothers mentioned in the letter were in Cheshire, and mainly Congleton.

**Richard Drakeford's** involvement with the **changing of the town constitution for Stafford** is detailed in Section 6) above.

We have established that Richard and his family were significant in Stafford and the surrounding area. As already mentioned all this fits in with some of the **above land deals**. For example in 1617 the purchasers of land from William Bowyer were Richard 'The Elder' and Richard Drakeford. The second Richard could not be the son described below who was born in 1610, hence it must go one generation back. Thus Richard (1576-1639) probably had a father Richard and uncles Edward, John and Thomas. This fits in with the letter dated 1594.

As shown above in the **land dealings from 1608 to 1623** the following names appeared on one or more occasions.

- 1) **Richard Drakeford** 1608-1617, 1622,
- 2) **Mercy Drakeford with Richard** sold land in 1617
- 3) **Thomas Drakeford** 1617, twice that year. (Norton and/or Congleton)
- 4) **Richard Drakeford 'The Elder'** 1617
- 5) **William Drakeford 'The Elder'** 1621, 1622, 1624
- 6) **Edward Drakeford** 1621
- 7) **John Drakeford** 1622
- 8) **Richard and Elizabeth Drakeford\*** sold land in 1622 in conjunction with **Richard Drakeford 'the younger'** and **Margery** as well as **Edward**. This was sold to William Bowyer.

\*This couple, if that is what they were, are unlikely to be either Richard D. & Elizabeth Brecknock or Richard D. & Elizabeth Perrott who were married approximately 50 years later in 1673 and 1677 respectively.

It is not known if this grouping for the land transactions was one Drakeford family or more.

With regards to the Wills, in some cases there is available an audit of the assets of the testator. These have not been transcribed because they must have been written in haste and are hardly legible, but a hard copy is in some cases available.

Some of the Wills will be the actual documents signed by the deceased and others will be a copy of the Will as proven by the various courts, along with the proof itself acknowledged by the court authority.

The form used for an Administration by the lawyers was sometimes a printed document with blanks filled in by hand. If we examine these closely, it can be seen that the printed material is not only printed as script, a type face is not used as in books but a script akin to the actual Will and certainly a lot easier to read. Of even greater interest is that a comparison of the Administration for **William Drakeford** dated 9<sup>th</sup> October 1714 has EXACTLY the same print as that of **Richard Drakeford** used 14 years later in 1728.

Rarely do we have both the original will, the printed administration authority and the complete list of assets for one individual estate but we do have these for Richard Drakeford 'The Elder' who married Anne Babington and died in 1679. Confusingly, as one Richard became the oldest, he was referred to as the 'Elder', hence there were several using the synonym over time.

**SRO reference D1798/HMDRAKEFORD/43** Lease for possession:

At times there are very interesting discoveries. One example is the '**Lease**' entered into by **Richard Drakeford of Stafford and Edward Drakeford of Congleton dated 1622** when Richard was at the peak of his powers. It was written at a time of concern when King James acted against Parliament. The 'Lease' concerning Forebridge Hall, which at that time Richard had been owner for 7 years, was in fact instructions and an agreement with Edward whereby he settled debts, ensured the farms and houses stayed in family hands, and arranged for the safety and wellbeing of his several children.

This is below and is well worth reading.

*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 <sup>2</sup> 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 p'sons 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<sup>s</sup> by bond forfeyed to one [blank] Scryveno<sup>r</sup> of London fiftie pound<sup>s</sup> principall for which m<sup>r</sup> <sup>3</sup> Weye of Stretford and my Cosen m<sup>r</sup> Henrye Kent is bound With me one other Debt to the towne of Stafford of tenne pound<sup>s</sup> by bonnd, To Robert Wolsley gent' one hundreth pound<sup>s</sup> To my motherinlawe Mistris Littleton fiftie poundes, to m<sup>r</sup> Will'm Parnell for apparell fifteene pound<sup>s</sup> or ther about<sup>s</sup> To M<sup>r</sup> Henrye Kent which the said Richard Drakefford receavd of Henrye Haworth gent' for his vse thirtie shillinges To the said Henrie Kent which he +the said Richard+ receaved of Thomas Homersley for his vse three pound<sup>s</sup> more to the said Henrye Kente which he disbursed for the said Richard Drakefford for interest money Fyftie shillinges 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 Twelve hundreth pound<sup>s</sup> to and for the seu'all 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*

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<sup>2</sup> 14 April 1621

<sup>3</sup> possibly m<sup>rs</sup>

sett lett and to ferme be taken and by theise p'ntes 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<sup>s</sup> gardens landes ten'tes Closes medowes leisowes pastures wood<sup>s</sup> vnderwood<sup>s</sup> and hereditam<sup>ts</sup> whatsoeu<sup>r</sup> with their and eu<sup>r</sup>ye of their appurtennces to the said mesuage and ten'te or anie pte therof lyinge belonginge or appteyninge, or therwith vsuallie occupied **And** all other mesuages Cotages land<sup>s</sup> ten'tes rentes reu<sup>r</sup>c'ons seruices and hereditam<sup>ts</sup> whatsoeu<sup>r</sup> of the said Richard Drakefford scituate lyinge and beinge in Forbridge aforesaid or els wheare in the p<sup>r</sup>ishe 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<sup>r</sup>c'on and reu<sup>r</sup>c'ons rentes and reservac'on of all and singler the said mesuages Cotages land<sup>s</sup> ten't<sup>s</sup> hereditam<sup>ts</sup> and p<sup>r</sup>misses with thappurtenances, and eu<sup>r</sup>ye pte and pcell 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<sup>ties</sup> +Raigne+ that nowe is of England Fraunce and Ireland<sup>4</sup> made betwene the said Richard Drakefford of thone p<sup>r</sup>tie and James littleton and Will'm Drakefford gent' of thother p<sup>r</sup>tie **To have and** to holde the said Capitall mesuage mesuages Cotages land<sup>s</sup> ten'tes and all and singler other the p<sup>r</sup>misses with their and eu<sup>r</sup>ye of their app<sup>r</sup>tennc<sup>s</sup> (reservinge the before reserued. And the reu<sup>r</sup>c'ons thereof to the said Edward Drakefford his executors administrators and assignes from the Date herof to all ten'ntlie comodities easmentes p<sup>r</sup>fitt<sup>s</sup> and advantages whatsoeu<sup>r</sup> for and duringe all the terme and space of fourscore and nyneteene 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 Sainct Marten the Bishoppe in Winter (if ytt be lawfullie askd) for all rentes and demaund<sup>s</sup> **Yett** neu<sup>r</sup>theles to the vse intente and purpose that the said Edward Drakefford his executors administrators and assignes out of thissues and p<sup>r</sup>fitt<sup>s</sup> of all and singuler the said Capitall mesuage mesuages Cottages Land<sup>s</sup> ten'ts [hereditaments] and p<sup>r</sup>misses with thapp<sup>r</sup>ten'nc<sup>s</sup> shall yeld paye and satisfie to the se<sup>r</sup>uall p<sup>r</sup>sons aforesaid the said se<sup>r</sup>[all debts] duellie owinge by the said Richard Drakefford his owne due and p<sup>r</sup>per dettes And all interest and [charges] which from tyme to tyme shall become due and payable for the same vntill the same dett<sup>s</sup> and interest<sup>s</sup> shalbe payed or satisfied And shall likewise out of thissues and p<sup>r</sup>fitt<sup>s</sup> 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

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<sup>4</sup> 31 March 1619

*seu'allie 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 p<sup>r</sup>fitt<sup>s</sup> therof satisfie and paie to the said Mercie (if she be then lyvinge the su'mme of two hundreth pound<sup>s</sup> for and towards her mayntennce advancem<sup>t</sup> and p<sup>r</sup>ferm<sup>t</sup> and vpon her accomplishm<sup>t</sup> of the said Age of sixteene yeares shall out of thissues and p<sup>r</sup>fittes therof satisfie and paie to Marie Drakeford the second daughter (if she be then lyveinge the like su'mme of Two hundreth pound<sup>s</sup> for and toward<sup>s</sup> her mayntenance advancem<sup>t</sup> and p<sup>r</sup>ferm<sup>t</sup> and vpon her accomplishm<sup>t</sup> 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 p<sup>r</sup>fitt<sup>s</sup> therof satisfie and paye to the said Vrsula Drakefford (if she be then lyvinge the full sume of Two hundreth pound<sup>s</sup> for and toward<sup>s</sup> her mayntenance advancem<sup>t</sup> and p<sup>r</sup>ferm<sup>t</sup> And vpon the accomplishm<sup>t</sup> of the said age of sixteene yeares of the said Jane the yongest doughter of the said Richard shall out of thissues and p<sup>r</sup>fitt<sup>s</sup> therof satisfie and paye to the said Jane Drakefford (if she be then lyvinge the full su'mme of Two hundreth pound<sup>s</sup> for and toward<sup>s</sup> her mayntenance and p<sup>r</sup>ferm<sup>t</sup>. And vpon th'accomplishm<sup>t</sup> of thage of twenty and one yeares of Richard Drakefford the yonger sonne and heyre apparant of the said Richard Drakefford theld<sup>r</sup> shall out of thissues and p<sup>r</sup>fitt<sup>s</sup> of all and sing'ler the p<sup>r</sup>misses w<sup>th</sup> thapp<sup>r</sup>tennces satisfie and paie to the said Richard Drakefford the sone the somme of Two hundreth pownd<sup>s</sup> for and toward<sup>s</sup> his mayntenance and p<sup>r</sup>ferment **And** from and after the said seu'all +soumes+ levyed and paid and discharged as aforsaid shall out of thissues and p<sup>r</sup>fitt<sup>s</sup> of all and sing'ler the p<sup>r</sup>misses with thapp<sup>r</sup>tennc<sup>s</sup> 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<sup>s</sup> for and toward<sup>s</sup> their mayntennces **And** from and after all the forsaid dett<sup>s</sup> interest<sup>s</sup> and paym<sup>ts</sup> and eu'ye of theym levyed paide and discharged Then to the vse and intente That the said Richard Drakefford his heyres executors administrators or assignes shall or maie receaue levie have and take thissues and p<sup>r</sup>fitt<sup>s</sup> of all and sing'ler the p<sup>r</sup>misses and hereditam<sup>ts</sup> aforssaid with their app<sup>r</sup>tennces 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 Coven'nte and graunte by theise p<sup>r</sup>ntes 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<sup>s</sup> ten'ts and p<sup>r</sup>misses wth thapp<sup>r</sup>tennc<sup>s</sup> and thissues and p<sup>r</sup>fitt<sup>s</sup> therof receaue haue and take to thuses aforsaid and in manner and fourme aforesaid clearelie exon<sup>r</sup>ated acquitted or discharged or*



*sufficientlie saued and kept harmeles of and from all other and former leases graunt<sup>s</sup> 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 afore-said so made by Richard Drakefford to the said James Littleton and Will'm Drakefford as aforesaid. And excepte also one graunte of a rent charge of the su'me of twentie three pound<sup>s</sup> or therabout<sup>s</sup> ..... granted by Richard Drakefford thelder out of the said land<sup>s</sup> and ten't<sup>s</sup> in Hasley and Stretton aforesaid 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 pties alternatelie haue sett their hand<sup>s</sup> and seales Dated the daie ..... 1621*

### *Richard Drakeford*

#### **To summarise this important document:**

Richard of Stafford 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. 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 Richard's 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, Bakeswich a'ls Baswich, Stretton, Seigford, Ronton, & elsewhere 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.

**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, by cancelling Parliament in January 1622, about to take action against the Parliamentarians.

The mention of 'my cousin **Henry Kent**' is a new name to this tome.

**Further background:** Wills form excellent information that often surpasses that available from church records. Indeed, where those records have been mislaid or damaged beyond the stage where they are readable a Will may be the only source of historical evidence about a family.

There was no compulsion to make a Will. It was normally there to ensure that the person for whom the Will is written, the testator, had their specific wishes complied with. Often the family fortune had already been passed to the eldest son who would be working the estate and only smaller bequests would be made. Sometimes money was left to the poor of the town or village, and sometimes to the church, much as we would do today.

The use of Executors, Overseers, Witnesses, Appraisors and court officials all played their part. Remembering that few people could make a Will in a suitable form it often fell to the clergy, knowledgeable locals of family, or scribes.

Friends may receive a gift, the clergy a donation to the church or lawyer or his scrivener a fee. The executor could be a friend or a family member and the overseer who checked that the executor was doing as instructed. The witnesses would be anyone who was on hand, including servants, and all Wills had to be proved through the local courts, ecclesiastical or secular.

Sometimes the testator who was having the Will written would be illiterate to the extent he could not write his name and marking his or her cross would suffice with suitable witnesses.

By considering the names of all the parties involved it is quite possible to determine closely associated parts of the Drakeford family. For several members of the same family, they may use the same executors, or even the same Appraisors to list and confirm the assets of the deceased. The names that crop up frequently include those of Rowley, Henshaw, Stonier and Shaw who are acquaintances of friends. Sometimes the 'in-laws' are involved including such as Alderman Moreton, Wilkes, Alderman Austen and Thursfield.

Sometimes there was an urgency, and the proving of the Will was only days after it had been drawn up. On one occasion at least the testator was so ill she could not sign or mark the will and the witnesses had to swear before a justice of the peace affirming the truth of the document.

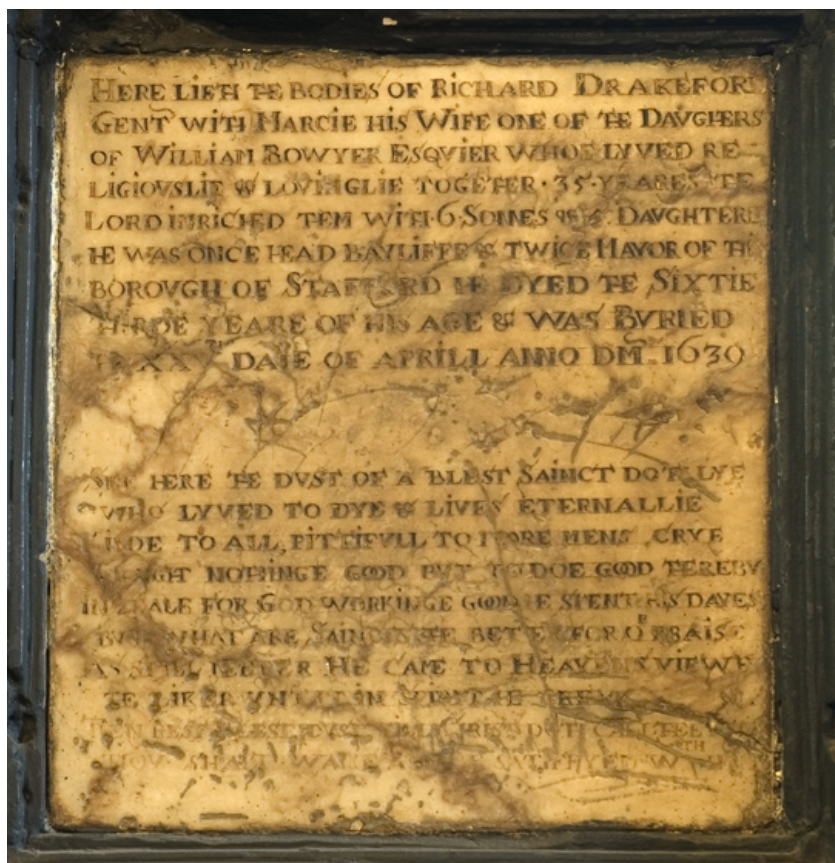
Where there was no Will drawn up and the assets were of sufficient value, letters of administration were taken out and again proved at court before the assets could be distributed. There are a number of these in our collection.

The full content of each Will is transcribed in a separate document and there follows a summary of each or the Wills relevant to the Stafford line. As far as can be ascertained these are all the Wills that are available, having been proved and copies retained in Lichfield or London.

[There may be other Drakeford wills from other sources yet to be discovered. Does any reader know of any?](#)

Some of the circumstances in which the Wills or administrations arose are quite moving. So too are the contents when it is clear that the eldest son took virtually all, the daughters if they were yet to marry would receive a sum as a dowry for their wedding and children that were still minors were provided for and looked after through education deeds or otherwise. The two sad occasions were firstly when a younger son, John Drakeford (1678-1712) went to India to make his fortune and apparently died a pauper. However, it has since been discovered that he was in fact a factor, that is to say a business agent for companies in India. His two unmarried sisters became his administrators. The second was the Will of a son John, who had been left a bequest of £200 by an

acquaintance but he was ill and had to make a Will in favour of his three brothers. He could not use the money because he died before the legacy was received.



**This monument is to be found in St Mary's Church, Stafford, relating to Richard, Mercy, and their family.**

The other portion below shows effigies of the family is to be found at the **Littleton church in Penkridge**, where it was taken in Victorian times when it was thought, having a name of Littleton, it was the Littleton family. Alas, they were wrong, Richard and Mercy had named their eldest son Littleton after the close Littleton connection.

(See Section 16 below)



**Will of Richard Drakeford 'The Elder' (1576-1639) of Stafford, dated 1639 and proved at Lichfield 1639, plus probate of said will and a Tuition Bond also dated 1639. Will number 33.**

**Name** Richard Drakeford, Gent., of Forbridge

**Place of burial** St Mary's, Stafford

**Wife** Marcie (Mary, Marcy, or Mercy Drakeford). She was the daughter of William Bowyer gent of Seighford, and later sister-in-law of Edward Littleton. Married 26<sup>th</sup> January 1603 at St Peter's, Maer, Staffs.

**Children** Mercy, Mary, William (DY), Richard, William (DY), Edward (DY), Littleton (DY), Ursula, Jane, William, and Alice

**Grandchildren** only Sampson Walkeden is named specifically.

**Sons-in-law** **Sampson Walkeden, Richard Adams, Richard Moreton**

**Daughter-in-law** Anne

**Executors** Marcie Drakeford and Richard Drakeford (eldest son)

**Overseers** Samuel Walkeden and **William Drakeford**

**Witnesses** **Mathew Worswicke\***, **Tho: Homersley** gent.

\*Thomas Worswicke was involved with Richard with the constitutional changes for Stafford.

**Main Assets and distributions:**

This included Lands at Stafford including tennements, messuages, burgages, cottages, hereditments with appurtenances and land at **Forgate Field** and **Forgate Street** at Stafford and at **Marston, Streeton, Broadheath, Cyford, Ronton, Congleton** (with tennements messuages and hereditments being in Congleton and **Buglawton**) in Chester. Also, one lease of certain meadows, lying in **Barkemoores** in the county of Stafford. The sale of land should go towards debts payable to Anne Greenwood, John Twigg (of Walton), and money owed jointly with **Mr Ellis Prestwich** to **Lady Crompton**, in all totalling £230.

For each of his sons-in-law, his daughters, and grandchildren a ring should be given, each costing 10/-. His eldest son Richard should receive his seal ring and his daughter-in-law a ring priced 23s and 4d. His three children Jane, William, and Ales (Alice) should receive such portion of his land that his wife, Mercy advised by eldest son Richard, should decide.

Because only a portion of the land purchased over the years is mentioned it can be assumed that a significant amount has already been passed to the eldest son Richard.

This is a long and complicated will completed when Richard Drakeford Senior was very weak. There is much detail about the property he owned, and the list of chattels etc., and it runs to three pages and it is well worth referring back to the list of land purchases above.

He wished to be buried in the High Chancel of St Mary's near his friend and fellow merchant **William Moye**, who had died in 1636.

The Will reflects the fact that his two oldest sons Richard and William had at that time no male offspring to which the large estate could be left. With this in mind, he cited the children of his sons in law, **Sampson Walkenden, Richard Morton** and **Richard Adams**. One specific grandchild is named as **Sampson Walkeden**, and then in lieu of his issue to pass to the grandchildren of Richard Morton, and then Richard Adams.

**Probate 12<sup>th</sup> June 1639.** This was granted on the basis that Richard Drakeford had renounced his executorship leaving **Mercy Drakeford** as the sole executor. This also referred to the **Tuition Bond** below as part of the probate and the obligations for Mercy, **Robert Moreton (son of Richard Morton)**, and Richard Drakeford in respect of the minors, Jane aged 10, William, aged 12 and Alice Drakeford, 16. At that time children were minors until the age of 21.

The probate application was Sworn by Mercy Drakeford, before **Charles Twysden**, the Commissary General of the Diocese of Lichfield & Coventry.

A **Tuition Bond** was created and dated, 12<sup>th</sup> June 1639, whereby Mercy Drakeford, widow of Forbridge, Robert Moreton of Beaudley, Worcs., Clerk, and Richard Drakeford Gent., are bound by **Charles Twysden** and **Bishop Robert** in the sum of £80 to educate and specifically maintain Jane, William, and Alice Drakeford.

The terms were to: *'Do well and faithfully educate, foster and bring up the said children with sufficient meat, drink lodging and apparel, meet and decent for their estate and calling during their minority and pay them due legacies etc., as due under the estate of their father'. Sealed and delivered before **Michael Nockins**, notary public.*

#### **Family Connections:**

Although the dates of baptism for Littleton and Mercy below are not known, the marriage of Richard and Mercy, the parents, was on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1603, at St Peter's, Maer. There are no records in St Peter's or the three Stafford churches for the baptisms for these early children.

**Littleton (1604? –1614)** Died young.

**Mercie (1606? -????)** married in 1640 to **Richard Morton**. Mercie is shown in her mother's will)

**Mary (1608? -????)** In the Will she is noted as married to **Sampson Walkendine/Walkenden**

**William (1610-1610)** Twin - Died in infancy aged approx. 1 month

**Richard (1610 – 1679) Twin- Heir - see Will below.**

**William (1611-1611)** Died in infancy. Aged approx. 3 months.

**Edward (1613 – 1615)** Died aged 2.

**Ursula (1616- ????)** married **Simon Addams**, September 1634

**Jane (1619- ????)**

**William (1621 – ???)** there is a **link to Norton** with a William Drakeford and Anne of Norton-in-the-Moors. There is no evidence of William or Ann being buried at Norton or Stafford.

**Alice?**

**North America Connection: William**, we understand this William married Ann Mellor in the Parish of Norton-in-the-Moors on 29<sup>th</sup> January 1639/40. Anne had been baptised on 28<sup>th</sup> November 1619 also in Norton, to her parents Richard and Catherine Mellor. As mentioned above, they had a daughter Ellin and later two sons, William, and Thomas. Thomas died as a baby. William went on to marry Ann(ae) Burne at Norton and they had twins in 1671, Thomas and William, a daughter Hellena in 1672, and a further six children.

It is believed that William and Ann, left for America under a Headright Scheme and went into farming tobacco in Virginia. It is possible that they went on to have a boy, Richard, who was a founder of the Drakeford dynasty in Virginia and beyond.

This connection with our American cousins is borne out by DNA testing. The full story is available in **Study Paper 8, The Drakeford Family Land in Virginia, America in 1660.**

**Alice- or Alis (1623 - ????)** No details known.

As mentioned above, it is worth reading the 1622 Agreement or Lease between Richard Drakeford and his Cousin Edward Drakeford of Congleton, as shown in the Stafford Addendum.

In 1622 John Drakeford with John Beech purchased 20 acres of land in Norton from John Broad.

In 1640 the town sent supporters of the King to Parliament, hoping that the conflict would not affect them.

ooo00ooo

**c) Mercy Drakeford (15??-1642) Wife of 'The Merchant'**

Mercy was to make her Will in July 1642, and alas die in August that year. She was clearly not a lady to let anyone get the better of her and on 27<sup>th</sup> April 1642 she took three villains to court for stealing three cows and causing damage to her property. This amount to a claim of £60 which she won (see Addendum for full details).

A copy of the court record, in Latin, is shown in the Addendum, under that court date with a translation.

**Will of Mercy Drakeford, Stafford, dated 4<sup>th</sup> July 1642 Will number 34.**

**Name** Marcie (or Mercy or Marcy or Martha or Mary) Drakeford, married Richard Drakeford, later of Forebridge, in 1603, and in 1639 became his widow. Daughter of **William and Mercie Bowyer**. After William's death in 1593 Mercie, **Mercy's mother married James Littleton**, thus he was Mercy's step-father and **she regarded his son, Edward Littleton as her brother**.

**Place of burial** St Mary's, Stafford, next to her husband, buried 29.8.1642.

**Children** Richard, Jane, William and Alice (Alis) Marcy/Mercy Morton, Mary Walkadine and Ursula Adams (married to Simon Adams, Castle Church 10<sup>th</sup> Sept 1634).

**Grandchildren** **Sampson Walkadine**, Mercy Addams, Ursula Addams, Abigall Addams.

**Sons-in-law** Sampson Walkeden, **Richard Adams, Robert Morton**

**Brother –in-laws** Ellis Prestwich and **Edward Littleton** (son of the **Right Worshipful James Littleton**)

**Daughter-in-law** Anne

**Executors** Jane Drakeford, Alis Drakeford

**Overseers** Richard Drakeford, Robert Morton, **Ellis Prestwich**, Edward Littleton, and

**Deliverence Fenihouse**

**Witnesses** Edward Littleton, Robert Morton, Mercy Morton, Marie Walkedon

*Note 3 different spellings for Walkeden/Walkedon/Walkedine*

### **Main Assets and distributions:**

Lands at Stafford including tennements, messuages, burgages, cottages, hereditaments with appurtenances in **Forgate Field** and **Forgate Street**, Stafford, and also **Marston, Streeton, Broadheath, Syford, Ronton, Congleton, Buglawton**, which were bequeathed by her husband Richard Drakeford, some of which were used to pay legacies and debts.

She bequeathed £10 yearly rent from the properties in Stafford to her son William Drakeford, however, should William become the heir then that bequest should go to her daughters Jane and Alice Drakeford and their heirs and assigns. The property referred to as Syford is doubtlessly Seighford, where Mercy's family lived.

Mercy also bequeathed to her grandson Sampson Walkadine £30 for binding an apprentice or apprenticeship. Her three daughters Marcy Morton, Mary Walkadine and Ursula Addams were each given gold rings to be purchased at a price of 10/-.

The grandchildren Mercy Addams, Ursula Addams and Abigail Addams were each given £50. Should any of them die before receipt, then the £150 would be divided amongst the remainder. If all were to die, then the £150 would be divided between her son Richard Drakeford, son-in-law Morton, brothers-in-law **Ellis Prestwich** and **Edward Littleton**, and friend **Deliverence Fenihouse**. The overseers have right to distribute as they saw fit, but to exclude the children of son, Richard Drakeford because 'hee hath a faire estatt and the rest have need thereof'.

The will continued after the first session and stated that should the two unmarried daughters die before marriage their legacies would be divided amongst the grandchildren, save for those of Richard. Jane and Alis benefited from any sums due to their dead father not yet collected. The fact that the three married daughters received very little would indicate that the wedding dowries had been sufficient.

**Comments:** *Mercy's husband Richard, is identified as a qualified lawyer and a wealthy merchant in the wool and cloth trade along with the likes of the Craddock Family, the Dorringtons, Moretons and Moyer.*

It is worth iterating the following:

*'At first every mayor came from among the wealthy merchants and their friends but, by the late 1630s, such merchants were no longer living in the town. **Matthew Craddock** had moved to Caverswall Castle, retaining influence in the town by becoming recorder. He died in 1636. **Richard Drakeford** had moved to Green Hall (sic. It was called Forebridge hall until the 19<sup>th</sup> Century) and **Francis Dorrington** to London. When **William Moyer** died his son carried on trading from London. Richard(?) Dorrington died leaving only a daughter who married out of town. The long line of Stafford merchants trading with London came to an end. Their places on the council were taken by local tradesmen until the Civil War disrupted life in the town.'* Source: Roy Lewis (Stafford Past)



It is known that Richard Drakeford died at the age of 63 in 1639 and had been head bailiff once and thrice mayor of Stafford in 1611, 1620 and 1635 respectively.

It is worthy of note that **Edward Littleton** is described as a 'brother-in-law' as noted elsewhere, Richard and Mercy had a son Littleton, who died in 1614. It is doubtlessly so named after the Littleton family. The connection is described in more detail below in section 16. In summary, Mercy's mother, also called Mercy, after the death of her husband, William Bowyer married James Littleton.

In her will, Marcy records that she wanted to be buried next to her husband in St Mary's Church, Stafford.

The will was written when she was '*sick and deseased in body butt of good and perficte remembrance*'. It could be that she was indeed dying. This will was signed and witnessed, but then a further part was added and stitched to the former, and witnessed and signed again. Perhaps, she had gone as far as she could one day, and it was signed, just in case she died before the final part was covered. There is no date on the addendum, but the date is referred to as '*firste above written*', meaning that date on the previous sheets.

With the will there appears to be a list of assets some four pages and an acceptance of probate, once more by a **Charles Twysden**, with the list dated 1642 indicating that Mercy died soon after writing her will. **William Bowyer** is noted as assessor, possibly the brother of Mercy. This might even include assets she received from her father, but it is mainly a list of farm and household goods.

**Background: On 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1642 Charles I** raised his standard in Nottingham and the Civil War had begun. The King sent his recruiting march to Shrewsbury by way of Stafford. The mayor sent messengers as far afield as Lichfield to buy up bread to feed the King and his men. Money had to be found for presents for the supporters of the King including Prince Rupert, his nephew, who was in charge of the King's cavalry. The King stayed at the High House, once home of John Dorrington, while men were recruited, and horses requisitioned.

At the beginning of 1643 the king appointed **Sir William Cumberford** as military governor of Stafford, and a regiment was quartered there for its defence. An attack by a parliamentary rabble from North Staffordshire was beaten off and prisoners paraded in the marketplace.

When two regiments of Royalist cavalry rode into Stafford on 18<sup>th</sup> March they learned of a plan by two regiments of Parliamentary forces to attack the town. Anticipating this about 100 of the garrison attacked one of the regiments, and although they were outnumbered the Royalists forced a retreat and the threat to the town was lifted.

This relief did not last long. The defences had not been kept in good order and because the lookouts were not properly posted, the Parliamentarians managed to capture the town with most of the garrison in May. The castle was not taken until June and the order was given by the Parliamentarians to demolish it on 22<sup>nd</sup> December that year. Hardly a wall was left standing. The castle was rebuilt in the Gothic Revival style from 1813, but again fell into disrepair.

Therefore, Stafford became a Parliamentary garrison under military rule. Times were tough and when the mayor failed to provide a rota of men to work on strengthening the defences, he was promptly fined £10. A captain Foxall, the only burgess among the garrison officers, was elected as an alderman and then mayor at the military Governor's request.

'Malignants' whose loyalty was suspect were expelled from their homes and the town. Soldiers were compulsorily billeted on families. A military guard was posted at each of the town gates and each night a patrol of 30 townsmen patrolled the streets until 6 a.m. In addition, each family had to contribute a significant sum for the upkeep of the garrison and the governor's expenses. Householders were forced to keep three month's provisions in store, in case there was a siege.

According to Roy Lewis (Stafford Past p.18) because of a scare in 1644 that **Prince Rupert** was about to attack the town, all the houses in Foregate and Forebridge within musket shot of the town walls were pulled down. Houses within the walls were requisitioned for those that had become dispossessed.

At this time there was a record produced by 'The Committee of Stafford'. This is evidence of how the town addressed the problems now before it. The Drakefords were involved.

**Extracts: The Committee of Stafford 1643-1645, pages 72 onwards.**

**11<sup>th</sup> March 1644**

*'Bab - Whereas Matthew Bab held a house of Mr Drakeford in the Foregate which by order is to be puld down, And whereas there is a house of Mr Fowler's a papist in the Foregate which was lately in the tenure of Humfrey Leacroft and by order is also to be puld down it is now ordered that the said Bab shall have the materials of Mr Fowlers towards the erecting of another house for him in some convenient place where the committee shall think fit. And whereas the said Bab informs that he erected at his owne proper costs and charges a barne upon the said Mr Drakeford's land which he holds by a long lease yet to come It is now ordered that the said Bab shall also have the materialls of the said barne now puld downe toward recompencing him for his losse unless the said Mr Drakeford having notice of this Order can shew good cause to the contrary.'*

... 24<sup>th</sup> March 1644

*'Hereas there have been divers orders made for the pulling downe the houses on the Foregate and greene which have hither to been neglected it is now ordered that the said houses and barnes be puld downe and the straw thack (thatch) and timber carried away betwixt this and Tuesday night next, and that the enemy is advancing to besiege the towne.'*

.... 25<sup>th</sup> March 1644

*'It is ordered that all the horse shall goe betimes to morrow, to Sir Edward Littleton's at Pillington to fetch away all his corne, And if they have time to bringe away also Mr Bresfords corne from Pintridge.'*

*'.....Ordered that the gorse in Kinson Hill shall forth with bee fyred and all burnt up. Capt. Foxall is to cause it done.'*

*'Boats - Ordered that the boats that are about the towne be committed to the charge of capt. Foxall and that noe man have the use of any boate without the leave and consent of capt. Foxall.'*

Internal quarrels about the conduct of the war were rife. In December 1644, **Sir William Brereton** with 300 Parliamentary troops marched into the town, arrested the governor and sent him for trial in London.

Overcrowding led to outbreaks of fever and the plague. During 1644 prisoners were set free because they were ill with fever. However, this did not meet with complete agreement of the Committee and there is evidence that soldiers were jailed for allowing this in the book entitled 'The committee of Stafford 1643-1645' by D.H. Pennington.

29<sup>th</sup> March 1644

*Prisoners which made escape to be committed to the common gaols and with them C. Chapmam - 'It is ordered that the Officers and other souldiers which hinderd the prisoners from escaping shall bee rewarded for their good service, and that the prisoners who endeavoured to make an escape, shall be closely imprisoned in the gaol-chamber, and with them captaine Chapman.'*

There was obviously some give and take as the local inhabitants were often fighting on the opposite side in this civil war:

.....**2nd April 1644**

*'Prisoner's wives not to see their husbands - It is ordered that no prisoners wife shall have liberty to come to have intercourse with her husband until such time as the like liberty be allowed to our commander and souldiers wifes now prisoners with the enemy and in particular to the lady Sarah Houghton.'*

**Hearth Tax** In 1666, the Hearth Tax collections showed that in **Stafford** no more than 339 households existed, some 50 fewer than in 1622. More details in the Study Paper 1 introduction: **The History of the Drakeford Family – from 1206**

#### **d) Richard Drakeford (1610-1679) – 'The Babington'**

It was the following **Richard Drakeford (1610-1679)** that formed the link to the Babington family and thus a link to the crown. Roger Hall has produced a chart showing a marriage line from Edward I who produced a daughter Joan. She married the Duke of Gloucester producing a daughter Eleanor who married Lord Despencer around 1340. The link stays with and through the Despenchers and later the Ferrers of Chartley until a link to the Devereux family who retain the Ferrers Lordship until around 1580 when Margaret Devereux married Sir Edward Littleton to whom Edward Drakeford was Under-Sheriff in 1593.

The **Littletons** had a **daughter, Ellen**, who **married William Babington** and they had a daughter Anne, who married Richard Drakeford (1610-1679). They had an heir Richard Drakeford (1650-1700) along with a younger brother, Edward. Richard continued the Stafford lineage through Richard Drakeford, Town Clerk, ending with Edward Drakeford in 1814. The family fortunes were saved through another line by **Edward 'The Ironmonger' (1656 – 1709)** through to **Richard 'The Mariner' (1697-1756)** who had no issue.

The early link to the Littleton family previously mentioned was through Richard and Mercy Drakeford when Mercy's mother was widowed and then married James Littleton.

Returning to the Will, it is noted that Richard was a Commissioner for the Militia in Staffordshire:

On **16<sup>th</sup> August 1659** by a citation, it was ordered that **Richard Drakeford** (1610-1679) was appointed a **Commissioner for the Militia in the County of Stafford** along with Colonel **Edward Ashenhurst**, **Mr William Elvis**, **Mr Thos. Crompton Junior**, **Mr Stephen Ward**, **Mr John Wilson** and **Mr John Hoe**. The citation continues *'And that they be, and are hereby empowered and authorised to act as fully, to all intents and Purposes, as if they had been named Commissioners in the Act for settling the militia in England and Wales; and as fully as any other Commissioners, in the said Act named, are therefore empowered and enabled to do'*.

From this command, Richard Drakeford would use his best endeavours to recruit and control Militia and being so commissioned, *'shall have Power to train, Exercise, and put in Readiness, and also to lead and conduct the Persons so to be Armed, Arrayed, and Weaponed, by the Directions, and to the intents and purposes aforesaid. And for the providing of Horse and Arms, and the Furniture thereunto belonging, for the Arming and Weaponing the persons aforesaid: And also for the Defraying and Paying the necessary Charges thereunto belonging'*.

This would indicate a significant element of trust place on **Richard Drakeford**. It is worthy of note that **Thomas Crompton** is also appointed. Referring to the Will of **Rebecca Drakeford** who was born a Crompton and left most of her estates to her kinsman Francis Crompton when she died in 1704, indicates that this could be another connection but according to the Staffordshire Record Office staff they have nothing in their records to evidence this, but feel free to search these pages for 'Thomas Crompton' and check the many links with our Richard Drakeford.

### **Will of Richard Drakeford 'The Babington', of Stafford (1610 – 1679) dated 11<sup>th</sup> January 1677, Probate proved 1679 Will number 45.**

**Name** Richard Drakeford described as gentleman.

**Place of burial** *'To be buried in the chaunsell of St Mary'ses in Stafford neere my three children and bretheren'*

**Wife** **Anne (née Babington of Curboro' 1623 - 1686)**

**Children** Richard DY, Mercy (Wilkes), Anne (Higgs), Richard, Matthew, Eli{a}nor, Edward, Anne (Higgs)

**Grandchildren** Richard and various others not named but see family tree.

**Brother-in-law** **Zachary Babington, gent.**

**Sons-in-law** **Richard Wilkes, Richard Nevill, Walter Higgs Gent**

**Executors** Anne Drakeford (widow) and Zachary Babington

**Overseers** Matthew Drakeford

**Witnesses** Tho: Eldershaw          Richard Eldershaw          Edward Eldershaw

N.B. In the **letter from Thomas Cooper** at the **William Salt Library** dated 1888 this gives another child Mary as being the wife of Richard Wilkes of Wills Bucknall? This could be Mercy as the name was closely allied to Mary by some scribes. For details of this letter please see the 'Congleton Drakefords' **Study Paper 2**.

### **Main Assets and distributions:**

The inventory list dated seventh day of May 1679 gave an asset total of £323.01.06d including debts due to the deceased and bonds totalling £245. This was completed and signed by **Thomas Chamberlain** and **Richard Eldershaw**. This list is carefully noted where the various chattels are located and the details include –Study, hall, bolting house, cellar, kitchen and kitchen chamber, little loft, brewhouse chamber, buttery chamber and so on. Later in 1757 Forebridge Hall was described as having Kitchen, pantry, Hall, Green parlour, Yellow parlour, Common Parlour, study, 4 chambers and another room upstairs, and a Brewhouse and six garrets. It is clear that this property was enlarged to over the years.

The various distributions are listed below.

The Will of **Richard Drakeford (1610-1679)**, **'The Elder'** is one on the most enlightening that is held. The detail gives much background to this Stafford family:

- 1) He had already settled a 'competent estate' on his eldest son, Richard now leaving him his seal ring and law books. This would indicate that he too studied the law as his father had.
- 2) His daughter Anne had already been married to **Walter Higgs, Gent** and had paid a dowry of £200, and was to leave a further £100 to be 'layed forth' in land for her use and that of her children 'he - Higgs' adding £100 more to the same.
- 3) He left to his son Matthew, the priest, £10 'in full of his children and portion...' perhaps indicating as yet he had no children.
- 4) To his daughter Eleanor he left £100 and if married with the consent of Richard's wife, then a further £100.
- 5) To Anne his wife, one closed or pasture called **Grymes Meadow- Rowley**, near Stafford.
- 6) After Anne dies, the 'Grymes meadow' is to go to his son Edward, his heirs and assigns forever.
- 7) His son Edward is to receive a burgage cottage with barn, garden and backyard in **Diglake** 'where Anne Smythe now liveth', again heirs and assigns to hold forever.
- 8) His daughter (Mrs) Wilkes gets 20/- and every grandchild 10/-.
- 9) To his grandchild **Richard**, presumably the heir presumptive and **'The Goldsmith'** (1673-1728), 1 table and 2 forms in the **Hall in Forbridge**, one cupboard in the buttery and table & great press in the kitchen chamber, one cupboard in the parlour chamber, one table at the stayne head as heirlooms all of which are 'in his father's house in Forbridge'.
- 10) The rest of the personal estate, debts legacies and bequeaths went to his 'loving wife Anne'.
- 11) Anne was executor along with his loving brother (In-law?) Zachary Babington, Gent.

For this will, **letters of administration** were allowed on 12<sup>th</sup> day of June 1679. This was given by **Sir Henry Archibold**, Commissary General and **Bishop Thomas**, giving Matthew Drakeford, clerk, authority to oversee; this was signed by **Simon Marten** and **Edwin Webb**, Registrar. Anne Drakeford swore her oath on 21<sup>st</sup> day of June 1679 before Matthew Drakeford. It is taken that Matthew Drakeford as clerk is shown in his ecclesiastical context, later to become vicar of St Mary's Stafford.

Zachary Babington, spelled Zacharie, had renounced his executorship on 7<sup>th</sup> August 1679. He was not included in the earlier letters of Administration, presumably because he had at that time refused the office. Simon Marten, Notary Public was witness.

## **Children of Richard Drakeford and Anne Babington**

**Richard (1639 – 1640)** Richard was baptised at St Chad's on 21 September 1639. He died 7 months later on 23 April 1640 and was buried at St Mary's Stafford aged 6 months.

**Mercy (1640 – 1688)** – Mercy was baptised on 20 December 1640 at St Mary's Stafford. She married Richard Wilkes of Willenhall prior to 10 April 1663.

### **Children of Mercy Drakeford and Richard Wilkes**

- Their first child **Elizabeth Wilkes** was baptised at St Giles, Willenhall on 24 March 1664/5. St Giles church was a chapelry of St Peter, Wolverhampton, being a collegiate church akin to St Mary's Stafford.
- Three further children were **Richard**, baptised 6 March 1665/6, **Mercy**, baptised 27 Feb. 1667/8, and **Ann**, baptised 21 July 1670.
- Richard Wilkes, the father was buried on 24 May 1673 and a sixth child **Margaret**, 'daughter of Richard Wilkes' widow', was baptised on 24 October 1673. The father was buried at St Peter's Wolverhampton, and all the children baptised at St Giles, Willenhall.

Of the children, Richard, born 1665/66, married Lucretia Astley who had as siblings Walter, Matthew and Ann. Ann Astley married Matthew Drakeford, the brother of Mercy Wilkes! Hence, Mercy's son married a sister of the wife of the Revd. Matthew Drakeford.

Mercy's father, **Richard Drakeford**, left 20/- to her, and 10/- to each of his grandchildren when he died. **See Will No. 45.** Mercy at the age of 47 was buried on 10 July 1688 at St Peter's church, Wolverhampton. There were no burials at St Giles until 1727. Margaret, her youngest child was just 14. St Peter's was an important collegiate church, in a town in which the extended family of Gillian, Christopher and the author of this Study Paper, Michael Drakeford lived from the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to the early 2000s.

**Anne (1648 – 1697)** – Anne was baptised at St Chad’s Stafford, 31 Dec. 1648 and married **Walter Higgs, Alderman** shortly before 11 January 1677/8. At that time Anne’s father, Richard Drakeford made his will and left £100 to be paid to Walter Higgs to be invested in land for the use of Anne and her children. Walter was to invest an equal sum. Richard had already paid £200 to Walter ‘.....in part of her marriage portion’.

They had a child, Anne, who was baptised at St Mary’s, Stafford on 20 May 1681, at which time her mother was 32. Walter, being ‘something weake in body’ made his will in April 1687. He died and was buried 1 June 1687. Anne was buried at St Mary’s Stafford 8 August 1697 aged 48. Their daughter Anne would have been 17 at the time.

**Richard (1650 – 1700) Eldest son and heir see below Will No. 52**

**Matthew (1653 -1703)** – Matthew was baptised at St Chad’s, Stafford on 11 January 1653/4 and became a priest. For full details see his Will below. Will No. 53

**Elinor (1656 – 1731)** - Twin of Edward, born 15 September and baptised 23 September 1656 at St. Chad, Stafford. There was a marriage license dated 21 March 1695/6 for Elinor to marry at St Mary’s (either Castle Church or Stafford) a **Richard Nevill, gentleman of Rickerscote** in Castle Church parish.

In **Richard Nevill’s** Will dated 12 November 1728 he was described as being in excess of 80 years, probably 50 when he was married when Elinor was about the same. Hence there were no children and he left his money to Elinor and his great nephew and £20 to his niece **Priscilla Drakeford**, spinster, daughter of Richard ‘The Goldsmith’. He was buried at St John, Acton Trussell on 2 February of ‘Rickardstoke’, 1728/9. His wife Elinor was sole executrix. He was commemorated by a wall monument, in Latin, stating that he had been married to Eleanor (sic), youngest daughter of Richard Drakeford of Forebridge, gentleman, by whom he had no issue.

Elinor Neville of Riccardscoate made a Will dated 5 Oct. 1731. Ellen (sic): Neville widow of Rickerscoat in the parish of Castle was buried on 6 Dec. 1731 at St Mary’s, Stafford ages 75. She left her estate to Priscilla Drakeford, ‘.... her dear and loving kinswoman...’ and daughter of Richard

and Priscilla (n. Foden) Drakeford. Thus, the recipient Priscilla is the great niece of Elinor and was married in 1749 to William Vaughan.

The myriad of spellings for Eleanor and Rickardstoke etc. shows that the actual spelling unless written beforehand is rather arbitrary.

**Edward (1656 – 1709) ‘The Ironmonger’** was the final child of **Richard, ‘The Babington’**. He left Stafford and at the age of 14 and was apprenticed to an ironmonger in London. He was to marry twice and sired one of the most famous of Drakefords, Richard Drakeford ‘The Mariner’ who was to reach the dizzy heights of being High Sheriff of Staffordshire and making enough money to save the family fortunes. Read on.....



## e) **Edward Drakeford (1656 – 1709) ‘The Ironmonger’**

Edward was born along with his twin sister **Elinor** on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1656 and also baptised at St Chad’s in Stafford at the same time as his sister. In 1671 at the age of 14, Edward was apprenticed to **William Hayes** on London as an ironmonger and was admitted as a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers in 1678.

Edward’s father Richard died in 1679 leaving him a burgage in Diglake, Stafford and a piece of land in Rowley near Stafford. In August 1683, Edward married **Jane Wood** at St Sepulchre without Newgate. It has not been determined whether Jane’s family named Wood are related to the later Frances Wood who married **Richard, ‘The Town Clerk’** of Stafford.

The only child of **Edward Drakeford** and **Jane Wood** was **Christopher Drakeford**. Christopher was baptised on 19 September 1684 and two months later Jane was buried on 5<sup>th</sup> November. Presumably, she died of complications after the birth of her only child.

Nothing further is known about Christopher, however, when he would have been about 10, a record of London’s inhabitants ‘within the walls’ showed that the Drakeford household consisted of Edward, his new wife and a daughter, Liticia (or Lititia). It would be sensible to assume that Christopher had died at birth, or as a young child.

The following year, **Edward** had married **Honor Durham** of Bridewell Precinct, London on 12 July 1685 at St Benet Fink, London.

In March 1685/6, Edward took on an apprentice ironmonger, James Frimling, son of John Frimling, a citizen and plasterer.

### **Children of Edward Drakeford and Honor Durham**

**Ann 1686-1686** On 4 May 1686 a daughter **Ann** was baptised at St Sepulchre but was buried in August.

**Letitia (Leticia) 1687-?** was baptised on 19 March 1686/7 at St Sepulchre without Newgate, London.

**Ann 1687-1690** Another daughter, also named **Ann** was baptised at St Sepulchre on 22 March 1687/8 and she died on 14 November 1690 and was buried at St Mildred.

Honor’s brother **John Durham** had become Rector of St Mildred, Bread Street in December 1688. He followed in the ministry their father **William Durham** who was also a clergyman.

**Honor 1689-1689.** Baptised at St Alban’s, Wood Street on 9 February 1688/9 but she died and was buried five months later at St Mildred on 5 July.

From this time their family burials were in the 'Chancel Vault' at St Mildred, Bread Street, which appears to be for the use of the incumbent rector and his family.

**Edward 1689-1738?**, The reverend John Durham baptised the next child, **Edward**, on 4 February 1689/90.

This Edward is named in the extract below. When reading this, note that he would have been just 17 and as a rather young Assistant Warehouse Keeper.

As part of the **Dickenson collection**, and thus of interest to the **Stafford Drakefords** is a reference to an **Edward Drakeford, Clerk to H.M. Treasury**. A formal warrant was issued by Treasurer Godolphin to the Stamps Commissioner's to pay additional salaries totalling 80/- per annum in all to six of their officers. In order to justify this Edward Drakeford is used an example whereby part of his salary was being paid by him to an under officer:

*April 19, 1706: Memorial of said Commissioners proposing said increases. From the commencement of the office to the time Mr. Evelyn became Receiver General the bills of exchange were tendered for acceptance and all outmoney received for Mr. Pennyman, the late received, by the servants of Sir Stephen Evance. But our present Receiver not having the conveniency and it being more safe for him to have that business performed by an under officer we accommodated him with the assistance of one **Edward Drakeford** the assistant warehouse keeper of unstamped paper. But his time was taken up as billman to the Receiver he has been forced to allow a considerable part of his small salary to Robert Jackson for officiating his said place of assistant. We therefore think that the bill man should have the entire salary of 30/- per an. and that Jackson deserves 20/- per an. for officiating the former business of the said **Mr Drakeford**. Further by reason of the Comptroller and Accomptant General's place being lodged in the same person we found it necessary to employ an able accompting clerk to make entries and keep general accounts of the gross and net produce of the duties, corresponding with the books of the Comptroller, the better to prevent mistakes and to enable us to sign the charge part demanded yearly of us by the Auditor in passing the general accounts of our Office. Money Book XVIII, pp 195-6. Per Calendar of Treasury Books, Volume 20, 1705-1706.*

The role of the under officer was required to ensure that the books of the comptroller had to be accurate to comply with the Auditor in passing the general accounts of the office within the H.M. Treasury. Edward Drakeford was the assistant to the Warehouse Keeper of Unstamped Paper at the Treasury.

This was a significant role, for the Warehouse Keeper himself. His salary at the time was £200 per annum, but I expect for his assistant it was a lot less. This was a process of taxing paper and velum, an important commodity at the time. Once the items leave the warehouse they had to be stamped as duty paid, and the process for collecting the tax was carefully controlled. At the time there was reference to Britain, paper and specifically to the "American Stamp. Duties" [N.A.: AO3/10861]. ..... In 1700, there were only 200,000 inhabitants in the American colonies, but by ..... passed by the warehouse keeper of unstamped goods. Further papers are available under

d1798 with reference to Papers re Bond by which Edward was bound to the Treasury for his fidelity from 1713 to 1731.

Edward would be carving a name for himself in the city and possibly have the connections to obtain a posting for his youngest brother, Richard, leading him into the navy as a boy recruit and then captain's clerk - [\(see Addendum for the story of Edward being gaoled for malpractice in his role working for the Treasury\)](#).

**Peter 1691-1692** On 22 October 1691 a son named **Peter** was baptised at St Alban's but buried months later on 14 March 1692 at St Mildred in the chancel vault.

**Mary 1693-1693** **Mary** was buried in August 1693 also in the same vault. There is no reference to her baptism.

**Elizabeth 1695-1696.** Another daughter, this time **Elizabeth**, was baptised at St Alphage, London Wall on 13 June 1695 but buried in the Family vault on 5 March 1696/7.

In **1697**, Edward, Senior, is now a **yeoman of the Ironmongers Company**, appearing on the city of London Livery Company Association Oath Roles.

**Richard 1697-1756** This was **Richard 'The Mariner'** who on 11 July 1697 was baptised at St Alphage. **His fascinating and significant story is given above to include his will (No.71) and also his naval career, which is described in Section 7.**

At some point **Richard 'The Mariner'** married, but no details have been discovered.

Richard refers to his late wife in his Will. He certainly had no children. Richard died in 1756 and was buried in St Mary's, Stafford on 14 January 1757. The date of death is marked as 1756 on the reverse of the infamous portrait. It can be assumed that he died over Christmas and the burial, for which there are records, took place early in the New Year. It is not an old calendar glitch because the Gregorian calendar came into force in 1752.

**Ann 1699-1771** Ann was baptised on 21 December 1699 at St Alphage. She was to become Ann 'Maes' as spelled in the will of Richard 'The Mariner'. In fact, she married a **William 'Mayes'** on 1 October 1727 in **Bedford at St Paul's church**. She had the following children:

- **John**, baptised 1 September 1728 at St Paul Bedford who died later that month and was buried on 29 September, also at St Paul's church.
- **William** was baptised on 19 October 1729, and buried the following February, both times at St Paul.
- **Frances Letitia Mayes** was baptised on 18 February 1732, and appears to have survived as the only child. *Source: Roger Hall by original register images who advises that a descendant of Frances Letitia has put her tree on the Ancestry website.*

Ann Mayes' husband William died and was buried at St Paul's Bedford on 2 January 1754, and her brother, Richard Drakeford 'The Mariner', died in December 1756, leaving his sister 'Ann Maes, sometime of Bedford', an annuity. Anne Mayes died and was buried at St Paul's on 14 July 1771. She left no Will but through administration her goods etc. were granted to her daughter being Frances Weldale (sic) and her husband John.

The happy ending is that **Frances Letitia Mays(sic.)** married **John Willdale**, a butcher at St Paul's, Bedford on 15 May 1757, aged 24.

**Edward Drakeford** survived his brother Richard 'Three Wives', who was buried in St Mary's Stafford on 23 January 1700/01.

**Honor 1702-????** A final child for **Honor and Edward** was named **Honor** and was born on 12 June and baptised on 28 June 1702 at St Mary's the Virgin, Aldermanbury, London.

Honor, the mother to all these children, was buried at St Mildred on 6 November 1702 just 5 months later, along with the rector's other sister Letitia Millman. Edward 'The Ironmonger' was left with 5 children aged between 5 months and 15 years. Richard, 'The Mariner' was just 5 years of age when he lost his mother.

**John Durham** was buried at St Mildred in July 1707.

**Edward, 'The Ironmonger'** died and was buried on 23 May 1709 aged 52. He was not buried with his wife Honor, probably because the connection with St Mildred had now gone with the passing of John Durham two years prior. At his death Edward left five children, **Letitia aged 22, Edward 19, Richard 11, Ann 9, and Honor 6**. All five were mentioned in the Will of John Durham.

We know that Richard joined the navy in 1709 (some say 1711) at the age of 12 to become a Captain's Clerk. To justify this early age, it could have been because he had just become an orphan and there was no family member able to properly care for him. Conversely, in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, if it was an officer's son, it was possible to be as young as 10, but otherwise 13 years of age to be on the Captain's staff. *Source: The Northern Mariner, No 4, (October 2004)*. As suggested above, his uncle Edward may well have effected an introduction to the navy as an example of family support.

**f) Richard Drakeford (1650-1700) – ‘Three Wives’, incorporating the Perrott Connection**

**Will of Richard Drakeford of Forbridge dated 12<sup>th</sup> January 1700 Will No. 52**

In addition to the Will there are three signed ‘letters’ drawn up and witnessed. These were signed by **W. Feake, Matthew Drakeford** and **Richard Neville**, however, the sole executor was **Richard Drakeford (1673–1728)**, his son. These letters simply confirm that the testator was in sound mind and freely made his last will and testament. Presumably he died in such circumstance that these three witnesses had to attest to the same.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Richard Drakeford of Forbridge, Gentleman</b>
<b>Place of burial</b>	not given.
<b>Wife</b>	1) <b>Elizabeth Brecknock</b> , married 9 <sup>th</sup> November 1672, she died 1676 and is buried at St Mary’s Stafford 2) <b>Elizabeth Perrott</b> married 1677, 3) <b>Rebecca Crompton</b> married after 1689.
<b>Children</b>	Richard, Ann, John, Diana, (Catherine-DY), Elizabeth, (all by the 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> marriages)
<b>Executor</b>	Richard Drakeford
<b>Witnesses</b>	Matt: Drakeford, Rich: Nevill, W. Feake

The church records at Castle Church have in 1673 the baptism of **Richard (1673-1728)** to his parents Richard Drakeford and Elizabeth *Né Brecknock*. However, in 1676, an Ann Drakeford, *wife of Richard Drakeford junior* is shown in the records at St Mary’s Stafford as being buried in 1676. There is some confusion about another wife Ann, as explained below.

It seems likely that Richard’s two first wives, Elizabeth Brecknock and Elizabeth Perrotts both died. In his Will Richard refers to property going to his two former wives, which was most probably by earlier marriage settlements rather than a divorce. Rebecca bore no children.

**Main Assets and distributions:**

Rebecca receives the personal estate and also the rents from the Lordship of **Eccleshall** in Staffordshire and from **Halfhead** tenement also in Stafford. The eldest son, Richard gets the properties in Staffordshire and Worcestershire except those already settled to the two earlier wives.

Richard has to pay to the daughter Anne £10, and at the end of one year after this death £200 'being her marriage porcion', and to daughter Diana £5 per annum, to be increased to £10, and when she is 21 or gets married, £200, and do the same for daughter Elizabeth, that is £5/£10 income and then £200 on reaching 21 or marriage. Were any of the daughters to die before receiving the inheritance, then the younger son Richard would receive that portion from the estate.

**John Drakeford** also receives Richard's gold ring with the motto '**Mors Mihi Lucrum**'. Meaning **Death is my reward**. This is a rather solemn message, but a common one at the time. There is nothing for John other than this, and he must have already left the country to make his fortune abroad. In 1712 **John Drakeford** died a bachelor in Calicut, India, described as a 'pauper'. Further information is available indicating that in fact he was employed as a factor, possibly by the East India Company. Further details are shown under the section regarding the children of Richard and Elizabeth Perrott below.

As the heir, Richard received the residue not already allocated. At the age of 36 he married **Pricilla Foden** and they had a first born in 1705. He was also named Richard and they had baptised a further 5 children. **This Richard Drakeford, 'The Goldsmith'**, born 1673, died in 1729, aged 56. While called a goldsmith, he was actually a refiner of the metal, and he might well have died early because of the wicked conditions of such work in those days.

Richard married **Elizabeth Brecknock (Brenock?)** from Lichfield under licence at Shenstone on 9<sup>th</sup> November 1672. She was buried, described as Ann, deceased wife of Richard Drakeford junior at St Mary's Stafford in July 1676. Our **Roger Hall** contends that this was an error in the name due to the register being written up much later and there being another woman on the line above also Ann. Richard is referred to as 'Junior' because his father was still alive in 1677.

The long list of Drakeford assets in the form of property seen in the Wills of the 1640s seem to have been dissipated. It is not clear how much of the wealth has already been passed to the head of the family, the eldest son Richard. The family were still in the large property known as Forbridge Hall, Stafford, but it is not mentioned in the Will.

An interesting catchall phrase at the end of the Will is '**ITEM I doe give and bequeath my grandfather's shilling and all and singular my goods and chattels and personal estate whatsoever not herein by me before disposed of unto my said son Richard....**' Perhaps this relates to all the family wealth, which goes to Richard, the first born, including the properties.

One can but speculate if Rebecca Crompton, the third wife is related to Sir Thomas and Lady Crompton mentioned above. There is no evidence that this was the case but as her Will – No. 54 - shows, she was well connected and had personal wealth. Enquiries at the Staffordshire Record Office could not confirm the connection.

## **The children of Richard's marriage to Elizabeth Brecknock are:**

**Richard (1673 -1728) Heir**, see main line below and Administration No. 63

**Ann (1675 -1720)** was baptised 10 Jan 1675/6 St Mary's Castle Church. A licence was issued for Ann Drakeford to marry **William Winter** at St Mary's Stafford on 23 Jan. 1710/11. In a later record she is referred to as Drakefield when she married on 25 January at St Mary's Castle Church at the age of 35. She had a number of children. These were:

- **Elizabeth Winter**, daughter of William & Ann was baptised 22 June 1712.
- **William**, son of William & Ann was baptised St Mary's, Stafford, on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1715 and was buried 16<sup>th</sup> July 1720 aged 2 months.
- The last child, **Richard Winter** was baptised at St Mary's Stafford on 2 September 1719.

**Ann Winter** did not live long after Richard was born and aged 44 was buried St Mary's Stafford 10 Oct 1720 aged 45, leaving two children, Elizabeth, and Richard.

Richard was subject to a bequest in his father's Will dated 17 November 1739 along with his sister Elizabeth. Elizabeth was the sole executrix. **William Winter** of Stafford, gentleman, was buried at St Mary's, Stafford 17 April 1741.

## **The children from Richard's marriage to Elizabeth Perrott are:**

**John (1678 - 1712)** - Sadly as described above, John died in India without issue. He had been baptized at St Mary's Castle Church, 1 Nov. 1678. Having become a 'factor', that is a business agent, he died in Calicut, India 1712 at the age of 33. Administration of his will was granted to **John Harrison**, attorney of the unmarried sisters Diana & Elizabeth of Stafford. Calicut is now known as Kozhikode in Southern India on the west coast.

Letters at the British Library relating to the India Office include one from a Thomas Lewes at East India House referring to court reports that Mr Harrison at Deptford Yard wanted a clause placed in the 'Bombay Letter' about John Drakeford deceased, a factor based in Calicut. Subsequently a grant was issued to John Harrison, attorney for Diana and Elizabeth to administer John's personal estate for their benefit. See Administration/Wills No. 52A.

After John died, there was no direct male line from the Perrott family. The Stafford male line continued through **Richard, 'The Goldsmith'** by the Brecknock marriage. On the other hand, it could be argued that the Drakeford name was continued through his sister Elizabeth marrying a Johanna (John) Drakeford through the female line. See below.

**Diana (1682-1750)** – Baptized at St Mary’s, 20 June 1682 Castle Church, buried 27 Nov. 1750 at St Andrew, Ashford Bowdler, Salop. Spinster aged 68. *Papers relating to her death are with the SRO Drakeford papers. No Will is recorded at Hereford.*

**Catherine (1684-1692)** –Catherine was baptised on 29 January 1684 at St Mary’s, Castle Church and buried aged just 8 years on 29 June 1692 at St Mary’s, Stafford.

**Elizabeth (1689/90 - not known)** Baptised on 19 January 1689/90. She and Diana were Administrators of the will of their brother John. Elizabeth was the last child for Richard and Elizabeth Perrott, and she could well be the link to the Norton Drakefords. The date of death of

Elizabeth née Perrott is not recorded, but as her daughter Elizabeth junior was born in January 1689 and her husband married Rebecca Crompton in November 1689, it would be safe to assume that Elizabeth died at or shortly after her baby Elizabeth was born.

Indeed, at St Chad’s, Stafford on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1723 Elizabeth Drakeford aged 33 married a Johannes Drakeford. There is no evidence of their children in the Stafford church records.

Let us make an assumption. Taking a jump into the dark and in the knowledge that we know that a **John and Elizabeth Drakeford of Norton** had a first child in 1757, Mary Drakeford, which makes the timeline somewhat stretched, and missing a generation. That is to say the father John would have been 60 at the time had he married at the age of 26 and Elizabeth 13 years his senior aged 68? This Elizabeth and John had a second child, **Solomon**, who was baptised at **Norton-in-the-Moors on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1760**. His father John and mother Elizabeth continued the tree for the current family including Gillian, Michael and Chris Drakeford, and Tim Drakeford too.

Before we claim this as absolute, there are issues still to be settled. The fact that Johannes/John is a common name for the various Drakefords at the time makes this an almost impossible task. Enquiries continue.

## **The Perrott Connection**

We are fortunate to have available from the SRO **the marriage agreement dated 6<sup>th</sup> December 1677, between Richard Drakeford, ‘Three Wives’ and his second wife Elizabeth Perrott.** The commentary below provides a brief summary of this important document. The actual document and the transcription are shown in the Addendum Section 22.



**Comment:** This extensive document provides 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 8<sup>th</sup> November 1672 between Richard Drakeford on the 1<sup>st</sup> part, Edward Birch and Francis Brecknocke (sic) on the 2<sup>nd</sup> part, and Richard Drakeford the Yonger(sic) and Elizabeth Brecknocke (now Dec'd) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> part, and John Turton, Thomas Brecknocke, Clerke, James Greene (now Dec'd) and Richard Wilkes then of Willenhall (now Dec'd). They married at Shenstone in 1672 and had two children, **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 Perrott 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 née Perrott died around the time of the birth of baby daughter Elizabeth.

Daughter Elizabeth was to marry a Johannes (John) Drakeford on 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 this Will dated 1681 is shown below courtesy of the National Archives.**

The **Will dated 20<sup>th</sup> December 1681** of Elizabeth Perrott's grandfather, **James Perrott** who died in 1687 at the latest, refers to his granddaughter '**Mrs Elizabeth Drakeford and her son John**'. To quote:

*...and bequeath unto my grandchild Mrs Elizabeth Drakeford the sum of twenty shillings to buy her a mourning ring also I give twenty shillings more for the use of her sonne John Drakeford as a token from his greatgrandfather also I give...*

in a better condition and way living then his Brothers are. is the cause  
 I soe dealt with him and my very small estate I have Item I give to  
 my sounet John's sounet Paul Petit forty shillings to buy him Lambs  
 withall Also I will to Mary White my servant shee having  
 hood with me above Tenne yeares the summe of Twenty shillings  
 of good and lawfull money of England All which money severally  
 given I will shall be paid and formed with nicety care next after  
 my decease by my Executor hereafter named Item I give to my  
 Daughter Anne Petit my silver cup for beere and a sugar dish  
 of silver both marked with T. At they have both handles I give unto  
 my sounet Absenry Petit a small silver Can Item I give unto my  
 sounet William Petit a small silver Can which our Olmes engraven  
 on it Item I give unto my sounet John three small silver Salts  
 and two small silver souer cups to be delivered to them by my sounet  
 Paul Petit to whom I give and bequeath the residue of my estate  
 whom I nominate to be Executor of this my last Will and Testam<sup>t</sup>  
 In witness whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and seal  
 the Twelveth of February One Thousand Six hundred Eighty.  
 Six. paulc Petit. Sealed signed and published in the presence  
 of Ed. Strautlin Jo. Stokes Dal. Joken.

**Probatum** fuit huius Testamentum apud London Coram  
 oculi viro Vicario Notario Legum coram Senore Deculis et egregij viri  
 Sui Richardi James Militis Legum etiam Senoris Curiae Prae rogatione  
 Cantuar. Magistri Custodis sive Commissarii Iste constituti Septimo  
 die mensis Julij Anno Sui Maximiano Secundo Octavo Septimo  
 Juramento Pauli Petit filij dicti defuncti et Executoris in huius  
 Testamento nominat. Cui remissa fuit Administratio omnium et singulorum  
 bonorum jurium et creditorum dicti defuncti Se bene et fideliter  
 administrand. ead. ad sancta Dei Evangelia Jurat.

**In the name of God Amen** Jacobus Perrott

The Twentijeth day of second Anno viii One Thousand six  
 hundred Eighty One and in the xxxij<sup>th</sup> year of the reigne of our  
 Sovereigne Lord King Charles the second over England &c. I  
 James Perrott of the parish of Arceley in the County of Stafford  
 Gent: being full of yeares and taken into serious consideration  
 the many fold casualties sicknesses and diseases which mortall men  
 are subject unto soe therefore whilst God permitteth me life  
 and memory) make and publish this my last Will and Testament  
 in writing in manner and forme following first and principally  
 I give and bequeath my soule into the hands of the most sacred  
 and ever blessed Trinity, trusting to be saved by the only merits  
 and satisfaction of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. And my  
 body I desire may be buried in decent manner and as neare to my  
 loving Wife Goodith Perrott deceased as with convenienty may  
 be if it shall happen that I decease at Arceley aforesaid and my grave  
 to be covered with that stone which I have brought into the parish  
 Church of Arceley there for the same purpose And as touching that

Small

that small portion of worldly estate which it hath pleased the Lord to bestow  
upon me I give and bequeath the same in manner and forme following  
First I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Katherine Perrott  
the summe of Tenne poundes of lawfull English money to be paid unto  
her or put forth to interest in her name and to her use within one  
yeare next after my decease Item I give and bequeath unto my daughter  
Mary Perrott the like summe of Tenne poundes to be paid unto her or  
put forth to interest for her use and in her name within two yeares  
next after my decease and an acquittance under the hand of each of  
my said Daughters shall be a sufficient discharge to my Executors  
hereafter named for the payment thereof And if either of my said  
Daughters happen to decease before she receive her Legacie without  
the consent of her Mother if she be living Then my will is that her  
Legacie of Tenne poundes And if both of them happen to decease  
before the said Legacies of Tenne poundes apeare shall be paid them  
Then my will is that my Executors hereafter named shall pay unto  
three of the youngest Children of my Daughter Maryell Adishop  
namely Goodith Elizabeth and Katherine the summe of Three poundes  
within one yeare next after the decease of the survivor of my two  
Children Katherine and Mary Item I doe give and bequeath  
ratify allow and confirme unto my said two Daughters Katherine and  
Mary all such severall parcells of goods and chattell as are mentioned  
in severall Deeds of gift or bills of sale formerly made by me unto  
them or to friends in trust to their use Item I give and bequeath unto  
my Daughter in law Mrs Elizabeth Perrott widow the summe of  
Twenty shillings And to her two Daughters Mary Perrott and  
Elizabeth Perrott the like summe of Twenty shillings apeare to buy them  
mourning Rings Item I give and bequeath unto my Daughter  
Maryell Adishop the summe of forty shillings and to her three youngest  
Daughters namely Goodith Elizabeth and Katherine the summe of  
forty shillings apeare to be paid unto each of them when they shall  
attaine to the severall ages of eightene yeares apeare and an  
acquittance under their own hands shall be a sufficient discharge  
for the receipt thereof Item I give and bequeath unto my sonne in law  
Mr Thomas Adishop the summe of Twenty shillings Item I give  
and bequeath unto my Grandchild Mrs Elizabeth Drakeford the summe  
of Twenty shillings to buy her a mourning Ring Also I give  
unto her the summe of Twenty shillings more for the use of her sonne  
John Drakeford as a token from his Great grandfather Item I doe  
give and bequeath unto all my servants which shall be my servants  
at the time of my decease the summe of Two shillings apeare and the  
like summe of two shillings apeare to all my Godchildren that shall  
come to demands it Lastly wher as there are some small Debts  
owing unto me and severall other summes of money of mine lent  
out to severall persons upon specialty and security for the same  
hath bene taken in the name of my loving Brother in law Mr  
Thomas Bradshaw All which moneys when they shall be paid in  
my will is shall be equally divided into three parts one part  
whercof I give to myne Executors hereafter named the better to  
enable her to pay Legacies and to defray funerall expenses and the  
other two parts of all the aforesaid Debts I give and bequeath unto  
my said two Daughters Katherine and Mary Perrott and to be  
equally

shall be given to her sister

equally divided betwene them when they shall accomplish the full age of twenty  
and one years apiece or be married which shall first happen and in the mean  
time myne Executrix to receive the interest for her owne use All the rest of  
my goods some Chattell Chattells Implements of household and Implements  
of husbandry and whole estate not formerly mentioyned to be given away  
or disposed I give and bequeath the same to my deare and loving wife  
Katherine Perrott whom I doe make my sole Executrix of this my last  
Will and Testament shee paying and discharging all my Debts charges  
and funerall expences And I doe hereby request my two brethren in  
Law Arthur Bradshaw Esq and the said Thomas Bradshaw to be  
aiding and assisting to my said Wife by their good counsell and direction  
And for their love and paines I give to each of them twenty shillings  
apiece In witness whereof I have ransed this my last Will and  
Testament written with myne owne hand and sealed with myne owne  
seale to be read and published the day and yeare first above written  
in the presence of them whereas I have a long lease of a house barne  
garden and orchard in Dubenhall in the parish of St. Andrew in the County  
of Dorset which is a chattell my will is that my Executrix shall  
hold the same during her life and after her decease my said two daughter  
Katherine and Mary Perrott or the longer liver of them shall have  
and hold all the said premises in Dubenhall to them and their Assignes  
during all the remainder of the term of years mentioyned in the said  
lease and under the rent of Seven shillings payable yearly  
to the Lord of the free thereof. James Perrott. Edward Rudell  
Edward Jennings his marke Edward Dillmott his marke Dove Smith  
Attornay.

## Probatum

fuit huius Testamentum apud London Coram  
oculi et ex regio viro duo Richardo James Milite Legum Drore Curie  
Prærogativa Cantuar. Magro Custode sive Comissario litem constituto  
Tricesimo die mensis Julij Anno Domini Millesimo Sexcentis octogesimo  
Septimo Injramento Catharina Perrott Felice dicit defuncti et  
Executrix in huius Testamento nominat. Cui remissa fuit Administratio  
omnium et singularium bonorum iurium et creditorum dicit defuncti  
De bene et fidei administrandi eadem ad scripta Dei Evangelii vigore  
commissi Jurat.

# In the name of God Amen

This eleventh day of September in the second yeare of the reigne  
of our Sovereigne Lord James the second by the grace of God of  
England Scotland France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith  
of Annoq. in Our thousand Six hundred Eighty three  
Perro, of Bludover in the County of Southton Widow being sick  
and weak in body but of sound perfect and disposing mind and  
memory, praised be God for his mercies doe here make and  
ordaine this my last Will and Testament in manner and forme  
following Imprimis I comitt my soule into the hands of Almighty  
God my heavenly father trusting and firmly believing through  
the merits death and sufferings of Jesus Christ my alone Saviour  
and

James Perrott

a good

There are a number of interesting points. **Firstly**, a technical matter. The date is described as being in the 33<sup>rd</sup> year of the reign of Charles II. In fact, this includes the period when the Rump Parliament took charge. This was disbanded in 1653, and Oliver Cromwell took charge until his death in 1660.

**Secondly**, the will, dated 1681, gave the name of **James Perrott**, as being of **Bellbroughton**, Worcestershire, however the James's wish was that he should be buried at the Parish of Arley in the County of Stafford, next to his wife. There are in fact two villages in the midlands called Arley: one in Cheshire, and the other in Warwickshire. The latter is the most probable.

This is Upper Arley, which used to be in Staffordshire, but was transferred to Worcestershire in 1895. The parish is unusual in being divided into two unequal parts by the River Severn. Woodeaves (west of the river) was only linked to the rest of the parish by a foot ferry, which was replaced in 1972 by a footbridge.

The manor of Upper Arley had various owners before 1276, when it was bought by Roger de Mortimer in 1276. It passed down his family, who held the title Earl of March until 1448 when Richard Plantagenet, 3rd Duke of York sold it. It was bought by William Burley, whose daughter Joan married **Thomas Lyttleton**, whose descendants (spelling their name Lyttelton) also owned Hagley Hall and became Barons Lyttelton until the death of Thomas Lyttelton, 2nd Baron Lyttelton in 1779, when it passed to his sister Lucy and her husband, Arthur Annesley, 8th Viscount Valentia, later Earl of Mountnorris.

The point is that this was perhaps relevant to the connection with Bridget Lyttelton mentioned below under the **Perrott Family**.

**Thirdly**, and the most important matter is that this Will is dated 20 Dec 1681 and proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on 30 July 1687. Our problem is that if Elizabeth married Richard Drakeford in 1677 and their daughter Elizabeth was baptised in 1689, and with the Will was dated 1681, this granddaughter of James Perrott was not even born, let alone had a son called John!!

The sad thing is that John Perrott's daughter Elizabeth probably died around the time her daughter Elizabeth was born and Richard Drakeford married for the third time to Rebecca Crompton, but the marriage was without issue.

Referring back to the will, this does imply that James Perrott in 1681 had a daughter, Elizabeth, and she had a daughter Elizabeth who married a John, and that they had a son called John. This was corrected by the Marriage Settlement dated 1677 where it is shown that James Perrott was Elizabeth's grandfather and John Perrott her father. For some time it had been a known fact because our father Ken Drakeford noted the marriage at **St Chad's on 2 January, 1722** between **Johannus(sic) Drakeford and Elizabetha(sic) Drakeford**. This seemed a little odd, but it now makes more sense but still the dates cause concern for us to confirm any assumption on the matter.

## Further Perrott family links to the Drakeford family.

James Perrott (1601-1687) had an Uncle Humphrey, who married Elizabeth James in 1586, daughter of Henry James who married Bridget Lyttleton. **By coincidence, Bridget was connected to the Pershouse family, and the remarkable 1594 'Drakeford Letter' was part of the Persehouse collection.** In that letter Edward Drakeford is noted as working as deputy High Sheriff of Staffordshire to Sir Peter Littleton. The Littletons should not be confused with the Lyttletons, quite a different family.

For the record I add further information about the Perrott family. Do note that this is also spelled as Perrot, which may be connected: **Sir John Perrot** (1528-1592) served as lord deputy to Queen Elizabeth I of England during the Tudor conquest of Ireland. He died in custody in the Tower of London after conviction on charges of high treason for his conduct in that office. It was speculated that he was an illegitimate son of Henry VIII. I have not discovered a direct line to the James Perrott, father-in-law of Richard Drakeford (Three Wives).

There was also **Sir Thomas Perrot (1553-1594)**, knighted in Ireland 1578/9 by Sir William Drury. Perrot was Mayor for Haverfordwest in 1586, M.P. for the county in 1593 **He was married in 1583 to Lady Dorothy Devereaux** (c 1565-1619), who died 3 August 1619. She was a sister of Robert, second earl of Essex (1567-1601), and a firm favourite of Queen Elizabeth I.

### Note:

**If you refer to the tree under Section 13, 'A Royal Descent', of this paper, this shows that the Babingtons, the Littletons and the Drakefords were descended from Edward I, you will note the following:**

..... They had a son - **William Ferrers** (Lord Ferrers of Chartley) (c1412-1450) who married Elizabeth Belknap (?1410-1471)

They had a daughter - **Ann Ferrers** (1438-1469), **7<sup>th</sup> Baroness Ferrers of Chartley**, who married **Walter Devereux (c1432-1485)** [and became Lord Ferrers of Chartley in her own right and was summoned to parliament as such] **He was killed at the Battle of Bosworth Field fighting for Henry VII.**

They had a son - **John Devereux** (c1464-1501), who **became Lord Ferrers of Chartley** and married Cecily Bouchier (?1467-1493) daughter of William Bouchier, **Viscount Bouchier**, son of **Henry Bouchier, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Essex and 5<sup>th</sup> Viscount Bouchier.**

They had a son - **Walter Devereux** (1488-1558) **created 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Hereford in 1550** who married firstly Lady Mary Grey (1491-1538), daughter of Thomas Grey, 1<sup>st</sup> Marquis of Dorset.

They had a second son - **William Devereux (1525-1579) who married Jane Scudamore** (?1506-?1553) in 1554.

They had two daughters, Barbara and Margaret - **Margaret Devereux (1555-?) married Edward Littleton (1555-1610) M.P. & Knight, of Pillaton**

They had a daughter - **Ellen Littleton (?1590-1671) who married William Babington (?1590-1625)**

They had a daughter - **Anne Babington (c1622-?) who married Richard Drakeford (1610-1679).**

## g) Rev. Matthew Drakeford (1653-1703)

**Will of Matthew Drakeford, Rector of St Mary's Stafford, dated 1699, and probate 1703/04** granted in favour of his widow, Ann. Will No. 53

<b>Name</b>	Matthew Drakeford, Rector
<b>Place of burial</b>	'to be buried in such decent manner as my Executrix thinks fit'
<b>Wife</b>	<b>Ann (n. Astley)</b> died 1704 (Salt Lib. Cooper)
<b>Children</b>	Ann(e) born 1690.
<b>Executrix</b>	Ann Drakeford
<b>Witnesses</b>	<b>Margaret Wilkes, Rich: Wilkes, Matt: Astley</b>

Matthew's sister, Mercy married Richard Wilkes. The names as witnesses are those of Richard Wilkes and Margaret Wilkes, the children of Mercy and Richard who were born in 1666 and 1673 respectively. Matthew Astley is the brother of Matthew's wife, Ann.

Matthew was born on 31 December 1653 and baptised on 11 January 1653/1654 at St Chad's, Stafford. He was educated at Stafford School and admitted as a sizar (an undergraduate who receives some sort of assistance at a Cambridge College). He was awarded a B.A. in 1672/3, and an M.A. in 1676, when he was also appointed a curate at St Chad's church, Stafford. He became a school master of **Brewood Free Grammar School** in 1679 and rector of Colton near Rugeley in the Lichfield district in 1681. In 1682 he was made a perpetual vicar of St Mary's.

**Matthew Drakeford married Ann Astley** at St Mary's Stafford on 14 May 1689 at the age of 35. Ann, who hailed from Bishbury (now Bushbury), 4 miles north of Wolverhampton, was 24. She was possibly related to the local Astley family, of nearby Patshull Hall. They had a daughter Ann who was baptised at St Mary's Stafford on 17 December 1690.

On 24 May 1697 Matthew, '*being sicke and weake in body*' made his Will (No. 53) leaving everything to his wife Ann.

On 20 June 1698 Matthew was appointed rector of **Tixall** between **Rugeley** and roughly four miles east of Stafford. On 18 October that year he was appointed **prebendary of Lichfield Cathedral**.

Matthew died in 1703 and on 5 November 1703 was buried at St Mary's Stafford, where on the list of Rectors he is listed to have officiated as such from 1689-1704. The clergy 'held office' until the replacement was found, hence the reference to a year after Matthew died.

### **Main Assets and distributions:**

This Will is evidence, that Matthew Drakeford was a rector when he made his Will in 1699 and that he was a sick man at the time. Furthermore, he died in 1703 leaving everything to his wife Ann.

**Probate:** This was provided in 1703/4 for Ann Drakeford and witnessed by **John Taylor**, Surrogatea.

Matthew Drakeford provides a link to the Peploe family because both Mathew and **John Peploe** were curates in Stafford from 16. A different **Revd John Peploe**, crops up in a later Will in 1765. Matthew was rector of St Mary's Stafford 1689-1704.

## **Will of Ann Drakeford, Née Astley 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1704**

Matthew's wife Ann made her Will in December 1704 with her brothers Walter and Matthew Astley as her executors. Her sister Lucretia Wilkes was mentioned in her Will. All this is rather incestuous. Matthew's sister Mercy married Richard Wilkes, and their son Richard married Lucretia Astley, sister of Matthew's wife Ann Drakeford born Ann Astley! Probate was granted to **Walter and Matthew Astley**.

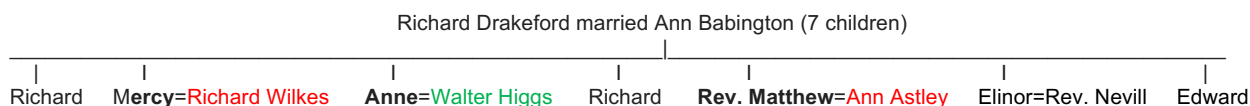
The Will shows that everything was left to her daughter Anne aged 14, emphasising that she was a minor, and allowing Anne to get everything when she reached 21. It also allows for both death before reaching her majority, and what should happen to the wealth should she have no children. Ann dies just 2 days after her Will was written. Her Signature shows that she was far from well. This is shown in detail in the **Addendum**.

Ann Drakeford died and was buried at St Mary's, Stafford on 8 December 1704 just a year after Matthew. Presumably, her daughter was cared for by either the Drakefords or the Astley family.

We know little about daughter Anne after this. However, there is a Will for Anne Drakeford dated 1742, with probate 1743 linked to the Wilkes family. This indicates that she ended up in Willenhall with the Wilkes family and died when she was aged about 52.

Our Roger Hall has carried out much research and provided copies of the Wills. It is understood that this shows a strong link between the Drakeford/Astley and Wilkes families as shown in the diagram below.

It is well worth turning to the **Addendum** searching for the Wills mentioned dated 1704 and 1742.



The Wilkes, Drakefords and Astley families were further connected through the next generation, hence:

**Mercy Drakeford** married Richard Wilkes. They had five children:  
Elizabeth 1664  
Richard 1666, who married **Lucretia Astley**.  
Mercy 1668  
Ann 1670  
Margaret 1673

**Rev. Matthew Drakeford** married **Ann Astley** and had a daughter also Ann, born 1690 and who died a spinster in 1742. However, Mathew's wife - **Ann Drakeford, née Astley**, had a sister, **Lucretia**, and brothers Walter and Matthew Astley.



In 1697 Matthew Drakeford was very much involved with the community both in Stafford and beyond. Under the heading of Farmer's and Mrs Rebecca Crompton's charities is the following excerpt:

*Mr. William Farmer of Penkridge, by his will dated 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1697, gave to the poor of Stafford, the sum of 40L, (£40), and directed that this should be set out at interest, in the names of **Matthew Drakeford**, the Minister of Stafford, William Oldfield, Esq., Mr John Taylor, and Mr **Richard Drakeford**, to the end that, with the product and interest thereof, coals may be bought yearly in winter, and given to such of the poor of the town as his trustees should approve".*

**In 1700 Stafford was still a small market town.** Self-employed worked there and sold from their homes. No one was allowed to set up in business without paying an admission fee of £10 to become a burgess. This was a large sum of money in those days.

The town had a tradition of shoemaking. It was a cottage industry and whilst there was a shoemakers' Guild, most worked on a small scale and while a few prospered none were wealthy. It was not until the late 1700s that William Horton formed a significant business, initially providing materials to outworkers who made up the shoes from home.

## **h) Rebecca Drakeford – Widow of Richard 'Three Wives'**

### **Will of Rebecca Drakeford, Stafford made 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1704 and Proved 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1704 No. 54**

<b>Name</b>	Rebecca Drakeford, (né Crompton), widow, 3 <sup>rd</sup> wife of Richard Drakeford
<b>Husband</b>	Richard Drakeford (1650-1700)
<b>Children</b>	None, but Richard had numerous children by two of the previous marriages.
<b>Executors</b>	<b>Francis Crompton, Howard Moore</b> (both kinsmen)
<b>Witnesses</b>	John Jones, Elizabeth Green, Thomas Allin
<b>Appraisers</b>	<b>Thomas Palmer, Henry Noorman, William Clark</b>

In writing her Will Rebecca does not mention any of the children of Richard in her Will, so we can assume that she was not the mother of any child. The church records refer to the child for each baptism as being that of Richard and Elizabeth, with a note in the records that John was by his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife. Both his earlier wives were called Elizabeth.

Richard's son also a Richard had inherited the major part of his father's estate.

**Bequests** These were mainly to relatives on Rebecca's side of the family. The property being two messuages farms and tenements at **Halfhead** and **Shawford** both in Staffordshire went to Mr. **Francis Crompton**, cousin, **Howard Moore** and his children. Distribution of life-long rentals and other income involving **John Sutton** of **Droxey**, **Walter Nowell Esq.** and the late **Abigall Peake** and income from the **lordship of Cresswell**, and for John Brandick for income from Walter Nowells.

Her daughter-in-law **Elizabeth Drakeford** who would have been 14, received 'the seven gold lockets that are now linked to my watch'. She gave to her godson **Francis Elde, the Earl of Denby** and the **Countess** pictures, and the remaining pictures to **Francis Crompton** for his life and thereafter to **John Crompton** of London.

Minor bequests went to **Mr. William Hammersley, clerk, Thomas Palmer, Francis Lee, Nathaniel Deane, servant, Thomas Webb, Mrs Anne Walley** wife of **Peter Walley, Mrs Mary Greene, Mrs Blake, John Brandrick**.

There was money owed by **Joseph Woods, John Woods** and **Ralph Woods**. Francis Crompton and John Dancer to arrange for 5/- annually to six poor widows of Stafford according to the Will of her mother **Rebecca Crompton** Dec'd. Apart from that £5 was given to poor widows of Strafford and the same to the poor widows of Castle Church.

From this Will, it can be seen that Rebecca had items of worth, pictures of note and was well connected to the higher echelons of society, presumably from her own family, the Cromptons. '..... my loving kinsman **Francis Crompton** all my plate and my coach'. 'I give to Mrs Blake the silver cup **Madam Fleetwood** gave to me. Clearly there was no particular thought given to the Drakefords descending from her husband Richard, who died just four years previously.

Scandal is never far away. **Henry Fleetwood** (1667 – 1746) was an English soldier and Tory politician. He was the eldest son of **Arthur Fleetwood** of Lichfield in Staffordshire who was secretary to the Earl of Danby. This would appear to be clearly a connection with the godson **Francis Elde** mentioned above. HOWEVER, the title Earl of Danby was used just in 1673 for Sir Thomas Osborne who became the Duke of Leeds in 1674 and not again until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The reference to Francis Elde was Denby although the actual word as written could be either Denby or Danby but more likely the former. Furthermore, **Francis Elde's** biographical notes are void of reference to an **Earl of Denby or Denbeigh**. Nevertheless, Francis Elde was from Seighford, a village and area once dominated by the Bowyer family and also very close to Stafford. He was voted as MP for Staffordshire in 1724 but the result was disputed by the other contestant **Viscount Chetwynd**. An appeal was made against the result and allegedly Francis Elde agreed to allow Chetwynd the seat on payment of 1,500 guineas. This was against the rules of the House of Commons and Chetwynd sought the support of the 'German ladies' that is to say the mistresses of King George I. As a result, the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Warpole intervened in Chetwynd's favour and Francis Elde was expelled from the House!! He did not stand again and remained a bencher of his Inn at Middle Temple. He died in 1760 aged 68.

## i) Richard Drakeford (1673-1728) – ‘The Goldsmith/Refiner’

### Administration dated November 1728 of Will of Richard Drakeford - No. 63

Richard ‘**The Goldsmith**’ was born on 5<sup>th</sup> December 1673 and baptised at Castle Church on 24 December 1673.

<b>Name</b>	Richard Drakeford of Forbridge, ‘The Goldsmith/Metal Refiner’,
<b>Place of burial</b>	The Castle Church register shows Richard Drakeford buried 1729*
<b>Wife</b>	Priscilla, daughter of <b>Edward Foden</b> of Stafford (Salt Lib. Cooper)
<b>Children</b>	Richard, Elizabeth, John, Priscilla, Edward, Matthew, John, Anna Maria, and William

\*Slightly late, but the only Richard Drakeford around, perhaps a late burial or faulty date.

**Main Assets and distributions:** Given as not exceeding £40.

This ‘Will’ should be considered in the context of Richard’s seven-year apprenticeship to **Peter Ffloyer**, goldsmith from 1691 or 1692, ending with his freedom in 1699. Records available at the **Goldsmith’s Hall** library show that he was involved with precious metal - gold and silver - refining rather than as a crafter of gold into object d’art. The baptism of his first child Richard in 1705 has the annotation that the father was a refiner (Source: Tim Drakeford).

It is known that Richards grandfather was brother-in-law to Peter Ffloyer’s father. A visit to the Bank of England archives revealed that there are no records to show that Richard was a bullion dealer.

The very small estate valued at £50 is unusual. It could be that he became very ill over a period of time. Being involved with metals and the refining of them would have been a very hazardous employment. His fortune could have been depleted. Had he known he was in trouble, he may have passed his estate to his son Richard ‘The Town Clerk’ who reached the age of 21 in 1726. Richard junior had completed his apprenticeship to become a lawyer in 1729 and became Town Clerk in 1734.

\*\*The Castle Church register shows that Richard Drakeford fathered the following children: Richard (Town Clerk), Priscilla, Edward, Matthew, John, Anna Maria and William. Richard was baptised at St Mary’s Stafford. The widow Priscilla left all her assets to just her daughter Anna Maria and as she appears unmarried this would be reasonable.

From various papers it is shown that **Richard died intestate** in late October 1728. By a document dated **13<sup>th</sup> November 1728, Priscilla, his widow** renounced her title as executor and the administrative role in favour of their son Richard using the Consistory Court in Lichfield and proposed that Richard Drakeford should take over this role. This agreement was signed by Priscilla Drakeford and witnessed by **Susana Crockatt and William Robbins See above, High Sherriff in 1730)**

A second item was the **letters of Administration**, appointing his son, also **Richard Drakeford, Town Clerk (1705-1765)** as sole Administrator of his father's estate. Others enjoined: **Gilbert Frogatt** gent and **Edward Gerry**, gent, which, was sealed and delivered in the presence of **W. Bushbridge** Notary Public.

A third item dated **15<sup>th</sup> November 1728** follows in which Richard is noted as having applied for Letters of Administration which were granted by Mr **Edward Short** as one of the court's Proctors. *'Richard Drakeford, gentleman, appeared personally and this was granted, noting that with allowable assets deducted, the goods did not exceed £40'*. From this we would assume that the estate had previously been passed to Richard as the eldest son et al. This document was sworn before **R. Rider**, Surrogate and **N. Hinckes**, Notary Public.

This 'Administration' was clearly lost and on **8<sup>th</sup> January 1745**. A fresh administration was granted to **Richard Drakeford (1705-1763)**, the son of the deceased. It was accredited by **Thos. White**, Surrogate.

Family connections: -

### **The children of Richard Drakeford, 'The Goldsmith/Refiner' and Priscilla N. Fodden**

**Richard (1705 – 1763)** – Heir Trained as a lawyer later became **Town Clerk of Stafford**. For further details please see below and the summary of his Will (No. 74).

**Elizabeth (1707-1755)** Spinster and mentioned in the will (No. 74) of Richard, 'The Town Clerk'. She was baptised at St Mary's, Stafford on 20 April 1707, and buried on 18 May 1755 as a spinster of Forebridge, then aged 48. Also see will of Priscilla below.

**John (1709-1709)** John was baptised on 15 January 1708/9 at St Mary's Stafford, and buried there on 31 October 1709. Dying at just 10½ months old, his mother was already pregnant with Priscilla.

**Priscilla (1709/10 -????)** Priscilla was baptised at St Mary's Stafford on 26 March 1710. The next information is that when 18 her father died in May 1728. Later that year her Great Uncle **Richard Neville** and husband of **Elianor Née Drakeford** (sic) made a Will when he was '80 years of age and upwards'. He left £20 to his *'niece Priscilla Drakeford spinster daughter of Richard Drakeford\* late of Forbridge'*. The Rev. Richard Nevill was buried at St John, Acton Trussel on 2 February next. Probate was granted to Elianor at Stafford. \*This was Richard 'The Goldsmith'.

In due course, '*Elinor Neville of Riccardscoate in the parish of Castle, widow*' made her Will dated 5 October 1731 leaving almost all of her estate to her '*dear and loving kinswoman Priscilla Drakeford daughter of my late nephew Richard Drakeford (Goldsmith) late of Forbridge in the parish of Castle gentleman deceased*'. She makes Priscilla her sole executrix.

'Ellen (sic): Nevill' widow of Rickerscoate' (sic.) was buried at St Mary's Stafford on 6 December 1731.

On 15 August 1749 as shown in the General Advertiser, London, **Richard Drakeford 'The Mariner'** who is Elinor's brother's son and Priscilla's father's uncle's son, is the prize agent for goods taken off the 'Golden Pearl'. Mentioned on the advertisement are the names of his brokers working from Harp Lane, Thames Street, London. They are **William** and **Benjamin Vaughan**. This soon becomes very incestuous.

Two years later, on 7 October 1749 a license is issued to **William Vaughan** of Dunstan, Middlesex, gentleman, widower, and **Priscilla Drakeford** of Castle Church, spinster to marry at Castle Church or Baswich. On the same day they were married at Holy Trinity, Baswich by William Corne. The *London Penny Post* of 25 October 1749 had the report: 'A few days ago Mr **William Vaughan**, an eminent Broker in Harp Lane, Thames Street, was married to **Miss Drakeford of Stafford**'. From 1617 the Drakefords of Stafford had held land at Baswich, which is about 2 miles south east of Forebridge and about the same distance from Castle Church.

There is currently no evidence that Priscilla had children, or that her Will has been discovered, or is it known when she died. In the **Addendum**, there is ample evidence that both Priscilla and her aunt Diana relied heavily on Richard 'The Merchant' for moral and monetary support.

**Edward (1712 – 1738)** Edward was baptised at St Mary's, Stafford on 18 June 1712. At the age of 14 Edward was appointed volunteer on HMS Lion (or Lyon). His 'uncle' Richard 'The Mariner' was purser of the Lion and the captain was a Joseph Lawes. It was a 60-gun ship of the line. In June 1727 it sailed for Gibraltar as part of a fleet to support the garrison there, which had been under siege by the Spanish.

His next posting was on 17 May 1730 when he joined the crew of HMS Success as Midshipman under Captain Thomas Smith. The ship was appointed to cruise off the coast of Britain between Portland and Spithead in order to prevent the export of wool and the running of goods by import smugglers. In February 1731 he was re-graded as an Able Seaman still on the Success. This was done if someone else had to be graded as a Midshipman, because only a certain number were allowed. This also happened to no less than Nelson. He was again appointed Midshipman in June 1731 and ended his tour in April 1732. This was otherwise known as being paid off.

Almost immediately he became an Able Seaman on the 20-gun frigate HMS Dursley Galley, again with Thomas Smith as Captain. The ship, with two others was ordered to the Straits of Gibraltar 'to restrain and punish the 'insolence' of the different piratical states on the coast of Barbary'. About November 1733 Edward became master's mate as the ship was in Gibraltar.

On 31 July 1734, at the age of 22, he passed his Lieutenant's examination having the number TNA ADM 107/3f153r. This provided most of the above details of his previous career. Because a commission as Lieutenant was so scarce, he had to remain a Midshipman and on 17 March 1737/38 having joined HMS Centurion off Madeira, he made his Will leaving everything to his older sister 'Beth' Drakeford, spinster.

Tragically, Edward died on the Centurion off Gambia on 11 July 1738 at the age of 26. Administration of his goods was granted in the Bishopric of Winchester to his sister Elizabeth Drakeford of Gosport, the sole legatee.

Our **Roger Hall** provided the following most interesting account from the Hampshire Records Office:

*In February 1737/8 the ship HMS Centurion, under the command of Captain George Anson (who was to become Baron Anson, First Lord of the Admiralty) set sail from Spithead for the west coast of Africa to protect British merchant vessels there from the French. Among the crew was midshipman **Edward Drakeford**. On 17<sup>th</sup> March 1737/8, the ship had reached Madeira: Edward Drakeford wrote on a sheet of paper 'This for Miss Bett Drakeford & all other things belonging to me', dated and signed it, wrapped it round a silk and silver purse, locked it in a small box and put this in his seaman's chest. On 11<sup>th</sup> July 1738, when the ship was off the coast of Gambia, Edward Drakeford died. William Jacka, the ship's master, went through his possessions and found the paper and purse. When Centurion finally arrived back in Portsmouth late 1739 representatives of the Church Court, having heard sworn statements from William Jacka from Richard Drakeford of Gosport, gentleman to the effect that they knew Edward Drakeford and that the paper was written by him, granted Administration of Edward's goods etc. to Elizabeth Drakeford of Gosport, spinster, Edward's legatee.*

Edward's paper and the two sworn statements have ended up with the wills in the Hampshire Archives. Richard Drakeford of Gosport is of course Richard 'The Mariner'. Transcriptions of papers lodged by Edward's sister Bett and the sworn statement by Richard 'The Mariner' and William Jacka are held on file by MWD. These show attestations as to the handwriting of Edward etc.

**Matthew (1714 -1763)** Matthew was baptised on 16 May 1714 at St Mary's Stafford. He was known to be a surgeon and apothecary living in Cannock and that he was married to **Ann Haddersich** in 1761. She was the executor of the Will of Richard Drakeford (1697-1757), his father's cousin. However, this Will, No. 71, refers to him as a 'nephew' of the deceased. For both the Will of Richard Drakeford 'The Mariner' and that of Matthew, see No. 75, below.

**John (1717 - ????)** Wishful thinking is that this John, who was baptised at St Mary's Stafford on 7 February 1717/18, *may be* the husband of an **Elizabeth**, and parents of **Mary** and **Solomon** who lived at Norton born in 1757 and 1760, respectively. **Gill, Chris, and Michael Drakeford are direct descendants** of **Solomon**. This would mean that John having been born in 1717 would have been 42 when Solomon was conceived, which is not out of the way of things.

The logic behind John's connection is that Richard, 'The Goldsmith' would have initially worked in London after his apprenticeship ended. The Refiner seems to have lost his money and already passed his property to his eldest son, Richard, 'The Town Clerk' before he died. He left no Will, and his administration showed that his final estate was not exceeding £40. This would have meant that apart from Richard, his sons would have had to fend for themselves and their wife and children. John probably saw hope in the growing pottery industry, and we know his son Solomon became a potter and that skill continued in the family until the late 1800s.

Conversely, Solomon's parents John and Elizabeth might have been through The Richard Drakeford/Elizabeth Perrott marriage. **Elizabeth Drakeford**, daughter, was the final child of Richard, 'Three-Wives' and grandchild of Richard Drakeford and Anne Babington. She married Johannes Drakeford on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1722. Had they a boy names John, who in turn married an Elizabeth in Norton this could be the line we crave for!

Whatever the answer there is no doubt that the current Drakefords involved with this Drakeford Family History, are all related through the Norton and Congleton lines, as well as with the American Drakeford/Laytons as shown through DNA results. It is known that the Stafford family emanated from Congleton and it is quite likely that there was later interaction between the cousins; but alas the church records are not complete enough to provide the evidence.

**Anna Maria (1720 – 1798)**. Anna Maria was baptised at St Mary's Stafford on 29 June 1720, but some records state 28 March. She was the last daughter of Richard and Priscilla, and her father died when she was just 7. Priscilla named Anna Maria as her sole beneficiary and executrix in her Will (No.72) dated 8<sup>th</sup> January 1755. See below. One of the witnesses, William Vaughan, was the husband of Anna Maria's sister, also named Priscilla.

On 23 January 1763 Anna Maria, at the age of 42, married Ebenezer Lawrence, a widower at Christ Church with St Mary's & St Stephen, Spitalfields, London, with both being 'of this parish'. On 2 December 1798, at the age of 78, Anna Maria was buried at St Dunstan & All Saints, Stepney, London.

**William (1722- ????)** Born in May 1722 and baptised at St Mary's Stafford on 13 June 1722. There are no further church records, but at the SRO were found and copied a number of records from a William to his uncle Richard Drakeford at Gosport dating from 1748 to 1750. The only other William was born in 1745, a son of Richard, 'The Town Clerk', and too young.

These would seem to fit this William, born 1722, who would be mid-twenties at the time of writing. He had a very pretty hand, and mostly they are a pleasure to be able to read them without the difficulties of others.

10<sup>th</sup> January 1748/9: William asks for the opinion of Richard, 'The Mariner' pending an interview with a Captain, mainly to ensure that he does not offend his uncle. He also mentioned a need for money 'between-ships'.

22<sup>nd</sup> February 1748/9: this is a letter initially complaining about a Mr Cousins, with whom he seems to have had an argument. He seeks support from his uncle. Thereafter he blames his uncle for encouraging him to go to sea as it did not agree with his constitution.

William asks for a posting on shore. He bewails the fact that his uncle might be upset, and asks for his understanding.

27<sup>th</sup> January 1749/50, London: William sends his account requesting payment to Will and Purver, referring to sailing from Spithead. Uncle Richard is clearly not happy with settling the bills of others and writes on the letter a copy of his reply dated 18<sup>th</sup> April, Gosport, in no uncertain terms telling him he is far from happy to pay William's bills.

13<sup>th</sup> February 1749/50: This is a letter from William to a brother, explain that 'Uncle' is not eager to help, and he is in debt to Will & Purver for £34.12.2d explaining he is obliged for £10.

Alas, Uncle Richard, it seems, was financing the poorer members of the family as can be seen in some of the other letters shown in the Addendum.

#### **j) Priscilla Drakeford - widow of Richard, 'The Goldsmith/Refiner'**

##### **Will of Priscilla Drakeford dated 18<sup>th</sup> January 1755, proven 7<sup>th</sup> May 1757 No.72**

Priscilla was the daughter of Edward Foden and wife of Richard Drakeford, 'The Goldsmith'. Of her children, Richard, 'Town Clerk' is still alive, as is her daughter Anna Maria, Edward – nothing known, John possibly went to Norton and died around 1765 (?), Matthew was to die in 1763 and nothing is known of William.

Priscilla also had a second daughter, **Elizabeth (1707-1755)**. She was buried on 18 May 1755. She was possibly ill when Priscilla's Will was written in January that year; hence she did not appear therein.

Also, according to the Will of Richard 'The Town Clerk', she had a £200 bond that passed to Frances, his wife and Priscilla's daughter-in-law.

Priscilla's is a simple Will leaving all Priscilla's estate, real and personal to her daughter Anna Maria Drakeford (baptised Castle Church 1720), who is also her sole executrix. This was witnessed by **Joseph Dickenson, Geo. Crooke and William Vaughan.** \*



Probate was applied for on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1757 before **Joseph Dickenson**, surrogate, and confirmed on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1757.

\*William Vaughan married the deceased's daughter Priscilla Drakeford in 1749, when she was aged 39.

### **k) Richard Drakeford (1697-1757) – ‘The Mariner’**

**Richard Drakeford (1697 -1757), of Stafford** known as **‘The Mariner’**, Naval career from 1709, later Prize and Pay Agent, Deputy Sheriff 1730, High Sheriff of Staffordshire 1753

**This information about Richard is partially replicated in section 7 above along with his career details and repeated here to ensure continuity of the family story for the reader.**

This **Richard Drakeford** was the son of **Edward Drakeford (1656-1709) ‘The Ironmonger’** and his second wife Honor Durham of Bridewell Precinct, London. Richard made a great deal of money as a captain's clerk, ships purser, and a prize money pay agent. He owned properties in Gosport near the naval base and later in his life in the **Castle Church** area of Stafford, including Forebridge Hall where he died aged 60.

Edward ‘The Ironmonger’ was the third living son of Richard Drakeford and Anne Babington. Their first son, Richard ‘Three Wives’ acquired the family estate. The second eldest, **Matthew (1653-1703)**, went into the church and became the vicar of St Mary's, Stafford. Not being the heir, and like other junior Drakeford brothers Edward had to find his own way in life. As a consequence, he left Stafford for London.

The family line shows that Richard ‘The Mariner’, a grandchild of Richard Drakeford and Anne Babington, has an ancestry back to Edward I.

In March 1753, Richard Drakeford (1697-1757) of Castle Church living at the ‘Drakeford Mansion House’ (no doubt Forebridge Hall where the arms were displayed in a window) made application to have the **Drakeford coat of arms** verified. This was required because he had just been appointed High Sheriff of Staffordshire. There is no doubt that he was ‘The Mariner’ and was High Sherriff of Staffordshire. Without having issue, he was advised against the high cost of the exercise. The inference was that he was not of sufficient breeding, nor family status for the investigation to proceed. Copies of the correspondence from **John Warburton**, Somerset Herald are provided in the Addendum below.

This enquiry was pre-dated by a map with all the coats of arms for Staffordshire gentry showing the **Drakeford family coat of arms and dated 1747**. This was a later edition of one from 1682, which also showed the Drakeford coat of arms. This was some 71 years before the Somerset Herald advised that the right to use the Coat of Arms could not be substantiated. The comment was made that the idea of the Eagle Displayed was from the **Damford** family coat of arms, although today such arms attached to that name is not readily ascertainable. Importantly any

substance to such a Drakeford embellishment was not proven, not least because no 'Drakeford' was subject to a regular Visitation by the heraldry that is required to continue the attribution and use of such an emblem... perhaps it cost the family too much money.

One possibility is that the close ties to **Sir William Bowyer** and **Sir Edward Littleton** through **Mercie Drakeford**, wife of Richard Drakeford (1576-1639), caused the creation of the coat of arms, perhaps without taking the trouble to get them authenticated. It seems most likely that the said coat of arms was created but not used when Richard Drakeford (1576-1639) was invited to appear at the coronation of **King Charles I** in 1625 to receive the order of **Knighthood** but declined. Richard was fined £10 for not attending.

It has become clear that in the late 1500s onwards the Drakeford family was mixing with other families that were bearing arms.

Full details of Richard 'The Mariner's' career are given in section 7) above.

### **Will of Richard Drakeford (1697-1757), of Stafford Green dated 17<sup>th</sup> March 1756, will proved 21<sup>st</sup> March 1757 Will number 71.**

Richard's baptism is recorded as being on 11 July 1697 at St Alphage, Wood Street London.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Richard Drakeford</b> , Gent, and <b>Mariner</b> of Stafford Green son of Edward Drakeford and Honor (née Durham)
<b>Place of burial</b>	Not stated save that ...'my body I commit to the earth in as private a manner as can be decently done.' The place of the burial has not been ascertained.
<b>Wife</b>	Noted in his Will as 'my dear late wife', but she is not named.
<b>Children</b>	No Issue.
<b>Sisters</b>	<b>Ann Maes (Mayes?)</b> , <b>widow</b> plus those listed on Family Tree.
<b>Brothers</b>	Matthew Drakeford of Cannock plus those listed on Family Tree.
<b>Nephew/cousin</b>	Richard Drakeford, 'Town Clerk', Stafford
<b>Great Nephews/cousins</b>	Richard Drakeford 'The Major', <b>etc.</b>
<b>Nieces</b>	Factually, Leticia, is the niece being the daughter of his sister Ann alone. But the Will implies others are considered of that, this is including Frances, the wife of Richard 'The Town Clerk', and Elinor, the wife of Matthew not the apothecary, but 'The Town Clerk's son but as he was 19 when 'The Mariner' died this may not be the case.
<b>Executors and trustees</b>	<b>Matthew Drakeford</b> of Cannock, Surgeon and Apothecary and <b>Lewis Dickenson</b> of Stafford, Apothecary.
<b>Witnesses</b>	Joseph March Snr, Joseph Duke, my servant, Edward Wooton, apprentice to John Venables, my barber in Stafford

### **Main Assets and distributions:**

Household goods & furniture household plate, watches jewels pictures books linen, china etc., plus property **Middle Street, in Gosport**, freehold in **Towbridge** in Castle Church, two pieces of land names **Backhouses Meadows, Phillips lands**; all the above to be held in trust for beneficiaries by Matthew Drakeford and Richard's friend Lewis Dickenson. All the estates are to be left to **Richard Drakeford, the younger**, the eldest son of Richard Drakeford, Town Clerk of Stafford. Richard Drakeford 'The Major' is to be put in possession when he becomes 21\*. Should he die before then, and without a male heir, the estates would go to the next eldest son, John, and if he should die before the age of twenty the assets would be left in descending order of age to his brothers, Matthew, William, and Edward.

\*By letter dated 11.2.1758, as his circumstances had changed, he asks the executors for an advance and annual income to 'survive'. This is detailed below.

Richard's sister, **Ann Maes**, widow, was to receive a yearly rent of £20 etc. Richard Drakeford, 'The Town Clerk' had received money to buy land against a loan from Richard. This mortgage was to be forgiven and the land unencumbered. Ann was baptised at St Alphage on 21 December 1699. Referred to as Ann 'Drakefoot' and she married William Mayes in 1727 in St Pauls, Bedford.

In addition to items listed above, Richard also left in trust with Matthew Drakeford and Lewis Dickenson his coach, chariot, horses, cows, and other cattle etc. *'to be sold in best manner possible'* and kept for interest for Richard the Younger.

In return for their work as executors and trustees Matthew received a large two-handled drinking cup and the sum of fifty pounds, and Lewis Dickenson silver tankards and also fifty pounds. **Major Richard Faulkner**, living with Richard in Stafford, received £50.

The two 'nieces' above mentioned received clothes of his late wife and niece not disposed of before.

### **Probate**

The Will was proved in **London** before Sir George Lee Master Keeper/Commissary of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury on **21<sup>st</sup> March 1757** by the oaths of **Matthew Drakeford** and **Lewis Dickenson** etc.

**Comment:** This is a very significant Will. It shows the wealth of this man who had a successful career in the navy starting as a captain's clerk, ships purser, and eventually becoming a Prize and Pay Agent.

For a change Richard, when making the Will, declared himself to be 'having my health' compared to many that were sick in one form or another. This did not do him much good as he died in less than a year! He did not declare where he wanted to be buried.

This Will is reflective of the fact that we know that Richard had no immediate heirs, which is supported by the comments made when he applied for the coat of arms in 1753.

There follows a letter dated 1758 referred to above from 'The Major', the son of Richard 'The Town Clerk', requesting from the executors an allowance:

*Sir*

*I have Rec'd a letter from my father in which he tells me that you and my uncle have settled that I shall have £40 a yeare. So should be glad to have a Instmt allowance the date of my coming being the first day of Decbr. And I suppose I am to have a quarter advanced 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 paid I mean whether I may draw for £20 on the first day of march and Mr Bedford inform me who I have seem thaty he has £50 whi hands for one years rent and as he is so near this place might easily remit to me what sum you think proper I shd be glad of an answer as soon as you Receive this & I am*

*yr. Obedient Servy*

*R. Drakeford*

*Winchester Feby 11<sup>th</sup> 1758*

This letter addressed to Lewis Dickenson, is dated 11 months after the will was proved. I assume the reference to his uncle is Matthew Drakeford the co-executor. Richard would have been probably 18 when he wrote this and had to wait for his inheritance until he became of age in three years later. It is of interest that the letter was written in Winchester, possibly where he was studying or otherwise perhaps in the army. Once he came of age, he would become a wealthy young man.

We know that the contents of the house of his great uncle, Forebridge Hall were sold from 1757 and a detailed inventory is held dated 20/21 January 1757 SRO reference 1798/HMDrakeford/78-79. What happened to the use of the Hall has yet to be determined.

There is no evidence that Richard 'The Major' lived at Forebridge Hall. We also know that by the time he died in 1789 he was a retired Major formerly in the army and was living at Woore, Shropshire in a small villa. The large part of the estate was inherited by his brother Edward who was the sole survivor of Richard, 'The Town Clerk's children, and he died intestate in 1814.

The Matthew Drakeford mentioned, was an apothecary and surgeon of Cannock (1714 – 1763) See Will No. 75 below. He died without issue; the Will dated 27<sup>th</sup> August 1761 was proved at Lichfield on 12<sup>th</sup> March 1766 and probate was granted by Thos. White to his wife, Ann Drakeford as sole executrix.

It is noted that there is some confusion with the recipient of a bequest being 'Elinor, the wife of Matthew', which actually relates to 'The Town Clerk' Richard's son, also Matthew.

Interestingly, Matthew also mentions a sister Ann Thomas who had two sons.

We still have to determine the link to the Charnes Hall, Eccleshaw, which ended in March 1814 when Edward Drakeford died aged 61 (1753-1814). MWD wrote to the occupier of Charnes Hall and received a welcome reply. While this was negative MWD has sent a copy of the Will with the copious references to Charnes and the fact that he was to tell his executors 'to keep paying the rent and tax for six months after his death'. Tom Hall, the current owner will progress this further with local contacts. Further details are available in the section regarding Charnes Hall below.

## **I) Richard Drakeford (1705-1763) – 'Town Clerk'**

The main Drakeford line in Stafford continued without interruption from 'The Goldsmith' to his son, Richard Drakeford 'The Town Clerk'. Born in 1705; he was baptised at St Mary's Stafford on 1 July.

He started as an apprentice to William Mills of Leek, attorney at law, for which William was paid £100, and Richard completed his training/apprenticeship in 1728.

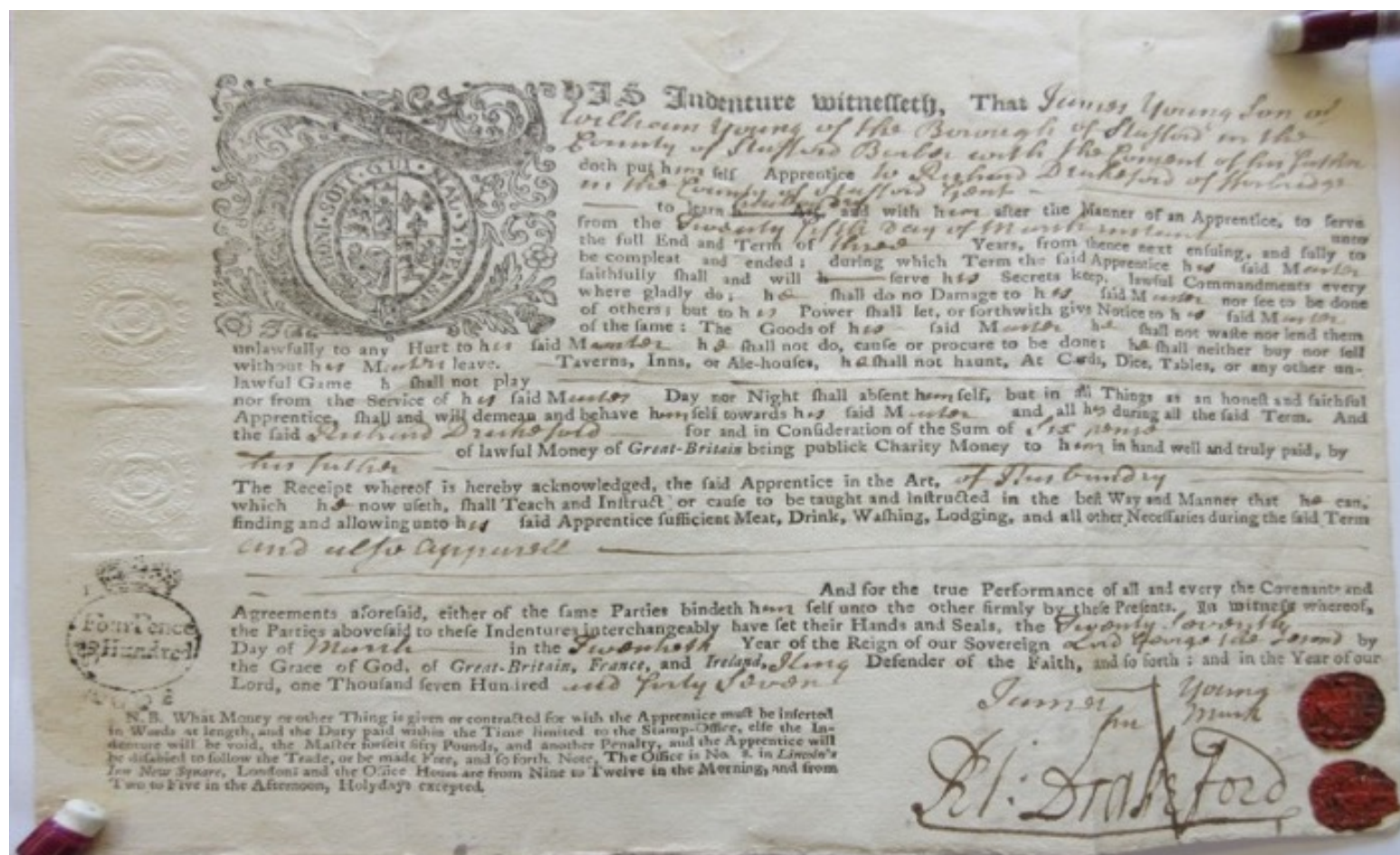
1728 was a significant year. Not only did Richard qualify as a lawyer so far as his apprenticeship had been completed; his father died on 27 May, meaning that he had become head of the family and had already acquired the family estate along with his mother.

He became Town Clerk in 1734, at the age of 29.

Investigation at the Staffordshire Record Office started at the order book D(W)0/8/1, dated 1739-1787. Richard Drakeford was Town Clerk at the start of the volume. His last entry was 25 October 1762. Further review of the previous volume which has the reference D1323/A/1/2, dated 1691-1739 gave the first entry by Richard Drakeford as 30 March 1734.

Ten years later, at the age of 33, he married. There exists a copy of the marriage settlement between Richard and Francis Wood, daughter of John Wood dated 20 November 1738. Parties to the agreement included Frances Wood, spinster, Priscilla Drakeford widow of Richard 'The Refiner', and Elianer Wood of Bearstow, widow of John Wood. The couple married at St Mary's, Stafford in December 1738. They had numerous children as listed below.

Richard took an apprentice attorney named Charles, son of Thomas Bradshaigh of Shalford, Suffolk for a period of 5 years. He charged a premium of £105, which amounted to 100 guineas, a considerable amount in those days. This would have been to teach him the art of becoming a lawyer.



This indenture is provided by the SRO, and subject to copyright. D1798/HMDrakeford/98.

It shows a more modest Indenture, whereby Richard Drakeford, Town Clerk provides an apprenticeship for James Young, son of William Young, barber, to learn husbandry (sic) for a period of three years at a cost of a more affordable £6. It is likely that James would learn how to work on land, manage all manner of agricultural matters and looking after animals, doubtlessly on property owned by Richard.

We know that Richard 'The Goldsmith'/Metal Refiner died intestate and nearly penniless. The records at the Staffordshire Record Office show that there was a mortgage of £800 given to a Dr Wilkes. Mercy Drakeford, aunt of 'The Goldsmith' had married into this wealthy family. It would appear that in around 1748 Richard 'The Mariner' purchased land and Forebridge Hall from Richard 'The Town Clerk', and agreed that as he had no heirs, he would leave the estate to the eldest living son of Richard 'The Town Clerk'. This was eventually Edward who died in 1814. Hence, Forebridge Hall remained in the family from when it was purchased in 1615 from Mr Lee of London, to when it was sold off prior to 1810, to be pulled down so that in about 1810 Green Hall was built for a solicitor, Mr. Charles Webb.

**Will of Richard Drakeford (1705-1763) of Stafford, dated 9<sup>th</sup> August 1760, and  
Probate 4<sup>th</sup> September 1765. Will No 74.**

<b>Name</b>	Richard Drakeford - <b>Town Clerk, Stafford</b>
<b>Wife</b>	Frances
<b>Children</b>	(Frances DY) Richard, (Edward DY) John died 1764, Matthew, William (buried 17 <sup>th</sup> December 1765) and Edward died 1814. It is presumed that Frances and the first Edward died in infancy.
<b>Sister</b>	Elizabeth, spinster (1707-1755), Pricilla and Anna-Maria
<b>Executors</b>	<b>Frances Drakeford:</b> friend <b>John Dearle</b> to assist her.
<b>Witnesses</b>	Mary Savage, Thomas Lawson, William Kaley

**Main Assets and distributions:** Plate, furniture, and household goods, all 'ready' money and debts in any form were available for Frances to dispose of between their younger children as she saw fit, being John, William, Matthew, and Edward.

Frances also received messuages, hereditaments, land etc. occupied by himself and Miss Jane Robins, Edward Birch, William Uncles, Richard Baddley and John Stockton as well as all the property in Forbridge, Stafford.

Frances also received £200 previously bonded to his late sister Elizabeth Drakeford and the three younger children were to get £800 between them, at the discretion of Frances. This appears to leave out John. We assume that he was already deceased. Property dealings with his Uncle Richard Drakeford were mentioned in the Will and showed evidence of some disagreement in that regard. It would appear that this Richard borrowed money against the properties, which was never repaid. The Will is odd in that it refers to 'my brother Richard'. In fact, it most likely refers to his Uncle Richard who left money to this Richard's eldest son and the refence is a colloquialism.

There appears to be no provision for the eldest son Richard. This would be correct because his Uncle Richard, the wealthy Mariner left a considerable fortune mainly to this young man.

**Probate:** On 4<sup>th</sup> September 1765 probate was granted to Frances Drakeford, as sworn before **Thos. Unitty**, Clerk

Richard died in 1763 and was buried at St Mary's Stafford on 4 May.

## Children of Richard Drakeford and Frances née Wood

**Frances (1739 - ??)** Baptised at St Mary's, Castle Church, 11 May 1739. Not mentioned in this or following Wills, probably died young.

**Richard (1740 - 1789), 'The Major'** Born 24 July 1740 and baptised at St Mary's Castle Church, 27 July 1740. His uncle, Richard 'The Mariner', left the family estate to Richard in 1757 at the age of 17, and he became head of the family when his father died in 1763. See Section (p) below for more details.

Richard died possibly intestate in 1789 with no known Will and no issue. The lack of a wife and children is shown for his brother Edward Drakeford when the Deed Abstract (Source SRO: D1798/586) was created for the Forebridge estate in 1810. The giveaway mark was simply 'unmarried' for Richard 'The Major' and for the other brothers dying under-age, unmarried and under-age respectively for the next brothers being John, Matthew and William respectively. This left Edward, who died in 1814 as the owner could sell the estate. There is a story that Richard died when fighting in Canada. However, as shown in his obituary, he died having previously retired from the army with the rank of Major.

**Edward (1741 - 1746).** He was born on 26 September and baptised at St Mary's Castle Church on 5 October 1741 and was buried at St Mary's 3 May 1746 aged 4 years 8 months. The church register is marked 'Dead and another of same name' when his brother Edward was baptised 10<sup>th</sup> May 1749.

**John (1742 - 1762)** Born on 5 November he was baptised at St Mary's Castle Church on 6 December 1742. He died and was buried at St Mary's, aged just 20, on 14 November 1762. In his Will noted below (No.73), he left monies to his brothers namely Matthew, William, and Edward.

**Matthew (1744 - after 1781)** Born on 24 May, Matthew was baptised at St Mary's, Castle Church on 3 June 1744. He was still alive in 1780 and mentioned in the Will of his mother Frances (No.77). There is no known record of his marrying or children. There is an implication from 'The Mariner's Will that he married an Elinor, but this has yet to be verified.

No Will has been discovered but in an Abstract of Title dated 1810 there is the following reference:

*29<sup>th</sup> January 1781.... Will of the said Matthew Drakeford, wherein he gives & devises unto his brother Edward ALL his estates whatsoever Sit'd in the Parish of Castle Church or in the Kingdom of Great Britain as also all his monies and effects.*



*To Hold the same unto the Sd. Edward Drakeford his Exors Admins as for ever.*

*The above will was Ext in the presence of 3 Witnesses and the testator died without revoking same.*

The purpose of this was to confine that the land in question had legally passed to Edward Drakeford prior to 1810.

**William (1745 – 1765)** Born on 18 December, William was baptised on 17 January 1745/6 at St Mary's, Stafford. William was buried aged 20 on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1765.

**Edward (1749 -1814)** Born was on 9 May, he was baptised at St Mary's Castle Church, on 10 May 1749. He died while living at **Charnes Hall**. See below for further details and his Will No 79.

### **m) John Drakeford (1742-1764) son of Richard 'The Town Clerk'**

#### **Will of John Drakeford of Stafford dated 11<sup>th</sup> November 1762 and Probate 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1765 Will No. 73**

<b>Name</b>	John Drakeford
<b>Place of burial</b>	not stated, but in St Chad's parish
<b>Father</b>	Richard, Town Clerk (1705 – 1765)
<b>Mother</b>	Frances
<b>Brothers</b>	Richard, Matthew, William, and Edward
<b>Executors</b>	Richard Drakeford (father)
<b>Witnesses</b>	Mary Savage, John Dearle

**Main Assets and distributions:** An expected inheritance of £200 from **Sarah Smith**, widow.

This is a rather sad Will. John was the second son and had been left money, which he was due to receive on reaching 21 years of age. Unfortunately, he was not a well young man and he prepared this Will with his father as executor with the intention of leaving these due sums to his younger siblings, Matthew, William, and Edward, equally, to 'share and share alike'.

**Note:** This Will omitted the eldest brother Richard, who inherited the family estate from his great Uncle Richard, 'The Mariner'.

It is worth noting that when the Will was written John was already 22, and thus it could be that the estate of the testator, Mrs Sarah Smith, had yet to be settled. To make matters worse for the family, when John died, his father and sole executor had also died. His mother Frances Drakeford, as executor for the Will of her husband, Richard Drakeford, obtained administration for the Will of her late son.

What a dreadful time it was for Frances and her children. To make matters worse, another son William died in December 1765.

### **Administration of Will of John Drakeford dated 11<sup>th</sup> November 1762**

**Frances Drakeford**, Widow, and **William Baley** of Stafford, yeoman, bound unto **Richard Jackson** of Lichfield presbytery in the sum of £100, binding Frances Drakeford, his mother, covering all goods, rights, cattle, and chattels of John, her son. A list of assets was to be made, but these are no longer available.

The witnesses for the sealing of the document were **John Peploe** and **John Dearle**.

Also, **as part of the administration** was a requirement of proof as John was a minor when the Will was written and while John's father Richard was dead, Frances, his widow had to confirm she was entitled to obtain powers of administration for John through her being executrix for Richard as surrogate, and she took an oath accordingly in the presence of **John Peploe, clerk**. John Peploe was connected to the family.

### **n) Matthew Drakeford (1714-1766) – ‘Apothecary of Cannock’**

**Matthew Drakeford**, brother of Richard, ‘The Town Clerk’, was an apothecary in Cannock, was baptised at St Mary's Stafford on 16 May 1714.

On 6 July 1731, at the age of 17 he became an apprentice to Thomas Addenbrooke, Citizen and apothecary and completed this training in July 1739 after 8 years. He in turn was the master for an apprentice apothecary, Thomas Chandless for 7 years from 7 December 1751.

He was a friend of his third cousin, Richard ‘The Mariner’, and along with Lewis Dickenson was executor to his Will dated March 1756.

Matthew married Ann Haddersich on 27 August 1761, when both were then of the parish of St Luke, Cannock. Using his wife as sole executrix, he made his Will (*No. 75*) the following day and he died less than two years later, on 17 June 1763. In his Will he refers to his ‘*sister-in-law*’ Ann Thomas and her two children Matthew and John. It seems odd that there is another Ann, who is clearly not sister to his wife and his brothers are not known to have married an Ann.

**Will of Matthew Drakeford, dated 27 August 1761**

Will No. 75

<b>Name</b>	Matthew Drakeford, apothecary, and surgeon from Cannock
<b>Wife</b>	Ann Haddersich, (Thos. Cooper letter incorrectly gives wife as Anne Ashley)
<b>Father</b>	Richard Drakeford (1673 – 1728) ‘The Goldsmith’
<b>Brothers</b>	Richard Drakeford Town Clerk, John (DY), Edward, John, William
<b>Sisters</b>	Ann (Thomas) referred to as sister-in-law but exact relationship obscure, Elizabeth, Anna-Maria.
<b>Nephews</b>	Matthew Thomas and John Thomas
<b>Children</b>	None
<b>Executrix</b>	Wife Ann, sole.
<b>Witnesses</b>	Eleanor Hall, Anthony Stafford, Thomas Johnson

**Main Assets and distribution:** Matthew’s wife Ann is left an extensive property in Cannock and Quigley including Blackford Manor. As there were no children of the marriage the land was to pass to wife Ann’s sister’s children Matthew Thomas and his brother John. All other assets initially went to his wife Ann. Nothing was left to the other nieces and nephews being the children of Richard ‘The Town Clerk’ and Frances.

The residue being plate and chattels went to Ann.

**Will proved 12 March 1766.**

**Family Connections – No issue**

**o) Frances Drakeford (1711-1780) – wife of Richard Drakeford – ‘The Town Clerk’**

Frances was a strong woman who after the death of her husband had to manage her sons, one of whom, ‘Richard the Major’ had inherited a fortune from his uncle Richard ‘The Mariner’. He was not a person able to manage his finances, and in the Addendum there is much to read from the letters to and from this young man.

**Will of Frances Drakeford, of Stafford, 28<sup>th</sup> July 1778, proved 12<sup>th</sup> May 1780 No.77.**

Hard copy of proving not to hand.

<b>Name</b>	Frances Drakeford, widow who was the daughter of John Wood, of Dorrington, Salop., born 11 <sup>th</sup> March 1710/11 and baptised 12 <sup>th</sup> April 1711, at St Mary’s, Muchlestone, Staffordshire. John Wood left £700 to his daughter for when she attained 21 years and he was buried at St Mary’s, Muchlestone 24 <sup>th</sup> September 1727.
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<b>Husband</b>	Richard Drakeford, 'Town Clerk'. The marriage settlement dated 20 <sup>th</sup> November 1738 is described in the Addendum and Section 19. They were married at St Mary's, Stafford on 5 <sup>th</sup> December 1738.
<b>Children</b>	Frances DY, Richard (d. 30 <sup>th</sup> May 1789) Edward DY, John (died 1762), Matthew (still alive 1781 – will dated 29.1.1781), William (d.1765), Edward (d.1814)
<b>Executors</b>	Mr John Dearle of Stafford and Edward Drakeford (son)
<b>Witnesses</b>	Joseph Starkey, John Starkey, William Baley.

**Main Assets and Distributions:** Basically, the main estate had been left to the eldest son Richard. The Will shows that Frances had hitherto purchased properties and land from Richard. It is presumed that this provided her with rental income and assets. Of her sons, John had already died in 1764 and William was buried 17<sup>th</sup> December 1765 *source: Mr Cooper 1888, see Study Paper 2, Congleton*. In her Will, she left the various properties in excess of 10 acres of land around Forebridge to her other remaining sons, Matthew and Edward, plus £400 each being the £800 left for her as part of the marriage settlement dated 1738.

Richard received a piece of silver or £5, as to be decided by Matthew! The property including **Backhouses Meadows/Backhouse Leasons, Silver Croft or Croft Close, Green Field, One Toft, Green Commons, Taggs** in Forbridge left to her two sons Matthew and Edward Drakeford. John Dearle, the family friend who had helped with the family affairs for some years was left a small cash bequest of £5 guineas.

Francis was buried at St Mary's Stafford on 19<sup>th</sup> March 1780 and the Will was proved subsequently on 12<sup>th</sup> May.

## **p) Richard Drakeford (1740-1789) – 'The Major'**

At the time of his mother's death Richard, the eldest son, was still alive. He died on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1789. Some information gives this at a time when he was on service in Canada, yet the following disputes this assumption. Not only was he not in Canada, but he had retired from the army. To quote:

*The Gentleman's Magazine, Vol.65, page 571 recorded his death stating that this was 'At his villa near Woore in Somersetshire (Sic. Salop), in the 48<sup>th</sup> year of his age, Richard Drakeford, Esq. late a Brevet Major in the 26<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot.'*

An earlier reference to 'The Major' was a land record:

*4th May 1780 – By Indentures of Lease & Rel. this ?? of 3 parts between **Rd Drakeford of Gravanhanger Count Salop Esq** of 1st Part, Benjm. Darlington Gent of this 2nd Part & Ralphe Radcliffe, mercer, of the 3rd Part.*

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. In fact, Woore is right on the boundary of Cheshire, and this is one and the same lane that runs across the boundary, and without doubt Gravenhunger and Gravanhanger are one in the same. There is a Gravenhunger Hall in Gravenhunger Lane, Woore. There is also a children's book that features a Gravenhunger Hall.

Following Richard's death, the following advertisement appeared for the sale of this property.

*TO BE SOLD BY PRIVATE CONTRACT: ALL that FREEHOLD COTTAGE VILLA late the residence of Richard Drakeford Esq. deceased, situate near Woore, in the count of Salop, and fronting the peat(?) post-road leading from Chester to London, through Stone, in the county of Stafford.*

*The premises comprise a neate house, with all necessary offices and out-buildings and outbuildings, rural and extensive walks, plantations of trees, and garden well fenced and planted with choice fruit-trees and shrubs, neat fishponds, well stored with several kinds of fish, a boat house, dove-coat &c. and about eighteen acres of rich land around the same, in which is excellent marl.*

*N.B. The above villa is fit for the residence of a small, genteel family, dry, and most of the premises command a desirable, extensive and desirable prospect, in fine and pure air, exceeding fertile, dry, and healthful, abounding with plenty of game, near to several packs of staunch hounds, and good markets.*

*The purchaser may be accommodated with the genuine, sound and modern furniture, at a fair appraisement.*

*For a view of the premises, and other particulars, apply to Mr William Wright, auctioneer, of Muxon-Wood, near Woore, who is authorised to treat for the same.*

Further information about Richard Drakeford was posted in the London Chronical in 1762, dated November 27-30.

*His Majesty has been pleased to appoint Richard Drakeford Esq. Captain Lieutenant to the 102<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of Foot, Commanded by Major Alderton, in the room of Captain Lieutenant Bisset, who has retired.*

Copies of these original announcements were kindly provided by Margaret Barnett, 2016.

It is well worth examining the letters to and from 'The Major' as they are produced in the Addendum to this Study Paper 4. They present a picture of a young man who inherited considerable wealth from his uncle, 'The Mariner' and did not appear to value his position and responsibilities as head of the family after his father 'The Town Clerk' had died in 1780.

One of the mysteries that has not been sorted by our research is the lack of a Will for Richard, 'The Major'. This is alluded to in the various Extracts of deeds for Forebridge, particularly when Edward of Charnes Hall was trying to show that he owned that land following the deaths of his older brothers. Some assumed that he had died in battle as a soldier, but an obituary confirms that he was a retired officer at the time of his death at Woore. Why he was not a resident at Forebridge is also a mystery.

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS.**  
**T**HE Creditors of Richard Drakeford, late of Pipegate, in the County of Salop, Esquire, deceased, are required forthwith to send the Particulars of their respective Demands to Mr. Robert Grosvenor, Attorney at Law, Market Drayton, Shropshire. Dated the 9th Day of March 1802.

**Roger Hall** has researched the subject and despite much effort could not find evidence of a Will. He has come across the above extract. This looks a little odd. Firstly, he lived at Woore, and the place of Pipegate does not appear on any of the correspondence we have. Also, he died in 1789, 12 years prior to this notice. The only explanation I can give is that when the last surviving brother, Edward Drakeford was selling off land once owned by Richard, he needed to show that he had done all he could to pay Richard's many creditors. He would not wish to have transactions stymied by a creditor.

#### **q) Edward Drakeford (1749-1814) of Charnes Hall**

There now follows the last Will to be considered. This is for Edward Drakeford of Charnes Hall, Stafford. He claimed to be the last in the Drakeford line and distributed his considerable wealth amongst servants, friends, tradesmen, vicars, and his surgeon. The detail is considerable, and so too is the total of legacies, which amounts to £3,320. He did various things to let it be known that he was the last of the line, including not only ensuring a memorial in the church of St Mary's, Stafford, but also on the house where he last lived.

There is no direct mention of Forbridge Hall, when he is noted as selling part of the land in 1809, but in his Will, he does allude to his **other house** in Stafford. The whereabouts of this house is not yet known.

The plaque at St Mary's Church, Stafford states that he dies in 1814 at the age of 61; this is supported by an entry of the time in the Staffordshire Chronicle of 5<sup>th</sup> March 1814 *'Yesterday morning Edward Drakeford died aged 61, of Charnes Hall, in the county. The last member of an ancient and respectable family of this borough. We record that he was a life-long friend and admirer of the Rt. Hon. R.B. Sheriden.'*

In order to appreciate the considerable wealth of Edward, and the people he held dear, it is well worth looking at the summary of the Will below.

**1788** - It is noted on a map of Stafford dated 1788 drawn up for the Stafford estate, that an area of land amounting to about 8 acres off the turnpike road to the south-east of Forebridge was marked 'Drakeford'. This would be a reference to either Richard, his brother or Edward himself.

**Edward Drakeford (1753\*-1814) of Stafford, Proving Will dated 1<sup>st</sup> December 1813 and codicils dated 21<sup>st</sup> December 1813, and 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1814 Probate London 13<sup>th</sup> November 1819, after death on 14<sup>th</sup> March 1814. Will No. 79**

<b>Name</b>	Edward Drakeford, Esquire, of Stafford and Charnes hall
<b>Place of burial</b>	Family vault in St Mary's, Stafford 'among my ancestors'
<b>Wife</b>	Not married
<b>Brothers</b>	See will above.
<b>Executors</b>	Edward Whitby, Arthur Morgan, Edward Stringer
<b>Witnesses</b>	Thos. Hodgkins, farmer, John Handley Yeoman, Joseph Bowers, Labourer

**Main Instructions, Assets, and distributions:**

The funeral was to be quite elaborate. Edward chose to be buried among his ancestors at the family vault in St Mary's Stafford in a lead coffin, with such other coffins that the executors will favour. This was to be within six days of his death. His body/coffin was to be carried by twelve of the oldest burgesses in Stafford and they would wear scat bands, which is assumed to be a headdress covering the head with a scarf attached, and gloves. Each of the twelve would have a good dinner with drink for which they would each get 7/6d each and two guineas 'for their trouble'. The sum of fifty guineas was to be paid for a 'monumental subscription' fixed to the wall near to the family vault. This was done to include the family crest with a chevron and three eagles, with a 'drake on water' above.

The General infirmary received £100. **Edward Stringer**, Edward's late clerk, received a parcel of land in the Parish of Castle Church tenanted by **Thomas Carter** and the **fishing rights in the river Penk** in the tenure of **Mr Perkins**. This was possibly that land first purchased by Richard Drakeford and **Thomas Maxfield** in 1622. Mr Stringer also received the library of books, a bookcase and £400. Along with his silver jugs, spoons, best knives with covers and the best knife case.

Edward's housekeeper **Sarah Corker** received the white bedstead, bolsters and blankets and bedroom furniture. Other items included silver coffee pot, silver tea pot large and small silver waiters(trays), all the china and various silver spoons. She also received the linen. Additionally, were she living with him when he died, she would receive £400.

He instructed his executors to keep open Charnes Hall or Stafford (**Forbridge Hall?**) paying tax and rent for six months, using 60 guineas for maintenance etc. allowing the then servants their usual wages during that time.

**Andrew Gome**, another servant, received the strawberry Tent bedstead, hangings etc., and six large silver table spoons together with Edward's wearing apparel of every kind although the poorer items, at the discretion of Ms Corker, should go to **Edward Smith** of Rootwood near Harness, Blacksmith.

**Mrs Shore**, wife of **Joseph Shore**, merchant in Birmingham received 'my other' large and small silver waiters. The **Rev Edward Whitby** received a large silver candle cup, an engraved beaker and £100.

Edward's Old Harrovian friend, the **Right Honourable Richard Brinsley Sheridan (1751-1816)** received £100. He was an Irish playwright and politician, and his biography was published in 1825. He owned the Theatre Royal, Drury lane and wrote *The Rivals*, and *School for Scandal*. Whilst a life-long friend, they were not at school together. Sheridan was an old Harrovian, but Edward did not attend Harrow. *Source: Harrow School archivist.*

Mrs Roberts, wife of **Samuel Roberts** of Orton near Peterborough, received £100. Their son, a godson, **Edward Roberts** received £100. **Arthur Morgan**, bookseller of Stafford, received £100 and a **silver tankard with arms engraved** thereon. **Robert Reeves** of Small Shire, £100. **Sophia Underwood** of Bold Street Liverpool, £100.

**Mary Tonkes**, widow of **Richard Tonkes** received £100, **Joseph Shore** of Birmingham £50, and **Mr Drakeford of Congleton, Cotton manufacturer 'who said himself a relation of mine'** the sum of **£50**, Daniel Lea of Croxton, a late tenant of mine, £50, **Thomas Ashley** of Croxton £50, my silver pint and my grey mare, **Daniel Banley** of Forbridge £50, **Thomas Esserol**, my late apprentice, £50, **Fanny Bowers** of Fair oak near Charnes, widow £50, also my washer woman **Sarah Stanley** of Blackwater £20, **Edward Smith** £20, **Ann Wilcox** wife of **John Wilcox** of Charnes, £20, my shoe maker **Samuel Bradbury** £20, **William Plant** brother to my late servant **John Plant** £20, **Robert Newhillcup** of Charnes £20, **Andrew Gome** if he is still living with me at my decease £150, **Edward Stringer** has all my fishing rods of every kind.

My trustees Rev Edward Whitby, Arthur Morgan, and Edward Stringer have all my lands, messuages, tenements etc. situated in the parish of Castle Church, or elsewhere in the county of Stafford, all of which are held in trust and sold at auction at best possible prices for the payment and discharge of funeral expenses and legacies, adding to the aforesaid 20 guineas in cash to each and every servant with me at my decease not mentioned hitherto with 5 guineas for mourning to all my servants. (paraphrased).



To my Godson **William Miller**, son of **William Miller** late of Woolsing Bridge £50, Godson **Samuel Addison** of Shanton Abbey, £50, **Maria** the daughter of Mrs **Ellinis** of Whittington near Charnes £50. Note that while there does not appear to be a village or hamlet of this name, Charnes Hall is near to Whittington Lane.

*'I direct that an inscription with my coat of arms to be placed over or against such house that I may reside at the time of my decease'*. The remainder of my money after all the above is to be divided equally between the said **Sarah Corker**, **Edward Stringer** and **Andrew Gome**.

**Sarah Corker** and **Thomas Carter** are to superintend the management of my funeral. **Edward Whitby**, **Arthur Morgan**, and **Edward Stringer** are nominated executors.

The Will continues even further with more bequests. **Mr Birks** of **Charnes Old Hall**, near Charnes £20, **Mrs Rathbone** wife of Rev. **Henry Rathbone** of Stafford, aforesaid Clerk £150, and their daughters Matilda and Mary £50 apiece, to **Martha Tankard**, wife of **Hugh Tankard**, blacksmith for her own use only, £20, etc.

Signed        *Edward Drakeford*

**A Codicil** dated **21<sup>st</sup> December 1813** followed with a further disbursement to **Francis Hughes**, of Stafford, surgeon receives £100. This was witnessed by **John Lea** and **Ruth Hare**

**A second Codicil** dated **2<sup>nd</sup> January 1814** ensued by which Edward acknowledged he had already given his servant **Andrew Gome** £150, he additionally bequeathed a further and additional £200 to Gome along with his watch and seals. This was witnessed by **George Tonkes** and **Sarah Tyse**

**Probate of the Will** was proved at London along with the two codicils on 13<sup>th</sup> November 1819 by the oaths of **Rev. Edward Whitby** and **Arthur Morgan**, the surviving executors.

It is noteworthy that the other executor - Edward Stringer had died, and that the Will took four years to have proved. In modern parlance whilst this would mean that the executors had no powers to settle and pay the various bequests.

Further research revealed a number of other papers, all collected by George Fitch:

The first amounts to 19 pages of script being a copy of the Will and two codicils. It is signed by Wm Mott, with the words *'Examined with the original Will & Codicils with which the same agrees this 29<sup>th</sup> January 1819 by me Wm. Mott Registrar.'*

The second is a single sheet dated 26<sup>th</sup> January 1819. This is signed by three deputy registrars, and appears to acknowledge this as a true Will acknowledging this through the Divine Primate, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the remaining two executors, Whitby and Morgan, and the relevant courts. Broadly, it would appear that it is confirming the authority of the remaining executors and that all is well.

The third is a typed sheet with blanks completed, whereby the Will etc is accepted by the body being the Bishop of Lichfield et al, Chinn, Proctor, on 17<sup>th</sup> March 1814 and the oath taken on 19<sup>th</sup> March 1814, given by the Edward Whitby, clerk, Arthur Morgan and Edward Stringer in front of Edward Dickenson, Commissioner.

The formal probate was effectively the fourth and final part of the story.

To continue with the Will itself, it is interesting that the Will indicates that Edward thought as he had no direct descendants, and from that we assume he means children; in his view this Drakeford line had come to an end.

The attitude of Edward Drakeford, as last of his family line in Stafford appears overly depressing. He seems to have isolated himself from other parts of the family and concentrated, possibly without a wife, to ingratiate himself with friends and servants. One can ask what the differences would have been if he had done more to find a Drakeford family link, or even had a wife to produce children. There is a lot to be uncovered about this man.

There is no doubt that the Will was not finally proved until, to quote from the court records: *Proved at London with two codicils 13<sup>th</sup> November 1819 before the judge by the oaths of the Revd Edward Whitby and Arthur Morgan the surviving Executors to whom administration was granted being first sworn by commission duly to administer.*

Whilst we do not know of a job that Edward Drakeford of Charnes Hall had, he was an apprentice by way of an indenture dated 5<sup>th</sup> November 1766 for 'Edward Drakeford, gentleman, to be committed to serve as a clerk to his master for a period of 5 years'. The master was a Henry Whateley, one of the Attorneys of his Majesties Court of Common Pleas at Westminster.

The debenture contains all the normal requirements for payment by his parent, Frances Drakeford, widow, charging his master and his mother as guarantor to keep Edward fit and well etc. and this young man of 17 to remain honest etc. *Source: SRO, D1798/HM Drakeford/88. See Addendum Section 54.*

The family situation was such that Edward's father Richard had died, so too had John and William, and only Richard, the eldest son and Matthew an apothecary, along with Edward himself remained alive.

Frances undoubtedly wanted her youngest to buckle down and learn the rudimentary rules of the legal system as his father had done. For the payment of one hundred and five pounds, that is one hundred guineas, for which Whateley at the expiry of the five years would use his best endeavours '.....to cause and procure him, the said Edward Drakeford to be admitted and sworn an attorney of his said majesty's Courts at Westminster as he the said Edward Drakeford shall think fit to be admitted as an Attorney'. This was presumably in preparation for joining an inn of court.

The last family owner of **Forebridge Hall** was **Edward Drakeford** (1753 - 1814). A new property on the site of Forbridge Hall was built from 1810. See Forebridge Hall section.

## Industries of Stafford

During the Napoleonic wars of the 1790s **Horton of Stafford** supplied an immense number of shoes, employing nearly 1,000 outworkers by the early 1800s. He built new workshops and a warehouse but was badly affected by a depression in the industry in 1812. The industry recovered as the fashion for shoes changed and after Horton died in 1832 other many manufacturers came to the fore including **Thomas Bostock**. At one time it was claimed that Stafford produced more lady's shoes than any other town in the UK. This fell apart when in the 1850s new sewing machines were introduced. This caused considerable unrest and in 1859 there was a strike when the owners tried to impose the new machines in the manufacturing process.

The workers eventually recanted and with the new machines, factories started to be built and the population of the town increased significantly from 10,471 in 1851 to 19,971 in 1881. The industry continued to expand well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, mainly because of Lotus Shoes Ltd. Shoe making along with the associated products was a mainstay of the economy well into the 1970s. Siemens for Dynamos, later taken over by English Electric for a much larger range of electrical equipment, Bagnalls for locomotives, and Dormans for engines all brought prosperity and changed the face of what was a market town, into a significant industrial town.

There is no evidence that the Drakeford family were involved in any major way with the new industries.

## 9) The Stafford Churches of St Mary's, Stafford, St Chad's, Stafford and St Mary's, Castle Church.

There is voluminous information about all three churches available on the internet. To repeat all that information verbatim would prolong the agony, or rather reading time, gaining little about the Drakefords. Therefore, on each church there follows a synopsis covering the history of each parish, church building and the relationship to the Stafford Drakefords.

The information below relating to the registers is not necessarily complete due to the vagaries of the record keeping over many centuries.

### St Mary's Collegiate Church, Stafford



**Matthew Drakeford (1653-1704)** was rector from 1689 to his death in 1703. The list of Rectors gives the date 1704 because that was the year a replacement was found.

**History:** Stafford became fortified in 913 to protect the town from invasions by the Danish. By the twelfth century it was a place of pilgrimage to the shrine of St Bertelin an eighth century Saxon saint. The remains of an early Saxon church lie to the west of Saint Mary's. By the time of the Domesday Book in 1086 the King had 13 prebendary canons in Stafford indicating that 100 years before the present church of St Mary's was begun, the previous church was collegiate.

This means that the church is endowed to support a college of canons. Four other churches in Staffordshire were also collegiate - Gnosall, Penkridge and both Tettenhall and St Peters in Wolverhampton, each serving the local area as a mother church. All bar Gnosall held a close association with the crown. The bishops of Lichfield were far from content with this process which they considered interference.

The building was begun in 1120 and the old church of St Bertelin was run down and during the building absorbed into the South Aisle as a place of pilgrimage until it was finally demolished in 1801. The main church was completed in 1340.

The Collegiate churches were left alone while Henry VIII imposed the Reformation and dissolved the monasteries in the 1530s. Because St Mary's was under the control of the crown there would seem every reason for the Dean and Canons to adhere to the new instructions and recognise the King as head of the Church of England. The Crown took full benefit of the situation and in 1548 all Collegiate churches, chantries and surviving shrines were dissolved, and their properties were confiscated by the Crown. The Deans and prebendary Canons were dismissed and all the lands and properties accumulated over centuries were lost to the Church. St Mary's simply became a parish church, and one of the canons, Thomas Cheddleton became the first vicar.

The church had previously funded the grammar school, and this was continued. The English Prayer Book was introduced countrywide but in defiance of this there was a demolition of alters, statues and stain glass windows and the confiscation of church plate. To some extent this affected St Mary's.

Things were restored to some order by Elizabeth I in 1571 when the status of St Mary's as a parish church was settled with the Town Corporation thereafter receiving the revenue from the previous collegiate property with the condition that the town should pay for the rector, his curate, and also the upkeep of the fabric of the church. However, the town failed to keep the church in good order and in 1593 the spire fell down doing considerable damage to the church building and in particular the chancel and the south transept. There was a legal wrangle about the repairs and in the end the Corporation proposed to demolish it. The rector objected and in the end the Lord Keeper insisted that the Corporation should carry out the repairs, which was undertaken in 1639.

By 1822 the church was again in a state of disrepair. Some may recognise that it was a time of considerable wealth for the country and a revival of an ecclesiastical way of life. The great architects of the period were vying for important work, particularly that of churches and important buildings. The names of Augustus Pugin, George Gilbert Scott, Norman Shaw, William Lethaby, William Butterfield, and Samuel Teulon were to the fore.

Staffordshire benefitted from the support of local families and many churches were 'improved'. A kinder word is 'saved' for during the restoration process sometimes scant regard was taken of the earlier Saxon and Norman architecture. St Mary's fared better than most using the skills of George Gilbert Scott and his team of architects. The work started in 1842 and completed in 1844.

Perhaps this success was because this was the first ecclesiastical restoration contract for this young architect at the age of just 31. He had already designed 13 churches and after joining the Camden Society realised that his first ecclesiastical works had been incorrect in style and that St Mary's was the first 'post-conversion' job! It would be 30 years later that he created his masterpiece of St Pancras station.

Sometimes part of our native history lies to be found in strange places. In the case of the parish registers for St Mary's there are a few examples:

*7<sup>th</sup> October 1576. Following the burial of Dorothy, daughter of John and Margaret Homersley the curate has written in Latin 'which Dorothy was destroyed by the slates or tiles, falling from the roof of the house on to her head'. We do not know the aged of Dorothy but presume that she might have been just a poor little child.*

*6<sup>th</sup> August 1577. Elizabeth Nedham, famula (servant) of David Lane 'pierced through by blows of a cow's horn and hence slain'.*

*14<sup>th</sup> August 1577 Margaret W. Francis Endsworth 'thrown into prison on suspicion of sundry deceptions, probably connected with witchcraft'.*

*In 1582 on March 25 there were six simultaneous burials. Each person was marked as convict' de felon'. One can only assume that this had been a mass hanging ordered by the courts. There were a further two buried for the same reason on 20<sup>th</sup> March 1583. Along with a further person named as Agnes Ashley, 'convict' pro puero sui occidendo' (meaning - following killing her boy).*

At other times there are listed burials with the same family name over a relatively short period. This is indicative of the presence of plague or other contagious illness.

### **Church building:**

The visible history of the building has thankfully been retained through the many timeless features. These include:

The nave where the five-bay arcades are the oldest part of the church dating back to 1190-1200. The font is definitely Norman in age but with its Latin inscription could be Byzantine. The north aisle window dates from 1200. The glass is designed by Pugin but was not completed until 1871, some while after his death.

The north transept dates from 1310 and is decorated and with a large north window. It is said that Gilbert Scott so admired that part of the church that he would do no more than repair the parts that required it.

The North Chancel Aisle contains many 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> century monuments including three for the Drakeford family. The earliest one celebrating Richard 'The Merchant' and the others are described below.

The Chancel is mostly early 16<sup>th</sup> century, but the furnishings are post 1844. The South Chancel Aisle was so severely damaged that Scott built anew. Similarly, the South Transept was rebuilt to Scott's design but for this some criticised him for the destruction of a large window to make way for three lancets. The South Aisle needed little attention so most of the 13<sup>th</sup> century windows remain. Here can be seen some of the remains of St Bertelin's church. The West Doorway is early English and some of the carved stones even earlier.

In mid-2021 the author was please to write a paper featuring two churches within the PCC of Findon, Clapham and Patching. In Findon and Clapham there are rare William Morris tiles that were installed during refurbishment by Sir George Gilbert son and his son. During that time it had become clear that Scott senior was very much a man who wanted to retain the old sound and sensible parts of these churches. An example, as with the above, was when he removed an existing large and ugly window and replaced it with three lancets based on the remains if similar windows where the pre-medieval features could be determined. We can now see from early painting just how out of place the removed window was. This supports the comments above.

The Tower is an octagonal bell-chamber. The original tower that fell in 1593 was never replaced although Scott did design a replacement it was never built. Hence today it appears squat, yet majestic. The pinnacles are to Scott's design. Finally, at the North Transept there is early 14<sup>th</sup> century work by the doorway with leaf capitals, and ball-flowers and fleurons in the arch.

Perhaps the saddest feature is the lack of tombstones around the church. These have nearly all been lifted and either used as paving or made to rest against the perimeter wall. As the Drakeford family held a reasonable position in the town as described through various Wills, it is clear that they are interred in the church rather than the churchyard. The actual family vault position is not known. It was referred to in the Will of Edward Drakeford, who was buried in the family vault in 1814.

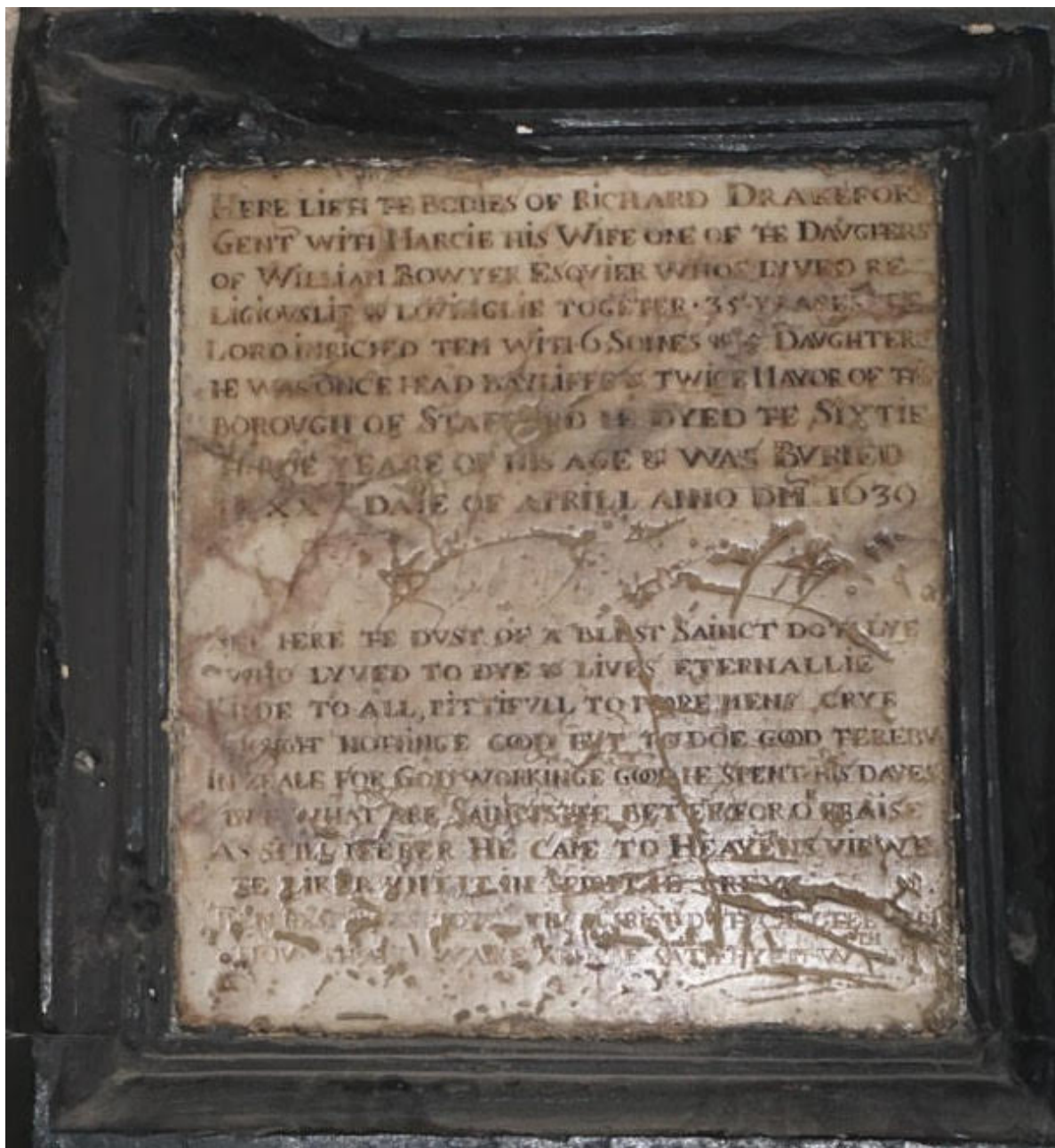
This was very much the earlier church used by the family. Starting with the marriage of Joan Drakeford to Richard Wytell (Whycell?) in 1592 there were 9 baptisms, and 8 burials.

It was here that the monument to **Richard Drakeford (1576-1639), 'The Merchant'** of Stafford and his wife Mercie née Bowyer was first raised. *Source: Monumenta Anglicana. Inscriptions on the Monuments of several eminent Persons ...1600-1649, by John Le Neve, London 1716; Gregory King's Staffordshire notebook; Hearne's Remarks and Recollections 1898.*

There were originally three early plaques in St Mary's for Richard and his family. One was an image of Richard as head of the family. The early descriptions have been lost, and we are not aware of any drawings, and can only refer to the description of 'Richard being shown wearing a cloak'.

The second, shown below, is thankfully, still on the chancel wall and remains a small but important part of the monument at St Mary's, by which Richard and his wife and family are described. Thirdly, there is a plaque showing all the children that was moved from Stafford to the Littleton church at Penkrige. It is thought that when St Mary's church was restored in Victorian times, the three plaques were moved, and indeed damaged.

That below remained intact, the cloaked Richard was probably broken beyond repair, and that of the children separated. Someone clearly decided that as there was the name Littleton, for one of the children, and no indication that it was part of a Drakeford monument, it was moved to the Littleton church, St Michael, Penkridge. It remains there today.



This is the original plaque placed in the Chancel at St Mary's Stafford for Richard 'The Merchant' and his wife, Marcie.



We know Richard was buried in a vault in the church next to his friend William Moye.



The Drakeford family plaque at the Littleton family church at Penkridge



Also in  
St Mary's is this  
plaque put  
there by  
Edward in  
memory of his  
parents

*This Tablet was  
erected by Edward Drakeford,  
the only Surviving Son of  
Richard and Frances Drakeford,  
in pious memory of his ancient family  
interred near this place.  
1793*

The final plaque below is in memory of Edward Drakeford, who died in 1814, erected by the executors in accordance with Edward's instructions.

The inscription right says:

THIS MONUMENT IS ERECTED  
IN MEMORY  
OF  
EDWARD DRAKEFORD, ESQ.  
OF CHARNES HALL,  
IN THIS COUNTY,  
WHO DIED MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup> 1814  
AGED 61 YEARS.  
HE WAS THE LAST DECENDANT  
OF  
THIS ANCIENT FAMILY



## St Chad's, Stafford



**History:** The church is the oldest complete building in Stafford. The history is very much along the lines of St Mary's and they were built within a few decades of each other. St Chad's has architecture which is purely Norman and St Mary's reflects more the cross-over period to 'Early English Gothic'.

Some think that the College was firstly at St Chad's, a view which is supported by the design of the building. The fact that the buildings are so close to each other was not uncommon during this period when towns were very compact and within city walls. The total population was around 600, and the churches had quite different uses. St Mary's was the collegiate church and St Chad's, the parish church.

The exact date that the church was built is subject to speculation, but the founder or benefactor was a man called Orm. This was probably Orm(us) le Guidon, a major north Staffordshire landowner. He married the daughter of Nicholas de Tosni, Lord of Stafford Castle, and hereditary standard bearer to William I. Carved into the capital of the north-east pier of the tower in Latin are the words 'the man who established me is called Orm'.

**Church building:** The church as it stands today differs little from the original design. It is less fussy, and some may say plainer than the larger St Mary's. It does not have a graveyard of any note. However, it has the atmosphere of an elderly cathedral, pure and unfussy.

There are few decorations or plaques, indeed the only one of note is that being a small memorial to John Smith dated 1621. The Norman carvings stand out as unique and the large pillars take up much more room than one would expect. There are human forms used for decoration. There is a great mixture of Norman Romanesque, Middle Eastern, Celtic and Nordic and are thought to be 12<sup>th</sup> century but with some re-tooling in the Victorian era. Many of the carvings had been protected over the centuries when they were discovered beneath plasterwork created in the 1650s when work was carried out to prevent further deterioration to the building since the Reformation. This included creating a brick structure which was plastered covering much of the Norman work.

By the early 1800s the fabric of the church was in a parlous state. Henry Ward was chosen to undertake the first save of the Victorian restoration in 1854. Later work was under the direction of Sir Gilbert Scott, who had finished the restoration at St Mary's. He died in 1880. Subsequently more work was done by architect Robert Griffiths. At this time, the 17<sup>th</sup> century brickwork casing was removed to reveal the Norman pillars and arches. The tower was restored in 1884 again with Griffiths working to Scott's plan. Further work continued well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The west front is mostly Victorian and based on a Norman church at Iffley, Oxford being a later example of the Norman building design.

The font has been described by the renowned architectural critic Sir Nikolaus Pevsner as a barbaric bowl, 'unlike anything High Victorian piety would have tolerated'. Indeed, he was correct but probably did not appreciate that it was most likely to be a survivor of the original church. This font now has a unique and enormous cover in two telescopic tiers designed by Sir Charles Nicholson in 1935 that is suspended from the roof.

**The Drakefords:** The use by the family of St Chad's was later and then for a while concurrent with that at the neighbouring St Mary's. The first recorded baptism was in September 1639 for Richard, the first son of Richard and Anne Babington. He only survived 7 months and was buried at St Mary's in April the following year. This of course was because there was no space in the churchyard for the burial at St Chad's. The next baptism was in 1648 for Ann, another child of Richard and Anne.

There were another three baptisms for their children Richard (1650-1700), Matthew (1653-1731), Elinor (1656-1731) and her twin Edward (1656-1709). After this the entries stopped until a wedding of Johannes Drakeford and Elizabeth Drakeford in January 1722/3. We know that Elizabeth was the daughter of Richard and Elizabeth Perrotts, but we do not know the origins of Johannes/John.

At 1650 the batch of baptisms contained Richard Drakeford (1650-1700) who was baptised here 9 February 1650.

**Matthew Drakeford** was appointed curate at St Chad's on 11 October 1676, having already attained an MA from St John the Divine, Cambridge.

## St Mary's, Castle Church



**History:** The church of St. Mary 'in the castle of Stafford' is first specifically mentioned in 1252. It was then stated that this church had existed from the time of the Conquest and that its advowson had belonged to the royal free chapel of St. Mary, Stafford, until it was given in the reign of Henry II by Robert de Stafford (II) to Stone Priory. Robert's grant of his chapel of Stafford had included, however, the tithes, churches, and other property belonging to it. In 1253 it was decided that the king should recover seisin (meaning: possession of land, normally the freehold) of this chapel and in 1255 he granted it to the Dean of St. Mary's, Stafford, to confer as if it were a prebend (portion of revenues allowed to a canon or other appointed person). By 1546 it had become a separate parish.

The ancient parish was roughly square in shape and mainly lay immediately south, south-east and south-west of Stafford. Its boundary followed the course of the river Sow 2 miles north-west of Stafford eastward to the confluence of the Rivers Sow and Penk, except for a triangle of land north of the Sow comprising part of Lammascote and of Littleworth. The boundary then ran south for 6 miles along the Penk to Bradley Parish some 6 miles away.

In 1548 it was stated that all sacraments and rites, except burial, were administered in this church as in a parish church, burial being at St. Mary's Church, Stafford. By 1573 it had acquired the right of burial.

The church of St. Mary, Stafford, appears to have retained the right to nominate the priest of St. Mary's, Castle Church, after the recovery of the advowson in 1255 from Stone Priory, and in 1548 this right lay with the dean and certain prebendarys. The right of nomination may have passed in 1550 with the suppressed deanery to Henry, Lord Stafford.

**Church building:** The church of St Mary's stands about 500 yards south-east of the castle mound. Despite the great age of the building, it could well be passed as a purely Victorian building for it was almost entirely rebuilt except for the tower in 1845 and later enlarged in 1898.

It now consists of nave, chancel, north aisle, vestry, south porch, and west tower. In 1817 the building was described as '*an ancient edifice composed of brick on the one side, and stone whitewashed on the other, window and doorway. The chancel arch, smaller than the present one, was also with a stone tower*'. The brickwork was probably a partial rebuilding of the south wall of 18th-century date. The north wall of the nave, which was then de-aisled, was clearly of 12th-century origin and contained a round-headed pillar said to be Norman. The chancel had at least one lancet window and probably dated from the 13th century. The tower, which still stands, is mainly of 15th-century date and has angle buttresses and a Perpendicular west window of which the tracery has been renewed. The hood mould of this window terminates in carved shields, now much worn, one of which is said to have borne the Stafford chevron impaling the Neville saltire. If these arms commemorate the marriage of Humphrey Stafford (later Duke of Buckingham) with Anne Neville c. 1424 they would suggest a date for the building of the tower. The upper stage, which has two-light windows under triangular dripstones and an embattled parapet, was probably rebuilt in the 17th century. A date for this rebuilding may be indicated by an incised sundial of 1624 on the south side of the tower.

In 1844 it was decided in view of the poor condition of the foundations to take down and rebuild the chancel and the north wall of the nave. The architects were G. G. (later Sir Gilbert) Scott and Moffatt. The Norman style of the nave and the Early English style of the chancel were probably suggested by features of the existing church and some of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century stones were reused.

At the rebuilding, the old fittings, which probably dated from the 18th century were removed with the new arrangement giving 42 extra seats. The lych-gate dates from 1846.

On the west wall of the nave two slate tablets from the old church give details of the Chamberlain and Goldsmith charities. Other tablets from the former church commemorate William Haddersich (d. 1809) and others. **Matthew Drakeford (1714-1763)**, apothecary in Cannock was married to Ann Haddersich.

In 1553 there were three bells and one Sanctus bell. In 1889 there were only two, one dated 1711. There are now three bells: (i & ii) 1902, recast, C. Carr; (iii) 1902, C. Carr.

Alas, all I can say is that having visited the church with my brother Chris, the Victorians did their best to make it usable for a population that required more space and thus more churches, and the enlarging of the existing buildings. Today it is hard to believe that it was a 13<sup>th</sup> century church which is sad, but on the other hand the rebuilding must have brought pride to the church goers. Today most services take place in a smaller and more modern building over the road. The church yard is full of Victorian headstones. All this 19<sup>th</sup> century restoration was carried out long after the Drakeford family had died out through Edward Drakeford in 1814.

From at least 1742 and until 1988 the dedication was to St Lawrence but in 1899 it reverted to St. Mary and has remained so ever since. The registers date from 1567.

**The Drakefords:** As mentioned previously, the church records show that of the three churches used, *this* was very much the main church for the Drakeford family with entries starting with the marriage of Simon Adams to Ursula Drakeford in September 1634, and after a gap of 39 years there was constant use by the family from 1673 to 1749 with 19 baptisms, one burial and two marriages.

Matthew Drakeford was curate at St Chad's from 11<sup>th</sup> October 1676 and Rector at St Mary's Stafford from 1689 to his death in 1703. The list of curates at St Mary's Castle Church refers to John Peplowe, and to a Reverend Dickenson, who were both associated with the family but not to a Drakeford.

## **10) Land Purchases and Sales by the Drakefords of Stafford**

This list of land transactions is partially repeated in the Study Paper 1 because it indicates the considerable wealth of the Stafford family, the connections with those in Congleton and Norton-in-the-Moors and much more. The details are worth the time if studied for a knowledge of these connections and an understanding of the lives of the population during the period they were owners.

Of particular note are the Abstracts of title that are associated with the proving of the title to estates, being houses or lands. 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 in the Addendum to this paper. It is 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 mention Henry Wright, reference D1798/66. From these we can determine the land purchased by the family around Stafford from 1615 to 1810.

In the beginning the Drakeford family was not wealthy but were minor landowners in the form of mostly Yeomen. This was one step up from a husbandman who worked land, that they did not necessarily own. Some of the Stafford family did a lot better and at one time Richard, 'The Merchant' owned 1,200 acres.



We believe that Richard Drakeford, husband of Mercy Bowyer, was the son of Richard Drakeford of Congleton. In the absence of Stafford Wills or church records the Stafford family line commences in the late 1500s and ends in 1814.

## LAND PURCHASED

**1580** At the SRO:D1798/71, there is a deed whereby **William Drakeford gave his lands in Congleton to Richard Drakeford of Inner Temple London**. This is probably Richard 'The Merchant', but it could have been his father, also Richard and one of the brothers mentioned in the 1594 family letter. If this is so, it would be another connection with the London Inns of Court. See below, Congleton connections.

This deed has been translated from the Latin and is available to be read in the Addendum at the end of this Study Paper.

**1609 Richard Drakeford** Land in Stretton 29 acres bought off (??) **Feyre**.

Salt Vol III p11 – Richard D. Gent., complainant, and Thomas Feyre and his wife Alice, deforciant, of a messuage, a barn, a garden and orchard, 6 acres of land, 4 acres of meadow, 17 acres of pasture, 2 acres of woodland and a common pasture, for all kinds of cattle. Thomas and Alice remitted all rights to Richard and his heirs, for which Richard gave them £41.

**1609 Rich. Drakeford & Ann White** Messuage, gardens, Stafford bought off **Thos. White**.

Salt Vol. III p.13 - Richard D. Gent., complainant, and Ann White, widow, and Thomas White, gentleman, and Elizabeth his wife, deforciant, of a messuage, a barn, 2 gardens, and an orchard in Stafford.

The deforciant (**one who keeps out of possession the rightful owner of an estate**) remitted all rights to Richard and his heirs, for which Richard gave them £60.

Also see 1601 below.

**1610 Rich. Drakeford & Thos. Stoke** 1160 acres off **Sir Edward Littleton** etc.

At **Pillaton Hall**, Huntington, **Cannock**, **Acton T** and **Bednal**.

**Note:** these places are all within a few miles of each other, south of Stafford and near Forbridge indicating that this is the Stafford family making the purchase.

*William Salt Library, Salt Vol. III p.30:* **Richard D. Gent.**, and **Thomas Stoke**, Gent., complainants and Edward Littleton, 'The Elder', knight, and Margaret his wife, and Edward Littleton, the younger, knight, deforciant, of the manor of Pillaton Hall, with the appurtenances and of 14 messuages, 4

tofts, 2 dovecotes, 14 gardens, 14 orchards, 300 acres of land, 90 acres of meadow, 350 acres of pasture, 100 acres of wood, 300 acres of furze and heath, 20 acres of land covered with water, and common pasture in Pillaton Hall, Huntington, Cannock, Acton-Trussell, and Bednall. The deforciant remitted all the right to Richard and Thomas and to the heirs of Thomas, for which Thomas and Richard gave them £400.

**1610 Rich. Drakeford** At Forgate 2 messuages & 3 acres off **Thos. Hall & Thos. White**

Salt Vol. III p.30 - **Richard D. Gent.**, complainant and **Thomas Hall and Ellen**, his wife and **Thomas White**, deforciant of 2 messuages, 4 cottages, a mill, 4 gardens, and acre of land, an acre of meadow, an acre of pasture, and common pasture in Stafford and Foryate (sic) Stafford otherwise Stafford Foryate.

The deforciant remitted all right to Richard and his heirs; and Thomas White covenanted that he would warrant the said tenements against the heirs of Francis White, the father of the said Thomas, for which Richard gave them £41.

**1615 Richard Drakeford** 13 acres, Forbridge off **Ann Berrisford**

This is part of the land purchases around **Forebridge hall**. The Extracts of Title including a list of deeds dated 1762 confirm the purchase by Richard Drakeford from **Richard Lee** (sic. Leigh) being 'the Capital House & Lands in Forbridge and the manor house & lands at Hasely in Cons. Of £1203.10s.0d on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1615. Further information about Forebridge Hall is given below. (SRO 1798/HM/89).

**1615 Richard Drakeford & William Bradbury** ???acres off Thos. **White & Rich. Bradbury**

Land at Burton, Ricarscott, Forygate and Marston

**1617 Rich. Drakeford & Thomas Tunkes** off **Johnson & Tunkes**

Land at Stafford, Forgate and Marsden

NOTE: of interest is the fact that there is an entry for Michaelmas, 8 James I, that is 1611, as follows – Between **William Bowyer**, gentleman, and **Thomas Tomkes**, gentleman, complainants, and **George Johnson** and Ellen his wife, deforciant of 10 acres of land in Stafford and Foryate Stafford otherwise Stafford Foryate.

George and Ellen remitted all right to William and Thomas and to the heirs of William, for which William and Thomas gave them £40.

This firstly shows another link Bowyer/Drakeford, and a holding of land in Foregate in Stafford.

**1617 Thomas Drakeford & William Moye** 50 Acres, at Stutton off **Feyne** or(fayre)

Note: William More was a merchant and a great friend of Richard Drakeford. The latter made a request to be buried next to his friend William.

**1617 Richard Drakeford** 124 acres off **Lee**

Land at Forbrigge(sic), Baswiche, Stockton, Tillington, Marston, Hazeley and Bowley by Stafford

Note: The land, the capital house, and a manor at Hazeley were purchased by Richard in **1615** and this is clearly additional land.

**1617 Rich. Drakeford 'The Elder' and Rich. Drakeford** 29 acres off **Bowyer**

Being tythes of hay at Seighford, Aston & Cookesland (or lane)

Note. 'The Elder' is the father of Richard 'The Merchant' and lived in Congleton. He is part of the 1594 letter.

**1617 Rich. Drakeford, Wm.Wolreche, Thos.Congreave** 114 acres off **Feyne**

Being land at Stretton. This could be same as Stutton, see Thomas Drakeford above.

**1617 Richard Drakeford & Thomas Drakeford** 415 acres off Colman

Being land at Yarnfield, Burston, Hildustone, Stone, Sandon and Swinnerton

Note: This is a Stafford/Congleton connection

**1618 Richard Drakeford & Thomas Drakeford** Land in Swynnerton, and Yarnfield

This a Quitclaim deed\* regarding Messuage and lands at Yarnfield being transacted between Richard and Thomas Drakeford and Robert Walker, Dated 20<sup>th</sup> July 1618. Our understanding is that this Thomas Drakeford was from Congleton and Richard from Stafford is one of the brothers cited in the 1594 letter. This also involves land with Thomas Clayton and widow Johanna Wyatt including many listed parcels of land in the area.

\* A legal document that transfers interest in real property from one person to another.

[This deed has been translated from Latin and is shown within the Addendum, for this Study Paper 4.](#)

**1621 Wm. Drakeford 'The Elder' & Edwd. Drakeford** 230 acres off **Richard Drakeford**

Being land at Stodmoreslow, Thursfield and Tunstall (*contra below*)

Again, this is a Congleton connection, with Edward from Congleton who died in 1646.

**1622 John Drakeford** with **John Beech**, Norton in the Moors 20 acres off **John Broad**

**1622 Rich. Drakeford, Wm. Drakeford**, Gardens in Forgate/Marston off **Rich. Tomkys**

See above, Tomkys is likely to be Thomkes or Tunkes.

**1622 Rich. Drakeford & Thos. Maxfield** 200 Acres off **Sir Thomas Colclough**

Messuage, toft, and dovecot in Silkmore and Castell – Stafford with fishing rights in the Penk. A Richard Drakeford still held this land in 1732 (fn 343 Vict. County History)

**1622 Rich. Drakeford & William Bowyer** off ??????

Land at Handacre, Maveson Ridwall and Hill Ridwall

**1624 William Drakeford & John Gallymore** off ??????

Land at Hollington and Checkley

NB sellers are not given on last 2 entries.

## LAND SOLD

**1617 Rich. Drakeford & Mercy Drakeford** 106 acres sold to **Duncalfe**

Land at Wolgaston & Penkridge

**1621 Richard Drakeford** 230 acres sold to **Wm. Drakeford ‘The Elder’ & Ewd. Drakeford**

Land at Stodmonslow, Thursfield and Tunstall (*contra above*)

**1623 Richard Drakeford & Elizabeth & Richard Drakeford ‘the younger’ & Margery & Edward Drakeford** sold to **William Bowyer**.

Land at Stodmanslow, Thursfield and Tunstall (see 1621 above)

**Again, this could be Edward Drakeford from Congleton also** Richard and Elizabeth are not recognised as a couple. [Can anyone identify them? There may be more information about the participants showing in the deeds themselves. The list of documents at the SRO does not specifically list this land transaction.](#)

Note: The above transactions can, in many instances, be tied to information given elsewhere in this tome. Sometimes the land is seen in various of the Wills. The connection through **Richard Drakeford's** wife **Mercy** in the first Will, with her father **Sir William Bowyer**, and brother-in-law **Sir Edward Littleton** is quite apparent.

**Note:** The sale of Forebridge Hall is not certain. Major Richard Drakeford had inherited the property and estates from his great uncle, Richard 'The Mariner'. HOWEVER, he died in 1789. Before that in 1780 Edward Drakeford was selling land to a Jno. Wright, being 21 acres including Near Gallows Leasow, Far Gallows Leasow, Near Spittle Leasow and Far Spittle Leasow for £1,504.11s.3d. There is no mention of the Forebridge Hall, but this seems a lot of money if the hall is not included.

Edward claimed that he had inherited this land from his brother Major Richard on the basis that he died without issue and unmarried. Other material appears to support the death in 1788, which calls into question the legitimacy of the land sale to Wright! For further details please see the section on land sales.

### **Part Map of Stafford Dated 1788**

It is difficult to relate some of the above purchases and sales to the actual places. The map below, **Source SRO: 3337** from 1788 does show the extent of the land owned by the Drakeford family just prior to the death in 1789 of Richard Drakeford 'The Major' who lived in Shropshire. This was before his brother and last of this Stafford line, sold off much of the land.

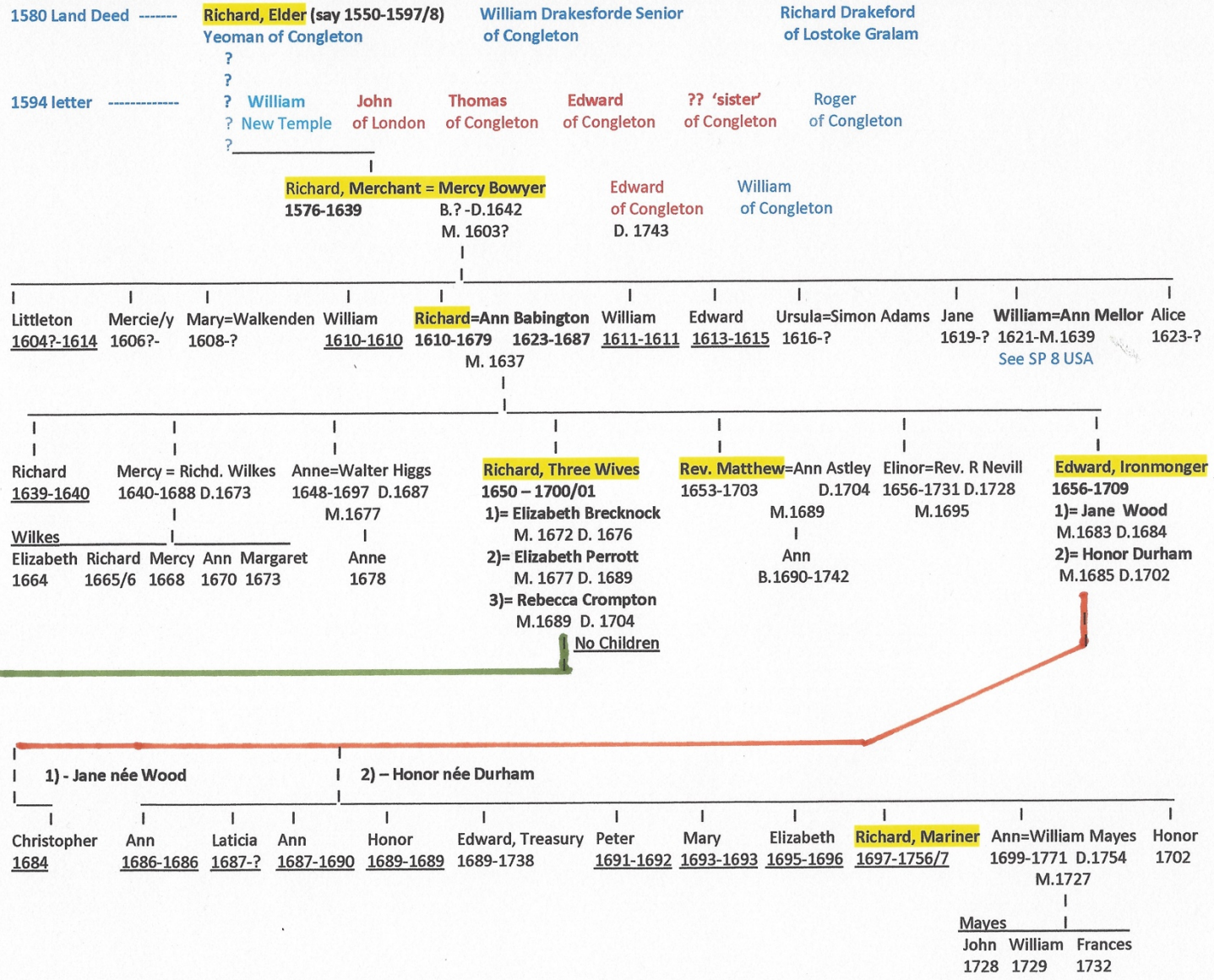
Examining this map it can be seen that the Drakefords held three significant parcels. These are either side of the turnpike Road from Stafford to Litchfield. The smallest was where Forebridge Hall was standing, and reached from the road north to the river. Further toward Litchfield, and on the south side of the road a large plot is to be seen next to that of Mr Hodson. Opposite this, on the north side is an even larger piece of land on the other side of a parcel belonging to Mr Parker. Examination of the deed abstracts in the Addendum will show more.

Land Belonging to a Dickenson and Earl Talbot are notable.

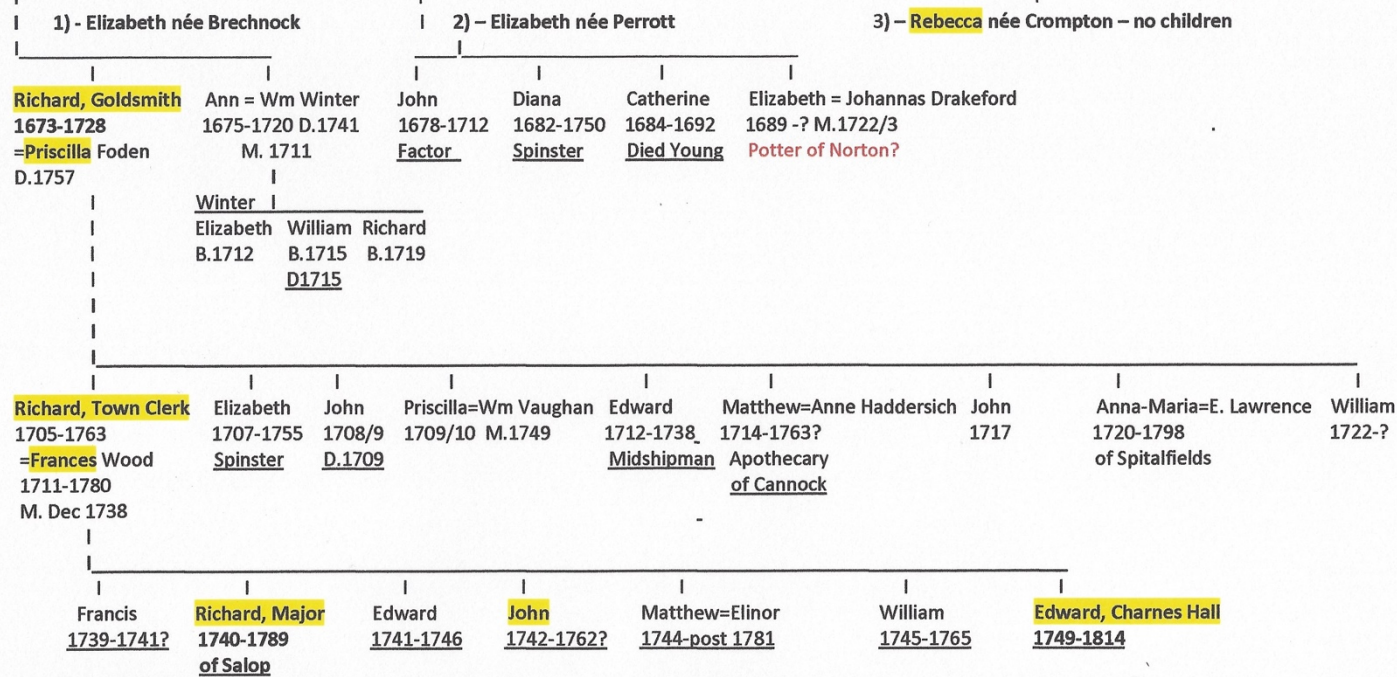
[Action: MWD. Enquiries are being made to: 1\) More information about the eventual sale to Earl Talbot, who is said to have purchased the land from Wright. 2\) More information about the sale of the Forebridge Hall and adjoining land including that for St Joseph's Convent, which is said to have been sold in 1809.](#)

The following map is reproduced by the author based on a map of Stafford dated 1788 available at the Staffordshire Record Office.





DEC 2021



An underscore means died young or it is specifically known that there was no issue.

**Highlighted in yellow** means the individuals are listed in the Contents of this paper under Section 8.

Observation: The above trees reveal the only possible continuation of the Drakefords from the Stafford named line between 1576 and 1814 is down to four boys. These would appear to be Edward born 1689, ending up in prison and died around 1738, but we would have seen any child mentioned through Richard 'The Mariner', who took responsibility for Edward. Also, Elizabeth and Johannas Drakeford married 1723, then John Drakeford born 1717, and William born 1722/3. Any one of these last three could have moved away to find their own way in life. These three were all uncles of Edward Drakeford of Charnes Hall, who did not mention them in his will, claiming that he was the last in the line.

Thus, the most likely link remains with Elizabeth Drakeford who married Johannas Drakeford in 1723, and whilst not the male line, does present a Drakeford line and could well link into the Norton family. Solomon Drakeford, a potter, had parents called John & Elizabeth. The time line appears to be a generation out, but the link is quite possibly there.

DEC 2021



## 12) The Connections with the Drakefords of Congleton and Potteries

The connections between the various individual families in Staffordshire and Cheshire are many. The present view held by the author is that the families in Stafford, the Potteries and Congleton are all connected and at some time emanated from the Tunstall area as described above and the **Study Paper 1, Introduction - 1206 Onwards and Study Paper 5, The Drakeford beginnings.**

The use of DNA testing has proved that there are modern day links between the Potteries, that is Norton-in-the-Moors, and Congleton. While there are no living descendants of Edward Drakeford of Forebridge and Charnes Hall, these links were long before his time.

The 'important letter' of 1594, and land purchases at around that time link the families together. Specific connections are noted below and doubtlessly as our research continues there will be more to follow.

- 1) **1580** - A deed in the Stafford Record Office numbered D1798/HM/Drakeford 71, appeared to indicate involvement by a Stafford member of the family but after translation it described **a gift by a William Drakeford** living in New Inn New Temple, London who gave land in **Congleton** that he inherited from his late father William, being land and buildings his father had occupied, to **Richard Drakeford** of Lostocke Gralam, near Northwich, Cheshire and **Roger Dale\* of Smallwood** (a chapelric of Astbury), and Roger Drakeford of **Congleton**. The deed also mentioned as alternative beneficiaries **William's** brothers **John, Edward, Richard, Thomas, and Roger**. This deed is dated 18<sup>th</sup> July 1580. As this was part of the Dickenson files there must be a connection with the Stafford Drakefords. The 1594 letter below is certainly of relevance.

We would assume that this is a significant part of the local Drakeford clan, a large family unit based in and around Congleton. We can further assume that Edward Drakeford is the under-sheriff to Sir Edward Littleton, and that one of the Richards is the father of Richard 'The Merchant' (1576-1639).

A typed reproduction of this deed dated 1580 is available in the Addendum, Section 3.

- 2) **1594** – A letter from **John** Drakeford in London to his brethren/brothers refers to **Edward** Drakeford (under-Sheriff to Edward Littleton) and **his other brothers, Richard, and Thomas.**

While it appears that there is no direct connection, Richard Drakeford, 'The Merchant' of Stafford (1576-1639) was also a lawyer in London, and what may be of greater importance were the names of the brothers. However, through a land deal in 1617 it is shown that it is likely that the Richard in the letter was the father of 'The Merchant'. At that time Richard 'The Merchant' now of Forebridge was purchasing large amounts of land. This letter dated 1594 was from a John Drakeford, in London, to his brother Edward, clearly in Staffordshire as the under-sheriff of Staffordshire and their brothers namely Richard and Thomas.

If we consider the names in the 1580 deed described above, the **two Richards in receipt of the gift are located in Cheshire**. The brothers named are not. By chance could they be brothers in Staffordshire, not far away? Certainly, if not, it is an unusual coincidence particularly when the words brother and brethren and cousin are very close. Whilst the 1594 letter does not refer to William and Roger, as it is 14 years later than the 1580 deed, they could well have died. If so, this is the missing link and would explain why there is no evidence the Stafford family was present at the town churches before 1608!

- 3) **1597** – Richard of **Congleton** owed money in his will to Mr Bowyer of Knypersley, relation of Mercy Drakeford.
- 4) **1607** – Thomas Drakeford of **Norton** on the Moors was owed money by his **nephew** William Drakeford of **Congleton**
- 5) **1617** – Richard Drakeford and Thomas Drakeford of **Congleton** buy 415 acres from ‘Colman’ at Yarnfield, Burston, Hidulstone, Stone, Sandon and Swinnerton. This may be connected with the next land deal.
- 6) **1618** - Deed dated between Richard Drakeford of Stafford with Thomas Drakeford of **Congleton** in a deal with Robert Walker of Yarnefeilde in the county of Stafford. For details see Drakeford Land Sales. For a copy of this deed see Addendum Section 7.
- 7) **1621** – Thomas Drakeford, either **Norton or Congleton** & William Moye, a great friend of Richard Drakeford, ‘The Merchant’ of **Stafford**.
- 8) **1622** – Forebridge Hall lease Edward Drakeford Congleton/Richard Drakeford Stafford. This was not in fact a lease in the usual sense. It was instead a method whereby, possibly expecting political trouble because of his parliamentary connections, Richard used his brother to look after the family should he be unable to do so.
- 9) **1639** – At his death in 1639 Richard Drakeford (1576-1639) had as part of his estate land in **Congleton** & Buglawton. This was inherited by his wife Mercy and appeared as part of her estate in 1642.
- 10) **1644** - **Edward** Drakeford of **Congleton** left his gowns to his nephew Richard of **Stafford** as shown in his Will, No 31. dated September 1643. This confirms that a further Congleton connection appears to be through this Edward Drakeford (15?? – 1646) is the uncle of Richard Drakeford ‘The Babington’ of Stafford (1610-1649), and thus **brother of Richard Drakeford (1576-1639)** who married Mercy Bowyer.
- 11) **1670** - In the will of **William Drakeford** of Congleton he left a bequest to Stephen Drakeford of **Buglawton**, a village where the Stafford Drakefords held land.

12) **John Drakeford** of Stafford born 1717 was the brother of Richard 'The Town Clerk', and baptised at St Mary's, Castle Church. His father died when he was 11 years old. It would seem that his father, Richard 'The Goldsmith' died suddenly and without a Will. His estate was valued at administration at just £50.

By that time, having passed the estate to his oldest son Richard 'The Town Clerk' there would have been little left. Of John's other male siblings, Edward, born 1712 died at sea in 1738, Matthew became an apothecary, and William, born 1723 was not heard of again.

The fact that John was not mentioned in the Will of Edward of Charnes Hall would suggest that John died without leaving issue.

**Solomon is shown on the left page, 6<sup>th</sup> line down, against a 'C' for Christening, having the parents John and Elizabeth Drakeford in Norton(National Archives).**



Solomon became a potter, and from him is descended a line of Drakefords that remained potters until the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and ultimately, today we have cousins in Gillian Basford, James Drakeford, Chris, Michael, Elizabeth Drakeford now Swayne, and Averil Jemmett, now Kidson.... And their offspring. Those with a Drakeford name are James, Peter, Richard, and Ashley, with children Zac, Elly, Amy, Rosie, George, Ethan and Oliver.

- 13) **1814** – Edward Drakeford of Stafford. In his Will he leaves £50 to Mr Drakeford of **Congleton** who claimed to be a relative.
- 14) **1888** – The letter by Thomas Cooper on the investigation of the pedigree of the Drakefords linked those of **Congleton** to those of Stafford, although some of his comments were inaccurate. He appears to have listed the known Drakefords of **Congleton** using a book called 'Congleton Past and Present' by Robert Head published in 1887 and then produced a pedigree for the Drakefords of Stafford but linking the two without saying how they were linked. Full details are available in Study Paper 2, Congleton.

### **13) A Royal Decent**

Our cousin, **Roger Hall** has kindly provided an accredited list of the connection of the Drakeford family in Stafford et al, to the early Royal Family. As far as can be checked this line is correct. This is basically duplicated in Study Paper 1, but because the link starts in Stafford it is fully replicated here. This will enable the reader to refer back to this as required during the reading of the Stafford Study Paper.

I have included a reflection:

It was because of **Richard Drakeford – Babs (1610-1677), son of Richard and Mercy** that the **Drakeford relationship** with the **Babingtons** was founded. He married Anne Babington and that formed the link to the Babington family and thus a link to the crown. The list below from Roger shows the link from **Edward I** who, with **Eleanor of Castile** produced a daughter **Joan**. She married the **Duke of Gloucester** producing a **daughter Eleanor** who married **Lord Despencer** around 1340. The link stays with and through the Despenchers and later the **Ferrers of Chartley** until a link to the **Devereux family** who retain the Ferrers Lordship until around 1580 when **Margaret Devereux married Sir Edward Littleton (1555-1610)** to whom **Edward Drakeford** was Under-Sheriff in 1593.

The important Littleton family were part of the equation. The **Littletons** had a daughter, **Ellen, who married William Babington** and they had a **daughter Anne, who married Richard Drakeford (1610-1679)**. They had an heir **Richard Drakeford – 3 Wives (1650-1700)** along with younger brothers, **Matthew and Edward**. **Richard continued the Stafford line through Richard Drakeford, Town Clerk, purportedly ending with Edward Drakeford in 1814**. Matthew became a rector, marrying Ann Astley, producing no male heir, but a daughter Ann. **Edward** moved to London and

became an **ironmonger**, producing 12 children with two wives. Only two boys and two girls are known to have survived to adulthood, The eldest boy **Edward, born 1689**, was possibly the Edward bound to the treasury from 1713-1731. The youngest was **Richard – ‘The Mariner’ (1697-1756)**. His story is told elsewhere in this tome.

Another **Bowyer/Littleton/Drakeford connection** occurred around 1593 when not only was an Edward Drakeford of Congleton under-sheriff of Stafford to Sir Edward Littleton, but the wife of **Richard – ‘The Merchant’, Mercy Drakeford**, had a mother, **Marcie (Mercy) Bowyer**, who, upon being widowed **married James Littleton**, who became her stepfather and she regarded Sir **Edward Littleton as her brother-in-law. Richard and Mercy Drakeford** had a son they named Littleton who died in 1614.

### **The following is from our Roger Hall.**

**King Edward I (1239-1307) married Eleanor of Castile (c1245-1290)** who had a daughter - Joan of Acre (c1272-1307) who married Gilbert Clare (Earl of Gloucester) (1243-1295).

They had a daughter **Eleanor Clare (1292-1337)** who married Hugh Despencer (Lord Despencer) (?1290-1326)

They had a son **Edward Despencer (Knight)** of Buckland (?1315-1342) who married Anne Ferrars (?1315-1367)

They had a son - **Edward Despencer** (Lord Despencer) (1336-1375) who married Elizabeth Burghersh (?1342-1409)

They had a daughter - **Margaret Despencer** (?1358-1415) who married Robert Ferrers (Knight) (c1358-1413)

They had a son - **Edmund Ferrers** (Lord Ferrers of Chartley) (c1386-1435) who married Ellen Roche (?1390-1440)

They had a son - **William Ferrers** (Lord Ferrers of Chartley) (c1412-1450) who married Elizabeth Belknap (?1410-1471)

They had a daughter - **Ann Ferrers** (1438-1469), 7<sup>th</sup> Baroness Ferrers of Chartley, who married **Walter Devereux (c1432-1485)** [*and became Lord Ferrers of Chartley in her own right and was summoned to parliament as such*] *He was killed at the Battle of Bosworth Field fighting for Henry VII.*

They had a son - **John Devereux** (c1464-1501), *who became Lord Ferrers of Chartley and married Cecily Bouchier (?1467-1493) daughter of William Bouchier, Viscount Bouchier, son of Henry Bouchier, 1<sup>st</sup> Early of Essex and 5<sup>th</sup> Viscount Bouchier.*

They had a son - **Walter Devereux** (1488-1558) created 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Hereford in 1550 who married firstly Lady Mary Grey (1491-1538, *daughter of Thomas Grey, 1<sup>st</sup> Marquis of Dorset*).

They had a second son -**William Devereux** (1525-1579) who married Jane Scudamore (1525-1574) *in 1554.*

They had two daughters, Barbara and Margaret - **Margaret Devereux** (1555-?) married **Edward Littleton (1555-1610) MP & Knight, of Pillaton.**

They had a daughter -**Ellen Littleton** (?1590-1671) who married **William Babington** (?1590-1625)

They had a daughter -**Anne Babington** (c1622-?) who married **Richard Drakeford** (1610-1679)

*Source: The Plantagenet Roll of the Blood Royal: Being a Complete Table of All the Descendants Now Living of Edward III, King of England. The Isabel of Essex Volume, Containing the Descendants of Isabel (Plantagenet) Countess of Essex and Eu, with a Supplement to the Three Previous Volumes (plus additions in italics from MWD)*

**Author Melville Henry Massue marquis de Ruvigny et Raineval**

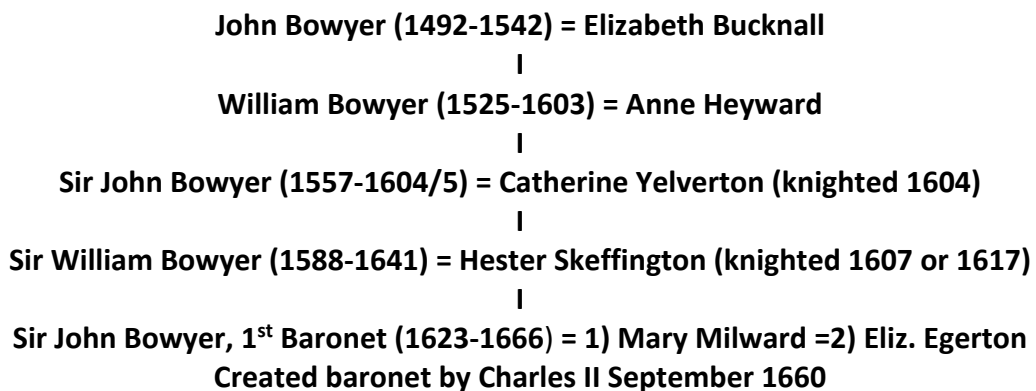
From the above transcript the line continued through **Richard Drakeford** and **Anne Babington** who produced children including **Richard 'The Goldsmith'** and **Edward 'The Ironmonger'**. The former established the main Stafford line going down through **Richard 'The Town Clerk' to Edward** who died in 1814. A concurrent male line also from Richard and Anne Babington fell through their youngest boy Edward and ended with Richard 'The Mariner' in 1757. His brother Edward born 1689/90 is thought to have died in 1738 – in prison. It is known that he was involved with The Treasury in London.

## 14) The Bowyer Family Connection

The Bowyer connection goes back to Mercy Bowyer marrying Richard Drakeford (1576-1639) in St Peter's church Maer on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1605. This was the parish church used by the Bowyer family along with that of St Lawrence at Biddulph and St Chad's at Seighford. In turn, at St Chad's there are further connections with the Littleton and Babington families.

The family were not considered to be of the Staffordshire elite, but were nonetheless well respected and fairly well off. This was the middle tier of Staffordshire's gentry. In the Muster of 1634, the major families were assessed for the subsidy of £20 in lands, whereas Sir William Bowyer's rating was £11.6s. Furthermore, he was amongst 46 people who had to furnish one cuirassier (*meaning breast plate armour*) each, while 11 richer gentlemen who had to furnish 2 each. The estate he inherited was valued at £500 and additionally he held at his death 1,700 acres. This puts Richard Drakeford into good light with well over 1,200 acres that he held at around the same time.

A summary of the main branch of this significant Staffordshire family can be shown as follows:



**William Bowyer** and his wife **Anne Heyward** were the parents of **Sir John Bowyer** and were of Sidway and Knypersley. The family became wealthy from the coal and iron ore mines at Biddulph and Tunstall and acquired the north Staffordshire manor of Knypersley during the reign of Edward III (1327-1377). William as a lawyer was at Gray's Inn, London. He was MP for Stafford in 1559 and when he died in 1603 left money to Seighford church. Note below that Mercy Drakeford's father died in 1593 and has the only Bowyer tomb at the church.

**Sir John Bowyer (1557-1605)** was knighted in May 1604. He was taught at Staple Inn and admitted to Gray's Inn in 1578 where he would have met Sir Christopher Yelverton, his future wife's father. He probably moved back to Staffordshire after his marriage in 1587 where he practised law. He lived at Sidway Hall, preferring that to Knypersley. He was MP for Newcastle under Lyme in 1597 and 1604 until he dies in March 1605. He is buried with his wife Catherine Yelverton at a chest tomb with two recumbent effigies and armorial shields to the sides in St Peter's, Maer.

**Sir William Bowyer (1588-1641)** was the eldest son of Sir John and he too was a lawyer and a politician, representing Staffordshire in the 1620s and 1640s. He was educated at Staple Inn from 1601 and joined Gray's Inn in 1604. Both Sir John and Sir William were lawyers and politicians.

Sir William's son John was a Colonel in the Parliamentary army during the English Civil War and fought at the Battle of Hopton Heath and was involved in the destruction of Eccleshall Castle. He was elected Member of Parliament for Staffordshire in 1646 to the Long Parliament. He was excluded from the House of Commons under Pride's Purge on 6 December 1646. He was elected as MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme in 1656 in the Second Protectorate Parliament, but never sat. In 1660 he was re-elected MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme for the Convention Parliament and sat until 1661. He became High Sheriff of Staffordshire in 1662.

### **The Drakeford connection:**

**Richard Drakeford (1576-1639)** as well as being a merchant in Stafford was a lawyer at Clements Inn in London. He married **Mercy Bowyer at St Peter's Church, Maer** on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1603. There was at this point in time some difference in status as Richard was not far up the ladder so to speak. It is quite likely that in 1603 at the age of 27 he was considered but a yeoman. The record at St Peter's read:

*Richard Drakeford & Mercie Bowyer gentelwoman were mar[r]ied xxvjth of January ye year above said. {1603}*

He too would become a gentleman, as his father-in-law, William Bowyer was so entitled. While making money as a merchant and purchasing Forebridge Hall in 1615, Richard would be the person responsible for changing the civic rules for Stafford by petitioning King James I in 1613.



After much political intrigue won and his friend and co-protagonist Matthew Craddock became the first Mayor of the town in 1614. Richard Drakeford had been Head Bailiff in 1611 and was mayor in 1620 and again in 1635. All this certainly helped him up the social ladder, not forgetting that an Edward Drakeford was Under-Sheriff of Staffordshire to Sir Edward Littleton in 1593/4. Edward was either uncle to Richard or brother. As they died within 5 years of each other it is difficult to be certain.

Additionally, Richard Drakeford of Stafford declined a knighthood from Charles I at his coronation in 1625 and received a £10 fine for the privilege! So, perhaps they were well up the ladder but were not absolute monarchists.

It is in St Peter's church Maer where there is now an impressive Bowyer tomb. This is positioned in an arched recess on the north side of the chancel. It is dedicated to Sir John Bowyer (1557-1604/5) and his wife Catherine. It is a chest tomb with two recumbent effigies and armorial shield to the sides.

The family lived at Sidway Hall in nearby Pipegate and rebuilt most of Maer Hall and the church in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Later Maer Hall was owned by Josiah Wedgwood II. His nephew Charles Darwin was a frequent visitor and he married Josiah's daughter Emma.

It is acknowledged that Mercie Drakeford, also spelled Mercy or Marcie was the daughter of William Bowyer Gent, of Seighford. However, the exact relationship between this William and Sir William Bowyer of Knypersley has yet to be determined. They are doubtlessly of the same family sharing a similar status and the same churches at Seighford – St Chad's, Biddulph – St Lawrence, and Maer – St Peter's.

The connection with the Drakefords can be summarised as not just through marriage, but also an interest in purchasing property, legal training and connections with the Potteries and North Staffordshire in particular Tunstall and the surrounding area. In other words, during the 17<sup>th</sup> century the Stafford Drakefords were moving in the same county circles as the Bowyer family.

The Bowyer connection led to a connection with The Littleton family when James Littleton, the 7<sup>th</sup> son of Edward Littleton married Mercy Drakeford's mother, another Marcy/Marcie Bowyer at Seighford church on 24<sup>th</sup> August 1595. Before her first married to William Bowyer she was Mercie Stone, daughter of John Stone. Mercy's father had died in 1593 leaving a grand tomb at the church.

## 15) The Babington family connection

In about **1638 Richard Drakeford (1610-1679)** married **Anne Babington** of Curborough, a small town north of Lichfield. The Babingtons first came to Curborough when a **Dr Zachary Babington** was admitted as prebendary of Curborough in 1584 and later precentor of Lichfield Cathedral and Diocesan chancellor. He created an estate based on Curborough Hall which was assessed for hearth tax on 13 hearths in 1666. However, Zachary died in 1613. His successor was his son William (died 1625), and was Anne's father, and his eldest son, was another Zachary Babington. This **Zachary Babington** was the executor of the Will of **Richard Drakeford (1610-1679)** made in 1677 and the brother of Anne. By this time, he had become a lawyer, and whilst living in Curborough Hall in 1666, later moved to Whittington Old Hall where he died in 1688. His son John Babington continued to live at Curborough Hall, became High Sheriff of Staffordshire in 1702 and died in 1706 and his son, another Zachary Babington died in 1745 without a male heir. This Zachary Babington was High Sheriff of Staffordshire in both 1713 and 1724. The estate was then split up for his three daughters in 1780 passing through the Levett family until a sale in 1925. The actual Curborough Old Hall had been demolished in 1848. A tablet of the Babington Coat of Arms with the initials ZB & WB was removed and is now set inside on a wall in Field House, Curborough.

### **Anthony Babington, hung drawn and quartered at the behest of Queen Elizabeth I**

The link to **Anthony Babington** is through **Anne Drakeford's grandfather Zachary Babington** (died 1613), whose father in turn would have been a cousin of Anthony Babington, who was doubtlessly a Catholic sympathiser.

Rather like the Drakefords, there are two family sections related and, in this case, one of the Babingtons in Staffordshire, north of Lichfield, and another in Dethick, Derbyshire, some 35 miles away. They shared the same coat of arms. Anthony's father died when he was just nine. His father was Henry Babington and mother Mary, daughter of George, Lord D'Arcy. Outwardly this side of the family were Protestants but had Papist leanings. Under the care of the Earl of Shrewsbury, Anthony was briefly a page to Mary, Queen of Scots, for whom he developed a close attachment and became devoted to her.

**Anthony Babington** married Mary Draycot in 1579 and was studying law and by 1580 was admitted to Lincoln's Inn. According to Winston Churchill in his History of the English-speaking Peoples, in 1586 Anthony Babington engineered a conspiracy to usurp Elizabeth and advance the Catholic cause. Thanks to Walsingham and his spy network formed around 1585 this was discovered, and Elizabeth somewhat reluctantly ordered Anthony and his cohorts to be hung drawn and quartered. Babington and the other main conspirator, John Ballard met their deaths slowly, being taken from the Tower of London and drawn on hurdles from Tower Hill to St Giles. Babington was still alive when the executioner's knife went to work on disembowelling him.

The story goes, that Elizabeth was so dismayed at the barbaric deaths that she ordered that the final seven conspirators should be confirmed dead by hanging before disembowelment on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1586. Mary met her death by the axe at Fotheringhay Castle on 8<sup>th</sup> February 1587.

The additional Drakeford connection with the Babington family through the Littleton family is described below. Basically, William Babington married Helen or Elen Littleton and their daughter Anne married Richard Drakeford (1610-1679).

## 16) The Littleton family connection

It is worthy of note that **Edward Littleton** is described in **Mercy's Drakeford's Will** as a '**brother-in-law**'. **Richard and Mercy had a son** with the Christian **name of Littleton**, who died in 1614. It is noticeably clear that he was named after the Littleton family. Indeed, **Mercy's mother**, also **Mercie re-married in 1595** after William Bowyer died in 1593 to 'The right worshipful' **James Littleton**, the 7<sup>th</sup> son and their son **Edward born in 1595**, her brother-in-law. It would no doubt have pleased her mother when she had her first son baptised Littleton just a short while after the wedding to James Littleton. The reference to Edward Littleton as her executor would surely have been James' son who would have been 47 when the Will was written, being Mercy's stepbrother.

It is noteworthy that **William Bowyer** died in 1593 about the time that **Edward Drakeford of Congleton** was **Under Sheriff to Sir Edward Littleton**, hence the families were certainly well known to each other long before Mercie married James in 1595. John's approach in the 'important' 1594 letter (Section 4 above) asking for a job with Sir Edward was certainly as a family member striking while the bed was hot!

The Littletons were large landowners in Penkridge, living at Pillaton Hall, and the surrounding area such as Stretton where the Drakefords also held land, albeit on a much smaller scale. **Richard Drakeford purchased 1160 acres from Sir Edward Littleton in 1608.**

Edward was the 'family name' for the Littletons. The last knight died in 1629, but the first baronet was this 'brother-in-law' mentioned who was born in 1599 and died as the 1st baronet in 1657 and was Sir Edward Littleton. His father was renowned for wishing to start a furnace in 1590, and indeed one was recorded in 1635. The family seat was Pillaton Hall, which fell into ruin when the direct family died out and a cousin took over the title. It was partly restored in the 19th century and is now listed. There are some marvellous family tombs in St Michael's church, Penkridge and in 2017 was visited by the modern Drakeford family.

The Littleton family were wealthy landowners with a history going back centuries. The connection with the Drakeford family was a marital one during the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century and highlighted below, which included the main contact with the Bowyer family and also a second link with the Babington family. Before then the Littleton family included the following family lines. (*Source: 'The baronetage of England' by Kimber and Johnson, 1771*)

The main recognised line started in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and probably beyond. The first Baron was Edward, Lord Littleton, Baron of Mounslow (Munslow). Born in 1589, he died at Oxford on 27 August 1645; he left no sons, and his barony became extinct. His only daughter, Anne – born 21<sup>st</sup> August 1623 in Mounslow, married her cousin, Sir Thomas Littleton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baronet, of Stoke St Milborough. Their son, Sir Thomas Littleton (1647-1710), 3<sup>rd</sup> Baronet, was Speaker of the House of Commons from 1698 to 1700, and Treasurer of the Navy from 1700 to 1710. Anne's other child was a daughter Catherine. Because of this strange arrangement Anne was half-sister to Edward Littleton and Mary Littleton as well as Margaret, Richard, and Sydney Wynn. She died in Ockendon Essex.

**The Littletons showed the importance of the family with a series of substantial tombs. This unusual two-tiered monument to members of the Littleton family, Sir Edward (d.1610) and his wife, in the lower Section, with Sir Edward (d.1629) and his wife on the higher section. The uppermost wife's figure is barely visible from the floor.**



It is worth noting both sets of parents have images of their children in a very similar way to that shown on the Drakeford plaque. Also at this church it shows the plaque of children of Richard and Mercie of Stafford, contemporaries and relatives of Edward Littleton, who died in 1629.

The Littleton Line is:

**Edward Littleton (1505-1558)**

|

**Sir Edward Littleton (1535-1574)**

|

**Sir Edward Littleton (1555 –1610)**

|

**Sir Edward Littleton (1579-1629)**

|

**Sir Edward Littleton (1599 -1657)**

This rather confusing situation does not exactly tie in with the Baronetage history source which follows. Clearly having all the sons called Edward gives the same problems as that for Richard does for the Drakefords:

**Children of Edward Littleton (1505-1558), and Helen Swinnerton, 1510-1574.**

**Sons:**

- 1) **John** died without issue.
- 2) **Sir Edward Littleton (1535-1574)** married Alice daughter of Francis Cockan (Cockayne), Derbyshire giving 8 sons and several daughters. Edward died 19 July 1574 and was buried St Michael's Penkridge.
- 3) **Thomas** = Casandra, d. of Thomas Lane Esq., Staffs left issue
- 4) **Francis** of Melsho in Salop, = Gertrude d. of Thomas Sutton of Over Hadon, Yorks left issue
- 5) **Walter** of Eccleshall, Staffs = Alice d. of John Cumberford of Staffs Esq. left issue.
- 6) **John** died without issue.
- 7) **James** = **Mercy d. of John Stone, relict of William Bowyer and mother of Mercy Bowyer who married Richard Drakeford (1576-1639). James and Mercy were married at St Chad's, Seighford on 24<sup>th</sup> August 1595, and their son Edward was baptised on 21 September 1596 also at St Chad's. \*\***
- 8) **Devereux** = Jane d. of George Allen, Woodhouse, Derbyshire, left issue.

\*\* Our **Roger Hall** visited St Chad's, Seighford and inspected the tomb of William and Mercy Bowyer. It is of fine alabaster, with effigies of both William and Mercy. One wonders if she is in the tomb. Roger tried to read the inscription on the tomb, but due to being partly obscured by an electric keyboard, speakers and a mass of wiring this was not possible. What could be seen was the following: '**Heare lieth the bodies of William Boyar and Mercy his wife wch William deceased the 8 daie of Novbr: ano: Dni: 1593. Etats sua 50. And ye said Mercie.....'**

Unfortunately, the two heraldic shields were also mostly obscured by said music system. We should presume that Mercy returned to be with her first husband after death, perhaps preferring to be with the Bowyers rather than the Littletons!

## **Daughters of Edward Littleton and Helen Swinnerton**

### **Daughters:**

- a) **Jane** = John, son of Thomas Lane of Bentley
- b) **Constance** = Thomas Holt, Gristlehurst, Lancs,
- c) **Mary** = Walter Vernon, Houndhill, Staffs
- d) **Grace** = Francis Harnage Esq., Belzardine, Salop and afterwards Silvanus Lacon Esq. Staffs
- e) **Margaret** = Sir John Repington, Amington, Warwickshire

**Sir Edward Littleton (1555 - 18<sup>th</sup>December 1610)** was the son of **Sir Edward Littleton (1535-1574)**.

Edward married **Margaret Devereaux** (1567 – 1626) (or 1577 as parents were married in 1574) ), daughter and co-heir of Sir William Devereux, who was the youngest son of Walter, 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Hereford. Edward and Margaret had 6 sons and 8 daughters. The marriage settlement is dated 23 March 1573.

Littleton succeeded to the family estates in 1574, on the death of his father. He had married Margaret Devereaux only recently. He inherited 16,000 acres in the Penkridge area and another 600 in Staffordshire, 1,400 acres in Warwickshire and 940 in Worcestershire. The Littletons relied very much on their land dealings for income, involving themselves with such a notable as Thomas Crompton, John Dudley, 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Northumberland, and John Morley and Edmund Downynge, MPs with exchequer links.

Edward was twice Sheriff of Staffordshire, the Provost Marshall 1588, Deputy to George, Earl of Shrewsbury, Lord Lieutenant, and knight of the shire. When **Sir Edward** was **High Sheriff in 1580/1 and 1593/4**, there was a close connection with the Drakeford family, for the latter period **Edward Drakeford** was **under-sheriff**. See 1594 'Important Letter'.

## **The Children of Sir Edward Littleton (1555-1610) and Margaret née Devereux**

### **Sons:**

- 1) **Sir Edward (1579-1629) heir as below.**
- 2) **Thomas** = Elizabeth d. and heir of Adam Morton Esq., Wilbrighton, Staffs,
- 3) **William** Died Young (DY)
- 4) **George** DY
- 5) **Gilbert** DY
- 6) **John** DY

## Daughters:

- a) **Mary** = Richard Fowler, Kings Harnage, Salop.
- b) **Anne** = Humphrey Salway, Stanford, Worcs.
- c) **Dorothy** died young.
- d) **Jane** = Richard Knightley, Fawsley, Northamptonshire
- e) **[H]elen Littleton (1589-1671) = William Babington (1585-1625)**, Curborough, Staffs. **Anne Babington (1623-1686)** their daughter married **Richard Drakeford (1610-1679)**. Therefore, her grandfather was **Sir Edward Littleton (1555-1610)** and great-grandfather **Lord Viscount Hereford**. As mentioned above Edward Drakeford was Under-sheriff to her grandfather Sir Edward.
- f) **Margaret** = John Skinner Gent. of Coston, Worcs.,
- g) **Lettice** = John Fulnetby, Archdeacon, Stafford,
- h) **Constance** = Richard Hill Gent. London.

**Sir Edward Littleton (1579-1629)** Knight of the Shire in Parliament and Sheriff of Staffordshire. He married Mary daughter of Sir Clement Fisher, Packington, Warwicks by whom they had four sons and four daughters.

## Sons:

**Sir Edward (1599 -1657), heir, he was made baronet by Charles 1 in 1627 and married Hester d. of Sir William Courteen, London.** They had **3 sons. William** - No issue, **Edward** successor, and **James**, no issue. There were **2 daughters, Anne** and **Margaret**.

- 1) **Fisher** = Anne d. of James Baynton Gent, Wilts.
- 2) **Sir Walter**, Chancellor of the Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry married Priscilla d. of Sir Lewis Pemberton, Rushden, Northants, by whom they had 4 sons – Walter, Edward, Fisher, and Henry
- 3) **William** = d. and heir of John Webster, Amsterdam, merchant.

## Daughters:

- a) **Lettice** = William Wasbourne, & later John Clent,
- b) **Mary** = Euseby Shuckburgh
- c) **Margaret** = First Sir John Brown, & later Francis Fisher
- d) **Anne** = Sir Thomas Holte.

In summary, the two marriage connections to the Littletons for the Drakefords are firstly that after the father of Mercy Bowyer, married to Richard Drakeford (1576-1639) being William Bowyer Gent, died in 1593, her mother Mercy Bowyer, nee Stone married James Littleton, 7<sup>th</sup> son of Sir Edward Littleton (1505-1558) in 1595.

Secondly, Helen Littleton married William Babington and their daughter Anne Babington married the son of Richard and Mercy Drakeford in around 1638.



Effigies of the Littleton Family at St Michael's Church, Penkridge





## 17) The Stafford Peploe and Dickenson connections

There have been people who have connected to the Drakefords in various and interesting ways. Two notable families stand out and are worth mention. Firstly, the Peploe or Peplowe family who initially were involved as fellow curates in the 17th Century and today are connected by DNA. This bloodline connection is yet to be ascertained.

The second is the Dickenson family, also with a religious association and more importantly by a friendship with Richard Drakeford 'The Mariner', which resulted in an enormous amount of research that has been important in the development of our family history.

Latterly, the Layton family has emerged as a link between the English Drakefords living today and American 'cousins' representing more people by the name of Drakeford in the USA than anywhere else in the world. This is fully discussed in the Study Paper 8, The Drakeford Family Land in Virginia, 1660.

### **Peploe:**

The first mention of a John Peploe, Peplo, Peplor or Peplow, was when he was a fellow curate with Matthew Drakeford in the 1670s. The second connection is also through the church as he is described as the Revd. John Peploe, Clerk. This name crops up again in the Will of John Drakeford when administration was affected in January 1765 where John Peploe signed two documents as witness.

The initial connection is evidenced in the Lichfield Diocese records of 1676, when John Peploe was appointed curate at St Chad's, Stafford on 22nd August 1676 and two months later Matthew Drakeford was also appointed curate at St Chad's on 11 October 1676. John's qualifications are not recorded but Matthew had an MA from St John the Divine, Cambridge.

John Peploe is noted on a wooden plaque showing the list of vicars on the wall of St Mary's, Castle Church. This starts as follows:

1567 John Cokes  
1621 John Lyneall  
1669 John Sheratt  
1673 John Peplor or Peploe  
1729 William Corne  
1753 Joseph Dickenson  
1795 Edward Dickenson  
1820 Rober Anlezark etc

Note that the date for Peplow does not equate with the Diocese records and differs by three years and on the plaque, he is described as Vicar, whereas he was appointed Curate in 1676.

Quite clearly the later John Peploe was possibly a grandson or great-grandson of this curate. Nonetheless, this list is interesting for a number of reasons. Firstly, the source document for this list on this modern plaque is hard to read, hence the two spellings for Peploe. Secondly, we can assume that he was here for 56 years when William Corne became Vicar, which seems excessive but not impossible. Also before him was a John Sheratt, a name that is linked to the Drakefords in the potteries.

The Will of John Drakeford dated 11th November 1762 and Administration dated 2nd January 1765 have as witnesses John Peploe and John Dearle. Also, John Peploe, clerk, was witness to the sealing by John Drakeford's mother Frances Drakeford for the Administration.

**How the Peploe connection arose in the DNA tests through the male line is open to conjecture and is at present unknown. It would be good to update any discussions that have recently been developed with the Peploe family.**

### **Dickenson:**

The Dickenson crops up in many guises. Most important of all it was because of one of the Dickenson family that we have available so many records in the Staffordshire Record Office.

It was a Joseph Dickenson who was a witness to the document for Pricilla Drakeford's probate in 1757 (No. 72 of the Wills). On the same document he was instrumental in granting the probate to Pricilla's daughter Anna-Maria Drakeford 'being sworn before me Joseph Dickenson, Surrogate GM'.

In the 1750s, Lewis Dickenson was a close friend of Matthew Drakeford of Cannock, the surgeon and apothecary and son of Richard Drakeford 'The Town Clerk'. Lewis Dickenson was also described as an apothecary in Cannock. Matthew Drakeford was co-executor with another Dickenson, Lewis, for Richard Drakeford 'The Mariner' who died in 1757. It was this connection that led to the hundreds of Drakeford documents that are currently stored in the Staffordshire archives at the Staffordshire Record Office (SRO). This neatly connects the two parts of the Stafford family when the line jumped from Richard 'The Mariner' to Richard 'The Town Clerk', who was described as the nephew of the former.

The other notable Dickenson role is through the church when at St Mary's, Stafford, Joseph Dickenson as Vicar in 1753 was followed by Edward Dickenson in 1795 as shown on the plaque mentioned above.

The most important issue about this connection is that the SRO has a voluminous collection of papers for the estate of Richard Drakeford, 'The Mariner' which covers other members of the family too, as well as details of land sales and the work done by Richard as Prize Agent in Gosport and Portsmouth.

## **18) The Family Mansion known as Forebridge Hall (1615 – say 1810)**

From various records of Stafford, the following information has been ascertained. The spelling is various including Forbridge, Forrbridge, Forbridg, Faybridge, FForbridge and finally Forebridge which is still used today.

The following is partly discovered from 'Castle Church' - A history of the County of Stafford Vol. 5:

*'By 1452 one of the principal tenants-at-will in Forebridge was John Barbor or Barbour. By 1486 Humphrey Barbour, his son, was the principal free tenant there, as was his son Robert in 1518. Robert, who was given the office of bailiff of the liberty of Forebridge in 1524, died in 1531 as lord of Flashbrook in Adbaston and holding what was described as a capital messuage in Forebridge and Rowley, in which his widow Joyce, daughter Lewis Eyton continued to live. His heir was his son John whose holding in Forebridge in 1543 was the most considerable among the lay tenants and included a house (Tenanted by one Ralph Dickens) with croft and Leasow and other named crofts, meadows and pastures. This was apparently sold around 1600 to a family called Leigh of London, who sold it to the Drakeford family around 1615'.*

Those records for Castle Church parish supported by Gregory King (Source: William Salt Library MS197) reveal that the hall, known at some time as Forebridge Hall was built probably before 1600 and owned by the Barbors of Flashbrook and later by a Mr Leigh a citizen of London who sold it to Richard Drakeford in 1615. In fact, a further purchase of land took place in 1617, this time from a 'Mr Lee'(sic.). It seems certain that this fixes the time that the Drakefords took on Forbridge Hall and surrounding land.



**This town plan shows the area of Forebridge at the south-east of Stafford, over the river bridge with the turnpike road to Litchfield. Various plots of land belonging to the Drakeford family are marked as such. Forbridge Hall was at the north side of the ribbon development of shops and houses along that road. The later Green Hall, also named Forebridge Hall initially, lay further away from the road, and still stands today.**

The deeds held by the SRO confirm that when this house was purchased on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1615 by Richard Drakeford from Richard Lee it also included the manor house & lands at Hasely. This appears to be a further property south-east of Stafford. In 1474 or 1475 a so-called Manor of Haseley was in dispute between Robert and Humphrey Barbour, sons of John Barbour of Stafford who had died seised of it. Robert Barbour at his death on 25 February 1531/32 was seised of half a virgate of land and houses in Baswich called Haseley held of the Bishop of Lichfield and valued at 40s. In 1732 Haseley manor or farm lying south south-east of Radford Bridge was still owned by a Richard Drakeford.

An 18th-century brick barn still stands near the site of Haseley manor-house, south south-east of Radford Bridge and 150 yards east of the canal. *Source - A History of the County of Stafford: Volume 5, East Cuttlestone Hundred.*

Various records tie up the early history of the house and various parcels of land around. The Drakefords were certainly in possession from 1615 and increased their holding around the Hall. From Richard Drakeford, 'The Merchant', the link goes through to Edward Drakeford who died in 1814, some two hundred years later. It can be noted that Edward's brother Richard inherited the estate, but as shown in the Will of Frances Drakeford, their mother dated 28<sup>th</sup> July 1778 (No. 77), she had purchased a 7 acre part of the estate and bequeathed it to the two other remaining sons, Matthew and Edward. In turn, in 1809 Edward sold part of the land inherited from his mother called Silvercroft to a Benjamin Rogers, which became a house called Forebridge Villa and since 1907, St Joseph's Convent. The exact sale of the land by Edward on which Forebridge Hall sat, is unclear.

Forebridge Hall was a triple gabled house with a large barn near the road. There is a detailed inventory from the time Richard Drakeford (1705 - 1757) died. This lists the various rooms to include kitchen, pantry, laundry, hall, green parlour, yellow parlour, common parlour, study, 4 chambers, another room upstairs, various cellars, a brewhouse and six garrets, which are top floor or roof rooms used for storage or servants.

Standing today is a property in the centre of Stafford regarded as the largest Tudor town property of its kind and known as the 'High House'. This was built around 1594 for John Donnington and would have been on a par with Forebridge Hall. The main difference between the two houses would be that the latter was without the walls and less protected but on the other hand less subject to the insanitary environment of a town.

It is noted that the Drakefords held Forebridge Hall for around two hundred years. In 1680 it was recorded that the 'shields of arms', properly referred to as the Coat of Arms of the Drakefords and others were set in the parlour windows. One was 'a chevron sable betwixt three eagles displayed of sable' for Drakeford. There was another window of the same room containing 'the canting device arg. a drake proper passing through water agate'. These no longer exist, even at Green Hall, which is not surprising bearing in mind that the building of the new property was nothing to do with the family. *Wilkes of Willenhall (Staff. Coll. Part II 320), and the Babingtons of Curborough (Ibid. P.24)- RKD.*

For further information on the Coat of Arms see the relevant section and that referring to Richard Drakeford (1697 – 1757) above, when this Drakeford as High Sheriff of Staffordshire unsuccessfully sought endorsement of this ancient award.

The building shown below stands in the middle of Stafford, and was built late 1500s, around the time Forebridge Hall was built. It appears to be a little larger but was a town house rather than one having land around it where animals could be kept, and crops sown.



Ancient Town House Stafford

### **A later named Forebridge Hall, to become known as Green Hall.**

We cannot blame the ubiquitous car for the demise of the Hall. Indeed, it was pulled down at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century when the occupier wanted a larger and more modern house rather than one adjacent to the road with the noise and smells and mud associated with the traffic of the day.

A new property on the land around Forbridge Hall was built circa 1810 for a solicitor, Charles Webb. One source indicates that it was built on 'Mr Parker's land' and that the old name of Forebridge Hall was retained until the name was changed to Green Hall in 1860. During its time this Georgian house was used as a country residence, a girls' school and until recently as part of the council's offices. It has now been converted into prime apartments.

By researching contemporary maps, it is clear that this house was built much further back from the main road than the hall. It is assumed that was to facilitate a carriage entrance that could allow for the entry and turning of a coach at the front of the house. Indeed, when Forebridge Hall existed it was, along with the other adjacent houses abutting the road and without a frontage of land. It is clear that the existing Stafford to Lichfield road has been much enlarged to the extent that the Tudor house foundations and those of other roadside properties are under the existing and much widened road at the two centre roadway lanes out of the existing four. The turning area to the front of the house has all but disappeared and the entrance approach is now to the side of the Georgian house called Green Hall.

It would appear that Edward Drakeford sold the property some while before he died in 1814. The reference in his Will to another Stafford property is certainly not Forebridge Hall and undoubtedly a rented property. This comment is based on the fact that there were no freehold properties listed in his Will. Furthermore, it refers to the staff being allowed to continue in residence and sufficient *rent* being paid by the executors for them to do so.

The description for this listed property provided by the listing authority is as follows:

Grade II – 16<sup>th</sup> January 1951

*House, now offices. C.1810. Stuccoed brick with parapeted roof. Double depth plan. Regency Style. 2 storeys with attic; symmetrical 7-window range; 2 window ends break forward.*

*Wide 1<sup>st</sup> floor sill band; ends have angle pilasters with incised lines and entablature, the cornice of which extends across centre; pilaster strips with incised lines and cornice with anthemion antefixae to attic.*

*Entrance has small-paned over-light to paired glazed doors; Ionic porch with paired columns. Windows have sills and 12-pane horned sashes; attic has 6-pane casements. Right return has end wings, that to left with 2-storey bay window. Rear has later additions.*

As previously mentioned, the sale of Forebridge Hall is not certain. Major Richard Drakeford had inherited the property and estates from his great uncle, Richard 'The Mariner'. HOWEVER, he died in 1788. Before that in 1780 Edward Drakeford was selling land to a Jno Wright, being 21 acres including Near Gallows Leasow, Far Gallows Leasow, Near Spittle Leasow and Far Spittle Leasow. Edward claimed that he had inherited this land from his brother Major Richard Drakeford. Other material appears to support the death of Major Richard in 1788, which calls into question the legitimacy of the land sale to Wright! For further details please see the section on land sales.



**Green Hall is now a Georgian Building converted to an exclusive development of eight luxurious apartments.**

[MWD to discover church records from Salop.](#)

[MWD to review section showing the Extract of deeds for Forebridge Hall and the estates owned up to the sale of the hall and/or land in March 1780 by Edward Drakeford to Jno. Wright for the sum of £1,504.11s.3d and compare this with the purchases/sale hitherto. Having thus commented it does not appear that Forebridge Hall is mentioned in the conveyance.](#)

### **Drakeford Court**

Today, on the side of the road to Lichfield opposite the renovated Green Hall stands a corner building called Drakeford Court. This comprises newly built apartments for the elderly and a surgery.

This was built on Drakeford land and before the new property was constructed there stood a property 'The Lichfield Arms' (1841-1939), at 126-127, Lichfield Road. It was initially a pub and latterly shops.

Prior to 1841 it was a pair of dwellings on part of the land of Edward Drakeford, and situated directly opposite Forebridge Hall/Green Hall:

In 1841-1849 one part was named the Noah's Ark beerhouse, having its own brewhouse. William Hawkins was licensee until 1846 when he moved to Gothic Cottage and his daughter Sarah Hawkins took over until 1849.



In 1850-54 it was the White Horse beerhouse and the licensee was William Scott, a railway contractor from Betley. In 1852 William Martin from the Wheel took over before moving to Nottingham. He was replaced in 1861 by **Stephen Dale\***

In 1856-1858 it was the Prince of Wales beerhouse,  
It then ceased trading about 1869 when it became Plant's beer shop.

In 1873 it became the Lichfield Arms.

In 1888 it became number 111 and had 37 people living there.

In 1891 it became number 109.

In 1901 it had become numbers 126-127.

It closed as a pub in 1939 with the occupier staying until 1945.

In 2004 it was demolished and replaced with the Drakeford Court homes complex.

\* Note connection with the Drakeford Beam at Study Paper 2.

19) Extracts of Deeds for Forebridge Hall and other estate properties.



**MWD Note:** *By the title it is clear that most of the deeds if not all, have been examined by whoever made this extract. Unfortunately, the comments may not have been retained when the extracts were repeated for later editions. Furthermore, When the author was in banking at a time when deeds were passed on to the new owners and before the current Land Registry on-line system, we would take a bundle of deeds and prepare such an extract for the record. As long as we could determine a good title to the property, any deeds older than 50 years(?) would no longer form part of the deeds and were either kept as 'an additional bundle', or if the customer wanted them, handed back to them to do with as they wished. Hence, over the years many of the old deeds have been discarded. As an example of the extent to which lawyers would seek to confirm validity of a title to land and property listed below is a Schedule of the Deeds relating to the several estates of Richard Drakeford Dec'd but now the Estate of Richard Drakeford the Younger Gent. & which were found in the hands of Mr Lewis Dickenson one of the Executors of the Sd. Richard Drakeford decd. It covers the period from 1615 when the family acquired Forebridge Hall to 1761 a period of 146 years, involving several properties held during this time by the family.*

*As you read the following, do keep in mind the plan of the Drakeford Stafford properties dated 1732.*

## **Forebridge Hall and other properties in Staffordshire Salop and Chester.**

**9th March 1615** – Deed of purchase from Richd. Lee to Richd. Drakeford of the Capital house and Lands in Forebridge and the manor house & Lands at Hasely in Cons.(ideration) of £1203.10.0d.

*Note: Leasow means grazing or pasture.*

**[1660]21 June 12 Car{oli}. 2d.** – Conveyance by Feoffment of **Backhouse Leasow** from Robert Haywood & his mother to Mr Backhouse in Cons of £150.

**November 1662** – Marriage Settlement between the Sd. Richd. Drakeford & Elizabeth Brecknock of the said premises Exemplification of a recovery suffered of the above pmses by the said Richd. Drakeford upon the Sd. Marriage.

**1677** - Settlemt. made on the Marriage of Richd. Drakeford jnr. with Eliz. Barrett (this was incorrect. The original document shows that this was the marriage to Elizabeth Perrott.

**Trinity Term 12th Wm. 3rd** – Exemplification of Recovery suffered by the Sd. Richard Drakeford.

**12 Augt. 1678** – Conveyance by Leave and Release (the lease not to be found) from Ellen Saunders and Edward Harding to Jonathan Brockhouse of all Tithes of what Nature or Kind soever within the precinct of the Town Hamlett or Manor of Fforebridge and Silkmore in Com. of Stafford within the parish called Castle Parish &c in cons. of £18.

**24 & 25 May 1714** – Conveyance by Lease and release from Jonathan Brockhouse and Eliz. His wife to Humphrey Hodgette Gent. of Backhouses Leasow & the Barn thereon erected being tithe free & then or late in the tenure of Geo. Phillips in Cons. of £210 with a chyrographer of a fine levied of sd. Pmes by sd. Jonathan Backhouse & wife as of the then Mich'as Term

**18th & 19th May 1701** – Deeds of Leave & Release to Head the Uses of the above Recovery of the Lands in the Parish of Castle in the County of Stafford

**1728** – Letter of Administration taken out by Richard Drakeford jnr. To his Father who died Intestate

**25th Feb. 1733** – Mortgage for a term of 999 years Priscilla Drakeford Widow of Richard Drakeford Gent. to Dr Wilkes for £800 & Int. & Bond to perform Covt.

**22nd August 1748** – Assignment of above Mortg. To Richard Drakeford Esq. Reciting that the said Mortg. had reced. all princl. & int with above mortg. upon an account stated except £182.11.2d which was then paid by the said Richd. Drakeford to Dr Wilkes in full for princl. & Int. due & a fresh promise granted to the Sd. Richard Drakeford Esq.

**25 & 26 Aug. 1748** – Conveyance by lease and release from Richd. Drakeford Gent. to Richd. Drakeford Esq. of several estates consisting of Houses & Lands at or near Forebridge aforesd. in cons. of £1035.1.1d.

Note: This conveyance is clearly from 'The Mariner', but it could not be a contract with the future heir, Major Richard. Instead, it would be 'The Town Clerk', perhaps to hold in safekeeping for the boy who would have been 8 years of age at the time. In particular this appears to be the occasion when Richard, 'The Mariner' purchased the Hall from the family and allowed their debts to be repaid. Eventually he would bequeath the Hall to Richard, 'The Town Clerk's eldest son.

**28th & 29 Sept. 1750** – Lease and release being a deed of exchange from Hodgetts & al. to Richd. Drakeford of Backhouses Leasows for Haseley

**29th May 1752** – Conveyance by Feoffment with Livory & seisin Indorsed of Sd. Backhouses Leasows from Sd. Drakeford, Town Clerk to Richard Drakeford Esq. in Cons. of £25

*Note: that Richard Drakeford, Town Clerk has part of the estates from 1748 onwards*

### **Properties in Gosport and elsewhere involving Richard Drakeford, 'The Mariner'**

**1570** – Purchase Deed from Robins to Linacre (?) of Phillips house & co.

**27th March 1576** – A probate copy of the will of John Linacre whereby he gives the said Estate Michael Talbot in Fee.

**[1669] 29 March Car 2d** – Marriage settlement made after Marrge. Bet. Mr Talbott & his wife of said premes.

**21 Feb. 1682** – Probate Copy of Mr Talbott's Will

**[1663?] 14 Aug. 25 Car 2d** – Feoffmt. With livery & Seivm(?) from Mrs Talbott Widow of Sd Michael Talbot to Thos. Abnett of Sd. Pmes in Cons. of £180.

**13 & 14 Feb 1726** – Conveyance by Lease and Release Abnett at to Geo. Phillips of the Sd. House & lands in Cons. of £220.

**4 Oct. 1729** - Copy & Opinion upon old Geo. Phillips's Will

**10 & 11 May 1731** - Mortge. in fee for £50 & Int. of the sd. Pmes from Phillips to Mr **Corne**

**1 & 2 Novr, 1732** – Conveyance by Les & Release of a moiety of Sd. Pmes. From Richd. Phillips to Geo. Phillips in Cons of £50.10s.0d.

**29 Oct 1733** – Mortgage for 1000 Yrs of sd. Pmes from Geo Phillips to Wm. Corne for £55 & Int. Collateral Security for a Debt upon Bond

**11 & 12 June 1734** – Conveyance by Lease & Release from Sd George Phillips to **Richd. Drakeford** Gent. of the sd. Pmes in Cons of £55 to Sd. Corne in full discharge of the Sd Mortgage which was by this deed agreed to be assigned to the Sd Richard Drakeford gent. of the said Pms & of the sum of £77 so paid to Sd. Geo. Phillips.

**25th Augt. 1734** – Indre while being an assignmt. of the last mend. Mortges from Wm. Corne to **Edward Drakeford** in trust for Richd. Drakeford Gent. in Cons of £56.10s being the princl. & Int. Money

***Note:** This Edward is likely to be the younger brother of this Richard who was born in 1712, he would be 22.*

***Note:** The marriage agreement between Richard Drakeford, 'Town Clerk', and Frances Wood. It is later referred to below in a separate section with some commentary.*

**20 Novr. 1738** – Articles of Agreement of (???) bet. Richd. Drakeford of the Borough of Stafford of the 1st Part Frances Wood of the sd. Borough Spr. of the 2nd pt. Priscilla Drakeford of Forebridge in the parish of Castle sd. County of Stafford Widow of the 3rd part Elianor Wood of Beaston in the County of Salop widow of the 4th part John Robins of the sd. Borough of Stafford Esq and Isaac Hawkins of (???) Burton on Trent in the Sd County of Stafford Gent of the 5th part Reciting that whereas a Marriage then agreed upon such was had and solemnized betwn the sd. Richd. Drakeford & Francis Wood Upon which Richd. Drakeford in Cons of the sum of £1000 Covnt to grant & ???? to the sd. John Robins & Isaac Hawkins & their heirs a messuage & Lands then in possession of Jos. Marsh with the apperts the near Hill and Meadow the further hill and Broad Meadow the little hough the Basford Leasow the Spittle Grounds the Beasts Gates & the fishery in the river Penk with the Tithes of the sd pmes to the use of the Sd Richd. Drakeford for Life (sans waste) Rem to Trustee Then to the Use of the said Frances Wood his intended wife for her life as her Jointure & in lieu & bar of Dower Then to Trustees for £500 to raise the sum of £800 for the

younger Children's Portions if but one younger Child then only £500 & after the decease of the sd. Richd. Drakeford & Frances Wood & the survivor fulfilling the Trust of the sd. Form then the first and every son then to the Daur or Daur's for want of issue to the right heirs of the sd. Richd. Drakeford afsd.

**SECONDLY** the Sd Richd. Drakeford & Frances Wood covt. With the Sd. Robins and Hawkins to pay into their hands the sum of £700 or £800 remaining part of the Fortune of sd. Frances Wood over and above the sd. £1000 to be laid out in Freehold lands of Inheritance in the Countys of Stafford Salop and Chester to the use of the sd Richard Drakeford for life Then to the sd Frances Wood for her life Then to the heirs of the sd. Frances Wood by sd Richd. Drakeford lawfully begotten.

**THIRDLY** the sd. Richard Drakeford & Frances Wood covt with the sd. Robins & Hawkins & likewise with the sd. Frances Wood to grant and assure a Messuage @ Pmes in Dorrington in the County of Salop & Gravelinger in the County of Chester or one of them late the estate of the John Wood her late husband deced or Richd. Wood, her son dec'd. To the sd. Eleanor Wood & her assd. For life then to the sd. Frances Wood during her Coverture for prim (or pinn) Money & after the decd. of either of them the sd. Richd. Drakeford & Frances Wood to the use of the survivor of them for life & Then to the use of the heirs of the said Frances Wood by the sd. Richard Drakeford to be begotten.

**FOURTHLY** The sd. Richard Drakeford & Frances Wood covt. With the sd. Robins & Hawkins that a Leasehold Estate at Dorrington in the Coun. Salop in the holding of John North held under a Sire Philip Chetwood should after the decease of the said Eleanor Wood be settled to such uses as is directed to be settled by the second Article hereof.

**FIFTHLY** The Sd. Richd. Drakeford & Frances Wood Covt. To pay & make the sd. Eleanor Wood's Estate before limited to her the sum of £20 a year.

**SIXTHLY** the Sd. Richd. Drakeford covts. With the sd. Robins & Hawkins – likewise with the sd. Priscilla Drakeford his mother to grant & to assure unto her out of the sd. Richd. Drakeford's estate the clear yearly sum of £30 for her dower the sd. Priscilla Drakeford agreed to accept thereof.

**LASTLY** It's mutually agreed to make & to execute all further & other reasonable Act & Acts from the confirmation of these presents to as they or any of their Counsol shall advise.

#### **Further Properties at Gosport**

**21 July 1670** – Copy of Indre of Feoffmt from Adrian Hunt & Richd. Hunt to John Frew of a piece of ground on the **Southside Middle Street** in Gosport

**20th Nov. 1688** – Articles of Agreeemnt. Between Stephen Lock & John Frew on Lock setting his house some small matter up on **Frew's Ground**

**27 July 1691** – Artes of Pchase John Frew to Wm. Mansfield of a **house Shop & Slaughter House in Gosport** in Cons of £142.

**30 Sept. 1691** – Conveyance by Feoffmt. With Libery and seisin Indorsed from sd. John Frew to sd. Wm Mansfield in Cons of £142 of sd, Estate & Bond to pform Covts.

**25 March 1735** - Conveyance by Les & release from John James Mansfield & Eliz wife to John Alwick of sd. Pms in Cons of £420(the Les to Pmes possion missing) & Chyrographer of a fine.

**5th Novr. 1735** – Conveyance of Les & Release from sd. John James Mansfield & al to John Sturges of sd. Pmes in Cins of £147.15s.0d

**28th Janry. 1743** - Mortge for 1000yrs from sd john Sturges tp Palmer Hobbs of sd. Pmes for £60 & Interest.

**7 & 8 April 1747** – Conveyance by Les. & Release from Sd. Sturges & Wife to **Richard Drakeford Gent** of Sd. Pmes in Cons. of £210. Sixty pounds of wch was paid to the Afsd. Palmer Hobbs in discharge of the above mtge & £150 residue thereof to the Sd Sturgess & Bond to perform covenants of same date.

**8 April 1747** – Assignment of the above mortge by Sd Hobbs & Sturges to Saml. Marshall Esq. in trust to attend the Fee for Mr Drakeford

**10 April 1747** - Counterpt. of Lease from Sd. Drakeford to John Sturges & Wife of Sd Pmes from the feast of St John the Baptist then next coming for 99yrs if Sd Sturges & wife or either of them shall so long live under the yearly rent of £10 payable quarterly, Covt. that they shall not assign Sd. Lease without the consent of Lessor in writing under his Hand for that purpose.

**20 April 1688** – Feoffmt. Wth. Livery & Seison Indorsed Eliz. Kneller Widow to Stephen Lock of a parcel of land & a third Pt. of a **garden lying at Gosport** in the County of Southampton near adjoining to a messue or tenmt. Of Sd. Stephen Lock in Cons of £15

**10 Decr. 1672** – Feoffmt with Livery Seisin Indorsed sd. Richd.??? & al to the Sd. Stephen Lock of aforesaid **house and garden situate in Middle Street** in Gosport & a piece of land adjoining the Southside of the garden in Cons. of £78

**20th Dec 1672** – Deed to lead the uses of a ffine of Sd. Pmes from the aforesd. Eliz. Kneller to sd. Lock his Heirs & Afrd. For ever.

**1st March 1680** - Conveyance from Sd Lock to Richd. Bursy of a Pce of **Land lying on the Northside of South Street in Gosport** in Cons. of £20

**21 Augt 1683** – Richd. Bures licence abt. Mr Locks stables

**20 Oct 1688** – John Frew’s Articles concerning **Mr Lock’s house in High Street** Gosport

**18 March 1693** – Conveyance from Sd. Stephen Lock to Francis Salmon & Wife of three Messuages or Tenemt. Backsides Outhouses & Gardens and all **that piece or plot of ground lying at the West Side of the Sd. Tenemt.** All wch pmes are situate lying and being on the North side of the South Street in Gosport aforesd in Cons of £420

**30 Augt. 1694** - Articles Inter Stephen Lock & Rebecca Small about their erecting a wall

**Aug. 1713** - Copy of Mr Stephen Lock’s last Will and Testament.

**27 June 1726** - Mtge by demises for 1000yrs from Bayley Smith & Franklin Exors & Devisees named in the Will of Sd Step. Lock to Saml. Holden of London Attorney & Trustee named on behalf of Richard Cozens of the Sd. Pmes in Cons. of £533.7s.9d & Int.

**29th Augt. 1730** – Agreeemt. between Stepney & Blinkhorn – **Chapel Wardens of the Chapel of Gosport known by the name of the Holy and Undivided Trinity and Richd. Drakeford Gent. of one half part of a pew or seat in the Gallery** No. 2 in Cons of £7 paid by the Sd. Richd. Drakeford to said Stepney.

**2 & 3 April 1739** – Conveyance by Lease & Release the Afsd Bayley & Al to Sd. Richd. Drakeford Gent. of all the afsd. **3 Messuages or tentmnts. With their appurts Sd. To be situate lying and being in or near the Middle Street on the North & with another Street called the South Street in Gosport** afsd on the South pt. thereof in Cons. of £118.14s.0d Paid by sd. Drakeford by the direction appointm’t of the sd Bayley to the afsd Holden as Attorney & Trustee to & for the Sd. Richd. Cozens for the Sd. original sum of £533.7s.9d. in and by the above Wills Mortgage for and made of the sd. pmes for the afsd. Term of 1000yrs And also in Cons. of the further sum of £?. 6s.0d. paid by Sd. Drakeford to the Sd. Bayley & Al for the absolute purchase of the Sd. Pmes making together the sum of £600 ---- And two Chyrographers of a Fine at the same time levied & 3 Bonds of the same date to perform Covenants.

**1st June 1739** – Assignment of the above Mend. Mortge from Holden & Al to Gibbons in Trust for the aforesd. Richard Drakeford Gent. & to attend wait upon the Freehold & Inheritance of Sd. Pmes

**10th November 1749** – Drakeford & Barber the Exors of the late Captain Frogmere to Spraggs and Dighton Assignmt of their Trust by a Decreetal Order

#### **Stafford Properties Continued:**

**28 May 1714** – Lease for 3 lives and 21yrs afformd. Of a **House & Croft** at **FForebridge** called **Friths House** from Humphrey Perye Esq. to Edwd. Frith at £8 a year. *[A life is defined as 30 years thus period is 111 years]*



**2nd May 1738** – Assignment of Sd. Lease from Sd. Edwd. Frith & his assigns to Mrs Priscilla Drakeford In Trust for Mr Richard Drakeford of Stafford.

**29th Decr. 1744** – Lease from Edward Wetenhall Esq. To Mr Richd' Drakeford of Stafford of the **Bridge Meadow** for 21 years from Lady next.

**27th Augt. 1748** - Assignmt. On the back of the Sd. Assignmt from sd. Richd. Drakeford to Richd. Drakeford Esq. then of Gosport but since of Stafford Green Dec'd

**27th Augt. 1748** - Assignment on the back of Sd. Lease from Sd. Richard Drakeford to the Sd. Richard Drakeford Esq.

**NB. 26th Janry. 1762** - *Mr Richard Drakeford Junior recd. From Mr. Dickenson the original Deeds of which this is an Abstract (Except the marriage Order dated 20th Novr. 1738) which was left in the hands of the Sd. Mr Dickenson for Safe Custody,*

Note that the creation of an Extract of Deeds is an art not a science. The parts listed will depend on the reason for the extract, and the ultimate aim. This one differs from that above and by comparison these changes can be noted.

## 20) Charnes Hall

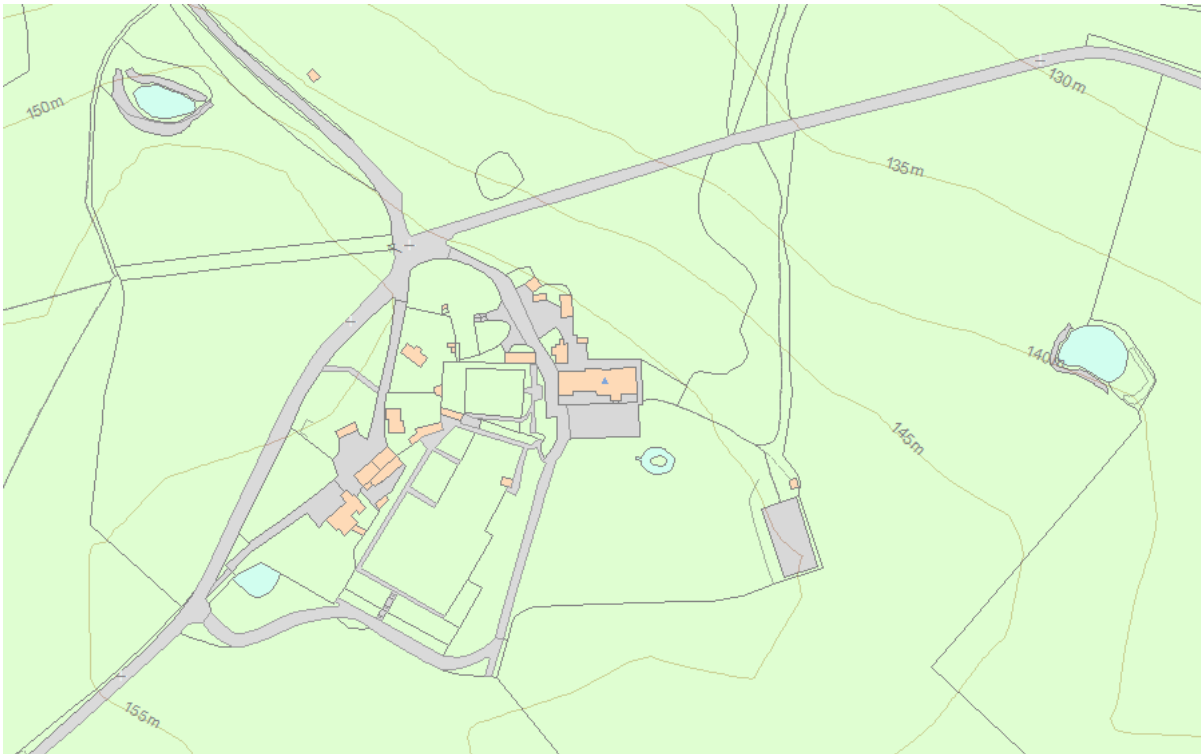
Reason for Designation: Around 6,000 moated sites are known in England. They consist of wide ditches, often or seasonally water-filled, partly or completely enclosing one or more islands of dry ground on which stood domestic or religious buildings. In some cases the islands were used for horticulture. The majority of moated sites served as prestigious aristocratic and seigneurial residences with the provision of a moat intended as a status symbol rather than a practical military defence. The peak period during which moated sites were built was between about 1250 and 1350 and by far the greatest concentration lies in central and eastern parts of England. However, moated sites were built throughout the medieval period, are widely scattered throughout England and exhibit a high level of diversity in their forms and sizes. They form a significant class of medieval monument and are important for the understanding of the distribution of wealth and status in the countryside. Many examples provide conditions favourable to the survival of organic remains.

The monument at Charnes Old Hall survives well and represents a good example of a moated site and associated pond.



Map dated 1879 showing Charnes Park, Charnes Old Hall, and Charnes Hall, now Charnes Hall

The monument includes the moated site and its associated pond at Charnes Old Hall, Eccleshall. The waterfilled north, south and east arms of the moat measure up to 10m wide and 2m deep and are now supplied by surface drainage. The west arm has been infilled but is visible as a grass-covered depression and survives as a buried feature. There is an external enclosure bank on the west and north sides of the moat. The island which measures 50m square is now partly occupied by a brick-built house. There are two causeways leading onto the island, from the east and the south. The earthworks to the north of the moated site represent a large pond, which is now dry. The outer bank of the moat provides a retaining bank for the pond on its southern edge. The large dam on the east side of the pond measures up to 2m high and has been breached. There is a rectangular earthwork within the pond which is slightly raised, and measures 30m west-east by 20m north-south. The earthwork forms an artificial island which was probably provided for waterfowl. Excluded from the scheduling are the brick-built Charnes Old Hall and associated outbuildings, fence posts and the surfaces of all paths and driveways but the ground beneath these features is included.



Charnes Hall..... 5373      [Michael to check further...Charnes Hall \(formerly listed as Charnes Old Hall\) to be checked as Charnes Hall and Charnes Old Hall appear to be 2 different buildings today.](#)

Note: Edward Drakeford's Will differentiates between Charnes Hall and Old Charnes Hall. On page 15 of the copied document of the Will and two codicils reviewed by Wm Mott, Registrar, Edward states, ..... *I do give and bequeath unto Mr Birks of Charnes Old Hall near Charnes aforesaid the sum of Twenty pounds Also I do....*

His abode was Charnes Hall, and another nearby place Charnes Old Hall.

The map below dated 18?? Clearly shows Charnes Park, Charnes, Charnes Hall, and Charnes Old Hall. There are comments indicating that Charnes Hall was renamed Charnes Old Hall in recent times. [New map to be added](#)

The later Charnes Old Hall is a listed building reference: SJ 73 SE 8/103 10.1.53. II\*2.

The **English Heritage** listing for Charnes Hall is as follows:

1650 and later. Good early Georgian facade with Baroque elements in the design; plastered walls with stone dressings; rusticated stone quoin pilasters; moulded stone plinth, and stringcourse at first floor; 3 storeys and 2 storeys. The original wing on right-hand side: 2 storeys with attic storey above cornice; 2 window projecting bay at centre surmounted at rear by a large segmental window under a stone dentilled arched pediment; doorway with coupled stone Tuscan columns supporting cornice hood porch; 3 windows to sides, the right-hand side added 1800. Two storey wing to left, which was added in 1720, has 3 windows and is of similar style.

Moulded stone eaves cornice; slates. Modern, but sympathetic, single storey wing on left-hand side with loggia at front. Interior, largely remodelled mid to late C19, has good staircase, and decorated plaster ceilings in principal rooms.

**MWD:** There is a need to determine which house Edward Drakeford (1753-1814) called Charnes Hall. The staff members at the SRO claim that actual ownership of Charnes Hall rested with another family and there is no trace of Edward Drakeford on the deeds. Clearly it was just leased may be on a short term because Edward's Will includes:

*'...I do Also will and devise that the above wherein or may be in whether Stafford or Charnes be kept open for the term of six months after me decease my executors paying the rent and taxes for the same allowing all my servants their usual wages to the said six months and allowing them the sum of sixty guineas for maintenance and sufficient household furniture for my said servants use for the said term....'* Also, it would be useful to determine the other Stafford property that he used before he died.

The current owner, Tom Hall responded on 28.7.17. As with the SRO, his information is that there is no known connection with Edward Drakeford or has there been a crest on the building. As far as he knew, "Charnes hall was occupied by the Yonge family back pretty much to Domesday book in all three locations including the current location from 1650. In 1916 my great grandfather, John Hall, purchased Charnes hall from the Yonge family at auction and my family has been there ever since".

MWD responded, giving a short history of the family and confirming the plaque at St Mary's, Stafford on which Charnes Hall is named as the residence of Edward Drakeford, who died in 1814. I also referred to his Will. No further comment has been received as at 1.12.17.

## 21) A modern Staffordshire connection

The siblings, Christopher and Michael Drakeford and their sister Gill Basford, can trace their direct line back to around 1730. DNA links show that they are related to Congleton with the lines of David and Jeremy Drakeford. Tim Drakeford is linked directly through Solomon Drakeford below, baptised 1760. Roger Hall is linked through the closest DNA link via a cousin, but the direct link to the trio of siblings has yet to be ascertained.

The records tracing us back to 1730, the probable date of the birth for John Drakeford of Norton-in-the-Moors using a detailed tree prepared by Roger Hall and Jeremy, Tim and David Drakeford pre-2010. Thus, the DNA history for the current Drakeford family starts with John and Elizabeth Drakeford, who had two children, being Mary Drakeford, baptised at Norton-in-the-Moors on 15<sup>th</sup> February 1757, and then Solomon, baptised at the same church on 24<sup>th</sup> September 1760. We can assume that John and Elizabeth were born around 1730. Our DNA results show a strong link with either Stafford or Congleton, or both. The possible links with Stafford have previously been discussed citing either Elizabeth Drakeford and Johannes Drakeford, married in 1723, or their cousin John Drakeford, son of Richard 'The Town Clerk', John Drakeford born 1717.

Solomon Drakeford was a potter, and Norton-in the-Moors was a pottery town. The family were very much involved in the industry around the pottery towns until a line left at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when they left the manufacturing side of things. Our Grandfather, Richard Drakeford owned a glass and china shop, Northwood & Co, in a main shopping street of Wolverhampton and it remained in the family until 1959. Thereafter the family became dissipated and most left Wolverhampton, and the pottery business was a thing of the past.

The following tree indicates the generations **in yellow** from John and Elizabeth to today for the siblings Gillian, Christopher and Michael Drakeford.

John and Elizabeth Drakeford, Norton-in-the-Moors

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Mary **Solomon – Elizabeth Hakin(1)** - Ann Watkiss(2)(widow) - Mary Bell(3)J  
b.1757 b.1760  
m. 1787 at Whitmore m.1787 at Woolstanton m.1803 at Newcastle-  
under-Lyme

Hanley

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Mary **William – Martha** Elizabeth Mary Ann Thirsah Julia  
b.1791 b.1794 b.1796 b.1804 b.1806 b1807 b.1809  
m. 1817 at Bucknall cum Bagnal

Lane End

St Johns, Longton

St John's, Burslem

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**Richard - Mary Elizabeth Bennett** Mary William – Ann Fletcher  
b.1825 b.1828 b.1832 d.1866  
m. 20.7.1851 at Burslam

Burslem

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**William – Janet Copeland** Jane Martha Nicholas Robert Mary Ann Richard Eliza  
b.1852 b.1853 b. 1853 b. 1855 b. 1858 b. 1861 b. 1863 b.1865  
m. 2.8.1873 at Etrucia

Burslem

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Janet Martha Elizabeth **Richard – Dorothy Howlett** Jenny Eliza  
b.1875 b.1877 b.1880 b.1882 b.1889 b.1884 b. 1886  
m. 1909 at Wolstanton

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**Richard Kenneth – Margery Moore** Stewart Barbara Dorothy Beryl  
b.1911 b. 1910 b.1914 b. 1920 b.1925  
m. 1938 at Tettenhall

Gillian – Christopher – Michael

b 1941 both b. 1946 – twins



### **Richard Drakeford and Mary Elizabeth Bennett c.1851**

We have various family records going back to 1851. Anything prior to that mostly emanates from church records. Unusually, we have photographs from all generations since 1851.

The first is an engagement 'photo' which is a collodion-coloured image of Richard Drakeford, Potter, and his wife Mary Elizabeth Bennett, baptised 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1829, the daughter of John and Ann Bennett (Nee Gratton) of Middlewich, Cheshire. Richard and Elizabeth Drakeford were married on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1851 in Burslem. This image above shows no wedding ring, and between them a very impressive vase. Unfortunately, my father's younger brother Stewart managed to break it when he was a boy, achieving a reputation in the family. He became a dentist, and being in Wolverhampton, made friends with Stan Cullis, the manager of Wolverhampton Wanderers, i.e. Wolves, between 1948 and 1964. It was expected that all the players kept their teeth in good order through regular check-ups with our uncle. I recall attending a lunchtime drinks session at my uncle's rather grand house at Penn, with views to the Welsh mountains, when Stan Cullis was a guest.

The Wet Collodion process producing an Ambrotype, in which a collodion negative was backed with black paper to create a positive, was invented by Frederick Scott Archer in 1851 and remained in use until 1871. It is basically a negative on glass or metal and in our case was then colour painted. Being first produced in 1851, it would have been quite something at the time. The following year their first son, William was born.

There are known to be two coffee style jugs made by Richard, the one on the left shown below is with Michael Drakeford, and the second one with a pewter top is with cousins in America.



**The two Drakeford pots made by Richard Drakeford(1825 – 1866),  
grandson of Solomon Drakeford**

This photograph of William (1852-1919) below, with that of his wife, shows a rather stern young man. His marriage certificate of 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1873 with Janet Copeland shows not only him as a potter, but his father Richard and his father-in-law named Thomas Copeland potters as well. It is not known if this person was a member of the Copeland pottery manufacturing family around that area. Both the bride and groom were living in Middleport at the time, a district of Burslem.



**William Drakeford and his wife, Janet, nee Copeland**



William's mother, Elizabeth Drakeford, née Bennett, lived to the grand age of 75, looking rather less attractive than she did for the Collodion. With the condition in the industrial Stafford area at the time with not only the pottery kilns and furnaces, but Coal mining and iron ore production produces all sorts of noxious fumes she did well. Her husband, Richard died relatively early in 1866 at the age of just 41, after producing eight children, of which two died very young. His youngest, Elisa was born just nine months before her father died. It was a difficult time for the family.



**Elizabeth Drakeford née Bennett**

William's wife, Janet Copeland did even better. While her husband lived to 67, Janet lived to 87, and dying in 1939 could have seen our father Richard Kenneth Drakeford, married to Eileen Margery Moore in 1938.

A final family photograph, taken about 1900, when my grandfather was around 18, and his myriad of five sisters. His father does not look like a sanitary presser, but we can all look smart when we have to.



**The Drakeford family around 1900, showing standing Jenny Ada (1884-1958), Eliza (1886-1966), Richard (1882-1952), and Martha (1877-1996). Seated are Janet (1875-1955), William (1852-1919), Janet (1852-1939), Mary Elizabeth (1880-1948)**



**The Drakeford wedding photograph, 15<sup>th</sup> September 1909, Wolstanton**

This photograph is a wonderful family heirloom. I do admire the large hats of the ladies, and the top hats and tails for the gentlemen.

Our grandfather, Richard Drakeford married Lilian Dorothy Howlett in Wolstanton on 15<sup>th</sup> September 1909 at the Parish Church of St Margaret's. Those who have read the Study Papers 1 and 5 will appreciate the significance of this location that must surely be a coincidence? This is where the family were first recorded and a quick glance at the Wolstanton parish register reveals local families of significance including the Moretons, the Sneyds and the Adams. No mention is made of the Drakefords, alas, but they were certainly there in the 1500s onwards. The list of Drakeford wills starting in 1537 is ample evidence.

The marriage certificate for our grandparents shows that while our grandfather was a manager, presumably of his shop in Wolverhampton, his father William was described as a sanitary presser. This was an arduous but skilful job.

Grandma 'Dot's' father was a manufacturer of earthenware. The business known as J. Howlett & Co. is recorded as having produced pottery from 1887 to 1907, the same year that the wedding took place. Twenty years prior to this when grandma was born, he had signed the birth records as Henry Howlett, solicitor's clerk. The story goes that the Howlett factory had suffered a disaster when one or more of the kilns were destroyed by a fire and explosion. After that they moved to Wolverhampton.

I can recall that Henry Howlett always seemed to wear a striped jacket. He did little in retirement, but when he had to sell a house, carried out his own conveyancing as a former solicitor.

This wedding was clearly a large affair. If you think that some look rather sad at a joyous event is was because one of the guests in a new car managed to run over and kill a pedestrian on the way to the church!!!

Old photographs are wonderful things. This one shows the family, and an American cousin of our father, Janet Fletcher, wrote the names of all she knew on the back of it. Of interest to military types will be the young slim man on my grandmother's left. That is her brother Harold, who, as a young officer in a machine gun regiment, lasted 6 weeks on the Western front. His body was never recovered, and his name is inscribed on the wall at the Tyne Cot Memorial to the fallen, panel 154/159: **2nd Lieutenant John Harold Howlett, died 26<sup>th</sup> September 1917**. Harold left a widow, Nellie, but they had no children.

I can still remember my grandmother telling me that the family went to the railway station to see her brother depart for France. The memory of his last wave never left her. She had better luck for the second World War. Both her sons, Ken and Stewart and her son in law Ken Jemmett were abroad fighting. Our father, Richard Kenneth, left for France at D-day plus 10, as a signaller with the 79<sup>th</sup>, known as Hobarts Funnies, with their flail tanks, floating tanks, known as D.D.s, the AVREs, with their flying dustbins, and so on. He went all the way through France and Belgium to Germany. The other two, Ken and Stewart managed to meet in a hospital in India. Stewart was looking after the teeth of Japanese prisoners, and Ken, a captain in the Royal Engineers was suffering from malaria. Grandma was so relieved that they all came home.

Had Dorothy's mother, Janet been able to travel to Wolverhampton she would have seen a plethora of bridesmaids, eight in fact, even more than the queen managed. She would also have met the officiant, The Right Rev Cresswell, Chaplin at the Chapel Royal, and cousin by marriage of Margery. However, she did manage to attend her son's wedding at Wolstanton, and we reproduce the above photograph of all the guests. She is shown on the front row second from the left with large light-coloured hat and what seems to be a white fir stole.

The marriage of our parents took place at Tettenhall, at what was the Collegiate Church of St Michael and All Angels as was St Mary's Church in Stafford.



**The wedding of Richard Kenneth Drakeford to Eileen Margery Moore, Tettenhall, 1938**

On the other side of the family, my mother's father Algernon Moore died while serving in the Royal Flying Corps, not from action, at 40 he was too old to fight, but from the dreaded Spanish flu, along with 18 million others worldwide. And, we thought Covid was bad?

Our other significant officer on our mother's side was a certain Field Marshall Lord Harding of Petherton, head of the armed forces, being Chief of the Imperial General Staff. He married Mary Fry, our maternal grandmother's niece. Harding's granddaughter as Baroness Harding, of Covid testing fame!

When, as a fairly elderly man, Lord Harding was escorting the Queen Mother, he tripped on stairs they were walking on. The Queen immediately went his aid, and said "Come on John, take my arm, I need you to look after me".

Families are made of this, and much more.

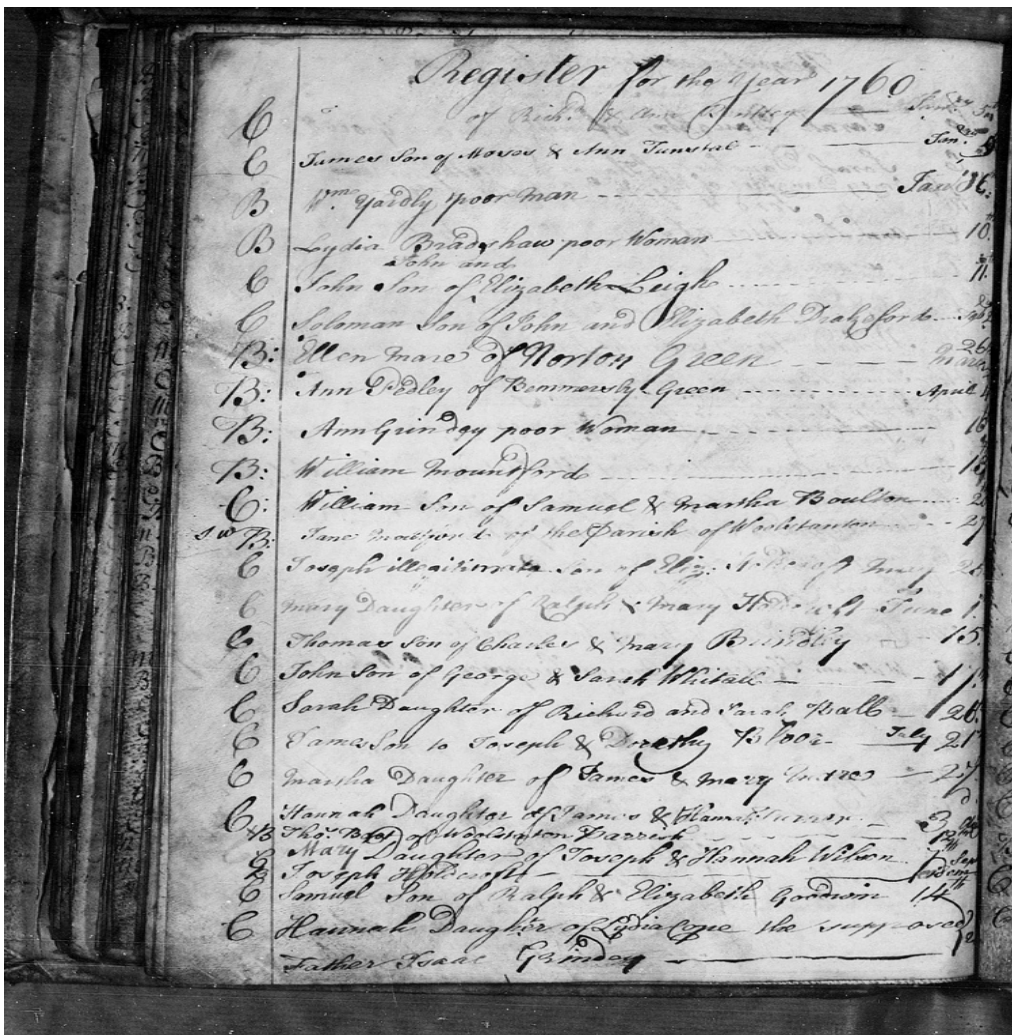
This family tree is derived from the work of our father, Richard Kenneth Drakeford (1911-1980) who obtained information from the family bible and parish records. Tim Drakeford and Roger Hall have provided much useful information.

The recent DNA searches have provided confirmation to a link with Roger Hall, but importantly also a link to the Congleton/Liverpool families with Jeremy and David. This tree gives a possible link. Read on.

The male lines feature the use of three main names, Richard, William and Edward. The two former ones are frequently used in the potter's branch of the tree. It will be seen that the name Richard became a bit of a problem as there were many boys with this name to die at birth or in infancy, including our own brother who would have been called Richard. For that generation our cousin, the only son of Stewart Drakeford had the honour. For the next generation, as Chris Drakeford is the oldest male, by 20 minutes from me, his first son was named Richard.

The Drakeford name appears on the 'Norton' records from the 16<sup>th</sup> century and before. The Stafford Drakefords started with Richard, born in 1576, whose father, also Richard lived in Congleton. We continue to look for the John and Elizabeth link mentioned above. There is a John Drakeford, son of Isaac and Eleanor, but he was born 1706, rather too early. Further investigations continue, but throughout Staffordshire, there are so many called John Drakeford, we may never know the true line.

Solomon, the son of John and Elizabeth, married thrice, firstly to Elizabeth Hakin from whom the Potteries Drakefords are descended. A copy of his actual baptism in the Norton church records is shown below.



The Norton Church Record, showing the entry for Solomon's Baptism, 6<sup>th</sup> line down

The couple had one son, William and five daughters. Solomon's second wife, Ann Watkiss was a widow. They married at Wolstanton. RKD's note states 1788, but it could be 1801. There was no issue.

Mary Bell was Solomon's third wife. They married in Newcastle in 1803. **Tim Drakeford** is descended from this line.

William and Martha were identified by RKD as the immediate parents of Richard, who married in 1851. His brother William, who married Ann Fletcher, emigrated to Montreal (or Quebec) in the family Bible.

Richard Drakeford married Mary Elizabeth Bennett on 20<sup>th</sup> July 1851 in Wolstanton. This couple provided the first family 'photograph' which was a pre-wedding image as shown above.

William and Janet Copeland married at the Etriria Methodist Church, Stoke on Trent. They were the parents of our paternal grand-parents and appear and are identified in the large wedding photograph taken at the wedding of our grandparents of 15<sup>th</sup> September 1909. Also identified are Jane, Martha (as Mrs Salmon), Nicholas, and Mary Ann. Their youngest child, Elisa married J. Green, and died in childbirth.

The USA – Fletcher connection emanates from William and Janet's second daughter, Martha Drakeford, known as Pattie, born 1877, who married James Stuart Fletcher, of Troy, New York.

To this point in the family history, it is worthy of note that many of the children born died in infancy, and the few remaining were male!

## 22) Addendum

### *Addendum* featuring Staffordshire Record Office (SRO) photographed files of importance.

During many years of researching the history of the Drakeford family we have used numerous sources, the most fruitful of which was the SRO. 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 is available on request from the SRO. Most items are found under reference D1798/HM/DRAKEFORD.

Because of the volume of material, this is continued under a separate section referred to as the Addendum, Study Paper 4. There are about 60 different items listed in date order, giving an insight in the progress of the family. Importantly, this concentrates on the interface between Richard Drakeford, 'The Mariner', purser and latterly High Sheriff of Staffordshire, and the rest of the family.