

# **An Introduction to the Drakeford Family History starting in 1206**

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## 1. Background

Everyone has a family history, and with modern technology sourcing information is so much easier than it was even 25 years ago encouraging many to become interested in the subject. To have the name of Smith or brown can be a problem. It is really helpful if it is unusual, such as Drakeford, and there are only 3,000 of us worldwide.

All those times when people ask “...and how do you spell that?” can be forgiven. Now that we have a First Minister of Wales using the same name, that is Mark Drakeford, life is a little easier.

Our parents started investigating our origins in the 1930s, when it was a matter of writing to vicars asking them to search their registers in return for a nominal amount paid by a postal order. Now, we have those records on line for a relatively small sum. Most of those records started after 1538 when Henry VIII wanted to know what his clergy were doing after he divorced the country from Rome, and set about pillaging the monasteries. We now find out that until Queen Elizabeth insisted on records being written on long lasting velum, and kept in watertight boxes, most early records were allowed to rot or were eaten by vermin. That is assuming that the clergy took the trouble to record the baptisms, marriages and burials, for some considered the order an infringement at best and a possible tax at worst.

Thankfully earlier information was retained through written wills, the earliest we have is dated 1537. Also, a good source is manor court records, covering not just criminal acts but also land sales and various disputes of the time. Again, the internet is a boon for researchers. Our first record for the Drakeford name at a manor court is 1206

The most recent advance has been the use of DNA. It helped us prove a family line from Staffordshire to the first Drakeford in what is now the USA, and thus connect us to our distant cousins over there.

Our family history knows no ends and we will forever be learning about our ancestors. Let us journey back a thousand years, to when the name was first used for a place rather than a person.

## 2. The Drakeford Name and its Origins

The name ‘Drakeford’ itself has no specific meaning other than it was a place name. The fact that it was first used to identify people 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 firstly 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. In those early times names were spelled by the scribe as they sounded. There was little point asking the individual how to spell their name because the vast majority were illiterate.

The name was used in Devon 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 (1003-1066)**. More details are given in the next section, No. 3. There is also reference to a Drakeford bridge in section No. 4.

Most interesting is the fact that an **inquisition of 1467** implies that another place of that name was in the **Tunstall/Colclough/Ridgeway/Bancroft** area of Staffordshire. We also know that as will be shown in the Study Paper No 5, Tunstall was in the large parish of Wolstanton. A quote from 'The distinctive surnames of north Staffordshire' states that '*..... despite the fact that it occurs in great profusion in the medieval court rolls for Tunstall, the place Drakeford has not actually been identified. It is clearly one of those local habitations, which was abandoned for one reason or another in the middle ages. It could have been through some disastrous crop failure or more likely like many others that were lost because of infestation by plague. One particularly virulent outbreak ravaged Staffordshire during the last few months of 1349*'.

The work by our father Richard Kenneth Drakeford in 1938 produced a letter from the Joseph Wedgwood & Sons Ltd Etruria Museum Stoke on Trent advising that Col. J.C. Wedgwood took copies of the Tunstall court Rolls for his studies and from these the Drakeford name appears frequently.

The following list was produced:

- 1369 – Stodmarslowe. Thomas de Drakeford frankpledge presents
- 1377 – Thom. Drakeford
- 1405 – Ric. Drakeford
- 1408 – Ric. de Drakeford
- 1416 – Ric. Drakeford
- 1423 – Ric. Drakeford
- 1426 – Ric. Drakeford is elected to the office of Reeve for Lord Audley
- 1448 – Rog. Drakeford
- 1448 – Ric. Drakeford
- 1448 – Ric. Drakeford, who held 1 Mes. & 35 ½ acres in Stodmarlowe died
- 1448 – Rog. Drakeford complains of John Drakeford & Sibill late wife of Richard Drakeford
- 1466 – John Drakeford
- 1467 – John Drakeford \*
- 1468 – John Drakeford
- 1468 – Roger Drakeford acquires 2 acres from John Drakeford
- 1469 – Roger Drakeford
- 1496 – Ric. Drakeford
- 1497 – Ric. Drakeford
- 1520 – John Drakeford
- 1520 – Ric. Drakeford
- 1520 – Will. Drakeford

**Note:** This does not necessarily mean that they are all related, but more likely that they came from one village or hamlet. However, from the dates it can be assumed that some do refer to a single person, involved with the court at different times. Nor should we assume that they were in trouble. The majority of court records will refer to a property transaction, mostly land sales and transfers or perhaps disputes between land owners.

\*The reference to 1467 is supported by a further document relating to a regular Deduction in Title for a piece of land or garden in Tunstall from 1459 to 1815 wherein there is a reference to Jenkyn of Drakeford. This relates to a piece of lane in Tunstall between 1459 and 1815. The first refers to the purchase by Phythyon of Tunstall on 31st July 1467, and the second in June 1467. The latter refers to XII men who were charged by the *Stuart to gyffe a true davie as ye custom ys between John of Bancroft of the tane pte and John of Tunstall of ye othr prt that ye for to say, Rychart of Colcloghthe, Ryc, of Rygdway, Jenkyn of Drakeford, Ryc Jackson, Jenkyn Adam, Jenkyn Sawdur, Wyllm Burslem, Thomas Meke ye younger..... etc... all thes true men fondon by ye quest tht they went upon.....*

Clearly, this was a jury to help with a decision, one of which was Jenkyn of Drakeford, which had the same Christian name as 3 of the other members of the jury, which had 4 'Richards' too.

The first entry is of particular note because the reference to Frankpledge is an Anglo-Saxon legal system in which units or tithings composed of 10 households were formed, in each of which members were held responsible for one another's conduct. In this case it could be that Drakeford has defaulted, or he is advising a default, or it is a transfer of a Frankpledge. **MWD to investigate further for this point and more details of the above list.**

Of further interest is the fact that in the 17th century a Drakeford held land at Stodmarslowe in 1621 and Stodmanslow in 1623, being one in the same place. These were also Richard Drakeford and William Drakeford. It could be that this was indeed several generations of the same family holding the same land.

As the records are examined in this text it will be shown that the early evidence from church records and wills shows a significant proliferation of the Drakeford name emanating outwards from the Tunstall/Wolstanton area firstly northwards towards Congleton and later to the south and Stafford. A summary of wills held is available from Study Paper 5 as too a list showing a dates and relationships to villages/towns.

An early link with notable Stafford families is that of William Bowyer. The earliest Stafford Will is that of Richard Drakeford, who married Mercy Bowyer around 1607. A short while later in 1620 her cousin purchased one third of the manor of Tunstall. They were owners of significant estates at the north side of the Potteries, which could indicate that Richard was engaged in activities this far north of Stafford and perhaps came from the area. The following section on the Drakeford letter of 1594 is a major link between the various Drakefords of that time.

It could well be that the name of Drakeford was first used referring to a court case on 20th January 1206, whereby two brothers, William and Walter de Drakeford were involved as jurors. On the other hand a search of the Tunstall Court records might show something even earlier.

Sometimes there are names that crop up that look so close to ours you think that there must be a link. Drayford is such a village. It is also close to Drakeford Bridge and the area of the Manor of Drakeford

## Drayford History

From Draheford in AD1086, when there were seven families listed in the Domesday book as having cattle and sheep, to Drayford at the turn of the century when there were twelve houses including Drayford Mill, little has changed in this small hamlet situated on the banks of the Little Dart River and Adworthy Brook.

There were Stone Age people on the ridge by West Yeo six thousand years ago, but all they left were traces of the flints that they used. The first known mention of Drayford comes in 1086 AD in the Domesday Book where it is referred to as the manor of "Draheforda", the name is said to be made up of two Old English words, ford and dray, dray possibly meaning drag or carry, but the experts do not agree. The manor was in the holding of Walter Claville who's name did not appear in the rolls of the Battle of Hastings. Following the battle, he seems to have acquired holdings as an under-tenant in Suffolk under Robert Malet, and holdings in Devon. His home domain in Normandy was at Claville de Caux in the Seine-Inf near Rouen.



In 1086, there were seven families in Drayford; they had cattle and sheep, and there were meadows, pasture and woods. The Witheridge Parish Registers have several references to the Trix family, and also to William and Elizabeth Godswell, who may have given their name to Godswells; or else their ancestors may have taken their name for "God's Well". In 1836, the Manor belonged to the Fellowes family, Earls of Portsmouth. At that date, Drayford Mill had 7 acres, Trixes Tenement 13 acres, Stuckeys 46 acres, and Godswells 75 acres. **Source: Village website**

You will have to make up your own mind whether or not this is a Drakeford link.

### 3. The Manor of Drakeford Medieval Devon

The name Drakeford was used in Devon before the conquest in 1066.

There is a publication entitled *Magna Britannia, being A Concise Topography Account of The Several Counties of Great Britain by the Rev. Daniel Lysons and Samuel Lysons* (Late Keeper of His Majesty's records of the Tower of London). Chapter 6, Devonshire, by the brothers as part of this work was published by T.Cadell and W.Davies, London 1822.

This publication is available to be seen on **British History - Online**. Within this there is contained the aforementioned publication giving a list of manorial fees that includes a Manor of Drakeforde. This list provides a table showing who were the Lords Paramount, and immediate holders of the many manors in Devonshire in the reign of Edward the Confessor. Where possible the modern name is shown. That for the manor of 'Drakeford' shows no modern equivalent in 1822. However, it was owned by Alveron during the time of Edward the Confessor (1003-1066) and for Domesday Walter de Claville.

The following extract shows more particularly who were the lords paramount, and the immediate holders of the several manors in the reign of Edward the Confessor; and at the time of the Domesday Survey. The modern names of the several manors are annexed, as far as they could be ascertained:—

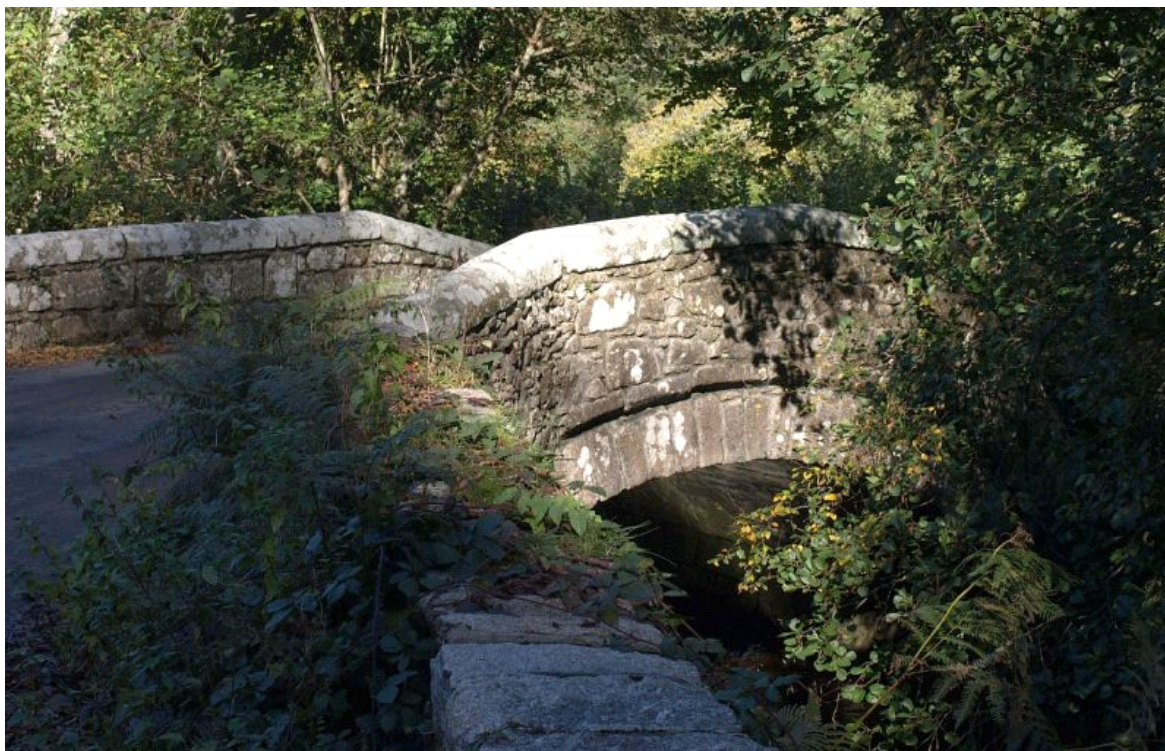
Ancient Names of Manors.	Modern Names.	Possessors in the Reign of Edward the Confessor.	Possessors when the Survey of Domesday was taken.
Drakeforde		Alveron	Walter de Claville*

*\*His descendants held land on Dorchester until the last of the line died in 1714*

This is where matters become confused. The Lysons state that up to and before 1066 there was a manor. This of course is an area of rights, not always a village or town. A search of the Domesday Book contents shows that there was no Drakeford village or town but according to a local history of this village there was a Drayford. This is the later spelling because at that time it was referred to as 'Draheforda', very similar to 'Drakeforde'. The manor of Draheforda was also possessed by Walter de Claville. His home domain in Normandy was at Claville de Caux in the Seine-inf near Rouen. Perhaps when in Normandy a family member should visit the records office in Rouen!!

The Drayford history states that after the battle of Hastings (he does not appear on the rolls of the battle) de Claville acquired holdings as an under-tenant in Suffolk under Robert Maley, and holdings in Devon.

## 4. The Drakeford Bridge, Devon



**Entry Name:** Drakeford Bridge

**Listing Date:** 23 August 1955, **Grade:** II, **English Heritage Legacy ID:** 84589

**Location:** Bovey Tracey, Teignbridge, Devon, TQ13, **Civil Parish:** Lustleigh  
SX 78 SE 1/146 Drakeford Bridge

*Bridge over river Bovey. 1684 or earlier, widened 1809 by James Green, county surveyor. Granite. Consists of a single elliptical arch. The downstream side of this arch, which seems to belong to the 1684 build, has fairly roughly-shaped voussoirs. Above it, corbelled out slightly, the parapet is of granite rubble having a coping with rounded top. On its inner face, which is of granite ashlar, is a worn granite tablet which seems to read : 'This 1684 bridge was repaired the....'. The upstream arch seems to belong to the 1809 widening; its voussoirs being better cut; its parapet is similar to that on the downstream side, faced with granite ashlar only towards the road.*

*Source: Information from Mr David Thomas. Listing NGR: SX7895480131*

This appears to be a 17<sup>th</sup> century construction and the inscription shown in the photograph below claims it to be of 1684, **'THIS 1684 BRIDGE WAS REPAIRED BY THE COUNTY'**. The spelling of repaired was perhaps of the time. Why it was called 'Drakeford' we do not know, or more importantly when it received that name. There is every reason to think it may have related back to the Manor of Drakeford. A search for a village of this name in Devon, including from BHOL has revealed nothing.

The name was used in Devon 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 (1003-1066). 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 name Drakeford. Indeed, it could be that no one used a surname in this rural location at this time. A search of Devon court records may prove otherwise, noting that the name at the court hearing in Stafford when the name was used was not seen again for some years.

Referring back to the village of Drayford, this place also has a bridge, not unusually called Drayford Bridge. However, Drakeford Bridge is on the river Bovey, and Drayford Bridge is on the river called Little Dart. These bridges are located some 30 miles apart. Drayford is to the south of Exmoor, about 10 miles to the west of Tiverton and the Drakeford Bridge is near Credition 5 miles north-west of Exeter.

The Drayford bridge is certainly 18<sup>th</sup> century if not before. It first appeared on the Donne's map of Devon in 1765. It was on a toll road from 1759 but was too narrow for wheeled traffic. That traffic had to use an adjacent ford to cross the Little Dart River. It was repaired in 1811. In 1913 it was decided to replace the bridge with one that would take 'modern' traffic. This took a while to complete because men were being called up for the Great War. It was completed in 1915 with a double span.



### **Inscription on the Drakeford Bridge**

**'THIS 1684 BRIDGE WAS REPAIRED BY THE COUNTY'**

**Conclusion** There appears to be no direct link to Congleton/Norton/Stafford Drakefords. The name was most probably used before the Domesday Book created from 1086, unless the Lysons brothers made an error.



The link with Walter de Claville as owner of both Drakeford/Draheforda manors is interesting. Indeed, assuming that it is one and the same manor the interpretation given by some that Draheforda means ford, meaning a ford in the river, and Drahe = dray for drag or carry, this would fit in with the use of the ford to cross the Little Dart river before the bridge was rebuilt in 1915.

Thus we could conclude that Drayford was indeed the early manor known as Drakeford, which de Caville owned from 1066 or thereabouts and Alveron before that. Clearly, from all the Devonshire records that are available there are no indications of the name Drakeford being used by individuals. The use of the name for Drakeford Bridge has a reason lost in the mist of time. Unless of course you, the reader knows better!

## 5. 1206 Court Case, Stafford Assizes

It could well be that the use of the word Drakeford to be used as a surname in order to identify someone first occurred in a court case on 20th January 1206, whereby two brothers, William and Walter de Drakeford were involved as jurors. On the other hand a search of the Tunstall Court records might show something even earlier or perhaps in Devonshire records even associated with the Drakeford Bridge and the Drakeford manor above.

**Time line:** This 1206 record was dated nine years before the signing of the Magna Carter by King John on 15th June 1215 and just 140 years after the French invasion in 1066.

**Background:** The action referred to Litewude in Bradele, an area to the south-west of Stafford. Today Bradel still exists with the modern name Bradley as a village encompassing a Littywood lane, along which is situated Littywood Manor just 4 miles from Stafford. As at December 2011 this is for sale with 3.5 acres for £850,000, and has 7 bedrooms (Frank Knight – Sutton Coldfield). Looking more deeply in to this, it is discovered that this was the manorial house for Baron de Stafford from the late 1300s, and the manor is listed grade 2, having a rare pair of circular moats. Before the house was built in the 14th century it is believed that there would have been a wooden fortified house. There is no known direct connection to the Drakeford family.

Of similar interest is the name of the Hervey Bagot, the land-owner in this court case in 1206. This cropped up again as that of the first baronet 1591-1660, also Hervey Bagot. The name and title are connected with the grade 1 listed Blithfield Hall, also near Stafford, where a branch of the family (Bagot-Jewitt) still live in the main portion. However, the 10th Baron Bagot currently lives elsewhere. He has no direct male heirs and the title will pass to a cousin.

The court case in 1206 was held at the Staffordshire assizes. The concept of the jury system was probably imported into Britain after the Norman Conquest, and though its early functions were quite different from those today. Early jurors in England acted as witnesses providing sources of information on local affairs. But they gradually came to be used as adjudicators in both civil and criminal disputes. Under Henry II, in the late 1100s, the jury began to take on an important function, moving from reporting on events they knew about, to deliberating on evidence produced by the parties involved in a dispute. Gradually it became accepted that a juror should know as little as possible about the facts of the case before the trial, and which is still the position today. The 1206 case would have been in this modern format, which would have been in operation for only some 30 years. However, early trials by jury were largely to opine on land disputes, which this appears to have been.

It was not until after Magna Carta in 1215, article 39, that trial by jury became a right *'No free man shall be captured or imprisoned or disseised of his freehold or of his liberties, or of his free customs, or be outlawed or exiled or in any way destroyed, nor will we proceed against him by force or proceed against him by arms, but by the lawful judgment of his peers or by the law of the land.'*

Thanks go to Sue Drakeford for help with the modern legal interpretation of the following:

Source: Public Record Office

Title: Staffordshire Assize Roll 7 John m.2 WSC iii 135 **MWD to obtain copy of the original document. Medieval Latin:**

*20 January 1205/6*

*Staff. Assisa venit recognitura si Nicolaus pater Johannis saisitus fuit in dominico suo ut de feodo de j hida terrae et 1x acris terrae cum pertinentiis in Litewude in Bradele die quo obiit, et si obiit, etc., quam terram Herveius Bagot et Melisent uxor ejus tenant, qui nichil dicunt contra assisam ut remansit. Ideo in xv dies post Pascham pro defectu recognitorum quia quidem essoniaverunt se, et quidem fecerunt defaltam pluries.*

*Ideo Vicecomes tunc habeat corpora illorum et summoniat .... Plegios, scilicet Edwin et Warinum de Morton, Willielmum de Drakeford, Walterum fratrem ejus Rogerum Ruffum et Robertum de Aula, Waterum filium Ricardi et Walterum de Posehale, et primi plegii sunt in Misericordia.*

### **Verbatim English - translated through FONS, of The Strines, Leek:**

*The assize came to recognise whether Nicholas father of John had been seised in his desmesne as of fee of one hide and forty acres of land with appurtenances in Litewude in Bradele on the day on which he died, and if he died, etc., which land Hervey Bagot and Milisent his wife hold, who say nothing against the assize so that it is stayed.*

*Therefore in 15 days after Easter for default of recognitors because some have essoined themselves, many others have made default. Therefore the Sherriff shall then have their bodies and he shall summon the pledges, to wit Edwin and Warren de Morton, William de Drakeford, Walter his brother, Roger Red and Robert Hall, Walter son of Richard and Walter de Posehale, and the first pledges are in mercy*

### **Modern English (Sue Drakeford)**

The Periodic Court sat to decide whether Nicholas father of John had complete ownership of land (now known as freehold) producing £1 per annum (amount used for tax assessment) and forty acres of land with covenants (promises) and easement (rights and restrictions) and all things fixed to and passing with the land in Litewude in Bradele on the day on which he died and if he died which land Hervey Bagot and Milisent his wife hold, neither of them say anything and the hearing is adjourned.

As a result 15 days after Easter (Easter Court sittings April – May) due to lack of jurors because some did not attend on the return date they and several others were held to be in contempt of court. The court ordered that they all be brought before the court. As a result of the order Edwin and Warren de Morton, William de Drakeford, his brother Walter, Roger Red and Robert Hall, Walter son of Richard and Walter de Posehale were all fined.

(In some circumstances ‘fines’ in the form of securities, promises, cash or otherwise were used against litigants as a way of ensuring they were not vexatious litigants and that they would proceed in accordance with court instructions. They were also used against a defendant as surety who is found guilty to ensure he would pay damages, debts and fines.)

## 6. The Drakeford Family Crest and Shield

There are three versions of the shield, one with three eagles betwixt a chevron, and another with a drake on water. Both are shown on a plaque in **St Mary's Church, Stafford**. The most recent discovery shows a stag's head but there was no record of this last type seen at the 2016 visit to the Staffordshire Record Office and it is probably the invention of the producers of various family 'histories' that are often wide of the mark. The two recognised seals are replicated on actual wax seals at the SRO.



**Drakeford Seal from the Staffordshire Record Office Archive showing the  
Drake on water/ford**



**Drakeford Seal also from the Staffordshire Record Office Archive showing the Drake on water/ford at the top, but also the 3 eagles *sans* chevron. Clearly the engraver for the metal seal considered that there was not enough space**

Also at **St Mary's Church**, one of the Drakeford plaques has been inscribed the motto reading 'Semper Fidelis', 'always faithful'

In Stafford, there is **Forbridge Hall**, the family home of the Drakefords was from 1612. Forebridge Hall is situated just over the bridge on the Lichfield Road. Full details of the purchase and history of the Drakeford family that lived there until 1814 is to be found in Study Paper 4.

At the Hall around 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 of Forebridge Hall. 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'.

Forebridge Hall was demolished around 1810 and these windows no longer exist, even at Green Hall, a property that replaced the old Tudor building. This is not surprising bearing in mind that the building of the new property was nothing to do with the family, but was built by the new owner having purchased the property from the last of the Stafford line, Edward Drakeford.

## 1753 Correspondence about the Drakeford Coat of Arms -1753

Richard Drakeford, the mariner sought to enhance his status by requesting that the Somerset herald, the person responsible for such matters, authorised the Drakeford family crest and coat of arms. There follows a transcription of the correspondence.

### The Drakeford Family Crest and Shield



At **St Mary's Church Stafford** one of the Drakeford plaques has been inscribed with a motto reading '**Semper Fidelis**', meaning '**Always Faithful**'. The colour red of the chevron is a Victorianism!

Research is ongoing to determine evidence of the shield prior to 1682 MWD

**Transcripts of two letters from John Warburton, Somerset Herald to Richard Drakeford of Stafford, High Sheriff of Staffordshire in 1753 – Source: William Salt Library.**

*Heralds Sir,*

*A gentleman called of me yesterday with the letter I sent you about your Coat of Arms, & with it an impression of the Coat engraved, which, he says, you can prove to be the Right of your family, and that your Ancestors have borne the above two hundred years: that they are cut in Stone, and painted in the Window of Drakeford Mansion House, your present residence, and many other authentick Evidences all of which I believe true*

*as the like is frequently met with, and yet, the owners cannot make out any real Right thereby, unless they are, from time to time properly Registered in the Visitation Books of each respective County; which yours never was. Neither, is the name of Drakeford to be found in any MSS book in this Office or Printed Book either, except in Bloomes Britania, where in his catalogue of the Lords, Esqrs. and Gentlemen Richard Drakeford of Stafford is entered amongst the last.*

*I must take the liberty to inform you, that the Arms you have hitherto carried I take to have been made from those formerly born by the name Damford, which is an Eagle Displayed; and that the Drake swimming in a Ford, has been added in illusion to your name, for ancient Arms have no Crests.*

*Lord Anson, your Country Man, and Neighbour, when lately made a Peer, could not make out his Right to Arms, notwithstanding he produced such ancient Authorities as you mention, and this Pedigree entered in the last visitation of Stafford by Sir William Dugdale Kt. Norroy King of Arms Anno 1668 and his ancestor at that time not proving his right to the Arms they had usurped. His Father in Law, the present Lord Chancellor laboured under the like difficulty, until a Coat of arms was assigned to him he was not allowed to bear Supporters.*

*Had not his Majesty Hond(honoured) you with the High Post of Staffordshire your native County very probably you had not been called on to prove yourself a Gentleman of Arms for we trouble not our selves about Persons of low rank and Fortune. If you please to send me drawings of your Arms your letter mentioned or other Authentick Monuments of Antiquity properly attested or verifed by an Affidavit I will lay them before the Earl Marshall and the King of Arms and obtain for you a Confirmation of the same Arms you have hitherto born or if you like it better you may have some additional badge to distinguish your branch from all other of your name.*

*With due respects, I am your Humble Servant, John Warburton, Somerset.*

*Heralds Office March 29th 1753*

Sir,

*I am favoured with yours by the hand of Mr Chetwynd your worthy Representative for Stafford, whom I had not had the Honour of knowing when he was with me before. He is certainly the fittest person in your County to be employed in such an affair, having his Fathers large and learnd Collections for the Antiquities of Staffordshire now in his possession notwithstanding which I believe he is now convinced that there is neither Arms, nor Name of Drakeford, either here or in any other Office of record, or MSS of Authority whatsoever. Without such Sanction no Familys be they ever so antient can properly be stiled Gentlemen of Arms &c.*

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

*I am greatly obliged by your respectful answer to my Letter, and wish it had been in my power to have done more for your Service.*

*With all due respects I remain Sir your Humble Servant,*

*John Warburton Somerset*

*To Richd. Drakeford Esqr.*

**Comment:** The role Richard Drakeford held as High Sheriff would have been for a period of just 12 months. It may well have been a requirement to assess suitability which may have included proving that the prospective incumbent as a Gentlemen at Arms. This was not proven but as he was now the High Sheriff it would seem that no challenge was made and he continued in the post.

In the above letters it is acknowledged that Richard stated that he was 'the last of his name'. This is taken to mean he had no issue, and being a relatively old and unwell man this was unlikely to change. However, Richard wanted to leave his estate by his will to a living Drakeford as his heir. That would be Richard, the Major and the son of Richard Drakeford, the Town Clerk. That line commenced when a Richard Drakeford married Anne Babington, the Mariner's grandparents and followed through their final son Edward Drakeford, born in 1656. There was a brother to Richard the Mariner, Christopher, born 1684 but he possibly died along with his mother Jane. Another, Edward born 1689, has not been traced, and from the Mariner's comments it would appear that he too died childless before 1756. The only sibling mentioned in his will is Ann, who married William Mayes.



## 7. Royal Connections?

It is said that all English families dating back to the middle ages has an ancestor who was either hung for sheep stealing or was descended from out royal family. We went one better. We are descended from the royal family as shown below, and rather than being hung for sheep stealing, a rather lowly crime, a Babington was hung drawn and quartered for plotting the death of Queen Elizabeth and replacing her with Mary, Queen of Scots!

Our Royal descent was because of Richard Drakeford – Babs (1610-1677), son of Richard and Mercy that the Drakeford a relationship with the Babingtons was founded.

Richard married Anne Babington and that formed the link to the Babington family and thus a link to the crown. The chart below from **Roger Hall** shows the link from Edward I who, with Eleanor of Castile produced a daughter Joan of Acre (. 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 retained 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 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 the Stafford Study paper No. 4.

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 Bowyer, who, upon being widowed married James Littleton, who became her step-father 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.

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:

**King Edward I (1239-1307) married Eleanor of Castile (c1245-1290) who had a daughter - Joan of Acre (April 1272-23 April 1307 aged 35) 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)**, and so it continued:

- 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), **7th Baroness Ferrers of Chartley**, who married **Walter Devereux** (c1432-1485)[and became Lord Ferrers of Chartley in her 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, 1st Earl of Essex and 5th Viscount Bouchier
- They had a son - **Walter Devereux** (1488-1558) created 1st Viscount Hereford in 1550 who married firstly Lady Mary Grey (1491-1538), daughter of Thomas Grey, 1st 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 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 Edward and ended with Richard the Mariner in 1757, although of his brother Edward born 1689/0 nothing is known except he might have been involved with the Treasury in London.

## 8. New Maps of Staffordshire dated 1747 & 1774

Many years ago, our father Richard Kenneth Drakeford acquired a framed map of Staffordshire. He was asked in the 1950s to lend this to a museum, which he did, and it was subsequently returned and is now in the possession of my brother Christopher and hangs on the wall of his home.

It was only when Chris and I were looking for family records at the Staffordshire Records Office and the William Salt Library that we came across a similar but earlier map. In fact these maps were folded and tucked into a pocket at the front of the book about Staffordshire history. Clearly our map started life that way.

More recent enquiries at the William Salt Library, Stafford, with **Dominic Farr**, Assistant Librarian revealed that:

*“The map that you photographed and sent to me in your original email I have managed to identify as the ‘A New Map of Staffordshire by Thomas Jefferys (1747), printed by Samuel Parsons, Newcastle under Lyme’ [WSL Ref No: bs 1536/2]*

*The 1682 map to which you refer is in all probability ‘Map of Staffordshire’, engraved by Joseph Browne, published by Robert Plot (1682) [WSL Ref: s1909/1]. This map appeared in Robert Plot’s book ‘The Natural History of Staffordshire’, 1686 and does have the slip of paper with the additional coloured shields on them.”*

Thus, there are two maps to consider, both of which feature the Drakeford name and crest. That of 1682 entitled ‘**A map of Staffordshire**’ would have the Drakeford shield for the first time. We will firstly deal with the 1747 map named ‘A new Map of Staffordshire’.

Our visit the William Salt Library gave us the chance to examine these maps, both having around the borders the coat of arms of the Staffordshire dignitaries at the time of publication. These also include not only that for the Drakeford family but also families mentioned in our long history.

Somewhat ironically the significant families connected to the Drakefords, that is to say the Babingtons, Bowyers and Littletons are shown on the 1682 map and not on later ones. 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 1747 map was printed twice, once by James Smith, bookseller in ‘Newcastle’, who used Thomas Jeffreys, ‘Sculp’ as the engraver, and once by Samuel Parsons, Newcastle under Lyme, also using Thomas Jeffreys. Both were dedicated to Lord Gower. The following description is about our edition, which has been ascertained by the Staffordshire Records Office as a later version produced in 1774. Both are dated 1747 on the map and were based on the earlier map by Robert Plot dated 1682.

There is correspondence detailed in section-6 'The Drakeford Family Crest and Shield', between Richard Drakeford 'The Mariner' and John Warburton, the Herald of Somerset. This refers to a claim that in 1753 the coat of arms existed 'above 200 years' before that date. That would be before 1553. On the other hand Richard Drakeford was trying to substantiate legality/ownership and he would say that, wouldn't he? The story of the Drakeford coat of Arms may indeed start a lot earlier than 1682.

Research is ongoing to determine evidence of the shield prior to 1682 - MWD.



This photograph is of the very large monochrome map dated 1747, held by Chris and Sue Drakeford. The Staffordshire Records Office believes this to be the later edition of 1774. The names listed are shown below.

The Drakeford name and shield appears in all three editions. In the first one by Robert Plot it is a late addition by way of an addendum and along with a few others, it was in colour whilst the main map with shields is black and white.

The 1774 map allows for about 120 crests of which 113 have been filled. Some are duplicated for several members of a family wishing to be noted. No doubt a payment had to be made for showing each coat of arms. Through the title or nomenclature, be they Lord, Esq., Bart., or simply the name, the status of the person for whom the shield applies was determined.

Their lordships have the relevant accoutrement to the coat of arms in the form of appropriate 'crowns'.



**The Drakeford crest in 'colour' from the 1682 map by Robert Plot.**

With other additional crests our crest was specially produced as an addendum attached at that time with hand written figures and words, when all the others on the map were in black and white. The wording at the top of this attachment reads '*Armes (sic) omitted to be placed next the map*'. It was attached by glue to the map in the slip at the front of the book with the map; hence it is very fortunate to have been found after 338 years.

In 1682 the head of the Stafford family was Richard Drakeford (1650-1700), when he was married to his second wife Elizabeth Perrott.

At **Forebridge Hall** around 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 the replacement Georgian House, Green Hall, which is not surprising bearing in mind that the building of the new property was nothing to do with the family.

Chris Drakeford is seeking to obtain copies of this map, should anyone like to hang one on the wall. Do make enquiries if you are interested.

The dedication on the 1774 and 1774 maps reads:

*To the Right Hon.<sup>bl</sup>  
John Earl Gower  
Lord Privy Seal  
Lord Lieutenant & Custor Rotulotum of the county of  
Stafford  
One of his Majesty's most Hon.<sup>bl</sup> Privy Counc.<sup>lrs</sup>  
Also  
To the rest of the Lords, Gentlemen, Freeholders  
and commoners of the County of Stafford  
this map is most Humbly Dedicated by the most obedient & Humble  
Servant  
J.S.*

*T. Jefferys Sculp*

So runs the preamble to this map measuring 19" X 42". Around the map are shown the names and coats of arms of the lords, gentlemen and freeholders. Each had a map grid reference so that the seat of each dignitary can be identified, showing where they lived or held estates thus the Drakeford family is at Stafford, with Forebridge named, and there is shown a house, which could be said to be Forebridge Hall, the then residence of the Drakeford family. Also shown is Stafford castle and the churches.

Interestingly the 1682 map does not show the place Forebridge, where we find the Drakeford residence, Forebridge Hall, although there is a grid reference M8. The same reference is shown subsequently but the Forebridge name is also used.



On occasion the same name appears more than once. Sometimes it is with the same coat of arms, and at other times with another. One can but speculate if these were members of the same family, but a different line, or perhaps just had other properties on the map.

Look closely at the map, and there can be seen Little Wood and Bradley, known in 1206 as Litewude in Bradele. These were places recorded in the court proceedings from which the Drakeford name is first known. See section-5, 1206 Court Case, Stafford Assizes.

There is so much further detail about Staffordshire on the map that it could happily be a project in its own right.



**The Drakeford Shield shown on the 1747 map**

Note that there are many names below where the holder of the Coat of Arms is not referred to as a gentleman. It would seem likely that those of stature in the community had a coat of arms created at some time and like the Drakefords did not have it formally accredited. One presumes they could freely use it for emblazoning the family silver, but not use it formally. It was after the date of this map, which is 1747, that Richard Drakeford 'The Mariner' became High Sheriff of Staffordshire in 1753 and sought, without success, to have the Drakeford coat of arms ratified. Despite this problem, the family still used the emblem until the Drakeford Stafford line finished with Edward Drakeford in 1814.



Those living in the area today might well recognise some of the names. The fact that some important names discussed in the Stafford Study Paper, that is No. 4 and do not appear below raises the question why? Perhaps the line has died out, or the holders did not wish to flaunt their coat of arms, or merely not pay the publisher of the map for the privilege of having their coat of arms shown in this manner.

Indeed, an examination of the map dated 1682 when the Drakeford Coat of Arms first appeared did contain the connected names such as Littleton Bart showing what appears to be a goddess holding the family shield being a chevron and three wool sacks, a second one also as Littleton Bart., with the shield alone, and a third one for Littleton Esq., which is the three sacks but the top two appear attached to measuring scales. The fact that the goddess is a main feature of the map could reflect the importance of the family. The Bowyer shield contains a lion with three ornate crosses, and a raised hand showing a connection with Ulster.

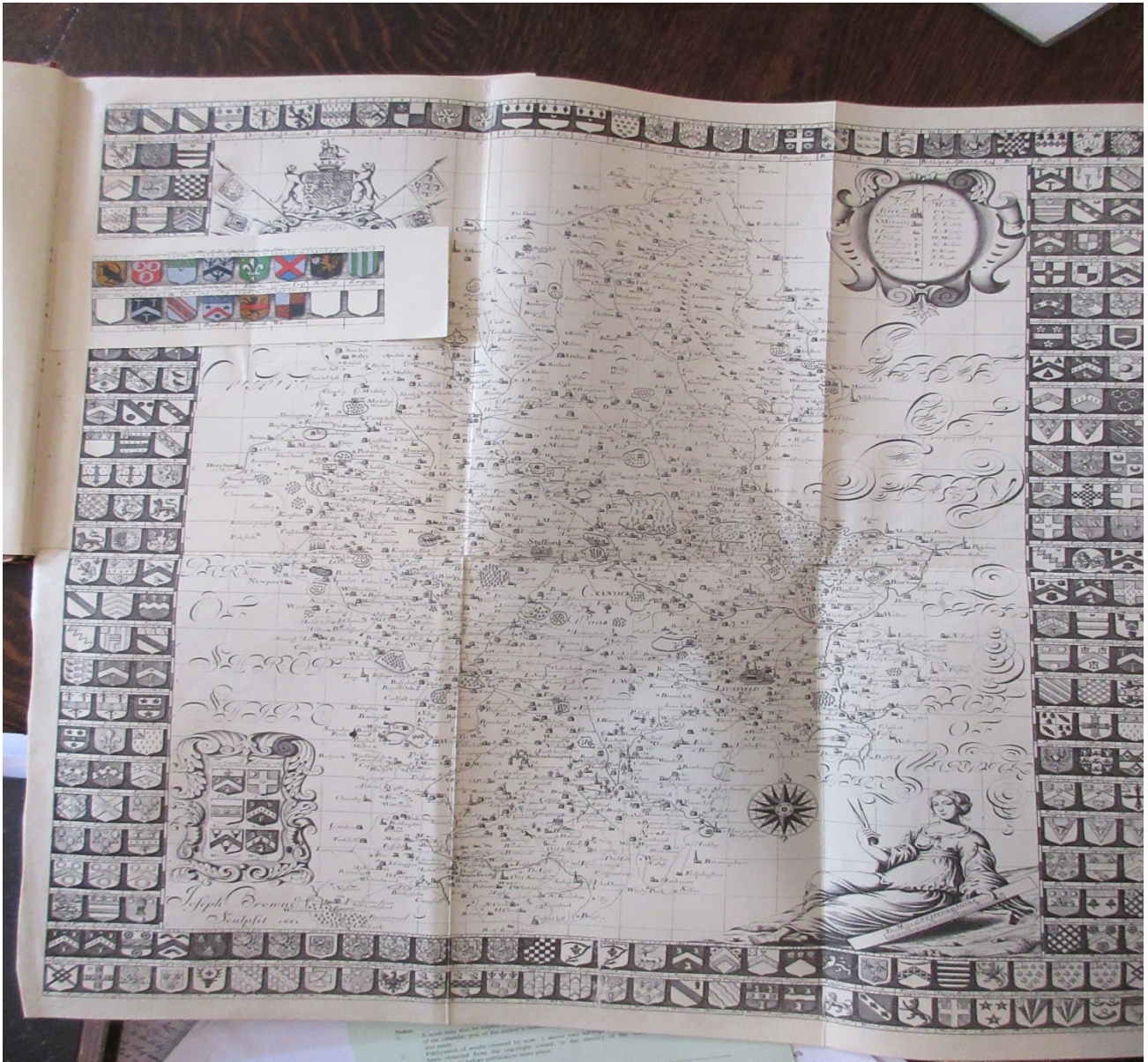


The 1747 Map shows a gentleman at his table, rather than a prone lady

There must be little doubt that a payment was made by the families who had their shields on display. Perhaps the Littletons and the Bowyers, for one reason or another, thought that there was no need to display their seniority on subsequent maps. We will never know the reason.

The list of names is as follows:

1) Abact (Abnet)	43) Rich.d Levison Gower Esq.	84) Simeon Bart.
2) Adderley	44) Wm. Levison Gower Esq.	85) Smallwood
3) Antrobus	45) Baprt Lerwen Gorver	86) Smart
4) Ashbey Esq.	46) Haden	87) Sneyd Esq.
5) Ash Esq. (new)	47) Harrison	88) Sneyd Esq.
6) Astley Bart.	48) Hawe	89) Earl of Stamford
7) Bagot Bart.	49) Hawe	90) Swinnerton Esq.
8) Barker/Barbor	50) Hawkins esq.	91) Terrick
9) Baldwyn Esq	51) Hill Bart.	92) Turton Esq.
10) Barbour	52) Hill Esq	93) Townsend Esq.
11) Boswill Esq.	53) Hodgetts esq.	94) Trafford
12) Broad	54) Hollins Esq.	95) Unett
13) Broughton/Idris(Delvis) Bart.	55) Horne	96) Earl of Uxbridge
14) Bagnall Esq.	56) Howarth	97) Unwyn
15) Chetwood Bart.	57) Hulsey Esq.	98) Vernon Esq.
16) Church Esq.	58) Jervis Esq	99) Vernon Esq.
17) Lord Chetwynd	59) Jervis Esq.	100) Vyse
18) Colclough Esq.	60) Justice	101) Walmesley Esq.
19) Cotton Esq.	61) Kinnersley	102) Lord Ward
20) Coyney Esq.	62) Levett Esq.	103) Wedgewood Esq.
21) Cope Bart.	63) Lane Esq.	104) Weld Esq.
22) Earl of Yarmouth	64) Lawley Bart.	105) Wenman
23) Davie sq.	65) Leigh Esq .	106) Weston
24) Dolman	66) Bishop of Lichfield & Coventry	107) Whatley
25) Dive	67) Lord Middleton	108) Whitby
26) Dolphin Esq.	68) Macclesfield Esq.	109) Wilbraham
<b>27) DRAKEFORD</b>	69) Mainwaring Esq.	110) Wilks MD
28) Eld Esq.	70) Montgomery Methan	111) Wilson Esq.
29) Egeton Bart.	71) Mountford	112) Witgreave Esq
30) Fenton	72) Murhall Esq.	113) Whitworth
31) Fenton	73) Nicolls	114) Whitnich Esq.
32) Fitzherbert Esq.	74) Noel Esq.	115) Wolseley Bart.
33) Floyer Esq.	75) Nott Esq.	116) Wrottesley Bart.
34) Floyer Esq.	76) Okeover	117) Sir Watkin Williams Wynn
35) Floyer	77) L. Ch. Baron Parker	118) Walker
36) Foley	78) Mad. Parker	
37) Fowler esq.	79) Parkhurst Esq.	
38) Fullwood	80) Pershouse Esq.	
39) Giffard Esq.	81) Powis Esq.	
40) Lord Glenorchy	82) Pyot Esq.	
41) Earl Gower	83) Salt Esq.	
42) Lord Trentham		



**The early 1682 map showing the colour attachment with the Dedication beneath the attachment**

*To the Most Hon'ble Potent and Truly Noble Charles ABBOT Earl of Shrewsbury Waterford and Wexford, Talbot Strange of Blackmore Gifford of Bronsfield -*

*Furnival Vernon Lovetoft The Major Ld Lieutenant of the County of STAFFORD*

*This MAP of Staffordshire Newly Delienated after a new manner With all imaginable Submission is Humbly dedicated by R.P. LLD*



By Sir Godfrey Kneller

### **Charles Talbot, he Earl of Shrewsbury, later 1st Duke of Shrewsbury**

The story about Charles Talbot is fascinating. He was named after his Godfather, Charles II. He was the son of Francis Talbot, the 11th earl of Shrewsbury, and his second wife, Anna Maria, the notorious mistress of George Villiers, 2nd duke of Buckingham. Buckingham killed Francis Talbot in a duel in 1668, and thus his son, Charles succeeded to the earldom at the age of seven.

He went on to have a remarkable career. Brought up a Roman Catholic but converted to Anglicanism in 1679, he was one of the seven men who, on June 30, 1688, signed a document inviting the Protestant ruler William of Orange, stadholder of Holland, to seize power from England's Catholic king James II. In September he joined William in Holland. Returning to England with the invading forces in November, Shrewsbury quickly secured Bristol and Gloucester for the rebels. He served as secretary of state under William (by then King William III of England) in 1689–90 and from 1694 to 1699, resigning both times in order to avoid involvement in political feuds. He became the 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Shrewsbury in 1694.

## 9. The Drakeford letter of 1594

Thanks go to Jeremy for spotting this letter at auction, Roger for the interpretation, and myself for not spending money acquiring it when I had obtained a good and truthful copy, free of charge from the auction house .....and leaving the worry of preserving the original document to the purchaser. This is something we may regret, but we have an excellent copy and frankly we were unlikely to be able to store it properly.

Some may be aware that after the Drakefords of Stafford tome was written further research about the Congleton Drakefords led the author to the conclusion that this letter emanated from John Drakeford and his brothers who were linked with Congleton, rather than Stafford. Hence this story is repeated there and has a copy of the letter. Nevertheless, the reference to the Littleton family, referring to Edward as deputy, that is Under Sheriff to Sir Edward Littleton as High Sheriff poses the question as to how this came about. Firstly, Edward was of Cheshire, and secondly the Stafford arm, who we accept are related to those in Congleton, we more closely allied to the Littletons and the Bowyers. [MWD to make enquiry of the Stafford Records Office regarding the Under Sheriff in 1594.](#)

This letter was part of the Persehowse collection. Some time ago the collection was up for sale at auction and some of it fell into private hands. Those items that were not sold were given to the Staffordshire Records Office. Copies of the sold items were taken and are held at the SRO. This collection also contains letters from Cycell/Cecy to Edward Drakeford her husband. The will of Edward Drakeford, Alderman of Congleton dated 22 September 1643 and proved in February 1646. This is evidence that he was married to a Cicely and he had a brother Roger and also a nephew, Richard Drakeford of Stafford.

[MWD to obtain further copies of the Persehowse letters.](#)

This 1594 letter is of great importance to the family. It is basically a letter from John Drakeford in London to his brother Edward Drakeford, Under Sheriff to Sir Edward Littleton. In it he cajoles his brother for not responding to earlier letters and asks him to determine if Littleton can find him a job.

This letter would indicate that the Drakefords were doing well even before Richard the Merchant (and Lawyer) had married Mercy Bowyer. Her mother, when her father died, married James Littleton, a son of an Edward Littleton.

John, the letter writer, had as brothers Edward, the Under Sheriff, Richard and Thomas. Some may think that this brother Richard was the Merchant (1576-1639) and he would have been 18 at the time. It surely cannot be so. It is more likely that this was the father of Richard The Merchant. A land transaction dated 1617 with a purchase from Bowyer featured a Richard Drakeford Senior and a Richard Drakeford, indicating father and son.

Because Richard the Babington would only have been 7 at the time, it must refer to his father, and merchant, and HIS father. This would appear to be that Richard in the letter. Thus the Merchant's father, also Richard was doing deals with his son's father in law. There have certainly been no other significant Drakeford family groups cited and the Littleton connections are proven, as is that with the Bowyers.

oooOOOooo

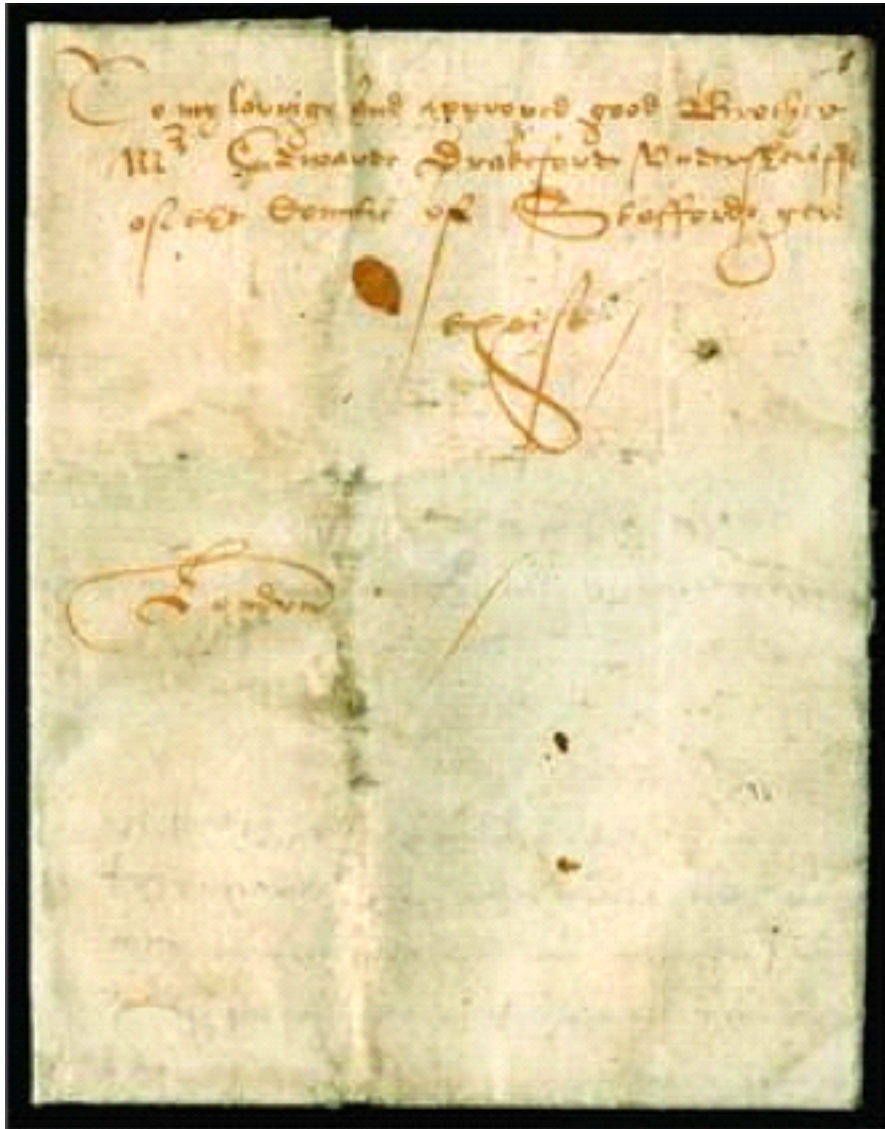
This letter was written in the time of Queen Elizabeth I, and also of William Shakespeare (1564-1632). Indeed at the age of 30, the playwright was at the height of his powers. He was yet to have built through his play company the famous Globe Theatre in London. The building work was started in 1598, and it was opened in 1599. Alas, it caught fire in 1613, was rebuilt in 1614 and eventually demolished in 1644.

As you read the letter, look for the Shakespearian humour, the cutting remarks, yet an underlying meaning. Roger hall has commented on the letter, providing sense for phrases, the meanings of which have been lost to our modern world.

To summarize, the letter is from a John Drakeford living in London, writing to his brother who happens to be deputy High Sheriff of Staffordshire to Sir Edward Littleton. At that time the Drakeford family in Both Congleton and Stafford were associated with the Littletons and were to continue the relationships for decades to come. Further information is available in the Study Papers 2 and 4.

Why is this letter so important to our researches?

- 1) It provides a link to a number of people. This could be compared with the people we knew from the wills we have amassed and church records. It showed us that there was an important arm of the family centred in one place. This we believe was Congleton, and partly through this letter we can establish that the Stafford family through Richard Drakeford, The Merchant, probably came from Congleton before starting a dynasty in Stafford lasting from the late 1590s to 1814 detailed in Study Paper 4. Later, in the 1750s one of the Drakefords, Richard 'The Mariner' became the High Sheriff of Staffordshire following a period when he had been a prize agent for the navy.
- 2) It shows that, as today, men would move for their jobs, and not stay in a single place. This is in contrast to the vast majority of poorly paid and uneducated people, who were born to labourers, worked as labourers and had all their simple needs in the local village. Transport of any sort was expensive, and for most unaffordable. Even as recently as the 1960s, when I was a boy living in rural Sussex, there were men in the village who worked the land, and they seldom left the village except to go to war.
- 3) The letter indicates a depth of intelligence, either from a paid scribe or written by John Drakeford himself. Clearly, he wanted a job with the High Sheriff, and we would expect it to be of a rank that befitted the family.



**The Address on the letter**

*To my lovinge and approved good Brother Mr Edwarde Drakeforde  
Undersheriffe of the Countie of Stafforde gent*

*??? (indécipherable)*

*London*





[Small figures in red are line numbers in the original letter and the mark thus: \* indicates that there is a note at the end to aid comprehension!]

*1 Lovinge and approved good Brother I comende me unto you my Brethren  
Richard and Thomas with all of  
2 our Frenedes etc. I have since your departure (lyke a kynde Brother)  
visited my sister your bedfelow  
3 her Brother\* Mr RITCH and his wife (my good Cosyns) so decreed, and  
agreed uppon by all  
4 of mutuall assentes betwixte two quarte pottes one of wyne whyte the  
other  
5 of Clarett wheare wee wished your companie, (if yt had beene possible). I  
am to putt  
6 you in mynde to remember that the sworde which was broughte out of the  
Alpes,  
7 made in the Towe neere kynges Pharoes Tombe, Caryed at  
Muskelborwghe  
8 feildes\*, and for the goodnes thereof I caried from London to your partes,  
to witt  
9 olde Morgley of England\* nowe remayninge with a man unknowne, maye  
10 be speedelie without delaye sent me up, accordinge to the speciall  
direcion  
11 you have therein, which (in good sadnes) I praye you effecte. Moreover I  
12 praye you be myndefull to espye\* somewhat with  
13 you selves togeyther (all places  
14 beinge alyke for me wheare I maye fynde livinge) and withall to see  
what  
15 maye be done with your good and worshipfull Master Sir Edwarde\*  
16 speciallie wheare and under whome I wolde settle my selfe in some  
17 comptent things at suche a reasonable rate as shalbe thought meete\*.  
18 I praye you remember my dutie to our Parentes at the wakes\*  
19 and loving commemoracion to all our Frenedes besides. And thus  
blaminge  
20 you for answeringe my manye letters to you with silence I leave*

21 you to a hott Pastith\* of venison, the remembrance whereof inhebiteth  
22 my wittes, amazeth my memorie and suffocateth my Sences. ???  
23 Phillippo Stubeo amico meo amantissimo\*. ex loco Religioso Sancta  
24 Maria le Spittle\* 7 Augusti 1594.

your lovinge Brother                      John Drakeforde

Comend me to my Brother ?Momtolmus?\*

### \*Notes

'your bedfelow her Brother' = 'your wife's brother'

'Muskelborwghe feildes' = 'Musselburgh Fields', site of the Battle of Pinkie Clough (10 Sept 1547), the last pitched battle between the Scottish and English armies, at which the English won a decisive victory.

'olde Morgley of England' = Morglay, the name of the sword said to have been owned by the legendary Bevis of Hampton.

'espye' = 'keep a look out'

'your good and worshipfull master Sir Edwarde' = Sir Edward Littleton of Pillaton Hall (c1555 - 1610), High Sheriff of Staffordshire in 1593-4.

'meete' = 'suitable'

'wakes' may mean celebrations (?after the harvest - letter written in August)

'Pastith' = 'pasty'. Pasties were originally pies filled with venison and baked without a dish.

'??? Phillippo Stubeo amico meo amantissimo' = '??? Phillip ?Stubbs? my most loving friend'

'ex loco Religioso Sancta Maria le Spittle' = 'from the religious site St Mary Spital'. This was a Priory and Hospital which had been dissolved in 1539. The area is now known as Spitalfields.

?Momtolmus? is probably a nickname

Thanks go to **Roger Hall** for the interpretation of this letter.

## 10. Land Sales and Purchases

The Drakeford family was not always wealthy. Nevertheless, the family members from time to time held property and were Yeomen, rather than husbandmen. Some such as the Stafford arm did even better, and Richard the merchant at one time held over 1,200 acres.

If you recall an acre was a measurement that reflected the amount of land that could be ploughed in a single day. Hence, without mechanisation as we know it today, were it arable this size of holding would mean employing a lot of workers.

Here is a sample list of holdings dating from the late 1500s. They may well appear in other parts of the website, but are here to show a background to the family history.

oooOOOooo

**1580** At the SRO 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 Congleton connections.

**1609 Richard Drakeford** Land in Stretton 29 acre 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 right to Richard and his heirs, for which Richard gave them £41.

**1609 Rich. Drakeford and Ann White** Messuage, gardens, Stafford, 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 Thomas White 1610 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 Forebridge indicating that this is the Stafford family making the purchase.

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 that 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 is Stafford and Forgate Stafford otherwise Stafford Forgate.

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 Forbrigg(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**. 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. In the SRO there is a Quitclaim deed\* regarding Messuage and lands at Yarnfield being transacted between Richard and Thomas D and a /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.

\* A legal document that transfers interest in real property from one person to another

**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. Cty 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 acre      sold to **Wm. Drakeford 'The elder' & Edw. 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.** Richard and Elizabeth are not recognised.

**Can anyone identify them?**

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 **Marcie** 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 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 for £1,504.11s.3d. There is no mention of the Forebridge Hall.

Edward claimed that he had inherited this land from his brother Major Richard. 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.

Action: MWD. Enquiries are being made to 1) determine if there is a will for Major Edward, which may shed a light on the authority for the sale. 2) More information about the eventual sale to Earl Talbot, who is said to have purchased the land from Wright. 3) 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.

## 11. Hearth Tax

In 1666, the Hearth Tax collections showed that in Stafford no more than 339 households existed, some 50 fewer than in 1622.

Hearth tax in England was a tax imposed by Parliament in 1662, to support the Royal Household of King Charles II. Following the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660, Parliament calculated that the Royal Household needed an annual income of £1,200,000. The hearth tax was a supplemental tax to make up the shortfall. It was considered easier to establish the number of hearths than the number of heads, hearths forming a more stationary subject for taxation than people. This form of taxation was new to England, but had precedents abroad. The bill received Royal Assent on 19 May 1662, with the first payment due on 29 September 1662, Michaelmas.

One shilling was liable to be paid for every fire hearth or stove, in all dwellings, houses, edifices or lodgings, and was payable at Michaelmas, 29 September and on Lady Day, 25 March. The tax thus amounted to two shillings per hearth or stove per year. The original bill contained a practical shortcoming in that it did not distinguish between owners and occupiers and was potentially a major burden on the poor as there were no exemptions. The bill was subsequently amended so that the tax was paid by the occupier. Further amendments introduced a range of exemptions that ensured that a substantial proportion of the poorer people did not have to pay the tax.

**Some of the Drakefords that were listed as payers of Hearth Tax were:**

<b>Ellen Drakeford</b> – 4 hearths,	<b>Madley Holme</b> (3 miles north of Uttoxeter)
<b>John Drakeford</b> – 1 hearth,	<b>Audley Constablwick</b>
<b>William Drakeford</b> – 1 hearth,	<b>Tunstall Constablwick, Stadmorlowe</b>
<b>William Drakeford</b> – 1 hearth,	<b>Keypusley( poss Knypersley)</b>

The source of this information is unknown. **Hearth Tax records from 1666 to be ascertained.**



## 12. DNA Testing

MWD says that DNA is not my forte and I have relied heavily on a contribution from David Drakeford for this.

Through our DNA we can find 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 attached an index referring to a page number and the date it was used. This reveals 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. (This index will follow after the information requested in red has been obtained and this paper finalised).

Through church records and the wills listed below it has been possible to determine the direct blood line from 1597 to 1814 for the Stafford family. However, the assumption is that there are links between the Stafford, Congleton and the Pottery 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 in Stafford. Around this time there was another Edward Drakeford, Alderman, Congleton. This becomes very confusing.

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.

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 a 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.

The generic distances and the relevance of the percentages to each generation can be explained as follows:

FTDNA offer Y-DNA testing at different 'marker' levels. Looking at our own marker testing from FTDNA, we have completed analysis of Drakefords at Y-DNA 37, 67 and 111 levels. For information purposes, should the Y-DNA 37 marker test give an exact match with other Drakefords (or other names), this indicates a 90% chance of a common ancestor within the past 5 generations. If the common ancestor is further back in time than that we would expect to find a few mismatches occurring. Exact matches at 67 and 111 show even closer relationships.

In our case there are some differences, and these give a probability or likelihood of a common ancestor, rather than point at a specific person.

As we know from our family history records, David and Jeremy are third cousins. At Y-DNA 37, we have a genetic distance of zero. At Y-DNA 67 we have a genetic distance of 1, and at Y-DNA 111 we have a genetic distance of 2. Results with Michael and with Roger Hall (who's DNA test is from his Australian Drakeford cousin), show matches at all three markers (37, 67 and 111), while results with Simon Drakeford show matches at Y-DNA 37 and 67 levels. This does mean we all have a common ancestor, but much more distance than in the cases of David and Jeremy Drakeford.

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, jp = John Peplowe or Alan Robert Peplow, 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>jp 1</b>	<b>David Pepler 1</b>
4 generations	dd12%	jd5%	rh2%	<b>jp83%</b>	<b>DP12%</b>
8 generations	dd62%	jd46%	rh31%	<b>jp97%</b>	<b>DP89%</b>

#### At the intermediate level 67

Genetic distance to MWD	<b>dd 3</b>	<b>jd 4</b>	<b>rh 2</b>	<b>jp 3</b>
4 generations	<b>dd47%</b>	<b>jd47%</b>	<b>rh47%</b>	<b>jp47%</b>
8 generations	<b>dd86%</b>	<b>jd86%</b>	<b>rh86%</b>	<b>jp86%</b>

**At the top level 111** note that John Peplowe has not joined this for MWD but for that of Jeremy, it is level 1 with Mr. Alan Robert Peplow. At Y-DNA 67 level Mr Alan Robert Peplow is a genetic distance of zero with David Drakeford. This could be interpreted as Mr Peplow being closer to David Drakeford than Jeremy Drakeford. But this is not necessarily the case. It implies there is a high probability of a close common father within the past 5 generations. There are some indications from the paper research that this is the case. It would be of interest if Mr Alan Robert Peplow took the Y-DNA 111 test, but he was reluctant to do so. There is no doubt that he is a close cousin, but assumptions on the exact link cannot be made with the evidence to back them up.

Genetic distance to MWD	<b>dd 6</b>	<b>jd 7</b>	<b>rh 8</b>
4 generations	<b>dd12%</b>	jd 5%	rh 2%
8 generations	<b>dd 62%</b>	jd 46%	rh 31%

**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 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 areas when those in Congleton were strong too. We have Drakefords inter-marrying as given above, and also the acknowledgement of family connections listed below. Thus there is little doubt that our groupings are indeed connected, but still we have to identify the exact lines to group the families as they exist today.

The assumed link for the Potteries Drakefords to Stafford is John Drakeford of Stafford born 1717. However, as shown below this is rather a further link from the Stafford family 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 i.e. 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.

## **Summary**

We hope that this quick insight to our work on the Drakeford family History has provided encouragement to look more deeply into the many Study Papers and to find out more. You will see that there are several places where we are still searching for further information. If anyone reading this has access to the information, please contact us by using the 'Contact us' facility on this website.

We are always looking for more information and would welcome new material such as from:

- New evidence about the Drakeford family emanating from civic records, Wills and church records, including Wills, Baptisms and Burials are very valuable.
- Drakeford wills not already listed on this website. Those currently available are shown under the Study Paper 5.
- Church records comprising mainly as transcribed church registers for baptisms, weddings and burials. Some records are copied to the Diocese for that church. Those you come across not referred to in our Study papers would be most welcome.

NOTE: If you have any questions about our research at any time, please do use the 'Contact us' facility on this website.....