

AN ACCOUNT
OF
THE OFFLEY FAMILY,

WRITTEN IN THE DAYS OF JAMES I.
BY AN UNKNOWN AUTHOR:

TO WHICH IS ADDED

A PEDIGREE

COMPILED BY

G. C. BOWER

AND

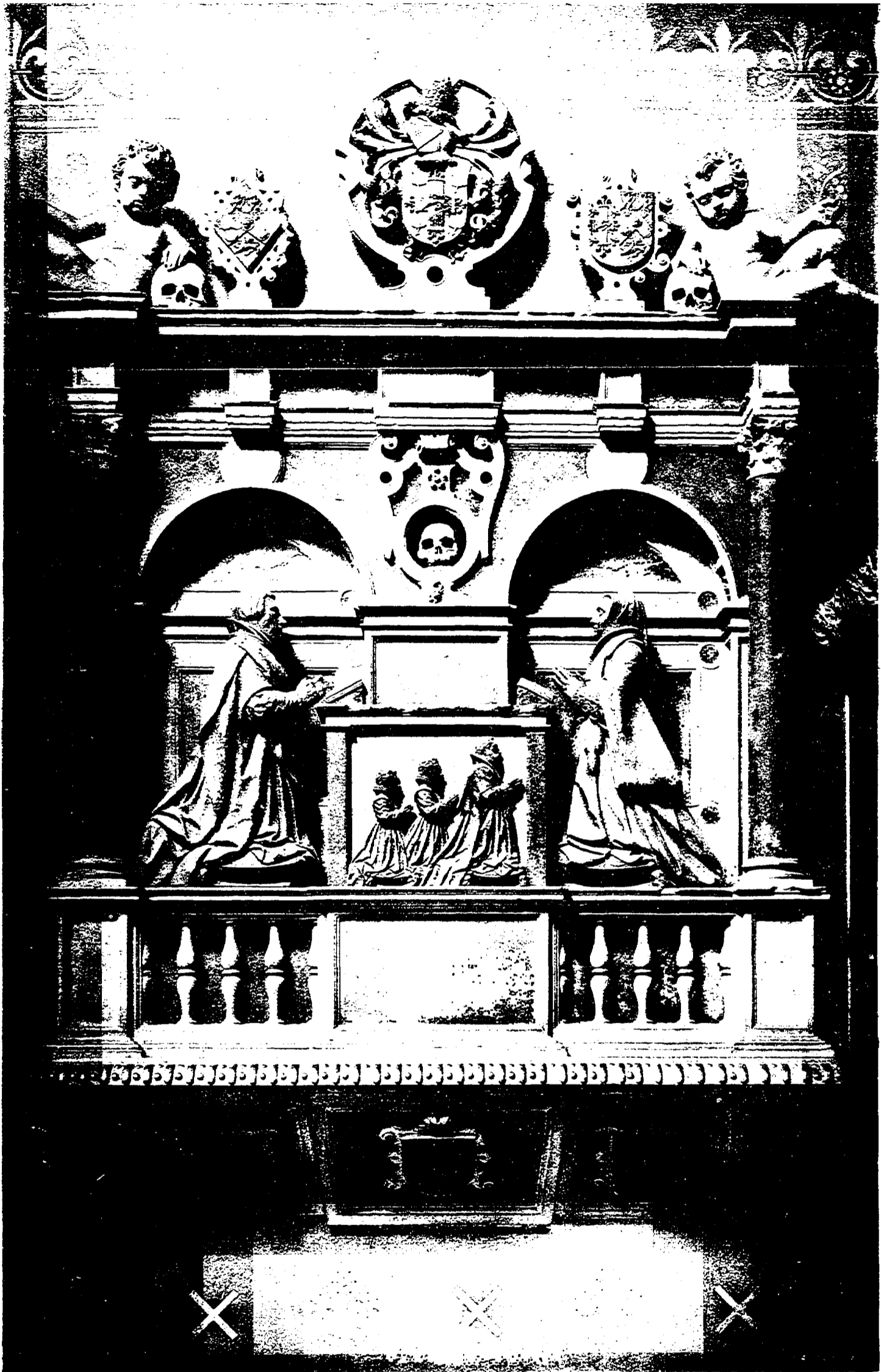
H. W. F. HARWOOD.

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Monument of Sir Thomas Offley, Knt.,
in the Church of St. Andrew Undershaft, London.

A MANUSCRIPT RELATING TO THE FAMILY OF OFFLEY.

A pedigree is to a family history as the skeleton to the living creature. The facts of birth, marriage and death are essential, but one longs to clothe them with the details of personal interest. This has been done for three generations of the Offleys by the author of the following pages, and after nearly three hundred years his chronicle seems worthy of publication. The style has the charm of the period in which the Authorised Version gave a standard to literary English: the matter illustrates a phase of social life at a time in which after faction fights had ended with the wars of the Roses, the benevolent despotism of the Tudors encouraged the growth of a wealthy middle class, the foundation of the landed gentry of England.

No one can study the Heralds' Visitations without noticing the close connexion between the City and the country gentry. For the younger son in those days the professions can hardly be said to have existed. He had either to accept the position of a dependent of his elder brother, and to see his children sink into the ranks of the yeomanry, or to seek fortune by trade in the towns. On the other hand, the elder brother not infrequently consolidated his position by a judicious alliance with the daughter of a wealthy merchant, and the merchant found in the purchase of land the only permanent investment for his accumulations. The action and reaction of these movements is shown very clearly in the text.

Sir Thomas Offley can hardly have come to London as a stranger. "His Mr. Nichells" had connexions in Staffordshire, if he was not himself of that county by birth. From the first the path was made smooth for the industrious apprentice. It is pleasant to note that when fortune smiled upon him, like Joseph of old,

he was not unmindful of his kindred, but brought up his brothers and sisters to share in his prosperity. He lived and died a merchant of London, but he purchased Madeley Manor in Staffordshire, which remained for many years the principal seat of his descendants.

The manuscript is in the possession of Miss Martin-Edmunds, of Worsbrough, near Barnsley. It passed to the Edmunds family by the marriage (18 June 1767) of Francis Edmunds, of Worsbrough, with Hannah Maria, daughter of Joseph Offley, of Norton in Derbyshire, and coheiress, with her sister Urith, wife of Samuel Shore, of that Edmund Offley, the disposition of whose estates forms the subject of Mr. Hunter's work, "A True Account of the Alienation and Recovery of the Estates of the Offleys of Norton in 1754" (London, 1841, 12mo). It was known to Mr. Hunter who quotes it in his "Chorus Vatum," and to Dr. Samuel Pegge, the antiquary, who in a manuscript history of the owners of Norton, also in the possession of Miss Martin-Edmunds, makes it the basis of his account of the Norton branch of the Offley family.

As to the authorship of the document nothing definite can be said. Internal evidence shows it to have been written in the reign of James I, and Dr. Pegge was disposed to attribute it to "this William Collins" whose kinship to the Offleys is traced at the beginning of the history. It is an equally plausible conjecture that it was the work of John Weston, the younger, son of the wise and discreet servant who secretly married Ellen Offley, Sir Thomas's favourite niece, to his "great choller." There is a personal note in the account of the reconciliation and of the expectation of favours to come, which Sir Thomas's untimely death frustrated. The Westons lived in the neighbourhood of Madeley, and it was at Madeley that the sight of Sir Thomas's picture pendent in the dining chamber rejoiced the heart of the author.

Whoever he may have been, it has been thought better to let him tell his tale without comment and to reserve for the conclusion a pedigree illustrating the somewhat intricate relationships which he describes, and the later generations of the Offleys.

G. C. BOWER.

A Comemoraçon of the Life of Williã Offley Bayliffe of Stafford,
& after Aldermã of the Citty of West chester & of the
fortunate blessings of god in his children & posterity.

If rare & admirable qualities of o^r Auncestors deserve a Thankfull
acknowledgem^t of their worthy life & deeds; And that noe
Man is borne for himselfe, For parents, Kindred Freinds yea &
antient servants may challendge some p^te of their godly and
vertuous Acts. Nemo suum querat nec enim sibi nascitur ullus.
Non nobis solum nati sumus. Soe then may I rehearse &
acknowledge some p^te of that I have credibly heard; & most
that I have knowne & seene of that worthie Mr. William Offley,
[who twice bare the cheifest office in the Burrow Towne of
Stafford. Pia et venerabilis series & propago Cradocis et Dorringtoni
And by his Trade was A mercer;]¹ who was married to
one of the Dorringtons Daughters of Stafford, & Mr. Craddock
married the other sister; his Father John Offley then livinge
having to wife one Margery, who after was married to one
Dillarne a Man of good estate & abilitye in Stafford. This
Margerie was Mother to W^m Offley, & Grandmother to S^r Thomas
Offley, & by this came the kindred betweene Offley & Collyns,
Margery Offley, & after Margerie Dillarne Grandmother to S^r
Thomas Offley & mother to ould W^m Collins wife, who was Grand-
mother to this W^m Collins. But now concerninge W^m Offley hee
had by his first wife two soⁿs, viz^t Thomas & John, This Thomas
was sent to London when hee was but xii Yeares of age, & was
put apprentice to Mr. John Nechells merchant Taylo^r of London,
& merchant of the Staple at Callice; This Mr. Nechells was of
great acquaintance wth Mr. William Lillie who made the Gra^mer
now called Lyllies Gra^mer, & was newly elected schoolem^r of Jesus
schoole in Pauls churchyard, of the foundation of that worthie
Doct^r Collett; And this Thomas Offley became a good Gramarian
under Mr. Lillie, & understood the Lattine tounge p^fectly, &
because hee had a sweet voyce, hee was put to learne pricksong
amongst the choristers of Paules, for that learned Mr. Lilleye knew
full well that the knowledge in Musick was a help & furtherance
to all arts. Musica mentis medicina mestæ, for it is a great helpe
to pnuntiacon & Judgm^t. Pythagoras would admitt of noe scholler
unless hee had some perfect knowledge in Musick, soe had this
Thomas in both these arts above his Fellowes of that tender age.
And now leaving the schoole but not his Love of Learninge, hee
applied himselfe to his trade of M^rchandize of the staple where-
unto he was bound xiii yeares wherein hee p^fited soe much by his
wisdome & dilligence that hee deserved great love & liking of
his Mr. Nichells insomuch that in the tyme of his apprentiship,
hee preferred & p^mised him his Daughter & heire Joane Nichells
to be his wife, & that they should enjoy his lands & goods &
substance. Johannes Nechells Duxit in uxorem Katherinã filiã et
heredem Stephani Genings. And this Mr. John Nechells married

¹ The passage within square brackets has been scored through in the
manuscript.

the Daughter & heire of S^r Stephen Genings that worthie Knight Merchant Tayl^r of the Staple & founder of the Free Schoole in Wolverhampton & Maior of London in the last yeare of the Raigne of K. Henry the Seaventh of Famous memory. This Thomas Offley being in such Favour & Creditt & estimaçon wth the worshipfull Cittizens & Merchants, sent for his three sisters to London, Margrett, Joane & Izabel. This Margrett was placed in service wth Mr. John Nechells, wth whom her Brother Thomas Offley was prentise. And shortly after the decease of Katherine Daughter & heire of S^r Stephen Genings, this John Nechells tooke to wife his maide servant Margrett Offley, but hee had no issue by her; And here I have occation somewhat to write of the godly life & Death of this Mr. John Nechells who mainteined dayly a plentifull table, & releived most of the poore sort of his parish, a very religious and godly man detesting vice and embracing virtue; from his mouth ever to all men pceeded gentle & loving words, & some little tyme before his Death & Departure sitting in his chaire, hee called his Servant Thomas Offley. And s^d to him sonn Thomas I pray thee take money & goe to the Mercers shopp, & buy mee a paire of Sattin sleeves; That shalbe done S^r s^d Thomas will you have any thing else, nothing s^d Mr. Nechells but the blessing of god goe & be with thee, but before hee returned with the Sattin, most quietly & in his chaire hee departed this life. And soe noe doubt hee prophesied truly of this Thomas Offley, for the blessing of god followed him all the dayes of his life; for Imediately after hee was chosen Mr. of his Company of the M^rchant Taylors, & shortly after was elected Alderman, & in Queene Maries was sherriffe of London. Queene Marie sent to her sherriffe Thomas Offley a guilt & graven armour, and xii guilt & graven partisons out of the tower of London in 1553: Guilford Dudley was Deliv^d by the Leivetennant of the tower to Thomas Offley to be beheaded at the tower hill, 1553: In a troublesome tyme when Wyatt of Kent rose wth an army against the Spaniards, & this worthie sheriffe saved many that should have dyed for this Conspiracy, & wthin two yeare after was Maior of London, the yeare before Callice was lost; & in his tyme of Mairallitie was a great dearth of Corne, but it was not seene nor felt in the Lord Maiors howse, His expences were great when hee was sherriffe & in his Mairalitye, & in the yeare after his losse was greater when Callice was lost from the English. For hee lost lands & wools & great substance, yet hee greived not thereat but gave god thankes, as well for the adverse fortune as for his p^sperity. Hee continued Alderman untill the 25 yeare of Queene Elizabeth of Famous memory, & was cheife Alderman & Father of the Citty many yeares, welbeloved in Court & Countrey; hee was Maior of the Staples both of England & Westminster above twenty yeares, & although the Order & Custome was every yeare to make their election for their Maior, of him still they made their choice as a man most worthie of the place, and Dignity thereof, for in the absence of the Lord cheife Justice the Recognizance of the Staple are acknowledged before the Maior of the Staple & the Recorder of London. Hee was alsoe chosen

by her Maiesty to assotiate the Lord Mountague in his Embassage to the Citty of Bruges in Flaunders. He was knowne to her Maiesty, for kneeling before her at the Knighting of the Lord Maio^r, shee comanded two of her gentlemen pensioners to take him from kneeling & to sett him upon his Feet. I know you well s^d shee Mr. Alderman, & I knew you in my Father's tyme; this [thus] was hee beloved in Court & Countrey. A loving landlord to his teñents noe Raiser of Rents nor taker of Fines but being urged thereto by his teñants. Of the bodie of his Lady Dame Joane, hee begat three soñs whereof two dyed in theire minority, & the eldest Henry was brought up in his youth in learning & in a vertuous & godly life, could speake & understand the Lattine & french touns, very expert in the art of . . . ¹ and in keeping of accompts, could indite well, did write a faire & legible hand, was facto^r for his Father in the Citty of Bruges in Flaunders, sold his wools, received Flemish money, returned into sterling tablet to London payable by bill of exchange; & as hee was vertuously brought up in his youth, soe continued hee all the dayes of his life, an upright & just man, of zealous & sound Religion, fervent in prayer, frequented churches, dilligent in attending & hearing Lectures & Sermons, given to hospitality pittying & releiving the poore. Hee was married by the consent of parents & Freinds in a worshipfull Family, to one of S^r John Whites Daughters who was sheriffe of London when his Father S^r Thom: Offley was Maio^r, hee had by his wife Mary three sons & one Daughter the eldest soñe Thomas Offley died before his Father Henrie he was full of Melancholy & fell into a Consumption, & died when hee was about Sixteene yeares of age. Henry the Second soñe dyed in his swadling cloathes. Mary the Daughter next child to Thomas dyed when shee was eight yeares of age & was interr'd in S^t Andrews Undershaft in the high chancell by her Grandmother Dame Joane Offley; John Offley the youngest soñe (who is twenty yeare younger then his eldest Brother Thomas) liveth now a K^t in Staffordshire in great authority & estimaçon, marryed the Daughter of Mr. Fuller Esq^r a man learned in the lawes beloved of the Aldermen & Comon Counsell in London, for that at every parliam^t they elected him for one of the Burgesses; & hee spake his Conscience & was not affraid, & was not afraid of there Faces, in behalfe of the zealous preachers that were silenced; against the Lordliness of some y^t were in authority; hee was as bould as Father Lattimer. This S^r John Offley K^t was high sherriffe of the County of Stafford, & attended the Kings Maiesty, at his retorne out of Scotland throughout the s^d County in An^o 1618. But to retorne to W^m Offley his Daughters, Margrett the eldest that was marryed to Mr. John Nechells, who as you have heard had no issue by her but left her very rich, & being a beautifull woman of a goodly complexion, tall & in her best tyme, after was married to Stephen Kirton Cousen & Godsoñe to that worthy K^t S^r Stephen Jeñings who had by his wife Margrett two

¹ Blank in the MS.

sons Thomas & John Kirton, This John the younger was a very beautifull man, and at Bruges in Flaunders was tearmed a second Absolon, the Angell of English men, & hee dyed in his best tyme unmarried. Thomas the elder Brother was married in a worshipfull stock & after the decease of his Father Stephen Kirton Alderman of London (who lyeth interr'd in the upper end of the Chancell in the church of St Andrews Undershaft in London) became a great M'chant & shipped much wools & afterward studied the lawes & became a learned & expert lawyer, & purchased lands in Northamptonshire & dwelled in a goodly house called Thorpp where hee builded & planted Orchyards & gardens, wth all maⁿer of pleasant Flowers, hearbs, & Fruits, wth pleasant allyes & Walkes. A iustice of peace in that Countie, There hee lived at Thorpp & kept good hospitallity, & after he grew in yeares hee marryed his son Stephen Kirton (in house with him) who had the name & s^rname of his Grandfather who dyed Alderman of London as afores^d. Now touching the Daughters of this Alderman by Margrett his wife, one of the Daughters of old Wm. Offley; the eldest of them was married to S^r Nicholas Woodroffe somtyme Maior of London, who after leaving the Citty and giving up his Cloake (as the tearme is) had a goodly house & estate in Hampshire about thirty miles from London, where hee & his Lady the Daughter of Mrs. Kerton dyed & left behind them sons & Daughters. His Eldest sone S^r David Woodroffe K^t who married one of the Daughters of S^r John White K^t sister to Mrs. Offley, who was wife to Henry Offley esq^r & mother to S^r John Offley; this David Woodroffe K^t dyed, whose widow was married to S^r George Wrotesley K^t. S^r Nicholas Woodroffe had his youngest Daughter Mary Woodroffe who was married to one Mr. Harding a Marchant who dyed & left his wife a Rich widow in lands & livins, who after was marryd to S^r Thomas White brother to my Lady Wrotesley; Also another Daughter of Stephen Kirton & Margrett his wife was married to S^r Richard White K^t: The third Daughter of this Margrett Kirton was marryed to one Mr. Whetell a marchant Tailor & marchant of the staple, & late apprentice to her Father Stephen Kerton, this Richard Whetell was greivously tormented wth the ruⁿing gout in the ioynts of his hands and could not Feed himselfe but somtyme wth a sylver Forke Contra nodosam non est medicina podagram. This Richard Whetell had one only Daughter by his wife Margrett Whetell who was a beautifull Damsell & Concubine to S^r Thomas Mildmay K^t who after the decease of the ould Lady Mildmay, made her Lady Mildmay, & shortly after this K^t died, & his lady was married to S^r Francis Lacon of Roulett [? Kinlett] in shropshire. The fourth Daughter of Margrett Kerton was married to Mr. Dutton of Sherbourne in the County of Gloucester marchant of the staple a man of great estate & worship A younger brother of the Family of Dutton of Dutton of the greatest worship of Cheshire & Lancashire, the most famous house (the nobillity excepted) in those Countyes. This Dutton married his children in worshipfull Familyes

one to Mr. Fettiplace learned in the lawes a Famou Counsell^r; & other Daughters that be ladies of worship, His soñe & heire is lame & impotent, as the almighty by nature hath framed him; else doe I marvell that hee doth not challendge the Lands honor & Dignity of Dutton, for that I have heard reported that it was entayled upon the heires male. I cañott name all that are descended from this Stephen Kirton and Margrett his wife Daughter to W^m Offley, and eldest sister to S^r Thomas Offley. And now concerning Izabell Offley the second Daughter shee was married to one Mr. Blower a Rich Cittizen of the Company of Drapers, A man of Faire livings and lands beside his trade who had howses [in] Merck [Mark] lane, In tower street, in little eastcheape & in New fish streete, & in Eastham in Essex. This Blower had issue two soñs Thomas & John, This John Dyed in his prentiship, & Thomas was unthrifty & would not be ruled, but Frequented evill Company & sold his lands, some to his uncle S^r Thomas Offley, & some his mother Izabell bought & gave it by will to her Brethren S^r Thomas & Richard Offley putting them in trust to be good unkells & to have a pvident care of her soñ Thomas who then had marryed a Dutchwoman & shortly after Thomas dyed in good and perfect memory to his last breath very penitent & sorrowfull for his sinfull life past; hee called upon god for mercy with weeping & teares comendinge his soule to his Savio^r & Redeemer wth such godly words that the preacher reported hee never saw any man dye more godly; soe ended the posterity of Blower whose lands came in question & in suits of lawe by one Goddard who fetched his Pedigree from 8 or 9 Discents, & was overthrown in his suite & was after compounded wth to make a generall release for all his lands, & after that Goddards decease another Goddard his Nephew made a claime & entred suite for the same Lands & Henry Offley defended the title, and after him S^r John his soñe, for a sum of money agreed with Goddard so that the Land is now quiett: And now touching Joane the third Daughter of W^m Offley & sister to S^r Thomas shee was married to one Thomas Michell of London Ironmonger one of the Richest Coñoners within the Citty of London & dyed w^{thout} issue leaving a great substance to his wife of goods money & lands during her life, & after her Decease hee ordeyned that his executrs should sell the lands w^{ch} were 3 howses at Bassings hall w^{ch} Judge Owen bought & builded a faire Dwelling house in Merrk [Mark] lane w^{ch} was also sould, & all to be bestowed upon Deeds of charity, to the hospitalls, for mending high wayes, for poore maids Marriages and other charitable uses w^{ch} houses were sold for 4 hundred markes & bestowed by the execu^rs S^r Thomas Offley & S^r Alexander Avenon Knights & Aldermen of London; & S^r Thomas enquired for some of the Kinred of the s^d Mr. Michell in Staffordshire being poore on whom hee liberally bestowed leases & money to their great Content. And this widow Michell by the advice of her Brother S^r Thomas Offley tooke to husband James Leveson M^cchant of the staple at Callice, a younger & the second

sonne of Nicholas Leveson Alderman, a widower, for his first wife was S^r Rowland Hill's Daughter & had by her 3 sons S^r Richard Leveson, of Lulshell [Lilleshall], Walter Leveson of London M^rchant of the staple, & Edward Leveson of Perton Esq^r, men of wisdom gravity & great substance, & by his latter wife Michells widdow hee had 2 Daughters, the elder was married to Walter Aston son & heire to S^r Edward Aston of Tixall a famous K^t & mighty in livings Rents & services; the marriage was solemnized at Wolverhampton where for a fortnights space great provision was made for all kind of meate, Beere ale wine & meates most plentiful, In all the Inns and victualling howses, wth Cookes in every Inn, & Tents sett up in the Feilds, not only for the towne & Countrey adiacent, but for all strangers & passengers, that Journeyed through the towne, being a great markett and throughfayre, to the towne of Shrewsbury, Wales and the Citty of West chester, & all such were liberally received with wholesome and delicate Fare, franke and Free with horse meate and mans meate w^{thout} paym^t of any money & soe were all travellers enterteyned during that tyme, such a solemne Franke & Free marriage was never heard of. They had betweene them many children whereof some dyed in their minority & many were married in worshipfull houses according to there degree & estate. The other Daughter Joyce Leveson was married to John Gifford Esq^r son & heire to S^r Thomas Gifford K^t son & heire to S^r John Gifford, K^t a noble Courtyer one of the best Bowmen and horsemen of England, a man in great Favour wth that mighty King of Famous memory Henry the 8th. This S^r John Gifford builded that goodly house of Chillington where Elizabeth o^r late queene of England of Famous memory kept her Court in her p^gresse in Staffordshire, soe did o^r noble King James keepe his Court at Tixall where hee sett Forth his p^lamacon wth these words in the latter end, Given at Tixall the xiiith day of August in the xviiiith yeare of o^r Raigne of England France & Ireland &c. Soe this noble King and Queene graced these Famous houses in Staffordshire. As touching the sons & Daughters of S^r Walter Aston of the howse of Tixall, S^r Edward Aston son and heire to S^r Walter, a worthy Justice of peace in the County of Stafford and Leicester, a man in estimacon with the privy Counsell, a man of gravity & wisdom in his youth in so much that the Lord Burleigh Lord Treasurer upon Conference wth him, gave him that Comendacon, that hee deserved a better place then to be a justice of peace in Staffordshire, Robert Aston Esq^r the second Brother a man learned in the lawes & a justice of peace in Staffordshire, & Recorder of Stafford; The Daughters also of S^r Walter Aston & his lady Neece to S^r Thomas Offley were bestowed in worshipfull Familyes, the God-daughter of S^r Thomas Offley married to Mr. Astley of Patshall Esq^r of Antient worship another to W^m Crompton of Stone Esq^r, another to S^r Stephen Slaneys son & heire, after whose death shee was married to S^r W^m Chetwyn of Ingestry K^t: & others likewise were worshipfully bestowed: In like maner were the Children of John Giffard of Chillington Esq^r, for

his sons men of great wealth, pollitique, couragious, & resolute in all attempts, Men of great wisdom, temperance and gentleness, so that they did deserve and continue that name of gentle Gifford. The Daughters likewise were bestowed in worshipfull Familyes, as the Lady Dormer in Northamptonshire & others there sisters matched & lincked to men of like worship & Dignity. And although the bestowing of these Daughters soe worthily matched, might seeme to draw away a great pte of wealth and living into other Families such pvident care hath beene forseene by these 2 worshipfull howses, that noe pte of ancient inheritance hath beene diminished from the heires, wch seldome may be seene to be performed in many noble houses where god hath blest with many noble children. And as touching S^r Walter Aston K^t is in such credit and Favour wth his maiesty, who hath appointed him for his wisdom & singular Dexterity in Spaine to be an Ambassador, doth obscure his Auncestors, in hono^r and Dignitye, although none can more illustrate there Predecessors, then they that obscure them in such sorte, and although much more might be spoken of the Lady Aston of the Offleys blood who was grandmother to this Lord Ambassador and Mrs. Joyce Gifford mother to Walter Giffard of Chillington Esquire both being Nieces to S^r Thomas Offley, who from his youth to his ould age was a welbeloved Cittizen, a worthy marchant & a fortunate, a wise & a grave senat^r, by whose love & acquaintance his sisters were advanced in Marriage. Soe that from W^m Offley his Father are issued by good Fortune & Education, from the first wife in Stafford in the blood of the Offleys in three discents above foure psons of hono^r worship and gentility. But it may be objected that you show the Felicity of the man, but let us heare of his good & godly life, for it hath beene noted that hee hath beene too much given to the concupiscence of the flesh, & had Children illegittimate, noe marvell thereat for his wife & lady Dame Joane the Daughter & heire of Mr. John Nechells; shee was civill vertuous & learned, meeke, mercifull, iust, sound, and chaste, from her cradle utterly avoyding the concupiscence of the flesh, and after shee came to the yeares of forty shee grew weake & infirme in body & mind, for in her youth shee would write & cast accompts, & receive & pay for all the pvision & accompts bestowed in the howse, & by this infirmity shee was supposed not to contynue many yeares, whereas notwithstanding shee lived above fourescore. And this S^r Thomas Offley the husband being of a pure sanguine complexion, wch is naturally inclined to a voluptuous life, to fullfill the desires of the Flesh, yett god so wrought in his hart that his mouth should nott offend according to the Psalmist, for hee was wont to say if god had appointed him a Fellowship, to his & her Contents, hee would never have trodd his shoes awrye. And in the Judgm^t of men that was supposed that this lady after her such suddaine defect should not long continue, wherefore this S^r Thomas made choice of a vertuous sober & discreet matron, the widow of one Mr. Pike, whom hee had thought lawfully to have enioyed, but true it is that man may purpose & suppose, but god is hee that Doth

determine and Dispose. This gentlewoman for her knowledge and nurture, maners, wisdom and behavio^r was sought unto by many worshipfull Cittizens for the Educacon of there Children, in Knowledge, Nurture and behavio^r, & not only Cittizens but also the worshipfull in Courte and Countrey. Ladyes of hono^r and Nobillity by birth were taught & brought up at Bedd & Board by this Gentlewoman who was after marryed to one Raymond, it was not knowne what became of that Raymond, but shee bare the name of Mrs. Raymond, And S^r Thomas begatt 2 sons of her body, whom he vertuously brought up in learning, & they became good students in the University & hee provided them lyvings, wherein one of them liveth revered, for his calling place & learning, & in great credit & love of his parishioners, the other & the elder god hath taken to his mercy. This Mrs. Raymond dwelt in the next house to the mansion howse of S^r Thomas, & for a long tyme shee dyned and supped wth some of her Gentlewomen, that shee schooled at his Table; but this Gentlewoman growing into yeares departed from S^r Thomas his howse & placed herselfe a Mile of [off] having p^rvided sufficient mainteynance for her selfe where shee also lived in great Credit and love of her Neighb^{rs} & dyed rich, & left that to her son w^{ch} shee had by Ramond who unthriftilly spent it, & shortly after Dyed, unto this Gentlewoman resorted many tymes Mr. Henry Offley to vissitt her & to have her advice & Councell if any thing did trouble him in body or mind. But now to returne to this worshipfull K^t although hee sometymes was addicted to the lusts of the flesh, to performe the pleasure thereof, yet as it hath beene afores^d, hee never used his tounge to speake any lascivious word or idle speech, the one being the p^rvocation of nature w^{ch} hath beene in many of the saynts of god, the other the instigation of the Divell; w^{ch} his sin in p^rformance of the lust of the Flesh is cleared & covered by Xte his Savio^r and hee received in this world a iust reward for that syn, for the extreame punishm^t & agony of the goute p^rceeding out of the extraordinary lust of the flesh, w^{ch} he was sore tormented withall twice in the yeare. In his old declining age & in his extremity, he wold repeate these words in Lattine, Ego vero vermis sum, I verely am a worme & noe man, the reproach of the people & an abiect of men, I came naked into the world & so shall depart hence againe, All the glory and pompe I have in this world is but a puffe & a blast of wind; It fell out soe by the will of the allmighty that hee & his ladie were sore tormented at one tyme, the one wth the Ordinarie sickness of the goute, the other wth the Sickness unto Death; whereupon hee sent for his brother Robert Offley whose advice & Counsell hee used in all his extremities, saying the tyme is, that my lady & wifes tyme now is come; that shee is like to depart hence out of this world, I caⁿot vissitt her for god hath visitted mee, And I desire you & my brother Hugh Offley, to helpe mee for p^rvisi^on for her Funerall, wth Black & yard kerchiffes, for fourscore poore weomen & five, blacks for o^r Freinds & Kinsfolke, that this Funerall may be performed to the uttermost according

to her calling and Degree; spare not for cost although it cost a 1000^{li} & soe was she interred in a large Vault, & monum^t p^rpared for her & for S^r Thomas & the kinred & posterity of them & soe was shee accompanied to the grave wth funerall pompe of Heraulds, Bañers & Mourners, & M^s Livery of Marchant Taylors: After that god had taken to his mercy this his fellowship, whom hee loved cherished & mainteyned according to her calling & Degree, bearing wthall her infirmityes, & knowing by gods word that the life of man was but seventy yeares, & the rest but sorrow & travell, he wold not marry againe though he was moved by many of his Freinds to match himselfe wth a rich & vertuous widow lady of the Citty, but hee knowing that by such meanes he might hinder the estate of his posterity wold not hearken to that motion, but p^rpared himselfe to make a godly & liberall testam^t. And as he lived to god, so hee dyed to god, hee raised no Rents, nor tooke no Fynes of his tennants but what hee was urged unto by them, & then hee tooke no more then they offered & willingly gave him, Hee was liberall to the poore & espetially to his poore parishion^{rs} & Neighb^{rs} whom hee dayly releived, hee never sued man for Debt but one Clothier wth whom hee compounded for halfe the Debt & released him; to all the prison^{rs} in & about London hee gave releife weekly, hee was one of the chiefe masters of Xtes Hospitall, hee never putt any money to usury, Hee trusted by the blood shedding of his Savio^r that the blotts & Filthiness of his life were washed & cleane purged, & that hee might enter into the holy hill & Dwell in the Tabernacle of god, hee observed the precept of the xvth psalme; of his iust gotten goods, hee refreshed the bowells of the poore, supposing that to be the best usury, that is bestowed upon the Members of X^{te}. And by his last will & testament hee left all his Lands to his only son, & the one halfe of all his goods & substance to his soñ likewise, And the other halfe for his Funeral Charges & expences & Legacies, wherein hee did nott forgett his Servants, his Kinred, & Fourscore & two Persons of poore people, wth Gownes of good bl^l Cloth: hee remembred all the prisons in and about London liberally. Hee gave to Xtes Hospitall one hundred pounds, Hee gave to the towne of Stafford one hund'd pounds for young beginers for 2 yeares to trade wthall (as his sister Kerton did in like maner to the same towne), Hee gave 4 hundred Markes to be bes[t]owed upon poore honest maids marriages, upon poore schollers in the University, In the mending of highwayes & other charitable uses, at the discretion of S^r Thomas Bromley K^t Lord Chancellor of England, Hugh Offley Alderman and Robert Offley his Broth^r, and John Offley & Richard Offley & his beloved servant John Weston his Overseers. And after his goods were this devided, betweene his soñs his Funerall & Legacyes, the remainder likewise to be devided the one halfe to his soñe, & the other halfe to Charitable Uses at the discretiō of his Execut^{rs}, Hee gave also to the poore of the ward where hee was Aldermā, Aldgate Warden, certaine wood & Coales at every tyme of Xtmas for seaven yeares after his Death. I canott

remember all the good deeds, all the good benefitts but in parte I reioyce in this worthy K^t when his savio^r shalbe his Judge and say unto him come thou blessed of my Father &c, Dwell in my Tabernacle enter into my holy hill thou shalt never be removed For when I was hungry thou gavest mee meate, when I was thirsty thou gavest mee drinke, when I was naked thou clothest mee, when I was in prison thou vissitest mee &c.

There was for a Yeares space after every moneth a sermon in remembrance of him: notwithstanding hee shalbe in everlasting remembrance, hee shall not be afraid of any evill tydings. A goodly monum^t was erected for him in the Chancell of S^t Andrews Undershaft in London, His worshipfull Grandchild S^r John Offley hath his picture pendent in his Dyning Chamber, the sight whereof doth reioyce my hart so often as I behold it.

Now resteth to speake of John Offley the only German Brother to S^r Thomas, but I leave him wth his Brother in law Mr. James Leveson, for that John Offley should have served him as an apprentice to the staple but it fell out otherwise as shalbe declared hereafter & in Mr. Nechells tyme hee lay much at the Brick house in Hackney, w^{ch} house was purchased by Mr. John Nechells of one Mr. Turnor, & this Mr. John Offley had the keeping of that house, & lay there for that house was furnished, wth goodly bedding & all maⁿer of household & in stead [*sic*] all w^{ch} was left wholie to S^r Thomas Offley & renewed by him as occatiō served & soe after to Henry Offley soe that howse was Furnished havinge plate as ofte as it pleased them to remove from London. And now to returne to W^m Offley againe & to heare somewhat of his lawfull & vigilant endeavours. Hee was accustomed to say that the almighty had decreed hee should not possess much, but his posterity should; notwithstanding hee sought divers wayes to enrich himselfe for the better maintenance of himselfe & Family [And hearing that Leather & skins were in great request amongst the Merchants of West chester, very good Merchandize to be shiped for Spaine He tooke ground & builded a faire howse about Byerston in Shropshire adioyning to Staffordshire in Mucleston parish about xx^{tie} miles from West chester and furnished it wth workmen & Toolles & necessities for that trade and pspering therein¹] And within a short tyme hee fell in acquaintance wth an Aldermans widdow Named M^{rs} Rogerson, who had one onely Daughter named Alice Rogerson, who was brought up in all vertuous good maⁿers like unto her mother religious & Fearing god, And this W^m Offley married a 2^d wife this widd: after his sonn John Offley married the Daughter Alice: This widd: being young had by her husband five soⁿs & 2 Daughters who were all brought up in learning & vertue & when they came to Discretion were sent up to London & were placed some by the meanes of the elder Brother Thomas Offley & his sister Mrs. Kerton who remained Aldermā Kertons widd. unto the end of her life, & shee tooke one of the soⁿs apprentice another was put to her soⁿ, & another to a stapler

¹ This passage within square brackets is scored through in the manuscript.

so that three of them were of the staple and free of the M^rchant Taylors. Robert the eldest soⁿ was apprentice at the hanging sword in Cheapside with a wid' of great wealth who soe dilligently & Faithfully served out his yeares, that hee was in great Creditt & Beloved of his Neighbors thereabouts in so much that his M^{rs} had a liking to him, & married wth him & being now of great wealth, by the means of his Brother Thomas Offley bought his Freedome of the staple, & became a brother of that Company by Redemp^{ti}on for then the staple at Callice Flourished, & hee shipped much wools, & after the loss of Callice the staple was kept at Bruges in Flanders, where he much p^rfitd and being of great wealth ready to be called to a higher office & Dignity it pleased god to vissitt his wife wth sickness unto Death, to whom this sorrowfull husband Robert made earnest suite that shee wold make a will & to the vallew of 1000 m^rks to give away to her Freinds & Kinred & hee would willingly performe it, & at his importunate request shee gave away to her freinds & others whom shee loved, & so most godly and devoutly departed this life upon whose Funerall hee spared no cost. After the death of this wife hee remained a widdow^r all the dayes of his life, hee dwelled in Gracious street over against the Conduitt, beloved of all his Neighb^{rs} hee kept great hospitallity; hee p^rpared yearly for his owne house keeping 4 hundred pounds w^{ch} hee liberally bestowed upon his Kinred Freinds, & Neighb^{rs}: and very bountifull to the poore hee was very Devout & godly & used much the Company of a learned preacher Mr. Wager parson of Gracious Church hee was one of X^{tes} hospitall in Southwarke for the maimed sore diseased & Lane persons, hee p^rpared for the Frensie, Lunatick & mad people in Bedlam (for the better recovering of there senses) every thursday throughout the yeare two great Potts of wholesome pottage & Broth wth Leggs & Rack of Mutton & other good meates w^{ch} great Potts were Carryed wth 4 Porters from his house to Bedlam all being Done at his p^per cost & charges. Hee had by his wife 2 Children a soⁿ & a Daught^r, who were vertuously brought up in Learning nurture & good maners; the Daughter was schooled wth M^{rs} Raymond, And when shee came to lawfull yeares for Marriage was matched wth Alderman Brooke dwelling at the end of Bucklesberry who after was sherriffe & Maior of London; his soⁿ Robert bearing the name and sirname of his Father, after hee came to mans estate, did practize for recrea^{ti}on Military Discipline, wherein hee came a perfect quick & expert souldier in warlike affairs ready if such need did require, to bestow himselfe life and lim for his prince & Countrey. Hee was noted to be a Skilfull & expert Leader before o^r late Queene Elizabeth of Famous memory, in the parke at Greenw^{ch} among 4000^d souldiers Cittizens & for his knowledge had great comenda^{ti}ons. Robert Offley the Father a man of exquisite knowledge & judgm^t knew that youth should be trayned up to those studdyes and Facultyes whereunto they be most aptest by nature, and that in rash adolescency, youth be more prone to pleasure & voluptuousness then to godliness & vertuous exercises, therefore hee did not mislike

of his sons practize but comended & mainteyned it, for the Captaine & govern^r of mans life is the mind, w^h when it taketh the way to glory by vertue is mighty & skilfull, & hee hath no need of fortunes helpe, w^h cañott give nor take away honesty, industry nor vertuous Qualities to nor from any: When Enæas arrived into Italy hee sent to Laviniū (where Rome is now) a hundred Embassad^{rs} to King Latinus Court. And before the Cittie of Laviniū, the youth there were exercising in Martiall affaires, some on horse back some in Charriotts & breaking the wild horses in the Dust, some in Drawing strong bowes and shooting, some in wrestling and challenging one another, in ruīng & in the noble science of Defence, & theise comendable exercises were forcible employ^{ts} for the defence of King and Countrey, for the stronge maintenance of bodily strength & courage, & for helpe ag^t diseases & infirmityes; whereas the youth of o^r Dayes are given to wantonesse, to Drunkeness & quaffing & to great excess delighting to make there Companiōs Drunke & compelling & threatning them to Drinke much more then will suffice nature & they have found out a cloake for there Drunkeness to cover there excessive sinne, namely to drinke the health of some noble or worshipfull person or Deare Freind as though the health of them were held by there imoderate Drinking; The Lord amend this execrable practise for tis to the great Displeasure of almighty god in the abusing of his good creatures, the impoverishing of the Comonaltye, the increase of horrible diseases, the hindrance of health & the shortning of life. This Robert the Father did not so much mistrust his soñe but to follow the steps of his Father & Auncestors in vertuous exercise, & if that should fortune that if either Forreigne or Civill warrs (from the w^h the Lord deliver us) should Come this Robert by his practise & knowledge might be able to governe & Lead an army to fight for his King & Countreye. This Robert the younger by the consent of his Father and Freinds tooke to wife to his owne good liking the Daughter of Aldermā Osburne somtyme Maio^r of London & liveth in good estate a Turkie Marchant in great wealth & Dignity. Thus much touching Robert the eldest of the five Brethren that were borne in the Cittie of Westchest^r all worshipfull beloved Cittizens of great accompt & bearing great office & authority within the Cittie of London. And all these countenanced and advanced by this worp^l K^t S^r Thomas Offley a loving mercifull & bountifull man, to his Kinred Freinds Neighb^{rs} & Tenents, & especially to the poore so that they were noted of the Cittizens & received these names according to there naturall Qualities

S^r Thomas Offley the grave Alderman & Father
 of the Cittie: Robert Offley the Good Fellowe
 Thomas Offley the younger Gentleman
 Richard Offley the Marchant
 Hughe Offley the Draper
 Williā Offley the Chiefe dr.

Next to Robert Offley was Thomas Offley Juni^r marchant Taylo^r

& marchant of the staple, was married to a rich & wealthy widd. & lived gentlemanlike in great pspertye & had noe issue. Richard Offley m^rchant. Tayl^r & marchant of the staple was a great shiper of wools & was Factor for his Brother S^r Thomas Offley at Callice when it was loste & not many dayes before the loss, hee passed away by sale & good Bills of exchange & good men five thousand pound for wools sould whereof was good paym^t at the Dayes; such was his good dilligence & service at that tyme of sorrow; the losse whereof was the begining of the decay of the staple, & S^r Thomas lost above x^oli a yeare in good Land, This Richard Offley tooke to wife the Daughter of S^r Willia^m Chester K^t who was Lord Maio^r of London when Pauls steeple was on fire, a grave wise & religious Alderman who was made K^t by Queene Mary, although of a contrary religion when hee was sherriff of London w^{ch} Dignity of Knighthood was seldome offered to any Alderman before hee was Lord Maio^r, but the cause was this Chester being a marchant of great accompt in the Citty of Anwerpe, whereby hee Furnished Phillip King of Spaine wth great trasure & sum^s of money upon his arrivall in England. This Richard Offley had by his wife many children w^{ch} were vertuously brought up in true religiō and in the Feare of god, & in good maⁿers of life having so good parents & so godly a Grandfather who dayly instructed them & when they came to Lawfull yeares were matched in marriage wth Cittizens of good accompt & Trade. This Richard Offley together wth John Offley & John Weston were Overseers of the Last will & Testam^t of S^r Tho: Offley & this Richard Departed this life wthin one halfe yeare after the Buriall of his Brother S^r Thomas, & left his wife in good estate who remaineth still a godly & vertuous widdow. This W^m Offley marchant Taylor & Marchant of the staple married an Aldermans Daughter at S^t Lawrence Pultneyes Parish in a goo[d]ly house somtymes the Duke of Buckinghams the one halfe whereof hee dwelled in; the other halfe the Right worshipfull Company of Marchant Taylors bought & founded a schoole wth M^r & Ushers wth sufficient stipends to the same. This William Offley was very rich, & yett had great loss by servants & Factors above 4 Thousand pounds and twise was called to be sherriffe of London & fined for it which cost him a Thousand Pounds. Hee had many Children whereof some dyed, & 2 of his Daughters were worshipfully bestowed in marriages the one to M^r Smith an ancient Pensioner to the late Queene Elizabeth, The other was bestowed upon S^r John Walter, K^t a Man learned in the Lawes & Famous in his tyme, And like if hee live to attaine to hon^r & Dignity, for in the perfect & exquisite knowledge of the Lawes, many of the Nobillity have derived there Originalls. This Willia^m Offley had the French & Dutch tounes pfectly & no knowledge in the Lattine, yet had hee a sentence in his plor where hee used to Dine & supp, in the panes of his glasse Window written, w^{ch} hee would ofte repeate Nil Certius morte Nil incertius hora mortis; w^{ch} is nothing is more Certaine yⁿ Death, Nothing more uncertaine then the hower of Death w^{ch} was a good signe

of the motiō of the holy spiritt of god to remember his mortallity, & the uncertainty of his end, & this uncertainty was veriefyed in him, for being very merry & pleasant in Company, being stricken wth a dead palsie hee fell downe, & lost the use of his tounge & dyed w^{thin} three days; his hart was sure Fixed in the Lord his Savio^r, for hee reioyced in godly prayers & exhorta^{co}ns: His will was made wherein hee dyed as was reported worth 50^{tie} Thousand pounds whose widdow for her wealth was married to S^r Henry Bromly K^t a man welbeloved of his Maiestie & shee now is a widdow againe, the Lady Bromly, & liveth at Holt Castle a little from Worcester.

Hugh Offley Free of the Company of Leather sellers a Famous marchant adventurer, & in France; hee purchased a goodly house in Lyme street of S^r John Leveson of Kent, wherein his Grandfather Nicholas Leveson Alderman of London dwelled & there dyed, w^{ch} house this Hugh Offley plucked downe & in that place erected a goodly & stately Frame wherein hee kept a most bountifull house when hee was sherriffe of London, and a little before that tyme as his owne charges hee sett forth a costly show of Prince Arthur wth his K^{ts} of the Round Table. Hee made choice of 300 Archers goodly & personable men all very well appointed in bl^u sattin Dubletts & bl^u velvett hose, every one having a bowe of yew & a dosen of waxed Arrowes, & hee appointed certaine stages & Forts & marks to shoot at, & liberall rewards to them that wonn the prizes, & plentiful Banquetts hee p^rpared for the Archers; & they m^rched in goodly & orderly array, three & three together, & every three a bow length from another, w^{ch} made a comly show from the M^rchant Taylors Hall in London to Mile End Greene where by Fortune the late Queene Elizabeth (of Famous memory) passd by & caused her Charriott to be stayed to behold this goodly show of Archers, speaking to her nobility that then attended her noble person, that in her life shee never saw a more stately Company of Archers who approaching neare her maiesty did there Duty upon there Knees, praying god long to p^sper & preserve her maiesty, & shee most graciously bowed her body & gave them most harty thanks, saying that shee wold love mainteyne and advance her Cittizens of the Citty of London & prayed to god to bless all her good subiects therein. This Hugh Offley was in great Favour wth many of the Nobillity of France, so that when the Nobillity had obtained license to see her Ma^{tie} & her Courte some of them came to this Hugh Offleys house, & to his great charges hee most Bountifully received them, sparing no cost to give them entertainm^t in most ample maⁿer, & they made him a Companion with them to the princes Court: But it may be objected that these be but riotous practises & for pompe & vaine glory, nay it is rather manly exercises, wherein in antient tyme god hath blessed this Kingdome wth most noble Victoryes, for Archery bringeth strength to the armes & body, wrestleth against diseases & withdraweth mens minds & affections from idle vayne Cogitations From Table play & Cards & Dice, & other idle pastims Ryotting

& Drunkenness, therefore the man is to be comended highly that mainteyneth Archery. And now for his good deeds hee was beneficiall to all the hospitalls, to the prisoners about London, to the poore in Hackney, where he had alsoe a faire mansion house wth great Orchyards & gardens adioyning thereunto. To the Maior & Aldermen of Chester hee gave a goodly standing Cup of Sylver wth Cover Double guilt of the vallew of Fifty pounds to drinke wyne in their pendisse. Hee gave two or three houses that hee purchased of his Brother John Offley, being of sixe pound of the ould Rent, to this use, that every moneth in the yeare the blessed Comunion should be celebrated & a sermon should be preached & xii poore widdowes should receive wth the minister, & to every widdow should be dealt a peece of money, so that the Rents of those Houses should be devided to the poore widdowes & to the minister & to be p^d monethly. Hee was also a Founder of the great Conduitt in the M^rkett place, these good deeds & many more did this worthy Cittizen & dyed in London.

This W^m Offley Aldermā of Chester & Father of S^r Thomas Offley had also 2 Daughters (sisters to the afores^d five brethren) bes[t]owd in marriage to men of good wealth Lynen Drapers in the Poultry, the one Mr. Jacob, the other Bowyer, they had many Children vertuously brought up & in Learning, The eldest sone of Giles Jacob was a learned scholler, & pceeded Doctor of Phisick in great love & admiracon of the Students for his vertuous quallities & learning & was elected by the Doct^{rs} of Phisick at the request of the late Queene Elizabeth, to whom Embassad^{rs} were sent from the mighty Emperor of Russia, for one of her phisitiās to attend his royall person & to minister unto him for the preservacon of his health; And this Doctor Jacob was welbeloved of the Emperor & honored of the Muscovites.

Soe Bowyer likewise had a son by his wife who was a Famous Captaine in the Low Countreys, greatly advanced by the state for his pollitick & Couragious attempts & his Fortunate success in atcheiving them in defence of the Gospell. These were the Grandchildren of ould Williā Offley Alderman of Chester by his later wife, whereby I gather hee was a godly vertuous & Faithfull man, one that feared god for his seed was mighty upon Earth; & the generacon of the faithfull shalbe blessed: It is not in mans memory, neither is it chronicled (though it be worthy) that ever any heard or saw five such brethren of such hon^r worship Dignity & estimacon in one Citty & at one tyme whereof 4 were Marchant Taylors: But now to returne to John Offley the German Brother to S^r Tho: Offley of the whole blood the 2^d son of the seven sons of William Offley to whom belonged the inheritance of the howses in Stafford. In his youthfull dayes in his rash adolescence when ignorance beare the sway, & men were ledd by blind guides, this John Offley having access to the brick house in Hackney afores^d was moved by a false Fryer, to lay out a great sum of money for the Furnishing of a Chamber, wth costly hangings & coverings the w^{ch} wth other Ornam^{ts} the

Fryer prepared & so Feeding him wth vaine & false p^mises of plenty of gold & Jewels & deceiving him wth vissions & pleasant apparitions put him in hope of the obteyning the Fayrie Queene as that Fabulous History of Lamwill. And this Frier put in practise such Coniuration wth terrible sights of Fire & Divells, that John Offley was forced through Feare to knock for the Fryer, as was before agreed upon, that if hee could not abyde those sights, hee should knock, so by this his Feare All his vaine hope was lost, & all his travell & Cost, & hee indebted to his M^r & Brother James Leveson whose money hee had laid forth, that he was forced to compound wth his M^r for his house in Stafford, so after y^t tyme hee wold never beleive Fryer nor their pfession. For this Fryer in the Chappell in one end of the house did celibrate the masse & in the other end did coniure the Divell. And so this John Offley left his trade of the staple and followed his Fathers trade in the Citty of Chester, & was marryed to Alice Rogerson, the daught^r of Aldermā Rogersō W^m Offleys Daughter in law; soe that the Father marryed the mother, & the son the Daughter, & he p^spered in this m^rchandize & adventures, & spent his gaines liberally among his Freinds Cittizens & Aldermen of Chester, Hee entertained the Lord Ferrers of Chartley at his house a whole weeke together, hee builded a ship called the Gouldon Lyon, hee was bountifull & liberall in house keeping & charitable to the poore. Hee also travelled into Ireland, & procured him wth the Lords of the Countrey Freindship & acquaintance by catching of salmons; sett up a Tent wth a flagg on the top, to the which Tent the Lords of the Count[r]ey came & had entertainm^t wth plenty of wine & shugar & biskett Cakes & hee cutt them out Jerkins & stockings of greene Kersie w^{ch} hee brought wth him thither for the same purpose; and the Lords gave him liberty to fish for salmons, where hee tooke at the Fishing tymes, a Thousand Salmons in one tyme of the yeare; soe was this John Offley a p^rvident man and a good victualler for his Countrey, untill the tyme that his brother S^r Thomas became a purchaser of whom hee tooke Counsell & advice & used him as a surveyor. And being this [thus] recalled from his dangerous adventures both by sea & Land by the Large p^mises of his Brother S^r Thomas & espetially by the perswasion & Tears of his Loving wife Alice Offley hee came & dwelt at the Mañor howse of Madely brought his houshold & family thither wth great p^rvision of Beefe Barrelled up for the sea, & good store of wine & soe hee kept a bountifull house among the Tenents & Neighb^{rs}. And by his good experience and wisdom hee caused all the Pooles & Rugged Places to be perfect meadowing such was his Care & dilligence for his Brother & his posterity. Hee was put in trust for the Educaçon of one M^r Burtons Daughters whom hee bestowed in marriage some to worshipfull gentlemen & some to men of good Livings gave them there portions & performed the last will & testam^t of his Cozen Burton & the trust that was reposed in him, His wife Alice Offley Brought him two Children that were borne at Madely Mañor the one a son the other a Daughter. The Lord Ferrers of Chartley

sent his grandchild Walter Deverox to be Godfather to his son who bore the name of Walter in his Baptisme & after this Walter Offley dyed in his minority. Mary the youngest was sent to London & was marryed to one M^r Twyne a student & learned in the Law, Jane Offley the eldest was brought up in her Aunt M^{rs} Kirtons House & was marryed from thence to Mr. Gall a publick Notary in London.

Three of Mr. John Offleys Daughters were matched neare unto there parents in Staffordshire Elizabeth the eldest to one John Austin of the grange a rich Farm^r who died without issue & left her a good & sufficient annuity w^{ch} s^d Elizabeth was after marryed to one Mr. Phillip Belleott [Bellot] of Moreton in Cheshire & of her body hee had one soñ named John Belleott, Ann Offley was marryed to M^r Thomas Unwyn a man of good living of antient inheritance in Audely parish & had of her body one soñ who is a man of wisdom & Creditt & estimacon among his neighb^{rs} & in his Countrey; Ellen Offley the youngest of these three that came from Chester was a beautifull & modest maid best beloved of her parents welbeloved of her Uncle S^r Thomas Offley who would ofte tymes comend her for her wisdom good behavior & gravity who would many tymes say that shee should be his Daughter by adoption, & therefore willed his brother her Father that hee should not bestow her in marriage but by his Consent for hee wold provide for her & make choice of her husband, yet notwithstanding shee made her owne choice unknowne to parents or uncle; which tydings of her marriage to John Weston his servant when that came to the eare of his M^r S^r Thomas by one of his teñents who was by at the marriage, hee was moved in great choller against them, & after being pswaded by his teñant that the knott that was done could not be undone, & that his servant was a wise man, was privy to his Counsell & secretts, sollicit^r to all Causes, had good success in them never had the Overthrow in any Cause hee tooke in hand, wellbeloved of all the worshipfull Freinds well knowne to the Reverend Judges & grave Counsell^{rs} beloved of all your Teñents well accepted in Court spirituall & temporall wth the Chancell^r & Register M^r Weston, who calleth him & accepteth him for his loving Cozen. And further by this his marrying you have bound him & his children (if god send them) to be surre pillars to your House & Posterity & upon these wise speeches S^r Thomas being pacified & knowing that hee had spoken well & truly hee answered; I know hee is wise & Discreet in all that hee takes in hand, & I will be good unto him, but yet will I use him as my servant & it shalbe no hindrance to him, For I had rather have A man wanting money, then money wanting a man, & that w^{ch} wants of them in substance I will supply w^{ch} he certainly had done in more ample mañer if hee had come downe into the Countrey as hee did purpose & prepare for that Journey if hee had not beene otherwise counselled to stay & tarry in London, where hee in the latter end of the s^d sumer about the last of July An^o 1582 departed this life & soe by his untymely death did not remember

his God-Daughter Ann Weston Daughter of his servant John Weston & Ellen his wife & others of his servants, whom hee had thought to have Further benefited if god had not otherwise determined. This John Weston did bring againe to the Lords possession such Lands as were Concealed by Freeholders from the Lrds of the Manor Hee had begotten of the body of his wife Ellen one Daughter as is afores^d, to whom Sr Thomas was god-father in Baptisme at Madely, & after one sonn whose Grandfather John Offley was God-Father at the Font; And now this John Offley & Alice his wife having bestowed all there children, some to god & some in marriage as you have heard & seeing their children's children, they grew old in body & mind and prepared themselves to dye unto the world, & to live unto god, & so it pleased the Lord first to take to his mercy the loving wife Alice Offley, whose death the husband sore lamented & liberally performed her Funerall being his last care & charge. After whose Death hee abandoned the pleasures & ioyes of this world & lived wth his son Weston & welbeloved Daughter, some few yeares in the service & Feare of god & in meditation of the world to come, and being five weeks sick in body but of a sound remembrance, disposed of all his temporall goods to his Grandchildren, comitted his soule to the Almighty, & the day before hee dyed hee called the Curate, to prepare for the next Day the Celebration of the Lords supper, for himselfe his children & Freinds to Communicate wth him. But it pleased god to Call him in a good & acceptable tyme for hee lived not unto the next day, but in the night before hee called for a Cup of water, & drunke thereof uttering these speeches. O heavenly Father I beseech thee accept of this my sacrifice w^{ch} I offer unto thy divine maiesty in remembrance of the death & passion of thy soñ Jesus Christ my savior into whose hands I comend my spiritt unto whom wth the Father & the holy ghost be rendred all glory honor praise & thanksgiving now and ever wth such divine & godly words hee departed & was interrred in a monum^t of stone w^{ch} hee had in his life tyme prepared, hee appointed by his will a stone of Alablaster to bee sett on the top thereof. And thus did this godly man depart out of this life in the Faith of Christ; & his Funerall most amply performed, & the body of him & his loving Wife Alice to rest in one Tombe in the Dust untill the Lord shall restore them gloriously in the generall resurrection. After the Death of John Offley who had the Milne & Farme at Thomas Hill at a reasonable Rate by the last will & testam^t of Sr Thomas his Brother; John Weston his son in law & Ellen his wife, contynued there house keeping there Almes to the poore in as ample mañer as before & the Rents Rack. They decayed their substance through too much liberallity, hee had many secrett enemies who envyed his Former Felicity & happie success in all that hee tooke in hand; And they examined his accompts & having noe Cause to reprehend the same by some unlawfull meanes the [they] made it away; above 50^{tie} pound to his hinderance, & after being reconciled into his M^{rs} [Master's] favour; about Michalmas tearme; it pleased god to

call his M^r to his mercy about the last of January next after; whose death he greatly lamented wth teares, & hee himselfe tormented with greife & sickness departed the Sum̄er after, being very penitent for his sy^{ns} & lyeth burryed wth his Fathers. His sorrowfull wife Ellen Weston bewayled his Death fell into a Consumption, was visited & comforted wth Gentlewomen of great birth & worship who would by there skilfull meanes have plunged her life if it had so pleased god, but shortly after wth a repentant hart for her sin, shee yeilded her soule into the hands of her savior, wth a stedfast faith to be saved by the meritts of his passion; her body being buryed wth her parents; Ann Weston the eldest child of these 2 deceased, was marryed to one Mr. Richard Mintridge, somtyme a follower of my Lord Gerrard, A man whom god hath enriched wth Temporall blessings, but much more wth spirituall graces, a man that feareth god, delighteth in his Comandemt^s frequenteth sermons, exerciseth himselfe in reading holy & devine bookes to the great Comfort of his Conscience.

John Weston the soⁿ god hath likewise blessed with wisdom & riches, & a hart aspiring to heavenly treasures which never decay.

But now that I may avoyde the note of Flattery, for I know there are no Thrases to be caught wth that Bayte & that no man can be Called hapie & blessed before his Funerall I leave them to the almightyes blessing beseiching him to continue these his blessings and graces in them & wth them, even to there lives end.

AMEN.

Pedigree of Offley.

[The information derived from the Offley Manuscript is here placed
in *italics*.]

JOHN OFFLEY,¹ *of Stafford, mar. Margery, dau. of She
mar. secondly Dillarne, of Stafford.* They had issue.

WILLIAM OFFLEY, *twice Mayor of Stafford, and was after-
wards of Chester. Sheriff of Chester, 1517. He mar. first
dau. of Dorrington,² of Stafford. "Mr. Craddock³ mar. the
other sister."* They had issue—

1. Sir Thomas Offley [A].
2. John Offley [B].
1. Margaret [C].
2. Elizabeth, or Isabel [D].
3. Margery⁴ [E].

*He mar. secondly, widow of Rogerson, Alderman of Chester.⁵
They had issue—*

¹ Called Richard in a grant by Ryley, Norroy, Feb. 1654, to his great grandson Francis Offley of Elbing.

² Sir Thomas Offley mentions in his will Frances Dorringtonne, dau. of John Dorringtonne, late of London, haberdasher, deceased.

³ Margaret Kirton in her will mentions "my cousins Matthew, George and William Cradocke."

⁴ Not Joane as in the Offley Manuscript. See p. 30, note 2.

⁵ But the will of William Rogerson of the City of Chester, Alderman, dated 18 April, proved P.C.C. 31 May 1519 (17 Ayloff), contains legacies to "my sonne Will'm Offeley" . . . and "to my doughter Elisabeth his wif." "Will'm Offeley my sonne in lawe" is made an executor. In a pedigree, probably compiled in the eighteenth century, now in possession of Sir Offley Wakeman, Bart., the second wife of William Offley, is called daughter of R. Rogerson, and she is said to have married after his death J. Wilde. According to Ormerod's Cheshire (2nd edition, vol. i, p. 363), the inscription on, or under, William Offley's portrait at Chester calls his first wife Elizabeth Dillon, and his second Elizabeth Wright. His son Hugh (Inq. p.m., Series ii, 37 Eliz., C., vol. 243, No. 92) was seized of a messuage at Chester, "now or late in tenure of Hugh Rogers alias Rogerson, Alderman of the City of Chester," and of a messuage in Norgate Street in the said City, "now or late in tenure of Richard Wrighte." The will of David Rogers, Cit. and Grocer of London, pr. P.C.C. 1582, mentions his cousin Robert Offley, his brother Edw. Wyld, and his cousin Hughe Rogerson, Alderman; and that of his uncle John Rogers, also Cit. and Grocer of London, pr. P.C.C. 30 Dec. 1589, mentions his "coozen germyn" Mr. Robert Offley, and also Mr. William and Mr. Hughe Offley.

3. Robert Offley [F].
4. Thomas Offley [G].
5. Richard Offley [H].
6. William Offley [I].
7. Hugh Offley [J].
4. Katherine [K].
5. Anne [L].

A.

I. SIR THOMAS OFFLEY, *Knt., Merchant Taylor and Mayor of the Staples of England and Westminster, and of Madeley Manor, co. Staff.* (which he bought 1 Ed. VI. from Sir Edward Bray, *Knt.*, and Dame Joane, his wife, dau. and heiress of Sir Matthew Brown, *Knt.*),¹ *Lord Mayor of London, 1556*, born at Stafford (?) 1500, d. 29 Aug., *bur. in St. Andrew's, Undershaft*, 17 Sep. 1582. M.I. there. Will dat. 5 Aug. 1580, pr. 24 Oct. 1582, P.C.C. (39 Tirwhite). *He mar. Joane* (aet. 21 a^o 22 H. 8), *dau. and heir of John Nechells [Nicholls], merchant Taylor of London and merchant of the Staple at Callice* (d. 22 H. 8), *by Katherine, dau. and heir of Sir Stephen Jennings [Jennings], Knt., merchant of the Staple, Founder of the Free Grammar School at Wolverhampton, Lord Mayor of London in the last year of H. VII. (1508).*² *She was bur. 20 Jan. 1578-9 in St. Andrew's Undershaft.* They had issue —

1. Henry Offley, of whom presently (II).
2. Robert Offley,³ *died a minor.*
3. *A son, died a minor.*

II. HENRY OFFLEY, *Factor for his father in the City of Bruges, and of Madeley*,⁴ *mar. first, 7 July 1567, at St. Bartholomew Exchange, Mary, dau. of Sir John White, Knt., Lord Mayor of London 1563.*⁵ *She died in London, 5 Feb. 1607-8. He died there*

¹ Feet of Fines, 1 Ed. VI., co. Staff., Trin. Term. 1547.

² Sir Stephen Jennings (will dat. 24 Jan. 1522, pr. 28 May 1523) *mar. Margaret*, dau. of . . . Kirton, and widow of William Buck. He was son of William Jennings of Tenby, co. Pembroke, by Ellen, dau. and coh. of William Lane, of Wolverhampton. (Visit. Staff. William Salt Soc., vol. v, part ii).

³ Stated in Wilson's Hist. of St. Laurence Pountney to have married Dorothy, dau. of John Smith, Baron of the Exchequer.

⁴ Aged 46 years and upwards at the date of his father's death. Inq. p.m. of Sir Thomas Offley, 25 Eliz. C. vol. 200, No. 23.

⁵ Sir John White died 9 June 1573. Will dat. 29 May, pr. 20 Aug. 1573, P.C.C. (40 Peter). He *mar. first Sibell*, sister of Sir Thomas White, of South Warnborough, co. Hants, and had by her, with other issue, Mary Offley.

3 Sept. 1613; will dat. 13 Nov. 1612, pr. 6 Sep. 1613, P.C.C. (79 Capell).¹ I.P.M. 11 James I. They had issue—

1. Thomas Offley, *died young, aged 16.*
2. Henry Offley, *died "in his Swadling Clothes."*
3. Sir John Offley, of whom presently (III).
 1. Mary, *died young, bur. in St. Andrew's Undershaft in the High Chancell by her grandmother Dame Joane Offley.*

III. SIR JOHN OFFLEY, *Knt.* (20 years younger than his elder brother Thomas) of Madeley, co. Staff. Aged 27, 10 Feb. 1613-14; Knighted at Theobald's 25 April 1615.² *High Sheriff of Staff.* 1616; Deputy Lieut. of co. Staff., under the Earl of Monmouth; twice M.P. for Stafford, and Gentleman of the Bedchamber to King James I; will dat. 4 Oct., pr. P.C.C. 11 Dec. 1645 (156 Rivers).³ *He mar.* (settlement May, 3 James I) Anne, second dau. of Nicholas Fuller, of Chamber House, co. Berks, "*learned in the lawes,*" who was M.P. for the City of London in the 1st and 2nd Parliaments of Jac. I. They had issue—

1. John Offley, of whom presently (IV).
1. Elizabeth, wife of Sir Robert Jenney, Kt., son of Sir Arthur Jenney, of Knoddishall, co. Suffolk, Kt.
2. Anne.
3. Katherine (marriage license 16 March 1643-4, then 21) wife of Thomas Willys of St. Andrew's, Holborn (aged 26, 16 March 1643-4), son and heir of Thomas Willys of Ash in Hants. She mar. secondly, William Willys, Colonel of Horse in the service of King Charles I, brother of Sir Thomas Willys of Fen Ditton, co. Cantabr., Bart.
4. Sarah, wife of Peter Browne, citizen of London.

IV. JOHN OFFLEY, of Madeley; matric. at Trin. Coll., Oxon., 16 Oct. 1635, aged 16; Sheriff of co. Staff. 1649; died 1658; admon. P.C.C., 27 Oct. 1658, to Mary Offley, his relict. Mar. first, Dorothy, dau. of Sir John Lydcott, of Moulsey, co. Surrey (marriage license 13 July 1641, then about 24). She died s.p. Mar. secondly March

¹ He mar. secondly Elizabeth Clemonds or Clemence, who afterwards mar. Robert Butterton: "a woman of verie meane qualitie and degree, who had bin sometime servant unto the said Henrie," according to orator; but "of honest parentage" and a careful wife, according to defendant.—Chancery Proceedings, Jac. I. O₄₈.

² Metcalfe's *Book of Knights*.

³ This will contains the following curious bequest:—"I give a jewel done all in gold and enamelled, wherein is a caule that covered my face and shoulders when I first came into the world, to my daughter the Lady Elizabeth Jenney for life, and after her decease to her son Offley Jenney for life, and after his decease to my right heirs male for ever, and so from heir to heir so long as it shall please God to continue any heir male of my name."

1647-8, Mary, dau. of Thomas Broughton, of Broughton, co. Staff. She was born 13 Dec. 1622, died 18 May 1718, at Offerton, co. Cest., bur. at Aston, in same county. M.I. They had issue—

1. John Offley, of whom presently (V).
2. Thomas Offley, of Lee in the parish of Armitage, co. Staff.; æt. 12, 6 April 1663; matric. at Ch. Ch. Oxford, 5 May 1668, aged about 16; died 1685; will dat. 20 June 1683, admon. P.C.C. 1 June 1685; mar. Frances, dau. of Colonel John Lane,¹ of Bentley, co. Staff. (she was living 1685). They had, with perhaps other issue—

John Offley, of Bloomsbury Square, London, and Smallbury Green, co. Middx.; matric. at Brasenose Coll., Oxf., 19 May 1694, aged about 16; died s.p. 1725, bur. at Heston, co. Middx.; will dated 28 Sept. 1716, proved P.C.C. 25 June 1725; mar. Mary . . . , who died at Smallbury Green 1753, aged 92, bur. at Heston; her will dat. 18 Sept. 1748, pr. P.C.C. 4 April 1753.

Thomas Offley.

Henry Offley.

Walter Offley, matric. at Oriel Coll., Oxf., 15 July 1699, aged about 17; rector of Barthomley, co. Cest., and Dean of Chester; died 22 July 1721, admon. at Chester 1721; mar. Anne, dau. of William Lloyd, Bishop of Worcester.²

Charles Offley, matric. at Oriel Coll., Oxf., 23 March 1701-2, aged about 16.

Edward Offley, of Heston, co. Middx.; matric. at Queen's Coll., Oxf., 18 Dec. 1704, aged about 18; died s.p.; will dated 11 Sept. 1733, pr. P.C.C. 4 Feb. 1733-4.³

Gervas Offley, died an infant; bur. at Armitage, co. Staff.

Frances, wife of Philip Egerton, D.D., rector of Astbury, co. Cest.

1. Mary, wife of Sir Willoughby Aston, of Aston, co. Cest., Bart.

V. JOHN OFFLEY, of Madeley and Crewe, co. Cest., *jure uxoris*, to whom Isaac Walton dedicated the "Complete Angler;" aged 13, 6 April 1663; matric. at Ch. Ch. Oxon, 28 March 1667, aged 16;

¹ The celebrated Colonel Lane, who, together with his sister Jane Lane, was instrumental in saving the life of King Charles II, after the battle of Worcester.

² One of the "Seven Bishops."

³ He left to his niece Anne Offley all his family pictures and a locket of King James the Second's hair.

Sheriff of co. Staff. 1679; died Sept. 1688; bur. at Barthomley; mar. Anne, dau. and eventual heiress of John Crewe, of Crewe; born in Queen Street, London, Sept. 1649; mar. 24 April 1679, at Utkinton, co. Cest.; died 15 May 1711, aged 62; bur. at Barthomley. M.I. They had issue—

1. John Offley, of whom presently (VI).
2. Crewe Offley, of Whichnor, co. Staff.; Gentleman of the Privy Chamber; M.P. for Bewdley, 1727 and 1729; will dated 18 May 1739, proved P.C.C. 19 July following; mar. Margaret, dau. of Sir Thomas Lawrence, of Chelsea. They had issue two sons—
 - (1). John Offley,¹ of St. James', Westm., co. Middx., and of Whichnor, died s.p. 3 April 1784, aged 66; will 8 Nov. 1783, proved P.C.C. 3 April 1784.
 - (2). Lawrence Offley, ob. coel. 1749, æt. 30; admon. P.C.C. 2 Nov. 1749.
1. Mary, mar. 19 Aug. 1701, at Crewe Hall, Robert (Needham), Lord Kilmorey. He died 2 Oct. 1710. She died at Windsor May 1765, aged 80.

VI. JOHN OFFLEY, of Madeley and Crewe, took the name of Crewe in 1708, born 1681, died 26 Aug. 1749, aged 68, M.I.; mar. Sarah, dau. of Morgan Price, of Nantgward, co. Brecon, at May Fair Chapel, 1707. She died 8 May 1751, aged 69, bur. at Barthomley, M.I. They had issue—

- 1 John Crewe, of whom presently (VII).
2. Charles Crewe, M.P. for co. Cest., aged 17, 23 Nov. 1727, of Hart Hall, Oxford, and of Warmingham, co. Cest., mar. Sarah, only dau. and heiress of John Burn, of Chell, co. Staff., and had issue—
 - (1). Sarah, mar. first John Conway Glynne, secondly William Swinnerton, of Butterson, co. Staff.
 - (2). Anne, mar. 1770, John Lawton, of Lawton, co. Cest. (bap. 13 Sept. 1746, died 25 March 1804), d. 29 Nov. 1810.
3. Joseph Crewe, of Hart Hall, Oxford, D.D., Clerk in Holy Orders, Rector of Barthomley and Astbury, co. Cest., aged 13, 27 Nov. 1728, d. 1782; mar. Dorothy (? Catherine), dau. of Francis Heywood, of Holywell, Oxford. She died 26 June 1740, bur. 4 July at Barthomley. They had issue—

¹ He was one of the three pupils of Samuel Johnson at Edial Hall, near Lichfield, in 1736, with David Garrick and a Corbet of Shropshire. (See Harwood's Staffordshire).

John Crewe, of Bolesworth, co. Cest., aged 17, 15 July 1757, whose sole dau. and heiress, Elizabeth Anne (born 2 Oct. 1764), mar. 29 June 1784, at St. George's, Hanover Square, George Evelyn, Viscount Falmouth. She died 10 Aug. 1793.

4. Randolph Crewe, of Hart Hall, Oxford, LL.D., Clerk in Holy Orders, Rector of Barthomley and Warmingham; born 6 Feb. 1717, died 20 May 1777; mar. Anne, dau. of John Read, of Llandinan Hall, Montgomeryshire, and of the city of Chester, born 2 Nov. 1722, died 29 Dec. 1793. (See Burke's *Landed Gentry*, under Crewe-Read.)
1. Elizabeth, mar. John Foulkes of Chester.
2. Sarah, died 19 Aug. 1770; mar. Robert Lawton, of Lawton, bap. 6 May 1723, d. 19 March 1777.
3. Mary, mar. first John Manley, of Oakhanger, co. Cest.; secondly, John Ley, Clerk in Holy Orders, of Lawton; buried at Barthomley, 28 June 1795, aged 87.

VII. JOHN CREWE, of Madeley and Crewe, aged 19, 14 Jan. 1726-7, of Hart Hall, Oxford; M.P., co. Cest., 8, 15 and 21 Geo. II.; died 18 Sept. 1752; mar. 1737, Elizabeth, dau. of Richard Shuttleworth, of Gawthorpe, co. Lanc., and Forcett, co. York. She died 16 Nov. 1788, bur. at Barthomley. They had, with other issue—

JOHN CREWE, created Lord Crewe 25 Feb. 1806. (See Peerages.)

B.

I. JOHN OFFLEY, of Chester (Sheriff 1544, Mayor 1553) and of Madeley, co. Staff., in Nov. 1561; living 5 Aug. 1580; mar. Alice (who died before her husband, but was living 5 Aug. 1580), dau. of . . . Rogerson, Alderman of Chester, by the second wife of his father William Offley,¹ and had issue—

1. Walter Offley, born at Madeley, died young.
1. Jane mar. Richard Gall, a public notary in London.
2. Elizabeth mar. first John Austin of the Grange, co. Staff., "a rich farmer who died without issue," secondly Philip Bellot of Moreton, co. Cest. (?son of John Bellot of Moreton, by Joan dau. of Ralph Moreton of Little Moreton), and had issue a son John Bellot.

¹ The Offley Manuscript is here very circumstantial (*ante* p. 18), but if this statement be true, Elizabeth, the second wife of William Offley, must have been previously the wife of a kinsman of her own. See p. 22, note 5.

3. *Anne wife of Thomas Unwyn of Clough, co. Staff., and had issue a son.*
4. *Ellen wife of John Weston of Madeley, one of the Overseers of the will of Sir Thomas Offley, and had issue—*
 - (1). *John Weston, of Madeley, gent., aged about 56, in 1631 (Chan. Dep. Eliz.-Chas. I, $\frac{1}{1}$).*
 - (2). *Ann Weston, mar. Richard Mintridge "some time a follower of my Lord Gerard."*
5. *Mary mar. . . . Twyne, "learned in the law."*

C.

MARGARET OFFLEY, *eldest dau., mar. first, as his-second wife, John Nicholls, father-in-law of Sir Thomas Offley. She mar. secondly Stephen Kirton, Alderman of London, and merchant of the Staple at Calais, cousin (nephew) of Sir Stephen Jenings, Alderman of London; he died 16 Aug. 1 and 2 P. and M.; bur in St. Andrew's, Undershaft; will dated 1 Feb. 1551-2, proved P.C.C. 29 Aug. 1553 (17 Tashe). She was bur. in St. Andrew's, Undershaft; will dat. 28 Oct. 1571, pr. 5 June 1573-4, P.C.C. (22 Peter). They had issue—*

1. *Thomas Kirton of Thorpe Mandeville, co. Northants, Common Serjeant of London, aged 16, 1 and 2 P. and M.; died 20 April 1601, bur. 21 April; mar. Mary, dau. of . . . Sadler, Alderman of London. She died 22 Feb. 1597-8, aet. 60. They had issue—*

Stephen Kirton, of Thorpe, aet. 21, 1601, died 7, bur. 8 April 1607; mar. Dorothy, dau. of George, second son of Sir John Cope, of Canon's Ashby, co. Northants. She was bur. 11 April 1646.¹
2. *John Kirton, "The Angell of Englishmen," died unmarried.*
1. *Grissell Kirton, mar., before 4 June 1553, Sir Nicholas Woodroffe,² Lord Mayor of London, of Poyle, co. Surrey; he died 18 May 1598, she died 15 July 1607. They had issue—*
 - (1). *Sir David Woodroffe, Knt., of Poyle, co. Surrey, mar. Catherine, dau.³ of Sir John White, Knt.,*

¹ For later descents, see Baker's Hist. of Northants.

² Son of David Woodroffe of London, Sheriff 1554, by Elizabeth, dau. of John Hill of London.

³ By his second wife Katherine, dau. of John Sodaye, of London, apothecary to Queen Mary. She mar. first, Alderman Ralph Greenway; secondly, Jasper Allen, and was bur. 9 Oct. 1576, at St. Dunstan's in the East. Her will, as "Katherine White, widow, late wife of Sir John White, Knight, late alderman

*sister to Mrs. Henry Offley. She mar. thirdly, Sir George Wrotesley, Knt., and died 13 Feb. 1603-4.*¹

- (2). Robert Woodroffe of Alvington, co. Glouc., mar. Mary, dau. of . . . Fox, of co. Glouc., ob. s.p.
 - (3). Stephen Woodroffe, of Tongham, co. Surrey, 1623.
 - (1). Jane Woodroffe mar., as his first wife, John Machell, of Surrey, and had issue.
 - (2). *Mary Woodroffe, mar. first . . . Harding, a rich merchant ;² secondly, Sir Thomas White, Knt., of Farnham, co. Surrey, brother to Lady Wrotesley.*
2. Ellen Kirton mar. Sir Richard White, Knt., of South Warnborough, co. Hants.
 3. Jane Kirton, mar. before 1 Feb. 1551-2, Richard Whetell [Whethill], citizen and Merchant Taylor and Merchant of the Staple, of the par. of St. Andrew's, Undershaft.³ They had issue an only dau., Margaret Whetell, mar. first, Sir Thomas Mildmay, Knt., secondly, Sir Francis Lacon, of Kinlett, in Shropshire.
Jane Kirton mar. secondly, before 28 Oct. 1571, . . . Dutton.
 4. Anne Kirton mar.⁴ Thomas Dutton, of Sherborne, co. Glouc., Merchant of the Staple, and had issue. She died in his lifetime. He died 4 Oct. 1581; will pr. P.C.C. 6 Nov. of same year.

of London, deced.," dated 8 July 1574, pr. P.C.C. 24 Dec. 1576 (41 Carew), mentions "my dau. Katherine White, my two sons Thomas and John, my three other children, viz., John and William Allen and Margery Lightfoote; my husband Jasper Allen, my brother Richard Sodye, my sister Gibons, Margaret Huse, my sons-in-law Lawrence Huse and John Lightfoote."

¹ She mar. first William Harding, of Worplesdon, 14 April 28 Eliz. (1586).

² In the pedigree of Woodruffe (Manning and Bray's Surrey, vol. iii, p. 176) her first husband is stated to have been Robert Cotton.

³ Born at Sheepy Magna, co. Leic.; will dat. 30 May 1565, as "Richard Whetell, the elder," pr. 23 May 1566 P.C.C. (13 Crymes); (?) father, by a previous wife Jane, dau. and heir of . . . Billing, of Donnington, co. Oxon., of Richard Whetell, who mar. Dorothy, dau. of John Wrotesley.

⁴ The Visit. of Glouc. 1623 states that she mar. first Sir Thomas Withers, Knt. The will of Thomas Dutton mentions his "laste wief" Anne Kirton, decd., and Margaret his then wife (who "deserved no curtesye" from him). By Anne Kirton he had two sons, William his heir (aged 20 years, 6 weeks and 3 days, 5 Dec. 1581) and Thomas, and a dau. Eleanor, who mar. at Sherborne, 24 Nov. 1586, Ralph Salvin, of Newbiggin. He had another dau., Anne, wife of John Warnford, of Sevenhampton, but some pedigrees make her the child of a previous wife. The writer of the Offley MS. (*ante*, p. 7) appears to have confused the children of Thomas Dutton with those of his son William.

D.

ELIZABETH, or ISABEL OFFLEY,¹ 2nd dau., mar. Thomas Blower, "*a rich citizen of the Company of Drapers,*" of the par. of St. Dunstan's in the East, and had issue—

1. *Thomas Blower, mar. a Dutchwoman, and died without issue.*

2. *John Blower, "died in his Prentiship."*

She mar. secondly Amcotts; her will as "*Elizabeth Amcottes of London, widowe,*" dat. 21 Sept., pr. Arch. London 29 Oct. 1576.

E.

MARGERY OFFLEY,² 3rd dau., mar. first Thomas Michell, of London, Ironmonger, "*One of the richest Com'oners within the City of London,*" but by him had no issue. She mar. secondly, James Leveson, merchant of the Staple at Callice. They had issue—

1. *Elizabeth Leveson, mar. at Wolverhampton (Sir) Walter Aston, son and heir of Sir Edward Aston of Tixall, Knt., bur. at Wolverhampton. They had with other issue—*

(1). *Sir Edward Aston, J.P. for Stafford and Leicester, died 1597.*

(2). *Robert Aston, Recorder of Stafford.*

¹ Her first husband Thomas Blower in his will, dated 7 Nov., pr. 18 Dec. 1551 (P.C.C., 36 Bucke) desires to be bur. in St. Dunstan's, near the tomb of Alice, his first wife. The will of Margaret Kirton mentions her sister Isabel Hamcottes, and that of Alderman Robert Harding, dated 20 Nov. 1568 (P.C.C., 26 Babington), mentions "Mrs. Hamcottes, Sir Thomas Offeley's sister."

² In the Offley Manuscript she is wrongly called *Joane*, but the wills of her two husbands Thomas Michell and James Leveson prove that her name was Margery. The will of Thomas Michell, dated 9 Feb. 1526-7, was proved P.C.C. 12 April 1527, by the executors John Nicholls (husband of his wife's sister Margaret Offley) and Humfrey Barne. It was probably as executor of the former that Sir Thomas Offley took the active part in the administration of Michell's estate, described in the Manuscript. Shortly after her first husband's death Margery became the wife of James Leveson, son not of Nicholas, as in the Manuscript, but of Richard Leveson, and brother of Nicholas. James Leveson, in his will, dated 8 April 1545, and proved P.C.C. 28 Oct. 1547, made Margery his wife one of his executors, and desired that memory should be made upon his grave, or near it, of himself and his two wives Alice and Margery. His first wife was not daughter of Sir Rowland Hill, as stated in the Manuscript, but was clearly Alice dau. of Richard Wrottesley of Wrottesley. Alice, who was living 1518 (the date of her father's will) was the mother of three sons—Sir Richard Leveson, Walter Leveson, and Edward Leveson. Sir Richard, the eldest of these sons, in his will, dated 14 Oct., proved 28 Nov. 1560, made his "uncles" Sir Rowland Hill (his wife's great uncle) and Walter Wrottesley (his mother's brother) overseers. Richard Wrottesley, the father of Alice, in his will (of which there is an abstract printed in General Wrottesley's History of the Family of Wrottesley, p. 255), mentions his "son James Lewson."

- (1). Margery Aston, mar. Thomas Astley, of Patshall.
 - (2). Jane Aston, mar. William Crompton, of Stone.
 - (3). Katherine Aston, mar. first Stephen, son and heir of Sir Stephen Slaney, Lord Mayor of London 1595, secondly, as his second wife, Sir William Chetwynd, of Ingestre, Knt.¹ She mar. thirdly, Sir Edward Cope, of Canon's Ashby, Knt.; died 1646, aged 80; buried in St. Giles in the Fields.
2. Joyce Leveson, mar. 1561 John Giffard, son and heir of Sir Thomas Giffard, Knt., son and heir of Sir John Giffard, Knt., who built Chillington.² They had issue—
- (1). Walter Giffard, of Chillington, mar. Philippa dau. of Henry White of South Warnborough, co. Hants, and had issue.
 - (2). Richard Giffard of Saredon, co. Staff., mar. (?) Elizabeth dau. of Thomas Leveson of Wolverhampton.
 - (3). Thomas Giffard ob. s.p.
 - (4). Gilbert Giffard.
 - (5). Giles Giffard.
 - (6). George Giffard.
 - (7). Gerard Giffard of Hilton, co. Staff.
 - (8). Edward Giffard.
- (1). Mary wife of Robert Brooke of Lapley.
 - (2). Cassandra wife of Thomas Cassey of Whitfield, co. Glouc.
 - (3). Jane wife of Sir John Dormer of Dorton, co. Oxon. She died 9 Sept. 1605, bur. at Crendon.
 - (4). Ursula wife of John Wakeman of Beckford, co. Glouc.
 - (5). Frances wife of Edmund Powell of Sandford, co. Oxon.
 - (6). Dorothy.

F.

I. ROBERT OFFLEY, of Gracechurch Street, Citizen and Haberdasher, Merchant of the Staple, born at Chester, exor. of his

¹ Mar. covenant 18 Jan. 1604-5. He died s.p. 14 Jan. 1613-14, aged 63.

² For the descendants of this marriage see "The Giffards," by Major Gen. the Hon. George Wrottesley (Salt Soc.) At pp. 155, 156 of this work, the author quotes from the State Papers letters of Gilbert Giffard (4th son of Joyce) to his [great] uncle Hugh Offley.

brother *Sir Thomas Offley*, bur. at St. Benet's, Gracechurch Street, 29 April 1596; will dat. (with three earlier) 9 April 1596, pr. P.C.C. 11 May 1596 (30 Drake). He mar. . . . dau. of (? Brakin),¹ widow of Nicholas Rose of London, Haberdasher.² She was bur. at St. Benet's, 8 Oct. 1572. They had issue—

1. *Robert Offley*, of whom presently (II).

1. Ursula, mar. 5 May 1572, at St. Benet's, Robert *Brooke*,³ *Alderman of London*. They had issue—

(1). Sir Robert Brooke, Knt., of Blythburgh, co. Suff., who mar. Joane, dau. of Sir Humphrey Weld, Lord Mayor of London.

(2). John Brooke, living 9 April 1596.

(1). Anne, bap. at St. Benet's 1 Oct. 1581; living 9 April 1596.

2. Elizabeth, mar. William Gamage, of the par. of St. Matthew's, Friday Street. Marriage license 22 April 1574.

II. *ROBERT OFFLEY*, a *Turkey merchant*, of Gracechurch Street, bur. 16 May 1625, at St. Benet's. Admon. 27 May 1625, to his son John Offley. Mar. at St. Dionis, Backchurch, 3 Feb. 1588-9, Anne, dau. of Sir Edward Osborne, Knt., Lord Mayor of London 1583.⁴ She was bap. 25 March 1570, at St. Dionis, Backchurch, and was bur. 14 Jan. 1653-4 at St. Augustine's;⁵ will dat. 11 March 1650, pr. 13 Feb. 1653/4 (170 Alchin, P.C.C.). They had issue—

1. Robert Offley, bap. 8 Feb. 1589-90, at St. Benet's, died young.

2. Robert Offley, bap. 12 March 1591-2, at St. Benet's, died young.

3. JOHN OFFLEY, of St. Benet's, Gracechurch Street, Merchant; bap. there 5 March 1592/3; died 28 Aug. 1667, aet. 74; bur. in St. Pancras Church, M.I. there.⁶ Admon.

¹ Robert Offley leaves "to my brother-in-law Mr. Richard Brakin £20, and to his son Francis Brakin £10."

² She had by her former husband a son Thomas Rose (will P.C.C. 1587-8, 7 Rutland), a dau. . . . wife of William Hewitt, and another dau. Susan Rose. The latter mar. (as "dau. of Mr. Robert Offley's wife") 3 Feb. 1566/7, at St. Benet's, Gracechurch Street, William Rolfe, of St. Mary Magdalen, Milk Street, and Totteridge, near Barnet. (See Visit. of London, 1634-5).

³ Son of Edward Brooke, of Aspall, co. Suff., by Florence, dau. of Robert Ashfield, of Stowlangtoft, co. Suff.

⁴ By Anne, only dau. and heiress of Sir William Hewett, Knt., Lord Mayor of London. Anne Offley's brother, Sir Hewett Osborne, was grandfather of the first Duke of Leeds.

⁵ As "Anne Offley, widow, the mother of Mr. Stephen Offley."

⁶ Lysons' Middlesex, p. 352, gives the arms on this M.I. as—"On a cross patée flory between four Cornish choughs, a lion passant, quartering a chevron between three fleurs de lis." This last coat should have been impaled not quartered, it being that of the family of Moore.

7 Oct. 1667, P.C.C., to relict Elizabeth. He mar. Elizabeth, dau. of Robert Moore, of London, citizen and Goldsmith; she died 17 Oct. 1678, aet. 65; bur. at St. Pancras; will dat. 17 Oct., pr. 29 Oct. 1678, P.C.C. (115 Reeve). M.I. at St. Pancras. They had issue fourteen sons and three daus.—

- (1). Robert Offley, Benchet of the Middle Temple, bap. at St. Benet's, 1 July 1634; will dat. 22 Aug., pr. P.C.C. 4 Oct. 1678; mar. at St. Botolph, Aldgate, 15 Oct. 1661, Elizabeth, widow of John Wynne, of London, dyer, and dau. of Richard Best. They had issue—

Robert, bap. at St. Benet's, Paul's Wharf, 14 Apr. 1664, bur. there 16 Aug. 1670.

- (2). John Offley, bap. at St. Benet's 27 July 1636; bur. there 25 Feb. 1636-7.
- (3). Thomas Offley, bap. at St. Benet's 21 July 1637; bur. there 23 April 1638.
- (4). John Offley, bap. at St. Benet's 15 Aug. 1638.
- (5). Edward Offley, bap. at St. Benet's 4 Aug. 1639; bur. there next day.
- (6). Henry Offley, bap. at St. Benet's 13 Nov. 1640.
- (7). Thomas Offley, bap. at St. Benet's 23 Jan. 1641/2; d. 26 Jan. 1667-8, aet. 26.
- (8). Edward Offley, bap. at St. Benet's 27 Nov. 1643; d. 12 July 1668, aet. 24.
- (9). Stephen Offley, d. 27 Sept. 1673, aet. 25.

Henry Offley, living Aug. 1678.

Matthew Offley, living Aug. 1678.

Joseph Offley, Benchet of the Middle Temple; M.P. for Rye, 1698-1702; died 3 July 1721, "at his lodgings in Kentish Town," s.p.; will dat. 30 Jan. 1719, pr. P.C.C. 8 March 1721, (60 Marlborough). He made his cousin "Stephen Offley, of Norton, in the County of Derby, Eqr.," son of his "late cousin, Robert Offley, of the City of Norwich, merchant, deceased," his heir.

- (1). Anne, bap. 8 Sept. 1635.
- (2). Elizabeth, bap. 31 Jan. 1644/5.
- (3). Anne, died 6 Jan. 1669.

4. Edward Offley, bap. 29 Aug. 1594; dead 11 March 1650; His grandson, Harmer Offley, of Hertford and Cheshunt, co. Herts., died s.p.; admon. P.C.C. 21 March 1749.

5. Hewett Offley, bap. 2 Nov. 1595, at St. Benet's, bur. there 23 Oct. 1610.
6. Robert Offley, bap. 23 May 1599, at St. Benet's, (?) bur. there 6 Jan. 1614-15.
Thomas Offley, bap. 14 Feb. 1601/2, at St. Benet's.
Stephen Offley, of whom presently (III).
1. Anne, bap. 3 Jan. 1590-1, at St. Benet's.
2. Susan, bap. 26 Oct. 1600, at St. Benet's; mar. 10 Dec. 1623, at St. Anne, Blackfriars, Henry Hastings, of Newington Butts.¹
3. Abigail, bap. 4 Oct. 1604, at St. Benet's; (?) bur. 7 March 1650/1, at St. Anne's, Blackfriars.
4. Elizabeth,² bap. 12 Feb. 1606/7, at St. Benet's; mar. 9 Nov. 1631, at St. Antholin's, William Clark of St. Antholin's, merchant, marriage license 7 Nov. 1631.
5. Sara, bap. 16 April 1609, at St. Benet's; (?) mar. 18 July 1627, at St. Anne's, Blackfriars, Adam Thorowgood.
6. Katherine, mar. 3 Jan. 1614/5, John Baker of the Inner Temple.³

III. STEPHEN OFFLEY, Woollen Draper in St. Paul's Churchyard; mar. at Chesterfield 19 May 1635, Ursula, dau. of Ralph Clarke, of Ashgate, co. Derby,⁴ and eldest sister of Cornelius Clarke, of Norton Hall, co. Derby. They had issue—

1. Robert Offley, of whom presently (IV).
2. Ralph Offley, mar. Margaret, dau. of . . .; his will at Norwich, 1701.
3. John Offley, bur. at St. Augustine's 3 Jan. 1642-3.
4. Samuel Offley, bap. at St. Augustine's 21 Jan. 1643-4.

¹ He was son of Henry Hastings of Woodlands, second son of George Earl of Huntingdon. (See "Visitation of Bucks," 1634, Coll. of Arms). They had issue an only dau. and heir, Anne, bap. at St. Benet 2 Jan. 1624-5; mar. 12 Oct. 1643, John Ayleway, of St. Martin in the Fields, Citizen and Merchant Taylor, second son of Richard Ayleway of Hownell in Taynton, co. Glouc. Anne Offley in her will mentions "my grandchild Anne Aylway."

² She perhaps mar. secondly, as his second wife, Benoni, 6th son of Sir Thomas Honywood, of Evington, co. Kent, who mar. Anne Withers, as shown both by the Honywood and Withers pedigrees in the Visit. of London 1634-5. In the pedigree of Honywood in Hasted's Kent, Benoni is said to have mar. Elizabeth dau. of . . . Offley, and to have had by her a son John. Anne Offley in her will mentions "my grandchild, John Honywood," and "my dau. Honywood."

³ And of Benehurst and afterwards of Mayfield Place, co. Sussex (son of Michael Baker of Battle and Mayfield, by Jane, dau. and heir of John Morbred). They had issue—Anne, mar. Edward Warnet of Hempsted (mentioned in Anne Offley's will as "my grandchild Anne Warnet"), Elizabeth, mar. Richard Gibbs of London (mentioned in same will as "my grandchild Elizabeth Gibbs"), Robert and Charles (died young), and Jane.

⁴ By Frances, dau. of Blount, of Eckington, co. Derby.

5. Thomas Offley, bap. 30 April 1648; mar. . . . and had a dau. Ursula.
6. Cornelius Offley, born 27 Dec. 1655.
1. Anne, bap. 15 April 1638 at St. Augustine's.
2. Elizabeth, bap. 16 Dec. 1653 at St. Augustine's.

IV. ROBERT OFFLEY,¹ of Norwich, and of Norton Hall by will of his uncle Cornelius Clarke; bap. at St. Augustine's 19 July 1640; died 1 Feb. 1716-17, aet. 76; bur. in the Independent Meeting House at Norwich; M.I. He mar. Mary, dau. of Burton; she died 6 Feb. 1703-4, aet. 56; bur. in the Independent Meeting House at Norwich; M.I. They had issue—

1. Robert Offley, killed by a fall from his horse at Hazleborough; bur. 17 Aug. 1699 in the Norton vault.
2. Ralph Offley, s.p.
3. Stephen Offley, of whom presently (V).
1. Mary, wife of Samuel Croome, of Norwich, merchant. He died 24 March 1754, aet. 88. She died 21 Jan. 1738, aet. 56; both bur. at Independent Meeting House at Norwich; M.I.

V. STEPHEN OFFLEY, of Norton, High Sheriff of Derbyshire 1715; died 1 Oct. 1727 at Norton, aet. 56. Will dated 3 Aug. 1725, pr. P.C.C. 10 April 1728. He mar. first, Urith, second dau. and coh. of Sir Samuel Smyth, of Colkirk, co. Norf.;² she was born at Colkirk, 30 May 1681; mar. 24 May 1700 at Lavenham; died at Norton and there bur., 23 Oct. 1711. They had issue—

1. Robert Offley, born at Norton 8 March 1700-1, died young.
2. Joseph Offley, of whom presently (VI).
3. Samuel Offley, died young.
4. Stephen Offley, of Dronfield, co. Derby, M.D., born 28 May 1704; died 11 May 1739, at Dronfield, aged 35; bur. in the Norton vault. Will dated 20 Oct. 1737, pr. P.C.C., 30 July 1739. He mar. 1731, Katherine, dau. of Jonas Rolfe, of Norwich, Town Clerk of Lynn.³ She died in London, 10 June 1737, aet. 28, bur. in the Norton vault. They had issue—

¹ Arms on his tombstone, *Arg. a cross fleurie, between four Cornish choughs Sable*, impaled with *a chevron between three owls crowned*.

² By Katherine Elizabeth, dau. of Sir James Harington, Kt. and Bart. He was son of Samuel Smyth, of Oxwick, co. Norf., by Urith, dau. of Sir John Palgrave, of Barningham, co. Norf., Bart.

³ Jonas Rolfe died 14 Jan. 1725. He mar. (mar. set. 10 and 11 Oct. 1706) Lucy (born at Colkirk 20 April 1684, mar. first 9 May 1700 John Pett of Colkirk, died 9 Sept. 1746), fourth dau. of Sir Samuel Smyth of Colkirk.

- (1). Mary, born 5 July 1732, died 2 Sep. 1755, aged 23, bur. in the Norton vault.
- (2). Lucy, died July 1737, aged 3.
- (3). Theodosia, died young.
- (4). Katherine.

- 1. Elizabeth, died 23 Sept. 1741, aet. 22, bur. in the Independent Meeting House at Norwich.

He mar. secondly 1711 Anne,¹ third dau. of Benjamin Shute, and sister to the 1st Lord Barrington. They had issue—with three other children, Robert, George and John, who died in infancy—

- 2. Amelia, born 27 July 1717; mar. Sir Francis Bernard, Bart., M.A., Ch. Ch., Oxon. sometime Governor of Massachusetts's Bay. He died at Aylesbury, 16 June 1779; she died 26 May 1778, bur. at Aylesbury.
- 3. Mary, died unmar.; admon. P.C.C., 25 Feb. 1758.

VI. JOSEPH OFFLEY,² of Norton, born 1 Dec. 1702, died 3 Sept. 1751, aged 49, bur. in the Norton vault. Will dated 8 March 1748-9, pr. P.C.C., 9 Dec. 1754. He mar., 11 May 1732, at St. Peter's Chapel in the Cathedral Church of Norwich, Mary, dau. and heir of Humphrey Bohun of Beccles, co. Suff. She was born 1 Feb. 1702-3, and died at Norton 15 June 1740. They had issue—

- 1. Edmund Offley, born 19 March 1732-3, died 21 Aug. 1754 in Edinburgh, bur. in the Norton vault. Will dated 21 June 1754, admon. P.C.C., 9 Dec. 1754.
- 1. Mary died young July 1734.
- 2. Urith, born 12 Feb. 1736-7, mar. 15 March 1759 Samuel Shore, of Meersbrook; died 30 Nov. 1781 (bur. in the Norton vault) leaving issue.
- 3. Hannah Maria, born 7 June 1740, mar. 18 June 1767 Francis Edmunds of Worsbrough, co. York; died 30 March 1805, leaving issue.

¹ She mar. secondly, Gervase Scrope, of Cockerington, co. Linc.

² At the death of Harmer Offley (see p. 33) his estates passed under settlement to his kinsman Joseph Offley, of Norton; see will of the latter (P.C.C., 337 Pinfold).

G.

THOMAS OFFLEY, *born at Chester, Merchant of the Staple and Merchant Taylor*; apprenticed to Stephen Kirton 1551; Warden of Merchant Taylors' Company 1565 and 1574, but never Master;¹ mar.² at St. Peter's, Cornhill, 18 May 1552, Katherine Lewis (? a widow). He was bur. at St. Andrew's Undershaft, 1 Feb. 1588-9; she was bur. there 13 May 1612. They had issue—

Robert Offley, bap. at St. Peter's, Cornhill, 21 July 1554; bur. at St. Andrew's Undershaft, 12 Sept. 1574.

Richard Offley, admitted to Merchant Taylors' School 8 March 1574-5.³

Thomas Offley, bur. at St. Andrew's Undershaft, 4 April 1588.

Margery Offley, bur. at St. Peter's, Cornhill, 19 Oct. 1563.

Mabel, bp. at St. Peter's, Cornhill, 14 March 1556.

Elizabeth, bp. at St. Peter's, Cornhill, 2 March 1563; bur. there 26 Nov. following.

H.

RICHARD OFFLEY, *Merchant Taylor* (Master of the Company 1572 and 1582) and *Merchant of the Staple, Factor for Sir Thomas Offley at Callice and overseer of his will, born at Chester, died within one-half year after Sir Thomas*; admons. P.C.C. 28 Dec. 1582 and 28 Nov. 1583; mar. Jane, dau. of Sir William Chester, Knt., Lord Mayor of London when Paul's Steeple was on fire (1561).⁴ She was bur. 29 Feb. 1611-12 at St. Mary's Woolnoth. Will dat. 23 Feb. 1611-12, pr. 26 March following in Commissary Court of London (Reg. 22, fol. 25).⁵ They had issue—

¹ *Early History of the Guild of Merchant Taylors*, vol. ii, p. 173.

² In the Offley manuscript (pp. 14, 15), this Thomas Offley is said to have married a rich and wealthy widow, and to have had no issue. It appears, however, certain that the children baptised and buried as above, at St. Peter's, Cornhill, and St. Andrew's Undershaft, were his, but as none of them are mentioned in the wills of their near relatives, it is probable that they all died, s.p., in their father's lifetime, and that he thus died without surviving issue.

³ Register of Merchant Taylors' School.

⁴ By Elizabeth, dau. of Thomas Lovett, of Astwell, co. Northants.

⁵ She mentions her sister, Susan Trott; her daughters-in-law, Thomas Offley's wife; Alice Offley, widow; Jane Offley, "my son William's wife"; her sons-in-law, Richard Cheney, Edward Delves, and Francis Greenhaugh; various grandchildren, including Robert and Thomas Offley, sons of "Robert Offley, my son deceased," and makes John Vernon, Merchant Taylor, and her son-in-law, Richard Cheney, exors, begging of them to accept for their pains "a poore widdowes myte," i.e., a gold ring each.

Martin Offley, bap. at St. Mary's Woolnoth, 19 March 1579-80.

Francis Offley, bur. 15 Aug. 1581, at St. Mary's Woolnoth.

Hugh Offley, bap. 30 Dec. 1581, bur. 1 Feb. 1581-2, at St. Mary's Woolnoth.

Thomas Offley, of St. Mary's Woolnoth (his wife was living 23 Feb. 1611-12), admon. 21 May 1612 to his brother Richard.

Richard Offley, Citizen and Merchant Taylor of London; Will dat. 12 Jan. 1641-2, pr. 2 Jan. 1643-4, Commissary Court of London (Reg. 29, fol. 196).

Robert Offley, bur. 30 Dec. 1610, at St. Mary's Woolnoth; mar. Alice . . . (living 23 Feb. 1611-12, and ? mar. secondly Richard Cheneye), and had issue—.

Robert Offley, living 23 Feb. 1611-12.

Thomas Offley, living 23 Feb. 1611-12.¹

John Offley, bap. at St. Mary's Woolnoth, 10 Dec. 1606, as John, son of Robert Offley, gentleman.

? Elizabeth, mentioned in the will of Richard Cheneye.

William Offley, mar. Jane . . ., both living 23 Feb. 1611-12.

Elizabeth, bur. 20 Aug. 1615, at St. Mary's Woolnoth, mar. there 6 Feb. 1591 Richard Cheneye,² of St. Mary's Woolnoth, goldsmith, and had with other issue, William Cheneye of Hackney.

Katherine, mar. Edward Delves, of St. Mary's Woolnoth, goldsmith;³ he was bur. there 4 Oct. 1638, and left issue.

¹ He is probably the "cousin Thomas Offley" to whom twelve pence were bequeathed by the will of his uncle, Richard Offley, 12 Jan. 1641-2.

² The will of Richard Cheneye, dated 29 June, and pr. P.C.C. 23 Aug. 1625, shows that he had a second wife Alice, and as he left a legacy of £500 to his "daughter-in-law Elizabeth Offley," it is probable that he married, secondly, the widow of his brother-in-law Robert Offley. His will also mentions his mother-in-law Mrs. Anne Paine.

³ Eight of his sons and four of his daughters were baptised at St. Mary's Woolnoth.

Jane, mar. at St. Mary's Woolnoth, 26 Feb. 1597-8,
Francis Greenhaugh, of the par. of St. Mary's Bothaw,
ironmonger,¹ and left issue.

Margaret, mar. at St. Mary's Woolnoth, 3 July 1589,
Edward Nicholas, of the par. of St. Sepulchre.

Susan, bur. 14 May 1583, at St. Mary's Woolnoth.

I.

I. *WILLIAM OFFLEY*, of the par. of St. Lawrence Pountney, Merchant Taylor and Merchant of the Staple, Fined for Sheriff and Alderman of London; born at Chester; bur. 7 Jan. 1600-1, at St. Lawrence Pountney,² M.I. there. Will dat. 21 and pr. P.C.C. 24 Dec. 1600 (76 Wallop). He mar. 11 Feb. 1565-6, at St. Lawrence Pountney, Anne, dau. of William Beswicke, Alderman of London. She mar. secondly, at St. Lawrence Pountney, 7 June 1604, as his 4th wife, Sir Henry Bromley of Holt Castle, co. Worc., Knt., eldest son of Sir Thomas Bromley, Lord Chancellor.³ She died 1 Jan. 1628-9, aged 81 years, 9 mo., M.I. at Holt. Her will dated 1 Dec. 1628, pr. P.C.C. 20 Feb. 1629-30 (11 Scroope). By her William Offley had issue fifteen children, of whom were the following—

1. William Offley, of whom presently (II).
2. Sir Robert Offley, Knt., of London and of Dalby,⁴ co. Leicester, bap. at St. Lawrence Pountney, 30 Oct. 1583; will dat. 9 Oct., pr. P.C.C. 14 Oct. 1623, (107 Swan); mar. 7 Nov. 1601, at St. Peter le Poer, Mary, dau. of Sir Thomas Lowe, Knt., of London,⁵ by Anne, dau. of Gabriel Colston, of London. She was bur. 28 June 1647 at St. Peter le Poer; admon. as late of Broxbourne, co. Herts, 12 May 1649, to Sir

¹ William, Thomas, Francis, and Dorothy, his children, were baptised at St. Mary's Woolnoth.

² The following entry, under date 7 Jan. 1600 (*i.e.* 1600-1), occurs in the Court Minutes of the Merchant Taylors' Company:—"This day the funeral of M^r William Offley (a late wor^{ll} member of this Company) was solempnesed, and the whole Livery were invited to dyne at the Hall, which was provided wth the some of 20*l.* given by M^r Offley to the same purpose" ("Memorials of the Guild of Merchant Taylors," p. 539). The Company still possesses a circular rose water dish of silver, parcel gilt, presented by William Offley 1590-1, with his arms in the centre. This was exhibited a few years ago at the Tudor Exhibition in the New Gallery.

³ In Brydges' ed. of Collins' Peerage (under Montfort) she is said to have mar. thirdly, 10 Feb. 1622-3, Dr. John Thornborough, Bishop of Worcester, but no mention of that prelate is made in her will.

⁴ By will of his father.

⁵ "Who is also guardian to said Robert Offeley, an orphan" (mar. lic.).

William Walter, Bart., and 8 April 1675 to grandson Thomas Offley, junior. They had issue—

- (1). William Offley.
- (2). Thomas Offley,¹ aged 16, 8 June 1621, of Hart Hall, Oxford, and the Middle Temple, afterwards of Broxbourne, co. Herts, and par. of St. Martin-in-the-Fields; Groom Porter to King Charles II. Admon. P.C.C. 31 Jan. 1677-8. Mar. 15 June 1635, at St. Anne's, Blackfriars, Mary, widow of Sir Christopher Darcy, Knt.; will dat. 7 Sept. 1680, as "Dame Mary Darcey alias Offley, of Newington, in co. Middx., widow," pr. P.C.C. 16 Sept. 1680 (115 Bath).² They had issue—
 - i. Thomas Offley, readministered as Thomas Offley, junior, 8 April 1675, to his grandmother Dame Mary Offley's estate, and 11 Nov. 1685, to that of his father.
 - ii. John Offley, bap. 30 Nov. 1646, at St. Anne's, Blackfriars.
 - i. Sarah, bap. 11 Jan. 1637-8, at St. Bride's; living 7 Sept. 1680.
 - ii. Mary, bap. 29 March 1636, at St. Bride's; mar. (mar. lic. 13 April 1663) Harry Lawrence of Cheshunt, co. Herts (he was dead 7 Sept. 1680).
- (3). Robert Offley, bap. 11 March 1608-9 at St. Peter le Poer, living 9 Nov. 1649, and then late of Coggeshall, co. Essex, Esquire.

¹ The following particulars, taken from an old Chancery suit, may serve to explain the comparative obscurity of this branch of the Offley family, for they show that a Thomas Offley, who is almost certainly the Thomas in the text, was addicted to the vice of gambling, so prevalent at the period. The suit was brought 12 June 1640, Thomas Offley claiming that the defendant, Sir John Morley, of Chichester, co. Sussex, Knt., owed him the sum of £1,000. Sir John, in his answer, states that about March 1638-9, he and the complainant being at the Nagge's Head Tavern in Cheapside, fell to play at dice at a game called "Inne and Inne," and admits that he lost upon the ticket or score £800. Subsequently, about the 25th March following the parties again met at a house in the Strand called "the combe makers," in the parish of St. Clement Danes, and played the same game, Sir John Suckling (famous as much for his love of cards and dice as for his elegant verse) being on this occasion Thomas Offley's partner. Sir John Morley was again a loser to the tune of £400, and pleads that these sums were not won by fair and square play, an accusation which must not be taken very seriously. (Chanc. Pro. Chas. I, 8, No. 20.)

² She mentions in her will her son and daughter, Thomas and Sarah, both unmarried; her daughter, Mary Lawrence, widow, and grandchildren Henry, Edward, Anne, Mary, and Sarah Lawrence.

- (4). Gabriel Offley, bap. 16 Oct. 1611 at St. Peter le Poer; D.D., Clerk in Holy Orders, Chaplain to King Charles II.; Rector of Worplesdon, co. Surrey; died 1683; will dat. 14 Feb. 1682-3, pr. 21 May 1683, P.C.C. (60 Drax). Had farms called Hadfold and Steepwood, co. Sussex. He mar. Frances, dau. of . . . and left issue—

i. Robert Offley, Clerk in Holy Orders, Rector of Abinger, co. Surrey, and Prebendary of Durham; d. 10 May 1743, aet. 77; M.I. at Abinger; will dat. 9 Dec. 1741, pr. P.C.C. 27 June 1743.¹

i. Mary.

ii. Elizabeth, died March 1677-8; M.I. at Abinger; mar. Thomas Crawley, Clerk in Holy Orders, Rector of Abinger, son of Francis Crawley, Cursitor Baron of the Exchequer; died 4 May 1685; M.I. at Abinger.

iii. Anne, living 9 Dec. 1741.

iv. Katherine.

- (5). John Offley, bap. 31 Oct. 1614 at St. Peter le Poer.

(1). Mary, mar. first 16 Oct. 1639, at St. Mary's Woolnoth, Sir John Cotton, Knt., of Eltham, co. Kent; secondly, George Evelyn, of Wotton, co. Surrey, M.P. for Surrey 1678, 1680-1. He died 1699, aged 82. She died 1664.

(2). Elizabeth, mar. Sir Henry Herbert, 6th brother of the 1st Lord Herbert of Cherbury.

(3). Anne, bap. 1 May 1610 at St. Peter le Poer.

1. Anne, bap. at St. Lawrence Pountney, 28 March 1569; bur. there 17 Feb. 1582-3.

2. Martha, bap. at St. Lawrence Pountney, 16 Aug. 1573; bur. there 17 Feb. 1582-3.

3. Elizabeth, bap. at St. Lawrence Pountney, 5 Nov. 1579; mar. there 2 Oct. 1597, Sir John Smith, Knt., of Thetford, co. Norf., "*An ancient Pensioner of Queen Elizabeth.*"

¹ He devised his farms of Steepwood and Hadfold to Trustees for the repair and support of Oakwood Chapel in the parish of Wotton.

4. Margaret, bap. at St. Lawrence Pountney, 19 Aug. 1582; mar. there 24 Feb. 1600-1, *Sir John Walter, Knt.*, Serjeant at law, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer. He died 1630, and was bur. at Wolvercot, near Oxford.
5. Mary, bap. at St. Lawrence Pountney, 11 Sept. 1586; mar. there 8 Jan. 1602-3, *Sir John Harington* of Elmsthorpe, co. Leic., Knt. Died 3 March 1623, bur. at St. Sepulchre.

II. WILLIAM OFFLEY,¹ bap. at St. Lawrence Pountney, 5 Nov. 1570, of Putney 1623; had under his father's will the latter's interest in the manor of White Waltham, co. Berks. Admon. P.C.C. 12 May 1632 to son William. Mar. Margaret dau. and heir of Randall or Ralph Crewe, widow of Ralph Ashley of co. Lanc. They had issue—

William, of whom presently (III).

Anne,² aged 19, 1623; mar. 12 April 1659, Nevill Lorrimer.

A dau. mar. Hide, living 1 Dec. 1628.³

III. WILLIAM OFFLEY, of Putney, aged 16, 1623,⁴ mar. Susannah, dau. and coh. of Wardall of They had issue—

IV. WILLIAM OFFLEY, of Middleton Stoney, co. Oxon., and lord of the manor of Woodley, in par. of Sunning, co. Berks; D.C.L. and Fellow of Univ. Coll., Oxford; died 15 April 1702, æt. 70; buried at Middleton Stoney, M.I. there. Mar. Anne dau. of John Harison of Hurst, co. Berks; died 18 March 1716-17, aged 79. They had issue—

¹ His father leaves him nothing because he has been a very "unthrifitie and wastefull childe," and has been already advanced as by his acquittances and bills may appear. He afterwards, in 1625, contributed £30 to the loan to King Charles I. See the list of contributors to this loan communicated to *Surrey Arch. Society Publications* by Mr. A. Ridley Bax, F.S.A.

² In the Visit. of Berks, Genealogist (First Series), vi, p. 68, she is called wife of Nevill Lorraine of London, Citizen and Merchant. "Mr. Nevill Lorrimer of the parish of St. Clement's, and Mrs. Anne Offley of Battersy, in the county of Surrey," were mar. at St. Mary's, Woolchurch Hawe, 12 April 1659.

³ See will of her grandmother, Lady Bromley.

⁴ Visitation of Surrey, 1623.

William, of whom presently (V).

Thomas Offley, died 5 Sept. 1723.

John Offley.

Anna.

Anne.

Mary.

V. WILLIAM OFFLEY, Clerk in Holy Orders, æt. 5, 25 Mar. 1665;¹ Rector of Middleton Stoney; died 25 April 1724, æt. 64. He mar. Susanna, dau. of Henry Keene, of Stirtlo, co. Hunts. They had issue—

1. William, of whom presently (VI).
 2. John Offley.
 3. Thomas Offley, died 20 Nov. 1707, aged 7.
1. Susanna.
 2. Anne.

VI. WILLIAM OFFLEY, of Norwich, M.D., died 25 Feb. 1767, æt. 76; will dat. 1 Nov. 1757, pr. P.C.C. 16 Mar. 1767 (107 Legard); mar. (mar. set. dated 4 Nov. 1724) Mary, dau. of Benjamin Nuthall, of Norwich. They had issue—

1. John Offley, living 18 April 1777.
2. William Offley, of whom presently (VII).
3. Mary, mar. 24 April 1777 Rev. Dr. Hamond, Prebendary of Norwich.

VII. WILLIAM OFFLEY, of Harpur Street and Great Ormond Street, London, and Offley, Herts, died 15 July 1789, aged 55; M.I. at Offley²; will dat. 18 April 1777; pr. 25 Aug. 1789, P.C.C. (425 Macham); mar. Elizabeth, dau. of . . .; she died 12 March 1803, aged 63; M.I. at Offley; will dat. 19 Aug. 1800, pr. P.C.C. 30 March 1803 (246 Marriott).³ They had issue—

¹ Visitation of Berks, 1665.

² Arms on his monument. Quarterly of 4; i. and iv., Arg. a cross fleurie Az. between four Cornish choughs Sable; ii. and iii., Az., a lion rampant Arg.; impaling—Gules, on a chevron Or, between three mullets Arg., six Pallets, Az. This William Offley was a member of the firm of Etty, Offley, Campion & Co. of Oporto, port wine merchants, to which firm several of his descendants also belonged.

³ She makes trustees, John and Christiana FitzGerald of Lisbon, her brother and sister.

1. Charles Offley, dead 1845, mar. first 13 Dec. 1797, as "Charles Offley, Esq., of Great Ormond Street," Anne, dau. of Joseph Waring, Esq., of Lambeth; and secondly Arabella Theresa,¹ living 1845.
2. Henry Offley.
3. John Offley, of Montague Street, Bloomsbury, died 2 Jan. 1812, aged 39; M.I. at Offley; will dat. 27 Sept. 1803, pr. 21 Jan. 1812, P.C.C. (12 Oxford); mar. 27 Apr. 1803, Julia Maria, dau. of Joseph Glover, Esq., of Worcester. She died 14 Dec. 1852 at Weymouth. They had issue—
 - (1). John Offley, living 1845.
 - (2). Julia Mary, mar., at Weymouth, 18 Sept. 1827, Rev. Henry Cheales, of Sleaford, co. Lincoln.
4. William Offley, of whom presently (VIII).
1. Jane, mar. at St. George the Martyr, London, 29 July 1790, Lynch Salusbury,² Clerk in Holy Orders, M.A., Vicar of Offley; died 19 May 1815.
2. Elizabeth, mar. at Hitchin, 18 Dec. 1793, Thelwall Salusbury,² Clerk in Holy Orders, LL.B., Rector of Graveley, co. Herts. She died 15 April 1711, aged 41; M.I. at Offley.

VIII. WILLIAM OFFLEY, of Bennington, co. Herts, and afterwards of Hastings and Tonbridge Wells; died 9 Aug. 1847, aged 71; will dat. 23 Sept. 1845, pr. 29 Oct. 1847 in London; he mar. Mary, dau. of . . . They had issue—

1. William Offley, matric. at University Coll., Oxford, 30 Apr. 1828, aged 18, B.A. 1832; died 2 March 1852, aged 42.
2. Charles Offley, matric. at University Coll., Oxford, 21 Nov. 1839, B.A. 1843; died 1 March 1857 at Tonbridge Wells, aged 32.

¹ She is mentioned in the will of her brother-in-law, William Offley, as "widow of my brother Charles."

² Lynch and Thelwall Salusbury were sons of Robert Salusbury, of Cotton Hall, co. Denbigh, by Gwenn, dau. and heir of Ellis Davies, of Nantyrerwhaid.

J.

I. *HUGH OFFLEY*, *Free of the Company of Leathersellers*, and Alderman of London, Sheriff 1588; of *Lyme Street*; born at *Chester*, died in *London* 25 Nov., and bur. in St. Andrew's Undershaft 17 Dec. 1594. Will dat. 14 May, pr. P.C.C. 29 Nov. 1594 (82 Dixy). I.P.M. taken at the Guildhall 7 Aug. 1595. He mar. first, Anne, dau. of Robert Harding, Citizen and Alderman of London.¹ She died 14 Nov. 1588, and was bur., 25 Nov., in St. Andrew's Undershaft. He mar. secondly, Dorothy, only dau. and heir of Roger Greswold of London, Merchant Taylor (son of Richard Greswold of Solihull, co. Warw.), and widow of John Weld of London, Citizen and Haberdasher. She died 29 June 1610, aged 60. Will dat. 7 March 1609-10, pr. 6 July 1610 (P.C.C. 70 Wingfield).

By his first wife, Anne Harding, Hugh Offley had issue—

1. Robert Offley, bap. at St. Lawrence Pountney, 29 June 1563, bur. there 25 June 1565.
2. Thomas Offley, of whom presently (II).
3. Robert Offley, of St. Margaret's Lothbury and St. Mary's Aldermanbury, Citizen and Leatherseller of London, and also of Putney; died 4 Nov. 1631; I.P.M. taken at the Guildhall, 7 Dec. following. Admon. P.C.C. 29 Nov. 1631. He mar. at St. Christopher-le-Stocks, 20 Oct. 1595, Elizabeth, dau. of Humphrey Street, of Cornhill, merchant.² Her will dated 24 June 1667, pr. 27 Aug. 1668, P.C.C. (104 Hene). They had issue—

- (1). Humphrey Offley, of Possingworth, in the parish of Waldron, co. Sussex, Esquire; born June 1597;³ entered at Merchant Taylors' School Sept. 1607; died intestate,⁴ bur. at Waldron 29 Sept. 1643;⁵ mar. (settlement dated 4 July 1634)⁶ Elizabeth, eldest dau. of Alexander Thomas, of Lamberhurst, co. Kent, gent. They had issue—

¹ An abstract of the will of Alderman Robert Harding has been printed in *The Genealogist*, N.S., vol. xvi, pp. 267, 268, 269.

² She was, at date of her will, of King Street, Southampton Buildings, in the parish of St. Giles'-in-the-Fields.

³ Merchant Taylors' School Register. According to the I.P.M. taken on his father's death, he was aged 33 years and more, 4 Nov. 1631.

⁴ He died heavily involved, having become responsible for the debts of his maternal uncle, Humphrey Street, but the Possingworth estate, being strictly entailed, was not liable to the claims of his creditors.

⁵ The extracts from the Parish Registers of Waldron have been taken from the Burrell MSS. in the British Museum (Add. MS. 5,697).

⁶ This settlement is recited in an Indenture enrolled on the Close Rolls, 24 Charles I, pt. 3, No. 21.

i. Thomas Offley, of Possingworth, co. Sussex,¹ and Lamberhurst, co. Kent, Esquire; bap. at Waldron 11 Sept. 1636; bur. there 14 June 1673; will dat. 20 Feb. 1668-9, pr. P.C.C. 4 July 1673; mar. at St. Bartholomew the Great, London, 16 Feb. 1659-60, Elizabeth, sole dau. and heir of Richard Bathurst, of Finchcocks, near Goudhurst, co. Kent, and widow of Richard Thomas, Bencher of the Middle Temple, She was bur. at Waldron 30 May 1716; her will dat. 13 Oct. 1713, pr. P.C.C. 6 June 1716. They had issue—

(i). Thomas Offley, of Possingworth, Esq., 23 April 1684;² living at date of his mother's will; mar. . . . and had issue—

a. Thomas Offley, called "my unfortunate nephew" in will of his uncle Rev. Francis Offley; was living 1730.

b. Joseph Offley, living 1713.

a. Elizabeth, mar. after 1713, . . . Newman, and had issue.

(ii) Humphrey Offley, born about 1663; died between 24 March 1670-1 and 25 Jan. 1673-4.³

(iii). John Offley, matric. at Magdalen Hall, Oxford, 1 Dec. 1680, aged 16; not mentioned in his mother's will, and so probably died before 13 Oct. 1713.

(iv). Rev. Francis Offley, matric. at Magdalen Hall, Oxford, 18 Nov. 1681, aged 16; M.A. and Fellow of All Soul's College,

¹ He built, or rebuilt, Possingworth House, which bore the date 1657, and the initials T.O. (Lower's "Sussex").

² Close Rolls, 36 Charles II, pt. 22, No. 54.

³ Land at Mildenhall, Suffolk, was left to him under the will of his great uncle, David Offley, 24 March 1670-1, but he was not a party to a friendly suit, 25 Jan. 1673-4, *Offley v. Offley*, Chanc. Pro. before 1714, Hamilton 254, No. 23.

Oxford; Rector of Welwyn, co. Herts; died June 1730, aged 65; M.I. at Welwyn; will dat. 6 April 1728, pr. P.C.C. 14 Sept. 1731.

- (v). David Offley, born before 20 Feb. 1668-9, living 25 Jan. 1673-4; not mentioned in his mother's will, and so probably died before 13 Oct. 1713.
- (vi). Hugh Offley, of Possingworth, co. Sussex, Esquire; born 1672; died 29 Jan. 1746-7, bur. at Waldron 5 Feb. following; will¹ dated 19 May 1746, pr. P.C.C. 11 March 1746-7; mar. (alleg. 11 June 1705) Catherine, youngest dau. of Thomas Lade of Warbleton, co. Sussex, gent.; she died in her 70th year 1 May 1735, bur. at Waldron 7 May following.
- (i). Elizabeth, mar. (alleg., Vic. Gen. 8 July 1692, to be mar. at Bidborough, co. Kent, or . . ., she being then aged about 21) Stephen Fuller, of Chiddingley and Mayfield, co. Sussex (fourth son of Captain John Fuller, of Waldron); he was bap. at Waldron 4 March 1657-8, and bur. there 11 June 1718; she was bur. there 16 Dec. 1729.
- (ii). Martha, born posthumous; bur. at Waldron 6 April 1696.
- ii. Robert Offley, bap. at Waldron 19 Nov. 1637; bur. there 22 May 1702.
- i. Elizabeth, bap. at Waldron 23 July 1635; mar. first, at St. Olave's, Hart Street, London, June 1655, Amos Fearne, of that parish; secondly, before 20 Feb. 1668-9, Andrew Middleton.
- ii. Mary, mar. . . . Hammond.

¹ By this will he left the greater part of his estate to his niece Elizabeth (dau. of his sister Elizabeth Fuller), wife of John Apsley, Esq., with remainder to their daughter, Cordelia Apsley, and her issue; in default to William Newman, son of his niece, Elizabeth Newman.

- (2) Robert Offley, of Paternoster Row, Mercer, Citizen and Clothworker of London; had lands at Lee and Lewisham, co. Kent; born 30 Sept. 1599, and entered at Merchant Taylors' School Jan. 1609-10;¹ bur. at St. Augustine's 9 Oct. 1661; will dat. 30 Sept. 1661, pr. P.C.C. 29 Nov. 1661 (188 May); mar.² Martha, dau. of Alexander Thomas, of Lamberhurst, co. Kent, gent.; bur. 18 Feb. 1672-3 at St. Augustine's; will, as of Lewisham, co. Kent, widow, dat. 12 Dec. 1670, pr. P.C.C. 16 Dec. 1673 (163 Pye). They had issue—

- i. Robert Offley, of St. Paul's, Covent Garden, Citizen and Clothworker of London in 1669, but at his death of Farnham, co. Surrey, gent. Born in or about 1647. Will dated 3 Sept. 1728, pr. P.C.C. 29 July 1729; desired to be buried in the east porch of Farnham Church. He mar. (alleg., Vic. Gen. 10 Feb. 1668-9, to be mar. at East Ham, Barking, or Bow, co. Essex) Elizabeth Watts, spinster, of St. Margaret's, Westminster (aged about 17, 1668-9, and her parents dead), by whom he had issue.³

¹ Merchant Taylors' School Register.

² See Chanc. Pro. before 1714, Reynardson 239, No. 13, *Austen v. Offley*, where it is stated that the said Robert Offley "also did intermarrie with one other of the daughters of the said Alexander Thomas." Martha Offley in her will mentions her "brother and sister Andesley." The will of Richard Andsley, of St. Lawrence Jewry, London, citizen and grocer, dated 18 March 1670-1, admon. with will, P.C.C., 3 April 1671 (44 Duke), leaves 20s. for a ring to "sister, cousins and friends hereinafter named (viz^t), Martha Offley, Elizabeth Copley, Mary Offley, Rachell Offley, Robert Offley of London and his wife, Ralph Harwood and his wife, Robert Offley, grocer, Andrew Middleton and his wife, William Bradford and his wife, Samuel Hoyle and Hannah his wife, and the daughter of my said Cousen Elizabeth Copley." Richard Andsley also mentions his wife Mary, his wife's son, Thomas Ferne, and her daughter, Mary Ferne (both under 21); his brothers, Joshua and Robert Andsley; his cousins, Richard and Robert Andsley, and "my brother John Beck, and my sister Silence his wife."

³ Mary, dau. of Robert and Elizabeth Offley, was bap. at St. Lawrence Pountney 25 Aug. 1670. Robert Offley in his will names no sons, but mentions grandchildren named Newman and Warman; his sister, Elizabeth Copley, in her will left a legacy to her "cousin" Martha Warman. A Robert Offley of Southwood, Hants, who is probably identical with this Robert, was a legatee under the will of Joseph Offley, Benchet of the Middle Temple, 1719. Admon. of the goods of Elizabeth Offley, of Yateley, co. Hants, but dying in the parish of St. Saviour's, Southwark, was granted P.C.C. 23 July 1680 to her husband Robert Offley. A Robert Offley, who in April 1691 was of Westwood *alias* Cove, co. Hants, was living at Yateley 14 Sept. 1706. This Robert had a son Robert who died 1698 or 1699, an infant and intestate. (Chanc. Pro. before 1714, *Olley v. Offley*, Hamilton, 252, No. 35).

He perhaps mar. secondly,¹ before 24 Oct. 1684, Alice, widow of Owen Haning, of Mitcham, co. Surrey, gent.

- i. Elizabeth, mar. 1 Nov. 1664, at St. Anne's, Blackfriars, Thomas Copley, whom she survived. Her will, as of Stepney, co. Middx., widow, dated 28 Sept. 1713, pr. P.C.C. 13 Feb. 1716-17.
- ii. Martha, born about 1650; mar. (mar. alleg., Faculty, 7 Sept. 1670, to be mar. at Lewisham, co. Kent) Ralph Harwood, of St. Antholin's, London, merchant, by whom she had issue, and whose will, dat. 1 June 1684, was pr. 8 July following, P.C.C. (90 Hare); he was bur. at St. Antholin's, 19 June 1684. She was bur. there 11 Aug. 1697; will dat. 1 June 1697, pr. Comm. Court of London 16 Sept. following.
- iii. Mary, born 1654; mar. (mar. alleg., Vic. Gen. 14 Mar. 1675-6, to be mar. at Framfield, co. Sussex) Alexander Thomas,² of Lamberhurst (son of Richard Thomas, Bencher of the Middle Temple, by Elizabeth Bathurst, his wife, who mar. secondly Thomas Offley of Possingworth). She died 10 Dec. 1739, aged 85, and was bur. at Lamberhurst. Her will, as of East Malling, co. Kent, widow, dat. 4 July 1732, pr. P.C.C. 5 May 1740.
- iv. Rachel, mar., after 18 March 1670-1, Robert Lord.³

¹ Chanc. Pro. before 1714, Collins 547, No. 35. *Offley v. Hudgeboute and Tunstall*. The proceedings are signed by Joseph Offley, as counsel for Robert Offley and Alice his wife.

² They had issue four sons—Richard, Alexander, William and George (all of whom, except the last-named, were living 1732), and two daughters Elizabeth, wife, first, of William Disher, and secondly, of Sir William Hardres, Bart., M.P.; and Mary, wife of Philip Bartholomew, of Oxenheath, Esq.

³ Her will dat. 7 July 1725, pr. P.C.C. 22 Oct. 1725 (214 Romney), as of St. Martin's in the Fields, relict and exor. of Robert Lord, Gent. They had issue two daughters—Mary, mar. William Leigh, Esquire, and Elizabeth, mar. Col. Thomas Wentworth. By her will she made her nephew Ralph Harwood, of London, merchant, trustee for these daughters. She mentions her two messuages in "Villars Street," in one of which she herself resided.

- (3). David Offley, of New Southampton Buildings, in the par. of St. Giles in the Fields; will dat. 24 Mar. 1670-1, pr. P.C.C. 7 April 1671, (49 Duke); mar. Elizabeth, dau. of . . .; admon. 1 Dec. 1682, to George Smith, M.D. father of Offley Smith, grandson on the daughter's side, and next of kin of the said Elizabeth Offley, late of Brentford, co. Middx., widow. They had issue—

Mary, mar.¹ (mar. alleg., Faculty, 26 April 1670, to be mar. at Lincoln's Inn chapel, or St. Andrew, Holborn, then aged 22) George Smith, of St. Giles in the Fields, Doctor of Physic, and had issue a son, Offley Smith.

- (1). Leah, mar. first, after Nov. 1636, . . . Herbert, and secondly, before 30 Sept. 1661, Robert Spring.²

- (2). 'Elizabeth, mar. . . . Warren.

4. William Offley of London [fourth son of Hugh Offley (I) by his first wife], bap. 12 Dec. 1568, at St. Lawrence Pountney, mar. . . . dau. of . . . Harrison of Lewisham, co. Kent, and had issue.³
5. Symon Offley, bap. at St. Andrew's Undershaft, 21 Feb. 1573-4; died young.
6. Hugh Offley, bap. at St. Andrew's Undershaft, 24 Aug. 1578, bur. there 28 Dec. 1582.
1. Elizabeth, bap. 8 Dec. 1566, at St. Lawrence Pountney; mar. first, at St. Andrew's Undershaft, 12 Dec. 1585 (as his third wife), Sir James Deane of London, Knt., who died 1608; secondly, John Brewster of the Middle Temple.

¹ She was licenced (Vicar Gen.) 8 Oct. 1668, to marry Arthur Warde, of Hinton, co. Salop, gent., but the intended marriage was never celebrated.

² They had issue Robert, Elizabeth and Mary Spring. By her first husband Leah Offley had two daughters Leah and Elizabeth Herbert. The will of Martha Harwood, in 1697, mentions her cousin, Leah Ashbourne, widow.

³ His daughter Dorothy was a legatee under the will of his step-mother, Dorothy Offley, in 1609-10. His father, Hugh Offley, recites in his will—"my son William Offley has been fully advanced by me and has behaved disobediently to me"; he therefore leaves him only a 'third part of the portion which he might have claimed, but makes provision for his children, without however naming them. It appears from the will of his uncle, Robert Offley, that this William was a prisoner in the King's Bench in 1596. A William Offley, gent., was buried at St. Giles' Cripplegate, 19 Apr. 1630.

2. Margaret, bap. at St. Andrew's Undershaft, 3, and bur. there 4 May 1585.

By his second wife, Dorothy Greswold, Hugh Offley (I) had issue—

3. Susannah, bap. at St. Andrew's Undershaft 28 June 1590; mar. there 29 July 1610 Philip Giffard, of London, son of Edmond Giffard, of Milton Damerell, co. Devon,¹ by whom she had issue. She was bur. at St. Andrew's Undershaft 19 Dec. 1616.

II. THOMAS OFFLEY, of London and Elbing, Agent or Deputy of the English Merchants in Prussia; bap. at St. Lawrence Pountney, 10 Dec. 1564; died in London 23 Aug. 1630;² mar. soon after 20 Dec. 1592, Anne, dau. of Henry Clitherow of London, sister to Sir Christopher Clitherow, Lord Mayor of London 1635-6. Her admon. P.C.C. 14 Sept. 1638. They had issue—

1. Hugh Offley, bap. at St. Andrew's Undershaft 10 Nov. 1594; bur. there 12 Feb. 1594-5.
2. A son, dead in 1654, and probably died an infant.
3. Christopher Offley, eldest son at Visitation of London, 1633-4, and then aged 30; living 1644,³ but dead in 1654.⁴

¹ See Vivian's "Visitations of Devon."

² See the Inquisition taken after his death, at the Guildhall 11 Feb. 6 Charles I. (1630-1), which states that Thomas Offley, Esquire, died in London, 23 Aug. last past; that Anne, his widow, is now living in St. Mary Axe, London, and that Christopher Offley, Esquire, is his son and next heir and aged 26 years and more at death of his said father. Another Inquisition was taken 8 April 12 Charles I, also at the Guildhall, before Christopher Clitherow, Lord Mayor. Admon. of the goods of a Thomas Offley, of Leyton, co. Essex, who died intestate, was granted by the Commissary Court of London, 25 Jan. 1630-31, to Anne Offley.

³ By an Indenture dated 12 March 1643-4, enrolled on the Close Rolls (19 Charles I, pt. 3, No. 4), Christopher Offley, of London, Esq., s. and h. of Thomas Offley, dec^d, granted to his brother Francis Offley, of the parish of St. Mary Magdalen, Bermondsey, in Southwark, gent., all such messuages, lands, etc., within the City of London, as were found by Inquisition after the deaths of Hugh Offley, his grandfather, and Thomas Offley, his father, to be his, and left unto him by the said Thomas Offley, who was eldest son of the said Hugh Offley; and also all lands, etc., given unto his said father Thomas Offley "by Gustolfe Adolph King of the Swethes Goths and Vandalls . . . as by one deed done and written in the leaguer before Duscaw the sixteenth day of August 1626 more att large also appeareth." The place written "Duscaw" is probably Dirschau, in Prussia, which is not far from Elbing.

⁴ His brother Francis was only surviving son of Thomas at the date of the confirmation of arms granted to him by Ryley, Norroy, in 1654.

4. Thomas Offley, died beyond seas, a bachelor. Admon. P.C.C. to his mother Anne, 12 Dec. 1627.
5. Justinian Offley, died in the East Indies, a bachelor. Admon. P.C.C. to his brother Christopher 16 May 1629.
6. Francis Offley, of Bermondsey, co. Surrey, Esquire; born 1611 at Elbing, in Prussia. Naturalised 9 July 7 Car. I.¹ Had a confirmation of his arms from Ryley, Norroy, 1654. He mar. Sara, dau. of Joachim Matthews.² They had issue—
 - (1). Francis Offley, matric. at University Coll., Oxford, 10 Nov. 1651; student of Lincoln's Inn, 1652.
 - (2). Thomas Offley, matric. at University Coll., Oxford, 15 June 1657; student of the Middle Temple, 1658.
 - (3). Matthew Offley, living 19 March 1669-70, when he was a legatee under the will of his cousin Mark Anthony Matthews.
1. Catherine, mar. first . . . Brewster, by whom she had issue; she mar. secondly Rev. Philip Edlin of co. Middx., and of Alverstoke, Hants. She and her second husband were both living 20 Oct. 1635.³
2. Anne, born abroad; naturalised 9 July 7 Car. I, 1631.⁴
3. Bridget, born abroad, and naturalised at same time as her brother Francis and her sister Anne; ? mar. (licence, Bp. of London, 21 Oct. 1639), Edward Draxe of St. John Zachary, Citizen and Joyner of London.

¹ Patent Roll, 7 Charles I, pt. 10, No. 18.

² See pedigree of Matthews, Visit. of London, 1633-4, where in the pedigree as printed by the Harleian Society, Francis is called "grand-child," instead of great nephew, of Sir Thomas Offley. Sara Matthews was aunt of Philip Matthews who was created a Baronet.

³ Chanc. Pro., Charles I, Bundle O, 7, No. 62.

⁴ Thomas Offley had a dau. Anne, bap. at St. Andrew's Undershaft, 29 Aug. 1598. This may have been an elder dau. of the same Christian name, or this Anne may, though born abroad, have been brought home to be baptized.

K.

KATHERINE OFFLEY, *mar.* before 1 Feb. 1551-2 Robert, or William Bowyer.¹ She was living 1596. They had issue—

Hugh Bowyer, living 1600.

William Bowyer, living 1600.

Grissell, *mar.* Nicholas Chapman, Haberdasher, and had issue—

L.

. . . ² *mar.* before 1 Feb. 1551-2 Gyles Jacob, Citizen and Merchant Taylor of London, whose will dated 18 Feb., was pr. P.C.C. 16 March 1580-1, and had issue—

1. Robert Jacob, M.A. and Fellow of Trin. Coll., Camb.; entered at Merchant Taylors' School 21 Jan. 1563-4; Physician to Queen Elizabeth, and in 1581 to the Czar Ivan; Fellow of the College of Physicians 15 March 1586; died unmar. 1588; will dated 16 March 1585-6, pr. P.C.C. 5 June 1588 (42 Rutland). See Dictionary of National Biography.
 2. Gisbright Jacob, of Clare Hall, Cambridge; died s.p. 1598; will dated 17 June 1597, pr. P.C.C. 7 April 1598.³
 3. Giles Jacob, of London, leatherseller, born in the parish of St. Mary Cole Church; died s.p. Will, not dated, with codicil dated 7 Feb. 1592-3, pr. P.C.C. 30 Jan. 1593-4.
1. Jane, *mar.* first . . . Whitefoote, secondly . . . Peers.
 2. Anne, unmar. 1585-6; *mar.* before 17 June 1597, Humfrey Hooper.

¹ He is called Robert Bowyer in the wills of Sir Thomas Offley and Robert Offley, but William in that of Margaret Kirton.

² She is, by mistake, called "Anne" on p. 23. Anne was the name of Giles Jacob's second wife, who survived him, and by whom he had a dau. Elizabeth, wife of . . . Parrys.

³ The testator left by this will £400 to the Master, Fellows and Scholars of Clare Hall, Cambridge, if so much should be received upon a suit then in Chancery between himself and his cousin Thomas Offley.

ADDENDA.

REGISTERS OF ST. ANDREW UNDERSHAFT, LONDON.¹

BAPTISMS.

21 June	1558.	Margett Whethyll, ² dau. of Rychard Whethyll.
18 Oct.	1559.	Stephen Whethell, son of Rychard Whethell.
29 Dec.	1560.	Margeret Dutton, ³ dau. of M ^r Dutton Esquier.
8 Feb.	1569-70.	Thomas Offley, ⁴ sonne of Henry Offley gentleman.
21 Feb.	1573-4.	Symond Offley sonne of Mister Hugh Offley.
24 Aug.	1578.	Hugh Offlie the sonne of M ^r Hugh Offlie.
2 Apr.	1580.	Margarett Offlie ⁵ the daughter of M ^r Henry Offlie gentleman.
25 June	1584.	Henry Offlie ⁶ the sonne of M ^r Offlie.
3 May	1585.	Margarett Offlie the daughter of M ^r Hugh Offlie.
3 May	1586.	John Offlie ⁷ the sonne of M ^r Henry Offlie.
28 June	1590.	Suzan Offlie ⁸ the daughter of M ^r Hugh Offlie, ald ^r man.
10 Nov.	1594.	Hugh Offlie the sonne of M ^r Thō Offlie.
29 Aug.	1598.	An Offlie the daughter of M ^r Thomas Offlie.
13 May	1606.	Elizabeth Offlie ⁹ daught. of M ^r John Offlie.
9 May	1611.	Harry Gyfford son of M ^r Philip Gyfford.

MARRIAGES.

12 Dec. 1585. M^r Jeames Deane & M^{ris} Elizabeth Offlie.

¹ Since the earlier part of the Offley pedigree was compiled, access to these registers has been permitted by the Bishop of Islington, Rector of St. Andrew's, with the result that additional information has been obtained, especially as to the direct line of Sir Thomas Offley. It has, therefore, been deemed advisable to print these extracts in full. Every entry relating to the family of Offley has been taken from the commencement of the registers to 1634.

² Afterwards Lady Mildmay. See Offley Manuscript, p. 6, and Offley Pedigree, p. 29.

³ Probably dau. of Thomas Dutton, of Sherborne, co. Glouc., by Anne Kirton, his wife. See pp. 6, 29.

⁴ See his burial 24 Feb. 1611-12. He was, therefore, not aged sixteen at his death as stated in the Offley Manuscript, p. 5, but was forty-two years old. He may have been the Thomas Offley of St. Leonard's, Eastcheap, Merchant Taylor, who married there 29 Oct. 1604 Margaret Pratt, of St. Mary Magdalen's, Bermondsey, spinster; but as his brother Sir John Offley was found by the Inq. P.M. to their father to be the latter's heir, this Thomas must have died s.p.

⁵ See her burial 15 Sept. following. There seems to be no mention in the St. Andrew's Registers of the daughter of Henry Offley named Mary, who is said in the Offley Manuscript (p. 5) to have died aged eight years, and to have been interred in the chancel, near her grandmother Dame Joane Offley.

⁶ Buried 9 July following. See Manuscript, p. 5.

⁷ Afterwards Sir John Offley.

⁸ See her marriage 29 July 1610, and her burial 19 Dec. 1616.

⁹ Bur. 25 Oct. 1610. Sir John had another dau. Elizabeth, who became Lady Jenney. See Pedigree, p. 24.

23 Apr. 1594. Ric. Dorrington¹ & Em Cradocke.¹
 29 July 1610. Mr Phillip Gyffard & Suzanna Offlie.²

BURIALS.

6 March 1565-6. Mrs Anne Dutton³ the wiffe of Mr Dutton gent.
 21 May 1566. Mr Richard Whethill.
 12 Sept. 1574. Robt Offley the sonne of Thomas Offley.
 20 Jan. 1578-9. My Ladie Jone Offlye.
 15 Sept. 1580. Margaret Offlie the daught: of Mr. Hen: Offlie.
 17 Sept. 1582. Sr Thomas Offlie knyght.
 28 Dec. 1582. Hugh Offly the sonne of Mr Hugh Offly.
 9 July 1584. Hen. Offlie the sonne of Mr Hen: Offlie.
 4 May 1585. Margaret Offlie the daught: of Mr Hugh Offlie.
 4 Apr. 1588. Thomas Offlie the sonne of Tho. Offlie.
 25 Nov. 1588. Mrs Anne Offlie then Shrevis.⁴
 1 Feb. 1588-9. Mr Thomas Offlie.⁵
 17 Dec. 1594. Mr Hugh Offlie late Aldrman.
 12 Feb. 1594-5. Hugh Offlie the sonne of Mr Tho: Offlie.
 12 July 1598. Mrs Margaret Dutton.
 5 Feb. 1607-8. Mrs Mary Offlie wiffe of Mr Hen: Offlie Esq.
 3 March 1607-8. Mr Henry Cletherow Merchant.⁶
 25 Oct. 1610. Elizabeth Offlie daught. of Mr John Offlie.
 24 Feb. 1611-2. Mr Thomas Offlie sonne of Mr Henry Offlie Esquier.
 13 May 1612. Mrs Katherin Offlie widdow Late the wiffe of Mr
 Tho: Offlie the eldr deceased.
 4 Sept. 1613. Mr Henry Offlie Esquire.
 19 Dec. 1616. Mrs Suzanna Jefford wiffe of Mr Phillip Jefford.
 22 July 1623. Elizabeth Butterson wife of Mr Robert Butterson.⁷

REGISTERS OF SONNING, CO. BERKS.⁸

22 March 1659-60. William, s. of Dr Wm Offley, baptized.
 21 May 1661. Anna, d. of Dr Wm Offley, baptized.
 1 Oct. 1663. Anne, d. of Dr Wm Offley, baptized.
 11 Nov. 1665. Mary, d. of Dr Wm Offley, baptized.
 20 Apr. 1667. John, s. of Dr Wm Offley, baptized.

¹ Both related to the Offley family, in whose service they were; they are frequently mentioned in the Offley wills.

² Only child of Alderman Hugh Offley, by his second wife Dorothy, to whom he was married 25 March 1589 at St. Mildred's Poultry (Milbourn).

³ Dau. of Stephen and Margaret Kirton, see pp. 6, 29.

⁴ Her husband, Hugh Offley, was Sheriff of London in this year.

⁵ See Pedigree, p. 37, and burial of his widow 13 May 1612.

⁶ Father of Anne, wife of Thomas Offley. See Pedigree, p. 51.

⁷ Second wife of Henry Offley. See p. 24, note 1.

⁸ These extracts from the registers of his parish have been most kindly contributed by the Rev. Herbert Wigan, Vicar. They relate to the children of William Offley, of Middleton Stoney, co. Oxon., and of Woodley, in the parish of Sonning. See Pedigree, p. 43.

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS.

TOMB OF SIR THOMAS OFFLEY IN ST. ANDREW'S UNDERSHAFT,
LONDON.

The will¹ of Sir Thomas Offley, dated 5 Aug 1580, contains the following directions as to his burial:—

“And I will that if it shall please god to call me to his mercye in annye place Excepte Madeleye or some other place in Staffordshire, Then my body to be decently broughte forth and buried withe in the parrishe of St. Andrewe undershafte in London wheare I am a parishioner, in the myddle Ile of the Chauncell of the same Church within the Queere uppon the Northe syde of the same middle Ile, overagainste the buriall place there of Mr David Woodroff, Aldermanne deceased, wheare Dame Johan my late wieff lyethe nowe buried, wheare I will some convenient Tombe shalbe made.”

Sir Thomas Offley's tomb has suffered at the hands of well-meaning church “restorers,” and the coats of arms have evidently been displaced and re-coloured by persons innocent of heraldic knowledge. A representation of this monument forms the frontispiece to this volume, but as the inscriptions thereon could not be reproduced in the photograph, they have been printed below. At the top of the monument are three shields of arms. In the centre are the arms and crest of Offley, as borne by Sir Thomas at the date of the Visitation of London, 1568:—Argent, on a cross fleurettée Azure, between four Cornish choughs Sable, beaked Or, membered Gules, a lion passant guardant of the fourth. Crest—A demi-lion rampant per pale Or and Azure, gorged with a collar counter compony of the second and first, lined of the second, holding in both paws an olive branch Vert, fructed Gold.² On the right, over the kneeling

¹ P.C.C., 39 Tirwhite.

² In Add. MS. 14,295 (Brit. Mus.) appears the following:—“This Armes and Creaste beyng over much chardgid at the first was altered in some thinges, and conformed to Hugh Offeley of London, Alderman and to his posterytie by Robert Cooke al's Clarenti' Kinge of Armes under his hand and the seale of his Office bearinge date the fyrste day of September An^o dñi 1588, and in the 30th yeare of the Reygne of Owre moste gracions Soueraygne Ladie Queene Elizabeth.” By the side is a drawing of these arms and crest—Arg. a cross fleurettée Azure between four Cornish choughs (or ousells) Sable, beaked Or, memb. Gu. Crest—On a wreath Arg. and Az. a demi-lion ramp. Or, collared Az., holding between the paws an olive branch Vert, leaved Or. (See also Harl. MSS. 1,359, f. 14, and f. 111; 6,169, f. 9 and Add. MS. 4,966, f. 40.) This coat appears, except that the cross in the arms is flory not fleurettée, and the lion in the crest is not collared, in the Visitation of London 1633-5 (Harl. Soc., vol. xvii, 130), where it is impaled with that of Harding. Sir Thomas Offley's descendants continued to bear the original coat (see Visitations of Staffordshire 1614 and 1663-4, William Salt Society), and presumably the variation of the arms was strictly confined to Hugh Offley and his issue. In the Visitations of Surrey, as printed by the Harl. Society, vol. xliii, however, the altered coat is attributed to the descendants of William Offley, another of Sir Thomas' half-brothers, and it appears on the monument of a descendant of this branch at Offley, co. Herts (see *ante*, p. 43, note 2).

figure of Dame Joane, though perhaps originally over Sir Thomas, is the same coat, impaled with the arms of Nechells or Nicholls, which should be—Azure, on a chevron Argent, between in chief two eagles displayed and in base a lion passant Or, three torteaux, each charged with a leopard's face of the second. This last coat is repeated singly in a lozenge over the figure of Sir Thomas, though it should probably be above that of his wife. In two compartments over their effigies are the dates of their respective deaths, 1582 and 1578. At the base of the monument are three more shields of arms carved in relief. That in the centre is a curious jumble of the arms of the Merchant Taylors' Company of London, and those of the Taylors' Company of Chester (*vide* Papworth, p. 1111), and may be blazoned thus :—Or, a royal tent between two parliament robes Gules, lined erminois, the tent garnished of the last ; on a chief Azure, a holy lamb couchant within (?) rays of the sun Gold. On the right below the figure of Dame Joane is a coat which appears to be as follows :—Azure, three bars wavy Or, a ship under full sail Arg., on her sail St. George's cross, all between three bezants ; a chief of the second, on a pale between two roses Gules, a lion passant guardant Gold. These arms are evidently intended for those of the Russia Merchants' Company (*vide* Papworth, p. 1092). On the left beneath Sir Thomas is the coat of the Merchants of the Staple—Barry nebulée Or and Azure, on a chief Gules, a lion passant guardant of the first (*vide* Papworth, p. 563).

Between the effigies of Sir Thomas and his lady are the figures of their three sons, also kneeling. Just above these is the following inscription :—

BY ME A LYKELIHOODE ; BEHOLDE,
HOW MORTAL MAN ; SHAL TORN TO MOLD.
WHEN ALL HIS POMPE AND GLORI VAYNE
SHAL CHAYNGE TO DUST AND EARTH AGAYNE
SUCH IS HIS GREAT INCERTAINTYE
A FLOWER AND TYPE OF VANITYE.

Below the effigies of the three sons is a longer inscription :—

Intomed in this monument here rests a worthy wight,
president Alderman sometyme Maior S^r Thomas Ofley knight,
in Stafford borne, whose liberalnes y^t towne doth seme to knowe
Such were the benefitts one them y^t there he did bestowe.
A father grave, a consull wise, good counsell for to give,
for eightye twoe yeares, in good fame, he semed here to live
this knight in mariage wth one wyfe, fiftye twoe yeares owt spent,
dame Jone her name intombed here ; three sonns ye lord them sent
of which it pleased god above by death to call for twoe
Henry doth lyve his fathers heyr, god graunt him well to doe.
Of marchaunt taylors he was free, the staplers chefest staye
his dealing iust, for whome the poor continually do pray.

TOMB OF WILLIAM OFFLEY, FORMERLY IN ST. PETER'S CHURCH,
CHESTER.

The will of William Offley of London (fourth son of William Offley, of Chester, by his second wife, and half brother of Sir Thomas),¹ dated 21 Dec. 1600, contains the following clause:—

"Item I will that my Executors within One yeare next after my decease shall cawse to be made and set upp in some conveniente place of the parishe of Sainte Peeter in Chestar aforesaid there still to remayne one faire table of white Allyblaster and black marble which shall cost Thirtie or ffortie poundes of lawfull money of England or there aboute wherein shalbe fairely engraven as well the picture of my ffather and mother withall their children as allso such wordes and sentences wrytten in ffaire letters as shalbe thoughte meete and agreable eyther for memorie or edification to be set downe by the discretion of my Executors uppon the same monumente."

There is no trace now of any such monument in the Church of St. Peter, but in the churchwardens' accounts of that parish occur the following entries²:—

- 1627. Paid for two pound of black for the Offley's tombe & for mending other things about the said tombe, ii^s v^d.
- 1631. 14th ffer 1631 to John Walker for glasse over M^r Offley's tomb, 8^s 0.
- 1638. John Annion & Thomas Malbone for putting up the Offley's monum^t, 1^s.

Ashmole has, however, fortunately preserved a copy of the inscription upon the monument,³ which runs as follows:—

"IN ST. PETER'S CHURCH IN CHESTER.

Under the East windōw of the South Ile, is a faire Alablaster Monument Erected; wth the portraiture of a Man & Woman kneeling, under whome is this Inscriptiō cut:—

HERE lyeth the body of William Offley sometymes Sheriff of this Citty, to whome by two wives, | God gaue for yssue 26 Children, among whom Sr Thomas Offley his eldest son by his first | wife Elizabeth Dillorne, attained to the dignity of Lord Maior of London; his second son John Offley, to | the Maiorltie of this Citty, an^o 1553, to whome also by his second wife, Elizabeth Wright⁴ among other | was borne Hugh Offley, Alder-

¹ P.C.C., 76 Wallop. See Pedigree, p. 39.

² These entries have been communicated by the Rev. F. Tilney Stonex, Rector of St. Peter's, Chester.

³ Ashmole MS. (Bodleian Library, Oxford), 854, p. 279.

⁴ See p. 22, note 5, and p. 27, note 1. The information given above, taken in connection with the will of William Rogerson (P.C.C., 17 Ayloff) seems almost conclusively to show that the Offley Manuscript (pp. 12, 18) is in error here, and that Elizabeth was daughter of William Rogerson, and relict of one Wright. Richard Wright was Sheriff of Chester 1490, and Mayor 1502, 1509; Robert Wright was Sheriff 1515 (Helsby's Ormerod).

man of London, who by his last will, gaue unto the Corporaçon of this Citty 200^{li}, with an yearely rent of 5^{li} to the releife of young Traders, & the poore of the same. And | his eldest son by the same wife Robert Offley of London, by his last will gaue 600^{li} to this | Citty, for the like godly uses & releife of the poore, with an yearely exhibition of 5^l towardē the trayning | of some learned divine, being the son of a freeman of this Citty, in the uniū^sity of Oxford or Cambridge | wth 5^l towardē his Charge commencing M^r of Artē in either of the said Schooles.

On the left hand, behinde the Statue of W^m Offley are the figures of his sons & Daughters by his first wife, & under them this Inscriptiō :—

Quisquis es hoc nostrum spectabis amice sepulchrum
Mortis vive tuæ, semper et ipse memor.
Non te divitiæ, non vis, prudentia, non te
Mortis ab imperio protegat ullus honos.

Hic status instabilis, via devia, mortua vita est
Immundus mundus, his humus omnis homo.
Invigilans igitur plenâ cum lampade, semper
Disce mori mundo vivere disce Deo.

On the right hand under the figures of his other Sons & daughters, is cut this Inscriptiō :—

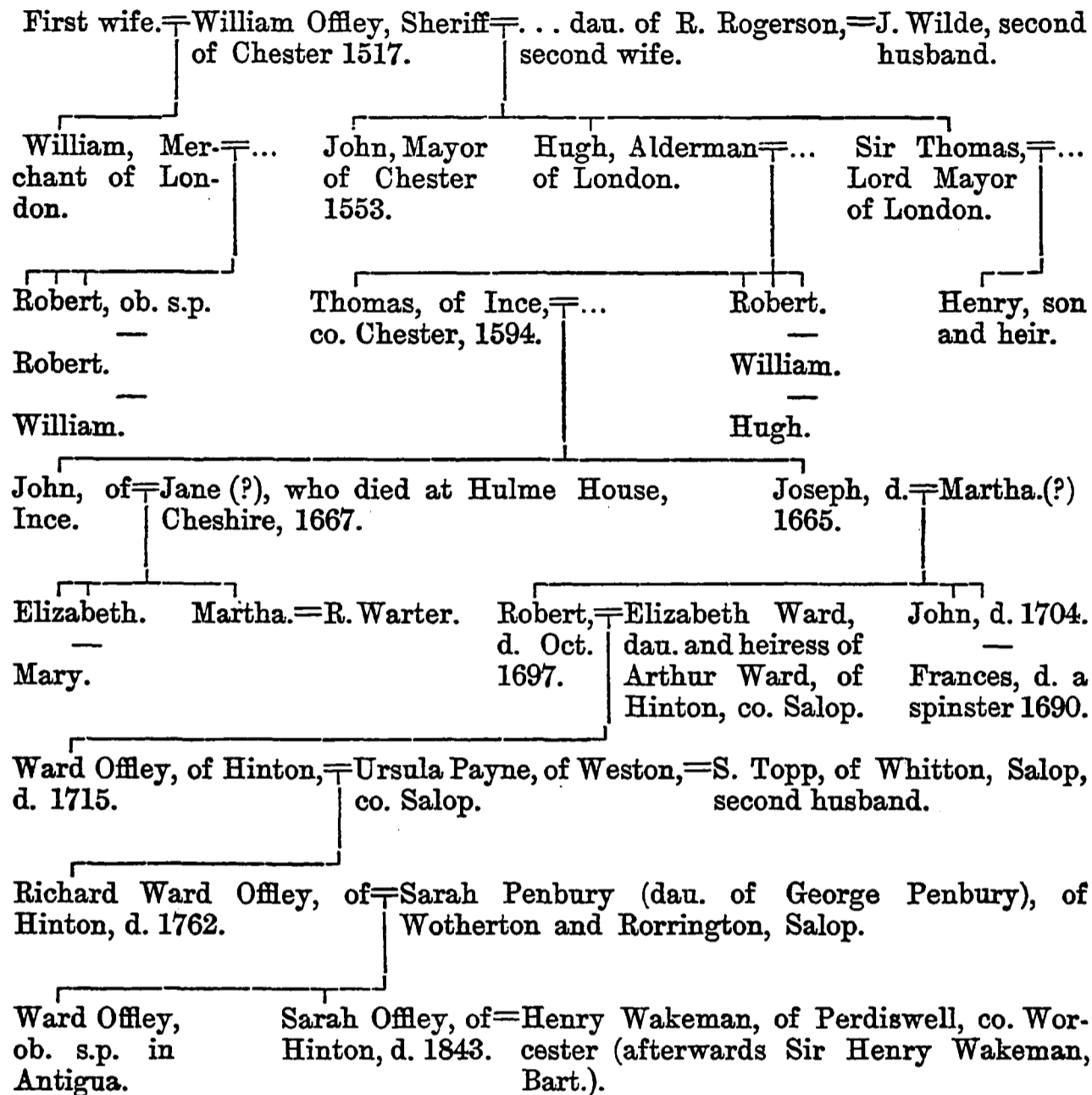
He had also by his second wife William Offley, | a wor^{ll} Cittizen of London, & Marchant | of the Staple; who had by Anne Offley 15 Children; who being blessed with greate wealth, by his last | will, gaue 300^l to this Citty, being the place | of his natiuity, to the benifit of young Traders; | & ordained the ereccon of this Monum^t | according to the discreçon of Anne Offley | his loving wife & Executrix, who faithfully accomplished | the same, in the yeare of o^r Lord 1602."

At the head of the monument when Ashmole's copy was taken there still remained three shields of Arms, one being the coat of the Merchants of the Staple, as depicted on the tomb of Sir Thomas Offley, and another that of the City of Chester. The third shield appears to be a sword in pale, point upwards, between three garbs (no tinctures).

OFFLEY, OF HINTON, CO. SALOP.

The pedigree of this branch of the Offley family is somewhat obscure, and its connection with the main stem is not at present apparent. That such a relationship did exist is probable, for as has been stated above in a footnote on p. 50, Mary, daughter of David Offley, was on the 8th October, 1668, licenced to marry Arthur Ward, of Hinton, co. Salop, a member of a family from

whom, by a subsequent intermarriage, this branch of the Offleys acquired the Hinton estate. For the following pedigree the compilers are indebted to Sir Offley Wakeman, Bart., in whose family it has been for some generations:—



The upper part of this pedigree, though it shows considerable knowledge of the connections of the founder of the Offley family, is manifestly incorrect, as will be seen by a perusal of what has been already printed. Thomas, the eldest surviving son of Alderman Hugh Offley, was a considerable merchant trading between London and Germany, and was in 1594 presumably residing not at Ince in Cheshire, but in London, for on the 10th of Nov. of that year his son, Hugh, was baptized at St. Andrew's Undershaft. Nor could the Joseph who appears in the above pedigree, and is there said to have died 1665, have been his son, for the confirmation of arms granted by Ryley to Francis Offley in 1654¹ proves that the latter was the only son then living of this Thomas Offley.

The parish registers of Ince for the period in question are unfortunately not in existence, but a careful examination of the episcopal transcripts at Chester has yielded this meagre result:—

¹ See p. 51, note 4.

1615. Thomas Offley, buried 14th September.
 1637-8. Joseph Offley, gentleman, and Elizabeth Gillibrand, married
 9th February.
 1662. Mrs Mary Ophley, buried 27th September.

On the 21st Feb. 1676-7, was proved in P.C.C. (22 Hale) the following will, which, notwithstanding the discrepancy in dates, may be that of the Joseph Offley in Sir Offley Wakeman's pedigree.

Memorandum that on or about the 14th & 15th Aug. 1676 Joseph Offley, late of the Day house in the parish of Meole Brace ats Brace Meole in co. Salop gent. made his will nuncupative. To my dau. Frances £350. The rest of my estate to my son Robert Offley, whom I make executor. Witnesses, Rich. Warter, M.A., Vicar of Meole Brace, Mart: Warter.

The above particulars have been printed in the hope that further research may throw light upon this, the chief unsolved problem of the Offley pedigree.¹

¹ It may here be noted that there are still some members of the Offley family whose exact place on the pedigree cannot be as yet ascertained. Among these is a certain "John Offleye servaunt withe David Rogers grocer dwellinge uppon London bridge," to whom Sir Thomas Offley by his will left all the houses and tenements in the City of Chester which he bought of Thomas Langleye and William Langleye, his brother.

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