

THE
ENGLISH ANCESTRY
OF
SIMON AND GREGORY STONE.

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THE ENGLISH ANCESTRY OF SIMON AND GREGORY STONE.

AT a meeting of the members of the Stone Family held at Marshall P. Wilder Hall, No. 18 Somerset Street, Boston, January 26, 1897, for the purpose of forming a Family Association, the following lately discovered information as to the English birthplace and ancestry of Simon and Gregory Stone was presented to the meeting; and it has been thought desirable to have it published in this form in order to bring it to the notice of the very large number of persons who are interested in the subject.

By way of introduction, it will be well to briefly recapitulate what had previously been known about Simon and Gregory Stone.

Simon Stone embarked for New England at London, April 15, 1635, in the ship *Increase*, his age being given as fifty years. He brought with him, his wife Joan, aged thirty-eight years, and his children Frances, sixteen years; Ann, eleven years; Simon, four years; Marie, three years; John, five weeks. He settled at Watertown, Massachusetts. It is known that the maiden name of Simon Stone's wife Joan was Clark. In the REGISTER,* X. 229, was published the "Almanac memoranda" of Rev. Nathan Stone of Southboro' (who was the great-grandson of Simon Stone) in which he states that the wife of Simon Stone was "Joana, daughter of Mr. William Clark," and the "Genealogy by Rev. Samuel Woodward of Weston" (whose mother was a great-granddaughter of Simon Stone) states that "Simon Stone married in England to a ——— Clark and after came to New England." (See REGISTER, L. 300).

Simon Stone, after the death of his wife Joan, married for his second wife about 1654, Sarah, widow of Richard Lumpkin, of Ipswich, Massachusetts. Simon Stone died September 22, 1665, aged, according to the Watertown Records, "abought 80 years."

A copy of his will is published in the REGISTER, III. 182, and the Middlesex Probate Records state that the will was "exhibited on oath as the last will of the said Simon Stone by his brother Gregory Stone and Steeven Day." Here we have positive proof of the relationship between Simon and Gregory.

* REGISTER throughout this article refers to the "New-England Historical and Genealogical Register."

The exact time of Gregory Stone's coming to New England has not been discovered, but it was at about the same time as Simon's. His name is on the list of Townsmen of Watertown, February 28, 1636-7, but he finally settled at Cambridge, Massachusetts. He and Simon appeared together and took the Freeman's oath May 25, 1636. His dwelling in Cambridge was only a little more than a mile distant from that of his brother Simon, whose estate in Watertown was just on the boundary line between Watertown and Cambridge. Rev. Jonathan Mitchell's list of the original members of the Church of Cambridge gives Gregory Stone's family as follows: "Gregory Stone, Deacon of this church, and Lydia, his wife. Children John, Daniel, David, Elizabeth, Samuel and Sarah. Also John Cooper, son of the aforesaid Lydia, and Lydia Fiske her daughter." We know, therefore, that Gregory's wife Lydia had previously been married to ——— Cooper, by whom she had had two children, John and Lydia. Gregory Stone died at Cambridge, November 30, 1672. Savage's Genealogical Dictionary gives his age at death as eighty years, which is correct, as will be shown further on. There are now no original Cambridge Town Records in existence which contain a record of his death, but the Middlesex County Records contain a copy of a return made to the County by the Town Clerk of Cambridge which gives the following record of his death: "Gregory Stone, Deacon of the Church at Cambridge aged 82 years died Novemb. 30th, 1672." The age here given should have been eighty years, as I stated above. The original of this return is not in existence so far as I have been able to discover. The error in Gregory Stone's age may, therefore, have come from a mistake in copying it onto the County Records, or, what is more probable, the Cambridge Town Clerk gave what he thought was Gregory Stone's age without taking the trouble to have it verified by the family. No one who has had much experience in examining our early records can have failed to have been struck by the inaccuracy of very many of the ages of deceased persons when such ages are given on the records. My own opinion is that, in a great number of cases when the Town Clerk put down the age, it was only intended to be approximate. A copy of Deacon Gregory Stone's will is given in the REGISTER, VIII. 69.

The first clues we have as to the English home of Simon and Gregory Stone were discovered by Mr. H. G. Somerby a number of years ago. He found from the Subsidy Rolls that Simon Stone in 1630 was taxed for land in Bosted, Essex Co., England. Now, as already stated, Simon Stone's second wife was the widow of Richard Lumpkin, of Ipswich, Massachusetts, and we know from her will (see REGISTER, VIII. 71) that she came from Bosted, in England. Ipswich, in those days, was remote from Watertown,

and as Richard Lumpkin apparently settled at Ipswich immediately on his arrival in New England, it seems evident that Simon Stone must previously have known his second wife in England and that he is identical with the Simon Stone of Boxted whose name appears on the Subsidy Rolls.

Mr. Somerby also found, on examining the Parish Registers of Nayland, Suffolk Co., England, that Gregory Stone had been a resident of that place before coming to New England. Nayland, Suffolk Co., is on the bank of the river Stour, which forms the boundary between Suffolk and Essex, and is only three miles distant from Boxted in Essex. The following extracts from the Parish Register of Nayland were made by the writer on a visit to that place in 1892 :

1617.	Julie.	The 20 daie wer mar Gregory Stonne and Margaret Garrad.
1618.	July	The last daie was bapt John, sonne of Gregory Stonne
1620	August	The 15 day was bap. Daniel y ^e sonne of Gregory Stone
1622.	Septem:	22 was bapt David y ^e sonne of Gregorie Stone.
1624.	October	3. was bap. Elizabeth, the daughter of Gregory Stone

1626	Aug:	4 was buryed Margrett, the wife of Gregory Stone.
"	"	6 was buryed Elizabeth the daughter of Gregory Stone

1628	March	6 was bap Elizabethe the daug: of Gregorie Stone
1630	February	4 daie was bapt. Samuell sonne of Gregory Stone
1632	Feby.	8 was bapt Sarah daughter of Gregory Stonne.

There can be no doubt that the above Gregory Stone of Nayland, Suffolk Co., England, and Gregory Stone of Cambridge, Massachusetts, are the same. The Nayland Register shows that Gregory Stone was married twice; that his first wife, Margaret Garrad, was the mother of his first three children, John, Daniel and David; and that the mother of the other three, Elizabeth, Samuel and Sarah, was his second wife, whom we know, as already stated, to have been the widow Lydia Cooper. The record of the marriage of Gregory Stone and widow Lydia Cooper has not been discovered, to my knowledge, but there is very little doubt that she was from Dedham, Essex Co., which is distant about eight miles from Nayland. (See REGISTER, XIX. 126).

Simon and Gregory Stone have thus both been located in England not long before they came to this country, Simon at Boxted in Essex and Gregory at Nayland in Suffolk; but previous to that time

the name of Stone does not once appear on the Parish Registers of either Boxted or Nayland. It is evident, therefore, that they were born elsewhere and moved there from some other place. What that other place was is the purpose of this article to show.

In the REGISTER for January, 1896, in Mr. Henry F. Waters's "Gleanings from English Records," appears the will of William Littlebury, of Dedham, Essex Co., England, dated July 20, 1571, in which he mentions "a messuage in Much Bromley now in the occupation of John Stone." Much Bromley, or, as it is now called, Great Bromley, Essex Co., is only about nine or ten miles from Boxted and Nayland, and the fact that there was a Stone family living there in 1571 marked it as a place worth investigating for possible traces of Simon and Gregory. Moreover, on writing to Mr. Waters, I found that he had discovered the wills of a Symond Ston of Much Bromley, dated 1558, and of a Gregri Ston of Much Bromley, dated 1610. Here were extremely promising clues, and Miss Emma M. Walford, the well known genealogist of London, was at once employed to examine the Parish Registers of Much Bromley. The results of her search are given below, and include every entry of the name of Stone from the beginning of the Registers in 1559, to 1660. The Registers of Burials previous to 1725 are unfortunately missing.

BAPTISMS. 1559-1660 inclusive.

1560	22 Dec.	Thomas Stone	son of George Stone	
1562	1 Nov.	John	"	} [father's name not given].
1563	25 Dec.	Martha	"	
1564	16 Jan.	Margaret	"	
1567	28 July	Francis	"	
1568	21 July	David	"	
1568	6 Jan.	John	"	son of Gregory Stone
1569	1 Nov.	Susan	"	dau. of John "
1569	10 Mar.	Margery	"	" " Davie "
1570	23 July	Francis	"	" " Gregorie "
1571	2 Feb.	Elizabeth	"	" " Davie "
1572	7 Sept.	An	"	" " Gregory "
1573	6 Dec.	John	"	son " Davie "
1576	12 May	Francis	"	dau " Davie "
1578	14 Sept.	Frances	"	" " Richard and Joane
1578	28 Sept.	Matthew	"	son " Davie Stone
1579	10 Jan.	Parnel	"	dau " Grigorie & Elizabeth
1580	21 Aug.	Mercie	"	" " Richard & Joane
1580	19 Mar.	Agnis	"	" " Davy Stone
1583	16 Mar.	Agnis Stone	dau. of Richard Stone	
1585	25 Ap.	Mary Stone	dau. of Gregory Stone & Elizabeth his wife	
1585-6	9 Feb.	Simond	"	son of Davie Stone & Ursly his wife

1586	9 Oct.	John	Stone	son of	Henry Stone	
1588	9 April	Mary	"	dau of	Richard Stone the elder	
1588	21 "	Elizabeth	"	" "	Henry	"
1588	2 June	Ursly	"	" "	David Stone & Ursley his wife	
1588	13 Oct.	Bridget	"	" "	Gregorye	"
1591	1 April	Richard	"	son	Henry	"
1590	4 Oct.	Susan	"	dau	Richard	"
1590	11 Oct.	Mary	"	" "	David	"
1591	9 June	John	"	son	Richard	" the younger
1591	10 Oct.	Richard	"	" "	" "	" elder

" sene & peruzed by William Bussard Curat William [M] Harris
Henrie [X] Stone Churchwardens."

1592	19 Ap.	Gregorie	Stone	son of	David Stone	
1592	23 Ap.	Henrie	"	" "	Henrie	"
1592	17 Dec.	Davie	"	" "	Davie	"
1592	13 Mar.	William	"	" "	Richard	"
1594	28 Ap.	William	"	" "	Henrie	"
1594	26 Jan.	Elizabeth	"	dau	David	"
1594	25 Feb.	Mary	"	" "	Richard	"
1596	3 Feb.	John	Stone	son of	David Stone the younger	
1597	5 June	Susan	"	dau.	Henry	"
1597	5 Feb.	Margerie	"	" "	Richard	"
1599	24 Ap.	Marie	"	" "	Henrie & Margerie his wife	
1600	10 Aug.	Richard	"	son	Richard Stone	
1601	11 Oct.	Anne Stoune	dau.	"	Henery	"
1606	6 July	Simon Ston	son	"	Matthew	"
1613	20 Jan.	Francisse	"	dau.	Simon & Joane his wife -	
1621	1 Oct.	Mary	"	" "	" " " " " "	
1635	13 Sept.	John	"	son	John & Mary his wife	
1639	5 June	Susan	"	dau.	Richard & Susan his wife	
1636	16 Oct.	Mary	"	" "	Simon & Ann his wife.	

MARRIAGES. 1559-1660 inclusive.

1560	25 Jan ^r	Thomas Stone and Joane Pakeman	
1566	10 July	Davie	" " Elizabeth Hewit
1571	4 April	Thomas Clarke	" Joune Stone
1577	13 Oct.	William Stone	tooke to wife Alice Unckle
1581	12 Nov.	John Laveren and Mercy Stone	wer married.
1583	30 Sept.	Richard Stone s. of John Stone	was married
			[wife's name not given.]
1585	23 Aug.	Davie Stone	was married [wife's name not given.]
1585	4 Nov.	Henry Stone and Margeri Church	were married.
1587	17 May	John Sparling, widower, & Alyce Stone	were married.
1589	12 June	John Breckton & Rose Stone	wer married
1590	26 Nov.	David Stone the yonger & ffrancis West	wer married.
1592	3 Dec.	Edward Brigs	was married to Marie Stone, widow.

1600	9 Sept.	{ John Upshore & Francis Stone were married in our parish Church.
1601	10 Sept.	
1602	29 Dec.	William Church & Anna Stoun were married.
1606	9 Sept.	Matthew Stone & Mirable Crooke " "
1607	8 Feb.	Thomas Rawlins & Anna Ston " "
1610	14 May	John Hecford & Parnell Stone " "
1616	10 July	William Church & Ursula Stone " "
1616	5 Aug.	William Tawler & Marie " " "
1616	5 Aug.	<i>Symond Stone & Joan Clarke</i> " "
1620	3 Aug.	Richard Cuttinge & Susan Stone " "
1627	31 Jan.	Richard Stone, singleman & Susan Nicholl, single- woman
1631	24 Jan.	Richard Stone, widower & Hellena Gudday, single- woman
1635	23 July	Simonde " and Anne <i>Leeche</i> [this name was very badly written.]
1654	28 Oct.	Joseph Paydefoot, singleman & Susan Stone, single- woman

Here we have without question, the record of the baptism of Simon Stone of Watertown, Massachusetts, and of Gregory Stone of Cambridge, Massachusetts. We know that Simon Stone of Watertown was aged "abought 80 years" in September, 1665; and we have here the baptism of Simon Stone, February 9, 1585-6. We know that his wife's maiden name was Joan Clarke; and we have here the marriage of Simon Stone and Joan Clarke, August 5, 1616. We know that his daughter Frances was sixteen years old in April, 1635; and we have here the baptism of Francisce Stone, daughter of Simon and Joan his wife, January 20, 1618-9.

As to Gregory, his baptism, April 19, 1592, agrees with his age as given by Savage, who says he was eighty years old when he died in 1672; besides, if the identification of Simon is complete, as it most certainly is, it follows that that of Gregory is complete also, since we know that Simon and Gregory were brothers.

It will be noticed that Simon and his family disappear from the Registers after the birth of his daughter Mary, October 1, 1621. He must have removed to Boxted between that date and the birth of his daughter Ann, who was born about 1624 since she was eleven years old in 1635. The daughter Mary, who was baptized in 1621, evidently died young, as he brought to New England another daughter Mary, or Marie, who was three years old in 1635.

Gregory also is missing from the Registers after his baptism, and it is to be presumed that he went from Much Bromley to Nayland some time before his marriage at the latter place in 1617.

I now give the following wills of the Stones of Much Bromley, which apparently carry the line back four generations beyond Simon and Gregory.

The first will, that of Symond Stone of Much Bromley, is in the possession of the British Museum, and was first called to my notice by Mr. Elliot Stone of Riverdale, New York City, who has devoted an immense amount of time and labor to investigating the history of the Stone family, and who contributed an article on the Ancestry of William Stone, Governor of Maryland, to the REGISTER, XLIX. 314. He found an abstract of the will in the recently published "Catalogue of the Stowe Collection of Manuscripts in the British Museum, Vol. 1."

Last summer, Mr. Charles Francis Stone, of New York City, was in England and obtained a few photographs of the original will, and from one of these I have transcribed the following copy :

In the name of god amen The XII day of may the yere of ower lord God a M CCCC VI I Symond Stone of Moche Brymley of the diocese of london beyng in hole mynde make my testamet and last wyll in the forme following First I bequeth my soule to god all mygthy to ower lady Sent mary and to alle saynts and my body to be beride in the chirche of Moche Brymley foresaide Itm I bequeyeth to the hye awter there for my tithes negligently forgotyn a cove or ellys VI s. VIII d. for yt Itm I bequeth to the warke of poulys [*i. e.* St. Paul's, London] XII d. Itm I orden and make myn executors Elizabeth my wyf Davy my son and John Bradfyld and Sr William Fareway p son [*i. e.* parson] of Brymley aforesaide supervisor of this my testamet and last wyll also I wyll that Davy Stone my son have my tenamet called Godewyns with alle the appertenaunce to the same belongyng to hym his heys and assignes for evyrmore after the condicion that the saide Davy shall pay to his moder duryng her lyf yerely —VI s. VIII d. and after her disses I wyll that he kepe or cause to be kept a yerely obyte by the space of XX yers to the valure of Xs. by yere for the welth of my soule my wyfys soule and alle cristen soules Also I wyll that Water my son have my tenament in Ardeleigh called Walies to hym and to his heys or assigns for evyr payng yerely to his moder III s. also I wyll that Mihyll my son have II keyn or ellys XIIII s for them V yowen and V lambys Itm I wyll that William my son have II keyn or ellys XIIII s. for them Itm I require and charge my coffesys [*i. e.* cofeoffees] that they delivr a sufficient astate [*i. e.* statement] accordyng to my wyll when so evyr they be requiryd The residewe of alle my goods not bequethyd I gyf and bequeth to Elizabeth my wif and to Davy Stone my son to dispose they as they thynk most pleasure to god and health to my soule. These wytness John Stone John Newman and William Litylbery and the forsaide parson with other.

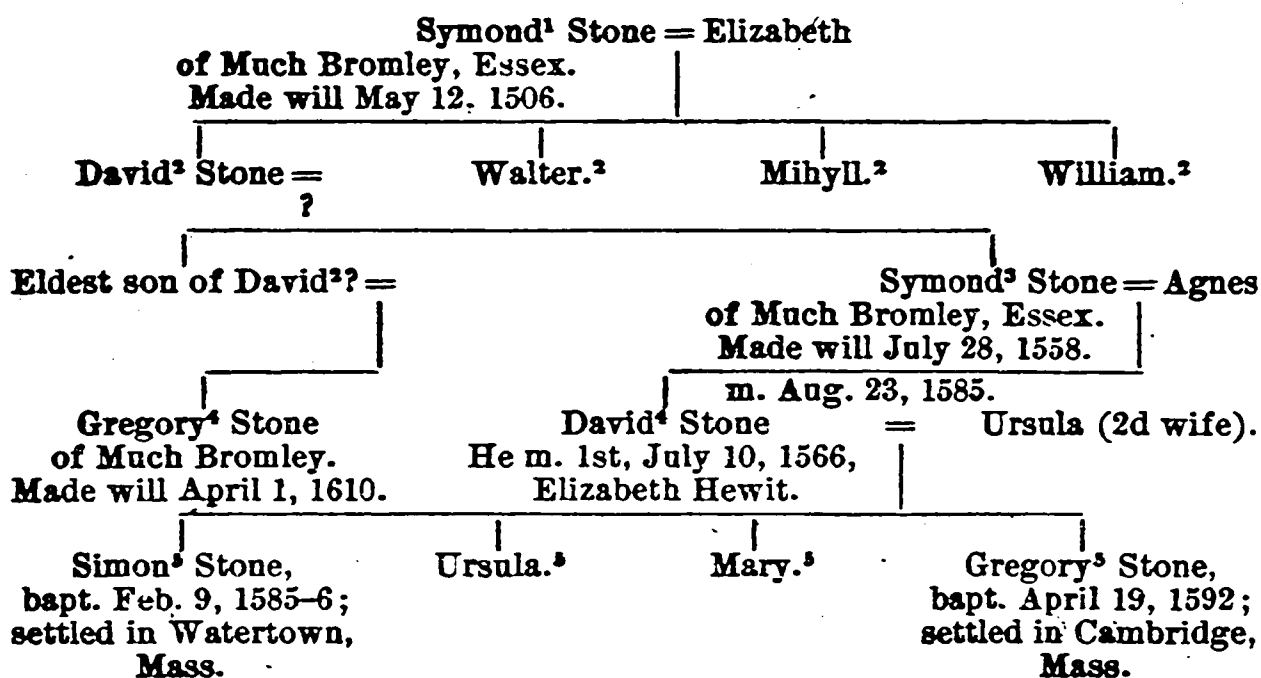
The will was probated February 10, 1510.

The next two wills were discovered by Mr. Henry F. Waters, who has kindly furnished the following abstracts. They had hitherto escaped the search of parties looking for Stone wills in England because they were in bundles of wills that had never been indexed.

Symond Ston, of Much Bromeley 28 July, 1558(?). To wife Agnes tenement called Hunts (copy and free) for life, then to eldest son John, he to pay Davy his brother 15th in 7 years after decease of Agnes his mother; remainder to Davy—he to pay to his brother Richard, &c. To wife Agnes 5 acres called the Leez for life; then to son Richard and his heirs for ever. Residue to wife Agnes, and if she die in her widowhood then among my 3 children. Wife and son John, Executors.

Gregri Ston, of Much Bromley, 1 April, 1610. To son John "house and land where I now dwell called Goodenes" provided wife Elizabeth have rent of said houses, or eighth a year for life and also 2 rooms to her dwelling; twentieth to daughter Ann Church, twentieth to daughter Parnell Heckford. To Michell Brege, son of daughter Frances Brege, fifth at age of 24. Wife and son John Executors.

On the information furnished by these wills and by the Much Bromley Registers, I have ventured to offer the following tentative pedigree of the ancestors of our Simon and Gregory Stone:



The will of Symond [*i. e.* Simon] Stone,¹ given above, names three sons, John, Davy [*i. e.* David] and Richard. These are certainly the John, David and Richard Stone who appear on the Much Bromley Registers as fathers of families. We find that David⁴ married Elizabeth Hewitt in 1566. We also find that David, the father of our Simon and Gregory, was married August 23, 1585, his wife's name not given; but we know from the baptisms of his children that her Christian name was Ursula. Now, I take it that the David Stone, who married Elizabeth Hewitt, and David the husband of Ursula, were one and the same person, the marriage to Ursula being a second marriage; and that the father of Simon⁵ and Gregory⁵ was consequently the son of Simon.³ There are several

reasons for thinking that David⁴ was twice married. In the first place, in all the material thus brought to light concerning the Much Bromley Stones, we have found mention of only one David Stone who was old enough to be likely to marry in 1685, viz: David,⁴ the son of Simon.³ Again, if there had been two adult Davids at Much Bromley at that time, it is probable, judging from the other entries on the Registers, that they would have been distinguished from each other by one being called "the elder," the other "the younger," or in some such way. Richard Stone, who was married September 30, 1583, is called "the son of John," to distinguish him from his uncle Richard, who was the son of Simon.³

Again, David, the husband of Elizabeth Hewitt, named one of his daughters Agnes, after his mother, the wife of Simon.³ David, the husband of Ursula, named one of his sons Simon, presumably for his father Simon³; which goes to show that David,⁴ the son of Simon,³ was the husband of first Elizabeth Hewitt and afterwards of Ursula.

Finally, Simon,³ the son of David, had children named John and Frances. It is significant that David⁴ and Elizabeth had children bearing these same names, and it seems reasonable to suppose that Simon³ chose these names for his children because they were the names of his brother and sister,—or, to be exact, his half brother and half sister.

If these premises are admitted then the line is established back to Simon.³

John, the son of Simon,³ is named executor of his father's will in 1558. He was, therefore, then of full age. His father, therefore, was probably not married *later* than about 1535, and was probably born not *later* than about 1510.

Now, Simon,¹ in his will made in 1506, names his son David² executor. David,² therefore, was then of full age, and it seems likely from the nature of the bequests to them, that his other sons were also adults. From the probable date of the birth of Simon,³ there is every reason to believe that he was the son of one of these sons of Simon¹; and, as Simon² named one of his sons David, it seems fair to presume that he was the son of David.² I think it unlikely that he was the son of Walter², because Walter² inherited his father's "tenement called Walles" in Ardleigh, and his sons, if he had any, would be likely to be found located at Ardleigh rather than at Much Bromley.

Referring now to the will of Gregory,⁴ made in 1610, we find that he bequeathed to his son John the "house and land where I now dwell called Goodenes." There can be no question that this is the "tenement called Godewyns" which Simon¹ bequeathed to his eldest son David.² It appears very probable that David² bequeathed

it to *his* eldest son, who in turn passed it on to his son Gregory.⁴ The fact that David⁴ named one of his sons Gregory (which was a rather unusual name) would seem to indicate a very near relationship between David⁴ and Gregory,⁴ and to my mind is pretty strong evidence that David,⁴ like Gregory,⁴ was a direct descendant of Simon.¹

There is one other very interesting document in which the Stones of Much Bromley figure, which, like the will of Simon,¹ was brought to my notice by Mr. Elliot Stone of Riverdale, New York City. In the Essex Archaeological Society's Transactions, New Series, Vol. 1, was published a number of Inventories of church goods belonging to Essex parishes, taken in the reign of Edward VI. with a view to confiscation by the Crown. Among these is an Inventory of the "vestments and all other ornaments belonging to the Church of Moche Bromley, — made in the syxte year of the reign of King Edward the Syxte" (1553). We learn from this Inventory that Robert Stone and Symond Stone were then Churchwardens. The Symond Stone here named must have been Simon.² It is also stated that "Robt. Stone owyth to the church £4 - 6 and that, in the first year of King Edward VI., "John Monte the elder & John Lyteller, then being churchwardens, with the consent of John Estewood and *John Stone the elder* and others" sold a "crosse of Sylver, a Senser and a Chalys p'cell gylte."

In conclusion, it must be borne in mind that it is by no means claimed that the above line of descent of Simon and Gregory Stone from Simon Stone¹ is fully and satisfactorily established. It is based mainly on the recurrence of the same Christian names in successive generations of the family, and for absolute proof, or refutation, of its authenticity we need the wills of David,⁴ and of David,² Walter,² Mihyll² and William.² It is very much to be hoped that Mr. Waters's future investigations will bring to light these wills, or some of them.