

The
Washington Family
and its
Northamptonshire
Associations

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THE WASHINGTON FAMILY AND ITS NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ASSOCIATIONS

MORE than most of the great men of history, George Washington owed his qualities to his forbears; and his pedigree is thus of special interest alike to the genealogist and the student of heredity. In the case of a Keats, a Shelley, or a Poe there seems no patent affiliation with preceding generations: it is as though a comet dropped unheralded from the sky, or a peacock suddenly appeared in a nest of wrens. But with George Washington one senses no such discordant element. The young master of Mount Vernon, who took such pains over his hounds, his crops, and his cellar; the stiff figure of later years, whose courtly *hauteur* so alarmed the egregious Genêt; and, at the last, the solitary old gentleman, with broad-brimmed white hat and a hickory staff, riding round his farms in the sunlight:— all this presents a picture that might apply equally well to any of the Washingtons at Sulgrave Manor,—the immemorial pattern of the English Squire.

LAWRENCE WASHINGTON

Lawrence Washington, the acknowledged founder of the Sulgrave line, from whom George Washington was seventh in direct male descent, was born at Warton, co. Lancs., about 1500. He was the eldest son of John Washington (the cadet of an ancient north country house) by Margaret, daughter of Robert Kytson of Warton and sister of the great Tudor merchant, Sir Thomas Kytson of Hengrave in Suffolk. Sir Thomas evidently kept a fatherly eye on Lawrence's youngest brother, Thomas Washington, who was apprenticed to his uncle in 1534 and eventually rose to be Governor of the Merchant Adventurers' new *bourse* at Antwerp; but other influences were to decide Lawrence's own career, and only lately have those influences been determined. For an extract from some unpublished Duchy of Lancaster Pleadings reveals that on 26 July, 1529 Lawrence was serving as Bailiff at Warton—an hereditary office in his family—to William, Lord Parr of Horton, by whom the said Lawrence (we are expressly told) was "greatly alyed and [be] frendyd" (D. of L. 3/24; and cf. *William and Mary Quarterly*, October, 1937, p. 314). The Parrs had inherited the barony of Kendal, in which Warton was situated; and William, Lord Parr, who is further described as "cheif ruler of alle the said country [*i.e.* around Warton]", was at that date acting as Steward of the Kendal barony due to the minority of his nephew, William Parr of Kendal castle (born 1510, later Marquess of Northampton), the brother of Queen Katherine Parr, last wife of King Henry VIII. But Milord Parr was likewise a Northamptonshire landowner in right of his wife Mary Salisbury, the heiress of Horton, six miles south-east of Northampton town: and Lawrence himself must have subsequently gone down to Northants. towards the end of 1529 on his patron's business,—since before 24 March, 1529/30 [*not* 1530/31, as invariably stated] he had married a Northamptonshire widow, named Elizabeth Gough, whose previous husband had been a prosperous mercer of Northampton and Bailiff of the borough.

The widow Gough not only brought the ambitious Lawrence a town house in Northampton, with her former husband's interests there, but also the inappropriate rectories of Higham Ferrers, Chelveston, and Caldecote (cf. *New England Hist. Gen. Register*, April, 1940, p. 200) which the Washingtons were still using as an occasional residence as late as 1548-9. Probably Lawrence took over the deceased Mr. Gough's business as well: at all events, it is clear that he quitted Lord Parr's household in consequence of this marriage, and was immediately afterwards chosen a member of the Northampton Borough Corporation. He became Mayor of Northampton for the first time in 1532, and was Mayor again in 1545, besides acting at various times as Alderman and Justice of the Peace.

Indeed, both of Lawrence Washington's wives (for he was married twice) appear notably to have influenced his later career: and it is plain that, like his illustrious descendant, the American President, he possessed a keen eye for wealthy widows! For a document of 1543 in the Bodleian

Library at Oxford shows that his second consort, Amy Pargiter of Greatworth—whom he espoused shortly before 4 February, 1537/8, and who became the mother of all his children—was at the time of her marriage the widow of Master John Tomson of Sulgrave; and she endowed her second husband with the manors and rectories of Sulgrave and Stuchbury, Northants., as well as appurtenant lands, all of which Lawrence was holding *jure uxoris* in March, 1538, according to a then Survey of the estates of the Cluniac priory of St. Andrew's at Northampton. The assembled evidence (from the above Survey, etc.) proves that these possessions comprised:—(a) two messuages, etc. in Sulgrave; (b) the farm of Sulgrave rectory; (c) closes, etc., in Stuchbury known as “Townfield” (comprising a “mansion-house”, etc.), “Westfield”, “Millfield”, the “Middle Close”, the “Lord's Close”, “Oxhey”, and “Sulgrave Field”; (d) the farm of Stuchbury rectory; (e) the “Mill Close” in the parish of Cotton; and (f) “Broadyates Close” in the parish of Hardington. Probably Lawrence also became tenant at this period of the lands in the parish of Woodford owned by the Austin priory of Canons Ashby and the Benedictine nunnery of Catesby. At all events, the main holdings,—viz., those in the adjacent parishes of Sulgrave and Stuchbury,—were re-granted to Lawrence and his wife, Amy, by the Crown on 10 March, 1538/9 and 26 February, 1542/3 respectively (the priory of St. Andrew's, of which the properties were originally held, having been dissolved by Henry VIII on 1 March, 1537/8): and it is important to realize that the above two grants of 1539 and 1543 thus meant no more than the acquisition by Lawrence in fee simple of the lands which he had already possessed as tenant before the priory's dissolution!¹

Lawrence Washington's name occurs in 1564 on a royal commission to assess for taxation purposes St. Giles's church, Northampton (his own town house lay in St. Giles's parish): and at the time of the dissolution of St. Andrew's priory in 1538 he appears to have assisted the King's officials in their labours. In June, 1541 he was nominated an original Trustee of Northampton Grammar School under the will of its founder, the eminent Thomas Chipsey. His later life (he survived until 19 February, 1584) would seem to have been given over principally to “wool-stapling”, the great trade of the sixteenth century gentleman,—and more particularly to the partnership which he had formed with his father-in-law, Robert Pargiter of Greatworth (near Sulgrave), and his second wife's brother-in-law, William Mole, for exploiting the fertile pasture-lands of Stuchbury for kine and sheep. That this same partnership was perpetuated at a later date is clear from a long Exchequer suit of 1606 (which was again revived in 1619 and 1621) alleging that Lawrence's son and heir, Robert Washington of Sulgrave, in collaboration with George Mole and the younger Robert Pargiter—grandsons, respectively, of the William Mole and Robert Pargiter, just mentioned—had scandalously pulled down “not only the parsonage-house . . . and all or the most part of the said town and parish houses of Stuttebury [Stuchbury] aforesaid, but also the parish church itself”, in order to make use of the lands for woolstapling purposes (*William and Mary Quarterly*, October, 1937, p. 519).

As far as Lawrence's private life is concerned, the evidence is naturally slight. He seems to have been on good terms with his opulent relatives, the Kytsons, as was of course his younger brother, Thomas; and a letter of the latter's to Sir Thomas Kytson's widow, Margaret, Countess of Bath, dated from Antwerp 14 July, 1555, specifies “another tonnykin [of sturgeon] smaller than yours, under your mark and note with yours in the skipper's book, which is for my brother, Lawry”, at Sulgrave (Hengrave MSS.). Then in 1545 the Countess's third daughter, Katherine Kytson, came to live in Northamptonshire as the wife of Sir John Spencer of Althorp,—thereby allying the Washingtons to probably the greatest family in the county. Again, it is interesting to find Lawrence as a friend of Sir Robert Tyrwhitt, one of Henry VIII's Knights of the Body, whose wife acted 1546-49 as Governess to Princess Elizabeth at Hatfield House,—being, indeed, accused as an accessory in 1549 to her royal mistress's precocious intrigue with the Lord Admiral Seymour. For Sulgrave Manor has always had a strong tradition that the future Virgin Queen paid a visit there in her nonage; and to this day a certain huge, ancient cupboard at the manor-house, with a Tudor oak-panelled door and an early window (now filled in), is pointed out as being where the young Princess hid during a childish game of hide-and-seek (see H. Clifford

¹ See the writer's article, “The Forgotten Heiress of Sulgrave”, in *The American Genealogist*, October, 1944, pp. 97-109.

Smith, *Sulgrave Manor and the Washingtons*, p. 117). An ancient country ballad on the subject, reciting the story in considerable detail, has been rescued and printed by a former Vicar of Sulgrave, the Rev. W. S. Pakenham-Walsh.

SULGRAVE MANOR

As we have seen, the estate acquired by Lawrence Washington through his second marriage, and confirmed to him and his heirs in fee simple in 1539 and 1543, consisted of the manors of Sulgrave and Stuchbury, etc., as well as the patronage and advowson of Stuchbury church (this last-named emolument was "thrown in" with the later Crown grant of 1543). Lawrence's first wife's property at Higham Ferrers, Chelveston, and Caldecote was diverted to another lessee, John Jones, in 1570; so, accordingly, it did not pass at his death in 1584 to his eldest son, Robert (born 1544). The latter, however, duly inherited the Sulgrave-Stuchbury estate (described in a settlement of 1 May, 1565, now amongst the Sulgrave Manor MSS., as totalling over 1,250 acres), as well as the advowson of Stuchbury church and a town house in St. Giles's parish, Northampton: in addition to which, Robert acquired *jure uxoris* the manor of Radway, co. Warwick, with title to the manors of Horley and Hornton, Oxon., and also the Northants. manor of Nether Boddington (purchased from the Wakelyns).—Together with Sir John Spencer, Robert Washington, "Esquier" was appointed a royal commissioner in Northants. in 1598 (*William and Mary Quarterly*, October, 1937, p. 516): and he evidently lived the typical life of the prosperous country gentleman of the period. Nevertheless, according to the Rev. J. N. Simpkinson—author of that charming novel, *The Washingtons: A Tale of a Country Parish in the Seventeenth Century* (published in 1860)—he eventually found himself obliged, through declining fortunes [*sic*], to part with Sulgrave manor to a nephew, Lawrence Makepeace, and thereupon retired to end his days in an obscure thatched cottage in the village of Little Brington (the parish where dwelt his noble kinsfolk, the Spencers of Althorp)! This tragic event is said to have taken place in 1606-1610 (*vide New England Hist. Gen. Register*, January, 1944, pp. 28-41): but, as we shall shortly see, the Washingtons' ownership of Sulgrave terminated, not around 1606-10, but at Robert Washington's death in 1620; whilst their ownership of the manor and rectory of Stuchbury lasted right on till 1646,² of the manor of Nether Boddington till *circa* 1636, and of that of Radway till 1654! The evidence is as follows:

In May, 1601 Robert Washington 'of Sulgrave' (to give him his usual designation), having late in life contracted a second marriage (before 25 March, 1599) with Anne Fisher of Hanslope, Bucks., who was possibly his housekeeper, made a settlement upon his eldest son and heir-apparent, Lawrence II, of the entailed portion of the estates, viz., the manor of Sulgrave and the manor and rectory of Stuchbury (cp. *William and Mary Quarterly*, October, 1937, pp. 517-8). Between 1601 and 1610 young Lawrence II (according to a later deposition of 1635) "att seuerall tymes sold to seuerall persons the greatest parte of the demesne landes of the said mannor of Sulgraue in the parish and precinctes of Sulgraue aforesaid" (*ibid.*, April, 1939, pp. 224-5): and in March, 1610 Lawrence also, with his father's consent, assigned his future rights in Sulgrave "mannor house and backside, orchard, garden, and some small closes thereto adjoining [together totalling seven acres], being the remainder of his landes in Sulgraue not formerlie passed and sold away", to his cousin-german, Lawrence Makepeace of London (*ibid.*). Lawrence II Washington promptly used the money obtained by the above transaction to acquire another desirable property, viz., the manor of Wicken (in the south-east corner of Northants., close to the Buckinghamshire border), of which he took a lease from his kinsman, Robert, Lord Spencer, in 1610, and which was afterwards occupied for many years by his widow, Margaret Washington (*née* Butler), and ultimately by his son-in-law, Francis Pill (cf. the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, July, 1940, p. 258). Meantime, the fact that it was he, *and not* (as commonly alleged) *his father Robert*, who executed the assignment in reversion of Sulgrave manor-house to Makepeace in 1610, proves that Robert Washington's own title as actual lord of the manor could not possibly have been legally extinguished during his lifetime; and, in view of the circumstance that Makepeace himself was a grandson of the first Lawrence Washington, this 1610 deed must be interpreted as

² On 4 December, 1628, Sir John, in conjunction with his mother, Mrs. Margaret (Butler) Washington, sold the Stuchbury lands for £1,380 to William, Lord Spencer (*William and Mary Quarterly*, April, 1939, p. 216).



SULGRAVE MANOR HOUSE

intending to effect no more than a mere alteration in the entail. The object in making such an alteration on the part of Robert's heir, Lawrence II, was plainly to facilitate the purchase of a home of his own,—so as to leave Sulgrave to his step-mother, Anne Washington (*née* Fisher), and to his father's growing family by her. And clearly Makepeace, who was a London lawyer, was equally eager on his side to undertake such a bargain; since he had already acquired the "Leeson" manor in Sulgrave from Thomas Leeson in 1607, and was obviously ambitious to extend his lands in the parish. Moreover, it should be noted that young Lawrence II Washington did *not* seek to alienate the manor and rectory of Stuchbury (which were duly inherited by his eldest son, Sir John Washington), nor the valuable estate of Radway Grange in Warwickshire (the inheritance of his mother, Elizabeth Lyte). Stuchbury, however, possessed no actual manorial residence (indeed, even the parish church and parsonage, along with "all or the most part of the said town and parish houses", had apparently been pulled down by old Robert Washington prior to 1606, "to the great depopulation of the commonwealth and country thereabouts"): while before 1610 Lawrence II was also obliged to make over the family's Warwickshire seat, Radway Grange, in accordance with a previous agreement, to the widow of a brother, Walter Washington, whose son (John) flourished there until 1654 (cf. *William and Mary Quarterly*, October, 1937, pp. 514, 522). There was likewise no manor house at Nether Boddington (a manor acquired by Robert Washington in 1600),—its previous owners, the Wakelyns, residing not at Boddington but at Eydon (*ibid.*, October, 1937, p. 514): so that under the circumstances Lawrence II, if he wanted a home of his own, had no alternative save to buy some other property.

Certainly it can not have been any pressure of poverty that drove Lawrence II from Sulgrave to Wicken; for a Chancery deposition of 1638 expressly asserts that he died in his father's

lifetime in 1616 "leauinge a good estate to his heire, Sr. John Washington, which was administered by Margaret his widow" (Bills and Answers, Charles I, bdle. H 55, no. 38)! It is significant, too, that Lawrence II's father, Robert Washington, is usually called "esquire" in contemporary documents,—a higher rank than that accorded to *his* father, the original Lawrence of Sulgrave (who is simply styled "gentleman"),—and to which Robert had evidently become entitled through his acquisition *jure uxoris* of the Lyte estates in Warwickshire. Meanwhile, Sir John Washington, —having obtained the manor of Thrapston (near Kettering, Northants.) from John Mordaunt, Earl of Peterborough (his kinsman through the Spencers),—made no attempt to interfere with the new entail of Sulgrave after his grandfather, Robert Washington's, death in 1620; evidently preferring his new seat at Thrapston, both because of his close friendship with Lord Peterborough (whose seat, Drayton House, was nearby), and on account of its convenient proximity to his first wife's home at Islip. Besides, in any case he had inherited most of the other Washington ancestral possessions, viz., the Stuchbury estate (with the patronage of the Living), as well as the manor of Nether Boddington; whereas his cousin Makepeace cherished a special interest in Sulgrave,—as, indeed, has already been sufficiently indicated. Three years after succeeding as head of the house in 1620, Sir John received the accolade of knighthood, thus affording additional proof of the family's undiminished prosperity. Sir William Washington, Sir John's younger brother, had been knighted the year before (1622), but no doubt owed that advancement to his fortunate marriage to Anne Villiers, the half-sister of the Duke of Buckingham. Another member of the family, Sir Lawrence Washington of Westbury and Garsdon (a cousin), was knighted in 1627 (his granddaughter and heiress, Elizabeth Washington, married Earl Ferrers); and it is noteworthy that all the scions of this generation appear as occupying prosperous positions in the world. Sir John's and Sir William's sister, Margaret Washington, became Lady Sandys in 1621; whilst two at least of the other brothers, Thomas and George Washington, were at Court, the former being page to Prince Charles and the latter to the Earl of Southampton. Young Thomas Washington, indeed, accompanied the Prince and Buckingham in 1623 to Madrid, where the circumstances of his death were one of the final causes of the break in Anglo-Spanish relations, and evoked a long "Elegy" from a contemporary poet lamenting his untimely end:—

Know'st thou whose these ashes were?
Reader, thou wouldst weeping swear
The rash Fates err'd here as appears,
Counting his virtues for his years.
His goodness made them overseen,
Which showed him three score at eighteen.
Inquire not his disease or pain:
He died of nothing else but Spain.
... He needs no epitaph or stone,
But this, — Here lies lov'd Washington.

The fifth brother, needless to add, was the Rev. Lawrence Washington (born at Sulgrave Manor *circa* 1602), the Royalist Rector of Purleigh in Essex, who is mentioned as "nowe at Oxford" in the will of his aunt, Mrs. Elizabeth (Chishull) Washington of Great Brington, in 1623 (cp. *New England Hist. Gen. Register*, January, 1944, pp. 28–41). The Rev. Lawrence had a distinguished University career, becoming Fellow of Brasenose, Lecturer in Philosophy, and Public Orator, as well as one of the University Proctors specially appointed by royal warrant in 1631; and was the father, as is well known, of the two Washington Emigrants to Virginia. As for Sir John Washington himself, he acquired large landed interests in Hampshire by a second marriage (before 14 March, 1629/30) to Dorothy, *née* Pargiter, widow of Gerard Kirkby, esq. of Stanbridge Earls (a grandson of the Marquess of Winchester), and niece of Robert, Lord Spencer; became a Gentleman of the King's Privy Chamber and a baronet; and was buried at Thrapston in 1668 (*William and Mary Quarterly*, April, 1939, p. 218; and see later).

There is thus ample proof that the Washingtons never suffered the eclipse in fortune such as the facile pens of the Rev. J. N. Simpkinson and others have so vividly depicted. For it is evident that *Robert Washington, despite the modern belief to the contrary, never lost Sulgrave or the other family estates after all!* Indeed, Robert remained in full legal possession of Sulgrave itself until his decease in 1620 (a fact further confirmed by contemporary documents); and it was only then, and not till then, that the title to this one property passed by his death to Lawrence Make-

peace, by virtue of young Lawrence II Washington's assignment of 1610. Nor did Makepeace enter, even yet, into immediate occupation, due to the dower rights of Anne (Fisher) Washington, Robert's widow. Anne herself was still living at the manor-house in August, 1621, when she deposed in a lawsuit regarding the Washington manor of Stuchbury as "Anne Washington of Sulgrau, in the county of Northampton, wydowe". She appears not to have actually vacated before the year 1623, when she moved to East Haddon, Northants., with her daughter Mrs. Ireton, dying there in March, 1651/52 (*William and Mary Quarterly*, April, 1939, p. 220); and in the autumn of 1623 the new owner, Makepeace—who, as one of the Registrars of the Court of Chancery, was now obliged to spend most of his time in London,—leased Sulgrave Manor-house to Richard Blason, gent. (Feet of Fines, Northants., Michaelmas, 21 James I). Makepeace died at Sulgrave 24 November, 1640, leaving a son, Abel Makepeace, esq. (educated at Winchester and Magdalen College, Oxford), who sold the estate to Edward Plant of Kelmarsh in 1659. It is necessary to realize, however, that the Makepeaces, though officially owners of the "manor", had succeeded only to the *manor-house* itself (along with the seven acres surrounding it), and not to any of the demesne lands in Sulgrave parish which, as has been seen, had been previously alienated by Lawrence II Washington to other purchasers (*vide ante*): and in a deposition, dated 19 January, 1638/39, it was expressly emphasized that there was not "any waste ground or common in Sulgrau aforesaid nowe belonging to the said manor house of Sulgrave, other than the garden, orchard, and backside thereunto belonging" (cf. *William and Mary Quarterly*, April, 1939, p. 223). As for the manor and rectory of Stuchbury, these still continued, of course, in possession of the Washingtons,—Sir John Washington being the owner in 1628 and having his cousin, Sir Lawrence Washington, as his tenant. (Sir Lawrence's father, Lawrence Washington of Maidstone, had similarly held Stuchbury under old Robert Washington of Sulgrave, who was his elder brother). Sir Lawrence Washington's daughter, Martha, Lady Tyrrell, sold the lands and rectory of Stuchbury—evidently with Sir John Washington's consent—to William Jesson of Coventry in 1646. The later history of the manor of Nether Boddington is more obscure; but it appears to have been conveyed by Sir John Washington by 1636 to William, 2nd Lord Spencer of Althorp (Althorp MSS.; and Feodaries' Surveys, Court of Wards, no. 662).

Sir John was also heir to his own father, Lawrence (died *vita patris* 1616), in the manor of Wicken; but he allowed his widowed mother, Margaret, to retain her life-interest, and then surrendered his title to his brother-in-law, Francis Pill, esq. (cp. *ante*). To sum up, then:

First, Robert Washington continued legally to own Sulgrave manor and the other Washington estates down until his death in 1620.

Second, during Robert's lifetime his heir-apparent, Lawrence II, having sold the Sulgrave demesne lands, assigned his future rights in the actual manor-house to a cousin Lawrence Makepeace (1610), so as to facilitate the purchase of a new home for himself (*viz.* Wicken manor).

Third, Robert Washington's grandson and heir, Sir John Washington of Thrapston (eldest son of Lawrence II), inherited the remaining Washington ancestral properties, e.g. the manor and rectory of Stuchbury and the manor of Nether Boddington (neither of which boasted manorial residences). But Sir John did not interfere, upon succeeding his grandfather, with his father, Lawrence II's, previous entail of Sulgrave on the Makepeaces, doubtless owing to his preference for his own new seat at Thrapston, which he had acquired in the interim. Wicken manor was left to the use of Sir John's mother, Margaret.

Fourth, the Makepeaces merely succeeded after Robert Washington's decease in 1620 to Sulgrave *manor-house*, with a scant seven acres of land.

And, fifth, the Washingtons of Sulgrave never suffered any reverses of fortune; their alleged "fall to poverty" in 1606-10 being simply invented in the last century by the Rev. J. N. Simpkison in order to harmonize with his picturesque theory as to their subsequent residence at Little Brington in a humble cottage.

In addition, I venture to append the newly-discovered descents, from the beginning of the seventeenth century onwards, of the remaining two manors in Sulgrave parish, respectively held at that period by the families of Danvers and Leeson (these revised descents should be compared

(Male descendants only; to illustrate accompanying article)



with the wildly erroneous versions of the old Northamptonshire historian, Baker, which have hitherto held the field):—

(a) The “Danvers” manor of Sulgrave was sold in 1599 by Samuel Danvers, esq., of Culworth to Ralph Bulkeley, gent., of Clement’s Inn, London, who in turn sold it in 1601 to Randall Manning, citizen and skinner of London, whose son John Manning, esq., of London sold it in 1632 to Thomas, 1st Lord Crewe of Stene. It was again sold, 20 June, 1700, by Anne, widow of Thomas, Lord Crewe to John Hodges, gent., of Sulgrave (son and heir of the Rev. Moses Hodges, who had acquired the “Washington” manor of Sulgrave in 1673 from Edward Plant, the purchaser from Abel Makepeace).

(b) The “Leeson” manor of Sulgrave was sold by Thomas Leeson, gent., in 1607 to Lawrence Makepeace (successor to the “Washington” manor after 1620), who sold it in 1623 to Thomas Trist, esq., of Culworth, whose widow Margery Trist (*née* Pell) sold it in 1630 to Thomas Whitton of Sulgrave, yeoman, whose son John Whitton sold it in 1641 to Richard Walker. The latter’s descendant, John Walker, willed it in 1715 to his nephew Walker Prestige, whose heirs claimed to be owners as late as the second half of the eighteenth century. It eventually became merged in the main estate then owned by John Hodges’ grandnephew, the Rev. Moses Hodges Bartholomew.

(For fuller details, see *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica*, September, 1937, pp. 331-3).

THE WASHINGTON BARONETCY

That Sir John Washington, of Sulgrave, Stuchbury, Nether Boddington, and Thrapston, Northants. (and *jure uxoris* of Stanbridge Earls, in Hampshire) not only received a knighthood but a *baronetcy* as well, has been heretofore utterly unsuspected by all workers on the Washington pedigree. In fact, no mention is made of any such title in the excellent *Complete Baronetage* of G. E. Cokayne (*alias* ‘G.E.C.’), or in the earlier works of Burke and Wotton; nor has the actual patent of creation survived. However, the matter is rendered certain by Sir John’s burial entry in the Thrapston parish register on 18 May, 1668, as “The wright worshipfull Sur John Washingtonn, Knight and barrenait”.

It is common knowledge that the patents for many of the peerages and baronetcies, created during the Civil War period of 1649-60, were destroyed or lost owing to the young King’s exile and the confusion of the times (a list of these peerages is given in the *New Complete Peerage*, vol. V, Appendix E, pp. 841-2): and not a few of the baronetcies whose history is chronicled by ‘G.E.C.’ belong in this category,—e.g. those of Short and Sutton,—while doubtless others still remain to be sought out in the records. Thus, the sole evidence for the baronetcy conferred on Sir Edward Sutton is that he is styled “Knight and Baronet” in two confirmations of land in 1663; and Sir Edward Short, although called a baronet in one entry of June, 1661 in the State Papers, is carelessly marked in his grant of admon. simply as “Edward Short, otherwise Sir Edward Short, Knight, of Newington Butts, co. Surrey” (‘G.E.C.’s *Complete Baronetage*, vol. VI, p. 88). Similar instances are those of Grymes, Bennington, Palmer, Wood, Price, Mercus, and Bunce (*ibid.*, vol. III, pp. 15-19, 24); also Barclay, Bennett, and Towris or Tours (vol. VI, pp. 64-5, 91). Nevertheless, the learned ‘G.E.C.’ accepts any evidence whatsoever of this nature as being satisfactory,—and even includes in his work a baronetcy of “Ballentine, created before 1679”, on the grounds that “A creation of a Baronetcy of this name is, in some measure, implied by a certificate, dated 7 November, 1679, at the College of Arms, London, that no *record* of any Baronetcy or Knighthood is recorded, since the Restoration of 1660, as having been granted to John Ballentine, of Northumberland or Cumberland” (*ibid.*, vol. VI, p. 63). Consequently, we may regard the newly-discovered fact of Sir John Washington’s creation as baronet without misgiving (a decision with which the present Garter King of Arms, Sir Anthony Wagner, has recently expressed full agreement). Also, Sir John, as the Hearth Tax records show, was the great man of the parish, where he had lived for nearly fifty years; while parish registers themselves are always acceptable as *prima facie* evidence in any court of law.

The registers of Thrapston are unfortunately missing between 1640 and 1653; but prior to that date they contain three entries relative to Sir John’s family, viz.:—Philip Washington, son

of John Washington, "Armiger", baptized 27 December, 1624; Elizabeth Washington, "Filia Johannis Washington, Equitis Aurati", buried 4 July, 1632; and William Washington, "Generosus", buried 25 March, 1639. Elizabeth and William were evidently children of Sir John's second wife; the issue of his first marriage (14 June, 1621) to Mary Curtis of Islip being four sons, Mordaunt, John, Thomas (buried at Lowick, near Thrapston, 1 May, 1625), and Philip (buried at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, London, 26 September, 1643). The two elder sons may have been baptized at Islip (a parish next door to Thrapston), where the extant registers are unluckily non-existent prior to 1695.

Sir John's arms are still to be seen in Thrapston church. Moreover, Sir John's seat, Thrapston Hall, still stands in the village, and at the commencement of the eighteenth century is known to have belonged to a Mrs. Montagu and her son, Washington Montagu, Esq., to whom a brass exists in the church (*ex inf.* A. Norman Groome, Esq.). Mordaunt Washington, Sir John's eldest son, was a student at Pembroke College, Oxford in 1642, and obtained a cornetcy in a cavalry regiment at the outbreak of the Civil War (cp. Rev. H. I. Longden *History of the Washington Family*, p. 30). Perhaps, then, he succeeded to the baronetcy at Sir John's death in 1668, and became the father of the Mrs. Montagu just mentioned, whose husband was doubtless some cadet of the ducal Montagus of Boughton. But this will have to await further investigation. Sir John's second son, John, was alive on 14 January, 1661/2 and likewise on 11 October, 1673 (cp. Waters, *Genealogical Gleanings in England*, vol. I, pp. 380, 391). It seems possible that he was the "Mr. Washington, the deaf man who now lives at Maidwell" (but the contemporary Maidwell registers have, alas, also perished!), who came to Lamport Hall as the guest of Sir Justinian Isham the second baronet on 4 October, 1672. This is recorded in the Diary of Sir Justinian's son, Thomas, which he kept in Latin at his father's request (*The Journal of Thomas Isham of Lamport*, edited by Walter Rye, Norwich, 1875, p. 67. A new edition of the Diary is being published by The Gregg Press shortly). There was a relationship between the Ishams and the Washingtons, because Sir Justinian Isham's mother was a sister of the wife of Sir Lawrence Washington of Garsdon, Wilts. Genealogists, it may be added, have mistakenly identified him with the John Washington of Surry Co., Virginia, living 15 September, 1658, *but deceased by* 1662, who left a numerous posterity in Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee.
