

LINVILLE ROOTS

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THE LINVILL 17TH CENTURY HOME IN FLETCHING DISCOVERED!

Yes, the news from England is good! The deed which Mary Baldwin, widow of Richard Linwell of Fletching, Sussex and sons John and Thomas Linwell signed in 1699 in Philadelphia selling their 14 acres of North Northlands has made it possible to locate that exact piece of land. And the house, built about 1550 is still standing. As a family, we are continually indebted to Dr. Frank A. Linville of Costa Mesa, California for having found Mrs. Louise Mestel, a highly competent genealogist in Lewes, Sussex who has helped unearth these treasures for the family. It has been fabulously exciting to be working with Louise. We think very much alike genealogically and have made such incredible progress on the English roots of the Linvilles.

The letter which arrived from Louise this past March was written with a air of mystery. Enclosed was a copy of the Danehill Parish Historical Society Bulletin with a complete chronology of the house. I had to read nearly to the end of the account to realize that the HOUSE STILL STANDS! Incredible! I was so excited that my almost-seven-year-old Cady thought her mother had gone bananas. "What's the big deal?" she asked. Only the culmination of twenty-five years of searching, I thought. How could she comprehend? It felt like we all finally had a HOMESTEAD, real roots!

As I sit down to write this to you, my brother Dr. Richard Linville Eichholz is in England, preparing to meet with Louise and be the first Linville in 300 years to see the house. Of course he will be taking pictures! The August issue of "Linville Roots" will carry all the details along with a report on the reunion festivities. This issue is devoted primarily to Mary's ancestry as it is known.

THE HARTS, LABORERS IN EAST SUSSEX ENGLAND

In many ways the family of Mary (Hart) (Linvill) Baldwin seems to have faced the typical stresses of living in the middle of 17th century England. They seem to have not been touched much by the English Civil War, though the family of Mary's husband, Richard Linvill certainly was as will become clear in future "Linville Roots" issues. It is understandable why Mary would have been interested in emigration to the colonies by 1682/3.

- 1 Thomas Hart, a laborer of Ardingly, Sussex married Mary Page in West Hoathly, Sussex Apr 22, 1630. Neither one's parentage is apparent in the Parish Registers or Bishop's Transcripts in West Hoathly where they were married. The only other Page entries are for marriages: Joan Page and John Wedgewood in 1608 and Elizabeth PAGE and Edward Blundell in 1633. The latter could perhaps be Mary's sister.

However, there are not any baptisms and burials for that surname in the parish which suggests it was not a local family. Outside West Hoathly, there are numerous Mary Pages. It does seem that Thomas Hart's widow would have been the Mary Hart who married John Burleigh in West Hoathly Jan 19, 1645/6 after Thomas Hart's death. He may be the Thomas Heart "an aged man" buried in Ardingly in 1644 (no date or month given). His will, as follows, was proved in Sussex 1645.

In the name of God Amen. The five and twentethe daye of Maye one thousand sixe hundred and fortye I Thomas Hart of Ardinglie in the countye of Sussex, laborer, being weake in bodie but in good and perfect memorie (God by prayesd) doo make this my last will and testament in manner and forme followinge.

First I commend my soule in to the hands of all mightye God my maker and redeemer hopinge that in the merits of Jesus Christ my onlie savioure that when this life is ended I shall enjoye everlastinge life. And my bodie to the earthe from whence it was made and to be buried in the parish churchyard of Ardinglie afforsaid and as tuchinge the goods it bathe pleased God to send me I give and dispose in manner ffollowinge.

In primis I give to my eldest sonne Thomas Hart the some of tenne poundes to be payde to him at the age of one and twenty yeares and the biggest joyned cheast in my bed chamber and a little boxe.

I give to my sonne Willam Hart the some of tenne pounds to be payde to him at the age of one and twenty years and my little joyned cheast.

And my minde and will ys that yf my wife Marie whome I make my executrix doo marrie before my said legacies of tenne pounds apeece before given to my said sonnes Thomas and William be payd that then thee my said executrix shall put in good securitye to my overseers likinge for the true payment of the said legacies or ells make true payments of the said tenne poundes apeece before the said marriage

All the rest of my goods my debts being payd my legacies discharged and my funerall expenses performed I give to my lovinge wife Marie whome I make my whole and sole executrix of this my last will and testament and I apoynt and desire my overseers of this my last will and testament and I apoynt and desire my loving ffreinds and neyghborhoures Thomas Pilbeanme and Richard Cleare to be my overseers of this my last will hoping that theye be their good counsell and advise they will be a guid to my executrix and children.

And I give to them over and above the charges that theye maye coastt twelve pence apeece and my will and minde ys that yf anye of my sonnes dye the other to be his heir and ffurther my minde ys that yf my wiffe doo marrie ordye or refuse to paye the said tenne pounds apeece before given that my overseers affore saide shall take and receyve the portions to them due and see them well brought up and be countable to them ffor their portion when theye shall come the(sic) their severall ages of one and twenty yeares. In witness that this ys my last will and testament I have caused it to be written _____ bold in the presence of John Killingbeck and Richard Cleare.

CHILDREN OF THOMAS AND MARY(PAGE) HART

- 2 Thomas Hart bap. Sep 25, 1631 Ardingly, Sussex
- 3 William Hart bap. Feb. 15, 1634/5 Ardingly, Sussex

- 2 Thomas Hart was fourteen years old when his father died and his mother apparently remarried John Burleigh. He became a hemp-dresser "of Maresfield" Parish. His marriage record to Mary (_____) has not been found, though her name definitely appears on the baptismal records of all his children, as "wife Mary." However, there is a ten year gap between the baptisms of the first two children, suggesting that he may have had two wives. The first may have been a different Mary. There is an unexplained eight year gap between 1645-1653 in the Maresfield Parish Records which might have included Thomas Hart's marriage/s providing Mary's maiden name.

Giles Moore's Day-Book, the diary of a local resident, contains one reference to Thomas HART and several to his brother William.

Sep 28, 1659 [Construction of Mr. Moore's stable.] Payd Henerey Cheale thatcher for 6 dayes work at 1s. 8d the day 10s Tho: Hart 6 dayes 7s. William Hart 2 dayes 2s. 4d
.....

Thomas was buried at Horsted Keynes May 21, 1690, while wife Mary was buried Mar. 27, 1676 in the same parish the same day as their daughter Elizabeth and two weeks before son Thomas died as well. That eliminates them from being mentioned in his will in 1690. In addition to the loss of these two children, Mary had already crossed the ocean by the time the will was drawn, leaving only Bridget and her husband George Kilner alive and in England. Even Bridget is not mentioned in the will, only her husband and three children who were living at the time.

In the name of God Amen, the 18 day of May 1690 I Thomas Hart of the parish of Maresfield in the County of Sussex hempdresser doo make and ordain this to bee my last will and testament in manner and forme following.

Item I give to my sonn in law George Kilner's eldest sonn my grandson Richard Kilner one horse and halfe acre of land lying and being in Maresfield.

Item I give to Mary Kilner my granddaughter one my best bedd and bedsteddse

Item I give Jane Kilner my granddaughter one brass kettle.

Item All the rest of my goods I give to my sonn in law George Kilner making him my whole and sole executor of this my last will and testament revoking all other wills and testaments.

In witness whereof I have hereunto sitt my hand and seal the day and year above written.

The marke and seal of Thomas Hart, Robert Vigor, William Kilner, the marke of Ann Rose.

(Proved 14th Sept. 1691 by George Kilner)

CHILDREN OF THOMAS AND MARY _____ HART

4 Mary Hart bap. Sep 2, 1653 Horsted Keynes

- Bridget Hart bap. Apr 20, 1663 Horsted Keynes "born in Hoadly" married George Kilner at West Hoathly Apr 25, 1682, had six children, all baptised at West Hoathly. Bridget Kilner was buried at West Hoathly Jun 19, 1744.
- Elizabeth Hart bap. Sept 9, 1668 "But borne in Maresfield". She is buried Horsted Keynes Mar 27, 1676
- Thomas Hart date of baptism not known. Buried Horsted Keynes Apr 7, 1676.

3 William Hart was baptized in Ardingly Feb 15, 1634/5. He married Mary Lambert in Horsted Keynes Dec. 9, 1658. In addition to the 1659 note in Giles Moore's Day Book indicating William was paid for

building the stable, there are several more references to William and his wife, including fees for Moore marrying these Harts:

- Dec 9, 1658 For marrying of Wm Hart and Mary Lambert 0.3.0
- Jun 4, 1667 Pay'd Goodwife Hart for 3 dayes weeding Besides meate and drinke 0.1.3
- Jun 8, 1667 Pay'd Wm Hart for digging the sawpit 0.1.0
- Jun 10, 1667 To Fr. Luxford's wyfe for weeding 6 dayes & Wm Harts 5 At 5d. the daye drinke 0.4.7
- Jun 25, 1667 Pay'd William Hart for 3 dayes works in helping Gower about the Barne -.4.0 [Gower was a carpenter]

From the above we can determine that it cost seven days of weeding for Moore to say the Marriage Service! William Hart was buried at Horsted Keynes Jun 30, 1689 with the notation "of Masfield." Wife Mary was buried Sep 3, 1675 at Horsted Keynes.

CHILD OF WILLIAM HART AND MARY LAMBERT

- William Hart bap. in Horsted Keynes Mar 24, 1658/60

In addition there are 5 other children of a William and Mary Hart between 1677 and 1686, after Mary (Lambert) Hart's death. William may have remarried or they might have been William Hart Jr.'s children from an early marriage. The line continues in the northern Sussex parishes but is not followed here.

4 Mary Hart is the first emigrant to the colonies in our family. According to material collected by Thomas Shourds, an eminent genealogist in the late 1800's, Mary was born in "Macefield" Aug 24, 1653 [*History and Genealogy of Fenwick's Colony* by Thomas Shourds (Bridgeton, NJ, 1876) p.411 and Gilbert Cope Collection, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Vol. 52, p. 103 citing a letter from Thomas Shourds dated Dec 9, 1883, not found in the collection]. This is well in keeping with her recorded baptismal date of Sep 2, 1653 in neighboring Horsted Keynes parish.

She married, first, Richard Linvill in Maresfield Jan 28, 1672/3. They in all likelihood lived in the 16th century house on Church Lane, in present-day Danehill Parish, Sussex for at least a few years, perhaps with his sister Cassandra (Linvill) Weller and her family. The Linvilles clearly retained ownership of the property until long after Richard's death. The "villein tenure" nature of manorial property, (North Northlands was a part of Sheffield Manor) required the land be held by the direct descendants of Thomas and Elizabeth (Wickersham) Linvill. This is definitive proof of Richard Linville's parentage. It was Mary, as Richard's widow and her second husband Thomas Baldwin and her two LINVILL children who conveyed the "North Northlands" in Fletching to relatives Humphrey Killingbeck and neighbor Nicholas COX in a Philadelphia Deed [Book C-1, Vol. 3, p. 185] on Dec 12, 1699. The

history of that branch of the family will be covered in future "Linville Roots" issues.

Thomas Shourds also provides the probable dates of birth of sons John and Thomas Linvill, Mary's only two sons to have reached majority. His records, located on the same page and volume of the Cope Collection cited above, state only that John Linville was born in Sussex May 25, 1677 and Thomas Linville Dec 9, 1679 in "Omny," Sussex. Since the Killingbecks were clearly entrenched in Bolney and neighboring Twineham Parish ["Omny" being a closest sounding to Bolney than any other Sussex parish] and their relationship to the Linvills has become much clearer, it is likely that Richard, Mary and the children lived with the Killingbecks in Bolney and emigrated from there under the patronage of their great-uncle Humphrey Killingbeck [See "Linville Roots" Vol. 3, No.2; Vol. 4, No. 1].

Mary (Hart) Linville second married Thomas Baldwin in March, 1684 "on the 7th day of the week, at the house where Michael IZARD lately dwelt." [Ref: Cope Collection cited above]. In addition Cope says that the marriage certificate was recorded in a book belonging to the Pennsylvania Historical Society but it is much worn and illegible. Aubrey Baldwin, a genealogist for the Baldwin family stated in a letter to me dated March 8, 1987, that both he and others have tried for 50 years to locate that book with no success. Albert Cook Myers, another eminent genealogist, told Baldwin in the 1930's that the Baldwin-Linvill wedding certificate once was framed and hung on the PA Historical Society's wall with a note that it was the first certificate issued under Penn's Government set up on March 1, 1684 [See "Linville Roots," Vol. 4, No. 2]. Since Thomas Baldwin bought Michael Izard's home in Chichester April 2, 1684 [Philadelphia Deeds Book A p. 80] we could assume the couple had been living in the Izard house before the purchase and that the marriage happened in early March of that year.

Mary (Hart) Linvill Baldwin was living at the time her second husband, Thomas Baldwin, wrote his will [Chester Wills Book A p.334] March 17, 1730, proved July 2, 1731. Her whereabouts after that date are not known, though she would have been 77 at the time of Baldwin's death, having mothered at least two Linvill children and seven Baldwin children including two sets of twins.

CHILDREN OF MARY HART AND RICHARD LINVILL

- John Linvill, born May 25, 1677 County of Sussex [Cope Collection, Vol. 52, p. 103]
- Thomas Linvill, born Dec 9, 1679 in parish of "Omny" [Cope Collection, Vol. 52 p. 103]

CHILDREN OF MARY HART AND THOMAS BALDWIN

- Thomas Baldwin born Aug 26, 1685, Chester, PA

- Joseph Baldwin born Aug 26, 1685, Chester, PA
- William Baldwin born Dec 19, 1687, Chester, PA
- Anthony Baldwin born Feb 10, 1690, Chester, PA
- Mary Baldwin born Feb. 25, 1692, Chester, PA
- Martha Baldwin born Dec. 16, 1694, Chester, PA
- Elizabeth Baldwin born Dec..16, 1684, Chester, PA

[All birth records from Cope Collection, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Vol. 5 p. 22]

Mary Hart Linvill Baldwin was born into a laboring family in Sussex. In marrying Richard Linvill, whose father Thomas Linvill was a having economic problems, and mother Elizabeth Wickersham was daughter of a middle class Reeve of Sheffield Manor, her economic status appears to have been in considerable difficulty. The extended Wickersham family appears the source of the money for passage to the colonies and the political/ religious connections to make it possible. More about the intriguing and incredible Wickersham/Linvilles will be forthcoming in future issues of "Linville Roots."

FARM LABORERS' ELIZABETHAN ENGLAND

The following description of farm laborers is from Walter Notestein's *The English People on the Eve of Colonization, 1603-1630* (New York: Harper, 1954) probably depicts Mary's grandparents' and parents' lives.

"The laborers on the farms appear seldom in the records and we can learn little about them. They were hard-driven men, some of them little better off, so far as we can find out, than the serfs on medieval manors. They started work at dawn, had breakfast for half an hour at six, worked until dinner and then until supper at the barns until eight or nine. If unmarried the laborer lived with the farmer and was possibly not badly off as to food and lodging, though we know little about how small a room he may have shared. If married he lived in a cottage on a farm or in part of a cottage, shared by two or more families. Those cottages varied of course in size and quality, but in many cases were flimsy huts built of clay and branches of trees, and often without a chimney or any outlet for the smoke except through the door. Many cottages had one room or two and a loft. There were few windows. The sanitary arrangements do not bear description. George Herbert characterized the smell inside as sometimes loathsome.

"There were few facilities for keeping warm, except the one fire in the fireplace and that was probably not always lit. The wife of the laborer and his children might gather a few pieces of

wood or of dried cow dung and bits of furze from the heath. In bad winters the overseers of the poor might supply the cottages with a little fuel.

"In theory and usually in practice, but by no means always, the laborer had four acres of ground in connection with his cottage; and there, if soil was good, his wife and children could raise a few vegetables and perhaps some barley and rye for their bread, and have possibly a few fruit trees. The spades and other means of stirring up the soil he might have had to borrow.

"The cooking arrangements in the laborer's cottage were necessarily primitive and irregular because of the scarcity of fuel. Meat was hardly known except when the father or son killed game he was not supposed to touch, or when the porter at the manor house gate distributed leftovers from the table of the gentleman. In some communities were laborers who lived on bread and cheese and beer purchased at the alehouse [Note: Bridget (Hart) Kilner married a alehouse keeper and Cassandra (Linvill) Weller's husband was an aleseller], and apparently did little cooking. How they could pay the alehouse keeper out of their poor wages is hard to say. Sometimes in winter the parish made allowances to poor families.

"Their wages were inadequate. The farm laborer who was employed all the year round would get from 30s to 12, let us say from \$50 to \$75 a year. But farmers in the early seventeenth century were depending more upon casual labor which they could get by the day or week, and which they paid from 3d to 8d a day, the larger sum by the day was needed from March to November. Thus farm laborers who were employed by the day or week would find themselves out of work from about December to the end of February. How laborers, who would not have known how to lay up money against a wintry day, supported themselves in the cold weather we do not know. Possibly some of them became woodmen during that time and helped clear out underbrush and cut timber. In clothing counties their wives and children may have helped the family budget by taking on wool to spin and weave.

"The sums paid in summer seem inadequate. The rates of wages for labor were set at quarter sessions by the justices of the peace, who did not understand the hardships of the laborer. Rarely indeed did the justices increase the wages; in most counties the wages were little more in the reign of Charles I than they had been in mid-Tudor days, though meanwhile the price of the living had more than doubled.

"Did farm laborers rise in the world? Had they any chance to better their condition? Now and then such a man did in some way manage to get a little land, and graduated into a husbandman or a

yeoman. I suspect he did most often by marrying a yeoman's daughter.

"One wonders about the children of laborers and can only speculate. Possibly some of them became servants in houses and were much better off than their parents had been. No doubt some children were apprenticed to artisans and may have become artisans themselves and gained the status of a village shoemaker or blacksmith. Other children may have taken the road looking for work and perhaps found it in a nearby town, or perhaps have drifted from one occasional job to another. No doubt some of them filled the ranks of squatters on the heath. One looks among the useful and slightly successful men of the time to find sons of farm laborers and finds none at all.

"But we must always recall that the records are insufficient about such men. Even the churchwarden's accounts tell us almost nothing of them. Now and then in a list of pewholders we find that a farmer had a place at the end of his pew for one servant. I am inclined to believe that the farm laborers were seldom seen in the church. For one thing they did not have decent clothes for such occasions" (p.83-85).

When this is put together with the information on the Linville side of the duo (which we will begin exploring in the next two issues of "Linville Roots"), the motivation for the move to the colonies clearly becomes at least an economic one, and not a religious one. Once in the colonies when we follow the migrations of Mary and Richard's son John Linvill, one wonders if there aren't psychological reasons for the move as well.

