

*These notes on the Norwood, Harding, Bovington and Ball families of Amersham, Coleshill and Penn have been written by Chris O'Brien and are reproduced here with permission.*

### **Ancestry of William Norwood of Eton**

These notes concern the ancestry of William Norwood of Eton, currier, the grandfather of Robert Pickman Norwood (I), who died in 1827. He married Maria Pickman at Upton (Slough), 28th March 1791, when he was 26, and was buried at Eton, 7th May 1827. He was aged 62 at his death. These two pieces of evidence place his birth between May 1764 and March 1765, but up to now no birth record of a William Norwood has been found.

The identification of this William Norwood with the descendant of the family described in these notes rests on four pieces of circumstantial evidence, namely:

- (a) These notes lead to William Norwood, son of Richard Norwood of Amersham, tanner. Richard died in 1775. His wife having predeceased him, administration of his estate and curation/tuition of his children was granted to their grandfather, also Richard Norwood. In the curation bond, dated 18th October 1775 (Arch. Bucks.), the second of these children is William Norwood, aged 10. This places his birth between October 1764 and October 1765, which is consistent with the above information.
- (b) A set of documents was deposited in the B.R.O (now the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies) within the last ten years which are the title deeds of some property in Penn. They show the descent of the property from Thomas Bovington via his daughter Emma who married Ezekiel Norwood (the only evidence I have for that marriage), through Richard Norwood (d. 1783) to his grandsons. The property was sold by "William and Maria Norwood and John and Martha Norwood", which fits and shows that the William described here had a wife called Maria (though, since it is in Latin, Mary is an alternative). If the sale documents in English ("lease and release") had been deposited, they would have stated where William and Maria lived and might have solved the problem once and for all. However, the only document deposited was the Final Concord the formal legal document, which does not give place of residence – maddening.
- (c) Richard Norwood the grandfather was by trade a currier; so was William Norwood of Eton.
- (d) William Norwood of Eton named his third son Richard, and the use of the name persisted into the succeeding generation.

Mary Fuller, this William Norwood's aunt, is said (in a document dated 1823) to have left a will when she died in 1816, but it does not appear to have been proved. She was married, which might have made a will unnecessary or invalid anyway. This could have provided valuable information, because she might easily have mentioned William Norwood's children.

The study of the family in Amersham is complicated by the fact that its members were for much of the time adherents of the Baptist Church. Baptisms of their children were therefore seldom recorded in the Parish Registers (though burials and marriages do appear). Fortunately, many of them left wills, so we know at least the names of those children who survived infancy. Other families to which they were related by marriage were also Baptists or Quakers. Amersham is known as a centre of dissent from the time of Wycliff.

**Richard Norwood** of Chesham, bur. 17 Nov 1625, married (1) 30 Oct 1569, Agnes Geery, who was bur. 5 Nov 1593 having 'drowned herself'; (2) 6 Mar 1593/4 Agnes Cock, widow of Richard

Cock, wheeler - d. 1600; (3) 1 Feb 1601/2 Agnes Gourney, widow of John Gourney. The children (all of the first marriage) were:

- (1) Richard, b. and d. 1573
- (2) Ezekiel, bap. 17 Jan 1580/1, butcher - see below.
- (3) James, bap. 1583 & living in 1631 (left a will in PCC 1658).
- (4) Priscilla, bap. 1586, m. 10 Oct 1611, William Cony.

**Ezekiel Norwood** of Chesham, Butcher, the eldest surviving son of the above Richard Norwood, bur. 22 Jul 1631, (Will; Arch. Bucks.) married certainly twice, perhaps three times. His first wife Deborah was bur. 4 Sep 1616 (Records of Hemel Hempstead Manor suggest that she was Deborah How); there may have been two further wives (Agnes, then Anne), or these names in the baptism registers may refer to the same person. Anne had a son James Grower (or Grover) by a previous marriage. Children:

- (1) (By 1st marriage) John, bap. 1615, bur. 1693. In his father's will he inherited two tenements at Chesham, and he carried on his father's trade as a butcher there. He married, firstly, Sarah ....., by whom he had a son, John, b. 1646; secondly, Mary ....., d. 1685.

The only son, John Norwood, yeoman of Chesham, d. 1712 (will), m. Sarah ....., who d. 1688. In his will, he left several messuages in Chesham to his three surviving children:

(1) Sarah, b. 1677; m. 1703/4 Joseph Potter (in which family the ownership of certain land at Chesham may be traced in the Bucks RO - Lowndes manuscripts).

(2) John, turner, of Chesham, b. 1679; married, firstly, 1711/2, Sarah Fox (d. 1713), by whom he had a son, John, b. 1713; secondly, 1719/20, Martha Cock. There is a reference in the Bucks QS Records to a John Norwood of Chesham who had 'run away', deserting his wife - possibly this one.

(3) Anne, b. 1681 - may be the Anne who m. Thomas Hillam im 1714.

- (2) (By 2nd marriage) Richard, bap. 1618, bur. 1695, in the Burial Ground of the Upper Baptist Meeting at Amersham. He also inherited a tenement and freehold land at Chesham in his father's will, but appears to have settled at Amersham. His wife was Hannah, dau. of Thomas Wilkinson (evidence of son's will) bur. in 1678. Their (only?) son was James Norwood of Amersham, draper or maltster.

The son, James Norwood, of Amersham, clothier or draper, churchwarden of Amersham in 1688, who features in a Chancery Suit (Norwood & others v. Sir Ralph Bovey, Bt; C6/219/31, 1676), later of Chalfont St Giles, d. 1700 (but PCC will proved 1709). His wife was Joan (d. 1710). Their children were:

(1) James, b. 1673 & d. before 1700.

(2) Henry, b. 1675, and d., 1726, at Chalfont St Giles. Both he and his wife, Susanna (d. 1737), left wills proved in the PCC. For their family, see later note.

(3) Hannah, b. 1676; married Thomas Grimsdale, according to register copy of father's will in PCC but, in view of documents in Bucks RO relating to members of this family and 'Hannah the widow of Richard Grimsdale', I wonder whether this may be an error; marriage record not found.

(4) Ann, b. 1683 and d. 1703

(5) Richard, b. 1686. He may be the Richard Norwood, mealman, of Uxbridge who is mentioned in several later documents, e.g. Henry Norwood's will; chancery suits re Omer.

(6) Elizabeth, b. 1689, who m. Benjamin Skinner of Uxbridge (ref. Henry Norwood's will, 1726).

(7) John, b. 1692, d. 1693.

- (3) (By 2nd marriage) Ezekiel, b. 1620 and d. 1623.

- (4) (By 3rd marriage) Ezekiel, bap. 23rd May 1624, clothworker of Amersham, for whom, see below.

- (5) Ann, bap. 1629, of whom no more is known.

**Ezekiel Norwood** of Amersham, clothworker, the third surviving son of the above Ezekiel, baptized at Chesham, 23 May 1624, lived at Amersham but buried at Chesham, 5 Nov 1699. He was an adherent of the Baptist Meeting at Amersham; only one reference to the birth of a child has been found. In 1675 there is mention of Ezekiel Norwood of Penn being fined for absence from Church (*History of the Parish of Penn*). He married Emma (Nym in one reference), the daughter of Thomas Bovingdon of Penn; she was bur., Jun 1692, at the Amersham Baptist burial ground. Ezekiel appears in a Chancery suit (Norwood v. Drake & Trotman, 1693: C5/176/44), pursuing the local Lord of the Manor for non-payment of a debt. Ezekiel's will (Arch. Bucks., 1700) leaves freehold land in Amersham and a messuage at Winchmore Hill (Penn). There is a 5s legacy to the Amersham Baptist minister. The following children appear in the will, but their order is not known:

- (1) Susannah, b. Oct 1653 at Penn, who d. Jun 1708, a spinster. She is buried at Chesham, the entry saying "brought from Amersham and buried here".
- (2) Ann, who m. Richard Shepherd, currier, of Amersham. His will was proved in the PCC, 1732; hers in Arch. Bucks., 1745. They were evidently childless, and left property to nephews and nieces, including the children of Ann's brother, James.
- (3) Sarah, who was bur. at Amersham Baptist burial ground, Aug 1728, dying a spinster. She left a will (Arch. Bucks.), making her brother James her executor, but he died before he could prove the will. She leaves her property entirely between her nephew and niece, the children of her brother James.
- (4) James, clothier, of Amersham, see below.

**James Norwood**, clothier, of Amersham, the only son of the above Ezekiel Norwood (and the only child to have children), bur. 21 Oct 1728 at the Baptist burial ground, Amersham. His wife was Elizabeth, probably the Elizabeth Norwood buried at Amersham, 16 Sep 1717. He seems to have adhered to the Baptists in his father's lifetime, there being no references to baptisms of children before 1700; the QS records also show that James, son of Ezekiel Norwood, was indicted for absence from Church in 1683 and that he took the Oath of Allegiance to William and Mary as a dissenter in 1689. It is not clear whether it was this James or his cousin who was indicted for being a tranter and badger [chapman/pedlar] without a licence in 1681. After 1700, baptisms appear in the Anglican registers. Administration of his estate was granted by Arch. Bucks., 20th November 1728, to his daughter Elizabeth Blake, an inventory of £141 19s 5d being exhibited. His children were:

- (1) Ezekiel, who d. 1716, when administration of his estate was granted to his father, James. It is possible that this was the Ezekiel Norwood aged 9, baptized at Eton, 1700 - shortly after the death of his grandfather. If so, this represents the first connection of the family with Eton.
- (2) Elizabeth, bap. Jul 1701 at Amersham, m. Oct 1722 at Hughenden, Aaron Blake. Administrator of the estates of her aunt Sarah and of her father; beneficiary of the wills of Richard and Ann Shepherd. Elizabeth's son James, shoemaker of Chenies, was a trustee of his uncle Richard Norwood's will and himself left a will proved in PCC, Oct 1799. There were other children.
- (3) Richard, b. & d. 1704.
- (4) James, b. 1705, d. 1707.
- (5) Richard, bap. 25 Mar 1714 at Amersham, for whom, see below.
- (6) & others died in infancy.

**Richard Norwood**, only surviving son of the above, currier, of Amersham, bap 25 Mar 1714, bur. Nov 1783 at Upper Baptist Meeting, Amersham, m. about 1735 Hannah Harding, dau. of Jonas Harding of Woodside, Amersham & heiress of her grandfather, John Bovingdon. (The record of this marriage has not been found. Evidence for it rests on the will of Jonas Harding (1765) and a pedigree (BAS 752/38), dated 1823, in the Bucks RO.) For Hannah Harding's ancestry, see Harding; she was bur. 24 Dec 1759, at the Baptist Meeting. Apprentice Records at the Society of Genealogists show that Richard Norwood, son of James Norwood of Amersham, Bucks, clothier,

was apprenticed in 1730 to Richard Sheppard of the same place, currier for the sum of £10. We see, above, that Richard Sheppard was Richard Norwood's uncle. Richard Sheppard, by his will dated 20 Feb 1729 gave to his wife's nephew Richard Norwood all his working tools and book debts due at his decease, provided that Richard release to his sister Elizabeth Blake the cottage where Aaron Blake (her husband) dwelt. Ann Sheppard, by her will dated 30 Jun 1733 and proved 1745, left him £10. Richard Norwood left a will, proved in the PCC, Nov 1783. None of the children of this marriage was baptized, though the existence of some who died in infancy may be deduced from burial records. The children who survived infancy were:

- (1) Richard (b. 1739/40, by the evidence of his marriage licence), tanner of Amersham, for whom, see below.
- (2) Sarah, d. 5 Nov 1816, a spinster (BAS 752/38).
- (3) Ezekiel b. about 1743, currier of Amersham, d. 28 Dec 1821, m. Mar 1784 at Ellesborough, Elizabeth King (d. 1824) and had one daughter, Elizabeth, who m. William Potter, 1815.
- (4) Mary, d. Apr 1816, m. Jul 1789, at Wooburn, Revd Richard Fuller, of Hemel Hempstead, widower - no children of this marriage. (Richard Fuller was a non-conformist minister and had family connections with Blewbury, Berkshire.)
- (5) & several others, d. in infancy.

**Richard Norwood**, the eldest surviving son of the above, tanner, of Amersham, bur. 2 Mar 1775, m. 2 Feb 1761 at Wooburn, Sarah Ball, d. of Henry Ball (decd) and his wife Sarah, formerly Sarah Dowse (see these families). Sarah Norwood died before her husband, but a burial entry has not been found. Their four surviving children were not baptized at Amersham, but their ages are given in the Tuition/Curation documents issued by Arch. Bucks. following their father's death. Administration and Tuition was granted, 18 Oct 1775, to Richard's father, the above Richard Norwood, as next of kin. The children were:

- (1) Richard, b. ca 1763 (13th May according to BAS 752/38), currier &, later, grocer, of Amersham, d. 25 Oct 1826 in London (BAS 752/38), m., Nov 1788, at Amersham, Sarah Fowler. Their children (all bap. at Amersham) were:
  - (1) Richard, b. 1789
  - (2) Charles, b. 1791
  - (3) William, b. 1793
  - (4) Sarah, b. 1795
  - (5) George, b. 1797
  - (6) Catherine, b. 1798, d. 1810
  - (7) Elizabeth, b. 1802
- (2) William, b. ca 1765. This William is, I believe, the one who m. at Upton, Mar 1791, Maria Pickman, and established the family at Eton.
- (3) John, b. ca 1767. Living in 1823, but no further information. Possibly married Martha.
- (4) James, b. ca 1769, d. 20 Dec 1796 at Hoxton and bur. 23 Dec 1796 at St Thomas' burial ground, White Cross St, unmarried (BAS 752/38). James benefited from the will of his aunt Sarah Harding (qv), whether because he derived relatively little benefit from his grandfather's will or because he adhered more strictly than his brothers to the Baptist tenets, I am not sure. A document of 1793 at Bucks. R.O. (D16/7/15), in which he conveys a cottage at Amersham, inherited from Sarah Harding to his brother Richard (& John Fowler, Innholder, presumably a relation of Richard's wife) refers to him as James Norwood of the Parish of St Sepulchre in the City of London, Gent..

## Note - the descendants of Henry & Susannah Norwood

**Henry Norwood** (1675 - 1726), described in his will as 'of Lowdaine in the Parish of Chalfont St Giles', but buried at Amersham, and his wife Susannah Walker (of Abbots Langley, m. 9<sup>th</sup> Dec 1698 at Cowley) d. 1737 (both of whom left wills proved in PCC) had the following children:

- (1) Sarah, bap. 8 Dec 1700 at Chalfont St Giles, m. 1 Dec 1719, by Licence, at C St G, James Harding - very possibly a connection of the Amersham Hardings.
- (2) Ann, bap. 12 Oct 1702 at C St G & bur 15 Oct 1702 at Amersham.
- (3) Elizabeth, who m. at Chalfont St Giles, 17 Jul 1718, William Ball of Chalfont St Peter. Henry Norwood's will refers to an agreement made in 1715 which settled £120 on each of three daughters, Elizabeth, Sarah and Susannah. A party to this agreement was Henry Ball of Brainford Barn, Amersham, Herts, of the family to which Sarah Ball who m. Richard Norwood in 1761 belonged. It is possible that William Ball was of the same family. (Elizabeth may have been older than Sarah.)
- (4) Walker, mealman of Uxbridge & later of Hampton Wick, who m. 17 Sep 1736 at High Wycombe, Elizabeth Fellow; he d. 1772/3, leaving a will (PCC), proved 24th Mar 1773, in which he refers to the following children:
  - (1) Walker
  - (2) Rebecca. She d. 1812 at Chipping Wycombe & mentions her brothers in her will (PCC, Jun 1812).
  - (3) Mary
  - (4) John
- (5) Susannah
- (6) Henry - who inherited the farmhold at Chalfont St Giles and the lands used with it at Chalfont St Giles under his father's will.
- (7) Ann

## The Harding Family of Amersham

There were several Harding families in Amersham from the beginning of the registers in 1561. It is clear that they were related, but not clear exactly how. There is also a reference to a Simon Harding in about 1524, and a Thomas Harding who was martyred at the time of the Lollards. However, I think we can start with

**Roger Harding**, bur. 10 Mar 1615/6 who m. Isabella Harding, 17th May 1576. She d. 1578 & he m., secondly, Anne ..... By these marriages, he had children:

- (1) Emma, bap. May 1577 (by 1st marriage)
- (2) Simon, bap. Oct 1578, bur. Mar 1578/9 (by 1st marriage)
- (3) John, bap. Mar 1580/1 (by 2nd marriage)
- (4) Jonas, bap. 27 Dec 1583, for whom see below.
- (5) ?Christopher, bap. 1 Jan 1583/4 (perhaps unlikely, unless a twin).
- (6) Susan, bap. 20 Feb 1585/6; poss. m. John Gardener, 22 Nov 1604.
- (7) Sarah, bap. 5 Oct 1589; poss m. John Wilkinson, 1607.
- (8) Elizabeth, bap. 19 Mar 1590/1

Roger left no will; if identification is correct, there should be another son, Henry. Whether or not we can identify the fourth child above with the Jonas Harding of the next generation, the remainder of the descent follows:

**Jonas Harding**, third son of the above, bap. 27 Dec 1583 at Amersham, d. 6 Jan 1645/6, m. 10 May 1610 at Amersham, Anne Russell. His will was proved in Arch. Bucks., 1 Apr 1646, and

refers, in addition to the children mentioned below, to his two sisters, Sarah and Susanna, his brother Henry, and his kinsman & servant James Gardener. He was 'of Woodside, Amersham', as were his descendants. There are references among BAS documents at BRO to Jonas Harding in years 2&3 of Charles I (1626/7). The children of this marriage were:

- (1) Christian, bap. 17 Feb 1610/11; m. 9 Aug 1632, James Grov(w)er, Wool Merchant and had children:
  - (1) Anne, mentioned in grandfather's will.
  - (2) Daniel, bap Mar 1638/9  
& others.
- (2) Jonas, bap. 12 Sep 1613, for whom, see below.
- (3) Elizabeth, bap. 21 Sep 1616, m. 20 Jan 1639 at Hartwell, Bucks, William Braig, Rector of Hartwell and had issue
  - (1) Elizabeth, bap. 10 Nov 1640 at Amersham.
- (4) Daniel, bap. 6 Aug 1620, bur. 28 May 1621.

**Jonas Harding**, the only surviving son of the above, bap. 12 Sep 1613, yeoman, of Woodside, bur. 13 Dec 1694 (Will, Arch. Bucks.), possibly m. 1647, Margaret Alderigs (?Aldridge) (this marriage used to appear in the IGI, but I have found no original record). The children of this marriage were:

- (1) Elizabeth, bap. 2 Mar 1647/8 (&, presumably, died).
- (2) Elizabeth, bap. 23 Feb 1648/9, ?m. John Bovingdon of Coleshill (d. 1727). The grandchildren mentioned in Jonas Harding's will (1695) correspond to the children mentioned in the will (dated 1723) of this John Bovingdon, who m., secondly, Mary Child, but no record of the marriage has been found. The children were:
  - (1) Sarah, who m. Nathan Ball
  - (2) Joseph
  - (3) Mary, m. .... Turner, a widow by 1723
  - (4) Jonas
  - (5) Elizabeth
- (3) Timothy, bap. 31 Aug 1650, d. 1734 (Will, Arch. Bucks., proved 9 Oct 1734) who prob. m., 29 May 1690 at Hedgerley, Elizabeth Price. Manorial records at BRO show that Timothy sold certain copyhold land at Woodside in 1730. Their children were:
  - (1) Timothy
  - (2) Elizabeth, who m., 8 Dec 1720, at Pitstone, Joseph Beldon
- (4) Jonas, bap. 24 Dec 1659, for whom, see below.

**Jonas Harding**, the second son of the above, d. 1723 (will, Arch. Bucks., proved 4 May 1723), yeoman of Woodside, Amersham, m. 14 Jul 1684 at Amersham, Sarah Hill. The order of birth of their children is not known, but they were:

- (1) Jonas, for whom, see below.
- (2) Margaret, who, by the evidence of her sister Mary's will, m. James Baldwin and d. before 1747, having children:
  - (1) Sarah (poss. m. John Ware of Chesham)
  - (2) Elizabeth
  - (3) James
- (3) Sarah, d. 1756, a spinster. Will proved Arch. Bucks., 18 Dec 1756.
- (4) Elizabeth, m. Thomas Wheeler of Chesham, Tallow Chandler.
- (5) Mary, whose will, dated 30 Sep 1747 was proved 18 Dec 1756 (same day as her sister Sarah's), she having d. a spinster.

**Jonas Harding**, the only son of the above, is the first member of the family to appear in the pedigree preserved in BAS 752/38, from which most of this information is taken. He was born about 1687, and d. 28 Feb 1765. He m., firstly, 30 May 1709 (no record found now, nor in 1823), Hannah Bovingdon, only child of John Bovingdon (see Bovingdon), who d. 5 Aug 1712 and,

secondly, 31 Oct 1715, at Hedgerley, Mary Sparkes (d. 1763). His will was proved (Arch. Bucks.), 30 Mar 1765. The children of these two marriages were:

- (1) (1st marriage) Jonas, b. 1 Mar 1710/11, d. 10 May 1788 (Admons. in Arch. Bucks.), m. 9 Jan 1738 at Chipping Wycombe, Hannah Line. 10 of their children survived infancy; the eldest son Jonas d. unmarried in 1804, but the second son, John had numerous descendants - not followed up here.
- (2) (1st marriage) Hannah, b. 20 Jul 1712, m., 1735, Richard Norwood - see under Norwood.
- (3) (2nd marriage) William, b. 12 Feb 1716/7, d. 9 May 1776, m. Sarah Wright, who d. 17 Apr 1788. They were childless. William's will was proved in Arch. Bucks., 15 Jun 1776, and Sarah's in PCC, May 1788. Both were buried at the Baptist Upper Meeting. Sarah was a trustee of Richard Norwood's will (1783).
- (4) (2nd marriage) John, b. 26 Jul 1719, d. 25 Apr 1797, m. 30 Aug 1780 (?) Mary Hill (who d. 1811). His will proved, PCC, May 1797. They were childless. Both buried at the Baptist Upper Meeting.

### **The Bovingdon Family**

*The Norwoods have two lines of descent from the Bovingdon family of Penn, both through William (d. 1633). His grand-daughter Emma, daughter of his son Thomas, married Ezekiel Norwood. Later, Hannah Bovingdon, daughter of John Bovingdon, who was descended from William's eldest son, Richard, married Jonas Harding and their daughter, another Hannah, married Richard Norwood.*

A volume of genealogical notes on the family at BRO links the Penn family with the Amersham Bovingdons, but there is reason to doubt some of the conclusions drawn. The 1823 pedigree in BRO (BAS 752/38) begins with a Richard Bovingdon who purchased an estate at Woodside in 1674 and d. 1707 (PCC will). It seems likely that he was a son (possibly a grandson) of Richard Bovingdon who d. 1667, leaving a will proved in Arch. Bucks.; the Bovingdon history at BRO links him, instead, to Joseph Bovingdon who d. 1679, leaving a will in PCC. My main reason for believing that John Bovingdon (d. 1722) was a descendant of Richard Bovingdon (d. 1667) is that the 1667 will refers to his daughter Mary, wife of Thomas Crocker and the 1722 will refers to a cousin Thomas Crocker of Great Missenden.

A Bovingdon family with lands in Penn and Wooburn was established in the fourteenth century. The *History of Penn* records a William Bovindon in the assessment of a fifteenth in 1322, and the same name appears in a deed of 1336 (BRO: D209/71). The same series of deeds has Robert de Bovyndon at an even earlier date. The Manor Records of Penn at BRO record entries starting in 1435, when an Agnes and at least one William and Richard (there may be two of each) are recorded as holding lands. In another record, Richard Bovyndon of Penn is mentioned in 1424; Richard and John, senior, in 1456; William Bovyngdon the son of Simon Bovyngdon, formerly of Penn in 1458. There is a 1492 will of Richard Bovyndon of Penn recorded in the act books of the Archdeaconry of Bucks which mentions land in Wooburn.

**Richard Bovingdon of Penn** died there in 1588, asking in his will (PCC) that he be buried in Penn Church, near to the body of his father. Richard owned lands in Wooburn and Amersham as well as in Penn. His wife was Katherine (d. by 1602, will BRO We 22/114; Wf 15/100) and he had at least the following children (the order of the sons is clearly stated in his will):

1. William, of The Glory, Penn, for whom see below.
2. Thurstan of Wooburn, d. 1614/5, who married (1580) Marie Grove and had at least four daughters but no sons. His father's will gives him a messuage and lands in Wooburn. His will is BRO We 25/195; Wf 20/179.

3. John (d. 1631), whose wife was Katherine and who had several sons (including another Thurstan) and daughters. By his father's will, he received a messuage at Nattocks Green in Penn and another in Whielden End in Amersham. His will is in Lincoln Consistory (1631/357). It mentions the messuage at Nattocks Green.

4. Thomas (d. 1611) who married Eleanor and also had several children. He received a house called Graces in Penn Street, two small houses in the Hertfordshire part of Amersham and other lands in his father's will. His will is in Lincoln Consistory Court, 1611 F32

5. Emma, who ?m. Robert Reading

6. Cicely, whose married name may have been Troughton

**William Bovingdon**, the first son mentioned above, married firstly, in 1566, Emma Sanders (d. 1621) and secondly, in 1622 Ann East. This very late second marriage resulted in a Chancery dispute in 1633, shortly before William died. The pleadings are C2/Chas I/B48/30 and B23/33. His daughter in law by the first marriage claims that he was "of the age of one hundred years or more" and had lately "taken to wife one Anne East, not above twenty years of age". William's reply admits only that he was "strooken in yeeres" when he married Anne, who was then 34. He denies any promise to settle lands on his first son, Richard's, descendants and says that The Glory will go to his youngest son. Williams's will was made 1632 and proved in Arch. Bucks (BRO We 29/79; Wf 29/251) By his first marriage, William had the following children:

1. Richard, probably born 1567, d. 1631, for whom see below

2. William, 1568 – 1640, who had descendants

3. George, b. 1571, who also had descendants

4. Catherine, b. 1573

5. Joane, b. 1577

6. Thomas, b. 1578, d. 1643. His wife was Sarah. Their first recorded daughter was Emma, b. 1618, d. 1692, who married Ezekiel Norwood of Amersham – see the Norwood notes. Other daughters are recorded. His will is BRO We 36/37; Wf 35/4.

7. Anne, b. 1582

By the second marriage, William had one son, another William, b. 1623. His father bequeathed Glory Farm to him (hence the dispute with the children of the first marriage) and it passed to his descendants.

**Richard Bovingdon**, the first son mentioned above, had a first wife, Elizabeth, who d. 1601 and a second, Mary Reeve, whom he married in 1603. It is this Mary who instigated the Chancery action. Richard d. 1631 (will in Lincoln Consistory, 1631/356) His children were:

1. (1<sup>st</sup> marriage) Richard, "of Woodrow", d. 1667, for whom see below. By his father's will, he inherited lands at Chesham, but the lands he then occupied in Amersham went to his brother William.

2. (? Not sure which marriage) Anne, who m. George Holderness in 1629. A son Richard is mentioned in her father's will.

3. William, b. 1607. By his father's will, he received the messuage and lands in Amersham occupied by his brother Richard, charged with an annuity to his mother, Mary.

4. Jane b. 1611 (unmarried when her father made his will)

5. Robert, b. 1613. By his father's will he received a messuage and lands in Amersham known by the name of Mery Weathers, though his mother was to have them for her life.

6. Thomas, b. 1617 (received money in his father's will)

**Richard Bovingdon** was, I think, the first son of the above Richard. He is described as junior in the baptism entries. His will, dated 3 Jun 1667 (when his wife, Hellen, was living), was proved in Arch. Bucks., Their family were:



- (1) William, bap. 26 Jun 1622, principal heir. There are wills of William Bovingdon of Amersham proved in 1701, 1714 and 1717. He is not the last and seems more likely to be the second than the first, since the 1714 will refers to relations called Crocker, and a brother Walter. This would, though, make him extremely old. It would appear, if this is right, that he had no children.
- (2) Richard, bap. 30 May 1624, for whom see below.
- (3) John, bap. 21 Sep 1628. Not mentioned in father's will; assumed decd.
- (4) Walter, bap. 1 May 1631, d. 1701, having children:
  - (1) Richard
  - (2) William (children: Walter, William & Priscilla; d. before 1714, in London).
  - (3) Walter
  - (4) Elizabeth
- (5) Mary, bap. not recorded, but mentioned in will, m. Thomas Crocker of Great Missenden and had descendants.

**Richard Bovingdon**, bap. 30 May 1624, 2nd son of the above, may be the Richard Bovingdon whose will was proved in the PCC, 1707. This would make him old, but he says in the will (dated 1704) that he is aged. He leaves a message at Wendover to his granddaughter Hannah Bovingdon. (*The connection with Wendover supports the descent of John Bovingdon below with this Richard, because a long note in the margin of the register copy of John's will, made 100 years after his death, gives a limited grant of probate in respect of an interest in some lands there.*) He married Ann .... (evidence of father's will). Had already received 'a portion' at the date of that will. Had children:

- (1) a daughter Ann, bap. 2 Sep 1652, d. before 1707.
- (2) a son, John, who d. 1722.

**John Bovingdon**, son of the above Richard, m., 20 Apr 1686 at Sarratt, Herts, Hannah Howe, spinster and had an only daughter, Hannah, b. 1686 (?) who m. 30 May 1709, Jonas Harding of Woodside - see that family for her descendants. Will proved in London, 1722 (and later the subject of an extensive dispute in Chancery). One of his properties was King's Farm at Chorleywood, which was a Quaker meeting place; William Penn was married there. I have extensive notes on the How(e) family. Hannah was the daughter of Daniel How of Felden in Hemel Hempstead, where the family appear to have farmed there for a considerable time.

### **The Ball family of Coleshill, Amersham**

Like the Hardings, the Ball family are found in the Amersham area from the time of the earliest records, and there are many branches and complications. This brief summary refers only to the main line of descent from John Ball, d. 1566, to Sarah Ball, who m. Richard Norwood in 1761. More can be said about other lines, and some of the evidence used in this summary has not yet been typed.

**John Bawll** of Coleshill, bur. 3 Jun 1566, left a will proved at Lincoln. This suggests that his wife pre-deceased him, and that he left children:

- (1) Anne, who married John Skiars, Nov. 1566.
- (2) Edmund, probably the eldest son, for whom, see below.
- (3) Amy(?), of whom no more is known.
- (4) Walter, d. 1589, (will in Arch. Bucks), survived by wife Agnes, who possibly remarried Richard Gren, 1596. Approximately 12 children of this marriage.
- (5) William, d. 1580 (Will: Arch. Bucks). His first wife was Mary (d. 1568); in this year, he married Elizabeth Kyrbeye. His will refers to two sons, William and Henry, and a daughter, Susan. His wife survived him.

**Edmund Ball**, the eldest son of the above, yeoman, of Amersham, bur. 22 Jan 1589/90 (Will: Arch. Bucks.), married Elizabeth ....., widow (bur. 24 Aug 1590, Will: Arch. Bucks., & who, by her first marriage, had a daughter Ann, married to .... Byrte), and had children:

- (1) Henry, for whom, see below.
- (2) Thomas, bap. 1561, probably m., 1590, Aloisia Meriden, of whom no more is known.
- (3) Walter, bap. 1563/4, m., 1590, Anne Childe. 8 children of this marriage are recorded in the parish registers.
- (4) Mary, bap. 1566
- (5) Susan, bap. 1569/70
- (6) Elizabeth, bap. 1573

**Henry Ball**, the eldest son of the above, born before Amersham Registers begin, bur. 16 Jan 1592/3, m. 10 Nov 1583, at Amersham, Susanna, dau. of John Childe, wheelwright (will, Arch. Bucks.). After Henry's death, Susanna m. John Munday (d. 1616, will in Arch. Bucks.), by whom she had 7 children (he also having others by an earlier marriage). One of these children was Mary (will, 1636). John Munday has some connection with Hambleden, where at least one of his children lived. An article by J. Chevinix-Trench in Records of Buckinghamshire, 25, suggests that John Munday was tenant of the holding called Brainsford Barn, in Coleshill, and that the tenancy eventually passed to his stepson, Edmund Ball, after which the property, first leasehold, then freehold, remained in the Ball family until the 19th Century. The children of Henry Ball and Susanna Childe were:

- (1) Jane, bap. 1584, who m. .... Shrimpton
- (2) Henry, bap. 1586, perhaps bur. 1671/2. He married, 1619/20, Mary Deane, who d. 1673/4, leaving a will (Arch. Bucks.). 7 children are mentioned in her will, but, although this was the senior line, it appears that they had less success; according to the article mentioned above, they held a cottage called the Red Lion at Coleshill and a small amount of land.
- (3) John, bap. 1588, of whom nothing definite is known.
- (4) Edmund, d. 1590
- (5) Edmund, bap. 18 Feb 1592/3, for whom, see below.

**Edmund Ball**, the youngest son of the above (born after his father's death), is referred to in the wills both of his step-father, John Munday and half-sister, Mary Munday. His wife was Mary, and may have been the Mary Ball, widow, who d. 1665. Though burials of an Edmund Ball are recorded in 1631 and 1681, neither satisfactorily fits. It may be that he died during the Commonwealth period. The children of this marriage were:

- (1) Ann, bap. 1618
- (2) Henry, bap. 25 Feb 1620/1, for whom, see below.
- (3) Susanna, bap. 1622
- (4) Thomas, bap. 1624
- (5) James, bap. 1628
- (6) Mary, bap. 1633, bur. 1635
- (7) Nathaniel, bap. 1636, d. 1724 (will, Arch. Bucks.), m., 1663, Mary Child (d. 1690/1). There were several children of this marriage.

**Henry Ball**, the eldest son of the above, bap. 25 Feb 1620/1, bur. Oct 1700 (will, Arch. Bucks.), m. Sarah ..... (bur. 30 Aug 1678). Henry is the first of the family to describe himself as 'of Brainsford Barn' in his will. He was a leading member of the Quaker group in the Amersham area; in 1669, he was imprisoned at Aylesbury for non-payment of tithes, being tried at Hertford the following year and fined under the Conventicle Act. The Quakers sometimes met at Brainsford Barn; a marriage which took place there in 1669 was that of Thomas Ellwood of Amersham and Mary Ellis of Coleshill. This has several points of interest; Thomas Ellwood, later of Hunger Hill, was the leading Quaker in this group; he was also, at times, a secretary to John Milton. Many of his writings have

survived. Henry Ball witnessed this marriage; other witnesses included Gulielma Maria Springett, later the wife of William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania, her mother Mary Penington and step-father Isaac Penington. William Penn and his wife were married by the Quaker practice at Kings Farm, Chorleywood, which was later to come into the hands of the Norwoods. When, in 1671, the Quaker community purchased land at Jordans, the list of trustees was headed by Henry Ball, followed by Thomas Ellwood. It appears, however, that Henry was buried in Amersham Parish Church; possibly his son deserted his father's allegiance. The children of this marriage were:

- (1) Edmund, bap. 1648, probably bur. 1681, having married, 1678, Jane Glenister.
- (2) Ann, bap. 1650, m. 1671 (by the Quaker practice, at Whelplies in Coleshill), Henry Child. Their marriage settlement is in the Bucks R.O., and settles the Manor of Coleshill on Ann for her life (after Henry's decease), then to the heirs of Henry Child. However, later documents show that the manor was sold in 1683 to Edmund Waller of Beaconsfield, Esq...
- (3) Sarah, bap. 1652/3, m., 1676, (by the Quaker practice), Richard Kirton of Kensington. There is a letter extant at Friends House from Thomas Ellwood to Sarah Kirton, dated 1706/7, referring to a daughter, Sarah. The Kirton family were also Quakers; they appear to have held land in Pinner at this period, and may have been connected to the Street family.
- (4) Henry, birth not recorded (possibly during Commonwealth period), for whom see below.
- (5) Ruth, who m., 1679, by the Quaker practice, at Jordans, Chalfont St Giles, John Costard of Amersham, mealman. She d. before 1697, leaving two children, John and Sarah.

**Henry Ball**, the only surviving son of the above, d. 1701 (will in PCC), before executing his father's will, m. 27 Sep 1683 at All Hallows London Wall, Hannah Street of Pinner. She was buried at Pinner, 6 Apr 1742. Evidence of the link between these families is provided by Henry's will, which mentions his brother in law, Henry Street, and by conveyances at Bucks R.O., which refer (in 1740) to Hannah Ball, of Pinner. As Henry married in the Church of England, it appears that he did not adhere to the Quaker allegiance of his father; however, the births of his children are not recorded in the registers of Amersham. There is evidence in the burial registers of three who died in infancy; those who survived at the time of their father's will were:

- (1) Henry, for whom see below.
- (2) John
- (3) William
- (4) Sarah, of whom nothing further is known.

**Henry Ball**, the eldest son of the above, inherited the property at Brainsford Barn on his father's death, and was bur. at Amersham, 1765. He married about 1717, Sarah ..... (possibly Sarah Andrews - there is a reference in his son's marriage settlement to a previous settlement of 1716, in which the other parties were John Andrews of King's Langley, Herts and John Andrews his son), and had children:

- (1) Henry, for whom, see below.
- (2) Edmund, surveyor, of Chipping Wycombe, d. 1708, who m. Ann ..... .
- (3) William, d. 1794 (Will: PCC), who married, probably for the second time, in 1786, Ann Sewer, and had four children, probably by his first marriage.
- (4) Sarah, d. 1795, unmarried.
- (5) Hannah, d. 1780, unmarried.
- (6) Elizabeth, d. 1801, unmarried.

**Henry Ball**, the eldest son of the above, d. 1755 (before his father - will in PCC), m. Sarah Dowse, only daughter of Richard Dowse, of Wooburn, at Hedsor, 6 Aug 1740. Their marriage settlement, in Bucks R.O.(part of DX1/64 - Ball estate), settles the majority of the Brainsford Barn land on him immediately, subject to the life interests of his mother and grandmother in certain parts. Sarah Ball was bur. at Wooburn, 4 Aug 1770, leaving a will proved in PCC. They had the following children (bap. dates not known):

- (1) Sarah, who m. Richard Norwood, 1761, q.v..

- (2) Elizabeth, who m., before 1770, Henry Revell of Wooburn, papermaker. This marriage appears to have been childless; Henry was prosperous, and both left wills proved in PCC.
- (3) Hannah, who m., 30 Jan 1770, at Wooburn, Aaron Medwin. There were several children of this marriage.
- (4) Henry, d. 1796 (will in PCC) who m., 1772, at Cookham, Sarah Wenman, and had surviving child, a son, Henry. This Henry was an ironmonger, of Christchurch, Surrey in 1824.
- (5) Richard, bur. at Wooburn, 25 Jul 1764
- (6) John, probably d. at Chesham, 1823, leaving a will in PCC; many children.