

## Part 8. Can all the Revells be connected? The missing links.

Some thoughts compiled by Mike Clifford and Sue Dauris. Major revision October 13<sup>th</sup> 2010.

Pedigrees 170 and 174 in *Familiae Minorum Gentium*, that are available on [Rotherham Web](#) and various other authorities as discussed in [Part 4](#) suggest that the Revells of Derbyshire were descended from the Revells of Warwickshire, in particular from William Revell of Newbold Revell. It is thought by many that the Revells of Yorkshire, especially those in the Stannington / Bradfield area, as discussed in [Part 5](#), might also be descended William of Newbold Revell. William died about 1316 as described in [Part 1](#). An early pedigree has the Revells of Pembrookshire descended from the Derbyshire Revells as discussed in [Part 4](#).

### *The descent to Derbyshire*

At present it is not possible to connect unequivocally any well-documented Revells in Warwickshire with the earliest well-documented Revells in Derbyshire, there being a gap of some 100 to 150 years and encompassing, perhaps, five generations. There seems to be two plausible routes to Derbyshire, and these are not necessarily mutually exclusive. There is a good line from Warwickshire to a Revell widow in Derby in the 1430s, and there are some 'loose ends', i.e. poorly documented Revells who might be part of this descent. These can be 'shaken up' as in a kaleidoscope to form an attractive pattern and / or assembled like a jigsaw with regard to what little information is available about the dates at which the individuals were recorded. The thoughts that follow have been assembled by just such a process.

There is a clear record of a Roger Revell of Watford (Northamptonshire), brother of Robert, in 1314. A Thomas Revell is mentioned in association with a Robert Revell in connection with property in Bukkeby in 1280. The identity of Robert is not stated but the geographic location and the date strongly suggest that it was Robert of Bukkeby, William of Newbold Revell's eldest son.

In 1312 a Simon Revell is located in the parish of Newcastle, Dublin. This completely isolated reference might have absolutely no connection, but the importance attached to one or other Simon Revells in the various pedigrees does focus attention on him. He might be another son or perhaps grandson, of William of Newbold Revell.

The earliest unequivocally documented Derbyshire Revell is Thomas of Higham who must have been born in the period 1420 to 1430. At about that time there is a reference in a pedigree to a John Revell of Shirland Castle, the head of a branch who moved to West Wales. Much of this pedigree can be confirmed, see [Part 4](#), and the earliest reference to what appears to be this John Revell is dated 1443 suggesting that he was born not later than *ca* 1423.

It is possible that this John Revell of Shirland Castle and Thomas Revell of Higham are brothers or cousins. One can deduce that their parents would probably have been born in the period 1380 to 1410 and their grandparents in the period 1340 to 1380.

As discussed in [Part 4](#) it is thought that the Revells arrived in Derbyshire during the first half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, and that the Revells acquired Ogston shortly after through a marriage to the Deincourt family. At that period the Willoughby family held Brackenthwaite / Brackenfield under the Deincourts and this also came to the Revells. There is documentation that confirms interactions between the Revells, the Deincourts and the Willoughbys and collectively this focuses attention on the John Revell who was Joan Deincourt's second husband as a potentially important link in the descent from Warwickshire to Derbyshire. It now seems almost certain that this was Sir John Revell, junior's second marriage, and as discussed in [Part 2](#), the property would have passed from Sir John junior to his eldest sister Margaret Langham, formerly Margaret Malory née Revell, to her son of her first marriage, Sir John Malory who was resident at Erll Street, Coventry in 1424.<sup>1</sup> This John Malory married Alice the daughter of John Revell of Earl Street, Coventry, a son of William of Bukkeby and sister of the Joan who can be connected to land in Derbyshire.

A *John Reuet* is recorded as a witness at Wyngefeld in 1414,<sup>2</sup> and this is plausibly a mis-transcription of *John Revel*, and this individual is almost certainly of age and hence born no later than *ca* 1394. In the period 1432 to 1443 there is evidence for a Joan Belgrave late the wife of a John Ryvell in connection with property in Derby.

Information provided by the '*Coventry Leet Book*'<sup>3</sup> strongly suggests that Joan Belgrave is the Joan who married John the son of William Revell of Buckeby and Ellen discussed in [Part 2](#) and [Part 4](#) because it is clear that this John was explicitly documented in 1375 and resident Earl Street, Coventry, from at least 1424 until at least 1431. He was deceased by 1433. Joan's second husband William Belgrave was Mayor of Coventry in the period 1409 to 1417 and he held lands also at Bukkeby.<sup>4</sup> There are references to this William Belgrave residing Earl Street, Coventry, from at least 1424 to as late as 1437.<sup>5</sup> After the death of her second husband Joan inherited property in Derby formerly belonging to William Faseman who was resident at Much Park Street, Coventry, from 1422 to 1425,<sup>6</sup> and Bailiff of Coventry in 1424–25.<sup>7, 8</sup> In 1434 a Johannes Revell is recorded as resident Earl Street when he paid

1 *Coventry Leet Book* <http://www.archive.org/stream/coventryleetboo00unkngoog#page/n104/mode/1up/search/malory>

2 HD 1538/428/6 [http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/records.aspx?cat=173-iveagh\\_5&cid=-1#-1](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/records.aspx?cat=173-iveagh_5&cid=-1#-1)

3 '*The Coventry Leet Book*' <http://www.archive.org/stream/coventryleetboo00unkngoog#page/n57/mode/1up>

4 A. 10827 <https://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=64431>

5 [http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/A2A/records.aspx?cat=143-ms3888\\_1&cid=2-1-589&kw=mayor%20coventry%20william%20belgrave#2-1-589](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/A2A/records.aspx?cat=143-ms3888_1&cid=2-1-589&kw=mayor%20coventry%20william%20belgrave#2-1-589)

6 '*The Coventry Leet Book*' <http://www.archive.org/stream/coventryleetboo00unkngoog#page/n117/mode/1up>

7 <http://www.hunimex.net/warwick/covkid/Coventry%20sheriffs.html>

8 PA 100/28/1 <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/A2A/records.aspx?cat=144-pa34&cid=2-32-1&kw=William%20Faseman#2-32-1>

tax of 6d. He was not recorded in 1430 and presumably was not of age at that date, suggesting that he was born in the period 1415 to 1420, and he is almost certainly a relative of John and Joan, possibly a son.

None of these Revells and Belgraves are recorded in Coventry in 1435 suggesting they had either died or moved — a move to Derby is eminently plausible, and the younger John is a strong candidate for John of Shirland Castle, thought to have been born not later than *ca* 1423 and extant 1443. According to the pedigree in the 1591 '[Visitation to Wales](#)' he moved from Shirland during the reign of Edward IV, 1461–1483. See [Table 8](#) for a diagrammatic representation of these possible relationships.

To summarise, the most complete line established so far is that from William of Newbold Revell, through his eldest son Richard of Bukkeby, his son William of Bukkeby and his son John who married a Joan, Joan subsequently marrying William Belgrave and holding land at Derby in the 1430s, thus overlapping the period in which Thomas of Higham and John of Shirland Castle must have been born. However, even if this line accounts for either Thomas of Higham or John of Shirland Castle, it does not necessarily account for both, and there might well have been other brothers or cousins.

### ***The descent to Yorkshire***

The situation with the descent to South Yorkshire, if indeed that is what happened, is somewhat different. In this case there is an almost continuous sequence of records in the [Hallamshire](#) area of Yorkshire from 1161, considerably earlier than the first record in Derbyshire dated 1277, and with many more individuals documented.

Thomas Revells feature strongly in [pedigree 170](#) supposedly showing the link between the Warwickshire Revells and Yorkshire Revells. Although much of this pedigree is suspect it is interesting to note the evidence, given while discussing the descent to Derbyshire, for a Thomas Revell associated with Bukkeby in 1280 who might be brother to Robert, son of William of Newbold Revell. In 1337 a Thomas Ryuel and a John Ryuell are mentioned in connection with debts owing to the Priory of Ecclesfield (Yorkshire), and a Peter Ryuel is mentioned as a witness in 1334. A connection with Northamptonshire / Warwickshire is possible, but the Thomas named in connection with Ecclesfield is almost certainly too young to be Thomas associated with Bukkeby.

There are two groups of Revells in north Yorkshire, around Skipton and around Tadcaster, from at least the beginning of the 13<sup>th</sup> century and they might well be connected — see [Part 5](#). The Skipton branch includes a ***William de Rivill, Knight*** (born 1263), the only unequivocal reference so far located to an armiger among the Yorkshire Revells despite them featuring somewhat later in the dubious pedigree [MS 170](#). A coincidence of names and dates, i.e. a ***William Revell*** born no earlier than *ca* 1200 who had a brother ***Robert*** extant until at least 1263 who are associated with Crendon might be the ***William Revell*** born no later than *ca* 1216 and his brother ***Robert*** living in 1272, sons of ***Alexander Revell*** and ***Johanna***, who are associated with the Tadcaster area, suggests that they might be one and the same — see [Table 1b](#). The Skipton area Revells are associated with two families prominent there, de Wicle and le Vavasur, who are clearly also significant land-owners in Northamptonshire.

How these north Yorkshire Revells connect to the Warwickshire Revells, if indeed they do, is far from clear. One can speculate as to whether ***Roger Revell*** of Watford, Northamptonshire, brother of Robert of Bukkeby might be the ***Roger de Rivill*** mentioned in connection with the Manor of Toneton, in Yorkshire. There is a proven connection between the Priory of Ecclesfield and the monks of the Norman abbey of St Wandrill in the region of France from which Bernard de Neufmarché originated, and therefore possibly associated with William Revell of Llanfilo, see [Part 1](#). The Revells of Northamptonshire and Warwickshire had strong connections to the Knights Hospitaller, and that coupled with the presence of the Preceptory at Whiston are enough reasons to speculate that these same Revells of Warwickshire might be active in south Yorkshire.

The lack of an unequivocal connection to the Warwickshire Revells prompts consideration of other possibilities. Might one or both of the Yorkshire branches be connected to the Revells of Hertfordshire? Again a coincidence of dates and names makes this attractive. The earliest north Yorkshire Revell is a ***William de Rivill*** holding land at Scarthingwell in 1202, hence born no later than *ca* 1182, matching two ***William Revells***, sons of ***Andrew Revell*** of Bengeo, one of whom was illegitimate.

### ***West Country Connections***

There is good evidence for a connection between the Revells of the west-country and those of Warwickshire and Northamptonshire with ***Richard Revell*** of Pyttney being a brother to ***Henry Revell*** of Swinford, but their parents are uncertain. The descent from Henry is quite well established, including a migration to London, see [Part 3](#), and the migration to Derbyshire discussed above. In contrast, the descent from Richard is less clear and rather confused. A move north-eastwards from Somerset to Wiltshire and Berkshire can be traced — see [Part 7](#) — and there are later links from Berkshire to Bristol, Dorset, London and Kent, with connections to Suffolk — see [Part 9](#). However, there is nothing to confirm the supposed move from Somerset to Cambridgeshire, although the reverse migration is true— see [Parts 10](#) and [11](#).

### ***Conclusions***

Despite these tantalising hints to possible connections, proof is lacking for many and further investigation is required, not just to try and establish these links, but also to disprove these suggestions if in fact they are unfounded.