



GETTING OUR ARMS ROUND THE TREE
DAVENPORT FAMILY HISTORIANS MEETING

SUTTON HALL - 28th JULY 2011

Introduction

The Capesthorpe Gathering of August 2010 triggered a number of initiatives on the family history front. Those involved met recently at Sutton Hall, the one time home of Sir Humfrey Davenport (1566 – 1644), to review and discuss their findings and share their plans for what next. This document summarises the contribution of each, in their own words (more or less!).

But before looking at the words, here's a picture of the gathering.



Len (front row third from the right)

"The Opus [a digital database of the documented descendants of Orme/Vivian – MRD]: I have entered all Ormerod, Earwaker and the three visitations on top of the Duke of Rutland papers John Marlow obtained for me from the archivist at Belvoir Castle - 1147 names in all. I am now checking and putting the notes in order and

noting which PR I need to look at for completeness of any possible dates. The chart version at present is 27 feet long. Once the notes are done I shall be contacting Nevada Jack to ask if he would be willing to put a register book version in his Davenport website 'reference library'; after that I'll start work on extending the branches from parish register data. My own file is still stuck in 1825 Chester with a bap of James to John and Elizabeth though I might have a possible marriage at Malpas; I need to look at the PR."

Colin (and John M) (Colin, back row second from the right)

"CHASING THE ORIGINS OF RICHARD OF WIGSTON

- 1. Warwickshire Parish Records - the parishes between Coventry & the Leicestershire border have been researched. Nothing yet has been found to link Richard with the Coventry Davenports except the 1622 marriage between John Davenport & Elizabeth Hales. The marriage could have come about through the Hales connections with Leicestershire families rather than a Coventry Davenport connection. Research ongoing.*
- 2. Mayor Thomas Davenport of Leicester. The will of Henry, Thomas's son, has been studied. There is no evidence of any descendants; Henry left his belongings to his step-father Nicholas English. Not to be pursued further.*
- 3. Visitation of London 1633-35 indicates that Myles Davenport of Henbury moved to Houghton, Northamptonshire and a son William moved on to Hinckley. This William with his sons William & Edmund replicate names & relationships contained in the Hinckley Parish Register. William (father) married a Katherine and a daughter of William Davenport in Hinckley was also named Katherine. Note that William, one of the sons, became a haberdasher in London (see 6, below).*
- 4. There is a 1566 will for John Dampont of Hanging Houghton but this showed John to be a relatively poor husbandman. A few Davenports are mentioned in the Lamport Parish Register (which includes the hamlet of HH). This whole section requires further research, especially in the light of Ormerod's Henbury Davenport pedigree.*
- 5. Northampton Davenports. The 1553/4 will of John Davenport senior of Northampton (a bailiff of Northampton in 1538) makes reference to a Mr Ralph Freeman of Northampton & William Hutt; surnames also associated with Wigston. Needs further research along with other Davenports that crop up along the Northampton-Leicester road.*
- 6. The will of William Lawe of Wigston. William was a contemporary of Richard and also a haberdasher. Will provided no clues about Richard but JM has written to the Haberdashers Company of London, which has been the patron of All Saints, Wigston, since the 1620s.*

Other possible research items

- 1. Any possible link with the Davenports of Stapleford, Nottinghamshire*

2. *Visitation of London 1568 refers to a daughter of Henbury married to a Richard Birde (Byrd) of Youley, Cheshire, the son of Randolphe Birde.*
3. *'Calendar of Pleadings from 14 Eliz to End of Reign' in Duchy of Lancaster Vol III, p472, No 18 (44 Eliz) relates to Leicestershire and a case in which a Richard & a John Davenport are defendants.'*

Dave (back row third from the left)

"Went to Lacock Abbey and met up with the headman Mr Formby who was very helpful and is arranging to send me photos of the 23 portraits they have of Worfield Davenports. Came home via Worfield and took some photos in the church and the house - the man is Henry [1677/8 – 1731 - MRD] as a young man and the lady is Mary Lucy [his wife – MRD]."



Working with Martin we shall now combine the pictures with the genealogical data to produce an illustrated register book of the Davenports of Worfield."

Graham (back row second from the left)

"Have not progressed any further back from John born 1750, although I have an interest in a John born in 1716 but it is a open minded interest as there are no paper records to link the two. I have started to record the descendents of Ralph of Henbury, three times Mayor of Chester in the late 1400s and early 1500's but the paper records seem to get lost in the 1600's - lots of Davenports in Chester, but no firm connections to each other, yet..."

Ian of Bucks (back row fourth from the left)

"Believe I now have the christening date for ancestor George of Burland, his parents, and possibly their parents back to 1680, but need a cross check if this is possible before publishing results. It is a little scarey that there are 5 'known' clones or near clones of yourself in USA. How many more are there that we do not know about, and how long have they been there with proven male descent lines? This would obviously go a long way to dating when the 'swing' away from a possible mainstream 'D' Cheshire family due to 'paternity event' could have taken place. 'Aryn' the newest 'D' arrival appears to be thriving. I shall be working with PRs to verify and extend the above - trying to enlist assistance in Cheshire - and will contact my American 'DNA cousins' to incorporate their descent data into the process."

Marie (and Mark) (Marie, front row second from the right)

"For Capesthorne last year I wrote what little I knew of my great grandfather and gg grandfather, both of whom were parsons in Leicestershire. I didn't know then how to find out more. Help came in the surprising form of a cousin Mark I didn't know I had. He descends from a daughter my grandfather sired when aged seventeen - which was hushed up. Mark has always been interested in Davenport family history; we met for the first time at Capesthorne and shared the information we had. That fired us both up to try and make the link back to Cheshire and we achieved it at about the same time but independently of each other. The information we found, limited here to first sons, is as follows:

1. Thomas Davenport, gent of Siddington, Cheshire.
2. Rev Thomas Davenport (c 1722 – 1795). He moved to Radcliffe or Ratcliffe (spellings vary) on Trent in Nottinghamshire. There is also a reference of his appointment at St Mary's Nottingham in March 1771.
3. Rev John Davenport succeeded his father as vicar of St Mary's Ratcliffe. He went on to appointments in Leicestershire - Tugby, Tilton on the Hill, and then Goadby. He was the one who started the Leicestershire/Harborough Davenports.
4. Thomas Reginald Davenport, (1776 - ?), surgeon, lived in Market Harborough and ended his days in Skeffington, Leics. I have him living in Appleby Parva in the 1841 census.
5. Rev John Charles Davenport (1806 – 1889) of Skeffington Rectory, a prolific countryman. He seems to have been the one with the money. He had some 9 children - some went on to live on independent means.
6. Rev John Reginald Davenport (1849 – 1930), in many respects the same as his father.
7. Geoffrey Launclot Davenport, (1887 – 1970), a gentleman rogue, - sports promoter, journalist, publican. Geoffrey did not conform to the life of the cloth - he was more like his uncle Henry, John Reginald's brother, who wrote about country sports for the Daily Telegraph and The Field Magazine and wrote a book on fox hunting in Leicestershire, called "Memories at Random". Geoffrey went through any money he inherited and the family often had to do a moonlight flit to keep one step ahead of the debt collectors - my mother once said that if something was not nailed down, Geoffrey would sell it. So it is no surprise that he fathered an illegitimate daughter.
8. Peter Launclot Davenport, (1901 – 1983), my father, who sadly had no sons or brothers, which leaves me – the end of this particular line.

The next step will be to acquire the FH software used by Len and Martin ("Brother's Keeper") and enter the above together with their siblings. It can then be made available to others to see if we can find links between the branches."

Martin (back row fifth from the left)

"Been busy on a number of fronts:

- *working with Dave to put his tree into my FH program and so produce a book version of the Davenports of Worfield for putting on Jack's D*

website. Have already fed the genealogical data to Len for incorporating into the Opus;

- also working with new cousins Michael D of Toronto and Jo of Tasmania who have traced their family back to a Thomas D of Evington, Leics - who is listed in Colin's and my book of the descendants of Richard of Wigston. So we now have a new branch on our branch so to speak. Michael has written the history of one sub-branch, "The Descendants of Samuel Davenport (1760 - 1834) of Leicestershire. England", and posted it on Jack's site. It is an outstanding example of what can be found out and written up to make an enjoyable and valuable contribution to the Davenport story;
- heard from Otha that he has completed the chain from himself (and so the rest of the Newberry Ds) back to the Bramhall branch. Thus we now have three son-to-father chains back to Vivian – the Bromley-Ds, the Ds of Worfield, and the Newberry Ds, each with a different DNA profile (haplotype) - which casts an entirely new light on the Cheshire Davenport scene;
- Robert of London recently drew my attention that he has a US D 'DNA cousin', Thomas of AZ. So since Capesthorne three new transatlantic links have been established, Robert's, Ian's, and Dave's with the Mackinaw Ds;
- after 30 years have finally completed transcribing and distributing round his descendants the letters of my great grandfather Robert (1816 – 1896) written from his farm in the early days of the then colony of South Australia.

In the coming months I shall be completing the Ds of Worfield book with Dave and submitting a copy for Jack's reference library, and likewise one with Michael and Jo on the Ds of Evington. After that I shall return to transcribing more old family letters – those of the children of one of great granddad Robert's brothers – one of whom was an army doctor who served during the Indian Mutiny"

Peter (back row fourth from the right)

"My field of ongoing historical interest is in the Ds in the textile industry and those who registered patents in UK."

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As the meeting was felt by all to be enjoyable and useful it was agreed to meet again next year.

MRD, August 2011.