



OUR ENGLISH HERITAGE

By

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The Origins of Colonel Thomas Speke of Virginia ?

This article is a continuation, from an English perspective, of the excellent "The Life and Times of Colonel Thomas Speke of Virginia" by John S. Morris III, republished in the September 1994 Bulletin.

The information I have relates to Col Thomas Speke. As yet I have no theories to the origins of Thomas Speaks of St. Marys, except that I agree that he obviously came from a much lower social status than Col Speake's family, as is apparent from his servitude and grant of 50 acres.

As far as the English links that were given in the article, it was proposed that:

1. Col. Thomas Speke was born ca. 1622/3, probably in Somerset, England.
2. He had a brother John, who was a merchant, who had Bristol and Bath associations.
3. A Hugh Speke of Bath, who was related in some way to John Speke, signs a deed of land ca. 1691.

On first reading the article, I particularly noted the name Hugh Speke. This is an uncommon Christian name, and I remembered that I had seen the name associated with the West Country Speke families. From the main Whitelackington branch there was Hugh Speke, ca 1645-1724, the political activist, and other Hughs from the Hazelbury Spekes, who were descended from the second marriage of Sir George Speke of Whitelackington (ca. 1525-1583) to Dorothy Gilbert. She brought with her lands in Sherfield, Hampshire, and the means to purchase the Manor of Hazelbury, Wiltshire.

Hazelbury is only 6 miles east of Bath, near the town of Box. Bath itself is only 10 miles

east of Bristol, at that time a very prosperous trading port, especially with the Americas.

This branch of the family had obvious links with Bath, as several members of the family were baptized, married or buried at Bath Abbey, or one of the other parish churches in the town over several generations.

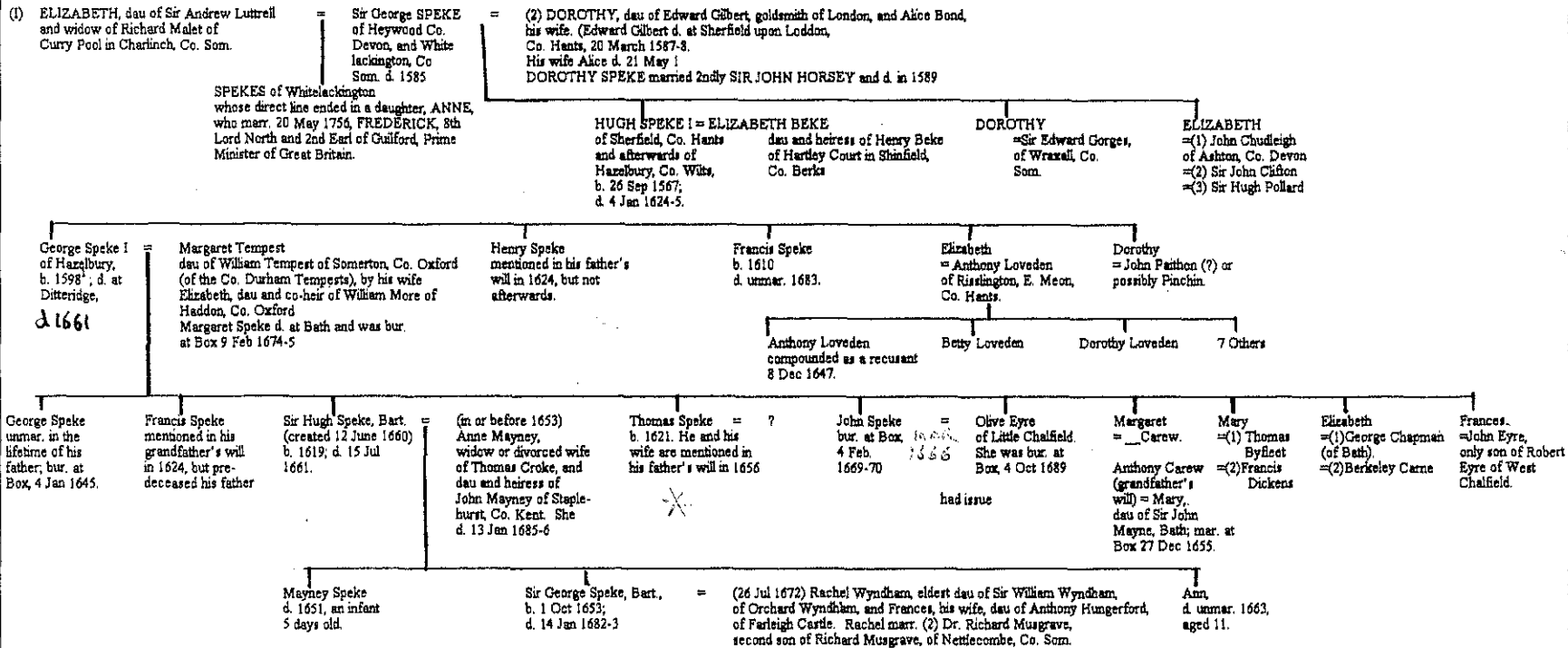
On looking at both the Hazelbury and Whitelackington pedigrees, it was soon clear that the latter did not appear to present a Thomas Speke born ca. 1621, who had a brother John. However, the Hazelbury tree shows a Thomas Speke, born 1621, who survived into adulthood, and was living and married at the time of his father's Will made in 1656. He had a brother John, who is shown on the chart as having married Olive Eyre, "had issue", and died 1669/70, buried at Box.

I searched my own records, and found that this John had strong Bath connections, as he had baptized at least two children at Bath Abbey, and buried one of them there. The other child was a son Hugh, baptized 1669. There is some evidence that this Hugh was buried at Bath St. Michael in 1693, having been married and baptized a child.

This branch would appear to match the facts as set out in John Morris's article. I do not, however, say that this is definitely the answer to the origins of Col. Thos. Speke, but I am suggesting that this proposition should be further investigated, as it is very promising. From all my data, I cannot yet suggest any other likely line of research.

Certainly this family background would have had the means to set up Thomas Speke in Virginia. It looks as though he was the second born son. The main Hazelbury line was continued by his elder brother, Sir Hugh Speke, Baronet, who died 1661. This line terminated with the death

SPEKE OF HAZELBURY



Notes:

1. Hugh Speke I; PCC ?Will and Inquisition Post Mortem, 1625.
2. George Speke I of Hazelbury: he died at Bath and was buried at Box, PCC Will 1661.
3. Margaret nee Tempest, wife of George Speke I; PCC Will 1675.
4. John Speke//Olive Eyre; their "issue" appears to be -
 - a. Margaret, bap. and buried at Bath Abbey 1667
 - b. Hugh, baptised 1669 at Bath Abbey, and buried at Bath St. Michael. He may have married and had a daughter, Olive, who was bap. and bur. 1691-2 at Bath St. Michael.
 - c. Possibly a son, John, mentioned in the 1683 PCC Will of Francis Speke, brother of Geo. Speke I, as "my cousin John Speke". As John senior had died in 1669-70, then this John may have been his son.
5. Sir Hugh Speke, who died 1661; buried at Box.
6. Sir Goerge Speke who ldied 1682-3; PCC Will.

¹ in his father's *Inq. p. m.*, dated 15 March 1623-4, he is stated to have been then of the age of 26 years and more' (see Appendix No. XC).

Thomas Speke - Continued

of Sir Hugh's son Sir George Speke, who died without issue in 1682.

Some avenues for further research are :

a) Another review of the information given in "A History of the Manor of Hazelbury".

b) The Will of George Speke, Thomas's father, proved 1661. This may mention the name of Thomas's wife, which should be Ann. George Speke died at Bath, but was buried at Box. His Will states he was of "Ditchridge" Wiltshire. Ditchridge was a Chapelry within the Parish of Box.

c) The Will of Thomas's mother Margaret (nee Tempest) who died 1675, may mention Thomas and John.

d) The parish registers of Box, Wiltshire which fortunately start in 1580. Those of the Chapelry of Ditchridge, 1584- should also be checked. These will help to fill out the pedigree. Possibly Col. Thomas Speke was married in England to Ann...?

e) Search for deeds relating to the business dealings of the Spekes in the Bristol area in the 1600's. e.g. the land sale from Hugh Speke of Bath to Henry Totterdale of Bristol, mariner, 1691.

In the article, it is not mentioned where or when Thomas, Col. Speke's son, died. As I have not been a party to all the work and discussion that SFA members have, is this correct? If it is just possible that he died in England, then a search of the Box parish registers might be a good starting point.

The Speke of Hazelbury Chart shows how the Hazelbury branch relate to the White-lackington family, with my additions. I would welcome the comments of SFA members on the above proposition.

References

1) Burkes Landed Gentry - for the White-lackington family

2) "A History of the Manor of Hazelbury" by G.J.Kidston, London 1936.



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Col. Thomas Speake of Virginia--Progress report

By

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Since my article in Vol.17 No.1 Sep 1995, I have made further investigations into the Speke of Hazelbury family, to whom I believe Colonel Thomas Speake belongs.

I have obtained copies of the following Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) Wills

- 1) 1661 SPEKE, George, Ditchridge, Wilts.,Esq. 1661 fol.31
- 2) 1675 SPEKE, Margaret, City of Bath., Somerset, widow 1675 fol.29
- 3) 1683 SPEKE, Francis, gent.,Cheynes Court,Box, Wilts., 1683 fol.131
- 4) 1683 SPEKE, Sir George,Bart., Haslebury, Wilts. 1683 fol.146 Sentence 1683 fol.151
- 5) 1686 SPEAKE, SPEKE, Dame Anne, wid., Cheynies Court, Box Wilts., 1686 fol.23

The tree on page 9 of the last Bulletin will be useful when reading this article. George Speke, 1661 is the father of Thomas Speke; Margaret Speke 1675 is his mother. Francis Speke, 1683 is his uncle.

Also I have been able to see a copy of the "History of the Manor of Hazelbury", which has some very useful information, and was very thoroughly researched by G.J. Kidston who bought the manor in 1924.

I have not yet searched the parish registers for Box, but it appears that Kidston did, and

also he quotes from gravestone inscriptions at the church.

As far as Thomas Speke, born 1621, is concerned, although he is mentioned both in his father's and his grandfather's wills, there is no new information about him. The name of his wife is not given and there are no clues as to his occupation or location. One fact which may point to him having moved away from Hazelbury is that whereas all four of his brothers were buried at Box church, even though they lived their adult lives away from the area, Thomas apparently is not buried there.

Although George Speke's Will was proven in 1661, after the death of Col. Thomas Speke of Virginia, the Will was made on 5th July 1656, before Col. Speke's death.

It states "Item, I give and bequeath unto my sonne Thomas Speke and his wyfe twenty shillings a peece to buy them rings and to my son Thomas Speke noe more for that I have otherwise provided for him." The money was for mourning rings; a popular bequest in Wills as a reminder of the deceased.

All the other sons are made similar minor bequests of money for rings. His wife, while she remained widowed and not married, was given security of tenure of the Manor House "...and two of his best horses or mares, his coach and horses, all jewels

apparel and paraphernalia and all household possessions while she remains a widow".

The Manor house and its estate was obviously occupied by the eldest son Hugh (4 years later Sir Hugh Speke, Baronet), as in 1656 George Speke describes himself of Ditteridge, which means he lived nearby at Cheney Court, a smaller but still very impressive country house. While the eldest son Hugh inherited the main estate, the other sons including Thomas had been provided with the means to establish themselves many years earlier.

Thomas's younger brother John, who I believe is the John referred to in the article "The Life and Times of Colonel Thomas Speke of Virginia" by John Morris III (SFA Bulletin September 1994) obviously had not used his inheritance responsibly, as in his father's Will it states "I give and bequeath to my executors the somme of one hundred pounds to pay and discharge the debts of my sonne John Speke so far as this somme will go and shall pay him five pounds and noe mor for that he hath ... (illegible) .incurred by his ill husbandry". John was buried at Box in February 1669-70. In the Administration of his estate (he would appear to have been negligent in not making a Will) he is described as "late of the City of Bath". This would also appear to fit with the facts in John Morris's article. The Will of Thomas's mother, Margaret nee Tempest, made in 1674 mentions two of her daughters, Elizabeth who at that time was married to her second husband Berkley Carne of Bath, and also Mary, whose second husband was Francis Dickens. One grandchild is mentioned, an Ann Hide, who has not been identified. It is curious that this Will does not mention Olive, the widow of Margaret's son John, or their son Hugh. The Will certainly does not mention a grand

son Thomas, who might have been son of Col. Thomas Speke of Virginia. (here my lack of knowledge of the American side of this family is a problem - Thomas, son of Col. Thomas Speke is stated as being born ca. 1642; is it known when or where he died?) However, it is stated in John Morris's article that he witnessed a Power of Attorney in July 1674. His grandmother's Will was written 13th January 1674/5.

So these Wills give us no information to help confirm my theory that Col. Thomas Speke came from this family. Conversely, they give no information that clearly contradicts that proposition. Also, the connections with Bath are also confirmed, and the dates of birth and death for Thomas, his brother John, and John's son Hugh all tie in.

The most interesting fact from the "History of the Manor of Hazelbury" is that this branch of the Speke family had very strong Catholic sympathies. This was somewhat at odds with their strong Royalist traditions, but Kidston shows beyond any doubt the Catholic influences through three generations.

In the 1624 Will of Thomas's grandfather, Hugh Speke (who married Elizabeth Beke) a bequest was made to Francis, Thomas's uncle, who was then 14 years old. The Will states "If it shall fortune that the said Francis to continue in learning and to proceed in Divinity, Law or Physick " and then proceeds to grant him an income from estate rents. It would appear that Francis did indeed at least investigate further learning in Divinity, but at the Roman Catholic Seminary of the English Benedictine College at Douai, Belgium, which was a favourite place for study by recusants from England. In the entry register for May 1632, Francis states that both his parents, Hugh and

Elizabeth Speke, now dead, were Catholics.

It is not known whether Francis continued these studies, or even whether he maintained the Catholic in later life, as he ended his days living with the staunchly Protestant widow of his nephew, Sir Hugh Speke; Ann Mayney.

Francis's sister Elizabeth married Anthony Loveden, and his other sister Dorothy married John Pinchon, both bridegrooms coming from families with strong Catholic traditions.

Another strong Catholic link to the Speke family came in the next generation, when Thomas Speke's father George Speke married Margaret Tempest. The Tempest family are recorded as a family with a very strong Catholic traditions, and there is no doubt that this marriage would have reinforced the Speke's Catholic sympathies.

There is an entry in the Douai Diaries which supports this. In October 1636, Hugh Speke, alias Yeatman, is recorded as returning to the college from Antwerp together with William Tempest, alias Wilmot. This Hugh is almost certainly the son of George and Margaret Speke, and brother to Thomas Speke, and was then 17 years old. The William Tempest was his cousin on his mother's side. Aliases were used as it was illegal in England for sons to be sent abroad for instruction in the banned Catholic faith. In 1604 an Act had been passed, instituting a fine of 100 pounds for sending a boy to a seminary abroad, and if on his return the boy refused to revoke his Catholic beliefs, forfeited his inherited rights to property, which passed to the next Protestant heir.

Mary, sister to Thomas, who I have previously noted as mentioned in her mother's Will of 1674, was at that time married to Francis Dickins. Her first husband had

been Thomas Byfleet, a Catholic. Thomas' sister Elizabeth, also mentioned in her mother's Will as married to Berkeley Carne was also from a well known Catholic family.

Unfortunately there is a gap in the Douai Diaries from 1654-1674 which might have shown further Speke entries.

In 1648, the PCC Will of Robert Tempest of Lyce Green county Durham, cousin of Margaret Tempest, was proved by Sir Hugh Speke, brother of Thomas Speke. But Sir Hugh Speke made an extraordinary choice for his wife—Ann Mayhey. She was a declared Protestant, and her family were related to the family of Oliver Cromwell! It would appear to have been a very unsuitable match for the scholar of Douai. Sir Hugh's choice of bride was also to play a vital role in the future of the Hazelbury estate.

When Sir Hugh Speke died in 1661, only a year after being made a Baronet, his son and heir George was a minor, aged 8. His mother took control of the estates, and by all accounts was a masterful and determined person. When her son George died at the early age of 29 in 1682/3, leaving no children, he left all the Hazelbury estates to his mother, and other property in Kent to his mother's relative, George Petty of London.

When Ann Speke died 3 years after her son, in 1685, she ignored any relations from the Speke side of the family, and left the Hazelbury estate to George Petty, son of the George who had been left the Kent estates. This is almost certainly to ensure that no property went to anyone who might have had Catholic leanings, as surely all the Spekes had. Her hatred of Catholics is shown in her Will, which states that her gift of fourty shillings a year to three poor free-men of Chippenham is conditional "soe

COLONEL THOMAS SPEKE OF VIRGINIA AND HIS LINKS WITH THE HARDIDGE AND TOTTERDALE FAMILIES

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This article is a progress report on research in England to obtain more information about William HARDIDGE, senior, contemporary and associate of Col. Thomas SPEKE of Virginia and his son William HARDIDGE, junior, who was the fifth and final husband of Col. Thomas Speke's widow Frances (GERRARD), especially with regard to their interest in Currioman Plantation. Also information about Henry TOTTERDALE, mariner of Bristol who bought the land from Hugh SPEKE, brother of Col. Thomas SPEKE, and subsequently sold it to William HARDIDGE, junior. This report should be read with reference to the article "The Life and Times of Colonel Thomas Speke of Virginia" (SFA Bulletin Sept. 1994) by John Morris III.

The chronology of events so far found are:

1669 William HARDIDGE senior "late of Nominy ... in Virginia... now of Bristoll in England" dies.(1)

1671 A Will "...of the late William HARDIDGE, late deceased in Bristol" exhibited in a Court in Nominie, Virginia.(2)

1691 Deed of sale of land from Hugh SPEKE of Bath to Henry TOTTERDALE of Bristol, mariner, produced in Court by Captain William HARDIDGE (junior).(3)

1696 Inhabitants of Bristol: include Henry TOTTERDALE, his wife Edith and son Edward, Castle Precincts. (4)

1696 Henry TOTTERDALE of Bristol Mariner, dies.(5)

1690-1698 (exact date not known) Henry TOTTERDALE sold the land in Nominie to Captain William HARDIDGE.(6)

1703 Edith TOTTERDALE, widow dies.7

(1) Williams HARDIDGE (or HARDICH) made his Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC) Will on the 24th October 1668. He died sometime after that

date and 8th January the following year, when the Will was proved at Exeter. The PCC was the highest court in England, and was obligatory if the testator had property in more than one diocese, or had property on the high seas, which certainly applied to William HARDITCH senior. It should be noted however, that the PCC did not have jurisdiction in America. In fact, in his PCC Will, William HARDITCH makes specific reference to " ... relating to our estate in Virginia ... mentioned in my Virginia Will..", and appoints his "cousin Thomas YOULE" as one of the executors of it. Both Wills were apparently made on the same day. William HARDICH'S Will is an unusually long and interesting document, and is appended in full in Appendix i).

(2) On 1st June 1671 it is recorded that "Deposition of John Ashton....was at a Court held at Nominie where Thomas YOULE exhibited a Will of Mr. William HARDICH, late deceased of Bristoll in the Kingdome of England. Mrs. HARDICH, wife off William, being present in Court at the same time, Thomas YOULE did demand of her whether she would accept of 150 sterling which was given her as a legacie by her deceased husband and relinquish her thirds, whereupon Mrs. HARDICH answered that she would accept and desired YOULE to give her securitie for the same, which YOULE refused to do." This certainly would have been the Virginia Will. Presumably it has not survived. It would appear that Thomas YOULE was having a hard time as executor! (Thanks to John Morris III for providing a copy of this document).

At this point, it is interesting to speculate on how common it was for the wealthier settlers to visit England and return to America. From Wm. HARDICH'S Will, it is clear that his son William was resident in England and being educated there. Also, that his education and time after would also be based in England. It would appear that his wife Margaret was resident in Virginia. Presumably William junior was born in Virginia, but sent to England for his education. I would estimate William junior's age in 1669 as about 15 years old. The PCC Will gives interesting details of how William junior was to set up to be a Merchant Ad-

venturer.

I have found a couple of entries which relate to William junior :- i) 1673 Elizabeth JONES apprenticed in Bristol to serve Wm. HARDIDGE in Virginia for 3 years. ii) 1674 John BATE apprenticed in Bristol to serve Wm. HARDIDGE in Virginia for 4 years.

(3) Ref. 97 is John Morris' article, Westmoreland Order book, p18a.

(4) From Bristol Record Society - "Inhabitants of Bristol in 1696". This establishes the personalities of the family of Henry TOTTERDALE, mariner of Bristol. The Deposition Books of Bristol have several references to John TOTTERDALE, 1651-1660, possibly the father of Henry. The only reference to Henry TOTTERDALE is :- 1691 Defrauding the Customs at Bristol, PRO Treasury Papers, Kings Warrant Book 16, T52/16 pp. 90-93. One of those involved, Henry TOTTERDALE. He is also listed as a shipper between Bristol and Virginia 1681-1683. (PRO Exchequer records)

(5) Henry TOTTERDALE died sometime between 20th October and 1st November 1696. He may well at that time still been in possession of the land sold him by Hugh SPEKE of Bath, but his PCC Will does not (and should not, strictly) refer to America in any way whatsoever. He merely states " all such worldly estate as it hath pleased God to bless me with I give devise and bequeath the same unto my wife Edith TOTTERDALE ". Presumably, he should have made a Will in Virginia if he still was in possession of property or land there. Also see (7).

(6) I do not know the exact date of this sale. It may have been before Henry TOTTERDALES' death.

(7) Edith TOTTERDELL, widow of Henry, died sometime between June 1703 and December 1704. Her Consistory Court of Bristol Will states interestingly "... I also give to my said son Edward TOTTERDELL the plantation and stock in Maryland in Virginia and all the debts which were due there at the time of his father Henry TOTTERDELL'S death..." So Henry TOTTERDELL had retained some land in America. As his widow is so vague and incorrect in describing it, and it would appear to have been more of a liability than an asset, one would assume

that she had been very much uninvolved with it since her husband's death 7 years previously. The Will of Edward TOTTERDELL was proved at Bristol in 1716. I have not inspected it. Edward was also active as a shipper to America 1709-1715.

PCC WILL : WILLIAM HARDICH 1669

In the name of God Amen. The foure and twentieth day of October in the twentieth yeare of the raigne of King Charles the second over England or Anno Domini one thousand six hundred sixty eight I William Hardich late of Nominy in the county of Westmoreland in Virginia, now of Bristoll in England being weak of body but of perfect memory praised be to God doe make this my last Will and Testament relating to my estate in England and all such debts as at the time of my decease shall be due to me from my brother in law Mr. Augustine Bull.

And to all my Adventurers and Merchandises as at the time of my decease shall be at or upon the seas in manner and form following. And pricipally I recomend my soule unto Almighty God my most mercyfull father beseeching of him of his infinite goodness And the meritts and compassion of his only son And my alone Saviour that I may receive sion of all my sinnes and an inhabitation in the kingdom of heaven. My body I comitt to the earth from whence it came to be buried att the dycretion of my executors.

And as to the worldly estate that God hath blessed me withall and which is either in England upon the seas or due to me from my brother in law Mr. Augustine Bull aforesaid att the tyme of my decease I give and bequeath as followeth;

First I give and bequeath to Margaret my dear wife one hundred and fifty pounds sterling if she performs the conditions stated in our Will bearing date with these presents and relating to our estate in Virginia with one hundred and fifty pounds is the same mentioned in my Virginia And to be paid unto her or otherwise disposed as therein expressed and appointed.

Item I give unto my sister Alice Foster the summe of three pounds and to her three children Jane Margaret and John to each of them ten shil-

linges.

Item I give unto my sister Elizabeth Boyle twenty shillings and unto Dorothy Wyle and Mary Perryman five shillings a peece.

Item I give unto my brother Thomas Hardich my best hat and unto my executors twenty shillings to buy them gold rings with deaths heads upon them the weare in remembrance of me.

Item I give and bequeath unto my sonne William Hardich my gelding my two saddles and bridles my gold ring And all my wearing apparrell of what nature soever except my best hat before bequeathed to my brother Thomas Hardich.

I also give unto my said son William our featherbed with a new tester one boulster two pillowes our rugg, three pairs of the newest sheets that bedstedd that the bedd lyes upon and one matt my seabed consist.... Rugg and pillow my seachest and case of great S...rd bottles my new trunk my little.... two guns and one little brasse pott and pothooks. I do also ... and confirm unto him that great ... flaggon and boule with which I formerly gave him and caused his name to be put upon then to witness that they were his owne.

Item I give and bequeath to my daughter Elizabeth Wynston my bed that I lye upon with the curtaines vallence bedstead and all things there unto belonging.

And all the rest of my household goods and furniture not before bequested except my winding sheet which was provided by my first wife who was buried in the sellow (?) of it.

I also give and bequeath unto my said daughter Elizabeth Wynston two thousand five hundred pounds weight of tobacco And laste two hoggs heads whereof is sweet scented. And all of it due to me of Robert Sturde of Virginia planter And sent for this voyage to be delivered to Mr. Bull for my the said collater. to be delivered unto him personally upon the ... thereof for her owne use at her discretion to buy ... with the freeing from all duties whatsoever.

All the rest of my goods challels money viz. credits Merchandises and whatsoever that this Will related unto my legatees and funeral expenses

being discharges I give and bequeath unto my said sonne to be paid and delivered unto him when he shall accomplysh the age of one and twenty years And in the meane time to be employed by my executors to the best advantage allowing my said son the interest thereof for his maintainance during his minority And for all the space of that tyme that my said sonne shall continue in England my Will is that my executors place him in some civil and ho... house with matching accomodations for meat lodgings apparrell schooling and education according to his quality

And my Will ... is that if my said son William shall at any tyme before he attaine the age of one and twenty undertake a voyage for Virginia that my executors furnish him with all things necessary therefore And make an Adventure of fifty pounds sterling along with him but intrust it to the management of some faithful friend or consign it to my executors in Virginia but to his use

And if during minority he shall undertake a second voyage thither my further wish is that my executors of this Will provide him the second tyme also All requisits and fitting accomodation for his voyage But what Adventurers sent with him I leave to their discretion upon considerance of his management of the first Adventure

But if it shall happen that my said son William shall depart this naturall life before such tyme as he shalbe one and twenty yeares of age then I give and bequeath all such things as in this Will bequeathed or mentioned to be bequeathed unto him unto my daughter Elizabeth Wynston to be paid and delivered unto her with all ... spirit after his departure.

And lastly my Will is that every article charge and Sentence conteyned in one other Will touching my estate in Virginia and Maryland and bearing even date with these presents And whereof my brother in law Mr. Augustine Bull and my Coson Thomas Youle are made executors unto be observed performed and fulfilled to all intents and purposes whatsoever

And I doe hereby nominate and appoint and ordeyne Thomas Burges of the City of Bristoll Churgeon and my sonne in lawe Robert Winston executors of this my last Will and Testament

THOMAS SPEAKE, OF DOWNHAM LANCASHIRE - PROGRESS REPORT

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It has been proposed by SFA member Paul Speaks, and 'seconded' by me, that the Thomas SPEAK, baptised at Downham Lancashire in 1632 is the best prospect yet of a possible English born Thomas Speak of St. Marys, Maryland. (See SFA Bulletin, September 1996 page 13).

Since my correspondence with Paul, I have now obtained a full transcript of the Bishops' Transcripts for the chapelry of Downham, (Lancashire Parish Register Society, volume 118) which start in 1605, pre-dating the surviving registers by a vital 48 years. However, there are many years missing- 1608-1619, and 1638-1657 inclusive. The latter gap is reduced by the availability of the original registers kept at the church. I have appended the full listing of the entries, which include much information not given in the IGI.

As far as our main interest, Thomas, son of John Speake (and Elizabeth, as proposed by Paul) baptised in 1632, it would appear that this could be the Thomas Speake who married Grace SHACKLETON in 1656. Also we see that this Grace was buried in 1666, "wife of Thomas Speake of Twiston". So this does not look too promising, as it believed that Thomas SPEAK was in St. Mary's County by at least 1661. Also, I have not been able to identify any other Thomas Speak living at that time, who could have been the bridegroom of Grace SHACKLETON.

Downham was a chapelry of the neighbouring parish of Whalley, where the registers have SPEAKE entries from the start of registers there in 1538. I have searched these registers and not found a Thomas SPEAKE there in the required period.

I have also obtained copies of all SPEAKE probates from the two courts which had jurisdiction in the Ribble Valley area--the Prerogative Court of York, and the Consistory Court of Chester.

The items of interest are:

PCY:

- 1615 Anne SPEAKE of Brownlowe in Twiston, Lancs. made 1609, proved 1615
- 1648/9 John Speake of Twiston, Lancs (Administration only)

Chester

- 1614 Ellen SPEAKE widow of Dinckley (nr. Whalley)
- 1617 John SPEAKE of Twiston, parish of Downham
- 1628 Thomas SPEAKE of Twiston (Will missing, inventory only survives)
- 1670 Charles SPEAK of Goldshawe (near Burnley, N.E. Lancs.) Admin. with inventory only
- 1680 William SPEAK of Robert Lee, forest of Pendle.

(The dates given in the indexes are always the date when the Probate was proved in the Church Court, not the date it was written)

I have tried to construct family trees from these probates, and also the fragmented parish register and BT entries. This is a difficult task, as the most informative probates of 1614, 1615 and 1617 relate to the generation before Thomas SPEAKE of St. Marys. The later probates, especially the 1648 PCY, that might have mentioned him, are less complete.

These probates do help to answer the question raised in September 1996 SFA BULLETIN- "Who is Johannis SPEAKE who married Elizabethae Biesley?"--the 1617 Chester Will of John SPEAKE of Twiston, husbandman (written 1615) mentions his son William, and grandchildren by William, his grandson John being made the executor of his Will. Knowing that an executor would be aged 21 or more. It is possible to propose a range of possible birth years for the three generations.

This grandson, John, I believe is the John SPEAKE who married Elizabeth Biesley at Whalley in 1622, and would have been born before 1594 to have

been named executor in 1615. This John is the "John Speake senior of Twiston" in the Downham Parish Registers.

I also believe that the Downham families' origins are in the adjacent parish of Whalley. I am still processing the above information, and combining this with other data I have on file. I will present summaries of the above probates in a later article.

LANCASHIRE PARISH REGISTER SOCIETY VOLUME 118

Downham, Lancashire, 1605-1837

*Compiled from Parish Registers and
Bishop's Transcripts*

(NB Gaps 1608-1619 1638-1657 in BTs)

Baptisms

1606	28 Feb	Johannes Speak
1619	19 Feb	Ellina Speake
1625	11 Sep	Rosoniada filia Johannis Speake
1627	23 Sep	Jeneta filia Johannis Speake
1629	4 Jun	Elizabetha filia Johannis Speake, Twiston
1632	25 Apr	Johannis filius Johannis Speake, Twiston
1634	1Jan	Thomas filius Joannis Speake, Twiston
1655	19 Aug	Beatrice d. John Speake, Twiston
1658	16 Mav	John s. John Speake jun, Twiston
1661	21 Apr	Elizabeth d. Thomas Speake, Browndon
1662	11 May	Ellin d. John Speake, Twiston
1664	12 Mar	John s. Henery Speake, Twiston
1665	28 Dec	Margaret d. John Speake, Twiston
1666	10 Feb	James s. Henery Speake, Twiston
1670	17 Jul	Henery s Henery Speake, Twiston
1673	4 May	John s. Henery Speake, Twiston
[1680	27 Feb	William s. Hen. Speake, Twiston]
1694	16[17] Sep	George s. James Speake, Twiston
1696	25 Oct	Mary d. James Speake, Twiston
1696	20 Nov	James s. Henry Speake, Twiston
1698	7 Jan	Henry s. Hen: Speake, Twiston
1698	27 Jan	James s. James Speake, Twiston
1705	21 Oct	Ellen d. James Speake, butcher
1705	17 Mar	John s. Henry Speake, agricol, Greenhead
1708	28 Nov	Ann d. James Speak, butcher, Downham
1709	24 Jul	Henry s. Jon: Speak, agricol, Twiston

1711	25 Mar	Jane d. James Speak, Downham
1712	24 Aug	James s. John Speak, Twiston
1718	2 Nov	Robert s. Jam: Speak, Starkey Gates
1723	18 Jan	Thomas s. James & Anne Speak, labourer, Black Stakes, Twiston
1737	20 Feb	Elisabeth d. James & Anne Speak, weaver [husbandman], Twiston
1739	25 Dec	Anne d. James & Anne Speak, weaver, Twiston

Marriages

1620	12 Feb	Richardus Hill et Jeneta Speake
1629	2 Aug	Gulielmus Browne et Anne Speake, Twiston
1656	7 Apr	John Speake & Margrett Prockter both this chapelry at Gawthrope by Coll. Richard Shuttleworth. Witnesses: John Speake the elder, Mathew Calverley, John Calverley
1656	7 Apr	Thomas Speake & Grace Shack- leton both this chapelry at Gaw- throp by Coll. Richard Shuttle- worth. Witnesses John Speake the elder, Mathew Calverley, John Calverley
1656	7 Apr	James Calverley & Mary Barber both this chapelry at Gawthrop by Coll. Richard Shuttleworth. Witnesses: John Speake the el- der, Mathew Calverley, John Calverley
1656	6 May	An intended marriage between Matthew Calverley, husbandman, & Julian Speake, both of Twiston, published at the close of the morning exercise uppon Sunday the XXth day of April 1656 by Ber Dryver then Parishe Register there and in lyke manner uppon Sunday the IIIth and Sunday the XIth day of May in the same year by Richard Wilson now Register there And not any person then or before came to enter any forbidds or excepcions to the sayd intended marriage
1657	9 Jun	William Speake & Elezabeath widow Henery Bailey, both this chapelry, at Gawthrop by Coll.

		Richard Shuttleworth. Witnesses:	1710	16 Jun	John s. John Speake, Twiston
		John Speake, James Whipp	1710	18 Dec	John Speake, Twiston
1665		John Speake & Ellin Bilsbury	1719	3 Jun	Ellen Speake, Twiston
1677		John Speake & Ellen Calverley [Rushwater - name of bride in different ink from that of the re- mainder of this entry]	1721	19 Apr	Ann d. Speak (sic) [Anne Speak spinster], Starkey Stakes
			1726	25 Apr	Anne Speak a poor widow, Twiston [buried by the town]
1737	2 Jun	James Speake, weaver, & Anne Heywood, spinster, both of Twiston	1730	20 Feb	John Speake, husbandman, Twiston
1760	12 Jun	Robert Whipp & Elizabeth Speake, both this chapelry [Twiston] Witnesses: Thom. Bullock, John Whipp	1737	23[27]May	Elizabeth Speake, widow, Twiston
1778	1 Jan	William Gray & Mary Calverley, both of Twiston. Witnesses: James Speake, Thomas Brown	1744	21 Aug	Margaret Speake a poor woman of Twiston
1830	10 Oct	John Wilkinson (x), bachelor, & Isabella Speake (x), spinster, both of extraparochial parish of Sawley. Witnesses: William Holgate, William Wilson	1765	14 Jan	Ann Speak, Twiston
			1802	22 Jun	James Speake, Twiston, aged 89 years
			1803	18 Apr	Nancy Speake, Twiston, aged 88

Burials

1607	--Feb	Elina Speake
1607	23 Feb	Elina Speake
1607	30 Mar	Johannes Speake
1628	23 Apr	Thomas Speake
1628	4 Aug	Jeneta Speake
1657	-7 May	Elizabeth wife of John Speake sen (6 May)
1660	4 Jan	Samuel Speake (5 Jan)
1664	20 Apr	Richard Speake widower
1666	8 Jan	Grace wife of Thomas Speake, Twiston
1667	16 Feb	Anne Speake
1668	9 May	Elizabeth Speake
1669	[9 Jan]	John s. Henry Speake, Twiston
1672	6 Feb	John s. Jo: Speake, Twiston
1672	6 Feb	John s. Jo: Speake, Twiston
1675		Jane Speake, Browndon [Twiston]
1676	16 Jul	M...Jo: Speake, Twiston
1685	15 Aug	Henry Speake, Twiston
1688	12 Nov	Ann Speak, Browndon [Twiston]
1696	17 Feb	George s. James Speake, Twiston
1699	28 Feb	Jane wife Ja: Speake, Twiston
1699	8 May	Thomas Speake, Colne
1701	27 Oct	Henry Speake, Colne
1706	16 Oct	Ellen d. James Speake, butcher, Downham
1709	4 Apr	Henry Speake, agricol, Sawley

In no case was a 'double' year given. The period from January to March is consistently noted as in the previous year. The opening item, for instance, should be 28th February 1606 /7. There is no explanation in the book for the insertion of square brackets []. There is no explanation of the abbreviation 'agricol'. Presumably the second date in the early burials (which I have shown in curly brackets { }), refers to the date of death although it is not stated in the notes or text. According to the index, there was a further reference to a John Speake at page 181. However, I could not locate this at the page or in any of the three preceding and succeeding pages. Page +/-181 covers burials in the mid-late 1690s.

Colonel Thomas Speake - continued from page 8

As to my estate in England what debts shallbe due to me from my brother in law Mr. Augustine Bull at the tyme of my decease and to so much of my estate as shalbe upon the seas att that tyme I doe appoint and desire my brother Thomas Hardich overseer hereof whereby revoaking all former Wills by me made

In witness whereof I have hereunto put my hand and seale the day and yeare first about written

Willm. Hardich

Sealed and published in the presence of
Francis Bell James Bell (mark)
Thomas Boyce Jas. Sus(?)wood
Proved at Exeter 8th January 1668/9 by Thomas
Burges and Robert Winston