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THE NORWICH ANCESTRY OF MARGARET CHENERY, MOTHER OF JOHN MOODY AND FRANCES (MOODY) KILBOURNE OF CONNECTICUT

By Frederick J. Nicholson

In a previous article, the Chenery ancestry of Margaret (Chenery) Moody was treated (TAG 64:1-11). The present article traces the ancestry of Elizabeth (Norwich) Chenery, Margaret's mother.

In his 1575 will (abstracted in the above-mentioned article), John Chenery, the father of Margaret (Chenery) Moody, placed his son John in the care of his nephew John Chenery. In case this nephew should predecease his son, however, he named "Brother in Lawe Richard Norwiche" as alternative guardian. Since the names of the husbands of the elder John Chenery's sisters were known, it seemed likely that this Richard Norwich was brother to John's wife Elizabeth. A search of Norwich wills in the area confirmed this relationship.

In the will of Agnes Norwich of Ashley, Cambridgeshire, dated 28 June 1591, the testator named both her son Richard Norwich and her daughter Elizabeth Hinson. As Elizabeth, widow of John Chenery, had by this time married William Hinson, this will shows that John Chenery's wife was, indeed, Elizabeth Norwich.

The identity of the husband of Agnes was easily established as Stephen Norwich, whose will named his wife Agnes, as well as all six children later appearing in the will of his widow. While Stephen did not mention the surnames of any of his daughters in his will, Elizabeth was certainly married by the time he wrote it, and the other two probably were, as well. In light of this identity, it seems likely that the Stephen Norris who witnessed the will of John Chenery in 1575 was, in fact, Stephen Norwich (often rendered as "Norridge"), father-in-law of the testator. Stephen himself is named not only in the will of his father, but also in those of two of his brothers, by whom he was named supervisor. He appears to have been a man much relied-upon by his family.

In the will of Richard Norwich of Westley Waterless (who was Stephen's father) the references to the property that his wife Agnes had brought with her indicate that she was probably a second wife and not the mother of his children. She may be the Agnes Norwich of West Wrattling whose will was dated 4 Aug. 1545. In that will, Agnes named no Norwich legatees, although she mentioned her sister Alice Cowper and several other Cowpers.

It is interesting to note that the noble family of Norwich whose first representative was Walter de Norwich, Lord Norwich, had a grant in the 14th century of the manors of Dalham and Bradfield, with the advowson of the church of Dalham, county Suffolk, all of which are situated immediately adjacent to the Cambridgeshire parishes in which our Norwich family resided. This Barony became extinct in 1374 at the death without issue of John de Norwich, at which time his estates went to his cousin Catherine de Brews, daughter and heir of Thomas de Norwich, his great-uncle. When Catherine took the veil, the estates were passed on to William de Ufford, Earl of Suffolk, whose wife was Thomas' sister Margery. A note in Burke's *Dormant and Extinct Peerages* states that the Norwich family of Brampton, county Northampton, is said to have sprung from this Baronial family. No mention is made of the Norwich family discussed in this article, which is still to be found near the locale of the original Barons Norwich as late as the 17th century.

The following abstracts of Norwich family wills provide the framework on which the ensuing family summary is based.

HENRY NORWICH of Wilbraham Magna, 1509[10?]. (Consistory Court of Ely, vol. E, folio 63)

In dei no[mi]ne amen: vi die mensis february Ao Dni m ccccc ix Ego Henricus Norwyche de Wilbram Mag[n]a ... lego Angaet[i] uxori mee ... lego Ric[ard]o filio meo ... lego Ric[ard]o Norwyche Juniori ... lego Henrico Norwyche ... lego Will[iel]mo Norwyche ... lego Steph[an]o Norwyche ... Residue ... lego praefat[is] Ric[ard]o Norwyche filio meo ...

RICHARD NORWICH of Brinkley, 1521. (Consistory Court of Ely, vol. J, folio 53)

In the name of god Amen the iiide day of the moneth of Aprile in the yere of our lorde god m cccccxi I Richard Norwiche of Brynkeley in the diocese of Ely ... my body to be buried in the Cherche of Brynkeley aforesaid ... to the hygh Awter of the same Cherche ... xx d ... a quarter service for a preest to sing for me in the Cherche of Brinkelye ... to the Cherche of Brinkley for the Grounde brekyng concerning my buriall vi s viii d ... to my iii brethern eche of them xx s ... to Johan my Sister vi s viii d ... to Thomas floxe ii s iii d ... to Johan my daughter xx s The Residue ... to Mary my wif ... I make ... the saide Mary my wif Richard Norwiche my ffather and Robert Cleydon myn Executors ... Witnesses: Thomas Roger, Nicholas Tayler, others
Proved: 23 April 1521

HENRY NORWICH of Ashley, 1538. (Archdeaconry of Sudbury, 184 Brett)

In dei no[mi]ne Amen the yere of our lord m ccccc xxvii the first daye of the moneth of Iulye I Herry Norwich of the towne of Asheley and in the parish of Sylverley and in the county of Cambrye and in the dioces of Norwich ... my body to be buryed in the churche yerd of Sylverley ... to the hyeghe aulter of Sylverley ... iii s iiiii d ... to the hyeghe aulter of Asheley iii s iiiii d ... to Herry my sonne vi l xiii s iiiii d and a brasse pott ... to John my sonne vi l xiii s iiiii d to be delyvered them at the age of xxi yeres if they mary not before that age if they mary before the age of xxi yeres then I wyll it shalbe delyveryd them at the dayes of their maryage ... if Henry and John my sonnes decesse bothe within age I wyll both theyr partes shalbe equally devyded betwex my iii dowghters ... Jone my dowghter v markes sterlyng ... to Elizabeth my dowghter v markes sterlyng ... Alice my dowghter v markes sterlyng to be

delyvered them at a lauffull age . . . All other my goodes onbequethyd . . . I geve and bequethe Isbell my wyfe whome I make my executrix . . . Robte Raye and Stephen Noridge Supervisors
Witnesses: Jamys Robartes, Stevyn Norwich, Edmund Clarke, others
Proved: 26 Sept. 1538

RICHARD NORWICH of Westley Waterless, 1540. (Consistory Court of Ely, vol. K, folio 25)
In the name of god Amen The iiii daye of September in the yere of our Lord god m v c and xl
I Richard Norwiche of Westle Waterley in the dioces of Elye . . . my bodye to be buried in
the Churche yerd of Westle aforesaide . . . unto the Churche of Westley iii of my best hyves
. . . unto Sir Robert Adam parsonne ther xx d . . . unto the saide parsonne of Westley a hyve
of beys at his Elecon . . . unto Willm Norwiche my sonne my message and xvi Acres of
free lond lying and beyng in Westley . . . upon suche condicyon that the sayde Willm shall
paye unto Stephyn Norwiche my sonne iii l vi s viii d . . . unto Stephyn Norwiche my gowne
my Masyer A dowblett of clothe and A payer of newe hosen . . . Wher as I have Surrendrid
my Copey lond in Wesley in to the handes of Martyn ffawkes Ten[a]nte of the Lorde of
Westlee to the use of Willm Norwiche and of his heys upon condicyon that the said Willm
shall paye unto Richard Norwiche xl s and unto Jone Norwiche x s sterling . . . to Agnes my
wyfe six mylche beastes at her choyse three horses at hir Elecon ii Slaughtre hoggys and ii
storys ii gallons of honye xl Sheepe An olde Carte with the tyre Collars and harneys for them
All hostilyment As beddyng pewter brasse linen and all that perteyneth to howseholde
whiche was her owne and browght to me . . . vi combes Wheate iiiii Combes Rye x Combes
barlye & x Combes holymoung shee to paye for the thresshyng And to have all the stuffer
perteynyng to the sayde grayne beforenamyd . . . I will that ther be payde xxvi s viii d By
Willm my sonne unto a goddowghter of myn wyfes dwellyng in Fultone . . . unto Agnes my
wyfe a featherbewd and a bolster a Red mantyll ii busshelles of wardens and a combe of ap-
ples all whiche . . . upon suche condytion That the saide Agnes shall Release all her Tythe
and demawnde of dower unto the saide Willm . . . to Agnes my wyfe half my haye in my
howse . . . I will that Willm my sonne have ii hyeves and Agnes my wyfe oone hyve and
Stephyn my sonne oone hyve And so to be devyded emongiste them As farre as they will ex-
tend . . . Willm Norwiche my sonne . . . I doo constitute and ordeyn myne executor
to whome I doo will and bequeathe all the Resydwe of my goodes . . . Witnesses: John Alyngton
gentylman, Syr Robert Adams parson of Westlee, Martyn ffawkes yeman, Stephyn Norwiche
Proved: 20 Nov. 1540

AGNES NORWICH of West Wrattling, 1545. (Consistory Court of Ely, vol. K, folio 153)
In the Name of god Amen The iiiith daye of August in the yer of our lord god 1545 I Agnes
Norwyche of Westwratting within the dioces of Elye . . . to the hyghe Alter of Westwratting
iii s iii d . . . to the Churche of Westwratting towards the reparacons of the same vi s viii d . . .
to the poore ffolkes of Weston Wher Charite is moste requisyte xx d . . . to Alice Cowper my
Syster my best gowne . . . to John Cowper A payer of Sheetys and A yelow blanchett . . . to
Thomas Cowper A payer of Shetys and iii s iii d in money beyng in his handes . . . to Anne
Cowper the wyffe of Thomas Cowper A Red Kyrtyll . . . to John Drapers wyffe my sangwyn
kyrtyll . . . to Robert Cowper A sheete and A platter . . . to Katheryn Baytam myn olde Pety-
cotte . . . to Margaret Reavell A Payer of Sheetys . . . to eyche of Thomas Cowpers Children
xx d beyng in his handes . . . to eiche of John Drapers Childern xii d The Resydwe of my
goodes . . . shalbe solde by Willm Mordon and Willm Baytam of the same Towne whome I
ordeyn and make myn Executors And the goodes beyng solde to be distributed amongst
poore ffolkes and hyghe wayes of the same Towne . . . I will that Willm Bowtell and Robert
Knocke of the same towne be pryvey and helpers to the same sale of my goodes And I will
that eyche of them fower shall have xx d for their payns takyng Witnesses: Thomas Johnson
Vycar, Willm Powtell, Robert Knocke, others
Proved: no date given

WILLIAM NORWICH of Westley Waterless, 1548. (Consistory Court of Ely, vol. K, folio 232)
 In the name of god Amen The xvi daye of Marche in the second yere of the Reigne of our
 Sovereigne lord Edward the vi [1547/8] by the grace of god king of England ffrance and
 Ireland etc I Willm Norwiche of Westle Waterlesse in the Counto of Cambridge husbond-
 man ... unto Isabel Norwyche my wyeff all my ffree londes and Tenementes in Westley
 aforesaid for the terme of xii yers next after the date hereof ... after that terme endyd ...
 unto Willm Norwyche my eldest Sonne ... upon suche condicon that the said Willm Nor-
 wiche ... doo paye ... unto John Norwyche fyve poundes to Henry Norwyche fyve poundes
 and to Anthonye Norwiche fyve poundes as every of them shall com to their age of xxiii yers
 And if any of them shall chaunce to dye before the said age or ages Then I will that he or
 they so overlyving to have the portion or parte of his broother decessayd ... unto Isabell my
 wyeff xii acres of Copey lond that I have in Westley untill my sonne Willm shalbe of the age
 of xiiii yers and then I will the saide xii Acres to Remaine to the said Willm ... unto Is-
 abell my wyf my Ten[emen]t and vii Acres of lond belongyng unto yt that I holde of the lord
 of Westley called Wynters Except a lytill parcell of ground inclosed unto my ffree howsse in
 Westley for terme of her lyeff And after her deceasse to Willm my sonne ... And as to that
 parcell of lond I doo bequeath yt unto Isabell my wyf for the terme of xii yers nex ensweyng
 the date hereof And after that terme I will yt unto Willm my sonne ... unto Willm my sonne
 fyve poundes to be payde by Isabell my wyf and her assignes at the daye of his mariage or at
 thend and terme of xii yers next ensweyng the date hereof whiche of them shall first com to
 passe ... Provyded ... that if the said Willm do wyllingly Interupte Isabell my Wyf his
 mooother of the said premisses ... unto Mary my dowghter iii lvi s viii d ... at her maryage
 ... to the said Marye ii payer of Sheetys of husewyves Clothe twoo disshes and tooo platters
 of pewter A Kettill and ii Candylstyckes to be Delyvered at her maryage ... to Willm i Ewe
 and i lambe to John oon Ewe oon lambe to Henry oon Ewe oon lambe and to Anthonye i
 Ewe & i lambe The Resydwe of all my goodes ... unto Isabell my wyeff upon suche condicon
 that shee doo honestly and vertuously bring up all my Childern accordyng unto my valewe
 for the terme of xii yers for the better performaunce of the better bringyng up of my said
 Childern I dyd will the said landes and Ten[emen]tes for terme of xii yers unto her ... I doo
 ... ordeyn the said Isabell my wyf to be my sole Executrix ... Stephyn Norwich my brother
 to be Supervysor of the same for whose payne to be taken I doo will and bequeath unto hym
 vi s viii d Witnesses: Sylvester Cumpyon, John Hasselwood, Willm Jeffrey
 Proved: 28 April 1548

STEPHEN NORWICH of Ashley, 1583[4]. (Archdeaconry Court of Sudbury, 106 Frende)
 In the name of god amen The xvii daie of Januarie in the yere of oure Lord god one Thou-
 sand fyve hundred fowerskore and thre Stephan Norighe of Ashelie in the Countie of Cam-
 bridge and dioces of Norwiche ... did make and ordaine this his Last will and Testamente
 nuncupative by Speakeinge these or the like words ... to Agnes my wiffe my howse called
 S[] jtyvils with all the howses barnes Stables or the yards gardens pastures and seedings with
 all Comodities and profects thereunto belonginge Duringe her naturall Liffe and after her
 decease to John my sonne and to his heires for ever ... my Lease of the mannor of Ashelie
 and Sylverlie the one halffe to Agnes my wiffe and to herrye my sonne and to their heires
 and thother halffe to John my sonne and to his heires and assignes The mannor howse with
 the homestalles and fyrwoode excepted whiche I will that John my sonne his executors and
 assignes shall have to beare all the Charges of Courte and Leesse from tyme to tyme Duringe
 the terme of all the yeres of the said Lease And also one pece of Lande conteyninge by es-
 timation fower Acres adioyninge to the parsonage Closse of Ashelie aforesaid excepted
 whiche I will that John Anthonye Clerke or his assignes shall have and enioye Duringe the
 terme of all the yeres specyfied in the said Lease The said John Anthonye or his assignes
 yeldinge and payinge therefore yerelie to my Executors tenne shillings of Lawfull monye

And also one Barne called the Churche barne excepted which I will that Agnes my wiffe and Henry my sonne shall have Duringe the said Leasse . . . to Richard my sonne one Tenemente beinge Coppie and to his heires forever nowe in the tenure and occupation of Henry Gattwaie the Surrender thereof is delivered into the hands of John Almer and John Ashewell two of the Lords Tenants to the use aforesaid one other Tenemente beinge Coppie nowe in the tenure and occupation of Willm Boshok to Joanne my daughter and to her heires for ever the Surrender thereof or Delivered into the Handes of John Almer and John Ashewell two of the Lords Tenants to the use aforesaid . . . to Henrye my sonne the Ten[emen]te beinge Coppie Wherin he nowe Dwellethe and to his heires for ever. The Surrender thereof is delivered into the hands of John Almer and John Ashewell two of the Lords Tenants to the use aforesaid . . . to Richarde my sonne threscore pounds of Lawfull monye . . . to my thre daughters Elizabeth Joanne and Margarette to everie one of them tenne pounds of Lawfull monye . . . to Richard my sonne A fetherbedd furnished the Residewe of all my movable goodes and Cattalles not bequethed I gve thone halffe of them to Agnes my wiffe and to Henrye my sonne And thother halffe to John my sonne whome I make my Executors to paie my Legacies and to see this my Last will and Testament fulfilled All which words or the Like in effecte wer spoken by the abovenamed Stephan Norighe in the presence and hearinge of John Anthonye Clerke John Norighe Henry Norighe and Agnes Norighe the Daie and yere abovewritten

Probatum fuit . . . xiiii Die mensis february Anno dno . . . mill[ess]imo quingen[tess]imo octogesimo tertio . . . Executoribus . . . Henr et Johis Norighe

AGNES NORWICH of Ashley, 1591. (Archdeaconry Court of Sudbury, 95 Bacon)

In the name of god amen the xviiiij daie of June Ao Dni 1591 in the xxxiii yeare of the Reigne of oure soveraigne Ladye Elizabeth . . . I Annes Noridge of Ashley in the Countie of Cambridge Widdowe . . . doe ordeyne & make this my last will & Testament . . . to the poore of the parishe of Ashley aforesaide xx s . . . unto Elizabeth Hynson my daughter three silver spoones . . . unto Margaret Dearslye my daughter my best Coverlett . . . unto John Noridge Henrie Noridge & Jone ffitch my children the Residewe of my housholde stuffe & moveable goodes within my howses to be equally devided amongst them . . . unto Margaret ffitch v l in money to be payde unto her within one yeare nexte after my departure . . . to Annes ffytche a mylche Bullocke . . . to Annes Noridge my goddaughter a milche Bullocke . . . unto Jone my daughter nyne acres of arrable Land which is in my owne occupyinge duringe the terme of the Lease of the Manner of Ashley . . . unto John Noridge & Henry Noridge my Sonnes, the residewe of my parte in the said ferme that is devided latelie in the Tenure & occupyinge of Richarde Noridge my Sonne duringe the Terme of the saide lease, The residue . . . unto John Noridge & Henry Noridge my Sonnes whom I doe . . . Make my Executors . . . In witness whereof I have sette my hand & scale the daie & yeare above written, The marke of Annes Noridge, wytnesses John Anthony, By me Chaplys Norton

Probatum fuit . . . Arch[i]diaci[natus Sudburie Norwice[n]sis] Dioc. . . nono die mensis Octobris Ao dni 1591 . . . Johanni Noridge Executor . . . altera vero Exec viz Henricus Norridge aute ovus executoris huius Testi in . . . assumpsit mortem ohyt.

1 HENRY^E NORWICH of Great Wilbraham, Cambridgeshire, died probably shortly after the date of his will, 6 Feb. 1509/[10?]. His wife at the time of the making of his will was AGNES. In his will, he also mentioned his son Richard, who was his principal heir, and Richard Norwyche junior, Henry Norwyche, William Norwyche and Stephen Norwyche; the latter (although he does not explicitly say this in his will) were his grandchildren, the children of his said son Richard.

An earlier will, that of Thomas Norwich of Little Abington, dated 3 March 1496, is to be found in the volumes of the Consistory Court of Ely. In it he named his wife Johan and his sons, William, John, and Henry. Given the proximity of Little Abington and Great Wilbraham, it seems likely that this Thomas was either father or brother to Henry, but the will alone is not sufficient to prove the relationship. Further research along these lines may well be fruitful.

Child (NORWICH) of Henry^E:

2 i RICHARD^D b. poss. 1470-80; m. (??) AGNES —

2 RICHARD^D NORWICH (Henry^E) was born perhaps about 1470-1480 and died at Westley Waterless between 4 Sept. and 20 Nov. 1540, the dates that his will was executed and proved. At the time of his death his wife was AGNES —. She was probably a second wife, since in his will Richard leaves her, among other things, "all that perteyneth to howseholde whiche was her owne and browght to me." She may have been the Agnes Norwich of West Wrattling whose will was written 4 Aug. 1545. In it, she mentions no Norwiches, but does name (among others) her sister Alice Cowper and several other Cowpers.

Children (NORWICH) of Richard^D, order uncertain:

- i RICHARD b. poss. in the 1490s as he was married with one child at the time of his death in April 1521. He was married to MARY — at the time of his death, at which time he was of Brinkley, Cambridgeshire. He named his father, Richard Norwich, as one of his executors, together with his wife Mary and Robert Cleydon. He also mentioned his three brothers, his sister Johan and his daughter Johan. His only other legatee was Thomas Foxe, no relationship specified, who was given a lesser amount of money than were his siblings. He was named first in his grandfather's will, and was therefore perhaps the eldest of his family. Child (NORWICH): *Joan* b. by 1521.
- ii HENRY b. poss. ca. 1500, as he was named second in the will of his grandfather Henry in 1509. His wife was ISABEL —. In his will, dated 1 July 1537 and proved 26 Sept. 1538, he called himself Henry Norwich of the town of Ashley in the parish of Silverley, Cambridgeshire. Since, at that time, he had five minor children living, he was probably married somewhere in the early 1520s, according well with a birth year of about 1500. One of his supervisors was his brother Stephen Norwich, although the relationship was not specified in the will. Children (NORWICH): *Henry, John, Joan, Elizabeth, Alice*.
- iii WILLIAM as the third-named son in the will of his grandfather Henry in 1509, was perhaps b. ca. 1500, d. Westley Waterless, Cambridgeshire, bet. 16 March and 28 April 1548, dates of the writing and of the proving of his will. At the time of his death, he referred to himself as a husbandman. His wife was ISABEL —. Children (NORWICH): *William, John, Henry, Anthony, Mary*.
- 3 iv STEPHEN^C b. poss. bet. 1500 and 1509; m. AGNES —
 - v JOAN named in the will of her brother Richard in 1521. Poss. m. ROBERT RAY of Denston, Suffolk (see discussion under Stephen^C, below).

3 STEPHEN^C NORWICH (*Richard*^D, *Henry*^E) was probably born between 1500 and 1509. He was buried at Ashley, Cambridgeshire, 23 Jan. 1583/4. At that time he held the lease of the manor of Ashley and Silverley.

His widow AGNES left a will dated 18 June 1591 and proved 9 Oct. 1591. In it she named all six of the children named by Stephen. Unlike her husband, she used the married names of their daughters, thus enabling us to identify the parents of Elizabeth (Norwich)(Chenery) Hinson.

In the will of Robert Ray, senior, yeoman of Denardeston [Denston], Suffolk, which was written in 1550 and proved in 1560, he mentioned, among others, Johan Norwich, goddaughter Elizabeth Norwiche, and godson Richard Norwiche. He also mentioned his land holdings in Ashley and Silverley, Cambridgeshire. Note also that one of the supervisors of the will of Henry Norwich (No. 2ii) of Ashley was a Robert Ray. This suggests a possible connection between the two families. Henry had daughters named Johan and Elizabeth, but only Stephen had a son Richard. Since Robert Ray's wife was named Johan, it is possible that he married Joan Norwich, daughter of Richard^D and sister of both Henry and Stephen^C. Other connections are, of course, possible, but this explanation accounts quite economically for the apparent connection to both Henry and Stephen. One additional piece of evidence in favor of this possibility is that none of the other members of Robert Ray's family who left wills in this period (his father and mother, wills dated 1539, his brother John of Cheveley, will dated 1558, and his brother George of Long Melford, will dated 1544) mentioned any connection with the Norwich family. This makes a connection through Robert's wife seem most reasonable. Robert is estimated to have been born around 1505, making him a reasonable age for the husband of Joan Norwich. It is also interesting that the only child of Robert and Joan Ray whose name is not accounted for by the immediate family of Robert himself is Richard, which was the name of Joan Norwich's father and eldest brother. (Information on the Ray family is from NEHGR 63[1909]:356-58, 64:51-66.)

Children (NORWICH) of Stephen^C and Agnes (—), order uncertain:

- i HENRY
- ii JOHN
- iii RICHARD was a yeoman of Ashley, Cambridgeshire, at the time of the writing of his will on 18 May 1591. The will was proved 1 June 1591. In it he named his wife ELIZABETH, his son Richard, under 24 years of age, and his two daughters (unnamed), under 21 years of age. This is the Richard Norwich, mentioned at the beginning of this article, who was named in the will of his brother-in-law John Chenery, father of Margaret (Chenery) Moody, and grandfather of John Moody and Frances (Moody) Kilbourne of New England. Children (NORWICH): *Richard, Elizabeth, Agnes*.

- iv ELIZABETH^B bur. Fordham 28 June 1619; m. (1) prob. ca.1560 JOHN^B CHENERY, son of John and Emma (—) Chenery of Kennett, Cambridgeshire. She m. (2) as his second wife, Kennett 30 July 1576 WILLIAM HINSON of Fordham, Cambridgeshire, bur. Fordham 3 June 1592. Children (CHENERY): *Mary, Margaret* who m. George^A Moody, *Elizabeth, Joan, John*. Children (HINSON): *Gris-sell, Anne* (TAG 64:8-9).
- v JOAN m. bef. 1591 — FITCH. Prob. had two daughters, *Margaret* and *Annes Fitch*, by that time.
- vi MARGARET m. bef. 1591 — DEARSLY

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COMING TO OUR CENSUS

By George Freeman Sanborn Jr.

Much is being written and said these days about census records and their deficiencies. Apparent errors, lacunae and inconsistencies plague researchers using this valuable genealogical resource. And more than one person has been overheard "cussin' out" the census-taker.

But census-takers suffer from the same human frailties as the rest of us, and occasionally we get a glimpse of what went into the records we so eagerly devour. Recently, while reading through the 1891 census of Ontario, I came upon some insights into the difficulties encountered by census-taker Stafford McBratney. Hard at work in the North Ward of the City of Brockville on 25 April 1891, he wrote:

Examined and found to be pretty correct it is hard to get the whole work perfect

Things weren't much better a few days later when he was in the nearby Township of Kitley on 1 May 1891:

We have examined this set of schedules and found some clerical errors and irregularities which we have correted [sic] to the best of our ability you will still find some enteries [sic] not just what they ought to be

Mr. McBratney's candor is refreshing; his warning is a word to the wise.

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will in 1575. This would, in turn, suggest a marriage date for John in the early 1550s, and a birth date in the 1520s or 30s. Of course, these dates are conjectural, but in the absence of more specific ones, they help to place the chronology of this family.

It is interesting to note that Mary Chenery, who was left money by her father only under condition that she marry with the consent of her mother, seems to have found this requirement impossible to meet, as she was still unmarried some 40 years later in 1616. This condition, in that it was stated in such a way as to apply only to Mary, implies that she may have been seeing a man of whom her parents disapproved, or at least that her father did not have great confidence in her ability to choose an acceptable husband.

Children (CHENERY) of John^B and Elizabeth (Norwich):

- i MARY^A b. perhaps ca.1550-1555. Unmarried in 1616 at the writing of her mother's will. She may have been the Mary Chenery who was bur. Fordham, 17 Sept. 1625.
- ii MARGARET b. perhaps about 1560 (she was under 20 in 1575); m. in Kennett, 12 Oct. 1581, to GEORGE^A MOODY, who was baptized in Moulton, Suffolk, 28 Sept. 1560, son of Richard and Ann (—) Moody. She was bur. in Moulton, 25 Jan. 1602/3. George m. (2) Moulton, 19 Sept. 1604, Christian Knapp. This date has erroneously appeared in print as 5 Sept. 1604 (Ackley-Bosworth p. 17). In the original, however, it is clearly 19 Sept. And, although most writers give the bride's name as Christian Cramp, it looks more like Knapp in the register. George was bur. Moulton, 23 Aug. 1607. They were parents of the immigrants John Moody and Frances (Moody) Kilbourn.
- iii ELIZABETH b. perhaps about 1562; m. in 1585 by licence, Bury St. Edmunds, WILLIAM PAYNE; named in her mother's will as Elizabeth Payne. Her husband was identified in a Chancery suit dated 14 May 1595. In this suit, Thomas Hinson, son and heir of William Hinson, gentleman, of Fordham, claimed that Elizabeth Hinson, late wife of William Hinson and mother-in-law of the said Thomas Hinson, together with her son-in-law William Payne, had taken possession of a piece of land that should have been his (Thomas') (PRO, Chancery Files C3 241/45).
She may have been the widow Elizabeth Payne of Worlington, Suffolk, whose will was proved in the Sudbury court on 29 May 1630. In it she mentioned her son Henry Payne, her daughter Dister, her daughter Anne Guest and her daughter Mary Biggs, wife of Thomas Biggs. One of the witnesses was Elizabeth Dister, perhaps the daughter named in the will.
- iv JOAN b. perhaps about 1564; bur. Fordham, 2 Jan. 1640/1; m. JOHN CHEESERIGHT at Fordham, 12 Nov. 1584, who was bur. there, 24 Oct. 1615. Joan was executrix (after the renunciation of her brother John) of her mother's will in 1626.

The will of John Cheeseright of Fordham, in which he is styled "gentleman," was dated 3 April 1613 and proved 30 Nov. 1615 (Archdeaconry of Sudbury, 326 Stevens). His widow Joan was the executrix, and in it he named sons Mark, John, Edward, Thomas and Richard Cheeseright, grandson Thomas Cheeseright (a minor), daughters Bridgett Cheeseright, Elizabeth Cheeseright, Sarah Cheeseright, Margaret Cheeseright, Joane Cheeseright, Frances Cheeseright (the youngest daughter), Frances Norridge (not the same person), Amy Shillinge and Grissell Bentley. He also mentioned his son-in-law Martin Shillinge, gentleman, whom he named as his supervisor. One of the witnesses was a Robert Bentley, presumably the husband of his daughter Grissell.

This appears to have been a family in which two daughters were given the same name. His youngest daughter Frances was baptized at Fordham, 22 Sept. 1603. His elder daughter Frances was married at Fordham, 17 Dec. 1600, to Mr. John Norredge, parson of Ashley. Since Norredge is a variant spelling of Norwich, this man was probably a close relative of Joan (Chenery) Cheeseright through her mother Elizabeth (Norwich) (Chenery) Hinson, whose family was also from Ashley.

The widow Joan Cheeseright's will was dated 31 May 1633, and proved at Sudbury 4 June 1641 (Archdeaconry of Sudbury, 264 Muriell). In it she named her daughter Joane, her son-in-law Robert Bently and her daughter Grissell his wife, her daughter Elizabeth (wife of Robert Larkin), her daughter Sarah and her son Mark, whom she named as her executor. Her supervisor was her son-in-law Thomas Abbs. It is uncertain whether all the children of John Cheeseright were by Joan.

- v JOHN bp. Kennett, 8 Feb. 1567/8; he was living in 1626, when he renounced executorship of his mother's will. He may have been the John Chenery of Fordham whose children (George, Ann, John, Bridget and Tomasin) were baptized there between 1600 and 1610. ELEANOR, the first wife of this John Chenery, was bur. Fordham, 19 May 1604.

Children (HINSON) of William and Elizabeth (Norwich) (Chenery):

- vi GRISSELL bp. Kennett, 20 July 1577; m. Fordham, 28 May 1600, to WILLIAM FAIRE-CLIFFE. Still living at the writing of her mother's will in 1616.
- vii ANNE b. perhaps 1579; m. Fordham, 13 Nov. 1605, to WILLIAM HARTE. Still living in 1616.

4 WILLIAM CHENERY (John^C, Thomas^D) was buried at Kennett, 6 Feb. 1567/8. He was a husbandman of Howndwell, parish Kennett, Cambridgeshire, at the writing of his will, which was dated 1 Jan. 1567/8, and proved 7 April 1568. In it, he named his wife ANNE whom he made his executor, and his three sons George, Richard and Thomas, all of whom were under 18 years of age. He also named his brother John Chenery, whom he made his supervisor, and his brother-in-law Thomas Oldfylde. He mentioned his goddaughter Awdrey Haywarde, his godson Henry Costone (Cotton?) of Multon and his goddaughter Elizabeth Sherocke. Other legatees included John Sherocke, Richard Smythe, Ambrose Prygge and his maid Mary Horne. Witnesses to the will were John Chinerye, John Sherocke and Thomas Oldfylde of Kennet, William Fyson and Elyce Oldfylde of Kentford.

Children (CHENERY) of William and Anne (Oldfylde?):

- i GEORGE (eldest son).
- ii RICHARD (second son); perhaps the Richard Chenery of Fordham, who was bur. there 20 June 1607. His children Richard, William, John, Elizabeth and Robert were baptized at Fordham between 1592 and 1606. His widow ELIZABETH was bur. there 7 June 1627.
- iii THOMAS (third son).

5 RICHARD CHENERY (John^C, Thomas^D) of Kennett, Cambridgeshire, left a will dated 6 Nov. 1563, and proved 7 April 1568. In it he named his wife PHYLIPE and his son John, who was under 21 years of age. His brother William Chenery was heir to land in Cockfield if John should die. His wife Philipe was named executor. Other heirs included his servant Phylipe Hayward (female, unmarried), servant Richard Cuter (Center?), godson William Oldefyld, goddaughter Mary Chinnery, godson Richard Avery, William Waspe, Elizabeth Dale and Richard Bolabye. Supervisors were his brother John Chenery and Chrystopher Founstone. Witnesses included Sir Olyver Mather, clarke, William Fytzson, John Fytson, John Chinnery, William Chinnery and Chrystopher Founstone.

His widow married, second, at Exning, Suffolk, 20 Aug. 1567, Richard Drury. She was buried at Exning, 23 June 1587, leaving a will, dated 19 June 1587 and proved at Sudbury on 2 Oct. 1587. In it, she named, among others, her son John Chinnery; his

eldest son Richard; his daughters Phillipe (eldest daughter), Anne (second daughter), Katherine (third daughter), Elizabeth (other daughter), Frauncis and Margaret (daughters); and the child that her daughter-in-law Annis Chenery was carrying at the time.

Child (CHENERY) of Richard and Philippe (—):

6 i JOHN b. between 1542 and 1554; died 1624.

6 JOHN CHENERY (Richard, John^C, Thomas^D) was born after 1542 (he was a minor in 1563), and before 1554 (he was given custody of his cousin in 1575). He died in 1624 in Barton, Suffolk. He married first, at Exning, 9 July 1570, to AGNES BRIDGEMAN, daughter of William Bridgeman of Exning, Suffolk. She was buried at Kennett, 4 Feb. 1615/6. He married second, at Bury St. Edmonds, St. James parish, 24 Oct. 1616, widow ELIZABETH BAXTER, who survived him.

Agnes Chenery's identity is established from the will of her father, dated 19 March 1577, and proved 2 May 1578 (PCC Langley). In it, he named his daughter Annys Chenery and he requested that land be appraised by John Chenery of Moulton (among others). John Chenery was also one of the witnesses to the will.

John Chenery's will was dated 7 Oct. 1624, and proved 8 Nov. 1624 (Archdeaconry of Sudbury, 81 Pearle). In it he called himself John Chenery of Barton, yeoman. He requested burial in Kennett near his late deceased wife Agnes. He named his current wife Elizabeth, and referred to "her former husband's inventory." He mentioned his mourning cloak for the death of Sir John Cotton, knight. He named his sons Richard, John, William ("3rd son") and Charles ("4th son"); his daughters Phillippe Murdon (widow), Katherine Pope, Elizabeth Firmage, Frances Lankester and Margaret Rose; his grandchildren Olyver Murdon (eldest grandchild), Sarah Chenery (daughter of Richard), John Chenery (eldest son of John) and Robert Cramys. He left his son John his signet ring with the letters J and C engraved. Other legatees were kinswoman Joane Ballard of Isleham and servant George Goodchilde. His executor was his son John and his supervisors were his son-in-law Thomas Pope, John Fyrmage and Warren Ingrid.

The will of Elizabeth Chenery, widow of John, was dated 10 Nov. 1627, and proved 19 April 1628 (Archdeaconry of Sudbury, 135 Mason). In it, she was called "of Kennett" and named her late husband's children: Richard Chenery (eldest son), John Chenery (2nd son), Charles Chenery (4th son), Katherine Pope, wife of Thomas Pope, gentleman, Phillip Morden, Elizabeth Firmage, Frances Ingre and Margaret Rose. Frances had been widowed and remarried by this time.

Children (CHENERY) of John and Agnes (Bridgeman):

- i PHILLIPPE (female) bp. Exning, Suffolk, 1 May 1571; m., by 1593, OLIVER MURDON of Exning, Suffolk. Her husband's will was written in 1621 and proved in 1624, in which he named his wife Phillipe, his sons Oliver, John, William, George and Martaine, his daughters Anne and Phillipe (both unmarried) and his daughters Bryant and Jhones (presumably their married surnames).
- ii ANNE bp. Kennett, Cambridgeshire, 9 March 1572/3; she was living, "2nd daughter" in her grandmother's will in 1587; perhaps the Anne Chenery who married EDWARD POVELL at Exning, 18 Nov. 1600. She was not named in the wills of her father (1624) and stepmother (1627).

- iii RICHARD bp. Exning, Suffolk, in April 1575; married with a daughter named Sarah by 1624.
- iv KATHERINE prob. b. about 1577/8; m. (1) Exning, Suffolk, 17 Jan. 1596, JOHN CHAPMAN; m. (2) by 1624 to THOMAS POPE, gentleman. Her stepmother, in her 1627 will, refers to her as Katherine, wife of Thomas Pope, gent., but names her son William Chapman as her residual heir.
- v ELIZABETH prob. b. about 1580/1; m. by 1624 to (JOHN?) FIRMAGE.
- vi FRANCES bp. Exning, Suffolk, 15 Nov. 1584; m. (1) Kennett, Cambridgeshire, 15 Oct. 1606 to THOMAS LANCASTER, gentleman, who was bur. Kennett, 5 Jan. 1621/2; m. (2) at Holy Trinity in Ely, Cambridgeshire, in 1624, WARREN INGLEY of Shepreth, Cambridgeshire (Boyd's Marriage Index); she died at Shepreth, a widow, leaving a will dated 1654 and proved in 1662. In it, she named her grandchild Francis (male) Radcote (elsewhere called Redcloake), her son Thomas Lancaster, her daughter-in-law Elizabeth Lancaster, her son Thomas Ingrey, her daughter-in-law Mary Ingrey, her grandchild Thomas Ingrey, her grandchild Thomas Lancaster, her daughter Margaret Banks and her daughter Elizabeth Shipson.
- vii MARGARET bp. Exning, Suffolk, 6 Sep. 1586; m. — ROSE. She was widowed by 1624, the date of her father's will.
- viii JOHN bp. Exning, Suffolk, 7 Oct. 1587; married with an eldest son named John by 1624.
- ix WILLIAM bp. Exning, Suffolk, 11 Oct. 1588; perhaps died by 1627, when he is not named by Elizabeth Chenery, his stepmother.
- x CHARLES bp. Exning, Suffolk, 22 April 1591; he was named in the will of his father in 1624 and of his stepmother Elizabeth in 1627.
- xi THOMAS bp. Exning, Suffolk, 4 June 1592; bur. there 20 June 1592.

APPENDIX

JOHN PRATT OF WOOD DITTON

Elizabeth, the eldest daughter of George and Elizabeth (Chenery) Moody, married John Pratt of Wood Ditton, Cambridgeshire. While few people still believe this couple to be John and Elizabeth Pratt of Connecticut, the parish registers of Wood Ditton and probate records of Sudbury make it clear that they could not have been. Their children's baptisms, recorded in Wood Ditton: Mary (1611), Alice (1613), John (1615), Thomas (1618), Elizabeth (1621) and Rebecca (1624). The burial of John Pratt at Wood Ditton was on 12 May 1642. The will of John Pratt of Wood Ditton, yeoman, was dated 11 April 1642 and proved 14 May 1642. In it he named eldest son John (executor), youngest son Thomas, youngest daughter Rebecca and wife Elizabeth. These records also rule out the possibility that the Hartford man could have been John Jr., since John of New England was in Cambridge, Mass., by 1633, and John Jr. of Wood Ditton was his father's executor in 1642. In addition, the will of a John Pratt of Wood Ditton, gentleman, was written 19 Aug. 1661 and proved 9 Oct. 1661, in which he named, among others, his "cousins" Richard Davy and William Fisson. Since Mary Pratt, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Moody) Pratt and sister of John Jr., married William Fisson in 1632, it would seem evident that this was the will of John Pratt Jr.