

# The Drakeford beginnings: Wills, FONS, Wolstanton and Norton-in-the-Moors

Did the family come from Wolstanton, Staffordshire?

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<b>1)</b>	<b>General Introduction</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2)</b>	<b>Did the Drakefords Emanate from Wolstanton?</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>3)</b>	<b>A Drakeford Connection at the Present Day</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>4)</b>	<b>Wolstanton Examined</b>	<b>16</b>
	a) General Comments on the Wills	18
	b) Use of Executors, Witnesses, Overseers and Appraisors	19
	c) Names of animals and other items found in the wills	19
	d) Debtors and Creditors	19
	e) Assessment of Findings	22
	f) Executors	22
	g) Witnesses	22
	h) Overseers	22
	i) Appraisors	23
	j) Family trees	23
	k) Conclusion	24
<b>5)</b>	<b>Is there a link to the 1206 de Drakeford Brothers?</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>6)</b>	<b>An Introduction to FONS</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>7)</b>	<b>The Wills - Wolstanton, Skermerslowe, Congleton, Norton-in-the-Moors, Audley, Burslem, Hollington, Checkley, Marchington Woodland, and Uttoxeter</b>	<b>27</b>

8)	<b>General Notes</b> - the selection from the Fitch collection of Wills	<b>57</b>
9)	<b>Appendix I</b> – List of Wills Produced by George Fitch	<b>58</b>
10)	<b>Appendix II</b> – FONS and others, being extracts of early records 1467 – 1618	<b>60</b>
11)	<b>Appendix III</b> – The Drakeford Ghost at Norton-in-the-Moors	<b>70</b>

## 1) **General Introduction**

As a start, it is appropriate to consider the extent of the information we have on the wills. Most of this is down the work at the end of the last century by the late George Fitch, to whom the family will be forever indebted. The full list of wills is shown in the appendix I at the end of this Study Paper.

The wills collected and summarised by George have produced a vast amount of information, I am grateful to Jeremy for lending to me the summary of wills and copying the papers he received. I have listed on the next page all those that have relevance to the five main family areas:

**Potteries/Audley/Wolstanton – Norton-in-the-Moors – Stafford – Congleton -  
Checkley/Hollington/Leigh**

I have also examined the names involved with the wills to try to confirm where we are all interconnected by marriage, commercially by lending or borrowing money (there were no banks early on and you would lend or borrow from family or other sources) and producing and effecting the wills. The results are revealed in the following pages.

My understanding is that:

Wills were not obligatory and were only produced when an individual wanted to be sure that certain others would receive assets.

There seems to have been a requirement for official confirmation when assets were assessed prior to distribution to have acquiescence by a court.

The local ‘court’ and sometimes the church retained wills after completion.

In some cases the assets of a family were passed to the eldest child and avoided being listed in the will. This is particularly shown in the Stafford estates.

Noteworthy is the ‘customary’ giving of land to widows as shown in will No. 12 being 12 acres in the hamlets of Wedgwood and Thursfield, and 2 acres and a house in the manor of Tunstall shown at will No. 7.

The wills identified in red are reproduced in summary in the Wolstanton section below.

Date **Wolstanton** **Norton** **Stafford** **Congleton/Cheshire** **Checkley/Hollington/Leigh**

**1500**

1537 **Richard** (1) this is the Fitch will number)

1541 **William** (2)

1553 **Thomas** (3)

1563

Sir **Thomas** (5)

1557 **Richard** (4), (1556)

1558 John D. (Standwell MDX)

1563

**Thomas** (5)

1568

**William** (6)

1569/70

**John** (8)

1571 **Roger** (7)

1572 **Margaret** (9)

1572 **Stephen** (10)

1583

**Thomas** (11)

1589 **William** (12)

1589 **Margaret** (13)

1589

**Thomas** (14)

1590

**Thomas** (14)

1598

**William** (15)

1598

**Richard** (16)

**1600**-----

**1601**

**Thomas** (17)

1604 **John** (18)

1607/8 **Thomas** (19)

1612 **Richard** (20)

1613 **John** (21) Burslem

1616 **William** (22)

1617

**John** (23) Withington

1619

**William** (24)

1621 **Richard** (25) Tulk/Audley

1621

**Henry** (26)

1629

**Elizabeth** (27)

1639 **Anne** (28)

----- end of examined wills for this exercise, NB. Stafford wills start -----

1639 **Richard** (33)

1640 **John** (29) Norton

1641

**William** (30)

1642

**Mercy** (34)

1647

**Edward** (31)

1645

**Cicely** (32)

1649 **William** (37)

1661

**John** (40)

1663

**Ellen** (39)

1665		Anne (41)
1666	William (42)	
1671		William (44)
1679	Richard (45)	
1685		William (46)
1686	John (47) <b>end of Audley line</b>	
1692		Alice (49)
1698		Ellen (51)
<b>1700</b>	-----	
1700	Richard (52)	
1703	Matthew (53)	
1704	Rebecca (54)	
1712	John (52a)	
1714	William (55)	
1718		John (56)
1722	Benjamin (60)	
1723	William (61)	
1728	Richard (63)	
1731		William (64)
1751		John (67)
1753		Katherine (68)
1757	Richard (71)	
1757	Priscilla (72)	
1764		Margaret (69)
1765	John (73)	
1765	Richard (74)	
1766	Matthew (75)	
1767		Richard (76)
1780	Frances (77)	
1800	-----	
<b>1814</b>	<b>EDWARD (79) end of Stafford line</b>	
1833		William (80)

The two early, Congleton wills are included in the discussion. In addition to the above, there are 18 additional available wills for Drakeford people. The summaries have been examined and most have just spasmodic connections with wills in the same areas. The largest nearby connection with Wolstanton by name is for Hollington and Checkley, villages not far from Leigh where Thomas Drakeford the priest resided until he died in 1563. These have been added to the Wolstanton list, and are also in red. There is a running line for 3 generations of Drakeford with wills numbers 6), 14), 15), 26), and 27). This ends with six grandchildren, but none of these were males, hence the name died out. There is no direct link to the Wolstanton, Stafford, Congleton or Norton families. Notwithstanding, the name goes back to the 1400s and there could well have been an earlier link not shown in the wills. The same goes for the Uttoxeter will of Thomas, number 17) dated 1601, a husbandman.

Just one more will has been added, and that is dated 1588, for John Drakeford at Stanwell in Middlesex. The names of his children are familiar. John Drakeford was married to Elizabeth and the children were William, Thomas, John, Dorothy and Alice. These are all very 'Drakeford'. There is no other connection.

The will summaries have been examined for connections. These are not just by family names, or the use of family priests, but also Debtor and Creditor lists, bequests, Executors, Witnesses, Scriveners, land holdings, Overseers, Appraisors etc. Some of these contacts might be professionals such as today we would use family solicitors.

The three main geographical areas reveal the following connections in date order:

The groupings reveal that for the Potteries from 1537 to 1640 there were 18 wills, yet for Stafford there was just one and Congleton two. Subsequently there were just five for the Potteries and 14 for Stafford and 16 for Congleton. This shows that the Potteries were, more populous and later declined in wealth and probably numbers.

The Stafford family was a single line running from the late 16<sup>th</sup> century until 1814 when the line expired. The first main person was a merchant who did well and the single line continued. There is no evidence of another Drakeford family producing wills in Stafford during this period. Conversely those in the Potteries appear to be in small units related but not in a single identifiable line.

The absence of Stafford wills earlier than 1639 would lead to a conclusion that perhaps Richard or his father arrived in Stafford from the Potteries where the family was already ensconced.

The Potteries people, judging from the wills were either Yeoman farmers or husbandmen. The wealthiest was a Thomas Drakeford of Whitfield, Norton who died in 1608 with assets totaling £129.15s. This is small change when we consider that Richard Drakeford of Stafford purchased Forebridge Hall for £1,203 around the same time but still a lot of money at the time.

Within the Potteries, the Parish of Audley had a selection of Drakefords with links to both the Congleton branch and the Potteries. The first will was in 1612, and the last in 1686 by which time the name of Drakeford had expired, and the last estate was left to the Cartwright family of Thomas, William and Richard. The reason was undoubtedly because of the marriage of Elinor, the daughter of William Drakeford of Church Lawton, to Thomas Cartwright. John, the brother of a William Drakeford, left all his estate to Thomas and his sons Ralph and John Cartwright.

Most of those with a trade were from the Congleton area. The Stafford line was generally armed services, professionals or gentlemen, and the Potteries were mostly small farmers. Tradesmen and small farmers were made up of the other 18 wills.

There was a fourth section around Leigh, Hollington and Checkley which appear as a family who ran out of male heirs and were present in the wills list from 1568 to 1629, a span of about 60 years or three generations.

The wills are dominated by reference to a number of surnames. All bar a handful have either one or more of the recurring names which are as follows.

**Potteries:** Draycott, Henshaw/Henshall, Rowley, Keeling, Scherrott, Stonier, Conway

Bowyer, Shaw, Wedgwood, Ball, Babbington, Beech, Booth,

**Stafford:** This family has the obvious connection of the family itself and generally flows through but with a few questions such as what is the exact link between Richard the Mariner and Richard the Town Clerk?

The names that do crop up generally are: Moreton, Bowyer, Wilkes, Dickenson, Littleton, Babbington, Dearle.

**Congleton:** Bowyer, Poynton, Smythe, Cartwright, Shaw, Stonier, Burgess, Barlow.

Where these are underlined it indicates that the name has been used in another family concentration.

Many wills refer to the families that a given daughter has joined.

Over the years these include in chronological order: Dale, Poynton, Clayton, Bowyer, Phillips, Hordern, Henshaw, Booth, Thursfield, Walley, Adam, Littleton, Gardiner, Bach, Swinfen, Dawes, Wood, Blathwell, Merrill, Higgs, Wilkes, Cartwright, Crompton, Wilcox, Towers, Johnson, Maes, and Barlow.

The specific 'connections' were as follows:

**1563 – Sir Thomas Drakeford**, priest at Leigh (will No. 5), and his brother Richard Drakeford (will No.4, died 1557) of Wolstanton. Thomas officiated in one form or another in other wills in the Potteries and around Uttoxeter.

**1589 – William Drakeford** of Wolstanton had a creditor, Richard Drakeford of Congleton

**1639 – Anne Drakeford** of Wedgwood/Wolstanton in the Potteries left a bequest to Barbara Hordern, granddaughter to Henry Drakeford of Hollington.

**1648(will 37) & 1684(will 47) William Lowndes** of Church Lawton, and Esther Lowndes of Audley.

**1747 - Edward Drakeford** of Congleton left gowns to his nephew Richard Drakeford of Stafford.

**1791 – A grandson of Sanai Drakeford, John Drakeford**, as a minor had his estate looked after by a Major Roberts, who could well have been the same Major Roberts who was a close friend of Richard the Mariner.

**1814 – Edward Drakeford** left £50 to a 'nephew' in Congleton.

Other 'connections' that are less specific include the various names in section 8) above whereby various people have acted as executors, overseers, witnesses, Appraisors.

## 2) Did the Drakefords Emanate from Wolstanton?

And now we ask ourselves the question: did the family come from Wolstanton, Staffordshire?

Wolstanton is now a town, about three miles from Tunstall. We do not know exactly where the village or hamlet of Drakeford stood, save that it was in the area of Tunstall.

A thesis entitled 'The Place Names of Staffordshire' written by David Horovitz at the University of Nottingham contains reference to the place name Drakeford:

DRAKEFORD (Un-located): an inquisition of 1467 implies that the place was in the Tunstall/Colclough/Ridgeway/Bancroft area: Ward 1843: App. V Perhaps remembered Drakeford Grove, in Norton-in-the-Moors (SJ 8951) Drakeford 1206 SHC III (i) 135; Ward 1843: App v. The place is mentioned frequently in the Medieval Manor court of Tunstall (Tooth 2000:51), and is recorded as Drakeford (1579) and Drakesford (1616) in the Norton-in-the-Moors Parish Register. From draca-ford 'dragon ford', perhaps because 'the ford with then water serpent'. The surnames Drakefielde and Drakeforde are found in the Rishall/Goscote area in 1666 (SHA 1923 138-9), and in the early 18<sup>th</sup> Century in Sleightford (ParReg), and the surname Drakeford is recorded in Talke in 1666 (KC 1921 114).

This is of course of interest and the researcher has picked up the first recorded use of the name in 1206 being a court case at the Staffordshire Assizes, when two Drakeford brothers failed to turn up to court. The action referred to Litewude in Bradele, an area to the south-west of Stafford involving a local major landowner, Hervey Bagot and Milisent, his wife, and another family who are not referred by surname, only Christian names.

Importantly, the use of the surname shows it to be *de Drakeford*, indicating that the two brothers were 'of' Drakeford, meaning they came from a place called Drakeford. What is not mentioned is that this court was at Stafford. The action referred to Litewude in Bradele, an area to the south-west of Stafford, quite a distance from the Tunstall court.

We have also picked up the various Tunstall Manor Court entries provided to our father Ken Drakeford by Col. Wedgwood extracted from the Wedgwood museum and reference to Dragon, are commented in detail in the Stafford study paper.

Importantly, the inquisition in 1467 implies that the place was in the Tunstall/Colclough/Ridgeway/Bancroft area. The word inquisition implies a court case, and as this was one of the exact dates of the Tunstall Manor Court hearings. Investigation revealed it would seem that they involved land where the Drakefords lived or came from.

What is useful is the reference to being around the Tunstall/Colclough/ Ridgeway/Bancroft area. Of these four areas, which may have been hamlets or villages, only Tunstall and Ridgeway can be identified. The latter is towards Stoke, and 4 miles from Tunstall.

The thinking by Mr Horovitz that **Drakeford Grove** a road in Norton-on-the-Moors is rather off the mark! Having made enquiries of the Norton town archivist, I was led to the Old Nortonian Society, a very fruitful organisation. A full account is to be found in Appendix III but it is summarised as:

In 1622, John Drakeford and John Beech purchased from John Broad 42 acres of land ‘... and common in Surbary’, which means there is the right to dig turf. It cost £42. This was a great deal on money at that time. This is attributed by the description as being between High Street, Norton, and Norton Green, just below the Nurses’ Home and in Victorian times was still known as Drakeford’s Drumble. Prior to that, in the 1700s, this was a coal mine belonging a Drakeford. He had trouble getting his workers to dig the coal out. He decided that the only way was to go down at night and with a pickaxe cut out the coal. Next day he ordered his workers to take it up to the surface, and presumably if they failed they were for the sack. After he died, local habitants vowed that they could hear him entering the footrail and getting his coal with the pickaxe every night, down in the mine. Old Parson Turner was brought to the scene to lay old Drakeford’s Ghost. It was said that after Drakeford’s death there appeared around the Drumble, a white Blackbird that no one was able to shoot!

I am sure that if Mr Horovitz knew about the many Drakeford wills in Wolstanton he would have centred his attentions around this village!

We also support that because of the work carried out by our father Richard Kenneth Drakeford in the 1930s/1940s. In 1938, in answer to an enquiry about a dispute between Samuel Wedgewood and Alice Drakeford, he obtained from the Josiah Wedgewood records at the Etruria Museum, Stoke on Trent, copies of the Tunstall Manor Court Rolls from which Col. Wedgewood had extracted the various entries for the Drakeford family. The list starts in 1369 and continues to 1520, with 22 entries. These are listed in the study paper: **The Drakeford family in Stafford 1206-1814**

In addition, various commentators when considering the geographic origin of the name have indicated that it was a place in the Tunstall area, perhaps also by these court records.

**The Staffordshire Parish Records Society** in 1914 provides as a precursor to the registers they transcribed from 1624, a history of what was a village. The previous records were lost in the mist of time, probably thrown away because they had deteriorated so badly. Indeed, the existing manuscripts are in a similar condition and for the period from 1624-1627 the scribes relied on copies known as the Kelsall Transcript.

**The parish of Wolstanton** was one of the largest and oldest in Staffordshire. Indeed, at one time it stretched from Newcastle upon Tyne all the way to Astbury, and hence Congleton in the north. The Romans probably brought Christianity or it may have been Gallic missionaries during the 3<sup>rd</sup> century. A very early Saxon church was dedicated to St Nicholas, but the present church of St Margaret , the virgin of Antioch was founded in the 11<sup>th</sup> century by the Bishop of Wolston and partially restored in 1623. The list of rectors starts in 1086 with an un-named priest, and the first name is that of Stephen de Burgennoey in 1200.

The introduction to the **Wolstanton Parish register** book by the Staffordshire Parish registers Society (SPRS) contains the following extract:

The village took its name from the Saxon family of Wolstan (otherwise Wulstan, Wulfstan or Wulstan), which gave several ecclesiastics to the Saxon Church. There was a Wolstan, Bishop of Worcester, in 1002, who it is said to have been born in Dimsdale\*; while in a later generation the Saxon king, Edward III., surnamed Confessor, appointed Wolstan Abbot of Worcester, and later, in 1062, raised him to episcopate. He assisted in the coronation of William The Norman in 1066, and was the only Saxon prelate who retained his office after the Conquest. He founded the present Worcester Cathedral in 1084, to replace a former one, which had been destroyed by Hardicanute, the Dane, and he was the prototype of Wilberforce, having laboured earnestly and successfully to induce the Saxons of the west to set free their British slaves and to give up the slave trade.

The last sentence has an interesting resonance in today's attitudes, on which we can reflect that in England slaves were about long before the trade in African slaves to the USA starting around 1660 to provide labour for tobacco plantations.

\* Dimsdale is less than a mile from Wolstanton. The SPRS register continues, Dimsdale in the Domesday book was known as Dumesdene, the Hill-field stronghold, Dimsdale was one of the principal centres of the Ordovices, (a Celtic tribe) and also a shrine of heathendom sacred to Taitiu, the goddess of the dawn, and foster mother of Lug, the sun-god. The outline of a circular path, about 100 yards in diameter, is still traceable. The Romans found it necessary to establish a military outpost at Mediolanum or Chesterton to overawe this British stronghold.

A further reference states that 'Wolstanton is mentioned in the Norman Domesday book where it is listed amongst the lands belonging to the King. The land consisted of work for 2 ploughs, 14 villeins, 2 bordars and a priest (who had his own plough). Woodland then was measured as being a league by a furlong. When tax had been paid (by Ælfgar before the conquest) then it was set at six pounds'. **Source: Wikipedia**

From this it can be seen that the area was a significant before even Roman times, although the work of Victorian historians has not been corroborated of late.

The name of the village changed over time to include Wolstanetone in the **Domesday Book**, and later Wul-stanestone, and Wolstanetown, and finally Wolstanton.

In the 11<sup>th</sup> century, during the time pre-Domesday, Wolstanton belonged to Leofric, Earl of Mercia, husband of Lady Godiva. It passed to their son Algar who held in in 1066. It became a royal manor and in 1086 contained 2 hides and 120 acres of wood. It then passed through the hands of the Earls of Chester, Derby and Lancaster and then the Duke of Lancaster and to his heiress, Blanche the wife of John of Gaunt, son of Edward I. Hey presto! That was to become the connection that the Stafford Drakefords had to the thrown through the Babingtons and the Littletons as shown elsewhere in the Study Papers. The Sneyd family, significant in the wills numbered 20 and 21 below, were later important local landowners. At Bradwell, where they had their family seat, they were Lords of the manor of Tunstall.

We must remember that there was some industry around in that Tunstall had ironstone mines in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, and later coal mining. However, Wolstanton was very much a rural area until Victorian times.

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### 3. A Drakeford connection at the present day

Let us just take a moment to reflect on the family connection. Only recently have I come across the wedding certificate of our Great-Grandfather, William Drakeford, potter.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1873 he married Janet Copeland, spinster. They were 21 and 20 years of age respectively and both lived at Middleport. William's occupation was described simply as a potter. Their paternal parents were also potters, being Richard Drakeford and Thomas Copeland, and the witnesses were William Bakewell and Jane Drakeford, who was Richard Drakeford's sister.

We are not aware that this family named Copeland were related to those of the Manufacturer of earthenware, Parian ware, fine porcelain etc. at Stoke. The business was started by Josiah Spode: c.1770 to April 1833, became Copeland & Garrett: c.1833 to 1847, then W. T. Copeland & Sons: c.1847 to 1970 and Spode Ltd: 1970 to the present day.



This is a Selection of Door Furniture by Copeland & Garrett and Copeland: finger plates, door knob, escutcheon and doorbell push, c.1833—1900



A large Copeland exhibition piece made for Paris 1878 and superbly painted by C. F. Hurten, considered by many to be the finest flower painter on English ceramics of the Victorian period.

### **The Copeland Period Part 1, 1833-1900**

William Copeland died in 1826 and Josiah Spode II died in 1828. Until 1833, the company was managed by one of Spode's sons and other managers. In 1833 William Taylor Copeland, William Copeland's son, acquired the business in partnership with a Thomas Garrett until 1847 and the factory's productions from this period were marked 'Copeland and Garrett'. Typical wares produced during the Copeland and Garrett period were in the rococo style, fashionable at the time, with considerably fussier shapes than previously.

In 1846, William Taylor Copeland acquired the company outright and he and four generations of his descendants controlled the company until 1966.

On the wedding certificate the parish name was indecipherable. Thus I made investigations about the vicar, a Robert Topham, and it transpired that he was the vicar at St Matthew's Etruria, Hanley, one of the Six Towns of the potteries, as was Tunstall, Burslem along with Fenton, Longton, and Stoke-upon-Trent.

Etruria was the area in Hanley where Josiah Wedgwood had his main pottery works. Etruria was the fourth and penultimate site for the Wedgwood pottery business. Wedgwood, who was previously based in Burslem, opened his new works in 1769. It was named after the Italian district of Etruria, home of the Etruscan people who were renowned for their artistic products. The site covered 350 acres (140 ha) and was next to the Trent and Mersey Canal. As well as Wedgwood's home, Etruria Hall, it included the Etruria Works which remained in use by the Wedgwood enterprise until 1950, closing after a period of 181 years. After that time the town lost its identity and industrial wealth.

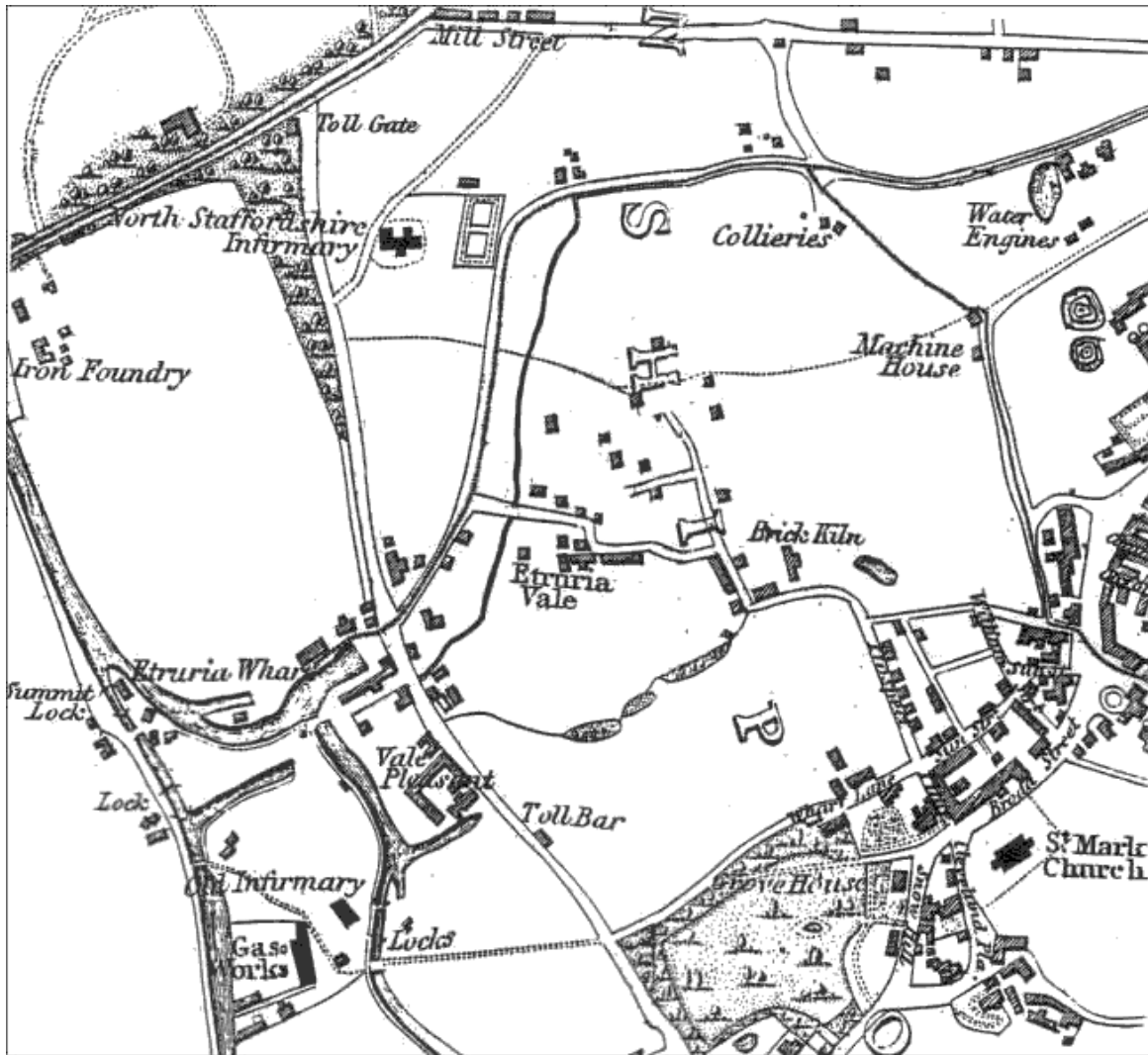
Photographs by E.J.D.Warrilow taken in 1949 shows the Wedgewood works, and the detritus of an industrial town, including St Matthews church (No.3), which now no longer exists.

**Photo 1 – The Wedgewood Works**



The Wedgewood works are located on a wharf of the canal. After they were built streets of workers houses emerged as black-country terrace rows mostly with outside toilets and an area for washing lines but no gardens.

## 1832 Map of Etruria, Hanley



It was initially a small town of the industrial revolution. The map shows an iron foundry, collieries, water engines, brick kiln, a machine house, and gas works. The Wedgwood works were relatively small at the time and were built on Etruria Wharf which is protected by two locks on the Trent and Mersey canal. This enabled his goods to be safely transferred all around the world without the need to use the poor roadway system. The toll gate and toll bars on the road would soon be items of the past. There are two infirmaries serving the local area. The workers houses are not apparent even after the works were started 70 years before.

## Photo 2 – The town called Etruria



### View of Etruria

taken 1949 by E.J.D. Warrillow

This photograph taken from the end of the slowly disappearing "Slippery Pit", a Tinkersclough tip.

The houses in the foreground were built approximately on the site of the demolished second Infirmary.

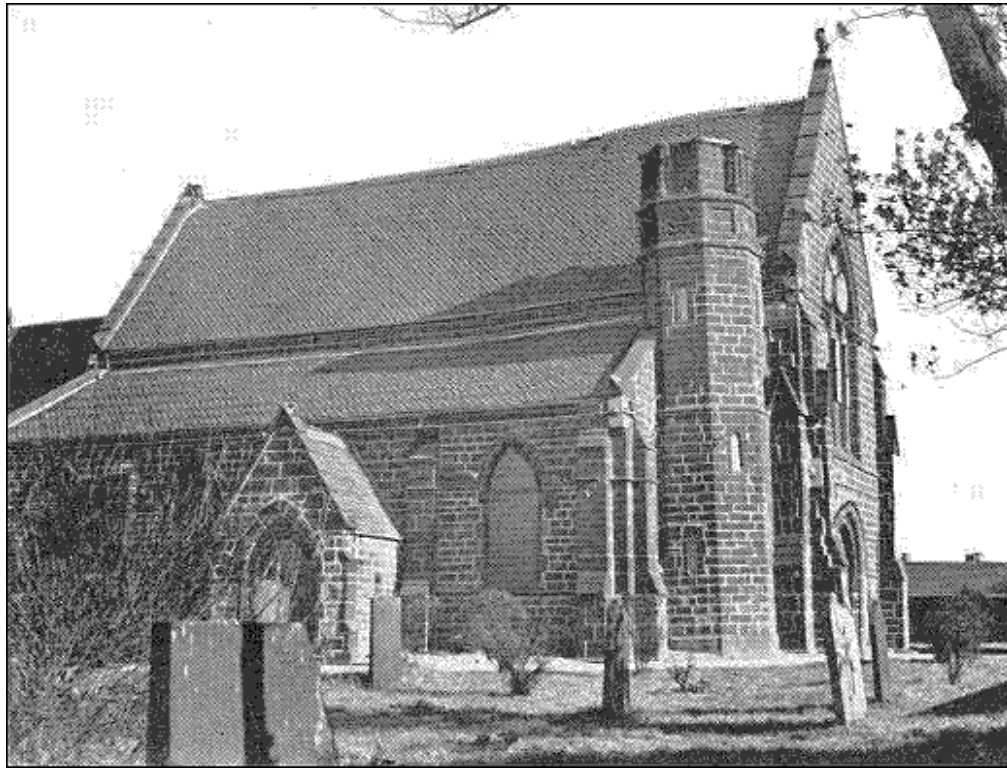
In the centre of the photo is the Etruria Church, St. Matthews, the church schools and the vicarage. To the middle right are the Wedgwood Works and beyond all these the remains of the "Etruria Woods".

Josiah Wedgwood came from a pottery family, and started as a thrower. He had health problems and had a leg removed, meaning he could no longer throw the clay using a wheel to turn the pot, and looked for other work in the business. To cut a long story short, he went his own way and in partnership with Thomas Bentley in June 1769, he opened a new factory at Etruria, near Stoke-on-Trent. He died on 3rd January 1795 leaving a thriving business and a fortune to his children.

**Photo 3 – St Matthews Church**

The church of St. Matthew, Etruria was founded in September 1847, 40 years after the building of the Etruria pottery works and village by Josiah Wedgwood.

Originally in the parish of St. Mark, Shelton - the new parish of Etruria was created in 1844.



**The Church of St. Matthew**

taken 1948 by E.J.D. Warrillow

**Vicars of St. Matthew's:**

Rev. Henry Wynter	October 1847 to July 1856
Rev. C. J. Sterling	August 1856 to November 1864
Rev. Robert Topham	December 1864 to September 1889
Rev. Willis Barrett	May 1890 to August 1913
Rev. Thomas Horwood	February 1914 to

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#### 4. Wolstanton examined

Clearly there will be connections with Wolstanton from the 1600s onwards, but our main interest is that the Wolstanton wills and those of Checkley/Hollington so kindly provided by George Fitch go back well before the existing church records.

These Wills are shown in greater detail below, with comment that some may find of interest both historically and also in relationship to our family:

1537 – Richard Drakeford  
1538 - William Drakeford  
1552 - Thomas Drakeford  
1556 - Richard Drakeford  
1570 – Roger Drakeforde  
1572 – Margarete Drakeforde(???)  
1572 – Stephen Drakeford  
1589 – William Drakeford  
1589 – Margaret Drakeford(???)  
1598 – Richard Drakeford  
1604 – John Drakeford  
1608 – Thomas Drakeford  
1612 – Richard Drakeford  
1613 – John Drakeford  
1616 – William Drakeford  
1621 – Richard Drakeford

Because Leigh and Hollington are so close these are also examined. Note above and below the main family names of Richard, William, John and Thomas. We can add Thomas, probably because of the illustrious Sir Thomas Drakeford, priest at Leigh.

1563 – Thomas Drakeford  
1567 – William Drakeford  
1570 – John Drakeford  
1583 – Thomas Drakeford  
1589 – Thomas Drakeford  
1598 – William Drakeford  
1619 – William Drakeford  
1621 – Henry Drakeford  
1639 – Anne Drakeford  
1601 – Thomas Drakeford  
1628 – Elizabeth Drakeford

There are 27 wills under inspection. Of the 22 male wills, we have 5, Richard, 6 William, 3 John, 5 Thomas. The additional names are one each for Stephen, Henry and Roger. The 5 ladies are Anne, Elizabeth, and 2 for those named Margaret.

The main interest is to try to connect these with the other wills prior to say 1600 for other nearby settlements and perhaps relate to each other. For this exercise we should take as local 15 miles, which with people walking at 3 mph, horse drawn waggons, 7 mph and ridden horses 12 mph, this is reasonable. The exception is Leigh, but it had a special family member, the priest, Thomas Drakeford.

These wills include:

Burslem	= 2 miles
Norton	= 4 miles
Audley	= 6 miles
Astbury	= 10 miles
Congleton	= 11 miles
Checkley	= 15 miles
Leigh	= 17 miles
Hollington/Marchington	= 25 miles

For Stafford, these are all later wills and we can consider Forebridge on the south-westerly outskirts at 21 miles to be an adjunct of Congleton/Norton and not worthy of inclusion for this exercise.

Another early Drakeford settlement of interest is that of Hollington and Checkley, some 17 miles away.

Therefore, in addition to Wolstanton, up to 1620, we are looking at people mostly born before 1570.

A list provided by Jeremy Drakeford 14.11.2007, shows the details of each will by way of a copy of the hand written original and a typed copy plus another typed version in modern English. The numbers equate to the list of wills provided by George Fitch.

As you start this journey put yourself back during this time when Henry VIII was on the throne. In 1537 he was divorcing from Rome, and closing the monasteries. Houses were rarely of brick, sometimes stone and more often made of a timber frame, without proper foundations as we expect today.

Outside the towns people worked the land, few at the bottom of the spectrum actually owned anything save their tools and the clothes they stood up in. They had no need for wills. Up from that there were the smallholders, and then the yeomen who owned or rented land and property. Few left their village all their lives, working on the land from which they had all they needed. The exception, even as late as the 20<sup>th</sup> century, was when they were called to fight.

Look at your bank statements. What do you see? Mortgage payments, internet, car costs, life insurance, health cover, entertainment, eating out, holidays, alcohol, telephone, gas, electricity, water, brown bins, mobile, and of course various taxes etc. Now take that away and you are left with possibly just more taxes, food, clothing and rent. These were poor people relying on good weather to help the crops, good health, enough wood for heating and cooking, clothes, tools for a trade and regular food. If you were destitute, there was only the church to go to for help. Everyone would walk to your nearest church, which might be several miles away, and your life was very much based on your small community.

Looking at these wills, look out for the type of animals, for eating, selling, and using on the land. Most have a horse, which could be used for travel, very posh, or pulling a plough, or both. In the heavy Midlands soil, they had oxen as well. Interestingly, there is seldom mention of a cart for carrying crops etc., but it is shown on the wealthiest farm for Roger Drakeford who died in 1571. Perhaps, elsewhere there was insufficient to justify such an expensive item, and they were borrowed from other farmers.

### **a) General comments on these Wills**

As you read these wills have in mind the following:

- **Monarchs and changes thereof**

A most interesting view of the past as we read these wills is the reference to the true date and that of the years the monarch has been on the throne. As you read the Drakeford wills of both Wolstanton and elsewhere, you can follow the period and how things change

- **In favour of previous religious ways of Henry VIII, before the split from Rome**

Perhaps by error of omission or intent, there is no reference to Henry VIII in the first two wills dated 1537 and 1538. On the other hand, if they were drawn up by a sympathiser of Rome and against the break from Rome by Henry, it might have been a way of exclaiming displeasure. A member of the family and priest, Sir Thomas Drakeford, was one such antagonist. He has been featured in a paper that identified the Stafford clergy as to those with Henry and those against him. Thomas was declared one that was against Henry and that he showed this by the way he wrote the wills with reference to St Mary rather than Jesus.

- **Sir Thomas Drakeford, priest. 'Sir' for vicar, courtesy title.**

AS you will appreciate the 'Sir' was widely used by clergy, but it was largely a courtesy title rather than a bestowed honour. In the same way we can recall in the 1950s/60s, and many later that we always referred to our masters at school as 'sir'. They of course did not bestow on themselves the title as in yesteryear.

Throughout the time he was a priest, Thomas appears in a number of wills in one capacity or another.

## **b) Use of Executors, Witnesses, Overseers and Appraisors**

As the wills are read, various roles appear. We can all appreciate what the executor is, and indeed the witnesses who attend the signature of a will in turn sign to say that the testator did sign the will in front of them.

To be an overseer is quite an old fashioned role. He or she were there to ensure that the instructions were carried out by the Executor in the correct manner and in accordance with the wishes of the deceased.

After the death of the deceased in those times it was the job of various friends, family or professionals to list and value the assets that had been the subject of the will. These were known as the Appraisors. Quite often the list describing the assets, and the values of the assets are very hard to read. This is particularly because of the money written in a loose Romanesque style!! If the reader knows the likely contents of say the house, or the various animals and their olde world description things become easier. Examples follow.

## **c) Names of animals & other items to be found in wills**

As an example we can take will 9) for Margaret Drakeford dated 1572, in the time of Queen Elizabeth and a few from other wills

The Appraisors list farm animals including –

Fyve olde labouring horses

Two oxen and foure bullockes

Sixe kye (cows)

Two twynters\*, 3 heyfers and two calves \*(beasts two winters old)

Twentie sheepe

Three Yonge swyne etc.

Spelling was just a bit vague. Have a try to translate these from other wills:

Styrckes, Steeres, cauelves, Kyn, Hecfer, twinter, heafers, twenters, Pultrye, Cowp, Swyne, horsse, mare, fyllye, Owxe, Heyfors, Hennys, Pygges, yearelynge calf, Barren cowe, calvys, caullves, bullockes, hogge, hogge schepe, sheppe, pullets, pulletes, pollen, gese, gesse, yewis.

## **d) Debtors and Creditors**

In some of the wills, there will be found a reference to money owed by debtors and money owed to creditors. These items will mostly be not for goods bought and sold but money lent and borrowed. In those days there was no such things as a high street bank and especially in urban areas you could either leave spare cash in a coffer or hidden, or alternatively lend it to someone in the family or a trustworthy friend/associate. Conversely, if you needed, perhaps to buy implements or seeds you would borrow money. WE do not have any idea of what interest would be charged, if at all.

In this treatise we have listed the names that have cropped up as creditors and debtors so we can analyse possible connections around Wolstanton. When doing so we also refer to the will number and the year.

The purpose is to identify connections between the wills for family members and others in the community. This will show the extent that each small commune of the Drakeford family is linked to the others in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. After the creditors and debtors we will do the same for witnesses, overseers and assessors.

### Debtors (will number) Year

Richard Alkcott, (25)1621	Rowllant Hough, (20)1612
James Badely, (19)1607	John Howcroft, (20)1612
Edward Baggeley	Richard Johnstone, (20)1612
Thomas Balle, (19)1607	John Kellinge of Gyllowe (9)1572
Thomas Beasford (9)1572	John Lies, (20)1612
John Beech, (19)1607	John Lovatt, (19)1607
Richard Bethes (4)1556	John Malken ygr., (9)1572
William Bowyer, (25)1621	Matthew Morton, Alderman (16)1597
John Britten(21)1613,	John Prince (4)1556
Robert Brough de Newcastle, (20)1612	<a href="#">Richard Ratcliffe (16)1597, (19)1607</a>
Oliver Brownsworth (16)1597	William Rathbone (4)1556
Rand Burges (9) 1572	Ralph Wilton, (20) 1612
Thomas Burne (4)1556	Henry Rowker (16)1597
Hugh Cartlache(9)1572	John Rowley yngr(4)1556
John & Christopher Chaddocke, (21)1613	<a href="#">John Rowley Long (4)1556, (3)1553,(9)1572,</a>
Richard Clowes, (19)1607	John Rowley of Burslem, (21)1613
William Colclough, (20)1612	Edward Shawe, (19)1607
William Deane (16)1597	Hugh Sherratt of Barns Acre, (20)1612
<a href="#">Elizabeth Drakeford (3)1553</a>	Thomas Smythe (9)1572
<a href="#">Richard Drakeford of Lawton Moss (4)1556</a>	<a href="#">Richard Snead/Sneyd, (20)1612,</a>
<a href="#">Richard Drakeford of Wedgewood, (19)1607</a>	Thomas Thorley, (19)1607
<a href="#">Stephen Drakeford (4)1556,</a>	<a href="#">Ann Unwin, (20)1612,</a>
<a href="#">Stephen Drakeford, (20)1612</a>	<a href="#">Raphe Unwin, (20)1612</a>
<a href="#">William Drakeford of Congleton, (19)1607,</a>	John Wearam, (20)1612
<a href="#">(20)1612</a>	Raffe Wedgewood, (20)1612
Marie Draycott, (25)1621	Richard Wedgewood, Elder, (19)1607
John Ellis, (21)1613	John Wholacke (4)1556
Richard Gallimore, (19)1607	Rondle Whytoughe, (20)1612
Richard Grene, Gent (16)1597	Steven Wyncle (9)1572
William Hancoke, (20)1612	Robert Yardley (9)1572
John Hobson, Alderman (16)1597	

## Creditors (will number) Year

<p>John Ameleson (3)1553,  Earle of Boche (9)1572,  John Barlow of Tayne (12)1589  William Barlowe (12)1589  Margery Beadley (12)1589  Margaret Beech, (19)1607  Andrew Beech, draper London, (25)1621  James Booth, (25)1621  Mr Bowyer (12)1589, (16)1597  John Bowyer, (25)1621  John Bradford (12)1589  Robert Brethe (9)1572  John Browneswards (12)1589  Raundall Bryndeley (12)1589  Thomas Bullock (12)1589  Goodweif Burslem, (21)1613  Jone Cartyche (12)1589  Warber Caulton (12)1589  Mr Cleyton, (21)1613  John Cowper, (19)1607  Humphrey Cooper, (21)1613  Mr Coventree, London, (25)1621  Thomas Dasye (9)1572  James Drakeford (3)1553, (10)1572  John Drakeford, (19)1607  Margaret Drakeford (3)1553,  Margaret Drakeford, (19)1607  Richard Drakeford Congleton (12)1589  Steven Drakeford (12)1589, (16)1597  Thomas Drakeford (12)1589  Mrs John Egerton (12)1589  Joan Fletcher, (21)1613</p>	<p>Roger Frost (12)1589  Widow Frost (12)1589  Richard Gallimore (12)1589  Anne Helme (12)1589  Hench, Widow (7)1570  Roger Henshaw (3) 1553,  Roberte Hochkynson (12)1589  Elinor Leighe, (21)1613  William Leighe, (21)1613  Roger Machin, (21)1613  Thomas Madiowe(7)1570  Raufe Males (16)1597  John Marshe, (21)1613  John Mawton, (19)1607  Hugh Meyre (7)1570  William Muchell (12)1589  Alice Rowley (3)1552, (4)1553  Richard Snead/Sneyd, (21)1613  William Stonier, (19)1607  Margaret Stonier, (20)1612  William Talbot, (21)1613  Elen Tryvitt, (19)1607  Michael Ward, (21)1613  Geoffrey Wedgewood Snr (3)1553,  Ralph Wilton, (20)1612, (25)1621,  William Whithalghe, (19)1607  John Wolfe (3)1553,  Laurance Wood, (16)1597  William Yate (9)1572  William Wyncle (12)1589</p>
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## i) Appraisors

Will 1) John Adams and Thomas Wyldblood	Wolstanton
Will 3) James Henshaw	Wolstanton
Will 4) Ralph Wylock & John Rowley	Wolstanton
Will 7) Richard Wedgewood, Thomas Stonier, Steven Drakeford	Wolstanton
Will 9) John Rowley, Geoffrey Rowley, Steven Drakeford, James Henshaw	Wolstanton
Will 10) William Rowle(y), Roger Stonier, Richard Drakeford	Wolstanton
Will 12) Geoffrey Rowley, Thomas Drakeford, Alexander Myles	Wolstanton
Will 16) John Hobson, Richard Poynton	Congleton
Will 19) John Rowley of Turnhurst, Thomas Addam, William Keeling	Norton-in-the-moors
Will 20) John Unwin, John Wearam. Ralph Whylton	Audeley
Will 21) Thomas Burslem, William Bourne, Richard Daniell	Burslem
Will 22) John Rowley, William Rowley, William Stonier	Wolstanton
Will 25) Ralph Unwin, Edward Baggeley	Audeley
Will 28) John Gallimore, William Stonier, Hugh Wishall	Wolstanton

From 1537 the Wolstanton wills exhibit the names of Rowley, Henshaw and Stonier, which are repeated time and again. Henshaw is later connected by marriage. The thinking is that as the Christian names differ, these people are involved in a long term family business displaying one skill or another. It may be the writing of wills, ongoing checks of the status of the distribution of assets in the will, and the knowledge required to write lists of assets and give valuations.

## j) Family Trees

It would be nice to produce a family tree showing the growth of generations from all this information on wills. Trying this has been a problem. The difficulty is that we are not able to use church records for baptisms, marriages and burials. In Wolstanton the church records available are only from 1624. The earlier records are either missing or too difficult to read because of poor storage. To rely on wills only provides information about the family members at the time of death, and only those that either benefit from the will or are part of the will.

The wills do show that there were interactions of one form or another between Wolstanton, Congleton, Stadmoreslow, (Church) Leigh, Lawton Moss, Checkley, Hanbury, and Marchington Woodland.

It would appear that the first two Drakeford wills of 1537 and 1538, for Richard and William respectively indicate that they were brothers. We also assume that Sir Thomas Drakeford, priest was the son or brother of that Richard. William's three sons being Steven, John and Thomas were the most prolific, supporting numerous children. Steven moved to Stadmoreslow and was very much involved with the wills of other family members.

A Roger Drakeford, who had will No. 7 dated 1570 supported eight children. There is no indication who his parents were. He could have been a son of either the first discussed Richard or William, or even one of the five grandchildren of William, none of whom was named. The fact that six of the eight of Roger's children has a Drakeford Christian name supports this theory.

The names of Richard and John **Gallimore** link the Wolstanton will numbers 12), 19), and 28) with the Hollington and Checkley wills numbered 26) and 27) as Appraisor/Assessor. The dates show that it is likely that Richard was the father of John.

Will number 5) for Sir Thomas Drakeford Priest of Leigh shows plenty of connections with Wolstanton through the family and his bequests but the Witnesses, Appraisors etc. show no connections.

There is no apparent connection with Wolstanton for the wills numbered 6), Hollington, 8) Marchington Woodland, 11), Marchington, 14) Hollington and 24) Newbolt.

## **k) Conclusion**

By all the aforementioned information, it would seem safe to assume that the Wolstanton Wills, and those from the other mentioned areas including Congleton, Stafford and Norton, support the suggestion that these early Drakefords are the ancestors of the same family. The fact that there were few, if any, wills may indicate that the numbers with the Drakeford name were fewer than those at Wolstanton. Certainly, where their earliest Drakeford wills in such an area as we see at Stafford, there is no evidence of a family living there before the late 1500s. There is earlier family evidence at both Congleton and Norton-in-the-Moors.

The church records for Congleton show the first Drakeford entry at 1573 when Richard Drakeford married Ellen, née Drakeford on 25<sup>th</sup> January. They had a son John, who died as baby and was buried on 23 June 1574. There was also in 1573, but on 22<sup>nd</sup> November the baptism for Jane, daughter of William Drakeford. However, it would appear that the first records held for Astbury church were 1572. This means that the Drakefords may have been there some while before that, but we do not know when either by wills, as there do not appear to be any, or records that could have been destroyed as there were at Wolstanton.

As for Norton-in-the-Moors, the first Norton records start at 1574 and the first Drakeford entry was for the marriage of Margeria Drakeford to Rogerus Bagnolde on 28<sup>th</sup> November 1579. Again, the family could have been in Norton for some time prior, but again the earlier Drakeford evidence is found at Wolstanton.

At St Mary Mucklestone some 13 miles from Wolstanton there is shown the baptism of William Drakeford in 1557. Nearer to Wolstanton being 10 miles away at St Peter, Caverswall, there is another Drakeford record and there is shown the marriage on 9<sup>th</sup> June 1567 of Margaret Drakeford to John Collins. Sadly, Margaret was buried there on 16<sup>th</sup> September 1580. These records started in 1552 and show no other Drakeford. Margaret is possibly the daughter of John Drakeford of Lawton Moss.

In the three churches in Stafford, at St Mary's the Marriage of Joan Drakeford to Richard Whytell is the first entry shown at 14<sup>th</sup> November 1592, and the next a baptism of Mary, daughter of Richard Drakeford in 1608. At St Chad's, the first entry is the baptism of Richard, son of Richard and Anne on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1639, and at Castle Church, the first entry is for the baptism of Richard son of Richard and Elizabeth 24 December 1673. This supports the view that the Drakefords in Stafford Started with Richard the Merchant in the very late 1590s, prior to his purchasing Forebridge Hall in 1614. The family, prior to that were in the Congleton/Norton area, as indicated in the 1594 letter and before that, we believe, Wolstanton. This is shown in Study Paper: **The Congleton Drakefords and the environs**

### 5) Is there any link to the 1206 de Drakeford brothers?

The answer is nothing firm. This is 330 years prior to the first will. It is rather like asking if we in 2020 have a connection to someone in 1690 with virtually no written information between the two dates. Yes, we do have the records of the Tunstall manor court, but even those are from 1369-1520 are still 163 years apart. Thus, the answer is that we know that the brothers '*Willielum de Drakeford, Walterum filium* (his brother) did exist and that they came from a place called Drakeford, and they were fined for failing to attend as jury members. The next reference to a person called Drakeford was 160 years later when, in the Tunstall court records of 1369 when **Thomas de Drakeford** was involved with frankpledge, in **Stodmarslowe**. The place appeared again in Will No.4 with **Stephen Drakeford of Stodmore Lawe**, dated 1556.

A **frankpledge** was a system of joint suretyship common in England throughout the Early Middle Ages, and High Middle Ages. The essential characteristic was the compulsory sharing of responsibility among persons connected in tithings.

### 6) An introduction to FONS

We do have further records, mostly in Latin, obtained by Jeremy, and translated for us. I am not aware of the meaning of FONS, save to say it is an organisation that searches for records from a myriad of sources. These do start from around 1200 when the first public records began. The earliest reference obtained from FONS for the Drakefords is 1509. Also, a number of Latin items are already known to us through the wills we have seen.

The total list is **Appendix II** at the end of this paper, showing the source, the individual and the subject. The actual individual report is available on request.

Let me just give you a sample of work by David Bethel who provides the Latin translation. This will be the only one where I give the Latin as well. Those in the Appendix are modern English summaries:

1508 - John Drakeford of Norton misdemeanor

Source: Public Record Office: CP 40/983

Title: *Common Pleas Hilary 23 Henry VII* Hilary 1508 Westminster

*Pl'ita apud Westm<sup>r</sup> coram Rob'to Rede Milite et socijs suis Justic' d'ni Regis de Banco de Termi'o s'ci Hillarij Anno regni Regis Henrici septimi post conq'm vicesimo tercio*

Translation: *Pleas at Westminster before Robert Rede knight and his fellows, justices of the lord king de Banco, for Hilary term in the 23rd year of the reign of king Henry the seventh after the Conquest*

*Staff*

*Will's Bowyar p<sup>r</sup> attorn' suu' op se iij<sup>to</sup> die v<sup>r</sup> sus Joh'em Drakeford nup<sup>r</sup> de Norton' in Com' p<sup>r</sup> d'co Husbondman' Joh'em Kele nup<sup>r</sup> de Bedull in Com' p<sup>r</sup> d'co Husbondman' Will'm Massy nup<sup>r</sup> de Wolsynton' in Com' p<sup>r</sup> d'co Husbondman' & Joh'em Burne nup<sup>r</sup> de Chelle in Com' p<sup>r</sup> d'co Laborer de pl'ito quare vi & armis cl'm ip'ius Will'i Bowyar apud Knyppersley fregerunt Et alia enormia &c' Ad g<sup>ue</sup> dampnu' &c' Et cont<sup>a</sup> pacem &c' Et ip'i no' ven' Et prec' fuit vic' q'd Capet eos &c' Et vic' modo mand' q'd non sunt inuent' &c' I'o sicut prius Capiant<sup>r</sup> q'd sint hic a die Pasche in tres Septi'as &c'*

*Staffordshire*

*William Bowyar appeared for a fourth day by his attorney against John Drakeford late of Norton in the county aforesaid husbondman, John Kele late of Bedull in the county aforesaid husbondman, William Massy late of Wolsynton in the county aforesaid husbondman and John Burne late of Chelle in the county aforesaid laborer, in a plea wherefore by force of arms they broke into a close of the said William Bowyar at Knyppersley, and (inflicted) other enormities (upon him) &c. to grave damage &c. and against the peace &c. And (the defendants) have not come; and it had been ordered the sheriff to take them &c. And the sheriff now reports that (the defendants) are not found &c. Therefore, as before, let them be taken, to be here three weeks from Easter.*

ooo000ooo

## 7) The Wills

### Will No.1) 1537 - Richard Drakeford, Wolstanton

Dated 5<sup>th</sup> April 1537, of Catholic persuasion '*our lady, Saint Mary....*' Henry VIII not mentioned.

Wife: Elizabeth – Executor, & Residue with son

Brother: Thomas - Executor

Son: Thomas - Residue

Daughter: Margaret - £6.13s.4d

Witnesses: Sir John Turnor (priest), Roger Harber, John Rowley, Thomas Meyre +3 others

Overseers: David Henshaw, James Rowley

Inventory by John Adams & Thomas Wyldblood 1537, value £7.13.2d

**Comment:** This is a small estate with no inventory of the assets, although the payment to his daughter Margaret states that the payment is to be made within 10 years following his death 'out of my purchased land', which would seem to mean he owned land which was presumably left to his wife and eldest son who would continue to work it and produce the required income for the bequest. As with other wills, when the name of the priest is given, his title is 'Sir', which is an indication of respect for the role rather than a knighthood.

The names of kith and kin will be traced in the wills to follow.

### Will No. 2) 1538 - William Drakeford, Wolstanton

Dated 1538, with no more detail. Of Catholic persuasion '*blessed mother, Saint Mary....*' Henry VIII not mentioned.

Wife: Margery - Executor

Sons: Stephen – co-executor, William, John, Thomas Daughter: Jane - £6.13s.4d

Witnesses: John Carlton, Ralph Wheleoke (?Holyoak) + others

Overseers: sons John and Thomas, and Sir Thomas Drakeford (priest)

Inventory; no named assessors, but value £16.8.5d

**Comments:** The date of the will when compared with that of the Inventory of 1541 indicates that William died sometime after the will was written.

For the first time the priest, Sir Thomas Drakeford is mentioned. He is an Overseer, and his resume follows the list of wills

Specific payments are made to charity, that if the church at Wolstanton, St Nicholas, 40d and 4d to Saint Mary House of Coventry, perhaps this is a hospital or retreat.

As for the first will, this daughter received £6.13s.4d, but this time only if she is unmarried when William dies. There could be a reason for using the same amount, but this is not known.

12d is left to every God child and grandchild. No details.

The son Thomas is an enigma. The translation from the written English gives him as a son, and indeed the writing is the same for Sir Thomas as the overseers, but nothing is left to him in the will. Perhaps that was an error and it should have been William?

The Inventory is extensive, with 6 oxen, 7 cattle, 2 heifers, 2 bullocks, 4 other cattle, 2 calves, a mare, 10 sheep and 3 swine. Additionally, the house contents, utensils, farm implements and corn in the ground produce a good value of nearly £17.

The house does not have a value, but is bequeathed to his eldest son Stephen, who also shares the residue with his mother. Perhaps it is rented?

In any event, the estate would indicate William was a small holder if not a yeoman.

### **Will No. 3) 1552 - Thomas Drakeford, Wolstanton**

Dated: 18<sup>th</sup> February 1552

Wife: Margaret

Brother: Stephen

Sons/Daughters The children were not named, but we know from the will of Richard Drakeford, No. 4 below, that Thomas had five children to whom he left each of them one noble. (The **noble** was the first English gold coin produced in quantity. In 1542 an olde Noble, called an Henrye, was worth 2 Crowns, which is 10 s. and at the same time the newer Noble, called a George, was worth 6s.8d. To put this into context a workers wage for a year was just £1)

Executors Margaret, and Brother Stephen

Witnesses: (Sir) John Rowle, priest, John Canton, James Henshaw, John Rowley, & others

Inventory: James Henshaw, Roger Collo (priest) and others

**Comments:** This will now reflects the Church of England as set up by Henry VIII. His son Edward VI is now on the throne and referred to in the text as being in the 7<sup>th</sup> year of his reign. Alas, Thomas was to die on 6<sup>th</sup> July 1553.

Wife Margaret is to have the house in which he now dwells and the 'taking of the house' for the years mentioned in the 'copyhold agreement' and the ground which he had taken by the same copyhold from James Henshaw, to the rear, mentioning bringing up his children. Margaret also receives a leasowe called Wild Mare Moor, lying in the hamlet of Brere Hurst, by way of copy hold with William Slade, for the years mention in said copy.

These two properties are apparently on the same as a lease, and would have to be given back to the copyholders.

He leaves all his assets to his wife and children, without naming the children in the will. Margaret is charged to bring up until they become of 'law age and discretion'. He adds a caveat to the effect that if '*any of my said children be (an) obstacle and will not be ordered by my said wife and friends, then I will that my said goods shall be equally divided in three parts, and my wife to have one part and my children the other two parts, equally to be divided among them, and then that child or children that will not be ordered by his mother and friends, he or them to have their child's part of the goods delivered to them and to go to what friend they please*'.

Now there is a thought. It is clearly a way to get shot of a disagreeable child and to give someone else the problem!

In this will there is a list of money that had been lent to Thomas, and that which he had lent to others. At the time there was no local bank to keep your surplus money or to borrow from. It is interesting how various names crop up amongst the different wills. More on this later.

Thomas' creditors: *In primis* Margaret Drakeford, 44s. This could be his wife or widowed mother. John Ameleson, 8s, Geoffrey Rowley of Wedgwood, Snr., 18 ½ d, Alice Rowley, 6s 8d, Roger Henshaw, 4s 10d, John Wolfe, and James Drakeford, 6s.

Thomas' debtors: John Rowley of Thursfield, 30s, and Elizabeth Drakeford, 2s.

The inventory was long and added up to £13 17s 8d. It included 2 oxen, 2 bullocks 3 cows in calf, 2 cows, 4 young heifers, 2 calves, a mare and a filly, 4 sheep with lambs, 3 barren sheep, 2 pigs, three gees, pullets, corn in the barn and in the ground various household matters including brass worth 16 shillings.

This indicates a fairly successful man, along the same vein as William above.

#### **Will No. 4) 1556 - Richard Drakeford, Wolstanton**

Dated: 18<sup>th</sup> October 1556

Wife: Elizabeth

Brother: Sir Thomas Drakeford, priest

Sons & Daughters = five

Executors Elizabeth – wife, and **Stephen Drakeford of Stodmore Lawe**

Witnesses: John Glover (Curate) William Rowley, John Rowley, Roger Colleclugh, William Kelling + another

Overseers: Randull Hogh Gent., and **Thomas Drakeford, brother** and clerk/priest

Inventory: Appraisors – Ralph Wylock and John Rowley

**Comments:** The preamble refers to ‘...in the year of our sovereigns Lord Philip and Lady Mary, King and Queen of England, France, both Sicily, Naples, Jerusalem, and Ireland, defenders of the faith etc.’ Now there is a history left to be unfolded. Richard describes himself as being of Brone Hurst within the Parish of Wolstanton. He wishes to be buried at the Parish church of Wolstanton, St Nicholas, and in Saint Nicholas’ Aisle. This could indicate the actual interior of the church, indicating a senior member of the community.

Having no children he left his house and estate to his wife for the period of 15 years after his death ‘the house in which I dwell in, all lands and hereditaments, with all appurtenances to it belonging, for her behoof (advantage and profit) and use for 15 years following my decease’. She has to pay annually 6s 8d rent to his nephew Thomas Dale, and obey ‘Rents and services according to the custom of the Lordship of Tunstall, upholding and maintaining all repatriations according to the custom having been in the property and thus, by way of ‘howse bote’ (house boot: the right to take wood for fuel and repairs) that grows from the ground. After 15 years, Thomas, nephew, will get the estate and pay to Elizabeth 1/3 of the income of the properties for the rest of her life. He also leaves to Elizabeth a lease over Sumerford Hey, having already paid the rent for 2 years.

Richard’s brother, **Sir Thomas Drakeford, priest**, is to receive £6.13.4d (that figure again), and for the 5 children of Thomas Drakeford, deceased (see will No. 3) Died 1552), they should each get a noble, being an early gold coin

Richard left **Margaret and Margerie Drakeford** of Lawton Moss, daughter of **John Drakeford of Lawton Mosse**, 40d each. This is probably part of Church Lawton, now in Cheshire, but within the Stoke-On-Trent area, and once part of the Astbury Parish, within the edict of Tunstall manor.

There were no debts owed by Richard.

The debts owing to Richard were: Thomas Burne 26s 8d, Thomas Wholacke 5 nobles, John Rowley, the younger 6s 8d, Long John Rowley 3s, John Prince, 20s, William Rathbone, 13s 4d, Richard Bethes, 8s, Richard Drakeford of Lawton Mosse, 18s, and Stephen Drakeford 6s 8d. This totalled £5.11s 4d.

The date of the Inventory is clearly incorrect as it appears to be 6<sup>th</sup> February 1556! It shows a considerable estate amounting to £23.5s.3d.

This includes 4 bullocks, 7 cows of which 4 were in calf, one mare and a colt, 5 yews, 7 hog sheep, 3 geese, rye and oats in the barn worth £2, and numerous house wares, clothes, fittings and so on worth over £4.

While this was the end of his line for Richard his will identifies more members of the contemporary family.

## Will No. 7) 1570 - Roger Drakeford, Wolstanton

Dated: 8<sup>th</sup> May 1570

Wife: Elizabeth

Son: Francis (Fraunces Drakeforde), Richard, John, Roger, William.

Daughter: Alice (Ales), Margaret, Margerie,

Grandchildren: Not shown

Executors: William and John Drakeford

Witnesses: Richard Weggewood, Thomas Stonier, James Caultard, + others

Inventory: Dated 18<sup>th</sup> April 1571, appraisers Richard Wedgewood, Thomas Stonier, Steven Drakeford + others.

**Comments:** Unusually, there is no reference to the monarch, which was still Queen Elizabeth, but does refer to 'Jesus Christ, my Redeemer and Saviour, by whose death and precious blood shedding I trust to have remission and forgiveness of my sins'. He wished to be buried at the Holy Molde at 'Wollstanton', being the churchyard.

Roger leaves to his **wife Elizabeth** and son **Fraunces** the *fourthe* part of 'my moveable goods remaining the day of my death.. household stuff, corn, malt corn in the barn and corn growing in the field. Also they are to have 2 cows and ten sheep. Also his wife should 'have *quetlie* during her life then house in the side of the field and 12 acres of ground according to the custom of the manor of Tunstall'.

He leaves **Fraunces** a lamb and a ewe, and their daughter **Ales** a 2 year old heifer OR 13s 4d. He leaves his daughter **Margaret** also a 2 year old heifer OR 13s 4d.

Roger leaves the residue, after bills have been paid to his four children **William, John, Roger** and **Margerie** jointly amongst them.

Lastly, there is a bequest that if **Margerie** does have *Anie*? honest marriage she shall pay her brothers Richard, William, John and Roger each a share of £3.6s 8d of good and lawful money. Where Richard suddenly came from I do not know.

Agnes, the daughter of Laurance Redforn gets one lamb, and Margaret the daughter of Robert Smith also gets a lamb.

Roger owes: 43s to widow Henche, 10s to Thomas Madiowe, £14 5s 4d to Hugh Meyre. This is an enormous amount of £16 18s 4d. However the inventory shows of assets amounting to £41.12s.4d.

**The inventory:** This includes 2 oxen, 6 bullocks, 10 cows, 8 2year old heifers (twenters), five calves, a horse and a mare, 40 sheep, several swine and geese. That is 83 animals. Corn is in the ground and in the barn with melle and malt, and wagons, ploughs etc. The wealth of this Drakeford is shown by the value of pewter and brass at £2.8s 8d, two years wages for some.

This is the largest estate so far.

## **Will No.9) 1572 - Margaret Drakeford, Wolstanton**

This is not a will, but a list of assets for Margaret after her death and dated 25<sup>th</sup> April 1572.

It is most probable that this was **Margaret the Widow of Thomas Drakeford** who died in 1552, see Will No.3.

Husband: Thomas Drakeford

Brother-in-laws Stephen Drakeford

Son & Daughters - Five not named

Executor: N/A

Witnesses: N/A

Inventory dated 25<sup>th</sup> April 1572, had the Appraisors as John Rowley, Geoffery Rowley, Steven Drakeford, James Henshaw.

**Comments:** This time Queen Elizabeth is mentioned. *...in the Fourtenth yeare of the reigne of our soverigne Ladye Elizabeth, by the grace of God Quene of Englande, Fraunce and Irelande, defender of the Faithe etc.*

The total value of the inventory is £46.11.10d. It comprises 5 labouring horses, 6 oxen 6 cows 5 heifers, 2 calves, 20 sheep, 3 swine, 3 geese and numerous pullets. That is 44 animals plus fowl. The brass and pewter amount to £2.13.4d, and for the first time we see listed along with a wayne (cart), 2 harnesses and yokes. £2 worth of corn is in the field.

Margaret had owed to her: John Rowley deceased (his administrators), £1.10s, Robert Yardley, 10s, John Malken the younger, 6s8d, Thomas Beasforde, 12s, Thomas Smuthe of the Abbey, £1, Steven Wyncl, 3s4d, John Kelinge of Gyllowe, 2s8d, Rand Burges, £1.19.4d, and Hugh Cartlache 20d. This amounted to £6.11.8d

Margaret had debts of £8.13.4d, being Roberte Brethe 4s, Thomas Dasye, 5s, Erle of Boche, 2s, William Yate, 10s, and £8.13.4d to her children for the goods that were their fathers.

It seems incongruous that there was no will made by Margaret because apart from it being a large amount to leave, we know that there were 5 underage children when Thomas died 20 years previously. By this time they would have been grown-up, and possibly with families of their own. Perhaps she died suddenly before she had a chance to make a will. We will never know.

## **Will No. 10)            1572 - Stephen Drakeford, Wolstanton**

Dated: 7<sup>th</sup> October 1572

Wife:            **Alies** (Alice)

Sons:            **Richard, William**

Godchildren   Six of.....

Daughter:      **Two daughters** not named

Relations:      **Margerie Drakeforde** of The Mosse, **James Drakeford**

Executors:      William Drakeford, son and Thomas Holme

Witnesses:      John Caulton, Richard Wilocke, Richard Barhe, William Hareves

Inventory:      Dated 19<sup>th</sup> November 1572.

Appraisers:     William Rowle, Roger Stonier, John Caulton. Richard Drakeforde + others

**Comments:** In the will Stephen (or Steven as on the Inventory), gives and bequeaths to Richard, his son *'in the name of his Childes parte'*, which could be for his child(ren), being all his goods , with £10 to be paid within 2 years and with half to coming within 12 months of Stephen's demise.

He also bequeaths 6 shillings to his 6 Godchildren (not stating if this is each of between them), 12 shillings to Margerie Drakeforde of The Mosse, and the son William and wife Alice *'all my grants and copies of Hugh Sherate and James Drakeford during the terms, usual'*, which could be income from property, otherwise they are left nothing. His two un-named daughters are to have succour and accommodation in the house as long as they need it. Finally, the residue of his goods to remain with Alice and son William, his 2 daughters, except that part for Richards children, *'Which William hath boughte for Tenne pounds'*. For his life, James, and we know not his relationship, will have meat drink and clothing for his natural life.

This makes for an incomprehensible will!

The only declared debt is of £15s8d payable to James Drakeford.

The Inventory shows 39 animals being a mare, 6 oxen, 4 cows, 3 bullocks, 2 heiffers, 4 calves, 14 sheep, and 5 pigs. This appears to be a mostly arable farm with so many oxen and £4 of corn in the barn and in the field. The £2 6s 8d for pewter and brass indicate some status along with iron ware and treen ware. There is reference to pollen ware, which is possibly pottery.

## Will No. 12) 1589 - William Drakeford, Wolstanton

Dated: 1 April 1589  
Wife: Margaret(e)  
Children: None named here but 4 children listed in will 13, that of Margaret.  
Sole Executrix Margaret(e)  
Witnesses: Geoffrey Rowley, William Barlow, Alexander Myles(Miles), + others  
Inventory: In original writing, illegible,  
Assessors: Identified as Geoffrey Rowley, Thomas Drakeford and Alexander Myles + 1

**Comments:** This is a short will whereby William leaves everything to his wife Margaret Drakeford, making her sole executrix.

Clearly he was sick when he wrote this, and requested that his body should be laid to rest either in the Parish church of Wolstanton or the churchyard, *'or elsewhere, where soever hyt shall please allmygtie God to call me'*.

He leaves *'unto Margarete my wife towe Acres of lande customarye, In the hamlets of Wedgwood and Thursfelde, and to my children in manor and forme as I have done the rest by surrenders'*. From this it would appear he has already left property to his children.

He then confirms that Margaret should receive all goods cattle pastures and tenements after payment of debts. These are listed as being:

**Mr Bowyer**, £4, **Thomas Drakefourde** £4, **Thomas Drakeford** (not the same Thomas), 14s 10d, **Steve Drakeford** £2 8s 4d, **Richard Drakeford of Congleton**, 1s, Richard Gallimore, £5 12s, Jone Cartyche 20s, William Muchell 10s, John Bradford 5s 7d, Annes Helme, 4s 3d, Roberte Hochkykson 3s 6d, Roger Frost 10d, John Egertons Wife, 3s 4dm Widow Froste 4s, William Barlowe 5s, Warber Caulton 6s., Raundall Bryndeley 18d, John Brownsweards 20d, John Barlow of Tayne, 2s 6d, Thomas Bullock, 14d, William Wyncle, 12d and Margery Beadeley, 5d.

The sums due to this large amount of creditors comes to £13.11d, but unfortunately the illegible list of assets, while not able to show cover, nevertheless the will indicates several properties.

From the list of creditors, 'Mr Bowyer', the 'Mr' indicating a certain status by William, is probably of **Knypersley**, with the Stafford family connection, there are two Thomas Drakefords owed money, and a connection with Congleton through Richard Drakeford, and Steve(n) Drakeford.

Very sadly, the next will dated 11<sup>th</sup> April 1589, was for Margaret, wife of William, who in her will requests William's brother Richard, to become executor in her place, as she was clearly dying and would do so

**Will No.13)            1589 - Margaret, Drakeford, Skemerslowe, Widow**

Dated:            11<sup>th</sup> April 1589  
Husband:        William Drakeford – see Will 12  
Brother-in-law Richard Drakeford  
Son:              John, Francis, William  
Daughter:        Margaret  
Executors:       Richard Drakeford, brother-in-law, also nominated ex. of William's will  
Witnesses:       Thomas Drakeford, Elen Taylor, Richard Ratcliffe etc.  
Inventory:       Not stated

**Comments:** This is clearly a very sad affair, both William and his wife Margaret died in April 1589, leaving four minors who, through the will were given to Richard Drakeford, William's brother to be brought up and educated through a Tuition Bond. It is presumed that John was the eldest who was also the Godchild of Richard.

They were clearly struck down, but there is no indication what this was. Perhaps it was the plague, which was around until the 1600s. In other parishes where the records are available it is possible to judge this by a spike in the number of burials. Alas for Wolstanton, this is not possible.

The will continues '*To which said Richard I do deliver all my Kanes(keys) of my Chestes*'.

Probate was granted to Richard along with the Tuition Band authority. The Tuition Bond was undertaken by (not readable), of Stafford, carrier, William Rowley, Thomas Drakeford de Whitfelte (Whitfield/Norton – see Will 19 below). Both Richard and Thomas to administer the estate and bring up the children.

**Will No. 16)            1597 - Richard Drakeford, Congleton, Yeoman**

Dated:            16<sup>th</sup> April 1597  
Wife:             Ellene  
Brothers:        Thomas Drakeford, Steven Drakeford  
Brother-in-law Ralph Cleyton  
Cousin:          Edwarde Poynton  
Son:              William Drakeford  
God Children Thomas Cleyton, Elizabeth & Richard Poynton  
Executors:       Ellen Drakeford and William Drakeford  
Witnesses:       Rondull Poynton, Richarde Foxholes, Thomas Lowndes  
Inventory:       dated 17<sup>th</sup> May 1597  
Appraisers:     John Hobson, the younger, Alderman, of Congleton, Rondull Poynton the Elder, Richard Foxholes, and John Verdon

Overseers: Rondull Poynton & Richard Foxholes, both Brothers-in-law

**Comments:** Richard was most clearly a man of note, and described himself as 'yeoman'. The will describes the assets he was leaving half to wife Ellena, and half to his son William as Messuages, lands, cottages tenements and hereditaments, and when his mother dies, he is to receive all the residue. His estate amounted to over £105.

He left money to his God children, cousins, nephews and nieces, this included children of Thomas Drakeford, Steven Drakeford, Ralphe Cleyton.

An appraiser was John Hobson, Alderman of Congleton along with Edward Drakeford and others at the time of the James I Letters of Patent in January 1624. Along with Rondull Poynton, Richard Drakeford was a juror when the Boundary of the Lordship of Congleton was represented by the jury to Sir John Savage (source: Congleton Past and Present by Robert Head). John Hobson was mayor 1588 and 1600, William Drakeford, brother was mayor in 1592, 1610 and 1611. Keeping it in the family, Edward Drakeford was mayor in 1618, 1619 and 1638.

The estate list of contents of the Wolstanton family starts with the animals, yet this estate commences with contents of the bed chamber and pots, candlestick and other things to do with the house, with the animals thereafter. These include corn yarn, hemp, cows a nagge and a pig. What is of interest, and the greatest of value is the £56 for eleven dyckers, otherwise known as bundles of 10 skins, and raw and tanned leather etc. his would indicated a serious tanning business.

Richard had leased land, including 2 years belonging to Thomas Grene. A Richard Grene was mayor in 1587, 1591 and 1597. There was a 7 year term on land leased from John Laplove, and 8 years on land in a Little Croft of land from John Burgess of Yeaton. All three holdings were jointly worth £12.

Regarding money **he was owed:** £10.16s 8d, from Oliver Brownsworth, 46s, Richard Ratcliffe, 10s, John Hobson, Alderman 10s, William Deane, 40s, Henry Rowker, 10s, Richard Grene, Gent, 40s and Matthew Moreton, Alderman, 10s.

**He owed:** His brother Steven Drakeford, £3 3s 4d, Mr Bowyer of Kynspersley, £3, William Smythe, 21s, Laurance Wood, 10s and Raufe Males 40s.

**In summary, we know that just 8 years before this will, through will 12) 1589 - William Drakeford of Wolstanton at his death owed Richard Drakeford of Congleton the grand sum of one shilling. This provides a direct link between the Wolstanton and Congleton Drakefords.**

**The link is also with the Stafford Drakefords, by the connection of money owed to the Bowyers of Knypersley. In this will £3 had been borrowed from Mr Bowyer, in that of William Drakeford, will 12, it was £3.**

More Congleton wills are to follow, but at least with this early will, the Wolstanton, Congleton, and Stafford connections have been made.

**Will No. 18)            1604 - John Drakeford, Wolstanton**

Dated: No will, just a notation of an inventory

Wife: Not know if married

Brother: Not named

Nephew: John

Inventory: 1604

Appraisors William Stonier and Thomas Rowley

**Comments:** The Rowley family are well known as witnesses, and appraisers. This is the first time Thomas has appeared. The same goes for William Stonier.

What this shows is that John had a brother, not named, and that brother had a son also called John. The nephew was left his apparel worth 12 shillings. The indication is that he had either given or sold to this John his assets before his death:

*The reste of All the goodes and cattells that the sayd John Drakeford had he (in his lyffe tyme) did (by his deede in writing), geve or sell the same for good consideracion unto John Drakeford his brothers sonne.*

*And the court was soe satisfied.*

**Will No. 19)            1607 - Thomas Drakeford, of Whitfield, Norton-in-the-Moors**

Dated:            10<sup>th</sup> January 1607/8, buried 12<sup>th</sup> January

Wife:            Agnes, buried 9<sup>th</sup> February 1606

Brother:        Steven Drakeford

Son:            John Drakeford (married Jocasa Cartledge 1595)

Daughter:      Margaret, Marye (bap.1585, married William Whithough 1607)

Grandchildren: John's children –Johanne (Joan), William bap.1599. (Later children are Anna bap 1610, Thomas 1612)

Sole Executrix: Margaret

Witnesses:     William Stonier, Richard Drakeford, Edward Shaw, William Hargreves + others

Overseers:     Steven Drakeford, James Rowley of Ridgway

Inventory:      13<sup>th</sup> January 1707

Appraisers:    John Rowley of Turnhurst, Thomas Addam, William Keelinge & Henry Thurley.

### Comments:

Others mentioned: Richard Drakeford of Wedgwood. This is a fairly complicated will with assets of almost £130. Thomas is buried just 13 months after his wife Agnes.

Thomas lived in Whitfield, a hamlet just 1 mile north of Norton. He initially leaves £30 to his Margaret, daughter and sole executrix. There is a strange annotation to the effect that Richard Ratclyffe and Richard Drakeford of Wedgwood in a bill of debt to the extent of £4 8s dated 8<sup>th</sup> May 1582, saying his executors or administrators need to recover this from their executors .... *the some of 26s 8d at or uppon the feast day of the circumsicion of our Lorde Jesus Christ, then the sayd bill of Foure poundes eight shillinges to voyde and of non-effect, or else it to stand and remayne in it full strengthe and virtue* In other words pay up the smaller amount or pay the lot!

John, the son's children William and Joan get a sheep each as does Richard Drakeford the younger of Wedgwood. Thereafter, the estate is split equally between his three children, John, Margaret and Mary Whythalgh.

**Debts owing to Thomas** include: Richard Drakeford of Wedgwood, £4, Nephew, [William Drakeford of Congleton, 20s](#), James Badely of Badely, 7s 10d, Richard Wedgwood the Elder 8s, Richard Ratcliffe 3s 8d, Richard Gallimore 14d, Thomas Balle 11s, Thomas Thorley and Richard Clowes, 24s, John Lovatt, 12s, and John Beech, 2s.

The list of assets in the inventory include the following money owed: Richard Wegwoode the elder and the younger, £9, Richard ?? and Thomas Thorley, £6 6s 8d, Edwarde Shawe, £10. This together with that above totals approx. £34.

**Debts owed by Thomas** include, William Whithalgh £12, plus a cow, a featherbed, a gown, a stone of wole(?) and a bordcloth, (Perhaps this is his son in law, spelled as Whithough above, it makes more sense) John Cowper of Kynges Newton, 11s, William Stonier, 7s, Elen Tryvitt, 6s, John Mawton, 18s, Margaret Beech, 37s 6d, His son John 12s, and daughter Margaret, 3s 8d., total: £16.15.4d

The list of appraised assets adds up to £129.15. These include:

2 oxen, 2 steers, 4 sterkes (Strykes) young heifer, 5 calves, 24, sheep, 2 horses with 'furniture', 2 pigs, geese & poultry, corn in barn £11, saddles, boots, clothes, bedding, chirs stools beds, copper ware, brasse pewter, butter, bacon, cheese, beef, manure and 'donge', etc. Importantly Thomas had land that he maintained by leasehold, for which there were sufficient years outstanding to create a value totalling £30. This land was at Brandhurst, Half Acre, Meddowinge, and that of Ann Hargreves and James Badeley.

[All in all, Thomas was a wealthy man. Importantly he had connections not just to Norton/Whitfield, but also the Drakeford family in Congleton, and Wolstanton/Wedgwood.](#)

**Will No. 20)            1612 - Richard Drakeford, Tulk, hamlet in the parish of  
Audeley, Husbandman**

Dated:            6<sup>th</sup> February, 1612/3  
Wife:            Marie  
Brother:        -  
Sons:            William Drakeford, Richard Drakeford  
Daughter:       Margerie  
Executors:      Marie Drakeford and Edward Shawe of Kidcrew  
Witnesses:     Edward Shaw, Richard Drakeford, Thomas Beech, Clarke (priest)  
Overseers:      Steven Drakeford, John Drakeford  
Assessors:      John Unwin. John Wearam, Raph Whylton  
Inventory:      3<sup>rd</sup> March 1612/3

**Comments:** The preamble to the will is interesting in that it refers to *'the raigne of the kinges Majestie that now is, of England, France and Irland, the tenth, and of Scotland the sixe and Fortieth, 1612,*

This acknowledges that James was on the throne in Scotland, long before that of England. In the will James is not mentioned but in the inventory, it refers to our Sovereign Lord James etc.

The will described Richard as being a husbandman of the hamlet of Tulk, of the Parish of Audley in Staffordshire which is not far from the Cheshire border.

A **husbandman** in England in the Middle Ages and the early modern period was a free tenant farmer, or a small landowner. The social status of a husbandman was below that of a yeoman. The meaning of "husband" in this term is 'master of house'. Naturally some were more successful than others. In his case, Richard did well.

The will starts with a payment of £20 to Marie, Richard's wife which would come from his landlord, John Wearam, yeoman, who was also an appraisor to the will. Then he instructs John Wearam to give £3, and Richard Scott 40s, butcher, to give this £5 to his daughter Margerie. There are no other wills that have an instruction of the nature. Normally, it would simply be an instruction to the executor to make payment.

The rest of the estate, net of payments and costs, is divided equally between his wife and three children.

**Debts owed to Richard** include: Richard Snead, 44s, [see below Will 21], Ann Unwin, 20s, Richard Johnsone £3 50s 5d, Robertt Brough de Newcastle, 40s, William Colclough, carpenter, 3s 4d, John Lies, charcoal burner, ?? illegible, Hugh Sherratt of Barns Acre, 2s, Rowllant Hough, 14d, John Howcroft, 13d, Raffe Wedgwood, 2s and William Hancoke, 2s.

**Debts owed by Richard**, Ralphem Whilton, 29s and Margarett Stonier, 22s.

*We all know that 20s = £1. Why we get in shillings 20s, 44s, 40s 29s and 22s as shown above is a mystery to the writer!*

The probate of the will was agreed, and Commission, an instruction to the local vicar to take the oath was awarded to master Kelsey, Vicar of Audley.

The inventory shows further debts to due by Richard and due to Richard. These were due to Richard:- **Stephen Drakeford** £10.12.4d, Edward Baggeley £2.10s, **William Drakeford**, 10s, Raphe Unwin, for a cow, £3.7s 8d. Rondle Whytoughe, 29s 6d, and John Wearam, surety for the debt of Richard Olton and Richard Walton.

Monies to be paid from the estate were:= Raphe Whilton, £8.16, John Colcoloughe, £7 10s, John Unwyn, £2 15s 4d, Richard Hardin, £2 7s, Thomas Sydwaye 16s, Richard Sharpe, 6s and Widow Rycrofte £4.

The remainder of the estate showed 20/- for apparel, and an amazing £38 10 for a large number of kyne and young beasts, that is cows, plus two young pigs and a sheep, both 5s. The remainder was the usual brass & pewter, treen, pots pans, bacon butter etc. mostly for shillings Conversely, Corn in the house and the ground amounted to £4 16s 8d.

A lease of a cottage from **Richard Snead (Sneyd)**, with 4 years left was valued at £8, a meadow leased form John Booth, with 2 years left £5, and 3 crofts also from John Booth, £3.

The interesting names in the above inventory are Stephen and William Drakeford and Richard Sneyd.

**Will No. 21) 1613 - John Drakeford, Burslem**

This is the **Letters of Administration** as required to distribute assets when there is no will.

Dated: 10<sup>th</sup> January 1607/8

Wife: Joan Drakeford

The order is as follows:

The widow's name that would have the Letters of Administration is Joan Drakeford, late wife of John Drakeford deceased.

Let Administration of the goods which belonged to John Drakeford, late, whilst he lived, of the Parish of Burslem, be granted to Joan Drakeford, the relict of the said deceased.

Commission: The Vicar of Wolstanton. (*This is the instruction to the local vicar to take the oath*).

Obligation: by the said Joan Drakeford in the County of Stafford, widow, and William Burne of Chell in the County of Stafford, Gentleman,

Signed

*William Babington*

Inventory: 26<sup>th</sup> March 1613

Assessors: Thomas Burslem of the Parke, William Bourne of Chell, Richard Daniell of Burslem.

**Comments:** A Thomas Burne was a creditor in will 6) 1556, Richard Drakeford.

The official signing the Letters of Administration as *Will: Babington*, was possibly connected to the Babington family that Richard Drakeford (1610-1679) married through Ann Babington about 1638.

The inventory shows John had no business such as farming or otherwise. Indeed it may be he was no longer working for it is mainly household goods and furniture. Otherwise it was perhaps a hostelry, for the number of tables and trestles, cooking apparatus is greater here than seen in other wills.

There are few animals, indeed only 3 sheep, one pig, 4 geese and two hens, but on the other hand it shows brass 30s, pewter, boards and little table, forms and tables, spit supports, frying pans, cooking tripod, pot hooks, fire shovel, iron grate, spits, tongs, pot hooks, dish boards, shelves, 4 coffer (for valuables), treen ware . All this amounted to £10.13.8d.

**The money owed** was considerable totalling £13 15s 8d. This comprised Roger Machin £2.13.4d, **Richard Sneyd** £3, William Talbot, 18s 8d, Elinor Leighe 26s, Mr Cleyton, 6s 8d, Goodwief Burslem, 20s. Michael Ward, 23d, Joan Fletcher, 20s, John Marshe, 12d, William Leeighe, 7s 6d, and Humfrey Cooper, £3.

Richard Sneyd, was doubtlessly one of the Sneyd family who were large landowners at the time around Wolstanton.

**The money that John was owed** amounted to £5.4s by John and Christopher Chaddocke.

Other sums owed to John Drakeford were considered 'desperate debtes' or, in other words dubious. These were from, John Rowley of Burslem 'which he denied that he oweth', £2 13s 4d, John Britten, 17s, 'which is gone his Cuntrey' which may mean gone back to where he came from. John Ellis, 3s 4d, 'which is gone in like manner'. Both these could mean that John lent money to people staying with him and they did not return to repay him!!

All others of the same ilk: Robert Barker, Thomas Reve, Robert Scarratt, Edwards Jones, John Houlcrofte, John Bourne, Thomas Halle, totalling £3.2s 8d.

As an afterthought one wonders if the above signatory, William Babington has any connection with Ann Babington who married Richard Drakeford (1610-1679) of Stafford. It is her lineage that takes us back to Edward I. Her father was a Zachary Babington of Lichfield. For further details see the Study Paper: The Drakeford family in Stafford 1206-1814.

## **Will No. 22)            1616 - William Drakeford, Wolstanton**

This is simply an Administration because no will was made by William.

Dated: 21<sup>st</sup> May 1616

Wife:                 -

Brother:            John Drakeford of Wedgwood

Inventory:        21<sup>st</sup> May 1616

Appraisors:      John Rowley, William Rowley, and William Stonier

**Comments:** William died intestate. The Rowleys and Will Stonier again did the honours, and the administration was granted by Ro: Master to William's brother, John Drakeford of Wedgewood, in the county of Stafford, husbandman.

Assets Apparrell £26.8s (this seem a great amount why?), *webster's lome, 1 warpe stocke and certain websters, reedes 20s. (Do these indicate a trade?) little coffer(box), 2s, a frying pan, a nawger and a torthwith (?) 2s, 1 old sword and dagger, 6s, debts owing to him by John Calton, 40s.*

Again this seems to be a lot, when there is little evidence of wealth to be able to lend what could be a year's pay.

**Will No 23)            1617 – John Drakeford, Gent., Withington, 7 ½ miles from Congleton**

There is no will but there is an Appraisal. This refers to his death in 1617. It shows £14 worth of corn, a horse, a pig two cows, and six lambs. This would indicate that he was an arable farmer. The rest of the items, after the corn and animals show an estate of about £50, indicating that his lifestyle was extravagant for the time. Clearly he was well off with a total estate of £69.17.8d.

The Appraisors were Randle Hall, William Bakerfield, Raphe Whittakers and Richard Davenport. The last name is interesting. William Drakeford was a senior Steward for the Davenport family, clearly shown in Appendix II. A possible connection only.

**Will No. 25)            1621 - Richard Drakeford, Tulk Audeley**

This is an Administration as opposed to a will.

Dated of Administration: 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1621

Wife:                        -

Brother:                William Drakeford

Inventory:            28<sup>th</sup> April 1621

Appraisors:        Ralph Unwin (Raphe Unwine), and Edward Baggeley

**Comments:** Richard was a Tailor. A reference in the Administration preamble to William Drakeford also of Audley, the administrator, being a tailor was deleted and replaced by the word husbandman. Indeed the deceased Richard Drakeford was marked as the administrator, which no doubt caused this error.

The administration is marked Ro: Master.

[The connection with Stafford/Congleton is effected by the fact that 5s was owed to Richard by William Bowyer, and that he owed John Bowyer 56s 8d.](#)

Assets: Apparell, £3, trunk, 10s.

**Debtors** owing from Mrs Marie Dracott, widow, 42s, Richard Alkcott debt, 5s, **William Bowyer Gent.**, debt 5s.

**Creditors:** Mr Coventree, citizen of London, £4 11s, owing to another dwelling with Mr Coventree, 23s, Andrew Beech, citizen and draper of London, 40s, **John Bowyer**, 56s 8d, James Boothes, 10s, and Ralph Wilton, 10s.

From this it would appear that he obtained his supplies from London, or had work there.

**Will No. 28)            1639 – Anne Drakeford, Wolstanton, Spinster**

Dated:            10<sup>th</sup> September 1639, and proved 8<sup>th</sup> October 1639  
Husband:        Spinster  
Brother:         John Drakeford  
Sister in law:   Margaret Drakeford  
Sister:            Margaret Henshaw (ex Drakeford)  
Brother-in-law: Raphe Henshall  
Nephews:        Thomas Henshall  
Executors:      John Drakeford and Raphe Henshall, brother  
Witnesses:      Thomas Henshall (nephew or father-in-law), Ann Hodgkinson  
Appraisors:     John Gallimore William Stonier and Hugh Wishall  
Inventory:        dated 16<sup>th</sup> September 1639.

[Note connections to Wills 26, 27 Checkley](#)

**Comments:** Anne was a spinster, having a brother John Drakeford, who married another Margaret, and a sister Margaret who married Raphe Henshall of Audley and had three children, Thomas, Ann and Margaret. That is 3 named Margaret to contend with!

The will is simple and whilst long with over 12 bequests. Her main concern is to give away specific clothing to the females in the family, and additionally sums of 'Lawful English money'. The residue is left to be divided between John Drakeford and her brother in law Raphe Henshall.

The listed assets amount to £53 12s 8d, comprising bedding, £5, brasse and pewter, £3 7s 4d, £10 for her 'wayreing apparrell' and money in her purse, £5 5s 4d for cloth, chests furniture and finally a large figure of £30 for 'moneys owing to the Testator with specialtie and without specialtie'.

The will would indicate that she probably lived with John, giving her address as Wolstanton rather than Audley where Raphe lives. We assume John and Margaret Drakeford had no children at the time as none are mentioned in the will. Also her sister in law, Margaret gets the best clothes rather than Raphe's wife.

**This will draws to an end those wills at Wolstanton.** With a spinster and a childless couple, it could well be the end of this line but the church records, which start in 1624 show a different story. These reveal 25 entries:

- 1) 4.6.1626 Baptism John, Son of William and Ellen Drakeford
- 2) 26.4.1629 Baptism William Son of Richard and Margery Drakeford
- 3) 2.6.1629 Burial Stephen Drakeford
- 4) 9.1.1630/1 Baptism Mary Daughter of William and Ellen Drakeford
- 5) 9.12.1632 Baptism John Son of Richard & Margery Drakeford
- 6) 11.5.1633 Marriage Richard Drakeford & An. Bold
- 7) 2.11.1636 Marriage John Grinley & Margery Drakeford
- 8) 13.7.1637 Baptism Mary Daughter of Richard and Margery Drakeford
- 9) 13.9.1639 Burial An. Drakeford *Note: while the An. for the Christian name might lead the eye to the marriage of Richard Drakeford and An. Bold above, this is in fact the Anne Drakeford, spinster ref. Will No 28.*
- 10) 13.6.1644 Burial Elizabeth Drakeford of Stone Trow
- 11) 24.7.1644 Burial John Drakeford
- 12) Church Warden John Drakeford of Crossehouse
- 13) 17.6.1650 Burial Drakeford, widow
- 14) 17.2.1651/2 Burial Mary, widow of Richard Drakeford of Chell
- 15) 10.6.1657 Marriage William Drakeford of Stonetrough & Frances Sawmon
- 16) Church Warden William Drakeford of Stonetrough **near Knypersley**
- 17) 7.9.1658 Burial Richard Drakeford of Stonetrough (*perhaps father of William*)
- 18) 11.2.1661/2 Baptism Thomas Son of William and Frances
- 19) 9.6.1662 Burial Richard Drakeford of Stonetrough Widd. (*could it be the wife?*)
- 20) 2.11.1662 Baptism Thomas Son of William and Frances Drakeford. *Note: this appears to be a second baby in 10 months, but no evidence of burial??*
- 21) 1.12.1663 Baptism Ester Daughter of William & Frances Drakeford
- 22) 15.5.1666 Burial William Drakeford of Stone Trough *Note spelling*
- 23) 7.7.1701 Marriage Isaac Drakeford & Elinor Harding (wool)
- 24) 7.6.1702 Baptism Sarah Daughter of Isaac & Ellenor Drakeford
- 25) 12.9.1754 Burial Ellen Drakeford, widow

**26) 19.1.1801 Marriage**      **Solomon Drakeford, potter, and Mary Anne Watkiss, Widow.**  
**both were living in Wolstanton**

**This is in fact the Solomon Drakeford baptised 24<sup>th</sup> September 1760 at Norton-in-the-Moors, having as parents John and Elizabeth Drakeford. He firstly married Elizabeth Hakin in 1787, and had three children, Mary, William and Elizabeth. William formed the Drakeford line, in the Potteries, from which the siblings of Gillian Basford, Christopher and Michael Drakeford are descended, as too are Roger Hall and Tim Drakeford.**

**Solomon's second wife was Mrs Watkiss, from who he had no children, but thirdly he married Mary Bell in 1803, by whom he had 4 girls, the second Ann born in 1806 is the ancestor of Tim Drakeford.**

**After 1745, other than the marriage of Solomon, there are no Drakeford entries in the Wolstanton church records. One thought is that the family might have become 'Chapel' rather than Church of England**

We continue with wills from nearby villages.

### **Hollington/Checkley, 17 miles:**

#### **Will No. 5)              1563 - Sir Thomas Draykeforde, Priest of the parish of Leigh**

Dated 20<sup>th</sup> October 1563

Wife:                    -

Brother:                Richard Drakeford see will 4)

Cousins?                Stephen, William, Thomas

Kinswoman:            Margaret Scherrott

Executors:             Nicholas Fowden, Francis Scherrott

Witnesses:             Sir William Caterbank (priest), Robert Wodd, John Scherrott

Overseers:             Sir William Caterbank, Margaret Scherrott

Inventory:             no date given

Appraisors:            William Blurston, Thomas Foldrynge, John Conway, Thomas Ball

**Comments:** Leigh is a parish south east of Stoke, and north east of Stafford. We are additionally looking at the wills for others in the Leigh Parish, as well as Nobolt/Hollington/Checkley/Marchington. Today, Church Leigh is the main village in a rural area.

The importance of the connection is that Thomas Drakeford as a priest was a significant player in the family. He has been described in the Study Paper: The Drakefords of Stafford, 1206 – 1814, as a priest who did not readily support Henry VIII. Still with the Catholic persuasion he included such indications as using the words '*blessed mother, Saint Mary...*' with Henry VIII not mentioned. Only later did he refer to Jesus Christ. In his own will, he uses the words *Fyrst I bequeyth mye sowll to Allmyghtye God mye maker and Redemer, besechynge hym to be marcyfull and to parden and forgyve all mye mysdeedes and offences....*

Thomas instructed that *mye bodye be buryed in they churche of Leygh in the neyther parte of they Sowthe yle*. That is the south aisle of the church. We can but enquire if the church records show this.

The will has a very religious and caring bent, yet it also presents a wish to be liked by his parishioners. He has wanted his God to look after him and to be buried within the church, nearer his maker, but not outside with the masses in unmarked graves, as they were at the time.

He wanted every one of his presumably many Godchildren to have '*12d, so that ytt demaundedd within owne yere neyxt after mye departynge for thee of thys present worlde*'. Possibly meaning '.....12d, so that it will be given within one year after my death for you of this present world (rather the next world in Heaven - MWD).

Thomas also wanted everyone around Leigh there by giving every man woman and child one pence for attending his funeral. For a good sized family, this was not a meagre sum. It must have been quite an occasion.

To help the community at large he bequeathed money for mending various bridges. These were the high bridge between Abbots Bromley and Litchfield, 3s4d, Swarsson bridge, 6s 8d, Sande Bridge, 3s 4d, Weyston Bridge, 3s 4d, and Owleysley Bridge, 5s.

He gave his curate, Edward Aston 2 nobles, that is gold coins, to '*make hym Rynge for a Remembrance*'.

For his family, he left **William Drakeford** 13s 4d, 'and all that he oweth me' so that he did not have to repay money already borrowed, **Thomas Drakeford** 20s, and 6s 8d divided amongst his children, and **Margarett 'Draykeforde'**, daughter of Shortt **Rychard Drakeforde** 6s 8d. In the codicil, he left **Steffon Draykeforde** 10s, and a further 10s to be divided amongst his children, and 5s to his sister. He does not refer to the family status of any of these people, save Margarett. Clearly they were kinsmen.

**Margarett Scherrott** was also described as his **kinswoman** and every child of hers was to have 13s 4d. We do not know the relationship, but at this time she was unmarried, but Thomas instructed that were she to be married all the legacy from the will should be divided amongst her children! Take care not to confuse this Margarett Scherrott with Margarett Scherrattes whose children were to receive 13s 4d. There is a John Scherrott described as 'used to be my servant' perhaps a brother he was helping.

The list of **beneficiaries** is considerable, but it is worth listing them to assess the scope of his giving. Some received money, others goods, and his servants quite a lot. I will try to apportion the recipients from the will and the codicil:

**Various:** Robert Wodd wife 20s, Hewgh Owley, 2s, Roger Orchard a strike of corn, William Smyth, a strike of corn, Margaret Shaw, 3s 4d, Margarett Scherrattes who has children all of whom were to receive 13s 4d. Thomas Dales' 5 sons 10s each. A link to **Norton-in-the-Moors** was that John Ball of the Parish of Norton who was to receive 3s 4d. Margret Hogeson received, 3s 4d, Agnes Alt, widow, 3s 4d, Sir Richard Hart, 3s 4d, Mr Dr Draycott, 6s 8d.

**Servants:** John Scharrott, 20s, Elizabeth Ball, best cow, all my geese at Crake Marsh *'for my terme and yeeres with all fyre wood and stockes that I have about my howsse'*. She also received divided with Margaret Scharrott, half of the pewter and household 'stuffe', half of the corn in the barn shared also with Margaret but the other half to go to the poor in the parish of Leigh – *'..as they shall thynke mowest of neede and convenyaunnt bye theyre dyscresson'*.

*Raphe Caterbank 'Have owne of my gownes, and for every quarter of they yeere space 20d Is this possibly pension? Is he related to William Caterbank, the priest named above, one wonders.*

To his executors and overseers he left 20s apiece.

The remainder of the assets were to be left to charities, at the direction of his executors and overseers. There was a useful caveat to the effect that if his assets were insufficient to discharge his bequest, they shall also decide those most in need.

The inventory amounts to £15.13.4d. This is relatively modest, comprising of such matter as bedding, linen, pewter and brass clothes and corn, which were part of specific legacies. That left three coffers, valued at 5s, an ox, a horse and 3 cows amounting to £6.16.8d to cover bequests totalling at least £20. That must have been fun for the executors.

Note. Thomas officiated in the following wills:

**Will No. 6)        1567 - William Drakeford, Hollington/Checkley, Husbandman**

Dated:            26<sup>th</sup> December 1567

Wife:            Cyslye

Brother:        Allen

Brother-in-law: Robert Allyne

Sons:            Thomas (will 14), William, Henry, John

Daughters:    Joan, Elyne, Antynys,

Executors:    Cyslye Drakeford, Robert Allyne,

Witnesses:    John Smalsha, Priest, John Davy, John Horderne, Antony Atkins with others

Overseers:    George Draycott (Sedsway), Rchd Smyth (Tombrydge), Thos Fondrynge (Folle)

Inventory:     17<sup>th</sup> January 1567/8

Assessors:    Rchd. Smythe, Thomas Fundringe-John Kempe-John Davey-Anthony Atkins

**Comments:** William would seem to have been a successful husbandman, with assets in his inventory of over £43, and a large family of seven children. He was to be buried in the church or churchyard at Checkley, as should please his friends.

He left his daughter Jonne (?Joan) 6 ewes, Elyns 4 ewes, and Antynys 4 ewes. To his sons he gave his four sons 3 ewes each. As he had 3 score sheep in his inventory, that is 60, it was not a problem. Clearly he was giving them a start in life as farmers.

The main estate he gave to Cyslye (Cecily?) his wife so long as she kept the Drakeford name and did not remarry, in which case she would have 1/3<sup>rd</sup> and the children 2/3<sup>rds</sup>.

William owed to Robert Allyne, 6s.

He was owed by others: Thomas Bolte, parson at Chechley, 30s, John Stanyare, 20s, Robert Kynson, 8s, Thomas Sayedbothom, the cooper, 12d, Henry Johson, for the topping of an ash, 4d, Elyn Green, 8d, John Arnold, 4d, and finally 40shillings by Mr George Draycote.

A Dr Draycott is mentioned in Thomas Drakeford, Priest's will of 4 years previous in 1563, so quite likely to be the same person. The reference is '*I have delivered to Mr George Draycote, to kepe to the tyme that my lordē or his counsayll comes over, and then I to have it againe.*' From this it would appear that William lent this to Mr Draycote until the Good Lord called him, that time had come.

**Inventory:** This showed plenty of animals for farming, being 6 bullocks, 5 cows (Kyene), 3 young heifers (Stryckes), 3 calves, a mare and a filly, 60 sheep, corn and hay valued at £3 6s 8d, 2 pigs, much household items and furniture, a (hay)wayne, a plough, a harrow, yokes, etc.

Indeed, William was a relatively successful husbandman

**Will No. 8) 1569/70 - John Drakeford, Marchington Woodland, Hanbury Parish**

Dated: 13<sup>th</sup> March 1569/70  
Wife: Present but not named  
Son: Present but not named  
God-daughter: Margit Drakeford  
Executors: *'My wyf and my yong sone'*  
Overseers: Richard Cheddleton, Thomas Drakeford  
Witnesses: Thomas Slimyng, John Page  
Inventory: 16<sup>th</sup> May 1571  
Assessors: Thomas Flemyng, Thomas Roker, Thomas Drakeford, Thomas Wilson

Comments: This is a rather strange will. John or Jhon, appears to be a fairly successful husbandman, with 5 cows, 2 heifers, 2 old heifers, 3 geese, 2 hens corn on the ground and a (Hay?)wayne all worth £17+, plus a turn style, a spinning wheel, 3 looms and house contents taking the value of his estate to £20.15s.

Yet, his house and his Cout (Not identified, could be coat), went to Gorege Yorll, and Thomas Wilson took two yokes not listed in the inventory, which is dated 18 months after the death of John Drakeford.

A Thomas Drakeford is an Overseer and Assessor, but not Sir Thomas who died 1563. His wife and son, are not named, but also seem to get nothing. On the other hand, the balance of the estate must go somewhere. There is no mention of creditors or debts that have to be paid, yet it is mentioned that they will be.

**Will No. 11) 1583 - Thomas Drakeford, Marchington Woodland, husbandman**

Dated: 11<sup>th</sup> may 1583  
Wife: Elizabeth  
Children: mentioned but not named  
Executrix: Elizabeth  
Witnesses: Thomas Woodruff, Thomas Smythe  
Overseer: Nycholas Jackson  
Inventory: 14<sup>th</sup> May 1583  
Appraisors: Thomas Woodruff, Thomas Smyth, Nicholas Towers

**Comments:** Thomas, a husbandman, wanted to be buried in the churchyard at Marchington Woodland. He left his assets to his wife Elizabeth their children for them *'To be bestowed amonges theym as she, of her good discretion, shall thinke nmost expedyent, and necessarie'*.

**The inventory** valued at £31 4d shows:

5 cows, 3 winter heifers, 4 yearlings, a mare, 2 pigs, corn in the ground, all amounting to £16.18s. The rest is apparel, household furniture, bedding, husbandry stuff, pewter, candlesticks, silver spoons, pans pots etc., amounting to £14 2s 4d.

Thomas was clearly a successful husbandman, and left everything to his wife, Elizabeth and children, with all discretion being left to her. There is every possibility that this Thomas was that acting as an Overseer and Assessor in the Will, 11 above. Equally it could have been the Thomas Drakeford in will 14) below, who lived in Hollington, although that was 15 miles away rather than nearby,

### **Will No. 14)            1589 – Thomas Drakeford, Hollington, Carpenter**

Dated:            12<sup>th</sup> April 1589  
Wife:             single  
Mother:          Scysley Drakeford (See will 6)  
Brothers:        John, Henry and William  
Brother-in-law: Humphrey Barke and possibly John Hylle (Hill)  
Son:              None  
Daughter:       None  
Nephews:       Hennerie and William Drakeford  
Executor:       Hennerie Drakeford, brother  
Witnesses:      Not available in the papers  
Inventory:       dated 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1589  
Appraisors:     Thomas Witterins and Anthonie Atkinson

**Comments:** This is the first time a mother has appeared in the will. She is shown on will 6 as the wife of William Drakeford. There is left to her 40s. He gives to John Hill's children about £3 which there father owes. He is noted as a 'brethren', but without calling them nephews/nieces, it is unlikely. He gives his brother John Drakeford 6s 8d, and nothing more.

Thomas gives William and John Barke 26s 8d, which their father owed him. Their mother would have been either, Joan, Elyne or Antynys. He gave his nephews, Hennerie and William 20s. He had three brothers William, Henry and John. We do not know which are the father(s). He gave his other two brother, Hennerie and William £6 3s 4d, divided equally, and owed by William Starke of Glascote. He gives his brother Hennerie, along with John Hylle amounts of timber, some of which is jointly owned with George Ashen.

The residue goes to brother and executor, Hennerie Drakeford.

Thomas is owed money by John Turner, 40s, Francis Lyes of Wythenton, 31s, George Ashen, 10s 10d, John Buckley, 5s, Mychaell Forster, 2s 6d, William Allen, 3s 4d, and Hennerie Wibberley, 3s 2d. That owed by Humphrey Barke is not mentioned.

The Inventory shows little in the way of assets, as if he was perhaps old and not working, perhaps living with someone, which is likely to be his son Henry, the executor. The main asset is money owed to him taking his assets from £2 4s to £17 10s 10d, being £15 5s 10d owed, but way above the list debts above.

## **Will No. 15)            1598 - William Drakeford, Hollington/Checkley**

Dated:            16<sup>th</sup> March 1598  
Wife:            Single  
Brothers:        Henry, John (Thomas deceased, see will 14) dated 1589  
Brother-in-law: John Hill, Humphrey Barke.  
Executor:        Henry Drakeford  
Witnesses:      William Falderidge, Geoffrey Davie and Henry Atkin  
Inventory:       Dated 19<sup>th</sup> September 1598  
Appraisors:     Anthonie Jenkins, Henry Jenkins and Roberte More

**Comments:** This will is dated 9 years later than his brother Thomas, the carpenter. His sister's children, by the name of Barke each share part of £8, owed by their father Humphry when they are 21. His other brother-in-law, John Hill gets £10 and a bit more, being the money owed to William.

Brother John Drakeford gets £10 and a pair of sheets. Margaret Warriloe, his granddaughter gets 40s and another pair of sheets when she is 21, and her uncle Henry, executor is charged to make sure she does. William Falderbridge gets a doublet and stockings, Thomas Shawe gets socks, and his children 12d each. Ann More gets 2s, and William Hill a pair of Uppendes (?), socks and a shirt. John Hill, brother-in-law gets a shirt and a cow! Elizabeth More gets a pair of sheets, and his brother Henry £7, one cow, a pair of socks and a shirt, and his children a ewe.

William gives his sister Ellin, and his sister-in-law, Elizabeth the bedding to be divided 'betwixt' them. John Fisher gets 12d, and Margrett Hodgson the same.

The residue goes to brother Hennerie Drakeford. This is the second time one of Henry's brothers has died, leaving him as executor and with the residue.

**Those owing William** money are Humphrie Barke, £11 6s 8d. This was a lot of money in those days. Others were John Conwey, 24s 8d, Richard Conwey, 9s 4d, Thomas Russell, 28s, William Allin, 3s 4d, and John Fisher, 2s.

Including the cash owed, the estate amounts £49 7s. Other than the cash owed he owns 2 cows, a ewe, his clothing and his bedding. Like his brother it would appear he is living with someone, again it could be Henry, who gets most of the estate.

## **Will No. 24) 1619 - William Drakeford, Nobolt, Leigh Parish, Husbandman**

Dated: 18<sup>th</sup> March 1619  
Wife: Not stated, but clearly maiden name Austin.  
Kinsman: John Drakeford of Nobolt  
Son: None  
Daughter: Ellen, Catherine, Margaret and Elizabeth, all minors  
Executors: James Austin, brother in law  
Witnesses: Francis Swynshed, William Allen, Roger Shawe  
Inventory: Dated 10<sup>th</sup> April 1620  
Appraisers: George Warner, Symon Whytehall, Anthony Hyde, and William Allen

**Comments:** This is a **nuncupative** will, which is a will that has been delivered orally (that is, in speech) to witnesses, as opposed to the usual form of wills, which is written and according to a proper format. It is witnessed as good and goes to probate.

**The following is a good example of insight into the sort of property a Drakeford Husbandman and his family would live in.**

The inventory is carried out a year later showing wealth. The house is described by the main of rooms, starting at the **hall** with a long table chairs and a frame (perhaps cupboard or bookcase).

The next room is the **parlour** with a servants bed, , bedstead, blankets, 2 barrels, one large tub, a kneading trough (for doe), a table cover, a *'poutheringe'* tub (?), 2 looms, and a cupboard.

Following this is a **buttery**, with a churn, a frying pan, a skimmer, and other implements, a kennel, 2 bowels, 2 piggins (vessels in shape of ½ barrel), 3 pails, 2 meeles (cups or bowls)

The next room, 4 strikes of oats, a bushel of barley, a strike of Rye, 3 strikes of wheat. One strike is equal to two bushels. A bushel is equal to 32 quarts. Also in there are 3 coffers and 17 sawn boards. This is obviously a store room.

At the *steare head*, possibly the top of the stairs, there is a chamber with two feather beds and one Chaffe Bed, and all things belonging to them.

The house appears to contain the main rooms at floor level and one room upstairs for the family. Elsewhere there are the farm implements including ploughs, yokes, ladders, hay boards, irons, branding iron, brass, a silver spoon, 2 hatchets, a bill hook, a wedge and an axe. As for animals, there is manure about the house(!), 11 ewes, 7 cows, 6 heifers, 6 young bease, 2 steers, 2 oxen, an old mare, corn and oats in the ground, corn in the barn and apparel.

The value is £77.19.4d, but shown incorrectly as £83.13.4d.

This is evidence of a reasonable property, and reasonable wealth.

The brother-in-law, James Austen of Hardiwick, county of Stafford, Yeoman, undertook to bring up the children. There is no mention of an ongoing role for John Drakeford of Nobolt, who may not have had the same stature as James. Hardiwick is about 11 miles away, nearer to Stoke-on-Trent, so the children would start a new life.

This is the end of this Drakeford line with no male heir.

**Will No. 26)            1621 - Henry Drakeford, Hollington - Yeoman**

Dated:            February 1621  
Wife:            Elizabeth  
Brothers:        As above, William, Thomas  
Son:            William (3 children)  
Daughter:       Margerie, Elizabeth  
Son-in-law:     Thomas Phillips  
Executors:      Elizabeth  
Witnesses:      Roger Shaw, John Hill, Thomas Phillips  
Inventory:      Not given in modern script  
Appraisors:     John Gallimore, John Fearnough, Thomas Philipps

**Comments** This is a simple will giving various monies to children and grandchildren, but leaving in the main to his wife and executor Elizabeth. The estate amounts to £40 20s.

**Will No. 27)            1628 – Elizabeth Drakeford, Hollington, Widow**

Dated:            6<sup>th</sup> December 1628  
Husband:        See will 26) Henry  
Brothers-in-law: William and Thomas  
Sons-in-law:    Anthonie Hordone, Thomas Phillips  
Son:            William, wife Ellen  
Daughter:       Elizabeth (married to Anthonie Hordone), Margerie (married to Thos. Phillips)  
Kinsmen:        William Drakeforde,  
Executors:      William Drakeford and Thomas Phillips  
Witnesses:      John Gallimore, William Meare  
Inventory:      Date 16<sup>th</sup> December 1628  
Appraisors:     John Gallimore, Frances Phillips, John Woodward

**Comments:** This is a fairly simple will. The inventory shows a reasonable estate amounting to a total

of £29 16s 4d. This mainly comprised of 3 cows, 2 heifers, 2 calves, a bullock, 12 sheep a pig, a colt, and corn and hay, all as evidence of a small holding akin to a husbandman, probably run by her son William. The major assets are the animals, with £6 5s for the pewter and brass, linen and bedding and cash.

Elizabeth is the widow of Henry, will 26, who died 7 years before. This time it is shown that her children, William, Ellen, Elizabeth and Margery are all married and she has grandchildren by William, Margery (Phillips) and Elizabeth (Hordorne). William has a wife called Ellen and a daughter named Elizabeth after his mother, another called Francis,

The estate is given to family members only, with the grandchildren getting mostly money.

### **Uttoxeter, 20 miles**

#### **Will No. 17)            1601 - Thomas Drakeford, Uttoxeter, Husbandman**

Dated:            4<sup>th</sup> May 1601  
Wife:            There is no mention of a wife, so presume deceased.  
Sons:            James Drakeford, Thomas Drakeford, William Drakeford  
Daughters:    Margery Drakeford, wife of John Shephearde, Ales, wife of John Ball.  
                    Elizabeth, wife of John Quembye  
Executor:      James Drakeford  
Overseers:     William Moreton, Thomas Barlow  
Witnesses:    William Moreton, Richard Chedletone, William Lynney, clerk.  
Inventory:     Dated 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1602  
Appraisors:   William Moreton and Thomas Barlow, and witnesses, John Quembye  
                    William Quenbye, William Lynney, Clerk.

**Comments:** In the inventory few animals are shown and these are a cow, a heifer, a yearling calf and a barren cow. Apart from that there is a coffer, bedclothes and apparel. Debts in the hands of son will amount to £8 16s, and Thomas had 12d in his purse. The total estate was £16 14s 8d.

Apart from gifts to family, he bequeathed 10s to Mary Bedle, daughter of Edward Bedle, 12d to Margery, wife of John Shephearde, 12d to Ales, wife of John Ball. Thomas gave to the poor of the parish of Leigh 3s 4d to be distributed at Leigh church the First Good Friday after his decease, at the first service there the same day.

See wills3), 10) 12) for another James Drakeford.

## **Will 29) John Drakeford (say 1580?? - 1640) Norton-in-the-Moors**

**Dated** 29<sup>th</sup> September 1640,

**Name** John Drakeford, Yeoman

**Place of burial** Norton, buried 4.10.1640

**Wife** Agnes - John married **Agnes Thursfield** 4<sup>th</sup> February 1608 at Norton-in-the-Moors.

**Children** William and Thomas described as Yeomen, Joan = John Booth, Margaret= William Thursfield ( However, RKD transcribed Norton register as showing Joan married William Thursfield 7<sup>th</sup> November 1616, which must refer to another Joan Drakeford as she would have been just 8 years old or an error)

**Grandchildren** Existing but not named

**Sons-in-law** William Thursfield, **John Booth**

**Executors** **Agnes Drakeford**

**Overseers** **Thomas Drakeford, William Short**

**Witnesses** John Rowley, William Short, John Moore the elder, **William Thursfield**

### **Main Assets and distributions:**

The assets were listed 20<sup>th</sup> October 1640 and the will proved at Lichfield 4<sup>th</sup> February 1641. By the mention of £14 set aside 'to marry off my daughter', and mentioning Joan as a daughter, but naming two sons-in-law could mean that two other daughters have only legacies through their husbands and are therefore not mentioned in the will. Worth examining the parish records earlier than 1642. Other legacies went to John Thursfield, and **John Moore** the younger,

The estate was small, amounting to £30.8/-.

Although RKD's extract of the Parish register of Norton in the Moors starts in 1642 with William and Ann having a daughter Ellin the records now available go back much further to 1574. Joining both sources the Norton Parish records show the following:

MWD to insert and cross refer to the potteries. There is a Thomas Drakeford recorded as being buried in October 1643, which could possibly have been the eldest son mentioned in the will. Thereafter a William and Ann Drakeford went on to have two more sons, William and Thomas. Thomas dies in infancy, but William born in 1644 is possibly the same that married an Ann Burne in 1670; the couple were quite prolific and are recorded as having produced ten boys and a daughter over the next 14 years.

Note there is no reference to the monarchy in the preamble. This is despite Charles I being king from 1625 until he was executed in 1649.

It is worth noting that the will was proved by **Charles Twysden**, the same person given on the wills of Richard Drakeford the elder and his son both above and below.

John died just 5 days after making the will.

## **8) General Notes - the selection from the George Fitch collection of wills**

These are in fact the only wills found with dates up to 1628. Only one of these early ones is based in Congleton, and one in Norton and the earliest in Stafford is that of Richard Drakeford dated 1639. The latter supports the contention that this Richard, the Merchant, emanated from Congleton or thereabouts, perhaps even Wolstanton and was the first to live in Stafford.

Note that the male names are mostly good Drakeford family names being Richard, 5, William, 6, Thomas, 6, John 2 and one called Stephen, and another Roger. The Tunstall court rolls between 1369 and 1520 mentioned above show that the entries having the names of Thomas, Richard, Roger, John and William. The wills for both Richard and William dated 1537 and 1538 respectively are the ones that actually match date-wise hence are possibly the same people. These individuals need not have lived in Tunstall because the Manor Court covered the area from Stoke-on-Trent to the Cheshire border. The courts mainly confirmed land sales and purchases and settled disputes between parties.

It is believed that in 1086 Tunstall may have formed part of Thursfield (in Wolstanton), Tunstall Manor, between 1212 and 1273 comprised Tunstall, Bemersley, Burslem, Chatterley, Chell, Oldcott, and Thursfield, as well as Whitfield within the Bemersley portion of Tunstall manor, were mentioned as distinct manors or vills, but all, except for Chell, had been merged within the manor of Tunstall by the end of the 13th century.

It was named as Tunstall Court from the 16th century, and covered an area which extended to the Cheshire border and included the following townships: Tunstall, Chell, Oldcott, and Ravenscliffe; Burslem and Sneyd; and Chatterley, Brieryhurst, Stadmorslow, Thursfield, Wedgwood, and Bemersley.

## Appendix I

### List of wills produced by George Fitch, in Christian name order

Number	Date	Christian Name	Domicile	Buried	Source of Will
49	1691/2	Alice	Frodsham, Cheshire		
28	1639	Anne	Wedgwood, Wolstanton		Lichfield
41	1665	Anne	Odd Rode, Cheshire		
60	17212	Benjamin	Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent		
43	1668	Cecily	Edgebolton, Shawbury		
32	1645	Cicely	Congleton	Astbury	Chester
31	1643/6/7	Edward	Congleton (wife- Cicely)		
79	1814	Edward	Charnes Hall, Stafford		
C	1723	Edward	Windsor, Berks		
27	1628	Elizabeth	Hollington(Checkeley)		Lichfield
35	1642/3	Elizabeth	Shrewsbury		
51	1698	Ellen	Congleton		
39	1661/3	Ellen Merrill	Congleton		
77	1778/80	Frances	Stafford		
36	1647/8	Gregory	Wilnecote, Warwicks		
26	1624	Henry	Hollington(Checkeley)		Lichfield
8	1569/70	John	Marchington, Hanburie?		Lichfield
18	1604	John	Wolstanton?		Lichfield
21	1613	John	Burslem		Lichfield
23	1617	John	Withington		Chester
29	1640	John	Norton-in-the-Moors		
40	1661	John	Congleton		
47	1684/6	John	Audley, Calk		
56	1717/8	John	Congleton		
58	1720/1	John	Chilvers Coton, Warks		
67	1751	John	Bedworth, Warwicks		
73	1762/65	John	Stafford		
78	1799/1800	John	Died at sea		
52A	1712	John	Calicut, India		
B	1716	John	St. James, Westminster		
A	1557/58	John Draykeford	Standwell, Middlesex		
48	1690	Joseph	Walsall		
68	1753	Katherine	Congleton		Widow of John(56)
9	1572	Margaret	Wolstanton		Lichfield
13	1589	Margaret	Skemerlowe		Lichfield
38	1657/8	Margaret	Hinkley, Leics		
69	1754/64	Margaret	Sutton, Cheshire		
53	1697/1704	Matthew	Stafford		
75	1761/66	Matthew	Cannock		
34	1642	Mercy	Forbridge, Stafford		
72	1755/57	Priscilla	Stafford		

54	1704	Rebecca	Forbridge, Stafford		
1	1537	Richard	Wolstanton		Lichfield
4	1556	Richard	Wolstanton		Lichfield
16	1597	Richard	Congleton		Chester
20	1612/13	Richard	Tulk, Audeley		Lichfield
25	1621	Richard	Audley		Lichfield
33	1639	Richard	Forbridge, Stafford		
45	1677/9	Richard	Forbridge, Stafford		
52	1700/1	Richard	Forbridge, Stafford		
57	1720	Richard	Chilvers Coton, Warks		
63	1728	Richard	Forbridge, Stafford		
71	1756/57	Richard	Castlechurch, Stafford		
74	1760/65	Richard	Stafford		
76	1767	Richard	Congleton		
7	1570	Roger	Wolstanton		Lichfield
D	1656	Roger	Falkenham, Suffolk		
70	1756	Sarah	Coventry		
E	1791	Sinai	Hampstead		
10	1572	Stephen	Wolstanton		Lichfield
3	1552	Thomas	Wolstanton		Lichfield
5	1563	Thomas	Leygh?		Lichfield
11	1583	Thomas	Marchington		Lichfield
14	1589	Thomas	Holington		Lichfield
17	1601	Thomas	Uttoxator Woodland Whitfield, Norton in le	Uttoxator	Lichfield
19	1607/08	Thomas	Mors	Norton	Lichfield
50	1695	Thomas	Foleshill		
59	1717/8	Thomas	Coleshill		
65	1731/32	Thomas	Bedworth, Warwicks		
66	1734/35	Thomas	Coventry		
2	1538	William	Wolstanton		Lichfield
6	1567	William	Hollington(Checkeley)		Lichfield
12	1589	William	Wolstanton		Lichfield
15	1598	William	Hollington	Checkley	Lichfield
22	1616	William	Wolstanton		Lichfield
24	1619	William	Nobolt, Leigh		Lichfield
30	1641	William	Buglawton		??
37	1648/9	William	Church Lawton, Cheshire		
42	1666	William	Leek, Wolstanton		
44	1670/1	William	Congleton		
46	1685	William	Frodsham, Cheshire		
55	1714	William	Norton-in-the-Moors		
61	1710/23	William	(Leek)		
64	1730/1	William	Congleton		
80	1829/33	William	Congleton		
F	1853	William	Wellington, Melbourne, Aus.		

Note that Figures A-F and number 52A are additional wills

## Appendix II

### FONS and others, being extracts of early records 1467-1618

Sources:	BRS	British Record Society
	LJRO	Lichfield Joint Record Office
	PRO	Public Record Office
	SRO	Staffordshire Record Office
	JRL	John Rylands Library

Many are translations by David Bethell.

**1467 – Abstract of ancient Documents containing a regular Deduction in Title to a Piece of Land in Tunstall, from 1459 to 1815, extracted from John Ward's *Borough of Stoke on Trent, 1843***

*1467 June (7<sup>th</sup> Edward IV) Inquisition on Parliament*

*Be hyt to have in mynde that these were the XII men that were charget by the Stuart for a gyffe a true davie as Ye custom ys betweene John of Bancroft of the tane pte and John of Tunstall on ye othr prt that ys for say, Ruchart of Colcloghthe, Ryc. of Rygdway, Jenkyn of Drakeford, Ryc. Jackson, Jenkyn Adam, Jenkyn Sawdur, Jenkyn Robynson, Thomas meke, Wyllm Burslem, Thomas Meke ye younger ye quest tht they went upon tht John of Bancroft had bettr tytyll and right then haddē John of Tunsta;ll and tht they wyll byde by the evedense that they all fonde. Also all the queste was fully agrent tht yf John of Tunstall myght not bring in by ye next Courte afr Saynte Mare day evedense then haddē John of Bancrofte Marget of Bancroft to standē in poseschion as we sesyt hyr in to hur and to huer ayrys as the dedy's Wyll was, and yr to we alle above reheryst have set to our Selys and Ye davie was geve the Seturday next afr ye fest od Saunt John ye aportantyn. Also we Thomas of Burslem, Roger of Colcloghgthe ye elder, Thomas Knyght were by when tha was presentyt and thirto wyll we bere records. The yere renyng of Kyng Edwardē ye qquest of England VIII.*

This is a fine example of a court case, following that of 1206 in Stafford with the Drakeford brothers, but 250 years later. This time it is a land dispute, which was part of the title deeds to property. Sadly, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century a conveyancer no longer has to trawl through ancient deeds to determine title to property, it is now available on the computer where there is access to the Land Registry records and no longer contained on parchment that is handed down from one owner to the next.

Of course the text is a little difficult to read, but thankfully it is olde English rather than Latin.

It originates from the Tunstall Manor Court documents referred to in the **Stafford Study Paper**.

There are a number of items to consider:

- 9) The reference to XII men refers to the jurymen who all named
- 10) Some of the names referred to villages: Tunstall, Bancroft, Colcloghthe (Colclough), Ridgeway (now part of Brown Edger), Burslem and of course Drakeford.
- 11) The Christian names have 4 Rychart (Richard), 4 Jenkyn, 2 Thomas, a Rawlyn and a Wyllm (William). This is a definite concentration of names and you can appreciate why the village they come from is used to separate one man from the other. Both the Thomas men are related and one is referred to Thomas Meke the Younger.
- 12) Some have clearly adopted the village as part of the name and we see Wyllm Burslem, and later on we have a Thomas of Burslem who has not.
- 13) What this may indicate is that these names are not given, but adopted as, apart from such as a court case, land ownership a will or later on church records, they would seldom be needed. Hence to see the use of Drakeford does not definitely mean they are part of the Drakeford line.
- 14) It would appear that Thomas of Burslem, Roger of Colcloghthe ye elder, Thomas Knyght were present and therefore witnesses.

## 1508 - John Drakeford of Norton misdemeanor

Source: Public Record Office: CP 40/983

Title: *Common Pleas Hilary 23 Henry VII* Hilary 1508 Westminster

*Pleas at Westminster before Robert Rede knight and his fellows, justices of the lord king de Banco\*, for Hilary term in the 23rd year of the reign of king Henry the seventh after the Conquest*

*Staffordshire*

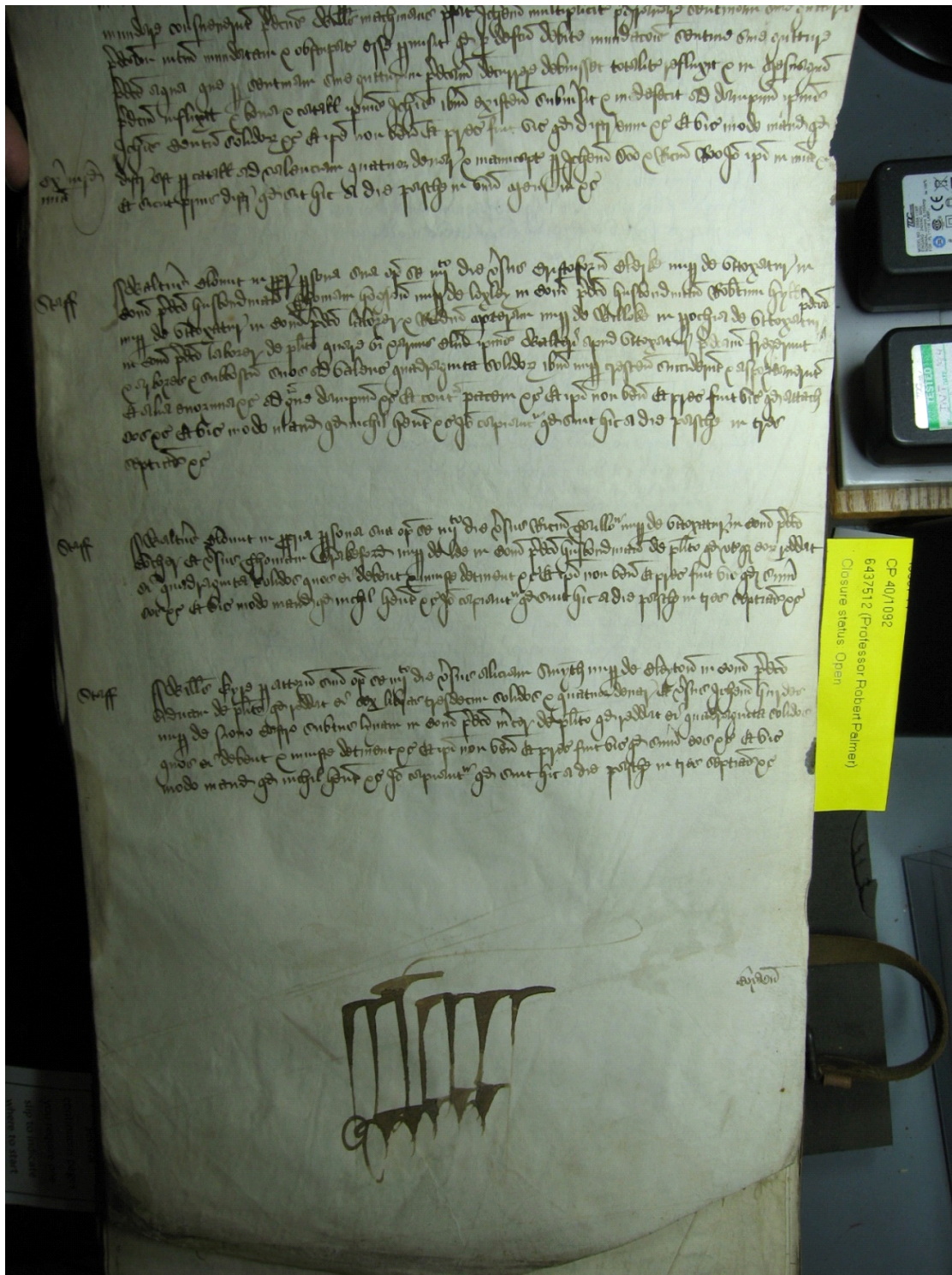
*William Bowyar appeared for a fourth day by his attorney against John Drakeford late of Norton in the county aforesaid husbondman, John Kele late of Bedull in the county aforesaid husbondman, William Massy late of Wolsynton in the county aforesaid husbondman and John Burne late of Chelle in the county aforesaid laborer, in a plea wherefore by force of arms they broke into a close of the said William Bowyar at Knypersley, and (inflicted) other enormities (upon him) &c. to grave damage &c. and against the peace &c. And (the defendants) have not come; and it had been ordered the sheriff to take them &c. And the sheriff now reports that (the defendants) are not found &c. Therefore, as before, let them be taken, to be here three weeks from Easter.*

\* The term '*Justices of the lord King de banco*' refers to the justices sitting of the King's bench.

We can see that this involved William Bowyer of Knypersley and John Drakeford of Norton. John Drakeford is most likely to the person subject to the Will No. 29, dated 29 September 1640, who by the time of his death had later prospered and became a yeoman. On the other hand William Bowyer was already wealthy and his daughter Mercy married Richard Drakeford of Stafford who died in 1639, merchant. What punishments were received by the culprits, we do not know.

**If you would like to have your try at translating from the Latin, have a go!**

If you would like to have your try at translating from the Latin, have a go!



**1509 Drakeford, Thomas**

LJRO Note: This is a record of the ordination, in Latin, of the priest, Thomas Drakeford, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1509.

*It reads 'Orders sacred and general celebrated in the cathedral church of Lichfield 3 March the above year aforesaid (1508/9) by the venerable father in Christ Thomas by the grace of God bishop of Panados*

*Acolytes secular\**

**1510 Drakeford Thomas**

LJRO Note; This is the continuation of the Ordination as a sub-Deacon, in Latin for Thomas, *'Orders sacred and general celebrated in the Cathedral church of Lichfield 23 February the year above said (1509/10) by the Venerable father in Christ lord Thomas by the grace of God bishop of Panados, Sub-deacons secular\**

*Thomas Drakeford by title of the monastery of Dieulencres*

**1510 Drakeford, Thomas**

**Wolstanton/Leigh**

LJRO Note: *Orders sacred and general celebrated in the prebendal church of Longdon, 25 May 1510, by the Reverend father and lord in Christ, lord Geoffrey by divine permission bishop of Coventry and Lichfield*

*Deacons secular\**

*Thomas Drakeford by title of the monastery of Dieulencres*

**1510 Drakeford, Thomas**

**Wolstanton/Leigh**

Note: *Orders sacred and general celebrated in the cathedral church of Lichfield, 21 September 1510, by the Venerable father in Christ, lord Thomas, by the grace of God Bishop of Panados.*

*Thomas Drakeford by title of the monastery of Dieulencres\**

\* This is where Thomas Drakeford was accepted and commenced his training to become a priest. Here was accepted firstly as an Acolyte (a person assisting a priest) then a priest secular, a sub-deacon, then a deacon. It would seem unseemly today for a priest to reach so far so quickly. That is to say go from being ordained as an Acolyte in March 1510 to a full priest 6 months later.

**1537 – Thomas Drakeford of Leigh, failure to re-pay debt**

Source: Public Record Office: CP 40/1092

Title: Common Pleas, Hilary 28 Henry VIII, Westminster

Pleas at Westminster before John Baldewyn knight and his fellows, justices of the lord king de Banco, for Hilary term in the 28th year of the reign of King Henry the eighth after the Conquest Staffordshire

Walter Blount appeared in person for a fourth day against Richard Taillor late of Uttoxatur in the county aforesaid bocher, and against Thomas Drakeford late of Lee in the county aforesaid husbandman, in a plea that each of them render him 40s that they owe him and unjustly withhold &c. And (the defendants) have not come; and it had been ordered the sheriff to summon them &c. And the sheriff now reports that (the defendants) have nothing (in his bailiwick in lands or chattels by which they might be attached) &c. Therefore let them be taken, to be here three weeks from Easter &c.

Note: This is a fine example where researchers find an anomaly. This is a Thomas Drakeford of Lee/Leigh, husbandman. That is a person a step beneath a Yeoman. Also in Leigh is the Thomas Drakeford, priest, well known in this list of early records. We assume that this is just a co-incidence. Nevertheless, it is an interesting account whereby William Blount is alleging that he is owed 40 shillings for the tailor, the butcher and a husbandman, and none of them has any money or wishes to repay him and they have to be brought to court for their punishment.

**1553 Drakeford, Thomas, Will                      Wolstanton/Leigh**

BRS Note: Will dated 18.2.1552/53, our number 3)

**1557 Draykeford, John                                      Stanwell, Middlesex**

PRO Note: This is an anomaly in that whilst we have a copy of the will, there is no connection elsewhere . There is an eldest son William, who could be the Steward for Davenport discussed below. He was a minor in 1557, so might have been born as early as 1537. This would make him 47 when William the steward first comes into the equation and 63+ when he leaves.

**1557 Drakeford, Richard                                      Wolstanton**

BRS Note: Will dated 18.10.1556, our number 4)

**1565 Drakeford, Thomas, priest, Sir.                      Leigh**

BRS Note: Will dated 20.10.1563, our number 5)

**1566 Drakeford, Steven                                      Wolstanton**

LJRO This is relating to the will of Roger Henshaw, dated 4.3.65/66 who was a creditor of Thomas Drakeford in the 1553 will noted above. In this case Steven Drakeford was a witness and co-Appraiser with John Rowley

**1568 Drakeford, William                                      Checkley/Hollington**

BRS Note: Will dated 26.12.1567/58, our number 6)

**1571 Drakeford, Roger                                      Wolstanton**

BRS Note: Will dated 8.5.1570, our number 7)

## 1580 Drakefords, William and Richard

SRO D1798/HMD../71

There is an important Latin document translated by David Bethell relating to William Drakeford who was living at New Inn, New Temple, London, son of William Drakeford of Congleton, yeoman, gifting money to Richard Drakeford and others. This is fully reproduced in the Congleton Study Paper. It relates to the transfer of land to the Congleton brothers featured in the 1594 letter from John Drakeford of London.

## 1584 Drakeford, William

## Davenport/Marton Cheshire

JRL Note: This appears to be a review simply saying in Latin

*Marion with Members and Appurtenances*

*The court of John Davemporte de Davemport esquire of his manor aforesaid, held there before William Drakeford, Steward, 26 November 27 Elizabeth 1584 .....*

*By me William Drakeford, steward of the court aforesaid.*

This statement gives very little, save that the court met and was recorded by the steward William Drakeford.

Looking into matters a little more, the Davenports were basically overseers for the Forest of Macclesfield. Their main family name was William owning **Bramall Hall** is a largely Tudor manor house in Bramhall, Stockport. However, John Davenport was a significant member, at Davenport and Merton. At Merton in Cheshire there one of the oldest timber framed church in Europe, founded and endowed in 1343 by Sir John de Davenport. Two damaged stone effigies of fourteenth century knights are situated in the belfry. The heads rest on the Davenport crest, suggesting the figures might depict the church's founders, **John and Vivian de Davenport**, the latter was John's son. The felon's head on the crest indicates their status as **'Serjeants' of Macclesfield Forest**.

This is the first of several references to **William Drakeford** was from 15 who was a Steward, later called a senior Steward for the estate of Sir John Davenport, as well as a being a Commissioner and a gentleman.

If we are to consider if he is the William Drakeford of Congleton, Will No. 44, he did not die until 1670, at say 75, then at the time he was the Steward he would have started work when he was 20 in 1595. In this will William is only considered to be a yeoman, rather than a gentleman.

Another clue is in the will No 23) 1617 – John Drakeford, Gent., Withington, 7 ½ miles from Congleton. It is in fact an appraisal but there are two interesting names, that of Roger Davenport an Appraisor. Additionally, Withington is only 5 miles from Bramall Hall, where William Drakeford too was a gentleman of reasonable means. However, there is no will for a William Drakeford that fits the bill and provides a more positive link.

The link to a William Drakeford continues in the next 2 citations, dated 1595 and 1599 when as a Gentleman and Commissioner, he is involved with land including Macclesfield forest.

**1586 Drakeford, William**

**Wolstanton/Marton**

JRL Note: In the Marton Court Rolls the following is noted,  
*Merton with members and appurtenances (that is to say associated matters)  
Court Baron of John Davemporte of Davemporte esquire, of his manor aforesaid, held there before  
William Drakeford steward there 5 December in the 29<sup>th</sup> year of our lady Elizabeth (by the Grace of  
God) Queen of France and Oreland, Defender of the Faith &c, 1586  
Sum total without pains - £3 3s  
By me, William Drakeforde steward of the court and manor aforesaid.*

**Note this is the first time William has described himself as Senior Steward of the court and manor.**

**Note by FNS staff: Seal broken, being a 'duck on water' MWD:** which is as shown on the Staffordshire Drakeford Study Papers, and was once on a window of Forebridge hall, the home of the Stafford Drakefords in the 17 century.

**1588 Drakeford, William**

**Wolstanton/Marton**

JRL Note: *Merton with Members and Appurtenances  
Court Baron of John Davemporte of Davemporte esquire of his manor aforesaid, held there before  
**William Drakeforde senior** then Steward there, 3 December the 31<sup>st</sup> year of the reign on our lady  
Elizabeth (by the grace of God) Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c, 1588  
Sum total (blank)  
By me William Drakeforde senior steward of the court and manor aforesaid*

Comment: It is interesting that no amount is included. Was this a mistake, or was it left blank until the amount was settled, and William forgot to complete it? Also, he describes himself as William Drakeford Senior, meaning that there was another of the same name, probably a son or another relative around.

**1589 Drakeford, Stephen & son Richard**

**Stodmerlowe**

PRO Note: On 31<sup>st</sup> March 1589, a deed by Sir Ralph Egerton of Wrynehill, knight left £20 to Richard Bache, who is a tenant with a charge to pay his dues to Richard, the son of Stephen Drakeford and Joan, daughter of Ralphe Dean from his land in Newbolde.

**1589 Drakeford, J(ohn)?**

**? Davenport**

JRL Note: John Davenport de Davenport made a declaration for his daughter Elianor Davenport, witnessed by Phillipe Draycott, Edward davenport, **J. Drakeford** and Thomas Gandye.

**1589 Drakeford, William**

**? Wolstanton**

JRL Note: In the Marton Court Rolls the following is noted.

*2 December 1589, Marton*

*Sum total, apart from pains – 21s 6d By me, William Drakeford, steward of the court aforesaid.*

This could be a salary, 'apart from pains' which could be expenses yet to be claimed.

**1593 Drakeford, William**

**?Wolstanton/Merton**

JLR Note: *Merton Court Baron of John Davemporte of Davemporte Esquire held at Merton aforesaid 3 December in the 36<sup>th</sup> year of our lady Elizabeth by the grace of God, Queen of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith &c, 1593, before William Drakeforde then Steward there*

There is no reason given for the court business, not even a payment for William. Why did it end 'then Steward there'? It sounds as if he was no longer the steward of the court. Indeed, this is the last entry that we have for the Merton Court, and the next appears to elevate William Drakeford to become a Gentleman and commissioner.

**1595 to 1596 Drakeford, William**

**Merton/Congleton**

JRL Note: Above we have the involvement of William as Steward for John Davenport, and below as Gentleman and commissioner. Here he is a witness, also involving John Davenport.

The document notes that John Davenport is now the Squire of Davenport, and had previously been at Merton. The Hall of Swettenam and a close have been held since 1534 through conveyances and assignations, and JD is assigning his interests to Sir Edward Phyton and Richard Holland, yeoman.

**William Drakeford**, Petrus Williamson, Hugh Barrett and John Brook were all witnesses.

**1599 to 1606 Drackford, William, Gentleman**

**Probably Congleton**

LRO Note: Accepting the strange spelling of Drakeford in one part of this manuscript, this William Drakeford was a Commissioner, with 3 others, charged with the investigation of land mainly in Cheshire being *Whereas lord Edward IV sometime King of England by his letters patent bearing date 11 January in the first year of his reign (11 January 1462) granted to Thome lord Stanley all those lands, soil, pasturs and meadowe of Saltersford. Harropp, Wildeborclogh, Muggelelegh and sittinglowe and appurtenances with the forest of Macclesfeild in 'our' county of Chester.* It would appear that over time the title to this land became obscure and instructions were issued to the four commissioners in 1598 to sort this out.

This they did and called the tenants to account and after investigation and agreement by visiting the land was then divided amongst five existing tenants and a valuation reached on 19 January (1599).

The valuation was as a yearly income for each parcel of land being: *Saltersford 23s., Harropp 22s6d, Wildeborclogh et Sittinglowe 45s, Muggeleigh 3s7d and Todcliff 3s5d and Les Severall pasturers 2s6d.*

In turn this was examined by Edm: Adamson on 17<sup>th</sup> November 1606.

There must be a question as to whether or not this William Drakeford associated with the Davenports of another being William Drakeford of Congleton, who was to become Mayor of Congleton in 1592, 1610 and 1611.

### **1618 Drakeford, Richard Drakeford of Stafford and Thomas Drakeford of Congleton**

Note: SRO D1798/HM Drakeford/70

Naturally, the Latin documents continue in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and reveal many interesting items. One such document is that of a property deal, between Richard Drakeford Gent of Stafford, and Thomas Drakeford Gent of Congleton on one side of the transaction and Robert Walker of Yarnfeilde alias Ernefeilde in the county of Stafford on the other.

This shows a number of issues. Firstly land was held jointly between the Drakefords of both Stafford and Congleton. Indeed they purchased in **1617 Richard Drakeford & Thomas Drakeford** purchased 415 acres off 'Colman' of which this would be a small part.

The full Latin and translated version is available for inspection on request.

**There are a few others documents of no particular note, and no explanatory details are provided, hence they are out of date order:**

**No date** SRO Letter M.Lyttelton to Edward Drakeford regarding prevention of the removal of the Assises from Stafford to fear of the plague

**23 February 1593** SRO Letter from Thomas Bostocke to the Under Sheriff of Staffordshire, Edward Drakeford, regarding the prevention of proceedings against sureties for George Butcher, for non-appearance, due to being imprisoned in Clink.

**7 March 1593** SRO Letter from Henry Myers to Edward Drakeford regarding non-payment of gaol money for Offlow hundred.

**6 August 1594** SRO Letter from Cycell Drakeford to her husband Edward Drakeford. Social letter accompanying gift of an Angel.

**17 July 1594** SRO Letter Thomas Keeling to Edward Drakeford enclosing writs to be dealt with at next quarter sessions.

## Appendix III

### The Drakeford Ghost at Norton-in-the-Moors

The minutes of the Old Nortonian Society held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1952, recording the events of their activities in 1951. This included the events held, the deaths of a number of members, the numbers of people living in Norton and the surrounding villages and the finances of charitable funds.

There followed historical matters, such as the passing of the last of the Sneyd family by the sale of their Keele Estate, noting that they were for 156 years Lords of the Copyhold Manor of Norton-in-the-Moors from 1615 to 1771. Reference to a fire plaque once on the wall of Old Hall was made, which was now the property of a Mr. Clews,

Following that the chairman, Mr A Barker, talked about a number of topics including the Plea Rolls in the time of King Henry II including one in 1315 regarding Willian de Mere. A second related to both Sir William and Hugh de Audley in 1318. All very interesting.

Next came a long diatribe about a County Court Judge, Thomas Hughes, Q.C., who wrote Tom Brown's School Days. Mr Barker quoted Hughes saying "Why do you not know more of your own birth place. As for the country legends, the place where the last skirmish was fought in the Civil War, where the last ghost was laid by the parson, they're gone out of date together".

Mr Barker then referred to the laying of the last ghost in Norton-in-the-Moors as being that of a Drakeford. He remarked that the Drakefords have been in the church registers which started in 1574, they had appeared numerous times there since 1579, and a Thomas Drakeford was buried in Norton in 1751. The following list shows all the Norton Drakefords, and I show this for a good reason:

### Drakeford records Norton-in-the-Moors

Date	type	Names
1579	Marr	Rogerus <b>Bagnolde</b> & Margeria Drakeforde
1595	Marr	Johes Drakefforde & Jocosae Cartledge
1596	Bur	Joanna daughter of Johis & Jocosae Drakeforde
1584	Bap	Agnes Daughter of Richardi & Margaretae Drakeforde
1585	Bap	Maria daughter of Thomae & Agnetis Drakeforde
1596	Bap	Joanna Daughter of Johis & Jocosae Drakeforde
1599	Bap	Gulielmus son of Johannis Dracford
1606	Bur	Agneta wife of Thomae Drakeford de Whitfield
1607	Bur	Joyes wife of Jo. Drakford
1607	Mar	William <b>Whithoughe</b> & Mary Drakeford
1608	Bur	Thomas Drakeford of Whytfield
1608	Mar	Johis Drakford & Agnetam Thursfield, widow

1608	Bap	Margret daughter of John & Anne Drakford
1610	Bap	Anna daughter of Johannis Drakeford
1612	Bap	Thomas son of Johannis Drackford
1616	Marr	William <b>Thursfield</b> & Joane Drakesford
1618	Bap	Thomas son of William & Ellen Drakford (no marriage recorded at Norton)
1623	Bap	Steaphen son of Willaim & Ellin Drakfoard
1625	Marr	Edward Drakeford & Margery Barker
1625	Bap	William son of Edward & Margery Drakeford
1629	Bap	Rich'us son of Eduardi Drakeforde
1633	Bap	John son of Edward Drakeforde
1639	Bur	Katherin Drakeford
1639	Marr	William & An Millour
1640	Bur	John Drakeford
1640	Bur	Widdow Drakeford
1642	Bap	Ellin daughter of William & Ann Drakeford
1643	Bur	Thomas Drakeford
1644	Bap	William son of William & Ann Drakeford
1646	bap	Thomas son of William & Ann Drakefford
1647	Bur	Thomas son of William Drakefford
1657	Marr	John Cooke & Margrett Rowley <i>als</i> Drakeford
1665	Bur	Margeria Drakford
1670	Marr	Guilielmus Drakeford & Anna Burne Drakford
1672	Bap	Samuelus son of Thomae & <i>blank</i> Drakford*
1672	Bap	Hellena Daughter of Guielmi & Annae Drakeford
1672	Bap	Johannes illegitimate son of Ellenae Drakford
1673	Bap	Thomas son of Gulielmi & blank Drakefford
1673	Bap	Ralph son of Gulielmi Drakeford & Annae
1675	Bap	Thomas son of Thomae & Anna Drakeford *No evidence of marriage at Norton
1675	Bap	Johannes son of Gulielini & Annae Drakeford
1677	Bap	Richardus son of Gulielmus & Anne Drakford
1678	Bap	Isaac son of Thomae & Annae Drakeford
1679	Bap	Samuelus son of Gulielmi & Annae Drakford
1680	Bap	Anna daughter of Thomae Drakford <i>et uxoris</i>
1680	Bap	Beniamen son of Guleilmi & Annae Drakford
1684	Bap	Jacobus son of Gulielmi & Annae Drakford
1684	Bap	Josephus son of Tho. Drakford <i>et uxoris (9+ wife)</i>
1687	Bap	Solomon son of Thomae Drakford <i>et uxoris suae</i>

1689	Bap	Jonathan illegitimate son of Annae Drakford given to John Cooper of Sedgley upon a letter of request 2/6d
1699	Bur	Richard son of William Drakefort (?)
1706	Bap	John son of Isaak & Eldnar Drakefort
1712	Bur	Margreat daughter of Isaak & Ellin Drakefort
1713	Bap	Lidya daughter of Isaak & Elnor Drakfort
1714	Bur	William Drakfort (?)
1716	Bur	Margaret Drakfoot
1732	Bur	Mary daughter of Isaak & Elnor Drackfut
1734	Bur	John son of Isaac Drakeford
1741	Bur	Ann Drakeforde poor woman
1742	Bur	Isaac Drakeford

Mr Barker goes on to mention ‘That in 1622 John Drakeford and John Beech bought from John Broade 2 Gardens, 6 acres of land, 4 acres of meadow, 10 acres of pasture, common of pasture for all kinds of cattle and common of Surbary in Norton–in-the-Moors; for which they paid £41. He noted that common of Surbary means the right to dig turf.

He estimated that the land bought would lie between High Street, Norton, and Norton Green for the place just below the Nurses’ Home is known as Drakeford’s Drumble.

Mr Barker continued:

“I cannot give the exact date of what follows - even Hughes says that they are gone out of date altogether – but around two centuries ago one of the Drakefords was working the footrail down at the Drumble and the map of the parish of 1838 still shews a right of way from the High Street Norton to the footrail which comes out at Norton Green just above the Chapel: no doubt this was an occupational Road.

“Drakeford must have been a bit of a card; of course he had his troubles just as we have with our collieries at the present time, and the trouble then was the same as it is now, viz: output.

I have no doubt there are some colliery workers her this evening, and it may interest them to hear of Drakeford’s method of dealing with his output. Often he was dissatisfied with the amount drawn by some of his men; to increase this he would enter the footrail alone at night and on arriving at the face where the culprits worked, he would get the coal himself – not by explosive, not by machinery, but by the pick point.

Thus when those colliers of his arrived at the face next day, all they had to do was to send the coal out. How long this went on for I cannot say, but the local inhabitants vowed that long after Drakeford's death they could hear him entering the footrail at night and getting his coal: and so Parson Turner was brought to the scene to lay Old Drakeford's ghost.

Whether Turner used the same methods as were used to lay Molly Leigh's ghost I do not know, but his efforts seem to have been successful, for during the 1921 coal strike a Norton collier opened up the old footrail. And he had to get *his* coal without help from anyone but himself. Further, it is said that after Drakeford's death there appeared around the Drumble a white blackbird which no one was able to shoot.

What is interesting is that from the above list of Norton baptisms, weddings and deaths we can trace the land purchasers. Firstly, we knew about the land purchase, but only as a summary for the purchase by Drakeford and Beech from the Extract of Final Concords Vol. VII, page 227. Also this was in 1622 for 20 acres, the correct amount, but there is no mention of the price or details of the land taken by our father Ken Drakeford in 1938.

Taking that as a purchase in 1622, the church records show that a John Drakeford married Jocosa Cartledge in 1596. They had a daughter, Joanna in 1596 and a son, William in 1599. Joyes/Jocosae died in 1607.

John remarried in 1608, this time to Agnetum Thursfield, and they had a daughter, Anna in 1610 and a son Thomas in 1612.

The Thomas that was buried in 1751 might well have been the Thomas born in either 1673 or 1675 to either William or Thomas Drakeford respectively at the age of 78 or 76. It could be that Thomas was the father of Joseph and Solomon baptised in 1684 and 1687 respectively. I fear that this is conjecture on my part.

All this information gives plausibility to Mr Barker's extensive comments on the Drakeford family. However, it does not shed light on the parents for Solomon Drakeford, our many time Great-Grandfather who was baptised at Norton-on-the-Moors on 24th September 1760, son of John and Elizabeth Drakeford.

The Old Nortonian Society records of 1958, at the meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1959. The chairman is a Mr Thursfield, is quite probably the same family as those mentioned in the list above. At that time the name of a road, still in use today was noted as Drakeford Grove. The background to this naming is given as 'Drakeford Drumble' name of area opposite junction of this road with Knypersley'. As ever, there is a further connection in that the Bowyer family, closely associated with by marriage by Richard Drakeford (1576-1639) of Stafford, in 1605 To Mercy Bowyer. A word search of the Stafford Study Paper will show much more. The Bowyers lived at Knypersley Hall, a few miles away from Congleton.