Sir Stephen Powell
His Genealogy and a Short Biography

This document has been prompted by all the misinformation being put on web sites and in genealogy files about Sir Stephen Powell by amateur genealogist. Remember if you put false information in your genealogy, your genealogy is a useless piece of trash and a waist of your efforts to preserve your family’s history. Do not just blindly copy things of the internet, go to the library and check the history books and biographies, you might just find your ancestor there, especially if they have some kind of title or rank in their name.

I’m sorry to say that we have lost mush in the attempt to standardize the spelling of names. The name Powell as we spell it now was not was not originally spelled like this in the days gone by. The name Powell comes from different sources thus different families. Some ware along the line some do-good English professor said lets take these names that sound somewhat alike and spell them alike. So they took names like Poole, Powel, Powle and so forth and we will spell them Powell for ever after. In allowing this to we have lost our true identity. The name Powell that most of you seem to be interested in came from “Ap Howell”, Welsh for “the son of Howell”. A William Ap Howell born back in the middle 1500’s, for reasons now lost to history chose to spell his name William Powell.

Sir Stephen Powell’s name was spelled Powle, and pronounced “Poole”. This may be why his brother William chose to spell it Poole.

Sir Stephen Powell was not the brother of any of the Powells’ that came to Jamestown, Virginia.

Most of the information here came from a highly acclaimed biography of Sir Stephen Powle published in England. If you know the English you know that they are very proud of their history and if this book was not accurate, it would not have been published, let alone receive high accolades.

Descendants of Thomas Powle of Cranbrook

Generation No. 1

1. THOMAS POWLE was born in of Cranbrook, Essex, England.

Child of THOMAS POWLE is:

Generation No. 2

2. THOMAS POWLE II (THOMAS1) was born Abt. 1513, and died 1601 in Westminster, England. He married JANE TATE, daughter of BARTHOLOMEW TATE, JR., ESQ.. She was born 1520, and died 1577.

Notes for THOMAS POWLE II:
Occupation: Clerk of the Crown in England (1549 - 1596), senior six clerk and controller of the hanaper and served as high steward to Queen Elizabeth, clerk of Her Majesty's Forrest of Waltham, and justice of the peace in Essex.

More About THOMAS POWLE II:
Occupation: Bet. 1549 - 1596, Member of the King's Bench
Children of THOMAS POWLE and JANE TATE are:
   i.   THOMAS POWLE III, b. Bef. 1552; d. Bef. Nov 1597, in war in the low country's.

Notes for WILLIAM POOLE:
Subscriber to the "Thrid Charter", of the Virginia Company of London.

4.   iv.  SISTER POWLE.

Generation No. 3

3.  KNIGHT BACHELOR STEPHEN POWLE (THOMAS2, THOMAS1) was born Abt. 1553 in Cranbrook, Great Ilford, Essex, England, and died May 1630 in Westminster, England. He married (1) ANNE WIGMORE. She died 09 Apr 1631. He married (2) ELIZABETH (NEE) WOODHOUSE HOBART Mar 1589/90. She died 24 Dec 1590 in Essex, England 9 days after giving birth to twin sons, (both died before their first birth day). These are the only children Stephen had. He married (3) MARGARET (NEE) TURNER SMYTH Nov 1593. She died Apr 1621.

Children of STEPHEN POWLE and ELIZABETH HOBART are:

Notes for KNIGHT BACHELOR STEPHEN POWLE (POWELL):
Schooling:
Early tutelage was by a monk named Master Hopkins. In about 1464 he entered Broadgates Hall (Pembroke College), Oxford. In March, 1569 he received his B.A. from Oxford, and a M.A., from Corpus Christi College, Oxford in December 1572 at the ripe old age of 16. In 1571 He also attended lectures by Lucas Gilpyn on Calvinism at Cambridge. In November 1574 he Enrolled at the Middle Temple to study Law. In 1579 he was dubbed a "Professor of law", which meant that he had received the rank of Utter Barrister and could practice law. While at Middle Temple, Stephens roommate was Walter Ralegh and they remained friends for life. Stephen remained at Middle Temple until August 1579.

The Grand Tour:
In November 1579 he left England for France, traveling to Paris, Geneva, Lyons, Basel on the Rhine, Strasburg, Heidelberg, Frankfort, Nuremberg and then back to Strasburg, Paris and home to England in March 1582. On this tour he attended classes and lectures at the universities along the way. After a short respite in London, Stephen went up to Scotland to attend classes at Saint Andrews University.

Languages:
Besides his native English, he became fluent in Latin, French, Italian and was passable in German.

Agent for the Queen:
April 1585 - April 1588, Stephen traveled through out Europe on the Queens business.

Chancery:
April 1596, Stephen received the post of deputy clerk of the Crown, taking over some of his
fathers duties, who was now 83 years old. Thomas Powle as senor clerk and Stephen worked together until his father stepped down in January 1600. In August of 1601 he was elevated to six clerk, a post he held until 1607.

Knighted:
July 12, 1604, Master Stephen Powle, Esq., became Sir Stephen at Theobalds. By the hand of King James he was given the title of Night Bachelor.

Virginia Company:
March 1609 Sir Stephen became council to the Virginia Company of London. On May 20, 1609 Sir Stephen Powle became a subscriber of the Virginia Company along with 658 other individuals and 56 London Companies, when they signed the "Second Virginia Charter" A William Powell also signed the charter, Sir Stephen Powle and this William Powell, were not brothers. Remember, Stephen's brother, William, signed his name Poole and he died in England in 1610.

Voyage to Virginia:
June 9, 1509, Blackwell, England, Six ships of the Virginia Company weighed anchor and set sail for Jamestown, Virginia. Off Plymouth they were joined by two more ships. The flotilla under the command of Admiral, Sir George Somers and with Sir Thomas Gates as deputy governor of Virginia, aboard the flagship "Sea Adventure", ("Sea Venture"), sailed south to the Azores and then west to the new world with them. There were a little over 800 souls on board the eight ships. Some were the company officers, investors and would be colonist. The company officers, big investors and gentlemen for the most part sailed on the "Sea Adventure". A few even brought their families. There were two Powell's onboard the "Sea Adventure", Captain William Powell, and Thomas Powell. They were not related. Sir Stephen's brother, Thomas had already passed on by this time, and Captain William Powell's brother, Thomas was a English gentleman, not a personal servant and cook as this Thomas was. This Thomas Powell was man servant and personal cook to Sir George Somers. Also Capt. William Powell's son Thomas who was born in 1600, would have been only 9 years old, too young to be a cook or to get married. Sir Stephen Powle and Captain William Powell were not brothers either. Sir Stephen did not sail to Virginia, in fact he wrote in his journal of watching the ships sail away, from his office window in the London Company. Ill-fated ship "Sea Adventurer", was wrecked on a Bermuda reef, and whose history was written by Strachy and published in London in late 1610, an it was the foundation of Shakespeare's play of "The Tempest". On July 24 the flotilla was caught in the outer edges of a large hurricane for four days, causing the ships to be separated. The "Sea Adventure" ran aground on a Bermuda reef, one ship sunk and the other 6 ships staggered in to Jamestown, battered but not beaten.

On July 28, the "Sea Adventure" ran is bow up between two coral heads and was stuck tight. Luck was with them thou as there was no lose of life. The shipwrecked survivors constructed two small vessels from the timbers of the "Sea Adventurer" and from lumber they cut from local timber, which they christened the "Patience" and the "Deliverance", with which they were able to sail on to of Jamestown arriving in May, 1610 While stranded on Bermuda, Thomas Powell (man servant and cook for Sir George Somers) was married Elizabeth Persons, maid to Mistress Horton. An account of his marriage is given in the annals of the Virginia Company of London.

Sir Stephen Powle (Powell) was a prodigious writer and keep extensive diary's and journals on every aspect of his life. His life is well documented, both in private and public papers. The bulk of the information above came from the following sources.

Jamestown Society papers

And numerous other online sources.

More About KNIGHT BACHELOR STEPHEN POWLE:
Burial: 26 May 1630, Staint Margaret's Church, Westminster, England

4. SISTER POWLE (THOMAS2, THOMAS1) She married Mr. DUTTON.

Child of SISTER POWLE and Mr. DUTTON is:
   i. JANE DUTTON, d. 1623.