

The Family of Henry & Joan Hatton of Forthampton

The Parish registers of Forthampton from the period in which the children of Henry and Joan Hatton were born have long been lost. It is, however, possible to reconstruct the family through wills.

Harry Hatton of the parische of Forthampton wrote his will on 27 November 1587¹. His bequests included:

- unto Harrye my sonne and to his heires for ever one tenement .. within the parrishe of Burrowe ... [and] one Crofte and parcell of errable Lande and pasture ... within the parrishe of Bushlye ... [and] one tenement ... within the parrishe of Derehurst ... [and] one acre of errable Lande ... adioyning it selfe unto the towne of Tewxburye
- unto John my sonne ... three tenements ... within the parrishe of Upton uppon Severne But if it happen John my sonne to decease without heires of his bodye Lawfully begotten ... [it] shall ... come unto Harrye Alexander William and Phillip Hatton my sonnes by equall portions to be devided amongst
- to Alexander my sonne ... twoe tenements ... one ... within the parrishe of Tirlye als Trinlye ... And thother ... at the Rye in the parrishe of Tirlye als Trinlye But if it happen Alexander my sonne to decease without heires of his bodye Lawfully begotten ... [it] shall ... come unto Harrye John William and Phillip Hatton my sonnes by equall portions to be devided amongst them
- unto William my sonne ... one tente ... in the towne of Tewxburye ... And ... one acre of arable Lande ... within the parrishe of Tewxburye But if it happen William my sonne to decease without heires of his bodye Lawfully begotten ... [it] shall ... come unto Harrye John Alexander and Phillip Hatton my sonnes by equall portions to be devided amongst
- unto Phillip my sonne ... one tenement ... in the towne of Tewxburye ...[and] one acre of arable Lande ... within the parrishe of Tewxburye But if it happen Phillip my sonne to decease without heires of his bodye Lawfully begotten ... [it] shall ... come unto Harrye John Alexander and William Hatton my sonnes by equall portions to be devided amongst them
- Provided allwayes ... that Joane my wyfe shall have and receive the rents ... for the space and terme of twoe yeares next and consequently following after my decease / And the twoe yeares being expired and ended Then I will ... that all suche Rents ... shall remaine and come unto my foure sonnes beforenamed John Alexander William and Phillip Hatton to be received and to bestowed for them unto their most commodity and proffitt
- unto Elenor Edwardes my daughter in money twenty
- unto Elizabeth Clerk my daughter in money twenty
- Joane my wyfe ... whome I doe make my wholle and sole executor
- overseers ... Edward Hatton and Phillip Heywarde

Henry's widow, Joan, wrote her will of Joan Hatton on 14 November 1618². She made only two bequests:

- my soñe Phillip Hatton one fether bed [with other household items]
- all the reste of my goodes unbequeathed I doe give unto my soñe Henry Hatton

Their sons John and Alexander predeceased their mother. In his will³, dated 8 October 1610, Alexander Hatton makes no mention of any siblings. The Nuncupative Will of John Hatton dated 20 August 1617⁴, after two minor bequests the will states:

¹ <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wrag44/wills/hattonwills/HenryHatton1587.htm>

² <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wrag44/wills/hattonwills/JoneHatton1623.htm>

- And he did make appointe and ordaine Henry Hatton his brother his sole and onelie Executor

The will was witnessed by John Hatton the younger and Henry Hatton.

In the will of Joan Hatton's mother, Alice Hayward, written 10 September 1585⁵, there are bequests to:

- Johane Hatton my daughter
- Harrie Hatton sonne of Harrie Hatton
- Willyam Hatton soñe of Harrie Hatton

This confirms that Joan, wife of Henry Hatton, was the daughter of Thomas and Alice Hayward. As the two sons mentioned are the first and fourth sons, this will gives no indication of which children had been born before Joan's death.

In the will Joan Hatton's father, Thomas Hayward, written 15 January 1567/68⁶ there is a bequest to "Jone Hatton a sylver spone"

To summarise this information, Henry Hatton and Joan Hayward married before 1568. Their were, in order:

1. Henry Hatton
2. John Hatton
3. Alexander Hatton
4. William Hatton
5. Phillip Hatton

Of these sons only Henry had married prior to his father's death.

Their daughters were:

1. Elenor Edwardes, and
2. Elizabeth Clerk

Both daughters had married before their father's death.

The children all appear to be adults at the time their father wrote his will in November 1587, although the phrase "that all suche Rents ... shall remaine and come unto my foure sonnes beforenamed John Alexander William and Phillip Hatton to be received and to bestowed for them unto theire most commoditye and proffitt" could suggest that those four at least may have been under 21. However, as Alexander, the third son, married on 2 February 1587/88 at Elmstone Hardwicke, he was probably born in about 1562, so the phrase may relate only to what was to be done prior to the sons' marriages.

A sixth son may be Edward Hatton, who wrote his will on 12 July 1574⁷. In his will he made bequests to:

- Jone my wife
- Henry Hatton my brother
- Alexander Hatton my brother

This will cannot belong to a brother of Henry Hatton the father as, while he did have a brother named Edward, that brother died in about 1596⁸.

³ <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wrag44/wills/hattonwills/AlexanderHatton1613.htm>

⁴ <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wrag44/wills/hattonwills/JohnHatton1617.htm>

⁵ <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wrag44/wills/haywardwills/AliceHayward1585.htm>

⁶ <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wrag44/wills/haywardwills/ThomasHayward1568.htm>

⁷ <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wrag44/wills/hattonwills/EdwardHatton1575.htm>

⁸ <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wrag44/wills/hattonwills/EdwardHatton1596.htm>

This indicates the following order of children, with possible dates of birth:

1. Edward – 1552
2. Henry - 1554
3. Eleanor – 1556
4. Elizabeth - 1558
5. John - 1560
6. Alexander - 1562
7. William - 1564
8. Phillip - 1566

William Good

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