

The Family of John and Joan Hayward

The children of this couple were born before the commencement of Parish Registers in 1538. Details can be reconstructed from wills.

From the will of John Heyward of Forthampton, dated 18 February 1543/44¹:

- Wyllyam my sonne
- Margery my dowtter
- Anne my dowtter
- Alys my dowtter
- Thomas my sonne
- Jone my wyffe
- Overseers - Wyllyam my sonne and Thomas my sonne

From the will of Jone Heywarde widowe of Forthampton, dated 19 November 1545:

- Thomas my sonne
- Margery my doghtter
- Anne my doghter
- Alys my doghtter
- Wyllyam my sonne “he to truy & justely fulfyllle the last wyil & testament of hys father John Heywarde concerning thos thyngges that be not expressyd within hys testament as well as those that be there expressyd “

Of these children:

William was the principal heir and therefore probably the elder son. He married, in about 1552, Joan, widow of John Surman, whose will was granted probate at Worcester 3 February 1551/52. Joan had had six children by her first husband and had a further three by William. If Joan had married at 18, had six children over a period of 12 years she would have been about 30 when she married William. William may have been the same age, but as he died in 1568, predeceasing his wife by 23 years, he could have been considerably older. The latest he could have been born was about 1520.

Thomas had children born from about 1535 to about 1550. Therefore he was born in about 1510.

The Gloucestershire Military Survey 1522² lists only one Hayward, John Hayward, with assets valued at £13 6s 8d. His sons cannot have been old enough to have been recorded.

No information has yet been located on the daughters or their marriages.

It is impossible to establish an order of birth of the children, however it is likely they were all born between 1505 and 1520.

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¹ <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wrag44/wills/haywardwills/JohnHayward1543.htm>

² *The Military Survey of Gloucestershire, 1522* edited by R.W. Hoyle BGAS 1993, page 168