

The Family of Piers Hatton of Kirstibriches

**‘To his assured friend Mr. Raphe Dutton at his house at
Hatton. Geve these :**

‘My verye good frend Mr. Dutton yo^r gentill p[’]mys to me at yo^r Last being at Saint James (a howse of y^o quenes 1572). Towching the Searche of suche auncient Records monuments ensygnes and escochens as may lead me to su[’] descent of the howse and Lyne whereof I my selfe am dyscended, moved me to trowble you wth these lettars The bearer whereof Laurence bostok ; I have (of selfe purpose) sent downe unto yo, to gather and take notice of all suche Emblasons as serve to my purpose, for a true petigre of my name, and alliance, to whome when I shall und^rstand, y^t yo^u are so ayding, and assysting (as for yo^r acquayntance I knowe yo^u may be, and for frendshippe Sake I trust yo^u wilbe) yo^u shall fynd me evar as Ready to pleasure yo^u and yo^r, So in hope he shall fynd yo^r helping hand, and I have cause to be thankefull for his entertayment, I end wysching yo^u well, ffrome the Court the xvth of July an^o dni 1572

‘Yo^r very assured frend to my uttermost power,

‘CH. HATTON.’

Thus began the search by the future Sir Christopher Hatton for the “true petigre of my name” based on “suche Emblasons as serve to my purpose.”¹ His correspondent, Ralph Dutton of Hatton, was the heir to the estates of the family of Hatton of Hatton and the senior representative of that family.² It seems Dutton was not convinced of Christopher Hatton’s claims, as two years later Dutton’s brother-in-law, Henry Townsend, felt the need to advise him on the matter:

I have sene Those Records and boks to warant that w^{ch} his wo^rshippe dothe challenge w^{ch} in dutie and Reason you are to yeld unto, yo^r Estate Lyvinge, and callinge, nothings thurby impaired, but yo^r discent better affirmed and furnyshed wthe Richer coats, and also nowe a wo^rshipfull kinseman to be a piller to you and yo^r, wherefore dowbte yo^u not, of my credyt and words, he meanethe nothings Towards yo^u, nor yo^r Lands, no more to endamage yo^u than I do, butt in Respecte, yo^u wold not seeme to give those armes That his enemye should saye he cold not warrant theme, no^r the colledge of the harrolds justly confirme theme, ffor M^r Hatton is discended (as it dothe appeare by the petigree w^{ch}e M^r bostoke will shewe yo^u) of the secu^d howse, and wthall you haue fynes and Recov^{ies} w^{ch}e dothe barre hym albeit he had Righte, wherefore the matter to yo^u ys nott vaylable, and yett of the other p[’]te (Refusing this to do) he maye have just cause of mislike and unkindenes in yowe and yet in thend, gyve the armes,

The words “he cold not warrant theme, nor the colledge of the harrolds justly confirme theme” suggest Dutton’s doubts were justified. Townsend advised him to choose between “a worshipfull kinseman to be a piller to you and yors” or an enemy who “maye have just cause of mislike and unkindenes in yowe.” Dutton wisely accepted Hatton as a kinsman.

Christopher Hatton’s researcher, Lawrence Bostock, completed his work and his research formed the basis of all later Hatton pedigrees. According to Bostock, the Hattons descended from “Ivon a noble man of Normandy [who] had 6 sons which came into England with William Conqueror.”³

According to Bostock, by the sixteenth century the family was represented by eight main branches. The eight branches were said to be descended from eight of the ten sons of Piers Hatton of Kirsty Birches and his first wife Margaret Bostock.⁴



*Left: Hatton impaling Bostock as Hatton pedigrees claim them to have been⁵
Right: Hatton impaling Bostock as depicted in 1640⁶*

Piers Hatton

Piers or Peter Hatton was living in 38 Hen. VI (1459/60) and was recorded in 12 Edw. IV (1472/73) and during the reign of Richard III (1483-1485).⁷ His father, William Hatton, was alive in 14 Hen. IV (1412/13) and 13 Hen. VI (1434/35) and his grandfather, William Hatton, had been alive in 2 Hen. V (1414/15).⁸ These dates suggest a date of birth for Piers Hatton in the 1420s or 1430s.

Margaret Bostock

According the Bostock pedigree in the 1580 Visitation of Cheshire, Margaret Bostock was the daughter of George Bostock of Mobberley, who was the eldest son of Nicholas Bostock by his wife Katherine, daughter and co-heir of Sir William Mobberley.⁹

Nicholas Bostock was the fourth son of Sir Adam Bostock, who, in some pedigrees, was said to have died at the Battle of Blore Heath in 1459, although it is probable he survived until 1475.¹⁰ Sir Adam was born on or about 6 March 1412 and married Elizabeth de Venables in about 1434.¹¹ Nicholas was Sir Adam's third, possibly fourth¹², son and had five sisters, so he could have been born no earlier than 1437. His son, George, would then have been born in or soon after 1460, and George's daughters in the early 1480s.

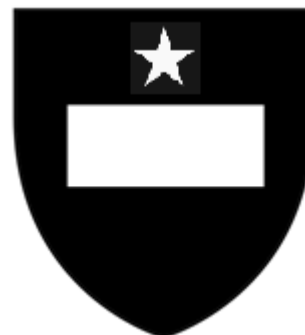
The pedigree of the Baskerville family of Old Withington¹³ records Margaret Bostock's sister, Agnes, the wife of Randle Baskerville of Old Withington. According to this pedigree, Agnes, "daughter and coheiress of George Bostocke, of Modburlegh, 2nd son of sir Adam Bostocke," was Randle's wife in 23 Hen. VI (1444/45), 2 & 3 Edw. IV (1461/62 & 1462/63) and 22 Edw. IV. (1482/83) and had two adult sons living in 1477. One of these sons was slain in 1478.

The marriage of Agnes Bostock and Randle Baskerville occurred prior to 1444/45. It may have been a family alliance symbolised by a marriage between two minors, however, as John, the son who was slain in 1478, was their third child, Agnes must have been of childbearing age in the early 1450s and so was probably born about 1430. Agnes was the younger of the two sisters¹⁴ so Margaret would have been born in about 1428.

This suggests that George Bostock was born in about 1400. This makes it impossible for him to have been the son of Nicholas Bostock as recorded in the visitations. The descendants of Nicholas Bostock's other children are consistent with Nicholas being born in the mid 1430s.¹⁵

George Bostock's mother, Katherine Mobberley, was supposedly the daughter and coheir of Sir William Mobberley. The last William Mobberley of Mobberley was William, sheriff of Chester in 1319, who died in 1327.¹⁶ While there is no record of his having a daughter named Katherine it is possible he did. If so, Katherine could have been born no later than 1327 and could not have married Nicholas Bostock in the 1450s.¹⁷

If George Bostock were, as suggested in the Baskerville pedigree, the 2nd son of Sir Adam Bostock, then this could not be the Sir Adam born in about 1412. It could, however, be Sir Adam's grandfather, another Adam Bostock, who died in 2 Hen. V (1414/15).¹⁸



The Arms of Bostock of Moulton, sable a fesse humetté argent, a mullet for difference.

It should be noted that the arms used by Margaret Bostock and most of her Hatton descendants were very similar to the arms of Bostock of Moulton.¹⁹ This family descended from Ralph Bostock of Moulton, younger brother to Sir Adam Bostock, great grandfather of the famous Sir Adam of Blore Heath.²⁰

The sons of Piers Hatton and Margaret Bostock

According to the Visitations the ten sons of Piers Hatton and Margaret Bostock were:

1. Richard Hatton of Ellesmere
2. Piers Hatton of Kirsty birches
3. Henry Hatton of Holdenby
4. Robert Hatton of Norley
5. John Hatton of the Shroggs
6. Randoll Hatton of Weaverham
7. Adam Hatton of Northwood
8. Simon Hatton of Stockton Yate
9. Hugh Hatton
10. Claudius Hatton

As Margaret Bostock was born in about 1428, her children by Piers Hatton would have been born between 1445 and 1475. The Hatton pedigrees do not mention any daughters.

1. Richard Hatton of Alderton or Ellesmere

Richard "fflood out of Cheshire for killing a man & dwelt at Ellesmere."²¹ According to some pedigrees he died without issue.²² According to others, his descendants settled in Shrewsbury.²³ In 1584 the traditional arms of the Hatton family, *azure, a chevron between three garbs or*, were confirmed to Edward Hatton, head of the family which claimed descent from Richard.²⁴ This confirmation is of little value in the Elizabethan period when:

*much could be done to establish an ancient descent for a gentleman of consideration.*²⁵

Richard's grandson in the pedigrees, Richard Hatton of Long Ditton in Surrey, married Mary, daughter of George Evelyn of Long Ditton, on 7 October 1566.²⁶ This suggests a date of

birth for Richard of Long Ditton in about 1545. This Richard was the third son of another Richard Hatton (born in the 1510s), son of Richard of Alderton or of Ellesmere, who was, therefore, born in about 1490.

In the *Visitation of Shropshire 1623* another generation was interposed between Richard of Ellesmere and Richard of Long Ditton.²⁷ This would push back the birth of the first Richard of Ellesmere to the mid 1460s.

Dates of birth of either about 1465 or about 1490 are both inconsistent with Richard being the eldest son of Piers and Margaret.

2. Piers Hatton of Kirsty birches

As the inheritor of Kirsty Birches, Piers Hatton the younger was the only child who must have been a child of Piers and Margaret.

According to the *Visitation of Cheshire 1580* Piers married Margaret, daughter of Rouland Perpoint of Warington, and had a son, also named Piers, who married Anne, daughter of John Clayton of Thelwell. According to the *Visitation of Shropshire 1623* and other pedigrees there was only one Piers, who married Anne Clayton and the second Piers and the Perpoint marriage is omitted.²⁸ This confusion over the number of generations with the name Piers suggests that Piers may have been married twice and that Anne Clayton was his second wife.

The History of the County Palatine and City of Chester states that Piers Hatton and Agnes Clayton were married by Dispensation from Pope Alexander VI, dated 20 November 1495, and that Piers was living in 34 Hen. VIII (1542).²⁹ The need for this Papal Dispensation implies consanguinity or affinity. Anne/Agnes Clayton was said to be the daughter of John Clayton of Thelwall, whose wife was the base daughter of Sir Geffery Warburton of Areley.³⁰ The names Clayton and Warburton do not appear in Piers Hatton's family, nor do the names Hatton, Bostock or Perpoint appear in the Clayton or Warburton families. However, the identification of Ann/Agnes as the daughter of John Clayton of Thelwell is doubtful as John is said to have died in about 1450³¹ and as Ann/Agnes did not marry until 1495, she is unlikely to have been born before about 1470.

Piers and Agnes/Anne's son, Lawrence Hatton of Kirsty birches, died 26 March 1574, having been married for 71 years.³² His wife, Avice was daughter to Edmund Griffin of Barderton, bastard son of John Griffyn of Barterton.³³ As Lawrence's parents had only married in 1495 he could have been no older than five when he married.

If there were two generations named Piers, then the younger was old enough to marry in 1495 and have children immediately after his marriage. Therefore the younger Piers would have been born in about 1470 and his father, Piers the elder in about 1445.

If there was only one Piers Hatton then there is no way of estimating his age without any further information regarding his first wife.

3. Henry Hatton of Holdenby

The Hatton Pedigree in *The History of the County Palatine and City of Chester* records his death prior to 3 Hen. VIII (1511/12).³⁴ Other sources state that his widow, Elizabeth Giles, had remarried by 1511.³⁵

The first mention of Henry Hatton in the Heralds' visitations is in the Visitation of Northamptonshire in 1564.³⁶ In that visitation he was described as the son of Laurence

Hatton of Dowden, Cheshire, by his wife “Jone, da. to John Danyell of Daresbury, co. Chester gent.” Henry Hatton married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of William Holdenby of Holdenby.

This visitation of 1564 was compiled during the lifetime of Christopher Hatton of Holdenby, Esq., later to become Sir Christopher Hatton, Lord Chancellor of England.³⁷ As it was prepared prior to Sir Christopher’s rise to power it is more likely to be correct than the grand pedigree later constructed for him by Lawrence Bostock.³⁸

Sir Christopher was born in about 1540, second son of William Hatton of Holdenby by his second wife. William’s first marriage was an arranged match made in his youth.³⁹ so allowing for the birth of an elder son by his second wife, William was probably born in about 1510.

William Hatton was the grandson of Henry Hatton and Elizabeth Holdenby, and therefore Henry must have been born in the mid to late 1460s. However, as Henry was not the son of Piers and Margaret Hatton, this is of little relevance.

As observed, the *Visitation of Northampton in 1564* records Henry’s parents as Lawrence Hatton and Joan Danyell. Joan Danyell was the daughter of John Danyell of Daresbury, Cheshire. This would be the John Danyell who married Alice Heleigh shortly before 1445.⁴⁰ This marriage date is consistent with the calculated birth year of Henry Hatton.

4. Robert Hatton of Norley

Robert Hatton, the fourth son, married Margery Browne or Broome of Croton in Cheshire and had three sons.⁴¹

Robert’s great-great-grandson, Thomas⁴², married at Frodsham in Cheshire in 1559⁴³ and so was probably born in about 1538. Thomas was the eldest son of Thomas Hatton and his wife Elizabeth, daughter of John Hocknell of Hocknell, by his wife, Margery, daughter of John Minshull of Minshull.⁴⁴ John Hocknell or Hokenhull was born in about 1460.⁴⁵ His wife, Margery, was the aunt of people active in 33 Hen. VIII (1541/42),⁴⁶ so was probably younger than her husband. Elizabeth, their eldest daughter, may have been born in about 1510 and her husband, Thomas Hatton the elder, at about the same time.

Thomas Hatton the elder was the son of Robert Hatton and Blanch, daughter of Thomas Rutter by the daughter of Thomas Manley.⁴⁷ Thomas Rutter was born in about 1446.⁴⁸ His eldest son, William, was born in about 1479,⁴⁹ so Blanch Rutter was probably born in the 1480s and her husband in the late 1470s or early 1480s.

Robert Hatton, husband of Blanch Rutter, was the son of Thomas Hatton and Jone Frere or Free of Wereham. Thomas was probably born in the late 1450s and his father, Robert Hatton of Norley would have been born no later than the mid 1430s.

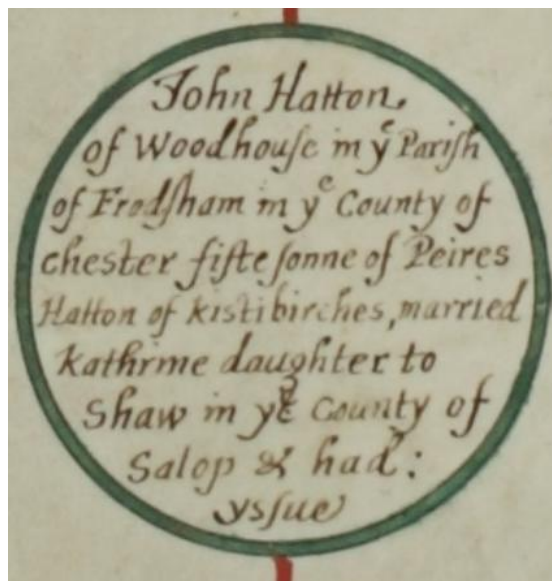
This date is incompatible with his being a son of Piers and Margaret.

5. John Hatton of Shroggs

John’s great-grandson, Richard Hatton⁵⁰, married Elene Kinsie at Warmingham, Cheshire, in 1553.⁵¹ Richard was probably born about 1530. He was the third son of John Hatton (grandson of John Hatton of Shroggs) and Maud Proudlove, so John, Richard’s father, was born in the late 1490s or early 1500s.

This last named John was the son of Richard Hatton (son of John Hatton of Shroggs) and Margaret Fithion. This Richard was born in the early 1470s and so his father, John Hatton of Shroggs, was born about 1450. This date is compatible with his having been the son of Piers and Margaret.

In another pedigree, prepared in 1640 and preserved in the Cheshire Archives,⁵² this same John Hatton is identified as “John Hatton of Woodhouse in y^e Parish of Frodsham in y^e County of Chester.” In this descent John of Woodhouse is said to have married Kathrine Shaw, the same woman who appears as the wife of John Hatton of Shroggs, and to have had three sons, the middle son, and the only son to have descendants, being Hugh Hatton, ancestor of Hatton of Woodhouse.



In the pedigree of Hatton of Woodhouse in *The Visitation of Cheshire 1580*⁵³ the wife of John Hatton of Woodhouse is unnamed and he had only two sons, neither of whom was named Hugh. John of Woodhouse is said to be descended from John Hatton of Woodhouse “belonging to the honor of ffrodsham discended of the Hattons by Warton t^{pe} E. 2.”

According to the 1640 pedigree John Hatton, son of Hugh Hatton of Woodhouse, died before 1640, aged 80, and in 1640 John’s eldest son was aged 59, therefore born in about 1581. This would suggest that Hugh Hatton, if he existed at all, had been born in about 1530. His father, John Hatton of Woodhouse, would then have been born in about 1500. This date would make it impossible for him to have been the son of Piers and Margaret.

6. *Randall Hatton of Weverham*

Richard Hatton, great-great-grandson of Randall Hatton of Weaverham⁵⁴, married Elizabeth Marsh at Frodsham, Cheshire, in 1560.⁵⁵ Richard was therefore born in the late 1530s, his father, Thomas, in the early 1510s and his grandfather, Richard, in the late 1480s.

The last Richard was a third son, so his father, Thomas, was born in about 1460 and his father, Randall Hatton of Weaverham, in the late 1430s or early 1440s. This is too early for Randall to be the son of Piers and Margaret.

7. *Adam Hatton of Northwood*

By 1580 Adam Hatton had eleven great-grandchildren.⁵⁶ One of them was Myles Hatton, a mason in London. Myles Mason, freemason, was buried at St Michael Bassishaw, London, on 12 July 1583.⁵⁷ On 24 November 1571 Myles had married Julyan Mercer at St Michael Bassishaw.⁵⁸

Myles Hatton was therefore born in about 1545. He was the son of John Hatton of Sutton, Surrey (born about 1520), the son of George Hatton (born about 1495). George Hatton was the younger son of Adam Hatton of Northwood who, therefore, was born in the early 1460s.

8. *Simon Hatton of Stockton Yate*

Simon Hatton was the great-grandfather of Richard Hatton “a beneficed Preist about Enfield.”⁵⁹ This Richard Hatton was a Roman Catholic priest arrested in Lancashire for

recusancy in 1583.⁶⁰ He had been appointed Rector of Shelley, Essex, in 1558⁶¹ and deprived in 1568.

Father Hatton, who was probably born in about 1530, was the second son of William Hatton (born about 1500), the son of Lawrence Hatton (born in the mid 1470s), the son of Simon Hatton of Stockton Yate, who was therefore born about 1450.

9. Hugh Hatton & 10. Claudius Hatton

Hugh was a monk and Claudius a rebel. Both are said to have died unmarried.⁶²

Summary

Child	Date of Birth		Comment
	Deduced	Calculated	
Richard	1446	1490	Based on the 1580 Visitation of Cheshire Richard of Ellesmere cannot be the same person as the son of Piers, who probably died without issue.
Piers	1448	1445	Possibly married twice
Henry	1450	1465	Not a member of the family
Robert	1452	1435	Born too early to be a member of the family.
John	1454	1450/55	
Randall	1456	1440	Born too early to be a member of the family.
Adam	1458	1465	
Simon	1460	1450	
Hugh	1462	-	No external proof of his existence
Claudius	1464	-	No external proof of his existence

Of the ten men the only ones who could have been children of Piers and Margaret are Piers, John, Adam, Simon, Hugh and Claudius. It should be noted that while Piers and Margaret did have had a son named Richard, some sources suggest he died without issue. As the family estates were inherited by the second son this is quite likely.

Piers Hatton and the daughter of John Grimsdich.

According to the Visitations Piers Hatton married, as his second wife, the daughter of “Grimsdich of Grimsdich”⁶³ or “... filia Joh’s Grimsdich [of Grimsdich].”⁶⁴

By her he had issue:⁶⁵

1. Hugh Hatton, a merchant in London
2. Alice, married to an Alderman of London
3. Elenor, married in Chester
4. Margrett

Hugh Hatton, of Saint Sepulchre without Newgate, wrote his will on 15 January 1522/23.⁶⁶ He left bequests to his daughters Elizabeth and Margaret, both of whom were not “of lawful age of marriage.” The eldest daughter was buried in 1603 and had her last child baptised in 1564⁶⁷ so it is probable she was only an infant in 1522. This suggests that Hugh was married shortly before 1520 and born in the 1490s when his father was aged in his mid to late sixties.

As Hugh was the only son and possibly the youngest child of Pier’s second marriage this date is consistent with his being Pier’s son.

Other Branches

The Visitation of Cheshire 1580 lists two further branches of the Hatton family, Hatton of Woodhouse and Hellesby and Hatton of Groppenhall and Tearton.⁶⁸ Bostock's records refer to Hatton of Dundun within the Lordship of Hatton juxta Wavertone.⁶⁹ This latter branch is probably the same as Hatton of Dudden, Cheshire, to which Christopher Hatton's forebear, Lawrence Hatton, belonged.⁷⁰ The Bostock records also mention the Hattons of Thacchall and the Hattons of Clatherwick.⁷¹

The first of these branches, Hatton of Woodhouse and Hellesby, was said to be "descended from the Hattons of Warton," and Hatton of Groppenhall and Tearton was "discended of the Hattons of Woodhouse."⁷²

None of the other branches appeared in the Herald's Visitations, although it must be assumed from Bostock's work that they were armigerous.

Fantastical Family

As it is quite clear that many of the children allotted to Piers and Margaret could not possibly have been their children, the question arises: why was the family constructed?

The Hatton pedigrees are based on the research carried out by Lawrence Bostock in the 1570s.⁷³ In every case where the parentage of the purported children can be proven to be impossible or improbable, there was a descendant who was a contemporary of Bostock's.

Richard Hatton of Ellesmere was the purported ancestor of Thomas Hatton of the Abbey Foregate, an important man at Shrewsbury, who died in 1601, and his youngest brother, Richard Hatton of Long Ditton in Surrey, who died in 1617.

Henry Hatton of Holdenby was the great-grandfather of Bostock's employer, Sir Christopher Hatton.

The children of Humphrey Hatton of Talworth, *Robert Hatton of Norley's* great-grandson, were living at Long Ditton in Surrey.

Randall Hatton of Wereham was the ancestor of Robert Hill, servant to Mr Gerard, the Queen's attorney.

Of the sons who could possibly be children of Piers and Margaret:

Adam Hatton of Northwood was the great-grandfather of Myles Hatton who died in 1583, a Freemason in London.

Simon Hatton of Stocton Yate was great-grandfather of Robert Hatton, "her majesty's yeoman usher" and of James Hatton, Rector of Long Ditton, who died in 1572.

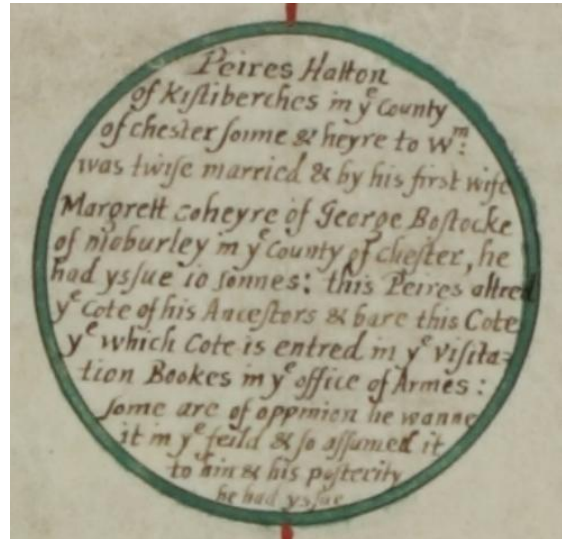
Piers' son by his second wife, *Hugh Hatton*, was the father-in-law of Robert Taylor, an important haberdasher, who was Sheriff of London in 1593.

Arms

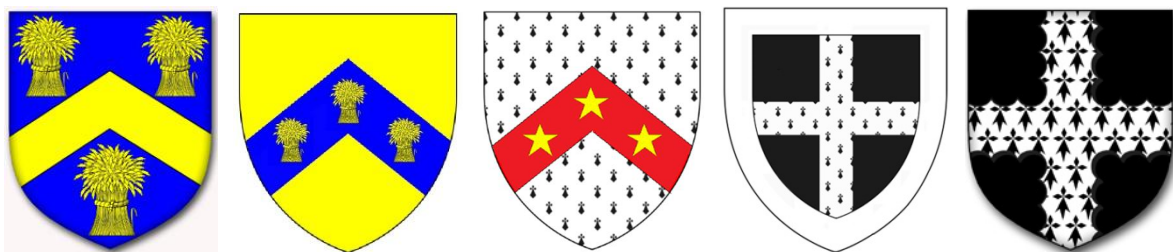
The fantastical nature of this family is reflected in their arms.

The traditional arms of Hatton are *azure, a chevron between three garbs or*. The arms of the elder branch of the family, Hatton of Hatton, extinct in the male line in the reign of Henry III, were *or on a chevron azure, three garbs or*.⁷⁴ The arms said to borne by Piers Hatton of Kirsty Birches were *ermine on a chevron gules three estoiles or*.⁷⁵

In a parchment roll, entitled “The Auntient Decent or Genealogie of the Hattons of the County Palatine of Chester and Continued to John Hatton now of Coleraine in y^e Realme of Ireland who is branched out of y^e sayd Family, 1640,”⁷⁶ which was compiled in 1640, Piers Hatton “altred y^e cote of his Ancestors & bare this Cote y^e which Cote is entered in ye Visitation Bookes in y^e office of Armes: some are of oppinion he wonne it in y^e feild & so assumed it to him and his posterity.” This curious tale perhaps disguises the probability that the Hattons who used these new arms were not descended from Piers Hatton at all.



The arms first used by Sir Christopher Hatton were *sable a cross ermine bordered argent or sable a cross engrailed ermine*.⁷⁷ The latter arms are those of the Hallum family. The Hallums were ancestors of Piers Hatton of Kirsty Birches. After a great deal of research Lawrence Bostock assigned Sir Christopher “a shield quarterly of ten: Hatton of Hatton, Golburne, Brune, Rixton, Hallum of Hallum, Hellesby of Hellesby, Bostock of Moberly [sic], Holdenby, de la Carvaile, and Washingley.”⁷⁸ By the time he was appointed to the Order of the Bath this had risen to fourteen quarters.⁷⁹



Left to Right: The traditional Hatton Arms; the arms of Hatton of Hatton; the arms of Piers Hatton; and the two variants arms used by Sir Christopher Hatton.

This confusion over arms suggests that when Lawrence Bostock undertook his research in the 1570s, there were, or had been, at least three distinct Hatton families. Mr Bostock united them into one great family and happily placed Sir Christopher Hatton at its pinnacle.

It is interesting to compare the elaborate arms of Sir Christopher Hatton with those accorded to John Hatton of Colraine in Ireland, said, in the 1640 pedigree, to be descended from Piers and Margaret Hatton.



Left: The Arms of Sir Christopher Hatton from a portrait dated ca. 1575
 Right: The Arms of Hatton of Colraine, from the 1640 pedigree.

While the blazons have differing arms for Hatton, they both include: Golborn (*argent, a cross patonce between four martlets gules*); Bruyn (*argent, an eagle displayed sable*); Halom (*sable, a cross engrailed ermine*) Hellesby (*or, a saltire sable*); and Bostock (*sable, a fesse humetée argent, a crescent for difference*). The arms of Hatton of Colraine bear an annulet for difference, indicating their purported descent from John Hatton, the fifth son of Piers and Margaret Hatton. These five families were all ancestors of Piers and Margaret Hatton. It is highly doubtful that either Sir Christopher or the “four year ould” John Hatton of Colraine had any claim to these arms.

Margaret Bostock Revisited

With the whole structure of the family open to doubt, questions must be asked. Why does Margaret Bostock appear in an impossible position on the Bostock pedigree? Did Laurence Bostock transplant Margaret’s father from a minor branch to the main line of the family to give himself a close connection to his honoured employer? Laurence Bostock was the grandson of John Bostock, illegitimate child of Ralph Bostock, Lord of Bostock, who died in 1482, and Ralph was an elder brother of Nicholas Bostock of Moberley, Margaret’s supposed grandfather.⁸⁰

Margaret’s impossible Bostock descent, together with the differenced Bostock arms used by the Hattons, suggests that her family was transposed, either mistakenly or deliberately, from a minor branch of the Bostock family to the senior line of the family.

Conclusion

The family of Piers Hatton of Kirsty Birches, as it appears in the Visitations, is a composite family created by Lawrence Bostock to prove that his Hatton contemporaries were descended from a family that dated from the Norman Conquest.

William Good
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- ¹ *Memorials of the Duttons of Dutton in Cheshire* (London 1901) page 42 - 44
- ² *The History of the County Palatine and City of Chester* by George Ormerod and Thomas Helsby (London 1882) Volume 2, page 795-796
- ³ *The Visitation of Cheshire 1580*, edited by John Paul Rylands (London 1882), page 110
- ⁴ *The Visitation of Cheshire 1580*, page 118; *The Visitation of Shropshire 1623*, edited by Geortge Grazebrook & John Paul Rylands (London 1889), page 225
- ⁵ *The Visitation of Shropshire 1623*, page 225
- ⁶ Ermine, on a chevron gules, three stars or (Hatton) impaling Sable, a fesse humetté argent, a mullet or for difference (Bostock of Moulton), Cheshire Record Office ZGMC5
- ⁷ Ormerod & Helsby. Volume 1, page 745. The date in the reign of Richard III is given as 7 Ric. III. This is an error as Richard III did not have a 7th year as king. It is probably 2 Ric. III (1484/85)
The Visitation of Shropshire 1623 page 225
- ⁸ Ormerod and Helsby, Volume 1, page 745, *The Visitation of Shropshire 1623* page 225
The date for the elder William Hatton is 2 Hen. V (1414/15) in the Visitation but 2 Hen. IV (1400/01) in Ormerod & Helsby. As William the elder's father was alive in 13 Hen. IV (1411/12) the date in the reign of Henry V seems more likely.
- ⁹ *The Visitation of Cheshire 1580*, pages 27, 28, 31 and 32.
- ¹⁰ *Of Cheshire Stock: The Ancient Bostock Family of Bostock* by A.J. Bostock (Internet version 2012) page 18-19
- ¹¹ Op. cit. page 16
- ¹² Op. cit. pages 18-19
- ¹³ Ormerod & Helsby Volume 3, page 718
The History of the County Palatine and City of Chester by George Ormerod (London 1819) Volume 3, page 355
- ¹⁴ *The Visitation of Cheshire 1580*, page 32
- ¹⁵ <http://www.bostock.net/tree/bostgen/trees/bost5.html>
- ¹⁶ Ormerod & Helsby Volume 1, page 416
- ¹⁷ The impossibility of the Bostock Mobberley marriage is illustrated by the 1580 Visitation of Cheshire. Under "Bostock of Moberley," page 31, "Nicholas Bostock of Maburlegh, younger son of S^r Adam Bostock of Bostock" is said to have married "Katherine d. and coheire to S^r William Mobberley Knight." Under "Bostestock al's Bostock," pages 27-28, "Nicholas Bostock of Morburley," is said to be the son of "S^r Adam Bostock Knight, Lord of Bostock, slaine at Bloreheath an'o 1459," by his wife "Elizabeth daughter & heire to Hugh Venables baron of Kinderton." Under "Venables, Baron of Kinderton," pages 228-229, "S^r Hugh Venables Baron of Kinderton" is said to be great-grandson of an earlier "S^r Hugh Venables of Kinderton," who married, as his first wife, "Elizab. D. to S^r W^m Modberley." So it seems that Nicholas Bostock married the sister of his own great-great-great-grandfather's first wife. It should be noted that a few trees on the internet claim that Katherine Mobberley was the daughter of Sir William Mobberley and his wife, Agnes Arderne. No sources are given for this assertion and no other reference for this couple can be found.
- ¹⁸ Ormerod Volume 3, page 135
- ¹⁹ Sir Christopher Hatton used the undifferenced arms as did the Hattons of Long Ditton, Surrey, (*A Visitation of the County of Surrey Begun Anno Dni MDCLXII Finished Anno Dni. MDCLXVIII*, edited by Sir George Armytage (London 1910) page 57). Hatton of Shrewsbury used the Bostock arms with a crescent for difference (*The Visitation of Shropshire 1623* page 225).
- ²⁰ *The Visitation of Cheshire 1580*, page 27
- ²¹ *The Visitation of Cheshire 1580*, page 113
- ²² Ormerod & Helsby, Volume 1, page 745
- ²³ *The Visitation of Cheshire 1580*, page 113
- ²⁴ *Shropshire Arms and Lineages* by Rev. F.W. Kittermaster (London 1869), page 31
- ²⁵ *Sir Christopher Hatton, Queen Elizabeth's Favourite* by E. StJ. Brooks (London 1946) page 75
- ²⁶ *The History of the Evelyn Family* by Helen Evelyn (London, 1915), page 26
- ²⁷ *The Visitation of Shropshire 1623*, page 225
- ²⁸ *The Visitation of Shropshire 1623*, page 226; Ormerod & Helsby, Volume 1, page 745
- ²⁹ Ormerod & Helsby, Volume 1, page 745. Living 34 Hen. VII (1542/43)
- ³⁰ *The Visitation of Cheshire 1580*, page 65 & 114
- ³¹ *Chronicles of Thelwall, Co. Chester, The Topographer and Genealogist, Volume 1* (London 1846) page 384
- ³² *The Visitation of Cheshire 1580*, page 114
- ³³ Ibid. In the *The Visitation of Cheshire 1580* page 114 she is called Agnes or Alice.
- ³⁴ Ormerod & Helsby, Volume 1, page 745
- ³⁵ *Memorials of Holdenby* by E.S. Harthorne (London 1868) page 2
- ³⁶ *The Visitation of Northamptonshire, 1564 and 1618-19* page 27
- ³⁷ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christopher_Hatton

- ³⁸ *Sir Christopher Hatton, Queen Elizabeth's Favourite* by E. StJ. Brooks (London 1946) pages 73-81
- ³⁹ Brooks pages 24-25
- ⁴⁰ *The History of the County Palatine and City of Chester* by George Ormerod and Thomas Helsby (London 1882) Volume 1, page 734
- ⁴¹ *The Visitation of Cheshire 1580*, page 115; *The Visitation of Shropshire 1623*, page 228
- ⁴² *The Visitation of Cheshire 1580*, page 116
- ⁴³ <http://www.findmypast.co.uk/>
- ⁴⁴ *The Visitation of Cheshire 1580*, page 116 & 122
- ⁴⁵ Ormerod & Helsby, volume 2, page s 315-316, aged 40 in 16 Hen. VII (1500/01)
- ⁴⁶ Ormerod & Helsby, volume 1 page 738.
- ⁴⁷ *The Visitation of Cheshire 1580*, page 116
- ⁴⁸ Ormerod and Helsby, Volume 2, page 94 (Aged 37 in 1 Richard III [1483/84])
- ⁴⁹ Ormerod and Helsby, Volume 2, page 94 (Aged 40 in 11 Henry VIII [1519])
- ⁵⁰ *The Visitation of Cheshire 1580*, page 117
- ⁵¹ <http://www.findmypast.co.uk/>
- ⁵² "The Auntient Descent or Genealogie if the Hattons of the County Palatine of Chester and Continued to John Hatton now of Coleraine in y^e Realme of Ireland who is branched out of y^e sayd Famiely, 1640, Cheshire Record Office ZGMC5
- ⁵³ *The Visitation of Cheshire 1580*, page 119-120
- ⁵⁴ *The Visitation of Cheshire 1580*, page 117
- ⁵⁵ <http://www.findmypast.co.uk/>
- ⁵⁶ *The Visitation of Cheshire 1580*, page 118
- ⁵⁷ London Metropolitan Archives, St Michael Bassishaw, Composite register: baptisms 1557 - 1663, marriages 1557 - 1661 and burials 1557 - 1663, P69/MIC1/A/002/MS06987.
- ⁵⁸ Ibid.
- ⁵⁹ *The Visitation of Cheshire 1580*, page 119
- ⁶⁰ *Elizabethan Recusancy in Cheshire* by K.R. Wark (Manchester 1971) page 53
- ⁶¹ *Recusants in the Exchequer Pipe Rolls 1581-1592* (Catholic Record Society Publications: Records series, Volume 71 1986) page 79, note 122; <http://theclergydatabase.org.uk/>
- ⁶² Ormerod & Helsby, Volume 1 page 745; *The Visitation of Shropshire 1623*, page 229
- ⁶³ *The Visitation of Cheshire 1580*, page 113
- ⁶⁴ *The Visitation of Shropshire 1623*, page 225
- ⁶⁵ *The Visitation of Cheshire 1580*, page 113; *The Visitation of Shropshire 1623*, page 225
- ⁶⁶ The National Archives; Kew, England; *Prerogative Court of Canterbury and Related Probate Jurisdictions: Will Registers*; Class: PROB 11; Piece: 21.
- ⁶⁷ London Metropolitan Archives, St Magnus the Martyr, Composite register: baptisms 1560/1 - 1719/20, marriages 1557/8 - 1712, burials 1560/1-1720/1, P69/MAG/A/001/MS011361
- ⁶⁸ *The Visitation of Cheshire 1580*, page 119-120
- ⁶⁹ *A Catalogue of the Harleian Manuscript in the British Museum, Volume 1* (1808) Page 40
- ⁷⁰ *The Visitation of Northamptonshire, 1564 and 1618-19* page 27
- ⁷¹ *A Catalogue of the Harleian Manuscript in the British Museum, Volume 1* (1808) Page 40
- ⁷² *The Visitation of Cheshire 1580*, page 119-120
- ⁷³ Harley Manuscript 139, British Library
- ⁷⁴ Ormerod & Helsby, Volume 2 page 795
- ⁷⁵ *The Vale Royal of England*, first published by Daniel King in 1656
Cheshire Record Office ZGMC5
- ⁷⁶ Cheshire Record Office ZGMC5
- ⁷⁷ Brooks pages 73 & 391
- ⁷⁸ Ibid.
- ⁷⁹ *A book of Knights banneret, Knights of the bath, and Knights bachelor, made between the fourth year of King Henry VI and the restoration of King Charles II* by W.C. Metcalfe (London 1885) page 131
- ⁸⁰ Ormerod & Helsby, Volume 3 page 259