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CHAMBERLAYNES IN THE ANCESTRY OF THE BETTS FAMILY OF NEWTOWN, LONG ISLAND

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This article, which augments an earlier one in these pages,¹ incorporates new research performed for the compiler by Paul C. Reed, which allows us to extend the Chamberlayne lineage back one more generation.² Previously the documented lineage began with the Rev. Robert Chamberlayne (as he always signed his name), who, after serving at Wardington, Oxfordshire, as chaplain to Sir Richard Chetwood,³ was appointed (almost certainly on Chetwood's recommendation) to the living of Strood, Kent.⁴ By a somewhat tortuous process, it was determined that he must have been the Robert "Chamberlaine," of co. Bedford, *pleb.*, who was subscribed at Brasenose College, Oxford, on 30 January 1600/1, at the age of 18 years, and took the B.A. degree on 13 December 1604.⁵ The designation of *plebeian* (i.e., commoner) clearly precludes his having been son of an esquire or of a prominent gentleman.⁶

The only evidence we were previously able to adduce for Robert Chamberlayne's family connections was his will, dated 24 September 1638, in which he describes himself as "Robert Chamberlaine, Minister & Preacher of Godes holy word & Pastor of the Parish & Congregat[i]on of Stroud [i.e., Strood] in the

¹ John Blythe Dobson, "A Note on the Reverend Robert Chamberlayne of Strood, Kent, Father-in-Law of Capt. Richard¹ Betts of Newtown, Long Island," TAG 79(2004):228-34.

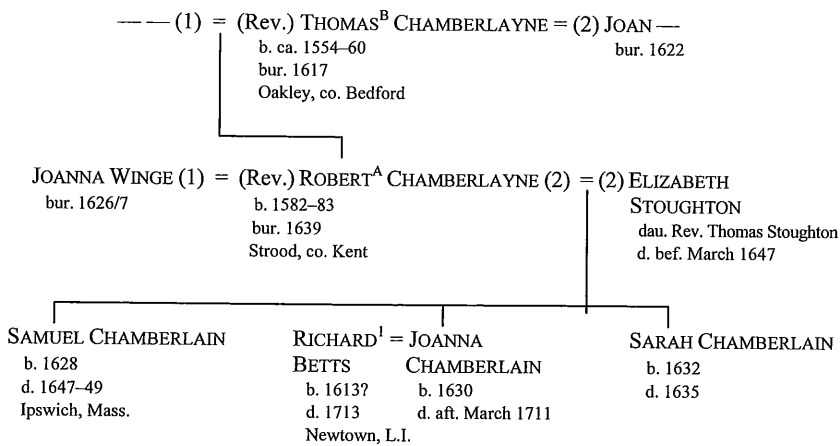
² Paul C. Reed, FASG of Salt Lake City, Utah, searched the Oakley parish registers, English probate records, university records for Oxford, and other English sources, and made many useful suggestions and comments on the interpretation of these records.

³ In our previous article we mentioned a 1606 reference to a Robert Chamberlain, curate of Wardington, a chapelry in the parish of Cropredy, in the hundred of Banbury. Reed has since investigated this further and found that "Robert Chamberlaine" was minister to the "Chapel of Wardenton in the parish of Cropredy," co. Oxford, on 7 April 1606 (Sidney A. Peyton, ed., *The Churchwardens' Presentments in the Oxford Peculiars of Dorchester, Thames and Banbury*, Oxfordshire Record Soc., 10[1928]:411, item no. 313).

⁴ Since the publication of our earlier article, further research has revealed that Chamberlayne is mentioned as minister of Strood in Edward Hasted, *The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent*, 2nd ed., 12 vols. (Canterbury, 1797-1801), 3:559, and also in the Rev. C. H. Fielding, *The Records of Rochester* (Dartford, Kent, 1910), 271. These references, however, do not supply any additional details.

⁵ Joseph Foster, ed., *Alumni Oxonienses, 1500-1886*, 8 vols. (London, 1887-97), 1:258. Examination of the original subscription register at the Bodleian Library, Oxford, confirms that Robert's age at subscription was 18, as published by Foster.

⁶ Contrary to the suggestion in L. F. Salzman et al., eds., *The Victoria History of the County of Oxford*, 13 vols. (London, 1907-79), 10:221.



County of Kent,” and mentions “my two naturall bretherne [*sic*] & their wyves and . . . my twoe naturall sisters & their husbands.” Finally, he appoints “my loveing brethren, Christian frende[s] & neighboures, Mr. Doctor Stoughton, Mr. Nathaniell Chamberlain, Mr. Thomas Chamberlaine, Mr. Henry Scudder, [and] Mr. Martin Caesar, to be overseers of this my last will and testament.”⁷ Stoughton was a brother of his second wife, and Scudder was her brother-in-law by her first marriage.⁸ The implication seems clear that Nathaniel and Thomas Chamberlaine were the testator’s biological brothers. The document shows that we should expect to find two married sisters, with their husbands, alive in 1638, but that Martin Caesar was pretty surely *not* one of these sisters’ husbands.⁹

Oxford University records contain entries for a Thomas Chamberlayne who was subscribed at Lincoln College, Oxford, on 21 June 1583, took the degree of B.A. on 17 February 1586/7 and M.A. on 2 July 1596.¹⁰ These records may or may not

⁷ PCC 103 Harvey, modern reference PRO PROB 11/180; punctuation added for clarity, and capitalization normalized. This will was transcribed in full in the previous article.

⁸ The crucial evidence for these identifications is given in Jane Fletcher Fiske, “A New England Immigrant Kinship Network: Notes on the English Origins of the Scudders of Salem and Barnstable, Massachusetts, Bridget (—) (Verry) Giles of Salem, and Joanna (Chamberlain) Betts of Long Island,” TAG 72(1997):285–300, at 292–93.

⁹ We mentioned in our previous article that he might be accounted for by the marriage of a Martin Caesar on 13 March 1626[7] at Strood to Alice Feilding. Paul Reed has since brought to our attention another (perhaps younger) Martin Caesar, of Rochester, Kent, who married Margaret Chapman and appears with an adult son in the 1663 Visitation of Kent (George J. Armytage, ed., *A Visitation of the County of Kent, Begun Anno Dni. 1663, Finished Anno Dni. 1688*, Harleian Soc. Pubs., 54[1906]:31). But we have found no one of the name who could have married a sister of Robert Chamberlayne.

¹⁰ *Alumni Oxonienses*, 1:258. John Venn and J. A. Venn, comps., *Alumni Cantabrigienses* . . . , 2 pts. in 10 vols. (Cambridge, Eng., 1922–54), pt. 1, 1:317, claims that this Thomas Cham-

pertain to only one man. It may be remarked that neither can relate to a writer of any note, as there is no mention of such a person in Wood's *Athenae Oxonienses*, which covers this time period extensively; nor does any writer of this name and date appear in the current library catalogue of Oxford University. That the subscriber of 1583 was the same as the man of that name who was father of Robert Chamberlayne is highly unlikely, as that is the same year Robert was born, and there were very few married undergraduates at Oxford in the sixteenth century.

"Thomas Chamberlaine" was admitted as vicar of Oakley, near Bedford, sometime in the twelve-month period prior to 1 May 1588.¹¹ The advowson of Oakley was in the hands of Eaton College, but the alumni lists there contain no Chamberlaines before 1665. Many ministers in the sixteenth century did not have university degrees. Decisive evidence that this was the right family was found in Thomas's will, dated 4 October 1609 and proved on 17 May 1617, the original copy of which reads:

In the name of God Amen. I Thomas Chamberlaine Vicar of Okleye in the countye of Bedford beinge of good and p[er]fect memorye: (praised be God): do make this [*superscript*: my last] will and testament in manne[r] and forme following First I comitte my selfe soule and bodie, into the handes of God, trusting that of his great mercye, in Jesus Christe my Saviour, he will p[ar]don and forgive me all my sinnes, and accepte me among the number of his elect and chosen, and so make me p[ar]taker of his Kingdome of glory and I will that my bodye be decently buried, in hope of a ioyfull [i.e., joyful] Resurrection at the laste daye, and uniting againe to my soule to enjoye in both life eternall. As concerninge my goods, and substance moveable, and unmoveable, I will that when God almightye the onley cause, matter and effect of my salvation who gave mee my soule shall take the same from my bodye, that my Sonne Robert have my howse, att Sharnebrooke, wth all the appurtenances therunto belonging [*superscript*: to him & his heires for ever,] on this condition that my wife h[is] mother in lawe [i.e., stepmother], have her dwelling and being there so long as she continueth Widdowe, and no longer: and also that he be helpfull to the rest of his bretheren & sisters, to his powe[r], if they live and behave them selves honestly & paynfullye, in that calling, w[hi]ch God shall call them unto, Ite[m] I will that all of her corporall benifits, as my housholde stuffe, cattle, grayne, woode, App[ar]ell, bookes, and Whatsoever currant money of Engla[n]d ether to mee owing, or in my house Knowne after my departure, wth all thinges else of right app[er]taining to mee, of God his free gift and mercy on mee bestowed, by his divine p[ro]vidence and blessing to the maintenance of my corporall life, of my familye, and others, w[hi]ch have neede of my helpe, to be well ordered, and disposed, by my twoe eldest Sonnes, giving the greatest p[ar]t to the p[ar]tye that hath greatest neede Ite[m] I will that every God child of mine have xij *d.* a piece, lastly I make my two Eldest sonnes [*superscript*: my] Executors. And I desire Mr Doctor Bulkley, and Mr Jones Parson of Bolnhurst [Bedfordshire] to be overseers written the 4th of October An[n]o D[omi]ni 1609: I willyth my Overseers shalbe considered [i.e., compensated] accordinge to their paines by my executors

berlayne was both vicar of Oakley, Bedfordshire, from 1588 through 1614 and vicar of Kimbolton, Huntingdonshire, 1604–1620. Although these places are only about 13 miles apart, this theory is impossible given the death of the present man in 1617, as will be shown. Therefore, this account has confused two different men of the same name.

¹¹ The date of 1 May 1588 as the *terminus ante quem* was sent by a correspondent who did not supply a source citation, but the year of 1588 is established by *Alumni Cantabrigienses* despite the inaccuracy noted above.

M[emo]r[an]d[um] because my daughtr Roose hath received hir p[ar]t & knoweth where she shall have the reste I geve to her xijd & to hir husbände xijd for their p[ar]ts of this my laste will or testame[n]t

[probably memorandum] that the Interlyning of (to him & his heires for ever) in thifyfenth lyne, was so done at the sealing in the p[re]sence of me John Faldo

[signed] Thomas Chamberlayne / Minist[er] of the worde / of God at Okeley

[a seal, possibly heraldic but indistinct in the microfilm copy]¹²

The probate clause states that the executors named in the will (the testator's two eldest sons) renounced administration, upon which the court appointed the testator's widow to administer the estate. It has not proved feasible to have an examination made of the Act Book, which is not available on microfilm at the Family History Library. The overseer "Doctor Bulkeley," however, was clearly the Rev. Edward Bulkeley, D.D. (ca. 1540–1621), of nearby Odell, Bedfordshire, father of Peter¹ Bulkeley, the New England immigrant. As Paul Reed notes, "He is the only Doctor Bulkeley to whom Thomas could possibly have been referring. That he was named overseer indicates at least friendship and trust as well as like sentiment in religion." Jacobus calls the Rev. Edward Bulkeley a "moderate Puritan."¹³

Robert was surely the testator's eldest son, as he was the only one named and he was given the house in the nearby parish of Sharnbrook, just northwest of Oakley, and immediately east of Odell. Examination of the transcription of the register and the Bishops' Transcripts of Sharnbrook found no baptism, marriage, or burial for any Chamberlayne before 1700, so evidently Robert did not take up residence there. There were no probate records for any Chamberlayne "of Sharnbrook," which suggests that it was probably not an ancestral inheritance but merely a purchase made by Thomas.

GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY

THOMAS^B CHAMBERLAYNE, vicar of Oakley, co. Bedford, was born probably around 1555–60; he died testate shortly before 19 April 1617 when he was buried at Oakley. It seems probable from the absence of any earlier Bedfordshire probate records which can be associated with this man or of pertinent entries in the parish register of Oakley prior to his ministry there, that he was not of a local family. He married first — —, who died by 1590; no trace of her identity has been found. He married secondly by 1609 (when he made his will), JOAN —, who was buried at Oakley on 4 May 1622. Given the date at which he was instituted at Oakley, there is no reason to expect that his elder children would have been bap-

¹² Archdeaconry of Bedfordshire, Original Wills, 1617, 256/116 [Family History Library (FHL), Salt Lake City, film #1,066,801]; see also Archdeaconry of Bedfordshire, Registered Wills, 1616–17, ff. 177–78 [FHL film #88,020].

¹³ Donald Lines Jacobus, *The Bulkeley Genealogy* (New Haven, 1933), 14–17, at 16.

tized there; and, as it was a parish with a small population, it had a small register, which Reed examined thoroughly.

Child of Thomas^B Chamberlayne with his unknown 1st wife:

- i ROBERT^A CHAMBERLAYNE, doubtless the eldest son in view of the bequest in his father's will, b. 1582–83 (aged 18 on 30 Jan. 1600/1), bur. Strood, Kent, 1 June 1639 as "Mr Robert Chamberlayne Pastor of the Parische of Strood."¹⁴ The phraseology of his father's will makes it clear that he was not the son of the 2nd wife, Joan. He m. (1) Banbury, co. Oxford, 13 Jan. 1612/[3], JOANNA WINGE, bur. there, 20 Feb. 1626/7, daughter of Matthew Winge, of Banbury, by the latter's (1st?) wife Mary —. He m. (2) Strood, 30 April 1627, ELIZABETH (STOUGHTON) SCUDDER, widow (with issue) of John Scudder, and daughter of the Rev. Thomas Stoughton, a deposed Puritan minister. After her 2nd husband's death, she came to Mass. with children of both her marriages. Her daughter, Joanna Chamberlayne, was the wife of Capt. Richard Betts of Newtown, L.I., and ancestress of the Betts family of that place.

Children of Thomas Chamberlayne with his 1st or 2nd wife:

- ii NATHANIEL CHAMBERLAYNE. "Pen trials" (penmanship exercises) of "Nathaniel Chamberlaine" are in the 1st volume of the Oakley parish register, under date of 1607. He may have b. before 1588, as his baptism is not found at Oakley, or he may have been bp. elsewhere; the oldest child was frequently baptized in the mother's home parish.
- iii ROSE CHAMBERLAYNE, may have been b. before 1588; m. Oakley, 19 Jan. 1612/3, THOMAS RUSSELL.

Children, all bp. at Oakley, co. Bedford:¹⁵

1. *William Russell*, bp. 13 July 1617, presumably the one of this name who m. Oakley, 24 Jan. 1640/[1], Frances Smith.
 2. *Richard Russell*, bp. 2 June 1622, presumably the one of this name who was bur. Oakley, 3 Oct. 1696, having m. there, 17 Jan. 1652/[3], Elizabeth Finding.
 3. *Thomas Russell*, bp. 1 Jan. 1623/[4].
 4. *Edward Russell*, bp. 18 Dec. 1625.
 5. *Ann Russell*, bp. 24 Dec. 1626, bur. 13 June 1627.
 6. *Ann Russell* (again), bp. 25 Dec. 1629.
- iv ALICE CHAMBERLAYNE, bp. Oakley, 11 Sept. 1590. Although the name of the mother is not given in the record, she likely had the same mother as Thomas, below, as their births are only two years apart. An Alice Chamberlaine m. Oakley, 20 Jan. 1630/1, DANIEL GEORGE of Wootton,¹⁶ but this seems very late for the present woman.
- v THOMAS CHAMBERLAYNE, bp. Oakley, 16 Dec. 1592 (mother not named in record), bur. Oakley, 11 Dec. 1646; m. there, 16 Aug. 1626, ELIZABETH PERRY, who as Elizabeth Chamberlaine, widow, was bur. there, 4 Jan. 1680/[1].

¹⁴ The material given here either appeared in my earlier article or in Fiske, "New England Immigrant Kinship Network," TAG 72(1997):289, 295–97.

¹⁵ From controlled extractions of the register in the International Genealogical Index [IGI].

¹⁶ Reed notes: Wootton was about five or six miles south of Oakley, so there might be some earlier familial connection there (there were Chamberlaine entries at Wootton St. Mary, including a Robert Chamberlaine bur. there, 13 May 1604). This last would apparently be the Robert Chamberlyn who was a churchwarden of Wootton on 4 July 1584 and who, with William Horne, was charged with "not presenting [i.e. reporting] evell rule done in the church by the Lord and the Ladie on Midsomer day"; the case was subsequently dismissed (E. R. Brinkworth, ed., *The Archdeacon's Court: Libri Actorum, 1584*, Oxfordshire Record Soc., 24[1942]:43–44).

Children, bp. Oakley, co. Bedford:

1. *Margaret Chamberlayne*, bp. 23 Dec. 1626.
 2. *Elizabeth Chamberlayne*, bp. 11 April 1628.
 3. *Mary Chamberlayne*, bp. 16 March 1629/30.
 4. *Grace Chamberlayne*, bp. 14 Oct. 1632.
 5. *Nathaniel Chamberlayne*, bp. 6 Jan. 1634/5.
 6. *Frances Chamberlayne*, bp. 23 Sept. 1638, bur. 3 Feb. 1640/1.
 7. *Thomas Chamberlayne*, bp. 22 Nov. 1640, bur. 2 May [1685?].
 8. *Joan Chamberlayne*, bp. 29 Sept. 1644.
- vi (poss.) ANN CHAMBERLAYNE, no baptism found, m. Oakley, 1 July 1629, WILLIAM FINDON, and had issue.

UNPLACED PERSONS

An entry in the burial register of Oakley under date of 1588 reads, *Decimo quinto novembris sepult' erat* [illegible] *id[em] ano p[re]dicto*, with a marginal insertion, “Tho[m]as Cha[m]b[er]laine of Okeley,” but the microfilm is too grainy and blurry to read more of the entry. As Reed notes, “if this was a burial for the father of the Thomas who was instituted to Oakley, rather than a son, it might extend the ancestry one more generation.”

A Christopher Chamberlaine was buried at Oakley on 16 December 1597.

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