Dear Glen

Thank you for your enquiry.

I read with great interest your request. I have researched the HOLLYMAN family in the Cuddington area for a previous client about eight years ago.

Looking back at my old reports I came across a reference to the Will of a Thomas HOLYMAN, Yeoman of Cuddington, dated 1560. Briefly, the beneficiaries of his Will were as follows:

Sons: Richard, Francis, Bartholomew, **Christopher,** George & John

Daughters: Dorothy, Katherine, Margaret, Frances & Elizabeth

The Christopher HOLLYMAN mentioned here may be the one whose Will was proved in Sherington in 1589

The Will of Thomas HOLYMAN is not held at the Bucks Record Office, Aylesbury but at the National Archives in Kew, ref: PROB 11/43/93 However, if you do not have a copy already, it can be downloaded from the website, charge £3.36. Link as

follows <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/SearchUI/Details?uri=D979439>

If you cannot access this link from outside the UK, I can order it for you and forward it on to you.

Regarding sixteenth century Wills, I can translate / transcribe most sixteenth century Wills if they are in English (including old English). A few very early ones, however, may be in Latin and these would need a translator proficient in Latin.

An English translation exists for the early Will of John HOLYMAN of Cuddington 1521 (written in Latin) in the Bucks Record Society publication *The Courts of the Archdeaconry of Buckingham 1483 -1523.* The Will is very short. Family beneficiaries were:

Wife: Elyn; sons William and John; daughter Isabell

The Bucks Record Society have a number of old volumes online at: <http://www.bucksvoice.net/brs/> The Wills volume just mentioned, re- John HOLYMAN is Volume 19, and can be found at this website. The relevant Will is on page 331. You may find them of use in your search.

The Centre for Bucks Studies (Record Office) charges £4.20 for a photocopy of an old Will. They can be ordered direct at <https://apps2.buckscc.gov.uk/ecommerce/WillsExternal/WillsExternalSearch.aspx>

Another alternative is to photograph the Wills with a digital camera and forward the images to you by E-mail ( or they can be put on a USB Memory Stick and posted, if preferred) The CBS charges £5.00 per day for using a digital camera in the search room and as many images can be taken as wished. If you do not have copies of the Wills already, the latter option may be preferable as the images of the copy Wills can be displayed on a computer enabling the text to be enlarged: invaluable as many of these old Wills are in very poor condition and can be difficult to read.

I am away 15 to 21 November but could met you at the CBS outside those dates. Alternatively, I can photograph the Wills for you in advance and forward them on to you. Transcription, if needed, can take two or three hours for each Will dependant on size. Some you will probably be able to read yourself, the remainder perhaps can be transcribed as you wish. Old Wills can vary a lot in legibility.

Something else, you may wish to do, if you have not done so already, is obtain searches from the Bucks FHS Baptism, Marriage & Burials databases. The charge is £3 per hundred years per surname (and name variants). The searches can be ordered direct from the Bucks FHS online at <http://www.bucksfhs.org.uk/> Then go to 'Database Searches'. These databases cover most Bucks parishes from their earliest date. This is helpful in gaining an overview of where specific families were located and then you can follow through with their births, marriages and deaths over a period of time. The results of the searches can be forwarded by E-mail.

If you would like me to photograph the Wills, my charges are £12.00 per hour plus travel costs (normally around £6.00). Use of a digital camera in the archives is an additional £5.00.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Kind Regards

Anne Holmes

Anne,

Here is my family tree, English and American, as I see it now. I need you, please, to read the wills of John (1521) and James (1531) of Cuddington, Christopher of Sherington (1589) and translate the pertinent portions for me.

A. Advise me as to the possibility and probability of this lineage.

B. If this lineage does not seem probable, would other Hollyman wills such as John of Cuddington (1533), William of Cuddington (1545), or William of Cuddington (1557) represent possible great grandfathers.

C. Can you suggest possible ancestors before John of Cuddington (1521)? There is a gap between this John and one William of Cuddington who was involved in a 1444 law suit. As the Holymans had a small manor farm, would manorial records be a place to look? This citation is in a local history of Tring.

D. There was another Richard Holyman who in 1386 was elected member of Parliament representing what is now High Wycombe. How would we trace how he might be in my line?

E. Keeping in mind your first emails, are there other avenues you might advise for research.

I am happy to advance you 60 pounds, approximately $100 to get this started. Would that be acceptable? Hope to meet and discuss with you in person on November 8th.

Below is the thesis under which I am working. Thanks for your help! Glenn

**THE PATERNAL FAMILY TREE OF**

**THE ULYSS S. HOLLIMAN FAMILY**

John Holyman (d 1521), **Cuddington, Buckinghamshire, England**

James (John?) Holliman (d 1531), **Cuddington, Buckinghamshire, England**

[Thomas Holyman (1500 ca - 1558)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/37093174/person/19036914864)**, Cuddington, Buckinghamshire, England**

***Possible Son of James***

[Christopher Holyman ( - 1588)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/37093174/person/19036234155)**, Sherington, Buckinghamshire, England**

***Possible Son of Thomas***

[Thomas Holyman (1580 ca - )](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/37093174/person/19036230028)**, Bedford, Bedfordshire, England**

***Son of Christopher***

[Christopher Holyman Sr. (1618 - 1691)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/37093174/person/19036226454)**, Isle of Wight County, Virginia**

***Son of Thomas***

[Richard Holliman (1660 ca - 1711)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/37093174/person/19036210515)**, Surry County, Virginia**

***Son of Christopher***

[Samuel Holliman (1709 - 1789)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/37093174/person/19036204926)**, Johnston County, North Carolina**

***Son of Richard***

[James Grantson Holliman (1750 - 1836)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/37093174/person/19036190508)**, Lancaster County, South Carolina**

***Son of Samuel***

[Cornelius Holliman (1792 - 1862)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/37093174/person/19036135086)**, Fayette County, Alabama**

***Son of James Grantson***

[Uriah Holliman (1817 - 1862)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/37093174/person/19034999932)**, Fayette County, Alabama**

***Son of Cornelius***

[John Thomas Holliman (1844 - 1930)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/37093174/person/19034897945)**, Fayette, Alabama**

***Son of Uriah***

[Ulysses Selman Holliman (1884 - 1965)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/37093174/person/19034583799)**, Irondale, Alabama**

***Son of John Thomas***

***Married to Pearl Elmer Caine (1887-1955), Irondale, Alabama***

***Seven Children: Melton, Vena, Euhal, Loudelle, Bishop, Virginia and Ralph***

***19 Grandchildren, one of whom is Glenn N. Holliman***

Dear Glenn

I visited the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies on Thursday and looked at all the HOLYMAN Will related to Cuddington and Haddenham dates 1521 to 1700. I have photographed these Wills and looking through them the following are most pertinent to your enquiry:

**John HOLYMAN of Cuddington 1521. Ref: DAWe/1/110** (Transcript Copy)

Wife: Ellen

Sons: John & William

Daughter: Isabell

**John HOLYMAN, Husbandman of Cuddington 1533. Ref: DAWe/3/26** (Court Copy)

Wife: Elizabeth

Son: Thomas

Daughter: Agnes

**Thomas HOLYMAN, Yeoman of Cuddington 1558. Ref: PROB 11/43** (PCC Will-Copy downloaded from national Archives website)

Wife: Dorothy (nee CLARK)

Sons: Richard, Francis, John, Bartholomew, Christopher &George

Daughters: Dorothy, Elizabeth, Frances, Katherine & Margaret

Overseers: George INGOLDSBY (friend) & Christopher CLARK (father in law)

Son Richard inherited the farm at Cuddington. Francis inherited some land held by Thomas in Oxfordshire. John also inherited some land held by his father. There is a Bargain and Sale agreement, date 1578, ref; D-LE/1/45 that names Thomas as the father of John and a John as the father of Thomas (also photographed). Sons Bartholomew, Christopher and George may have been under 21 in 1558 and the reason they were not given specific property but benefits from the profit of the crops produced at the farm. Minors as beneficiaries would also explain why Thomas named two Overseers in his Will

**Christopher HOLLYMAN of Sherington 1589. Ref: DAWf/11/99**

Wife: Margaret

Sons: John (eldest) & Thomas

Daughters: Dorothy, Ellen, Anne & Usselly (Ursula?)

Overseer: Mr. Thomas LEE (noted as Brother, possibly Christopher's brother in law)

All the children were under 21 years of age. Given the names of four of the children as John, Ellen, Thomas and Dorothy, it seems likely this Christopher was the son of Thomas and Dorothy HOLYMAN and a descendant of John and Ellen HOLYMAN. In addition, it seems Christopher was named after his mother's father, Christopher CLARK. Mr. Thomas LEE may be connected to the LEE family of Hartwell and possibly Christopher's brother in law. The Bargain and Sale agreement for John HOLYMAN already mentioned (ref: D-LE/1/45) is from the manorial records of the Hartwell LEE family. The LEE family are an old Buckinghamshire family. They acquired the Hartwell estate in 1650, after marriage in to the HAMPDEN family. See Wikipedia entry on Hartwell House [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hartwell\_House,\_Buckinghamshire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hartwell_House%2C_Buckinghamshire) It may be worth looking at the LEE manorial collection further as there may be additional clues to the family connection there.

The Will of **Francis HOLYMAN, Yeoman of Cuddington, 1603. Ref: DAWe/22/223** was of particular interest, also. Francis had no surviving children. He left his property and goods to various relatives. From the Will of Francis a picture of the wider family can be obtained. His mother's family, the CLARKS, are mentioned. Brother Richard HOLYMAN of London is mentioned, as is Richard's son, another Francis. Brother George HOLYMAN of Haddenham is named Executor.

I will transcribe the Wills of Thomas, Christopher & Francis. mentioned above. The Wills of Christopher and Francis are quite straightforward. The Will of Thomas is a little more difficult, as the printed copy form the National Archive website is very poor. Thomas' Will was proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in London as he held property in more than one parish and across more than one county. I am also compiling a skeleton family tree to show the relationships in each of the Wills found. It appears they were all related in some way. Have you considered tracing a living direct male descendant of the Cuddington HOLYMANS and going down the DNA route? It may be one way of confirming positively your ancestor Christopher HOLLYMAN was from the Cuddington HOLLYMAN line.

I have photographed all the Wills mentioned and, if you wish, I can send copies of the images as E-mail attachments. I can also send the copy of the PCC Will of Thomas HOLYMAN 1558, if you do not already have it.

I will provide more detail when we meet on 8th November. It would probably best to meet, initially, in the Refreshment Room at the Centre for Bucks Studies, as there we can discuss the nature of what has been discovered. In the meantime, if you have any questions about what is included in the Wills, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards

Anne Holmes

[www.bucksheritage.co.uk](http://www.bucksheritage.co.uk).

**Sent:** 30 September 2012 20:32
**To:** Anne Holmes
**Cc:** Barb Holliman
**Subject:** Holyman Family

Anne,

Here is my family tree, English and American, as I see it now. I need you, please, to read/review the wills of John (1521), James (1531) and Thomas (1559) of Cuddington , Christopher of Sherington (1589) and translate the pertinent portions for me.

A. Advise me as to the possibility and probability of this lineage.

B. If this lineage does not seem probable, would other Hollyman wills such as John of Cuddington (1533), William of Cuddington (1545), or William of Cuddington (1557) represent possible great grandfathers.

C. Can you suggest possible ancestors before John of Cuddington (1521)? There is a gap between this John and one Richard of Cuddington who was involved in a 1444 law suit. As the Holymans had a small manor farm, would manorial records be a place to look? I am aware of The Rev. John Holyman (1495-1558) of Cuddington, a probable great uncle of mine.

D. There was another Holyman who in 1386 was elected member of Parliament representing what is now High Wycomb. How would we trace how he might be in my line?

E. Keeping in mind your first emails, are there other avenues you might advise for research?

I am happy to advance 60 pounds, approximately $100 to get this started. Would that be acceptable? Hope to meet and discuss with you in person on November 8th.

Below is the thesis under which I am working. Thanks for your help! Look forward to hearing from you. Glenn

**THE PATERNAL FAMILY TREE OF**

**THE ULYSS S. HOLLIMAN FAMILY**

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***Son of Christopher***

[Christopher Holyman Sr. (1618 - 1691)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/37093174/person/19036226454)**, Isle of Wight County, Virginia**

***Son of Thomas***

[Richard Holliman (1660 ca - 1711)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/37093174/person/19036210515)**, Surry County, Virginia**

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[Samuel Holliman (1709 - 1789)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/37093174/person/19036204926)**, Johnston County, North Carolina**

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[James Grantson Holliman (1750 - 1836)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/37093174/person/19036190508)**, Lancaster County, South Carolina**

***Son of Samuel***

[Cornelius Holliman (1792 - 1862)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/37093174/person/19036135086)**, Fayette County, Alabama**

***Son of James Grantson***

[Uriah Holliman (1817 - 1862)](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/37093174/person/19034999932)**, Fayette County, Alabama**

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Wow! Anne,

Wonderful, wonderful....November 8 at Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies on Thursday, say 10:30 am at the Refreshment Room. I am happy to pay you for your time via Pay Pal now or in pounds when we meet. Please hold on to the wills until the 8th when we can review them together.

I shall study what you have sent already. A quick glance indicates that the line from John to Thomas to Christopher (d 1589) is a strong possibility. Now Christopher (1589) had a son named Thomas, and our American Christopher, if indeed from Bedford which is near Sherington, had a father named Thomas.

I do not know any Holymans from Cuddington. We have done DNA tests here in the States and yes, I am descended from Christopher Holyman, Sr. (1618-1691) who arrived in Jamestown, Virginia in 1650.

Could I employ you to find a male descendant from any Holyman clan in Buckinghamshire area? Is this a difficult task? Ideally two or three as somewhere along the line one might have been born on the wrong side of the bed.

Let me study this, and I shall see you soon. We sail on the QM2 October 28th, and will be in the Cotswolds by Nov. 4th. I shall have email contact and will be in touch confirming again our meeting when we get closer.

Please give me your DNA advice.

Many Thanks,

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Dear Glenn

Lunch on the 8th would be good. I look forward to it.

I have had a closer look at the Wills photographed last week and also a couple of others I downloaded from the National Archive website at the weekend. They PCC Wills from the National Archives have thrown up some interesting findings.

Firstly, back to the Will of Christopher HOLLYMAN of Sherington: Christopher singles out his daughter Usselly or Ursula. He bequests £33 - 6s - 8d to her, the same amount as the bequests to his other two daughters. However, Christopher states that the bequest to Ursula is made ...*Provided that my daughter Usselly shall not make any claime of any portion of mony or goodes that was given unto her by her Grandmother..*

Q; Why was Usselly / Ursula singled out by her grandmother? Was Usselly the eldest daughter, named after her grandmother, and did the grandmother die before the other daughters were born, hence this single bequest to Usselly by her grandmother?

Christopher named his 'Brother' Mr Thomas LEE as Overseer of his Will. This statement suggests Thomas LEE was either his wife's brother or perhaps the husband of one of his sisters.

I looked at the Will of Thomas LEE of Dinton (ref: PROB 11/54) who died c1572. Dinton is very close to Cuddington. This Thomas LEE was also connected to the later LEE family of Hartwell House. The beneficiaries of the Will of this Thomas LEE were as follows:

Wife: Ursula

Son : Thomas

Daughters: Margaret, Barbara, Mary and Elizabeth (all unmarried at that date-1572).

Did Margaret LEE, daughter of Thomas LEE, marry Christopher HOLLYMAN shortly after her father's death? If so, this would have made Ursula LEE, the grandmother of Usselly (Ursula) HOLLYMAN and Thomas LEE jr. Christopher's brother in law..

I also looked at the Will of John HOLLYMAN of London (ref: PROB 11/60) who died c 1578. This turned out to be the Will of the brother of Christopher HOLLYMAN of Sherington. John did not marry, or perhaps any wife and children had not survived. The beneficiaries of the Will of this John HOLLYMAN were as follows:

Brother: George HOLLYMAN (lands in Haddenham, Bucks bequeathed to George)

Sister: Katherine GREEN

Nephew: John HOLLYMAN, son of brother Christopher HOLLYMAN

Also mentioned is Elizabeth LEE, although no relationship to John HOLLYMAN is stated.

The nephew of John HOLLYMAN mentioned here is obviously John the eldest son of Christopher HOLLYMAN as named in Christopher's Will. This indicates, with the other evidence found, that siblings Christopher, George and John HOLLYMAN, Katherine GREEN and perhaps Elizabeth LEE also, were the children of the Thomas HOLLYMAN of Cuddington who died c 1558.

The evidence may also indicate that John HOLLYMAN, eldest son of Christopher, was born sometime between 1572 and 1578 (i.e. if Christopher did marry Margaret LEE). Thomas HOLLYMAN, son of Christopher, was probably born after 1578, and his Uncle's death, not to be mentioned in his Uncle's Will. I note, from your HOLLIMAN blog you are looking for a John HOLLYMAN, born c1572. John HOLLYMAN, eldest son of Christopher, is a possible candidate.

In addition, I have had a closer look at the Wikipedia article on the LEE family of Hartwell House. I note it states there General Robert E. LEE is connected to the LEE family of Hartwell. However, other information on the Internet suggest Robert E. LEE is connected to a different LEE family. It is interesting though that the first American ancestor of General LEE settled in Virginia as did your ancestor Christopher HOLLYMAN. I think these facts may warrant further investigation as it appears a positive ancestry for Robert E. LEE has not been fully confirmed.

The previous client I researched the HOLLYMAN family for was female, so can be ruled out regarding a DNA test. I will do a bit of background research to ascertain the possibility of tracing a living direct male descendant of the Cuddington HOLLYMANS. I also note a HOLLIMAN DNA project has been set up with Family Tree DNA in the States. At present is the data just confined to that collected from North American families or are their UK contributors? I had my own MT-DNA tested with Family Tree DNA earlier this year so I have some access to their databases but until I investigate, I am not sure how much. If I can access the HOLLIMAN database it would be interesting to look at the findings.

Finally, I can receive payment by PayPal. I can send you a current invoice and request payment via the PayPal system , if your prefer.

Any queries on the above information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards

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Anne,

First let me thank you for this careful and insightful research. It is fascinating how you tie the pieces together, especially with the Lees and Dinton.

The Sherington Holymans seem to be indeed tied to the Cuddington family. NOW, can we tie the Sherington Thomas Holyman more carefully to the Bedford, Bedfordshire Thomas Holyman? My opinion is these persons are one and the same, but my evidence is circumstantial. Age, location and names of sons and fathers all work.

When you tie Christopher Holyman (1588 d) to the Lees, to one Thomas Lee, one gains the impression that Christopher named his second son, Thomas, after his Uncle Thomas Lee. Thomas Holyman of Bedford named his sons, John, Christopher and Thomas.

I am copying three of my U.S. Holliman historians with this news, and **Tina**, may I ask you to respond to **Anne**'s DNA questions? Anne, Tina Peddie who lives in California, is a descendant, as I am I of Christopher Holyman who died in Isle of Wight, Virginia in 1691. Tina specializes in DNA tests for the family.

The John Holyman (b 1572) of Tring is a name listed on many web sites in the States as the origin of the American family. My research has cast serious doubt on this, although a John Holyman died in Virginia in 1650 with no issue (or at least none mentioned in will; nor a spouse). However, I am wondering if Christopher's (1588) son, John, could be the John who died in Virginia in 1650. Did Christopher (d 1691) leave England in 1650 to follow in the footsteps of his Uncle John, his father, Thomas's, older brother? Speculation but possible.

But then again why would a 78 year old John Holyman be living in Virginia in 1650? Perhaps the 1650 John was a son of the John born in 1572 to Christopher (1588). More plausible, my Christopher (1691) was following a cousin, not an elderly uncle?

So if Christopher (1588) is truly a great grandfather, his wife is a probable Lee. Ha, would that not be ironic that the Lees came to Virginia following in the footsteps of Holyman cousins?! Fascinating to consider.

Just send the invoice and we will Pay Pal you! Thanks ever so, so much for this information. You have greatly advanced our research!

Glenn

P.S. Nov. 8 - 10:30 am at the Centre refreshment room for will review, and then to the cafe for lunch.

Dear Glenn

In response to your query on the naming of the second son of Christopher HOLLYMAN, Christopher may have named his second son Thomas after his own father or his father in law, Thomas LEE, we will never know but. More interesting is the name of the first son as John: a link back perhaps to the their early ancestor John HOLLYMAN of Cuddington.

I have had a look at the abstracts of land agreements for Virginia online on *Ancestry* relating to the HOLLIMANS (entry attached)*.* It is interesting Judith HOLLIMAN is included in the agreement. English Law in the seventeenth century stated a married women had no property rights. On marriage any property owned by a women would have passed to her husband. The Judith HOLLIMAN included in this agreement must have either been unmarried or a widow in 1653. It adds a little more weight to the possibility Judith was from Bedford, perhaps emigrating with her brother. I also note from a list of early immigrants to America (date 1635) that John SHERLOCK and Robert SUTTON were of similar age to the Christopher HOLLYMAN born in Bedford. John SHERLOCK was born c 1615 and Robert SUTTON in 1618, although it is unclear where they were born. I did wonder, have you examined the original land agreement document? Who was the third HOLLIMAN and fourth person in the agreement? Knowing the fourth person might help with the search.

It is possible the answer to any connection between the Cuddington HOLLYMANS and the Thomas HOLLIMAN in Bedford may lie Bedford Record Office. How far have the Bedford HOLLIMANS been researched there? Thomas HOLLIMAN and Helena POYNARD (m1609) had nine children in all: John b1610; Ellenora b1612; Joan b1613; Thomas b1616; Christopher b1618; Judith b1621; Eleanor b1623; Stephen b1625 and Mary b1628. Following on, from the IGI it appears Stephen stayed in Bedford. He had a daughter Ellen baptised there in 1662. Sons Thomas and John may have also remained in Bedford. If not done already, following up this family in Bedford might aid the search. There is a mortgage agreement of a Thomas HOLLYMAN, Cutler of London, date 1654, for a cottage in Bedford: a document worth looking at. There may be other documents in the Bedford Record Office relating to Thomas HOLLYMAN.

I am at the CBS on Thursday. I will look further to see if I can find any connection between the Thomas HOLLYMAN born in Sherington and the Thomas who was father of Christopher in Bedford.

I have attached a copy of my invoice. I will send a request for payment via the PayPal system with a reference to the Invoice number.

Any queries, let me know.

Kind Regards

Anne

Dear Glenn

The payment via PayPal came through just fine. Many thanks.

I have done a little more research at the Centre for Bucks Studies this week and as part of the research I am trying to find out what happened to all the children of Christopher HOLLYMAN in the event this may provide some additional clues to Bedford and to provide some context for the family after Christopher's death. He would have left a young widow to raise a young family.

I looked at the Will of Eleanor LEE (d 1633). She was born Eleanor HAMPDEN and she was related to the family of the famous Parliamentarian John HAMPDEN. It is through the marriage of Thomas LEE to Eleanor HAMPDEN that the LEE family eventually acquired Hartwell House.

Eleanor LEE (nee HAMPDEN) would have been sister in law to Christopher HOLLYMAN. Thomas, her husband was knighted either in the late sixteenth century or in the early part of the seventeenth century.

The Victoria County History of Buckinghamshire states Eleanor and Thomas had twenty four children in all <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=62771&strquery=Dinton> In the mid seventeenth century the Lee family were to become Baronets of Hartwell

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=62775&strquery=Hartwell>

Sir Thomas LEE and his wife spent most of their life, it appears at Dinton. Eleanor LEE left a Will. In her Will of 1633 she makes a bequest of £3 to William HOLLYMAN, son of Ursula HOLLYMAN: Ursula, the daughter of Christopher perhaps? I have also discovered a possible marriage for Ursula HOLLYMAN in 1609 at All Saints, High Wycombe. It is recorded on the Bucks FHS Marriage database (no groom given) but I could not find the marriage in the original register. It is something I will have to follow up with the Bucks FHS. If you are agreeable, I will request a search from the Bucks FHS of the surname HOLLYMAN across the birth, marriage and burial databases. The cost is £3 per 100 years for a single surname (and all variants). Parish registers in England did not start until around 1540. Those that have survived from the Tudor period are very patchy but it is still worth requesting the search as it will give a broad overview of the HOLLYMAN family in Bucks for the period chosen. A birth, marriage and burial search for all Bucks parishes, for the surname HOLLYMAN for 100 years, say c1540 to 1640 would therefore be £9.00. The results will be E-mailed to me and I can then forward them on to you.

Another interesting find was the baptism in 1576, at Dinton, of a Thomas HOLLIMAN. No parents are stated on this baptism entry. Many of the other baptisms on the same register page did not have parentage of the child recorded either. It was just the form that the Rector of the parish at that time chose to record the entries. Although, no parents were given for the baptism of this Thomas HOLLIMAN it is possible, because of the location and date, that he was the first child or son of Christopher HOLLYMAN and his wife Margaret (nee LEE). Dinton would have been Margret LEE's home parish and it was not uncommon for a new mother to have her first baby in the home of her parents and therefore her home parish. If this Thomas was the first son of Christopher he did not survive, as the Thomas HOLLYMAN recorded at school in 1595 would not have been nineteen years old. The schoolboy Thomas was probably around ten to fourteen years old in 1595.

The evidence that Christopher HOLLYMAN of Sherington was connected to the Cuddington HOLLYMANs is very strong. The Buckinghamshire HOLLYMANS, in the Tudor era, appear to have been at the height of their wealth and status in English society and at that time they were connected to some high status families in the locality: the WENMANS was another noble family that the HOLLYMANS married in to in the Tudor era. As you state, the next part of the search is to connect Thomas HOLLYMAN of Bedford to Thomas, son of Christopher. When you were in Bedford Record Office last, did you mange to check the burial register of St. Mary, Bedford to ascertain if any of the HOLLYMAN children died in infancy, just to cover all possibilities? To avoid repetition it would be useful to know what sources covered whilst you were there?

All being well, when we meet in November, I will have the transcripts of the most relevant Wills ready and hopefully some news of potential living male HOLLYMANS connected to the Cuddington area.

Any queries regarding the above, let me know.

Kind Regards



Dear Glenn

I have found so far the location of two living HOLLIMAN / HOLLYMAN male candidates who appear to have ancestry connected to the Chearsley, Cuddington or Haddenham area. One in particular appears to have a direct connection to Cuddington. He lives in Yorkshire at present. The second is more local and his connection appears to be to Chearsley, a parish that neighbours Cuddington. I need to do a little more research before confirming the information. And, of course, there is the problem, once contacted how willing they would be to do the DNA test? Something to discuss, when we meet.

The are a few HOLLIMAN and HOLLYMAN in the Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire Phone Books but not all of them may local connections. Some may be female as the Phone Directory only gives an initial for the Christian name. If you can open the link, following is the British Telecom Directory online: <http://www.thephonebook.bt.com/publisha.content/en/search/residential/search.publisha> An 'Advanced Search' is best.

I have found the probable burial of Eleanor HOLLIMAN, wife of Thomas on the National Burials Index. It appears she died in 1653 and was buried 29 December at St. Mary's Churchyard, Bedford. It could have course though, been her unmarried daughter, Eleanor. I could not find Thomas. The National Burials Index is not complete so a search of the actual register is needed.

As to the Sherington HOLLYMANS, the four daughters of Christopher possibly married or perhaps died before adulthood. Thomas possibly migrated to Bedford or perhaps elsewhere and it is unclear what happened to John. Christopher's widow, Margaret may have re-married. This is where the database search might help. I will forward the results to you when I receive them. Baptism and burial searches are very quick once requested: marriages take about a week or so to be sent.

Any queries, let me know.

Kind Regards

Anne

Anne, I forward this from cousin Joe Parker in Texas, who has done a lot of American research on the Hollimans. Note Cavaliers and Pioneers. Any John Cox's in Bedfordshire at that time?

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Joseph or Gladys Parker** <parkerjg635@yahoo.com>
Date: Fri, Oct 19, 2012 at 10:32 AM
Subject: Re: Fwd: Great Berhamstead
To: Glenn Holliman <glennhistory@gmail.com>

I have no reference to any Hollyman (sp) working with anyone in England, period. But, keep this in mind; John Cox did work with the Hollimans in the Very early Virginia Colony. You would have to go to the CAVALIERS AND PIONEERS, series of books on early Virginia records. If my memory serves me correctly, one John Cox did transport many people in those days in exchance for land that was given by the Colony as payment for these services. There is something that has been pointed out to me in the past, about Holliman families, in that, they did try to wind up marrying into wealthier families. You can look at this in two ways: i.e. they were good looking, healthy men, and/or, intelligent people. I like to think both..... They, themselves, had something to offer, as women were about as scarce as hen's teeth in those days, so they had to have something to attract them. IN cases later down the line, some times, they did marry their own cousins - again, this is thought by some to be done to retain the common wealth within the family. Almost all the cases of Hollimans that I have researched, just about every one of them owned property.

I watch as your "Anne" in England transcribes all this stuff, and I am seeing a 'pattern' beginning to develop - that being a "landed' gentry in England that wanted to expand to the Colony, and continue to expand their wealth. I think that this is going to be extremenly interesting to watch unfold. Keep up the good works.

joe

**From:** Glenn Holliman <glennhistory@gmail.com>
**To:** Tina Peddie <desabla1@yahoo.com>; Joseph Parker <parkerjg635@yahoo.com>; Jeanette Stewart <stuffnsuch50@hotmail.com>
**Sent:** Thursday, October 18, 2012 8:11 PM
**Subject:** Fwd: Great Berhamstead

All, my latest info from Buckinghamshire! Joe, please note the reference to a Cox relative. Did you not surface a possibility that Christopher Holyman might have been working for a Cox in London or did I imagine that"

Glenn

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Anne Holmes** <bucksheritage@btinternet.com>
Date: Thu, Oct 18, 2012 at 7:12 PM
Subject: RE: Great Berhamstead
To: Glenn Holliman <glennhistory@gmail.com>

Dear Glenn

Regarding Thomas James HOLLIMAN of Berkhamsted, Herts. Berkhamsted is not that far from Chesham, Bucks. Thomas may be connected to the Chesham HOLLYMANS but I have not come across him as yet.

At present I am trying to obtain a wider picture of the family of Christopher HOLLYMAN of Sherington (d 1588), in the event there may be some connection to the Thomas HOLLIMAN in Bedford.

Richard HOLLYMAN, brother of Christopher, although he had land interests in Buckinghamshire was based in London. He died there in 1603, buried in the churchyard of St. Giles in Cripplegate, Middlesex (City of London now). Richard left a Will which was proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury in London in 1604. Interestingly, one of his married daughters was a Margaret COX. It is possible she may be connected to the John COX in Virginia but it is also possible her married surname is a complete coincidence. COX is quite a widespread surname here.

Brother John HOLLYMAN, also based in London, died childless c1578. John, young son of Christopher was a beneficiary of his Uncle's Will. John inherited, along with his Uncle George (brother of Christopher) Uncle John's lands in Haddenham. It is also known from this Will Christopher's sister Katherine married a Mr. GWYN (not GREEN as previously stated) and had a son named Thomas GWYN. Another sister of Christopher appears to have married a Mr. FOSTER

Another brother George HOLLYMAN was based at Nether Winchendon, Bucks. His son Joseph, was the main beneficiary of his property. Joseph died in 1624 in Haddenham. He married in to the ROSE family of Haddenham. A surviving land agreement and his Will indicates that Joseph passed his property on his son, also a George HOLLYMAN.

Francis HOLLYMAN (brother of Christopher) died around 1603. Based in Cuddington, Francis also left a Will. He was childless and left most of his legacies to his godchildren: mostly his nephews and nieces.

Bartholomew HOLLYMAN has not been traced. He may have died young.

With regard to the children of Christopher HOLLYMAN of Sherington, I believe I have found marriages for perhaps three of his daughters.

An Ursula HOLLYMAN married a Robert REDMAN in High Wycombe, Bucks in 1609. The REDMANS were another landed family based in Oving, Bucks. Robert and Ursula had one son William, born 1611. It is possible this William may be the son of Ursula HOLYMAN mentioned in the Will of Lady Eleanor LEE of Moreton, Dinton (1633). Ursula REDMAN died in 1621 and was buried in High Wycombe.

Also in 1609 in High Wycombe, an Anne HOLLYMAN was married. The name of the groom on the parish register entry is virtually illegible. It is possible, that this Anne was Ursula's sister and daughter of Christopher.

In 1602, in nearby Great Marlow, a Dorothy HOLYMAN married Thomas ELBORNE. Again this Dorothy could be Ursula's sister. Thomas and Dorothy ELBORNE had four children baptised a Great Marlow: John 1603; Catrin 1605; Alice 1608 and William 1611.

I have not been able to trace Ellen HOLYMAN, the other daughter of Christopher. There are a couple of possibilities for John, son of Christopher, to be explored. And there, is of course Thomas HOLLYMAN of Bedford. As stated Thomas needs to be investigated further at Bedford Record Office.

The Bucks Wills and PCC Wills show that the extended family of Thomas HOLLYMAN of Cuddington (d1558) had ties to many of the landed families in Buckinghamshire. They also had interests and family connections in London. An American publication recommended to me by one of the Archivists at the Record Office shows some of the context of the early HOLLYMAN family links. The publication is: *Delafield: a family history* by John Ross Delafield. Published in 1945 it is difficult to get hold of now. However, there is a digital copy on <http://www.ancestry.com/> The link, if you have an Ancestry account is: <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=17795>

I have done a little more research on tracing the ancestry of living descendants of the HOLLYMANS of Cuddington and Haddenham. The two living individuals to date identified do trace back to Cuddington in the late eighteenth century. One traces back to a James HOLYMAN of Cuddington in the mid C18: the other to a Charles HOLLYMAN of Cuddington. It is possible James and Charles may have a common ancestor. I am still trying to unravel this part of the research as there are several individuals with the same name confusing the picture. In addition, a possible ancestor of James HOLLYMAN could include illegitimacy. James had an elder brother Robert. This suggests an ancestor named Robert HOLLYMAN. A Robert HOLLYMAN died in 1638 in Cuddington. He named his only son, his 'reputed son' Robert as heir. In this statement there are suggestions that Robert did not know if Robert was his natural son. Illegitimacy of a male ancestor needed for a DNA line would completely obscure the results.

I have received the results of the Bucks FHS baptism and burial searches for the surname HOLLYMAN dates 1538 to 1638 and these are attached. I am still waiting on the marriage results. These always take longer.

From all the sources identified thus far it appears there may be several lines of HOLLYMANS emanating from the Cuddington/Haddenham area of Bucks. There were the more well connected HOLLYMANS, the extended family of Thomas HOLLYMAN (d c1558) who were in the main Yeoman farmers and gentlemen. And then there were the lesser branches of HOLLYMANS, many of whom were Husbandmen, still farmers but holding much less acreage.

This is the research thus far.

Any queries, let me know.

Kind Regards

Anne

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**From:** Glenn Holliman [mailto:glennhistory@gmail.com]
**Sent:** 13 October 2012 14:27
**To:** Anne Holmes
**Subject:** Great Berhamstead

Anne,

The below message arrived this a.m. on my Ancestry.com link. I assume this Karen Kenan is an American. I quickly checked the Bristish records and her great grandfather was still living in Berhamstead in 1911 (census).

So...are there any male Hollimans still in Berhamstead? I wrote Karen (whom I had never heard of before; she found me via the blog) asking for details. This may be a DNA route either through Karen's male relatives in the U.S. or Berhamstead.

Glenn

"Hi Glenn, this is a complete stab in the dark, my great grandfather was Thomas James Holliman born abt 1859 in Great Berkhamstead (near Tring) Hertfordshire, England. I just wondered if you had any records of him in your study? Mother I think was Anne and father James, Thanks Karen"

Good Morning Glenn

It was lovely to meet you and Barbara yesterday. We were so deep in conversation yesterday I forgot to say thank you for the meal.

I have already had a look at the Will of John HOLEMAN, Shoemaker of Newport Pagnell. John died in November 1617 (see Bucks FHS Burials sheet) and probate was granted 1618. John named the following beneficiaries in his Will:

Wife: Ann

Eldest son: William

Younger Sons: Thomas & Samuel

Daughter: Martha

Son in law: Henry WILLIS

If you look at the Baptism and Burial search results forwarded, from these it seems likely the testator here, John, was most likely the son of a William. John's eldest son, also a William, survived in to adulthood and stayed in Newport Pagnell. William had several children baptised there. It is not known what happened to his younger brothers Thomas and Samuel. As the Will of this John was dated c1618 and John does not mention any grandchildren (the Thomas in Bedford had several children by 1617) it seem unlikely but not impossible this John is the father of the Thomas in Bedford.

As promised, I have attached for Barbara, an article I found reciting a letter from an emigrant who travelled to Australia in 1853. Of course the journey to Australia was much longer than the transatlantic crossing at that time and it is only one person's point of view. The copy of a diary I have of a lady who did the same journey does not paint such a risqué view of the journey, but I suspect she may have had a first class cabin and avoided the crowded conditions many experienced on such ships.

Yesterday, you mentioned posting some pictures on your Blog. The photographs I took of the old C16 Wills, I believe are covered by Copyright as are the PCC Wills I downloaded from the National Archives website. I think if you wished to post any of these particular Wills on your Internet Blog you may have to obtain permission from the Copyright holders. The transcripts I provided of the Wills will be fine to go on to the Blog, if so wished.

Any other queries about the Wills or the transcripts or other information provided, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards

Anne

P.S. I had another look at the National Burials Index again yesterday afternoon and found the burial of a Thomas HOLEMAN, 20 April 1627, at Woburn St. Mary, Bedford. This may be the Thomas, son of John HOLEMAN, who was baptised in Woburn, Beds in 1576.

Anne,

In reviewing the materials I note a John Holeman, a shoemaker, died 1618 from Newport Pagnell. His father is listed as William. Hmmm...could this John be a distant relative of our Thomas Holyman of Bedford? As Thomas's father, Christopher of Sherington, located a few miles from Newport Pagnell, died in 1588, could Thomas, after schooling, have learned a trade from John Holeman?

Then our Thomas moved on to Bedford to work his trade and marry Ellen Poynard?

Or was Thomas of Bedford a son of this John Holeman?! Do you have any further information on this John of Newport Pagnell? Thomas the shoemaker, the son of John the shoemaker? That works....



Glenn

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| Anne Holmes |

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Kind Regards

Anne

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Glenn, with reference to #3, below, of your note of this date: could this "John" be the John Holleman who died in Virginia Colony in about 1650? And just later, Christopher & Judith show up to claim their 'headrights' in the Colony. Could this, then, be the uncle of Chris & Judith?? It makes me question why a brother and sister should leave a family in England to travel to the New World, without some older person going along with them. I am thinking that the "john Holleman" who died in about 1650 was related to our family. I don't know that it may be proved in either direction. Otherwise, it looks like you are doing great work. Many thanks, again.

joe

**From:** Glenn Holliman <glennhistory@gmail.com>
**To:** Jeanette Stewart <stuffnsuch50@hotmail.com>; Joseph Parker <parkerjg635@yahoo.com>; Tina Peddie <desabla1@yahoo.com>; Lynn & Verna Holliman <lrholliman@suddenlink.net>
**Cc:** Anne Holmes <bucksheritage@btinternet.com>; Chris Holliman <vegetarianbarbarian@gmail.com>; Grace Holliman <gaholliman@gmail.com>
**Sent:** Friday, November 9, 2012 2:49 AM
**Subject:** Buckinghamshire



Good Morning from England,

I wanted to give a brief update on my meeting yesterday with Anne Holmes, professional genealogist from Buckinghamshire.

1. She is thorough, competent and has a degree in genealogy research. She is careful and professional in her write ups and research.

2. The senerio of the Holyman family tree from John Holyman d 1521 in Cuddington, Buckinghamshire to Christopher Holyman d 1588 in Sherington, Buckinghamshire is solid backed up by translated wills which I now have thanks to Anne.

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4. A Thomas Holyman (whom I suggest is the son of Christopher) married Ellen Poynard in 1609 at St. Mary's Parish in Bedford, only down the road from Sherington. They had many children, all of whom are accounted for as dying in Bedford except, you guessed it, Christopher and Judith Holyman, i.e. who would be the ones who show up in Virginia in 1650. Anne found that Ellen or Helena Holyman died in 1653 in Bedford, which is new information.

5. A fascinating bit of information is that Bedford Thomas Holyman was a shoemaker! This modest occupation throws a bit of a curve as our Cuddington and Sherington Holymans were an established, affluent family for the times. Did Thomas fall that rapidly in the social ladder as he had to earn a living somehow (his father was a second son of Thomas Holyman, d 1558 of Cuddington who also did NOT inherit land). We also know this Thomas Holyman family of Bedford lived on Caldwell Street in 1641. We do not yet know when Thomas died.

6. Anne advises and I agree that she needs to invest more time researching burial records and other data in the Bedford Archives to add context to the family. If she does not find burial records of Christopher and Judith in Bedford, this supports the thesis that Christopher of 1691 is from Bedford and this family.

7. Incidently Ellen (Helena) Poynard Holyman is buried in St. Mary's Parish cemetery, where of course not known but I include a few headstones from the site. These pictures I took in 2011.

So...Anne will be working to more tightly to tie Christopher Holyman d 1588 of Sherington to Thomas Holyman of Bedford and our 1691 Christopher, IF the evidence points that way. Her goal, our mutual goal, is to discover what evidence is available and arrive at the best truth possible wherever that may take us.

I am grateful to Anne and look forward to her next report next month. This and other information from Anne including family trees I will be writing up for the blog. Fascinating.

More later,

Glenn

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| Glenn Holliman glennhistory@gmail.com  |

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Joe, this is a good question and I asked Anne Holmes about this John, the brother of Christopher of Sherington, d 1588. This John only received 40 pds in the will, no land as his father, Christopher of Sherington, seemed not to own any. This is a possibility although John Holyman who died in Virginia in 1650, two weeks before Christopher (d1691) and Judith arrived would have been an old man for the time.

We surmise John of Sherington must have been born no later than 1580 thus making him age 70 or older in 1650. Did he sail to Virginia in the 1620 or 1630s and settle when somewhat younger?

Anne, do you have an opinion to share with the group?

Thanks,

Glenn



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Glenn

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4. A Thomas Holyman (whom I suggest is the son of Christopher) married Ellen Poynard in 1609 at St. Mary's Parish in Bedford, only down the road from Sherington. They had many children, all of whom are accounted for as dying in Bedford except, you guessed it, Christopher and Judith Holyman, i.e. who would be the ones who show up in Virginia in 1650. Anne found that Ellen or Helena Holyman died in 1653 in Bedford, which is new information.

5. A fascinating bit of information is that Bedford Thomas Holyman was a shoemaker! This modest occupation throws a bit of a curve as our Cuddington and Sherington Holymans were an established, affluent family for the times. Did Thomas fall that rapidly in the social ladder as he had to earn a living somehow (his father was a second son of Thomas Holyman, d 1558 of Cuddington who also did NOT inherit land). We also know this Thomas Holyman family of Bedford lived on Caldwell Street in 1641. We do not yet know when Thomas died.

6. Anne advises and I agree that she needs to invest more time researching burial records and other data in the Bedford Archives to add context to the family. If she does not find burial records of Christopher and Judith in Bedford, this supports the thesis that Christopher of 1691 is from Bedford and this family.

7. Incidently Ellen (Helena) Poynard Holyman is buried in St. Mary's Parish cemetery, where of course not known but I include a few headstones from the site. These pictures I took in 2011.

So...Anne will be working to more tightly to tie Christopher Holyman d 1588 of Sherington to Thomas Holyman of Bedford and our 1691 Christopher, IF the evidence points that way. Her goal, our mutual goal, is to discover what evidence is available and arrive at the best truth possible wherever that may take us.

I am grateful to Anne and look forward to her next report next month. This and other information from Anne including family trees I will be writing up for the blog. Fascinating.

More later,

Glenn

Dear Glenn

Results of my findings at Bedford Record Office re- Thomas HOLLYMAN

I have attached copies of the most relevant documents that are connected to the Thomas HOLLYMAN of Bedford, father of Christopher and Judith. I have tried to keep it as brief as possible and after you have read the documents yourself you can come back to me with any queries

Firstly is document reference WL103. This document, dated 6 November 1640, is a Bargain and Sale lease where Thomas HOLLYMAN Senior is one party of two. The information this document gives the reader about Thomas, in brief, is as follows:

\* Thomas states he is a Cordwainer or Shoemaker by occupation.

\*The Bargain and Sale refers to the Blue Boar Inn in Caldwell Street, Bedford

\*The fact that Thomas HOLLYMAN had a lease on this Inn suggest he had an additional occupation as an inn keeper.

\*Elinor is mentioned as the 'now wife' of Thomas, thus pinning this Thomas down as husband of Ellinor and as the father of Christopher and Judith and their siblings. It appears, Ellinor also has some interest in the lease, otherwise she would have probably not have been mentioned.

\*Thomas also has a property neighbouring the Blue Boar: occupant was Barnaby CRASH, the son in law of Thomas.

\*Thomas has signed the document suggesting he was probably literate or at least he could write. Had he been illiterate he would have just puts his mark to the agreement.

\*Thomas is giving up his tenure of the Blue Boar and assigning the lease to Richard and Cicely BROWNE for the sum of £40.

Several points to be noted:

If Thomas had put his mark to this document and not signed it, it would have probably ruled him out as a possible candidate for the Thomas HOLLYMAN at school in Sherington in 1595. Interestingly, Thomas is receiving payment of £40 for the assignment of the lease. It is not known what Thomas himself paid for the lease when he acquired it but, casting your mind back to the Will of Christopher HOLLYMAN, Christopher left his two sons £40 each. So, here we have a Thomas who, perhaps had equal wealth monetarily to the Thomas in Sherington. It does not confirm the Thomas in Bedford is the Thomas from Sherington but it does not rule him out either.

The second and third documents are two copies of the same map, date 1610. In 1610, Thomas HOLLYMAN was newly married and living in the parish of Bedford St. Mary, his landlord probably John LEIGH of Caldwell Priory. Until c1630 most of the Caldwell Street properties belonged to the LEIGH family who had bought the nearby Caldwell Priory from the Crown in 1563 see:

<http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/CommunityArchives/Bedford/LaterHistoryOfCauldwellPrioryBedford.aspx> As you can see from the map and its key the parish of Bedford St. Mary is very small. The old Caldwell Priory (no. 17) can be seen in the bottom left hand corner of the map. You can see also that Caldwell Street (no. 14) is close to the Priory and as you get closer to the Church of St. Marys (no 12) you can see where most of the habitation in Caldwell Street was: mostly likely small tenements and cottages where Thomas and his family would have lived. There is a mention of the Blue Boar Inn on the same website previously referred to:

<http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/CommunityArchives/Bedford/CauldwellStreetIntroduction.aspx>

The fourth document attached is the Will of John LEIGH of Caldwell, date 20 January 1619. This document mentions the tenement on which Thomas HOLLYMAN has a long lease. This confirms, with other information that Thomas and his family were probably present in Caldwell Street for at least twenty years (1620-1640) and perhaps longer. Thomas may have been giving up his lease on the Blue Boar as by 1640 he was probably getting near to old age for those times, and perhaps the Inn was too much for him. Eleanor, wife of Thomas, died in 1653 and was buried in Bedford St. Mary churchyard. The are no surviving burial records for Bedford St. Mary c1646 to c1652 but it seems likely the elderly Thomas died in those years and thus there is no surviving death record for him. The years 1645 to 1652 were years of turmoil in England. It was during the period of the Civil War and the early years of Cromwell's rule. Many English parishes have gaps in the registers for these years.

There are a couple more documents to be sent which I will forward in a separate E-mail. Sometimes my Broadband does not cope too well with large picture files and they bounce back to me, hence sending the additions separately.

Kind Regards



Dear Glenn

Attached are copies of remaining documents that are relevant to the Thomas HOLLYMAN in Bedford.

Will and Inventory of Edward CRASH, father of Barnaby CRASH

Barnaby CRASH alias BAXTER married Jone HOLLYMAN in 1631. Jone's Christian name is written on the parish register index as Jane. I believe that this is a transcription error as Joan could either be spelt as is or 'Jone'. There were only about two thousand people in the whole of Bedford in the early seventeenth century. As you can see from the Speed map of 1610, the parish of Bedford St. Mary only has a few houses. The Jone or Jane HOLLYMAN, married in 1631, must be Joan, the daughter of Thomas. In addition, the first son and child of Barnaby and Joan is named Thomas. Their second child is named Edward, after the father of Barnaby.

I have included a copy of this Will and Inventory to give some additional weight to the social status surrounding Thomas HOLLYMAN. Edward CRASSE or CRASH, father of Barnaby, although only a Baker appears to be a reasonably wealthy man. From Edward's Will *"I give and bequeath my greate mansion house in Cauldwell Street in the parish of St. Marie'"* t*o* Edward's wife Elizabeth until his son Barnaby reaches the age of twenty one, then it becomes Barnaby's. It is not known how 'great' the house was but it must have at least been a little grander than the others nearby. Also attached is a copy of the Inventory of the house in 1619. Edwards estate is valued at around £35. Approximate value today of £35 -3s -8d in 1620 is £3,377.60 see <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/currency/>

For interest, £40 in 1590 (Christopher's bequest to Thomas) is equivalent to £5,011.60 today (c year 2005) and £40 in 1640 today's spending worth is £3,432.00. As you can see if monetary wealth is equated to social status (only a guide), the Thomas HOLLYMANS of Sherington and Bedford and Edward and Barnaby CRASH are of similar means. The English class structure that we know of today did not really exist in the same way in the early and mid seventeenth century. If we were to equate them with social status today they could be said to be perhaps in the middle of society somewhere. Historians like to class seventeenth century individuals like Thomas HOLLYMAN and the CRASH's as the 'middling sort'.

Looking back at the Buckinghamshire HOLLYMANS, the height of their social status was in the mid sixteenth century. A HOLLYMAN married into the LEE family: the LEES were a family who were to become upwardly mobile socially. The fortunes of the remainder of the Buckinghamshire HOLLYMANS were varied, some fared better than others. I do not like to ramble on too much about class but I am just trying to put Thomas HOLLYMAN of Bedford in to some kind of context for you. Thomas was, perhaps, more than just a humble shoemaker, he was also a tradesman trying to make his way in the world.

I have also attached an updated family tree for Thomas HOLLYMAN of Bedford on confirmation of additional information found in the Bedford St. Mary parish registers. Birth years for Thomas HOLLYMAN and Helen POYNARD are estimated based on their year of marriage. As already stated there are gaps in the Bedford St. Mary registers mid seventeenth century. Years 1646 to 1652 are missing for both baptisms and burials. It seems very likely Thomas senior died within this time period. It is also possible that Christopher and Judith perished during these years, however, it is also possible that both left Bedford for a life elsewhere. Another possibly is that Christopher HOLLYMAN fought in the Civil War and died on a battle field somewhere and was buried with his fallen comrades.

The Bedford Record Office Visit provided new information on the Thomas HOLLYMAN of Bedford but still leaves the big question unanswered.

If you have any queries regarding the research, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards



Oh me, much more to consider and study.

In your opinion is there more to be found in Bedford concerning this family?

If not, it appears we are left with circumstantial evidence, nothing 'lockproof' as to the Sherington to Bedford connection, but nothing to disprove the thesis of Christopher of Sherington being the father of Thomas of Bedford.

Now there were Holymans, many of them living in Worcestershire in the 1500s and 1600s. My research in that archives last year did NOT turn up a Judith and Christopher. However, I did not spend much time there.

If we do NOT turn up a Christopher and/or Judith Holyman (Hollyman, Holliman, etc) anywhere else in England during this time period, then the weight of evidence or lack of evidence, seems to affirm, ever so gently, that by the process of elimation, Christopher and Judith of Bedford, are our immigrants to Virginia in 1650.

Am I off base with this conclusion? Could you take a look at the Worcestershire Holymans on line?



Anne, Wonderful!

We have increased context on this Holyman family. So no burial records from 1646-1652...hmmm....yes, perhaps that is when Thomas died....perhaps with the death of this father, Christopher and Judith felt freer to travel to the new world. Perhaps Christopher had been helping his father in the inn or the person who bought the inn all those years....

What you have not found (yet) are any burial records on Christopher and Judith in Bedford....although they could have died between 1646-1652. If burial records are found on them in Bedford then this would rule out this branch of the family as the immigrants to Virginia.

This Thomas had to have had a sum of money to purchase the inn and the 40 pds is what Thomas inherited, although my mind pictures Thomas' inheritance being spent on his education.

To summerize, Thomas was more prosperous than just a shoemaker; he owned an inn as well as practising his craft. And he could write, indicating some education. And you have found no evidence (yet) to rule out this Thomas as a son of Christopher of Sherington.

And you have found no evidence that Christopher and Judith could not have been the Virginia immigrants in 1650.

Sometimes it is not what one finds, but what one doesn't find!

Let me now read the documents and get back to you.

Many continued thanks,

Dear Glenn

I checked the Bedford Wills Index for surname HOLLYMAN and there was nothing that was relevant, before or after Thomas was in Bedford. If there were Wills relating to the C17 Bedford HOLLYMAN family they have not survived or they are in private hands: the former is the most likely.

All Bedfordshire Parish Registers pre- 1812 have been transcribed. These transcripts were lent to the Mormon Church many years ago to copy and all the baptisms and marriages are on the IGI: some burials have been included also. The Bedfordshire FHS have also compiled an index of baptisms, marriages and burials on CD. I did search the CD Index for surname HOLLYMAN and variants, and in the instance of baptisms and marriages nothing was found that is not on the IGI. Bedfordshire St. Mary Parish Register was checked for baptisms, marriages and burials to the year 1700. Again all the entries can be found on the IGI. There were just a few small additional details that were found in the register and I have added these to the up to date family tree of the Bedford HOLLYMANS that I forwarded to you.

On my visit to Bedford Record Office, I focused on the Bedford St. Mary registers to check nothing had been missed, and looked at available seventeenth century indexes or censuses that might show and entry for Thomas HOLLYMAN and his family. I had already searched through the Bedford Record Office online catalogues and had picked up the references to the documents that I photographed and forwarded copies of to you.

If Christopher, Judith and sister Eleanor did not die between the years 1646 and 1652 in Bedford St. Mary it seems likely they must have left the parish and spent their lives elsewhere. There are no children recorded of a Christopher HOLLYMAN either before or after the gaps in the Bedford town registers, similarly there are no children recorded with a mother named Judith of whatever surname up to the year 1700 in the Bedford town parishes either. It look as though Stephen was the only son of Thomas who stayed and survived in Bedford.

Hope the information helps.

Kind Regards

Anne

Dear Glenn

The dates for Eleanor LEE (nee HAMPDEN) are correct.

Lipscombe's *The History and Antiquities of the County of Buckingham* records the LEE family tree in detail. There should be a copy of the tree from Lipscombe with the paperwork I gave to you.

Eleanor HAMPDEN was born in 1554. She married Thomas LEE on 20 November 1570. She was only sixteen years old at the time. She was buried at Dinton 6 April 1633: Eleanor, therefore 78 years old when she died. It is not stated when Thomas LEE was born but it was probably early 1550s or earlier.

Thomas LEE's father, also Thomas died in 1571, and from the information in his Will (probate 1572), at that time it appears daughter Margaret was not married.

Christopher HOLLYMAN must have married Margaret LEE sometime between 1572 and 1578 (remember Christopher's brother John HOLLYMAN mentions John, son of his brother Christopher in his Will of 1578). Christopher himself is noted as under 21 years old when his father died in 1558 therefore Christopher could have been born anytime between 1538 and 1557. Christopher HOLLYMAN died young possibly only in his thirties or forties.

I will compile a LEE family tree, using the information from Lipscombe and that which I already have, and forward to you. Looking at a visual tree may help place everyone more easily. I will also look again at the information we have for lines that can possibly be further pursued.

In addition, I will also look at the Worcestershire HOLLYMANS to see if they are a possibility, although surviving written evidence of a Christopher HOLLYMAN is needed to make Worcestershire a possible area of origin for your ancestor. At the moment, the Bedford Christopher HOLLYMAN is the only possibility we have.

I have looked at the Blog entry you have just written and I think you have referred to the Bedford evidence to date very succinctly. A couple of very minor points though:

Thomas HOLLYMAN owned the lease on the Blue Boar, not actually the Blue Boar itself. In 1640, he is selling on, or assigning the lease, for £40. His overall landlord at that time was the Lord of Cauldwell Manor, possibly John LEIGH. Also Cauldwell Street was actually part of the parish of Bedford St. Mary. The Blue Boar Inn was replaced by an Inn called the Gardeners Arms in the nineteenth century and was sited at 8 to 10 Cauldwell Street see

<http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/CommunityArchives/Bedford/CauldwellStreetIntroduction.aspx>

Looking at Google maps you can work out approximately where the Blue Boar was. On Google Street View [www.fivesite.co.uk](http://www.fivesite.co.uk) is numbers 2 to 6 Cauldwell Street (an old bank) therefore numbers 8 to 10 follow on to the right. Number 20 Cauldwell Street is Ambassador Cars further down the road. Numbers 8 to 10 are approximately at the end of Cauldwell House (Bedford College) next to the fivesite building.

Finally, I have found a portrait of one of the Thomas LEES, the first Baronet Lee of Hartwell see <http://www.thepeerage.com/p32252.htm#i322519> This Thomas LEE was the great grandson of Eleanor. He would have shared the LEE genes with Thomas HOLLYMAN, son of Christopher.

Any further queries, please let me know.

Kind Regards

Anne

P.S. I have also attached the invoice for the trip to Bedford plus a reference I found regarding Eleanor LEE of Dinton (from *The English Baronetage)*

Dear Glenn

I hope you have arrived safely at your destination and I hope you enjoy your seasonal break

I have attached a basic family tree for the LEES of Hartwell for you. It dates from the mid C15 to the end of the C18.

The LEE family originally settled in the small hamlet of Moreton, in the parish of Dinton, Buckinghamshire possibly sometime in the fifteenth century. At that time the family were just landed gentry, see <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=62771&strquery=Lee>

The Thomas LEE who died in 1572 (father in law of Christopher HOLYMAN) was still of that landed gentry class. He does not describe himself as either Gentleman or Knight in his Will. However, his son Thomas, who died in 1626 does describe himself as Knight in his Will. It was possibly the marriage of Thomas LEE to Eleanor HAMPDEN that instigated the knighthood for Thomas. Eleanor HAMPDEN was the sister of Sir Alexander HAMPDEN. It was after the death of Alexander HAMPDEN, in 1618, that Hartwell House passed to Thomas LEE through his wife Eleanor, see <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=62775&strquery=Lee> It may be at this point in time Thomas LEE acquired his knighthood: it perhaps came with the Hartwell Estate. By the end of the seventeenth century the LEES have become Baronets. In contrast, the HOLYMAN family star in Buckinghamshire is at its brightest in the mid sixteenth century when Thomas HOLYMAN held the manor of Cuddington and his kinsman John HOLYMAN was Bishop of Bristol. In the mid sixteenth century the HOLYMAN and LEE families would probably have been seen as contemporary equals in social status hence the marriage of Christopher HOLYMAN to Margaret LEE

The sources I used to compile the tree are as follows:

Will of John HOLYMAN of London 1578

Will of Christopher HOLYMAN of Sherington 1588

Will of Thomas LEE of Dinton 1572

Will of Sir Thomas LEE 1626

Will of Dame Eleanor LEE 1633

Pedigree of Lee of Hartwell from: Lipscombe, George (1847) *The History and Antiquities of the County of Buckingham*

Pedigree of Lee of Hartwell from: Betham, William (1805) *The Baronetage of England:* *Or The History of the English Baronets, and Such Baronets of Scotland, as are of English Families; with Genealogical Tables, and Engravings of Their Coats of Arms (Google eBook)*

There are one or two minor errors in Betham but I have cross referenced his information with other sources to provide corrections.

[thepeerage.com](http://thepeerage.com) at <http://www.thepeerage.com/>

Ashmolean Museum web page index for brass rubbings in churches in Buckinghamshire at <http://www.ashmolean.org/ash/departments/antiquities/brass/counties/Buckinghamshire.html>

The Victoria County History of Buckinghamshire online at <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/>

Some abbreviations used for the tree: Abt -About; Aft - After; Bef - Before; Bet - Between

If you have any queries about the tree, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind Regards

Anne

P.S. If you have a family tree program on your computer at home I can always send the family trees as GEDCOM files and then you can just import them to the family tree program that you have.

Even today Cauldwell Street is famed amongst older residents of Bedford for the large number of public houses it contained. The street was at its peak, in terms of alcohol, in 1890 when one could have a pint in any one of thirteen hostelries: [The Angel](http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/CommunityArchives/Bedford/TheAngelCauldwellStreetBedford.aspx)|; [The Black Diamond](http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/CommunityArchives/Bedford/TheBlackDiamondPublicHouseBedford.aspx)|; The Black Horse; The Carpenters Arms; The Cherry Tree; The Ferry; The Gardeners Arms; The Haycock; The Hop Pole; The Olney Arms; The Shepherd and Dog; The Six Bells and The Wheatsheaf. Even in 1950 eight of these remained (The Angel, The Black Diamond; the Black Horse; The Cherry Tree; The Gardeners Arms; The Olney Arms; The Six Bells and The Wheatsheaf. As a counterbalance the road also included two Methodist chapels!

Today, of course, all of these have gone, the only licensed premises remaining is The Crown, on the corner of Cauldwell Street and Britannia Road, its address being Crown Place, Britannia Road. All the other public houses in existence in 1950 were pulled down to make way for County, now Borough Hall, Bedford College, road improvements and other modern business units. Some of these establishments were of very long standing – notably The Angel, in existence, as The Griffin, by at least 1690 and The Cherry Tree by 1751. The Gardeners Arms was on the site of premises called, successively, The Blue Boar, The Anchor and The Golden Pot which dated to at least 1640. This is because Cauldwell Street has been occupied for a very long time. In 1967 Evelyn Baker of the Bedfordshire Archaeological Service carried out excavations on the site of 8 and 10 Cauldwell Street, demolished to make way for a modern development. This was the site of The Gardeners Arms, earlier The Golden Pot and 12th century pottery was found close to the street frontage. The cellars of the 18th century Golden Pot were also unearthed. The site of 9 Cauldwell Street was excavated by Angela Simco in 1971 and two medieval pits were discovered. The site of Saint Mary’s Vicarage, 16 Cauldwell Street, was investigated by Evelyn Baker in 1973 and the remains of 10th to 12th century timber buildings were found, suggesting industrial use. Skeletons of some medieval dogs were also discovered. Other trenches at the site discovered inhabitation from the 18th century.


**The site of Saint Marys Rectory about 1973 [Z188/165 i]**

Top of Form



[0 - Access key details](http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/CommunityArchives/Bedford/SaintMarysArchitecture.aspx)|

**Saint Marys Architecture**

**
Saint Mary's tower seen from the south June 2009**

The oldest parts of Saint Mary's are Early [Norman](http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/CommunityArchives/Definitions/Definitions.aspx#Norman)|. These comprise the bulk of the tower, (which stands at the crossing of the [nave](http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/CommunityArchives/Definitions/Definitions.aspx#Nave)|, [chancel](http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/CommunityArchives/Definitions/Definitions.aspx#Chancel)| and two [transepts](http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/CommunityArchives/Definitions/Definitions.aspx#Transept)|, north and south) including the arch to the nave inside as well as both transepts and the west end. The first known rector, [Warinus](http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/CommunityArchives/Bedford/SaintMarysRectors.aspx#Warinus)|, was instituted in 1200 but the Norman masonry is older. There are areas of herringbone masonry to be seen on the outside of the church which probably dates to the second half of the 11th century, and may just pre-date the Norman Conquest. It has been argued [Journal of Bedfordshire Archaeology Volume 9] that the tower is Saxon.


**Herringbone work in the south wall of the south transept June 2009**

The south transept is quite interesting. The south wall contains a good bit of herringbone masonry. The east wall contains quite a large Norman window, which is now blocked (and partially hidden by an ugly plastic drain pipe). Inside this window cuts into a smaller round-arched window higher up which corresponds to a similar window in the west wall of the south transept. These are clearly earlier than the Norman window (as it cuts through one of them) and so they may be Anglo-Saxon in date, just before 1066.


**Blocked Norman window in the east wall of the south transept June 2009**

The chancel is in the [Decorated](http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/CommunityArchives/Definitions/Definitions.aspx#Decorated)| style and so is early 14th century. Excavations in 1990 showed that the chapel to the north, which held the organ, although rebuilt later, was originally of the same date.

![Sedilia in Saint Mary's [Z1244]]()
**Sedilia in Saint Mary's [Z1244]**

The [sedilia](http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/CommunityArchives/Definitions/Definitions.aspx#Sedilia)| shown above was painted about 1820 by Thomas Fisher in the chancel. The top of the tower is [Perpendicular](http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/CommunityArchives/Definitions/Definitions.aspx#Perpendicular)| in style, dating to the 15th century.


**The north aisle of Saint Mary's June 2009**

The north [aisle](http://www.bedfordshire.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/ArchivesAndRecordOffice/CommunityArchives/Definitions/Definitions.aspx#Aisle)| was added in the 16th century, probably about 1545 following the closure and demolition of the church of Saint Peter Dunstable which stood north of Cauldwell Street and opposite the west end of Saint Mary's in what is today Saint Mary's Square. No doubt stone from Saint Peter Dunstable was reused in building Saint Mary's north aisle.

1. I attach the 1521 will of John Holyman and want to post it on the blog. Do you think there would be any issues if I identify the work and use these pictures?

I do not think there will be a problem. The publication from which this transcript came is available online at: <http://www.bucksvoice.net/brs/online-volumes/volumes-11-19/> It is Volume 19. The reference assigned to the extracts should be:

Elvey, E.M. (Ed) (1975) *The Courts of the Archdeaconry of Buckingham 1483-1523* Bucks Record Society: Volume 19. Available online: <http://www.bucksvoice.net/brs/assets/other/brs-vol-19> Last accessed 19 December 2012

As long as you refer to this publication in your Blog, I am sure it will be fine. You can leave out the 'Last accessed' section of the reference and include page numbers if you wish.

2, Now the question is begged, what is the name of the volume from which the will appears?

See above

3. William and John received 'messes' and in some amount. Can you translate this for me? Which son received the largest inheritance?

Is a 'mess' a measure of land? If so, how much in acres?

Messe is an abbreviation for messuage, or a dwelling house

William has been bequeathed one dwelling house, one yard land and a grain panne. (Panne is probably more synonymous with a Vat here)

John has been bequeathed two dwelling houses with two yard lands.

As John's bequest had the greater value it is probable he was the eldest son.

A yard land is an old term for an area of land associated with a building, anything from 15 to 40 acres in area.

4. Did I read correctly that Isabell and William received pots? Were they made of pewter for example?

Isabell received a pot and a panne. Isabell's bequests were probably related to the domestic sphere of the running of a small farm, where as William's 'panne' had a more 'industrial' use.

I had wondered whether William's panne was a 'green panne or pan' but a 'grain panne' makes more sense.

Yes, they were probably made out of metal such as pewter

5. Was William the first born son?

It is probable John was the elder son.

Any 'color' you can add to the dry text is welcome. Where is the Lincoln church?

Parish churches in the county of Buckinghamshire, at that time belonged to the Diocese of Lincoln. Lincoln Cathedral, centre of the Diocese of Lincoln, would have been considered the mother church for Buckinghamshire parishioners at that time.

I will try and look out some books or articles for you on pre-Reformation farming and everyday life. In these very early Wills of the sixteenth and seventeenth century, household items were of great value and were often passed down to relatives in Wills. Items such as beds and bedding and everyday utensils would be bequests, something we would probably would not think of mentioning in a Will today as they have such little relative value.

John was buried at St. Nicolas grave yard. Is it safe to assume his burial plot has been reused a number of times over the century? I attach a photo of the church cemetery taken last month.

I am not certain whether it was usual practice to re-use churchyard graves. When an area is full, the church usually expands the area if they can, or just stop burying people there. Another member of John's family might have been buried in the same grave later though. Any headstone monument John might have had, that is if he had one, would be extremely weathered by now and probably illegible.

I hope my answer make the information a little clearer. If not, please do come back to me.

Kind Regards

