

RICHARD BROOKE OF HANDFORD VEL HAND-
FORTH, AND LIVERPOOL, F.S.A. SOME NOTES
CONCERNING HIS LINEAGE AND CONNECTIONS.¹

By R. C. Lockett.

THE pedigree of the BROOKE Family of Handford is to be found in the earlier editions of Burke's *Landed Gentry*, which traces their descent to the reign of Queen Anne. The pedigree, however, is not a full one, and whilst engaged on other search work, the writer became possessed of additional particulars relating to the family which enabled him to add two remoter generations to the lineage given by Burke.

Considering the associations which Richard Brooke had with the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire at the time of its institution, the writer hopes the following notes may be found of interest:—

I. BENEDICT BROOKE² of Buglawton, in the parish of Astbury, and situate two miles NE. of Congleton, was born *temp.* Queen Elizabeth. He married Elizabeth —, and had issue, viz.—

Richard Brooke, of whom later.

John Brooke of Toft, living 1696, admōn granted at Chester, 7th January 1708, to

¹ In the *Cheshire Sheaf*, 3rd series, vol. vii. p. 51, is a query from "T. L. O. W." asking whether the pedigree of the family has been worked out.

² Benedict Brooke, churchwarden of Astbury in 1668.

his nephew, Benedict Brooke of Toft, and Henry Cook of Sheen, co. Staffs., probably *ob.s.p.*

He died intestate, and admōn of his goods was granted at Chester on 14th October 1691 to his son Richard. Elizabeth, his relict, died in 1696. Her will, dated 7th September 1696, was proved at Chester 18th November following by John Brooke, her grandson and sole executor.

2. RICHARD BROOKE of Toft, gent., signed a settlement dated 19th July 1664, made between Benedict and Elizabeth Brooke, his father and mother, himself, and Richard Brooke of *Smallwood*,¹ gent., relative to certain lands in Buglawton. He married, pursuant to licence granted at Chester, 3rd September 1662, Martha Wright of Lower Peover, spinster (who was living in 1702), and by her had issue, viz.—

Thomas, baptized at Knutsford in 1664.

Peter, born in 1668, *ob.s.p.* in 1693.

John, baptized at Knutsford in 1668, living in 1702.

Benedict, of whom presently.

Elizabeth, born in 1663, married, before 1702,

Henry Cock (Cook) of Sheen, living in 1708.

Ellen, married George Kent, living in 1702.

¹ The Brooke family had long associations with the township of Smallwood (parish of Astbury).

In 22 Eliz. Henry Somerford died seized on the manors of Somerford and Astbury. His widow transferred her interest in the same to Thomas Brooke, Esq., for £500.

In 38 Eliz. Thomas Brooke, Randle Brooke and Cicely, his wife, of Smallwood, were defendants to a suit for recovery of certain deeds of title relating to a property called High Hayes in Newbold Astbury, which had formerly formed part of the estate of John Somerford (*Ormerod*, vol. iii. p. 22).

Henry del Broke held land in Somerford, 21 Henry VI. He tentatively figures in Ormerod's pedigree of the Brookes of Leighton.

Hannah, married William Coppock of Mobberley, living in 1702.

Mary, born 1681, married at Lower Peover, 23rd December 1708, Jeffery Lockett of Clonterbrook, parish of Swettenham, buried at Swettenham 8th March 1745-6, leaving issue.

(See Burke's *Family Records*.)

Richard Brooke's will, dated 1st March 1702, was proved at Chester on 5th May 1707 by Benedict Brooke, his son and sole executor.

3. BENEDICT BROOKE of Toft, gent., baptized at Knutsford 26th October 1670, purchased an estate at Handforth vel Handford, in the parish of Cheadle, about the year 1713. He married, *firstly*, Hannah, daughter of John Holland of Mobberley by his wife Mary Deane of Alderley in 1685 and died *ante* 1712; and *secondly* Jane —, leaving issue, viz.—

Richard Brooke, of whom below.

Elizabeth, living unmarried in 1728.

Mary, living unmarried in 1728.

Jane, married John Yarwood.

Benedict Brooke was buried on 9th August 1728. His will, dated 2nd August 1728, was proved at Chester, 29th April 1729, by Jeffery Lockett and another.

4. RICHARD BROOKE of Toft and Handford, gent., was born in 1715, died 10th July 1774, and was buried at Lower Peover. In his will, bearing date 3rd February 1774 and proved at Chester the 10th December following, he bequeathed legacies to Samuel Brooke of Rode, Thomas Wright of Knutsford, Ellen Lockett of Macclesfield, and Sarah Lockett of Knutsford, and money in trust for "the upbringing of Richard Johnson Lockett and

William Jeffery Lockett, sons of the late Mr. William Lockett of Knutsford, gent., deceased."

He left an only son.

5. RICHARD BROOKE, who inherited the family estates, but removed to Liverpool six months after his father's death and settled there.

He was born on the 14th June 1761, and married on 29th December 1786 Mary, daughter of Peter Penny¹ of Knutsford and Liverpool, by whom he had two sons and a daughter, viz.—

Peter, a lieutenant in the Royal Navy, who died without issue in 1841 at East Bridgeford, Notts. He served with distinction in the Channel, the Baltic, and West Indies during the Napoleonic wars; mentioned in despatches, and in the *London Gazette* of 4th Feb. 1809, for gallantry in cutting out *La Cygne*, 18 guns, off Martinique; wounded at the capture of Les Saintes and in the repulse at New Orleans, 7th Jan. 1815; voted the freedom of Liverpool for his naval services.

Richard, the antiquary, of whom below, and Mary Ann, who died unmarried in 1855, aged 59.

Entering the Customs service at the port of Liverpool, he rose to become an officer. His name appears in the local directories as residing at various addresses in the town from time to time, and latterly in Rodney Street.

He died on the 15th June 1852, at the age of 91, and was interred beside his wife (who died in 1847) in St. James' Churchyard. A reprint of

¹ Peter Penny was the son of Robert Penny of Knutsford by his wife Clare Filia Margareta, daughter of William Trafford of Swythamley, co. Stafford (for her pedigree, see *College of Arms, Norfolk*, xvii. 91).

the notice announcing his death, which appeared in the *Liverpool Courier*, will be found among the *Appendices* to his son's account of Liverpool during the last quarter of the eighteenth century, and frequent reference is made by the author to the assistance his father's wonderful recollection of events during his long residence in the town afforded him.

6. RICHARD BROOKE, F.S.A., was born on 19th July 1791. His elder brother, Peter Brooke, having died without issue during the lifetime of his father, he succeeded to the family estates. Choosing the law as his profession, he practised as a solicitor and notary for a considerable number of years in Liverpool, and in 1847 he published a book entitled *The Office and Practice of a Notary in England*, of which there have been several editions.

The following year the Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire was founded, and at its first meeting, held on 18th October 1848, his paper on *The Wyche or De la Wyche Family of Alderley* was read. He took a great interest in this society, and its early proceedings record his name as either presiding at its meetings or as contributing, exhibiting, and taking part in discussions.

In addition to the paper above mentioned, he also contributed the following:—

Observations on the Inscription upon the Common Seal of Liverpool. (1st February 1849 and 1st April 1849.)

Description of the Old Church of Wilmslow, Cheshire, and its Monuments. (3rd May 1849.)

On Handford Old Hall. (3rd January 1850.)

Notice of the Octagon Chapel, Liverpool. (8th January 1852.)

First Importation of American Cotton into Liverpool. (8th January 1852.)

Gawsworth Tilting Grounds. (10th June 1852.)

Old House of Correction of Liverpool. (15th June 1852.)

In 1853 he published his well-known work, entitled *Liverpool as it was the last Quarter of the Eighteenth Century, 1775-1800*, and in 1857 *Visits to Fields of Battle in England*, which contains reprints of his papers read at the meetings of the Historic Society.

The late Mr. Earwaker in his *East Cheshire* describes Richard Brooke as "an antiquary of considerable attainments."

He was elected F.S.A. 11th February 1847, Sir Robert H. Inglis, Bart., V.P., in the chair, and was formally admitted a Fellow 25th February 1847.

He married, on 17th December 1831, Eleanor Elspit, daughter of Alexander Hadden of Bramcote, co. Notts, by whom he had issue. He died 14th June 1861, and was buried at Chelford, co. Chester. The Handforth estates remain in the possession of the family.

There was another Benedict Brooke, who resided at Middlewich, whose will, dated 9th September 1724, was proved at Chester on 30th October 1728. The Handford branch claimed him, and also the Brookes of Chelford and Smallwood, as kinsmen, and no doubt he was related to Benedict Brooke of Buglawton, but so far the actual relationship has not been established. Benedict Brooke of Middlewich was probably the Benedict, son of John Brooke, who was baptized at Astbury on 21st April 1644.¹

Benedict Brooke of Middlewich had by Mary his wife (buried at Nantwich 8th September 1747) a number of children, but only three survived, viz. Thomas, John, and Anna Maria.

¹ This entry would have been applicable to the baptism of Benedict Brooke of *Buglawton* were it not that his son's signature appears to a deed of settlement in 1664, and consequently his father must have been born *before* 1622.

Thomas Brooke, the eldest son, was born in 1693, and took his M.A. degree at Queen's College, Cambridge, in 1717 and that of LL.D. in 1732. From 1720 to 1757 he was Rector of Nantwich, and he also held the rectories of Winslow, co. Bucks, and Doddleston, co. Chester. In 1732 he was installed Dean of Chester, and was buried in the chancel of Nantwich Church in 1757. His portrait, which was painted in 1739, bears an inscription stating it was done for "his kinsman," Mr. Thomas Brooke of Chelford. The artist was Peter Siddall.

Further particulars concerning this distinguished cleric are to be found in Hall's *History of Nantwich*, pp. 301 to 304. He left issue four sons, viz.—

Thomas, born 1721.

Robert Salisbury, born 1724, died 1814.

William, died 1799, and

Benedict, died 1796,

all of whom died unmarried.

SAMUEL BROOKE¹ of Chelford and Kermincham, the third and youngest son of Thomas Brooke of Chelford, was Mayor of Congleton in 1727-8. In his will, dated 21st December 1769, he devised his Chelford estate, in default of issue to his sister, to Thomas, eldest son of his kinsman, the Rev. Dr. Brooke, with remainder to Robert Salisbury Brooke.

¹ His portrait, also painted by Peter Siddall in 1739, when aged forty, was presented by the residents at the Manor House, Chelford, to Alexander Brooke, son of Richard Brooke of Liverpool, F.S.A.