

GENEALOGIST JOHN FARMER DISCOVERS HIS ANCESTRY:
THE WARWICKSHIRE FAMILY OF EDWARD¹ FARMER,
ISABEL¹ (FARMER) (WYMAN) (BLOOD) GREEN, AND
THOMAS¹ POLLARD, OF BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS

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PART 1: FARMER FAMILY DOCUMENTS AND THE ANSLEY PROBATE

When the New England Historic Genealogical Society was founded in 1845, one of its chief inspirations had already died just seven years earlier: John Farmer of Concord, New Hampshire (1789–1838). Farmer, with his *Genealogical Register of the First Settlers of New England*^[1] and many other works on the people of early New England, essentially founded the discipline of systematic genealogy in the United States. The very first issue of the *Register* in 1847 paid appropriate homage to Mr. Farmer by leading off with a biographical account of the man and his works, followed by a revised genealogy of Farmer's own family, based on accounts that Farmer had published in his own lifetime.^[2]

Not surprisingly, John⁵ Farmer (*John*⁴, *Oliver*³⁻², *Edward*¹) was interested in his own ancestry, and it is no coincidence that his first published work was an account of his own line of descent from immigrant Edward¹ Farmer, who was of Billerica, Massachusetts, perhaps by 21 August 1671 and definitely by 24 March 1672/3.^[3] This account, in twelve pages, printed in 1813 when Farmer was only twenty-four years old, had little to say about the family's English origins. It opens simply with Edward¹, who was "born in England, probably about the year 1640;

* I would like to acknowledge the patient assistance of three Farmer descendants, through whom I became interested in this project (I have no connection myself to the Farmer family): John Schulke, Gordon Kirkemo, and Harlow Farmer. Further thanks go to Jerome E. Anderson (for his congenial consultations in Tudor paleography), and Mrs. Margaret Baker of Brentwood, Essex (for locating a 1604 final concord at The National Archives).

¹ John Farmer, *Genealogical Register of the First Settlers of New England* . . . (Lancaster, Mass.: Carter, Andrews & Co., 1829; reprinted Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1964).

² The first issue of the *Register* is largely devoted to Farmer's life and works: *Register* 1 (1847):9–20 is a biography of him, with a list of published works at 13–15. This is followed by a revised version of his own account of his family, at 21–34, edited by NEHGS co-founder Samuel G. Drake, based on two earlier works by Farmer: *A Family Register of the Descendants of Edward Farmer, of Billerica, in the Youngest Branch of his Family* (Concord, N.H.: George Hough, 1813), and *Appendix [to same]* (Concord, N.H.: n.p., 1824); *Genealogical Memoir of the Family by the Name of Farmer, who Settled at Billerica, Mass.* (Hingham, Mass.: Farmer & Brown, 1828). *Register* 1:34–39 continues with an extract of Farmer's memoirs of Harvard College graduates.

³ Henry A. Hazen, *The History of Billerica, Massachusetts, with a Genealogical Register* (Boston: A. Williams & Co., 1883), "Genealogical Register" (separate pagination), 49; *Early Massachusetts Records Inventory: Billerica Records*, microfilm, 4 reels (Stoughton, Mass.: Spaulding Graphic Microfilm Div., n.d.), reel 1, "Town of Billerica, General Records 1658–1685," 107.

and emigrated to New-England between the years 1660 and 1670, and settled at Billerica, in Massachusetts."^[4] But in 1814 John Farmer's father and paternal grandfather both died. Some time in the next decade, as his antiquarian interests and critical skills were developing, John likely acquired a collection of documents which had been handed down in his family since the time of Edward Farmer's immigration. In a revised family account, written in 1825 and printed in 1828, John Farmer wrote of his immigrant ancestor's father, John^A Farmer:

John Farmer, of Ansley [Warwickshire], who married Isabella Barbage, of Great-Packington, in Warwickshire, is the first ancestor, of whom I have the means of giving any account, *supported by original documents and family memorials in my possession.*^[5]

Farmer was several generations closer to the immigration than we are now, but a trove of "original documents and family memorials" documenting a seventeenth-century colonist's English origins must have been a rare heirloom already in the 1810s. Rarer still is that these documents have survived to this day, just as John Farmer pasted them carefully into a calf-bound scrapbook, now among the manuscript volumes of The New-York Historical Society Library. Ten original documents in this scrapbook shed fascinating light on the process of emigration, the difficulties of communication across the Atlantic in the seventeenth century, and the poignant fiscal and familial anxieties of a yeoman family bridging the broad ocean. They are listed here, with a complete transcription of four of them:

No. 1: 21 July 1669. Deposition signed by Edward^d Farmer, before a magistrate at Coventry (Warwickshire), that he and his mother paid the cash legacy due to his sister, Mary, now wife of William Pollard of Coventry, from the will of their father, "John Farmer late of Anceley in the Countie of Warwicke, yeoman."

No. 2. 13 February 1674/5. Letter of Thomas Muston of Wyken (her "ever loving brother"), to his "dear sister" Isabel Farmer: in reply to hers of 20 Nov 1674.^[6]

Wykin. Feb 13. 1674

Deare Sister

This is to certifie you that I have received yours dated Nov 20th 1674. with your power of attorney enclosed in it, by the which I can not understand that you have received any from me, although I have sent to you since I received your last

⁴ Farmer, *Family Register of Descendants of Edward Farmer* [note 2], 1.

⁵ Farmer, *Genealogical Memoir* [note 2], 5. A manuscript account of the family, probably dating to about 1825, in a notebook in John Farmer's handwriting prefacing a transcription of these documents [hereafter Farmer Notebook], says: "Several papers and manuscripts which were written in England have afforded me several interesting particulars respecting his [i.e., John Farmer of Ansley's] family" (R. Stanton Avery Special Collections Dept., NEHGS, SG Far 2.1, p. 1).

⁶ Original, The New-York Historical Society Library, BV Farmer Papers (unpaginated). This and subsequent transcriptions and abstracts in this article are published courtesy of The New-York Historical Society. Copy in Farmer Notebook [note 5], 21–24. No address or salutation appears on the original letter.

before this, when I sent you word that your sonne in law Will. Pollard hath not paid any mony at all to me nor to any else that I know off, except to Mr. Withers your lawyer, and thirty shillings to Mr. Wooldrich to whom he hath promised to pay thirty shillings more next Lady Day. Besides this I cannot understand that he hath paid any more, and as for my self, I have not received one penny, and whereas you wrote in your last before this that he hath informed you of such payments as he hath made, amounting to twenty six pounds and odd mony, I can assure you that he hath paid none that I know off, except this above mentioned. And as to your former letter of attorney, his answer to me was that he would not deliver up the possession nor I should have nothing to do with it. And as to your latter letter of attorney, I have treated with him and can find no good answer from him, but do conceive that if I should commence a suit in law with him he having possession, he would kep me in plea with your owne mony, and so it can be no advantage to you but loss. So that I know not what course to take, for once he told me that it was a question whether you yourselfe should have it if you came over. So that I am fully persuaded that whilst you remain at such a distance you will never receive anything from him, for I understand that he is very bare of mony, and as poor as ever he was before he had anything of yours, so that I judge it the best way for you to come over if you can conveniently, for I have done what I can and should still willingly do for any good that I can, but I plainly see there is no good to be done in it, except you come yourselfe. I pray you let me know in your next how all your children do that are with you. Your daughters Ann and Mary are both well so farr as I know, but Elizabeth I lately heard was very sick, whether she be recovered or no I know not. My Brother Bolt and my sister and all the rest of our freinds are well so farr as I know. My selfe and my wife do both remember our kind love to you. And thus having no more at present to write, I remaine your ever loving Brother,

Thomas Muston

[PS] My sonne is now a great distance from us at Cambridge. But I hope in health as he was the last time we heard off him praised be God.

[in a different hand:]

As for my cousin Edwardes wife sisters she hath bine ded this yeare and halfe and hee is gone out of the country I knowe not whither.^[7]

No. 3. Michaelmas, 1677. *Accounting of the John^A Farmer estate at Ansley: rent receipts and expenses in Thomas Muston's hand, from Michaelmas 1676 through Michaelmas 1677. First expense was "Paid out in law to get possession: 17s. 2d."*

No. 4. 31 December 1678. *Further accounting of the John^A Farmer estate in Thomas Muston's hand, covering Michaelmas 1676 through 31 December 1678 (cumulative with first account). Receipts headed "Received for my sister Farmer"; expenditures headed "Laid out for my sister Farmer."*

⁷ This note appears to concern Mary (Moore) Farmer, wife of Edward^I Farmer, and was perhaps written by Muston's wife (who, it will be shown later, likely was Edward Farmer's paternal aunt Lydia). Mary (Moore) Farmer's family will be discussed in a later installment of this article.

No. 5. 31 December 1679. *Letter of John Houghton, a London clerk or solicitor, to an unknown recipient (perhaps Thomas Muston), discussing the contents of John^A Farmer's will (see below for abstract of will).¹⁸¹*

Sir:

According to your order I have obtained the will of Mr. John Farmer out of the prerogative office & signed by the Register of the Court, so that good and sufficient credit is to be given to it, as to the truth of the said copy, which is enclosed in this paper. Now as to the desire of Mr. Wiswall in his letter to you, that you would please to consider & advise, what power the Relict and Widdow of the deceased, hath though married againe, is answered by perusall of the will itselfe, which positively lymits the Lands to be enjoyed by her no longer than while she continues a widdow. So that the Letter of Attorney will signify nothing as to the Recovery of Lands, but will be sufficient power for your drawing of any moneys goods or chattels due to the widdow though married againe, and in order to that, I see no way or course you can take, but sending some person downe into Warwickshire on purpose about it. This is all at present from

Your Servant, John Houghton

London, the 31st of December 1679

No. 6. 9 September 1681: *Letter of Thomas Muston (her "loving unkle") to (his "loving cosen") Mrs. Elizabeth White [Elizabeth (Farmer) White], then lodging near Bishopsgate in London.¹⁹¹*

Loving Cosin!

I received yours, in which you say you are resolved to goe very speedilie for New England. If your resolutions doe not alter and it please God to bring you safe to your mother I desire you would remember my kind love to her and return this answer to that part of her letter which concerns me and my brother Bolt: (viz) that we hoped in stead of her sending at this time to demand nine pounds of us, we should have heard of her receipt of that mony and account which upon the produceing of hir husbands letter of attornie and confirming the truth of it by oath we gave to Mr. Francis Greene last year: we payd him all there was then due to her out of that moitie which by her joynture shee may claim: and gave her our reasons in a letter by the same person why we could not safely send her the other moitie, of which we hoped before this time to have heard her opinion. Her claim by the will was of no force in Mr. Gibbons'[h]is judgment whilst she was a widdow, but it is plain by the words of it that after she was married againe her right to what she held thereby ceased, for it was only given unto her dureing her widdowhood. And for the hundred pounds you mention, we suppose that when ever it shall be demanded, the joynture will make it appear that your father had thereby disabled himself for giving any thing by will out of his land at Anceley,

¹⁸ Original in Farmer Papers [note 6]. Copy in Farmer Notebook [note 5], 25–26, in John Farmer's handwriting.

¹⁹ Original in Farmer Papers [note 6]. Copy in Farmer Notebook [note 5], 28–33. The original letter does not appear to be in the same hand as the 1674/5 letter above; this (1681) letter may be a near-contemporary copy.

so that I doubt your share therein will come to nothing. We have the land still in our possession, and if our Brother Westwell please to grant a letter of Attorney to any substantiall man who comes from them to us, by whom we may be assu[red] that our sister is liveing, we shall be readie to pay what we have received sin[ce] the time we made our accounts even. There is now a years rent for her moitie in o[ur] hands (excepting some small deductions for taxe, expenses &c which we shall give her an account of) but since you cannot make it evident to us that shee is liveing, or show any authoritie from her to receive it, we cannot sefely part with it. For if it should be proved that we pay any thing which becomes due after her decease we for ought we know may come to pay it again to the heir. So that we cannot send anything by you at this time, I therefore wish you a prosperous voiage & desire that you would communciate the contents of this letter to my sister. And withall that you would entreat her from my Brother Bolt and me to take some speedie course (acc: to our desire in our last) to ease us of this trouble by imploying some other friend in her affairs, our age makes us unable to doe for our friends as formerlie we could have done and the uncertainties we proceed upon in this businesse makes us wearied of it. If therefore shee can fix upon any one who will become securetie to us to save us harmlesse we will resign all into his hsands: or if shee think fit to let the heir have his part without molestation we shall pay what we have of the other half & give up our trust into the hands of any one whom shee shall empower to receive it of us. Thus with my kind love to all my relations to whom you are going, I remain

your loveing Unkle

Tho: Muston

Wiken Sep: the 9th 1681

[Direction:]¹⁰¹ Mrs. Elisabeth White, at the house of Mr. Robert Carter, Coachmaker, near the Bunch of Grapes in Chamomile Street by Bishop's Gate in London.

No. 7. Michaelmas 1682 and July 1684. *Further accounting of the estate of John^d Farmer, cumulative with the first two, showing receipts from Michaelmas 1676 through Michaelmas 1682, with itemized disbursements from the estate for the same period. Titled "Receipts for one moitie of Mrs. Isabella Farmer's land in Anceley;" and "Laid out of this Moitie." Overall receipts less expenses leave about £9. Annotated in Edward Farmer's hand: "These accounts were received by Mrs. Wizell July 1684. And shee disallows in the accounts as foloweth: . . ." Disallowed items include disbursements to sons-in-law William Pollard and John Hall, and total about £9.*

No. 8. 14 November 1698. *Account, signed by Edward Farmer, "for disbursements upon my honoured mother Elisabeth Wiswell, formerly Farmer, who deceased May 21, 1686." He accounts for 17 months' nursing care, "when she lay helpless and speechless during the whole said terme of seventeen months," and funeral expenses, totalling £40.*

No. 9. 14 November 1698. *Certificate to "whomsoever it may concern that Mrs Isabell Farmer who after changed her name unto Wisswell, mother of Mr. Edward Farmer and grandmother unto Thomas Pollard, was by myselfe with many others folowed unto the*

¹⁰ Inscribed on verso of letter, in John Farmer's hand, perhaps from an envelope which was not kept.

grave and interred in Bilerika in the County of Middlesex in New England upon the two and twentieth day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred eighty and six." Signed by Joseph Thompson, Billerica town clerk.

No. 10. 5 January 1705/6. *Letter of Lieutenant Thomas Browne ("yr affectionate loving cosen and servant") of Astley Hall, Astley, Warwickshire, to his "good cosen" Edward Farmer (of Billerica):*¹¹

Good Cosen,

I received yours, and very glad I was, for I had often inquired of severall in the neighbourhood of Astley, besides of your relations that I knew, especially your cosen John Farmer that lives at Nuneaton, who seemed very strange to the matter of knowing what was become of you and family — he is a very rich man and drives a great trade of mauling trade, besides his proper trade of a fellmonger. I was with your sister Hall, who directed me to your cosen Pollard, a glover in Coventry; they live very well, but your sister Hall and husband are low. There is one Richard Lucas, that lives upon the comon that goes to Nuneaton that married your brother John Farmer's widow; they live very well, and very rich, and in your Father's house and land, there is one Floyd, a rakemaker, that rents it of your cosen John Farmer. Old Mrs. Ludford is living, but the men are all dead of that family, and the estate is left after the old woman to their daughter Bracebridge's son, and there is one Chantrill a labouring man that I have talked with of you that lives by Nutter's Heath. And at Astley, I think you had an acct. before of me that all the Chamberlains were quite gone. There is old Joseph Harris a blacksmith still living by the church and Thos. Hardcason lives by the Church where one Bollard lived, whose daughter he married whose name was Susan. And as to my owne family, they are all still living as they were when I writ to you first.

I cannot hear of any rent as you enquire after, for talking with your cosen Pollard, the glover at Coventry he told me his cosen Muston that was Parson of Wykin is now parson of Brinkelow, and that just before your sister Pollard dyed, your brother Pollard had gott a long letter writ by Parson Muston to let you know of the reccite of a letter and that they had heard by a letter from that Pollard that was your sister's eldest son that your mother was dead and there upon your brother Pollard tooke letters of administration and what money Mr. Muston had in his hands of rent [p. 2] he payd to your brother Pollard and it was devided amongst the brothers and sisters that was liveing as your sister Hall for one that had a share, but your sister Pollard dying just at that time that letter was not sent but layd by, and after your brother dying, this letter that I spoke of was found amongst the papers that your brother had left, and is now preserved by your cosen Pollard the glover who shewed it to me, soe that what I have writ is from my own knowledg by the sight and reading the letter which is kept still

¹¹ Original in Farmer Papers [note 6]. The copy in Farmer Notebook [note 5], includes notes on the identity of "old Mrs. Ludford" — who was the leading gentlewoman and estate holder in Ansley, but no known relation to the Farmers — and Thomas Muston senior and junior, who were Edward¹ Farmer's uncle and cousin, information John Farmer may have gleaned from sources such as William Dugdale, *The Antiquities of Warwickshire Illustrated*, 2nd ed., 2 vols. (London: J. Osborn and T. Longman, 1730). It is not yet clear how Thomas Browne was a cousin.

particularly for the sake of your direction that is upon it, which direction I have taken into my pockett booke for my use to write by for the directions that I sent by before was by gess etc.

I am earnestly desired by yr cosens Pollards at Coventry to beg of you to lett them know whether their Brother is living, if I doe not mistake they told me he marryed one of your daughters; if you have ever writ to them they received no letter from you nor any else.

You write me word that your sister is liveing and sends her service. I thought there had been more than one sister with you, tho I know but one, that was Isabella and my knowledge of her was but seeing her once or twice at Stoke, and if it be that sister or any other, and all friends with yourselfe wife and children whom I desire to owne as my cosens and that you'll make me as much known to them as you can with my kind and friendly affections and service to all particularly to your sister that I know, if liveing; may be she doe not know anything of me, but tell her I remember her a very pritty girle.

Tis a great way to come only to see and renew a knowledg of friends and relations, but if it was not farther than Ierland I should certainly come on purpose to see you, and since tis this that we cannot see one another, I desire you'll keepe a direction how to write to me, as I have a direction to you and pray as often as convenience will give leave let me hear from you, as you shall from me. I told your cosens at Coventry that I would write to you from London and they all desire their love and service kindly to you. I have not yet seene your cosens in London but I will before I seale my letter. I hope before this time twelve month we shall have peace & have quite pull'd downe the French king.

[p. 3] As to what I writ in my first letter to enquire of your country of New England, I did not meane the towne you live in, but of the country in generall, for I have some acquaintance that have a minde to come over to live, and therefore I desire to know something of the vallue and rates that come and meale and what land is worth. I judg it according as it is for goodness, therefore if you write me word what such a parsell of land is worth as your father's was at Nutter's Heath, I may gess by that for, I believe, you remember, that was but cold hard land, and what quantity of grownd it was, and whether your land in generall in New England be like ours in Old England. And now I have pritty well filled my paper, I conclude.

Your affectionate loving cosen and servant,
Tho: Browne

London, Jan the 7th 1705^[12]

Direct me thus: For Mr. Browne at Astley Hall, to be left at the post house in Coventry, Warwickshire. if you say Lieut. Brown, then you neede not say Mr.

¹² Apparently misread as 1701 by John Farmer; transcribed as "1701" in the copy in the Farmer Notebook [note 5].

[PS] John Veare that lived at Gunhill now at Breach Oake is liveing; he is my uncle by marryage of my Aunt Taylour a widow one of my father's sisters in law, I believe you know them and married Bryerly of Oldbury, whom [?] he and she are both liveing as is my uncle and aunt Veare at Breach Oake.

I have scribbled a great deale, and now I looke it over I am ashamed to send it, but I hope you'll take god will for the deede, if we should have peace as is expected, and opportunity serve I shall be inclineing to send some goods to you by way of Marchandise if you approve of it to returne goods proper that your country affords in vallue, but I know not what goods your country afords proper to be sent hither, therefore pray let me know what you have in your country, that we have not, soe with my prayers for a blessing upon you and yours I end.

These documents give us a detailed glimpse into the fiscal and familial issues around emigration to the colonies, and hint at an extended period of family tension. For over thirty years following the emigration of Isabell (Burbage) Farmer and her son Edward¹ Farmer, mother and son sustained a complicated and frustrating effort to administer and extract income from the estate of their late husband and father, John^A Farmer of Ansley, Warwickshire. To flesh out this intricate story and, to lay the groundwork for further research on the family, the will of John^A Farmer was first found and transcribed, and the parish registers of Ansley and two of its nearest neighbors, Arley and Chilvers Coton, were extracted for relevant information on this immediate family.^[13]

The will of John^A Farmer of Ansley was readily found (as John Houghton's letter, given above, suggested) among those proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.^[14] An abstract of the will is given here:

I, John Farmer of Anceley in the County of Warwick, yeoman, [give] my bodie to be buried at the discretion of my Executors. To Isabell Farmer my loving wife all my lands and tenements within the severall parishes of Meriden and Anceley and elsewhere during the time that she shall remaine a widdow, allowing to my oldest sonne John Farmer 40 shillings to be paid yearlie and suffering the said John Farmer to engage or buy my said land in Ancelie for the raising of £100 toward the portions of his younger brothers and sisters. To Anne Farmer my oldest daughter £40 paid within three years next after my decease. To Mary Farmer my second daughter £20 to be paid within six years next after my decease. To Richard Farmer my second sonne £13/13/4 when he shall accomplish the age of 24. To Edward Farmer my third sonne £13/13/4 to be paid when he shall accomplish the age of 24. To Elizabeth Farmer my third daughter £10 to be paid when she shall accomplish the age of 21. To Sarah Farmer my fourth daughter £10 when she shall accomplish the age of 21. To Isabell Farmer my youngest daughter £10 when she shall accomplish the age of 21. To Thomas Farmer my youngest sonne £10 to be paid when he shall accomplish the age of

¹³ Some of the relevant items from the Ansley parish register were published by Myrtle S. Hyde, "Farmer Note," *Register* 126 (1972):298.

¹⁴ The National Archives, Kew, PROB 11/292/597, will of John Farmer of "Anceley," Warwickshire, dated 18 August 1658, proved 20 August 1659.

24. £100 of the above legacies to be paid by oldest sonne John Farmer out of my messuages and lands in Anceley as the legacies shall grow due. Otherwise the said land to be sold for payment of the said £100, with surplus to the said John Farmer. Remainder of legacies to be paid by executrix. If one of my children die before inheriting, his or her portion to be divided among the survivors. To my loving wife Isabell Farmer all goods and chattels [she to be executrix]. Hand and seal 18 August 1658.

John Farmer his marke.

Witnesses: Francis Bacon; Edward Vaughan; Richard Keeling (mark); Richard Westley. Proved at London 20 August 1659; administration granted to Isabel Farmer, relict and sole executrix.

Combining John^A Farmer's will with the relevant parish registers, a clear picture of the emigrant's immediate family emerges, which allows us to follow the story of the contentious probate told by John Farmer's heirloom documents. While this information will be synthesized more fully in a detailed genealogical summary in a later installment, the broad outline of the story of the probate appears to go like this: John^A Farmer married Isabel Burbage in 1633; they had nine children from the late 1630s down to 1655. When John Farmer died in 1658, his will left his property in Ansley and Meriden, Warwickshire, in the hands of his executrix and widow Isabel, with (customary) obligations for cash legacies to be paid out over many years as their minor children came of age and married — the bequests to younger children total over £100. The last bequest would not come due until 1679, when the youngest child, Thomas, would reach the age of twenty-four: thus Isabel's control of the property as executrix was to continue for over twenty years.

John^A and Isabel Farmer's eldest son, John, ultimate heir to the property, was also expected to help raise revenues from the farm to pay his siblings' portions, but this would not come to pass. The son John married in 1662, but then promptly died intestate in 1664, leaving his mother Isabel solely in charge of her late husband's estate, and leaving a single infant son of his own (also named John) as eventual heir to the Ansley farm. By the later 1660s, other children had attained their majority and married, and cash legacies came due for them. Edward¹ Farmer, as (apparently) the eldest surviving son of John^A and Isabel, was attempting to help his mother satisfy the estate's obligations, when he deposed on 21 July 1669 that the £10 due to his sister Mary (Farmer) Pollard had already been paid to her husband William Pollard.^[15] The Pollards had already had two children baptized at Ansley (Thomas, 1666, and Elizabeth, 1668), and may have been residing on the Farmer property during that time. Subsequently William Pollard gained control of the Farmer property, perhaps at the time of Isabel and Edward's emigration to New England, apparently in 1671.

¹⁵ Farmer documents, No. 1, cited above in text.

By 1674 widow Isabel Farmer, already in New England, sought to employ her brother-in-law, Thomas Muston — a well-to-do farmer of Wyken, near Coventry, some ten miles away from Ansley — to wrest control of the Farmer estate from her son-in-law William Pollard.^[16] Despite Muston's pessimism in his letter of 13 February 1674/5, he did prevail, since his regular accountings of the Ansley estate begin in 1676 with a disbursement of money "paid out in law to gain possession." Muston's accounts and control of the property continue through 1682.

But even with her disinterested brother-in-law Muston safely in control of the Ansley farm, Isabel was further frustrated in her efforts to receive income from it once she had emigrated. On one hand, her right to income from the estate was compromised by her remarriage to Thomas Wiswall of Cambridge Village (now Newton), Massachusetts, sometime around 1674. Nevertheless Muston was still willing to send revenues to her. Of course, even the simple uncertainty of communication across the Atlantic could affect the relationship. In 1682, not having heard from Isabel for some time, Muston was surprised that sums already sent seem not to have been received, and he required proof that his sister-in-law was indeed still alive before venturing to send more money to New England.

The drawn-out process of estate administration would come to a close only after 1682. By 1679 each child's inheritance had come due, but Isabel's senior grandson and the ultimate heir to the estate, John Farmer, was still a minor until 1684, perhaps providing the pretext for Isabel's (and Muston's) continued involvement. But in the spring of 1683, Isabel Farmer seems to have finally relinquished control, as she participated in an agreement, dated 5 April 1683, over the estate (the substance of which is now lost), with her grandson John Farmer, still legally a minor, or "infant," at age 20.^[17]

But while the contentions over the Ansley probate seem finally to have come to a close in 1683, Isabel (Burbage) (Farmer) Wiswall soon unleashed a similar tempest in New England. Her second husband, Elder Thomas Wiswall, died intestate on 6 December 1683. His substantial estate (valued at £220 in real estate and £123 in movables) was promptly appraised by his two adult sons, Noah and Ebenezer, who were recognized as the administrators.^[18] Isabel, apparently unsatisfied, appealed to the Middlesex Quarterly Court to direct the court-appointed overseers to insure that her dower was correctly calculated and rendered to her by her stepsons. She seems to have soon fallen out with the

¹⁶ For Muston's identity and connections, see the discussion and genealogical summary in a later installment of this article.

¹⁷ John Nichols, *History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester. Compiled from the Best and Most Antient Historians: Inquisitiones post Mortem, and Other Valuable Records*, 4 vols. in 8 parts (London: the author, 1795–1815), vol. 4, part 2, 950n. See the next installment of this article for discussion of the account in Nichols and the source of his information.

¹⁸ Middlesex County Probate, 6:120–22, inventory dated 14 December 1683. See also Clarence Augustus Wiswall, *A Wiswall Line: Ten Generations in Descent from Elder Thomas Wiswall of Dorchester, Massachusetts, 1635, to James Boit Wiswall, Wakefield, Massachusetts* (Boston: the author, 1925), 9, and "The Wiswall Inheritance, 1683–1885" in Roger Thompson, *Cambridge Cameos* (Boston: NEHGS, 2005), 267–70.

overseers, and secured the replacement of two of them after appeal to the Court — but not before being sharply and publicly rebuked by one of them, respected citizen Captain Thomas Prentice. According to John Farmer, Captain Prentice,

with more regard to justice than gallantry, obliged her to retract some of her asseverations, and to promise that in future she would “set a watch before her mouth, and keep the door of her lips.”^[19]

Back in Warwickshire, Isabel’s English grandson John Farmer finally came of age in 1684 and must have come fully into the Ansley estate; shortly thereafter, in the fall of 1684, Isabel’s brother-in-law Thomas Muston died. Isabel herself, by this time twice widowed, and twice frustrated in probate contentions, was in failing health. From the winter of 1684/5 onward, she was an invalid at the Billerica house of her son Edward. Edward¹ Farmer received formal guardianship of his mother, Isabel Wiswall, from the Middlesex Quarterly Court on 7 April 1685, when she had already been living with him for four months.^[20] She died, at last, in his house on 21 May 1686, having spent her last seventeen months as an invalid, “helpless and speechless” — thus involuntarily complying with Captain Prentice’s Biblical admonition. Thomas Browne’s letter of 1706 reveals that when news of Isabel’s death reached Warwickshire, her son-in-law William^A Pollard had “letters of administration” taken out on her portion of the Ansley estate, and some revenues still in the hands of Muston’s son and heir were distributed among the surviving Farmer sisters and their husbands.

Yet even long after his mother’s death Edward¹ Farmer sporadically sought to claim money from the Ansley estate. In 1698 he gathered evidence to attempt to apply to his nephew John Farmer at Ansley for reimbursement for his support of his mother in her second widowhood.^[21] Even as late as 1705 Edward¹ Farmer wrote to another English cousin, Thomas Browne of neighboring Astley,

¹⁹ Francis Jackson, *A History of the Early Settlement of Newton, County of Middlesex, Massachusetts, from 1639 to 1800: With a Genealogical Register of its Inhabitants, Prior to 1800* (Boston: Stacy & Richardson, 1854), 452n. Jackson states here that he is quoting “Dr. Farmer,” (obviously genealogist John of New Hampshire), but I have not found the source of this passage in any of Farmer’s writings examined so far for this piece. The allusion is to Psalm 141:3: “Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, and keep the door of my lips.” Though originally spoken by a man (i.e., King David), this verse seems to have been commonly invoked as the appropriately demure attitude of a woman or wife. It is so found in James Durham, *Commentary on the Song of Songs* (Edinburgh, 1689) [commentary on *Song* 4:12], and was perhaps more generally current in seventeenth-century Puritan rhetoric, though I have not made a study of this. The court actions referred to here are apparently found in Middlesex Quarterly Court, original records, 3:67, 74, as cited in “Miscellaneous Index & Records” (a manuscript volume kept with probate indices, and available on microfilm at NEHGS), p. 444.

²⁰ Middlesex Quarterly Court, original records, 4:151, as cited in “Miscellaneous Index & Records” [note 19], p. 444: “At a county court 7 Apr 1685: In answer to Edward Farmer petition the said Edward is appointed Guardian of his mother Ms. Wiswall, & to receive all dues owing unto her, this receipt shall be to such debtors a full discharge.”

²¹ Interestingly, there is no evidence of any such appeal to her stepsons in Newton.

Warwickshire, to see about the possibilities of reimbursement from the Ansley estate. We are grateful for Thomas Browne's chatty letter of reply, but as Browne pointed out, no money would be crossing the water at that late date, even though the nephew John Farmer and his mother and step-father had become "very rich." By then, however, Edward¹ Farmer was a man of substance in Billerica, and it made no sense to sustain these painful entanglements with the homeland. Browne's letter effectively closed the case of the Ansley probate as far as the Americans were concerned.

From his own longhand copies and summaries of these documents (plus his marginal notes), preserved among his papers at NEHGS and at The New-York Historical Society Library — as well as from his various published comments on his immigrant ancestors' immediate family — it is clear that genealogist John⁵ Farmer studied these relics carefully, and at least partly understood the stories of Isabel and her husbands' estates. In particular he was deeply impressed with his immigrant ancestress, calling her "a woman of masculine courage and spirit," which — perhaps — was to be understood as a compliment.^[22]

To be continued: The next installment will review John Farmer's further genealogical research into the Ansley Farmers (with a chart), and lay to rest a false claim made by a prominent cousin in England. Further installments will present a reconstruction and genealogical summary of the Farmer and related families.

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²² Jackson, *History of Newton*, [note 19], 452n, quoting "Dr Farmer" without attribution to a source. I am not certain of the origin of the passage.

GENEALOGIST JOHN FARMER DISCOVERS HIS ANCESTRY:
THE WARWICKSHIRE FAMILY OF EDWARD¹ FARMER,
ISABEL¹ (FARMER) (WYMAN) (BLOOD) GREEN, AND
THOMAS¹ POLLARD, OF BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS

Nathaniel Lane Taylor

(Continued from Register 160 [2006]:272)

PART 2: REV. DR. RICHARD FARMER'S ANCESTRAL PRETENSIONS

John⁵ Farmer (1789-1838), the founder of systematic genealogy in America, launched his seminal career with his curiosity over his own family in New England. As we saw in the first installment, he was clearly impressed with what his inherited family papers told him of the story of his immigrant ancestor Isabel (Burbage) (Farmer) Wiswall, and her struggle over money from both her deceased husbands, John^A Farmer and Thomas¹ Wiswall. Yet beyond the ambiguous portrait they provided of Isabel, John Farmer's heirloom documents gave him valuable clues for further research into his English ancestry and connections, which he pursued with an ingenuity and dedication which may have been very unusual in his day. Armed with the names of his immigrant ancestor's father (John^A Farmer) and home parish (Ansley, Warwickshire), he began hunting for more information. Around 1820 he wrote letters to England to seek contact with any members of the Farmer family still living at or near Ansley. We do not know precisely what or to whom he wrote, but at last in 1822 he received a reply from an English fourth cousin, the senior male-line representative (in fact the *last* male-line descendant left in England) of John^A Farmer: Reverend Thomas Farmer, rector of Aspley Guise, Bedfordshire.^[23]

Aspley Guise
Woburn
Bedfordshire

Dear Sir,

Having lately been to visit my relations at Leicester, my native place, I saw for the first time (and indeed I never heard of it before) a letter from you desiring an account of our family, and being satisfied of our consanguinity, you will allow me to hope

²³ The 1828 published version of John Farmer's *Genealogical Memoir* [note 2] prints, with minor omissions and errors, the two letters from Rev. Thomas Farmer of Aspley-Guise, Bedfordshire, dated July 1822 and December 1823; these letters are also reprinted in the *Register* 1 (1847):33-34. The fuller texts given here are drawn from John Farmer's longhand copies in his manuscript Farmer Notebook [note 5], 49-52). Note that this Farmer Notebook was shown with an incorrect call number in note 5; the correct call number is SG Far 5, vol. 1.

that you may cross the Atlantic and visit this village of which I am the rector, and which is situated but little more than forty miles from London, and near the Duke of Bedford's magnificent park and palace.

I am possessed of the papers which formerly belonged to my uncle, Dr. Richard Farmer, who certainly was a most ingenious and classical scholar and perhaps the best annotator on England's immortal bard. You may know that he was Master of Emmanuel College in the University of Cambridge. There I was educated, and there I saw him die after a very long protracted illness on the 8th of September 1797. The loose papers from which I shall send you extracts are in Dr. Farmer's handwriting. My father Thomas Farmer is now at Leicester and is the only male issue of his generation. He was born on the 10th of May 1744.^[24] I was born on the 20th of August 1771, and am the only male issue left, and I am in possession of land in the vicinity of Nuneaton, sharing it equally with Mr. Arnold of Ashby, no great distance from Daventry, in the county of Northampton. Of the present owner of Anceley or Astley, I know nothing, but in old papers I find John Farmer of Anceley in the county of Warwick passes a fine 1st Sept. 1604, and that a John Farmer in 1663 contracts marriage with Isabel Barbage of Great Packington in the County of Warwick, and that Isabel in after marriage articles is styled "now of New-England"—that John Farmer of Nuneaton marrys Sarah Daws of Tamworth and settles the estate at Anceley upon her. Richard Farmer, son of John and Sarah, was baptized at Nuneaton 15 Sept 1698, and married Hannah Knibb of Brinklow in the county of Warwick 4 Jany 1732-3. Their eldest son Richard, born 4th May 1735, was the person whom you have rightly named of such extensive literary fame and acquirements. I shall seal this with the seal which Dr. Farmer wore and used, and the arms I read "He beareth Sable and chevron between 3 lamps argent with fire proper by the name of Farmer." This coat was assigned to George Farmer, Esq., 1663, 2d son of Bartholomew Farmer, gent., of Radcliffe, near Atherstone, Warwickshire. The Patent was to alter the chevron of the family, though it mentions not what anciently were the arms of the family. I shall be obliged to you for the printed account of Edward Farmer's descendants from 1670, and if I shall hereafter attain further information of our ancestors, I shall be most happy to transmit them to you.

With respect and good wishes, yours,
Thomas Farmer

July 1822

Rec'd October 14th [John Farmer's notation]

Excited by this unexpected response, John Farmer quickly wrote a reply to his new-found cousin, summarizing what he knew of his family, and seeking any further information Rev. Thomas Farmer might be able to provide (as well as asking for another copy of the coat of arms, which clearly impressed him).^[25]

²⁴ Here John Farmer has added in his notebook copy: "Thomas Farmer above died at Leicester, in 1824, aged 80 years. *London Magazine*."

²⁵ Found in a compilation of Farmer-related genealogical material in John Farmer's handwriting, titled "An Alphabetical Genealogy of those Bearing the Name of Farmer" (R. Stanton Avery

Concord, New Hampshire

October, 1822^[26]

Dear Sir,

Your acceptable letter was received on the 13th instant. I was much gratified with the information it contained, & particularly in learning that the Rev. Richard Farmer, D.D., was of the same lineage with myself. For I esteem it an honor of no inconsiderable magnitude to be even remotely related to so distinguished a scholar and antiquary. I had read, several years since, the biography of him in the supplement to the *Encyclopaedia*, the notices of him in Dr. Rees' extensive work, in Lempriere and Jones' Biographical Dictionaries, and in the Life of Sir Joshua Reynolds, and had formed a very high opinion of his character and learning.

It appears from your letter and from documents in my possession, that we derive our descent from John Farmer, of Ansley, our nearest common ancestor. You state that he married Isabel Barbage of Great Packington in 1663, which I should think might be an error, unless she was his 2d wife, as it appears that several of their children were of age at that time. John, probably the oldest son, was your ancestor. He married and settled in Ansley, and died some time prior to 1699. His widow married Richard Lucas, who, it appears from an original letter from Thomas Browne to my ancestor, dated in 1701, at Astley Hall, lived at Ansley "upon the common that goes to Nuneaton." John Farmer, the son of John last named, lived in Nuneaton, and is described in the letter referred to as a "fellmonger" and doing much business in the "maulding trade," and as being "a very rich man." He was the grandfather to Dr. Richard Farmer. Edward, from whom I am descended, came to New England as early as 1673, settled in Billerica, Massachusetts, where he died 27 May 1727, aged about 86 years. In the Register which I send you, you will find an account of some of his posterity. He had one child more than what are named in this register, viz. Sarah, who married Thomas Pollard of the city of Coventry, who was son of William Pollard, brother-in-law to her father. She had 15 children all born in Billerica, fourteen of whom attained mature age and have left a numerous posterity. She died 3 May 1725. Thomas, another son of our common ancestor, came to New England, and was living in Billerica in 1675 & 1684. He left the place, but whether he returned to England or not, I have never ascertained. Isabel, the widow of John Farmer, first named, came to this country and married a worthy gentleman of Newton, Mass., Elder Thomas Wiswall, whom she survived and was allowed dower in his estate. She removed to her son's in Billerica, where she died 21 May 1686. She received annual rents of one moiety of the estate at Ansley as long as she lived. The place on which she resided, and where her descendants to the sixth generation in an unbroken succession have resided, is a pleasant location, about half a mile from the Church (or as we say in this country, Meeting-House) in Billerica. The estate, formerly embracing 500 acres or more, is in possession of an uncle of mine, who is great-grandson of Edward Farmer, the son of John Farmer, first named.

Special Collections Dept., NEHGS, SG Far 5, vol. 2), pp. 147-52 (among odd appendices at the end of the volume).

²⁶ The notebook has 1832, evidently a simple copying error.

It would give me much satisfaction to obtain the names of the children, times of birth, etc., of our common ancestor. It is possible that so curious and industrious an antiquary as your uncle, Dr. Farmer was, might have collected much information of this sort, which if he did, I hope you will be so fortunate as to find. From the book of Heraldry which you have quoted, it seems that George Farmer, Esq., whom you mention, was grandson of John Farmer and great-grandson to Bartholomew Farmer of Leicester. Possibly this Bartholomew was brother to the John Farmer whom you mention as *passing a time* at Ansley in 1604.^[27] Of this your means of information will probably enable you to decide.

On this side of the Atlantick we have few claims to antiquity, our oldest records extending back only about two hundred years. In England, your parish Registers furnish means of tracing out families to a remote period. That at Ansley would supply us with some important dates. From old papers in my possession, I find a charge against Mrs. Isabel Farmer in 16__ [blank] for "searching the register at Ansley," but I have never been able to find what was the nature of the information sought after.

If you have a copy of Dr. Parr's epitaph on your deceased uncle, I should be gratified in seeing it. I will thank you for the motto on the seal used by Dr. F., the impression on the sealing of your letter being partially broken so that I could not decypher it. Should you have any scrap of his handwriting which you could be willing to part with, it would confer a great favor on me to receive it.

I thank you for your polite invitation to visit England. Were circumstances favorable, few things would afford me a greater degree of pleasure. The land of my ancestors will ever be dear to me, and the memorials I hold which they either brought with them or which were sent to them soon after their emigration hither, I regard as of much value. They are early *family memorials* and this is sufficient to make them valuable.

It will give me pleasure to receive any works you may have published, and to hear from you and your friends as often as it may be convenient. You will, Sir, be pleased to accept my grateful acknowledgments for your kindness in writing, and in communicating the information contained in your letter.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

John Farmer

Rev. Thomas Farmer,
Aspley Guise,
near Woburn Abbey,
Bedfordshire,
England

The preceding an imperfect copy of the one sent.

²⁷ John Farmer here misread Rev. Thomas Farmer's reference to John Farmer "passing a fine," that is, coming to a "final concord" or "fine" before the Court of Common Pleas to convey land. See the next installment of this article for a discussion of this fine.

John Farmer received one further reply from Rev. Thomas Farmer:^[28]

Aspley Guise 1 Dec 1823

Sir,

The family of Farmers from which we are descended were living about the year of our lord 1500 at a village, called Ratcliffe-Cuiley which is in Leicestershire, and adjoins the counties of Warwick and Stafford. One of them was a judge in the Court of Common Pleas, and you observe by the scrap enclosed, another of them chancellor of the cathedral church at Salisbury, which scrap is in the handwriting of the author on the Learning of Shakespeare. Most of them are buried in a vault belonging to the family in the church at Witherly (near Ratcliffe) in the county of Leicester. I know but little of our pedigree, but my grandfather's name was Richard, who married a Miss Knibb, and their family consisted of Richard (the annotator on our immortal bard, prebendary of Canterbury, then a canon residentiary of St. Paul's, London, the Master of Emmanuel College in Cambridge, and Principal Librarian of that University), John, in holy orders; Thomas, my father, who married the third daughter of John Andrew, Esq., of Harlestone Park in the county of Northampton; Joseph, the Lt. Colonel of the Loyal Leicester Volunteers; Hannah, unmarried; Sarah, married Allen Brown, Esq., of Cosby, near Leicester, and afterwards Richard Jarvis, a surgeon at Lutterworth; Mary, married the Hon. Richard Byron, brother of the late Lord Byron. My father, Mrs. Jervis, and Mrs. Byron are still living.

The arms of the family (as settled and altered by the Judge, whose Christian name I do not know) are *Sable, a chevron, between three lamps enflamed proper*, and the motto *Non extinguentur*.

I sometimes (about once a year for one week) visit my friends at Leicester but never go into Warwickshire, and am totally unable to procure any further genealogical account of our ancestors. My duties here demand almost my continual presence.

I remain your obedient servant,

Thomas Farmer

Mr. John Farmer
Concord
New Hampshire
America
(via Liverpool)

John Farmer had made a remarkable connection! The distant cousin, Rev. Thomas Farmer, had not himself done any significant research into the Farmer family, but Thomas' late uncle had. The uncle had been a prominent academic and ecclesiastic: Reverend Doctor Richard Farmer (1735–1797), Master of Emmanuel College at Cambridge University, and Fellow of the Society of

²⁸ Copy in Farmer Notebook [note 23], 53–55. A partial copy is in *Register* 1 (1847):34.

Antiquaries.^[29] Aside from publishing a commentary on Shakespeare, Rev. Dr. Richard Farmer had undertaken some investigation into his Farmer ancestry, and at one point apparently even intended to publish a history of Leicester, which was never completed.^[30] As the letters show, Rev. Thomas was able to share with John Farmer some of his uncle's notes on their mutual Farmer ancestry, as well as a coat of arms that Dr. Richard "used and wore."

The use of coat armor by Dr. Richard Farmer, shown to be a cousin to the New England Farmers, implies that their common ancestors were armigerous. But were they? The coat of arms used by Dr. Richard in fact belonged to a Farmer family located at nearby Ratcliffe Culey, Leicestershire, in the early seventeenth century. The most important member of this clan — and possibly the first to use the coat of arms — was one Bartholomew Farmer, gentleman (died 1624), who entered those arms, with his pedigree, in the 1619 Visitation of Leicestershire.^[31] Along with Dr. Richard's use of these arms went an explicit claim to descent from this armigerous Bartholomew Farmer of Ratcliffe Culey, which Rev. Thomas accepted at face value — though it appears that his American cousin was more cautious. Genealogist John Farmer was delighted with the coat of arms, and asked Rev. Thomas for a second impression of the seal (the first having been damaged in transit); he also had the arms painted into the flyleaf of one of his own notebooks of Farmer research.^[32] However, he limited his published statements about his own family to that which could be proved directly — naming only his immigrant ancestor's father, John^A Farmer of Ansley — and he does not appear to have used or drawn attention to the claimed coat of arms. As we shall see, this was prudent.

There is no indication that either Rev. Thomas Farmer or antiquarian John Farmer ever knew it, but at the time that John Farmer was beginning his researches, the families of Bartholomew Farmer of Ratcliffe Culey, and of Dr. Richard Farmer, had recently been treated to a published genealogical account, in John Nichols' monumental *History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester* (in a volume published in 1811).^[33] Here, an account of the family of Bartholomew Farmer is expanded with a lengthy memoir of Dr. Richard Farmer, whom Nichols admired and regarded as something of a predecessor. The account also gives a genealogy of Dr. Richard Farmer's own family — in effect, the English descendants of John^A Farmer for five generations. This material was based on Dr. Richard Farmer's own notes (communicated to Nichols after Farmer's death), and

²⁹ *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, 60 vols. (Oxford: University Press, 2005), 19:64–66; Arthur Sherbo, *Richard Farmer, Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge: A Forgotten Shakespearean* (Newark, Del.: University of Delaware Press, 1992).

³⁰ The project is described in John Nichols, *The History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester*, 4 vols. in 8 parts (London: J. Nichols, 1795–1815), 4:2:943–44.

³¹ *Visitation of the County of Leicester in the Year 1619*, Publications of The Harleian Society, Visitation Series, vol. 2 (London, 1870), 179.

³² The arms are painted on the frontispiece of the Farmer Notebook [note 23].

³³ Nichols, *History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester* [note 30], 4:2:934–51.

includes mention of specific dates and documents which help cement the story of the New England family, including the only known explicit statement of Isabel (Burbage) Farmer's parentage, as well as a summary of deeds and vital records pertaining to her eldest grandson John (1663-1727), who was Dr. Richard Farmer's grandfather.^[34]

Most importantly, the genealogy grafts the two families together — that of Dr. Richard Farmer with that of Bartholomew Farmer of Ratcliffe Culey — based solely on a statement of descent found in Dr. Richard Farmer's notes (and quoted by Nichols in a footnote to the pedigree). The genealogy ignores altogether the known later descendants of Bartholomew Farmer of Ratcliffe Culey (some of whom can be found in subsequent visitations of Middlesex and Warwickshire), essentially replacing them with Dr. Richard Farmer's family, of Ansley and Nuneaton, Warwickshire.

It appears that Dr. Richard Farmer claimed descent from the Ratcliffe Culey Farmers by identifying his earliest known ancestor (his great-grandfather, John^A Farmer of Ansley), as a boy of the same name in an antiquarian pedigree of the Ratcliffe Culey line. The crux of the claim was jotted on a copy, in Dr. Richard Farmer's possession, of a 1640 manuscript pedigree of the family of Bartholomew Farmer. The 1640 pedigree extends to the eight sons and three daughters of John, son and heir of Bartholomew, by his wife Mary Purefoy, of the Purefoys of Caldecote, Warwickshire, a branch of the ancient gentry Purefoys of Fenny Drayton, Leicestershire. Dr. Richard Farmer identified their fourth son, John, as his own great-grandfather, John^A Farmer.^[35]

The present research began as a request for assistance to verify the apparent royal ancestry of Mary (Purefoy) Farmer, supposed ancestor of Dr. Richard Farmer, and apparent grandmother of Edward¹ Farmer of Billerica.^[36] However,

³⁴ We have already seen, in Part 1 of this article, the notice of a 1683 settlement by which Isabel (Burbage) (Farmer) Wiswall renounced her claim on the Ansley estate in favor of her English grandson John Farmer.

³⁵ Nichols, *History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester* [note 30], 4:2:950, bottom of page, note 9. The notes were transmitted to Nichols in 1811 by an associate of Rev. Dr. Farmer, one John Heyrick, who wrote: "This pedigree found among the Doctor's papers, so far as it goes, bears marks of antiquity, and seems to me to be correct. I have continued it from the Doctor's muniments, memorandums, etc., and the relation of his brothers and sisters, to the present time; and have no doubt of the truth of it, so far as the present branch of the Farmer family extends, from whom the Doctor, and his brothers and sisters, etc., claim their descent; and I believe that the Pedigree drawn out by me may be relied on to be just." These protestations of veracity in this testimonial suggest that Heyrick may in fact have had some doubts. But if Nichols himself was suspicious, he made no indication in his pedigree chart. The original 1640 pedigree is in the British Library (MS Harley 1174, folio 111v). Richard Farmer would have had access to it as the Harleian manuscript collection was catalogued and accessible in London literary circles in the late eighteenth century, even before its subsequent acquisition by the British Museum.

³⁶ This claim, though evident in the pedigree printed by Nichols, had not been publicized with regard to the apparent American descendants. The most recent republication of the compiled Farmer origins is found in Alicia Crane Williams, *Stone-Gregg Genealogy: The Ancestors and Descendants of Galen Luther Stone and His Wife Carrie Morton Gregg* (Baltimore: Gateway

the weakness of Dr. Farmer's claim for the ancestry of the Ansley Farmers quickly became apparent.

On its face the claim requires a "force-fit," combining an implausible chronology with an equally implausible social and geographic leap. The 1640 pedigree does not show the age of the young gentry scion John Farmer (whom Dr. Richard claimed to be identical to John^A Farmer), but the 1619 visitation pedigree showed him to have been one year old, hence born about 1618. Could this gentry John, born at Ratcliffe Culey in 1618 to a well-off landowner, have been the same as a yeoman who was married some seven miles away, a scant fifteen years later, to a woman of yeoman stock seven years his senior, herself from a parish even farther away?

And would this gentry John's family have been entirely ignored by his own nephew, who accounted for his other uncle who had issue, in the 1682 Visitation of Warwickshire? The nephew lived only a few miles from Ansley, but made no mention in the Visitation pedigree of any family or issue of his uncle John, the alleged missing link.^[37]

The claim presents a conundrum, since the family claimed as kin, the Farmers of Ratcliffe Culey, lived in reasonably close geographic proximity to those of Ansley, and in fact they did share a somewhat similar social position, straddling the divide between gentry and yeomanry, though at slightly different times.

The Farmer family of Ratcliffe Culey, Leicestershire, derives from a John Farmer, yeoman, who died testate at neighboring Sheepy Magna, Leicestershire, in 1521.^[38] There are two distinct branches traceable from the early sixteenth century onward: one in Twycross (just to the north of Sheepy), and one in Ratcliffe Culey (just to the south). The Twycross branch were yeomen, as were most of those of Ratcliffe Culey, but part of the Ratcliffe Culey branch became "gentlemen," rising through the efforts of Bartholomew Farmer (died 1624) who aggressively purchased manorial property in and around Ratcliffe Culey, arranged a significant gentry marriage for his eldest son, John (to Mary Purefoy), and entered his pedigree and arms in the 1619 Visitation of Leicester.

Press, 1987), 113–16; it is based on John Farmer's 1825 account as revised in the 1847 *Register*, containing nothing earlier than the parents of the immigrant.

³⁷ *The Visitation of the County of Warwick [1682–83]*, W. Harry Rylands, ed., Publications of The Harleian Society, Visitation Series, vol. 62 (London, 1911), 29–30.

³⁸ For the Ratcliffe Culey Farmers, in addition to Nichols, *History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester* [note 30], 4:2:950–51, the principal sources are *Visitation of Leicester 1619* [note 31], 179; Joseph Foster, ed., *The Visitation of Middlesex, 1663* (London: J. Foster, 1887), 92; *Visitation of Warwick [1682–1683]* [note 37], 29–30; and an unpublished annotated pedigree at the College of Arms, based on papers classed as "Norfolk 36/106-108," documenting a grant of arms to an agnate descendant of these Farmers in 1935. This pedigree was purchased from the College in September 2000 at the request of another Farmer descendant, who has generously shared this document. These Ratcliffe and Twycross Farmer pedigrees were verified, as far as possible, by examination of the original wills from both the Prerogative Court of Canterbury and the Archdeaconry of Leicester. The family is not presented in detail here because no concrete connection to the Ansley family has been found.

Bartholomew's descendants were gentlemen (a London branch became knights), but their cousins remained yeomen. Bartholomew's own brother Ralph had described himself as "husbandman" in his 1592 will, which predated his brother's rise to fortune.^[39] As we shall see, the Ansley Farmer genealogy does involve a *possible* connection to the Farmers of Twycross, hence a possible distant collateral connection to the gentry Farmers of Ratcliffe Culey. Perhaps imperfect knowledge of collateral kinship led Dr. Richard Farmer to claim *descent* from the armigerous Bartholomew Farmer of Ratcliffe Culey, but we may never know whether, or to what degree, Richard Farmer's incorrect claim of descent was based on any tradition of a real kinship.

The chart (see facing page) presents an outline of what is now known of Edward¹ Farmer's kindred, the Farmers of Ansley and Nuneaton; the chart will be substantiated by a textual genealogical summary in a subsequent section of the article. This yeoman family had an upward trajectory similar to the Farmers of Ratcliffe Culey. Though Edward¹ Farmer's father and grandfather were yeomen, their English descendants rose in the world. The Ansley probate saga has already showed that Edward¹ Farmer's nephew John Farmer (1663–1727) inherited the estate of his grandfather John^A Farmer. A fellmonger and maltster by trade, he built his business and property into a fortune worth £1,000 at his death.^[40] This John Farmer, of Nuneaton and Leicester, was styled "gentleman" on his tomb at Leicester, even though he referred to himself more modestly as a "merchant trader" in his own will. As we saw in the first part of this article, cousin Thomas Browne had described him as "very ritch" and wholly uninterested in his American cousins. His descendants certainly considered themselves gentlemen, and were quite well placed socially: Dr. Richard Farmer is said to have twice declined a bishopric (allegedly preferring to attend the theater, which bishops were expected to forego), and one of his sisters married the younger son of a peer (Rev. Richard Byron, son of William, 4th Lord Byron, and great-uncle of the poet).^[41] Given this significant three-generation social rise, it is not surprising that Dr. Richard Farmer either *assumed* that he must belong to a gentry family or else *asserted* it to be true even if he had no evidence of it.

It is interesting that, when he was informed of this putative connection in the early 1820s, genealogist John Farmer seems to have remained deliberately cautious about claiming the precise ancestry for himself, both in print and in his copious notebooks. He took careful note of the statements sent him by his English cousin Rev. Thomas Farmer, and he was curious about the coat of arms. But, to his credit, his statements about his own English ancestry extended only to the one

³⁹ Will of Ralph Farmer, 1592, in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (The National Archives, PROB 11/80, no. 87).

⁴⁰ His inventory was valued at over £1,000 (Diocese of Lincoln, Archdeaconry of Leicester, Commissary Court, Probate Records, ca. 1495–1857, Wills and Inventories, 1726–1727 [FHL 1,537,777]).

⁴¹ Nichols, *History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester* [note 30], 4:2:946, 950 (pedigree).

generation he could prove, the immigrant's father, John^A Farmer. It is tempting to see both an early Republican's preference for colonial enterprise over class-oriented privilege, and also, perhaps, the instinctive filtering of unverifiable claims through a lens of scholarly method. Either way John Farmer appears to have been an objective scholar ahead of his time.

Of course, a more remote connection between the Farmer families of Ansley and Ratcliffe Culey may yet be found (and one clue did emerge which suggests a possible but more remote kinship). But at this point our research into the demonstrable ancestry of Edward¹ Farmer turned away from the claimed descent from Bartholomew and the gentry Purefoys, and followed other leads. Beginning with the documents preserved among the Billerica Farmers and the notes collected by Dr. Richard Farmer (as printed by Nichols), we continued with a review of potentially relevant wills and parish registers in the vicinity of Ansley, Warwickshire. Evidence was quickly found which, in contradiction to Dr. Richard Farmer's claim, presented a briefer but much more likely ancestry, as shown on the chart. New research has continued into the other ancestral families allied through Farmer wives Mary Moore, Isabel Burbage, and Agnes Packwood. This new research and a comprehensive genealogical summary will be laid out in the remainder of this article.

To be continued: The third installment will present new research on the ancestry of the Farmers of Ansley.

GENEALOGIST JOHN FARMER DISCOVERS HIS ANCESTRY:
THE WARWICKSHIRE FAMILY OF EDWARD¹ FARMER,
THOMAS¹ POLLARD, AND ISABEL¹ (FARMER) (WYMAN)
(BLOOD) GREEN, OF BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS

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(continued from Register 161 [2007]:72)

PART 3: THE REAL ANSLEY FARMERS

In the first two installments of this article we have followed genealogist John Farmer (1789–1838) as he undertook a quest for the English origins of his family, which came to Billerica around 1671. First, as a young man, he inherited and digested a trove of seventeenth-century documents which illuminated the immediate kin of his immigrant ancestors and told of financial and family entanglements with their home parish of Ansley, Warwickshire. Years later he made contact with an English fourth cousin, who assured him that their shared ancestral line derived from a gentry family in the next county, the Farmers of Ratcliffe Culey, Leicestershire. On closer examination, that claim proved to be chronologically difficult and based on nothing more than an unsupported assertion. Despite his cousin's claims, genealogist John Farmer's statements about his own ancestry remained rooted in the earliest ancestor he could prove: John^A Farmer, of Ansley, Warwickshire, father of his immigrant ancestor Edward¹ Farmer of Billerica. As it turns out, review of primary sources pertaining to Ansley, Warwickshire, sources essentially inaccessible to an early nineteenth-century New Englander, have readily pointed out a much more plausible, non-gentry ancestry for John^A Farmer.

As a first step, all Farmer entries were extracted afresh from the Ansley parish register, which survives only from 1637 onwards. We confirmed the record of the marriage of John^A Farmer and Isabel Burbage on 13 August 1633 at the neighboring parish of Arley, which had long been known (although, curiously, the Arley register provides *no* other Farmer entries at all). Here follow all Farmer entries for our period (plus additional records for known grandchildren of John^A Farmer) from the registers of the adjacent parishes of Ansley, Arley, and Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire:

* Harlow G. Farmer, of Annapolis, Maryland, a ninth-generation descendant of Edward¹ Farmer, died 31 January 2007. Harlow had for many years been pursuing Farmer origins in correspondence with other interested descendants, a collaboration that set the stage for the present article. Even in his last illness, Harlow maintained a keen interest and a critical eye that contributed significantly to this work.

Ansley:^[42]

- 1637 Nov 15 Anne, daughter of John Farmer, yeoman, and Isabella his wife, baptized
- 1640 Sep 13 Marye daughter of John Farmer, yeoman, and Isabell his wife, baptized
- 1643 Apr 30 Richard sonne of John Farmer, yeoman, and Isabella his wife, baptized
- 1645 May 22 Edward sonne of John Farmer, yeoman, and Isabella his wife, baptized
- 1648 Jul 1 Elizabeth daughter of John Farmer, yeoman, and Isabella his wife, baptized
- 1650 Jun 3 Sarah daughter of John Farmer, yeoman, and Isabella his wife, baptized
- 1652 Aug 11 Isabell daughter of John Farmer, yeoman, and Issabell his wife, baptized
- 1652 Nov 20 Elizabeth Farmer, widow, buried
- 1655 Aug 16 Thomas sonne of John Farmer, yeoman, and Isabella his wife "was born August the 16th and baptized September the 26th"
- 1658 Aug 22 John Farmer, yeoman, buried
- 1662 Nov 18 John Farmer and Elizabeth Forde, married
- 1664 Aug 15 John Farmer, buried
- 1666 Dec 28 Thomas sonne of William Pollard and Mary his wife, baptized
- 1668 Aug 30 Elizabeth daughter of William Pollard and Mary his wife, baptized
- 1668 Nov 18 Henry Whyte and Elizabeth Farmer, married
- 1669 Apr 1 Sarah daughter of Edward Farmer, husbandman, and Mary his wife, baptized

Arley:^[43]

- 1633 Aug 13 Johannes Farmer et Isabella Burbidge nupta fuerunt xiii^o die Augusti

Chilvers Coton:^[44]

- 1663 Oct 15 John son of John Farmer and Elizabeth his wife, baptized

These data match very well with the Farmer family account known both to Dr. Richard Farmer in England, and to John Farmer in New England; they are laid out in the genealogical summary in the next installment of this article. But the Ansley register, beginning only in 1637, cannot itself be used to build the genealogy back beyond John^A Farmer. Fortunately, it was not necessary to look very far for leads to an earlier generation.

⁴² Parish registers of Ansley, Warwickshire [FHL 0,554,793]. This presents a slightly more complete set of entries than those given by Myrtle S. Hyde, "Farmer Note" [note 13], *Register* 126:298. The Pollard baptisms extracted here, including that of immigrant Thomas¹ Pollard of Billerica, have not previously been published.

⁴³ Parish registers of Arley, Warwickshire [FHL 0,548,395]. Another marriage entry for an Isabella Burbage appears in the Arley register, representing a curious coincidence: "Edmundus Manston et Isbella Burbage iuxta fuerunt junii trigesimo die" [1634]. This can only refer to another Isabel Burbage since the Isabel Burbage who married John^A Farmer in 1633 is obviously the woman who continues as his wife and mother of children born circa 1635 to 1655. There are no other Burbage entries in the Arley register in this era.

⁴⁴ Parish registers of Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire [FHL 0,548,399]. The early part of the first register, which begins in 1654, is barely legible on film; there appear to be no other Farmer entries for many years after 1663.

Two documents revealed the presence of Farmers in the parish of Ansley antedating John^A Farmer, and suggested an obvious candidate in Ansley for his father. The first of these documents was known to Dr. Richard Farmer, and can only have been known to him by being handed down in the family. It was mentioned in 1822 by his nephew, Rev. Thomas Farmer, to genealogist John Farmer of New England, and also noted in the Farmer account in John Nichols' *History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester*. The document is a fine, or final concord from the Court of Common Pleas, dated 12 November 1604, in which John Farmer, of Ansley, deforciant, quitclaimed a substantial parcel of farmlands there to Humphrey Smythe and Thomas Packwood, querents, for the conventional sum of seventy pounds.^[45]

The second document is the only will of any Farmer of Ansley found in the principal probate jurisdiction for northern Warwickshire, the diocese of Lichfield and Coventry — the 1625 will of one "John Farmer alias Johnson," of Ansley, who, despite the interesting addition of an alias at the opening of his will, signed the will simply "John Farmer." An abstract follows here:^[46]

⁴⁵ The National Archives, CP 25/2/365/2JASIMICH. I assume this can only have been known from a copy of the fine held in the family, to descendant Dr. Richard Farmer of Emanuel College, whose notes that "John Farmer passed a fine in Ansley, 1604" were printed in Nichols' *History and Antiquities of the County of Leicester* [note 30], vol. 4.2, p. 950, and also quoted by Richard's nephew Rev. Thomas Farmer in his first letter to John Farmer of New Hampshire. As noted in the previous installment, John Farmer of New Hampshire did not recognize the technical meaning of a fine, and miscopied the phrase as "passing a time" in his manuscript copy of correspondence from Rev. Thomas Farmer. However, the passing of a fine is correctly mentioned in Nichols. Recognizing the original meaning, I commissioned a search for such a fine among the Warwickshire feet of fines for Michaelmas term 1604; genealogist Margaret Baker, of Brentwood, Essex, readily found the original fine. The parcel conveyed by Farmer to Smythe and Packwood consisted of "one messuage, one garden, one orchard, twelve acres of land, four acres of fields, ten acres of pasture, and five acres of woods."

⁴⁶ Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, probate series, letter F, 1623-31 [FHL 0,095,387]. There is no definitive rule explaining the use of an alias in particular circumstances. While one well-known reason for the adoption of an alias is the inheritance of property from a maternal relative, this particular scenario is much more common among the gentry than below, and since the family in question was of the yeomanry, one should consider other alternatives as well. On the practice of aliases generally, thoughtful guides are P. H. Reaney, *The Origin of English Surnames* (London: Routledge & K. Paul, 1967); the chapter "Changes of Name" in George Redmonds, *Surnames and Genealogy: A New Approach* (Boston: NEHGS, 1997), 99-120; and David Hey, *Family Names and Family History* (London: Hambledon & London, 2000). Anthony R. Wagner sums up the broad categories of alias usage in *English Genealogy*, 3rd ed. (Chichester, England: Phillimore, 1983), 62. Lilian J. Redstone, "Use of an Alias in English Surnames," *The American Genealogist* 17 (1940-41):68-69, boils down a sensible discussion to the point that "it is only by studying the . . . particular case that one can be certain of the reason for . . . a second surname." The pairing of the occupational name Farmer with a patronymic name Johnson suggests a situation in which the patronymic may have been added to distinguish one individual from others nearby with the same name. Adding a patronymic to an occupational name is most commonly found among the Welsh, and appears to have been less common elsewhere. Since there are no Johnsons in the Ansley register when it begins in 1637, it seems likely that the next generation of this family all used simply Farmer as their surname. The fact that the testator signed this will

22 September 1625. I John Farmer alias Johnson of Anceley in the County of Warwick yeoman . . . my body to be buried in the Churchyard of Anceley aforesaid. To Josias Packwode and to James Bush my Godsons 12 d. apiece. To the poore of my parish 3 s. 4 d. To my sonne John my house and land where I dwell. To my sonne Edward my house & land at Twycrosse [and] £3 toward the setting up of his trade. To my daughter Hanna & to her two daughters 12 d. apiece. To my other four daughters Elizabeth, Patience, Mary, & Lydia £16 apiece, of which 20 marks shall be made out of my bedd^[47] and the residue to be paid partely in money & partely in goodes & cattell (the cattle to be appraised and divided by two indifferent men). Their portions to be paid at the day of their mariage or within three years after my decease, whichever shall first happen. If any of the daughters die before inheriting, her portion to be equally divided among those then living. All the rest of my goods (less debts, legacies and funeral expenses) to Elizabeth my wife and to John my son [who are made the executors]. Elizabeth my wife shall joyntly occupy one halfe of my land goodes and cattell with my sonne John during her naturall life if she kepe herselfe widow; [each may dispose of his / her own portion]. I appoint my loving ffriendes & kinsmen Thomas Packwode of Fillongly, William Brooke of Elford & William Keeling of Hollerton my overseers, and give them 10 groates apiece. Hand & seale on date above. Witnesses Basill Smith, clerk; Thomas Packwod. [signed] John Farmer.

[Probate packet includes detailed inventory, 19 October 1625; total valuation of movable estate, £92/6/0.]

As the abstract shows, this John named a wife Elizabeth and seven children (most of them minors), leaving “my house and land where I dwell” at Ansley to his eldest son and heir John, who is almost certainly John^A Farmer, also a yeoman, whom we remember was married in 1633 and maintained a farm at Ansley and an overall household of comparable value to this testator’s. It seems quite compelling, if not beyond any shadow of doubt, that this testator of 1625 is therefore John^B Farmer, father of John^A Farmer and grandfather of Edward¹ of Billerica. As the testator of 1625 had seven children at the time, including a daughter with two daughters of her own, he would likely have been married by say 1605. It is therefore quite likely that he is the John Farmer who made the 1604 fine at Ansley, a copy of which was apparently kept among the English descendants of John^A Farmer.

One compelling Farmer clue in the will is a geographic one — the bequest to “sonne Edward my house and land at Twycross [Leicestershire] and £3 toward the setting up of his trade.” This Twycross legacy, to a second son, is the sole known evidence that suggests these Ansley Farmers may be related after all to the gentry Farmers of Ratcliffe Culey, who were distant cousins with a numerous yeoman Farmer family at Twycross. A systematic review of the extant wills of the Twycross Farmers (not included in this article) shows several untraced males in

“John Farmer,” that there is an attested John Farmer conveying property at Ansley in 1604, and that the apparent Packwood connection (on which see below) *could* be explained through the known marriage of a John Farmer and an Agnes Packwood in neighboring Fillongly a generation previously, leads me to conclude that the addition of “alias Johnson” is most likely a patronymic added to the established surname Farmer in this generation alone.

⁴⁷ “Bedd” is an uncertain reading.

the earliest generations (mid-sixteenth century), who *could* have been ancestral to the Ansley testator. Unfortunately, what can be reconstructed of the Twycross Farmers provides no direct evidence of the ancestry of this John^B Farmer of Ansley, nor do the Twycross parish registers reveal the presence of John^B's younger son Edward in Twycross after 1625.

The Packwoods of Fillongley

Since the Twycross connection did not prove fruitful, our research turned to the Packwoods of Fillongley, which abuts Arley and is only an easy walk from Ansley. Thomas Packwood of Fillongley, "loving friend and kinsman," was an overseer and witness of the will of John^B Farmer; Josias Packwood was John^B Farmer's godson; and John Farmer and Thomas Packwood were seller and buyer of Ansley land in the 1604 fine. Investigating the Packwoods provided not only an explanation of the Farmer-Packwood kinship but also a plausible further extension of the Farmer ancestry.

As with the Farmers in Ansley, the Packwoods of Fillongley turn out to be clear enough to trace in the parish register of Fillongley, combined with wills in the Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry. Here follow all Packwood and Farmer entries from the parish register of Fillongley, Warwickshire, with additional Packwood entries from neighboring Arley:

Fillongley:^[48]

1561 Jun 15	Joanna Packwood and Johannes Beck, married
1566 Oct 9	Thomas Packwood buried
1566 Nov 12	William Packwood and Anna Kymberley, married
1568[9] Jan 18	Thomas Packwood, son of William, baptized
1569 May 2	William Packwood, buried
1570 Aug 6	Johannes Farmer and Agnes Packwood, married
1580 Jul 28	Thomas Farmer and Anna Walker, married
1581 Apr 7	Agnes Packwood, widow, buried
1584 Jul 4	Anna Farmer, daughter of Thomas, baptized
1588 Sep 27	Agnes Packwood, buried
1590 May 28	Thomas Packwood and Margeria Greene, married
1591 Aug 28	Anna Packwood, daughter of Thomas, baptized
1594 Jun 9	Anna Farmer uxor Johannis Farmer, buried
1607 Sep 20	Elizabeth Packwood, daughter of Thomas, baptized
1612 Jun 17	Thomas Packwood, son of Thomas, baptized
1615 Apr 14	Thomas filius Thomae Packwood, buried
1620 Oct 16	Edward Farmer and Johanna Alford, married
1621 Jul 17	Hannah Packwood and William Greene, married
1632 Apr 10	Thomas Packwood, buried
1634 Aug 18	Patientia Packwood and Robert Chapman, married
1634[5] Feb 3	Prudentia Packwood, buried
1637[8] Jan 6	Thomas Packwood, son of Josias, clerk, and Mary, baptized

⁴⁸ Parish registers of Fillongley, Warwickshire [FHL 0560705]. Entries for the first 115 years were published as *Transcript of the Old Parish Register of the parish church of Saint Mary and All Saints, Fillongley, county Warwick, 1538-1653, with a short account of the church, the bells, monuments, etc.* (Walsall, England: William Henry Robinson, Steam Print Works, 1893).

1637[8] Jan 7	Thomas Packwood, son of Josias, clerk, and Mary, buried
1639 Sep 5	Susanna Packwood, daughter of Josias and Mary, baptized [and born Aug 31]
1642	NN Packwood, son of Josias and Mary, baptized [on the 26th of a month, but the month not recorded]
1644 Oct 10	Maria Packwood, daughter of Josias and Mary, baptized
1644 Oct 16	Maria Packwood, daughter of Josias, buried
1644[5] Mar 8	Samuel Packwood son of Josias Packwood, clerk, buried
1645 Oct 2	Thomas Packwood, son of Josias, baptized [and born Sep 18]
1646 May 6	[Thomas] Packwood, son of Josias, buried

Arley:^[49]

1571 Jul 16	Margery Packwood, baptized
1576 Oct 1	William Packwood, son of Henry, baptized
1601 Aug 23	Simeon Packwood, son of Thomas Packwood and Margery, baptized
1635 Oct 26	Margery Packwood, buried

As these entries show, one of the very few Farmer entries in Fillongley is the marriage on 6 August 1570 of "Johannes Farmer" to Agnes Packwood. This immediately presents a scenario to explain the kinship of Farmer and Packwood. A marriage in 1570 is a plausible estimate for the parents of John^B Farmer, the testator of 1625, who could have been born say 1580 and married say 1605. The working hypothesis is extended to make John^B Farmer the son of John^C Farmer and Agnes^C Packwood, married in 1570. That his apparent father was named John also fits with John^B Farmer's use of the patronymic "alias Johnson." It is possible that the deforciant of the 1604 fine was either John^C Farmer or his son John^B Farmer.

In the Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, wills were readily found for four of the Fillongley Packwoods, beginning with the Thomas Packwood buried in 1566. His will is abstracted here:^[50]

23 August 1566. I, Thomas Packwood of Fillongley, sick, do . . . bequeath . . . my body to be buried in the church of Fillongley. My wife to live with my son and have "meat and drink" and 4 nobles per year "so long as they can agree together"; if not, then she shall have 4 nobles per year, plus £6-13-4, a featherbed [and various bed-furnishings]. To my "base son" Henry, £6-13-4. My daughter Agnes shall have leave of the house where she now dwelleth. To [my granddaughter] Margaret, daughter of John Beck [by Jone, my daughter], 20 shillings on her marriage. To Agnes Kampion, "my daughter's daughter," 20 shillings on her marriage. To every godchild "that I have nowe alive," 4 d. To Esabell Elyott "my syster" and each of her children, 12 d. To Thomas Wyse, Elizabeth & Esabell Grene, 4 d. apiece. The rest of all my goods to William my son, whom I make my executor. John Aughtry and my brother Henry Packwood to be overseers. To John Aughtry for his pains 3 s. 4 d.; to brother Henry Packwood, for his pains, "a cote colored pynke." Witnesses Thomas Gilbert, priest, John Aughtry, John Smyth, Richarde Avere, William Grene (with others). [Probate packet includes inventory, 10 October 1566; total valuation of movable estate, £61/15/0. Will proved 21 October 1566].

⁴⁹ Parish registers of Arley [note 43].

⁵⁰ Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, probate series, letter P, 1560-74 [FHL 0,095,491].

This will, together with three subsequent Packwood wills, unambiguously unites all the Packwoods appearing in Fillongley and Arley into a single extended lineage of four generations. As we see, this first Thomas Packwood mentions a daughter Agnes, still unmarried in 1566, who was surely the woman married to John Farmer four years later. Given our working hypothesis linking John^C Farmer and Agnes Packwood to John^B Farmer, this 1566 testator becomes Thomas^D Packwood, great-grandfather of the immigrant Edward^I Farmer. His grandson and namesake Thomas Packwood (1569–1632), son of William, would then be first cousin to his “loving friend and kinsman” John^B Farmer; Josias Packwood was Thomas’ son and John^B Farmer’s godson. Unfortunately, the later Packwood wills do not explicitly mention their Farmer kin, so we are left without conclusive confirmation of this relationship, though the coincidences of chronology, proximity, the known Farmer–Packwood marriage, and the known statements of kinship, all add up to a strong circumstantial case. A compiled genealogy of this lineage of Packwood ancestors and cousins will be presented in the fifth and final installment of this article.

The Mustons of Wyken

If their Packwood cousins were important to the Ansley Farmers in the years from the 1570 Farmer-Packwood marriage down to the 1620s, a similar connection one generation later is found in the man who was so instrumental in managing the estate of John^A Farmer after his widow, Isabel (Burbage) Farmer, had immigrated to New England in the 1670s. This man was Thomas Muston of Wyken, Warwickshire. As we saw in the first installment, his letters style him as “brother” to Isabel (Burbage) Farmer and “uncle” to her daughter Elizabeth (Farmer) White (and thus also to Edward^I Farmer). Muston acted as administrator for the John^A Farmer estate at Ansley from 1676 to 1682. Though called “husbandman” in the record of matriculation of his son at Pembroke College, Cambridge, Muston was a substantial man, being worth £343 in movable goods and salable stock and crops at the time of his death (intestate) in 1684.^[51] He was practically educated — he could both write and keep accounts — and he sent his son, Thomas, to Cambridge to become a priest. As quoted in the first installment of this article, Muston mentioned his son’s studies at Cambridge in his 1674 letter to Isabel Farmer. As with the Packwoods, it was hoped that elucidating his precise relationship to the family would yield insight into the Farmer pedigree.

Just how was Muston a “brother” to Isabel (Burbage) Farmer? Since we have primary evidence that Isabel was a Burbage, not a Muston, by birth (though at least one writer had erroneously assumed otherwise),^[52] we supposed that Thomas Muston was “brother” and “uncle” to the Farmers in right of his own

⁵¹ Administration bond and inventory dated 22 October 1684, Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, probate series, 1684, letters I–O [FHL 0,095,708].

⁵² John Brooks Threlfall, *Fifty Great Migration Colonists to New England and Their Origins* (Madison, Wis.: the author, 1990), 519.

wife, who could have been *either* a Burbage or a Farmer. Unfortunately, Thomas Muston's wife's given name has not been proved, though she is quite likely the "Lidea Muston" who was buried at Wyken 23 October 1682, two years before Thomas Muston's own death.^[53]

Fortunately, the names of all the sisters of both Isabel (Burbage) Farmer and her husband John^A Farmer are known.^[54] Isabel had no sister Lydia, but John did: as his will (above) shows, "Lydia" was the name of John^B Farmer's apparent youngest daughter, perhaps still quite young when he wrote his will in 1625, and therefore of the right age to have married the elder Thomas Muston by say 1650. While again, we lack conclusive proof, Muston's important role in the administration of John^A Farmer's estate, statements of kinship with the Farmers, and the probable name of his wife, all suggest that he was the husband of Lydia, sister of John^A Farmer. Muston's letters to Isabel also mention "Brother Bolt," who may well be the husband of another of the sisters of John^A Farmer — but "Brother Bolt" has not yet been identified, and indeed none of the five sisters of John^A Farmer has been found in marriage records in Ansley or nearby.

The Wyken parish register shows a single child of the elder Thomas Muston: Thomas Muston, son of Thomas, baptized 23 September 1654 (the mother is not named).^[55] This younger Thomas Muston, B.A. Cambridge 1677/8, M.A. 1681, was a priest, becoming rector first, briefly, at his home parish of Wyken, and later at nearby Brinklow, Warwickshire, from 1683 to his death in 1729.^[56] After he

⁵³ Parish registers of Wyken, Warwickshire [FHL 0.548,388]. This entry is extracted in the *National Burial Index* for the Coventry area of Warwickshire, searchable via Family History Online (<http://www.familyhistoryonline.net>). I could not find this entry in the [mis-ordered and apparently incompletely photographed] microfilm of the Wyken register itself.

⁵⁴ An account of the Burbages will appear in the fifth and final installment of this article.

⁵⁵ This 1654 Thomas may have died young, since Thomas Muston's known only son Thomas should have been born about 1657; he was said to be 17 years of age at his matriculation at Pembroke College, Cambridge. John Venn and J. A. Venn, *Alumni Cantabrigienses: A Biographical List of All Known Students, Graduates and Holders of Office at the University of Cambridge, from the Earliest Times to 1900, Part I (From the Earliest Times to 1751)*, 4 vols. (Cambridge, England: Cambridge University Press, 1922–27), 3:230, lists "Muston, Thomas, Adm. sizar (age 17) at Pembroke, Apr 8, 1674. S. of Thomas, husbandman. B. at Wicken, Warws. Matric 1674; BA 1677–8; MA 1681." The same page shows another Thomas Muston, also from Warwickshire (but with no birthplace and parentage stated) grad. St. Catherine's Hall, Cambridge, BA 1679–80, MA 1683, and was a rector in Lincolnshire and canon of Lincoln Cathedral. "Sizar," a term specific to Cambridge University, was a commoner admitted with fees covered by the college under a form of work-study program (*Oxford English Dictionary*, 2nd ed., s.v. "sizar").

⁵⁶ Rev. Thomas Muston was known to genealogist John Farmer, since he is mentioned in Thomas Browne's 1706 letter to Edward Farmer, and was listed in sources available to John Farmer. Thomas Browne wrote of him: "Mr. Muston that was Parson of Wyken is now parson of Brinklow." Farmer annotated his copy of this letter: "Rev. Thomas Muston became minister of Brinklow, 14 Aug 1683. He was son of Thomas Muston whose letters precede the above" (Farmer Notebook [note 23], 37). On his copy of Muston's letter to Isabel (Burbage) (Farmer) Wiswall, in which Muston speaks of his son, Farmer writes: "This son afterwards was grad. at Pembroke Coll. in the Univ. of Camb. in 1677, & was the minister of Wykin & Brinklow. See following letter [i.e., the Browne letter] and Dugdale's *Warwickshire*, fol., vol. 1, p. 220" (Farmer Notebook [note

left Wyken, Rev. Thomas Muston maintained his ties to his home parish. He married there 30 June 1687, Abigail Wright, perhaps also of Wyken; they had no children. Rev. Thomas Muston died, testate, at Brinklow in 1729.^[57] His will, dated 30 September 1729, was copied into the Wyken parish register since he left a substantial bequest to the church of Wyken.^[58] The will laboriously catalogues Muston's Farmer, Pollard, and other kin in numerous bequests, essentially confirming the genealogy we have reconstructed. A partial abstract of Rev. Thomas Muston's will, showing bequests to kin, is given here (emphasis added):

To my cousin Thomas Burgh of Coventry Esq., and to Mrs. Mary Green with whom he lives, to each a guinea to buy rings. To my cousin Thomas Burgh Junior Esquire the son, and to Mrs. Penelope Fosbroke the daughter of the said Thomas Burgh Senior Esq., £40 and all my rings and silver spoons to be equally divided betwixt them. To my cousin Ichabod Muston of the City of London, tailor, £5. To William Muston, Mary Muston and Sarah Muston son and daughters of my cousin Richard Muston of Sowe, deceased, £30 to be equally divided. To Isabell wife of Richard Orton of Huntley their sister £10. To my cousin John Farmer of Nuneaton, to my cousin Sarah, wife of Mr. Henry Homer of Tamworth, and to my cousin Ruth, wife of Joseph Jaques of the City of Coventry, £20 each. And to the said Mrs. Ruth Jaques a large tablecloth and a dozen of napkins — the best that I have of bird's-eye huckaback — and two pair of my best sheets. To Mary and Catherine the two daughters of my cousin John Pollard of the City of Coventry, glover, lately deceased, £40 to be equally divided between them . . . [when] they attain the age of 21 years. If either one of them die, her share to go to her brother John Pollard . . . To the son who lives at Burbidge of my kinsman Thomas Muston late of Daddleton deceased, and his two daughters, £10 amongst them.

[Godsons:] Philip [i.e., Phillips] Farmer son of my cousin John Farmer of Nuneaton; John Jaques son of my cousin Joseph Jaques; and John Knibb son of John Knibb of Ansley. [Goddaughters:] Barbara Wilcox daughter of Mr. John Wilcox of Brandon; and Hannah Knibb daughter of said John Knibb [all to receive one guinea each; Hannah Knibb also to receive Muston's brass fire shovel & tongs, and a chest of drawers].

[Residual heirs:] Mr. Richard Farmer of Leicester, Daniel Muston of Sowe, Thomas Muston brother to Daniel Muston, Joseph Pollard of Rugby, Warwickshire, "my kinsmen" [to divide the remaining estate in equal parts]. Executors to be Richard Farmer and Daniel Muston. Finally, "to my cousin Elisabeth Farmer now living with me," 40 shillings per year.

23], 24). Farmer's reference is to Sir William Dugdale, *The Antiquities of Warwickshire Illustrated* . . . , 2nd ed., 2 vols. (London: J. Osborn and T. Longman, 1730), 1:218–20, on Brinklow, whose list of rectors includes Rev. Thomas Muston as the last entry.

⁵⁷ Rev. Thomas Muston's will endowed a charity benefiting both Wyken and Brinklow: "Muston's Charity: The Revd. Thomas Muston, Rector of Brinklow, by will dated 1729, left a messuage and lands in Foleshill, on trust that from the rents 20s. a year should be paid to the Rector of Brinklow and 10s. to the churchwardens of Wyken to be distributed among the poor of the parish. The residue of the rents was to form an augmentation to the living of Wyken" (R. B. Pugh, ed., *The Victoria History of the Counties of England: Warwickshire*, vol. 8 [London: University of London Press, 1969], 124).

⁵⁸ Parish registers of Wyken [note 53].

As will be corroborated in the compiled genealogical account to follow in the next installment, this will presents a fairly comprehensive catalogue of cousins living in 1729, shared by Rev. Thomas Muston and his cousin Edward¹ Farmer of Billerica. In particular, this will provides insight into the Pollards, who shared equally with the Nuneaton Farmers in Muston's circle of kin, and lived even closer, since Wyken and Brinklow were adjacent to Coventry. While the will confirms the kinship of the Mustons to the Warwickshire Farmer and Pollard descendants of John^A and Isabel (Burbage) Farmer, it also shows that the Billerica Farmers and Pollards had passed out of the circle of remembered kin in this new generation. Expanding on genealogist John Farmer's infant steps in the 1810s and 1820s, we now have illuminated a circle of the Warwickshire ancestors and cousins of his immigrant ancestor, spanning over a hundred and fifty years. Working back into the mid-sixteenth century, we are able to see how these yeomen kinships were formed with marriages and land transactions in neighboring parishes. Looking forward to the eighteenth century, we have a glimpse of the process by which American emigrant cousins were — intentionally or not — forgotten.

To be continued: The fourth installment will present a genealogical account of the Ansley Farmers and Coventry Pollards. The fifth and final installment will present a genealogical account of the Fillongley Packwoods, as well as discussion and accounts of the other ancestral families of Burbage and Moore.

GENEALOGIST JOHN FARMER DISCOVERS HIS ANCESTRY:
THE WARWICKSHIRE FAMILY OF EDWARD¹ FARMER,
THOMAS¹ POLLARD, AND ISABEL¹ (FARMER) (WYMAN)
(BLOOD) GREEN, OF BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS

Nathaniel Lane Taylor

(continued from Register 161 [2007]:155)

PART 4: FARMER AND POLLARD OF ANSLEY, WARWICKSHIRE

1. JOHN^C FARMER, of Fillongley (and perhaps Ansley), Warwickshire. For reasons discussed in Part 3 we provisionally place at the head of this genealogy John Farmer who married at Fillongley, Warwickshire, 6 August 1570, AGNES^C PACKWOOD, daughter of Thomas^D Packwood (see Packwood summary in Part 5). The Fillongley parish register is silent about children of this couple, but does record the burial on 9 June 1594 of “Anna Farmer uxor Johannis Farmer,” who *might* be Agnes (Packwood) Farmer.

Children of John^C and Agnes (Packwood) Farmer apparently included:

2 i. JOHN^B FARMER; m. ELIZABETH _____.

2. JOHN^B FARMER (*John^C*), called “John Farmer alias Johnson” in his will, born between 1571 and say 1580. As discussed in Part 3, either he or his father may be the man who on 12 November 1604 transferred land in the parish of Ansley via a final concord, to Humphrey Smyth and Thomas Packwood (the latter apparently his first cousin). He made his will 22 September 1625; an inventory was dated 20 October 1625, and the will was proved 17 March 1625/6. The will indicates he also held land in Twycross, Leicestershire, where a Farmer family is well attested (as discussed in Part 3 of this article), but without an obvious placement for these John Farmers of Ansley and Fillongley.

John^B Farmer had a wife ELIZABETH, named as executrix in his will, to whom — if she was the mother of all his children — he was likely married say 1600 to 1605, since he named seven surviving children in his will, only one of whom was then married. Elizabeth’s surname and origin are not known, though she may be connected to one of John’s “loving friends and kinsmen” who were to be overseers of the will, either William Brooke of Elford or William Keeling of Hollerton (the third, Thomas Packwood, was apparently John’s own first cousin).

John Farmer’s will named two sons: John, who was to inherit “the house and land where I dwell” in Ansley, and Edward, who was to inherit “my house and land at Twycrosse” [Leicestershire], as well as “ten poundes to set him up in his trade.” The will named five daughters, beginning with Hannah, who was to receive, along with *her* two daughters (names not given) 12*d.* each. The other four

daughters, Elizabeth, Patience, Mary and Lydia, were to receive sixteen pounds each "at the day of their marriage or within three years after my decease." The will also named two godsons, Josias Packwood and James Bush, and three "loving friends and kinsmen" (see above) who were to be overseers.

An inventory of John Farmer's estate was sworn in October 1625, showing that he died shortly after the making of the will. John's widow Elizabeth was perhaps the "Elizabeth Farmer, widow" who was buried at Ansley 20 November 1652.

Children of John and [presumably] Elizabeth (____) Farmer, named in his will:

- i. HANNAH FARMER, likely the eldest child; said to have two daughters in her father's will of 1625. The names of her husband and children are unknown.
- 3 ii. JOHN^A FARMER, b. say 1610; eldest son and heir to his father's property at Ansley; m. ISABEL BURBAGE.
- iii. EDWARD FARMER, heir to property at Twycross, Leicestershire. Unfortunately, the Twycross parish registers and the wills of the Archdeaconry of Leicester reveal no evidence of an Edward Farmer subsequently at Twycross.
- iv. ELIZABETH FARMER.
- v. PATIENCE FARMER.
- vi. MARY FARMER.
- 4 vii. LYDIA FARMER. Last named child and likely the youngest, b. say 1620-25; m. THOMAS MUSTON.

3. JOHN^A FARMER (*John*^{B-C}), born say 1610. He married at Arley, Warwickshire, 13 August 1633, ISABEL BURBAGE, who was baptized 10 November 1611 at Great Packington, Warwickshire, daughter of Thomas and Anne (____) Burbage. Her known ancestry will be presented in Part 5 of this article.

John Farmer made his will 18 August 1658, four days before his burial at Ansley 22 August 1658. The will was proved at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury almost one year later, on 20 August 1659.

His widow Isabel (Burbage) Farmer emigrated to Massachusetts, with her sons Edward and Thomas and daughter Isabel, apparently in or about 1671.^[59] There she married about 1674, as a second marriage for both, Elder THOMAS¹ WISWALL of Newton, Massachusetts, who died 6 December 1683. Following Wiswall's death, his widow Isabel contested with Wiswall's children to receive dower from his estate. By the winter of 1684 she had moved to her son Edward Farmer's house at Billerica, Massachusetts. On 7 April 1685 Edward was appointed her guardian; after seventeen months as an invalid she died at his house on 21 May 1686, and was buried at Billerica the next day. Genealogist John⁵ Farmer called her "a woman of masculine courage and spirit" (see Part 1 of this article).

⁵⁹ Son Edward appeared in Massachusetts records before the others (see below), but it is not unreasonable to assume they all emigrated together.

Children of John^A and Isabel (Burbage) Farmer; all but John baptized at Ansley:

- 5 i. JOHN FARMER, oldest son and heir, and likely oldest child; b. 1634–36; baptism not found at Ansley (whose legible baptisms begin in 1637) or Arley; m. ELIZABETH FORD.
- ii. ANNE FARMER, bp. 5 Nov. 1637. Bequeathed £40 by her father. She was living in Warwickshire in 1675.^[60] She was likely the sister who married [JOHN] HALL, as Thomas Browne wrote to Edward Farmer in 1706 of Edward's "sister Hall and husband" then living in Warwickshire. Either Anne or her sister Sarah must have been the wife of [John] Hall, but Thomas Muston's 1675 letter to Isabel (Burbage) Farmer speaks only of her daughters Anne, Mary and Elizabeth as alive in Warwickshire.^[61] The 1676–1682 Farmer estate accounting by Thomas Muston mentioned £3 "sent to John Hall" which was "disallowed" by Isabel Farmer. No likely matching Hall records have been found.
- 6 iii. MARY FARMER, bp. 13 Sept. 1640; m. WILLIAM^A POLLARD.
- iv. RICHARD FARMER, bp. 30 April 1643. Bequeathed £13/13/4 by his father "when he shall reach the age of four and twenty years." No further record of him has been found at Ansley or in New England.
- 7 v. EDWARD¹ FARMER, bp. 22 May 1645; m. MARY MOORE. Emigrant to New England.
- vi. ELIZABETH FARMER, bp. 1 July 1648. Bequeathed £10 by her father. She m. Ansley 18 Nov. 1668 HENRY WHYTE. On 9 Sept. 1681 Elizabeth (Farmer) White was in London, when her uncle Thomas Muston wrote a letter to "Mrs. Elisabeth White, at the house of Mr. Robert Carter, Coachmaker, near the bunch of Grapes in Chamomile Street by Bishop's Gate in London." Muston mentioned that he had received her letter, indicating that she was "resolved to go very speedilie for New England." Perhaps her husband was dead by then, as he is not mentioned. It is not known whether she came to New England.^[62]
- vii. SARAH FARMER, bp. 3 June 1650. Bequeathed £10 by her father. Either she or her sister Anne married [JOHN] HALL (see above) and lived in Warwickshire through at least 1706. Mrs. Hall was more likely to have been Anne than Sarah, since Thomas Muston's letter of 1675 to Isabel (Burbage) Farmer mentions her daughters Anne, Mary, and Elizabeth, but not Sarah, who had likely therefore either died, or emigrated with her mother, by 1675. However, no trace of her in New England has been found.

⁶⁰ Thomas Muston to Isabel Farmer, 13 February 1674/5 (Part 1, p. 263): "I pray you let me know in your next how all your children do that are with you; your daughters Ann and Mary are both well as far as I know, but Elisabeth I lately heard was very sick. Whether she be recovered or no I know not."

⁶¹ Thomas Browne to Edward Farmer, 7 January 1705/6 (Part 1, p. 266): "I was with your sister Hall, who directed me to your cosen Pollard, a glover in Coventry; they live very well, but your sister Hall and husband are low."

⁶² No Henry White with wife Elizabeth is found in Clarence Almon Torrey, *New England Marriages Prior to 1700*, CD-ROM (Boston: NEHGS, 2001), Melinde Lutz Sanborn, *Third Supplement to Torrey's New England Marriages Prior to 1700* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2003), or James Savage, *Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England*, 4 vols. (Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1860–62; repr. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1965).

- 8 viii. ISABEL¹ FARMER, bp. 11 Aug. 1652; m. (1) DAVID WYMAN; (2) JAMES BLOOD; (3) WILLIAM GREEN. Emigrant to New England.
- ix. THOMAS¹ FARMER, bp. 16 Aug. 1655. Bequeathed £10 by his father. Apparently he emigrated to Billerica, Mass., as he surely was the Thomas Farmer who was assigned, with Edward Farmer, to garrison the house of James Patterson at the Billerica meeting of 8 Oct. 1675.^[63] On 24 Aug. 1676 he was paid £1/19/6 for service in the Billerica militia in King Philip's War.^[64] According to John Farmer he was in Billerica in 1684 (though I have not found reference to this), after which he disappeared from the record.

4. **LYDIA FARMER** (*John^{B-C}*), born say 1620 to 1625, apparently the youngest daughter of John^B Farmer, mentioned last in his 1625 will. She appears to have been the Lydia who married, as his second wife, about 1652, **THOMAS MUSTON**, husbandman, of Wyken, Warwickshire. Thomas Muston had married first there 1 September 1645, Mary L[*illegible*]; "Mary the wife of Thomas Muston" was buried there 5 May 1651.^[65] Thomas Muston, who in letters identifies himself as "brother" to Isabel (Burbage) Farmer and "uncle" to Elizabeth (Farmer) White, functioned as trustee of the estate of John^A Farmer between 1674 and at least Michaelmas 1682. A Lydia Muston, likely the wife of Thomas and mother of the younger Thomas, was buried at Wyken 23 November 1682, and Thomas Muston was himself buried at Wyken 11 October 1684. Thomas Muston died intestate; his administration bond and inventory were dated 22 October 1684, with movable estate totaling £343.

Child of Thomas and Lydia (Farmer) Muston:

- i. REV. THOMAS MUSTON, bp. Wyken 23 Sept. 1654. B.A., Pembroke College, Cambridge; rector of Wyken, then of Brinklow, Warwickshire. He m. Wyken 30 June 1687 ABIGAIL WRIGHT. He made a will, dated 30 Sept. 1729, with a codicil dated 19 Feb. 1733/4, proved 14 Oct. 1737, mentioning many Pollard and Farmer cousins, but no wife or children. He died 8 June 1737, "in the 83rd year of his age," a widower.^[66]

5. **JOHN FARMER**, (*John^{A-C}*), born 1634–1636; oldest son and heir to his father's properties at Ansley and Meriden, Warwickshire. He married at Ansley 18 November 1662, **ELIZABETH FORD**, "a grazier's daughter, of Stockingford," perhaps daughter or sister of the Richard Ford who cosigned with her a bond for the administration of her husband's estate.^[67] John Farmer was of Chilvers Coton,

⁶³ Hazen, *History of Billerica* [note 3], 110.

⁶⁴ George M. Bodge, "Soldiers in King Philip's War," *Register* 43 (1889):193–98, 259–79, at 275.

⁶⁵ Parish registers of Wyken [note 53].

⁶⁶ The will and codicil are copied in the Wyken parish register (see Part 3, p. 154), followed by a copy of his monumental inscription at Brinklow.

⁶⁷ The notes of descendant Dr. Richard Farmer say "John Farmer married Elizabeth Fort, a grazier's daughter of Stockingford, near Nuneaton" (Nichols, *Leicester* [note 30], 4:2:950). Stockingford parish registers before 1824 seem not to have survived.

Warwickshire, by 2 May 1663.^[68] John and Elizabeth (Ford) Farmer apparently had only one child, another John, who was baptized at Chilvers Coton 15 October 1663. John Farmer (the father) died the following year and was buried at Ansley 15 August 1664. Bond was granted to Elizabeth Farmer, widow, for the administration of the estate of "John Farmer, of Arley Street in Chilvers Coton," on 24 August 1664; his personal estate was inventoried on 19 October 1664 and valued at £136, principally in livestock and grain; no real estate was included in the valuation.^[69]

Elizabeth (Ford) Farmer married second Richard Lucas, perhaps of Nuneaton, Warwickshire. They had at least two children, both baptized at Nuneaton: *Richard Lucas*, baptized 25 July 1672, and *Simon Lucas*, baptized 28 July 1674.^[70] In 1706 Richard and Elizabeth (Ford) (Farmer) Lucas were living on the Farmer land at Ansley as in that year Thomas Browne wrote to his cousin Edward Farmer: "Richard Lucas, that lives upon the comon that goes to Nuneaton, that marryed your brother John Farmer's widow; they live very well, and very ritch, and in your Father's house and land."^[71] Richard Lucas of Nuneaton made his will 20 December 1716, leaving one shilling to his "son in law" John Farmer, among more substantial bequests and settlements to his own children and his wife Elizabeth.^[72] The will was proved 23 April 1722, but no burial record was found at Nuneaton or Ansley, and no will or burial record has been found for Elizabeth (Ford) (Farmer) Lucas.

Child of John and Elizabeth (Ford) Farmer:

9 i. JOHN FARMER, bp. Chilvers Coton 15 Oct. 1663; m. SARAH DAVIS.

6. MARY FARMER (*John*^{A-C}), baptized at Ansley, Warwickshire, 13 December 1640. She was bequeathed £20 by her father. She was married by 1666 to WILLIAM^A POLLARD; she was paid her legacy by her brother Edward Farmer about the time of her marriage.^[73] William and Mary (Farmer) Pollard had their first two children baptized at Ansley, including Thomas¹ Pollard; they moved to Coventry by 16 July 1669, since they were said to be "of Coventry" when Edward¹ Farmer deposed about his payment of John^A Farmer's bequest to Mary (Farmer) Pollard. Subsequent children were baptized at St. Michael's, Coventry, from 1671 to 1685.

Mary (Farmer) Pollard was said by Thomas Browne to have died shortly after her mother's death in 1686.^[74] Thus, she must have been Mary, wife of William

⁶⁸ A note of Dr. Richard Farmer says (with no explanation): "1663, 2 may. John Farmer, of Chilvers Coton, heir apparent of Isabel" (Nichols, *Leicester* [note 30], 4:2:950).

⁶⁹ Inventory, receipt and bond, Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, probate series, 1664 letters A-H [FHL 0,095,625].

⁷⁰ Parish registers of Nuneaton, Warwickshire [FHL 0,548,397].

⁷¹ Thomas Browne to Edward Farmer, 7 January 1705/6 (Part 1, p. 266).

⁷² Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, probate series, 1722 letters I-P [FHL 0,095,938].

⁷³ Deposition of Edward Farmer, taken 16 July 1669 at Coventry (Part 1, p. 262).

⁷⁴ Thomas Browne to Edward Farmer, 7 January 1705/6 (Part 1, p. 266).

Pollard, who was buried at St. Michael's on 26 February 1690/1. As Thomas Browne had written that her death was followed not too long after by her husband's, he was doubtless one of the two William Pollards buried there, either 1 April 1691 or 6 July 1692.^[75] Thomas Browne's 1706 letter to Edward Farmer went on to say of the family generally: "I am earnestly desired by yr cosens Pollards at Coventry to beg of you to lett them know whether their Brother is living, if I doe not mistake they told me he marryed one of your daughters; if you have ever writ to them they received no letter from you nor any else." The letter also mentioned "your cosen Pollard, the glover at Coventry."^[76]

The family of William^A Pollard of Coventry was treated in an uncritical account by Edward R. Sherbourne in the *Boston Evening Transcript*, 18 January 1899, p. 13. As well as erroneously calling William "a gentleman," and stating that he was originally of Yorkshire (which I have not been able to confirm or disprove), Sherbourne listed several children, without dates, whose names nevertheless correspond precisely to the baptisms which have now been found.^[77] Sherbourne had apparently traveled to Coventry around 1874 and conducted first-hand research in archival records, though he gave no documentation in his brief *Transcript* account and apparently published nothing further. He tells us that at least some of the Pollard sons were successful glovers at Coventry, and the family attained a certain measure of success.

Children of William^A and Mary (Farmer) Pollard; i-ii baptized at Ansley, iii-viii baptized at St. Michael's, Coventry:^[78]

- i. THOMAS¹ POLLARD, bp. Ansley 28 Dec. 1666. He emigrated to Massachusetts, where he m. at Billerica in Nov. 1692 his first cousin, SARAH² FARMER (7.i). He d. Billerica 4 April 1724; she d. there 3 May 1725.^[79] They left descendants in New England.^[80]
- ii. ELIZABETH POLLARD, bp. 30 Aug. 1668.
- iii. WILLIAM POLLARD, bp. 28 March 1671. Said by Sherbourne to have gone to London. If so, he may well be the William Pollard, who with wife Elizabeth, had four children baptized at St. Giles Cripplegate, London:^[81] *William Pollard*; bp. 17 Oct. 1705, bur. there 11 Feb. 1706/7; *William Pollard*, bp. 12 July 1709; *Sarah Pollard*, bp. 9 July 1710; and *Arthur Pollard*, bp. Dec. 1711.

⁷⁵ Transcription of parish registers of St. Michael's, Coventry, Warwickshire [FHL 0,198,761].

⁷⁶ Thomas Browne to Edward Farmer, 7 January 1705/6 (Part 1, pp. 266-67).

⁷⁷ Sherbourne's accounts were reprinted by Maurice J. Pollard in *History of the Pollard Family of America*, 2 vols. (Dover, N.H.: the author, 1960-64), at 1:37 and 2:118.

⁷⁸ Transcription of parish registers of St. Michael's, Coventry [note 75].

⁷⁹ *Vital Records of Billerica, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* [Boston: NEHGS, 1908], 301 (marriage); 385 (deaths).

⁸⁰ Pollard, *Pollard Family* [note 77]; Hazen, *History of Billerica* [note 3], Genealogical Register, 112-14.

⁸¹ Parish registers of St. Giles Cripplegate, London [FHL 0,380,205]. I would like to thank Clifford L. Stott, AG, CG, FASG, for his valuable review of this and many other parish registers.

- iv. JOHN POLLARD, bp. 9 July 1675. He was a glover of Coventry. He and wife Catherine had children baptized and/or buried at St. Michael's:^[82] *unnamed child*, bur. 25 April 1702; *Nathaniel Pollard*, bur. 25 Aug. 1706; *Mary Pollard*, bp. 29 April 1706, also bur. 25 Aug. 1706; *Elizabeth Pollard*, bp. 31 Aug. 1707, bur. 26 April 1717; *John Pollard*, bp. 27 Aug. 1708, bur. 6 Sept. 1709; *Thomas Pollard*, bur. 7 April 1717; *Eleanor Pollard*, bp. 19 April 1713, bur. 23 Dec. 1715; *John Pollard*, bp. 20 Jan. 1715/6; *Mary Pollard*, bp. 2 April 1717; *Elizabeth Pollard*, bp. 1 Sept. 1718; *Katherine Pollard*, bp. 16 Sept. 1719; and *Thomas Pollard*, bp. 15 June 1722, bur. 22 July 1722. John Pollard died not long before his cousin Rev. Thomas Muston made his will in 1729; Muston left legacies to John Pollard's only surviving children: Mary, Katherine, and John.
- v. NATHANIEL POLLARD, bp. 28 July 1677. Also said by Sherbourne to have gone to London. If so, he may well be the Nathaniel Pollard, who, with wife Martha, had three children baptized at St. Giles Cripplegate, London:^[83] *Nathaniel Pollard*, bp. 30 Aug. 1712; and twins *John* and *James Pollard*, both bp. 13 July 1713 and bur. 14 July 1713. A Nathaniel Pollard, perhaps not the same man, m. St. Michael's, Coventry, 28 Feb. 1719/20, Elizabeth Hadley.^[84]
- vi. MARY POLLARD, twin, bp. 13 Dec 1680; bur. St. Michael's 28 Dec 1680.
- vii. JOSEPH POLLARD, twin, bp. 13 Dec 1680. Said by Sherbourne to have been a glover at Coventry like his brothers John and James. However, he was living in 1729 in the parish of Rugby, Warwickshire, when he was named as a legatee in cousin Rev. Thomas Muston's will.
- viii. JAMES POLLARD, bp. 11 March 1685. Not named in Rev. Thomas Muston's will, but very likely the James Pollard, glover, who had children baptized at Holy Trinity, Coventry.^[85] With first wife Alice he had: *Arthur Pollard*, bp. 26 Aug. 1708; *Charles Pollard*, bp. 20 June 1710; *Mary*, bp. 21 June 1711; m. John Hanby. With second wife Ann he had: *Beata Pollard*, bp. 1 Aug. 1715, living unm. at St. James Clerkenwell, Middlesex, in 1738, according to her father's probate; *Samuel Pollard*, bp. 1 Jan. 1716/7, a barber at Birmingham in 1738; and *Ann Pollard*, bp. 25 Aug. 1718. With third wife Mary (evidently Mary Fowler who m. "James Pollard of Trinity Parish in Coventry" at Southam, Warwickshire, on 4 Dec. 1722),^[86] he had: *Hanaretah Pollard*, bp. 24 April 1724; and *James Pollard*, bp. 29 Nov. 1725. The will of James Pollard, dated 25 May 1732, with codicil dated 10 June 1732, left £5 to son Arthur; divided real estate among children Mary, Beata, and Samuel; and made provision for then wife Mary and their two children.^[87]

7. EDWARD^I FARMER (*John^{A-C}*), baptized at Ansley, Warwickshire, 22 May 1645. He was bequeathed £13/13/4 by his father "when he shall reach the age of four and twenty years."

⁸² Transcription of parish registers of St. Michael's, Coventry [note 75].

⁸³ Parish registers of St. Giles Cripplegate, London [note 81].

⁸⁴ Transcription of parish registers of St. Michael's, Coventry [note 75].

⁸⁵ Transcription of parish registers of Holy Trinity, Coventry [FHL 1,657,254].

⁸⁶ Parish registers of Southam, Warwickshire [FHL 0,548,393].

⁸⁷ Coventry Archives, PA 309/69.

Edward Farmer's marriage was not recorded at Ansley or any nearby parish, and the identity of his wife Mary has not previously been discovered. However, their marriage license and bond have now been unearthed among the (unindexed) episcopal records for the Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry. By license and bond dated 11 April 1668, Edward Farmer of Ansley, husbandman, "aged 21 years or more," contracted to marry **MARY MOORE**, aged "27 at least," of "Yarnesford," which is surely Ernesford, a non-parochial hamlet lying then just outside Coventry and now part of the city.^[88] The marriage was to be solemnized within the month at Ansley. While the Ansley parish register does not record the marriage, we may assume that Edward Farmer's known wife Mary is the same as his intended bride in the license.

Ernesford had no church, but the registers of the Church of the Holy Trinity at Coventry show the baptism on 12 May 1640 of a Mary, daughter of "Mister Doctor Joseph Moore," a physician; she would have been 27 in April 1668, matching the stated ages of Mary Moore in the marriage bond and Mrs. Mary Farmer at her death in Massachusetts. The only known reference in family documents to Mary's connections appears in the marginal note added to Thomas Muston's letter to Isabel (Burbage) Farmer of 13 February 1674/5.^[89] An anonymous writer, perhaps Muston's wife, writes: "As for my cosen Edward's wife's sister she hath bine ded this yeare and halfe and hee is gone out of the cuntry I knowe not whither." The family of Dr. Joseph Moore has proved elusive but some leads will be summarized in the next part of this article.

Edward and Mary (Moore) Farmer's first child Sarah was baptized at Ansley 1 April 1669. On 16 July 1669 Edward Farmer deposed concerning payment of their father's bequest to his sister, Mary (Farmer) Pollard, before a Coventry magistrate.

Edward and Mary Farmer and daughter Sarah came to New England in or about 1671. They settled at Billerica, Massachusetts, where the birth of their next child was recorded on 19 August 1671.^[90] Perhaps Edward's mother, brother Thomas, and sister Isabel, arrived in Billerica at the same time, but there is no record of them until later. Edward¹ Farmer was admitted to town rights and

⁸⁸ Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, Marriage Licenses, Bonds and Allegations, bonds for 1668-1669 [FHL 0,503,841]. The license reads in part: "Fiat licentia matrimonialis inter Edwardum ffarmer parochie de Ansley in comitatu Warw. etate viginti unius annorum . . . et Maria Moore de Yarnesford in comitatu predicto etate 27 annorum ad minus."

⁸⁹ Thomas Muston to Isabel Farmer, 13 February 1674/5 (see Part I, p. 263).

⁹⁰ There is disagreement over whether the record of this birth suggests Edward and Mary Farmer were already in Billerica at the time. The town records also record the birth of the eldest child, Sarah (who was baptized in England), though with no date given, in the town records as published (*Vital Records of Billerica* [note 79], 74). I believe that the dated 1671 record, as distinguished from the undated record for Sarah, could be taken at face value to indicate the Farmers' arrival in Billerica by 19 August 1671.

privileges in Billerica 24 March 1672/3, and granted five acres there for payment of twenty shillings.^[91]

After living over fifty years in Billerica (with brief sojourns in Woburn and elsewhere), Edward¹ Farmer died at Billerica 27 May 1727 “aged 87” (which is a five years’ exaggeration, if his baptism was as an infant). He was buried in the Old Corner Burying Ground at Billerica. Mary, his wife, had predeceased him, dying 26 March 1719 age 77.^[92]

Children of Edward¹ and Mary (Moore) Farmer:^[93]

- i. SARAH² FARMER, bp. Ansley 1 April 1669; m. Billerica in Nov. 1692 her first cousin THOMAS¹ POLLARD (6.i).
- ii. JOHN FARMER, b. 19 Aug. 1671, perhaps at Billerica; d. there 9 Sept. 1736;^[94] m. ABIGAIL (SHED?).^[95]
- iii. EDWARD FARMER, b. Billerica 22 March 1673/4; d. there 17 Dec. 1752;^[96] m. MARY RICHARDSON.
- iv. MARY FARMER, b. Billerica 3 Nov. 1675; m. JOHN DEAN.
- v. BARBARY FARMER, b. Woburn (also recorded at Billerica) 26 Jan. 1677/8;^[97] d. Billerica 1 Feb. 1680/1.^[98]
- vi. ELIZABETH FARMER, b. Billerica 17 May 1680; d. Reading, Mass., 26 Dec. 1762;^[99] m. Billerica 29 May 1707 WILLIAM GREEN.^[100]
- vii. THOMAS FARMER, b. Billerica 8 June 1683; d. Hollis, N.H., ca. 1767; m. ELIZABETH HUNT.
- viii. OLIVER FARMER, b. Billerica 2 Feb. 1685/6; d. there 23 Feb. 1761; m. there 24 Jan. 1716/7 ABIGAIL JOHNSON.^[101]

8. ISABEL¹ FARMER (*John^{A-C}*), baptized at Ansley, Warwickshire, 11 August 1652. She was bequeathed £10 by her father. She emigrated to New England with

⁹¹ Hazen, *History of Billerica* [note 3], Genealogical Register, 49; “Town of Billerica, General Records, 1658–1685” [note 3], 107.

⁹² Savage, *Genealogical Dictionary of New England* [note 62], 2:141, gives this age at death, *Vital Records of Billerica* [note 79], 358, does not indicate age at death.

⁹³ Based on *Vital Records of Billerica* [note 79], 72–75 (births); Samuel G. Drake, “Genealogical Memoir of the Farmer Family,” *Register* 1 (1847):21–34 at 26–27 (see note 1); and Hazen, *History of Billerica* [note 3], Genealogical Register, 49.

⁹⁴ *Vital Records of Billerica* [note 79], 359.

⁹⁵ She is shown as probably the daughter of Daniel Shed in Hazen, *History of Billerica* [note 3], Genealogical Register, 49, 130.

⁹⁶ *Vital Records of Billerica* [note 79], 358.

⁹⁷ Edward F. Johnson, ed., *Woburn Records of Births, Deaths, Marriages, from 1640 to 1873*, 10 parts (Woburn, Mass.: Andrews, Cutler & Co., 1890–1919), 1:88.

⁹⁸ *Vital Records of Billerica* [note 79], 358.

⁹⁹ *Vital Records of Reading, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* (Boston: NEHGS, 1912), 527; Samuel S. Greene, *A Genealogical Sketch of the Descendants of Thomas Green(e) of Malden, Mass.* (Boston: Henry W. Dutton & Son, 1858), 18.

¹⁰⁰ *Vital Records of Billerica* [note 79], 252; Greene, *Descendants of Thomas Green(e)* [note 99], 18. Elizabeth Farmer’s husband, William Green, was a nephew of William Green who married her aunt, Isabel (Farmer) (Wyman) (Blood) Green.

¹⁰¹ *Vital Records of Billerica* [note 79], 253 (marriage); 359 (death).

or after her brother Edward. In 1706 Thomas Browne wrote to Edward Farmer: "You write me word that your sister is liveing and sends her service. I thought there had been more than one sister with you, tho I know but one, that was Isabella and my knowledge of her was but seeing her once or twice at Stoke . . . [M]aybe she doe not know anything of me, but tell her I remember her a very pritty girle."^[102] Isabel married first at Charlestown, Massachusetts, 27 February 1674/5, **DAVID WYMAN**,^[103] born at Woburn, Massachusetts, 7 April 1654, son of John¹ and Sarah (Nutt) Wyman.^[104] He died at Woburn 27 December 1678,^[105] and she married second at Concord, Massachusetts, 19 November 1679, **JAMES BLOOD**,^[106] son of James¹ and Ellen (____) Blood, and widower of Hannah Purchase.^[107] James Blood died at Concord 26 November 1692,^[108] and she married third 6 February 1694/5, **WILLIAM GREEN** of Malden, Massachusetts, baptized at Toppesfield, Essex, 15 December 1636, died at Malden 30 December 1705 age 70, son of Thomas¹ and Elizabeth (____) Green, and widower of Elizabeth Wheeler. Isabel died at Malden 13 March 1736/7, and was buried there, as "Isabel, wife of Capt. William Green, aged 84 years."^[109]

Children of David and Isabel (Farmer) Wyman, born at Woburn:^[110]

- i. DAVID WYMAN, b. 29 May 1676; d. Woburn 15 June 1676.
- ii. ISABEL WYMAN, b. 5 July 1677; m. Malden 1700 her stepbrother, John³ Green.^[111]

¹⁰² Thomas Browne to Edward Farmer, 7 January 1705/6 (Part 1, p. 267).

¹⁰³ Roger D. Joslyn, ed., *Vital Records of Charlestown, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850*, 2 vols. (Boston: NEHGS, 1984-95), 1:92.

¹⁰⁴ Johnson, *Woburn Records* [note 97], 1:285 (birth); 3:314 (parents' marriage); John B. Threlfall, "The English Origins of Miles Nutt Whose Daughter Sarah Married John Wyman," *The American Genealogist* 52 (1976):21-22.

¹⁰⁵ Johnson, *Woburn Records* [note 97], 2:213. David Wyman's exact date of death is from Thomas Bellows Wyman, *Genealogy of the Wyman Family from Its First Settlement in America to the Present Date* (Burlington, Iowa: J. H. Wyman, 1880), 4.

¹⁰⁶ *Concord, Massachusetts, Births, Marriages and Deaths, 1635-1850* (Boston: the town, 1895), 23.

¹⁰⁷ Edith Bartlett Sumner, *Descendants of Thomas Farr of Harpswell, Maine, and Ninety Allied Families* (Los Angeles: American Offset, 1959), 30-31. These relationships are confirmed by the will of James Blood of Concord, dated 5 July 1692, proved 6 February 1692/3 (Middlesex County Probate, 8:78-82), mentioning wife Isabel; daughter Sarah Wilson, wife of William Wilson; and underage grandson Samuel Wilson. The will also mentions land that his father gave him upon his marriage to Isabel; that marriage was in 1679 and James¹ Blood died in 1683.

¹⁰⁸ *Concord Births, Marriages and Deaths* [note 106], 56.

¹⁰⁹ Dean Crawford Smith and Melinde Lutz Sanborn, *The Ancestry of Eva Belle Kempton, 1878-1908, Part IV: The Ancestry of Linda Anna Powers, 1839-1879* (Boston: NEHGS, 2000), 300-05; Greene, *Descendants of Thomas Green(e)* [note 99], 10.

¹¹⁰ Johnson, *Woburn Records* [note 97], 1:285 (births); 2:213 (death).

¹¹¹ Deloraine P. Corey, *Births, Marriages and Deaths in the Town of Malden, Massachusetts, 1649-1850* (Cambridge, Mass.: University Press, 1903), 237; Greene, *Descendants of Thomas Green(e)* [note 99], 10, 14.

9. **JOHN FARMER** (*John, John^{A-C}*), baptized at Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire, 15 October 1663. He married, as his first wife, apparently at Tamworth, Staffordshire, 17 September 1691, **SARAH DAWES** (or more likely, **DAVIS**), daughter of John Davis, fellmonger, of Tamworth. John Farmer settled the Ansley estate in dower upon her on 6 November 1691.^[112] This John Farmer became wealthy. In 1706 Thomas Browne wrote to Edward Farmer: "Your cosen John Farmer that lives at Nuneaton, who seemed very strange to the matter of knowing what was become of you and family — he is a very rich man and drives a great trade of mauling trade, besides his proper trade of a fellmonger."^[113] John Farmer died 23 September 1727 age 63; and was buried at St. Mary's, Leicester.^[114] Sarah (Davis) Farmer was dead by 1722, when John Farmer married, apparently as his second wife, at St. Martin's, Leicester, 11 August 1722, **MARY (DANN) GEE**.^[115]

When John Farmer made his will on 18 September 1727, he was at Leicester (and his will was proved there), though the will calls him "of Nuneaton."^[116] The will leaves legacies to his "present loving wife" Mary, to sons Richard and John, and to daughters Sarah Homer and Ruth Jeakes. In the will John Farmer styled himself "merchant trader"; however, Nichols notes that his tomb says "John Farmer, of Nuneaton, gent."^[117] His estate was inventoried at close to one thousand pounds. His widow died 1 October 1758 age 88, and was buried at St. Martin's, Leicester.^[118]

Children of John and Sarah (Davis) Farmer, all baptized at Nuneaton:^[119]

- i. **SARAH FARMER**, bp. 23 Dec. 1692; m. Nuneaton 25 Dec. 1712 **HENRY HOMER**, of Tamworth, Staffordshire.^[120]
- ii. **ELIZABETH FARMER**, bp. 23 Aug. 1694; d. apparently unm. She was not mentioned in her father's 1727 will, but she may have been the "cousin

¹¹² Parish registers of Tamworth, Staffordshire [FHL 1,526,131] ("John Farmer & Sarah Dawes"). Dr. Richard Farmer noted: "1691, Nov 6. Marriage writings between John Farmer and Sarah Davis, daughter of John Davis, of Tamworth, fellmonger. He settles the estate at Ansley upon her, Nov 6, 1691" (Nichols, *Leicester* [note 30], 4.2:950, n. 2). There is a possibility that this John Farmer had earlier married, at Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire (his birthplace), 5 June 1688, Anne Coxe (parish registers of Chilvers Coton [note 44], "John Farmer of Nun: Eaton and Anne Coxe of this parish).

¹¹³ Thomas Browne to Edward Farmer, 7 January 1705/6 (Part 1, p. 266).

¹¹⁴ Nichols, *Leicester* [note 30], 4.2:943, 950.

¹¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 4.2:950 (includes her maiden name); parish registers of St. Martin's Leicester [FHL 0,596,719] ("John Farmer & Mary Gee als Jee"). As Mary Dann she had married first Jonathan Gee at Belgrave, Leicestershire, 28 October 1708 (W.P.W. Phillimore et al., *Leicestershire Parish Register Marriages*, 12 vols. [Phillimore: London, 1908–14], 10:39).

¹¹⁶ Will proved 7 October 1727, Archdeaconsry of Leicester, Wills and Inventories, 1726–1727 [FHL 1,537,777].

¹¹⁷ Nichols, *Leicester* [note 30], 4.2:943.

¹¹⁸ "Monumental Inscriptions from the County of Leicester," manuscript [FHL 0,585,290], St. Martin's, p. 10 (as "relict of John of Nuneaton, gent").

¹¹⁹ Parish registers of Nuneaton, Warwickshire [note 70].

¹²⁰ *Ibid.*

Elizabeth Farmer" living with Rev. Thomas Muston and named in his 1729 will.^[121]

10 iii. JOHN FARMER, bp. 9 Aug. 1696; m. ALICE PHILLIPS.

11 iv. RICHARD FARMER, bp. 15 Sept. 1698; m. HANNAH KNIBB.

v. RUTH FARMER, bp. 7 April 1700; m. by 1727 JOSEPH JEAKES of Coventry, Warwickshire.^[122]

10. JOHN FARMER (*John, John, John^{A-C}*), baptized at Nuneaton, Warwickshire, 9 August 1696. He married at Exhall, Warwickshire (near Coventry), 29 December 1722, ALICE PHILLIPS of Exhall.^[123] He made his will at Leicester 28 December 1742; it was proved 25 August 1743 in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury. In his will he named his wife Alice and five children, and made his brother Richard executor.^[124]

Children of John and Alice (Phillips) Farmer, all baptized at Nuneaton:^[125]

i. ANNE FARMER, bp. 10 Nov. 1723; d. unm., according to Nichols.

ii. PHILLIPS FARMER, bp. 9 Aug. 1725; eldest son and heir. He made his will 28 Oct. 1773 as "Phillips Farmer of Nuneaton, gentleman"; it was proved 30 Dec. 1774 in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.^[126] His brothers Richard Farmer and James Farmer were named executors and were presumably considered heirs, though no direct bequests were made in the will. The pedigree in Nichols states that he (and all his siblings) died without issue.^[127]

iii. JOHN FARMER, bp. 15 Jan. 1726/7; d. without issue, according to Nichols, perhaps before 1773, since he does not appear in his brother Phillips Farmer's will.

iv. RICHARD FARMER, bp. 27 Dec. 1728; living 1773 (named in brother's will); d. without issue, according to Nichols.

v. JAMES FARMER, bp. 14 June 1730; living 1773 (named in brother's will); d. without issue, according to Nichols.

vi. MARY FARMER, bp. 20 Jan. 1731/2. She d. unm., leaving a will dated 14 Jan. 1804, proved 13 Nov. 1805.^[128] She had held property at Ansley (from the Farmers) and at Exhall (from her mother's family), all of which she devised to her cousin Rev. Thomas Farmer, with remainders to his children and his sisters and their issue.^[129]

¹²¹ For Muston's will, see Part 3, p. 154. Elizabeth was named with the other siblings in a note of Dr. Richard Farmer in Nichols, *Leicester* [note 30], 4.2:950, n. 4.

¹²² *Ibid.*, 4.2:950.

¹²³ Parish registers of Exhall, Warwickshire [FHL 0,548,395].

¹²⁴ The National Archives, PROB 11/728/230/220.

¹²⁵ Parish registers of Nuneaton, Warwickshire [note 70].

¹²⁶ The National Archives, PROB 11/1003/116/131.

¹²⁷ Nichols, *Leicester* [note 30], 4.2:950 (includes dates of baptisms).

¹²⁸ Coventry Archives, PA 101/8/637, dated 26 March 1849: sale of Farmer real estate at Ansley by residual heirs Elizabeth (Farmer) Cooke and Edward Hodges, including a detailed account of the genealogy of the Farmer heirs and descent of the property.

¹²⁹ *Ibid.*

11. RICHARD FARMER (*John, John, John*^{A-C}), baptized at Nuneaton, Warwickshire, 15 December 1698. He married at Brinklow, Warwickshire, 4 January 1732/3, **HANNAH KNIBB**, daughter of John and Mary (Lester) Knibb of Brinklow.^[130] According to Nichols, Richard Farmer died in 1778.^[131]

Children of Richard and Hannah (Knibb) Farmer; all baptisms at St. Mary's, Leicester:^[132]

- i. JOHN FARMER, bp. 29 March 1734; d. when 11 days old, according to Nichols.
- ii. REV. DR. RICHARD FARMER, b. Leicester 28 Aug. 1735 according to Nichols; however, he was bp. 6 May 1735. He d. unm. Cambridge 8 Sept. 1797. He was A.B., Emanuel College, Cambridge, 1757, and in 1775 he became Master of Emanuel College. As an antiquary and man of letters (he was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries), he compiled notes on his own ancestry which form the core of what was published in Nichols and what was passed on to John Farmer of New Hampshire via Richard's nephew, Rev. Thomas Farmer (12.i). There is an extensive memoir of Dr. Richard Farmer in Nichols.^[133] There is also an entry on him in the recent *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, as well as a book-length biography, published in 1992.^[134]
- iii. MARY FARMER, b. ca. 1737; bur. St. Mary's, Leicester, 18 April 1734 (age 6, according to Nichols).
- iv. JOHN FARMER, bp. 4 May 1739; a clerk; d. without issue, according to Nichols.
- v. HANNAH FARMER, bp. 27 June 1741; unm. in 1811, according to Nichols.
- 12 vi. THOMAS FARMER, b. 10 May 1744; bp. 16 May 1744; m. ELIZABETH ANDREW.
- vii. SARAH FARMER, bp. 19 Oct. 1746; m. (1) ALLEN BROWN, gent.; (2) by 1811 RICHARD JERVIS, without issue, all according to Nichols.
- viii. MARY FARMER, bp. 7 April 1749; d. 9 May 1827; m. Saint James', Westminster, 14 Jan. 1768, Hon. and Rev. RICHARD BYRON, b. 28 Oct 1724, d. 5 Nov. 1811, third son of William, 4th Lord Byron, and Frances Berkeley. Rev. Richard Byron (M.A., Christ Church, Oxford, 1750) was rector of Haughton le Skerne, Durham.^[135] Three sons and several grandchildren are shown in the pedigree in Nichols.
- ix. JOSEPH FARMER [he may not have been the youngest child], late lieutenant-colonel of the Leicester volunteers; unm. in 1811, according to Nichols; d. before July 1822.^[136]

¹³⁰ Bishop's Transcripts, parish of Brinklow, Warwickshire [FHL 0,428,979]; Nichols, *Leicester* [note 30], 4.2:950.

¹³¹ Nichols, *Leicester* [note 30], 4.2:950.

¹³² Baptisms before 1739 are in Henry Hartopp, ed., *The Register of St. Mary, Leicester, in the County of Leicester* (London: Parish Register Society, 1909); baptisms (and Mary's burial) from 1739 on are in "The Registers of St. Mary's, Leicester, 1739 to 1800," typescript [FHL 0,585,273].

¹³³ Nichols, *Leicester* [note 30], 4.2:943-49.

¹³⁴ See Part 2, note 29.

¹³⁵ Nichols, *Leicester* [note 30], 4.2:950; *Burke's Peerage, Baronetage and Knightage*, 107th ed., 3 vols. (Wilmington, Del.: Burke's Peerage & Gentry, 2003), 1:630.

¹³⁶ Rev. Thomas Farmer to John Farmer, July 1822 (Part 2, p. 63): "I was born on the 20th of August 1771, and am the only male issue left."

12. THOMAS FARMER (*Richard, John, John, John*^{A-C}), born 10 May 1744,^[137] baptized at St. Mary's, Leicester, 16 May 1744. He married at Harleston, Northamptonshire, 9 October 1770, **ELIZABETH ANDREW**,^[138] daughter of John Andrew, Esq., of Harleston. She died 26 October 1817 age 72, and he died 29 July 1824 age 80; both were buried at St. Martin's, Leicester.^[139]

Children of Thomas and Elizabeth (Andrew) Farmer, all baptized at St. Martin's, Leicester:^[140]

- i. **REV. THOMAS FARMER**; bp. 21 Aug. 1771; A.B. Emmanuel College, Cambridge, 1794. In 1811 he was rector of St. Luke's, Old Street, Finsbury, Middlesex (a London suburb). In 1822-23 he was rector of Aspley Guise, Bedfordshire, when he corresponded with his fourth cousin, genealogist John Farmer of New Hampshire. Rev. Thomas Farmer d. unm. Aspley Guise 17 July 1843 age 71,^[141] the last known male member of this family in England.^[142] Property settled on him by the 1804 will of his cousin Mary Farmer (10.vi) passed to his surviving sister Elizabeth (Farmer) Cooke and his nephew Edward Hodges.
- ii. **ELIZABETH FARMER**, bp. 2 Sept. 1772; d. Belgrave, Leicestershire, 3 Jan. 1857 age 84;^[143] m. St. Martin's Leicester, 28 June 1806 **DECIMUS COOKE**, attorney, of Leicester, d. Nov. 1826, bur. Syresham, Northamptonshire. According to Nichols, they had issue living in 1811. On 26 March 1849 Elizabeth Cooke of Peatling House, Leicester, widow, and her nephew, Edward Hodges, Esq., M.D., of Bath, Somerset, sold all their interest in the Farmer properties at Ansley, Warwickshire, known as "Farmers Fields."^[144]
- iii. **RICHARD FARMER**, bp. 11 Nov. 1773; d. in infancy, according to Nichols.
- iv. **MARY FARMER**, bp. 9 Sept. 1776; d. Dec. 1838; m. St. Martin's Leicester, 28 May 1806 **GEORGE BRUSHFIELD HODGES**,^[145] of Leicester, with whom she had one child, *Edward Hodges*, bp. St. Martin's 8 Dec. 1809.^[146] In 1849 he and his aunt sold the remaining family properties at Ansley, as detailed above.

To be continued: The fifth and final installment will present a genealogical account of the Packwoods and discussion of the other ancestral families of Burbage and Moore.

¹³⁷ Ibid.

¹³⁸ Parish registers of Harleston, Northamptonshire [FHL fiche 6,127,674]; Nichols, *Leicester* [note 30], 4.2:950.

¹³⁹ "Monumental Inscriptions" [note 118], St. Martin's, p. 10. His death was noted by genealogist John Farmer (see Part 2, note 24).

¹⁴⁰ Parish registers of St. Martin's, Leicester [FHL 0,596,720].

¹⁴¹ *The Gentleman's Magazine*, July-Dec. 1843, p. 439. See also *Bedford Mercury*, 19 August 1843 (obituary), and 26 August 1843 (auction of personal estate, including "about 60 dozen of Prime Old Port and Sherry wine and 16 dozen of Marcellas and other wines"); clippings courtesy of Mr. Peter Lee of Nuneaton, Warwickshire, via the late Harlow G. Farmer.

¹⁴² See note 136.

¹⁴³ *The Gentleman's Magazine*, Feb. 1857, p. 253;

¹⁴⁴ Coventry Archives, PA 101/8/637, dated 26 March 1849 (see note 128).

¹⁴⁵ The parish registers of St. Martin's, Leicester [note 140] confirm that the sisters were married exactly one month apart in 1806.

¹⁴⁶ Parish registers of St. Martin's, Leicester [note 140].

GENEALOGIST JOHN FARMER DISCOVERS HIS ANCESTRY:
THE WARWICKSHIRE FAMILY OF EDWARD¹ FARMER,
ISABEL¹ (FARMER) (WYMAN) (BLOOD) GREEN, AND
THOMAS¹ POLLARD, OF BILLERICA, MASSACHUSETTS

Nathaniel Lane Taylor

(concluded from Register 161 [2007]:222)

PART 5: ALLIED FAMILIES: PACKWOOD, BURBAGE, AND MOORE

In addition to the Farmers of Ansley, three other Warwickshire families ancestral to Edward¹ Farmer of Billerica have been traced: those of Agnes Packwood, apparent wife of John^C Farmer; Isabel Burbage, wife of John^A Farmer; and finally Mary Moore, wife of Edward¹ Farmer. They are presented here.

Packwood of Fillongley

The Packwoods of Fillongley, Warwickshire, were explored in Part 3, where an attested Packwood connection pointed back to a 1570 Farmer-Packwood marriage. Since Thomas^D Packwood's parents are unknown, the Packwood genealogy begins with a group of siblings.

Siblings of THOMAS^D PACKWOOD, of Fillongley, parentage unknown:

- 1 i. THOMAS^D PACKWOOD, b. say 1520; m. (1) _____, (2) AGNES _____.
- ii. HENRY PACKWOOD, mentioned in the 1566 will of his brother Thomas.
- iii. ISABEL PACKWOOD, m. _____ ELLIOT; she was mentioned with unnamed children in the 1566 will of her brother Thomas.
- iv. CLEMENT PACKWOOD, mentioned in the 1569 will of his nephew William, but not in the 1566 will of his brother Thomas.

1. THOMAS^D PACKWOOD was born say 1520 (as he was evidently an adult in the 1540s–1560s). He was buried at Fillongley 9 October 1566.^[147] His will was dated 23 August 1566 and was proved 21 October 1566; the inventory was made 10 October 1566.^[148] Thomas Packwood appears to have married at least twice; his last wife was named AGNES. Thomas Packwood's own will does not name his wife at the time, but his son William's 1569 will names his "mother in law" Agnes Packwood, who was likely the "Agnes Packwood, widow," buried at Fillongley 7 April 1581. It is not known whether she was the mother of any of

¹⁴⁷ Parish registers of Fillongley [note 48]. For extracted Packwood entries see Part 3, pp. 150–51

¹⁴⁸ Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, probate series, letter P, 1560–1574 [FHL 0,095,491]. See Part 3, p. 151, for an abstract of this will.

Thomas Packwood's children. The two daughters, Joan Beck and _____ Champion, married before William, were likely his full sisters. The daughter Agnes, not married until 1570, could have been by the second wife Agnes.

Child of Thomas^D Packwood and his first wife:

- 2 i. WILLIAM PACKWOOD, m. ANNA KYMBERLEY.

Children of Thomas^D Packwood, either by his first wife or by Agnes:

- ii. JOAN PACKWOOD, m. Fillongley 15 June 1561 JOHN BECK. One daughter, *Margaret Beck*, was baptized there 25 December 1562, and was mentioned in her grandfather Thomas Packwood's 1566 will. Perhaps Joan was dead by late 1564, as a John Beck m. at Fillongley 3 Dec. 1564 JOAN WEDUN, and had several children.
- iii. DAUGHTER, m. by 1566 _____ CAMPION: she was the "sister Champion" mentioned in her brother William's 1569 will. One child, *Agnes Champion*, "my daughter's daughter," was mentioned in Thomas Packwood's 1566 will, but the Champion surname is not found in the Fillongley register.
- + iv. AGNES^C PACKWOOD, single in 1566; in all likelihood the Agnes Packwood who m. Fillongley 6 Aug. 1570 JOHN^C FARMER (see Part 4, p. 208).

Illegitimate son of Thomas^D Packwood:

- v. HENRY PACKWOOD. He was named as "base son" in his father's will and as "base brother, Henry Packwood of Ansley," in the 1569 will of his brother William. Perhaps he was the Henry Packwood who had a son *William Packwood* baptized at neighboring Arley 1 Oct. 1576.^[149] And perhaps he was the father of *Margery Packwood*, baptized at Arley 16 July 1571, with no parents named.

2. WILLIAM PACKWOOD (*Thomas^D*) married at Fillongley 12 November 1566, ANNA KYMBERLEY. Before William Packwood was buried at Fillongley 2 May 1569, he had one child through whom the Packwood family continued in Fillongley. William Packwood's will, dated 25 April 1569, mentions some of the same relatives as his father's will, including his "base brother" Henry, his "sister Champion," and "Isabell Elliott's children." William's will also mentions an "Isabel Wise," likely related to the Thomas Wise named in his father's will. In addition, William's will mentions his uncle Clement Packwood (not named in Thomas' will) and his own infant son Thomas.^[150] Unfortunately, he names no sister Agnes or any Farmer relations. Though a resident of Fillongley, William Packwood held land in Ansley which he left to his son Thomas.

Child of William and Anna (Kymberley) Packwood:

- 3 i. THOMAS PACKWOOD, bp. Fillongley 18 Jan. 1568/9; m. MARGERY GREENE.

¹⁴⁹ Parish registers of Arley [note 43]. For extracted Packwood entries see Part 3, p. 151.

¹⁵⁰ Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, probate series, letter P, 1560-1574 [FHL 0,095,491].

3. **THOMAS PACKWOOD** (*William, Thomas*^D) was baptized at Fillongley 18 January 1568/9. He married at Fillongley 28 May 1590, **MARGERY GREENE**. He witnessed the 1625 will of [his cousin] John^B Farmer of Ansley, and was named in it as "loving friend and kinsman." Thomas Packwood was buried at Fillongley 10 April 1632. His will, dated 7 April 1632, proved 12 May 1632, names loving wife Margery Packwood (as executrix) and all the children listed below except Elizabeth.^[151] His inventory lists an estate valued at £262-4-4.

Children of Thomas and Margery (Greene) Packwood:

- i. ANNE PACKWOOD, bp. Fillongley 28 Aug. 1591; likely the Hannah Packwood who m. at Fillongley 17 July 1621 WILLIAM GREENE, as she was named as "my eldest daughter Anne Grene" in her father's will. Three of her children, *Anne, Lydia* and *Elizabeth Greene*, were also mentioned in the will.
- ii. SIMEON PACKWOOD, bp. Arley 23 Aug. 1601.
- 4 iii. JOSIAH PACKWOOD, b. ca. 1602; m. MARY _____.
- iv. ELIZABETH PACKWOOD, bp. Fillongley 20 Sept. 1607. Not named in her father's will.
- v. THOMAS PACKWOOD, bp. Fillongley 17 June 1612; bur. there 14 April 1615. His father's will asks to be buried near son Thomas.
- vi. PATIENCE PACKWOOD, m. Fillongley 18 Aug. 1634 ROBERT CHAPMAN.
- vii. PRUDENCE PACKWOOD, bur. Fillongley 3 Feb. 1634/5.

4. **REV. JOSIAH PACKWOOD** (*Thomas, William, Thomas*^D), born about 1602, was certainly the man named as godson and beneficiary in the 1625 will of his cousin John^B Farmer "alias Johnson" of Ansley. Josiah matriculated as a plebeian at Magdalen Hall, Oxford, 9 May 1617, aged 15 years; he earned the degrees of B.A. on 25 January 1620/1 and M.A. on 17 June 1624. He was ordained a deacon at Saint Giles, Oxford, on 17 March 1621/2, and he was a schoolmaster at Nuneaton in 1625.^[152] Although it is not mentioned in his entry in *Alumni Oxonienses*, he was vicar of his own home parish of Fillongley from about 1637 through 1646. Thereafter he was vicar of Hampton in Arden, Warwickshire, from 1647 until he was ejected upon the Restoration in 1660. He then apparently returned without benefice to Fillongley.^[153] Josiah Packwood, clerk, of Fillongley, left a holographic will dated 9 April 1666; his inventory was made 16 April 1666, and the will was proved 2 May 1666.^[154] While the surname of Josiah Packwood's wife **MARY** is not known, the Fillongley parish register records their children from 1637 to 1646, and the register of Hampton in Arden records three

¹⁵¹ *Ibid.*, letter P, 1632–1635 [FHL 0,095,504].

¹⁵² Joseph Foster, *Alumni Oxonienses: The Members of the University of Oxford, 1500–1714*, 4 vols. (Oxford: Parker, 1891–92), 3:1102. For the appointment at Nuneaton see the Clergy of the Church of England Database at theclergydatabase.org.uk

¹⁵³ The published transcript of the Fillongley parish registers [see note 48] includes Josiah Packwood on its list of vicars at p. XXVIII, noting only that he served in 1641, but the list is quite incomplete. From the inclusion of his children's dates of birth, it seems likely that he was recording them himself in the register from 1639 to 1646.

¹⁵⁴ Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, probate series, 1666, Letters J–S [FHL 0,095,632].

more.^[155] Josiah Packwood's will names beloved wife Mary, eldest son Josiah, second son John, third son Joseph, and two daughters Susanna and Sarah.

Children of Rev. Josiah and Mary (____) Packwood:

- i. JOSIAH PACKWOOD, b. say 1635; d. after 9 April 1666 when he was mentioned in his father's will. He m. at Hampton in Arden 29 May 1655 DORCAS FENTHAM, and had two children baptized there: *Thomas Packwood*, bp. 12 April 1657, and *Samuel Packwood*, bp. 3 April 1659.
- ii. THOMAS PACKWOOD, bp. Fillongley 6 Jan. 1637/8; bur. there 7 Jan. 1637/8.
- iii. SUSANNA PACKWOOD, b. Fillongley 31 Aug. 1639, bp. there 5 Sept. 1639; d. after 9 April 1666 when she was mentioned in her father's will.
- iv. SON, bp. Fillongley on the 26th day of an unstated month, 1642.
- v. SAMUEL PACKWOOD, bur. Fillongley 8 Mar 1644/5.
- vi. MARIA PACKWOOD, bp. Fillongley 10 Oct. 1644; bur. there 17 Oct. 1644.
- vii. THOMAS PACKWOOD, b. Fillongley 18 Sept. 1645, bp. there 2 Oct. 1645; perhaps the son of Josias Packwood bur. there 6 May 1646.
- viii. JOHN PACKWOOD, bp. Hampton in Arden 30 July 1648. As "John Packwood, son of Josiah of Fillongley, Warwickshire," he matriculated as a plebeian at Pembroke College, Oxford, 14 Dec. 1668, aged 20.^[156]
- ix. JOSEPH PACKWOOD, bp. Hampton in Arden 27 Jan. 1649/50; d. after 9 April 1666 when he was mentioned in his father's will.
- x. SARAH PACKWOOD, bp. Hampton in Arden 13 July 1651; d. after 9 April 1666 when she was mentioned in her father's will.

Burbage of Great Packington

While several modern compilations continue to repeat the incorrect assumption that Isabel Farmer was born a Muston (because Thomas Muston's letters called her "sister"), it was clear to genealogist John⁵ Farmer that his immigrant ancestress was born a Burbage. A note by Dr. Richard Farmer, printed by Nichols in 1811, supplies Isabel's father's complete name (Thomas Burbage) and home parish (Great Packington), drawn from the legal context of a notice of the 1683 deed of settlement, which is now lost, between Isabel and her English grandson, John Farmer.^[157]

Great Packington's clear and lengthy parish registers begin in 1538. All entries for the surname Burbage down to 1640 were reviewed.^[158] In addition, five Burbage wills from Great Packington, between 1551 to 1619, were proved in the Diocesan Court of Lichfield and Coventry. Collating the wills with the register entries allowed reconstruction of several Burbage family groups in this

¹⁵⁵ Parish registers of Hampton in Arden, Warwickshire [FHL 0,568,505].

¹⁵⁶ Foster, *Alumni Oxonienses* [note 152], 3:1102.

¹⁵⁷ "April 5, 1683. Articles of agreement between John Farmer, the grandson of John Farmer (an infant), by Isabel his wife, daughter of Thomas Burbage, of Great Packington" (Nichols, *Leicester* [note 30], 4:2:950, note 3 to pedigree). The document itself was not described or printed by Nichols, and has not been located.

¹⁵⁸ Parish registers of Great Packington, Warwickshire [FHL 0,555,370].

period, including the families of the father and grandfather of Isabel (Burbage) Farmer. The first evident generation, in the mid sixteenth century, includes several adult Burbages whose relationship cannot be determined. A William Burbage died in 1551; with his wife Agnes (widow of William Sparre) he had a single son, William, in 1549.^[159] That William may be the man who made his will in early 1600, naming sons John and William, and daughters Agnes, Mary and Margery.^[160] A John Burbage made a will in 1556, naming wife Helen, son Thomas, and daughters Margaret, Agnes, Elizabeth, Margery, Jane, and Catherine.^[161] A younger John Burbage left no will but had several children baptized in the 1550s. He might have been a brother of the William who died in 1551. It is this second John Burbage, still alive in 1604, who was father of Thomas^B Burbage, father of Isabel (Burbage) Farmer.

Outside Great Packington, the Burbage surname was well distributed in Warwickshire in the sixteenth century, the most famous Burbage family being associated with Shakespeare's early theatrical career. The Burbages treated here, however, cannot be traced beyond Great Packington and Coventry, and beyond middling yeomanry. The following summary is confined to traceable descendants of John^C Burbage.

1. **JOHN^C BURBAGE**, of Great Packington, born say 1525–30; died after 1603. He had a wife **MARGARET**, to whom he was married by 1553. The baptisms of eight children of John and Margaret (____) Burbage appear in the Great Packington parish register; at least four children lived to adulthood and are mentioned as siblings in each other's wills. John^C Burbage was still living on 23 February 1603/4, when his son John Burbage made his will, in which he referred to his father as "John Burbage the Elder."

Children of John^C and Margaret (____) Burbage, all baptized at Great Packington:

- i. **THOMAS BURBAGE**; bp. 17 April 1554; d. young.
- ii. **DIONYSE BURBAGE**, bp. 10 Feb. 1555/6.
- iii. **MARGARET BURBAGE**, bp. 22 May 1558.
- iv. **JOAN BURBAGE**, bp. 29 March 1561; apparently the Jane Burbage who m. at Great Packington 21 Oct. 1584 **JOHN BALL** "of Balsalle in the parish of Compton" [Warwickshire]. A sister "Jane Ball" was named in the wills of both her brothers John and Thomas.
- 2 v. **THOMAS^B BURBAGE**, bp. 13 May 1563; m. **ANNE** _____.
- vi. **JOHN BURBAGE**, bp. 28 May 1566; bur. Great Packington the same day.
- 3 vii. **JOHN BURBAGE**, bp. 28 Feb. 1567/8; m. **MARY WHADCOCKE**.
- 4 viii. **WILLIAM BURBAGE**, bp. 1 May 1573; m. _____.

¹⁵⁹ Will dated 27 August 1551; proved 12 October 1551 (Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, probate series, letter B, 1545–1551 [FHL 0,095,303]).

¹⁶⁰ Will dated 19 January 1599/1600; proved 17 January 1600/1 (ibid., letter B, 1600–1601 [FHL 0,095,317]).

¹⁶¹ Will dated 1 September 1556; proved 11 October 1557 (ibid., letter B, 1557 [FHL 0,095,305]).

2. **THOMAS^B BURBAGE** (*John^C*), had a wife **ANNE** by 1606 and likely some years earlier (if she was his only wife); her parentage and origin are unknown. She was apparently previously married, perhaps to a man named Todd, as Thomas Burbage left legacies to his "son in law" William Todd and "daughter-in-law" Elizabeth Todd. It is possible that both were Anne's children, or that William Todd was Anne's son, or that Elizabeth (maiden name unknown) was Anne's daughter and William Todd was Elizabeth's husband. None of these Todds has been found in the Great Packington parish registers.

Thomas Burbage's marriage was not recorded at Great Packington, nor were the baptisms of the two older daughters, Anne and Jane, whom he named in his will. Thomas Burbage, "husband of Anne his wife," was buried at Great Packington 8 January 1619/20. His widow may have been the Anne Burbage who married, by license, scarcely two months later, on 28 February 1619/20, Robert Cash. Robert and Anne Cash had at least one child, *Alice Cash*, baptized at Great Packington 30 January 1620/1. No will was found for Anne or Robert Cash.

Thomas Burbage, yeoman, left a will dated 11 December 1619, proved 19 January 1619/20,^[162] abstracted here:

11 December 1619. Thomas Burbage of Great Packington, yeoman, sick. Body to the churchyard of Great Packington. Wellbeloved wife Anne Burbidge executrix; to her the house and all lands in Meriden, Warwickshire, with all deeds etc., to use to the benefit of my beloved children, during her natural life, provided that she not alienate any of it from my daughter Isabell Burbidge, who is made heir to the said Meriden property (except one house called Oxe House, and another which is called Farme House, for payment of debts). Appoint loving brother William Burbidge of Coventry, John Dugdale of Shustoke,^[163] Edward Berk of Fillongly, and John Flint of Great Packington, overseers, to make sale of Oxe House & Farm House. If wife Anne should remarry, she to forfeit interest in the property in favor of other overseers, for the payment of children's portions, until heir Isabell Burbidge come of age. To eldest daughter Anne Burbidge £20 within one year of her marriage. To daughter Jane Burbidge £25 to be paid at 21 years. To daughter Marie Burbidge £25 to be paid at 21 years. To daughter Alice Burbidge £25 to be paid at 21 years. To daughter Isabell Burbidge the house and lands in Meriden abovesaid, "and make her my full and lawfull heyre" to said property provided that she make no claim until she reach age 25. If the mother Anne is still living then, Isabel will inherit only after Anne's death; she must pay all subsequent legacies due to the other daughters. If Isabel die without heirs before inheriting, then the land to pass to daughter Anne Burbidge and her heirs; and likewise next to daughter Marie, then daughter Alice. In default of all their issue, land shall pass to brother William Burbage. If any of the daughters receiving cash portions dies before inheriting, then her portion to be divided among other surviving daughters. To brother William Burbage and to sister Jane Ball 5s. each. To son-in-law William Todd and daughter-in-law Elizabeth Todd 10s. each. To each overseer 2s. To godson Thomas Burbage 2s. To the poor of Great Packington 5s. Witnesses Richard Kyrke [?], Thomas Bradbore, William Smith. The marke of Thomas Burbidge.

¹⁶² *Ibid.*, letter B, 1617-1620 [FHL 0,095,326].

¹⁶³ The second overseer, John Dugdale of Sustock [now Shustoke], was apparently the father of Sir William Dugdale, the herald and antiquary. John Dugdale, a native of Lancashire, was rector of Shustoke (*Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* [note 29], 17:153-57). The appointment of overseers, especially locally prominent men, was often not based on kinship.

Note that Thomas Burbage left lands in Meriden (adjacent to Great Packington) to one daughter, Isabel — almost certainly the same lands in Meriden later mentioned in the will of John^A Farmer, who married Isabel Burbage in 1633. The will of Thomas Burbage names the daughters in the order shown below, suggesting that Jane was also older than Mary, Alice, or Isabel (only the baptisms of the last three girls are recorded at Great Packington). If all the girls were by the same mother and born in wedlock, it is not clear why Isabel, the youngest, was singled out as heir to the Meriden lands, while the other daughters were to receive cash legacies. It is also unclear why the pupillary clause [appointing guardians for minor children] on the back of the will mentioned Jane, Mary, and Alice as minors, but not Isabel.

Children of Thomas^B Burbage, at least the last three by wife Anne:

- i. ANNE BURBAGE, named in her father's will as eldest daughter.
- ii. JANE BURBAGE, under age 21 on 11 Dec. 1619/20, the date of her father's will.
- iii. MARY BURBAGE, bp. Great Packington 6 July 1606.
- iv. ALICE BURBAGE, bp. Great Packington 28 Aug. 1608.
- + v. ISABEL^A Burbage, bp. Great Packington 10 Nov. 1611; d. Billerica, Mass., 21 May 1686; m. (1) Arley 10 Aug. 1633 JOHN^A FARMER (see Part 4, p. 210); (2) ca. 1674 THOMAS^I WISWALL.

3. JOHN BURBAGE (*John^C*) was baptized at Great Packington 28 May 1567/8, and was buried there 25 February 1603/4. He married by 1595 MARY WHADCOCKE, daughter of Robert Whadcocke (whom John named as father-in-law in his will). John Burbage "the younger," yeoman, left a will dated 23 February 1603/4, proved 16 April 1604.^[164] The will names his father (living) as "John Burbage the elder"; three children, John, Thomas, and William Burbage; two brothers, Thomas and William Burbage; and brother-in-law John Ball, in addition to his wife's relatives.

Children of John and Mary (Whadcocke) Burbage, all baptized at Great Packington:

- i. JOHN BURBAGE, bp. 24 June 1595; bur. Great Packington 3 July 1595.
- ii. THOMAS BURBAGE, bp. 16 July 1597. Perhaps he was the Thomas Burbage who, with wife Mary, had children baptized at Great Packington from 1623 onward. Perhaps he also was the Thomas Burbage who, with wife and children, were left legacies in the 1634 will of William Burbage of Coventry (see below).
- iii. WILLIAM BURBAGE, bp. 20 Jan. 1599/1600. Perhaps he was the William Burbage of Coventry, baker, who, with wife, were left legacies in the 1634 will of William Burbage of Coventry (see below)
- iv. JOHN BURBAGE, bp. 13 March 1602/3.

4. WILLIAM BURBAGE (*John^C*) was living in Coventry by 1619, when he was named in the will of his brother Thomas Burbage. Only one will has been found for a William Burbage of Coventry in this period, namely, the will of "William

¹⁶⁴ Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, probate series, letter B, 1601–1604 [FHL 0,095,318].

Burbage of the City of Coventry, Aldorman," dated 8 March 1633/4, proved 29 March 1634.¹⁶⁵ This William was a well-off urban citizen, but clearly connected to the Great Packington Burbages. He left legacies to three sons (William, Thomas and John), and two daughters (Ann, wife of George Mourble; and Margaret, wife of Thomas Wyldey), each of whom had children of their own also named. He left small legacies to "Thomas Burbage of Packington and his wife" and "all the children of the said Thomas," as well as to "William Burbage of Coventry, baker, and his wife," and most importantly, a separate legacy to "the three daughters of my brother Thomas Burbage." This last legacy could indeed be to Isabel (Burbage) Farmer and her sisters if only two of her four sisters living in 1619 were still living in 1634. The will also leaves mourning rings or mourning cloaks to many other in-laws and relatives, several of them apparently connected to William Burbage's unnamed "late wife."

Children of William Burbage, named in his will:

- i. WILLIAM BURBAGE, eldest son.
- ii. THOMAS BURBAGE, second son.
- iii. JOHN BURBAGE, youngest son.
- iv. ANNE BURBAGE, m. GEORGE MOURBLE; their children *George Mourble* and *Sarah Mourble* were named in their grandfather's will.
- v. MARGARET BURBAGE, m. THOMAS WYLDEY; their child *Thomas Wyldey* was named in his grandfather's will.

Moore of Ernesford (Coventry)

This study of the Farmer ancestry was substantially complete when the identity of Edward¹ Farmer's wife Mary was revealed in the unindexed marriage licenses for the diocese of Lichfield and Coventry: she was Mary Moore, of "Yernesford" (apparently Ernesford, Warwickshire), aged 27, at the time of her marriage to Edward Farmer, by license dated 11 April 1668.¹⁶⁶ Ernesford was a non-parochial village on the edge of early-modern Coventry, whose inhabitants appear to have been members of the Coventry parishes. Extant Coventry parish registers (Holy Trinity and Saint Michael) revealed just one seventeenth-century baptism of a Mary Moore, which happened also to fit the projected birth year from the marriage license: Mary Moore, daughter of "Mister Doctor Joseph Moore," was baptized at Holy Trinity, Coventry, on 12 May 1640.¹⁶⁷ The same register soon thereafter recorded a burial for "Mrs. Elizabeth Moore, wife of Mister Doctor Joseph Moore," on 24 May 1640, perhaps following complications of childbirth. Interestingly, the other Coventry register, that of Saint Michael's, also recorded the burial of "Mrs. Elizabeth Moore, wife of Joseph doctor in

¹⁶⁵ Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, probate series, letter B, 1634-1635 [FHL 0,095,333].

¹⁶⁶ Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, Marriage Licenses, Bonds and Allegations, bonds for 1668-1669 [note 88].

¹⁶⁷ Parish registers of Holy Trinity, Coventry, Warwickshire [FHL 1,967,410].

phisiq," on 19 May 1640.^[168] Joseph Moore disappeared from both parish registers thereafter, although many other Moores were recorded in both throughout the seventeenth century.

A monumental inscription at Saint Michael's, Coventry, provides further information on Dr. Moore's family. Joseph Moore, M.D. Oxon, erected a brass [monumental inscription] in memory of his mother, Judith, daughter of Thomas Edmonds, Esquire, and wife of John Moore, gent., who died in 1636, aged 72; and in memory of his own wife Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Harewell, Esquire, of Coventry, who died in 1640 aged 23; he also commemorated four infant children.^[169] The inscription revealed an Oxford degree, which was typical for people honored with the title "doctor of physic," the highest rank of the medical spectrum in seventeenth-century England.^[170] In fact this Joseph Moore attended both Cambridge and Oxford: he matriculated at Saint John's College, Cambridge, in Easter term 1617; was subsequently admitted a sizar at Queens' College, Cambridge, on 9 March 1618/9; then transferred to Oxford and received a B.A. from Saint Edmund's Hall 27 February 1621/2, followed by an M.A., 2 June 1624.^[171] The Cambridge entry stated that he came from Derbyshire, but not specifically where.

Dr. Joseph Moore appears to have left Coventry after 1640, as there is no record of his own burial or monumental inscription. A search of the "Access to Archives" national archival database found a "Joseph Moore, Doctor of Physic," was at Spalding, Lincolnshire, on 11 February 1651 when he was named on a commission of sewer overseers there.^[172] The contemporary minute book of the Spalding Sewer Commission includes frequent mention of a Joseph Moore as a commissioner continuously for eleven years, until he last appeared on 26 March 1662.^[173] Like Coventry, there were also various Moore families at Spalding throughout the period in question, though the Spalding parish registers have no entries for a Joseph Moore.^[174] The Lincoln diocesan probate series includes the will of a Joseph Moore of Spalding, dated 10 May 1677.^[175] While the testator was educated (the will is holographic), and he was a widower with one grown

¹⁶⁸ Bishop's transcripts of St. Michael's, Coventry, Warwickshire [FHL 0,428,985].

¹⁶⁹ John Astley, *The Monumental Inscriptions in the Parish Church of S. Michael, Coventry* (Coventry: W. W. Curtis, n. d.), 34 and plate VII. See also R. H. Edleston, "Monumental Brasses: Additions and Corrections to Haines' Manual," *The Antiquary* 22 (July 1890):12-15 et seq. at 15.

¹⁷⁰ Phyllis Allen, "Medical Education in 17th Century England," *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* 1 (1946):115-43.

¹⁷¹ Venn, *Alumni Cantabrigienses* [note 55], 3:206; Foster, *Alumni Oxonienses* [note 152], 3:1024.

¹⁷² Lincolnshire Archives, Spalding Sewers/449/9. For Access to Archives, see note 179 below.

¹⁷³ Lincolnshire Archives, Spalding Sewers/451/1. The minute book continues to 30 October 1667 with no further references to Moore.

¹⁷⁴ Parish registers of Spalding, Lincolnshire [FHL 1,542,018].

¹⁷⁵ Diocese of Lincoln, Registered Wills, vol. 167, 1679 [FHL 0,198,937]. This holographic will was not witnessed until August [date illegible], 1678. The date of probate is not indicated on the actual document appearing on film, though it is filed among 1679 probates.

daughter Mary, wife of Mr. Adlard Welby, it is not clear from the will whether he was a physician. Nevertheless, a published Welby pedigree calls him "Joseph Moore, M.D., lord of Townsend manor, Spalding."^[176] If this 1677 testator was indeed the physician Dr. Joseph Moore, formerly of Coventry — and if Mary (Moore) Welby was indeed the doctor's daughter baptized at Coventry in 1640 — then we have reached a dead end in our search for the family of the immigrant Mary¹ (Moore) Farmer. The parish registers of the Coventry churches are incomplete for the years around 1640, and it is perfectly possible that Mary (Moore) Farmer was not the physician's daughter but rather an unrelated namesake, born and baptized about the same time.

Further directions

Beyond the Mustons, Pollards, Packwoods, and Burbages, there are other families who appear to be linked as cousins in the circle of John^A and Isabel (Burbage) Farmer but have not been traced. The most elusive connection appeared already in the Farmer family's heirloom documents held by genealogist John⁵ Farmer, namely, Mr. (or Lieutenant) Thomas Browne of "Astley Hall," Astley, Warwickshire, Edward¹ Farmer's cousin whose garrulous letter of 1706 tells us much about various cousins and neighbors, but who has not been identified.^[177] In the letter Browne addressed Edward Farmer as "good cosen" — a very elastic term — but he also referred to Edward Farmer's other cousins Rev. Thomas Muston and the younger Coventry Pollards, as "your cosen[s]," implying that he did not share Farmer's kinship to them. If Browne could claim kinship to Farmer but not to Muston or the Pollards, then the kinship would be via Edward¹ Farmer's wife, Mary (Moore) Farmer. It is not clear where Browne was born, and the Astley parish registers do not include his birth, marriage, or children.^[178]

Only sparse other passing references or hints about kin have been found, some of which still may yet allow further extensions of the ancestry and connections of Edward¹ Farmer. His grandfather John^B Farmer had named two other cousins, William Brooke of Elford and William Keeling of Hollerton, as overseers to his will. One or both might have been related to John^B Farmer's wife Elizabeth, whose surname is unknown.

Of course, fuller transcription and meta-indexing of surviving parish registers (such as in the ongoing compilation of transcribed records in the IGI or the National Burial Index), as well as deeds series in county and national archives (such as those searchable via the Access to Archives web-based meta-catalogue) may yet provide the means for readier identification of more members of this

¹⁷⁶ A. R. Maddison, *Lincolnshire Pedigrees*, Publications of The Harleian Society, Visitation Series, 50–52 and 55 (London, 1902–06), 55:1318. On 29 September 1659 "Mrs. Mary Moore" was married to "Adlard Welby of London, gent.," at Spalding.

¹⁷⁷ See Part 1, p. 266.

¹⁷⁸ A Thomas Browne of Astley left a will, proved 26 October 1733 (Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, probate series, letters A-Brown, 1733 [FHL 0,096,026]), but this testator, who signed by mark, was an illiterate husbandman with a young family.

network of Warwickshire yeoman families.^[179] In the past few years such resources have opened an era of success in searches for seventeenth-century immigrant origins.

Genealogist John⁵ Farmer would certainly appreciate this new information on his own ancestry. But I expect he would be even more fascinated by the new technologies and resources which have made some of this research possible. And above all he would be most gratified by the health and vigor of our renewed collective pursuit of family histories — and not just for colonial New England — using the tools of a discipline he pioneered almost two hundred years ago.^[180]

(concluded)

¹⁷⁹ For the National Burial Index (and other related databases) see *familyhistoryonline.net*. The Access to Archives database is at *a2a.org.uk*.

¹⁸⁰ By coincidence, a fascinating relevant article, "John Farmer and the Making of American Genealogy," by François Weil, has recently been published in *The New England Quarterly* 80:3 (September 2007):408–34.