

# THE GIBBONS AND SACHEVERELLS AT NEW HALL

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## Introduction

Last autumn a visit to New Hall was arranged by the good offices of our Secretary. This led to a comprehensive tour of the building under the guidance of the Head Porter which members found most interesting.

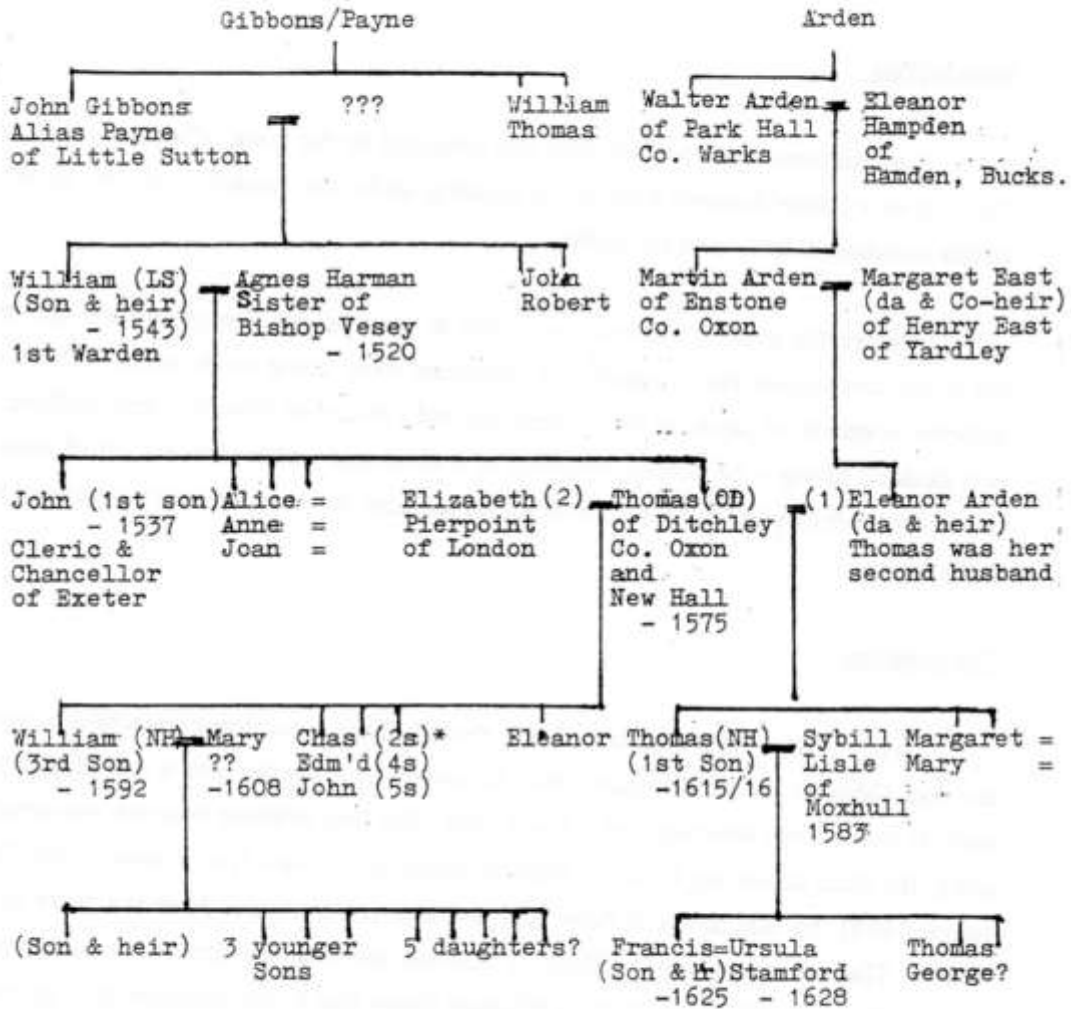
Before the event it seemed reasonable to read up the history of the Hall, and this led to the conclusion that a number of assertions were being made which did not accord with the contents of deeds in the County Record Offices of Warwick and Stafford. So it was decided to dig a bit deeper, resulting in a short and rather staccato set of notes. The following has been prepared to supplement these and provide an easier read of wider appeal.

## The Gibbons

The Gibbons first appear in 1327, though there is no firm connection to prove that the later Gibbons are their descendants. However, by 1486 the line is established and they seem to be of some standing, but it is not until 1525 that William becomes important to the story, for then, according to Mrs. Marven (Marven, E. *New Hall History - the First 800 years*. 1988), he was living at New Hall and married to **Agnes Harman** sister to Bishop Vesey. The latter persuaded William to become the first Warden of the newly chartered town of Sutton Coldfield in 1528. (Whether Vesey had to use persuasion to get people to undertake this novel duty, or whether the post had financial or other attractions, the first occupants were all members of Vesey's immediate family).

William Gibbons and his wife Agnes had two sons and three daughters. The eldest son **John** entered the church and became Chancellor of the See of Exeter. The younger, **Thomas**, managed to amass a good deal of wealth, whether by marriage to **Eleanor** daughter of Martin **Arden**, ( a relation of the Park Hall Ardens), or by his own efforts, is not known. He acquired the Ditchley estate in Oxfordshire, near to his father-in-law at Enstone, considerable other lands in Oxfordshire, and, eventually, the New Hall estate in Sutton Coldfield. There was one son **Thomas** to the marriage with Eleanor and two

THE GIBBONS / ARDEN PEDIGREE



\* Charles son of Thomas (OD) seems to have died c 1556

Derived from

1. Visitation of the County of Oxford 1566/74 p 161
2. The Topographer No. 1 Mar 1821 (at B.R.L.)
3. Antiquities of Warwick p 915
4. Will of William Gibbons (NH) 1594 (PRO B11/83)

Fig. I

daughters. When Eleanor died he married **Elizabeth Pierpoint** of London, who brought him wharves in *Southwark* on the Thames, pike gardens, and other property in London. By Elizabeth he had four further sons, **Charles, William, Edmund** and **John**.

Thomas of Ditchley intended to set his sons up in a fair way, and in 1566 drew up a settlement in detail so that they would avoid squabbling after his demise. He left New Hall to Thomas, Ditchley to Charles, the Manor of Whitchurch to William, lands and mills to Edmund, and the London properties to John, who was a lawyer no doubt based in London. Possibly because of the death of Charles, this was revised two days later William to have Ditchley and Whitchurch to be sold.

When Thomas of Ditchley died in 1575 it was found that, although there was a will confirming the settlement, the later revision was not legally sound, so that Thomas inherited Ditchley. "Out of brotherly love and respect for his dead father", Thomas proposed that William take over the Ditchley estate at an annual rent of £10, Thomas to have two thirds of the moveable goods and cattle, and William one third, sharing their father's debts in like manner.

This younger Thomas, **Thomas of New Hall**, probably did not live at New Hall, but in a house called The Hollies left to him by his father. In 1586 he leased New Hall with gardens and orchards to Percy Willoughby of Woolaton, Nottinghamshire for three years at an annual rent of £75, Thomas supplying forty loads of firewood and forty couple of coneyes annually. William died in 1592, his will reveals that he had purchased New Hall from Thomas for £1,000, of which £400 outstanding was paid out of his estate by his widow. She remained in possession 1601. Although William and his wife Mary had four sons and two daughters, no record of their names has been found, and they appear not to have any descendants among the later Gibbons.

The Parish Register shows "Old Mrs Gibbons" buried in 1608, almost certainly Mary Gibbons the widow of William. Whilst it seems that none of her sons assumed the Manor of New Hall, there is some evidence that **Francis Gibbons**, son of Thomas of New Hall, continued to live there - he died in 1625 and his wife, **Ursula**, in 1628 - after the Hall had been sold to **Henry Sacheverell** as early as 1610.

## The Sacheverells.

Henry presumably bought New Hall to set up his natural son **Valence** as a man of substance in later life, something he did for all his children. Henry took seisin of New Hall on 10th October 1612 and deeded it to Valence in 1613 when Valence was 9 years old. Henry was a recusant, and this could well have been a device to spread his resources against seizure on religious grounds.

In 1618 Henry and Valence bought a house in Sutton, which suggests that New Hall, being leased out, was not available as a residence at the time. Henry had a substantial residence at Morley and another at Old Hayes near Ratby in Leicestershire. He died in 1620, being buried under a handsome monument in the church of St. Peter and St. James, Ratby. Valence was then 16, living at Old Hayes under the guardianship of Elizabeth Kays his mother. He was 24 in 1628 when Ursula Gibbons died - the extensive inventory of her household goods seems likely to refer to the contents of New Hall.

Valence, now married, took recovery, and, with his wife **Anne Devereux**, started a family, of whom **Anne and George** survived to adulthood. The date of Valence's death and George's inheritance of New Hall have not yet been established, probably around 1660. Anne, Valence's widow, seems to have moved to a town house in Sutton at about this time - some acerbic correspondence with her next-door neighbour Samuel Stevenson in 1665 gives the impression that they had been living in close proximity for some time. She left no will, but an extensive probate inventory gives the impression of a three-storeyed double-fronted house which could be the present no. 36 (Culls House), with its stonework enhancement in keeping with the status of the inhabitant; she was after all quite wealthy, having more than £2,000 in cash at the time of the inventory in 1688, probably worth half a million pounds in today's money

George Sacheverell married twice but died without issue in 1715. He made an extensive will, leaving New Hall to his nephew **Charles Chadwick**, his sister having married into that family. Chadwick took up residence in 1729, New Hall remaining in the Chadwick family until sold in 1882, the last remaining Chadwick having left no male issue.

SACHEVERELLS & CHADWICKS OF NEW HALL

Chadwicks from  
"History of Staffordshire"  
Rev. Stebbing Shaw 1798

Sacheverells from  
William Salt Library  
Staffs. No. 50/27/56

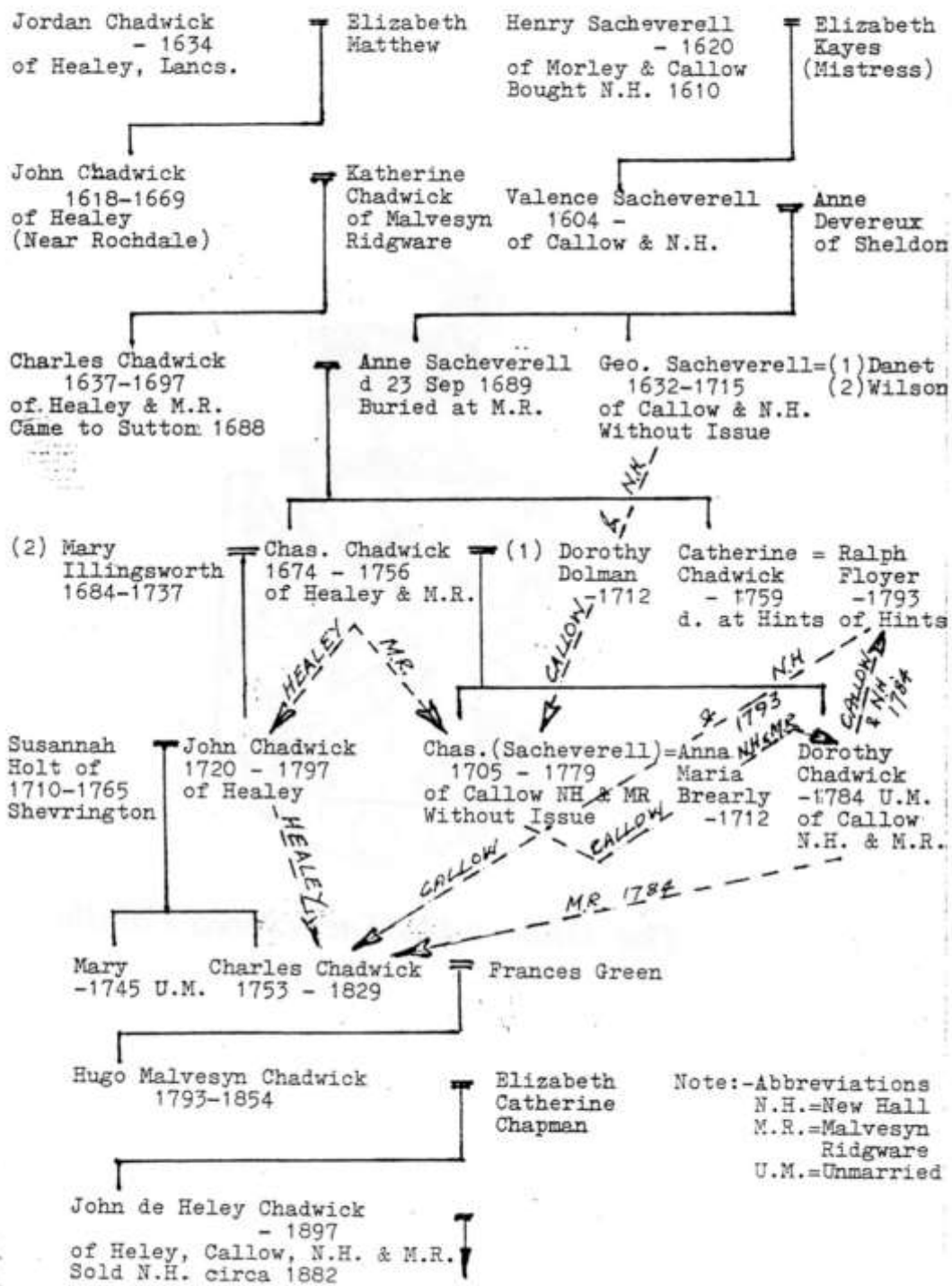
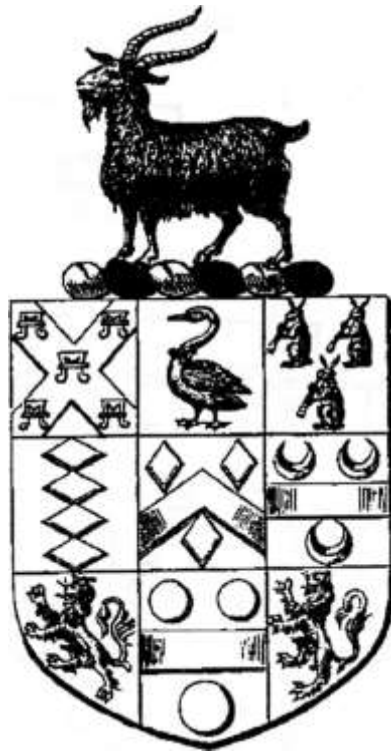


Fig. 2

A detailed list of sources with dates and supplementary notes is to be found in *The Gibbons and Sacheverell Families of New Hall* by the present author, in Sutton Coldfield Local History library.



The Arms of The Sacheverell Family