

Other Warwickshire Drury Families

During the search for the Kenilworth Drurys many documents have been researched with, on many occasions, no sign of the Drurys being found, and even when a mention of a Drury has occurred it has not always been possible to connect the information with the Drurys of Kenilworth. This section is a collection of details, findings, summaries and theories which have been amassed but which do not necessarily fit into the Kenilworth Drury line. In most cases they have not been pursued to their conclusion, either because there is no likely connection or, quite simply, the records end before a connection can be found.

In view of this, this section is inevitably somewhat open-ended but is included so as to give as full a picture as possible. It is, of course, not impossible that all the families found came from one common ancestor who came to Warwickshire many years before, but it is doubtful that we shall ever know.

There are over 200 parishes in Warwickshire alone and once the 'trail' has been lost it is a massive problem to find it again. The 'trail' of the Kenilworth Drurys is lost at the Civil War of 1642, and many of the searches detailed in this section have been carried out in an attempt to connect our Cromwell soldier with a parish other than Kenilworth, but sadly, to date, all have failed.

The Drurys of the parish of Leamington Hastings:

Leamington Hastings is a large parish approximately south-east of Kenilworth. The search here began because of the discovery of two documents involving a Mary Drury from Broadwell in the parish of Leamington Hastings. These documents, too faint to photocopy, are transcribed in Ref: .

They are dated 1804 and 1823, and whilst they do not give us a great deal of information, if we work backwards from these dates we could find a connection with Kenilworth.

To get some idea of the age of this family the Hearth Tax provides evidence that they were at least in the area just after the Civil War. The entries read as follows:

Year	Broadwell	Farnborough
1662	William Drury (n/l)	William Drury (1 hearth)
1670	William Drewery (n/l)	William Durie (1 hearth)
1673	William Drewery (ch/p)	William Dury (1 hearth)
1674	William Durie (ch/p)	William Durie (1 hearth)

The symbol n/l means 'not listed' and ch/p means 'church pauper', both terms meaning that the family was too poor to tax.

The Hearth Tax entries are obviously the same family despite the differing spelling. This was quite common as few people could write or spell their name it was left to the scribe to guess the spelling from the pronunciation of the word. It is easy to see how the different spellings could be achieved in this manner.

The two villages of Broadwell and Farnborough are close together and the two families shown are obviously related. Examination of the parish registers for Leamington Hastings gives us the following information:

Baptisms 1565-1820

The early part of the register is almost illegible and it is possible that there are entries concerning this Drury family earlier than those shown below.

Date	Entry
30 th Dec. 1605	Willielmus Drury filius Thomas
19 th March 1608	Marie Drury filia Thomas
10 th April 1611	Nicholas Drury filius Thomas
3 rd April 1642	Thomas filius William
2 nd Feb. 1644	Guilielmus Drury filius Guilielmus
7 th Nov. 1653	Jane Drury a daughter borne of William Dury and his wife Ann on 7 th Nov. 1653. Baptized 14 th Dec 1653
5 th Nov. 1669	Guilielmus Dury filius Thomas and Joanna. Baptiza fuit quinto Novembris
28 th April 1689	Thomas son of William Dury and Elizabeth his wife of Broadwell
14 th May 1693	William Duree son of William and Eliz. His wife
28 th July 1723	Lydia daughter of Thomas and Mary Drury
5 th June 1726	William son of Thomas Drury of Broadwell and Mary his wife
26 th Oct. 1740	Mary daughter of Thomas Drury and Mary

Burials 1665 – 1815

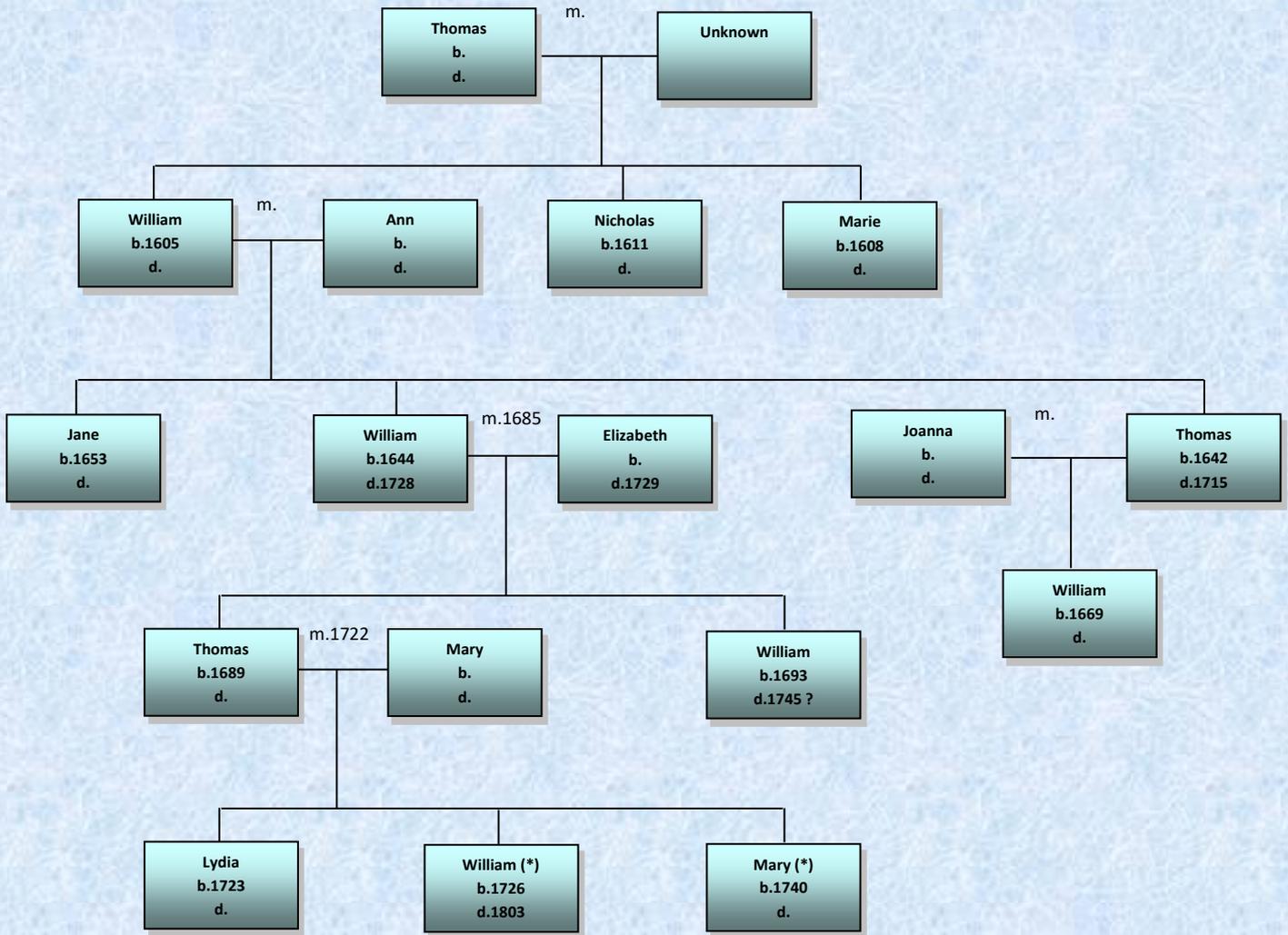
Date	Entry
28 th May 1611	Thomas Drury
31 st Sept. 1611	Nicholas filius Nicholas Drury
17 th Nov. 1715	Thomas Drurey
21 st Aug. 1728	William Drury of Broadwell
18 th June 1729	Elizabeth Drury widow, the relict of William Drury late of Broadwell
30 th March 1745	William Jury of Broadwell
24 th Aug. 1803	William Drury

Marriages 1565 – 1815

Date	Entry
25 th July 1685	Guilielmus Drury alias Duree to Elizabeth Walforn
20 th May 1772	Thomas Drury to Mary Miller of Grandborough

From these entries we can piece together a small family tree as shown below.

The Drurys of the parish of Leamington Hastings



(*) William and Mary are mentioned in Letter of Administration and Last Will and Testament of Mary Drury (Ref:)

These few extracts give us quite a good insight into how elaborate or otherwise parish records can be. The entry for the baptism of Jane Drury on 7th Nov. 1653 gives all the details necessary to make the search easy. Compare this with the entry for the death of William on 24th. August 1803. What a pity all vicars could not take the time to give us all of the details. Also note the use of the latin in some of these entries and an entry where 'alias' is stated where the vicar realises he has made an error in a previous entry.

There are certain factors which now have to be taken into account when looking at these families and trying to connect them with the Drurys of Kenilworth. By studying the Kenilworth line it becomes apparent that common Christian names right up until the early 20th century and that the first son of the main line was almost always named after the father. This is also true in the case of the families from Broadwell and Farnborough in the parish of Leamington Hastings, the difference is

that Joseph, the family Christian name of the Kenilworth Drurys, never appears in the Leamington line.

Whilst it would be gratifying to conclude that this family may have been connected with the Kenilworth Drurys because of geographical proximity, it is, in my opinion highly unlikely as there are no common Christian names in the lines during this early period, shortly after the Civil War. It would have been likely that, had Joseph come from the same family, the names William or Thomas would have been used for one or more of his sons. In fact, the names William and Thomas do not occur until the early 19th century in the Kenilworth line.

Examination of the parish records prior to the Civil War show no Josephs in this Drury family and, although they are difficult to read, the period between 1565 and 1600 shows no likelihood of finding a connection. In conclusion then, whilst a link between the Kenilworth Drurys and the Leamington Hastings Drurys cannot be ruled out, it is fairly certain that it was not during the period covered by these parish records and as such, is unlikely ever to be proven. It is not unreasonable to conclude that Joseph, our Cromwell soldier, is unlikely to have come from the parish of Leamington Hastings or its neighbouring parishes.

The Stratford-upon-Avon Drury Family:

Examination of the Hearth Tax returns for Stratford-upon-Avon reveals a family of Drurys headed by a Richard Drury, resident in Sheep St.

The entry reads as follows:

Year	Stratford-upon-Avon
1633	Richard Drury 1 n/l
1668	Richard Drury 1 n/l
1670	Richard Drury 1 n/l
1672	Richard Drury 1 n/l
1673	Richard Drury 1 n/l

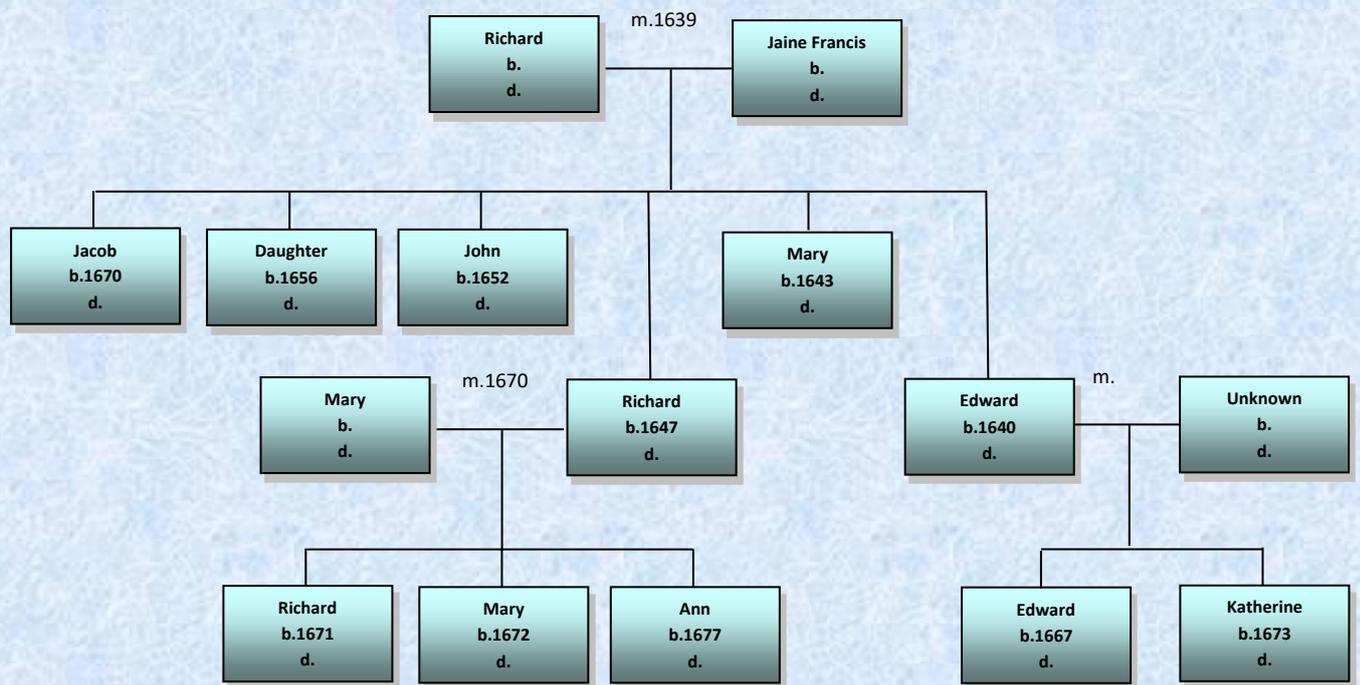
This family was obviously relatively poor as all of the entries are shown as n/l meaning not listed or untaxable

The parish registers for Stratford are held by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust and examination shows that this family were resident in Stratford prior to 1600. The entries, listed in Ref: 86/7/8, have been examined but it is extremely unlikely that they can be connected with the Kenilworth line during this period. It is also difficult to obtain a connection with any of the other families listed in this chapter, although a link in more distant times cannot, of course, be ruled out.

The Warwick Drury Family:

The Hearth Tax of 1674 (Ref: 21) shows an Edward and Richard Drury listed as ‘paupers’ in Warwick. The possibility of a link between these families and the Kenilworth family has been the subject of much research. The Christian names are common with the Kenilworth Drurys and Warwick is only five miles away.

Warwick is divided into two parishes, St. Nicholas and St. Mary's. Examination of the parish records reveals the details given in Ref: 92 – 94 from which it is possible to construct a small tree, shown below.



The two families shown, Richard b.1647 and Edward b.1640, are those referred to in the Hearth Tax records of 1641 (Ref: 21). The records clearly show that Richard came to Warwick at a date shortly before the Civil War, in about 1639 . No mention is made of them in the Warwick records prior to Richard's marriage in 1639. This entry is particularly important in that it gives us a pointer to the parish from which he came, Norton Linsey (Ref: 94) .

Norton Linsey is a small parish north-west of Warwick. The parish registers for this parish do not commence until 1742 and so are of little use to us in this instance, however, at each year-end the vicar had to make a copy of his registers and send it to the Bishop. These copies, Bishop's Transcripts, often date further back than the surviving registers and so can give valuable information.

The Bishop's Transcripts for Norton Linsey date from 1600 to 1700 are kept at Worcester record office. This is because they are diocesan records and Norton Linsey was in the diocese of Worcester.

Examination of these revealed no sign of the Drury family whatsoever (Ref: 66).

There are many pointers to suggest a connection between this family and the Kenilworth Drurys, some of them obvious and others somewhat tenuous. Firstly, the two families obviously entered the area at approximately the same time. Richard was not born in Norton Linsey, but was probably resident there prior to his marriage to Jaine Francis in 1639 (Ref:94). Joseph came to Kenilworth at approximately this time.

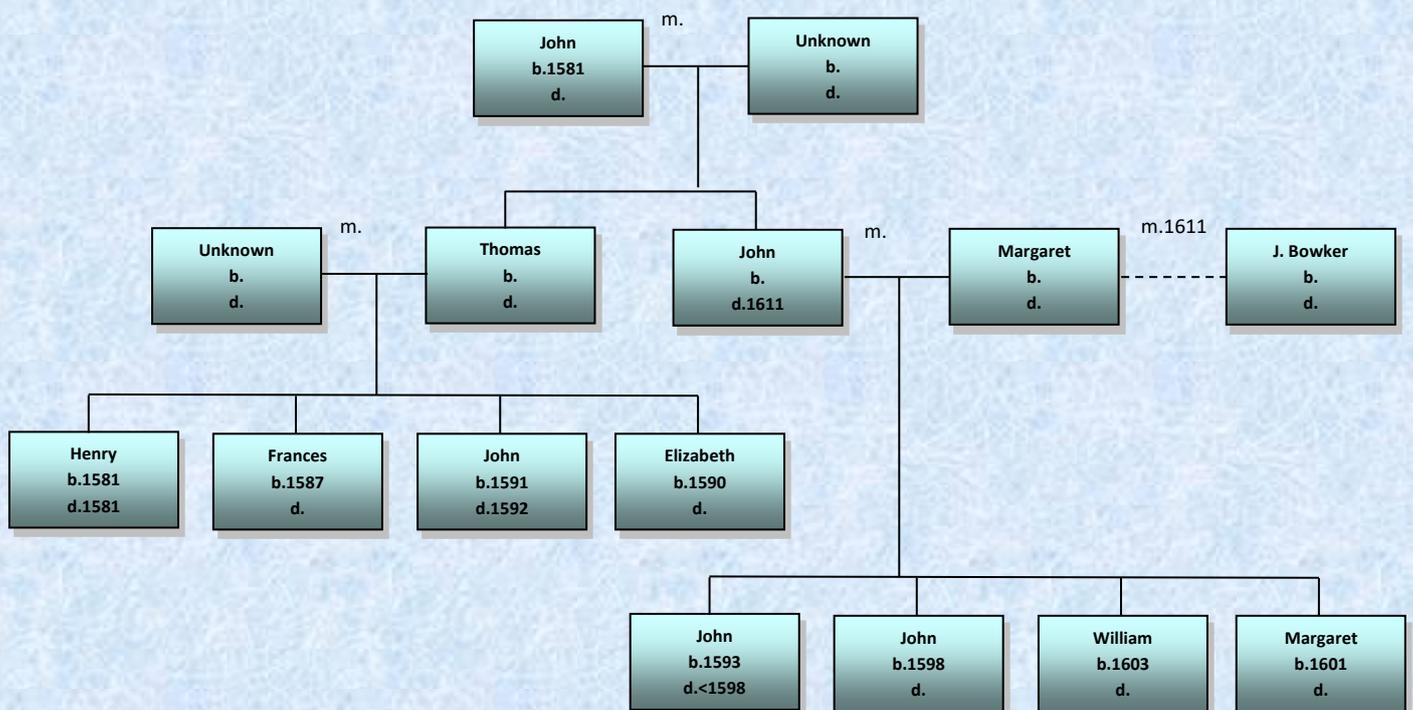
The Christian names used in both lines are very similar and it can be seen, upon examination, that both lines could have been derived possibly from a John Drury, although the naming of Richard's first son Edward, a name not used in the Kenilworth line, may point against this theory.

It is possible that a link can be formed between this line, the Kenilworth line and another family of Drurys found in the parish of Tanworth-in-Arden

The Drury Family of Tanworth-in-Arden:

The first sighting of Joseph Drury in Kenilworth parish registers was his marriage to Alice Cheslin in 1653. The marriage ceremony was carried out by Sir Simon Archer and I have often wondered about the reason for this. It may have been, of course, pure coincidence, and there is one other entry where a marriage performed by him in the same year. A search of some other parish registers, however, reveals that it may not have been mere chance.

Sir Simon Archer was born in the village of Umberslade in the parish of Tanworth- in-Arden. A search of these parish registers reveals a family of Drurys resident in the parish during the lifetime of Sir Simon. The information found in these registers (Ref: 84) can be interpreted into a family tree as follows:



From our search through the ancient documents of Kenilworth it would appear that the Kenilworth line began with Joseph Drury (d.1703) shortly after the English Civil War. As we have seen earlier in this section, it is extremely difficult to link this character positively to any of the other families found and discussed here. He may have been connected with the Warwick family and moved into the area at the same time, although we cannot confirm this nor do we know where either family came from.

It is, of course, conceivable that he came from a family outside of Warwickshire, and there are many possibilities to choose from. Many Drury families existed outside of the immediate area prior to this period, for instance in Worcestershire, Norfolk and Suffolk. The Suffolk Drury family was probably the first Drury family in England, having arrived with William the Conqueror in 1066. For their services to the King they were awarded lands on the outskirts of Bury St. Edmunds The famous Abbey of Bury kept meticulous records and if we could find a link to this family we could trace our line as far back as 1066. However, there are some large gaps to fill and this looks extremely unlikely.

There were also Drurys in Birmingham at this time but, although only a cursory examination of records has taken place, it does not appear as if our man came from this line. Without some sort of pointer or lead a search of these records would be fairly pointless as it would probably not result in any further developments and would certainly take a substantial amount of time.

The only Joseph Drury I have found who was born around the right time was found in the parish of West Ashby, Lincolnshire. The entry is for a Joseffe son of William Drury born 3rd November 1616. West Ashby is close to the site of the Civil War [Battle of Winceby](#) which took place on 11th October 1643. Could this be our man? Did he join the Parliamentary army at this point and then settle in Kenilworth after the war

In conclusion then, the exact origins of our Cromwell soldier who first settled in Kenilworth during those troubled years after the English Civil War may never be known, the secret remaining locked in lost records for ever.

Perhaps he would have preferred it that way, but maybe one day a page will turn to reveal from its fading ink and dusty parchment the illusive secrets of our past and then, like a light in a dark cave, we will see far enough to take a few more steps and solve this mystery once and for all perhaps.

