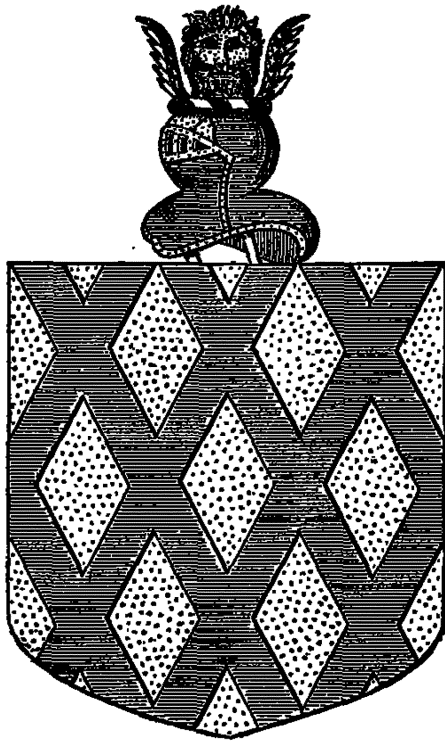


SUGGESTIONS AND INQUIRIES RESPECTING THE ANCESTRY OF COL. WILLIAM WILLOUGHBY,

FATHER OF DEPUTY GOVERNOR FRANCIS WILLOUGHBY OF MASSACHUSETTS.



From an impression of the seal of Dep. Gov. Francis Willoughby.

good affection, he laid out for defence of the river of Thames in the time of the insurrections of Kent and Essex, and of other moneys due to him from the State." He died in 1651, aged sixty-three years. He was therefore born about 1588.

I have photographs and a water-color drawing of his mural tablet in St. Thomas's church, Portsmouth. Above the inscription his arms are emblazoned: they are *Or fretty azure*; crest: *a lion's head couped at the shoulders, guardant Or, between two wings expanded,* mantled Gules, doubled Argent*. The helmet above the shield is that of the nobility—five gold bars slightly in profile, the helmet steel.

Mrs. Elizabeth Willoughby, widow of the Colonel, died about 1652.

His son Francis Willoughby came to New England in 1638, with his wife Mary. In 1651 he went back to England. In 1652 he was appointed to succeed his father as Commissioner of the Navy. In 1658 he was chosen Member of Parliament for Portsmouth. In 1662 he returned to

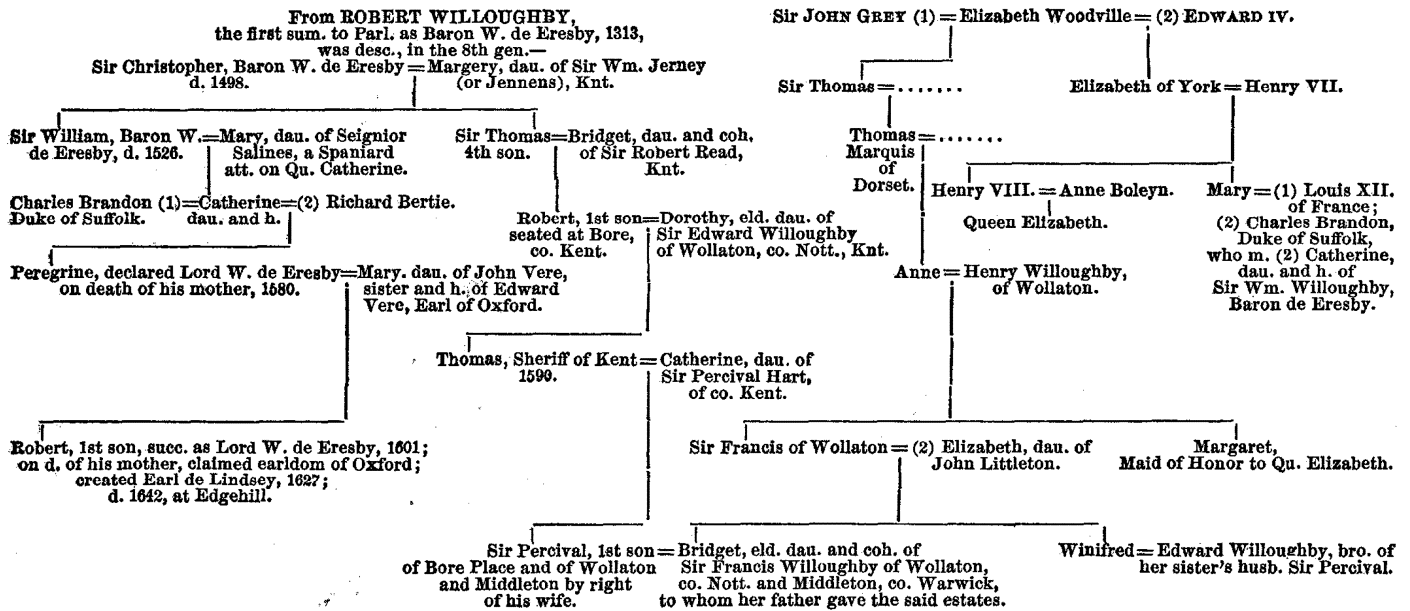
* These arms are the same (omitting quarterings and differences) as those ascribed by Burke in his "General Armory," ed. 1878, to Sir Francis Willoughby, born at Beauchamp Court, co. Warwick, knighted in Ireland in 1610. Sir Bernard Burke sent me a copy of the arms with description.

¹The preceding article.

AN elaborate account of Dep. Gov. Francis Willoughby and of his father, Col. William Willoughby, prepared by Mr. Isaac J. Greenwood of New York, appeared in "The N. E. Historical and Genealogical Register" for Jan. 1876.

From this and other sources of information the following particulars have been obtained.

In the "King's Pamphlets" (British Museum) it is stated that Col. William Willoughby was a native of Kent. In the Civil War, 1644, he was Colonel of a regiment of "the Hamlets of the Tower," and rendered active and successful service on the side of the Parliament. In 1648-9 he was appointed Master Attendant for Portsmouth and Commissioner of the Navy. Letters to and from him, in the "Calendar of State Papers," show that he was treated with much respect by the Government. After his death "The House referred to the Council of State to make payments to Col. Willoughby of his moneys, which, with great willingness and



America, bringing with him a third wife, Margaret Locke, widow of Daniel Taylor, a wealthy merchant of London.* He became Deputy Governor of Massachusetts in 1665, and continued in office till his decease in 1671. He was one of the most influential friends of the colony, both in this country and in England. In Frothingham's "History of Charlestown" he says of Willoughby: "He is mentioned in warm terms of affection by his contemporaries. . . . It is to such far-sighted men as Willoughby that New England owes its liberties." For his good services the Colonial Government voted to give him a thousand acres of land. A writer describes his funeral—"the doleful noise, the thundering volleys of shot, the loud roaring of great guns rending the heavens with noise at the loss of so great a man." "He left a large estate, of which £600 was in money and plate."

Dep. Governor Willoughby's arms, still existing on a seal upon a deed, are the same as those on his father's tablet, but drawn with more accuracy.

There have come down from the Dep. Governor several articles which still remain in the family, pieces of silver, a diamond ring, a gold snuff-box, etc. A letter written in 1864 by the wife of a descendant,† formerly American Consul in Italy, describes one of the family relics thus: "It is a tablecloth composed of fine linen, with two rows of exquisite needlework across it, said to have been wrought by Queen Elizabeth when she was confined in the Tower, in her sister Mary's reign, and given by her to Francis Lord Willoughby, who was a relative, and thus handed down." I have since learned that there is a private mark embroidered upon one end, with the initials F. M. W. at the other. A letter of about the same time from an old lady in Windham, Connecticut, a descendant, gives the tradition that the tablecloth wrought by Queen Elizabeth in the Tower was given to a Maid of Honor of hers, who was one of the Willoughbys, by whom it came down in the family. We suppose the statements need to be united to make a complete whole. The story has descended with the tablecloth, and is probably as old.

There is also a very large, massive, richly carved chest, owned by the late Mr. Theodore Raymond of Norwich, Conn., in which the tablecloth and other articles are said to have been brought from England. The carvings inside of the lid represent two scenes: one of Sir Walter Raleigh spreading his cloak before Queen Elizabeth, the other of some gay party of pleasure—boats among little islands, with a turreted castle in the background. The drawings are very quaint. Between the scenes is a coat of arms, of which the shield has either a cross or lines to make four quarterings on what is now a plain field (perhaps originally painted), and the supporters are a lion without a crown and a unicorn without a chain, in the attitude of the same animals on the royal arms of England, but with the dexter and sinister reversed. The shield is surmounted by a ducal coronet, and has apparently the rose of England in the mantlings.

The first Mrs. George B. Loring, of Salem, Massachusetts, a descendant, through another line, from Dep. Gov. Willoughby, wrote several years ago as follows: "I have heard my aunt, who lived to be ninety-two, speak of her remembrance of articles of value said to have come down from noble Willoughby relatives in England."

These are the facts, traditions and relics which have come down to the

* Her descent from the heraldic families of Locke and Cole is given in "The N. E. Hist. and Gen. Register" for January, 1881. (P. 661, the second volume of this series.)
† Dr. Baker, of Norwalk, Ohio.

American descendants of Col. William and Dep. Gov. Francis Willoughby. In seeking for the ancestry of these gentlemen we naturally go to Kent; and we find that the Willoughbys of Beauchamp Court, co. Warwick, from whom came the Sir Francis Willoughby knighted in Ireland in 1610, whose arms were similar, as I have said, to those our Willoughbys bore, were from the same ancestry as the Kent family—descendants of the Willoughby de Eresby and the Wollaton Willoughby families. Searching in the Kent family, before the time of Col. William, we find two marriages between these two families—two sons of Thomas Willoughby,* the Sheriff of Kent in 1590, of the de Eresby family, having married two daughters of Sir Francis Willoughby of Wollaton; as Sir Percival Willoughby of Bore Place, co. Kent, married Bridget Willoughby, eldest daughter of Sir Francis, while his brother Edward married her sister Winifred.†

Now I find that Margaret Willoughby, sister of this Sir Francis of Wollaton, was assigned, in 1555, to the household of the Princess Elizabeth at Hatfield, with whom she remained till her marriage, in 1558, to Sir Matthew Arundel. The Princess was a great-granddaughter, and Margaret Willoughby a great-great-granddaughter, of Elizabeth Woodville. Chambers's "Cyclopædia" states that Princess Elizabeth was sent to the Tower in 1554, and remained there some months, for some time was kept a prisoner at Woodstock, during the remainder of Mary's reign (till 1558), and, "though occasionally at Court, resided chiefly at Hatfield House, where *she occupied herself with feminine amusements and the study of classical literature.*" Though Miss Margaret Willoughby was not assigned as Maid of Honor to the Princess until some months after she had left the Tower, yet, being her second cousin once removed, she may easily be imagined to have been near the Princess's person before her official appointment. She shared her captivity elsewhere, during the three years or more she was in her service before her marriage.

The coincidences will be noticed between the American family-traditions and the facts of English history. All will unite to make a complete whole, if a place can be found for Col. William Willoughby, either in the family of Bridget who married Sir Percival Willoughby, or in that of her sister Winifred who married his brother Edward. Both ladies were daughters of the Sir Francis whose sister Margaret was Maid of Honor to the Princess. Margaret might well be supposed to have given to her brother any articles received from the Princess; and they would have been most carefully handed down in the family of one of his daughters. In regard to dates, Sir Percival Willoughby was knighted in 1603 (fifteen years after the birth of Col. Willoughby), and died in 1642. In point of time he could have been his father. In the pedigrees I have seen the names of five sons of Sir Percival and Bridget are given; among whom William does not appear. No children of Edward and Winifred Willoughby are named in those pedigrees; perhaps Col. William was *their* son. If he could be placed in either of these families, his family-traditions would be verified.

One version of the family-tradition respecting the tablecloth embroidered by the Princess Elizabeth speaks of it as having been given to Francis Lord Willoughby, who was a relative; the other says it was given to a Maid of Honor of hers, a member of the Willoughby family. History tells us

* It is stated in Hasted's Kent, vol. 3, p. 220, that this Thomas Willoughby bore for his arms *Or fretty Az.*

† "Visitation of County Nottingham for 1569 and 1614," pp. 149, 185.

that Margaret Willoughby, sister of Sir Francis and second cousin once removed of Princess Elizabeth, was her companion during most of her captivity; and she may have been, perhaps, actually in the Tower with her. William was a frequent early name in the Willoughby family; the name of Francis was constantly repeated. The fact that Col. William Willoughby fought on the Cromwellian side may have separated him from his father's family, and caused his name to be dropped from their pedigrees.

I add a few suggestions in regard to the arms above referred to, aided by facts furnished me in recent letters from my valuable correspondent Mr. Isaac J. Greenwood of New York, which seem to tend to confirm the relationship of which I have inferred the existence between Col. William Willoughby and the Willoughby de Eresby family.

The arms of the early Willoughbys de Eresby were undoubtedly *Or fretty Azure*. These were borne by Robert de Willugby, afterwards Lord Willoughby de Eresby, at the siege of Caerlaverock in Dec. 1299, where he attended King Edward I. The earliest crest mentioned in the collections of Glover, the Somerset Herald temp. Elizabeth, who drew up an account of the Willoughby family, is *a bat or demi-bat volant, the wings fretty*. This crest was used on the monument of Peregrine Bertie Lord Willoughby de Eresby, son of Catherine Willoughby, Duchess of Suffolk, and Lord Richard Bertie, who took his mother's name, as well as her title, and signed himself "P. Willugby." It is described as "*a bat displayed, mantled gules, doubled argent*." The bat is also found among the armorial bearings on the monument of his father and mother.

From a manuscript in the library at Canterbury we have the arms of Peregrine Bertie Lord Willoughby as borne in 1590, the crest a full, round, fierce head, as though of a lion, but the wings on either side are those of a bat and fretty. This crest, with a distinct *lion's face and a bat's wings Or fretty Azure* is engraved in Edmondson's "Baronagium Genealogicum," vol. i. p. 54, as that carried by Robert Bertie, the son of Peregrine Bertie or "Willugby," Lord Willoughby de Eresby, who succeeded his father as Lord Willoughby de Eresby in 1601, and was created Earl of Lindsey in 1627. By consulting the pedigree prefixed to this paper, it will be seen that he descended from Sir Christopher Willoughby, who was also the ancestor of that branch of the Willoughby de Eresby family which intermarried with the Wollaton Willoughbys, and to which belonged Sir Percival, who married Bridget, and whose brother Edward married Winifred, both daughters of Sir Francis Willoughby of Wollaton, and nieces of Margaret Willoughby, Maid of Honor to Princess Elizabeth.

It will be seen that the bat's *face* of the early Willoughbys had been changed to that of a lion, while the bat's wings had been retained.

This early crest seems to have been dropped by many branches of the Willoughby family who still bore the shield *Or fretty Azure*. Their crest was generally a man's bust ducally crowned. Previous to the edition of Burke's "General Armory," published in 1878, the crest *a lion's head guard. coupéd at the shoulders Or, between two wings expanded Or fretty Azure*, did not appear as a Willoughby crest; but in that edition Sir Bernard Burke gives this as the crest of Sir Francis Willoughby knighted in Ireland in 1610. In a private letter to me, Sir Bernard says that this Sir Francis was from Beauchamp Court, co. Warwick. The quarterings of his arms, as well as his place of residence, show that he was of the same descent as the Willoughbys of Kent. The pedigree prefixed to this paper shows that Robert Bertie Lord Willoughby and Earl of Lindsey, was third cousin of Sir Percival Willoughby of Bore Place, co. Kent.

It is evident that, the bat's head having fallen into disuse, no care was taken to retain the exact form of bat's wings. Sir Francis Willoughby, knighted in Ireland in 1610, used the crest *a lion's head guardant coupé at the shoulders Or, between two wings expanded Or fretty Azure*, the kind of wings not described.

On Col. William Willoughby's tablet the wings on each side of the lion's head are irregular and indistinct in their outline, and may have been those of a bat outspread, but the drawing is bad, and I have copied instead the more clearly defined, though small, design upon Dep. Gov. Francis Willoughby's seal. By reference to the description of the mural tablet it will be noticed that Col. William has not only the *lion's head Or between two wings expanded*, but even the mantlings "*gules, doubled argent*," described as on the monument of Peregrine Bertie Lord Willoughby.

There is however one discrepancy. On the tablet the lion's wings are painted *Gules*. But any one who in these days has had dealings with heraldic draughtsmen, knows the difficulty of securing accuracy even *now*, and can easily understand how mistakes might have been made, nearly two hundred and fifty years ago, by the original draughtsman, or by some later restorer, in painting the wings *Gules* when the mantlings which surrounded them were of that color.

Putting together all the facts and correspondences, I have not hesitated to believe that Col. William Willoughby's entire crest is the same as that used in the other instances mentioned, and that his full arms should be given as: *Or fretty Azure; crest: a lion's head guardant coupé at the shoulders Or, between two wings expanded Or fretty Azure, mantled Gules, doubled Argent*.

Therefore, when we find that there was used on the mural tablet of Col. William Willoughby of Portsmouth, and on the seal of his son Dep. Gov. Francis in America, the same coat-armor which was borne by Sir Francis Willoughby knighted in 1610, of the Warwickshire branch of the Kent family, and the same crest which was borne by the early Willoughbys de Eresby, and by the Bertie branch of this family, may we not believe that they had a right to it by descent? They both held high official positions, had the confidence of the Governments they served, and the respect of the people. They were both too long well known in public life to have ventured to assume arms without a title to them, and so to claim a lineage to which they had no right. Even if, after the great lapse of time, we cannot find a record of the birth of Col. William Willoughby in the pedigrees of the Willoughbys of Kent, may we not, *should no proof to the contrary be found*, trust the evidence of his arms and the coincidences between his family-traditions and the facts of history, and feel justified in believing him to have belonged to that family?

But it is with the hope of obtaining fuller knowledge that this paper is printed.

Information is also desired in regard to the family of the wife of Col. William Willoughby. I only know that her name was Elizabeth, and that she survived her husband. Her Will was witnessed in London, May, 1662, by Hen: Paman, John Parker (name of Parker doubtful), and Charles Towne. It was recorded in Boston, "2. 2. 1663." A seal attached to her signature bears a *chevron engrailed between three boars' heads*. It may or may not have belonged to her. She makes her "much respected and singular good friends Robert Thompson and John Taylor," both of London, the overseers of her Will.