

ORIGINS OF THE BOTSFORD FAMILY

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For several years, an extensive search of English records has been carried on in behalf of Mr. O. M. Botsford, of Winona, Minnesota. This has been under the direction of Donald L. Jacobus, of New Haven, Conn., who has arranged the data for publication in its present form. The field research was at first conducted by Miss Lilian J. Redstone, of Woodbridge, Suffolk, who covered the records of a number of counties. The first clue pointing to Chalgrave, Bedfordshire, was found in London records by George Sherwood, Esq. Most of the Bedfordshire records were supplied by F. G. Emmison, Esq., of Bedford. The wills, at Birmingham, were consulted by T. H. Nicholls, Esq., of Birmingham.

I. *Henry Botsford in the Old World and the New*

On 31 May 1637, Peter Prudden sailed for New England with fifteen families from his native Hertfordshire. The date of sailing was discovered not many years ago in a sworn deposition made by Edmund Tapp at "Quinypyack in New England," 7 Aug. 1640, in connection with a suit in Chancery in which he was a defendant. It was first published in the famous English periodical, "Notes and Queries," and not long after in George Sherwood's helpful "American Colonists in English Records."¹ Miss Isabel MacBeath Calder, in her interesting and strongly factual book, "The New Haven Colony," doubtless had this deposition in mind when she wrote of the sailing of the Prudden party. She states that Prudden was probably from King's Walden, Herts, and names among the families which accompanied him, those of Edmund Tapp of Bennington, James Prudden, William Fowler, Thomas and Hannah Buckingham, Thomas Welch, Richard Platt, Henry Stonehill, and William East.²

The nucleus of the Milford settlement was thus a group of families from Hertfordshire. Their numbers may be amplified from various sources. We know that Richard Miles was from Wormley, Herts; Fowler and Welch, already mentioned, were from Stevenage and Stortford, respectively.³ John Burwell, erroneously identified by Miss Calder with John Burrill of Roxbury, Mass., has recently been located with Thomas Buckingham and a family of Canfields, in a village very close to Prudden's home, King's Walden.⁴ Burwell did not sail with the Prudden party, for he had a child baptized in England two or three months after the sailing date. This suggests that other families which had been influenced by Prudden's teaching, delayed perhaps by settling their affairs in England before they could leave, followed shortly after and joined the Prudden party either in Boston or in New Haven.

The Prudden company reached Boston some five weeks after the Eaton-Davenport group, and decided to throw in their lot with the latter. A few families who had come earlier to New England and were then living in or near Boston also joined the new-comers. The three Connecticut River towns, Hartford, Wethersfield, and Windsor, had been settled two years earlier, and this very year had almost exterminated the Pequot tribe of Indians, rendering further settlement in this region comparatively safe. Reports had reached Boston of the attractive shore region of Connecticut, and an exploring party was sent out. The site of New Haven was selected for settlement, and, according to the old story, a few men were left to spend the winter of 1637-8 on the spot, to prepare for the wholesale migration the following spring.

The Prudden group may have intended all along to split off and found their own community as soon as conditions should permit. If not, that decision was made very shortly after the settlement here. The Milford people originally had lands allocated to them in New Haven, as appears by the list of persons and estates on pages 91 to 93 of the printed first volume of New Haven records. This list, undated, was copied into the book in the midst of 1643 records. The historian Atwater pointed out that it must be placed as early as 1641, and I think the date 1638 even more probable. The regular New Haven records begin in the autumn of 1639, and the Milford names do not much appear, though Welch, Buckingham and others are referred to into the early months of 1640. The lands assigned were but temporary, and in 1639 two separate churches were organized.

With the tercentenary of Milford so near, it is of interest to consider the question of the date of actual settlement. Lambert⁵ stated in his history that the Indian purchase was dated 12 Feb. 1639. The original deed has disappeared since Lambert saw it, and without having the deed before us we cannot be certain whether Lambert reported the date as it was actually written on the document, or whether he converted it into the corresponding New Style year. We know from his statement that he used the Old Style day of the month, but despite Miss Calder's definite statement [page 57 of "The New Haven Colony"] that Lambert gave the year as 1639 Old Style, which would be 1640 New Style, Lambert in fact does not say that.

If the original deed was dated February 1638 or 1638/9, then the date by our reckoning would be 1639. But if it was dated February 1639, then it would almost certainly mean 1640 New Style. At the time Lambert wrote, it was quite customary in historical works to use New Style year dates, for the better understanding of readers. Lambert's only discussion of Old and New Style dates relates to the day of the month, in which, incidentally, he made an error of one day; and it seems very prob-

able to me that he was using the New Style year date, and that the purchase was therefore made early in 1638/9, or 1639 as we would call it.

Miss Calder accepts the 1640 date, and argues that that was the year when Milford was settled.⁶ There is something to be said for both sides in this argument. Mr. Labarie in his "Milford, Connecticut," published in 1933, concludes that the settlement occurred in the autumn of 1639,⁷ while Miss Calder, in her book a year later, argued for the spring of 1640. Probably both views are correct in part.

The original first book of Milford Church records shows [page 1] that the church was gathered at New Haven, 22 Aug. 1639. The list of admissions shows new members added in October and December 1639 and in January and on 9 February 1640, and under the last is written: "These were added to y^e Church in New Haven." The next entry is the admission of William East on 8 Mar. 1640, after which is written: "joined at Milford." The church returned to New Haven for the ordination of Peter Prudden on 8 April; and on 12 April, "y^e next sab after the Ordination," as the record reads, Samuel Miles was baptized. The next baptismal entry is that of Epenetus Plot [Platt] on 2 July, and since the record adds "at Milford," we take this to be the first baptism performed there.⁸

The church records clearly show that the church itself did not remove from New Haven to Milford until early in 1640; and it seems fair to conclude that many families did not remove or complete their removal to Milford until 1640. If it were merely that the meeting house in Milford was not yet completed, it is likely that the members, supposing most of them already settled there, would have met in a large barn or other structure temporarily, as was done in New Haven, rather than that the whole village would come over to New Haven every Sunday.

It must be remembered that the Milford group at this time had houses, however rudimentary, in New Haven. They would be under no compulsion to hasten their settlement in Milford and again subject themselves to the rigors of living in half-constructed houses, as was probably necessary shortly before when they first came to New Haven. Having just enjoyed, or perhaps we should say endured, that experience, it is unlikely that they would have chosen to repeat it, when they could continue more comfortably in New Haven until the building of the new village was farther advanced.

The original first volume of Milford town records is not in existence, because in 1677/8 it was thrown out after the entries which were considered important had been copied into a new book, the present Volume I. The first page or two of this book of records tells the same story. The first entry, a list of "free planters," is dated 20 Nov. 1639. Under this is a record showing that power

was settled in the church to choose persons to divide the land into lots and to take order for the timber; then we find a choice of men to act as Judges, and on the second page a memorandum that William Fowler was to build a mill and a house for it by the last of September. The next date found is 24 Nov. 1640, when "The Plantation is named Milford."⁹

Now what is to be deduced from these records? It seems clear enough that the list of planters who were to share the land was not drawn up until 20 Nov. 1639, and that the land had not then been divided into lots. But since we do not possess the original first book of records, and these transcripts may not be complete or arranged in proper order, we must not go too far in assuming that no work was done in preparing the settlement at Milford until after 20 Nov. 1639. Perhaps the ground had been cleared of brush and broken up for cultivation during the summer and autumn. The building of houses and barns may have proceeded during the fall and winter. The men could have carried provisions with them and worked at these things a few days at a time, while leaving their women and children in comparative comfort in New Haven.

A careful study of all factors leads to the conclusion that the groundwork was laid and some construction undertaken in 1639, but that the actual removal of a majority of the families did not take place until early in 1640. The church records provide the soundest evidence towards this conclusion, and the town records tend to confirm it.

To the Botsford family, the most interesting item is the appearance of Henry Botsford's name on the list of free planters which was dated 20 Nov. 1639. His name has not yet been found in any American record at an earlier date than this. This silence of the records makes it unlikely that he came over in advance of the Prudden company. He may have come with Prudden from England; or, having friends and relatives in the Prudden company, he may have come over soon afterwards and joined them.

Before considering the place of his origin, we may digress for a moment. We saw at the start that the nucleus of the Milford group was made up of Prudden's Hertfordshire followers. Others had joined his company during their sojourn in Boston. A few from Wethersfield joined them during the stay in New Haven. These later families were of diverse origin in England. The Camps and Uffords were from Nazeing, Essex. Thomas Baker was from Ashford, Kent. We are particularly interested in those who came from counties adjacent to Hertfordshire, who might have joined the Milford group either because they had been influenced by Prudden's preaching or because they were friends or relatives of the Hertfordshire contingent. Among these we must mention the Baldwins, who were from Aston Clin-

ton, Bucks;¹⁰ the Bryans, who were from Aylesbury, Bucks;¹¹ and Benjamin Fenn, who was from Stewkley, Bucks.¹² Nor should we forget Zachary Whitman who was married at Chesham, Bucks.

Geography plays an important part in English research to ascertain the origin of colonists. Granted that we know definitely, as we do in the case of the Milford settlers, the places where a number of them originated, we can delimit certain regions from which large groups of them came. Group study is the most effective and most economical method of approach if we desire to learn the origin of a number of the early settlers in a given region in America.

The search for Henry Botsford's origin proved unusually difficult, and success was achieved finally in a round-about way. Now that we know it, we can see that a group research for Milfordites in England should eventually have led us to the Botsfords of Bedfordshire. As a matter of fact, our English agent was asked at the start to consider Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire as the most promising regions for Henry Botsford's origin. However, we had no proof that he belonged with the Prudden group, and the searches in Herts and Bucks were so disappointing that this line of search was abandoned too soon for a more general search.

We need to do a little visualizing to understand the geographical elements. Directly north of London and its environs lies the county of Hertfordshire, north of which is Bedfordshire. Directly west of these two counties stretches Buckinghamshire, a narrow county but of considerable extent from north to south. Now let us put our finger on the town of Leighton Buzzard in the south-west part of Beds, not ten miles north of the Herts border, and adjacent to the Bucks border. We shall now make a few measurements with a ruler, which of course will establish direct distances "as the crow flies." Allowance must be made for the distances being a little more if we had to walk them on winding, indirect roads.

Less than five miles directly west of Leighton Buzzard, Beds, our ruler touches Stewkley, Bucks, birth-place of Benjamin Fenn of Milford.¹² Just ten miles north of Leighton Buzzard lies Cranfield, Beds, known source of the Wheelers of Concord and Fairfield; and in Cranfield were born brothers Thomas and William Wheeler who may very well be Thomas Wheeler of Milford and his brother William Wheeler of Stratford, Conn.¹³ Swing the ruler ten miles south-west of Leighton Buzzard and we strike Aylesbury, Bucks, an important center, from which came the Bryans of Milford.¹¹ Swing a little east of Aylesbury, still ten miles in a general southerly direction from Leighton Buzzard, and we are at Aston Clinton, Bucks, the home of the

Baldwins.¹⁰ That is important, when we recall the several intermarriages between Henry Botsford's children and the Baldwins in Milford.

Now let us swing the ruler around and travel east of Leighton Buzzard. Directly east is Eggington; or more correctly, Eggington was originally merely a hamlet in the eastern part of the parish of Leighton Buzzard. That is why we have chosen Leighton Buzzard as the focal point in this geographical study. In the list of persons who had not yet paid their contributions towards "Ship Money" in Bedfordshire in 1637, also in 1638, Henry Botsford is entered under Eggington.¹⁴ It will be remembered that "Ship Money" was a tax levied by King Charles I in 1636, and that it led to widespread discontent. Who does not recall the famous lines in Gray's "Elegy"?—

Some village Hampden, that with dauntless breast
The little tyrant of his fields withstood—

Hampden of course was the noted English patriot, a gentleman of the adjoining county of Buckingham, whose patriotism consisted in his heroic refusal to pay "Ship Money." Henry Botsford, it appears, was one of the village Hampdens who also cherished a rugged, individualistic hatred of the tax-collector. One suspects that the eloquence of Prudden was not solely responsible for the founding of Milford; dislike of taxes also played a part. Four of the chief followers of Prudden from Hertfordshire have been identified by the appearance of their names as delinquents on "Ship Money" lists.

But we are forgetting our travels on the map of Bedfordshire. Let us continue east from Eggington about three miles, and we are in Chalgrave. This was the nest, the home town, of our Botsfords. The name Henry was the most popular name in this family. At Chalgrave in the elder line were two Henry Botsfords, father and son. Both signed the Bishop's Transcripts of the Chalgrave registers as church-wardens.¹⁵ Our Henry could not sign his full name, only the initial 'H'. The older of the church-warden Henrys died in 1640; his son succeeded him in that church office and was still living in Chalgrave long after our Henry was in Milford.

Now we travel another three miles east to Sundon. Edward Botsford, younger brother of Henry Botsford, Sr., of Chalgrave, came for a bride to Sundon, and was married here in 1606 to Alice Pryor.¹⁶ Their first child, Edward, was baptized in Chalgrave in 1607,¹⁵ but they took their second son to Sundon for christening, and named him Henry,¹⁶ doubtless after his church-warden uncle. Younger children of Edward were baptized in Chalgrave.

We believe we have found our Henry of Milford in this

younger son of a younger son of a yeoman family who was baptized in Sundon. We feel quite certain that the Eggington tax delinquent is our Henry. The date is just right. He failed to pay his tax in 1637 or in 1638, and in 1639 he was in Milford. That English tax-collector needed a long arm indeed to reach him there. No doubt, many wish to-day that tax delinquency were still a recognized form of patriotism, or that unpopulated regions still remained in the world to which they might flee from ubiquitous taxes.

But we have not quite "boxed the compass" in our geographical excursion. We are still traveling east, and from Sundon where Henry Botsford was baptized let us jump eight miles a trifle south of east, and—where are we? We are in King's Walden, Herts, the home town of Peter Prudden. A zealous non-conformist minister such as he would think nothing of traveling eight miles, or even a dozen or fifteen miles, across the county line to win converts.

Of course, it is not for us to weigh the motives of our ancestors. We can respect our forebears if their motives were religious. We can respect them if, driven by economic necessity, they sought the opportunity to better their material conditions and faced peril and hardship in order to give their children a more promising heritage. We can respect them if they were moved by the spirit of adventure.

We lack the right to dogmatize as to the motives which brought Henry Botsford from a little hamlet of Bedfordshire to the coast of New England. There is not enough in the records to provide a certain answer. Yet it is interesting to speculate. Others may come to other conclusions; but it seems to this writer that the chief motives were economic. Henry's wife joined the church in Milford in 1640; Henry himself did not join until nearly four years later, notwithstanding the decided advantages which church members enjoyed in New Haven Colony. Before that, he was one of the six men who were admitted as freemen in Milford without being church members. He seems to have been a man of probity and judgment, who minded his own business and minded it well. He was one of the land speculators who opened up the new town of Derby. He built up a good estate, and his children married well. Nothing whatever to his discredit appears in any of the contemporary records, despite the fact that in those days men were haled before the magistrates for very trivial offenses. He conducted himself with sobriety.

It was found, in the extensive investigations that were made over the course of several years in many counties of England that the name Botsford was of rare occurrence. Small families of the name and of similar names such as Batsford were found at scattered points. The Chalgrave family is the only family

of the name in which the name Henry was common, or in which a Henry occurs who by any possibility can be identified with the colonist. This Henry lived in a region not far from the home town of Peter Prudden and the original homes of the Baldwins and of many other Milford settlers. Whether he came with Prudden or followed shortly after, has not yet been determined. The "Ship Money" record shows he had left his accustomed haunts by 1637, the year of Prudden's departure.

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II. *The Botsford Family In Bedfordshire*

The surname Botsford is derived from a place name in Leicestershire, originally Botolph's Ford. This became abbreviated to Botelesford or Botlesford, and later to Bottesford, whence Botsford.

There was a family which first comes to our notice during the reign of Henry II (1154-1189), the first of the Plantagenet kings. This family held lands from the Honour of Belvoir both in Bottesford, Leicestershire, and in Studham, southern Bedfordshire. These places are some seventy-five miles distant. Surnames were at that period derived by the upper classes from the names of the places where their estates were located, and had not yet become permanently fixed. In the years between 1150 and 1200, three male heads of this family are known, of whom William (I) de Stodham and Alexander de Stodham (mentioned in 1168) were probably brothers, while Jordan Martel (d. by 1190) may have been a brother or brother-in-law.

Jordan Martel had a wife Alice who remarried Ralf de Augo

and was living in 1200. Jordan and Alice had four daughters: Alice, wife of Hugh Brito; Paschasia, wife of Gilbert son of Fichard; Lavina, wife of Elias de Turri; and Sara.

The branch of Alexander de Stodham was not so quickly extinguished. He had four sons; Jordan (perhaps d. young); Robert; Henry; and John, clerk of Stodham, who died 1212, leaving three sons, Alexander (living 1220), Adam (d. 1242), and Ralf. Robert de Stodham, son of the first Alexander, flourished 1201, had a wife, perhaps Beatrice, and the following children: Marjorie; Sara; Alice; Eleanor; Thomas (about 1195); and possibly John. Marjorie seems to have been the heiress of this branch; she married William de Eltendon, and was mother of John de Eltendon (flourished 1268), and possibly of Roger de Eltendon (d. 1246), Vicar of Studham, and of Simon de Eltendon, who was Sheriff of Bucks and Beds, 1252-5.

We are interested chiefly in what was perhaps the eldest branch of the family, founded by William (I) de Stodham. He granted to Belvoir Priory 20 selions in the field of Botelisford (now Bottesford, co. Leicester) for the soul of William his son, attested by Master Robert, his nephew. The land was known as Stodham fee. It was this branch of the family which held lands from the Honour of Belvoir in both Studham and Bottesford, and hence came to be known by either name indifferently.

The son, William (II) de Stodham is mentioned in 1190, and died 1222/3; by wife Alice had sons Jordan and John (mentioned 1232-5). Jordan de Stodham, also called "de Botlesford," died 1239, and by wife Constance had son John de Stodham. He succeeded in 1246, married the same year, and died in 1273. In the Roll of Distraint for Knighthood in 1255, he appears as John de Botelesford, and in later generations the family seems to have settled on that name.

In 1284/6 Walter de Botlesforde was returned as the holder of Studham, and in 1316 Robert de Botelesforde was so returned.

The foregoing history of the family of "de Stodham" or "de Botlesford" is based on an account published in Volume 10 of the Bedfordshire Record Society (Note 96, pp. 260-263, and chart at end), which contains a Digest of the Charters preserved in the Cartulary of the Priory of Dunstable.

The registers of Chalgrave, also in southern Bedfordshire, begin before 1550, and from the earliest period contain references to a family named Bottesford, later Botsford. Investigations over the course of several years have been made in various parts of England wherever a family with a name similar to Botsford has been found. The surname is quite rare in England; and when we find at Studham this early family of Botlesford which derived its name from land holdings in Bottesford, Leicestershire, and in Chalgrave at a somewhat later date a yeoman

family named Bottesford, it is a very likely supposition, in view of the proximity of the places, that the Chalgrave Botsfords derived from younger, unlanded branches of the Studham manorial family. Records of yeoman families are too scanty before the beginning of the parish registers around 1550 to enable us to prove this supposition by a precise pedigree.

There are fairly early records in which the Botsford name appears in the neighborhood of Chalgrave. In 16 Henry VII (i.e., 1501) at an Inquisition at Woburn, Thomas Botesford was one of the jurors [Public Record Office, London: Chancery Inquisitions post mortem, Series II, 15/65]. The same year, Thomas Botesford was a juror at an Inquisition at Leighton Buzzard [Same, 15/18]. Both Woburn and Leighton Buzzard are market-towns near Chalgrave. Woburn and Dunstable are the closest market-towns, about equally distant from Chalgrave; and it was in the Cartulary of the Priory of Dunstable that records of the old landed family of Botlesford were found.

In early lists of Inventories of goods of deceased persons prepared in connection with administration, a reference is found to Thomas Bottyford [No. 92], dated apparently 1533, but the date is not certain, and no place of residence is given, and no papers in the estate now exist.

The Minute-books of the Court of the Archdeaconry of Bedford [Volume I], under date of 26 Sept. 1578, Parish of Chalgrave, show that William Botsworthe, Thomas Botsworthe and James Abbotte were compurgators [sureties] for one Lucy Heade, accused of an offence. The corruption of the name Botsford to Botsworth is seen also in a couple of entries in the Chalgrave registers, as well as in the will of Henry Botsford's maternal grandfather, Roger Prior.

We present in the next section an account of the Botsfords of Chalgrave, from as early a date as a connected pedigree can be constructed.

III. *The Botsfords of Chalgrave*

1. JOHN BOTSFORD, of Chalgrave, Bedfordshire, may have been husband of Agnes Botsford who was buried 6 Apr. 1565, for "Jonne Bottsworth was married" 15 Nov. 1566.

Children, baptized at Chalgrave:

- i. EDWARD, bapt. 12 Oct. 1540; bur. at Chalgrave, 22 Apr. 1587; m. at Chalgrave, 14 Nov. 1569, JULIAN GROME. She m. (2) at Studham, 28 Jan. 1587/8, Richard Dayvell; and perhaps m. (3) at Studham, 28 Oct. 1605, Robert Taylor. No record of children.
- ii. ELIZABETH, bapt. 30 Aug. 1542; perhaps bur. at Chalgrave, 20 Aug. 1559.

- 2 iii. RICHARD, bapt. 6 Oct. 1545.
- iv. BORELL (a daughter), bapt. 21 Dec. 1548.
- v. RALPH, bapt. 16 Jan. 1549/50.
- vi. JOAN, bapt. 26 Feb. 1553/4; probably bur. at Chalgrave, 15 June 1558.

2. RICHARD BOTSFORD, of Chalgrave, baptized 6 Oct. 1545, buried 10 Apr. 1607; married at Chalgrave, 30 Oct. 1569, NEYLE ———.

Children baptized at Chalgrave:

- i. CHILD, bur. 3 Aug. 1570.
- 3 ii. HENRY, bapt. 12, Jan. 1571/2.
- 4 iii. EDWARD, bapt. 1 May 1579.

3. HENRY BOTSFORD, of Chalgrave, baptized 12 Jan. 1571/2, buried 23 Apr. 1640; married ———.

“Henry Bottisford” signed the Bishop’s Transcripts of the Chalgrave Register for 1628-29, also for 1629-30, as one of the two churchwardens, and in 1631-32 he signed “Henrie Botsford.” The name of Henrie Botsford is written (in the same handwriting as all the entries and the name of the other churchwarden) at the foot of the page of the original Register containing the Baptisms for 1629-32.

Children, baptized at Chalgrave:

- i. NICHOLAS, bapt. 2 Nov. 1601; d. at Battlesden, Beds, in 1663; m. at Chalgrave, 25 May 1635, MARTHA COOKE, who was bur. at Battlesden, 10 Oct. 1655. The will of Nicholas Bottsford (as he signed his name) of Battlesden, laborer, made 17 Oct. 1662, proved 10 June 1663, gave to his eldest son Daniel, a cottage in Tebworth, Beds, “wherein Henry Bottisford did lattle live in” with the orchard, garden and backside (one acre), and three acres of arable land in Tebworth; to daughters Anne and Lydia, £20 apiece; to youngest son Edward* Bottisford, land in Tebworth; to daughter Sarah, five shillings; to daughter Judith, £10; to daughter Anne, £5 more; to daughter Lydia, £10 more; to two daughters, Anne and Lydia, all household goods; residue to son Daniel. Nicholas Botsford witnessed a deed of land in Chalgrave in 1654. Children, four recorded at Chalgrave:
 - 1. *Daniel*, bapt. 25 Feb. 1635/6.
 - 2. *Sarah*, bapt. 25 Jan. 1637/8; perhaps m. at Chalgrave, 22 Mar. 1656, *William Olney*.
 - 3. *Edmund*, bapt. 27 Mar. 1640; m. at Totternhoe, 25 Feb. 1671/2, *Amy Woodstock*, dau. of William. Edmund was of Milton Brian in a deed in 1683, that being the home of his wife’s family; he was of Hockliffe at marriage.
 - 4. *Judith*, bapt. 10 Mar. 1641/2.
 - 5. *Anne*.
 - 6. *Lydia*.
- ii. HENRY, bapt. 27 Feb. 1602/3; m. (1) ELIZABETH ———, who was bur. at Battlesden, Beds, 22 June 1655; m. (2) at Battlesden, 20 Aug. 1655, ANN FENN.

* Clearly Edward in the will, which however is the recorded copy; it is known from other sources that the name should be Edmund.

Henry Botsford was one of the two churchwardens of Chalgrave who certified the Bishop's Transcripts for 1640-1. He appears to have lived in Battlesden in 1655, and not long before 1662 in a cottage at Tebworth belonging to his brother Nicholas. Children, bapt. at Chalgrave:

1. *Henry*, bapt. 31 Mar. 1633; m. at Chalgrave, 6 May 1669, *Elizabeth Colman*.
2. *William*, bapt. 18 Jan. 1637/8.
3. *Daniel*, bapt. 12 May 1640.
- iii. RICHARD, bapt. 27 Jan. 1604/5.
- iv. EDWARD, bapt. 29 Oct. 1609; probably m. at Chalgrave, 23 Nov. 1637, ALICE STEEVENS.
- v. WILLIAM, bapt. 27 Dec. 1612.
- vi. JOAN, bapt. 26 Nov. 1615.

4. EDWARD BOTSFORD, of Chalgrave, baptized 1 May 1579; married at Sundon, Beds, 9 Nov. 1606, ALICE PRIOR, daughter of Roger and Alice (House) Prior. Roger Prior's will, made 4 Apr. 1620, mentioned the four children of his daughter "Alice Botsworth," but only named her daughter Alice. This corresponds with the number of Botsford children at that date as revealed by parish registers. Prior called his daughter "Alice Botsworth of Winfield," which was a district in Chalgrave.

Children, baptized at Chalgrave except Henry:

- i. EDWARD, bapt. 1 Nov. 1607.
- ii. HENRY, bapt. at Sundon (as "Harry"), 15 June 1608.
- iii. RICHARD, bapt. 27 Sept. 1612.
- iv. ALICE, bapt. 2 Aug. 1618.
- v. JOAN, bapt. 17 Sept. 1620.
- vi. DANIEL, bapt. 28 Nov. 1630.

The family of Edward Botsford (No. 4) disappears from Chalgrave. Some of its members settled in London, as will presently appear.

In the Lists of persons who have not yet paid their contributions towards "Ship Money," covering the entire county of Bedford, an entry is found in the Parish of Eggington: "Henry Bottsford": 1637 [Catalogue-mark: D. D. TW. 8]. This can hardly apply to the two Henry Botsfords, father and son, who were quite definitely connected with Chalgrave at that date. The only known Henry Botsford to whom this record may refer is the son of Edward. In another list of "Ship Money" arrears, dated 14 July 1638 (in the same collection), the name "Henry Bottsford" again occurs in Eggington.

Edward Botsford, Jr., brother of Henry, baptized at Chalgrave, 1 Nov. 1607, may be the man who appears in the following records. Edward Botsford of London, carpenter, brought suit, 17 Oct. 1659, against John Chadwick, citizen and clothmaker of London, William Crane of Westminster, Middlesex, weaver, and Giles Willoughby, concerning the sale to plaintiff in 1652 of

Harlington wood, co. Bedford, late of the Earl of Cleaveland, "a Delinquent," for £5500, charging breach of agreement between plaintiff and defendants, Chadwick and Crane; Willoughby being called upon to arbitrate between them. [Public Record Office, Chancery Bills & Answers before 1714, Bridges 593/60 and 406/166.]

John Rudd, citizen and stationer of London, and John Tring of London, chymist, brought suit, 23 June 1668, against Edward Botsford, Sir William Darcy, knt., and Edward Stephens, carpenter, concerning an agreement about 1662 of Darcy and plaintiffs with Maximilian Vernatty of St. Andrew Holborn, gent., for erecting a saltpeter house, supplying Edward Stephens. Botsford, a timber merchant, keeps a timber yard near the said grounds, and he and his wife supplied timber to said plaintiff for payment. [Public Record Office, Chancery Bills & Answers before 1714, Bridges 549/3.]

On 3 Oct. 1666, a marriage licence was issued to Edward Botsford, of Staple Inn, gent., bachelor, about 21, and Margaret Roberts, of Maidstone Bowers, co. Kent, spinster, about 21, her father's consent, alleged by Susanna Botsford, wife of Edward Botsford, of St. Andrew, Holborn, carpenter, to marry at Maidstone Bowers aforesaid. [Registry of Vicar-General of Canterbury, see Col. Chester's London Marriage Licences, ed. Joseph Foster, 1887, p. 157.]

Edward Botsford of London, gent., and Margaret his wife, formerly Margaret Roberts, brought suit, 28 Nov. 1667, against Elizabeth Roberts, widow. They recited that John Roberts, late of Maidstone, Kent, Esq., dec'd, seized of household goods to the value of £300, and £300 more in money, made a will appointing Elizabeth Roberts of Great Charte, Kent, widow, his mother, executrix, but after by word of mouth left half his goods and £50 to his kinswoman the plaintiff Margaret, for whom he did bear great love and respect. He died about eleven years since, when Margaret was a very tender infant. Elizabeth pretends that he was not of sound mind and denies such nuncupative will; answer sworn at Great Chart, 13 Jan. Charles II (1666/7). [Public Record Office, Chancery Bills & Answers before 1714, Bridges 418/68.]

Mr. Daniel Botsford, of Grays Inn Lane, St. Andrew, Holborn, Middlesex, aged 52, in a deposition in 1682, swore that he was born at Chalgrave, Beds, and has lived fifteen years at his present residence [Public Record Office, Delegates' Examinations, vol. 15, p. 185, Sergeant vs. Thody]. This identifies him with the son of Edward Botsford who was baptized at Chalgrave, 28 Nov. 1630. He may be the Dan Botsford who married Ann Lummex in 1657 (Banns at St. Gregory by St. Paul, London).

On 20 Jan. 1679, William Sarson complained that Richard

Botsford stands indebted to him by Bond, 3 Feb. 1676, in £80 for payment of £40. 4s. really lent him. Botsford was seized in fee of several houses in Liquot Pond field, parish of St. Andrew Holborn, Middlesex, and in Bishop's Head Court, parish of St. Bride's, and in Walter Lane, London, of the yearly value of £60; intending to go beyond seas, he conveyed the same about two years ago to Susan Botsford, widow, and William Legate, in trust to pay his debts. The said Richard Botsford is beyond seas. Susan answers that he was bound with one William Peeres, as surety, and the money was lent to Peeres. She herself leased the premises to Richard Botsford who sublet them, and gave her a letter of attorney before his departure. [Public Record Office, Chancery Bills & Answers before 1714, Bridges 551/9, Sarson vs. Botsford.]

One Richard Botsford, of St. Giles, Cripple, London, and Ann Wallies of Newbery, were married 7 May 1637 at St. Pancras, Soper Lane, London [The Registers of St. Mary le Bowe, Cheapside, All Hallows, Honey Lane, and of St. Pancras, Soper Lane, London, vol. 2, p. 451].

Richard Botsford and Judah Williãson were married 11 Oct. 1660 [The Registers of St. Benet and St. Peter, Paul's Wharf, London, vol. 2, p. 44].

To sum up, Edward and Alice (Prior) Bostford of Chalgrave, Beds, had four sons:

1. Edward, b. 1607;
2. Henry, b. 1608;
3. Richard, b. 1612;
4. Daniel, b. 1630.

Of these, we know from Daniel's own deposition that he was of St. Andrew, Holborn, London, in 1682. This makes it very probable that it was his brother Edward who was a carpenter, and also of St. Andrew, Holborn. Edward had a wife, Susanna, and appears in records in 1659, 1666 and 1668. The Richard who assigned his property to a widow Susan Botsford and was "beyond seas" in 1679 was probably son of Edward, and the assignment was to his mother; some of Richard's property was in St. Andrew, Holborn. Edward the carpenter seems to have been very successful in business, and to have educated his probable son, Edward, who was described as "gentleman" in his marriage licence in 1666. Richard (probable son of Edward) may be the one who married Judah [Judith] Williamson in 1660.

Two brothers of Henry Botsford (b. 1608) are therefore definitely placed in London, where Edward was a successful carpenter who acquired property and was father of Richard (who left England) and of Edward, gent., while Daniel was a man of standing, dignified by the prefix "Mr." The thrift shown by Henry Botsford of Milford in accumulating property

seems to have been a family trait, and this younger branch of the Botsfords of Chalgrave, whether its members remained in England or came to America, was endowed with energy and aggressiveness.

The third brother, Richard, may be the one who married in London in 1637; the dates fit very well. In that case, all the brothers are accounted for except Henry, who is believed to be the man listed as a tax delinquent in Eggington in 1637 and 1638. No further record of him has been found in Bedfordshire, although the registers of most neighboring parishes have been searched, as well as many other classes of records, and no record of him has been seen in London. It is believed that we have found in him Henry Botsford the New England colonist.

IV. *The Prior Family of Sundon*

Roger Prior, a tailor of Sundon, Bedfordshire, was buried 30 Apr. 1620; married in 1581, Alice House, probably the Widow Prior who was buried 15 May 1635.

Children:

- i. Alice, m. at Sundon, 9 Nov. 1606, Edward Botsford; parents of Henry Botsford.
- ii. Elizabeth, living 1641, probably the "wife of Robert Lane" who was bur. 10 Oct. 1644; m. 29 Nov. 1613, Robert Lane, who was bur. 29 June 1643. His will, made 28 July 1641, was proved 1 Oct. 1644. Children:
 1. Robert, b. and bapt. 6 Aug. 1615; d. young.
 2. Richard, bapt. 9 Nov. 1617; d. young.
 3. Agnes, bapt. 30 July 1620; d. young.
 4. Robert, bapt. 7 Sept. 1623.
 5. John (twin), bapt. 17 Nov. 1625; bur. 18 Dec. 1625.
 6. William (twin), bapt. 17 Nov. 1625; bur. 28 Dec. 1625.
 7. Ralph, bapt. 18 Aug. 1630; came by an untimely death in a stone pit, 28 Sept. 1666.
- iii. Thomas, bur. 9 Jan. 1619/20.
- iv. Ralph, m. 24 Aug. 1620, Joyce Wickham.
- v. Edward, m. 24 Aug. 1631, Mary Symones, who was bur. 18 Nov. 1632; probably m. (2) Elizabeth ———, who was bur. 27 Jan. 1671. Child:
 1. Sarah, bapt. 11 Nov. 1632.

An early settler of Milford, Conn., was John Lane, and the will of Thomas Hine of Milford (whose wife was Elizabeth) named his sister (possibly his wife's sister) Mary Lane; a Robert Lane was early at Stratford, Conn. The names John and Robert were common in the Lane family of Sundon, but no connection has been established.

The will of Roger Prior follows. It will be seen that he mentions the four children of his daughter Alice, whom he calls "Botsworth." The parish registers show that Edward and Alice Botsford had four children at the date of the will.

WILL OF ROGER PRIOR OF SONDON

Bedford. 11 July 1620. No. 64.

In the name of God amen I Roger Prior of Sondon county Bedford tailor Sick and weak in body but strong and perfect in mind and memory blessed be God Almighty Do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following

Imprimis I give and bequeath my soul to Almighty God my creator and my body to be buried in the churchyard of Sondon aforesaid in Christian and decent burial according to the rites of the Church of England in sure and certain hope of the resurrection from the dead unto ev'lasting life by Jesus Christ my redeemer

Item I give and bequeath unto Raph Prior my son and his heirs four acres of arable land be they more or less as they lie and be in the town of Sondon aforesaid viz: one acre upon Shortledd furlong being between the land of William Stalworth upon the west and Raph Crawlye on the East Item one acre and one rood upon short Bullingdone being between the land of Raph Crawlie upon the south and Robert Pepiat upon the north Item one head acre upon Bullingdone lying between the land of Raph Crawley upon the south and William Leaper upon the north Item one rood in Wetlands being between the land of William Stalworth upon the west and William Leaper upon the east Item one half acre without Matthewes lane between the land of William Stalworth upon the north and Edward Ivorie upon the south

Item I give and bequeath to Edward Prior my son and his heirs for ever all the rest of my lands whatsoever be it in value or estimation what it will wheresoever it lieth in the Fields of Sondon aforesaid

Item I give and bequeath unto the said Raph and Edward my sons and their heirs for ever both the cottages or tenements with all and singular their appurtenances as they stand and be in Upper Sondon one now in the tenure or occupation of me the said Roger Prior and the other late in the tenure or occupation of one Jone Cloues widow leaving the aforesaid Edward Prior my son to choose whether of the said cottages or tenements he shall or may have the best liking unto Provided always that Alice Prior my wellbeloved wife shall have hold occupy possess and enjoy both the said cottages or tenements with all and singular their appurtenances and also all the before given and bequeathed land to the aforesaid Edward my son during the time of her single life or widowhood But if my said wife Alice Prior shall be coupled in matrimony to another husband then Raph and Edward my said sons shall have hold occupy possess and enjoy from thence forward the said cottages or tenements and the aforesaid land before given and bequeathed and all the rest of my goods chattels whatsoever shall then be by three equal parts and parcels parted and divided between Alice my said wife and Raph and Edward my said sons only one chamber which my son Edward reserved for the said Alice my wellbeloved wife

Item I give and bequeath to Elizabeth Lane my daughter twelvepence

Item I give and bequeath unto my daughter Alice Botsworth of Winfield twelvepence

Item I give and bequeath to the four children of Alice Botsworth my said daughter ten shillings of good and lawful English money to be paid to every one of them severally within the space of one whole year next after my decease

Item I give and bequeath to Alice Botsworth the daughter of the said Alice one ewe and one lamb

The rest of my goods unbequeathed I give and bequeath unto Alice Prior my wellbeloved wife aforesaid whom I make and ordain the sole and only executrix of this my last Will and Testament

In witness whereof I have set my hand and seal to these presents the fourth day of April Ann. Dm. 1620

The mark of Roger Prior

Witnesses: Jo: Johnson, Robert Pepiat, the mark of Robert Pepiat.
No inventory. Probate 11 July 1620 granted to Alice Prior the executrix.

V. *Searches in Parish Registers of Chalgrave*

Copied by F. G. EMMISON, Esq., Bedford, England

Vol. I, 1538-1644, containing Bap., Mar. & Bur., 1538-1644, is complete except for 1560-62, which must have been a missing leaf in the original *paper* register at the time when it was copied onto parchment in 1600. Period searched: whole Vol. I, 1538-1644. The volume is in good condition, and no parts of illegible writing.

The following are *all* the Botsford (and variants) entries within this period, to which has been added a single entry from the Bishop's Transcripts, which were also searched for the period 1602 to 1640.

There are no entries for 1645-49. Vol. II covers the period 1650 to 1691, apparently complete except for 1650-53, which seems to be an imperfect record. Period searched: 1650-1660. No further Botsford baptisms.

Baptisms Vol. I. 1538-1644.

- 1540 Oct. 12. "Edward Bottesford the sonne of John"
- 1542 Aug. 30. "Elizabeth Bottsford the daughter of John"
- 1545 Oct. 6. "Richarde Bottsford the sonne of John"
- 1548 Dec. 21. "Borell [*sic*] Bottsford the daughter of John"
- 1549/50 Jan. 16. "Rayffe Bottsford the sonne of John"
- 1553/4 Feb. 26. "Jonne [*sic*] Bottsford the daughter of John"
- 1558 June 15. "John [*sic*]* Bottsford the daughter of Thomas"
- 1559 Sept. 9. "Marryan Bottsford the daughter of Ried"
- [No entries for 1560-62: see introductory note]
- 1571/2 Jan. 12. "Henry Bottesforde the sonne of Richard Bottesforde"
- 1579 May 1. "Edwarde Bottesford the sonne [of] Richard Bottesford"

[No further Botsford baptisms until the next extract]

- 1601 Nov. 2. "Nickholas Bottesford the sonne of Henry"
- 1602/3 Feb. 27. "Henry Bottesforde the sonne of Henry"
- 1604/5 Jan. 27. "Richard Bottesforde the sonne of Henry"
- 1607 Nov. 1. "Edward Bottsford the sonne of Edward"
- 1609 Oct. 29. "Edwarde Botsforde the sonne of Henry"
- 1612 Sept. 27. "Richard Botsford the sonne of Edward Botsford"
- 1612 Dec. 27. "William Botsford the sonne of Harry Botsford"
- 1615 Nov. 26. "Joane the daughter of Henrie Botsford"
- 1618 Aug. 2. "Alice Botsford daughter of Edward Botsford"
- 1620 Sept. 17. "Joane Botsford daughter of Edward Botsford"
- 1630 Nov. 28. "Daniell Botsford the sonn of Edward Botsford"
- 1633 Mar. 31. "Henry the son of Henry Botsford the yonger"
- 1635/6 Feb. 25. "Daniell the son of Nicholas Botsford"
- 1637/8 Jan. 18. "William the sonne of Henry Boatsford junior and Elizabeth his wife"
- 1637/8 Jan. 25. "Sarah the daughter of Nicholas Botsford & Martha his wife"
- 1640 Mar. 27. "Edmund the son of Nicholas Botsford & Martha his wife"
- 1640 May 12. "Daniell the son of Henry Botsford & Elizabeth his wife"
- 1641/2 Mar. 10. "Judith the daughter of Nicholas Botsford & Martha his wife"

Marriages Vol. I. 1538-1644.

- 1544/5 Jan. 25. "William Wastell and Agnes Bottsford"
- 1548 July 1. "William Renoldes and Anne Bosforde [*sic*]"

* Buried the same day, in the burial entry spelt "Jonne" (cf. the previous baptismal extract).

- 1556 Oct. 25. "Thomas Bottsford and Agnes Harres"
 [No entries for 1550-52: see introductory note]
 1566 Aug. 13. "William Borsswod and Agnes Honer"
 1566 Nov. 15. "Jonne Bottsworth was married" [sic]*
 1566 May 15. "Thomas Bosworth was mared" [sic]*
 1569 Oct. 30. "Richard Bottsford and Neyle ———†"
 1569 Nov. 14. "Edward Bottsford and Gullyon Grome"
 [No further Botsford marriages until the next extract]
 1635 May 25. "Nicholas Botsford and Martha Cooke"
 1637 Nov. 23. "Edward Boatsford & Alice Steevens"
 Vol. II. 1650-1691. Period searched: 1650-60.
 1655/6 Mar. 22. "William Olney and Sarah Botsford"
Burials Vol. I. 1538-1644.
 1549 Oct. 14. "Lora Bottsford"
 1553 Dec. 3. "Agnes Bottsfor" [sic]
 1558 June 15. "Jonne Bottsford"
 1559 Aug. 20. "Elizabeth Bottsford"
 [No entries for 1560-62: see introductory note]
 1565 Apr. 6. "Agnes Bottsford"
 1570 Aug. 3. "A childe of Richard Bottsford"
 1584 June 13. "Ayns‡ Bottsford [the wife of William§]"
 [From 1584 onwards the Register gives the name of the father in the case of infant burials, and the name of the widower in the case of wives predeceasing their husbands; so that burial entries with only one christian name refer to adults]
 1587 Apr. 22. "Edward Bottsforde"
 1593/4 Jan. 11. "Thomas Bottsford"
 1598 Dec. 31. "Agnes Bottsford widdowe"
 1607 Apr. 10. "Richard Bottesford"
 1612 Apr. 22. "Alice Botsford widow"
 1622/3 Mar. 15. "Elizabeth Botsford"
 1640 Apr. 23. "Henry Botsford, sen."
 1643 Aug. 25. "Marian Botsford"¶
 Vol. II. 1650-1691. Period searched: 1650-60.
 1656 July 31. "Judeth Botsford the daughter of William"

A deed among papers deposited at Bedford, relating to the marriage settlement of a cousin of Henry Botsford is of interest, as it proves a line of descent from Henry's grandfather, Richard Botsford, through his son Henry to the latter's son Nicholas, father of Daniel and Edmund.

[Deed: D.D.WI. 303]

Date: 21 February 1674/5.

Settlement on Marriage of Edmund Botsford of Hockliffe, grazier, and Amy Woostock (daughter of William Woostock of Milton Brian, yeoman). The parties to the deed are: (i) the said Edmund; (ii) the said William, and John Impey of Milton Brian (both trustees).

* These two Botsford entries occur together at the foot of a page, and are written in the same hand as the rest. They are the only two in which the other party is not given, and I cannot offer an explanation. From the spelling during this and the few preceding years (as witness this and the previous extract), it is clear that the original was written by an illiterate scribe (parish clerk?), and that might possibly explain the discrepancy. In all other periods the spelling is orthodox.

† Surname omitted in original.

‡ Sic in the Register: an obvious clerical error for "Anys" (an archaic form for Agnes, much used at this period).

§ Interlined in the same handwriting.

¶ This burial (with a few others of this date) is written between the end of the Marriages section and the beginning of the Burials section.

The Deed recites numerous earlier deeds, viz.:—

- (i) Mortgage, dated 1626, by Spencer Potts and Nicholas Potts, gentlemen, to Henry Botsford, of a close in Chalgrave.
- (ii) Mortgage, dated 1586, by Henry Wilson and John Kelcho to Richard Botsford (father of the said Henry), of a house and close in Tebworth in the parish of Chalgrave.
- (iii) Mortgage, dated 1588, by Robert Paule to Richard Botsford, of 1 acre in the East Field of Tebworth.
- (iv) Mortgage, dated 1600, by Henry Howse to Robert Paule, of 1½ poles in Sedge Meade in Chalgrave.
- (v) Assignment, dated 1638/9, by Henry Botsford to his son Nicholas.
- (vi) Will of Nicholas Botsford, dated 17 Oct. 1663, whereby he devises to his son Daniel (brother of the said Edmund) his cottage in Tebworth; & to his son Edmund, Moores Close.

[The original contains further details].

The only Botsford entries at Sundon are the marriage of Edward and the baptism of his son Harry or Henry Botsford.

VI. *A Note on the Botsford Name*

Bottesford in Leicestershire is one of the ancient towns of England, being mentioned in Domesday Book, the list of real estate holdings made in 1086, during the reign of William the Conqueror,—the earliest such list in existence. In the earlier centuries the name was variously spelled, the most common forms being Botelisford, Botelesford, and Bottlesford, which indicates its derivation from Botolph's-Ford. Many early villages grew up near river crossings, which explains the ending "ford" of numerous place names, such as Chelmsford, Dartford, Bottesford, and others.

When surnames were gradually coming into existence in England and France, the aristocracy, who were the land owners, were designated by the names of the places where their chief estates were located. After the Conquest, most of the large land holders were Norman-French followers of the Conqueror, who had been rewarded with the lands of the dispossessed English. Speaking French instead of English, they employed the French 'de,' meaning 'of.' Thus, William de Bottlesford or Bottesford was simply William of Bottesford—the place where he owned estates.

After surnames had become more firmly fixed, in England the 'de' was gradually dropped, although in France as a rule it was retained. Thus even to-day many French families employ the 'de' in the same way as German families of the aristocracy use 'von' and Dutch families use 'van.' In more democratic England, the 'de' was eventually lost, so that a later William de Bottesford would be plain William Botsford. Even if landed estates were sold or forfeited, the surname derived from their location continued to be used; and younger unlanded branches retained the parental surname unless a youth were so fortunate as to marry an heiress. In that case, he usually assumed the

name of his bride along with her hand, for surnames were less firmly attached than they are now.

It is probable that place-names sometimes became adopted as surnames in other ways than through land ownership. A man from Bottesford who settled in some other town might be called "William from Bottesford" to distinguish him from local Williams, such as William the smith, William the tailor, and others. With the gradual adoption of fixed surnames, these would become William Botsford, William Smith, and William Taylor.

But in the case of the Chalgrave Botsfords, we seem to have a clear trail. As already explained in detail, there was a family in southern Bedfordshire, not far from Chalgrave, which held lands both in the local Studham (Bedfordshire) and in the distant Bottesford (Leicestershire), and which for two or three generations was known indifferently by either name, until at length the Bottesford surname became permanently fixed. In view of the rarity of the Botsford surname in England, it would be a stange coincidence if the Chalgrave Botsfords acquired the surname in some other way, while close at hand was this land-owning family which as we know acquired the name through ownership of estates in Bottesford. The reasonable conjecture is that the Chalgrave Botsfords were a junior branch of the Studham family.