Joan Wythe | identity and widowhood

#122371 / #122627 | Generation 16 | A/B retained

The original PCC probate supplies a firmer life marker for Joan: living on 13 December 1565, when her proctor proved Richard Wythe's will on her behalf as widow and executrix. Richard remains Grade A; Joan's established correlated maternity remains A/B. No new person, parent, surname, military service or pedigree position is admitted.

The original probate

TNA PROB 11/48/324, second archive page, Latin act below the witnesses: "procuratoris Joanne relicte et executricis". This identifies the proctor of Joan, widow and executrix. The act is dated 13 December 1565 and reserves power to the other executors, John and Lionel Wythe. It does not require Joan to have attended the London court personally. Original image: master p. 1524.

Radcliffe identity excluded

Copinger, The Manors of Suffolk, VII, printed p. 144, describes Joan/Jane Radcliffe's Sturges and Withe marriages and reports Jane Wythe's death on 22 February 1556. The National Archives independently catalogues her inquisition post mortem as C 142/114/67, dated 4 & 5 Philip and Mary (1557-1558). That deceased woman cannot be the Joan represented as living widow and executrix in December 1565. The Radcliffe identification is excluded on this chronology; no noble gateway is attached.

Date and source controls

The supplied return expands the printed death year to 1556/57. Retain that as the reported old-style interpretation pending the original IPM text. Copinger himself notes conflicting marriage order; his page names Geoffrey Radcliffe, whereas the supplied return names John. Neither collateral parentage nor marriage order is imported into this pedigree. These discrepancies do not erase the decisive before-1565 death versus living-1565 distinction.

Record access

IPM catalogue: discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C7823735. Printed source image: p. 1531 below. The original IPM manuscript has not been inspected in this review.

Richard’s will | property and family leads

The two original PCC pages remain unchanged on pp. 1523-1524. The fuller supplied reading identifies useful property and household details. The following records the observed places and operative structure without converting a property association into an additional parent.

Helmingham and the Framsden exception

Joan receives the Helmingham house and lands for life in recompense of dower, except three pieces belonging to the Framsden house called Spekes, occupied by Sheppard. Lionel takes the later Helmingham interest under the stated remainders. The separate Framsden provision benefits son John for life, then grandson John, son of the deceased eldest son Francis.

Trimley St Mary and Trimley St Martin

The will devises lands in both Trimley parishes and elsewhere within Colneis Hundred to Lionel. The provision charges him with portions for Elizabeth, Jone, Barbara and Margaret at marriage, with a sale mechanism if he refuses payment. These parishes are specific leads for earlier title and manorial admission searches.

Wherstead, Hadleigh and Horesfild

The second page describes lands in Wherstead, lands in Hadleigh, and a lease called Horesfild shared by Joan while unmarried and Lionel, with Lionel taking the whole lease after her death or remarriage. These are recorded property interests, not proof of Joan’s birthplace or natal surname.

Debenham, Winston, Coddenham and Crowfield

The first page distinguishes a purchased meadow/arable/pasture holding in Debenham and Winston from copyhold land in Coddenham and Crowfield. The purchase and remainder clauses should be compared with the earlier deeds and manorial rolls before assigning any holding a maternal origin.

Household provisions

Joan receives twelve milch cattle and half the household goods. The remaining household goods are valued for the daughters, excluding the already-married daughter who is the wife of William Felgate. The marriage portions and the executors’ duty concerning the children strengthen the household reconstruction; they do not explicitly say that every child was born to Joan.

Interpretation boundary

A dower-recompense clause by itself does not reconstruct every earlier conveyance or prove that no property ever came through a wife’s family. The supplied maternal-property hypothesis remains a research lead. Likewise, a shared lease or a witness association alone does not establish biological maternity or kinship.

Joan’s Chancery record | exact next targets

C 3/79/20: catalogue verified

The National Archives catalogue identifies two related proceedings. (i) Harebottell v Wythe: plaintiff John Harebottell; defendants Joan Wythe, John Wythe and Lionel Wythe; manor of Crowfield Booking and lands in Crowfield, Coddenham and other specified Suffolk places. (ii) Wythe v Harebottell: plaintiffs John and Lionel Wythe; defendant John Harebottell.

Joan is a named defendant in the first proceeding. The catalogue dates the file broadly to 1558-1579. Its description alone does not establish that she personally spoke as plaintiff, identify her parents, or prove that she was still living in 1570. Inspect the pleadings and compare the 24 November 1570 decree C 78/46/3 for the precise chronology.

Prioritized archive requests

1. TNA C 3/79/20: request every surviving pleading and endorsement in both proceedings; record parties, dates, capacities, kinship wording and title recitals. Catalogue: discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C3778212.

2. TNA C 142/114/67: obtain the original Jane Wythe inquisition and transcribe the death, marriage and heir clauses to confirm the printed abstract and its year style.

3. Manorial admission and surrender records for the specifically named Trimley, Wherstead and Crowfield Booking properties: establish the manor and surviving series before ordering. The supplied HA119 lead is not treated as a verified match to every parcel.

4. Search Joan’s later will/administration and the identified Howard/Brockdish records. A Howard witness is not evidence of a Howard father; the supplied affinal explanation requires its own source correlation. No Howard or Radcliffe parent is admitted.

Ahnentafel and count controls

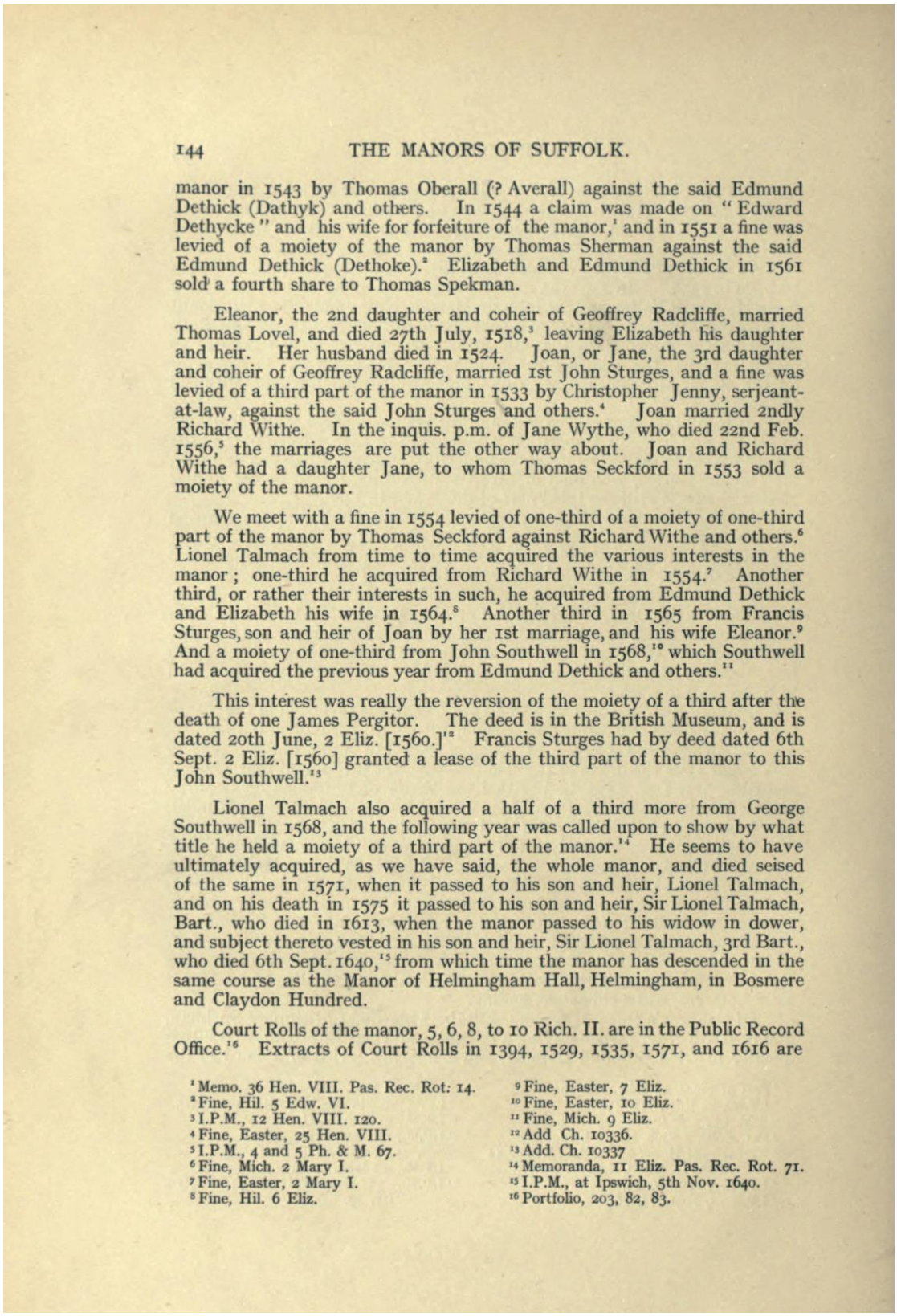
Joan’s father would occupy #244742 / #245254; her mother #244743 / #245255. These are vacant positions, not four added people. Arithmetic: father = 2 x child; mother = 2 x child + 1. Current total remains 216 unique ancestors, 245 occupied ancestral positions, ten Patriots and Generations 0-20.

Transcript status

The full supplied return is embedded unchanged as research history. Its will text includes ellipses, summarized remainders and interpretive insertions, so it is a working transcription, not an independently completed diplomatic edition. Current source notes above control over the return’s stronger unverified legal and kinship assertions.

Jane Wythe | the printed death abstract

W. A. Copinger, The Manors of Suffolk, volume VII, printed p. 144. Antiquarian secondary account citing the IPM, not the original inquisition manuscript. The paragraph and footnote 5 are retained together.



manor in 1543 by Thomas Oberall (? Averall) against the said Edmund Dethick (Dathyk) and others. In 1544 a claim was made on "Edward Dethycke" and his wife for forfeiture of the manor,[1] and in 1551 a fine was levied of a moiety of the manor by Thomas Sherman against the said Edmund Dethick (Dethoke).[2] Elizabeth and Edmund Dethick in 1561 sold a fourth share to Thomas Spekman.

Eleanor, the 2nd daughter and coheir of Geoffrey Radcliffe, married Thomas Lovel, and died 27th July, 1518,[3] leaving Elizabeth his daughter and heir. Her husband died in 1524. Joan, or Jane, the 3rd daughter and coheir of Geoffrey Radcliffe, married 1st John Sturges, and a fine was levied of a third part of the manor in 1533 by Christopher Jenny, serjeant-at-law, against the said John Sturges and others.[4] Joan married 2ndly Richard Withe. In the inquis. p.m. of Jane Wythe, who died 22nd Feb. 1556,[5] the marriages are put the other way about. Joan and Richard Withe had a daughter Jane, to whom Thomas Seckford in 1553 sold a moiety of the manor.

We meet with a fine in 1554 levied of one-third of a moiety of one-third part of the manor by Thomas Seckford against Richard Withe and others.[6] Lionel Talmach from time to time acquired the various interests in the manor; one-third he acquired from Richard Withe in 1554.[7] Another third, or rather their interests in such, he acquired from Edmund Dethick and Elizabeth his wife in 1564.[8] Another third in 1565 from Francis Sturges, son and heir of Joan by her 1st marriage, and his wife Eleanor.[9] And a moiety of one-third from John Southwell in 1568,[10] which Southwell had acquired the previous year from Edmund Dethick and others.[11]

This interest was really the reversion of the moiety of a third after the death of one James Pergitor. The deed is in the British Museum, and is dated 20th June, 2 Eliz. [1560.][12] Francis Sturges had by deed dated 6th Sept. 2 Eliz. [1560] granted a lease of the third part of the manor to this John Southwell.[13]

Lionel Talmach also acquired a half of a third more from George Southwell in 1568, and the following year was called upon to show by what title he held a moiety of a third part of the manor.[14] He seems to have ultimately acquired, as we have said, the whole manor, and died seised of the same in 1571, when it passed to his son and heir, Lionel Talmach, and on his death in 1575 it passed to his son and heir, Sir Lionel Talmach, Bart., who died in 1613, when the manor passed to his widow in dower, and subject thereto vested in his son and heir, Sir Lionel Talmach, 3rd Bart., who died 6th Sept. 1640,[15] from which time the manor has descended in the same course as the Manor of Helmingham Hall, Helmingham, in Bosmere and Claydon Hundred.

Court Rolls of the manor, 5, 6, 8, to 10 Rich. II. are in the Public Record Office.[16] Extracts of Court Rolls in 1394, 1529, 1535, 1571, and 1616 are

[1] Memo. 36 Hen. VIII. Pas. Rec. Rot. 14.
[2] Fine, Hil. 5 Edw. VI.
[3] I.P.M., 12 Hen. VIII. 120.
[4] Fine, Easter, 25 Hen. VIII.
[5] I.P.M., 4 and 5 Ph. & M. 67.
[6] Fine, Mich. 2 Mary I.
[7] Fine, Easter, 2 Mary I.
[8] Fine, Hil. 6 Eliz.
[9] Fine, Easter, 7 Eliz.
[10] Fine, Easter, 10 Eliz.
[11] Fine, Mich. 9 Eliz.
[12] Add Ch. 10336.
[13] Add. Ch. 10337
[14] Memoranda, 11 Eliz. Pas. Rec. Rot. 71.
[15] I.P.M., at Ipswich, 5th Nov. 1640.
[16] Portfolio, 203, 82, 83.