

[Final version as it appears in *The American Genealogist* 82(2007):120–29.]

PROPOSED HAWKSHEAD, LANCASHIRE, ORIGINS OF EDWARD¹ RIGGS OF ROXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS, AND THOMAS¹ RIGGS OF GLOUCESTER

By Alvy Ray Smith and Robert Charles Anderson, FASG

Edward¹ Riggs immigrated to Roxbury, Massachusetts, in 1633 from Nazeing, co. Essex, where his marriage and the baptisms of his five children are recorded.¹ *Riggs* or *Rigg* was an unusual surname in Essex at that time, and Edward's origin has been a puzzle. Thomas¹ Riggs is known to have been in Gloucester, Massachusetts, by 1658. His English origin in Hawkshead, Lancashire (now Cumbria), inferred from the records of the Drapers' Company of London, has been previously proposed but is not generally known. Recent Y-chromosome DNA tests have yielded a surprise connection between Edward of Roxbury and Thomas of Gloucester, suggesting that Edward¹ Riggs might also have had his origin in Hawkshead, directly or indirectly.

THOMAS¹ RIGGS OF HAWKSHEAD AND GLOUCESTER

The earliest mention of Thomas¹ Riggs in Gloucester is his marriage on 7 June 1658 to Mary Millett, daughter of Thomas¹ Millett.² The proposed origin of this Thomas Riggs is hidden in a book by Eva Beck Jenson.³ We quote from Jenson, but replace her references with those we have supplied ourselves:

Thomas Riggs' name appears in the court session held at Salem in November 1658 where he testified that Zacheus Curtis did not come according to his promise. In this case Zacheus Curtis brought suit against Mr. William Bartholomew on the grounds that Bartholomew had made ar-

¹ Robert Charles Anderson and Alvy Ray Smith, "The Genealogy of Edward Riggs of Roxbury, Massachusetts Revisited," accepted for publication, *The Genealogist*, 2008.

² *Vital Records of Gloucester, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849*, 3 vols. (Topsfield and Salem, Mass., 1917–24), 2:452 (hereafter cited as *Gloucester VRs*): "[Riges], Thomas, and Mary Millit"; "Early Records of Boston [i.e., Suffolk Co. Records]," *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 5(1851):243–44, at 244: "Mary the daughter of Thomas Millet & Mary his wife was borne 27^o (6^o) 1639," in Dorchester; John J. Babson, *History of the Town of Gloucester Cape Ann, including the Town of Rockport* (Gloucester, Mass., 1860), 131 (hereafter cited as Babson, *History of Gloucester*): "Thomas Riggs first appears in town as a grantee of land at Goose Cove in 1658. . . . He is said to have been educated in England for the profession of a scrivener; and his ability in that line made him a welcome acquisition to a community, of whose men one-half were unable to write. . . . He was town-clerk from 1665 to 1716 (fifty-one years). . . ." (Goose Cove was corrected to Little River in Babson's *Notes and Additions to the History of Gloucester*, pt. 1[Gloucester, 1876], 60.)

³ Eva Beck Jenson, *Merging History and Genealogy in the Ancestry of Major John Burnham & Abigail Collins* (Seattle, Wash., 1992), 561–68 [treatment of Thomas Riggs and his children] (hereafter cited as Jenson, *Burnham Ancestry*).

rangements with Curtis to work on the Bartholomew farm at Gloucester. When Curtis didn't come on the date agreed on, Bartholomew made other arrangements.⁴ Thomas Riggs had probably been in Gloucester for some time before he was summoned to court to testify for Mr. Bartholomew. It seems reasonable to assume he had been in Gloucester for a year or two.⁵

In research done by James Dempsey of Cincinnati,⁶ he found that the records of the Drapers Company of London show a Thomas Riggs—son of Robert of Hawkshead, Lancashire—apprenticed 3 February 1646 for nine years to Richard Barlow,⁷ scrivener, of Tower Street, London.⁸ A Thomas Riggs, son of Robert Rigge, was baptized 25 March 1633 in the Hawkshead Parish, Lancashire.⁹ The apprenticeship would have been completed in 1655 and shortly thereafter Thomas Riggs could have arrived in Gloucester. Thomas Riggs of Gloucester, Massachusetts, described in the literature as a scrivener, died 26 February 1721/2, aged about ninety years.¹⁰ This places his birth about 1633 and it would appear that Thomas Riggs of Gloucester very probably was the son of Robert Riggs of Hawkshead.¹¹

⁴ *Records and Files of the Quarterly Courts of Essex County, Massachusetts*, 9 vols. (Salem, Mass., 1911–75), 2:134 (hereafter cited as *Essex Quart. Court Recs.*): “[Nov. 1658] Thomas Rigg [sic] testified that Curtis did not come according to his promise. Sworn in court.” Jenson’s note here was “(R & F [i.e., *Essex Quart. Court Recs.*], 2:134).”

⁵ James L. Hansen, FASG, comments that nothing in the court case justifies pushing the date back from 1658. Thomas does need to have been in town long enough, however, to meet and woo his wife. Jim theorizes on that score that Thomas wintered there in 1657–58, but would not push the date back much further from that reasoning alone.

⁶ We have consulted James G. Dempsey of Cincinnati for this article.

⁷ Author Anderson inspected the original records in the Drapers’ Hall archives in London, in May 2006. Apprentice Binding Book F.B. 1, arranged by master, lists: “Barlowe Richard” with three apprentices, including “Tho’ Rigg 3 Feb. 1646 (9 [years of apprenticeship]).” Apprentice Binding Book F.B. 3, arranged chronologically, has: *Thomas Rigg filius Rob[er]ti Rigg de Haukshead in Com’ Lancastrie Agricol’ posuit seipsum appren’ Ric’d Barlowe Civi et Pannar’ London ad deservien’d &c a die dat[um] Indentur usq[ue] ad finem et termin’ novem anno[rum] ex tunc prox’ sequen’ dat[um] ut supra. Tower Streete Scrivener* [“Thomas Rigg son of Robert Rigg of Haukshead in County Lancaster Husbandman has placed himself apprentice to Richard Barlowe Citizen and Draper of London to serve &c. from the day of the given indenture until the end and limit of nine years from that time as given above”]. The date referred to is “Tertio die February 1646” (3 Feb. 1646[7]).

⁸ Jenson, *Burnham Ancestry*, has a reference “(#44737)” here. This is the sketch number from Percival Boyd’s “Citizens of London” for Richard Barlow, “citizen & draper free 1639 Sep 18 by Richard Green (43356); 1641 poll tax scrivener Tower St.” [Family History Library (FHL), Salt Lake City, film #94,620].

⁹ Hawkshead, Lancs., parish register [FHL film #1,471,762, item 29]: “bap: 1633 March xxvth Thomas Rigg fil : Robti.” This was the 1st item of year 1633 so he was born, presumably in March, 1632/3; there was no other Thomas baptized 1626–39. An accurate transcription is Henry Swainson Cowper, *The Oldest Register Book of the Parish of Hawkshead in Lancashire, 1568–1704* (London, 1897), 182 (hereafter cited as Cowper, *Hawkshead Oldest Parish Register*). All Hawkshead parish records are taken from the Cowper transcription, but those quoted in the footnotes have been verified against the originals on microfilm. Jenson inserts at this point a reference to an International Genealogical Index [IGI] individual record: Thomas Rigg, baptized 25 March 1633, Hawkshead, Lancashire, England, father “Robti.” Rigg, batch no. P005961, FHL film #476,869, item 1 (which is Cowper, *Hawkshead Oldest Parish Register*).

¹⁰ *Gloucester VRs*, 3:258: “[Riggs] Thomas, town clerk about 50 y., Feb. 26, 1721–2, a. abt. 90 y.” Jenson inserts here, “(Glouc vr, 258).”

¹¹ Jenson, *Burnham Ancestry*, 561. We also omit Jenson’s generation number superscripts.

Corroboration for Thomas's birth proceeds from a deposition filed at the Quarter Court session held 25 June 1667 at Salem: "Thomas Riggs, aged about thirty-two years, deposed [on] the last Monday in May, 1667. . . ."¹²

Thomas Riggs, Thomas Millett Sr., and many others signed an affidavit at "Gloster this 6: of the 7^{mo} 1660 [6 September 1660]" stating, "our nabor John Jackson sener hath liued in our Towne Sevenne yeare or thereabout." ¹³ Strictly speaking, Thomas Riggs should not have so testified if he had not lived in Gloucester from about 1653. Nevertheless, his testimony was probably just that John Jackson was a known longtime resident of Gloucester, thus not contradicting the evidence of Thomas's apprenticeship terminating in 1655/6 in London.

The earliest reputed evidence in Gloucester of Thomas Riggs that bears a date is a notebook dated 1656, as described in *The Boston Sunday Globe* in 1913:

A recent editorial in the *Globe* in connection with the 100th anniversary of the birth of Isaac Pitman, father of modern shorthand writing, brought to light an ancient and very curious old notebook, kept by Thomas Riggs, the town clerk of Gloucester, dated 1656, and containing 12 pages of entries in shorthand of a type that no modern stenographer so far has been able to decipher. . . .

The little book, which measures 3½ by 5½ inches and about one inch in thickness, is bound in pigskin, which is still in a very good state of preservation, though exceedingly dry and brittle. On the title page is the autograph, "Thomas Riggs, his Booke, 1656." Beneath it is this inscription in the same hand: "And if this booke whereon you Looke by Casualty be loste, restor to me, for I am he That knowe best what it Coste."¹⁴

Thomas Rigg, son of Robert Rigg of Hawkshead, who would have completed a nine-year apprenticeship to a London scrivener on 3 February 1655/6, fits the Thomas Rigg, son of Robert Rigg of Hawkshead, who was baptized there on 25 March 1633, hence 22 (almost 23) years old on 3 February 1655/6. In Massachusetts, Thomas Riggs, the town clerk of Gloucester for over 50 years (1665–1716)¹⁵ who entered the records there on 28 June 1658, matches the London-trained scrivener, Thomas Rigg, who must have arrived 1656–57 in Massachusetts Bay Colony. He would have been 34 in May 1667, when he deposed "aged about thirty-two years," an acceptable age variance. His notebook dated 1656 in his hand suggests that he arrived that year and purchased the book. He might, however, have purchased the notebook before departing from England and dated it there.

¹² Essex Quart. Court Records, 3:431.

¹³ Essex Quart. Court Records, 2:237.

¹⁴ "Shorthand Which No One Is Now Able to Decipher, Found in Curious Old Notebook Once Owned By Thomas Riggs and Dated 1656," *Boston Sunday Globe*, 16 March 1913, p. 7, cols. 3–4, also states, "His death is recorded in the notebook, probably by his son, under date Feb. 26, 1722," and "After his marriage he had a curious arrangement with his father-in-law [Thomas Millett], who paid Mr. Riggs for his board at the rate of two days' labor a week." A page of shorthand from the notebook is reproduced. We have not located the notebook.

¹⁵ Babson, *History of Gloucester*, 131, 591, the latter containing a list of 18 town clerks, 1642–1856, with the 6th being Thomas Riggs beginning 1665, followed by James Parsons beginning 1716.

An administration bond for the estate of Robert Rigge “late of Hawkeshead field in the parish of Hawkeshead,” dated 22 November 1670, was possibly that of Robert Rigge, father of Thomas.¹⁶ It bound Agnes Braithwaite to care for and educate John Rigge, son of Robert, during his minority. If Robert were born say 1610, had Thomas in 1633, and died in 1670¹⁷ with minor son, John, then John would have been born at the earliest about 1649 with Robert aged about 39.

EDWARD¹ RIGGS OF NAZEING AND ROXBURY

Basic facts of Edward¹ Riggs of Roxbury are well established: He married Elizabeth Holmes in All Saints Church, Nazeing, Essex, on 16 September 1618. She had been baptized on 13 December 1590 in the same church, and they had five children all of whom were baptized there. The family immigrated to Roxbury in 1633.¹⁸ Edward’s birth date was estimated to be 1593 by author Anderson in his *Great Migration Begins* sketch, based on the date of Edward’s first marriage.¹⁹

Nazeing shares a border with Roydon in Essex. Geoffrey Tudor Riggs has proposed that Edward¹ Riggs was the unnamed child in the Roydon parish register, “the sonne of Richard Riggs [who] was baptised the 30 of Marche 1589.”²⁰ Geoff Riggs supported the proposal by noting the lack of a baptism of an Edward Riggs in Nazeing, Roydon, or any of the nearby parishes during the time frame, and the similar lack of baptisms of any Riggs children other than those of Richard’s family.²¹ Richard “Ridges” had married Elizabeth Chamberlyn on 5 September 1575 in Roydon,²² and they had four children who were baptized in Roydon during the period 1578–89,²³ with perhaps three others extending the period to 1576–89.²⁴

¹⁶ Furness Deanery Wills, admons, & inventories, R 1574–1748 (Archdeaconry of Richmond, Consistory Court), Box 190 (1547–1660) [FHL film #98,581]: Rigg, Robert, of Hauxhead Field, F [Furness] Admon, 1670.

¹⁷ Cowper, *Hawkshead Oldest Parish Register*, 292: “[1670] [Sept.] 5: Robert Rigge elder de Roger ground in the Church [sic]” The final three words are obscured in the microfilmed original.

¹⁸ Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620–1633*, 3 vols. (Boston, 1995), 3:1583–85 (hereafter cited as Anderson, *Great Migration Begins*).

¹⁹ Anderson, *Great Migration Begins*, 3:1584. The marriage date estimate is based on Anderson’s experience with thousands of 17th-century immigrants to New England.

²⁰ Roydon parish register, 1567–1706 [FHL film #1,472,679, item 1].

²¹ Geoff Riggs, RIGGS Surname Study <homepages.rootsweb.com/~riggs/USAEdw1.htm>, based his conclusion on two other arguments as well: (1) the fit with the baptism of Elizabeth Holmes in Nazeing in 1590, and (2) the names of Edward’s daughters, Lydia and Mary, being family names in Richard’s family, Mary being Edward’s sister, and Lydia his sister-in-law.

²² Roydon parish register: “Richard Ridges and Elizabeth Chamberlyn were married the 5 daye of September anno supradicto [1575],” and “Elizabeth the wife of Richard Riggs was buried the xxv day of March A^o D^m 1603.”

²³ Roydon parish register: (1) “Elizabeth the daughter of Richard Ridges was baptized the xxij of October anno superdicto [1578]” (who matches the daughter Elizabeth attributed to William Ridge in 1581 [see fn. 26]), (2) “Frauncis Rigges the sonne of Richard Rigges was baptized

Geoff Riggs also proposed that Richard Riggs was the son of Miles and Agnes Riggs, buried at Roydon on 7 September 1583 and 26 March 1579, respectively.²⁵ Parish records for Roydon began in 1567, and there are no other Riggs records than those of Miles Riggs and his family, and of Richard Riggs and his.²⁶

The proposal presented here is that the Nazeing and Roydon Riggsses migrated to Essex, where the surname was rare, from Lancashire, where it was common and, in particular, from Hawkshead where it was abundant. Either Edward Riggs himself migrated to Essex from Hawkshead, or his parents or grandparents did.

The names *Richard*, *Miles*, and *Agnes Rigge* appear often in the Hawkshead parish register, the counts being, respectively, 71, 42, and 117.²⁷ Although these counts are crude indicators, it is clear that the names were common in Hawkshead. It is the DNA evidence, however, that renders the suggestion of a Riggs migration, across the entire width of England and north to south as well, a compelling idea to consider.

THE DNA EVIDENCE

Author Smith has pursued for several years the detailed genealogies of several descendants of Edward¹ Riggs of Roxbury, and has successfully used Y-chromosome DNA (Y-DNA) matching as a tool.²⁸ Author Anderson proposed that the

the xvij of Aprill [1583],” (3) “Ralphe the sonne of Richard Riggess was baptised the xix day of June Anno supradicto [1586],” and “Rallph the sonne of Richard Riggess was buryed the viijth of Octob^r Anno supradicto [1586],” and (4) the unnamed son, as above.

²⁴ Geoff Riggs, RIGGS Surname Study, argues that “Mary the daughter of Richard Myles [who] was baptised the 30 of July [1576]” [Roydon parish register] was the 1st child of Richard Riggs, assuming the use of Richard’s patronymic in the record and assuming that Richard was son of Miles Riggs. By the same argument, “Richard the sonne of Richard Miles was baptised xxiiij of September Anno supradicto [1581]” [Roydon parish register] would be the third child. The Roydon parish register also records, “Miles Riggess nurse child was buryed the 8 daye of Novemb^r [1586].” Geoff Riggs argues that Miles was probably another child of Richard Riggs, born between Francis and Ralph.

²⁵ Roydon parish register: “Miles Riggess was buryed the vij of Septemb^r Anno supradicto [1583],” and “Angnes the wife of Myles Ridges was buryed the xxvj of Marche anno d^m 1579.”

²⁶ Geoff Riggs, RIGGS Surname Study. The Roydon parish register contains marriage records for Richard’s children, Mary and Francis (two marriages for him, the 1st being to “Lidia Carington”), baptisms for five children of Francis and his 1st wife, and a burial record for her (as “Lydia”). The only record in the Roydon PR seeming to contradict the argument here is, “Elizabeth the daughter of Willm^u Ridge was buried the xvj of Novembr anno supradicto [1581],” but the William might be an error for Richard, and this item a burial record for Richard’s daughter Elizabeth, since William is otherwise absent from the register. We agree with Geoff Riggs on this interpretation.

²⁷ Not including *Anne*, which was interchangeable with *Agnes*. In a private communication, Geoff Riggs reported results of his name study based on the 1881 British census, which shows the locus of highest concentration of the three names *Agnes*, *Miles/Myles*, and *Rigge/Rigg* to lie in the Ulverston registration district, which includes Hawkshead.

²⁸ Alvy Ray Smith, “The Y-DNA Signature of Edward Riggs of Roxbury,” *New England Ancestors* [NEA] 6(2005):46–48.

DNA arguments would be strengthened if Thomas¹ Riggs's descendants could be excluded as members of the "Edwardian" descents—i.e., if they were of genetically different Riggs families. Surprisingly, recent matching results using DNA from living male descendants of Thomas Riggs have shown that Thomas Riggs himself is "Edwardian." So Edward¹ Riggs and Thomas¹ Riggs have a close common ancestor.²⁹ Although it does not simplify the Edward Riggs descent problems, this result immediately suggested that knowledge about Thomas Riggs's origin might be helpful in understanding that of Edward Riggs. In particular, since Thomas Riggs came from Hawkshead, Lancashire, then so might have Edward Riggs, or his parents or grandparents.

Two male Riggs descendants of Thomas¹ Riggs, with classic genealogical proofs of descent from Thomas's son, Thomas, contributed Y-DNA samples to the Riggs/Rigg DNA Study Group, with testing done by the company FamilyTreeDNA, using a laboratory at the University of Arizona in Tucson. The two descendants are genealogically distant (sixth cousins, once removed), but genetically match at 35 of 37 markers on their Y chromosomes. This is considered a match—i.e., that both men share a recent common ancestor.³⁰ Thus the Y-chromosome "signature" (haplotype) of Thomas Riggs Jr. is established at 35 of the 37 marker locations. Thomas Riggs Sr. of Gloucester probably had the same signature.

Edward Riggs's signature on 37 markers, the "Edwardian modal signature," has been previously determined.³¹ The final step in the argument is comparison of this signature with those of the two descendants of Thomas: Their signatures match the Edwardian modal signature in 36 of 37 markers, and 35 of 37 markers, respectively.³² So Thomas¹ Riggs and Edward¹ Riggs must share a common

²⁹ See following fn. 30.

³⁰ FamilyTreeDNA calculates in the 35 of 37 case that the probability of a most recent common ancestor within 10 generations is about 83% and within 15 generations is about 96%. The Y chromosome is passed down essentially unchanged from father to son, but over the course of several centuries a few mutations can occur, explaining the lack of a perfect match.

The terms *close* or *recent* in this context imply "within historical time," say 10 generations, as opposed to the time spanned by the human species. Many families in England with different surnames have a common ancestor if prehistorical "deep ancestry" times are considered. *Close* and *recent* disallow these ancient connections and are the terms used in genetic genealogy.

³¹ Smith, "Y-DNA Signature of Edward Riggs," NEA 6(2005):46–48, established the signature, or haplotype, on 25 markers. The signature for Edward Riggs has since been extended to 37 markers: 12 24 14 11 14 16 12 12 12 13 13 29, 19 9 10 11 11 25 15 19 29 15 15 17 17, 11 10 19 23 15 15 17 18 37 38 12 12, in FamilyTreeDNA standard order (defined in terms of official DYS marker names on <www.familytreedna.com>). Each number in a signature is the repeat count for a "short tandem repeat," a short sequence of nucleotides (A, C, G, or T) repeated over and over. For example, the fourth marker count of 11 means that the sequence TCTA is repeated 11 times in succession on Edward's Y chromosome.

³² The modal signature for Thomas Riggs that best fits the data is 12 24 14 11 14 16 12 12 11 13 13 29, 19 9 10 11 11 25 15 19 29 15 **16** 17 17, 11 10 19 23 15 15 17 18 37 38 12 12, with the one

male-line ancestor. The DNA matching tests cannot reveal the exact relationship, only that one must exist.

TWO EDWARD RIGGES OF HAWKSHEAD, CO. LANCASTER

Hawkshead lies in the Lake Country of northern England, in Cumbria as re-designated in 1974, but formerly in the northernmost part of Lancashire, disjoint from most of that county. The oldest register for Hawkshead covers the period 1568–1704. According to it, the four most common surnames in descending order of occurrence are *Braithwaite*, *Rigge*, *Satterthwaite*, and *Sawrey*. *Rigge* (sometimes spelled *Rigg*) is mentioned 1631 times.³³ In the introduction to his transcription of the register, Henry Swainson Cowper mentions, “the Riggés clustered in multitudes round [the village of] Hawkshead.”³⁴

Inspection of the Hawkshead parish register reveals two Edwards who fit the estimated birth date of 1593: (1) Edward Rigge, son of Richard, baptized on 6 May 1593,³⁵ and (2) Edward Rigge, son of James, baptized on 25 July 1594.³⁶ There were no earlier Edward Riggés recorded; the next was baptized in 1612.

Only one marriage was discovered in the register that could be that of either Edward above: On 25 May 1618 “Edw: Rigg & Mabell Bensonne.”³⁷ There was a baptism on 25 August 1619 for “Elsabeth” Rigg, daughter of Edward.³⁸ No burials of an Edward Rigg/Rigge were recorded in Hawkshead between 1593 and 1621. This leaves open the possibility that the other Edward migrated to Nazeing, Essex, to marry Elizabeth Holmes on 16 September 1618, and to become Edward of Roxbury. We consider the two Edwards in turn.

EDWARD RIGGE, SON OF RICHARD, OF HAWKSHEAD

The Hawkshead parish register lists three marriages of a Richard Rigge prior to 1593 when Edward, son of Richard, was baptized; these marriages were in 1568 (the earliest year of the parish record), 1570, and 1590/1. The 1568 case, assuming the mother married at 17, makes her about 42 in 1593, so all three mar-

difference from Edward’s modal signature in boldface. A 16 in the 23rd marker is shared by all seven Thomas Riggs descendants who have been tested, thus serving as a marker for this family.

³³ Henry Swainson Cowper, *Hawkshead: (the Northernmost Parish of Lancashire) Its History, Archaeology, Industries, Folklore, Dialect, etc., etc.* (London, 1899), 200.

³⁴ Cowper, *Hawkshead Oldest Parish Register*, xxvi.

³⁵ Cowper, *Hawkshead Oldest Parish Register*, 73: “[1593] May vjth Edward Rigge fil : Richardi.”

³⁶ Cowper, *Hawkshead Oldest Parish Register*, 76: “[1594] [July] xxjth Edward Rigge fil : Jacobi.”

³⁷ Cowper, *Hawkshead Oldest Parish Register*, 141: “[1618] May xxjth Edw: Rigg & Mabell Bensonne.” All marriages 1609–1625 were checked.

³⁸ Cowper, *Hawkshead Oldest Parish Register*, 142: “[1619] [August] xvth Elsabeth Rigg fil: Edw:.”

riages are possibilities: (1) Richard Rigge to Jennett Robinson on 14 August 1568, (2) Richard Rigge to Agnes Holmes on 3 September 1570, and (3) Richard Rigge to “Issabel Satterthw^l” on 7 February 1590/1.³⁹ The last is the most likely, assuming a 25-year childbearing range.

EDWARD RIGGE, SON OF JAMES, OF HAWKSHEAD

Similarly, the Hawkshead parish register lists three marriages of a James Rigge prior to 1594 when Edward, son of James, was baptized, in 1575, 1577, and 1585/6: (1) James Rigge to “Issabell” Satterthwaite on 28 August 1575, (2) James Rigge to “Issabell” Braithwaite on 7 September 1577, and (3) James Rigge to “Elline Frearson” on 13 February 1585/6.⁴⁰

When we consider the first two marriages, we find that it is possible that Isabel Satterthwaite died and James then married Isabel Braithwaite, but no death of an Isabel Rigge was recorded between 1575 and 1577, so these probably represent two James Riggess.

The following last will and testament of a James Rigge features the four most common surnames of Hawkshead, previously listed:

In the name of god [Amen?] the seconde daie of November Anno D[o]m[ini]/1597/I James Rigge sonne of Leonarde Rigge of Soraye [Sawrey] in Haxheade [Hawkshead], sicke in my bodie yet in good and p[er]fecte remembr[ance make?] my laste will and testamente in maner & forme followinge, firste I bequeath my soule to Allmightie god frome whome it came, trustinge [to?] be saved by the death of Jesus Christe & by noe other meanes, and bodie to be buried at my p[ar]ishe of Hawkesheade, It[e]m I give & bequeath my whole tenemente and farmholde of six shillings one penyente by yeare: unto my sonne John Rigge & his heires of his bodie lawfully begotten, forever, he agreeing with his other Britherin [brethren] according to the custome of Fournes Felles, and if it fortune god to call the saide John Rigg my saide sonne, to his mearcie & that he die withoute yssue lawfully begotten of his o[wn?] bodie, then I give and bequeathe my saide tenemente with thappurtenances unto my younger sonne Edwarde Rigge & to the heires of his body lawfully to be begotten for ever and if it fortune that my sonne Edwarde Rigge dye without heires or yssue lawfully to be begotten of his body, then I will that my saide tenemente with thappurtenances shall come and descende unto my other children & to their heires lynally [linearly]. It[e]m I give & bequeathe unto my two Daughters tenne poundes of Currente moneye of Englande, that is to weete [to wit] to eyther of theme fyve poundes, to be paide unto them oute of my taken grounde and it is my will that they or their Assignes shall have & occupy two Closes of grounde lyinge in the [Ilehowes?], w[hi]ch I toke of George Bratwhaet [Braithwaite] untill they have the saide tene poundes paide unto them, by my sonne John Rigge or some others w[hi]ch shall enioye [enjoy] my saide tenemente. Executors of this my laste will and testament I make Issabell my wiffe & John my sonne. Wyttnesses hereof George Satertwhaite [Satterthwaite] William Rigge & Thomas Sorraye [Sawrey] / &c.⁴¹

³⁹ Cowper, *Hawkshead Oldest Parish Register*, 3, 8, 66, respectively.

⁴⁰ Cowper, *Hawkshead Oldest Parish Register*, 26, 33, 53, respectively.

⁴¹ Furness Deanery Wills, admons, & inventories, R 1574–1748 (Archdeaconry of Richmond, Consistory Court), Box 190 (1547–1660) [FHL film #98,581]: Rigge, James, of parish of Hauxhead, F[urness], 1602.

So in Hawkshead, a James Rigge wrote his will on 2 November 1597, and it was recorded 4 June 1602 in the Archdeaconry Court of Richmond, Furness Deanery. James, son of Leonard Rigge, married Isabel —, and had two sons and two daughters living at the time of the will. The older son was John Rigge, the younger Edward. There was only one James Rigge whose burial was recorded in the Hawkshead parish register during 1597–1602: James Rigge of Sawrey buried on 5 November 1597.⁴²

Both sons were without issue at the writing of James's will. Edward Rigge, born just before 25 July 1594, would have been three years old at the writing of the will and eight at its recording. There are only two John Riggés recorded baptized during the period 1575–94, the time between the earlier of the two possible marriages of James Rigge and the birth of younger brother Edward. One John was baptized in 1579/80 and the other in 1580, but no parent was recorded for either.⁴³ Assuming that James's son John Rigge was one of the two, he would have been 17 at the writing of the will.

The Isabel who married the James Rigge of the 1597 will, son of Leonard, was either Isabel Satterthwaite or Isabel Braithwaite. Both full names were common in Hawkshead, the former being mentioned 33 times in the parish register, and the latter 93 times. And *Isabel Rigge* was mentioned 54 times.⁴⁴

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The DNA evidence proves that Thomas¹ Riggs of Gloucester, Massachusetts, in 1658 and Edward¹ Riggs of Roxbury, Massachusetts, in 1633 were related. The origin of Thomas in Hawkshead, Lancashire, suggests that Edward might have also originated there. We have found two Edward Riggés in Hawkshead, either one of whom could have become Edward Riggs of Nazeing, Essex, and then Edward of Roxbury. The proposal by Geoff Riggs, that Edward Riggs of Nazeing was son of Richard of adjacent Roydon, is a third possibility. We add the proposal that Edward's father (possibly Richard Riggs) or his grandfather (possibly Miles Riggs), originated in Hawkshead.⁴⁵

As regards which Edward of the three possibilities was most likely to have been Edward of Roxbury, we lean toward the proposal that he was son of Richard Riggs of Roydon. The marriage date of either of the two Edwards of Hawkshead implies

⁴² Cowper, *Hawkshead Oldest Parish Register*, 85: “[1597] [Novemb:] vth James Rigge de Sawrey.” The next burial of a James occurred in 1608 (“James Rigg of Sawrey”).

⁴³ Cowper, *Hawkshead Oldest Parish Register*, 38: “[1579[/80]] [January xxxth] eode[m] die John Rigge,” and 40: “[1580] [Septemb] xith John Rigge.”

⁴⁴ The counts are crude because they include Isabel Braithwaite and Isabel Satterthwaite as married names and Isabel Rigge as a maiden name. Nevertheless, the names were very common.

⁴⁵ In a private communication, Geoff Riggs independently proposed that Miles and Agnes Riggs were the immigrants from Hawkshead.

that he would have married at about 24 or 25 a woman of about 28, whereas if Edward was the unnamed child of Richard then he would have married her at age 29. It is the lack of a name in the baptismal record for the putative Edward, and the existence of two other possible candidates for him, that cause us to withhold full endorsement of this strong circumstantial case, due principally to Geoff Riggs.

We have not drawn a strong distinction between the *Rigg* (or *Rigge*) and the *Riggs* (or *Riggses*) variations of the surname despite evidence that the former originated in the northwest and the latter in the southwest of England. It is clear that in the cases of Edward of Roxbury and Thomas of Gloucester the surname did change by the addition of the terminal *s*. It was DNA evidence that first encouraged us to ignore the spelling variations,⁴⁶ with beneficial results. A recent DNA matching test has proved that a modern Rigg in America carries the modal signature of Edward and Thomas Riggs.⁴⁷

Our proposal that Edward Riggs of Nazeing, Essex, derived either directly or indirectly from Hawkshead, Lancashire, may seem to reflect an unusual and even unlikely migration. George Redmonds, an expert on the development and history of English surnames, has reported to us, however, his observation of the movement during the later medieval period of many families from the northwest of England, in the area around Kendal, co. Westmorland, in a southeasterly direction through the West Riding of Yorkshire and on into East Anglia, and that this migration was in many cases connected with the growth of the cloth trade.⁴⁸

Acknowledgments. To James G. Dempsey, James L. Hansen, FASG, Geoffrey T. Riggs, George Redmonds, Penny Fussell, Archivist of Drapers' Hall, and Shelley Holmes Caroe.

Alvy Ray Smith (<alvy@alvyray.com>), *cofounder of Pixar Animation Studios (now Disney), was awarded the Donald Lines Jacobus Award in 2007 for his book on Bethuel Riggs.*

Robert Charles Anderson (47B Peterborough St., Jaffrey NH 03452) is Coeditor of TAG and Director of the Great Migration Study Project of the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

⁴⁶ Including also the variations *Ridge* and *Ridges*.

⁴⁷ In a private communication, Geoff Riggs commented that there is evidence that names modified in immigration to a form common in the new home, supporting a modification in this case from the *Rigg* form to the *Riggs* form. Geoff Riggs's name study (see fn. 27) which shows the locus of the *Rigg* form to be northwest England, principally the Lake District (including Hawkshead), and that of the *Riggs* form to be southwest England, principally Dorset and surrounding counties.

Geoff Riggs himself, from an old Dorset *Riggs* line, has a genetic signature that differs from the Edward¹ Riggs signature by a distance of 40 on 37 markers, a large mismatch meaning that Geoff and his male-line ancestors of southwest England form an entirely different clan from that of Edward¹ and Thomas¹, whose surname in northwest England was probably *Rigg*.

⁴⁸ Private communication from George Redmonds.