

The THORNYCROFTS of Siddington

J.P.Earwaker in 'East Cheshire -Past and Present' states that the Thornycrofts were settled at Thornycroft about the 13th cent.but that their names are rarely met with on the Cheshire Recognizance or Plea Rolls. The earliest document,without date,is that by which 'Richard,lord of Siddington,confirms and quit claims to Richard,the son of Hamo de Thornicroft,all his rights etc.in certain lands and tenement in a certain place called Thornicroft in Sydyngton, which William,grandfather of the said Richard had given in frank marriage to the said Hamo de Thornicroft with Joan,daughter of the said William de Sydyngton,paying annually 6d.to the said William and his heirs.' Dated documents commence in 1379 - Richard de Thornycroft was an appraiser at an IPM on Richard de Siddington. There were about seven generations from Hamo to Edward (1) Thornicroft-married Isabel,daughter of George Hurst of Poynton, at the Collegiate Church at Manchester on Feb 13th 1510,but it is only from about 1560 that the Parish Registers enable family pedigrees to be constructed.

Edward Thornicroft (1) married Isabel Hurst 13.2.1510 had two sons. Edward buried 20.12.1572, Gaws. Roger. - married first, Elizabeth, buried at Gawsworth 15.7.1569, and second, Jane, daughter of William Ford, of the Marsh, Stafford, who was buried at Gawsworth 3.4.1591. Roger - buried 3.10.1600. His children were Edward (2) who made his Will 20.7.1631 and was buried 1.8.1631 at Gawsworth.

He married (1) Margery dau.of Thomas Swettenham, buried 5.1.1625 Gaws. Marr 4.4.1577.

(2) marr. Isabel Jackson, widow of Prestbury. Marr settlement 7.9.1629. Isabel had a daughter, Ann, who is identified in Edward's Will ' to receive 40/- on condition she offers no opposition to the will.' Roger is named as appraiser at the IPM on John Legh in 1578.

Also daughters, MARY marr Ralph Goodman 1594. Isabel marr. Ralph Langton. Ann marr. Wm Morrey 1596.

Robert married Elizabeth - bur Gaws. 4.9.1591 He is entered in the Cheshire Visitation of 1580 as of 'Knights, Esquires, Gentlemen and Freeholders of Macclesfield Hundred.

Seven children of Robert from 1562 to 1582 are listed in Table together with four grandchildren - baptised 1594 to 1599.

Edward (2) and Margery Swettenham had five sons and five daughters, four of each survived to adult life and are named in his will of 1634.

Edward (3) bp 1.7.1579. bu.30.9.1637. Married Alice, dau of Henry Adderley of Blackhaugh, Staffs. Marr. settlement 8.2.1614 There was a close connection with the Adderley's throughout the 17th c and the great grand daughter of Edward (3) married Samuel Adderley early in the 18th c.

Margaret bp 30.8.1581. Died young.

William (1) bp not found. Buried Macclesfield 6.8.1652. Founder of the Macclesfield branch of the family. Married Ann Watson at Taxal. lic. 16.6.1613.

Mary bp.20.2.1588. Marr Syman Gill, schoolmaster of St Pauls London 3.9.1609.

Sara bp 15.2.1590. Marr John Downes jun. 26.1.1613

Margaret bp 1.8.1592. Marr John Smith of Barthomley.

Thomas bp 15.10.1594. Died young.

John bp 21.10.1596 f1 1637. died s.p.

Samuel bp 31.8.1599 f1 1637 do

Edward (3) only survived his father by six years. Both of them left wills and inventories which are detailed in the text and enable the details of the house to be determined as well as their mode of farming life His will was witnessed by his father in law, Henry Adderley and by William Adderley whose name occurs several times in conjunction with property transactions carried out by his son John (1) bp 4.1.1617. John became a Barrister at Law and lived in London and acquired property there after the great fire of London in 1666.

William 1 married Ann Watson, illegitimate daughter of Reginald Downes and widow of John Downes of Overton, Taxal Cheshire on 16.6.1613. He had one son William (2) baptised at Taxal 21.5.1615.

Will of Edward (2) Thornicroft dated 20.7.1631. Inventory 3.7.1632

Executors. Isabel (wife), William and John (sons), Thos Lingarte (son in law)
Overseers Lea Henshaw of Siddington. Edward Jackson of Ingarsley.

To John, son, £80 & remainder of Estate. To Isabel (wife) one third after the above £80.

Ann Lingart (daughter) £6.13.4. To William (son). All money owed and 20/-.

William (2) grandson, 40/-, one bed and £4 at executors discretion. Mary Guill (daughter) 40/-

Edward (3) eldest son, All my glass & seelings, my muskett, headpiece, banduleers and rest for the muskett. Margaret, Ann & Sara Downes (grandchildren) 10/- each. To children of John Smith

my son in law & Margaret his wife, £10 of the debt owed by John Smith, to be equally divided upon condition that John Smith will pay to executors £20 being the residue of the debt he oweth me within one year, otherwise void. To Sara Downes, daughter 10/- in full satisfaction of her filial portion

To Margaret Smith, dau, 1/- in full satisfaction etc. Samuel Thornicroft, son, £10. Ann Jackson, my wife's dau. 40/- on condition of no opposition to my will. To Edward (3) my eldest son, two tables in the Hall with two fireends & berchet and one lingie table upon condition he pays 10/- for the same. The rest to my son, John.

Will of Edward (3) Thornicroft dated 1.9.1637. Inventory 7.10.1637.. Sole Executor Alice his wife.

To my son Edward (4) Thornicroft, two tables in the Hall, my muskett, headpiece with bandolier and £12 in money in full satisfaction and discharge of his filial portion and childes part.

I give to my grandchild Edward (bp 1636) 10/- I give and bequeath to my wife, Alice Thornicrofte, a third part of all my goods, debts, chattells and cattells, my debts and legacies being first discharged. All the rest and residue of my goods being divided into three portions -- I give and bequeath a third part to my son John (1) in full satisfaction of his filial portion.. For the other two parts I give and bequeath them to my daughter Elizabeth Thornicrofte.

Witness. Ha. Adderley, Edward Thornicroft (4) William Taylor (his mark), William Adderley.

Inventories of Edward (2) bur 1.8.1631 and Edward (3) Thornicroft d.30.9.1637.

Edward (2)

15 kine,abull or segge with running calf
 6 stirkes
 2 twinter bullocks
 6 Drawen oxen
 In horseflesh
 4 calves
 Inswine

Edward (3)

8 kine & a bull	£ 50.13.4	£30.0.0
4 heffers	9.10.0	11.10.0
2 bullocks	5.0.0	4.10.0
2 stirkes	8.0.0	4.10.0.
2 heaffer stirkes	16.0.0	4.0.0
1 white fat cow	4.0.0	4.5.0
1 black fat cow	3.4.0	3 5 0
5 calves		4 0 0
7 lambs		1 10.0
18 old sheep		6 0 0
2 bay mares		11. 0 0
1 gray mare		5 6 8
1 young black mare		5 0 0
Corne in th barne	2. 0 0	
Barley	3. 0 0	40. 0 0
Oats	13.4	20. 0 0
Hay	2. 0 0	8 0 0
Corne upon the ground	8 0 0	1 16 0
Corn & Malt in the house		1 0 0
one cart with that which belongs to it		2 13 4
one muck cart,one bean cart		13 4
three wheelbarrows		2 0
fellowes & frockes		10 0
spokes		6 8
6 plow beams		2 0
6 axle trees		2 0
6 shooe enend		2 0
2 barrows with other husbandry ware		17 0
Swine		5 0 0
6 swine troughs & 1 gryndleston		10 0
16 geese with other poultry		1 3 8
Hempe		12 0
Caple geeres		11 0

cont

Onle corne
 In malt & more corne
 Muck or Meanor
 In turves & firewood
 In husbandry ware

cont

Inventories cOnt

Edward (2) 1632

2 standing bed-stocks,bedding in Middle Chamber	£10.10. 0	
1 Chest in same room	10 0	
2 bedstocks with bedding in Stearhead	Ch. 2.13. 4	
1 standin bedstead with truckle bed and bedding in the Maidens Chamber	2 0 0	
2 chests in the same	6 8	
1 Press	5 0	
In Out Chamber,bedding for servants	6 8	
In the deceased apparell	6 13 4	
In Wool	13 4	
In tow & yarn	13 0	
In cheese & butter with talow cake & cheeseware	4 0 0	
In cowprie ware	2 0 0	
One silver cuppard,nine silver spoons	6 0 0	
In brass and pewter	7 10 0	
one muskett,one headpiece with bandileeres and rest	1 0 0	
In iron ware	10 0	
3 tables,2 forms with benches	2 0 0	
In earthen ware	1 0	
In stools,chairs,boards & eluds	18 0	
In poultry ware	16 8	
In linen of all sorts	7 13 4	
1 great stone trough with other swine trghs	4 0	
In books	6 8	
One painted cloth,,Bible & Communion book and other books	1 0 0	
	Summa totalis	274 10 5
Debts owing to the Testator whereof some be sperate & some desperate (itemised by name of debtor)	97 17 5	
Debts owed by Testator	38 0 0	

Edward (3) 1637

In the Middle Chamber,1 pr bed stocks	13 4	
In the Hall Chamber,1 bedstock,1 truckle bed,lcubbert,stools & bedding	£ 7 0 0	
Linen	6 0 0	
In the Kitchen Chamber,bedding and bedsteads	6 5 0	
In the Ground Parlour, 2 bedsteads bedding & cushions	3 10 0	
In the Store Chamber,cheese & butter	3 8 0	
Wool	13 0	
Yarn	1 0 0	
1 wynow sheet,sack & half hoop	1 0 0	
one cheese cratch,boards	6 8	
turf spade	1 6	
In Kitchen,spits,goberts,iron ware	10 0	
Three boards,dish boards	3 4	
In th Parlour, two tables	1 6 8	
In the Hall.Chairs,stools,tables & forms	2 14 0	
Six chests	2 0 0	
Coopery ware	2 0 0	
One muskett	13 4	
In the servants chamber,bedding	1 8 0	
Silver spoons	1 5 0	
Brass & pewter	3 6 8	
Salt meat	13 4	
Wearing apparell	15 0 0	
One Ark	6 8	
Fuel	5 0	
Money owing by bonds	100 0 0	
	Summa totalis	300 0 0
	plus	28 19 2

The wills of Edward (2) of July 1631 and of his son Edward (3) Sep 1637 together with inventories of the house contents enable an unusually detailed viewpoint of their lifestyle and dwelling to be formed. Both had estates valued at about £330 and each passed this to the next generation. They lived on the site the family had occupied since the 13th c. and held the Thornycroft House and lands and also land at Pexhull, Henbury and Siddington. Both of them were involved in farming on a substantial scale having about 28 cattle comprising cows, bull and calves, valued at £66, four horses valued at £17 and (in the case of Edward (2), 6 draught oxen) and pigs. Edward (3) does not have the oxen but has 25 sheep and lambs. They raised Barley, Oats and Hay but wheat is not mentioned and the inventory of Edward (3) taken in October after the crops were gathered valued these at £70. Geese & poultry kept.

Butter, Cheese and for Edward (3) salt meat, were stored and prepared. Wool and yarn are named in both inventories but no weaving equipment is mentioned. Turf was used and cut for fuel. Equipment for preparing food involved brass and pewter, iron and cooper ware, earthen ware and for table, silver spoons and linen.

Bedstocks and bedding, truckle beds and simple bedding for servants use, total 7 bedsteads so an household of about 20 people may be involved. Cultural items are a painted cloth, Bible and Communion Book and other books, valued at £1 6s 8d.

Unusual items are 'the glass and seelings' bequeathed in Edward (2)'s will, probably being recently acquired for the windows, and in both wills, the 'muskett' and its associated equipment, possibly arising from the Civil War in Cheshire.

The house was of two stories, the lower having five rooms - the Hall, Parlour, Ground Parlour, Kitchen and Store Chamber. and the upper three sleeping rooms, the Hall Chamber, the Middle or Stearhead Chamber and the Maidens Chamber, together with an Out Chamber where the servants slept. The ground Parlour was used for sleeping in 1637.

The Hall contained the two tables named in both wills as well as Chairs, Stools Forms and six Chests There were also three chests and a Press in the bedrooms. The Parlour contained Tables, Forms & Benches

Edward (3) bp 1.7.1579 bu 30.9.1637 married Alice, daughter of Henry Adderley of Blackhaugh Staffs Marr.settlement 8.2.1614. Alice buried 5.1.1625. They had three children

Edward (4) bp 20.11.1614 bu.4.6.1697 Married Katherine, dau. of John Kinsey of Blackden.Ch. who was buried 13.5.1698.

John (1) bp 4.1.1617. bu.25.9.1687 at Bloxham Oxon. He married Dorethy, dau. of Sir

John Howell, Recorder of London. She was buried at Bloxham 19.8.1717.

He became a lawyer of Grays Inn London and co-operated with Sir John Howells property transactions in London. On 1 May 1658 an Indenture by Sir John Howell & John Thornycroft records the conveyance of the Boars Head Tavern in the parish of St Michael, Crooked Lane & on 24 Aug 1661 of a message in Friday St. called the Sun

In 1666 the Great Fire of London occurred and destroyed a considerable part of the medieval city including 90 churches. John(1) continued to buy the sites of burnt out property, for example on 16 Jan 1667 he acquired the site of a messuage and on 18 Feb 1667, the site whereon the Sun Tavern stood. On 16/18 Mar 1667 with Eliz. Offley he obtained the plot whereon the Bird in Hand had stood. On 23 Jan 1668 the land whereon the Arrow stood and on 28 Sep the site whereon the Dagger had stood. Later, on 19 May 1688, after the death of John (1) in 1687, his widow Dorethy and Sir John Howell released the site of the George in Chancery Lane to John's son Henry (bp 1639). In Chester Record Office in papers deposited in 1963 by Potts and Ball, solicitors to Edward Thornycroft who died in 1817, under reference Acc 1120, an abstract of deeds relating to the above and other properties which had passed into Thornicroft hands over the period 1666 to c.1810 provides a wealth of information about the family's land transactions. The references to the London deeds often give names of owners back to 1500. John(2), son of John(1) born 1659, also became a lawyer in London and is referred to later at Milcomb, Bloxham, Oxon.

Elizabeth, the third child of Edward (3) bu 25.8.1684, married (1) John Byron of Macclesfield and had two children Elizabeth who married Rev John Stanley of Alderley, and Edward. She married (2) William Watson of Macclesfield.

Edward (4) bp.20.11.1614 bu 4.6.1697 married Katherine, daughter of John Kinsey of Blackden, Ches.

She was buried 13.5.1698. They had sixteen children, nine of whom survived to adult hood and married.

Edward bp 1.8.1636 bu 22.11.1641.

Thomas b1637 bu 17.5.1701 He married Mary Broomfield, widow of John Watson of Macclesfield at Chester 1.10.1691. He was appointed Deputy Steward & Freeman of Congleton 12.11.1689

John bp 29.8.1638 d.1659

Henry bp 16.9.1639 died Married Sarah, dau. of Richard Barker, merchant of London.

Lived in London See Table Sarah was buried Macclesfield 17.3.1705

Joseph bu 22.6.1677 Married Anne, dau of William Watson and widow of - Kent.

Elizabeth bp 10.3.1643 bu May 1688 at Chelford. Married Reginald Bancroft, Incumbent of Cheadle at Marton 9.11.1685 licence.

Mary bp 1.4.1644 bu at Marton.

Benjamin b 1645 f1 1687. James, Nehemiah both bu infs.

Katherine bp 7.2.1650 Married - Poole.

Alice bp 22.11.1651. Married Benjamin Wyche of Steeple Longford, Wilts.

Dorethy bp 9.8.1653 Jane bp 29.9.1654 married - Shelley of Congleton

Edward (5) bp 1656 bu 17.5.1726. Will. Married Anne, daughter of Sir Ralph Ashton of

Middleton Lancs at St Margarets, Westminster 10.2.1686. Bu 3.1.1713.

Hannah bp 6.7.1657. Marr. - Ettye of York.

Edward (5) b 1656 bu 17.5.1726 married Anne Ashton, daughter of Sir Ralph Ashton of Middleton, Lancs
They had three children.

John (4) bp 5.7.1687 bu 26.12.1726. Married Eleanor, daughter and heiress of John Henshaw of Henshaw Hall, Siddington.

Mary bp 21.7.1688. Bu 12.10.1721. Married Capt. Peter Davenport 18.5.1718 at Macclesfield.

Anne bp 26.11.1689 at Macclesfield. Married Samuel Adderley of Blake Hall, Staffs &
Hans Hall, Warks. 23.7.1713

Edward (5) left a will dated 14.3.1725 with codicil dated 27.4.1726. Executors Son John (4) and
son in law Peter Davenport.

Executors to sell two copyhold messuages in Sutton in Manor of Forest of Macclesfield, to pay just debts
All freehold land & messuages in possession of John Brereton in Sutton to Peter Davenport for his life.
Sell all his silver plate to pay debts. Rents in arrears at time of his death also to be set against
debts. Total amount raised will be sufficient to discharge debts.

To Hon John Legh of Adlington, one guinea for a mourning ring. To his sister Mrs Katherine Poole
a mourning hood and scarf - she having no occasion for anything more.

To sister, Mrs Jane Shelley of Congleton £10, including the £5 left in the Will of my cousin

Mrs Elizabeth Stanley of Macclesfield.

To nephew, Marmaid Etty of Coleman St. London £4.

To tenant, Thomas Smith of Henbury, £5. To servant, Elizabeth Leah, £10. His other servant John ffurnival

40/-.

To John ffalkner of Capstone & Thomas Shrigley of Worth. Each 1 guinea
Rev Mr William Hall, rector of Gawsorth and my friend Mrs Thomas Lunt of Macclesfield, each 1 guinea.

His son John (4) to sell a messuage and three closes lying in Siddington and leased from the late
dowager Lady Mohun for three lives, toward the payment of legacies.

The furniture & other goods in the house at Thornycroft shall remain there for son John and as to
horses, cattle & other goods in outbuildings & other hands, to his executors, equally to be divided.

To grand daughter in law & to three grandchildren, all rings & jewels in the little box tied up
within the great deal box wherein my plate now is. To three grandchildren, a broad piece of gold
of 25/- value now in a red silk purse in said box. To Rev Mr Allen, minister of Capstone and
headmaster of Macclesfield, a legacy of two guineas.

Codicil 27 Apr. 1726.

Six years ago the sum of £50 was up at interest by my direction for use of my son in law, Peter
Davenport and Mary his wife, my daughter, for the repayment my son John (4) Thornicroft became bound.
The debt still stands out and unpaid. Now to make good my undertaking for the discharge of the debt
I direct that the household goods in my house at Thornycroft shall stand charged with the debt but not
with the interest.

Edward Thornycroft. Sealed with Arms of Thornycroft.

No reason is known for the indebtedness of Edward (5) but as detailed later John (3) son of
his cousin John (2) who lived at Milcomb, Bloxham Oxon. (see Table 7) who lived 1691 until 1743 when
he died in the Kings Bench Prison (? debt) caused considerable property problems to the family and
John (3)'s sister, Elizabeth and her husband Roger Handasyde were involved in recovering family estates
which subsequently passed to the Siddington branch of the family.

John (4) bp 5.7.1687 bu. 26.12.1726 at Marton, married Eleanor, daughter and heiress of John Henshaw
of Henshaw Hall on 21.10.1712, and the estate and Arms of Henshaw passed to the Thornycroft family. (1726).
The history of the Henshaw family is given on the photostat (p399) of Earwakers 'History of Siddington'
and is contemporaneous with that of the Thornicroft's.

They had five children.

Henshaw bp 16.12.1713 bu 10.5.1780 who married Mary, daughter of James Marsden at Newton near
Manchester on 25.6.1741. She was buried 25.2.1774

Anne bp 26.11.1715 bur. 25.1.1795 at Capensthorpe. Married Rev George Everard, rector of
Heather, Leicestershire and incumbent of Capensthorpe by lic. 4.4.1758 at Prestbury.

Family of John (4) cont.

John bp 4.4.1717. bu 19.5.1718. Edward bu 15.4.1721 at Macclesfield. Eleanor bu 25.3.1769, John (4) died without making a will and administration was granted to his widow, Eleanor, on 7.1.1727 and her mother, Theodosia Henshaw of Thornicroft (widow of John Henshaw) & R. Lowdnes of Rochdale. Eleanor left a will dated 17.10.1759 and proved 14.5.1767.

She wished to be buried near her husband in Marton Chapel. Gives her daughter, Eleanor Thornicroft, all my books & all the rest & remainder of rents due to daughter Anne, wife of Rev George Everard, Clerk, and to daughter Eleanor equally. But I give to my daughter Eleanor her share for her sole and separate use.. She appoints her two daughters her executors. On 14.5.1767, Ann Everard & Eleanor Thornicroft, executed the will.

Henshaw bp 16.12.1713 bu 10.5.1780 married Mary, daughter of James Marsden at Newton, Manchester 25.6.1741 They had six children. Henshaw buried 28.7.1747. Mary bp 14.1.1749 bur. 25.9.1755.

James buried 25.9.1755

Edward (6) bp 4.11.1752. Buried 28.1.1817. Married (1) Frances, dau. of Bagot Read on 17.6.1781. She was buried on 6.1.1810. Married (2) Ann, dau. of James Murrell of Thetford widow of 3rd Viscount Barrington. She was buried 6.4.1816. Edward was buried 28.1.1817

He was the last of the Thornycroft's of Siddington and the line ended.

Eleanor bp. 4 1 1756 bur. 20.6.1823 Unmarried.

Ann bp 11.11.1757 bur. 6.9.1831. Unmarried.

Will of Henshaw Thornycroft. Proved at Chester 7.10.1780 and at London 2.11.1780 PCC PRO 11 1071 543 He appointed his son Edward (6) the sole executor. He left money out on Bonds etc to his son Edward together with the estate left by Mrs Handasyd to him and his heirs except £5000 apiece to his daughters over and above the £1000 left to them by their grandfather Marsden. All plate and towells that was my dear wife's to be equally divided between them and Edward. To Elizabeth Bull £10 per year to commence when she leaves the family. To Miss Molly Brosie, my god daughter £5. To sister Everard £10. To Mr Orin £100 for long & lasting friendship. To Miss Sussanna Broskie £10. To Hon. John Grey £10 In case my daughters marry any person who cannot make them a settlement at rate of 8% clear - I order my son Edward to put any money as her husband cannot make a settlement out on mortgage --them to receive interest for their own proper use.

The property interests of the Thornycrofts of Siddington from 13 th to 19th centuries

<u>SOURCES</u>	Historic	J.P.Earwaker	'East Cheshire - Past and Present 1887	13th c.to 19th c.
	Wills	Chester Record Office,	P.R.O.	
	Property	Acc 1120 Chester	R.O. Boxes of Thornycroft papers to c.1830 deposited by Potts & Ball,Solicitors 1963. Sorted but not indexed. 80pp of abstracts of Title deeds prepared in 1781 of property in London,Northants,Staffs,etc.	

During the period of 600 years from the first naming of the family at Siddington in the 13th c to the extinction of the line with the death of Edward (6) in 1817,the family held property as dwellings for themselves together with land used for their farming activities. The first record of the 13th c is that "Richard,lord of Siddington confirms and quit claims to Richard,son of Hamo de Thornicroft,all his rights in certain lands & tenements in a certain place named Thornicroft in Siddington, which William,grandfather of the said Richard (of Siddington) had given in frank marriage to the said Hamo de Thornicroft with Joan,daughter of the said William"

There is no further data on the family until 1510 when Edward (1) married Isabel Hurst. His grandson Edward (2) married Margery Swettenham in 1577 and died in 1631,leaving a Will with inventory of his property. Edward (2)'s son Edward (3) born 1579 died only six years after the death of his father,in 1637,also leaving a Will with inventory. These two sets of documents show that they lived in a two story house at Thornicroft,the layout being of a Hall and Parlour with a cross passage and Kitchen,Buttery entered from the passage. There was sleeping accomodation on the upper floor although on occasion the lower floor room was used as well to accomodate the larger family of Edward (3). The details of the wills and of the inventories are given on pp 25'26 on the Thornicrofts of Siddington and are not repeated here but both families had about 28 cattle 4 horses,pigs,sheep ,geese and poultry and raised crops of Barley,Oats and Hay but wheat is not mentioned. There estates were valued about £330 showing them to be minor gentry employing land workers and servants, but living essentially on the property they owned.

While Edward(3)'s son Edward (4),1614 to 1697, continued to live at Siddington his brother John (1), born 1617 died 1687,moved to London where he became a lawyer and married Dorethy, daughter of Sir John Howell,Recorder of London and became involved in property purchases there.

These are briefly listed below. They commence in 1658 in conjunction with Sir John Howell at the time of his marriage. After the great fire of London in 1666 which destroyed about one fifth of the City, he bought many sites (or tofts) of the burned building and further standing property.

Brief particulars of property purchased.

- 1658 Eoars Head Tavern and Messuage in Chancery Lane with Sir John Howell
- 1667 after fire Toft whereon the Bird in Hand had stood
- 1668 do the Arrow do
- 1668 do the Dagger do
- 1668 do The Sun do
- 1668 Toft in Friday Street
- 1668 Messuage in Little East Cheap
- 1668 Lease for toft for 45 yrs whereon a Messuage stood
- 1668 Title to House in St Michael Queenhithe
- 1669 Mortgage by demise for 99 yrs for a toft whereon the Dagger stood
- 1672 Conveyance of Messuage in Friday St called the Rose & Dagger
- Indenture between John(1) and Edmund Eyres Adderley & Thos. Thornicroft
- for assignment of mortgage in trust for John (1) "to attend the inheritance".
- In Feb.1686 a marriage settlement between John(1)'the elder',Eliz. his wife,John (2) their son,
- and Josiah Key being a settlement on John(2)'s marriage to Miss Elizabeth Key was signed.
- It involved One Messuage in Little East Cheap
- One Messuage on East side of Friday St and two other messuages in Friday St.
- One corner Messuage in Friday St and Old Fish St
- Two Messuages in St Michael Queenhithe
- 1685 An Indenture between Charles Amherst & John(1) conveyed the two messuages in
- St Michael Queenhithe.
- 1686 An Indenture between John(1) conveyed a toft whereon the Sun stood to William Adderley.
- 1688 John (1) died in 1687 and in 1688 there was an Indenture between his widow,Dorethy,Sir John Howell,
- John(2) Thornicroft, Henry Thornicroft (prob.John(2)'s cousin born 1639) and Sir John Selby for the
- release of a Messuage called the George in Chancery Lane

John (1),born 4.1.1617 was buried at Bloxham,Oxon. on 25.9.1687 and his son John 2 bp 16.11.1659 who married Elizabeth,daughter of Josiah Key of Milcomb,Bloxham,Oxon on 16.2.1686 at St Andrews, London,inherited the property.

John (2) was admitted to Cambridge University at the age 15 on June 15 1674 and admitted to Gray's Inn on 16.11.1675 and became a barrister in 1686. He was created a Baron on 12.8.1701 and was Sheriff of Oxfordshire in 1701 & 2. He did not continue his father's acquisitions of property in the City of London but set out to obtain the Manor of Stockwell (in S. London) and other property in Newington,Streatham & at Maldon in Surrey.

Stockwell. On 8.12.1699 an Indenture between Sir Peter Soames, Joanna his wife and Sir John Thornicroft 2 for the uses of a Messuage & Lands in Stockwell for 300 yrs. to John(2) and this was conveyed to him on 21.4.1702. On 29.8.1704 he obtained a further Messuage and lands there for a 1000 year term and in 1707 another messuage in Stockwell.

In 1706 he obtained land in Maldon and copy hold lands in Streatham followed in 1710 by a grant of land in Brixton Causeway. In May 1711 there was an assignment for 1000 yrs of further land in Streatham and at Brixton Causeway

John (2) who married Elizabeth Key in 1686 had three children who survived his death in 1725, Dorethy, Elizabeth whose dates of birth are not known and John (3) born 1691. On 21.1.1710 Elizabeth married Roger Peter Handasyde by licence and she and her husband will be referred to later with reference to the estate of John (3). On 12.4.1715 there was an indenture between Sir John (2) and Rt.Hon.Major General Thomas Handasyde to pay £3000 of the marriage portion settled on Elizabeth at her marriage to Roger Peter Handasyde.

John (2) had a sister Elizabeth bp 20.2.1660, who did not marry who is named several times between 1693 and 1718 over property transaccations in Burnham and Brookend. This is named for the first time on 22.12.1655 in an indenture to William Adderley, John(1) Thornicroft and Thomas Eyres Adderley for the assignment for 1000 yrs in trust for William Adderley and of messuage, cottage and one acre of land at Brookend. In 1693 an indenture assigns the property at Burnham to John (2) and Elizabeth (spinster) and this is conveyed in 1711. In 1715 and 1718 there is a further conveyance of two farms to John & Eliz. and in Nov 1718 an indenture between Elizabeth Thornicroft and John (2) for the assignment of a bond and judgement by way of an annuity on an estate at Brookend. In 1721 & 1722 the tenant recovers the messuage, cottage and land at Brookend called Lewin's Brookend Farm.

In 1716 Sir John(2) obtained a licence to make leases and on 25.10.1721 an indenture between Nicholas Pether and Sir John transferred the Manor of Vauxhall to John.

Milcomb On 11.2.1686 by indenture of John Thornicroft the elder, Josiah Key, articles of the marriage settlement of John (2) to Elizabeth Key and the settlement of the Manor of Milcomb and messuages & lands thereto belonging were signed so that at his death on 8.12.1725 Sir John (2) possessed property in London City, the Manors of Stockwell and Vauxhall, and lands in Maldon, Streatham and Brixton as well as the Manor of Milcomb, Bloxham in Oxfordshire.

Elizabeth Key was the daughter and sole heiress of Josiah Key.

Josiah Key was assigned the Messuage, farm and 14 yard lands (one yard land = 40 acres), a quarter part of another messuage & 17 yard lands (ie 1240 acres total) in 1673 and further lands to 1682. He died in 1695.

On 3.5.1699 the Message and lands at Milcomb were conveyed to Sir John (2) and further acquisitions of land are recorded. These are of $\frac{1}{2}$ yard lands (10 acres) in 1703, 04, 04, 06 and there was a feoffment (gift) of yard lands in Milcomb Fields in 1710. Apart from an indenture between Sir John Lambert and Sir John in 1723 for 'a covenant or further charge' there are no other records before his death on Dec 8th 1725.

In Bloxham Church there is a chapel named 'Milcomb Chapel' which contains memorials to John (1) and Dorethy his wife and also to Sir John (2) and his wife Elizabeth.

The first memorial to John (1) and Dorethy has an inscription :-

'This monument was erected by S'r John Thornicroft, baronett, their aforesaid eldest son as well out of the dutiful respect which he bore to his said parents, as upon account of their great piety, probity and virtue. The 7th day of October anno Domini 1725. This date is two months before Sir John(2)'s death on Dec 8th.

The second memorial which is more elaborate has a recumbent female figure, is to Sr John Thornicroft of Milcomb. He departed this Life Dec the sd Anno Domini 1725 in the 66th year of his Age'

This would have been erected by his son Sir John (3) within two or three years of the death in 1725.

Sir John (3) died on 23.6.1743 in the Kings Bench Prison. The Kings Bench Court of 12th century origin was the senior court and dealt with criminal and civil cases, especially those in which the King had an especial interest. It is most likely that Sir John (3) was imprisoned over a civil case involving debt but no details are known.

There are no papers in the title deeds of 1781 which deal with the activities of Sir John (3) but it is possible that information about the estate at Milcomb may be available in local records in Oxford but these have not been studied.

There are three deeds dealing with his estate prior to his death in 1743:-

10.11.1737. An indenture between Sir John (3) and Henry Foster being a deed of gift of the Manor of Teeton (in Northants). This would imply that this Manor was given to Henry Foster by John (3) and not as a financial transaction. (possibly a gambling debt?)

By 1741, John's activities were involving his sister Elizabeth who was married to Hon Lieutenant Roger Peter Handasyde as a deed of 17.6.1741 between them and George Sawyer, Sir John(3), Richard Sutton, & Roger Barnes(4th part) and Lyne Cuncer (5th part) is for a settlement of land at Walton on Thames.

The third deed is an indenture of 27.1.1743 between Roger P. Handasyde & Elizabeth (1st pt) and Lyne Cuncer & Thos. Morris for the grant & release of the messuage & lands at Milcomb (to the latter).

After the death of Sir John (3) on 23.6.1743, Roger Peter Handasyde & his wife Elizabeth were active in settling and recovering the estate.

9.5.1745 an indenture between Henry Foster (who in 1737 received the Teeton estate) and R.P. Handasyde & Elizabeth assigned John(3)'s personal estate to them and also conveyed the Manor of Teeton and on

10.5.1745 'an estate in Northants'. On the same date John(3)'s widow, Terecia (née Bonnell) conveyed estates in St Georges Southwark and St Georges, Hanover Square London.

On 5.5.1747 an indenture between R.P.Handasyde & Elizabth (1st pt.) Thos Bridstock (2nd pt.) and Richard Sutton (3rd pt.) for a deed to be a precipe for the recovery of the capital messuage & lands at Milcomb. On 1.1.1749 an indenture between R.P.Handasyde & Elizabeth 1st Richard Glover (2nd pt) Edward Williams (3rd for a mortgage by demise(lease) for 1000 yrs. on the Milcomb estate for a security on £500.

On 13.3.1750 an indenture between Wm. Whitcher His wife Ann (1st pt.) Roger P.Handasyde & Elizabeth (2nd) and Thos Bridgstock (3rd) being an assignment of judgement obtained against Sir John (3) for £2500 in trust for Roger Peter Handasyde. The latter died in 1755 (will 12.1.1756) and there are no further references to Sir John (3)

Sir John(3) married Terceira(Theresa) Bonnell daughter of Andrew Bonnell who was buried aged 74 on 23 March 1756 and there were no children of the marriage so that John (3)'s sister Elizabeth who married Roger Peter Handasyde became heirs to the estate. They too had no children so the estate reverted to the Thornycroft family of Siddington.

Siddington Edward (4) of Siddington was the elder brother of John (1) discussed above. Edward (4) (1614 to 1697) was succeeded at Thornycroft Hall by Edward (5) (bp 1656 bu. 1726)and in turn by John (4) (1687 to 1726)who was contemporary with John (3) at Milcomb (1691 to 1743)

In 1743 John (4)'s son Henshaw (1713 to 1780) was head of the Siddington family.

Evidence of the reversion of the Milcomb property to the Siddington family is shown by two deeds:-

The deed of 1.1.1749 detailed above whereby Roger Peter Handasyde and his wife Elizabeth arranged a mortgage on the Milcomb estate using it as security followed by an indenture on 1.2.1749 when they obtained a mortgage for 1000yrs'by way of appointing a messuage,farm and lands at Milcomb for recovering £1000!

On 1.3.1774 an indenture between Mary Walton 1st pt. Henshaw Thornicroft 2nd pt. and John Davenport 3rd is an arrangement of mortgage for 1000 yrs in trust for Henshaw Thornycroft In his will,proved at Chester on 5.10.1780 and at PCC in November refers to the estate left to him by and his heirs by Mrs Handasyde as well as other moneys.

His heir was Edward (6) born 4.11.1752 who had two sisters Eleanor b 4.1.1756 & Ann b.11.11.1757 During the latter part of his life,Henshaw Thornycroft was in receipt of substantial sums of money as well as property from the recovery of Milcomb,Teeton and London properties from the estate of John (3).

An inventory about the time of his death in 1780 shows property at Thornycroft Hall,Siddington, Henbury & Pexhall close to Siddington,Gawsworth,Smethwick Hall, Henshaw Hall,Sutton (near Macclesfield, Brereton and Macclesfield -all nearby in Cheshire. In Northamptonshire there was the Manor of Teeton.

In Oxfordshire the Milcomb property and in London some residue of the property acquired by John(1) in 1670 as well as property in Brixton Causway and at Lambeth.

He had also received property from his mother Eleanor,heirress to the Henshaw estate,and from the Handasyde Will.

Henshaw Thornycroft used the moneys coming to him to purchase tenements, land and tithes from which he would draw an income but which was not used for his personal residence. The site of these purchases was in north Staffordshire in the moorland areas lying to the east of Leek to the boundary with Derbyshire.

3.5.1770 Indenture relating to lands in Hope in parish of Alstonfield Staffs & title deed relating to Beresford, Ecton, Morredge & Basford between John Davenport of Ball Hayes and Edward Thornycroft (son of Henshaw) for absolute purchase of freehold farm, tenements & tithes for £8100

1773 Fernyhill & Basford in parish of Cheddleton from John Davenport to Henshaw Thornycroft value 1773 £3359.9.7.

13.2.1777 Conveyance of lands in Ecton, Beresford, Hope in Alstonfields

25.1.1780 Conveyance of messuage, lands & tithes from John Bagnall of Pipe Hall, Staffs & John Davenport of Ball Hayes to Henshaw Thornycroft for £5100

1.6.1780 Messuage & land in Leasons situate on Morredge & piece of land enclosed from Morredge

Henshaw was buried on 10.5.1780 and Edward (6) who was destined to be the last male of the family succeeded him to the property. He was to marry Miss Frances Read in 1781 and also to rebuild Thornycroft Hall in the near future so this was probably the reason he undertook a major revision of his estates.

On 16.8.1780 an indenture between Edward, the only son and heir of Henshaw Thornycroft of Thornycroft and Charles Potts of Chester on 2nd part and John Davenport of Ball Hayes Staffs on 3rd part transferred all the capital messuage of Hall of Thornycroft and its lands.

These comprised 14 messuages, 10 cottages, 10 gardens, 10 orchards, 170 acres of land, 110 acres of meadow, 170 acres of pasture, 40 acres of water, 50 acres of woodland, 100 acres of furze & heath, common pasture & common of Turbary with appurtenances situate in Thornycroft, Siddington, Henbury, Pexall, Gawsorth Smethwick, Henshaw, Sutton (Macclesfield) Brereton and Macclesfield.

This was between Charles Potts, demandant; John Davenport, tenant and Edward Thornycroft voucher. It was verified at the Session Pleas on 25 8 1780 of the release made by Edward Thornycroft and the above named with John Davenport being the demandant and not tenant and Charles Potts, tenant.

This procedure was in general use until 1841 for the transfer of property to avoid paying duty to the Crown. The Freeholder leased his land, usually for a year to an occupier who had entered it by a deed of grant (Release), the freeholder holding for himself a future interest (a Reversion) and eventually the freeholder was able to sell his reversion to the purchaser without payment of relief (the duty).

In the list of properties of Edward (6) is Sutton near Macclesfield. Edward (2) Thornycroft who died in 1631 had a first born son Edward (3) bp 1579 who succeeded him at Thornycroft Hall and died in 1637, and also a second son William (1) who founded a branch of the family who lived at Macclesfield.

William (1) married Ann Watson at Taxal in 1613 and had one son William (2) baptised in 1615. He married Ann Smith at Macclesfield in 1635 and had nine children, the first being John (1) born 1636. (See section on Macclesfield for details). He married Mary Bennett in 1665 and died in 1689 leaving a family.

Both he and his father William (2) lived at Blakelow Farm at Sutton near Macclesfield and left Wills naming their residence as Blakelow and the family baptised their children as 'of Blakelow or of Sutton' until 1702. Edward (5) who died in 1726 sold two copyhold messuages in Sutton. Thus the connection of the Thornycroft's with Sutton and Blakelow Farm existed from c 1615 until c 1781 and the farm can be found on the current O.S. Map.

Another held by the family is Smethwick Hall in the nearby parish of Smethwick & Brereton.

Bagshaws Gazetteer of 1850 states that the Manor of Smethwick was given to Ralph Brereton about the reign of King John and that the Hall in 1850 was of considerable dilapidated and used as a farm building formerly surrounded by a moat and has a chapel attached. Lysons 'Cheshire' in 1810 states that the Smethwicks became extinct in 17th c. and that the Hall was purchased by Thornycroft.

On 25.3.1707 Edward (5) Thornycroft leased the 'Capital messuage & Farm called Smethwick' to Thomas Palphreyman for 21 years at annual rent of £200.

On 6.2.1717 Edward (5) released on deed of sale three houses in Smethwick to his son John & Eleanor (Henshaw) whom he had married in 1712. The Smethwick estate continued in possession of Edward (6) and his two sisters Eleanor & Ann and after their death was sold to Sir Charles Shakerley by the Rev John Thornycroft (Mytton) who had inherited under Edward (6)'s will.

In June 1781 Edward (6) made certain settlements in connection with his marriage to Miss Frances Read. 1.6.1781 he made a Bond with his two sisters, Eleanor & Ann in the sum of £20,000 for a debt of £10,000 and on the same date a mortgage to them to secure repayment of £10,000 at 4½%.

On 11/12.6.1781 the marriage settlement on Frances Read of estates in Cheshire, Oxford and Northants between Edward (6) 1st part, Frances Read, spinster, 2nd part, Hon John Grey & Bagot Read, 3rd part and Hugh Haywood & Edward Read 4th part was completed. The marriage took place on 17.6.1781.

On 6.10.1786 an indenture between Aline Piricke & Ann & Edward Thornycroft (2nd part) transferred the real & personal Estate left to him under the will of Mrs. Elizabeth Handasyde and this may have included messuages & land at Walton on Thames assigned in trust for Roger Peter Hanasyde in 1731.

In 1786 a list of unexpired leases in Edward(6) estate was prepared:-

21.1.1762 Messuage & land in Stockwell. Elizabeth Handasyde & John Ready for 31 years.Expires 1793
3.12.1763 Barnhill House & land in Lambeth. Elizabeth Handasyde & John Pettner. 31years Expires 1794
2.3.1772 Two messuages,Brixton Causeway. Elizabeth Hanasyde & Chas.Basford 31 yrs expires 1803.
10.5.1771 Messuage & land in Brixton Causeway. Elizabeth Handasyde & Thomas Triton 21 yrs expires '92
26.3.1772 House in Little Eastcheap. Elizabeth Handasyde & John Garford. 21 years expires 1793.

Disposal of Stockwell,London and Teeton Northants properties.

11.10.1811 Sale notice,printed, to be sold by Edward(6). Sale of freehold estate at Teeton,Northants
at Goat Inn. Lot 1 50 acres,sold to Thos Burton of Northampton £7600
2 64 acres
3 83 acres
4 Four cottages at Teeton sold for £4680 & £4810 to John Abbot,Derby

14.9.1813 Deed of Covenant.C.C.Hall to Sir Edward Thornycroft. Estate at Stockwell has been
purchased from Edward (6)

Frances,first wife of Edward (6) died on 29.12.1809 and on 1.2.1812 he married Ann,daughter of James Murrell of Thetford,widow of 3rd Viscount Barrington at Uley,Gloucestershire. She was buried at Gawsworth on 6.4.1816 and Edward(6) her husband died shortly afterwards on 20.1.1817. He had two sisters Eleanor,who died on 20.6.1823 and Ann, who died on 6.9.1831. Both were co-heiresses to Thornycroft but neither married and so the family became extinct.

In his will made on 18 ,5.1815 and proved at the P.C.C. on 9.6.1817 (PROB 11 1593 337) he left the estate to his sisters for their life and then to their children and in default of these to his friend the Reverend Charles Mytton of Eccleston and to the sons of him and his late wife Henrietta. He was to take actual possession of the estate within 6 months and to use the name and Arms of Thornycroft 'Which I now use'. After the death of Ann,the last surviving sister,on 6.9.1831, Charles Mytton took the name and Thornycroft arms and this was confirmed by Royal Licence on 29 October 1831. The details of the Mytton Thornycroft families are given in the text under the Siddington section. They lived at Thornycroft Hall to the end of the 19th cent.but also had other properties of which details can be found in Burkes 'Landed Gentry' 1914.

Edward (6) sold many of the properties which had been accumulated by the family and with the money made financial provision for his sisters and also rebuilt Thornycroft Hall on its present site. No details of the rebuilding have been found and the last description of the Hall is that given in the inventories of Edward (2) & (3) of 1637.

This building is of timber and of the traditional 'manor house' layout so possibly erected in the 15th c so there may have been an intermediate building between the timber framed house and the present one. This was probably built between 1781 and 1790 and at the same time ornamental pools were created by damming a small stream in the grounds and these are shown as 'Thornycroft Pools' on O.S. maps

When the Myttons occupied the Hall they 'considerably enlarged' it about 1834 and a description of 1850 indicates it as a fine Regency building in white stucco in a park of about 70 acres. The building in 1975 is of this description and was probably refurbished at the end of the 19th cent. It is now owned by the Pallotine order of nuns and used by them as a home for children from Manchester and it has been renamed 'Pallotti Hall' on the O.S.map.