

Castle Camps on the Cambs/Suffolk border nr Haverhill was a large (4 miles perimeter) fortified estate originally owned by the Earl of Oxford. It was his family's greatest asset but in the 16th cent. he had to sell up or go bust. James Reynolds heard about it from his friend Thomas Martin, a former London Mayor, and leased it in 1639 from the estate of Thomas ('rich-as-Croesus') Sutton, a coalmine-owning money-lender and founder of the famous Charterhouse school (*extant*) and hospital. Reynolds saw the moated castle as a defensible HQ



Castle Camps was a safe retreat for the family during the Civil War
Copper line engraving on paper c.1769 for the part-work publication 'England Displayed' (pub. London 1769-70). © London Metropolitan Archive

after he and his family threw their futures behind the Parliamentary cause. Dr Nicholas Grey (d. 1660) rector of Castle Camps was the first head of Charterhouse. The school sold all of the estate except Castle Farm and Manor in 1919.

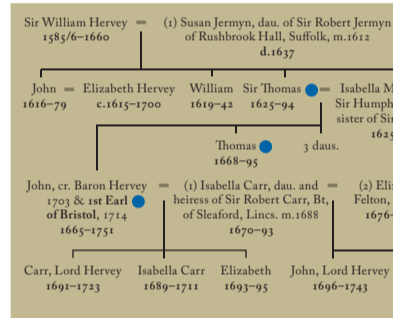
School was the key for sons of Suffolk society

Throwing in their lot with Oliver Cromwell and the Parliamentarians was a high-risk decision for our Reynolds of Suffolk.

Since arriving in Ipswich perhaps 150 years earlier as Protestant refugees from northern France, their faith in Calvin's philosophy had hardened into Puritanism and their fortunes as sheep farmers and cloth-makers had flourished in a region that was at the zenith of its power and influence.

James Reynolds, a direct descendant of those who established our family in the area, was progenitor of the Reynolds who took their chance with destiny in the Cromwellian era as the 'simple folk' of East Anglia harboured treacherous thoughts about challenging the Divine Right of a much-disliked king.

With astute foresight he put aside the huge landholding he had amassed around Bumpstead, Olmstead and Ashdon on the Cambs/Suffolk



border, and leased the fortified Castle Camps estate nearby where he thought his family could be safe during the coming conflict.

He gladly gave his own efforts to the Republican cause and two of his sons – Robert as an expert in the law and John in the military – rose to the very top of Parliament's revolutionary regime. Together with other Reynolds including Edward, later the Puritan bishop of Norwich, and several powerful Protestant relatives in Ireland, the family presented Cromwell with one of his most influential support networks during the Civil War.



1st Earl of Bristol an oil by John Fayram

Remarkably, when it was all over, and despite the many bloody recriminations that followed, each of our Reynolds survived to regain their political as well as their physical careers, except for John – lately General Sir John – who had drowned at sea towards the end of the Commonwealth phase.

The family's focus then shifted onto Bury St Edmunds, where in a remarkable insight into the rebuilding of local family ties and relationships, there is no need to look further than the alumni of the town's grammar school.³

Taking their lead from formidable headmasters Dr Edward Leeds (1663-1707) and John Randall (1707-1715), it is possible to see how, in the post-war years, the sons of Suffolk society – including many from the Reynolds clan – established friendships and talents that would keep them together in the challenging years ahead... not just in Bury, but in London too.

Early Reynolds in Suffolk – see Storyboard 6

Taken from actual school rolls, the nucleus (with DoBs) included: John Hervey (1665), the later 1st Earl of Bristol; his son Charles (1703) and younger brother Thomas (1668); James Reynolds (1686) later Lord Chief Baron, his brothers William and Robert, and his nephew, also James (1674), a Chief Justice in Ireland; Thomas Hanmer (1677), who would become Mr Speaker in the Commons; several of the Calthorpe family including Reynolds Calthorpe (1655) who married his cousin in Westminster Abbey; the Frere relatives Edward (1680) and Sheppard (c 1711); and brothers Thomas (1740) and possibly Henry (1750) Bunbury, sons of the baronet Rev Sir William Bunbury of Mildenhall.

The roll-cast was impressive by any standards, and certainly for a school of little recognition in the provinces. But as the 18th century flowered into a new age of Georgian extravagance and London dismissed all rivals to its supremacy, history records how those same sons of Suffolk kept their careers afloat and their friendships intact.

Several of our Reynolds married into the family of John Hervey, the Earl of Bristol – Dame Dorothy May (nee Reynolds) was a maternal aunt, being

THE CROMWELL REYNOLDS AND THEIR SUCCESSORS

JAMES REYNOLDS (Sir),

1570-1650

Olmstead Green & Castle Camps

Descended from the Reynolds of East Bergholt and Shotley

Landowner and farmer in Cambs, Essex & Suffolk

Queens College, Cambs 1583

Knighted April 28 1618

'one of Cromwell's admirals'¹

= (1) Margaret Milbourne of Dunmow, Essex, an heiress.

= (2) Jane Lestrange Mordaunt of Massingham Parva June 12 1620 Norfolk and Turvey & Oakley, Bedford.

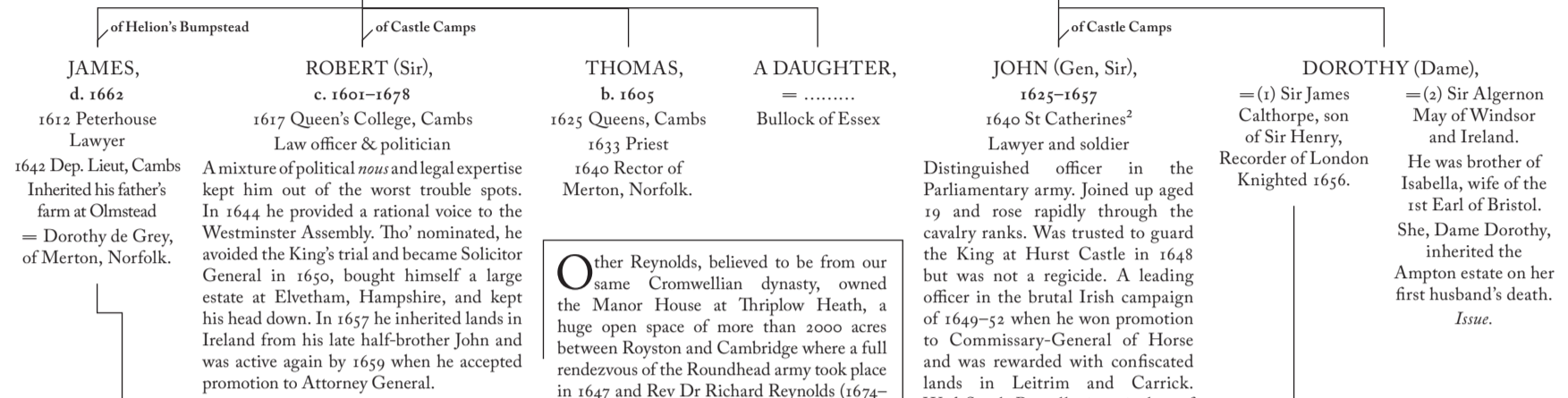
• Burford plaque

To the Memory of Three Lovellers
Cornet THOMPSON
Cornet PERKINS
Private CHURCH
Executed and buried in this Churchyard
17th May 1649

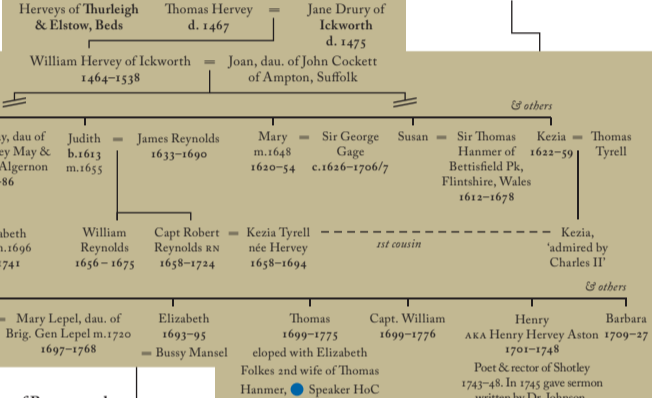
• Sir John Reynolds from a stipple engraving by Robert Cooper



Reynolds' democratic views about grievances on pay and conditions by 'Loveliers' in the army deceived colleagues at Burford in the Cotswolds in 1649. Faced with a potential mutiny by about 300 men, officers corralled them into a church and had three of them executed as an 'example'. Then, as another escaped, Reynolds led a 65-mile manhunt on horseback until the soldier was cornered and shot dead in woods near Northampton. The episode is still remembered each year at Burford.



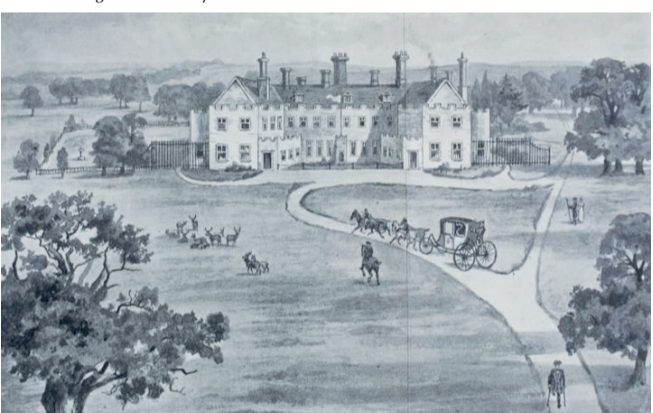
Adapted from the Hervey Family Tree



Other Reynolds, believed to be from our same Cromwellian dynasty, owned the Manor House at Thriplow Heath, a huge open space of more than 2000 acres between Royston and Cambridge where a full rendezvous of the Roundhead army took place in 1647 and Rev Dr Richard Reynolds (1674-1744) another *Old Burian* • who became Bishop of Lincoln and lived in some style at Paxton Hall near St Neots.

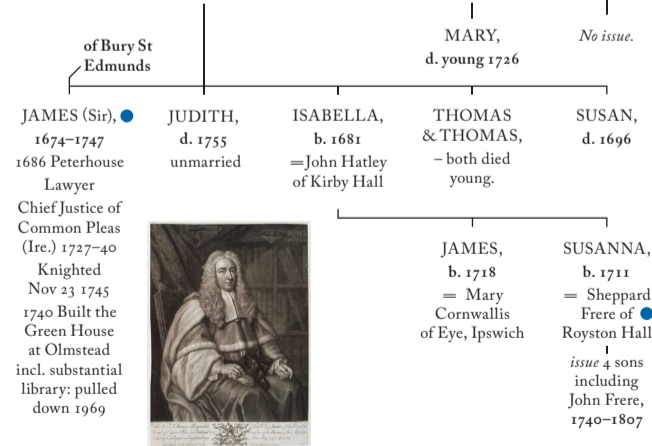
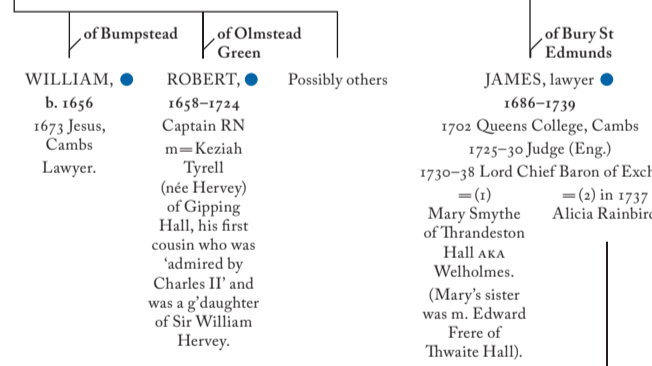
Sources: VCH 'Parishes: Thriplow', *A History of the County of Cambridge and the Isle of Ely: Volume 8* (1982), pp. 238-248. VCH 'Parishes: Little Paxton', *A History of the County of Huntingdon: Volume 2* (1932), pp. 332-337

• Below: The great house in 1780



Three miles from Bury and still standing in magnificent splendour, 'sweet Ickworth' as the 1st Earl called it, is the ancestral home of the Suffolk Herveys. Other significant local family estates in the 17th/18th centuries included: Ampton (Calthorpe/Reynolds), Mildenhall (Hanmer/Bunbury), Gipping (Tyrrells), Great Barton (Hanmer/Bunbury), Rushbrooke Hall (Jermyns), Belstead (Reynolds), Thwaite Hall and Roydon Hall (Freres)

JAMES, 1633-1690
1647 Magdalene
= (1) 1655 Judith (20 years his senior) eldest daughter of Sir William Hervey
= (2) 1682 Bridget Parker

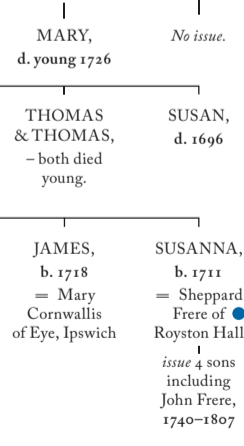
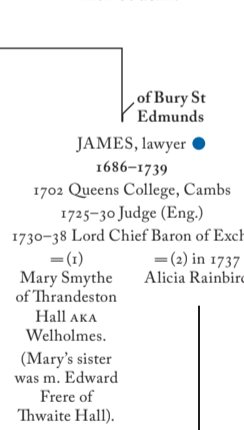


married to his mother's brother; James Reynolds, oldest son of the scion of Castle Camps, married his sister Judith and became a favourite uncle; William and Capt Robert Reynolds, the sons of James and Judith, were his cousins.

The venerable Earl – who lived for 86 long years until 1751 – was, with our noted judge James Reynolds, a leader of the civic establishment in Bury, but ironically, it was his generous patronage and love of art which helped another of our best-known Reynolds to flourish within the circle.

Young Joshua, lately arriving in London on a quest to become the leading artist of fashionable

PRISCILLA, 1650-1709
= (1) Sir Richard Knight of Chawton, Hampshire
= (2) Reynolds Calthorpe, her cousin.



society, was grateful for introductions to suitable sitters by the Earl and his noble descendants, and by the Suffolk set too – now with additional homes bought or rented in town 'for the season' – including the Hammers, Bunburys, Calthorpes and Freres. Joshua, up from Devon, with an endearing personality and having contacts of his own with Suffolk connections like his early patron Adml Keppel, the Hornecks and Lord Edgcombe, was soon welcomed into the *beau monde*. There was too, the veritable anglo-Irish Elizabeth Vesey whose line stretched directly back to our original religious refugee Reynolds in Suffolk, and who now became one of Sir Joshua's two most important hostesses among the glitterati of London and 'blue-stocking' (female authors) society. But that is another story...



Judge Reynolds, the Lord Chief Baron, from William Parker's portrait at the Guildhall, Bury St Edmunds. In a celebrated case in 1718, James Reynolds argued for the Prince of Wales to have responsibility for the education of his own children. But the verdict – that the King's royal prerogative had precedence – went against him. [Source: State trials vi 1203]

HENRY GOUGH (Sir), AKA Lord Calthorpe from 1796 NB: He inherited the Elvetham estate (see Sir Robert Reynolds) provided he took the surname of his uncle Henry Calthorpe.

• The memorial to Chief Justice James Reynolds at All Saints Castle Camps



Footnotes:
1. Sir James Reynolds was described as 'one of Cromwell's admirals' by son-in-law James Calthorpe in the family pedigree. This may mean him being a *soldier* admiral – a commander of army men serving aboard fighting ships (aka early Royal Marines)
2. John Reynolds attended Sidney Sussex (Oliver Cromwell's old college) according to a recent official prospectus/review [source: *Secret Sidney – a brief historical sketch* by Richard Humphreys] whereas Venn has him at St Catherine's.
3. The 'free grammar school' founded at Bury c.1550 is today a co-ed secondary called King Edward VI School. Members of the alumni association are called *Old Burians*

Reference sources of great assistance in preparing this article included:
The Diary of John Hervey, First Earl of Bristol with extracts from his Book of Expenses, 1688 to 1742 Edited by Sydenham Henry Augustus Hervey with appendices and notes (Wells, 1894)
Biographical list of Boys educated at King Edward VI Free Grammar School, Bury St Edmunds, from 1550-1900 Edited by Rev SHA Hervey (Bury St. Edmunds, 1908).

Old Burians are denoted thus •
Portraits in Suffolk Houses (West) By Rev Edmund Farrer, rector of Hinderclay, Suffolk (London, 1908) and some unpublished notes and mss at the Suffolk RO marked Portraits in Suffolk Houses East by Rev Edmund Farrer (vol 1 Botesdale, 1921)

*Known familiarly as SHAH, the author was b. 1846 a son of Rt Rev Lord Arthur Hervey, Bishop of Bath & Wells.