

JOHN PHILIPOT, M.P., SOMERSET HERALD, 1624-1645.

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If one considers the English heralds with an eye to their county associations one cannot fail to be struck by the prominent place taken by the county of Kent in the 16th and 17th centuries. During the eighty years from 1565 to 1645 no less than eight of the heralds, and these by no means the least eminent, were connected with Kent, to wit: Sir John Borough of Sandwich, Garter 1633-43; William Camden of Chiselhurst, Clarenceux 1597-1623; Robert Glover of Ashford, Somerset 1570-1588; John Philipot of Folkestone and Eltham, Somerset 1624-1645; Humphrey Hales of Canterbury, York 1587-1591; Ralph Broke, York 1592-1625, buried at Reculver; Francis Thynne, Lancaster 1602-1608, born in Kent and educated at Tonbridge; and Sampson Lennard of Chevening, Bluemantle 1616-1633. In the latter half of the 17th century the heralds' connexion with Kent is less remarkable, but even then the names of John Gibbon of Rolvenden, Bluemantle 1671-1718, and Robert Plot of Sutton Barne in Borden, Mowbray 1695-1696, will certainly catch the eye. Of these ten men only Hales has not been deemed worthy of a place in the *D.N.B.*

Whatever may be true of the others the existing accounts of Philipot leave much to be desired. The best is the "Memoir of John Philipot the Herald" by Canon Scott Robertson,¹ but that needed some corrections, and it has been largely supplemented from other sources, both printed and manuscript. Specially valuable material has been obtained from MSS. in the College of Arms, for the use of which I tender my warm thanks to Sir Algar Howard and the Chapter of the College. I have also to thank Mr. R. H. D'Elboux and Mr. A. R. Wagner, Richmond Herald, for valuable criticisms and suggestions.

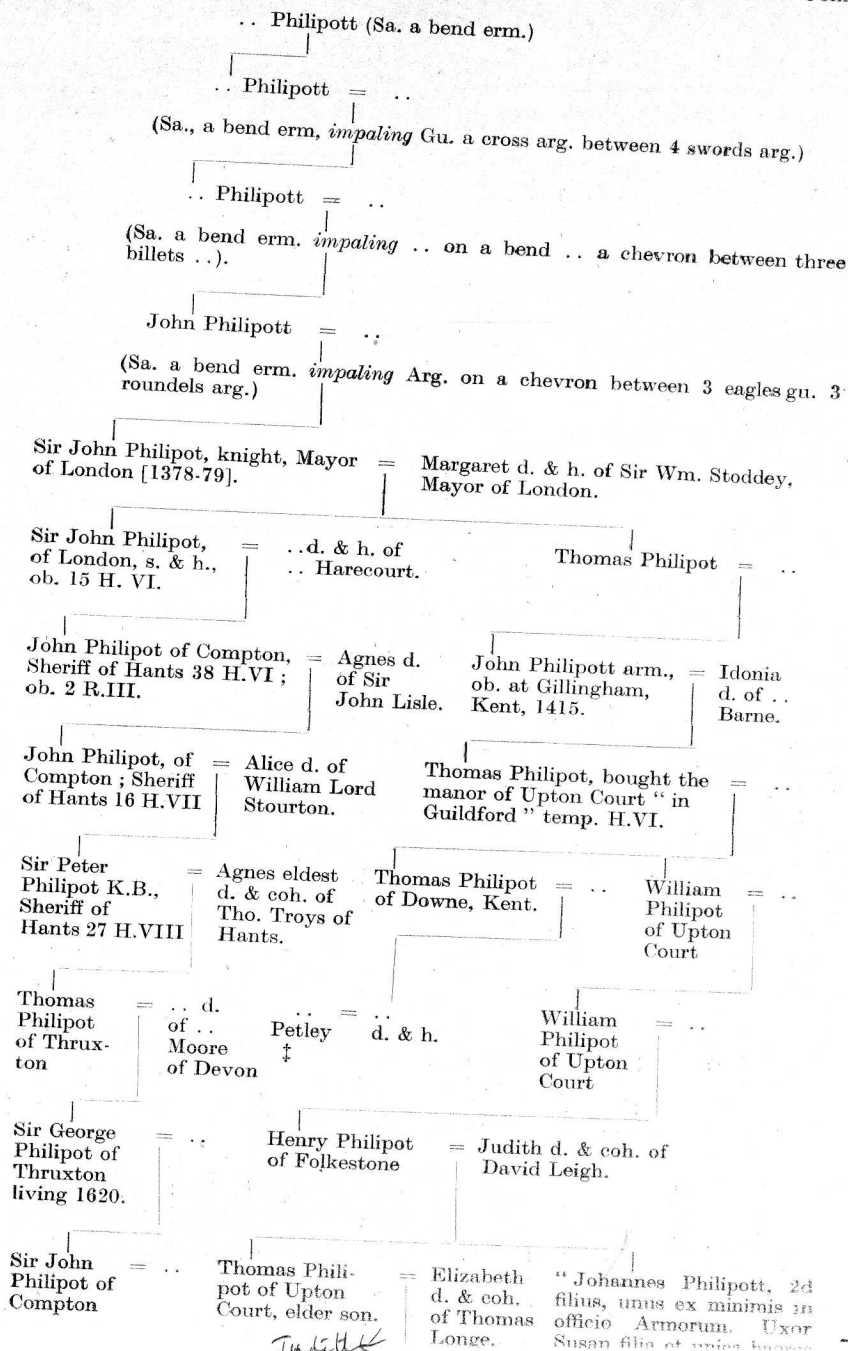
The usual form of the family name in Somerset's day was PHILPOT, but he himself revived and habitually used the older trisyllable PHILIPOT, in token no doubt of his alleged descent from a younger son of Sir John Philipot, Mayor of London at the time of the peasants' revolt. This descent is set out by Somerset² as in Pedigree A.

¹ *Arch. Cant.* Vol. X (1876) pp. lxxxvi-xcv. This is cited hereafter as *SR.* Thompson Cooper's memoir of Philipot in the *D.N.B.* is little more than an abridgement of Scott Robertson's paper.

² College of Arms MS. Ph. I: 81 © ff. 27b-29. This is a very elaborate draft for a roll pedigree following female and other lines. Only a small portion is given here. According to the heading it was prepared by Philipot, then Rouge Dragon, in 1620 and presented as a "symbolum amicitiae et amoris perpetui tesseram inclitissimo cognato suo D. Johanni Philipott de Compton in Corn. Southampton". A pedigree of the Compton Philipots was recorded at the 1622 Visitation of Hampshire, C/A MS. C 19 f. 16, but it does not appear in the Harleian Society's edition (Vol. 64) which was printed from one of Richard Mundy's MSS., Brit. Mus. MS. Harl. 1544. (Note. The contraction C/A is used hereinafter for College of Arms.)

PEDIGREE A.

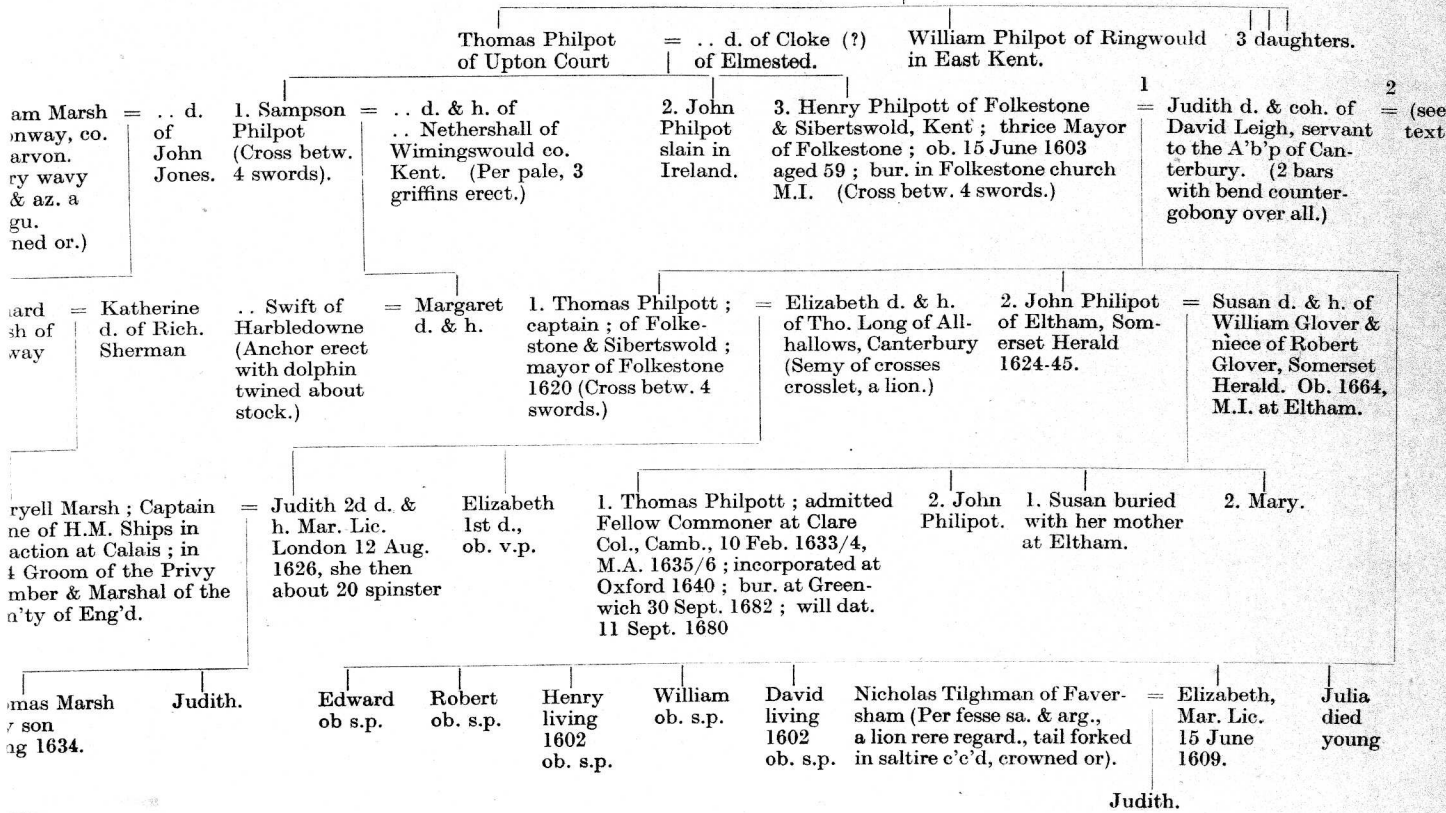
Extracted from College of Arms MS. Ph. I: 81 ©, f. 27b *seq.*, a pedigree compiled by John Philipot, Rouge Dragon, in 1620, for his kinsman Sir John Philipot of Compton.



→ Thomas P.

PEDIGREE B.

William Philpott of Sibertswold, Kent = ..



Somerset himself recorded short pedigrees at the 1619 Visitation of Kent¹ and at the 1634 Visitation of London.² Other pedigrees are to be found in the Philpott and Townsend collections in the College of Arms.³ Pedigree B has been compiled from these MSS. with the addition of some details given in the course of this paper.

The Philpotts were a respectable family long settled in Kent, and seem to have been allied to the Oxendens, for Henry Oxenden of Barham alludes to Somerset as "my Cozin Philpot the Herald",⁴ and Somerset addresses Sir James Oxenden as "Noble Cosen".⁵ Philpott's jealousy for what Mrs. Dorothy Gardiner calls the magic ring of the East Kent gentry⁶ is amusingly revealed in a letter written in 1639, in which after referring to Thomas Marsh of Brandreth, he adds: "In the meane tyme I here that his Sonne that did marry Henry Saunders daughter hath bin with Sir John Borough Garter King of Armes to get himselfe adorned with a coate; they say it is don, but I am no wayes partie to it I thank God."⁸

Somerset was born at Folkestone in 1588 or 1589.⁹ He was the second son of Henry Philpot of Folkestone and Sibertswold, by his wife Judith Leigh.¹⁰ Henry Philpot was thrice Mayor of Folkestone. He possessed considerable property there and was lessee of the rectorial tithes. He died in 1603 and was buried in Folkestone parish church, where

¹ C/A MS. C 16 f. 281. There is no Philpott pedigree in the printed versions of this Visitation.

² C/A MS. C 24 f. 458; Harl. Soc. vol. 17, pp. 82, 163.

³ C/A MSS. Ph. 27 f. 70v; Ph. 24 f. 57 and FT. 11 ff. 94-95. The first of these is in Somerset's own hand and gives various details not found elsewhere. The first two generations of Pedigree B are taken from it; it will be noticed that they differ from the corresponding part of the MS. copied in Pedigree A.

⁴ *Genealogist*, N.S. Vol. 31, p. 131.

⁵ *Oxinden Letters* 1607-42, edited by Dorothy Gardiner, London, 1933, p. 47, letter dated 1 Oct. 1632.

⁶ *Ibid.*, Introduction, p. xv.

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 156.

⁸ For the Marshes of Brandreth see "Some Notice of Various Families of the name of Marsh" by G.E.C. (Supplement to the *Genealogist*, N.S. Vols. 16 and 17, pp. 13 seq.) If G.E.C. is right in thinking that Thomas Marsh of Langdon to whom arms were confirmed by Segar, Garter, was grandfather of the Thomas of Brandreth to whom Philpott alludes, it is difficult to understand why this Thomas's son should have thought it necessary to approach Borough "to get himself adorned with a coate".

⁹ Mr. Percival Boyd, F.S.A., suggests 1588, as 16 was the usual age for apprenticeship and Philpott was bound apprentice in June 1604 (see below), R. R. C. Gregory in *The Story of Royal Eltham* (London 1909, p. 265) says that he was born in 1589, but he gives no authority for that date.

¹⁰ 1634 Visitation of London, see Pedigree B.

he was commemorated by a brass plate in the south chancel aisle with this inscription :

HERE LYETH BVRIED THE BODY OF HENRY PHILPOT
GENT: WHO WAS THRICE MAIOR OF THIS TOWNE
HE HAD TO WIFE IUDITH BY WHOM HE HAD 7. SONES
AND 2. DAUGHTERS & HE DYED THE 15TH DAY OF IVNE
A° DNI 1603. AETATIS SVAE .59.
VOTUM DVM VIXIT, PHILIPP. 1. 23.
HANC ANIMAM CUPIO DE CORPORE MORTE RESOLVI
VNVS APVD CHRISTUM SEMPER VT ESSE QVEAM.¹

From his will, dated in 1602,² we learn that John was then a boy at school. His mother and the executors were directed to keep him at school and to pay for his education out of the proceeds of eighteen acres of land in Romney Marsh. When his education was completed he was to be apprenticed to such trade as the executors thought most fit. On attaining his majority he was to receive a sum of money equivalent to five years' profits of the said land. So long as his mother lived he was to be paid £10 a year, but on her death the houses and lands in Folkestone which had been bequeathed to her were to pass to him. To his eldest brother, Thomas, was left a house in which he lived and leases of the rectorial tithes and parsonages of Coldred and Folkestone. To the two younger brothers, David and Henry, sums of money were left, payable on their majority. In addition to these four sons the will mentions one daughter, Elizabeth, who married Nicholas Tilghman of Faversham and had a daughter named Judith.³ The other four children evidently died before their father; they were three sons, Edward, Robert and William, and one daughter, Julia.

Judith Philpot survived her husband, and may probably be identified with the Judith Philpott of Old Romney, widow, licence for whose marriage to Thomas Stock of Milsington, yeoman, was issued on 21 September 1611.⁴ She is certainly identical with the Judith Philpott of Bekesbourne, widow, about 50, relict of Henry Phillipott late of Folkestone gent., deceased, who married Robert Deering of Egerton. Licence for this marriage, to be solemnized at Bekesbourne, is dated 20 April 1622.⁵ Deering is described in the licence as a widower; he had in fact been married twice before.⁶

¹ W. D. Belcher, *Kentish Brasses*, Vol. II, 1905, p. 48, No. 149.

² SR p. lxxxvi; *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. X, p. lxxviii.

³ C/A MS. Ph. 27, f. 70v. Marriage licence dated 15 June 1609, Nicholas Tilghman of Faversham and Elizabeth Philpot of Folkestone virgin, to be married at Newington (*Canterbury Mar. Licences*, edited by J. M. Cowper).

⁴ *Cant. Mar. Lic.*

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Berry's *Pedigrees, Kent*, p. 400.

He was an uncle of Sir Edward Dering, the antiquary.¹ I have not found when Judith died, nor has it been possible to trace her pedigree. Her father, David Leigh, was servant or secretary to the Archbishop of Canterbury, and her mother was an heiress of Hide.² David Leigh is said to be descended from Leigh of Adlington in Cheshire,³ and their arms were quartered by Somerset and his elder brother. Mr. D'Elboux suggests that David Lye of Bridge, whose will was proved in 1557⁴ might be Judith's grandfather, but proof is lacking. It may, however, be noted that Bridge is the next village to Bekesbourne where Judith was in 1622.

Thomas Philpot, Somerset's elder brother, is described in the 1620 pedigree as of Upton Court; in the 1634 Visitation of London he is of "Sheperswold"⁵. By his wife Elizabeth, daughter and sole heiress of Thomas Long of Allhallows, Canterbury, he had an only child, Judith, who married Gabriel Marsh and had issue living in 1634.⁶ He was Mayor of Folkestone in 1620.⁷

John, the future herald, left school about a year after his father's death, and on 20 June 1604 he was bound apprentice to Edmund Houghton, citizen and draper of London. He paid quarterage in 1610 and 1611, and was made free of the Draper's Company on 26 June 1611. On 1 April 1612 he bound John Langworth apprentice for eight years, and on 12 May 1613 he bound John Sheaffe for seven years.⁸ Those facts, when read in conjunction with the direction in his father's will and his description in his marriage licence (see below) suggest

¹ L. B. Larking says that Somerset helped Dering in his collection of materials for a history of Kent, and that his, Somerset's, hand is evident throughout Dering's Kent Church Notes (*Arch. Cant.* Vol. I p. 51). The latter statement seems to be quite unwarranted, and I have found nothing to corroborate the former.

² C/A MS. Ph. 27, f. 70v. The arms of Hide are tricked as three lozenges, presumably sable on argent.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ Canterbury Probates A, Vol. 32, f. 179.

⁵ I.e. Sibertswold or Shepherdswell, the parish in which Upton Court is situated (see Weaver, *Funeral Monuments*, ed. 1787, p. 64). But in the 1620 pedigree (see Ped. A) when Upton Court is first mentioned it is said to be in Guildford. Hasted on the other hand (Vol. IV, p. 3) says that the Philipotts after residing at Upton Court (in the manor of "Shebbertswell") sold it "before K. Henry VII's reign" to Guldeford, who alienated it soon after to Boys. Nor did the manor return to the Philipotts down to Hasted's own day. He goes on to say (p. 4) that at the time of writing, c. 1790, "the Manor House together with some of the demesne lands" belonged to the Earl of Guildford. This suggests that the original property had not been kept intact, and it is conceivable that the Philipotts had retained a portion in their own possession.

⁶ SR, p. lxxxvi.

⁷ *Arch. Cant.*, Vol. X, p. cxxiv.

⁸ Information of Mr. P. Boyd. For the Sheafes of Cranbrook, etc., see Howard and Hovenden, *Visitation of Kent 1663*, p. 16 seq.