

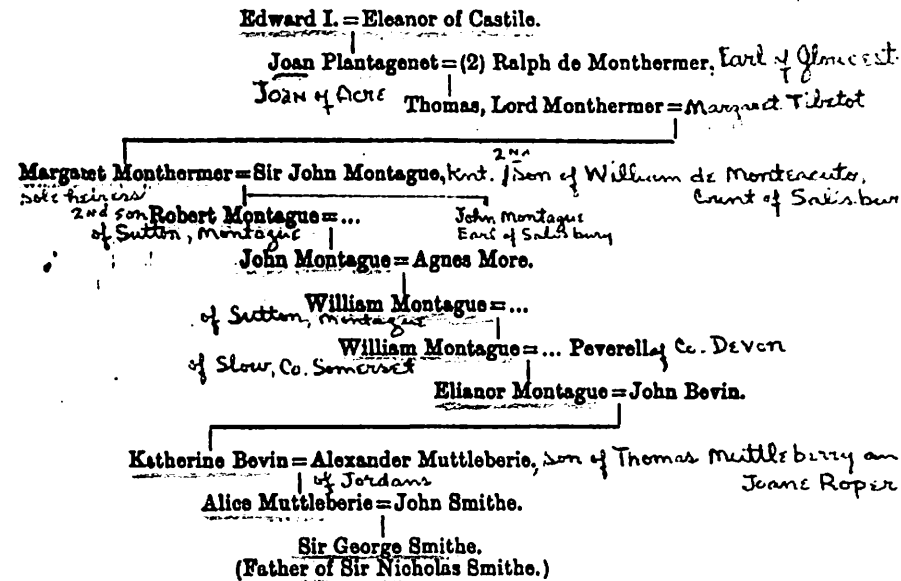
making of the West, and incidentally of its notable manufacturers, the Smiths.

Robert Smith, the Mayor of Exeter, had the honour of entertaining Edward IV. with his consort; and Isacke, in his "History of Exeter," states that in return for his hospitality the King presented a sword to be borne ever after before the Mayor and his successors. Inasmuch as the little western city had propitiated His Majesty with a *douceur* of 100 nobles, the royal favour represented no more than so much discount off, but the Devonians must have felt flattered, for they further presented the Queen and Prince with £20 apiece in gold. The Mayor, however, was not accorded the honour of the accolade, which his largesse and liberality would seem to have honestly earned. *Autres temps, autres mœurs!*

In his pedigree of the family Mr Arthur M. Smith, whose researches deserve high praise—albeit he elects to be severe on the human fallibility of the Heralds—makes Robert the Mayor prime ancestor. But although thus formulating his pedigree, in the text of his work he states that the link (query, links?) between Robert the Mayor in 1469 and William, Mayor in 1553, is wanting—in other words, two generations rest upon the basis of hypothesis, a very dangerous foundation in any case, doubly so in that of a family bearing a name so widely diffused as that of Smith.

This line boasts a royal descent, which, like most others, *teste* Mr Foster, is a trifle circuitous—*e.g.* through the families of Monthermer, Montague, Bevin, and Muttleberie. Other royal descents—or connections—might probably be traced as satisfactorily. The following appears to have been compiled by, or for, Sir Nicholas Smithe of Larkbear, *circa* 1624, possibly as the result of the Heralds'

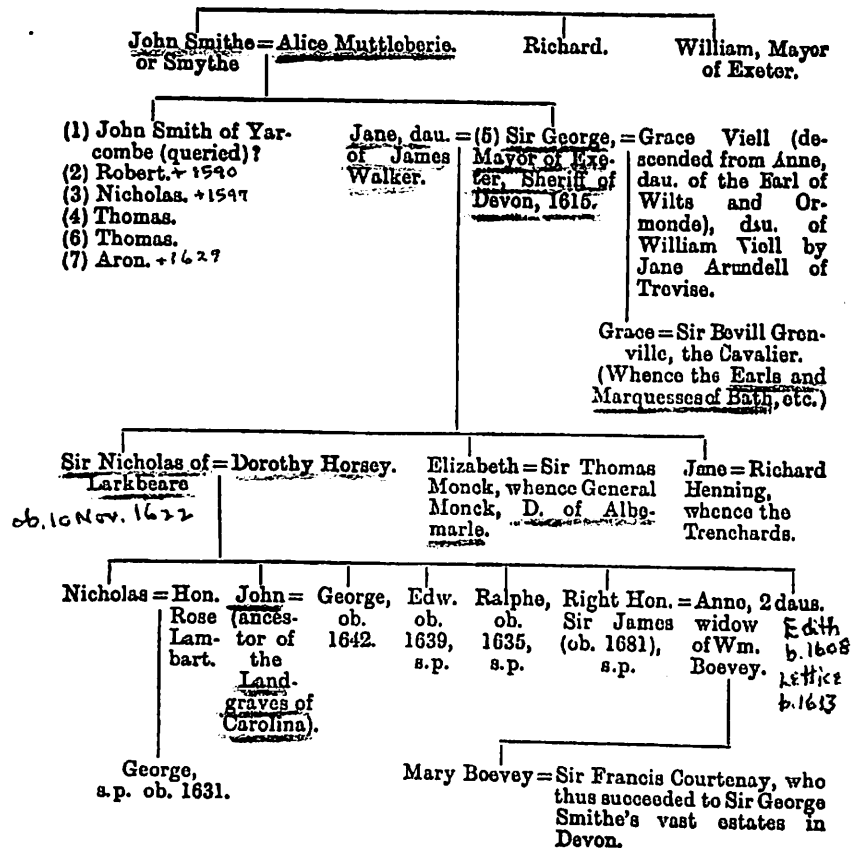
Visitation of Devon. I may add that "Muttleberie" is the local phonetic of "Myrtleberry"—a form of nomenclature as prettily poetic as "Muttleberie" is the reverse.



Of the above, Sir John Montague, who died 12 Rich. II., was son of William Montague, Earl of Salisbury. Robert was the second son, and John Montague, the elder, succeeded his uncle as Earl of Salisbury. Their son Thomas, Earl of Salisbury, married Elianna, daughter of Thomas Holland, Earl of Kent, and their daughter and heiress married Richard Nevill, who became, *jure uxoris*, Earl of Salisbury, an arrangement which would not now be sanctioned without a fresh patent.

For the early items in the pedigree which commences with Smith of Borage, the reader is referred to the Visitation of Devon 1623. Here, however, we find a *crux in limine*, for Mr A. M. Smith denies that John Smith, from whom the descent starts, was of Borage, but styles him of Holdich in Thorncomb,

albeit his son Thomas was of Borage or Burrige. This detail is verified by the said John's will, and fortunately does not affect the pedigree itself: whereof the earlier portion stands thus:



Robert, the second son of John by Alice Muttloberie (ob. 1590), had Aron of Crediton (ob. 1631). Nicholas of Holditch, the third son (ob. 1597), had George, who by Margerie ... had (1) William of Ilminster, (2) Edward of Chard, (3) George of Ilchester (ob. 1651), (4) John of Taunton, (5) Rev. Richard of Whitstanton.

Of these (1) William of Ilminster, by his wife Elizabeth, had (1) John of Forton, clothier (ob. 1667), who had five sons and four daughters, of whom Aron,

bapt. 1658, may have been the Aron Smith who was Solicitor to the Treasury, (2) Robert of Ilminster, of whose issue we treat at length below, and with two daughters, three other sons.

Thomas, fourth son of John Smithe by Olive Muttloberie, is described as of South Chard. By Alice Atkins he had Richard Burrige of Crimchard, who by Agnes Cogan had, with others, Richard of S. Chard (ob. 1680), whose son Richard was executed by Judge Jeffreys, while William, another son, had a numerous issue.

Aron, the youngest son of John Smithe and Alice aforesaid (ob. 1629), by his wife Judith, had John of Combe, and Nicholas, whose grandson Aron may also have been the Aron, Solicitor to the Treasury (*vide supra*). Of his other progeny nothing is known.

I pause here to remark that in the extensive pedigrees, compiled with remarkable diligence by Mr A. M. Smith and Rev. E. F. N. Smith, occur numerous names culled from parish registers, but of no personal value. For the sake of condensation I omit these *nomina inutilia*, referring the reader to the above able works. The ancestor-hunter indeed, so far as the Smith families are concerned, will find himself overwhelmed by an *embarras de richesses*; it seems desirable, therefore, to focus the eye as far as possible on the main threads. To the *lucidus ordo* of Mr A. M. Smith, I avow myself especially indebted. He has tabulated separately each principal descent—in felicitous contrast to the method of Mr Augustus Smith whose tree, formulated on 12 sheets, each 2 feet long by 1 deep, necessitates a table or trestle of 24 feet in longitude for the hapless student. *Divide et impera* is an excellent rule for the tree-builder.

We now come to the descendants of Robert Smith of Ilminster, second son of William of Ilminster, by his wife Elizabeth. They had issue (A) Captain

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