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On the Tyndales in Gloucestershire

by J. H. Cooke
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THE TYNDALES IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

BY

JAMES HERBERT COOKE, F.S.A.

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THE family of Tyndale is of considerable antiquity in the Hundred of Berkeley, and the name is of frequent occurrence in the Court Rolls and other official documents of the manors of Hurst, Cam, Stinchcombe, and Wotton Foreign. The pedigree has been closely and carefully worked out by Mr. B. W. Greenfield, and it is from the notes which he has kindly placed in my hands,¹ supplemented and confirmed by ancient documents in Berkeley Castle, that the following narrative has been compiled. The subject derives most of its interest from its connection with that illustrious member of the family to whom, more than to any other individual, we owe the inestimable blessing of the Holy Scriptures in our own tongue; we have also in the story of the Tyndale family a picture of the rise and progress of an English yeoman family during more than three hundred years, with incidental glimpses into the domestic life and habits of a bye-gone age, which are both curious and instructive.

Though the Tyndales at various periods inherited and held property in several adjoining parishes, their family home and seat throughout their Gloucestershire history was at Stinchcombe; and surely the lines had here fallen to them in goodly places. Nestling, as it were, in its deep lanes, just under the western brow of Stinchcombe Hill, between high banks covered with

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ferns, and shaded by immemorial elms and beeches, a more lovely secluded village does not exist in broad England. Happily situated on that middle step between hill and vale, to which Smyth, the Berkeley historian, justly attributes both health and wealth,¹ Stinchcombe merits to the full the praise which he bestows on its similarly placed neighbour village, and his home, Nibley, "Not more pleasantly seated on a comely hill than healthfull, than which none in the county or scarce in the kingdom standeth in a sweeter aire."

Stinchcombe and the adjoining manor of Breadstone were held under the Berkeleys for many generations down to the end of the reign of Edward III. by the family of De Bradstou. "A succession," says Smyth, in the work already quoted, "of remarkable gentlemen, homagers and servants to the family of the Lord Berkeleys of Berkeley Castle, as a world of deeds and other evidences which I have seen doe testifye;" the most eminent of whom was Thomas de Bradston, created by Edward III. for his military and other services a Banneret,² and afterwards summoned to Parliament as a Baron by writ,³ and whose life, as an eminent but almost unknown or forgotten Gloucestershire worthy, well deserves to be written.⁴ The elder male line of the De Bradstons became extinct in the person of his grandson, who died in 1375, leaving only a daughter and heiress, married to Walter de la Pole, from whom the two

¹ "In the body of this Hundred are observed three steps or degrees, obvious to every observer: the first from the channell of Severne, half-way towards the hills, which hath wealth without health; the seconde from thence neere towards the tops of those hills, which hath wealth and health; and the third steppe or degree from thence forward, called the weald or cotsall part, affordeth health in that sharp aire but less wealth."—*MS. description of the Hundred of Berkeley.*

² Rot. Claus. 15 Edward III., m. 11.

³ Rot. Parl. 21 Edward III. and subsequently.

⁴ It is to him that Gloucester owed her mediæval walls, which were built about 1360 while he was governor of the Castle there, and pulled down by order of Charles II. after the Restoration.

manors passed successively by the marriages of heiresses into the families of Ingaldesthorpe, Nevill, Stonor, Fortescue, and Wentworth. In 1539 Sir Adrian Fortescue, lord of the manors of Stinchcombe and Bradston in right of his first wife, Anne, daughter of Sir William Stonor, being suspected by Henry VIII. of traitorous correspondence with Cardinal Pole and other of the king's enemies abroad, was attainted, together with several other persons of rank, and beheaded on 10th July. The Crown seized upon all his possessions, including his title deeds and other records, but these two manors being the inheritance of his wife were not subject to forfeiture and descended to her eldest daughter, married to Thomas, first Lord Wentworth, of Nettlested. The Crown, however, retained the documents relating to them, which are now in the Public Record Office, and it is in these papers, which consist of original deeds, bailiffs' accounts, and court rolls of the manors, and in other public documents, wills, and old title-deeds, that Mr. Greenfield has found the record of most of the facts upon which the following narrative is founded.

In 1478 we find the first mention in Stinchcombe of the Tyndales, who were at that time more generally known by the name of Huchyns. From a letter written in 1663 by Thomas Tyndale, of Kingston St Michael, to his cousin, Thomas Tyndale, of Stinchcombe, which is given at length by Rudder in his account of Eastwood, near Thornbury, it seems to have been a tradition in the family that this name was assumed by the first Tyndale who came into Gloucestershire from the north, a fugitive, during the wars of the Roses. This is by no means improbable, though there is no documentary confirmation of the story. Mr. Greenfield thinks the alias may have originated, at a time when no very strict rule prevailed as to family names, in a marriage, the first descendants of which for a generation or two may have preferred for some reason, many of which may be imagined during those disturbed times, to be known by the name of their mother's family. The name of Huchyns was a

common one in the county long before this time, but the name of Tyndale does not appear until 1478, from which date it was used by the family, with Huchyns (spelt in several different ways) as an *alias*, down to about 1520, when the latter name was finally dropped.

In 1478 then, we find, living and holding lands in Stinchcombe, two distinct households or families both bearing the name of Huchyns, both, a few years after, using the name of Tyndale together with that of Huchyns, and both subsequently known by the name of Tyndale only. We may, therefore, fairly assume that they had a common origin, though the connection does not otherwise appear. One of these households was seated, as tenant farmers, at Melksham Court, which was afterwards purchased by and became the only residence of the family in Stinchcombe, and the other in a part of the parish called Southend; which name is now, however, entirely unknown. As this Southend branch of the Tyndales became extinct about a century afterwards, when their lands were sold by the co-heiresses to the other or Melksham Court branch, it will perhaps be more convenient if we trace their fortunes to the end before touching upon those of the Melksham Court family.

In 1478 Richard Hochyns held, by copy of court roll of the manor of Stinchcombe, a messuage and seven acres of land, late Matthews's, with a close and two acres adjoining, at an annual rent of eleven shillings. He also held by copy of court roll, in conjunction with three other persons, a parcel of wood and underwood in the same manor, called Lidischiff (afterwards known as Lymclyffe, Lynclyff, and Inclyff), at an annual rent of two shillings. In 1485 his name appears as one of the "Afferers" (or official referees or valuers of the fines and amerciaments imposed) at a Manor Court held at Stinchcombe on the 18th October. In the same year he succeeded, on the death of Richard Clavild, to an estate consisting of four messuages and ninety acres of land in the manor of Hurst in the

neighbouring parish of Slimbridge. This was a portion of an estate called Kingston's, and subsequently Rivers's, lands, from the families who had held it under the Berkeleys since 1312, and Richard Tyndale (or Hochyns) inherited it under an entail as the representative of Jone, the wife first of John Archer and secondly of Robert Taylor, who died in 1421, and who was one of the daughters and co-heiresses of Richard Rivers. Richard Tyndale died in 1506, leaving a son, John Tyndale, alias Huchyns, who inherited the copyhold lands and tenements in Stinchcombe and the lands in Hurst, and a daughter Katherine. Katherine Tyndale, in conjunction with her brother John, took, at a court held for the Manor of Stinchcombe on 2nd August, 1507, a copyhold grant for their own lives and that of the survivor, of the moiety of the wood called Lynclyffe, formerly Lidisclyffe, at a yearly rent of twelve pence, and one penny annually for Peter's pence, and she also held lands as a customary tenant in the Chapelry of Bradeston, under Sir Adrian Fortescue. She died unmarried in 1547, and in her will, which was proved at Gloucester on the 13th July in that year, she leaves a cow each to Thomas, son of Richard Nye, and to John, son of William Nye, appointing the said William Nye her sole executor and residuary legatee. John Tyndale, alias Huchyns, inherited his father's lands, as has been stated, and his name appears in various court rolls as tenant of the copyholds in Stinchcombe down to 1515, when, at a court held on 16th April his death is presented, on which there ensued to the lord of the manor a Heriot, viz., an ox, value ten shillings. His widow, Alice, was thereupon admitted tenant of the Stinchcombe copyholds. Some time afterwards she married John Fynamore, of Cam, as it appears that on the 22nd October, 1522, he took from the Crown (then in possession of all the Berkeley manors under the demise of William, Marquis of Berkeley) a lease of a water corn-mill, called Corriett's Mill, in the manor of Cam, for the lives of himself, Alice his wife, late the wife of John Tyndale, John and Thomas Fynamore, his sons, by Agnes, his former wife, and William Fynamore, his son by

Alice, his then wife, and the longest liver of them. His name appears in the court rolls of Stinchcombe in right of his wife until 1530, soon after which he died. Alice survived him, and in 1532 surrendered the lease for lives and took instead thereof a new lease for twenty-one years of the same mill and premises, to which a "gigge-mill¹ and a fulling mill" had been then added. These erections mark the introduction of the cloth manufacture, which soon became, and continued until the beginning of the present century to be, the staple industry of the neighbourhood. She died about 1535. Richard Tyndale, her son by her first husband, John Tyndale, alias Huchyns (the alias or second name is now dropped), had succeeded on the death of his father to Rivers's lands in Hurst, which were, down to 1539, in the occupation of Richard Gylmyn, and he now inherited the copyholds in Stinchcombe. On 30th June, 1542, he took a new lease for twenty-one years of Corriett's Mill, with the gigge mill and fulling mill and three parcels of pasture land, at an increased rent. In the lay subsidy roll for the Hundred of Berkeley he is, in 1546, assessed in the sum of 20d., being at the rate of 4d. in the £ on his lands in Stinchcombe, valued at £5, and he is there, as well as elsewhere subsequently, called "junior," to distinguish him from Richard Tyndale, of Melksham Court, who is called "senior." In 1547 he commenced his purchases of land, to which the profits of the mill at Cam and the rents of Rivers's lands no doubt contributed, by acquiring from William Fraunsome and Johane his wife, all their right in a cottage and garden with twenty acres of land in Stinchcombe for the sum of £4. In 1557 he purchased from Robert Dorney all his right in the moiety of a messuage and sixteen acres, also in Stinchcombe, for £20.

By an indenture of bargain and sale dated 1st September, 1561, Thomas, second Lord Wentworth, then lord of the manors of Stinchcombe and Bradeston, sold to John Trotman, William

¹ This is a machine for forming the nap on cloth.

Bourcher, and William Nelme, the greater part of his lands and tenements in Berkeley, Bradestone, Cam, Stinchcombe, and Slimbridge, free from all incumbrances save and except the rents and services due to the chief lord of the fee or fees. Amongst these are included the messuage and lands in Stinchcombe which Richard Tyndale, the "younger," held of Lord Wentworth as copyhold or customary tenant of that manor, and which are described as "One messuage, one garden, one orchard and lands thereto belonging, one close of meadow called 'Hooke, alias Hooke-wood,' a wood called 'Inclyffe Wood,' a wood called 'Bow Grove,' a grove of Wood called 'Ridinge Grove,' and two acres of meadow lying in Bury-felde called 'the Splatts.'" Trotman, Bourcher, and Nelme soon afterwards re-sold most of their purchase to various persons, and it appears that, amongst others, Richard Tyndale, junior, purchased the fee of his copyhold and other lands, as, in the Inquisition, taken in 1588 after his death, it is found that he died seized in fee of (*inter alia*) a messuage and sixty-nine acres of land which were lately purchased of Lord Wentworth.

In 1565 a fine was levied between Richard Tyndale, Querent, and William Potoner, gent., and Edith, his wife, Deforciant, by which, in consideration of £200 sterling, the Potoners remit and quit claim to the said Richard sundry lands, messuages, rents, and other property in Slimbridge and Stinchcombe. In the absence of other documents Mr. Greenfield supposes that this fine included the whole of his landed estate, and was levied to put him into legal possession of his property as tenant for life, with remainder to his heirs, in consequence of some previous deed of conveyance to the Potoners by way of settlement on his marriage with their daughter. He died 10th September, 1573, leaving an eldest child, Edith, whom he disinherited by his will, and a second daughter, Katherine, then a year old. Shortly after his death a third daughter, Alice, was born, and she, with her sister Katherine, inherited the whole of his estate. What poor Edith Tyndale's sin was need not be inquired into, but she bitterly

expiated it by the forfeiture of her father's affection, enduring even after death, and being left, probably, entirely dependent on her sisters. "*I wille,*" he says, "*that my daughter Edythe shall not have any part of my lands, goods, or chattels, because of her mysdemour towards me.*" She died unmarried before 1588. Katherine and Alice Tyndale, the heiresses, married two brothers: Katherine, Robert, the eldest son and heir, and Alice Thomas, the third son, of Peter Ashton, Esquire, of Old Weston, Co. Huntingdon, and they, with their husbands, soon after sold the whole of their father's estate in Stinchcombe and Hurst to various persons; Richard Tyndale, of Melksham Court, purchasing the greater part of the lands in Stinchcombe in 1591. This closes the history of the Southend branch of the Tyndales in Stinchcombe.

The Melksham Court branch began, like that of Southend, under the name of Huchyns. In 1478 Tebeta¹ Huchyns held, as a free tenant within the manor of Stinchcombe, with two other persons, one messuage and half a virgate of land (about 20 acres), with a wood, at a yearly rent of thirteen shillings and fourpence, and she also held, as farmer of the lord's demesne lands, "the manor, with the meadows, pastures, and appurtenances thereto belonging, called Le Milsh'ms Courte," also in Stinchcombe at an annual rent of £4 13s. 4d.

Melksham Court, which gave its name to an ancient family who held it in the reigns of Edward I. and Edward III.,² is described by Smyth as an ancient messuage with a carucate of land (about 100 acres, temp. Edward II., or as much as could be tilled with one

¹ Tibota, the wife of William Nelme and granddaughter of John de Draicote in the adjoining parish of Cam, who lived temp. Edward III., is the only other instance I have met with of this name; spelled also Tebota and Tebet.

² Rot. Redisseisin., 27 to 35, Edw. I., membr. 5, and in 31, Edw. I., in the Tower of London, now in the Public Record Office, shews that Richard de Melksham recovered a messuage and a carucate of land in Stintescombe of Richard Astmeade, who again disseised him, and therefore a writ now went out to the Sheriff of this county to arrest and imprison the said Richard Astmeade.—*Smyth's MS. Description of the Hundred of Berkeley*, p. 349.

plough in a year and a day, a "plough-land"), held of the Berkeleys as of their manor of Cam, by fealty, suit at the Hundred Court, and the rent of a pair of gloves or one penny, which is still paid. Though situated wholly within the parish of Stinchcombe, it was no part of the manor of that name, the inheritance of the De Bradstons, but was purchased of Robert Oulpenne by Walter de la Pole and Elizabeth, his wife, daughter and heiress of Thomas de Bradston, in 1413. The present house, a picturesque gabled farm house of the style usually denominated Elizabethan, was most probably built by Richard Tyndale after his purchase of the estate from Lord Wentworth in 1561.

In 1485 Tebeta or Tebota Huchyns, the tenant of Melksham Court, was presented at a Manor Court held at Stinchcombe on the 18th October for leaving her dove-cote and cow-house in a ruinous state, and she was ordered to repair them before the next court under a penalty. No record appears of her death, but she was succeeded as tenant of Melksham Court soon after this date, by Richard Tyndale, whose name appears in a rental of the lord's demesne lands in Stinchcombe in 1478 as the tenant of a croft called Holder's Croft at the annual rent of four shillings and fourpence. As he is there called Richard Tyndale only, without the name of Huchyns, it is probable that he was the first who assumed (or re-assumed) the name of Tyndale. As "Richard Hewchyns de Stinchcom," he is in 1492 one of eight collectors of a subsidy granted by Parliament in that year, named in a writ under the Great Seal dated 22nd February, 7th Henry VII., (1492-3). In what relationship this Richard stood to Tebota Huchyns there is no evidence to show, but their names, and the fact that their respective tenements were, after the death of Tebota Huchyns, both held by Richard Tyndale, and continued ever after to be held together by his descendants, seem to prove some degree of consanguinity, perhaps that of mother and son.

There is no record of Richard Tyndale's death, but in 1506-7 his sons, Thomas Tyndale, "alias Huchyns," and his brother William Tyndale, were the joint tenants by indenture of lease in

succession to their father, of Melksham Court and Holder's Croft, at the joint rent of £4 17s. 8d. William Tyndale, the younger brother, entered into Holy Orders, probably about 1511, as in that year a new lease of the same premises was granted to Thomas Tyndale only. In 1518 William Tyndale, "Chaplain," with James Clyfford and Thomas Haynes, of Frampton-on-Severn, became joint lessees of the great tythes and other dues and emoluments belonging to the rectory of that parish, under an indenture of lease from the Priory of the Blessed Mary of Clifford, in Herefordshire, the appropriators of that benefice. About the same time he was instituted to the Perpetual Chantry or Free Chapel of St. Michael of Bradeston, in the parish of Berkeley, on the presentation of Sir Adrian Fortescue, the patron thereof. He died about the end of 1523, as in the following February Nicholas Astley was instituted to the same benefice, then stated to be vacant by his death. Thomas Tyndale, his elder brother, continued tenant of Melksham Court and Holder's Croft and of other lands in Stinchcombe, and his name frequently appears in the rentals and other evidences of the manor until 1535. He married Alice Hunt, of Hunt's Court, in the adjoining parish of North Nibley, the heiress of an ancient family of that name, who had held that estate, described as an ancient messuage with fifty-eight acres of land, under the Berkeleys, by the tenth part of a knight's fee, suit to the Hundred Court, and the annual rent of fifteen shillings, since the beginning of the reign of Edward I. Mr. Greenfield's evidences relating to Hunt's Court extend back to 1424, when John Hunte executed what appears to be a settlement of his estate, of which Robert Stanshaw and John Skey are the trustees. In 1473, John Hunt, of Nybley, is one of a jury of ten clerics and ten laymen impannelled under a commission of enquiry from the Bishop of Worcester, held in the church of Wotton-under-Edge, to try a question of the right of presentation to that rectory. In a deed of entail, executed by Alice Tyndale in her widowhood, dated 20th January, 33 Henry VIII., (1541-2) in which she entails the estate of Hunt's Court on her

five sons and their heirs in succession, she is described as "sister and sole heire of Thomas Hunt, deceased, cousin and heire of John Hunte, deceased." One of the feoffees in this deed of entail is Edward Tyndale, of the manor of Hurst in Slimbridge, and of Pull Court, Worcestershire (of whom more hereafter), and he is also one of the witnesses of her last will, dated 3rd February, 1543.

By her husband, Thomas Tyndale, Alice had five sons, Richard, Henry, William, Thomas, and John, and two daughters, Joan and Agnes. Richard, the eldest son, succeeded to the tenancy of Melksham Court and the lands in Stinchcombe, and to the freehold of Hunt's Court, his mother's family inheritance in Nibley. Henry resided in Stinchcombe until 1543, after which he appears to have removed to Uley. William is named one of the valuers of his mother's household effects in her will; he resided at Nibley, probably at Hunt's Court, as he is assessed to the subsidy of 1543 on goods in that parish of the value of £4. Thomas, the fourth son, resided at Stinchcombe, and is most probably the Thomas Tyndale of that parish, "broad-weaver," who made his will dated 7th February, 1595-6, which was proved at Gloucester, 16th October following. John Tyndale, the fifth son, is not named in his mother's will, though he is included in the entail of Hunt's Court; a provision for his maintenance at Stinchcombe is made in the will of his eldest brother Richard, dated 17th August, 1577. The two daughters, Joan and Agnes, are legatees in their mother's will, and the latter married Richard Nelme, of Stancombe.

Richard Tyndale succeeded, as stated above, to the leasehold interest in Melksham Court and Holder's Croft, and soon after took from Lord Wentworth a new lease of the premises for the lives of himself, Elizabeth, his wife, and Anne, their daughter, and the survivor of them. In 1561, as has already been stated in the account of the Tyndales of Southend, Lord Wentworth sold the greater part of his estates to Trotman, Bourcher and Nelme. On the 3rd October in the same year he

conveyed to Richard Tyndale the fee simple and reversion of Melksham Court and the other lands in Stinchcombe, which he already held by lease, for £308. In this deed he is described as "Richard Tyndale the elder, of Stynchcombe in the county of Gloucester, Gentleman;" Richard Tyndale of Southend being called the younger or junior. In 1568 he barred the entail of the Hunt's Court estate created by his mother's deed of 1541-2, already referred to, converting his tenure therein into an estate in fee simple, and the property descended under his will to his only son Richard as freehold. In his last will, dated 17th August, 1577, proved 19th October following, he desires that his body may be buried in the chancel of Stinchcombe Church; he bequeaths half the farm called Melksham Court to his wife for her life, with remainder to his son Richard, to whom he leaves the other half. He provides maintenance at Melksham Court for his brother John, gives legacies of £5 each to four granddaughters, and a heifer to his grandson, Morys Mallet, leaving the residue of his goods to his widow and son, whom he appoints executors. Elizabeth, his widow, survived till 1609. In her will, proved 1st April in that year, she gives a number of small pecuniary legacies to grandchildren, including one of forty shillings to a granddaughter, Israell Purnell.

Richard Tyndale, their only son, inherited both Melksham Court and Hunt's Court after the death of his parents, and on 10th May, 1591, he purchased of Katherine and Alice, the co-heiresses of Richard Tyndale of Southend, and their husbands, the two brothers Ashton, all their estate and interest in fifty-three acres of land in Stinchcombe, being the greater part of the inheritance in that parish of the Southend family. In or previous to 1609, he granted a lease of Hunt's Court to his second son, Richard, for his life. In his last will, dated 4th April, 1616, he gives to his son, Thomas Tyndale, most of his household goods, including a silver tankard and a walnut-tree standing-bedstead. To his fourth son, Arthur, he bequeaths "the £100 which is in Mr. Hugh Perrie's hands, if he shall

outlive the time of his apprenticeship." Hugh Perrie was an Alderman of London, and founder (in 1638) of the hospital or almshouse at Wotton-under-Edge, of which town he was a native. Among the legacies to his other children are £100 to each of his daughters, Katherine and Oriana, payable at twenty-two years of age or marriage; the latter, baptised at Stinchcombe, 2nd March, 1605-6, was probably so named after Oriana le Bon, daughter of the Sieur le Bon, of Fourneaux, near Elbœuf, in Normandy, who was the wife of Thomas Tyndale, of Eastwood Park, Thornbury, grandson of the Edward Tyndale formerly named as feoffee in the deed of entail of Hunt's Court of 1541-2. Richard Tyndale left seven sons and three daughters, and was succeeded in his now considerable landed estate by his eldest son, Thomas. He died in 1619.

Thomas Tyndale, in 1624, granted to his next brother, Richard, a new lease of Hunt's Court for the lives of himself, his wife, and their son, at four shillings a year rent, the former lease given to Richard by his father being surrendered. Thomas Tyndale, in this deed of surrender and also in his own will, is styled "clothier," but in the register of his burial he is called "farmer." On 17th November, 1631, he was fined £17 10s. as a pecuniary composition for not taking the order of knighthood at the King's (Charles I.) coronation in February, 1626. By his wife, Katherine, daughter of John Harris of Sanigar, in the parish of Berkeley, he had one son, Thomas, who succeeded him, and six daughters. He died in 1636.

Thomas Tyndale, his son, was an adherent of the Parliamentary party during the Civil War. Rudder relates that in 1645 he was obliged to fly from his house, Melksham Court, by the approach of a party of Royalists, and took refuge for three days and nights in a large yew tree in Stinchcombe Wood, from whence he saw his house and Piers Court, the residence of Mr. Pinfold, burnt by the enemy. He died in 1671, leaving four sons and three daughters. From Elizabeth, only child and heiress of

his eldest son, Thomas Tyndale, the Melksham Court estate passed to her grandson, Henry Tyndale Townsend, of Steanbridge, Stroud, who sold it in 1768 to the ancestor of its present owner, Captain Morse. Hunt's Court was sold in 1736 to the Rev. John Tyndale, rector of Charfield, the great grandson of the Richard Tyndale to whom the estate was leased by his eldest brother in 1624. By his granddaughter and heiress, Mary Tyndale, it was sold to Matthew Howell in 1784. In 1800 it was again sold to Mr. Robinson, the grandfather of its present owner.

The Rev. Wm. Tyndale, LL.D., Fellow of Trinity Hall, and minister of St. Edward's Church, Cambridge, the second son of Thomas Tyndale of Melksham Court, who died in 1671, died unmarried in May, 1712. The third son, Joseph Tyndale of Bewdley, was ancestor of the Tyndales of Birmingham, now the senior representatives of the family; Onesiphorus, the fourth son, was ancestor of the Tyndales of The Fort, Bristol; Thomas Tyndale, Esq., of North Cerney, who died in 1783, and Lieut. Col. William Tyndale, of the 1st Life Guards, High Sheriff of Gloucestershire in 1797, who sold the estate at North Cerney to Earl Bathurst, and died in 1830, were descended from William, third son of the Richard Tyndale of Melksham Court, who died in 1619.

In the foregoing memoir we look in vain for any trace of William Tyndale the martyr and translator, who was put to death at Vilvorde, near Brussels, in 1536, and who, according to the Rev. R. Demaus, was most probably born about 1484. There are two William Tyndales in the pedigree who lived during that period, but the particulars of their lives, already given, prove that neither of them could possibly have been the martyr; the first William, the Chaplain of Breadstone and lessee of the Rectory of Frampton-on-Severn, having died in possession of those benefices in 1523, and the second living a quiet pastoral life in the secluded village of North Nibley, and being beyond

doubt alive and resident there in 1543. Reference has, however, been made to Edward Tyndale of Hurst and Pull Court, who was one of the feoffees in Alice Tyndale's deed of entail of Hunt's Court in 1541-2, and one of the witnesses to her will two years later, and it is in connection with this gentleman that the only bit of documentary information we possess respecting the family or connections of the translator and martyr has been discovered. William, Marquis of Berkeley, as is well known, having quarrelled with his brother and heir, died in 1492, leaving by his will the castle and the whole of the domains belonging to it to the King, Henry VII, who thereupon entered into possession, and Receivers of the rents were at once appointed. One of the first of these was Edward Tyndale, who was appointed Woodward of "Berkeley's lands" in the counties of Gloucester and Somerset on 6th April, 1507, having, the year before, taken of the Crown a lease for twenty-one years of the scite of the manor of Hurst,¹ at an annual rent of £10 13s. 4d. In 1519 he became Receiver-General of the Crown revenues of the whole of the Berkeley Manors, and in 1523 he took a lease from the Crown for twenty-one years of a fishery in the Severn at Arlinghame called Rodley Weir. He was also steward and auditor of the Abbey of Tewkesbury, and lessee of the abbey manor of the Pull or Pull Court. A letter written by John Stokesley, who was Bishop of London from 1530 to 1539, is preserved in the Public Record Office, in which he distinctly states that this Edward Tyndale was brother to "Tyndale the arch-heretic." As Stokesley had been, prior to his elevation to the Bishopric,

¹ This must not be confounded with the estate to which Richard Tyndale succeeded in 1486 on the death of Richard Clavild, which was called Kingston's, afterwards Rivers's lands, now Kingston Farm. The "scite of the manor of Hurst" is the old farm house called Hurst Farm, and the house there, is, beyond doubt, the one occupied by Edward Tyndale, and in which he died in 1546. It possessed, however, but few ancient or interesting features, and has recently been repaired and much modernized, a piece of what will, perhaps, be considered "vandalism," for which the present writer is responsible, and for which he can only plead in excuse that what he did was in his capacity as a land agent and not as an antiquarian.

Rector of Slimbridge (to which living he was presented in 1509), the parish in which Hurst is situated, and which adjoins Breadstone and Stinchcombe, we may conclude that he was well acquainted with the Tyndales and their connections, and that he is not likely to have been mistaken in his assertion. If we possessed any definite information as to the birth and parentage of Edward Tyndale we might now assume that we knew those of William the Martyr, but unfortunately no such particulars have as yet been discovered. The intimate connection which, however, evidently existed between Edward Tyndale and the family at Melksham Court and Hunt's Court, and which continued to be kept up between their respective descendants down to 1663 and afterwards, amply justifies us, in my opinion, in assuming that they were of one family; in corroboration of which there is also the fact that William the Martyr was, during all the early part of his life, known by the alias of Hychen or Huchyn, in addition to the name of Tyndale: It seems, therefore, fair to conclude with Mr. Greenfield that in all probability Edward Tyndale and William the Martyr were brothers of the first Richard Tyndale of Melksham Court, to whom we may add a fourth brother, viz., John, a merchant of London, who was punished by the Star Chamber in 1530 for assisting William in the circulation of his New Testament.

The elaborate pedigree and account of the Tyndale family given by Rudder, under Eastwood and Stinchcombe, shewing their descent from the Baronial family of the same name, may be dismissed with the remark that there is not a tittle of historical or documentary evidence to support it. The pedigree given by Smyth, also, in the Berkeley Manuscripts, is not distinguished by his usual accuracy, and his statement that the connexion between the Hunt and Tyndale families arose from the marriage of the daughter and heiress of John Hunt to a Hugh Tyndale, towards the end of the reign of Edward IV., is directly contradicted by the evidence afforded by the deed of entail of 1541-2. Smyth himself tells us, under Stinchcombe,

that "he never could obtain to see" the evidences of the Tyndale family, though he had free access to the title deeds of most of the owners of freeholds within the Berkeley manors, of which he was steward; his statements on the Tyndale family and pedigree must, therefore, have been derived from information only.

Edward Tyndale died at Hurst, and was buried at Slimbridge on 22nd August, 1546. His son, Thomas, had a grant in 1565 of Eastwood, near Thornbury, one of the forfeited estates of Edward, Duke of Buckingham. He was a party in 1568 to a deed of settlement of the Hunt's Court Estate, made by Richard Tyndale, son of Alice Hunt, the heiress. His son, Thomas, was the husband of Oriana le Bon, already mentioned, who was probably god-mother (on 2nd March, 1605-6) to her young cousin and namesake, Oriana Tyndale, of Stinchcombe.¹ His eldest son, Thomas, sold the Eastwood estate to Sir Richard Rogers in 1628, and went to live at the Priory, Kingston St. Michael, whence he wrote the letter to his "cousin," Thomas Tyndale of Melksham Court, which has already been mentioned, and is given at length by Rudder. The present representative of this branch of the Tyndale family is J. Warre Tyndale, Esq., of Perridge House, Shepton Mallet.

Melksham Court Farm shews, by the widely scattered position of its parcels, the manner in which it was acquired, being purchased from various persons at different times and by two different families. Some of the lands named in the old documents as Hookwood, Holder's Croft, and Lynclyffe, can still be identified. Bow Grove and the land in "Bery felde" were sold off, probably by the Ashtons, and do not now form part of the estate. I think the "messuage and seven acres, late Matthews's," the first home and seat of the Southend family, may be recognised in an old cottage and close of about that quantity near the

¹ She performed the same kindly office at Thornbury for Mary Hewes on 5th September, 1619.

school; and an old half timber house at the "south end" of the village, now in two tenements, but evidently one residence originally, was probably the dwelling-place of that branch of the Tyndale family when their fortunes had improved.

The name is still represented in the parishes of Nibley, Stinchcombe, and Slimbridge, by a few persons in humble circumstances, who are, without doubt, descendants of the family which produced the man to whom Englishmen, under Divine Providence, owe their Bible.