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**The Family of Catchmay**

by W. T. Allen  
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## THE FAMILY OF CATCHMAY.

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*Late Vicar of S. Briavell's.*

NICHOLLS, in his *Personalities of the Forest of Dean*, speaks of this family as connected from an early date with the Forest district, and mentions that the name occurs in the Wyrhall deeds so far back as the year 1390. I have, however, had it brought under my notice somewhat earlier, in a charter of one Roger le Carpenter, of Saint Briavell's, confirming to one John Cout, of that place, "a diet of land, in one part adjoining the land of 'John Cachemayde.'" The date of this charter is the eighteenth year of Edward II. (1325), and John Cachemayde was one of the witnesses to it. This charter is in the possession of Mr. Hooper, the Diocesan Registrar at Worcester, who claims to be the present representative of the Catchemays through the female line.

In the Harleian MSS., No. 877, fol. i., is the following charter:—

"Carta Johannaë Vyeyan Priorissæ Ecclesiæ B. Mariæ de Clerkenwelle juxta London et ejusdem Loci Conventus, et Willelmi Cacchemayde personæ Ecclesiæ B. Mariæ de Wolnothe in Lumbarde strete London, de fundacione Cantariæ in Ecclesia Parochiali prædicta; deq; indotatione ejusdem Cantariæ pro sustentatione duorum Capellanorum, Divina singulis diebus in Eadem Ecclesia celebraturorum pro animabus Thomæ Noket civis et pannarii Fundatoris, Margeriæ uxoris ejus, &c. dat: 10 die Mensis Julij anno 23 R. Richardi II.—(1399)."

This charter may be thus translated:—

“Charter of Joan Vyeyan, Prioress of the Church of the Blessed Mary of Clerkenwell, near London, and of the Convent of the same place, and William Cachemayde, Parson of the Church of the Blessed Mary of Wolnoth, in Lombard Street, London, concerning the foundation of a Chantry in the Parish Church aforesaid, and concerning the endowment of the said Chantry for the support of two chaplains for the celebration of Masses every day in the said church for the souls of Thomas Noket, Citizen and Clothworker, the Founder, Margery his wife, &c. Given the 10th day of July, in the 23rd year of King Richard II.—(A.D. 1399).”

Everyone conversant with old registers, deeds, and other documents must be aware of the variations in the spelling of surnames, and thus we find the name of Catchmayde curiously distorted by careless or ignorant scribes. Sometimes it is written Cachiman, sometimes Catchmint; and in certain claims made before the justice of the Forest of Dean, to Charles I. (1634-5), the name is spelt Katchmay. The arms of Catchmay, of Bigsweir, are given thus: “Two bars on a canton, five billets in saltire.” Two other exemplifications of the arms are given in the Harleian MSS., No. 6,185, namely:

1. “A fess between three demi-lions couchant.”
2. “A chevron, charged with three crescents, between three demi-lions, rampant.”

In *Grants from the Crown* (State Papers, Domestic series) are the following entries:—

“July 9 Greenwich 1 Hen. VIII. (1509). Delivered at Westminster 21 July.

“Philip Cachemaid to be riding forester of Dean forest, taster of Newland ale within the said forest with the gawlership of one side of the wood towards Newland.”

“Philip Cachmay to be keeper during pleasure of the ‘Gawle above the wode’ in Dean Forest, Glouc. Corfe Castle 20 Aug. 2 Hen. VIII. (1510).

“ Del Knoll 25 Sep.

“ Patent R. 2 Hen. VIII. p. 2 m. 6.”

Nicholl says that this Philip Catchmay held a dwelling-house with 100 acres of land in Newland:—

“ Rich Cachemaide page of the chamber To be beadle of the forest of Dean Glouc in the same manner as Thomas Moton held it with fees out of the Lordship of St. Brevell's and Dean forest.

“ Greenwich 15 June 4 Hen VIII. (1512). Patent 4 Hen VIII. p 1. m 18.”

“ 11 April 1520.

“ Greenwich 10 March xi Hen VIII. Delivered at Westminster 11 April.

“ Ric: Cachemaide page of the chamber and Tho. Garton page of the Wardrobe of Beds To be beadles of the forest of Dean Glouc: and doorwards of the castle of St. Briavel there upon surrender by Cachemaide of patent 30 July 4 Hen VIII. (1512). In the Originalia Rolls temp. Hen. VIII. there is a grant to Richard Catchmayde of lands in London and the County of Gloucester—Anno 2 Rotulo 28.”

These lands, &c., appear to have been two “tenements and a piece of waste land in Flete Street called the sign of the Walshman, and one in the Old Baillye, London” (Nicholl). The lands in Gloucester may point to Bigsweir; but I think it doubtful.

Bigsweir, with a half fishery in the Wye which had been attached to the castle of St. Briavel's, was given by Edward II. to the see of Llandaff, which was poorly endowed. It was afterwards transferred to Tintern Abbey, and at the Dissolution fell to the Crown; and Richard Catchmay, being evidently a *personâ grata* at the Court, seems to have become possessed of it. But as the monasteries were not dissolved until the 31 Hen. VIII. (1540), the grant of Bigsweir to the Catchmays could not have been at an earlier date: and it may have been obtained by purchase; but I am not possessed of evidence either of a grant or purchase, and I think Fosbrooke must have been in error when he states in his

*History of Gloucestershire*, vol. ii., p. 141, that the manor of Bickswere was granted to Richard Catchmay in 2 Henry VIII. (1510).

In the Certificates of Chantries in the Record Office (No. 37, Certif. 23), it is said that Margaret Chachemay held one meadow and a parcel of land in Hollow Marsh (S. Briavel's), also the Horsepools—a tenement,—a parcel of land at Mark, and a parcel of land near Hollow Marsh. And, as regards the lands of the monastery of Grace Dieu, that Thomas Cat(c)hmay held Wetherfield (Withersfield); John Catchmay, a tenement, and Stowe meadow; and Matthew Catchmay, certain parcels of land.

In the chancel of S. Briavel's Church are the remains of a handsome Elizabethan monument to the memory of Wm. Warren, of Willsbury in the parish of S. Briavel's, and Mariana Catchmay, his wife. He died in 1572.

In the exemplification of a fine levied by George Wyrhall, Esq., in the 1 Jas. I. (1603), the name of George Cachmay appears as of Bigswear, Esquire; and in an account of a stocktaking at "Tynterne wire-works and the yron workes at Lydbrooke" the document is signed by "Georg' Cachmay," as one of the partners. This document is in my possession. The account is made up to 24th December, 1605.

Sir Richard Catchmay farmed the Crown Manor of S. Briavel's in the 13 Chas. I. (1637-8); and in some Exchequer Depositions of the 16 and 17 Car. 1 (1641), Mich. 33, Hil. 13, he appears as plaintiff in a suit against Jas. Gough, son, and Dorothy Gough, widow, of Warren Gough, late of Willsbury, deceased, respecting a heriot payable on Willsbury and other lands possessed by the said Warren Gough.

In a Parliamentary Survey held in 1651 Sir William Catchmay is described as of Ellissmore, *i.e.* Aylesmore. Sir William parted with this estate to the Bond's of Newland between 1651 and 1661, probably on account of succeeding his father at Bigswear. He married Ellinor, daughter of

Richard Gough, of Hewelsfield. She died in 1661, and was buried at Hewelsfield. Sir William died in 1683, and was buried at S. Briavel's.

I am unable to find the pedigree of George Catchmay of Bigsweir (1605), and think it probable that his successor was Sir Richard, who is said to have married a daughter of Sir John Bridges, first Lord Chandos; and to have had a daughter, Frances, married to Henry Hackett, of Penterry, Co. Monmouth. She died in 1642. A Lady Frances Catchmay died in 1629, and was buried at S. Briavel's. I learned this from a transcript in the Diocesan Registry at Gloucester. Unfortunately the registers of the Parish Church of S. Briavel's were lost or destroyed during the Commonwealth, and the earliest register now existing dates back only to 1660.

A Sir Richard Catchmay, Knt., of Bigsweir, probably a son of the Sir Richard above-mentioned, married Frances, daughter of John Tracy. She died in 1696, and was buried at S. Briavel's. The issue of this marriage was Sir William Catchmay, of Aylesmore, mentioned above, who died in 1683. He appears to have had two sons, Tracy and William, and three daughters, Frances, Eleanor (who died in 1694), and Elizabeth (who died in 1731, aged 84). These two last were buried at S. Briavel's. Sir William was summoned to the Heralds' Visitations for Gloucestershire in 1682 and 1683.

Sir Richard Catchmay is mentioned in the State Papers as renting iron-works in the Forest of Dean, having William Rowles and Robert Treswell as his overseers. He was one of the trustees named in the will of William Whittington of S. Briavel's, in 1625.

In 1694 a William Catchmay, Cler., was minister of the Parish of Llandogo, opposite Bigsweir. He may have been a son of Sir William.

In some claims before the Justice of the Forest of Dean, 10 Chas. I. (1634-5), among many others, "Sir Richard Katchmay seised in fee of lands and tenements called suit

lands in the parish of St. Briavell's claims necessary house-boote for repairing and rebuilding his houses of ancient time built by view and allowance of the Constable of the Castle of St. Briavell's, the Foresters and Verderers of the Forest from the King's woods growing in the wastes of the Forest, and estovers for fuel in his houses and tenements. He also claims as appertaining to his lands and tenements common of pasture in commonable places outside the fenced lands, and covert of the Forest for all his commonable cattle levant and couchant at all times of the year except in the close month, and pannage for his hogs and pigs ringed, in pannage time in the King's wastes and woods. He and all his predecessors who were seised of the Suitlands have enjoyed the said liberties &c. from time immemorial; and he prays that they may be allowed to him and to his heirs."

In the parish register of Monmouth is an entry of the burial of one Wm. Catchmay, "a prisoner from Lancawte," in 1645. This may have been Mr. Catchmay of Trellech, who was on the side of the Parliament, and is mentioned in the *Life of Jeremy Taylor*, p. 25, Bishop Heber's edition.

In the Originalia Rolls, temp. Jas. I., are the following grants made to a Thomas Catchmay, Esq. :—

"A farm in the County of Montgomery. 4 Pars Original Anno 9. Rot. 79.

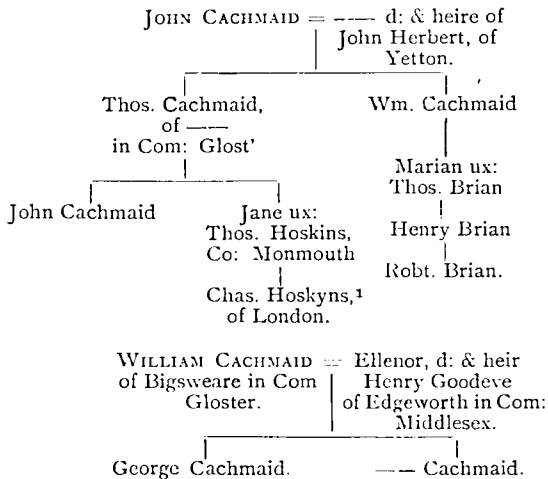
"To the same Thomas and Robert Corbet a grant in the counties of Kent, Derby, Salop, York, Leicester, Rutland, Suffolk, and in London, for 40 years. 8 Pars Original Anno 5 Rot. 61.

"To the same, Farms demised in the counties of Kent, Stafford, Surrey, Oxford, Berkshire, and York. 5 Pars Original Anno 6 Rotulo 39.

"And to Thomas Catchmay Gen: a concession in the County of Stafford. 9 Pars Original. Anno 6 Rotulo 126. also

"A Farm demised in the County of Suffolk. 10 Pars Original. Anno 6. Rotulo 60."

In the Harleian MSS., 1563, 80b, are the following pedigrees:—



No dates are given, and I am inclined to believe that this pedigree relates to the Catchmaids of Monmouth. A George Catchmay, of Monmouth, was married to Mrs. Mary Davis, of Tutshill (Tidenham), Decr. ye 26, 1744. In the Harleian MSS. 6,185, page 78, the pedigree of John Catchmay is given only in part, the son William being omitted.

In certain Articles of Agreement between the Duke of Kent and Viscount Gage and his wife, Benedicta Maria Teresa, daughter and heir of Benedict Hall, late of Highmeadow, dated 16th November, 1730, the signatures of E. and G. Catchmayd appear as witnesses. They seem to have been agents of the Duke of Kent. The Articles of Agreement refer to a certain fishery, or fisheries, in the Wye.

I may now return to the issue of Sir William Catchmay, of Aylesmore, or rather to his elder son and heir, Tracy. Tracy Catchmay was Deputy Constable of S. Briavel's

<sup>1</sup> Bigland states that Stowe (Grange) was alienated to Hoskins, descended from Thos. Hoskins, Co. Monmouth, who married Joan, d. of Thos. Catchmayd. The present Stowe Grange was built by Kedgwin Hoskyns, circa 1635.

Castle in 1692. In 1700 he married, on July 16th, at S. Dionis Backchurch, London, Barbara, daughter of Reginald Bray, of Barrington, Co. Somerset, Esquire, and widow of — Stephens. In the Harleian Society's publications, vol. 49, the entry in the Church Register is thus given:—

“Tracy Catchmay of Bixway (Bigsweare) Co: Glouc. Esq Bachelor and Barbara Stephens of S. Paul Covent Garden Co Middx widow.”

The issue of this marriage was—

1. William, b. 1701; died s.p. 1743; buried at S. Briavel's.
2. Tracy, b 1702; d. s.p. 173 $\frac{4}{5}$ ; buried at S. Briavel's.
3. Jane, b. 1703; m. 1735 Major James Rooke, son of Major-Gen. Hayman Rooke.

Tracy Catchmay died 30th November, 1708; and his widow, Barbara, died 23rd January, 174 $\frac{0}{1}$ , aged 75. Both were buried at St. Briavel's.

The issue of Major James Rooke and Jane (Catchmay) was—

1. Jane; died 1796.
2. James; died 1805. Married, 1777, Elizabeth, daughter of — Brown, of S. Briavel's. She died 1806.
3. Barbara, born 1741.
4. Frances, born 1743; died 1746.
5. Mary, born 1745; died 1745.

James Rooke, Esq., died 1773, aged 89. His son, General James Rooke, M.P. for Monmouth in five Parliaments, died in 1805, leaving a son, Colonel James Rooke, who married Mary Rigge, and had a son, Captain George Rooke, who died s.p. 1839.

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EXTRACTS FROM REGISTERS, &c.

TRANSCRIPT (FROM AN OLD S. BRIAVEL'S REGISTER) IN THE  
DIOCESAN REGISTRY, GLOUCESTER.

1629.—Lady Frances wife of Richard Catchmay Knight,  
buried 3 Nov.:

## FROM MONMOUTH REGISTER.

1645.—Buried May 13 William Catchmayd from Lancavte prisoner.

## FROM S. BRIAVEL'S REGISTER.

## BURIALS.

1683.—Jan. 20. Guilielmus Catchmay, Miles, sep: fuit. An affidavit was returned in due time. (This refers to the burial in woollen, according to the Act 20 Charles II.)

1694.—Sept. 24. Mrs. Ellenor Catchmay sepulta fuit.

1696.—Octob<sup>ris</sup> 14. Do<sup>na</sup> Francisca Catchmay s.f.

1708.—Novembris 2<sup>da</sup>. Tracy Catchmay Esq.

1731.—Aug. 29<sup>o</sup>. Elizabetha Catchmay Sep.

1733.—Feb. 19. Tracy Catchmay Armiger Sep.

174½.—Jan. 26. Mrs. Barbara Catchmay.

1743.—Mar. 30. William Catchmay.

1745.—Sept. 30. Mary d of James Rooke and Jane his wife.

1746.—June 28. Frances d of James Rooke Esq and Jane his wife.

1773.—June 18. James Rooke Esq.

1790.—July 15. Mrs. Jane Rooke.

1805.—Oct. 11. General James Rooke M.P. for Monmouth in 5 Parliaments, Bigsweare.

1806.—Mar. 10. Mrs. Elizabeth Rooke relict of General Rooke. Bigsweare.

## MARRIAGES.

1777.—James Rooke and Elizabeth Brown both of St. Briavels were married by License by William Seys Vicar Tidenham.

July 3. 1735.—James Rooke Esq<sup>r</sup> and Jane Catchmay.

## BAPTISMS.

1701.—Aprilis 24<sup>to</sup>. Guilielmus filius Tracy Catchmey (*sic*) Gen: & Barbaræ uxoris.

1702.—Julii 27<sup>mo</sup>. Tracy filius Tracy Catchmay Gen<sup>er</sup> & Barbaræ uxoris.

1703.—Julii 25<sup>to</sup>. Jana filia Tracy Catchmay Gen̄ & Barbaræ uxoris.

1741.—Sept. 30. Barbara the daughter of James Rooke Esq. by Jane his wife.

1743.—December 23. Frances the daughter of James Rooke Esq. by Jane his wife.

1745.—September 21. Mary the daughter of James Rooke Esq. by Jane his wife.

## HEWELSFIELD REGISTER.

## BAPTISM.

1664.—March 7. Gulielmus filius Gulielmi Catchmay & Barbaræ uxoris eius.

## MARRIAGES.

1684.—Aprilis 15. Matrimonium celebratum fuit inter Richardum Berrow de Parochiâ S<sup>to</sup> Briavell's et Jaannam Catchmay de hujus (*sic*) parochiâ.

1689.—Aprilis 23<sup>o</sup>. Matrimonium celebratum, fuit inter Georgium Lewis Jun<sup>eam</sup> de Parochiâ de Llandoggo in comitatu Monmouth et Elizabetham Catchmint de huius parochiâ.

1696.—Februarii 2<sup>o</sup>. Matrimonium celebratum fuit inter Johannem Worgan de Parochiâ Novæ terræ (Newland) et Elizabetham Chatchmint.

1716.—Maii 24<sup>o</sup>. Edwardus Perkins de Llandoggo Comita: de Monmouth & Elizabetha Catchmay de Huelsfield Matrimonio conjuncti fuere.

## BURIALS.

1665.—September 18. Charles Cachmay sepultus fuit.

1669. —June 5. George Cachmay sepultus.

1669.—June 17. Tho Cachmay sepultus.

1675.—Jan. 24. Thomas Chatchmay sepultus fuit.

1677.—februarij 16. Thomas̄ (? Thomasina) Catchmay sepulta fuit.

1690.—Octobris 17. Guilielmus Catchmint sepultus fuit.

1691.—Novembris 12<sup>o</sup>. Guilielmus Catchmint sepultus fuit.

1691.—Decembris 24. Francisca Catchment Vid. sepulta fuit.

1700.—Aug<sup>ti</sup> 3<sup>o</sup>. Guilielmus filius Guilielmi Catchmint et uxor: sepultus fuit.

1703.—Martii 1<sup>o</sup>. Anna Catchmay Vidua de Par: S<sup>u</sup> Briavelli sepulta fuit.

1711.—Jan<sup>rii</sup> 8<sup>vo</sup>. Barbara Catchmay sepultus fuit.

FROM NEWLAND REGISTERS.

MARRIAGE.

1622.—Jan. 24. Matrimonium inter Richardū Catchmay de Landoggo et Cecilā Gwillim de Newland.

BAPTISM.

1623.—Dec. 30. Baptizata fuit Dorethia Catchmaye filia Rich: Catchmaye de Llandoggo.

BURIAL.

1706.—Sep. 23. John<sup>s</sup> fil: Gulielmi et Eliz: Catchmay Gent de Newland.

BAPTISM.

1706.—Oct. 12. Bap Gulielmus fil: Gulielmi et Eliz: Catchmay Gent de Newland.

BURIALS.

1706.—Oct. 12. Sep: Gulielmus fil: Gulielmi et Eliz: Catchmay Gent de Newland.

1707.—July 9. Sep: Tho: fil: Gulielmi et Elizabetha Catchmay Gent de Newland.

1709.— . . . fil: Gulielmi et Eliz Catchmay de Newland.  
(Only date of year given.)

1734.—Oct. 5. Sep. Maria Catchmay de Clowerwall.

1748.—Dec. 17. Bur<sup>d</sup> Rebecca Catchmay de Whiteleaves  
(now Whitecliff).

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At the restoration of S. Briavel's Church in 1861 the inscribed stones were ruthlessly taken up and scattered. Fortunately, Bigland preserved the inscriptions in his

*County History.* I therefore am able to give those which relate to the Catchmays.

## IN CHANCEL ON FLAT STONES.

“Here lieth the body of William Catchmay Esq eldest son of Tracy Catchmay Esq of Bigsware by Barbara his wife. He departed this Life March 29. 1743 aged near 42.”

“Here lyeth the Body of Tracey Catchmay Esq who married Barbara the daughter of Reginald Bray of Barrington Esq by whom he had issue William, Tracey, and Jane. He died the 30th Day of November 1708. And also the above named Barbara who departed this Life Jan. 23, 1740-1 aged 75.”

“Here lies the Body of Tracey Catchmay Esq. youngest son of Tracey Catchmay by Barbara his Wife. He departed this Life Feb. 17, 1734 aged 31 years.”

On a flat stone: Arms—On a chevron 3 chess rooks between 3 rooks. Crest—A dexter arm embowed holding a pistol.

“Here lieth the Body of Jas. Rooke Esq. of Bigswear. He departed this Life June 16, 1773 aged 89 years, who married Jane the daughter of Tracey Catchmay Esq. Surviving issue by her James, Jane, and Barbara.”

The name of Catchmay has vanished from the neighbourhood.

Captain George Rooke, who died unmarried in 1839, devised the estates to a cousin, Captain Rooke, of the Scots Fusilier Guards, elder son of Sir Willoughby Rooke, an old Waterloo officer, who died at Pilstone, in the parish of Landogo, some thirty years ago. The present possessor of the estate of Bigsweir is George Douglas Willoughby Rooke, grandson of Captain Rooke, to whom the estate was devised. He has recently returned from South Africa, where he has been fighting the Boers with Paget's Horse. He married a few years ago Aileen, daughter of the late Mr. Bosanquet, of Trellech.

Since the above was written, I have had the opportunity of consulting Sir Bernard Burke's *Extinct and Dormant Peerages*, and find that Sir John Brydges was created, by Letters Patent, Baron Chandos in 1554. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Edmund, Lord Grey de Wilton, and had by her seven sons and three daughters :

1. Catherine, married Edw. Sutton, Lord Dudley.
2. Elizabeth, married John Tracey, Esq., of Todington, Co. Glouc.
3. Mary, married George Throckmorton, Esq., son of Sir George Throckmorton, of Coughton (? in Walford, near Ross).

By his marriage to Frances, daughter of John Tracy, Sir Richard Catchmay, of Bigswear, became connected with the first Lord Chandos.

In Smyth's *History of the Hundred of Berkeley* it is stated that in the 13 Henry VII. (1497-8), "John Longford, a merchant in Bristoll," conveyed certain lands and tenements (3 tenements and 180 acres of land) in Came to "Mathew Catchmay and his heirs"; and in the 21 Hen. VIII. (1529-30), William Catchmay conveyed to Richard Brayne a messuage in Came, and all his lands there which descended to him from his grandmother, Agnes Catchmay. At a later date a title to these lands was put in by "George Goffe in right of Mary his wife, Jone ap Roberto, widow, and Thomas James, as co-heires to Mary Catchmay, after wife of William Warren." The matter was settled by arbitration in 20 Elizabeth (1577-8). The Mary Catchmay here named is called by Bigland, "Mariana." She was married to William Warren, of Willsbury, in S. Briavel's, Esq. He was a man of some importance, being Deputy-Constable of S. Briavel's Castle. He had two sons and two daughters. The elder son died on approaching manhood, the younger apparently in infancy, and they were buried in the chancel of S. Briavel's Church. Of the two daughters, Mary married George Gough, of Hewelsfield Court, Esq., who succeeded to the Willsbury

estate; and Margaret married Thomas James, of Soylwell, in Lydney, Esq.

William Warren died in 1572, and was buried at S. Briavel's; and a sumptuous monument bearing the effigies of himself and his wife, and with the shield of his arms—checky or and azure—at the back, was erected over their remains. I do not know who Jone ap Robert was. On the panel at the lower part of the monument only two daughters and two sons are figured, the younger being an infant, swathed, as was the custom. This tomb is partially given in Bigland's *History*. Taken down when the chancel was rebuilt in 1861, it was never replaced, and the *débris* is scattered in different parts of the Church.

Early in the reign of Edward VI., Thomas Catchmay held Witherfeld and other lands in S. Briavel's. John Catchmay held a tenement and Stowe meadow; and Matthew Catchmay held Stowe Grange under the Abbey of Grace Dieu, near Monmouth, at a rental of 46s. 8d. (Report of Commissioners).

In 1677 Tracy Catchmay, of Bigsweare, Esq., was Lord of the Manor of Crick, near Caerwent, Monmouthshire, which a few years before had belonged to the Moore family. By his marriage with Jane, a daughter of Tracy Catchmay, and heiress of her brothers Tracy and William, who died s.p., the manor passed to James Rooke, Esq., and was sold by his son, General James Rooke, in 1784.

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