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The Machen Family, Gloucestershire

by H. A. Machen
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THE MACHEN FAMILY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

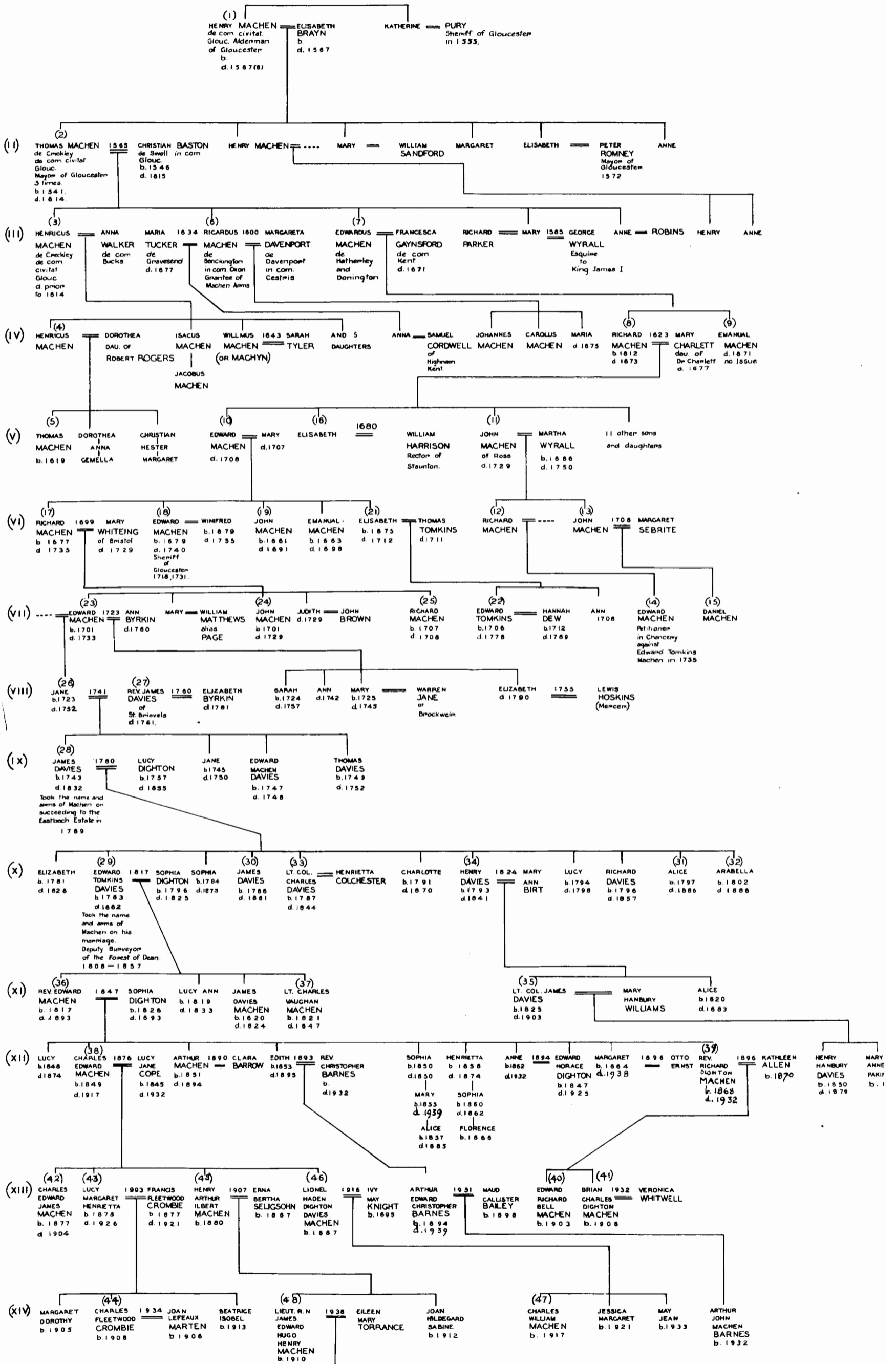
by H. A. MACHEN

OF the beginnings of the Machen Family very little is traceable earlier than the 14th century. It is thought that it came originally from Machynlleth in Montgomeryshire, the name Machynlleth being the Welsh equivalent of Machyn Town. There is however no doubt that there were Machens (Machins or Machyns, having been spelt apparently indifferently in all three ways) at least as early as the beginning of the 14th century.

The discovery of Madeira in 1344 by Robert Machen has by some writers been described as a myth—a legend without foundation. The evidence however seems to point to its being authentic. Fuller's *Worthies of England*, I, 388, in a list of the 'Gentry of Gloucestershire' in 1434, includes Reginald Machyn. Canon Samuel Lysons, in his *Gloucestershire Illustrations* (1861), states that a Machen was clerk to the king's household during the reign of Edward IV.

John (or Jenkin) de Wyrhale (or Wyrall) 'Forester in Fee', who died in 1468 and whose effigy is in Newland churchyard was married to Margaret, daughter of . . . Machen of St. Briavels. A pedigree of the family of Wyrall compiled by Sir John Maclean (*Trans. B.G.A.S.* I, facing p. 69) shows this as the first of many links between the families of Wyrall and Machen. Old deeds of the Wyrall family refer to the name of Machen: John Machen of St. Briavels bought land from one Tyler in 1422, Philip Machen being a witness to the deed of sale; Thomas Machen sold land to Tyler, 1450; and in 1500

Machen



Thomas Machen junior witnessed a deed. From this it seems clear that Machens were resident at St. Briavels during most of the 15th century.

Among the Gloucestershire Wills at Somerset House is that of Richard Machen, dated 1509. Richard has always been a very usual name in the family. John Machen appears to have been born about 1500. His descendants for five generations are shown in the Visitation for Gloucestershire of 1623 (Harleian Society) but I have not been able to trace this branch of the family any further.

Henry Machyn, citizen and Merchant Taylor of London kept a diary from 1550 to 1563, which was edited by J. G. Nichols and printed by the Camden Society in 1848. From passages in this diary it is clear that Henry Machyn was born before 1500. He had a brother, Christopher, who died in 1550.

These notes relate to various Machens who, there is every reason to believe, were connected with the direct ancestors of the present family though no actual proof can be produced. The earliest trace of the direct line which the present Machens of English Bicknor can be shown is from the death of Henry Machen (1), alderman of Gloucester in 1568. The date of his birth is not known but as he was mayor of Gloucester in 1558, we may safely assume that he was born before 1500, as at that time it would have been unusual to be mayor of a city of the importance which then attached to Gloucester much under 60 years of age. His sister Katherine married . . . Pury, sheriff of Gloucester in 1555. The Pury family formerly owned 'The Grove,' Taynton, now in the possession of Mr Morgan Phillips Price, M.P., whose father bought it from the last Pury.

This Henry Machen (1) married Elisabeth the daughter of . . . Brayn (or Brayne). One Nicholas Brayne of Littledean is mentioned in old records and the Brayns

were at one time lords of the manor of Staunton near Coleford. Henry Machen (1) was sheriff of Gloucester in 1550 and 1555, the year when Bishop Hooper was burnt at the stake in Gloucester. In this year his co-sheriff was Thomas Machen. It appears probable that they were cousins. Henry was buried in Gloucester Cathedral and his tomb is marked by a stone engraved with the Machen coat of arms. His eldest son Thomas (2) was born in 1541. He was sheriff of Gloucester in 1572, when Peter Rumney, the husband of his sister Elisabeth, was Mayor. He was sheriff again in 1576 and Mayor in 1579, when Thomas Best (believed to have been the same Elisabeth's second husband) was one of the two sheriffs. Thomas (2) was chosen mayor again in 1588 and 1601. In 1564 he married Christian Baston, of Swell, Gloucestershire, born in 1545. A monument in Gloucester Cathedral represents Thomas and his wife kneeling, facing each other across a prie-dieu or desk, and below them are reliefs representing their seven sons and six daughters. Thomas died in 1614 and his wife Christian in 1615. It appears that he must have been a fairly wealthy man and he may perhaps be regarded as the founder of the Machen fortunes.

The following references to Machens or Machins in the Winchcomb register are approximately contemporary with Thomas Machen (2):—1543, Ralph Machin married Elisabeth Young; 1586, Ralph Machin married Anne Atkinson; 1575, Anthony Machin married Joan Mucklowe.

John Smyth's *Men and Armour for Gloucestershire* edited from the original MS in the possession of Lord Sherborne, published in 1902, refers to 'Mr Machin' as owner of the manor of Condicote. Thomas Machen (2) is described as 'of Crickley in Glouc'. Presumably he owned property there but this I have not been able to trace.

The sons and daughters of Thomas were:—Henry Machen (3) described as 'of Creckley', evidently

inherited his father's property at Crickley. He married Anne Walker of Bucks and had 4 sons—Henry (4), Isaac, William (who reverted to the old spelling Machyn), and James, and 5 daughters. Henry married Dorothea Rogers, daughter of Robert Rogers of Dowdeswell, near Crickley. They had one son Thomas (5), and 6 daughters.

The Dowdeswell property remained in the possession of the Rogers family until a few years ago, when it passed to one of the Dightons, a family with whom the Machens have been closely associated by marriage for the last three generations. This Dighton assumed the name of Rogers.

The second son of Thomas Machen (2) was Richard (6) described as 'of Benckington in Oxon.', without doubt Benson or Bensington in that county. He married in 1600 Margaret Davenport, of Davenport in Cheshire. Randolph Davenport (also spelt Dawnport) was sheriff of Cheshire in 1586. By this marriage Richard had 2 sons, John and Charles, and a daughter Maria. In Ewelme churchyard are three tombstones in a row. On the first is the name Charles Machen . . . the rest of the inscription is illegible. The inscription on the second is entirely obliterated and the third is inscribed: Margaret Machen died 1675 aged 19. I assume that these three graves are those of Charles, his wife (name unknown) and their daughter Margaret, possibly named after her grandmother *née* Davenport. This branch of the family seems to have died out, and no further trace can be found of them.

In 1634 Richard (6) married again. His second wife was Mary Tucker of Gravesend. They had one daughter Anna, who married Samuel Cordwell of Higham (or Highnam) in Kent. Richard (see page 109), is described in old records as the grantee of the Machen coat of arms in 1615.

The third son of Thomas Machen (2) was Edward (7) described as 'of Hatherley', near Cheltenham, and

Donington in Herefordshire. It seems probable that he was the builder of Eastbach Court, though his elder brother Richard (6) may have owned it, and that on his death, his sons having predeceased him, it passed to Edward. At the time when he sold the Donington estate he was described as ' of Eastbach Court and Donington '. I have an old note in my great-grandfather's handwriting as follows :—

' James Davies told me today that one of the first deeds put into his hands by the Special Pleader with whom he read law was that of the sale of the Donington estate by Edward Machen, Esq. of Eastbach Court and Donington '.

Thomas Machen (2) had a daughter Mary, who married in 1585 George Wyrrell, esquire to King James of Scotland, another link with the Wyrrell family.

Edward Machen (7) married Francesca Gaynsford of Kent, who died in 1671. They had 2 sons, Richard (8) and Emmanuel (9). Of Emmanuel nothing further is known except that he died in 1671, the same year as his mother, and is buried in the Machen chapel in English Bicknor church.

Richard (8) was born in 1612. He inherited the Eastbach estate on the death of his father (date unknown). He married Mary, daughter of Dr Charlett and died in 1673, and his wife in 1677. They had 13 sons and 3 daughters. Of these 16 children the eldest Edward (10) inherited the Eastbach estate. The present line is descended from him and he is referred to in more detail below. The second son John (11) of Ross, married Martha Wyrrell (yet another link between the two families). He died in 1729, and his wife (born 1686) died in 1750. They had two sons, Richard (12), and John (13). Richard married and had a son Edward (14) who will be referred to again. John (13) married in 1708 Margaret Sebrite and they had a son Daniel (15).

Elisabeth (16) the eldest daughter of Richard (8) and Mary Machen, married William Harrison, rector of Staunton. Of the remaining 11 sons and 2 daughters nothing is known.

Reverting to Edward Machen (10), he married Mary (surname not known). In the year 1670 he rode as a Regarder in a perambulation of the Forest of Dean. This is the first record I have found of a Machen being officially connected with the administration of the Forest. He died in 1708 and his wife in either 1701 or 1707 (the date in the entry is not quite clear). They had 4 sons and one daughter, viz., Richard (17) born 1677, Edward (18) born 1679, John (19) born 1681, Emmanuel (20) born 1683 (the two latter both died in infancy) and Elisabeth (21) born 1675. Edward (10) died in 1708 and in his will he left the whole of his estate to his daughter Elisabeth, who had married Thomas Tomkins. To each of his surviving sons he left 5 shillings 'to buy a pair of gloves' because he said 'she (his daughter) had been the only one to prove herself a dutiful child to him in his old age and infirmities'.

Thomas Tomkins died in 1711 and Elisabeth his wife in 1712, so she enjoyed her inheritance for only four years. She left a son Edward Tomkins (22) born in 1706. On Elisabeth's death in 1712 the estate went to her eldest brother Richard (17) who had been disinherited by his father. He was appointed a Verderer of the Forest of Dean in 1716, Deputy Constable of St. Briavel's Castle and Sub-Warden of the Forest of Dean in 1717. He was also made a 'Free Miner' in 1717. A 'Court of the Miners' was held in the Speech House on 7 January 1717 before Richard Machen and William James esquires, and another on 10 November 1719. Richard married Mary Whiteing of Bristol and had 3 sons, Edward (23), John (24), Richard (25) and 2 daughters Mary and Judith. All died before their father, who died in 1735, and, having no surviving son or daughter, he left the estate to his brother Edward (18) and his heirs, or failing him to

Edward Tomkins (22) the son of his deceased sister Elisabeth, and thirdly to Daniel Machen (15) the son of his first cousin John.

In 1735 the estate accordingly passed to Edward (18). He was born in 1679. He married Winifred (surname not known) but they had no children. He was sheriff of Gloucester in 1718 and again in 1731, and mayor in 1739. He died in 1740, and the estate in accordance with the will of Richard (17) passed to Edward Tomkins (22) his nephew.

Edward Tomkins was born in 1706. He married Hannah Dew, born in 1712. On succeeding to the Eastbach estate he adopted the name and arms of Machen. His second cousin Edward Machen (14), grandson of John Machen (11) of Ross, brought an action in Chancery against him, claiming the estate. His claim appears to have been based on the fact that he was the sole surviving descendant in the direct male line of Richard Machen (8), whereas Edward Tomkins Machen (22) was descended in the female line through his mother, Elisabeth. The action failed and his title to the estate was confirmed. He rebuilt Eastbach Court, 1763 to 1769. It had been to a great extent burnt down in 1760. Part of the kitchen quarters of the original building still remain, and the archway or fireplace at the end of the present croquet lawn appears to have formed part of the old building, but whether it now stands in its original position, the present croquet lawn being the site of one of the reception rooms of the old house, or whether the archway was transferred to its present position to form an ornamental feature in the garden, cannot be decided as there are no records available of the plan of the original building. The stables must have been added to the original house, or rebuilt in 1723, and escaped damage in the fire, as the date 1723 appears on the weather vane on the top of the stables. The cost of rebuilding Eastbach Court, as shown in the account book which I

possess, was just under £2500. Today to build it as it is built would certainly cost £12,000 to £15,000.

Edward Tomkins Machen (22) died in 1778 and the estate passed to his widow Hannah for life. She died the following year. They left no issue and on Hannah's death it passed by will to the descendents of Edward Machen (23) who would no doubt have inherited if he had not predeceased his father.

Edward Machen (23), born in 1701, had, by an early marriage (name of wife unknown), a daughter Jane (26) born in 1723. She married in 1741 Rev. James Davies (27) of St. Briavels and had a son also named James (28) born in 1743. Jane died in 1752. Her husband married again, in 1760, Elisabeth Byrkin. Jane's son, James Davies (28), inherited the estate on the death of Hannah Machen, widow of Edward Tomkins Machen (22), in 1789. It was a condition of the will of Edward Tomkins Machen that his successor should take the name and arms of Machen on succeeding to the Eastbach estate and this he did. Five of his children were born before this change of name and therefore their legal surname was Davies, and the remaining children, born after the change of name, reverted to that name.

James Davies (28) must at one time have been Deputy Surveyor of the Forest of Dean, but the only evidence of this which I have found is a passage in Nichols's *Personalities of the Forest of Dean* and an original letter from Lord Glenbervie, Surveyor General of the Forest, to Edward Tomkins Davies (29), son of this James Davies, offering him the post. In this letter Lord Glenbervie refers to his (Edward Tomkins Davies) father's experience in the Forest. James Davies married Lucy Dighton in 1780. He took the name and arms of Machen on inheriting the Eastbach estate in 1789. They had 5 sons and 6 daughters. He died in 1852, and his widow Lucy survived him until 1855 when she died at the age of 97. The English Bicknor almshouse was built as a memorial to

her. Their eldest son was Edward Tomkins Davies (29) who is referred to below.

Of the other sons and daughters James (30), the second son (always spoken of by my parents as 'Old Uncle James'), was rector of Dixton and later of Abenhall. He wrote a number of pamphlets, mostly on religious subjects, and some on the Forest which are bound under the title 'James Davies—Various'. The stable and coach-house at Bicknor Cottage (now used as garage and workshop) were built to accommodate his ponies when, in his old age, and living with his brother Edward at Eastbach Court, he used to ride or drive to visit his two sisters Alice and Arabella, who then lived at the Cottage. In those days the road from Eastbach came up the steep bank at the side of the two fields known as Eastbach Field and Baseley's (now thrown into one) and emerged into what is now only a footpath at the side of the Bicknor Cottage Paddock. So he must have had fairly good ponies. When the new road (Church Hill) was made my great-grandfather gave the land required for the purpose, and in exchange was authorized to enclose the old road. James Davies (30) was born in 1786 and died unmarried in 1881. The third son was Lt.-Col. Charles Davies (33) born in 1787. He died in 1844 as the result of his gun going off as he was climbing over a fence near Bicknor Court. The fourth son was Henry (34) who married Mary Anne Birt. They had two children, Lt.-Col. James Davies (35) of the Garth, Monmouth ('Cousin James'), and Alice, who was partially crippled. Her portrait, believed to be by Richmond, hangs in the drawing room at Bicknor Cottage.

Lt.-Col. James Davies married Mary Hanbury Williams. They had two children, Lieut. Henry Hanbury Davies born 1850, died 1879, and Mary Annette Pakington Davies, born 1856, who lived at Clevedon and died 19 February 1944. The two youngest daughters of James Davies Machen (28) were Alice (31) and Arabella (32).

They lived together for many years, first at Bicknor Cottage and later at Bicknor House. I remember well that when as a small boy I used to stay with my grandparents at Bicknor Court and used to visit the old aunts (actually great-grand-aunts), they always used to have a tin of barley sugar and another of gingerbreads which were produced for my benefit. Both died in 1886.

Edward Tomkins Davies (Machen) (29) was born in 1783, i.e. before his father had assumed the name Machen, and he was accordingly known as Davies until his marriage in 1816 to his cousin Sophia Dighton, when he also assumed the name of Machen. In 1808 (not 1805 as stated by Nichols in his *Personalities of the Forest of Dean*) he was appointed Deputy Surveyor of the Forest, which post he held until 1853. He was then succeeded by a Mr Brown, who was however relieved of his post after a few months, and Edward Machen was asked to resume the position temporarily until a suitable permanent appointment could be made. This he did and he retained the post until 1857, thus completing 49 years service as Deputy Surveyor of the Forest. A great deal of the work which he did in this capacity is recorded in Nichols's *Forest of Dean*. Much of this record is taken verbatim from manuscript diaries which he kept during his term of office and are in my possession. I also have the letter which was written to him by Lord Glenberrie (then Surveyor General of the Forest), offering him the post of Deputy Surveyor. It is interesting to note that the salary offered was £200 a year. As he had to live at, and keep up, Whitmead Park it is quite certain that the appointment brought him no pecuniary advantage. On his final retirement in 1857 his friends and neighbours in the Forest subscribed a sum of £450, and presented him with a silver tea and coffee service which has been in the possession of the eldest son of the family ever since, and is generally known as the 'Machen Presentation Plate'. In 1860 he was made a Verderer of the Forest. In 1826

Mary Wyrall, the last representative of the Wyrall family, died and left him the Bicknor Court property subject to some very heavy charges. He died in 1862 at the age of 79. His wife Sophia had died in 1825 at the age of 29. They had 3 sons and one daughter. The youngest son Lieut. Charles Vaughan Machen (37) died in 1847 at the age of 26. Their daughter Lucy Ann died at the age of 14 and the second son James at the age of four.

Edward (36) eldest son of Edward Tomkins Machen (29), was born in 1817. He took Holy Orders and was at one time rector of Mitcheldean and subsequently of Staunton. In 1847 he married Sophia Dighton, born 1827. On the death of his father in 1862 he inherited the Eastbach estate and the Bicknor Court property, and in 1875 he resigned the living of Staunton and went to live at Eastbach Court. In 1883 he moved to Bicknor Court and let Eastbach Court to Mr Forster Brown, Deputy Gaveller of the Forest of Dean. Since then no Machen has lived at Eastbach Court.

Edward Machen (36) and his wife Sophia died in 1893 within a few weeks of each other. They had 13 children, 3 sons and 10 daughters. The eldest son Charles Edward (38) is referred to below. Of the other children, Lucy, the eldest, born in 1848 died in 1874. Sophia, the third child, lived only five days. Alice, Henrietta, and Sophia, born in 1857, 1858 and 1860 respectively, died in 1885, 1874 and 1862. Arthur, the second son, born in 1851 married Clara Barrow in 1890. He died in 1894 leaving no issue. Edith, born in 1853, married in 1893 the Rev. Christopher Barnes, rector of Christchurch near Coleford. They had a son Arthur Edward Christopher born in 1894. Mary, born in 1855, died at Torquay in 1939. Anne born in 1862 married in 1894 her cousin Edward Horace Dighton. She died in 1932, leaving no issue. Margaret, born in 1864, married in 1896 Otto Ernst and died in 1938 at Newport, Washington, U.S.A.

Florence, born in 1866, lives at Abbotswood, Glos. Richard Dighton Machen (39), the youngest of the family, was born in 1868. He was ordained and was incumbent successively of Ludford, Clun, Pitchford and Acton Scott, all in Shropshire and in the diocese of Hereford. He was also Prebendary of Hereford Cathedral. He married in 1896 Kathleen Allen, of Easton, Hants. They had 2 sons, Edward Richard Bell Machen (40) and Charles Brian Dighton Machen (41). The former married in 1938 Ada Kathleen Sands of Church Stretton. The latter married in 1932 Veronica, daughter of Dr Whitwell, of Church Stretton. They have two sons Peter Christopher born in 1936 and Timothy born in 1939. Richard Dighton Machen (39) died in 1932.

Charles Edward Machen (38) was born in 1849. He studied law and practised as a solicitor in London. In 1876 he married Lucy Jane, daughter of Edward Cope of Leamington. In 1888 he was appointed Assistant Deputy Surveyor of the Forest of Dean which post he held till 1903. On the death of his father in 1893 he succeeded to the Eastbach and Bicknor Court properties and came to live at Bicknor Court. After two years, partly owing to the double duties which had been payable on the deaths of his father and mother within a few weeks of one another, he found it necessary to move to Bicknor Cottage, and to let the Court. The property, comprising Bicknor Court, Court Farm and the Coldwell Walks was sold in 1898 to Thomas Gunter of English Bicknor.

Charles Edward Machen (38) died in 1917, aged 67. He had 3 sons and one daughter. The eldest son Charles Edward James (42), born in 1877, was educated at Hereford Cathedral School, and Brasenose College, Oxford. He studied law, but died in 1904, aged 25, before he had qualified.

Lucy Margaret Henrietta (43), born in 1878, married in 1903 Fleetwood Francis Crombie. They had one son Charles Fleetwood (44) who in 1934 married Joan Lefeaux

Marten, and two daughters, Margaret Dorothy and Beatrice Isabel. The second son, Henry Arthur Ilbert Machen (45) the present writer, is referred to below.

The third son Lionel Haden Dighton Davies Machen (46) was born in 1887. He was educated at Hereford Cathedral School. He went to New Zealand for two years and after a short stay in England went in 1912 to Australia to take up farming. He married in 1916 Ivy May Knight, and they have a son Charles William (47) born in 1917, and two daughters, Jessica Margaret born in 1921, and May Jean born in 1933.

On the death in 1917 of Charles Edward Machen (38), the Eastbach estate came to his widow for life and then to myself as the elder surviving son, his eldest son Charles Edward James Machen (42) having predeceased him.

I was born in 1880, and educated at Bloxham School, near Banbury, and in Belgium, and Germany. I took up engineering as a profession and spent several years in Germany. In 1907 I married Erna Berta, elder daughter of Hugo Seligsohn of Berlin. On the death of my mother in 1932 I came into possession of the Eastbach estate which however had been considerably reduced in extent by the necessity for selling some of the farms in order to meet the duties on the death of my father. Sterts, Hillersland, and Upper and Lower Carter's Piece Farms were then sold. When I came into possession the estate amounted to about 850 acres.

My son James Edward Hugo Henry (48) was born in 1910. He was educated at Oundle School and in 1928 passed into the Royal Navy. He is now Lieutenant Commander (E) R.N. On 1 August 1936 he married Eileen Mary, only daughter of Mr R. A. Torrance, Mayor of San Fernando, Trinidad, and Mrs Torrance. They have a daughter Diana Elizabeth Charlotte born in 1943. My daughter Joan Hildegard Sabine Machen was born in 1912.

Members of the Family of Machen of English Bicknor according to the numbers shown on the Pedigree facing page 96, and mentioned in the text, and of those who married into the Family.

MACHEN FAMILY

41	Brian Charles Dighton (s. of 39)	4	Henry (s. of 3)
38	Charles Edward (s. of 36)	45	Henry Arthur Ilbert (s. of 38)
42	Charles Edward James (s. of 38)	48	James Edward Hugo Henry (s. of 45)
37	Charles Vaughan (s. of 29)	26	Jane (d. of 23)
47	Charles William (s. of 46)	11	John (s. of 8)
15	Daniel (s. of 13)	13	John (s. of 11)
7	Edward (s. of 2)	19	John (s. of 10)
10	Edward (s. of 8)	24	John (s. of 17)
14	Edward (s. of 12)	46	Lionel Haden Dighton Davies (s. of 38)
18	Edward (s. of 10)	43	Lucy Margaret Henrietta (d. of 38)
23	Edward (s. of 17)	6	Richard (s. of 2)
36	Edward (s. of 29)	8	Richard (s. of 7)
40	Edward Richard Bell (s. of 39)	12	Richard (s. of 11)
16	Elisabeth (d. of 8)	17	Richard (s. of 10)
21	Elisabeth (d. of 10)	25	Richard (s. of 17)
9	Emmanuel (s. of 7)	39	Richard Dighton (s. of 36)
[20]	Emmanuel (s. of 10)	2	Thomas (s. of 1)
1	Henry (d. 1567)	5	Thomas (s. of 4)
3	Henry (s. of 2)		

DAVIES FAMILY

31	Alice (d. of 28)	27	James (Rev.) husband of 26
32	Arabella (d. of 28)	28	James (s. of 26)
33	Charles (s. of 28)	30	James (s. of 28)
29	Edward Tomkins (s. of 28)	35	James (s. of 34)
34	Henry (s. of 28)		

TOMKINS

22	Edward Tomkins (s. of 21)
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CROMBIE

44	Charles Fleetwood (s. of 43)
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APPENDIX

THE MACHEN COAT OF ARMS

The Machen coat of arms is emblazoned:—Gules a Fess Vairy Argent and Azure between three Pellicans Heads erased Or And for his crest a Pellicans Head erased Or. Which Coat and Crest doth properly belong unto Richard Machen (6) Esqr. of Eastbach Court in Com. Gloucester.

The above is copied from a parchment in my possession. It bears no date but from notes written on the back it

would appear to have been done for Richard Machen (17), born 1677 and died 1733

An earlier Richard Machen born between 1565 and 1580 is referred to in various old records as the 'Grantee in 1615 of the Machen coat of arms'. There is however no doubt that the Machens were 'Armiger' long before 1615. A note to the preface to James Bird's *Machin or the Discovery of Madeira* states that according to Alcafarado, Robert Machin was of the second degree of nobility.

I have not as yet been able to trace any record of how and why a grant was made to Richard Machen in 1615. It may be that as he was a younger son, for some service rendered James I granted him a separate and different coat of arms from that borne by his father. James I was notoriously somewhat lavish in the distribution of titles and favours, frequently in acknowledgment and perhaps liquidation of loans and financial assistance. Richard Machen's brother-in-law George Wyrall was Esquire to James I and was therefore very probably in a position to use influence for the advantage of his wife's relations.

The tomb of Thomas Machen (2), mayor of Gloucester (the father of the Richard referred to above) in Gloucester Cathedral bears a coat of arms thus:—

- 1st. A chevron engrailed gules between three stalked leaves vert.
- 2nd. Azure in a flower pot a branch of columbine stalked 'and leaved proper—tied with a ribbon or'.

The Rev. Samuel Lysons in his pamphlet on 'Machin and Madeira' comments on this and suggests that the bearings borne by the Gloucester Machens (as described above) had reference to Robert Machin's discovery of the 'Verdant and flowery Island of Madeira'. He also states that the coat of arms now borne by the Machens (the Pelicans' heads) is 'taken from the Tomkins family

with whom there was an intermarriage'. It is quite clear that in this Lysons was drawing on his imagination and had not made very careful investigation. Otherwise he would have discovered that the present coat of arms is shown in the original record of the Visitation of Gloucestershire in 1623 (preserved at the College of Arms where it was inspected by the writer in 1935), whereas the intermarriage with the Tomkins family did not take place until about 1730.

On enquiry at the College of Arms the writer was informed that the arms displayed on the tomb of Thomas Machen, as described above, are identical with those of New Inn, London. The records of the College of Arms show (1623) another branch of the family in the County of Durham also bearing the 'Pelicans' Heads' coat of arms.

AUTHORITIES AND REFERENCES

All particulars and dates down to the year 1623 are taken from the Heralds Visitation of Gloucestershire of that year. The original is at the College of Arms. It bears the signature of Richard Machen (8). The Visitation was printed, with voluminous notes, by the Harleian Society, vol. XXI (1885), and edited by Sir John Maclean, F.S.A.

Will of Henry Machen (1), 15 March 1566. Date of probate, 9 May 1567. The date of probate is stated to be as above but the date of death on Henry Machen's tomb in Gloucester Cathedral is 1568, and in view of the probate must be wrong.

Will of Thomas Machen (2), 9 September 1614. Probate 3 December 1614.

Will of Christian Machen, wife of Thomas Machen (2) dated 21 June 1615. Probate 14 December 1615.

Parish Registers of English Bicknor, containing entries relating to:—Emmanuel Machen (9); John Machen (11);

Martha Machen, wife of John Machen (11); Richard Machen (17); Mary Machen, wife of Richard Machen (17); Edward Machen (18); John Machen (19); Emmanuel Machen (20); John Machen (24); Edward Tomkins Machen (22); and numerous references during the late 18th and 19th centuries.

Parish Registers of St. Briavels, entries relating to:—
Edward Machen (23); Jane Machen (26); Sarah and Ann Machen, daughters of Edward Machen (23).

Parish Registers of Newland:—Elisabeth Machen (16).

Will of Richard Machen (8) proved at Gloucester.

Grave-stones and wall tablets in the Machen Chapel, in English Bicknor church referring to Richard Machen (8); Mary his wife; Edward Machen (23); and many others of later date.

Inscriptions on grave-stones and monument in Gloucester Cathedral to Thomas Machen (2); Christian, his wife; Henry Machen (1); Edward Machen (18); and Winifred his wife.

Inscription on tomb-stone at Cheltenham to Ann Machen, daughter of Thomas (21) and Elisabeth Tomkins (Machen).

The 7th Generation onwards to the present day shown in Burke's *Landed Gentry*.

County Histories.