

From the *Transactions* of the
Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

Sargent of Gloucester, U.S.A.

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1966, Vol. 85, 224-226

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SARGENT OF GLOUCESTER, U.S.A.

There has long been a Family tradition on both sides of the Atlantic that my Family* and that of Sargent of Gloucester, U.S.A., which numbers amongst its members John the portrait painter and Charles Sprague the botanist, were related. Many of that Family have been ardent genealogists and I was fortunate to get into touch with Winthrop Sargent who has made the most thorough researches into Family History.

It appears that there are two families of Sargent of Gloucester both still with many members in the U.S.A.

(1) Those descending from William Sargent Senior first recorded there is 1649 and so called because he had a son William Junior born in America in 1658.

(2) Those sprung from William Sargent the Second, first recorded there in 1678 and so-called by the Family because of a theoretical William the First his father or brother who came to America before 1678 and left again. There is, however, no trace of him in any document so far discovered. Winthrop descends from William the Second, one of whose daughters married a son of William Senior. In an endeavour to trace William the Second, I was able to establish the descent of William Senior which will probably be of interest to many descendants still existing.

In the Typewritten List of Bristol apprentices in the library of the Society of Genealogists there are entries as follows:—

(1) 1628/9 Feb. 18. Sergeant, And. Son of Wm., Clk. decd., Late Street, Som. Appr. to Geo Wathen Snr. Joiner and Joyce his wife.

(2) 1629 Jun. 27. Sergeant, And. discharged because md. before apprenticeship and had xx (probably 'two') children.

Col. Le Mesurier in his book, *The English Ancestors of EPES SARGENT* has an obviously garbled quotation from the Bristol Burgess Book which should read:

(3) 16 July 1629. Andrew Sargent, Joyner, admitted Freeman of Bristol on account of his marriage to Mary, daughter of George Wathen.

The American evidence is as follows:

(1) William Sargent Senior married in 1651 in America, Abigail Clark, half sister to the wife of one Zebulon Hill, and had seven children, amongst them:—

*For the Sargeant pedigree see *Trans. BGAS*, vol. 78, p. 110, which also has a copy of the will of 1568.

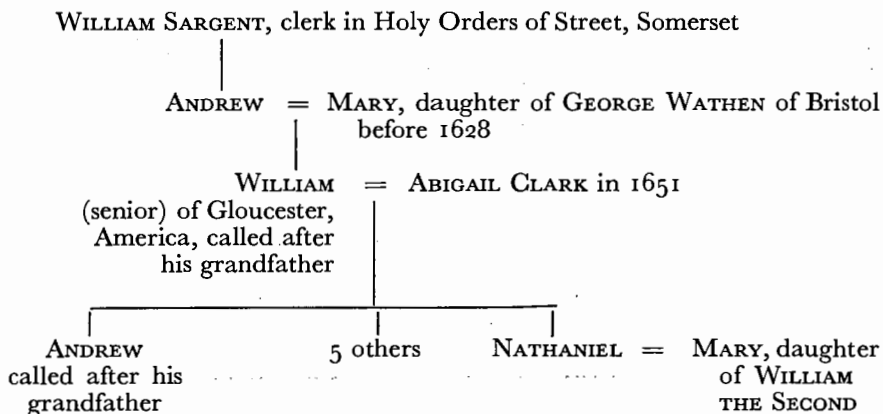
NOTES

Andrew 1655 William (junior) 1658
 Nathaniel 1671
 (who married Mary, daughter of William the Second)
 (Gloucester U.S.A. Vital Records)

(2) In 1652 one Thomas Wathen died in America and it was necessary to appoint an administrator for his estate. On 27 July of that year, Zebulon Hill gave evidence before the Essex County Court:

'I, Zebulon Hill, formerly living in Bristall in Ould England being heare deposed testifieth that Thomas Wathin (was) son to Edman Wathin. This deponent saieth that the said Thomas Wathin is cusen to William Seargant, the said William being his Fathers Sisters Son.'

From the above we can construct a pedigree:



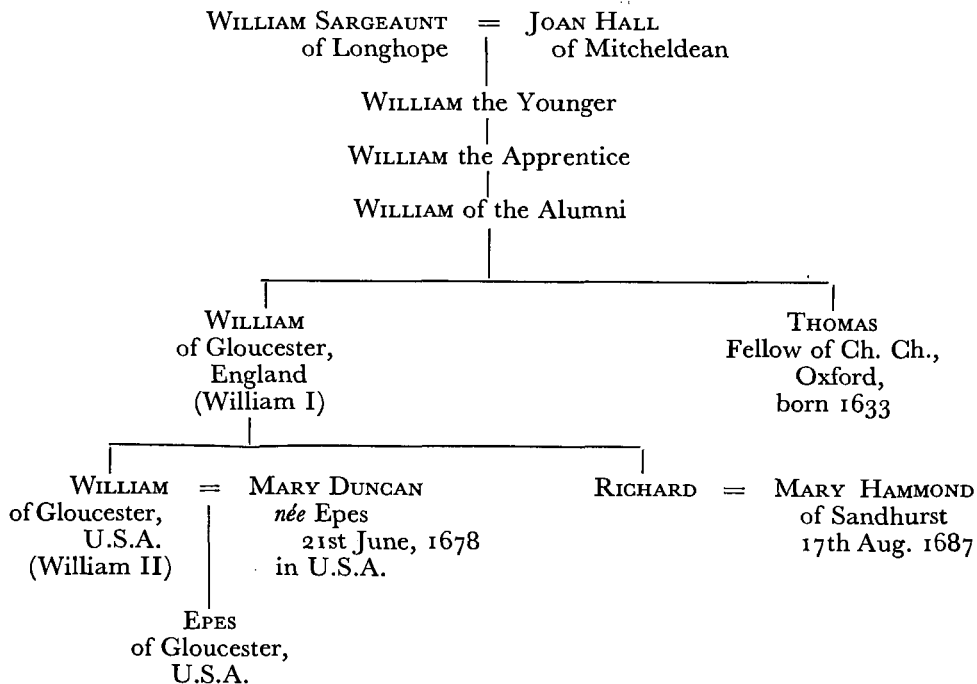
One supposed clue to William the Second is what Ann his daughter is reported to have said in her old age to her nephew in explanation of his name of EPES, that the Epes girl's husband was born in Exeter and brought up in Barbados and that she had a romantic escape from England disguised as a milkmaid. This was taken to refer to William the Second, but the Epes girl's husband was Ann's maternal grandfather, Peter Duncan, born in Exeter and, for all we know, brought up in Barbados. His wife was Mary Epes born in St Olaves, London, a year before her father's death and taken over to America as an infant, a sufficiently romantic story which the old lady might have embroidered to please her nephew. Anyway, it has led to fruitless searches for William the Second in Exeter, Uttoxeter, St Olaves and Barbados.

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A more hopeful clue is the finding amongst the American papers of a Record of the Probate of a Will by William Sargeaunt the Elder, Mercer of Gloucester, England, who died in 1587. He was the son of William Sargeaunt of Longhope who by his Will 1568* set him up in a shop in Gloucester. He had a brother or half brother, also William (called the Younger) whose son, yet another William, was apprenticed to him and was left a legacy in his Will.

The apprentice would have been born about 1570 and there is a record in ALUMNI OXONIENSES of a William born about 1600 who had a son Thomas born 1633 who was a Fellow of Christchurch.

He had a nephew Richard who married in 1687, Mary Hammond of Sandhurst. There is said to be in one of the Harl. publications 'Gloucestershire Marriages' a record of Thomas's brother William, but I have not been able to find the volume. A sound line of investigation seems to be to try and discover Richard's father and brother. I suspect they may well have both been named William. If so the pedigree would run



W. T. SARGEAUNT.

*For the Sargeaunt pedigree see *Trans. BGAS*, vol. 78, p. 110, which also has a copy of the will of 1568.