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Thought this might interest you if you have not already seen it: raises some interesting questions !!

regards from
 Lindsay Holland

Notes from

The History and antiquities of Boston, and the villages of Skirbeck, Fishtoft, Freiston, Butterwick, Benington, Leverton, Leake, and Wrangle, comprising the hundred of Skirbeck in the county of Lincoln. Printed 1856. 824 pp.

By Pishey Thompson, 1784 - 1862

Pages 375 - 381

Hollands of Estovenning

This family although not immediately connected with Boston, is by intermarriage with the principle families in the neighbourhood, and by its extensive influence and long residence at Swineshead, the seat of its head manor, intimately associated with the history of the district. The Holland family reverses the usual circumstances attending biographical and genealogical history. Instead of offering increasing difficulties as we ascend into earlier times, those that attend our researches into the history of this family increase as we descend to comparatively recent dates.

Bloomfield in his "History of Norfolk" mentions having seen an ancient pedigree of the Holland's of Lincolnshire, which he states to have been collected by George Holland in 1563 and continued since to 1601; the title of which he gives in the following words:-

"Estovenning Hall - Here ensueth the pedigree of the Holland's of the home of Estovenning Hall in the parts of Holland in the County of Lincolne, and do dwell there without alteration or change eyther of house or name by XIII. descent before the Conquest." [See Gentleman's Magazine February 1817 p 124]

Many of the earlier statements in this pedigree being corroborated by the Harleian MSS in the British Museum, and by the pedigree drawn up by Ralph Brooke, Cook &c., we shall freely make use of it in the following narrative Bloomfield says:-

"This honourable family flourished in the time of the confessor and took

its name either from Holand in the West Derby Hundred, Lancaster, or from Holland in Lincolnshire both of which were the ancient possessions of this house. "

Sir Otho de Holland lived considerably before the conquest, His son Sir Stephen, succeeded him in the time of Edward the Confessor and is called:

" Lord of Stevington in the county of Lincoln [Harleian MSS, 1550 p 70] he had issue Sir Ralph who succeeded him in 1016 and who after the Conquest (1066) had a 'rededyne (sic) from William the Conqueror, of all his lands in the realm of England. Brooke says " he was buried in the Abbey of Swineshead ;" [but this could not be as the earliest date fixed for the foundation of that institution is 1135 ,"- Tanner]

Sir Ralph his son , married Cecely or Sybell the daughter of William de Well and sister of Sir John Wells;" Brooke's pedigree, [Harl.Mss No 1484 p32]

and was succeeded by his son Sir John Holland, Knight who was alive in 1169. Sir John had two sons ; Thomas who died without issue, and sir John who succeeded his father , and lived in Henry II's time (1180); a third Sir John succeeded in the reign of John, and a fourth, who is mentioned by Cooke in 1209. Ralph the son of the fourth John is mentioned in Brooke's pedigree in 1275.

[He held property in Holbeach in 1274 and also in Bischer about the same time -Hundred Rolls vol1 p 236 A John de Holand held half a knight's fee and the eleventh part of a Knight's fee in Steveninthing and Upoton of John Earl of Richmond in 1274 - Hundred rolls vol1 p305 . John De Holland was also connected with Moulton and gave lands to the Abbey of Topholm in 1286 ibid p 308. He is also recorded in the Chancery Proceedings Edward 1 (1280) as holding land in Stevlay of the Honour of Richmond for which he rendered 5/- yearly.]

He had a brother, Henry, from whom Brooke says, the Hollands , Dukes of Exeter and Earls of Kent , descended; and also the Hollands of Denton in Lancashire.

Henry's son was Ingeramus Holland who accoding to Cooke had two sons, John & Henry; John's heir was Robert Holland of Swineshead, of whom more hereafter; Henry's son was Richard Holland, whose daughter and heiress, Elizabeth, married Richard Bell of Benington. [Robert & Gilbert de Holland occur in 1333 - Subsidy Rolls]

Brooke gives a different account of the connection of the Hollands and the Bells. [The Harleian Mss 1097 gives the same account as Brooke] He makes Robert Holland of Swineshead to be the son of Ingermus and grandson of Henry, the second son of Sir Ralph, and continues that line no further.

Taking up the line of descent from John, the elder son of Sir Ralph, [This John responded to the king in 1281 respecting his claim of uses of bread ale etc. In the town of Swineshead but his claim was rejected - pinate gus warrmate, 9 edward I, in 1290 he was one of the first barons Returned to Parliament from Lincolnshire; he sate in Parliament which was summonsed at Westminster, 18 Edward I (1290) and was returned again in 1291 - Parliamentary Rolls vol 1 p lx. The Manurepi of the first return were John de Langholm, Lambert his brother, of Stevening , John De Graunt, Allan

Halle, Richard Wale , and Ralph Manning of Kymerby. The other knight returned was John Dyne,]

he states that this John and his wife Margaret _____, had one son John, and two daughters Cicely and Margaret; John had two sons , Thomas & Henry; and Brooke says, that Elizabeth, who was married to Richard Bell , was the grand daughter of the second brother Henry. Sir Thomas the elder son, had two sons John & Roger. John was succeeded by his son Sir Thomas , temp Henry IV (1400 - 1413) To this Sir Thomas succeeded eight other knights of the same name, the last of whom was living in 1562.

[In the interim we find Nicholas Holland , who was at the battle of Agincourt, in 1415, In 1425 , Robert Holland Prior of Spalding, occurs; and in 1427 Thomas Holland of Boston are mentioned in the - Corporation Records. In 1509 Thomas Holland Esq. was Chamberlain of the Corpus Christi Guild in Boston; in 1513 , Thomas Holland of Swineshead was a member of the same Guild . Thomas Holland is mentioned 1517, and 1520. Blase Holland, gentleman was a member of the Corpus Christi Guild in 1531, and Chamberlain of the same in 1535, and 1538, and in 1553 we find Nicholas Holland of Wyberton.]

The fifth of these married the daughter of _____ Tempest.; the sixth Sir Thomas had two brothers John & Ralph; Ralph married Joan, daughter of _____ Tomlyns, of Ely, and was founder of the Ely branch of the Family which did not continue in male descent beyond 1619. [Coles Collection vol ii page 9.] The seventh Sir Thomas married the daughter of _____ Sutton , of Burton in Lincolnshire. The eighth Sir Thomas married, first, Jane daughter of William Harvey of Evedon., and by her had Thomas Holland his heir , who lived as stated before at Stevening in 1562, and George , his second son who lived at Croyland in the same year.

[The will of George Holland of Croyland was proved 12 October 1568 he died at the age of fifty-two. It mentions his brother Thomas and his nephew Roger, and his sister Mrs Hunston of Boston, and her children Henry, Edward & Jane. He had the "herritage if Swinesham given him by his late master , the Duke of Norfolk. " He also mentions his nephews, Thomas & Richard Holland, and his nieces Dorothy and Jane Holland. It will be observed that these names do not agree with those of the families of the the 7th or the 8th Sir Thomas , some agreeing with one some with the other , and the remainder with neither.]

The eighth Sir Thomas married secondly, Jane daughter of Henry Smith of Walpole, county of Norfolk, and by her had three sons Henry, James and Christopher. The ninth Sir Thomas married Elizabeth the daughter of Henry Smith of Norfolk, the sister to his fathers second wife , and had three sons Ralph, George and Thomas , and three daughters Dorothy, Jane and Florence. [Another pedigree (Harleian Mss 1097 p 69) , makes the 8th Sir Thomas have two other sons, besides Sir Thomas his heir and John and Leonard; and states that the ninth Sir Thomas had a fourth son named Richard . Another Harleian Mss 1050 states that the eighth Sir Thomas had also a daughter by his first wife, Dorothy, who married William Hunston of Walpole, Norfolk, and that the ninth Sir Thomas had a fourth son named Richard; and so states the Harleian Mss 1090, being the Visitation of Cooke in 1569.]

The MSS and pedigrees in the Harleian Collection do not furnish any later or other information respecting this family.

Bloomfield takes up the pedigree with Robert Holland of Swineshead, who was a Baron in Parliament, 8 Edward II (1314)

[he founded the Priory of Holand, a place of Blake Monks at Latham in Lancashire; and was buried in the Grey Friars College in the North-west side of the town of Preston -Leylands ilia, George Holland says, this Robert " was in great favour and reputation with Robert Earl of Leicester, in 1321; Leyland says he accused Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, of treason, --see page 376]

and married Maud, daughter and co-heiress of Allan Lord Zouch of Ashby by whom he had numerous offspring. His eldest son Robert, was a Baron in Parliament (temp Edward III) he died without male issue, leaving a daughter, Maud, who married John, afterwards Lord Lovell of Tichmarsh. The second son Sir Otho, does not appear to have left any issue. [Otho was at the siege of Calais, where he was taken prisoner.] The third son Sir Thomas, was summoned to Parliament as a Baron, 27 Edward III (1353). [he was also at the seige of Calais "attended by four esquires, and four archers on horseback" He was Earl of Kent and Baron Wake of Liddel; from him descended the Earls of Kent and Dukes of Surrey and Exeter, and earls of Huntingdon and Montague. This descent expired in its male line 9 Edward IV (1470)

He married Joan, the Fair Maid of Kent, Daughter of Margaret, sister of Thomas Lord Wake.

[Sir Thomas was the second wife of Joan, Fair maid of Kent, her first husband was William Montacute, Earl of Salisbury; her third husband Edward the Black Prince. Joan was sister and heir of John Plantagenet Earl of Kent. Stuckley calls this Sir Thomas Holland " one of the founders of the Order of the Garter" --- See also Dugdale's Baronetage vol ii pages 75 to 83. This differs from Brookes account who gives a different descent to the Earls of Kent]

John, the fourth son of the first named Sir Robert, married the daughter of Sir Andrew de Medestede, and was the ancestor of the Hollands of Weare in Devonshire. William the fifth son lived in Denton, in Lancashire in 1375; he was the ancestor of the Hollands of Sutton and Clifton, and of the Hollands of Norfolk; It being with John of the sixth generation from William, that Bloomfield commences his pedigree of that branch of the family.

The pedigree of the family of Hollands of Estovenning is constructed by George Holland (one of the family) in 1563. It commences with Ralph, the son of the fourth Sir John Holland, and the descendant, in the sixth generation, from the Sir Ralph, who received his lands, by free grant, from William the Conqueror. Ralph, the founder of the Estovenning branch, was according to this account, buried at Swineshead Abbey in 1262.

[This varies from Brookes account, which says " he lived in Edward I's time." (1272); and also from the Hundred Rolls, which represent him holding property in Moulton and Bicker in 1274.]

Sir John Holland, his great-grand son, was buried in the parish churchyard at Swineshead.

[Here is another discrepancy Brooke makes him to be the great-great-grandson of Sir Ralph.]

Thomas grandson of this John [son according to Brooke] married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Piers Tempest [George Holland calls her " the Devilish Dame" and says that her husband , Sir Thomas, "spent his life in the Holy Land, and came home every seventh year"]

His Son Sir Thomas lived about 1457, and was buried at St Nicholas's church Lynn; another Sir Thomas, who was buried at Bourne Abbey, succeeded him. A fourth Sir Thomas succeeded, he had three wives

[Brooke and the other Harleian Pedigree's say only two, he lived successively at Croyland, Boston, and Lynn. Brooke also says that George and Thomas were both children of the first wife. George Holland however, is most likely to be correct, being that he is writing concerning his own parents. George died without issue.]

by the first, Jane, daughter of William Harvey of Evedon, Lincolnshire, he had George Holland the writer of the pedigree to 1562, and who resided at Croyland, and Hammond.

[This Hammond , according to his brother George, was first appreciated in London, and after " by great conjecture, was thought to be in great authority under the High Turk".]

By his second wife, whose name is not given, Thomas, who succeeded him, and was living at Stevening in 1562.

By the third wife (second according to the Harleian pedigree's) Jane, daughter of Henry Smythe , of Norfolk, he had Henry Holland, who was B.D. of Gonville Hall, Cambridge; he was apointed vicar of Boston in 1571, and died 1584. The register of his burial is 20th April of that year.

[Alice Holland was buried at Boston, 21 March 1584. The will of Ralph Holland of Ely was proved in 1586. He mentioned his wife Joan, his son John, his brother Richard , and his brother Henry's children; a Henry Holland was married to _____? Fox at Boston in 1585.]

Christopher, his brother, was a student in Pembroke Hall; [Brooke mentions another son James]

Christopher's son, Edward Holland was also a student at Cambridge in 1601. The fourth Sir Thomas Holland was " comptroller to the household , and afterwards treasurer, to the Duke of Richmond's good grace" George Holland mentions five Sir Thomas's from John who were buried at Swineshead. Brooke has eight. Thomas Holland who was living at Stenyng in 1562, is no further alluded to by George. Brooke says he was succeeded by his son Ralph. The pedigree was continued to 1601, by Edward Holland, son of Christopher, the youngest son of the fourth Sir Thomas (according to George Holland) by his third wife; Anthony Holland was living at Swineshead in 1618.

[Corporation Records 1618.] Thomas, son of Thomas Holland, of Swineshead, was buried at Boston in 1658. John Holland Esq., of Swineshead, died before 1689, without issue. The manor of Estovening was, in that year, the property of Thomas Holland of Silk Willoughby, near Sleaford, gentleman (brother of John, who died at Swineshead), who conveyed it during that year to George Fairfax of Newton Kyme, Yorkshire. (a descendant of General

Fairfax's). It remainde in the Fairfax family untill 1841, when the trustees of Thomas Loddington Fairfax, conveyed it to Thomas Cooper, of Swineshead, and it is now (1854) in the posession of his son, John Cooper of that village.

Thomas Holland, gentleman, who conveyed the Estovening estate to the Fairfax Family, was buried at Swineshead March 15 1691. There was a Sara Holland married at Swineshead to Thomas Cook in 1698; and John , son of Thomas & Sara Holland was baptised there January 7, 1710. There is no proof, or any reasonable ground, to suppose, that the ancient family had any representative in this neighbourhood after Thomas Holland, who died in 1691. He was probably the last male representative of the ancient family of Hollands of Estovening.

George Holland in a note to his pedigree of the family , says, after giving an account of the manner in which his ancestors retained their property at the Norman Conquest:--

" The manor or Lordship of Estovening , never went from the Hollands since, and now my brother Thomas Hollande is heir and enjoyeth it. The same lordship hath by special charter very great privileges and liberties; vis free chase and free warren, waife, stray, felons' goods, and ought to pay no manner of tolle, nor pays no rente, but 5/- to Castle Ward, and a mark for his liberties, whereby he may keep sessions within the Lordship, as Sir Thomas Holland my grandfather did; who executed two felons at Drayton, within his lordship, arraigned and condemned at the said sessions.

" Edward Holland, Earl of Kent , who was killed beyond sea, was brought home and buried at Bourn Abbey, about 10 miles from Estovening Hall, where I saw him lie entombed, in the midst of the quire, with five or six of my ancestors entombed round about him; and there did my grandfather in his latter days keep house, and lies buried hard by. The said Earl , also, part of his time, kept house there, and was founder of, or great benefactor to the Priory of St James at Deeping. None of the Hollands are buried in Swineshead Church, but only Sir John, who lies flat in the Hollandes' quire there; the scripture of his burial being in french. The date is worn out.

He married Margaret _____, but further appears not. Most of the Hollandes are buried in abbeys or friar's houses. I have seen them lie in great numbers at Bourne, Swyneshed, Barking, (Barlings) Bardeney, Sempring, (Sempringham), Grysted, (Kirkstead), Stickswold, Spalding, Crowland, and the friars at Boston, and Stamford, now being the Dukes of Suffolk. My father lies at Spaldynge Church, to which houses of religion my said ancestors, to my knowledge, have been two great benefactors. My mother lies buried at the Hollands quire at Swineshead, and my uncle Blaise at Boston.

[there are two Blaise Hollands mentioned in the pedigrees, one is Blaise already mentioned as a member of the Corpus Christi Guild, Boston, who married Christina daughter of Robert Reed of Wrangle, and was buried at Boston; the other his son, Blaise, who resided at Swineshead, and married Alice, daughter of Giles Hussey; he died 12 January 1561.]

George Holland says of himself, that he was secretary to Thomas Duke of Norfolk, and served him in that calling, and as Clerk of the Council in the wars in France, England and Scotland; and when he was committed to the

Tower, and his son the Earl of Surrey, beheaded, in the last year of Henry the VIII, he served the Duke after his liberation till his death.
[Bloomfield's Norfolk vol I pp 231-33]

" at the dissolution of the of the Abbey of Swineshead " he adds " I myself , with my elder brother , and diverse other gentlemen being there , saw the body of Sir Ralf Holland, our ancestor, entombed there in the right hand of the quire by the high alter, as the chief founder of the house, who was buried there in 1262, lye as wholly to the sight of the eyes as might be; till being touched with a little stone falling from the brinke of the tombe, that wholly dissolved to dust. Cuthbert Tunstall, late Bishop of Durham, in his youth, near two years, was brought up in my great grand fathers kitchen unknown; till being known, was sent home to Sir Richard Tunstall , his father, and so kept at school, as he himself declared unto me."

In another note George Holland says,-

"Sir Robert Holland was in great favour and reputation with Thomas, Earl of Lancaster in 1321, as my poor father was the like with the Duke of Richmond, afterwards Henry the Seventh."

Bloomfield commenting on this passage says : "George Holland died without issue, leaving much to John Holland, gentleman of Wortwell."

" My grandfather the third Sir Thomas " says George in another place " lies burried at Bourne Abbey, he had seven sons and made them all religious, vis: Davy and Lawrence to Ramsey, Daniel and George to Crowland, where I (George) dwelt nest to the abbey, Richard to Walsyngham, John to Barkynge (Barlings) after that to Newhowe, Nicholas parson of Thurfhy; and Sir Anthony of Thuryne.

[it will be observed that this list contains eight names, and that it does not include the son and heir , the fourth Sir Thomas the father of George, and the writer of the pedigree, who is the only one of the third Sir Thomas' , and his wife the daughter of Sutton of Burton children, mentioned by Brooke and others.]

John was twyne brother to Sir Anthony; he was afterwards parson of Feltnville in Norfolk. Doctor Mackarell, Abbot of Barkyng (Barlings) who headed the commotion in Lincolnshire at that period, and was called Captain Cobler, killed him in person.

[We have endeavoured to make this account of the family of Holland of Estovening as intelligible as possible; but it has been derived from so many different sources, and sometimes from rather contradictory materials, and contains unavoidably occasional repetitions interrupting the course of the narrative, that we fear the stream of family descent is not so clear as it ought to be. We believe however, that an uninterrupted line of the Holland family , as owner of Estovening manor, and persons of great considerations in the neighbourhood, may be traced from the days of the Confessor to the latter part of the 17th century when it passed to the Fairfax family.]

The Arms of the Holland Family, borne by the different branches , and at

successive periods, have been very various. Brooke gives the earliest coat as " per-pale, indented or, and gules". Another early coat was " Azure semeé of fleurs-de-lis argent, a lion or leopard rampant, argent." A third coat (Harl. MS. 1550 p. 70), quarters these two with a sinister wing, or, for crest. George Holland says the ancient arms of the Hollands were " party per-pale, indented of six, or, and gules. " he added " Sir Otho de Holland, who was at the siege of Calais, bore a cross pateé gules" A MS. In the British Museum [Bib. Cest. Colfgule A 18] states the arms borne by Sir Robert de Hoyland in 1322 to have been " Azure fleurette d'argent, a leopard rampant argent" In a short pedigree of the Hollands of Ely, the arms are said to be "Azure, a lion rampant guardant, argent, charged on the shoulder with a mullet. An ode of fleurs-de-lis, and within a bordure of the second" [Coles Collections vol ii page 9]

Not a remnant of the mansion-house of the Hollands of Estovenning marks its site; its very locality is becoming a matter of tradition. It is generally supposed to have stood about half a mile from the parish church, in the direction of Bicker, in a field with a very uneven surface; and in which a moat may be very evidently traced. An old manor-house is known to have stood in this enclosure. There is also an old farm-house in the neighbourhood called the stenning; this had, probably, some connection with the property of the Hollands. An old parish book, in describing the field first mentioned, says, " East Econing, formerly a mansion stood on the land. A pack-horse track goes across it."

The following notices of this family, and their manor of Estovenning, occur in the public records, and in various authors. Stuckley speaks of the marsh of Stevening in 1241. John de Balcis held land in Stevington 33 Henry III (1249), and Philip D'Arcy in 1264. [Inquis, post Mortum, vol 1 p7, p26] John de Hoyland held a bank or barrier on his property in the marsh of Stevening in 1274, and did not allow it for anyone to pass except by his permission; he had held the same for 40 years, but by what warrant was not known.[Hundred rolls vol1 p.305] Richard de Holland was an adherent of the Earl of Lancaster 12 Edward II (1318), and a follower of John de Mowbray in 1321. He was in arms against the King at the battle of Borough-bridge in 1322, for which he was pardoned, but offended again in 1323. He was summonsed to perform military service in Guyenne, and obtained a pardon a second time in 1325, upon condition of serving the King.[Parliamentary Rolls vol ii] John de Holland was taken in arms against the King, (11 July 1322) but was released upon finding four "manuceptors" for his good behaviour, under a penalty of 40 P. Parliamentary Rolls vol ii]. The lands of Robert de Holland in Lincolnshire, and eleven other counties, were seized by their respective sheriffs by the direction of the King in this year (1322) [Abiveniatio Rot. Orig. vol 1 p 265] This was probably, for disobeying the Kings orders, dated 4 march, in the same year, which directed him to join the king with horses and arms, and march against the rebels and opponents of the King as soon as possible. Concurrent letters of safe conduct were issued to enable him "to join the King, and proceed against rebellious magnates" [Parliamentary Rolls vol ii p 288]

In 1327 Joan, the widow of William de Swyneshed, held as her dower common pasturage over the whole marsh of Stevenage and Holdefreth in Swineshead. [Inquis post Mortem vol iv p 436] Thomas Bond of Swineshead, held land in

Drayton, 8 Edward III (1334) [Ibid vol ii p 64] and Robert De Holand held the manor of Holand for the Prior and Convent of Holand 1366.[Ibid p 262] In 1386 John de Holand (called a rebel) was escheated of the manors of Oreby and De Alrewas, [Ibid vol iii p 79] Ralph earl of Westmorland held land in Steveninge, 4 Henry VI (1426) [Ibid vol ii p 108] Thomas Hoyland esq, resided at Swineshead in 1535, and was sub-seneschal of the abbey there; John Husse was the seneschal at that time. [Leb. Valor Ecclesiasticus] In the "Calend, Inquis post mortem" in the reign of Henry III in a list of the property of the Earl of Brittany and Richmond, which then escheated to the Crown, the manor of Stifynge is included; if this meant Stevening, it shows that the Hollands held this manor under Richmond, and not the King in capite [Inquis post Mortem vol I p 41]

An act of parliament passed in 1705, for the "sale of the manor of Eastovening, and other lands and hereditaments in Swineshead, in Lincolnshire, late the property of Christopher Fairfax, gentleman, secured in payment of his debts, and for the benefit of his children" This was probably a private bill relating to some other property belonging to the Fairfax family, although the manor is expressly mentioned. However, it is certain that no sale of the manor took place in consequence to it.