

Finding the Origins of William Grigg, Immigrant to Virginia

Of all the issues which the descendants of William Grigg are researching surely the most perplexing is the English (if indeed they are English) origins of the earliest emigrant of the largest family of Grigg in the United States.

The exact arrival of William Grigg in Virginia is still unclear but certainly occurred in the period 1663 -1669.

Harold O Carper has suggested that William Grigg was brought to Virginia by Thomas Liggon. Liggon received a grant of 800 acres for transporting 16 persons to Virginia which included William Grigg.¹ Carol A Morrison has pointed to another possibility. In 1669 William Oldis and Robert Ruffin were granted a patent for 2050 acres in Isle of Wight Co. for transporting several persons including a William Grigg.²

While the question as to when, and which, William arrived and who brought him to Virginia is an important one, still the most significant question is “from where did William, the earliest member of this family, originate?”.

First let me establish my interest in this family. For over 30 years I have been researching the surname Grigg. It has led me to trace my own family back to North Devon in the 1680s, but subsequently I became interested in researching all of the other Grigg families in England and their descendants throughout the world. While not involved in the research on William’s descendants I certainly have become caught up in the search for his origins. Was he in fact a member of one of the families which I have already documented and how could I use my research material to identify his English family?

As there is no documentary evidence which has yet come to light that provides a clue to William’s English origin, the question may only be resolved by examining circumstantial evidence and gradually narrowing the search down to possible locations and families in England who have a William born at the appropriate period (1630-1650) and it is established that they had likely connections with Virginia at the period or soon after.

From the Virginia side to overcome these problems a thorough research programme aimed at understanding the methods by which immigrants were attracted to Virginia at that time is paramount. Did they come from particular regions of England, where and how did the

¹ Cleo Grigg Johnson Gilchrist, *William Grigg I, Immigrant to the Virginia Colony; 340 Years of his Descendants, 1640-1980*, 5th edition 1984, updated 1987. Gilchrist acknowledges the original research of Carper in identifying William Grigg.

² Email from Carol A Morrison, June 14 1999. She has suggested that in fact William Grigg of the Liggon patent could be the same William Grigg of the Oldis and Ruffin patent of 1669. She also alludes to a patent granted to Thomas Woodward, Senr, in 1674 of 1300 acres adjacent to the grant of Oldis and Ruffin which includes the mention of Eliza Grigg; could she also be related, wife maybe? Email from Carol A Morrison, Nov 18 1999. The patents of 1669 and 1674 are printed in *Cavaliers and Pioneers*, vol 2, p57 and p153.

sponsors recruit emigrants for Virginia, and were there any family patterns in the recruitment? Vital questions which I'm sure have been addressed already. What that information would most likely provide is a regional pattern across England identifying areas from where these settlers originally came.

If we were then to overlay this regional pattern with a regional distribution of the occurrences of the Grigg surname the areas where concentrations of both the recruitment and the name intersect would suggest locations for more detailed genealogical research. Therefore first, let's understand where the Grigg name is located in England.

The Grigg Surname

Surnames in Britain generally conform to one or more limited but defining categories. Richard McKinley³ lists these as:

- Locative names
- Topographical names
- Surnames from personal names
- Occupational surnames
- Derived from nicknames
- Surnames of relationship

A number of authorities have categorised Grigg and the general interpretation is consistent. Cottle states that Grig(g) is of French origin and a diminutive of Gregory, but he also adds it could be a nickname for "dwarf".⁴ Hanks and Hodges provide a detailed explanation of this interpretation:

Gregory: English. From a given name that was popular throughout Christendom in the Middle Ages. The name is of Greek origin, Gregorius being a derivative of "gregorein" to be awake or watchful, but an early date from the Latin form Gregorius was associated by folk etymology with "grex", flock, herd, under the influence of the Christian image of the good shepherd. The Greek name was borne in the early centuries by two fathers of the Orthodox Church, St Gregory Nazianzene (c325-390) and St Gregory of Nyssa (c331-395), and later by sixteen popes, starting with Gregory the Great (c540-604). It was the name of a 3rd and 4th century apostle of Armenia.

Diminutives: English - Greg(g), Grigg.⁵

Reaney cites the Gregg/Grigg name as a pet name and most probably introduced to England as a post-conquest name from France.⁶ Gregg/Grigg as a form of personal name suggests that there was no specific geographical or family origin of the surname, rather

³Richard McKinley, *A History of British Surnames*, Longman, Harlow, 1990, p10.

⁴Basil Cottle, *The Penguin Dictionary of Surnames*, Penguin, Harmondsworth, 1978, p165.

⁵Patrick Hanks and Flavia Hodges, *A Dictionary of Surnames*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1988.

⁶P H Reaney, *The Origins of English Surnames*, Routledge & Kegan Paul, London, 1967, p151.

that it emerged simultaneously in various parts of England as the name Gregory/Greg became popular. In terms of popularity Gregory was well down the list of common Christian names that ultimately took on the form of a surname. Matthews provides us with a table of surnames from Christian names taken from documents of the Middle Ages and heading the list is John followed by William. Gregory comes in at 44th place between Patrick and Geoffrey.⁷

If we ignore for the moment the various archaic forms of the name, ie Grygge, Grigges and Grig, and concentrate on the modern forms we are left with four main names Grigg, Griggs, Greig and Gregg. If we then examine the International Genealogical Index (IGI)⁸ we begin to see a very strong localisation of the various forms of the name. By analysing a sample of Grigg and its variations from each county and recording the frequency of each variation in that county we can map the distribution of the surname. For the ten counties with the highest number of occurrences of the surname their percentage distribution is as follows:

County	Grigg	Griggs	Greig	Gregg
London	43	38	14	5
Cornwall	92	6	-	2
Devonshire	80	12	-	7
Kent	17	77	-	6
Suffolk	7	93	-	-
Yorkshire	4	16	-	80
Hampshire	90	5	-	4
Lancashire	16	12	4	67
Lincolnshire	6	6	-	88
Cambridgeshire	22	68	3	4

Percentage distribution of the surname

⁷ C M Matthews, *English Surnames*, Weidenfeld & Nicholson, London, 1966, p326.

⁸ The July 1984 version. The analysis recognises that the IGI has not been successful in including all parishes within a county in its index. Wiltshire for instance has 100% of its parishes included whilst Northamptonshire has only 3%. This could affect the analysis in that a particular surname may not be randomly distributed across a county but concentrated in a small number of parishes, those which may or may not have been included in the index.

From an analysis of this table a number of issues become clearer.

First, the surname Greig is not a common English variation, it is more than likely to appear in Scotland. Second, Gregg dominates in the adjoining northern counties of Lancashire, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. This form also dominates in all the central and northern counties but for simplicity, I have included the analysis of only those ten counties which had the highest count of Grigg and its other variations.

Third, the majority of counties favoured one form to the general exclusion of the others. Only London has a reasonable spread of the variations. London would, and of course still does, act a magnet for the whole of the British Isles so it is not unreasonable to expect a large number of individuals from the various regions, as well as Scotland, to be domiciled in the capital. Fourth, the form Griggs seems to have been popular in the counties surrounding London.

Fifth, the very clear geographical concentration of the form Grigg in the south-west of England. In Cornwall 92 percent of occurrences of the surname were spelt in the Grigg form, in Hampshire it was 90 percent and in Devonshire 80 percent. Again for simplicity I have not included the analysis of the other south-west counties but all exhibit the same pattern of using the Grigg form to the exclusion of the other variations.

It can, of course, be argued that the various forms of the surname were interchangeable, often within the one family. This is, of course, true with many instances of the same individual having, even in the one document, various spellings of the surname. But what is clear is that a regional form tended to dominate and that the family generally reverted to that particular regional form.

McKinley supports this finding by arguing that regional differences in the character of the surnames are produced by:

- Vocabulary and phonetics of a local dialect
- Patterns of human settlement
- Local habits or fashions

And that they have all played their part in creating a characteristic body of surnames in each region.⁹

The analysis suggests that the surname Grigg is mainly of a south western origin and that the form generally persists within the family rather than being randomly adopted and chosen from among the various forms. Being more specific Cottle says the form Grigg is

⁹ McKinley, p21

chiefly of Cornish origin.¹⁰ Lasker and Mascie-Taylor in a review of United Kingdom telephone books argue that:

Of surnames that are concentrated in this way [have a regional distribution], most of those for which historical information is available still seem to be focused in the areas where they originated or most frequently occurred in the past¹¹

If this be the case then Grigg will still be the dominate form in the south west. And indeed it is with the Cornwall telephone district the most populous (109 occurrences), followed by Devon (43). London and its surrounding telephone districts (99) could not even reach the figure for Cornwall. The only other telephone districts with greater than 20 occurrences in the United Kingdom were Southend-on-Sea (part of Somerset), Bournemouth (Dorset) and the Birmingham area.

The Possible Origins of William Grigg's Family

The purpose of the discussion on the surname is to lay down some guidelines which will assist us in focusing our search for William Grigg's origins. Two factors seem to stand out. One, that the form Grigg is of the south west or south of England and second, that despite the variations in spelling that frequently occurs in documents of the 16th and 17th century families have generally persisted with a particular form of a surname once the archaic versions have fallen into disuse.

From a not too analytical observation of the United States the most common form is the Griggs variation, yet from what I read of William Grigg and his family they have maintained the Grigg form from the earliest references in Virginia until the present apart from deliberate changes within some later branches.

The point of this argument is to suggest strongly that William's family most probably originally come from the south west counties of either Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset or counties along the south coast closer to London, of Hampshire or Sussex where the Grigg form dominated.

A Possible Candidate Family for William

One family which I have been researching for some time seems to me to be a possible candidate for the family of William Grigg.

Initially it would appear to be an obscure link but one which has merit and should be seriously considered.

¹⁰ Cottle, p165

¹¹ G W Laske and C G N Mascie-Taylor, *Atlas of British Surnames*, Wayne Sate University Press, Detroit, 1990. This atlas has an analysis of Grigg.

“William Grigg” is simply too common a name in England to be identified as the emigrant without other substantive evidence. However, in Virginia around the same time Michael and Robert Grigg/s, possibly brothers, are recorded. The argument which points to this specific family in England is based on the fact that Michael is not a common Christian within Grigg families, that it is a persistent name within all branches of this particular English family, that this family has connections with Virginia and strong reasons to migrate there. Additionally this English family had a pattern of naming their first born male children Robert or Michael. If we can prove the link between the English family and the Virginia family, then it may be possible to identify a William from that same English family who is the William of Virginia.

The earliest reference to this family is recorded in a will of Thomas Grege,¹² baker of Exeter, Devon in 1558. In that will he mentioned his four sons and two daughters, five of whom are under age.

The youngest son Michael married Rechord Prouse, the daughter of a prominent family of tailors/drapers of Tiverton, Devon in London in 1581.¹³ In London he established himself as a tailor¹⁴ and raised a family of eight children at a house at St Pauls Churchyard, in St Gregorys parish, next to the old St Pauls Cathedral. In 1623 he died in London and his funeral was attended by a College of Arms herald who recorded that he is the son of Thomas Grigg of Exeter.¹⁵

His will,¹⁶ some 13 pages long, records his successful move from Devon to that of a London gentleman. He remembered the poor of Doddiscombeleigh, Devon, where he was “nursed” and left to his eldest son and heir, Michael, properties in Exeter which he had purchased on his marriage. He left his wife £1000 and to his children numerous properties in London and in various counties. In particular he left to his eldest son, Michael, properties in Dunstable and Maulden, Bedfordshire and the bulk of his substantial property holdings. To his second son, Robert, he left the Manor of Becklings, in Snape, Suffolk and as an inducement to complete his academic studies, £750 if he graduated in divinity, medicine or law; he did so as a “minister of God”.¹⁷

There appears to be a strong family connection with Dunstable in Bedfordshire. Michael who died at London in 1623 certainly bought property there and a family of Grigg is living in the Dunstable region between the 1560s and the 1660s.¹⁸ One of the Dunstable Grigg

¹² The name of course varies in this period, but by the 1630s the family spelling clearly and repeatedly is Grigg.

¹³ IGI, Aug 28 1581, St Thomas the Apostle, London. At his death the officiating herald noted he married Richord Prouse, daughter of Robert Prouse of Devonshire. In the 1634 Middlesex Visitation entry of Michael’s son, also Michael, he states that Robert Prouse was from Tiverton, Devon.

¹⁴ A land transaction in North Tawton by Michael Grigg in 1603, noted that he was a tailor of London. J C Tingey: Calendar of Exeter Castle MSS, fo 520.

¹⁵ College of Arms records.

¹⁶ PCC. 80 Swan, May 14 1623, proved Aug 19 1623.

¹⁷ Will of his mother, Dame Rechord Deane, July 15 1648.

¹⁸ See IGI for Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.

family can be traced to the same London parish of St Gregory, where Michael and his family lived, in 1618.¹⁹ This Bedfordshire family also has the same naming patterns of the other families, in that Michael and Robert seem to be consistent names for the first born males. How this family links with Michael's origins in Devon I am uncertain but clearly Bedfordshire has a link with the London family of Michael.

Michael's wife and children were well cared for by his will in 1623 and were moving up the social scale. His widow married Sir Richard Deane, Alderman of London and a daughter, Mary, married Sir John Miller.²⁰ His eldest son Michael, born 1591, however surpassed them all in financial, if not social, status.

It is this Michael and his younger brother, Robert, as heads of the two branches of his family which may have possible connections with Virginia.

Michael, the son and heir born 1591,²¹ followed his father in the family trade and is recorded in 1628 as selling cloth for the King's funeral to the value of £1530.²² He was a master of the Guild of Merchant Taylors²³ and obviously very successful. He became in 1630 High Sheriff of Bedfordshire²⁴ and took a prominent interest in civic affairs in London. He was the paymaster for the refurbishment of St Pauls Cathedral in the 1630s²⁵ and assisted the King by collecting outstanding fines imposed by the Star Chamber.²⁶

It is Michael's support of the King against Cromwell and Parliament during the 1640s which landed him in grave trouble. He was identified as a delinquent in not supporting Parliament and was heavily fined. Refusing to pay he was imprisoned but on a commitment to make good the payment he was released.²⁷ Between 1646 and 1650 he is recorded as selling a number of properties,²⁸ possibly to pay the fine and in the final administration of his father's will in 1657 it is noted that he had died, the administration being taken over by his own son, Benjamin.²⁹

¹⁹ Robert Grigg of Dunstable whose will is dated 1623, refers to his son-in-law Daniel Neal. Daniel Neal married Robert Grigg's daughter, Alice in St Gregorys, London in 1618. This is the parish where Michael Grigg lived in London and had all of his children baptised.

²⁰ The family tree is listed in J J Muskett, *Suffolk Manorial Families*. A copy is available on microfiche from the LDS.

²¹ IGI, Mar 3 1591, St Gregorys by St Paul, London

²² Calendar of State Papers Domestic

²³ *Early Records of the Guild of Merchant Taylors, London*, p318.

²⁴ Muskett and *Bedfordshire Notes & Queries*

²⁵ Appointed paymaster in 1633. Calendar of State Papers Domestic.

²⁶ Appointed in 1640 and received 2.5% on all fines collected. Calendar of State Papers Domestic.

²⁷ The full details of his delinquency, fine and imprisonment are printed in the records of *The Committee for Compounding* and *The Committee for Advance of Money* in State Papers Domestic Interregnum.

²⁸ Sold the Manor of Monken Hadley, Middlesex in 1647 and was listed as a ratepayer in St Gregorys, London for the last time in 1647, the property was later demolished. *St Gregory's Vestry Minute Book*, LDS microfiche. He also sold a tenement at Monken Hadley in 1650, See Muskett, p200.

²⁹ See Muskett, p199. While Michael, senior, died in 1623, the administration of his estate was not finalised until 1657.

No trace of that branch of the family can be traced after 1657. Of 17 children none can be fully traced. The eldest, Michael, borne 1618, is recorded as dying “beyond the sea” by 1645.³⁰ Amongst the sons possibly surviving childhood are Abraham, born 1620, John, 1626, Benjamin, 1627, Christopher, 1628, Ralfe, 1632, Robert, 1633, William, 1635 and Charles, 1637. Despite the status and wealth of the family, they seemed to have disappeared from the records.

The head of the other branch, Robert, born 1598, became a cleric,³¹ married Margaret Reeve of Suffolk, settled at Houghton Conquest, Bedfordshire and had six children.³² Both he and his wife were dead by 1645 leaving the children orphans.³³ His sons are Michael, born 1630 and Robert, 1634.³⁴

Michael, Robert’s son, married Dorothy Gosnold of Otley,³⁵ Suffolk, daughter of a family of Gosnolds prominent in the early exploration of Virginia.³⁶ They settled at Bealings Parva, Suffolk and had 11 children, and again Robert, born 1662³⁷, and Michael, born 1660, feature as the names of the earliest born sons. Michael, the father died at Little Bealings, Suffolk in 1669.³⁸ Michael, his son, went on to take his Doctorate in Divinity at Cambridge,³⁹ married Barbara Williams in 1688⁴⁰ and became the rector of Upwell, Norfolk in 1691.⁴¹ He died in that parish in 1698.⁴² The only sibling of this generation of the family to leave any trace is Frances, born 1656. She died a spinster in 1720 at Foulsham, Norfolk and left to her nieces Rechord Grigg and Dorothy, her estate.⁴³

Dorothy Grigg nee Gosnold and her children were listed as beneficiaries in three Gosnold wills.⁴⁴ Currier-Briggs includes these wills in his book on English families with possible Virginia connections. He states that the “collection is of wills of more than 130 English families, mostly of whom were connected in one way or another with development of the

³⁰ See Muskett, p200

³¹ He graduated MA from Christ’s College, Cambridge in 1622. *Biographical Register of Christ’s College, Cambridge, 1505-1905*.

³² See 1664 Visitation of Suffolk and IGI for Houghton Conquest, Bedfordshire.

³³ See his mother’s, Dame Rechord Deane, will in 1648. She leaves his children maintenance and describes them as “poor motherless and fatherless children”.

³⁴ See IGI for Houghton Conquest, Bedfordshire.

³⁵ See 1664 Visitation of Suffolk

³⁶ Bartholomew Gosnold was an explorer of Virginia circa 1602. Robert the father of Dorothy Gosnold is related to him.

³⁷ The first son born was Robert, born 1657, but he must have died in infancy as the third son was also named Robert. See IGI for Little Bealings, Suffolk

³⁸ See Muskett, p200

³⁹ See Muskett, p200 and *Graduates of Cambridge, 1659-1823*.

⁴⁰ IGI, Mar 16 1688, St Dukes Palace, London.

⁴¹ See Muskett, p200 and Blomefield’s, *Topographical History of the County of Norfolk*, London, 1807, p470

⁴² Blomefield, p470

⁴³ The nieces have not yet been identified. See Muskett, p200.

⁴⁴ Robert Gosnold, died 1658, father of Dorothy Grigg nee Gosnold, his wife, Dorothy, died 1673 and Edward Gosnold, died 1673. Noel Currier-Briggs, *Virginia Settlers and English Adventurers*, Genealogical Publishing, Balitmore, 1970, pp192-193.

colonies, either as financial backers or as settlers”.⁴⁵ Here is a clear indication that relatives of the family of Robert Grigg, in this case the Gosnolds, were in fact involved in some way with Virginia.

He also makes a case as to how many of the settlers were recruited. In Virginia, he argues, unlike New England, settlement was economically based. “Indentured servitude; adventurers collected servants first and foremost from among their English neighbours. ... Most early emigrants were related to each other by ties of blood, but, they tended to come in groups from clearly defined English neighbourhoods”.⁴⁶

The Circumstantial Evidence

Of course in reviewing the various facts of this family and testing them to determine whether or not it is the family of William Grigg I cannot claim to be able to arrive at a definitive conclusion, but only suggest that the probability is strong enough to warrant further research.

Let’s look at the facts:

- Grigg as a surname is generally found in the south western or southern counties of England
- The family of Thomas Grigg can be traced back to Exeter, Devon in the 1550s. Over the following 150 years the family moved through Bedfordshire, London, Middlesex and Suffolk. In all cases it retained the Grigg form of the surname.
- One branch of the family completely disappears in England after 1657 after being declared delinquents for failing to support Parliament against King Charles I.
- Michael, born 1618 and dead by 1645, is described as dying “beyond the sea”. The family obviously had experience in travelling overseas.
- The other branch of the family married into the Gosnold family which had strong connections with Virginia.
- Robert Gosnold, the father of Dorothy was also declared delinquent in 1643.⁴⁷
- All branches of the Grigg family have common Christian names in Michael and Robert.
- Michael is not a common Christian name. Of the seven Michael Grigg or other surname variations listed for London in the IGI for the 16th and 17th century, only one cannot be connected to the family. Of all the English counties, Bedford has four Michael Griggs, one is definitely related to the family the other three are connected to the Grigg family of Dunstable which does seem to have a connection with our Grigg family. Suffolk has one Michael Grigg and he is related, Hertford also has one Michael Grigg but he is not related. York has five, none related, and Lancashire has one also not related. No other county has a Michael Grigg or any of its forms of the surname.

⁴⁵ Currier-Briggs, p5.

⁴⁶ Currier-Briggs, pp6-7.

⁴⁷ *Victoria County History - Suffolk*, vol ii, p191

- Virginia had a Michael Griggs. He is recorded as dying in London in 1688 but “of Lancaster Co, Virginia”. The colony also records Michael and Robert Grigg/s as arriving before 1640.⁴⁸
- Virginia also had possibly another Robert Grig. Robert Grig in association with Edward Wyatt, was given a land grant of 370 acres in Kyngston Parish, Gloucester Co, April 19 1662.⁴⁹
- There is a William Grigg in the family of Michael Grigg, the draper of London. Born in 1635 and baptised at St Gregorys by St Paul, London, there is no trace of him beyond his baptism. There is also William Grigg, son of Michael Grigg of the Dunstable family baptised at Kensworth, Hertfordshire in 1638.⁵⁰ He married Ellen, who was buried at Kensworth in 1695,⁵¹ and had three children, Thomas, Michael and Richard baptised there between 1660 and 1667.⁵² There is no trace of him after the baptism of the third child, Richard.

Some Assumptions

- That Michael Griggs who died in London, 1688, notwithstanding the “s” of his surname in the document recording his death was nonetheless from the family of Grigg originating in Exeter, Devon. There are five Michael Grigg individuals in the two main branches of this family and all are accounted for.
 - * Michael Grigg, died 1623
 - * Michael Grigg, his son, Sheriff of Bedfordshire, died circa 1657
 - * Michael Grigg, his son, died “beyond the sea” circa 1645
 - * Michael Grigg, son of Robert, born 1630, died 1669
 - * Dr Michael Grigg, his son, born 1660, died 1698

This means we have to find another Michael Grigg. There is in the Dunstable, Bedfordshire region a connected Grigg family with three generations of Michael.

- * Michael Grigg, born 1606, married in 1627, but no death details

⁴⁸ “Michel Griggs, gent of Lancaster Co, Virginia, but late of St Botolph Aldgate, London, who died St Matthew, Friday St, London. Will proved Sep 1688. His wife was Ann daughter of Robert Schofield. Francine Moddero argues that this Michael Griggs and his brother Robert arrived in Virginia before 1640. See May 14 1998, www.genforum.com/griggs. Moddero also tentatively suggests that Michael’s ancestors are the Griggs of Brockley, Suffolk, see Message 1, griggs@onelist.com, and Muskett, p265. While naming conventions within a family are not rigid nor permanent, there are no Michaels in this family and only an occasional Robert. Whereas in the Dunstable Grigg family, Michael, born 1606, and Robert, born 1600, feature as sons in the family of Robert Grigg and Sibill Draper. No record of Robert after his baptism has yet been identified and the last reference to Michael is the baptism of his third child, William, in 1638. Could Michael and Robert have then travelled to Virginia? If so, one problem is that William, Michael’s son, appears to have stayed at home, married and had three children between 1660 and 1667, including Michael in 1663. William’s wife is buried at Kensworth, Hertfordshire, in 1695.

⁴⁹ Land grant in the Virginia Land Registration Office, Henry F Waters, *Genealogical Gleanings in England*.

⁵⁰ Kensworth, Hertfordshire parish register.

⁵¹ See Kensworth parish register for burial of Ellen and the baptism of son Thomas for names of his parents; William and Elnr.

⁵² Kensworth parish register

- * Michael Grigg, his son, born 1634, died 1634
- * Michael Grigg, born 1663, son of William Grigg, born 1638, brother of the above Michael

Could Michael Griggs, died 1688, possibly be either Michael Grigg, born 1606, therefore aged 82, or Michael Grigg, born 1663, therefore aged 25?

- Cleo Gilchrist notes that there is a possibility that William Grigg may have married a Burwell and adds that Major Lewis Burwell came to Virginia in 1640 from either Bedford or Northampton.⁵³ Bedfordshire and Northampton feature strongly in our Grigg family, thus if Gilchrist is suggesting the Burwells knew the Griggs prior to their leaving for Virginia our Grigg family was in the region at the right time.
- There are connections in both Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire with our Grigg family. Michael Grigg the draper, had estates in Bedfordshire and at Northampton⁵⁴ and he became High Sheriff of Bedfordshire in 1630 and the Grigg family of Dunstable, Bedfordshire, is in some way related to Michael.

A Tentative Conclusion

It is argued that a number of the Grigg family moved, because of the Gosnold connection, to Virginia before or during the time of the Interregnum, 1649-1660, to escape further persecution. This would include members from either Michael Grigg, the draper's family, his brother Roberts's family who married into the Gosnolds, or the Dunstable Grigg family.

Among those were William, born 1635, son of Michael Grigg, the draper, born 1591 and William born 1638, son of Michael, born 1606, of Dunstable.

It yet stands to be proven that this is the vital connection. What next needs to be done is a research program, as we suggested at the beginning of the paper, that will determine the geographical origins of those who settled Virginia and match it with the Grigg regional patterns. Additionally, research be undertaken into the families to see if we can confirm or eliminate William, born 1635, and William, born 1638, as likely candidates and finally, determine the relationship, if any, between the Dunstable Grigg family and the Devon Grigg family who moved to London.

The author would be delighted to hear of any comments about the assumptions made, information on any members of this family, or indeed any comments which may lead us to the family of William Grigg, immigrant to Virginia.

Postal Address: Terry Grigg
9 Jason Court

Email: Thegriggs@Bigpond.com

⁵³ Gilchrist, pix.

⁵⁴ See the will of Michael Grigg, died 1623. His son and heir, Michael, the draper, received these estates. Also see Muskett, p200.

North Balwyn
Victoria 3104
Australia

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