

Berkshire Cottman family

In July 1599 William Cotman attended a meeting to hear about new Newbury Borough ordinances¹ for the free men to set up five companies: clothiers, mercers, tanners, brasiers & clothworkers. Newbury had received Royal Charter in 1596, setting up a council including mayor and six aldermen to hold 4 fairs per year, to make ordinances to control trade & industry and to hold weekly court to decide on pleas for assaults, debts, frauds, agreements etc.

In 1607 William Cotman or Cottman, senior, died at Newbury & Anne Cotman or Cottman died² there in 1608. Presumably husband & wife, see son, William, below.

Newbury, Berkshire, is only 15 km north of Kingsclere, Hampshire, where Nicholas Cottman died in 1578 leaving the 2 children of John & William, probably his brothers, beneficiaries of his will. William, senior, was perhaps born c1525 at Kingsclere, Hampshire, and is probably a brother of Nicholas, who is very likely one of my direct ancestors.

In 1643 William Cotman or Cottman, the younger, died at Newbury.

In 1608 William Cotman (the younger) was³ a tenant at Northbrook Street, Newbury, & he was elected a Bailiff there in 1640.

In 1604 John Cottman married⁴ Elizabeth Guilford at Lambourne, about 20 km north-west of Newbury, Berkshire.

Probably this is John, son of Richard & Constance, who was baptised in 1586 at Odiham, Hampshire, from Nicholas' family at Kingsclere.

John & Elizabeth probably had a son, as Francis Cotman(sic) married⁵ Judith Bawtry in 1625 at Lambourn, & they possibly had Judith Cottman born⁶ in 1628 at Westminster, London.

¹ *Berkshire Records Office: Newbury Borough Records, Incorporation, Ordinances & copies of charters*: Catalogue Reference: N/IC2/2, Title: Exemplification of borough ordinances.

Description: (6 1/2 membranes, 740 x 680 mm. English. Illustrated initial and decorated border on first membrane, including the names of Gabriel Cox, Bartholomew Yates, Henry Cox, Edward Holmes, John Kistell, William Barksdale and William Cotman, and the arms of Gabriel Cox and William Barksdale. First line gilded. Copy attested by three justices of the Common Pleas, July [no day] 41 Elizabeth [1599]. Ordinances for the administration of the borough, including ordinance for the freemen to be divided into five companies (clothiers, mercers, tanners, brasiers and clothworkers), with trades to be classified in each company. Forbids the sale of home-brewed beer and regulates the sale of meat. Signatures of the justices, and tags for two seals.) [For transcript, see N/IC2/1.] Date: 1599.

Catalogue Reference: N/IC2/1 Title: 'Book of Ordinances of the Borough of Newbury'.

Description: (Copy [18C] of the ordinances made by the mayor, aldermen and burgesses, and approved by the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal etc., 1599 [N/IC2/2]. At end, reversed, copies of the following charters : 38 Eliz I, 1596 [N/IC1/1] , ff 1-16; 2 Chas I, 1626, ff 16-20; 3 Chas I, 1627, ff 21-39[N/IC1/2]; 16 Chas II, 1664, ff 39-46[N/IC1/3]; 1 Jas II, 1685, ff 46-60[N/IC1/4].)

² *Index to wills proved and administrations granted in the court of the archdeacon of Berks, 1508 to 1652(1893)*: p44: 1608 Cotman or Cottman, Anne, Newbury, ad. 39 ii. 1643 Cotman or Cottman, William, Newbury, ad. 1607 Cotman or Cottman, William, sen., Newbury K. 421 Other surnames: 1576 Cote, Lionel, Kintbury & 1616 Cotmore, John, Hurley & 1610 Cottam, Thomas, New Windsor & 1426 Cotyngham, Robert, New Windsor

³ *The History of the ancient town and borough of Newbury in the county of Berks (1836)*: page 231: A Survey of the Manor of Newbury was made on October 10, in the sixth year of the reign of King James, 1608, by John Hercey, the younger, Esq., by virtue of a Commission of the said Lord the King to him and Richard Guppey, Gentleman, directed out of the Exchequer upon the oath of Sir Francis Castillion, Knt., Roger Knight, Esq., and Thomas Gough, Gent., stewards; the tenants there, and others. The following are some of the names which occur in the Survey: William Cotman. The following names of tenants occur as occupiers in the several streets to which their names are given: Northbrook Street (West Part). William Cotman. Page 252: Presentments of the Court Leet and court Baron Defaulters, 1640. The borough officers elected at this Court were as follows: Bayleifes elected. William Cotman

⁴ *England Marriages, 15538-1973*: John Cottman married Elizabeth Guilford on 28 May 1604 at Lambourn, Berkshire, England.

⁵ *England Marriages, 15538-1973*: Francis Cotman(sic) married Judith Bawtry on 12 February 1625 at Lambourn, Berkshire.

⁶ *England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975*: Judith Cottman christened 24 April 1628 at Saint Margaret, Westminster, London, father Francis Cottman.

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John Cottman was in dispute⁷ with William Byllyngton over land in the 16th century, but we do not know if it was this John or where, possibly Berkshire, see below.

In the early 1600's John Cottman was in dispute⁸ over meadow ground in Kingsclere, Hampshire, with John Fawkenor, perhaps related to Nicholas' late wife, Johanna Fawkenor. Perhaps the same John, although there may have been more than one John Cottman around at this time.

John Cottman was in dispute⁹ with Godfrey Harthcoate over a loan for Speen Mills in Church Speen¹⁰, Berkshire, in the early 1600s.

Speen¹¹, 3 km northwest of Newbury, is only 20 km south-east of Lambourn, so it is likely this is John Cottman who married Elizabeth Guiford at Lambourn in 1604.

There were mills at Newbury and nearby Speen before the 1086 Domesday survey because they were on the major Roman road¹² from London to Bath.

However, I could not find a mill at Church Speen in the Berkshire Mills Archives, although they record several at Newbury. We do not know what sort of mill John had or what it produced.

Nicholas' descendants Thomas & John Cotman had the Hambledon Speltham Hill windmill in Hampshire from 1769 to 1777. Very likely these people are related and perhaps the cousins were influenced by hearing of John's success at Speen.

⁷ *National Archives, Kew: Court of Chancery: Six Clerk's Office*. Reference: C 4/72/76 Description: John Cottman v. William Byllyngton: replication. Date of document: Sixteenth century. Date: 16th century

⁸ *UK National Archives: Court of Chancery, dated 1603-1625*: Pleadings, Plaintiffs: John Fawkenor. Defendants: Francis Smithe, Ellen Wirdnam & John Cottman. Subject: meadow ground in Kingsclere, Hampshire.

⁹ *National Archives, Kew: Court of Chancery: Six Clerk's Office*: Reference: C 2/Jas/H29/3 Short title: Harthcoate v Cottman. Plaintiffs: Godfrey Harthcoate. Defendants: John Cottman. Subject: loan. Document type: answer only Date: 1603-1625. Reference: C 2/Jas/H35/20 Short title: Harthcoate v Cottman. Plaintiffs: Godfrey Harthcoate. Defendants: John Cottman. Subject: Speen mills in Church Speen, Berkshire. Document type: [pleadings] Date: 1603-1625

¹⁰ *British History Online: Parishes: Speen, in A History of the County of Berkshire: Volume 4(1924)*: The village of Speen lies on the ridge dividing the valleys of the Kennet and Lambourn, and adjoins the borough of Newbury, within which the tithing of Speenhamland and parts of Wood Speen and Church Speen are now included.

Wikipedia: Speen is a village and civil parish in West Berkshire, England. Centred 2 miles (3 km) north west of the largest town in the district, Newbury, Speen has clustered settlements, the largest of which is Speen village (which is contiguous with Newbury) and the others are buffered from the town by the A34 road and named Bagnor, Stockcross, Woodspeen and Marsh Benham. Speen has the frequently broken-up footpath marking the Ermin Street/Ermin Way, the main Roman road from Corinium Dobunorum (Cirencester, Gloucestershire) to Calleva Atrebatum (Silchester, Hampshire). The English Civil War Second Battle of Newbury was fought at Speen on 27 October 1644. Speenhamland in the parish, now part of Newbury, was the eponymous home of the Speenhamland system of outdoor (poor) relief.

¹¹ *Wikipedia*: Speen is a village and civil parish in West Berkshire, England. Centred 3 km north west of the largest town in the district, Newbury, Speen has clustered settlements, the largest of which is Speen village (which is contiguous with Newbury) and the others are buffered from the town by the A34 road and named Bagnor, Stockcross, Woodspeen and Marsh Benham. Speen has the frequently broken-up footpath marking the Ermin Street/Ermin Way, the main Roman road from Corinium Dobunorum (Cirencester, Gloucestershire) to Calleva Atrebatum (Silchester, Hampshire). The English Civil War Second Battle of Newbury was fought at Speen on 27 October 1644. Speenhamland in the parish, now part of Newbury, was the eponymous home of the Speenhamland system of outdoor (poor) relief.

¹² *Wikipedia*: The Roman road from Silchester to Bath connected Calleva Atrebatum (Silchester) with Aquae Sulis (Bath) via Spinae (Speen), Cunetio and Verlucio (near Sandy Lane). The road was a significant route for east-west travel and military logistics in southeast England during the 1st to 5th centuries. Parts of its route were subsequently followed by earthworks that are presumed to form part of Wansdyke. During the Middle Ages, the road was used by drovers, as well as by merchants and travellers. Portions of the Roman road are extant, while in other places all apparent vestiges are absent from view.

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However, the early 1600s were troubled times. The cloth trade¹³ in Newbury was in decline causing widespread poverty and the distress was so great that in 1630 the corn carts going from Newbury to Reading were attacked by hungry mobs. The Mayor of Newbury blamed persons from Speen and Greenham.

In 1696 William Cotman(sic) married¹⁴ Dothory(sic) Dowthat at Thatcham, Berkshire.

In 1698 Henry Cottman married¹⁵ Sarah Mulford at Thatcham. Thatcham is only 6 km east of Speen, near Newbury, so these people are probably William or John Cottman's descendants.

William Cottman married¹⁶ Frances Willy in 1710 at Greenham, 6km from Thatcham.

The UK National Archives hold a copy of the Will of William Cottman or Cotman, Clothier of Newbury, Berkshire, dated 27 May 1755.

¹³ *British History Online: The borough of Newbury, in A History of the County of Berkshire (1924): Volume 4:* The Clothweavers' Company, which still exists, received its patent of incorporation in 1601, but it did little to stop the decline in the cloth trade, which was as marked in Newbury as in the rest of England. In 1623 the trade was said to have diminished. In 1630 the Mayors of Reading and of Newbury sent up a complaint of the decay of the manufacture of mingled and coloured cloths, owing to the order prohibiting their export to Delft and Emden. The response was a declaration that though the order could not be withdrawn for reasons of State, yet the cloths might be sent to all towns where the merchant adventurers traded, without interference from that body; whereupon the adventurers promised to take as many dyed and dressed cloths from Newbury and Reading as formerly. These measures, however, failed to restore the trade. No number of regulations succeeded in keeping up the standard of clothmaking, partly, it was alleged, because of the introduction of Spanish cloth, which as a new invention came under no rule and was therefore considered liable to deteriorate.

The natural result of this decline in Newbury's chief industry was an increase both in poverty and in efforts to relieve it. Besides collections from the poor-box, there were at this time considerable funds in Newbury destined to charitable purposes and placed under the control of the corporation.

The revenue from the lands of St. Bartholomew's Hospital was devoted to the relief of the poor in 1599, and in 1624 John Kendrick left £4,000, part of which was to be invested in a house and garden and part to form a common stock for setting the poor to work. The decay of the clothing trade, however, made the problem of setting the poor to work increasingly difficult. The distress was great. In 1630, when prices were very high, the corn carts going from Newbury to Reading were attacked by the hungry mob. The Mayor of Newbury declared that the ringleaders were persons from Speen and Greenham; and eventually, of persons living in Newbury, only a few old women were punished: but the event so far alarmed the authorities at Newbury that a special watch was set to prevent such disturbances.

¹⁴ *England Marriages, 1538-1973:* William Cotman(sic) married Dothory(sic) Dowthat on 16 July 1696 at Thatcham, Berkshire.

¹⁵ *England Marriages, 1538-1973:* Henry Cottman married Sarah Mulford on 26 February 1698 at Thatcham, Berkshire

¹⁶ *England Marriages, 1538-1973:* William Cottman married Francis Willy in 1710 at Greenham, Berkshire