

# The Kingdons from Quethiock to Coldridge

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Version 6, December 2021

## *The Origin of the Kingdons – A Second Look*

The idea of writing *The Origin of the Kingdons* – henceforth ‘OOTK’ – was sparked by my chance discovery of several intriguing entries in a set of medieval records known as the ‘Testa Nevil’. As it turns out, transcripts of these records were ‘hiding in plain sight’ in the reference section of Exeter City Library throughout the periods when it would have been frequented by each of my published forerunners, F B Kingdon (FBK) and A S Kingdon (ASK).<sup>1</sup> Not that I’ve been there: my ‘chance discovery’ was by means of a speculative search on the internet; and in any case the relevant collections of the library, including key publications of the Devonshire Association, and the Devon and Cornwall Record Society, have latterly been rehoused in the new Devon Heritage Centre (DHC). But the quite arbitrary circumstance of my lucky strike on this previously-untapped trove raises the question that there might be even more genealogical gold out there, just waiting to be unearthed. This in turn raises the question of whether some of this anticipated ‘genealogical gold’ might devalue the OOTK hypothesis that the Kingdons originated from Kendon on Dartmoor. With these questions in mind I have felt it necessary to continue to scan the internet for new leads, and to test the reliability of OOTK’s many assertions.

My focus on this research agenda cannot be described as cursory or haphazard. On the contrary, ‘obsessive-compulsive’ would be nearer the mark. For example: the inclusion of the Rev Oswald Reichel’s transcript of ‘Testa Nevil’ in vol.37 of *Report and Transactions of the Devonshire Association* impelled me to look through the indices of all 150 volumes in this series; and likewise with every volume of *Devon and Cornwall Notes and Queries*, following my discovery in vol.13 of John Alexander’s description of the Kilworthy coats of arms; Reichel’s passing reference to Shapley and Skerraton being ‘held by Aluric in Domesday’ prompted me to enumerate ‘272 distinct estates of land that were held by Ælfric TRE’;<sup>2</sup> his references in the same footnote to specific entries in the Pipe Rolls and Hundred Rolls made me search for variants of the Kingdon family name in all such records as were available or indexed online, as well as in the Close Rolls, Fine Rolls, Patent Rolls, Inquisitions Post Mortem, and Crown Pleas of the Devon Eyre; in order to fully understand the tale of ‘Sir Nicholas de Kyngdon and the Ghost of Buckfast Abbey’<sup>3</sup> I felt it necessary to read through all the available transcripts of Buckfast Abbey charters; and so on. Moreover, having undertaken this research once, in preparation for writing OOTK, I then repeated the exercise, several times at more-critical points, just to make sure I’d not included any factual errors in the draft text or in the published version. To this end, as well as spending many man-hours searching through documents, books, and on the internet, I visited the DHC (eleven times) and the Cornwall Record Office in Truro (once, just before it closed for good). To get a better sense of the terrain I visited Kendon, Buckfast Abbey, Kilworthy (Tavistock), Lamerton, Bere Ferrers, Kingdon Farm (Antony), St Martin-by-Looe, Menheniot, Trehunsey, Venn (Quethiock), Trenouth (St Cleer), Liskeard, Bodmin, St Kew, Launceston, East Leigh (Coldridge), Nymet Rowland, North Molton, South Molton, King’s Nympton, Great Torrington, Higher Kingdon (Alverdiscott), Frithelstock, Holsworthy, and Bridgerule. And I undertook several long rambles across the open moor above Kendon, including on King Tor and through Chaw Gully.

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<sup>1</sup> Authors of [Kingdon Family] and [Kingdon Family Second Look] respectively.

<sup>2</sup> [Devon Book of Fees] pp.423-424 n.1371 footnote 14; [OOTK] p.5.

<sup>3</sup> [OOTK] p.10.

Despite this enormous effort, several mistakes, omissions, and inaccuracies persist in OOTK. Appendix 1 lists the errors and amendments found after publication. Principally:

- There is evidence of Kingdons living in Quethiock, but not in St Cleer, at least up to the beginning of the seventeenth century;
- Just because the proper noun ‘Kingdon’ is Old English, that doesn’t mean that the medieval Kingdons were *genetically* English;
- It appears that Higher Kingdon in Alverdiscott is as ancient as Kendon on Dartmoor, and thus may well have been the original homestead for some branches of the Kingdon family;
- It’s likely that Trehunsey came into being by the ‘process of nibbling away the waste’.

Although these findings imply changes to some of the wording in OOTK, they don’t alter the main thrust of that research, as summarised in the generation table on p.27. Indeed if I chose to be defensive I could point out that I have already hedged against the main vulnerabilities by deploying the usual academic-sounding combination of vague caveats (‘We might have all emerged from a forgotten mound somewhere in the wilds of North Devon’) and specific recommendations for further research (‘Is there really no trace of who held Trehunsey before the Kingdons?’). But while this might be sufficient to preserve the integrity of OOTK, it does nothing to advance our understanding of the history of the Kingdon family. For that, a significant breakthrough would be required, something like my ‘chance discovery’ of the ‘Testa Nevil’ transcript, which happened only because it was made available on the internet.

And then Kresen Kernow opened.

### **The Kingdons of Kresen Kernow**

Kresen Kernow, Cornwall’s ‘state-of-the-art new archive centre’,<sup>4</sup> is quite a step-up from its predecessor, the Cornwall Record Office. Whereas formerly the county archives were stashed away in what appeared to be an old army hut, now they are safely stored in properly-curated strongrooms in what I can only describe as a ‘cathedral’ of local and social history. Moreover, the launch of a new online catalogue search tool has made it possible for researchers to subject these archives to systematic data-mining for the first time. And that’s exactly what I did, with spectacular results, summarised in Appendix 2.

Searching the Kresen Kernow online catalogue for ‘k\*n\*don\*’ reveals twenty-eight records before 1610, listed in Appendix 2 using identifiers [KK01]-[KK28]. On seeing the quantity and quality of these records, I repeated this search in the online catalogues of the DHC and the National Archives, revealing a further twelve and thirty-one records respectively, listed in Appendix 2 using identifiers [DHC01]-[DHC12] and [NA01]-[NA31]. Whilst the bulk of county records at Kresen Kernow and the DHC are land transaction deeds or estate management rolls, most of the National Archives records are concerned with financial disputes at the Chancery Court, the remainder being criminal cases before the Star Chamber, and other oddments. In the following analysis I have collated all of these freshly-unearthed records into a single chronological sequence, grouped by person or place.

1346-1350: William de Kyndon or de Kyngdon ([KK01], [KK02], [KK03]). I take this to be the William de Kyngdone ‘who received *primam tonsuram* at Boconnoc in October 1321’, thereby becoming ‘the first Kingdon in Cornwall’.<sup>5</sup> Clearly from these records he survived the Black Death of 1348-1349. I also note that these deeds concern landholdings in Stonehouse (one of Plymouth’s ‘three towns’) and Maker (a parish on the Rame peninsula). The fact that William witnessed all of them suggests that he had a vested interest, perhaps as a neighbour, or as someone who would receive compensation of some kind, for example, the gift of a landholding in the neighbourhood. Thus these deeds seem to provide circumstantial evidence that William held the plot of land in the nearby parish of Antony now known as Kingdon Farm.

1425: Kynedon ([KK04]). I take this to be a location not associated with the Kingdon family.

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<sup>4</sup> [KK].

<sup>5</sup> [OOTK] p.15.

1433: Roger Kyngdon ([KK05]). I take this to be Roger Kyngdon of Trehunsey (1393-1471).<sup>6</sup>

1446: Kyngesdone ([KK06]). I take this to be a location not associated with the Kingdon family.

1455-1474: William Kyngdon, 'the heir of John Kyngdon, clerk' ([KK07], [KK08]). I take this to be Roger Kyngdon's son William Kyngdon, who appears to have inherited his role from his brother John. (I have double-checked the wording of [KK08] which indeed refers to William as the heir of John, rather than the other way round.)

1464-1465: Edward Kingdon, 'yeoman of the Chamber' or 'King's valet' ([NA04], [NA05]). I take this to be Roger Kyngdon's son Edward Kyngdon, Yeoman of the Crown.

1467-1516: Master Walter or Sir Water Kyngdon, 'Parson of Saint Martins by Loo in Cornwall and Prebendary of Copynghall of Penkridge, Staffordshire' ([NA01], [KK09], [NA02], [NA03]). I take this to be Roger Kyngdon's son Walter Kyngdon, Canon and Prebendary of Swords.

1480-1515: John Kyngdon, clerk or reeve or 'of East Looe, gentleman' ([KK10], [KK11], [KK13]). I take this to be William Kyngdon's son John Kyngdon of Looe, who, judging from the lands mentioned in the deeds, appears to have inherited his role from his father.

1504-1609: Kyngdon Wokeworthy or Kyngedon Okeworthy in Alverdiscott; Kyngdon in Allscott or Alverdyscott or Alverdiscott; South Kingdon in Huntshaw; Kingdon Manor ([DHC01], [DHC02], [DHC03], [NA29], [DHC05], [DHC07], [NA30], [NA31], [DHC09]). I take this to be Higher Kingdon in Alverdiscott and/or Lower Kingdon in Huntshaw.

1509-1523: Edward Kyngdon or Kyngden or Kyndon or Kingdon, reeve ([NA06], [NA07], [NA08], [NA09], [NA10], [NA11], [NA12], [KK15], [KK16]). I take this to be William Kyngdon's son Edward Kyngdon, who, judging from the lands mentioned in the deeds, appears to have inherited his role from his brother, John Kyngdon of Looe.

1514: 'the garden of the Reeve of Tavystok, the heir of Kyngdon and of John Fytz' ([DHC04]). This may be a passing reference to land part-owned by Walter Kyngdon, the vicar of Lamerton.<sup>7</sup> Also the 1535 Borlase claim against William Kyngdon's son Edward Kyngdon cites '5 messuages, 40 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, 10 acres of pasture ... in Tavestok and Stondone', which may include this share of a garden in Tavistock.<sup>8</sup>

1514-1516: John Kyngdon or Kyndon; Edward Kyngdon ([KK12], [KK14]). I take these to be Roger Kyngdon's grandsons, John Kyngdon of Trehunsey and Edward Kyngdon of Venn.

1544-1558: Thomas Kyngdon or 'Thomas Kyngdome (Kyngdone) gentleman' ([NA13], [NA14], [NA15], [NA16]). I take this to be Thomas Kyngdon of Trehunsey, 'who was dead before the year 1557'.<sup>9</sup> The reference in [NA13] to 'Thomas KYNGDON and Elizabeth his wife' is unique evidence that he wed.

1544-1582: John Kyngdon or Kingdon or Kyndon 'of Quethiock, gentleman' ([NA17], [NA18], [NA19], [NA20], [KK19], [KK20], [KK21]). I take this person, henceforth 'John Kyngdon of Quethiock', to be a new arrival on the scene.

1550-1650: 'John?Kinson' ([NA21]). It is unclear who this is, or to what this minor record refers.

1568-1610: Kanedon or Kenadon or Kenydon ([KK17], [KK18], [DHC06], [DHC10], [DHC12]). I take this to be Keynedon in South Devon, which is not associated with the Kingdon family.<sup>10</sup>

1584: John Kyngdon or Kyndon 'of Quethiock, yeoman'; John's son Henry Kyngdon and daughters Phillep Holcombe, Joan Tubbe, and Jane Venton; Thomas Kyngdon 'of Quethiock'; Thomas's sons John Kingdon and John Kingdon ([KK22]). I take 'John Kyngdon or Kyndon' to be John Kyngdon of Quethiock, as identified above; and I take 'Thomas Kyngdon' to be Thomas Kyngdon of

<sup>6</sup> For this and subsequent references to Roger Kyngdon's family see the transposed generation table on [OOTK] p.21.

<sup>7</sup> [OOTK] pp.19-20. In Lamerton church there is a list of vicars which includes Walter Kyngdon for 1508-1524.

<sup>8</sup> [Borlase of Borlase] p.74; [Kingdon Family] p.18. 'Stondone' may be Standon, a farm and hill on Dartmoor, six miles northeast of Tavistock.

<sup>9</sup> [OOTK] p.24.

<sup>10</sup> [OOTK] p.36.

Trehunsey, also as identified above. Their respective children are all new arrivals: I shall refer to them as Henry Kingdon, Phillippa Holcombe, Joan Tubbe, Jane Venton, John Kingdon 1, and John Kingdon 2. To verify the accuracy of this metadata summary I have inspected the original document, and can confirm that the Kingdon beneficiaries are, in order: 'Henry Kyngdon, son of John Kyngdon of Quethiock'; 'Phillep Holcombe, daughter of aforesaid John Kyngdon'; 'Joan Tubbe, daughter of aforesaid John Kyngdon'; 'Jane Venton, daughter of aforesaid John Kyngdon'; 'John Kingdon, son of Thomas Kyngdon of Quethiock'; and 'John Kingdon, brother of aforesaid John Kingdon'. I also note that next on the list of beneficiaries are 'Henry Chiverton, esquire' and 'Robert Trencreke, esquire', who in 1557 had successfully claimed the estate of Thomas Kyngdon of Trehunsey and carved it up between them.<sup>11</sup> The relationship between the two Kyngdon fathers is not specified, but given this sequence of beneficiaries they must have been brothers or cousins.

1599-1607: Henrie or Henry Kingdon, attorney (for 'John Coplestone of Warleighe', presumably), and subsequently 'of Wareleigh, Devon (= Tamerton Warleigh), gentleman' ([DHC08], [KK28]). Given that [KK28] has the same list of landholdings as [KK22], I take this to be John Kyngdon of Quethiock's son Henry Kingdon. I also take him to be the same person as 'Henry Kingdon of Saltash' who married Elizabeth Copleston in December 1608, just one month after the death of her brother John.<sup>12</sup> Finally, I note that the other party to [KK28] is 'William Holcomb of Crediton, Devon, gentleman', who I take to be the same person as 'William Holcombe, of Holcombe' who married Henry Kingdon's sister Phillippa in Coldridge in 1583.<sup>13</sup>

1602: William Kingdon, Cornwall ([NA22]). 'Details of which pouch this certificate was removed from are now lost', so it is unclear who this is.

1603-1625: Robert Kindon; Joyce Kindon his wife ([NA23]). Not mentioned by FBK.

1603-1625: Christopher Kingdon or Kyngedon or Kingdone ([KK23], [KK24], [KK25], [KK26], [NA24], [NA25], [NA26]). I take this to be John Kingdon of Coldridge's eldest son Christopher Kingdon, b.1564.<sup>14</sup> The Kresen Kernow documents indicate that Christopher had land interests in East Cornwall. From the others, [NA24] is of particular relevance, as it concerns the 'presentation to advowson of Nymett alias Nymett Rowland, formerly of Amyas Coplestone', who was the son of John Copleston of Warleigh and therefore the nephew of Henry and Elizabeth Kingdon.<sup>15</sup> In Nymet Rowland church there is a list of vicars which also names their patrons, who in this period were as follows: 1605 John Coplestone, esq.; 1610 Amitius Copleston; 1619 Christopher Kingdon, gent.; 1621 Amitius Copleston; 1625 Christopher Kingdon.

1605: Daniel Kingdon; Joan Kingdon his wife ([NA27]). FBK reviews this document as one of several Chancery Actions at Launceston, but does not place Daniel and Joan Kingdon in any of his family trees.<sup>16</sup>

1605: John Kingdon, Cornwall ([NA28]). FBK does not mention this document, but since it concerns 'Jury-packing and perjury at Launceston assizes in an action for tenements in the borough of Launceston', I assume John Kingdon was of that town.

1606: Richard Kingdon senior, 'miller, of St Stephen by Launceston' ([KK27]). FBK has transcribed this will, and placed its author at the top of his 'Launceston Pedigrees: Table I'.<sup>17</sup>

1609-1794: 'Deeds: Pinn in Otterton ... Duke to Drake to Green to Walter to Kingdon' ([DHC11]). The transaction 'to Kingdon' is eighteenth-century and well beyond my current period of interest.

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<sup>11</sup> [OOTK] p.24.

<sup>12</sup> [Copleston]; [OOTK] p.36 n.94.

<sup>13</sup> [Kingdon Family] p.71; pp.146-147. Given the evidence in [KK22] and [KK28], FBK's assumption that Phillippa was the sister of John Kingdon of Coldridge cannot be correct. Nevertheless, 'Holcombe came into the Kingdon family later and was known as Kingdon's Holcombe', so the two branches of the family must have got on well together.

<sup>14</sup> [OOTK] pp.26-27; [Kingdon Family] p.146.

<sup>15</sup> [Copleston]; [Kingdon Family] pp.83-84.

<sup>16</sup> [Kingdon Family] pp.92-93.

<sup>17</sup> [Kingdon Family] p.97; p.100.

In summary, this systematic search through the archives for variants of the family name has unearthed direct references to: William de Kyngdone, ‘the first Kingdon in Cornwall’; Roger Kyngdon of Trehunsey, ‘the common progenitor of the various West Country branches of the Kingdon family’; all of Roger’s named sons and grandsons; Thomas Kyngdon, ‘The last male representative of the Kyngdons at Trehunsey’; and Christopher Kingdon, the eldest son of John Kingdon of Coldridge.<sup>18</sup> Additionally it has revealed a previously-unknown sub-branch comprising John Kyngdon of Quethiock, his son Henry Kingdon, and three daughters including Phillippa Holcombe. Just as important, this search has *not* found any evidence that would undermine the assumption (implicit in OOTK) that during this period there was only one family of West Country Kingdons, which in the fourteenth century migrated from Devon to Cornwall, where it settled for two centuries or more in the region of Quethiock, before it broke up and dispersed in various directions, mainly to Launceston and back to Devon. And finally there is a tantalising hint of a connection between the last Kingdons of Quethiock and the first Kingdons of Coldridge, which to me has the glint of ‘genealogical gold’, and which surely demands further investigation.

### The Kingdons from Quethiock to Coldridge

The simplest way to establish a connection between the last Kingdons of Quethiock and the first Kingdons of Coldridge is through a series of transposed generation tables, starting with:<sup>19</sup>

<b>b.1393</b>	<b>b.c.1420</b>	<b>b.c.1450</b>	<b>b.c.1480</b>
Roger Kyngdon m. Johanna (Trehunsey)			
s.1 John Kyngdon			
s.1.1 John Kyngdon (Trehunsey)			
da.1.1 Margery Kyngdon m. John Manaton (Kilworthy)			
s.2 Edward Kyngdon, Yeoman of the Crown (Westminster)			
s.2.1 Edward Kyngdon (Venn)			
s.3 William Kyngdon (St Cleer)			
s.3.1 John Kyngdon (Looe)			
s.3.1.1 Walter Kyngdon (s.4’s godson)			
s.3.2 Edward Kyngdon m. Juliana Monke?			
da.3.1 Margaret Kyngdon m.1 John Borlase m.2 Thomas Tregian			
da.3.2 Joan Kyngdon m. Thomas Langlion			
da.3.3 Agnes Kyngdon m. Maynard			
s.4 Walter Kyngdon, Canon and Prebendary of Swords (Looe, St Cleer)			
s.5			
s.6			
s.7			
s.8			
s.9			
s.10			
s.11			
da.1			
da.2			
da.3			
da.4			
da.5			

<sup>18</sup> All quoted phrases from [OOTK].

<sup>19</sup> [OOTK] p.21.

To develop this table I note, firstly, that ‘Even if Johanna were perpetually pregnant, it would still take her a dozen years to have sixteen children’,<sup>20</sup> and therefore the timeline at the top is wholly misleading. Replacing this timeline with known or estimated dates for each of the Kingdon males,<sup>21</sup> I note, secondly, that long periods must have elapsed between the births of Johanna’s named sons, probably filled by the deaths in infancy or childhood of their anonymous siblings. That is, ASK was quite right all along, and I was wrong to dismiss this outcome as the consequence of a ‘mysterious’ (and, by implication, fictitious) ‘unnamed brother death syndrome’.<sup>22</sup> In any case I feel justified in removing sons s.5-s.11 and daughters da.1-da.5 from the table with no further ado. This in turn frees up sufficient space for the insertion of the relevant parts of the revised ‘Table Showing the Passing of Trehunsey’.<sup>23</sup> Finally, noting the high likelihood that William Kyngdon was older than his brother Edward,<sup>24</sup> I have switched their places and their numbering. There being no evidence that William Kyngdon lived in St Cleer, I have removed that label. This gives:

Roger Kyngdon (1393-1471) m. Johanna (Trehunsey)  
 s.1 John Kyngdon (c.1415-c.1470)  
   s.1.1 John Kyngdon (c.1450-c.1525) (Trehunsey)  
     s.1.1.1 Thomas Kyngdon (c.1497-1557) (Trehunsey)  
       No surviving male issue  
     da.1.1.1 Joan Kyngdon m. William Vivian  
       da.1.1.1.1 Anne/Anis Vivian m. Robert Trenchreek (St Erme)  
       (etc.)  
     da.1.1.1.2 Alice Vivian m. Henry Chiverton (Trehunsey)  
       (etc.)  
     da.1.1 Margery Kyngdon m. John Manaton (Kilworthy)  
 s.2 William Kyngdon (c.1425-c.1480)  
   s.2.1 John Kyngdon (c.1460-c.1530) (Looe)  
     s.2.1.1 Walter Kyngdon (c.1490-c.1560) (s.4’s godson)  
   s.2.2 Edward Kyngdon (c.1470-c.1540) m. Juliana Monke?  
     da.2.1 Margaret Kyngdon m.1 John Borlase m.2 Thomas Tregian  
     da.2.2 Joan Kyngdon m. Thomas Langlion  
     da.2.3 Agnes Kyngdon m. Maynard  
 s.3 Edward Kyngdon, Yeoman of the Crown (c.1435-c.1505) (Westminster)  
   s.3.1 Edward Kyngdon (c.1480-c.1550) (Venn)  
 s.4 Walter Kyngdon, Canon and Prebendary of Swords (c.1440-1515) (Looe, St Cleer)

To begin the second iteration I take a closer look at the assertion in this table that Thomas Kyngdon of Trehunsey had ‘No surviving male issue’. This does not necessarily follow from the 1557 division of his estate by Robert Trenchreek and Henry Chiverton. On the contrary, as the accompanying text in OOTK makes clear, all we can infer from the loss of Trehunsey is that ‘Thomas Kyngdon neither had a legitimate male heir nor did he write a will’.<sup>25</sup> For example, he

<sup>20</sup> [OOTK] p.22.

<sup>21</sup> Estimates, prefixed by ‘c.’ for *circa*, are ‘educated guesses’ based on the known periods of economic activity of individuals and their heirs (including in the subsidy and muster rolls analysed in the next section), and whether or not these individuals are mentioned in s.4 Walter Kyngdon’s will. Thomas Kyngdon’s estimated birth year of 1497 is inferred from a transcript of a 1547 Star Chamber case that includes a deposition from ‘Thomas Kyngdon of Trehunsey withyn the countye of Cornwall gentyelman of the age of L yrs (50)’, see [Lee Family History] p.18.

<sup>22</sup> [OOTK] p.20.

<sup>23</sup> [OOTK] p.25.

<sup>24</sup> Edward lags William by at least nine years in the documents summarised earlier, and by fifteen years as Liskeard’s parliamentary representative, see [OOTK] p.22. Also, by switching their order we restore the sequence of Roger Kyngdon’s grandchildren as they are listed in s.4 Walter Kyngdon’s will, see [Cornish Wills] pp.158-159.

<sup>25</sup> [OOTK] p.24.

may have had male offspring out of wedlock, or they may have been minors when he died.<sup>26</sup> As it turns out, we now learn from [NA13] and [KK22] that Thomas married, and that he had two sons. The fact that these sons had the same name might suggest that one or both were illegitimate. Another more remote possibility is that the one of them was an unacknowledged son of John Kyngdon of Quethiock, who drew up [KK22] many years after Thomas's death, and so could have written almost anything he liked. As for the relationship between Thomas Kyngdon of Trehunsey and John Kyngdon of Quethiock, clearly they could not have been brothers, otherwise John would have inherited Trehunsey after 1557. Cousins, then. But Thomas's father s.1.1 John Kyngdon had no brothers, otherwise they would have been named in the will of s.4 Walter Kyngdon, so we need to go back another generation and look for second cousins. I exclude the family of s.2 William Kyngdon on the grounds that none of them lived in Quethiock. Indeed, judging from their social and working roles and their marital alliances, it doesn't look as if any of William's family were farmers. By elimination, therefore, the father of John Kyngdon of Quethiock must have been s.3.1 Edward Kyngdon of Venn. This gives:<sup>27</sup>

<p>Roger Kyngdon (1393-1471) m. Johanna (Trehunsey)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>s.1 John Kyngdon (c.1415-c.1470) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>s.1.1 John Kyngdon (c.1450-c.1525) (Trehunsey) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>s.1.1.1 Thomas Kyngdon (c.1497-1557) m. Elizabeth (Trehunsey) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>s.1.1.1.1 John Kingdon 1 (c.1530-c.1600)</li> <li>s.1.1.1.2 John Kingdon 2 (c.1540-c.1610)</li> </ul> </li> <li>da.1.1.1 Joan Kyngdon m. William Vivian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>da.1.1.1.1 Anne/Anis Vivian m. Robert Trenchreek (St Erme) (etc.)</li> <li>da.1.1.1.2 Alice Vivian m. Henry Chiverton (Trehunsey) (etc.)</li> </ul> </li> <li>da.1.1 Margery Kyngdon m. John Manaton (Kilworthy)</li> </ul> </li> <li>s.2 William Kyngdon (c.1425-c.1480) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>s.2.1 John Kyngdon (c.1460-c.1530) (Looe) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>s.2.1.1 Walter Kyngdon (c.1490-c.1560) (s.4's godson)</li> </ul> </li> <li>s.2.2 Edward Kyngdon (c.1470-c.1540) m. Juliana Monke? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>da.2.1 Margaret Kyngdon m.1 John Borlase m.2 Thomas Tregian</li> <li>da.2.2 Joan Kyngdon m. Thomas Langlion</li> <li>da.2.3 Agnes Kyngdon m. Maynard</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>s.3 Edward Kyngdon, Yeoman of the Crown (c.1435-c.1505) (Westminster) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>s.3.1 Edward Kyngdon (c.1480-c.1550) (Venn) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>s.3.1.1 John Kyngdon (c.1515-c.1585) (Quethiock) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>s.3.1.1.1 Henry Kingdon (c.1560-c.1639) m.1608 Elizabeth Copleston</li> <li>da.3.1.1.1 Phillippa Kingdon m.1583 William Holcombe</li> <li>da.3.1.1.2 Joan Kingdon m. Tubbe</li> <li>da.3.1.1.3 Jane Kingdon m. Venton</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>s.4 Walter Kyngdon, Canon and Prebendary of Swords (c.1440-1515) (Looe, St Cleer)</li> </ul> </li></ul></li></ul>
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<sup>26</sup> Another possibility is that William Vivian purposely deprived Thomas's male heirs of their birthright. He was, after all, one of the Vivians of Bodmin; and they, like their neighbours the Borlases, were members of a new breed of 'big beasts' on the ascendancy in the county. See, for example, [Tudor Cornwall] pp.147-148 for an account of the exploits of William's uncle Thomas Vivian, the 'high-handed and acquisitive' Prior of Bodmin.

<sup>27</sup> Henry Kingdon's estimated death year of 1639 is inferred from the listing of 'Henry Kingdon, [Parish of] Anthony, 1639' in [Calendar of Wills] p.185.

For the third and final iteration I note that the estimated birth years of the sons of Thomas Kyngdon of Trehunsey neatly match FBK's estimates for the birth year of John Kingdon of Coldridge.<sup>28</sup> From [KK22], [KK28] and [NA24] we know that over several decades the Kingdons of Quethiock and Coldridge shared a close familial and proprietorial bond, just as we would expect from the operation of the extended family system.<sup>29</sup> Therefore it takes no great flash of inspiration to conclude that John Kingdon of Coldridge was one of the sons of Thomas Kyngdon of Trehunsey, probably the elder of the two.<sup>30</sup> This gives:<sup>31</sup>

<p>Roger Kyngdon (1393-1471) m. Johanna (Trehunsey)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>s.1 John Kyngdon (c.1415-c.1470) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>s.1.1 John Kyngdon (c.1450-c.1525) (Trehunsey) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>s.1.1.1 Thomas Kyngdon (c.1497-1557) m. Elizabeth (Trehunsey) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>s.1.1.1.1 John Kingdon (c.1530-1596) m.1564 Joan (Coldridge) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>s.1.1.1.1.1 Christopher (1564-c.1635) m. Elizabeth (etc.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>s.1.1.1.1.2 John Kingdon 2 (c.1540-c.1610)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>da.1.1.1.1 Joan Kyngdon m. William Vivian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>da.1.1.1.1.1 Anne/Anis Vivian m. Robert Tren creek (St Erme) (etc.)</li> <li>da.1.1.1.1.2 Alice Vivian m. Henry Chiverton (Trehunsey) (etc.)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>da.1.1 Margery Kyngdon m. John Manaton (Kilworthy)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>s.2 William Kyngdon (c.1425-c.1480) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>s.2.1 John Kyngdon (c.1460-c.1530) (Looe) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>s.2.1.1 Walter Kyngdon (c.1490-c.1560) (s.4's godson)</li> </ul> </li> <li>s.2.2 Edward Kyngdon (c.1470-c.1540) m. Juliana Monke?</li> <li>da.2.1 Margaret Kyngdon m.1 John Borlase m.2 Thomas Tregian</li> <li>da.2.2 Joan Kyngdon m. Thomas Langlion</li> <li>da.2.3 Agnes Kyngdon m. Maynard</li> </ul> </li> <li>s.3 Edward Kyngdon, Yeoman of the Crown (c.1435-c.1505) (Westminster) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>s.3.1 Edward Kyngdon (c.1480-c.1550) (Venn) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>s.3.1.1 John Kyngdon (c.1515-c.1585) (Quethiock) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>s.3.1.1.1 Henry Kingdon (c.1560-c.1639) m.1608 Elizabeth Copleston <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>da.3.1.1.1 Phillippa Kingdon m.1583 William Holcombe</li> <li>da.3.1.1.2 Joan Kingdon m. Tubbe</li> <li>da.3.1.1.3 Jane Kingdon m. Venton</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>s.4 Walter Kyngdon, Canon and Prebendary of Swords (c.1440-1515) (Looe, St Cleer)</li> </ul>
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So there you have it: John Kingdon of Coldridge was a great-great-grandson of Roger Kyngdon of Trehunsey, a direct descendant in the senior line. For ease of reference and avoidance of confusion I shall call this last table 'The Kingdons from Quethiock to Coldridge', or 'KQC' for short.

<sup>28</sup> [Kingdon Family] p.16 'John Kingdon of Coldridge, who went there in 1563 and must have been born about 1530'; p.20 'Pedigree Chart of Trehunsey Kingdons', 'b. circ. 1540 John Kingdon, of Coldridge.' Given that Thomas Kyngdon of Trehunsey was born in c.1497 the estimated birth years of his sons are no contrivance.

<sup>29</sup> [OOTK] pp.38-39.

<sup>30</sup> [Kingdon Family] p.74 has a copy of an entry in the Coldridge Churchwardens' Accounts, '1570 In p'mis payed to John Kyngdome for his brother xv<sup>s</sup>', which suggests to me that John Kingdon of Coldridge was giving a handout to his younger brother.

<sup>31</sup> For the rest of the family of John Kingdon of Coldridge see FBK's Chart I on [Kingdon Family] p.146.



## Kingdon regions, assets, and roles

Throughout the sixteenth century the Tudor monarchs prevailed upon their subjects for money and militia. The resulting subsidy and muster rolls provide a fascinating survey of the population in this period. For Cornwall and Devon these documents have been transcribed, with copies in the DHC.<sup>32</sup> Do they support or undermine the basic structure of the Kingdon family as depicted by KQC?

Cornwall first. The following table lists every instance of the family name in the respective transcripts, sorted by date and region (parish, town, or hundred), and grouped into four sets:

1. Regions encompassing landholdings listed in the 1557 division of the estate of Thomas Kyngdon of Trehunsey;
2. East Looe, St Martin-by-Looe;
3. Launceston and environs;
4. Regions in West Cornwall.

In the last column I have assigned an identifier for each person, this being a numerical code from KQC or a table-note number in square brackets. The latter are discussed following the table.

Set	Date	Region	Person	Assets/Roles	Identifier
1	1522	Quethiock	John Kyngdon	Land £4, Goods £30	s.1.1
	1522	Menheniot	John Kyngdon	Land 10s	s.1.1
	1522	St Cleer	John Kyngdon	Land £1	s.1.1
	1522	Stoke Climsland	John Kyngdon	Land £2	s.1.1
	1522	South Hill	John Kyngdon	Land £1.5.0	s.1.1
	1522	Antony	John Kyndon	Land £1	s.1.1
	1522	Quethiock	Edward Kyngdon	Goods £15	[1]
	1522	Menheniot	Edward Kyngdon	Land 13s 4d	s.3.1
	1522	St Ive	Edward Kyngdon	Land £2	s.3.1
	1524	East Hundred	John Kyngdon	Collector	[2]
	1544	Quethiock	William Kyngdon	Land £13	[3]
	1544	Quethiock	Agnes Kyngdon	Land £8	[4]
	1544	Quethiock	Edward Kyngdon	Goods £10	s.3.1
	1545	Quethiock	William Kyngdon	8s 8d	[3]
	1545	Quethiock	Edward Kyngdon	6s 8d	s.3.1
	1569	Quethiock	John Kyngdon	Sallet, corslet, bow, sheaf of arrows, bill	s.3.1.1
2	1522	East Looe	John Kyngdon	Land 6s	s.2.1
	1522	St Martin-by-Looe	John Kyngdon	Land £12	s.2.1
	1522	East Looe	Edward Kyngdon	Land 6s	s.3.1
	1525	St Martin-by-Looe cum East Looe	John Kyngdon	Goods £4	s.2.1
3	1544	Launceston	John Kyngdon	Goods £2	[5]
	1569	Launceston	Samson Kingdom	Bow, 4 arrows	[6]
4	1522	Helston	John Kyngdon	Land £1.3.4	[2]
	1522	Sithney	John Kyngdon	Land 10s	[2]
	1522	Bodmin	William Kyngdon	Stipend £7, Goods £2 Curate	[7]
	1569	St Kew	John Kingdon		[8]

<sup>32</sup> [Cornwall Subsidy 1522]; [Cornwall Subsidies HenVIII]; [Cornwall Muster 1569]; [Devon Subsidy 1524-7]; [Devon Subsidy 1543-5]; [Devon Muster 1569].

[1] The obvious candidate here is s.3.1 Edward Kyngdon of Venn, but why is he not named as a landholder like his cousin s.1.1 John Kyngdon of Trehunsey? From the listing of the Coryton Estate lands in the 1919 sale catalogue<sup>33</sup> we know that Venn together with Venn Hill had roughly half the acreage of Trehunsey, so in the 1522 survey we should expect to see a landholding with a taxation value of £2. And indeed there is one such valuation, but the owner is named as John Vivian. Thus while s.3.1 Edward Kyngdon was 'of Venn' in the 1515 will of s.4 Walter Kyngdon, perhaps by 1522 he had sold this land to the father or grandfather of William Vivian.<sup>34</sup>

[2] From KQC this could be s.1.1 John Kyngdon of Trehunsey or his cousin s.2.1 John Kyngdon of Looe. I take it to be the latter, whose [KK11] role for the vast Arundell estate would have taken him throughout the county, while the former stayed in Quethiock and worked the land.

[3], [4] From KQC we would expect to see s.1.1.1 Thomas Kyngdon of Trehunsey listed as holding land in Quethiock in 1544-5, but instead there is a William Kyngdon and an Agnes Kyngdon. To me this suggests that Thomas had an elder brother William and widowed mother Agnes who held the estate between them, until his own brief ownership c.1546-1557. Another possibility is that Thomas did own and work the land, but when it came to paying the taxes he relied on wealthy relatives, for example, Bodmin curate William Kyngdon, see [7] below.

[5], [6] These are Launceston Kingdons, see FBK's 'Launceston Pedigrees: Table I'.<sup>35</sup> It is not known whether or how they relate to KQC.

[7] I take this to be the William Kingdon who was a scholar of Exeter College Oxford 1504-1514 and Rector of Endellion 1533-1534.<sup>36</sup> Without evidence FBK speculates that William was 'possibly a son of Edward Kyngdon', but it's not clear which of the three Edwards in KQC he had in mind.<sup>37</sup> If my estimated dates are correct then the only possibility is s.3 Edward Kyngdon, the Yeoman of the Crown; but in this case one wonders why William wasn't mentioned in s.4 Walter Kyngdon's will. (The same might be said if William had been the son of one of the other Edwards, s.2.2 or s.3.1. But maybe from the next generation the testator chose to favour only his namesake godson, s.2.1.1 Walter Kyngdon.) A similar problem arises with the identity of the Edward Kingdon who married Juliana, the widow of William Moncke of Padstow, before 1481. Again without evidence FBK nominates s.2.2 Edward Kyngdon as the groom, albeit with a curious '(?)',<sup>38</sup> but as before if my estimated dates are correct then the only possibility is s.3 Edward Kyngdon. (And in this latter case the c.1480 birth year of s.3.1 Edward Kyngdon of Venn would need to be advanced by a year or two, although this would be no bad thing, as it appears from these records that he was still alive and active in 1545.) Thus while it seems clear that Bodmin curate William Kyngdon was related to the Kingdons of Quethiock, and that Juliana Monke married one of their Edwards, in the absence of further evidence I shall omit the former from KQC, and retain the '?' after the name of the latter.

[8] This John Kingdon is unknown, and without further evidence it would be unwise to speculate on his identity. It is an ironic coincidence that he was recorded as living in St Kew, where the parish church has a late fifteenth-century stained glass window depicting what appears to be the Kingdon coat of arms. As I make clear in OOTK, there is strong evidence that this coat of arms features oystercatchers rather than magpies, and belongs to the Pentires rather than the Kingdons.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> [Quethiock sale].

<sup>34</sup> [Visitations of Cornwall] p.537. The sale of Venn to the Vivians would explain how their descendant Richard Chiverton came to be holding it along with Trehunsey and several other properties in Quethiock, see [OOTK] p.25.

<sup>35</sup> [Kingdon Family] p.97.

<sup>36</sup> [Exeter College Register] pp.51-52.

<sup>37</sup> [Kingdon Family] p.28; p.31.

<sup>38</sup> [Kingdon Family] p.20; pp.23-24.

<sup>39</sup> [OOTK] p.44.

Now for Devon. As before, the following table lists every instance of the family name in the respective transcripts, sorted in the same way, but this time grouped into three sets (which are roughly equidistant from one another, on the map):

1. North Molton, South Molton, King's Nympton, Bishop's Nympton, Molland;
2. Little Torrington, Great Torrington, Buckland Brewer, Frithelstock, Alverdiscott;
3. Coldridge, Nymet Rowland.

Again as before, an identifier has been assigned for each person, but on this occasion it turns out that only one of these is a KQC numerical code.

Set	Date	Region	Person	Assets/Roles	Identifier
1	1524-7	North Molton	William Kyngdon	Goods £7	[1]
	1524-7	North Molton	Geoffrey Kyngdon	Goods £2	[2]
	1524-7	North Molton	John Kyngdon	Goods £2	[3]
	1524-7	King's Nympton	Nicholas Kyndon	Goods £2	[4]
	1543-5	North Molton	William Kyngdon	Goods £12	[1]
	1543-5	North Molton	Philip Kyngdon	Goods £4	[5]
	1543-5	North Molton	John Kyngdon	Goods £2	[6]
	1543-5	North Molton	John Kyngdon	Goods £2	[7]
	1543-5	North Molton	John Kyngdon	Goods £2	[8]
	1569	North Molton	John Kingdon	Billman	[6]
	1569	King's Nympton	John Kingdon	Billman	[7]
	1569	Molland	John Kingdon	Pikeman	[8]
2	1524-7	Little Torrington	Richard Kyngdon	Goods £2	[9]
	1543-5	Little Torrington	Richard Kyngdon	Goods £1	[9]
	1543-5	Little Torrington	Richard Kyngdon jr	Goods £2	[10]
	1569	Little Torrington	Richard Kyngdon	Archer	[10]
	1569	Great Torrington	John Kingdon	Pikeman	[11]
	1569	Buckland Brewer	William Kingdon	Harquebusier	[12]
3	1569	Coldridge	John Kyngdon	Archer	s.1.1.1.1

[1] I take this to be the William Kingdon of North Molton whose will dated 1570 has been transcribed by FBK.<sup>40</sup>

[2], [3], [4] Unknown Kingdons, but given their locations they are likely to be close relatives of [1].

[5], [6], [7], [8] These are the four sons of [1]. By 1569 the 'three Johns' were each living in their respective parishes, as identified in their father's will: [6] Fyldon in North Molton (named 'Fledon' in the will, which FBK calls 'Filsdon'); [7] King's Nympton (or simply 'Nympton' in the will, which FBK incorrectly identifies as Bishop's Nympton); [8] Molland.

[9], [10], [11], [12] This set of Kingdons is an entirely new discovery.<sup>41</sup> These records appear to show that [9] Richard Kyngdon was succeeded in Little Torrington by his namesake son [10], perhaps with other sons [11] and [12] going to live nearby. None of these places are very far from Higher Kingdon, Alverdiscott, from where I suspect these Kingdons derived their family name.

Finally, John Kyngdon of Coldridge is a new entrant in 1569, and a distinctive one at that, regarding both his location and his assignation of 'Archer' (whereas his contemporary namesakes are each labelled 'Billman' or 'Pikeman'). Clearly he is not one of the 'three Johns' of North Molton, as they are all listed already. Thus these records support the view that he is not related to the other Devon Kingdons [1]-[12], and he must have come from somewhere else: Quethiock, for instance. Clearly from his identifier I take him to be KQC's s.1.1.1.1 John Kingdon of Coldridge.

<sup>40</sup> [Kingdon Family] pp.105-106.

<sup>41</sup> [Kingdon Family] p.147 suggests that John Kingdon of Coldridge's son Richard 'possibly went to Little Torrington', so FBK was apparently unaware that Kingdons had already been living there for many decades.

In summary, this tabulation of the occurrences of the Kingdon family name in the sixteenth-century subsidy and muster rolls for Cornwall and Devon provides strong support for KQC. It also unearths evidence of a previously-unknown branch of the family in Little Torrington, which may have derived its name from that of a local hilltop landholding now known as Higher Kingdon. On the other hand, this analysis provides no new insights into the relationship between KQC and the other branches of the family that were present in the West Country at that time, principally, those at Launceston and North Molton.

### **What are the alternatives?**

As with any other product of evidence-based research, a family tree can never be ‘proved’, it can only be established ‘beyond reasonable doubt’. In OOTK I discuss the use of this ‘legal phrase ... when used in the current non-legal context’, stating that, as well as establishing a ‘preferred hypothesis’ which is supported by the available evidence, it is necessary to show that there is no other hypothesis which is supported in the same way or to the same extent.<sup>42</sup> In the case of KQC several potential alternatives are suggested by, or may be inferred from, *The Kingdon Family* and its sequel. These are as follows.

At the top of his Chart I, as siblings of John Kingdon of Coldridge, FBK includes ‘Phillippa = Wm. Holcombe’ and ‘(Philip of Nymet Rowland)?’.<sup>43</sup> According to the Coldridge parish records (transcribed by the Devon and Cornwall Record Society and shelved in the DHC) William Holcombe married ‘Phillippe’ Kingdon on 23 June 1583, nearly two decades after the presumed marriage of John and Joan Kingdon. Given this duration, and bearing in mind the universal social expectation that brides be younger than grooms, it would have needed a reproductive miracle for Phillippa to have been John’s sister. Thus it comes as no surprise to see from [KK22] that Phillippa had no brother John, or to see from the resulting KQC that she and John Kingdon of Coldridge were third cousins. As for ‘(Philip of Nymet Rowland)?’, I have yet to find any evidence that this person even existed. In the notes accompanying Chart I FBK refers to ‘William Kingdon, of Nymet Rowland, buried at Coldridge 1670, probably grandson of Philip’, but gives no reason for this supposition. The Coldridge burial register indeed lists ‘Kingdon, William de Nimet Rowland, 22 May 1670’, but gives no hint of his parentage. The inventory of his will, likewise.<sup>44</sup> And a thorough search through *The Kingdon Family* for Philip Kingdon and Nymet Rowland unearths no further clues.

In *The Kingdon Family – A Second Look* ASK seeks to advance the ‘Claims of North Molton as first settlement’ in Devon.<sup>45</sup> He writes:

It seems generally accepted in the Kingdon family that the most ancient settlers in Devon from Trehunsey, if indeed, they did come from there, were at Coldridge, and that from there lines went out to spread the name over large parts of the county.

Though incapable of definite proof, evidence from records suggests that North Molton has greater claim to be the cradle of the family, registers showing that Kyngdons were being born, married and dying there some years before there is any corresponding evidence from Coldridge.

These statements are not mutually exclusive: it would have been perfectly possible for one group of Kingdons to have migrated from Quethiock to Coldridge, while at the same time another group of Kingdons continued to live and prosper in North Molton. It follows that this more general argument does not necessarily undermine KQC. What might undermine KQC is the discovery of evidence in support of ASK’s more specific suggestion (based on a 1540 baptism record) that John Kingdon of Coldridge was born and brought up in North Molton rather than Quethiock. It was this scenario

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<sup>42</sup> [OOTK] p.31.

<sup>43</sup> [Kingdon Family] p.146.

<sup>44</sup> [Kingdon Family] pp.88-89.

<sup>45</sup> [Kingdon Family Second Look] pp.20-22; [OOTK] p.27 n.82.

which alerted me to the need to undertake precisely the same search through the catalogues of Kresen Kernow, the DHC, and the National Archives, see Appendix 2. But while these results offer ‘a tantalising hint of a connection between the last Kingdons of Quethiock and the first Kingdons of Coldridge’, they make no mention at all of North Molton. This does not mean that the North Molton Kingdons did not exist – indeed, their inclusion in the subsidy and muster rolls confirms ASK’s reading of the parish registers – but it does mean that they were not in a position to put their names on land transaction deeds. Putting it bluntly, the sixteenth-century Kingdons of North Molton belonged to a different socio-economic ‘class’ than the Kingdons of Quethiock and Coldridge; and different classes, even with the same family name, tended not to mix.<sup>46</sup>

In his Second Supplement, under the heading ‘Other Kingdon Pedigrees’, ASK reviews several rather unusual family trees.<sup>47</sup> He writes:

Since we started circulating the results of our Kingdon research several family charts have been sent to us or discovered. One of these was sent, with covering letter, to a member of the family in South Devon by the Vicompte de Meules of Ryde, Isle of Wight, where he was living in 1949. He claimed descent from Roger and Johanna Kyngdon of Trehunsey, and the Chiverton family. The co-heiresses of Thomas Kyngdon of Trehunsey, who died in 1558, did marry Chiverton and Vivian. The chart submitted by the Vicompte shows Thomas as the son of John and grandson of Edward Kyngdon, a Yeoman of the Crown ... The certain line of descent has not been discovered, and while this theory might be correct, we have found no evidence to substantiate it. Moreover, the chart takes no account of Walter Kyngdon’s will proved in 1516, with inevitable omissions and known inaccuracies.

ASK is quite right to regard compliance with s.4 Walter Kyngdon’s will as the acid test of all such alternative pedigrees. In this case there are two main objections: firstly, if s.3 Edward Kyngdon the Yeoman of the Crown had a son John then the latter would have been mentioned in the will of his uncle Walter; and secondly, given the well-established family structure as depicted by KQC, and the hallowed principle of primogeniture, this ‘alternative pedigree’ is simply impossible.

Next, ASK describes an ‘Even more interesting ... beautifully prepared chart’ which purports to show the Kingdon line of descent headed by ‘Adam Kingdon, Clerk in Holy Orders. Instituted to a living, 31 Nov. 1286’. I take this to be Adam de Kyngdone, Rector of Loxbeare, who would have been celibate, of course.<sup>48</sup> As ASK says, this chart ‘is obviously highly speculative’, and as such it is not much use to genealogists, its artistry notwithstanding.

Finally under this heading ASK gives a brief description of the so-called Kingdon-Gould pedigree, noting that it ‘makes no attempt to record the family earlier than John Kingdon of Coldridge’. Since this document is now freely available on the internet we may readily confirm ASK’s observation, thereby concluding that its family tree does not conflict with KQC.<sup>49</sup>

It is clear from this brief survey that none of these potential alternatives offers a serious challenge to KQC. Pending an upsurge of other ideas or objections, or the unearthing of yet more ‘genealogical gold’ from Kresen Kernow or elsewhere, any of which contradicts the present picture, I take KQC to be a robust ‘preferred hypothesis’ which may be used as the basis of further inference and conjecture.

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<sup>46</sup> From today’s perspective this may sound offensively snobbish. It’s easy to forget, however, that ‘today’s perspective’ is very different from that which prevailed in our society even up to the middle of the twentieth century. My intention is not to reintroduce old class distinctions into contemporary life, but rather to give an accurate description of the factors affecting the Kingdon family – in all its ‘classes’ – many, many years ago. I am not a snob, and my efforts in trying to work out the origin of the Kingdons are simply a measure of my obsession with this fascinating intellectual puzzle.

<sup>47</sup> [Kingdon Family Second Look] p.126.

<sup>48</sup> [OOTK] p.13.

<sup>49</sup> [Kingdon-Gould].

## Kingdon kith and kin

Taking KQC as our preferred hypothesis:

- Can places be found within its structure for the ‘waifs and strays’, that is, individuals or small groups such as Lamerton vicar Walter Kyngdon, Bodmin curate William Kyngdon, and the Kingdons who were living in Quethiock at the beginning of the seventeenth century?
- Can we work out how other branches of the family are related to the Kingdons of Quethiock and Coldridge?
- What is the status of any branch of the family that doesn’t seem to be related to the Kingdons of Quethiock and Coldridge?

‘Waifs and strays’ first. During the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries these are as follows.<sup>50</sup>

1422/3:<sup>51</sup> John Kyngdon, manucaptor of Bodmin.<sup>52</sup> I take this person, henceforth ‘John Kyngdon of Bodmin’, to be a brother or cousin of Roger Kyngdon of Trehunsey (1393-1471).<sup>53</sup>

1427-1467: Johannes or John Kyngdom or Kyngdon or Kyndone, ordained to the tonsure at Pawton 1427, ordained as acolyte then deacon then priest for Bodmin at consecutive audiences at Chudleigh 1442/3, and ‘late of Bodmyn, clerk’ 1466/7.<sup>54</sup> I take this to be John Kyngdon of Bodmin, the former manucaptor. Since tonsured clerks were not prevented from doing secular work or from getting married,<sup>55</sup> John Kyngdon of Bodmin had ample time to start a family before taking holy orders, and so he may have been the father or grandfather of Lamerton vicar Walter Kyngdon and/or Bodmin curate William Kyngdon. However, it is very unlikely that he was one and the same as Roger Kyngdon’s eldest son s.1 John Kyngdon, otherwise the latter’s son John and daughter Margery would have been extremely old when they were named in s.4 Walter Kyngdon’s will. Thus these records raise the intriguing possibility that the ‘John Kyngdon, clerk’ from whom s.2 William Kyngdon inherited his [KK08] role was not his elder brother s.1 John Kyngdon but rather his uncle or cousin in Bodmin. And indeed this seems the more likely scenario, since on taking up holy orders John Kyngdon of Bodmin would have had to relinquish his secular work, which given his central location would have been highly lucrative, and in due course would have led to other rewards such as the roles for the Arundell estate held by William’s sons.

1508-1524: Walter Kyngdon, vicar of Lamerton.<sup>56</sup> I take this to be a cousin of s.1 John Kyngdon and his generation as depicted in KQC.

1504-1534: William Kingdon, scholar of Exeter College Oxford 1504-1514, curate of Bodmin 1522, Rector of Endellion 1533-1534.<sup>57</sup> I take this to be a cousin of s.1.1 John Kyngdon of Trehunsey and his generation as depicted in KQC.

1519: William Kyngdon, Chagford.<sup>58</sup> 1526: Will Kyngdon, South Tawton.<sup>59</sup> I take these two documents to refer to the same person, henceforth ‘William Kyngdon of Chagford’. In the first document he is recorded as making a payment to Dartmoor tin-workers, and in the second his name is linked with that of Sir Thomas Denys in a land transaction deed. Both of these records may be significant. Chagford, at that time one of Devon’s four stannary towns, is just five miles north of Kendon. As with Walter de Kyngdon and Orresia his wife three hundred years earlier, it is possible

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<sup>50</sup> For all known West Country Kingdons prior to the year 1400 see the generation table on [OOTK] p.16.

<sup>51</sup> Note that double years such as these reflect Old Style dating conventions.

<sup>52</sup> [History of Bodmin] p.143; [Kingdon Family] p.14.

<sup>53</sup> Note that I am using ‘cousin’ in the loosest sense: I do not necessarily mean first cousins. After all, as we have seen, Phillippa Holcombe and John Kingdon of Coldridge were only third cousins, and yet their families were very close.

<sup>54</sup> [Lacy Register IV] p.112; p.191; p.193; p.194; [Borlase of Borlase] p.24; [Kingdon Family] p.14; pp.18-19; [Kingdon Family Second Look] p.112. Pawton Manor is in North Cornwall near to Wadebridge, and Chudleigh is in South Devon between Exeter and Totnes.

<sup>55</sup> [OOTK] p.13.

<sup>56</sup> [OOTK] pp.19-20.

<sup>57</sup> [Exeter College Register] pp.51-52; [Cornwall Subsidy 1522] p.79; [Kingdon Family] p.28; p.31.

<sup>58</sup> [South Tawton Accounts] p.318.

<sup>59</sup> [North Wyke Neighbours] p.457.

that William's forebears lived at Kendon and derived their family name from there.<sup>60</sup> After all, when in 1543 Sir Thomas's brother Henry Denys acquired Kendon it was in the tenure of 'John Nawseworthe *alias* Kyndon'; and the Nosworthys likewise derived their family name from a nearby landholding now known as Natsworthy; so perhaps 'nominative flexibility' remained an option even at this late stage.<sup>61</sup> As for Sir Thomas Denys, capitalising on the benefits of belonging to a powerful landowning family he 'served as Sheriff of Devon nine times between 1507/8 to 1553/4' and 'acquired large estates in Devon at the Dissolution of the Monasteries'.<sup>62</sup> Maybe the record linking '*Thomas Denys, knight, & Will Kyngdon*' marks a high point in William's career. Or maybe it marks the beginning of a beautiful friendship that gained employment for William and his family throughout Devon, for example, with Sir Thomas in Exeter, or in the Denys heartland of Buckland Brewer (where in 1569 a later William Kingdon was described as a 'Harquebusier').<sup>63</sup> But in any case there is clearly no need to find a place for William Kyngdon or his hypothetical family within the structure of KQC.

1543-1558: Thomas Kyngdon '(since deceased)'; John Kingdon of Quethiock.<sup>64</sup> I take these to be s.1.1.1 Thomas Kyngdon of Trehunsey and his second cousin s.3.1.1 John Kyngdon of Quethiock. This record also mentions 'Jane the wife of Stephen Treyan', who FBK suggests might be 'the sister of John and Thomas Kyngdon'. According to KQC Thomas had only one sibling, Joan the wife of William Vivian, so I take Jane to be the sister of John.

1551: John Kingdon married Else Editon at St Matthew's, Friday Street, London.<sup>65</sup> Since the Quethiock burial register lists 'Kindon(?), Else, 7 Feb 1587', I take this couple to be s.3.1.1 John Kyngdon of Quethiock and his wife Else née Editon.

As well as Else 'Kindon(?)' the Quethiock burial register lists five other Kingdons in the period 1574-1610: 'Kingdon, Geord', 1590; 'Kingdon, Tomas f. Tomas', 1597; 'Kingdon, Thomas f. Thom.', 1606; 'Kingdon, Thomas', 1608; 'Kingdon, Thomas f. Johannis', 1609. In the same period the baptism register lists four Kingdons: 'Kindon, Susana f<sup>a</sup>. Tomas', 1587; 'Kindon, Jone f<sup>a</sup>. Tomas', 1594; 'Kingdon, Henricus f. Tomas', 1598; 'Kingdon, Tho. f. Thomae', 1604. With one exception, all of these records appear to refer to a single family group, comprising: John Kingdon (who may be s.1.1.1.2 John Kingdon 2, there being no other candidate in KQC); his son Thomas Kingdon, who died in 1609; and Thomas's children, Susana (1587-), Joan (1594-), Thomas (-1597), Henry (1598-), Thomas (1604-1606), and Thomas (-1608). The 'one exception' is the burial record of Geord Kingdon, whose unusual given name suggests to me that he was a venerable retainer of the Quethiock Kingdons, rather than a member of the family.

After 1610 the Quethiock Kingdons were a dying breed. In the baptism register I found no more Kingdons before halting at 1630; in the marriage register I found one entry, 'Reape, Anthony & Mary Kingdon' in 1637, before halting at 1650; and in the burial register I found two entries, 'Kingdone, John' in 1635 and 'Kingdom, Mistres Ann, wid.' in 1640, before halting at 1670.<sup>66</sup> How these 'residual' members of the family relate to KQC is not known.

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<sup>60</sup> [OOTK] pp.3-7.

<sup>61</sup> [New History of Buckfast Abbey] p.235; [HenVIII 18/2] p.54 n.13; p.55 n.21; [OOTK] p.35 n.91.

<sup>62</sup> [Thomas Denys]. Also, according to [Holcombe Burnell], 'Sir Thomas is notorious as having supervised the burning at the stake of the Protestant martyr Thomas Benet in Exeter in January 1531/2.'

<sup>63</sup> [Orleigh Manor]; [Devon Muster 1569] p.126.

<sup>64</sup> [Kingdon Family] p.19.

<sup>65</sup> [Kingdon Family] p.31; p104.

<sup>66</sup> According to [Kingdon Family] p.19 'The Administration of John Kingdon of Quethiock was granted to Mary his widow in 1635', which confirms his burial record. It is possible that the Mary Kingdon who married Anthony Reape two years later was John's widow taking a second husband.

Now for the branches. KQC essentially confirms FBK's implicit assumption that of all the various West Country branches of the Kingdon family it is the one at Coldridge which has the greatest claim to be descended from Roger Kyngdon of Trehunsey; and consequently the following list constitutes little more than an organised set of footnotes to *The Kingdon Family*. Nevertheless it gives a useful overview of what is currently known of the connections between the branches. In order of geographical proximity to Quethiock and then to Coldridge these are as follows.

St Cleer: Although s.4 Walter Kyngdon was vicar of St Cleer from 1465 to 1497, it now seems that no Kingdons lived there until the second half of the seventeenth century. The lack of evidence that s.2 William Kyngdon lived there subverts my musing that 'Perhaps he followed the example of his ancestor John Kyngdon of Plympton and worked in the tin trade?'<sup>67</sup> ASK suggests that the St Cleer Kingdons arrived there from Launceston, and has compiled a useful family tree commencing with 'Samuell Kingdome d?1700'.<sup>68</sup>

Looe: In the parish church of St Martin-by-Looe there is a list of rectors which includes s.4 Walter Kyngdon for c.1472-1515. From his will we know that Walter had two tenements in East Looe, one of which he bequeathed to s.3.1 Edward Kyngdon of Venn, and the other to his godson s.2.1.1 Walter Kyngdon. The latter was the son of s.2.1 John Kyngdon, 'of Loo' in the will, or 'of East Looe, gentleman' according to [KK13]. From these records it is clear that there was a close association between the Kingdons of Quethiock and of Looe. And on the website of the St Martin-by-Looe Online Parish Clerk there is evidence that in the seventeenth century 'Richard Kingdon, shipwright' and family lived and prospered in East Looe.<sup>69</sup> The enigmatic 'Captain Richard Kingdon' also lived at this time, and given these coincidences of name, profession and era it is more likely that he came from Looe than from any other place then frequented by Kingdons.<sup>70</sup>

Launceston: Given its status as county town (until 1835), its proximity to Quethiock, and the evidence of Kingdons living there from the sixteenth century, I share the assumption of both FBK and ASK that Launceston was the settled home of close relatives of Roger Kyngdon of Trehunsey.<sup>71</sup> There is no new evidence in support of this assumption, however.

Plymouth: This later branch, which includes the mother of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, has been traced back to Launceston by ASK.<sup>72</sup>

Antony: The early parish records of 'St Antony East' are sketchy and incomplete, and give no support to the conjecture that Kingdon Farm remained a family homestead following the 1557 division of the estate of Thomas Kyngdon of Trehunsey. In 1639 s.3.1.1.1 Henry Kingdon's will was proved in 'Anthony', but the parish is not mentioned in any other Kingdon family records.

Maker: ASK has traced 'the fairly short lived Maker branch' back to Launceston.<sup>73</sup> A different Kingdon family is thought to have arrived in the parish in the late eighteenth century.<sup>74</sup>

Thorverton and Exeter: To FBK it 'seems likely' that John Kingdon of Coldridge's eldest son Christopher 'may have founded the branch or branches of Kingdons living in Thorverton, and neighbouring villages and possibly some of the Exeter Kingdons'; in this context ASK comments that 'Recent research ... has found nothing to refute the main lines of descent suggested in the book, nor much to confirm them with certainty'; and this remains the state of affairs.<sup>75</sup> Likewise, whilst the discovery of William Kyngdon of Chagford raises the possibility of a radically different origin of the Exeter Kingdons, as yet there is zero evidence to either support or undermine this conjecture.

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<sup>67</sup> [OOTK] p.22.

<sup>68</sup> [Kingdon Family Second Look] p.94; p.98; [OOTK] pp.25-26.

<sup>69</sup> [SMBL OPC].

<sup>70</sup> Captain Richard Kingdon and his son Lemuel Kingdon are discussed at length in [Kingdon Family] pp.33-70, and also mentioned in [Kingdon Family Second Look] pp.34-35.

<sup>71</sup> [Kingdon Family] p.90; [Kingdon Family Second Look] p.94.

<sup>72</sup> [Kingdon Family Second Look] pp.95-96.

<sup>73</sup> [Kingdon Family Second Look] p.117.

<sup>74</sup> [Maker with Rame Materials] p.154.

<sup>75</sup> [Kingdon Family] p.71; [Kingdon Family Second Look] p.36.



South Molton: To FBK it 'would seem not improbable' that John Kingdon of Coldridge's youngest son Abraham 'was the founder of the South Molton branch'; in this context ASK comments that 'Nothing has been found to prove or disprove the suggestion that this Abraham [of South Molton] was the youngest son of John Kingdon of Coldridge'; and this remains the state of affairs.<sup>76</sup> On the other hand, FBK also notes that South Molton is only about three miles away from North Molton, and that their respective Kingdons 'intermarried'. 'There was probably a close relationship between them in the early days.'<sup>77</sup> Nevertheless it appears that neither he nor ASK detected a suitable candidate as founder of the South Molton branch in the extensive parish records of North Molton.

North Molton: Sooner or later, every mature research programme reaches a point at which the sheer weight of correlated facts tips the scales, such that the 'preferred hypothesis' is accepted 'beyond reasonable doubt', and attention switches to a radical new line of enquiry. In my view we have now reached this tipping-point in our search for the origin of the Kingdons. That is, I take KQC to be established 'beyond reasonable doubt', and I take as a provisional or working hypothesis the conjecture that the Kingdons of North Molton had a quite different origin all of their own. Thus, rather than trying to find a niche in KQC for the Kingdons of North Molton,<sup>78</sup> we take a closer look at their own locality for reasons why some early inhabitants would have been known by this particular family name. For example: just as Kendon is located 'on the side of a hill that is surmounted by a natural jumble of rocks known as King Tor, and a Bronze Age burial cairn known as King's Barrow', and Higher Kingdon is located 'near to the highest point on Gammaton Moor' where there are 'traces of an Iron Age enclosure and a Roman marching camp', so too is North Molton overlooked by a hilly ridge peppered with Bronze Age barrows.<sup>79</sup> This ridge, which constitutes the southwestern corner of Exmoor, is followed by an ancient track and the Devon-Somerset county boundary. It is a great vantage-point and would be a fine meeting-place for all the king's men. On the North Molton side it is known as Fyldon Common: so at one time it must have been a regular Kingdon stamping-ground. A minor road heading northeast passes between Fyldon Common and Five Barrows Hill at Kingsford Gate Cross. Any connection?

Alverdiscott and Chagford: In the foregoing I have raised the possibility of branches of the family being founded by individuals or groups associated with one or the other of these parishes. Neither of them has been considered as original Kingdon territory by FBK or ASK, but that's no reason to eliminate them from our enquiries. Indeed, it's incumbent upon every self-respecting researcher to investigate all such possibilities, usually by means of posing specific and/or leading questions, and searching for evidence for-or-against. For instance, where did the Kingdons of Little Torrington come from? And what are to we make of the following nugget of 'genealogical gold', discovered during yet another speculative sifting through the internet?

What Is the oldest thing in Chittlehampton ? Oddly enough the oldest dated relic is a flimsy piece of paper, measuring 9 by 4 inches, dated the 29th year of King Edward, i.e. 1301, It is a grant by Peter de Kyngdon of part of his land in Alverdiscott to his daughter Christine, land which became the property of Chittlehampton Church until its sale in 1920 ...<sup>80</sup>

What, then, is the status of the Kingdons of North Molton or Alverdiscott or Chagford? Places can't be found for them within the structure of KQC, but so what? Their claim to the family name may be just as ancient; and therein lies a fascinating intellectual puzzle. The only problem with this conclusion is that somebody needs to write another 'Kingdon book': *The Origins of the Kingdons*.

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<sup>76</sup> [Kingdon Family] p.71; [Kingdon Family Second Look] p.23.

<sup>77</sup> [Kingdon Family] pp.102-103.

<sup>78</sup> One possibility is that the unnamed sons of Roger and Johanna were attracted to North Molton by the copper and iron mines of the period. However, as we have seen, these 'unnamed sons' probably died in infancy or childhood, and, furthermore, there is no evidence that s.2 William Kyngdon or anyone else in KQC 'worked in the tin trade'.

<sup>79</sup> [OOTK] p.3; The present paper, Appendix 1; [Five Barrows Hill].

<sup>80</sup> [Chittlehampton Magazine]. Chittlehampton is between Alverdiscott and South Molton.

## Positive feedback

I first visited Kresen Kernow shortly after it opened in September 2019, and less a month later I felt sufficiently emboldened by the available evidence to exclaim, 'I've found the 'missing link' between Quethiock and Coldridge!' This excitement notwithstanding, I delayed writing-up my findings until the following spring, just-in-case there emerged an inconvenient truth that would turn this 'genealogical gold' into fake bling. It didn't; and accordingly in the following months I sent drafts of this paper (comprising everything other than this and subsequent sections) to family members and other interested parties for their comments. My family were very impressed – well, who wouldn't be? – but advised that I'd do well to also write 'a more journalistic (as opposed to a dense/scholarly) piece' for a broader readership. While I can see their point, I interpret it as a gentle plea for a simple summary of my main findings, in response to which I have composed the final section of this paper, below. As for the 'other interested parties', their feedback is as follows.

Shortly after completing the first draft of this paper I received an email from Darren Johnson, who for many years had been living in Kingdon Cottage at Higher Kingdon, Alverdiscott. He writes:

As you are doubtless aware the site is located amidst a site of historical interest as an iron age settlement and a Roman marching camp. I read with interest your essay of the origins of your name sakes and wished to bring to your attention information which may well be of interest in any future family research.

Our cottage is very interesting in several respects. We are in possession of a photograph from the seventies taken before the building fell to dereliction. The photo clearly shows stone mullion windows on the front elevation, this indicates the building was clearly of higher standing than its current humble cottage status.

Whilst working in the garden I have discovered stone gutters and mullion window section.

Inside the cottage there are features indicating the cottage has had a long history including an area which appears to indicate that the cottage was attached to another long lost building.

Over the years I have noticed areas of interest in and around the house and last year, during excavations conducted by my neighbour, the on site archaeologists discovered a medieval court yard and buildings extending towards the cottage.

The discovery, clearly shows that this site had been inhabited since iron age times and I would suggest that this adds weight to an argument that this could be the origin of the family name.

In response I felt able to express my wholehearted agreement with Darren's comments:

Indeed, since writing 'The Origin of the Kingdons' I've come to very similar conclusions as your own, see my recent draft paper 'The Kingdons from Quethiock to Coldridge', attached.

Another recipient of this first draft was Laurence Kingdon, with whom I'd been corresponding for some years. Since his Kingdon forebears lived on Exmoor we suspect that they originated from nearby North Molton. Having delved deeply into the murky depths of DNA testing, Laurence has discovered that, on the paternal side at least, he is in the 'DF27 group':

... which is fairly common across Western Europe, with a particularly high presence in Northern Spain, although the oldest known skeletal remains that were positive for DF27 were found in Quedlinburg, Germany. So, there is a debate raging about whether DF27 originated in Northern Europe or Spain, although I think the consensus is towards Northern Europe ... It is unlikely that my ancestors were in Britain before the Romans, suggesting an Anglo-Saxon origin.

Intrigued by these observations, in February 2020 I likewise commissioned an analysis of my Y chromosome, that is, the part of the genetic code which is only ever passed through the male line.

When the results finally arrived (in June, much delayed by the coronavirus pandemic), they revealed that I belong to the 'L21 group'. Laurence's verdict:

L21 is believed to have originated in SW England ... It is possible, therefore, that your L21 founder ancestor was a Brythonic Celt ... based on the evidence on the table, my instinct is to say pure Brythonic ancestry.

Furthermore:

Let's assume you are descended in an unbroken father-son line from the Kingdons of Kendon and I am the same from the Kingdons of North Molton. These results would prove that the two do not share a common ancestry.

In my view this is a sensational confirmation of the 'conjecture' (in the first draft of this paper, completed three months earlier) that 'the Kingdons of North Molton had a quite different origin all of their own'. On the other hand, these findings effectively refute OOTK's sweeping assertion, based solely on linguistic grounds, that the Kingdons of Kendon were Anglo-Saxons.<sup>81</sup> Not surprisingly I swiftly produced a second draft of this paper, emphasising that 'Just because the proper noun 'Kingdon' is Old English, that doesn't mean that the medieval Kingdons were *genetically* English', and rightly attributing this insight to Laurence. Further support for this new perspective may be derived from the observation that 'Testa Nevil' makes a passing reference to a Briw' de Kingdon,<sup>82</sup> whose given name seems distinctly Celtic in origin; so maybe the original inhabitants of Kendon *were* Ancient Britons, after all.

Having thus honed this paper I felt able to email it to family and friends, including Paul Copleston, creator and curator of his family history website.<sup>83</sup> In subsequent correspondence Paul kindly provided transcripts of two family wills that mention Kingdons:

- Christopher Copleston (1524-1586) bequeathed 'tenne pounds ... of good and Lawful money of England' to 'Harry Kingdon'. I take this to be s.3.1.1.1 Henry Kingdon.
- Also, Christopher's Inquisition Post Mortem cites a legal indenture that he made a few months before his death, including a reference to 'the manor of Beavys Hill in the parish of Colbroke and Crediton, which John Kingdon purchased of Lewys Stukeley esq. deceased, and of his sons John and Hugh, to the use of the said Christofer Copleston'. Of 'Beavys Hill' I can find no trace, but 'Colbroke' is easier: it is the village and parish of Colebrooke, four miles west of Crediton, and six miles southeast of Coldridge; and in the sixteenth century the Copleston family held extensive lands there, notably, the manor and estate of Copleston. In 1586 s.1.1.1.1 John Kingdon of Coldridge would have been in his prime, and given these coincidences of time and space it seems clear that the indenture refers to him.
- Christopher's son 'Marke Coplestone of Saltash' (1558-1633) bequeathed 'the full and whole summe of Twenty pounds of ... English monie' to 'my brother in lawe Henry Kingdome of Saltashe', that is, s.3.1.1.1 Henry Kingdon. The will is witnessed by Henry, which is consistent with his signing [DHC08] on behalf of Marke's brother John; evidently he continued to serve as the in-house family lawyer even after his marriage to Elizabeth Copleston in 1608. Another point of interest is the repeated reference to 'Saltash'. According to Paul, the Copleston family once held the manor of Shillingham in the parish of Saltash, so perhaps this was Marke's residence. As for Henry, his place of abode seems to have been somewhat flexible: in the [KK28] land transaction of 1607 he was 'of Wareleigh, Devon'; in Marke's will of 1633 he was 'of Saltashe' (and indeed this is likely to be the basis of his citation as 'Henry Kingdon of Saltash' in the Copleston family tree and thereafter); but after his death in 1639 his will was proved in the parish of 'Anthony'. I suspect that he spent much of his adult life living with and off his wife's family.

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<sup>81</sup> [OOTK] p.34.

<sup>82</sup> [Devon Book of Fees] pp.431-432 n.1468 footnote 26.

<sup>83</sup> [Copleston].

Paul also sent me a copy of his retelling of the grisly tale of the ‘Copleston Oak’, under whose branches the aforesaid Christopher Copleston stabbed to death his godson, Christopher Monns or Monnes. It turns out that ‘Copleston was well known at the court of Queen Elizabeth I and he was eventually pardoned from the gallows by her,’ and ‘Two years later he became a Justice of the Peace!’ What particularly caught my eye about this story was the description of ‘Christopher Monns alias Monnes formerly of Wolston in the County of Cornwall’.<sup>84</sup> I take this to be Woolston in the parish of St Ive, which is less than two miles north of the Kingdon homestead in Quethiock. Now consider the following sequence of events: in 1562 Christopher Monns or Monnes, a near neighbour of the Quethiock Kingdons, was murdered by his godfather Christopher Copleston; in 1563 John Kingdon departed Quethiock and acquired East Leigh in Coldridge, which happened to be only a few miles away from Copleston’s eponymous manor and estate in Colebrooke; and in 1564 John’s wife Joan gave birth to their first son, who they chose to call ‘Christopher’, which given name hadn’t been used before by any of the Kingdons. Any connection?

The 2020 coronavirus pandemic I have mentioned already. One of its consequences was the closure of the DHC and Kresen Kernow for much of the year. Fortunately, however, both re-opened in September for a few weeks, and I was able to spend a day at Kresen Kernow looking through their collection of books and papers by Oliver Padel, who is the leading expert in the study of Cornish place-names. On the toponymy of ‘Trehunsey’ he writes:

There are also a number of cases where *Tre-* is qualified by an Old English personal name, such as ... and Trehunsey (*Trehunsey* 1306, *tre* + *Hunsige*). There are about twenty such names (some of them doubtful), all in East Cornwall. They need not represent English incomers, since a practice of Cornishmen taking English names is well-attested, particularly in the 10<sup>th</sup> century ...<sup>85</sup>

Although this left me wondering about possible alternative explanations, a subsequent email discussion with Oliver assuaged my doubts, and I now accept his derivation of the name. He also has solved the mystery of the whereabouts of Penacadek:

The farm or tenement of Penacadek survived until 1840 when it appears as a tenement in the Tithe Apportionment of the parish of St Cleer, under the spelling Pennycraddock. ... as it was held with Newton (St Cleer) I surmise it may have been close to that tenement ...

In a later visit to Kresen Kernow I confirmed that the St Cleer Tithe Apportionment indeed lists ‘Newton and Pennycraddock’, but found that on the accompanying tithe map this tenement is simply labelled ‘Newton’. Presumably Pennycraddock and Penacadek are former names for part or all of the St Cleer farm now known as Newton.<sup>86</sup>

Another line of enquiry I pursued with Oliver concerned his analysis of the 1327 Lay Subsidy Roll of Cornwall.<sup>87</sup> This extraordinary resource lists 5,769 surnames (‘not counting illegible ones’) of nonclerical taxpayers in Cornwall two decades before the Black Death; and Oliver has the only transcript of the whole roll. To my queries about the occurrence of my family name he has replied:

The 1327 Lay Subsidy shows a William Kyndon in Antony parish ... I am reasonably sure that there are no other examples of that surname in the five Hundreds which comprise the eastern half of the county.

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<sup>84</sup> [Copleston] Queen’s Pardon.

<sup>85</sup> [Cornish Place-Names] p.226.

<sup>86</sup> Thus at least one of ‘Trencreek’s several little parcels of land’ was in St Cleer, *contra* [OOTK] p.24. Nevertheless, given that there is no evidence that s.2 William Kyngdon lived in the parish, there remains a strong case that Thomas Kyngdon ‘was not the heir of any of the descendants of the younger sons of Roger and Johanna’, which is the point I was trying to make.

<sup>87</sup> [Cornish Surnames 1327].

As with ‘William de Kyndon or de Kyngdon’ cited in the earliest Kresen Kernow documents [KK01]-[KK03], I take ‘William Kyndon in Antony parish’ to be none other than the William de Kyngdone ‘who received *primam tonsuram* at Boconnoc in October 1321’, thereby becoming ‘the first Kingdon in Cornwall’. That is, six years after he crossed the Tamar, William was still the only Kingdon in the whole of Cornwall, at least as far as the tax-collectors were concerned. In this sense he was just as isolated and unique as his brother or cousin John Kyngdon of Plympton, who in 1332 and 1359 was the only Kingdon in the whole of Devon to be taxed. Furthermore, the 1327 roll clearly locates William in the parish of Antony, and we (Oliver and I) are agreed that this can only mean that he held the plot of land now known as Kingdon Farm; thereby confirming my earlier suspicion based on the circumstantial evidence of the 1346-1350 deeds.

Evidently, on the basis of the first couple of drafts of this paper, the feedback from family members and other interested parties has been extremely positive. Such encouragement is always welcome! All the same, a more critical eye may also reap rewards, in the form of new lines of enquiry and the answers they unearth; ‘And so it came to pass’.

### Yet more ‘genealogical gold’

Although it fitted perfectly with the idea that the Kingdons had migrated from Devon to Quethiock via Antony, a couple of things bothered me about the sole entry of ‘William Kyndon’ in the 1327 Lay Subsidy:

- Why did Oliver Padel confine his assessment to ‘the five Hundreds which comprise the eastern half of the county’? What about the other four in the west?
- If the plot of land in Antony parish now known as Kingdon Farm was named after William de Kyngdone, rather than the other way round, then he must have acquired it from a local landowner, a ‘big beast’ in OOTK parlance. So who held this land before William?

As I shall relate, both of these lines of enquiry have yielded what can only be described as yet more ‘genealogical gold’.

In response to my initial query about the 1327 Lay Subsidy, Oliver wrote, ‘I have a transcript of the whole roll myself ... and there is a transcript by Charles Henderson in the Courtney Library, Royal Institution of Cornwall, Truro, though it may cover only west Cornwall, not east.’ The existence of this second transcript was later confirmed by the Courtney’s Librarian Archivist, Angela Broome. However, as a result of ongoing maintenance works and coronavirus pandemic restrictions, I was prevented from visiting the Courtney Library until October 2021: that is, two years after my initial discovery of the ‘missing link’ between Quethiock and Coldridge, and 700 years (almost to the day) after William de Kyngdone had become ‘the first Kingdon in Cornwall’. Better late than never; for, as I soon realised, the Library’s Henderson Collection is a unique resource which includes ‘16,000 ancient documents, many hundreds of transcripts in Henderson’s hand, and his own writings either in published form or in manuscript.’<sup>88</sup> Henderson’s transcripts and other writings are filed in a series of cross-referenced ledgers or folders, known as ‘Calendars’, with his work on the 1327 Lay Subsidy in a folder labelled ‘Henderson Calendar 48’. This transcript, for the four western Hundreds only, occupies 31 pages, with each page having several columns of names. Having spent a couple of hours looking through these lists, I am ‘reasonably sure’ that they do not include ‘Kingdon’ or its variants. The closest match is for a person called Nich’ Ken’dyn of Kenwyn parish, just north of Truro. It is conceivable that this was Nicholas de Kyngdon’s namesake son, who in turn had a son William, with whom he migrated to Cornwall in the 1320s. But in my view it is much more likely that ‘Ken’dyn’ is a phonetic spelling of the local pronunciation of a family name derived from that of the parish, ‘Kenwyn’. In any case, it would be heroically incautious to devise a lineage on the basis of this single record!

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<sup>88</sup> [Charles Henderson]; [Courtney Library].

As well as deepening my understanding of the 1327 Lay Subsidy, and acquainting me with the Henderson Calendars (to which I shall return, see below), this exercise has demystified a literary reference that had intrigued me for a decade or more.<sup>89</sup> In her 1969 novel *The House on the Strand* Daphne du Maurier describes the 1327 Lay Subsidy entry for Tywardreath parish as follows:

There were forty names in all, and Henry de Champernoune headed the list. I ran my eye down the rest. Number twenty-three was Roger Kylmerth. So it wasn't hallucination – he had really lived.<sup>90</sup>

When I first read this I scarcely believed that such a list existed, or that a novelist (even one as meticulous and accomplished as du Maurier) would go to the lengths of obtaining a copy. But the former was confirmed by an internet search which led me into discussion with Oliver Padel, while the latter was confirmed by my perusal of the Tywardreath list on page 17 of Henderson's transcript. As well as naming Henry de Champernoune (at the top) and Roger Kylmerth (at number twenty-three), it's clear that this list was the source document for all of the commoners' names in *The House on the Strand*: Henry Trefrengy, Julian Polpey, Geoffrey Lampetho, Philip Hornwynk, Rob Rosgof, *etc.* And while du Maurier makes no acknowledgement of this key reference, she does express her thanks to 'Mr H. L. Douch, MA, Curator of the County Museum, Truro' and several other archival sources, 'to all of whom I am indebted for information and original documents.'

Back to the topic: Before William de Kyngdone, who held the plot of land in Antony parish now known as Kingdon Farm? As with OOTK's '*Who held Trehunsey before the Kingdons?*', the point of this question is to reveal the identities of the 'big beasts' under whose 'patronage and protection' the Kingdons survived and prospered.<sup>91</sup> Eventually (in July 2021, after a very long search) I found the answer to *both* of these questions, which as usual (for such tricky and arcane problems) was amongst the researches of the incomparable Hugh Watkin. On this occasion he was commenting on Searley's study of the Haccombe family, manor, church, and archpresbytery:

It seems certain that Cecily, wife of Jordan [de Haccombe], was the daughter and heiress of Warin de Penpol, and inherited the manors of Penpol and East Antony as well as the advowson of the church of St. Hugh of Quethiock ... After the death of Jordan, Cecily, in 1289, granted her Cornish estate, as above, to her son Stephen de Haccombe, retaining only a life interest in the same ...<sup>92</sup>

So it turns out that Stephen de Haccombe (c.1265-1330) held the principal manors in both Antony and Quethiock at just the same time that the Kingdons became established in Cornwall. And for a period of time he also held the former residence of Nicholas de Kyngdon:

... as Mr. Searley notes in his record, Stephen de Haccombe held Holne Bozom in 1303 and Sewer Bozom in 1318; as either the legal trustee for his step-son, John de Chevereston, or the two manors were part of his wife Joan's dowry and it was to this family of Chevereston that the estates reverted ...<sup>93</sup>

I do not believe it to be any coincidence that the Haccombes and the Kingdons each had land interests in the three distinct parishes of Holne, Antony, and Quethiock. Indeed it is clear to me that the Kingdons must have benefited directly from the patronage and protection of the Haccombes, no doubt in return for their loyalty and other more tangible obligations – short of marriage, of course.<sup>94</sup> Accordingly I consider it entirely plausible that the plot of land in Antony parish now known as Kingdon Farm was named after William de Kyngdone, rather than the other way round.

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<sup>89</sup> While scarcely relevant to Kingdon family history, the following discussion does explain my respect for the works of both Charles Henderson and Daphne du Maurier.

<sup>90</sup> Daphne du Maurier, *The House on the Strand* (1969), chapter 7.

<sup>91</sup> [OOTK] p.40.

<sup>92</sup> [Haccombe comments] p.369.

<sup>93</sup> [Haccombe comments] p.371; [OOTK] p.9.

<sup>94</sup> [OOTK] pp.41-42 dismisses the significance of the Haccombes (and their heirs the Archdeknes, and *their* heirs the Courtenays) on the grounds that 'none of them ever held Trehunsey, or married a Kingdon'. But under the extended family system it is entirely routine to offer protection and exercise influence without legal ownership or marriage.

‘Two truths are told, as happy prologues to the swelling act of the imperial theme.’<sup>95</sup> Well, not quite imperial, but a stunning outcome nonetheless, when my speculative search of the Courtney Library in-house database for ‘k\*ngdon’ revealed twelve records before 1610, listed in Appendix 3 using identifiers [CL01]-[CL12]. In the following analysis I have collated all of these freshly-unearthed records into a single chronological sequence, grouped by person or place.

1330-1361: William (de) Kyngdon ([CL01], [CL02]). I take this to be William de Kyngdone, ‘the first Kingdon in Cornwall’. [CL01] associates William with a landholding near Dartmouth, downriver from Totnes, where in 1311 his brother or cousin John Kyngdon commenced his education.<sup>96</sup> It appears that this Devon connection persisted until at least 1350, when one of the parties of [KK02] was William Smale de Dertamuth. [CL02] extends William’s known lifespan by eleven years, and associates him with the parish of Menheniot, directly adjacent to Quethiock. His fellow witnesses Thomas Chaunbernoun and John de Inkpenne also feature in [KK02] and [KK03]. However it is curious that [CL02] does not mention William’s original hosts in Cornwall, the Carminows of Boconnoc, who at some point held the Manor of Tregrill in Menheniot, as well as other properties in the district, at least two of which (Trehunsey Mills in Quethiock and Penacadek in St Cleer) were later acquired by the Kingdons.<sup>97</sup>

1477: John Kingdon, vicar of the Church of Lanteglos iuxta Fawy ([CL03]). I take this to be John Kyngdon of Bodmin. This record extends John’s known lifespan by ten years, and identifies him as a parish priest, whereas previously he may have been just one of a number of priests associated with the town and priory of Bodmin.

1509-1512: Walter Kyngdon, clerk; John Kyngdon, the son of William Kyngdon senior of Treronsey ([CL04], [CL05]). I take this to be s.4 Walter Kyngdon and his nephew s.2.1 John Kyngdon of Looe, the elder son of s.2 William Kyngdon. Presumably the latter relationship was stated because John had inherited his late father’s role in relation to these properties (who in turn had inherited from his uncle or cousin John Kyngdon of Bodmin, see [CL03], [KK08] and [KK10]). Since there is no ‘William junior’ in Walter’s 1515 will, and in 1509 ‘Bodmin curate’ William Kyngdon was still an Oxford student, it can be assumed that the byline ‘senior of Treronsey’ is simply a mark of respect. ‘Treronsey’ is Trehunsey: which simple equation challenges an important part of KQC, the generation table upon which much of my subsequent analysis has been based. For in constructing KQC I had assumed that none of s.2 William Kyngdon’s family lived in Quethiock, thereby concluding that ‘the father of John Kyngdon of Quethiock must have been s.3.1 Edward Kyngdon of Venn.’ But now from [CL04] we learn that William himself was said to have lived at Trehunsey, presumably alongside the family of his elder brother s.1 John Kyngdon. And if William had continued to live in the Kingdon family homestead established by his parents Roger and Johanna, then there’s no reason to suppose that his younger son s.2.2 Edward Kyngdon didn’t live there as well, and use it as his base from where he conducted his clerical/business activities throughout the county. As for s.3.1 Edward Kyngdon, a closer perusal of the subsidy roll indicates that by 1522 he was no longer ‘of Venn’, and instead he was residing in the East Looe tenement that he had inherited ‘with the garden adjoining to the same in the east part’ from his uncle Walter.<sup>98</sup> It follows that the father of John Kyngdon of Quethiock (c.1515-c.1585) was not s.3.1 Edward Kyngdon but his first cousin, s.2.2 Edward Kyngdon. This doesn’t alter the later family history – John Kingdon of Coldridge would still be the senior great-great-grandson of Roger Kyngdon of Trehunsey, and a third cousin to Henry Kingdon and Phillippa Holcombe – but it does necessitate a significant revision to KQC. Well, that’s what happens when one uses a ‘more critical eye’!

1532-1537: Edward Kyngdon ([CL06], [CL07], [CL08]). I take this to be s.3.1 Edward Kyngdon, formerly of Venn.

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<sup>95</sup> *Macbeth* I:3.

<sup>96</sup> [OOTK] p.12.

<sup>97</sup> [OOTK] p.41.

<sup>98</sup> [Cornwall Subsidy 1522]; [Cornish Wills] pp.158-159.

1538: Edward Kyngdon ([CL09]). I take this to be s.2.2 Edward Kyngdon, whose brother-in-law Thomas Tregian must have been closely related to the various Tregians mentioned in this deed.

1544: Edward Kyngdon ([CL10]). Bearing in mind his activities throughout the rest of Cornwall, I take this to be an elderly s.2.2 Edward Kyngdon; in which case his estimated date of death in KQC would need to be advanced by several years.

1556: Lands in Kyngdon or Kingdon in the parish of Antony ([CL11]). I take this to be the plot of land in Antony parish now known as Kingdon Farm, formerly held by s.1.1.1 Thomas Kyngdon of Trehunsey. The essential matter of this document has been transcribed by Charles Henderson as follows:

Fine: 3 & 4 Philip & Mary. Jo: Trelawney & Jo Polwhele esq<sup>rs</sup> quer.  
Robert Trencreke esq & Anna his wife Hen: Chyverton esq & Alice his wife def.  
The moeity of 9 mes 9 gardens 100 acres 40 meadow 100 pasture 6 wood 60  
heath in Kyngdon Overra Manaton Lovcott Overhampt Knotham Cowlshik  
Penhole Pennacadick Tringale and Trewynt.<sup>99</sup>

With generous allowances for the quite arbitrary spelling, this property list matches the portion of Thomas Kyngdon's estate held by the Trencreeks.<sup>100</sup> The Chivertons' portion is recorded in a second legal document which Henderson did not see (because it was not amongst the Trencreek papers which were part of the Mohun collection that he'd acquired). But since both documents are legal 'fines' that were originally available in multiple copies it should be possible to find them elsewhere, in particular, in the National Archives; where indeed I was able to confirm their existence.<sup>101</sup> Otherwise, my only contribution to this feat of research has been the observation that the Courtney Library catalogue date of 1556 is incorrect, because Easter Term 3 & 4 Philip & Mary falls in the following year. But it turns out that Angela Broome knew this already.

1557: Thomas Kingdon of Quethiock, deceased ([CL12]). I take this to be s.1.1.1 Thomas Kyngdon of Trehunsey. The essential matter of this document has been transcribed by Charles Henderson as follows:

16 Jan 3 & 4 Philip & Mary. Henry Chyverton of Seynt Benetts in Cornwall esq  
& Alys his wife one of the cosens & heirs of Tho Kyngdon of Quethyok dec<sup>d</sup>  
of the one part & Robert Trencreke & Agnes his wife another of the cosens &  
coheirs of the said Tho Kingdon of the other part.

Trencreke & his wife will renounce all their claim after the death of Catherine  
Dyer (and of said Agnes) as heirs of Tho: Kyngdon – to The Mansion & Barn of  
Treunsey – Mills & Treunsey Cote to hold to the said Henry Chyverton & Alys  
& their heirs.

Chyverton & his wife for their part release to Trencreke and his wife and heirs all  
their ¼ pt of lands in Anthony, Stoke, Northhyll South Hyll St Clere Mynhynnot  
Kyndon overa Manaton Lovcott Overhampt Penhale Pennacadycke Colstycke  
Tregale & Trewynt which belonged to the said Thomas Kyngdon dec<sup>d</sup>  
& also all those lands in Nankylly in Probus the Close in Kenwyn nere Truroe  
boroughe called Gwellan yett held by Margerie Wodcocke.<sup>102</sup>

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<sup>99</sup> Henderson Calendar 14 p.43 n.28.

<sup>100</sup> [OOTK] p.24.

<sup>101</sup> As far as I can tell, the earliest transcripts of these two documents appear in [Brasses of Cornwall] pp.19-20, which cites references 'Pedes Finium, East. 3 and 4 Philip and Mary' and 'Pedes Finium, Mich. 4 and 5 Philip and Mary'. (Versions of these references are given in [Kingdon Family] p.18, but without attribution to [Brasses of Cornwall].) In the [NA] online catalogue the closest match for these references is CP 25/2/68/564/3and4PHILandMARYEASTER and CP 25/2/68/565/4and5PHILandMARYMICH respectively, which turn out to be modern bound files, each containing a large number of original documents. Thus it was only after considerable expense and effort (and by direct comparison with my photograph of [CL11], which is an original copy of the first of these fines) that I was able to locate the cited documents, comprising pp.72-73 and pp.28-29 of the bound files respectively.

<sup>102</sup> Henderson Calendar 14 p.43 n.27.



This, then, is the original agreement between the Trenchrecks and Chivertons on their ‘Partition of the Kingdon inheritance’, drawn up in January 1557, that is, before [CL11] or its later complement. It makes fascinating reading. In particular, from Henderson’s extracts it is immediately obvious that the Trenchrecks and Chivertons *weren’t the only heirs* of Thomas Kyngdon. Thus although the Trenchrecks ‘renounce all their claim after the death of Catherine Dyer (and of said Agnes)’ to Thomas’s lands in Quethiock, they don’t quantify the extent of that claim, and there are no grounds for supposing that it was a half share. Meanwhile the Chivertons ‘for their part release to Trenchreke and his wife and heirs all their ¼ pt of lands [outside Quethiock] which belonged to the said Thomas Kyngdon dec<sup>d</sup>’, and since they had the same relationship it would be reasonable to suppose that the Trenchrecks also had a quarter share. It follows that my bold accusation in OOTK that Thomas’s ‘sister’s daughters’ husbands successfully claimed his estate and carved it up between them,<sup>103</sup> is incorrect. Clearly the Trenchrecks and Chivertons redivided their shares between them, presumably for mutual convenience; but equally clearly those shares did not add up to Thomas’s entire property legacy. Therefore it cannot be assumed that he had no other heirs, or that they were defrauded by the Trenchrecks and Chivertons.

Other points:

- Being an agreement between the Trenchrecks and Chivertons, this document says little about the other heirs of Thomas Kyngdon. In particular, it does not mention his wife and sons.
- While this document refers to Alys Chyverton and Agnes Trenchreke as Thomas’s ‘cosens’, this doesn’t mean they aren’t his nieces.<sup>104</sup>
- Regarding the properties in Probus and Kenwyn, Henderson takes the view that ‘These were possibly Chiverton’s own lands thrown in to make the exchange more equitable.’

From the perspective of a person interested in the genealogist’s craft, the main conclusion to be drawn from these latest discoveries is that a researcher’s work is never done, because one can never be sure that there isn’t an untapped trove of ‘genealogical gold’ out there, just waiting to be unearthed. Thus, for example, on discovering that in later life John Kyngdon of Bodmin was vicar of Lanteglos by Fowey, I felt impelled to visit this church in order to see whether he is included on their list of vicars. Indeed he is, with date of institution 1462, which is consistent with his other dates; but if it had been otherwise it might not have been easy to explain. A related Sisyphean task is the necessity to always check one’s references. For example, consider the derivation of 1393 as the birth year of Roger Kyngdon of Trehunsey. FBK arrived at this date by subtracting Roger’s stated age of ‘44 years and more’ from 1437, the year in which he testified at a legal inquisition in Launceston.<sup>105</sup> But on closer inspection we find that of the ‘twelve good men and true’ who stood witness that day, no less than six of them (including Roger) avowed to this curiously-precise-yet-unbounded age. This strains all credibility; what on earth is going on? The answer lies in the purpose of the inquisition, which was to determine whether John Colshull of Tremadart was over the age of 21 and could receive his inheritance. The twelve witnesses all testified that Colshull had been born on 1 August 1414; but then *they* must have been over the age of 21 on that date, for their testimonies to be legally valid; and therefore they must have been born on or before 1 August 1393; and consequently they must each have been of the age of ‘44 years and more’ at the 1437 inquisition.<sup>106</sup> It follows that 1393 can only be a rough estimate for Roger’s birth year, and must be prefixed with ‘c.’ for *circa*. So that’s another reason to revise KQC.

From the perspective of a person interested in the history of the Kingdons, the main conclusion to be drawn from these latest discoveries is that their overall effect is to fine-tune a clear and coherent narrative of family survival and transformation over many centuries. And the purpose of the next section is to retell this narrative, taking account of all the facts now known to us.

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<sup>103</sup> [OOTK] p.24.

<sup>104</sup> [Definition of cousin].

<sup>105</sup> [Blanchminster’s Charity] pp.30a-32a; [Kingdon Family] p.16; [OOTK] p.18.

<sup>106</sup> The fact that one of the witnesses claimed to be of age ‘43 years and more’ merely shows that he couldn’t count. Of the remainder, one was 46+, two were 48+, one was 50+, and one was 60+.

## The Kingdons here, there, and everywhere

'We might have all emerged from a forgotten mound somewhere in the wilds of North Devon.'<sup>107</sup> Many a true word hath been spoke in jest; for it now seems clear that unrelated Kingdons indeed 'emerged' from the uplands of at least two North Devon parishes, North Molton and Alverdiscott, in addition to the Dartmoor farm now known as Kendon (from where it may have happened more than once). But of the early Kingdons of North Molton and Alverdiscott we know very little. In particular, there is still no evidence that they descended from Roger Kyngdon of Trehunsey. And thus the only origin-story we can tell in any detail is that of the Kingdons who migrated from Kendon to Quethiock in Cornwall, and from there back to Coldridge in Devon: see Figure 1.

The first recorded usage of 'Kingdon' as a family name was in 1244 by Walter de Kyngdon and Orresia his wife. They lived at Kendon on the east side of Dartmoor, which had been given to Orresia as part of her marriage portion by her father, David of Shapley and Skerraton, he who held the hereditary office of royal huntsman. Put simply, from Orresia I get my surname, and from Walter her husband I get my Y chromosome.

In 1228 Orresia's brother Roger Mirabel was outlawed for murder, and the entire service-holding – Shapley and Skerraton and the associated hereditary office – was forfeited to the crown. But Walter and Orresia refused to give up Kendon, and there they remained for at least another twenty years. Eventually it was inherited by Nicholas de Kyngdon, who from c.1258 was living in Holne, eight miles to the south. By 1274 he had given Kendon not to the king but to the monks of the nearby Buckfast Abbey, with whom it remained until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539.

After Nicholas there is a gap of a generation or two until the appearance of brothers or cousins John and William (both 'de Kyngdone', as it is spelt in the 1321 bishop's register). In 1311 John commenced a decade of schooling at Totnes Priory and Exeter Cathedral. He was parliamentary representative for Plympton nine times between 1329 and 1355, and in 1332 and 1359 he was the only Kingdon in the whole of Devon to be taxed. He may have been survived by a son, also John, whose schooling was confirmed in Tiverton in 1370 and Exeter in 1371, but after that there are no more records of any Kingdons in Devon until the sixteenth century. As for William, in 1321 he commenced his education at Boconnoc in Cornwall, and six years later he was the only Kingdon in the whole of Cornwall to be taxed. At that time he was living in the parish of Antony, almost certainly at the tenement now known as Kingdon Farm, which probably he'd acquired from or with the approval of fellow Devonian Stephen de Haccombe, who at that time held the principal manors in both Antony and Quethiock. Like John William survived the Black Death of 1348-1349, but unlike John he was survived by an increasingly-successful lineage. In the fourteenth century there are records of: Walter Kyngdon, a juror in a legal inquisition at Launceston in 1392; Richard Kingdon, a portreeve in Liskeard between 1394 and 1399; and Roger Kyngdon, later 'of Trehunsey' in the parish of Quethiock, who was born in c.1393. While their precise relationship is unknown, there can be little doubt that they *were* related, not least because the 1557 inventory of Roger's descendant Thomas included Kyngdon or Kingdon in the parish of Antony.

Much of the above is directly from *The Origin of the Kingdons*.<sup>108</sup> However, the recent discoveries at Kresen Kernow and the Courtney Library demand a thorough revision of the next part of the story, commencing with Roger Kyngdon of Trehunsey (c.1393-1471). The following summary is quite concentrated, and might be easier to understand if read in conjunction with an outline family tree: see Figure 2.

Roger Kyngdon of Trehunsey and Johanna his wife had four sons who survived to adulthood: John, William, Edward, and Walter. John's descendants lived at Trehunsey, and over time they accumulated an impressive property portfolio. William, also 'of Trehunsey', was parliamentary representative for Liskeard in 1452-1453, and inherited an apparently lucrative clerical/business role from his uncle or cousin John Kyngdon (of Bodmin, later vicar of Lanteglos by Fowey).

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<sup>107</sup> [OOTK] p.47.

<sup>108</sup> See [OOTK] pp.3-17, in particular, the generation table on p.16.

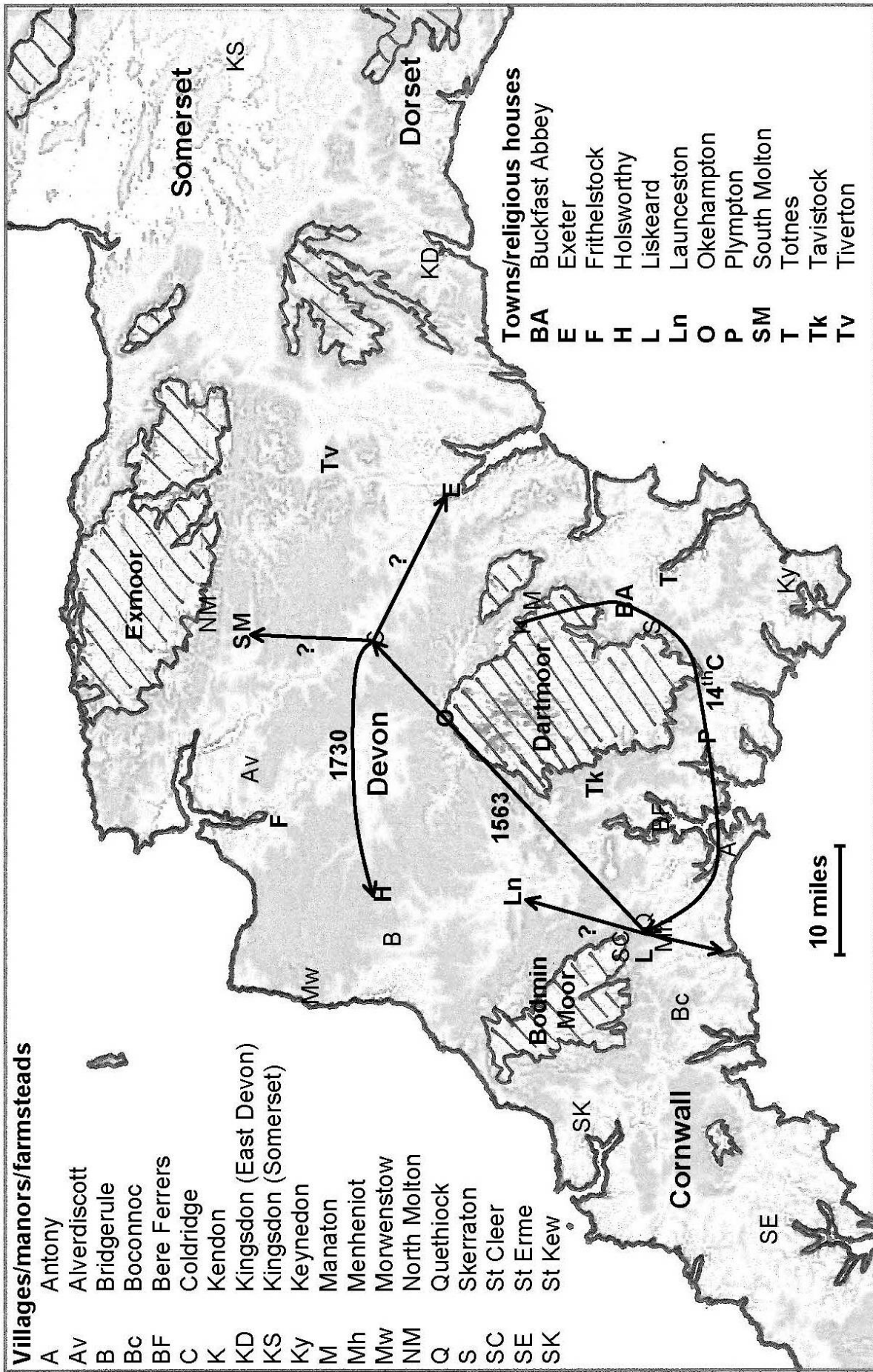
This latter role was taken up in due course by William's sons John (of East Looe) and Edward (residence unknown, but probably of Trehunsey). Roger and Johanna's third surviving son Edward was a Yeoman of the Crown serving the king in Westminster, and in 1467 he too represented Liskeard at parliament. His son, yet another Edward, was 'of Venn' in Quethiock before moving to the tenement in East Looe that he'd inherited from his uncle Walter, Canon and Prebendary of Swords, whose 1515 will is the key reference for this genealogy.

The family settled down and for several generations grew and prospered, until the death in 1556 or 1557 of Roger's senior descendant Thomas Kyngdon of Trehunsey. Thomas's estate was divided between his several heirs, with his niece Alice and Henry Chiverton her husband acquiring a majority stake in the Quethiock properties and living at Trehunsey, and his other niece Anne/Agnes and Robert Tren creek her husband likewise acquiring a majority stake in the remainder, including Kyngdon/Kingdon in Antony. No record has been found of the portion inherited by Thomas's two sons, but its capital worth is unlikely to be any less than that inherited by his nieces. In any case, within six years Thomas's son (and Roger's great-great-grandson) John Kingdon had sufficient resources to acquire East Leigh in Coldridge, which thereafter became the new family homestead. And key members of the two Quethiock families (descended from Roger's sons John and William) remained remarkably close. For instance: in 1583 Phillippa Kingdon married William Holcombe in the parish church of her third cousin, John Kingdon of Coldridge; in 1586 both John Kingdon and Phillippa's brother Henry were beneficiaries following the death of leading landowner Christopher Copleston; in 1608 Henry Kingdon married Christopher Copleston's daughter Elizabeth; in 1619 John Kingdon's eldest son Christopher was presented the patronage of Nymet Rowland church by Christopher Copleston's grandson Amias; and so on.

From Coldridge the Kingdons spread in various directions. Christopher Kingdon may have founded the family branch at Thorverton, and thence at Exeter. His youngest brother Abraham may have founded one of the South Molton branches, which in later generations became intertwined with branches of unrelated Kingdons from North Molton. In 1730 John Kingdon's great-great-grandson Roger Kingdon moved to Holsworthy, thereby establishing another dynamic hub of the family. But by no means was Coldridge the only 'cradle of the family' in Devon, for even before John Kingdon acquired East Leigh in 1563 there were Kingdons in North Molton, Little Torrington, and Chagford. Meanwhile in Cornwall the Quethiock branch gradually faded away, but the Looe branch may have persisted, and the Kingdons of Launceston became very numerous. The next challenge, I suppose, is to test out this 'multiple origins' hypothesis. As Laurence Kingdon has shown, DNA testing can be used to untangle some of these puzzles. However, we are agreed that it is a powerful tool which needs to be used with care. To coin an academic truism, 'More research is needed!'

### **Acknowledgements**

My great thanks to: Angela Broome at the Courtney Library, and the superb staff of the Devon Heritage Centre and Kresen Kernow, for their diligent custodianship of the precious traces of our ancestors; Paul Copleston, Darren Johnson, Laurence Kingdon, and Oliver Padel for their interest, insights, and knowledge; and my dear family for their enthusiasm, encouragement, and forbearance.



**Figure 1** A map of South West England showing the gradual relocation of the Kingdon family from Kendon on Dartmoor to Quethiock and Looe in Cornwall, and from there to Coldridge and Holsworthy in Devon.

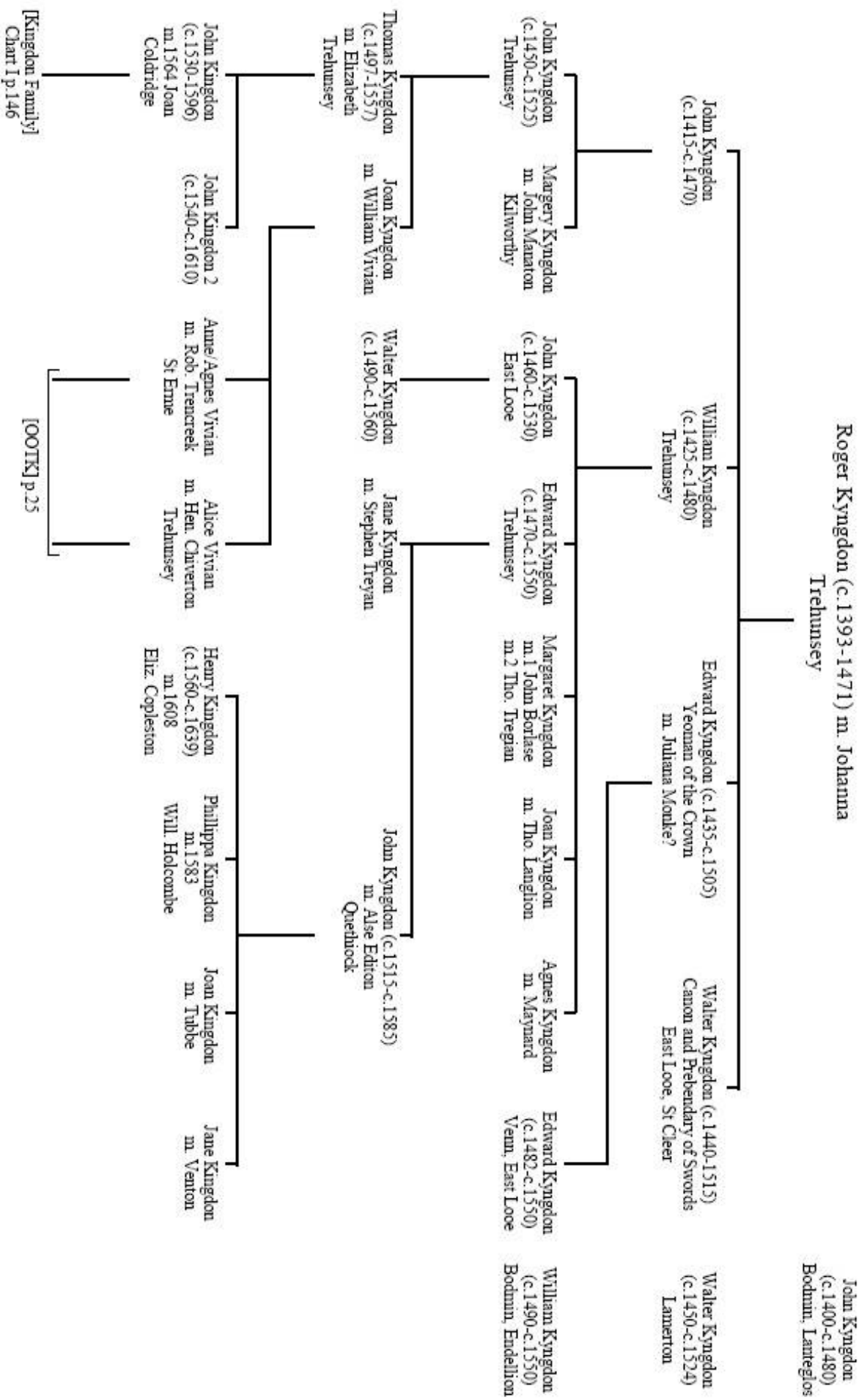


Figure 2 The Kingdons from Quethock to Coldridge. This outline family tree implements both the KQC generation table and its several amendments, as identified in version 6 of this paper.

## Appendix 1: *The Origin of the Kingdons errors and amendments*

p.4, p.7, p.10: ‘South Hookner’ is incorrect, it should be ‘Lower Hookner’ or simply ‘Hookner’. There is a farm called South Hookner, but according to Hemery it is the adjacent Lower Hookner which is the ‘ancient’ part of the hamlet.<sup>109</sup>

p.5: ‘from the 272 distinct estates of land that were held by Ælfric TRE, just six of them (including Shapley and Skerraton) were held as tenant-in-chief by the same person after the Conquest’. This is not entirely correct. According to the Domesday survey Ælfric indeed held six estates as tenant-in-chief after the Conquest: Chastleton, Oxfordshire; Loders, Dorset; Milcombe, Oxfordshire; Shapley, Devon; Skerraton, Devon; and Thurleston, Suffolk.<sup>110</sup> But Chastleton and Milcombe were not held by Ælfric TRE, while Ælfric’s holdings in Loders and Thurleston were much diminished as a result of the Conquest. Thus Ælfric of Shapley and Skerraton was unique amongst his namesakes in holding the same estates both before and after the Conquest.

p.12: The list of records of John Kyngdon of Plympton could be appended with his inclusion in the Assize Roll of 1359 (when, as in 1332, he was the only Kingdon to be named on the county taxation roll), and his witnessing a land transaction deed in 1361.<sup>111</sup>

p.22 n.68, p.45 n.130, p.50: The correct title of the reference is *The Coats of Arms at Kilworthy*, and this should be reflected in its identifier as well, [Coats of Arms at Kilworthy].

p.25: ‘The Kingdons of St Cleer were more tenacious than those of Quethiock. William Kyngdon lived in the hamlet now known as Trenowth, and he had a son who lived at a nearby farm now known as Newton.’ p.25 n.77: ‘It is likely that ‘Newton’ is a modern contraction of ‘New-town’ or ‘New-land’ ... FBK writes it as ‘Newlyn’, which is a fishing town near to Penzance, in the far west of the county. Similarly, in his error-strewn transcription of the 1392 legal inquisition at Launceston ... FBK interprets ‘Newelond’ as ‘Newlyn’. He is surely mistaken in both cases.’ p.26: ‘there can be no doubt that this is the same family, living in the same region of the same parish for over four hundred years.’ It turns out that much of this is incorrect. Specifically:

- Transcripts of early parish records, prepared by the Devon and Cornwall Record Society and shelved in the DHC, indicate that in Quethiock there were four Kingdon baptisms and six Kingdon burials between 1574 and 1610, but in St Cleer the earliest family record is that of the baptism of ‘Kingdome, Agnes d. of Adam’ on 3 April 1678.
- According to FBK, William Kyngdon ‘is supposed to have settled at Trenowth, St Cleer, and to have had a son settled in Newlyn.’<sup>112</sup> Later in the same page FBK (mis)quotes the following extract from *The History of Cornwall* by Hitchins and Drew: ‘Trenowth was the seat of the ancient family of Bray, some of whom continued to reside here so late as the reign of Elizabeth. Afterwards it became the residence of the Kingdons. By the late Mr. Samuel Kingdon, Trenowth was devised in trust for his nephew Mr. Samuel Davey, by whom it has since been sold to the Rev. William Fookes.’<sup>113</sup> But William Kyngdon would have been dead and buried well before the reign of Elizabeth, and centuries before ‘the late Mr. Samuel Kingdon’,<sup>114</sup> so this quotation provides zero support for the supposition that he ‘settled at Trenowth’. As for the claim that William had a son who ‘settled in Newlyn’, FBK cites no evidence at all, but he may have inferred it from the legal disputes between William’s son Edward and Edward Borlase, whose family originated from St Newlyn East (a village three miles south of Newquay), and from the reputed presence of

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<sup>109</sup> [High Dartmoor] p.719.

<sup>110</sup> [Domesday].

<sup>111</sup> [1359 Assize Roll] p.15; p.26; [The Box] archive reference 710/37.

<sup>112</sup> [Kingdon Family] p.28.

<sup>113</sup> [Hitchins & Drew II] p.155.

<sup>114</sup> The St Cleer family tree in [Kingdon Family Second Look] p.98 includes Mary Bray Kingdon and her husband Peter Davy. While their children are not listed, it seems likely that ‘Mr. Samuel Davey’ was one of them; in which case Mary’s brother Samuel Kingdon (1761-99) was ‘the late Mr. Samuel Kingdon’ mentioned in *The History of Cornwall* (published 1824).

the Kingdon arms on a memorial in the parish church there.<sup>115</sup> But in this case it is clear that ‘Newlyn’ is neither Newton in St Cleer nor is it the fishing town near to Penzance, and much of OOTK’s footnote 77 is incorrect.

From these findings I conclude that there is no evidence that there were Kingdons living in St Cleer in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, or that William Kyngdon lived at Trenouth, or that his son lived at a nearby farm now known as Newton. I also conclude that there were Kingdons living in Quethiock throughout the sixteenth century; that is, before, during and after the 1557 division of the estate of Thomas Kyngdon of Trehunsey, and the 1563 acquisition of East Leigh by John Kingdon of Coldridge.

p.26 n.80: ‘Unlike Kendon, which was rebuilt in 1675, and Trehunsey, where the present farmhouse was built by the Coryton Estate, East Leigh remains intact, albeit sympathetically restored and tastefully refurbished.’ This is incorrect: according to FBK, East Leigh ‘has the date 1666 on a stone built into the wall over the porch’,<sup>116</sup> so it could not have been the building acquired in 1563.

p.34: ‘If – as I assert – the proper noun ‘Kingdon’ is OE, then the medieval Kingdons were English, that is, Anglo-Saxons.’ This assumes that a person may be described as ‘English’ or ‘Anglo-Saxon’ if they were fully assimilated into pre-Conquest Devonian society, and not marginalised by language or perceived racial differences: as indeed was the case for Ælfric of Shapley and Skerraton. But if we define ‘English’ in terms of characteristic genetic markers then this inference is not correct.<sup>117</sup> That is, just because a landholding has an Old English name, that doesn’t mean that all or indeed any of its original inhabitants were English: in terms of their genetic origins they might have been Cornish, or Welsh, or Irish, or Britons, for example.

p.35: ‘Higher Kingdon and Lower Kingdon, Alverdiscott, Devon.’ More accurately, this should make clear that Lower Kingdon is not in Alverdiscott but in the neighbouring parish of Huntshaw.

p.36: ‘although the old records contain numerous references to places called ‘Kingdon’ ... none of these eliminate ambiguity by also referring to the parish of Alverdiscott.’ p.37: ‘Kyngdon Manor, Deanery of Hartland, Devon. There is documentary evidence that this was owned by Frithelstock Priory ... even though its location remains a mystery.’ p.37 n.101: ‘[Frithelstock Priory] p.170; [Kingdon Family] pp.3-4. In these references Higher Kingdon and Lower Kingdon in nearby Alverdiscott have been discounted because there is no evidence that either of them was a medieval manor or had any connection with the Priory. Whilst a more recent discovery ... associates ‘the prior of Frithelstock’ with land in ‘Higher Kyngdon’, it remains unclear whether this refers to Higher Kingdon in the parish of Alverdiscott.’ These rather disingenuous and hair-splitting minutiae can now be expunged thanks to the rediscovery of a sixteenth-century inventory which unambiguously associates ‘a messuage, garden, 40ac. of meadow, 30ac. pasture, 40ac. heath and moor ... At Kingdon (in the parish of Alverdiscott)’ with ‘the manor, rectory and advowson of the vicarage of Frithelstock and the manor of Broadwoodwidger, all late of the priory’.<sup>118</sup> Furthermore we know that Frithelstock Manor predated even the Priory, because it is mentioned in Domesday. Thus there is no longer any doubt that Frithelstock Priory possessed manorial lands which included an agricultural tenement in the parish of Alverdiscott now known as Higher Kingdon. It also follows that Higher Kingdon could never have been a manor in its own right.

In reply to a fellow historian’s query about ‘Kingdon Manor’, Hugh Watkin referred to the forementioned ‘sixteenth-century inventory’, and then posed an interesting and somewhat leading question of his own: ‘Does the King’s hill mark ... the junction of several parishes and possibly the meeting-place of the Fole-gemot.’<sup>119</sup> But this went unanswered, which is a pity, because it seems to have hit the nail on the head. Higher Kingdon is indeed close to the geographical centre of Fremington Hundred; located near to the highest point on Gammaton Moor, it commands a fine

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<sup>115</sup> [Kingdon Family] pp.18-19; p.131.

<sup>116</sup> [Kingdon Family] p.71.

<sup>117</sup> My thanks to Laurence Kingdon for raising this important distinction.

<sup>118</sup> [Devon Monastic Lands] p.1 n.2; p.128.

<sup>119</sup> [Kingdon Manor query]; [Kingdon Manor response]; [Frithelstock Priory] p.170; [Kingdon Family] pp.3-4.

view over Bideford Bay, making it a suitable base from which a Saxon militia could have struck west or north, if (say) Viking raiders had sailed up the Torridge or the Taw; ‘Gammaton’ may be a concatenation of the Old English words ‘gemot’ and ‘ton’, meaning ‘assembly-place’;<sup>120</sup> and, to cap it all, traces of an Iron Age enclosure and a Roman marching camp have been found close to the farm buildings.<sup>121</sup> And from these indications of great antiquity it follows that some branches of the Kingdon family may well have derived their name from this place, Higher Kingdon in Alverdiscott, rather than from Kendon on Dartmoor.

p.37: For completeness, the bulleted list of places potentially associated with the family name could be supplemented with the following (at the appropriate points in the alphabetical sequence):

- Kingston House, Staverton, near Totnes, Devon.
- Kingston village and parish, near Modbury, South Devon.

(It turns out, however, that neither of these locations has anything to do with the Kingdons.)

p.38: For consistency with the style of the subsequent points, ‘The social structure is determined by the extended family system.’ could be followed with, ‘In particular, inheritance is determined by male primogeniture, and every family is headed by a patriarch.’

pp.40-43: ‘*Who held Trehunsey before the Kingdons?*’ OOTK gives no definitive answer to this question, for the simple reason that Trehunsey has been extraordinarily difficult to track down. For instance, whereas in 1814 the Coryton Estate in Quethiock was said to comprise the ‘manors of Trehunsey, Penpoll and Hammett’, the 1086 Domesday survey lists only Penpoll (value £1.5) and Hammett (value £0.25-£0.5), and the 1522 subsidy roll lists only Penpoll (value £30) and land managed by Richard Coriton’s steward (which from its valuation of £10 I take to be Hammett).<sup>122</sup> To me this suggests that Trehunsey came into being after Domesday on land not held by any manor in the parish, presumably by the ‘process of nibbling away the waste [that had been] going on all the time.’<sup>123</sup> In this case Trehunsey would have been the *de facto* freehold property of whoever sold it to the fourteenth-century Kyngdons, with no obligation to pay dues to a local lord of the manor. But I have yet to find any evidence that Trehunsey was a manor during the tenure of the Kyngdons, and I think that FBK was wrong to assume that this was the case.<sup>124</sup>

p.42: ‘the Bishop of Exeter held lands in Cornwall, but none in Quethiock. Tavistock Abbey, likewise.’ Some accounts suggest that before the Quethiock church tithes were appropriated to Haccombe chantry they belonged to Tavistock Abbey. But a later review considers this to be ‘doubtful’, especially given that ‘it is not confirmed in Alford’s *Abbots of Tavistock*.’<sup>125</sup>

p.42: ‘Tredenec’ and ‘Coleforde’ are unknown. It is tempting to map them to Tredinnick and Colliford respectively, but these are places in West Wivelshire, not East.’ It turns out that there are at least a couple of places in East Wivelshire called Tredinnick, and Colliford may be a common place-name there as well.

pp.44-46: The bulleted summary of my foray into heraldry could be supplemented with the following observations (at the appropriate points in the chronological sequence):

- A c.1677 memorial to Nicholas Borlase said to have been in the parish church of St Newlyn East (but there no longer) apparently depicted the Kingdon coat of arms quartered with Borlase and others. The birds are described as seapies. In the tiny ‘Facsimile of Dr Borlase’s copy of Tonkin’s drawing of the Borlase quarterings in Newlyn Church’ adorning the Borlase family tree, the birds do appear to have black and white patches, but it’s impossible to tell whether or not they have webbed feet.<sup>126</sup>

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<sup>120</sup> [Early medieval meeting-places].

<sup>121</sup> [Higher Kingdon Iron Age].

<sup>122</sup> [Magna Britannia 3] pp.274-280, Quethiock; [Domesday]; [Cornwall Subsidy 1522] p.100.

<sup>123</sup> [Tudor Cornwall] p.36.

<sup>124</sup> [Kingdon Family] p.17.

<sup>125</sup> [Haccombe III] p.324.

<sup>126</sup> [Borlase of Borlase] p.78; fold-out family tree; [Kingdon Family] p.131.



- Roger Kingdon's c.1778 memorial in Bridgerule church shows the Kingdon coat of arms, the birds having white flashes under their wings and elongated tails, suggestive of magpies.
- Launceston Guildhall, built in 1881, has a stained glass window with the Kingdon coat of arms, commemorating Mayor Oswald Kingdon. The birds are described as magpies.<sup>127</sup>

p.47: Amongst OOTK's closing remarks I pose the rhetorical question, 'what is it about heraldry that leads people to devise their own false trails of imaginary evidence?' Usually I'm not keen on such devices, and I'm still unsure in my mind why I succumbed on this occasion. Anyway, it's clearly incumbent on me to answer my own question, so here goes.

Along with title-inflation – such as 'Mr.' to 'Esq.' or 'Gent.', or 'farm' to 'manor' or 'estate' – heraldry can be an easy way to increase the prestige and worth of a family name. It merely requires a degree of chutzpah and dishonesty. In our case, the earliest instances of family members using the Kingdon coat of arms are John Kingdon of South Molton (1610-1665), Oswald Kingdon of Launceston (where he was Mayor four times between 1648 and 1678), and John Kingdon of Coldridge (1670-1710).<sup>128</sup> Significantly, none of these worthy pillars of society provided any evidence, for example a family tree, to substantiate their usage. As is evident from the correspondence received by The Grafton Press when they compiled the Kingdon-Gould pedigree, the College of Arms takes a dim view of this kind of heraldic appropriation.<sup>129</sup> And my response to that is to treat heraldry with great suspicion; indeed, to avoid it like the plague.

Back cover: 'Kendon is visible on the lower slopes, its farm buildings painted white.' In fact Kendon's farm buildings are not painted white, they just look like that from a distance.

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<sup>127</sup> [Kingdon Family] p91; p131.

<sup>128</sup> [Kingdon Family] p.114; pp.90-91; p.147. Also note that there is no evidence that the Kingdons of Quethiock used a coat of arms. For example, in [Cornwall Subsidy 1522] numerous individuals are labelled 'armiger', asserting their right to a coat of arms, but none of them are Kingdons.

<sup>129</sup> [Kingdon-Gould].

## Appendix 2: Documents unearthed following the opening of Kresen Kernow

Searching the Kresen Kernow online catalogue<sup>130</sup> for 'k\*n\*don\*' reveals twenty-eight records before 1610, as follows.

[KK01] Quitclaim, rights to lands in Stonehouse and Maker

Parties: 1) Thomas de Stonhouse, son and heir of Ralph de Stonhouse; 2) John de Macre and John Whyte, chaplain.

Witnesses: Roger de Wyteleghe, Richard Grypiston, Walter de Tamerton, William de Kyndon, Roger Porter.

Reference ME/661. Date 26 Aug 1346.

[KK02] Lease, tenements and services, East Stonehouse, Withnoe and Harebeare manors

Parties: 1) John de Macre; 2) William Smale de Dertamuth [Dartmouth].

Witnesses: Thomas de Champernoun, John de Ynkepenne, William de Kyngdon, Maurice Prygga, Thomas de Bler...[illegible].

Reference ME/1466. Date 11 Jun 1350.

[KK03] Grant for lives in survivorship, lands in Stonehouse and Maker

Parties: 1) John de Macre; 2) Dom. William Gelleyn, rector of Alynton; Dom. John Pers. chaplain.

Witnesses: Thomas de Compo Annulphi, Johanne de Ynkpenne, Willemo de Kyndon, Mauricio Prygga, Thomas de Blerak and others.

Reference ME/663. Date 23 Jul 1350.

[KK04] Release, rights to Trengrouse, St Michael Penkivel

Parties: 1) John Holt; 2) Robert Hulle senior and wife Joan.

Given at Kynedon, 10 April 1425.

Reference ME/1194. Date 10 Apr 1425.

[KK05] Feoffment, lands in St Ive and Quethiock

Parties: 1) Stephen Bodulgate and Joan, his wife to 2) Walter Bodulgate, Stephen Trenowyth, John Denysyll, clerk, John Warde, clerk, John May and Richard Talvarth.

Witnesses: John Trelavny, knight Robert Buketon. Roger Kyngdon John Legh Nicholas Stephyn.

Reference CY/1054. Date 10 Jul 1433.

[KK06] Account roll, Dinham lands in Dorset, Gloucestershire and Somerset

Account of reeves, bailiffs and farmers. 24 Henry VI. Indented account of revenues of William Stafford, knight.

Somerset and Gloucestershire: Dundene, Puryton and Crandon, Frampton super Sabrinam, Tyderyngton, Mershton?, Cliue, Lopene, Compton Durvyle, Westchynnoke, Chyselburgh.

Dorset: Farneham, Milborne Deuerell, Burton?, Charleton, Pourestoke, Frome Vouchurche,

Wynterborne, Stepilton, Mangerton, Kyngesdone, Kary, Southwyke, Paxcreste, Henton, Mershton, Staunton, Orcheston, Fordyngton and Syntefford, nothing this term.

Reference AR/2/874. Date 1446.

[KK07] Gift, lands and services in Loconton, St Keyne

Parties: 1) John Kyng junior; 2-5) John Colshull, knight; Edward Ayssheton, esquire; John Camyll, rector of church of Seynt Cayn [St Keyne]; and Robert Hurdewyke.

Witnesses: Richard Chiket, William Kyngdon, William Talbot, John Drayton, Stephen Sagemore.

Reference AR/1/989. Date 15 Sep 1455.

[KK08] Gift, Polruan, Lanteglos by Fowey

Parties: 1) Thomas Phylpe of Polrawin; 2) William, the heir of John Kyngdon, clerk and William Knyghte.

Messuage, lands and tenement in the burgage of Polrawen. Rendering the service and custome due to the chief lords of the fee.

Reference EL/58/12. Date 10 Jan 1474.

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<sup>130</sup> [KK].

[KK09] Grant to erect chapel by church of St Martin, Liskeard  
Grant by Robert, prior of Launceston, and the convent as rectors and proprietors of St Martin's Church to the mayor and commonalty of Liskeard and parishioners of the parish church of St Martin of Liskeard of the right to erect a chapel ...  
Witnesses: Master Rogers Keys, Master Walter Kyngdon; Henry Bodrugan and John Colshull, knights; Nicholas Russell, mayor; Thomas Clemens and John Marke.  
Reference BLIS/80. Date 1477.

[KK10] Gift, Polruan, Lanteglos by Fowey  
Parties: 1) William Lord, John Kyngdon, clerk, William Knight; 2) Robert Smyth of Lostwithiel and Margarete his wife.  
Witnesses: Lodovico Dey, Robert Geffrey, William Webbe, William Clerk, Richard Hoskyn.  
Reference EL/58/13. Date 1 Jul 1480.

[KK11] Account roll, Arundell lands in Cornwall  
Reeves' and bailiff's accounts. 24 Henry VII – 1 Henry VIII ...  
folio 17. Medischoll [Mitchell]: John Kyngdon, reeve ...  
Reference AR/2/945. Date 1508-1509.

[KK12] Grant, Hamlet  
Parties: 1) William More to 2) Richard Coryton, esquire.  
Lands tenements, messuages in Hamet iuxta Trecorn ... called Hamet Doun William Creffyll and Richard Meryfeld attorneys to deliver seisin.  
Witnesses: Robert Killygrewe, John Kyngdon, Edward Kyngdon.  
Reference CY/1057. Date 16 Jan 1514.

[KK13] Quitclaim, land in East Looe, St Martin by Looe  
Parties: 1) Ralph Hankyn; 2) Robert Langdon, esquire, Keverell, and Philip Mayow, merchant, East Looe  
Witnesses: Walter Trelawny, Gilbert Boket, Richard Code, esquires, John Kyngdon of East Looe, gentleman, John Gyll at East Looe.  
Reference P138/6/8. Date 10 Apr 1515.

[KK14] Court roll, manor of Penpoll  
Tithingman, 2 reeves, 2 collectors appointed, also beadle  
Freeholders – James Chudley, heirs of Hungerford, William Strode, heirs of Paderda, heirs of Carmynow, John Kyndon, John Tregodek, heirs of Raleigh, Peter Eggecombe, Knight, heirs of Glyn, John Kent, Richard Michell, John Cornysse, John Kempe, John Moyle, heirs of Burell, John Rescarrek, Roger Sargent, heirs of Lord Botreaux, Richard Sergeaux, Lord Dawbeney, John Boyne  
Finis and comencements 23 shillings and 7 pence.  
Reference CY/6633. Date 28 Sep 1516.

[KK15] Audit of accounts, Arundell lands in Cornwall  
Account of reeves, bailiffs and receiver. 12-13 Henry VIII ...  
Medishole (Odo Alan, deputy of Edward Kyndon, reeve) ...  
Reference AR/2/950. Date 1520-1521.

[KK16] Gift, Coplestone in Minster  
Parties: 1) William Gyllyane, gentleman of St Teath; 2) John Tredeneck, gentleman.  
Henry Watts, Stephen Harry and John Richard appointed as attorneys to deliver seisin.  
Witnesses: William Lovye, Christopher Tredeneck, John Caludley, James Kestell, Edward Kingdon, Richard Trealwyste; signed at St Teath.  
Reference EL/46/1. Date 29 Oct 1523.

[KK17] Quitclaim, lands in St Ewe, Mevagissey and St Minver  
Parties: 1) John Hals of Efford, Devon, esquire and Richard Hals of Kanedon, Devon, esquire, his son and heir; 2) Sampson Tremayne senior of St Ewe, gentleman.  
Reference T/748. Date 8 May 1568.

[KK18] Bargain and sale, lands in Creed, St Ewe, Gorran, Maker, Ruan Laniorne and Veryan  
Parties: 1) John Hals of Efforde, Devon, esquire and Richard Hals of Kenadon, Devon, esquire, his son and heir; 2) Martin Trestayne of Ruan Laniorne, gentleman.  
Reference T/730. Date 20 Jan 1571.

[KK19] Bond

Parties: 1) John Harrys of Lanrest, esquire and John Kyngdon of Quethiock, gentleman to 2) John Rashleigh of Fowey, gentleman.

Bond not to enter into any other recognizance.

Reference R/4464. Date 24 Sep 1572.

[KK20] Bargain and sale, Dinnerdake, St Ive

Parties: 1) John Kyngdon of Quethiock, gentleman; 2) William Brendon of Westcott, St Dominic, gentleman.

1) to 2) one quarter of mansion house and tenement of Dennerdake in manor of Dennerdake, St Ive. Bargain and Sale. £31 2) to 1).

Seal on tag (heraldic device, including lion passant).

Witnesses: John Scawen, Robert Trelawny, Joseph Bastard, Walter Timkin.

Reference CY/337. Date 7 Sep 1582.

[KK21] Bond, Dinnerdake, St Ive

Parties: 1) John Kyngdon of Quethiock, gentleman; 2) William Brendon of Westcott, St Dominic, gentleman.

For Kyndon, who purchased moiety of manor of Dennerdake from Robert and Richard Corbett, esquires to keep conditions of 2 deeds of 4 May 1581 and to save Brendon harmless for one quarter part of mansion house then occupied by John Coryshe and procure him release from Robert and Richard Corbett to Kyngdon or copy of same.

Witnesses: John Scawen, Joseph Basterd, George Baron, James [Ostes?].

Reference CY/338. Date 7 Sep 1582.

[KK22] Enfeoffment, lands in Quethiock

Parties: 1) George Keckewiche of Catchfrench, St Germans, esquire, John Keckewiche of Lincolns Inn, his brother; 2) Henry Kyngdon, son of John Kyngdon of Quethiock, yeoman.

Accomplishment of trust etc. Rent 18 pence yearly. 1) had then recently bought moiety of the manor of Penpoll, Quethiock from Robert and Richard Corbett.

– one quarter of Broom Town closes, north Downe close, South Down close, Hill Park, Lucombe park, 2 closes called Mylland, and tenement called Tylland, Quethiock, occupied by Hugh Spry.

– one quarter of Heppell tenement, Leymarsh close, Sheppen park, Heppell mill in Quethiock, occupied by John Vashment and Hugh Vashment.

With remainders to daughters of 2), Phillep Holcombe, Joan Tubbe, Jane Venton and John Kingdon, son of Thomas Kyngdon of Quethiock, his brother John Kingdon, Henry Chiverton, esquire, Robert Trencreke, esquire, William Glynn, esquire, George Carwethan, gentleman, Stephen Tregennow, gentleman, and all their heirs.

Witnesses: William Langdon, John Kyngdon, William Menwenick, Peter Hitchens, John Dawe, Richard Avery.

Endorsed: on front with note of livery of seisin 20 October [? year] Witnessed: Henry Chyverton, John Vesment, John Kyndon, William Vesment, John Sprye.

Reference CY/959. Date 7 Nov 1584.

[KK23] Counterpart lease, Frogwell Mills and Cholwill, St Ive

Parties: 1) John Hobbe of South Hill and John Crabbe of Callington, yeomen; 2) John Coryton, West Newton, gentleman, second son of Peter Coryton, then deceased.

Witnesses: William Coryton, Christopher Kingdon, Henry Lethybye, Chowell Kyng.

Reference CY/1924. Date 5 Dec 1603.

[KK24] Lease, Frogwell mills, Callington and South Hill and Cholwill in St Ive  
Parties: 1) John Hobb of South Hill and John Crabbe of Callington, yeoman; 2) John Coryton of West Newton, gentleman, second son of Peter Coryton then deceased.  
Witnesses: William Coryton, Peter Codnor, Christopher Kingdon, Charles King.  
Reference CY/342. Date 5 Dec 1603.

[KK25] Letter of attorney, Frogwell mills, Callington and South Hill and Cholwill in St Ive  
By Thomas Melhuish and Henry Skibbowe appointing Christopher Kyngedon to receive seisin of Frogwell Mills etc. and Cholwill in St Ive.  
Witnesses: William Charldon, Thomas Anthoney, Richard Braye, Richard Braye, Richard Gardener, Robert Melhuish and Tristrane Kingston.  
Reference CY/343. Date 6 Dec 1603.

[KK26] Conveyance in fee, Frogwell Mills in Callington and South Hill and Cholwill in St Ive  
Parties: 1) John Hobb of South Hill, yeoman, John Crabbe of Callington, yeoman; 2) Thomas Melhuish of Witheredge, Henry Skeybowe of Silverton, gentlemen.  
... 1) appointed attorneys William Crabbe and Henry Litheby to deliver seisin to Christopher Kingdon to use of 2).  
Witnesses: William Coryton, Peter Codnor, Charles King, John Coryton.  
Reference CY/344. Date 15 Dec 1603.

[KK27] Will of Richard Kingdon senior, miller, of St Stephen by Lauceston  
Will and inventory listing a spinning wheel and wool cards.  
Reference AP/K/17. Date 1606.

[KK28] Enfeoffment, lands in Quethiock  
Parties: 1) Henry Kingdon of Wareleigh, Devon (= Tamerton Warleigh), gentleman; 2) William Holcomb of Crediton, Devon, gentleman.  
One quarter messuage and tenement of Heppell in Quethiock, one quarter of two grist mills called Heppell Mill with the watercourse, one quarter part of 20 acres of land and pasture in Ley March in Quethiock, one quarter part of 7 acres of land and pasture in Shepen Park in Quethiock. All in possession of Hugh Veshment junior of Heppell, yeoman.  
One quarter of messuage, and tenement in Tillon alias Tillond in Quethiock, one quarter of closes of land and pasture called Lucomb alias Ewcomb park and Myllonde in Quethiock, one quarter part of 28 acres of land and pasture in Southdown in Quethiock, one quarter part of 7 acres of land and pasture in Hill Park, Quethiock, one quarter part of 12 acres of land and pasture in Northdown, Quethiock, one quarter part of 19 acres of land and pasture in Quethiock. All in possession of Hugh Sprye of Tillon, yeoman.  
Consideration: £210. Witnesses: Nicholas Slee, Nicholas Slee, junior, Humphrey Slee.  
Endorsed: with note of livery of seisin 28 July 1608. Witnesses: George Sprye, Hugh Vastmonde, Nicholas Dyar, Olyver Sprye.  
Reference CY/961. Date 19 Dec 1607.

Undertaking the same search in the DHC online catalogue<sup>131</sup> reveals twelve records before 1610, as follows.

[DHC01] Reversionary lease for 63 years, 1504  
Parties: 1) Richard Lucas; 2) William Gybb, Eline his wife, and their sons John, ?Ebota and Thomas.  
Messuages, lands and tenements with appurtenances in Kyngdon Wokeworthy.  
Reference B472A/PZ/73/1-2. Date 1504.

[DHC02] Feoffment, 1505  
Parties: 1) Richard Lukys of Whityslegh; 2) Richard Elymysham, clerk.  
Messuages, lands, tenements, etc. with appurtenances in Kyngedon Okeworthy in Alverdiscott.  
Reference B472A/PZ/74. Date 1505.

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<sup>131</sup> [DHC].

[DHC03] Quitclaim, 1505

Parties: 1) Richard Lukys of Whytyslegh; 2) Richard Elymysham.

Messuages, lands, tenements, etc. with appurtenances in Kyngedon Okeworthy, Alverdiscott.

Reference B472A/PZ/75. Date 1505.

[DHC04] TAVISTOCK. Charter, 8th June 1514

Thomas Lybbe leaving to William Lache, junior, and Johanna his wife, his tenements with curtilages and gardens in the Borough of Tavystok between the tenement of the heirs of Berell on the South and the meadow of the Abbot and Convent on the East and the garden of the Reeve of Tavystok, the heir of Kyngdon and of John Fytz on the North and the street leading from the Chapel of St. Mary Magdelene to the new bridge on the West; to hold after the death of William Lache the elder for the lives of William Lache the younger and Johanna his wife, at a rent of 18s. 8d.

Covenants as to repairs and payment of rent.

Witnesses: John Eston. William Lanskerford. Nicholas Luge. Dated, 8 June, 6 Hen. 8.

Reference 1508M/0/Moger/385. Date 8th June 1514.

[DHC05] Release and quitclaim, Alverdiscott: West Rutford: Roborough, 1st June 1562

Parties: 1) Bernard Northwode To 2) Roger Northwode, his son and heir apparent.

All claim to messuages, lands, tenements, rents, reversions and hereditaments with appurtenances called Easte Sellworthye, Lytyll Wansleigh, and Kyngdon in the parish of Allscott alias Alverdyscott.

Reference Z16/1/7/1. Date 1st June 1562.

[DHC06] Tedburn St.Mary Deed of partition, 21st July 1576

Parties: 1) Richard Hals of Kenadon, esq.; 2) William Tapper of Cheriton Bishop, yeoman.

Reference Z1/31/17/2/1. Date 21st July 1576.

[DHC07] Deeds: South Kingdon and Bronscombe in Huntshaw (fines), 1599-1602

Reference 96M/0/Box77/3. Date 1599-1602.

[DHC08] Colebrooke Deed Poll, 19th June 1599

Of Christofer Adams of Colbroke, yeo.

Whereby in consideration of a certain sum of money paid to him by John Coplestone of Warleighe, esq., grants to Lewes Pollarde of Aller and to William Crymes of Buckland Monachorum, all those two parts wherein he has an estate of inheritance of one tenement and lands called Buttisforde in Colforde within the parish of Colbroke, where Christofer now doth or lately did dwell, in three parts to be divided. To hold on trust for and to the use of Christofer Adams for life, then to Johan his wife for life, then to the use of said John Coplestone, his heirs and assigns in fee for ever.

Attorneys: Robert Dowriche and Henrie Kingdon.

Witnesses: Robert Dowriche, Henry Kingdon, Thomas Gribble.

Reference Z1/9/1. Date 19th June 1599.

[DHC09] Lease, incomplete, Alverdiscott, 17th century

Parties: 1) Roger Norwoode; 2) Alice Stapledon, widow, William Stapledon and Mary Barwycke.

Messuages, lands and tenements in Kyngdon now or late in the occupation of Alice Stapledon.

Reference Z16/1/7/3. Date 17th century.

[DHC10] Annual rent charge, Egg Buckland, 20th October 1604

Parties: 1) Mathew Sutcleife, Doctor of Law and Dean of the Cathedral Church of St. Peter in Exeter, Richard Halse of Kenydon, Esq., and Anne his wife and William Newton of Crabatton, gent.; 2) Thomas Bradleigh of Louth (co. Lincs.), esq., Salomon Sutcleife of Welloe (co. Lincs.), esq., Richard Saverye of Ratterye, esq., and Edward Fortescue of Curnwood, esq..

Reference Z12/11/1. Date 20th October 1604.

[DHC11] Deeds: Pinn in Otterton, 1609-1794

Duke to Drake to Green to Walter to Kingdon.

Reference 96M/0/Box46/13. Date 1609-1794.

[DHC12] Combeinteignhead, Ottery St. Mary, Sherford Sidbury, Sidmouth, Tedburn St. Mary Indenture of Fine (Page Copy), Easter 1610

William Bastard, esq., and Plts. William Newton, gent., Plts. Richard Halse, dft.

9 messuages, 2 mills, 9 gardens, 10 orchards, 200a land, 25a meadow, 140a pasture, 3a wood, and 10a heath in Sherford, Frogmere, Kenadon, St. Mary Tedburn, Comentynehed alias Comyntynhed, Ottery. St. Mary, Sydbery and Sydmouth and common of pasture for all animals in Ottery St. Mary. Reference Z1/48/4/1. Date 1610.

Undertaking the same search in the National Archives online catalogue<sup>132</sup> reveals 111 records before 1610. Most of these are not relevant to our enquiry – for example, thirty records refer to Kingsdon in Somerset, and eleven records refer to John de Kyngesdon, Keeper of the King's lands in the Isle of Wight – and they can be ignored. We end up with thirty-one records, as follows.

[NA01] Court of Chancery: Six Clerks Office: Early Proceedings, Richard II to Philip and Mary. Short title: Phelipp v Kyngdon. Plaintiffs: Hugh Phelipp, clerk, servant to John Davyson, a master of the Chancery. Defendants: Walter Kyngdon and John Elton. Subject: Prebend of Copenhale in the collegiate church of Penkrigde (Pencrich). Staffordshire.

Reference C 1/45/45. Date 1433-1443, or more likely 1467-1472.

[NA02] Court of Chancery: Six Clerks Office: Answers etc, before 1660.

Hugh Phillips v. Walter Kyngdon and John Elton: answer.

Reference C 4/4/51. Date 15th century.

[NA03] Prerogative Court of Canterbury and related Probate Jurisdictions: Will Registers.

Will of Sir Water Kyngdon, Parson of Saint Martins by Loo in Cornwall and Prebendary of Copynghall of Penkrigde, Staffordshire.

Reference PROB 11/18/311. Date 19 April 1516.

[NA04] Chancery: Certificates of Statute Merchant and Statute Staple.

Debtor: Thomas Derby of Boston in Lincs. [Skirbeck Wapentake], esquire, and Edward Kingdon, yeoman of the Chamber {valettus de corona d'ni Regis}. Creditor: Thomas Norton, citizen and fishmonger [merchant] of London. Amount: £16 13s. 4d.

Before whom: Geoffrey Fielding, Mayor of the Staple of Westminster.

When taken: 05/07/1463 First term: 01/11/1463 Last term: 01/11/1463

Writ to: Sheriff of [London] Sent by: Geoffrey Fielding, Mayor of the Staple of Westminster.

Reference C 241/248/62. Date 17 Feb 1464.

[NA05] Chancery: Extents for Debts, Series I. Unexecuted writs; writs detached from their lost returns; writs de liberacione.

Debtor: Thomas Derby of Boston in Lincs [Skirbeck Wapentake], esquire, and Edward Kingdon, King's valet. Creditor: Thomas Norton, citizen and fishmonger of London. Amount: £16 13s. 4d.

Before whom: Geoffrey Fielding, Mayor of the Staple of Westminster.

When taken: 05/07/1463 First term: 01/11/1463 Last term: 01/11/1463

Writ to: Sheriff of London Sent by: Chancery.

Endorsement: Reply of William Costantyn and Henry Waver, knights, Sheriffs: Thomas Derby was not found in the bailiwick. They imprisoned Edward Kingdon, but afterwards received another writ from the King instructing them to bring him before Chancery. It was not possible to execute the rest of the writ because it arrived too late.

Reference C 131/240/8. Date 4 Nov 1465.

[NA06] Court of Star Chamber: Proceedings, Henry VIII. BUNDLE XXIX.

PLAINTIFF: John Roche and Alice his wife DEFENDANT: Richard Carwytham, John

Carwytham, Edward Kyngdon, and William Carwytham PLACE OR SUBJECT: Seizure of cattle at Trevisick COUNTY: Cornwall.

Reference STAC 2/29/88. Date 1509-1547.

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<sup>132</sup> [NA].

[NA07] Court of Chancery: Six Clerks Office: Early Proceedings, Richard II to Philip and Mary. Edward KYNGDON v. William ?ACHORN and others. Lands etc. of Thomas Beare. Bill, fragment. (Henry VIII or Edward VI; Wriothesley.).  
Reference C 1/1520/39. Date 1509-1553.

[NA08] Court of Chancery: Six Clerks Office: Early Proceedings, Richard II to Philip and Mary. Short title: Bevyll v Rodda. Plaintiffs: Piers Bevyll, esquire, and Philippa [his wife], daughter and heir of John Bere, of Pengelly, esquire. Defendants: Walter Rodda, warden of the Grey Friars of Bodmin, Edward Kyngdon, and others. Subject: Detention of deeds relating to lands in Trevansyn, Bodlawen, Tregennowe, Trecessithek, Roskayre, Bodlevoren, Padstow, and elsewhere. Cornwall. Reference C 1/384/40. Date 1515-1518.

[NA09] Court of Chancery: Six Clerks Office: Early Proceedings, Richard II to Philip and Mary. Short title: Bevyll v Code. Plaintiffs: Piers Bevyll, esquire, and Philippa, his wife, daughter and heir of John Bere of Pengelly, esquire. Defendants: Richard Code and Elizabeth, his wife, late the wife of the said John, Thomas Carmynowe, Thomas Trenans, Edward Kyngdon, and others. Subject: Detention of deeds relating to manors of Kelygarth and Lannowe, alias Lannamore [in St Kew], and messuages and land in the parish of St Lawrence, Bodmin, Pengyllym in Breock, Great Brune, Damelsa and Hendra Stephyn in Withiel, Newlyn, St Columb, Stengelley, Little Breme, Rosevanon, Wenn and St Erme, and in and near Launceston. Cornwall. Reference C 1/469/3. Date 1518-1529.

[NA10] Court of Chancery: Six Clerks Office: Early Proceedings, Richard II to Philip and Mary. Short title: Bevyll v Redde. Plaintiffs: Piers Bevyll, esquire, and Philippa, his wife, daughter and heir of John Bere of Pengelly, esquire. Defendants: Walter Redde, warden of the Grey Friars, Bodmin, Edward Kyngdon, James Flamake, and John Trehannoke. Subject: Detention of deeds relating to land in Trevansyn, Bodlawen, Tregennowe, Tresessitheke, Roskayer, Bodlovoren, Padstow, and Eglos Constantyne [in St Merryn]. Cornwall. 3 documents. Reference C 1/469/8. Date 1518-1529.

[NA11] Court of Chancery: Six Clerks Office: Early Proceedings, Richard II to Philip and Mary. Short title: Kyngden v Bevyll. Plaintiffs: Edward Kyngden (Kyndon), and others, feoffees to the use of John Bere, deceased. Defendants: Piers Bevyll, son-in-law of the said John, and Nicholas Carmynow. Subject: Distress on lands in Kenwyn, St Stephen's, Bodmin, Truro, and Great and Little Bren, and detention of deeds relating to the same. Cornwall. 3 documents. Reference C 1/532/51. Date 1518-1529.

[NA12] Court of Chancery: Six Clerks Office: Answers etc, before 1660. Piers Bevyll and his wife Philippa v. Edward Kyngdon: answer.  
Reference C 4/93/94. Date 16th century.

[NA13] Court of Chancery: Six Clerks Office: Early Proceedings, Richard II to Philip and Mary. Short title: Nycolles v Kyngdon. Plaintiffs: John NYCOLLES of Bodwyne (i.e. Bodmin ?), gentleman. Defendants: Thomas KYNGDON and Elizabeth his wife. Subject: Messuage and land in St Tede (i.e. St Teath) late of Henry Nycolles, grandfather of complainant. Cornwall. Reference C 1/1250/94-95. Date 1544-1551.

[NA14] Court of Chancery: Six Clerks Office: Early Proceedings, Richard II to Philip and Mary. Short title: Carewe v Kyngdome. Plaintiffs: Thomas CAREWE, esquire. Defendants: Thomas KYNGDOME (Kyngdone) gentleman. Subject: Tithe corn and land in Quethiock belonging to the rectory of Haccombe. Cornw, Devon. Reference C 1/1341/2-3. Date 1553-1555.

[NA15] Court of Chancery: Six Clerks Office: Pleadings, Series II, Elizabeth I to Interregnum. Short title: Malet v Carswell. Plaintiffs: Thomas Malet and Isabel Malet his wife, executrix of Thomas Kyngdon. Defendants: William Carswell. Subject: debt, Cornwall. Reference C 3/130/98. Date 1558-1579.



[NA16] Court of Chancery: Six Clerks Office: Answers etc, before 1660.

Thomas Carewe v. Thomas Kyngdon: answer.

Reference C 4/54/238. Date 16th century.

[NA17] Court of Chancery: Six Clerks Office: Early Proceedings, Richard II to Philip and Mary.

Short title: Lee v Kyngdon. Plaintiffs: Henry LEE, great-grandson and heir of Henry Lee.

Defendants: John KYNGDON. Subject: Messuage and land in St Ives entailed and forfeited in like manner. Cornwall.

Reference C 1/1241/23-24. Date 1544-1551.

[NA18] Court of Star Chamber: Proceedings, Philip and Mary. BUNDLE II.

PLAINTIFF: Stephen Treyan and John Kingdon DEFENDANT: John Langdon, William Langdon, John Horsewell, and others PLACE OR SUBJECT: Forcible ejection of plaintiffs' servants twice from a messuage, &c. in Helwode COUNTY: Cornwall.

Reference STAC 4/2/37. Date 1553-1558.

[NA19] Court of Chancery: Six Clerks Office: Pleadings, Series II, Elizabeth I to Interregnum.

Short title: Kyngdon v Treham. Plaintiffs: John Kyngdon. Defendants: Stephen Treham and others.

Subject: property in Holwood, Cornwall.

Reference C 3/107/61. Date 1558-1579.

[NA20] Court of Chancery: Six Clerks Office: Pleadings, Series II, Elizabeth I to Interregnum.

Short title: Lee v Kyngdon. Plaintiffs: George Lee. Defendants: John Kyngdon. Subject: a bond and property in Quethiock, Cornwall. Document type: bill. Note: Mutilated.

Reference C 3/473/49. Date 1558-1579.

[NA21] Court of Chancery: Six Clerks Office: Answers etc, before 1660.

Thomas Farmer v. John?Kindon: answer.

Reference C 4/96/66. Date 1550-1650.

[NA22] Exchequer: King's Remembrancer: Certificates of Residence.

Certificate of residence showing William Kingdon to be liable for taxation in Cornwall. (Details of which pouch this certificate was removed from are now lost.)

Reference E 115/231/138. Date 1602.

[NA23] Court of Chancery: Six Clerks Office: Pleadings, Series I, Elizabeth I to Charles I. James I.

Short title: Thorne v Kindon. Plaintiffs: John Thorne. Defendants: Robert Kindon and Joyce Kindon his wife. Subject: debt.

Reference C 2/JasI/T13/24. Date 1603-1625.

[NA24] Court of Chancery: Six Clerks Office: Pleadings, Series I, Elizabeth I to Charles I. James I.

Short title: Bishoppe v Gredye. Plaintiffs: John Bishoppe and William Bishoppe. Defendants:

Nicholas Gredye and Christopher Kingdon. Subject: presentation to advowson of Nymett alias

Nymett Rowland, formerly of Amyas Coplestone, and by him granted to Elizabeth Paynes, Devon.

Reference C 2/JasI/B4/26. Date 1603-1625.

[NA25] Court of Chancery: Six Clerks Office: Pleadings, Series I, Elizabeth I to Charles I. James I.

Short title: Cheeke v Rogers. Plaintiffs: Roger Cheeke and Christopher Kingdone. Defendants:

Richard Rogers. Subject: inn without the east gate of the city of Exeter, Devon, leased from the Dean and Chapter.

Reference 2/JasI/C8/23. Date 1603-1625.

[NA26] Court of Chancery: Six Clerks Office: Pleadings, Series I, Elizabeth I to Charles I. James I.

Short title: Windham v Kingdon. Plaintiffs: Sir John Windham, Sir John Strangewais, Thomas

White and Ann Fleere widow (co-heirs of Nicholas Wadham). Defendants: Christopher Kingdon,

John Cole, John Hadridge and Elizabeth Tournier (widow). Subject: title to tenements in

Cullompton, Devon.

Reference C 2/JasI/W13/62. Date 1603-1625.

[NA27] Court of Chancery: Six Clerks Office: Pleadings before 1714, Mitford.

Short title: Kingdon v Clarke. Plaintiffs: Daniel Kingdon, Joan Kingdon his wife, Nicholas Hender and Silvester Hender. Defendants: Francis Clarke. Subject: personal estate of Nicholas Kessell, Liskeard, Cornwall.

Reference C 8/7/84. Date 1605.

[NA28] Court of Star Chamber: Proceedings, James I.

Short title: Humfry v Huett. Plaintiffs: John Humfrey, yeoman, grandson and heir of Thomas Humfrey and of Alice Humfrey his wife. Defendants: Thomas Huett, son-in-law of the said Alice Humfrey, Laurence Furseman, John Kingdon, and John Jackman sheriff's bailiff. Subject: Jury-packing and perjury at Launceston assizes in an action for tenements in the borough of Launceston. Cornwall. Barnes category: perjury; officer's misfeasance.

Reference STAC 8/174/14. Date 1605.

[NA29] KINGDON MANOR, rental, with other manors

Rental, with other manors.

Reference SC 6/HENVIII/593. Date 1535-1537.

[NA30] Court of Augmentations and Predecessors and Successors: Miscellaneous Books. Surveys, Rentals, etc.

Survey of the manors of Vielstone and Kingdon, co. Devon.

Reference E 315/358/2. Date 1608-1609.

[NA31] VIELSTON MANOR, survey, with Kingdon

Reference E 315/358/ff. 64-74. Date 1608-1609.

### Appendix 3: Documents unearthed at the Courtney Library

Searching the Courtney Library CALM database for 'k\*ngdon' reveals twelve records before 1610, as follows.

[CL01] Lease, Townstal, Dartmouth, Devon

Parties: 1) Nicholas Dauney, Lord of Norton iuxta Dertemouth; 2) William de Kyngdon.

Two acres of arable land which John le Baker held at Tounstalle in the Manor of Norton.

Term: the life of 2). Rent: 2 shillings. Warranty against 'omnes gentes' [all persons].

Witnesses: John de Norton, John Fynam, William Batun, William Persun and Richard Pody.

Given at Norton.

Reference TAM/1/4/22/2. Date 27 Sep 1330.

[CL02] Presentation to the Church of Menheniot, Cornwall

Parties: 1) Sir Richard de Stapledon; 2) Richard Doygnel, the son of Adam Doygnel.

Presentation to the Church of Mahyniet on the death of Roger de Woddelegh.

Witnesses: Thomas, Prior of Launceston, Sir William Bruyn, William Trelowny [Trelawny], Thomas Chaunbernoun, John de Inkpenne, William Kyngdon and Robert Crok.

Given at Launceston.

Reference TAM/1/3/40/16. Date 27 Oct 1361.

[CL03] Letter of attorney, Lanteglos by Fowey, Cornwall

Parties: 1) John Lamelyn; 2) John Hervy and John Hoy.

To deliver seisin to John Buketon, Robert Lylebynt, John Kingdon, vicar of the Church of Lanteglos iuxta Fawy, William Kernek, chaplain, and John Bryt on lands in Lamelyn iuxta Boddennek [Lamellyon near Bodinnick], Lantuthet [Lantivet] and Lanlyvek [Frogmore].

Given at Lamelyn.

Reference TAM/1/3/32/7. Date 19 May 1477.

[CL04] Grant of reversion, Lanteglos by Fowey, Cornwall

Parties: 1) Thomas Lamelyn; 2) Walter Kyngdon, clerk, William Baret of Penquyte, John Wyet of Lannawarne and John Kyngdon, the son of William Kyngdon senior of Treronsey.

Lands etc in Leylond [Lealand], Comelond [Coombeland], Lytell Trefuda [Trevedda], Palsygh, Northdown iuxta Polruan and Polruan; also a tenement in Trerudde [Trereed] held by John Hopkyn. Term: the life of 2) and after the death of 1) to Joan, his wife, and her heirs.

Witnesses: Richard Haryngdon, Robert Tredenek, John Ber of Hyll, Thomas Sawell and William Frye. Given at Leylond.

Reference TAM/1/3/32/19. Date 3 Aug 1509.

[CL05] Lease, Lantivet, Lanteglos by Fowey, Cornwall

Parties: 1) Thomas Lamelyn; 2) William Frye and Margaret, his wife.

Tenement in Lantethet in Lanteglos iuxta Fowy. Term: 30 years. Rent: one grain of wheat and 10 marks. Warranty against 'omnes gentes' [all persons]. 1) to repay 2) £42.

Attorneys: John Willyam and John Hopkyn.

Witnesses: William Baret, John Kyngdon and John Glyn. Given at Lantethet. Endorsed with memorandum that Thomas Lamelyan hath bargained for a further 8 years. With counterpart.

Reference TAM/1/3/32/20. Date 20 Jan 1512.

[CL06] Grant, East Looe, St Martin by Looe, Cornwall

Parties: 1) John Capell of Estloo; 2) John Webbe.

Tenements in Estloo, bounded with that of Robert Langdon on the west and that of Edward Kyngdon on the east, also a close by the way which leads towards S[anc]te Martine [St Martin], bounded with John Leych's garden on the south, Thomas Fuzylyyam's on the north, Gregory Langston's on the west and the highway on the east.

Attorneys: Walter Jagow and John Trubodi.

Witnesses: John Sowdon, Walter Gyll and John Brood.

Reference TAM/1/3/39/17. Date 16 Jan 1532.

[CL07] Release, East Looe, St Martin by Looe, Cornwall

Parties: 1) John Capell of Estloo; 2) John Webbe.

Claim to lands in the borough of Estloo, with the lands of Robert Langdon, esquire, on the west and the lands of Edward Kyngdon on the east, and the garden with the lane leading to S[anc]te Martine [St Martin] and with John Leych's garden on the south, Thomas Fuzyllyer's on the north, that of Gregory Langston on the west and the highway on the east.

Warranty against 'omnes gentes' [all persons].

Witnesses: John Rowdon, Walter Gyll and John Broad. Given at Estloo.

Reference TAM/1/3/39/25. Date 22 Jan 1536.

[CL08] Release, East Looe, St Martin by Looe, Cornwall

Parties: 1) Richard Kendall, esquire; 2) William Scharppe.

Claim to tenement and garden in the borough of Estloo, with the tenement of Edward Kyngdon on the east and the tenement of Robert Langdon on the west, and the garden with the land of Thomas Fuzilliam on the north, that of John Leych on the south, that of Gregory Langston on the west and the highway on the east. Warranty against 'omnes gentes' [all persons]. Given at Estloo.

Reference TAM/1/3/39/28. Date 21 Jan 1537.

[CL09] Conveyance, various manors, Cornwall

Parties: 1) Edward Kyngdon; 2) William Tregian.

Feoffment by 1) to 2) of Penpoll manor, Quethiock and Denardak [Dinnerdrake] manor, St Ive, then to Susan Tregian; Rosemodres manor, St Buryan, to William Tregian; Truro manor, Truro; Treyow [Treyew] and Tregaffran [Trehaverne], Kenwyn, to Lazarus Tregian (as put in trust by J Tregian).

Reference HC/1/63. Date 20 Mar 1538.

Related material: Henderson Calendar 1 item 126

[CL10] Release, Kitsham, Week St Mary

Parties: 1) Nicholas Barrett of Tregaron, and Edward Kyngdon; 2) Robert Coke of Bodnell North.

Right in Kechisham in Wyke Synt Marye.

Reference GAT/A/9. Date 28 Dec 1544.

[CL11] Fine, Kingdon, Antony and Manaton, South Hill

Parties: 1) John Trelawney and John Polwhele (querants);

2) Robert Trencreke and Henry Chyverton (deforciant).

Lands in Kyngdon [Kingdon], Manaton, etc.

Reference HK/12/28. Date 1556.

Related material: Henderson Calendar 14 item 28

[CL12] Partition of inheritance, various parishes

Partition of the Kingdon inheritance:

Henry Chyverton and Robert Trencreek (through their wives, cousins and heirs of Thomas Kingdon of Quethiock, deceased) receive lands in Quethiock, Probus, etc.

Reference HK/12/27. Date 16 Jan 1557.

Related material: Henderson Calendar 14 item 27

## Abbreviations

ASK	A S Kingdon, author of [Kingdon Family Second Look]
b.	Born (in a given year)
c.	<i>Circa</i> , around (a given year)
da.	Daughter
DHC	Devon Heritage Centre, see reference [DHC]
ed(s).	Editor(s)
FBK	F B Kingdon, author of [Kingdon Family]
KQC	Transposed generation table depicting ‘The Kingdons from Quethiock to Coldridge’
m.	Married (a named person and/or in a given year)
n.	Note, section, or edition number
OE	Old English
OOTK	<i>The Origin of the Kingdons</i> by R D Kingdon, see reference [OOTK]
p.	Page number
pp.	Page numbers (range)
Rev	Reverend
s.	Son
TRE	<i>Tempore Regis Eduardi</i> , in the time of King Edward
vol.	Volume number

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