

John Fitzherbert, of Bedbrooke, Oxon. Esq., 26 May 1658, proved 23 March 1660. Mentions friends Thomas Hinton of Banbury, Oxon., and John Garrett, of Great Tewe, Oxon., Gen^t; my manor of Begbrooke; wife Anne; my three younger sons, William, Thomas and John (under fourteen); eldest son Francis; daughters Elizabeth and Mary Fitzherbert; father in law Edward Atkins, one of the Justices of the Common Bench.

May (P. C. C.), 44.

My reason for saving these wills was that I guessed Mrs. Elizabeth Fitzherbert might be the widow of Edward Fitzherbert. Her son John was a witness of Mr. Knowling's will. Her son Edward was buried at Tring. (It was her nephew John, however, who inherited the manor of Begbrooke.) This was for a long time only a guess, until, at last, it was converted into a certainty by the following will :

Elizabeth Fitzherbert, of Much Waltham, Essex, widow, 23 February 1684, proved 29 November 1689. She devised all her lands and tenements &c. in Tring, Herts., and the houses and lands called Makins, in Middleton Stony, Oxford, and all her estate and rights &c. in them to John Freeman, of Luton, Bedfordshire, gentleman, and Samuel Marshall of Norstend, Much Waltham, Esq. (in trust) during the joint lives of John Rotheram, of Much Waltham, Esq., and Mary his wife, her daughter, to pay the rents, issues and profits of the said houses in Tring &c. to the said Mary, with other provisions in case of their deaths; and the said John Freeman, of Luton, was to be executor of the will. Ent (P. C. C.), 154.

Although somewhat disappointed that neither of these wills mentioned the Washingtons and so I was not yet possessed of the positive evidence for which I had been seeking in order to prove beyond a doubt the identity of the Virginians with John and Lawrence of Tring, yet I was, on the whole, satisfied with that of Mrs. Fitzherbert, which, by its mention of Luton, strengthened the probabilities of the case. And I was well aware that the family of Rotheram was a very important one in Luton and its neighborhood (see the Visitations of Bedfordshire), and that through marriages they were connected with Tring as well.

A pedigree of this family of Fitzherbert may be found in the Visitations of Oxford (Harleian So. Pub.).

All this time I was seeking to find an answer to the question, who was this Mr. Lawrence Washington, the father of these children? That he was styled "Mr." on the church Register meant that he was either a clergyman or a person of some importance, and I had a suspicion, which I hardly dared to breathe, that he might be that parson of Purleigh, about whom I have for years had the feeling that if he could only be hunted down we might possibly be able to dispel the mystery enveloping the lineage of Washington. It is perhaps needless to say that I determined to watch most carefully for even the slightest indication of a clew which might lead to the identification of this Lawrence Washington of Tring. First of all, it seemed best to examine with the greatest care all the papers