

an interesting letter to Sir Edmund from Sir Richard Graham, one of the Marquis of Buckingham's gentlemen, relating to this appointment may be found on page 106 of the Verney Papers. In 1623 he visited Madrid with other officers and gentlemen of the Prince's household, Prince Charles and Buckingham having already preceded them on that romantic expedition, undertaken for the purpose of seeing the Spanish infanta. In the service of the prince, as a page, was a Mr. Thomas Washington, whom Col. Chester satisfactorily identified as the sixth son of Lawrence Washington of Sulgrave and Brington, Lawrence, husband of Amphillis, being the fifth. The following extract from "Familiar Letters on Important Subjects, wrote from the year 1628 to 1650 by James Howell, Esq., Clerk of the Privy Council to King Charles I." (tenth edition, Aberdeen, 1713), becomes of interest to us. The letter was dated Madrid, August 15, 1623.

"*Mr. Washington* the Prince's Page is lately dead of a calenture, and I was at his burial, under a fig-tree behind my Lord of *Bristol's* house. A little before his death one *Ballard* an *English* Priest went to tamper with him: and *Sir Edward Varney* meeting him coming down the stairs of *Washington's* chamber, they fell from words to blows, but they were parted. The business was like to gather very illblood and come to a great height, had not Count *Gondamar* quasht it; which I believe he could not have done, unless the times had been favourable, for such is the reverence they bear to the Church here, and so holy a conceit they have of all ecclesiastics, that the greatest *Don* in *Spain* will tremble to offer the meanest of them any outrage or affront."

Thus we see that Sir Edmund Verney was intimate with one, at least, of the Washingtons and probably with others of the family, as two of them were for a time close neighbors to him, Sir William Washington, at Leckhampstead, and Sir Lawrence Washington, the Register of Chancery, at Westbury. And there was a connection of the Verney, Washington, Spencer and Fitzherbert families with the Leake\* family which is yet to be unravelled. At any rate I think I have presented evidence enough to show how the Roades family may have been connected with Tring and Tring people, and how and where Lawrence Washington the student and Fellow of Brasenose may have made the acquaintance of his future wife. But the same evidence seems to show that it was a match which would not be likely to meet with the approval of the rest of the family, allied as they were to the Villiers, Sandys, Pargiter, Verney and other

\* The father of Dorothy Leake, called niece in Sir Edmund Verney's will (often referred to in the family letters as Doll Leake), was Sir John Leake, son and heir of Mr. Jasper Leake of Edmonton. Her mother was Ann Turvill, daughter of Geoffrey Turvill, Esq., by Mary (Blakeney). As the widow Turvill afterwards became the wife of Sir Edmund Verney (the elder) of Pendley and mother of Sir Edmund the Knight Marshal, the Lady Ann Leake was the latter's half sister. I have yet to learn who the Penelope Leake was, whom Mrs. Elizabeth Washington of Brington called cousin.