

Complete Peerage Correction: Sir Edmund Sheffield's mother, Margaret Zouche

 groups.google.com/g/soc.genealogy.medieval/c/l_MfkszXmA4/m/eXOOkyPlvzcJ



Douglas Richardson

unread,

Nov 15, 2009, 8:54:55 PM



to

Dear Newsgroup ~

Complete Peerage, 11 (1949): 661 (sub Sheffield) identifies the parentage of Sir Edmund Sheffield, 1st Lord Sheffield (died 1549) as follows:

"Edmund Sheffield, of Butterwick [was] son and heir of Sir Robert Sheffield, who died 15 Nov. 1531, by his 1st wife, Jane, daughter of George [Stanley], Lord Strange ..."

While it is true that Sir Robert Sheffield's first wife was Jane (or Joan) Stanley, there is no evidence that Jane was the mother of his son and heir, Sir Edmund Sheffield.

Evidence that Sir Robert Sheffield married (1st) Joan (or Jane) Stanley is found in two sources:

1. 1567 Visitation of Lancaster, Erle of Derby/Stanley pedigrees state:

"Jane [Stanley], maryed to ... Sheffeld of the Isle of Axham." [Reference: Flower, Vis. of Lancaster 1567 (Chetham Soc. 81) (1870): 78–79].

2. Jane "now wife of Robert Sheffield, Esquire" is styled "sister" in the the undated will of Thomas Stanley, 2nd Earl of Derby [Reference: Nicolas, *Testamenta Vetusta* 2 (1826): 589–590]. This will may be viewed at the following weblink:

<http://books.google.com/books?id=XOgKAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=editions:oE79pXgg-OTzh-cO#v=onepage&q=&f=false>

Complete Peerage correctly notes that the will of Thomas Stanley is undated, but implies it was written close to Thomas Stanley's death in 1521, which was the year of Sir Edmund Sheffield's birth.

But an examination of the list of witnesses named in Thomas Stanley's will indicates that the will was written some time in the period, 1514-1519, which was some years before Sir Edmund Sheffield's birth.

As such the will of Thomas Stanley can not be used as evidence that his sister, Jane Stanley, was the mother of Sir Edmund Sheffield.

So who was Edmund Sheffield's mother? Contemporary records indicate that Edmund Sheffield's father, Sir Robert Sheffield, had a second wife, Margaret Zouche, daughter of John Zouche, Esq., of Codnor, Derbyshire, by Eleanor, daughter of John Saint John, K.B., of Bletsoe, Bedfordshire. Margaret Zouche was a near kinswoman of King Henry VII of England, they being 1st cousins once removed, by virtue of their common descent from Margaret Beauchamp, wife of Oliver Saint John, Knt., and John Beaufort, K.G., Duke of Somerset. Following Sir Robert Sheffield's death in 1531, Margaret Zouche married (2nd) before 1538 Sir John Candishe (or Cavendishe), of Melwood (in Owston), Lincolnshire. Margaret was living as late c.1554/7, when she was legatee in the undated will of her sister, Cecily Zouche, who bequeathed her 20 marks of money, a silver piece, and a ring of gold [Reference: Registered will of Cecily Zouche proved 24 Sept. 1557, Consistory Court of Lincoln, Will Register 1557, vol. 2, pg. 112, available on FHL Microfilm 198815].

That Margaret Zouche, not Jane Stanley, was the mother of Sir Edmund Sheffield can be proven by Edmund Sheffield's own will dated 20 May 1544, proved 10 May 1549/50, in which he directly refers to his mother as Margaret Caundishe and likewise leaves legacies to his maiden aunts, Agnes Zouche (a nun at Sempringham) and Cecily Zouche

[Reference: Registered will of Edmund Sheffield, Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 6 Coode, proved 10 May 1549/50, available on FHL Microfilm 91924].

Elsewhere I find that in letters dated 1538 Sir Edmund Sheffield referred to Margaret Zouche's second husband, Sir John Candishe, as his step father/father-in-law [Reference: Gairdner, *Letters & Papers, Foreign & Domestic, Henry VIII* 13(1) (1892): 522]. These letters may be found at the following weblink:

<http://books.google.com/books?id=PNsc2jqfqPoC&pg=PA522&dq=Sheffield+worshipful+father-in-law#v=onepage&q=Sheffield%20worshipful%20father-in-law&f=false>

Curiously, all of the early sources published before 1900 on the Sheffield family that I've consulted so far all identify Margaret Zouche as the mother of Sir Edmund Sheffield, not Jane Stanley. See, for example, *Gentleman's Magazine*, n.s. 3 (1810): 34–36; *Grace, Memoirs of the Family of Grace* (1823): 57–61; *Burke, General & Heraldic Dict. of the Peerages of England, Ireland & Scotland* (1831): 483–485 (sub Sheffield).

So what went wrong?

It's hard to tell but it appears that Jane Stanley was first identified as the mother of Sir Edmund Sheffield in the *Dictionary of National Biography* and that *Complete Peerage* subsequently followed that identification. Unfortunately, while the editor of *Complete Peerage* was aware that Sir Edmund Sheffield left a will, apparently the will itself was not examined when preparing the Sheffield family account in *Complete Peerage*. Had that will been examined, then almost certainly the error regarding Edmund Sheffield's mother's identity would have been averted.

In a related vein, I note that *Complete Peerage* elsewhere states in its Kildare account that another of Sir Edmund Sheffield's aunts, Elizabeth Zouche, wife of Gerard Fitz Gerald, 9th Earl of Kildare, was the daughter of Sir John Zouche, of Codnor, co. Derby, by his wife, Elizabeth Saint John [see *Complete Peerage*, 7 (1929): 234 (sub Kildare)]. My research indicates, however, that John Zouche was never knighted but was only an esquire. Also, John Zouche's wife was named Eleanor Saint John, not Elizabeth Saint John. Following John Zouche's death in 1501, Eleanor Saint John married (2nd) Sir John

Melton, of Aston, Yorkshire. She died 10 Feb. 1518/9 [References: Baker, Hist. & Antiqs. of Northampton, 1 (1822–30): 673 (Melton pedigree); Flower Vis. of Yorkshire 1563–4 (H.S.P. 16) (1881): 202–203 (Melton pedigree); Margaret Bowker, An Episcopal Court Book for the diocese of Lincoln, 1514–1520 (Lincoln Rec. Soc. 61): 84, 86; National Archives, C 1/599/55].

Best always, Douglas Richardson, Salt Lake City, Utah



Douglas Richardson

unread,

Nov 17, 2009, 12:07:07 PM



to

Dear Newsgroup ~

I stated in an earlier post that Eleanor Saint John, wife successively of John Zouche, Esq., and John Melton, Knt., died 10 Feb. 1518/9. Her correct death date is 12 Feb. 1518/19 [Reference: Baker, History & Antiqs. of Northampton, 1 (1822–30): 673 (Melton pedigree)]. Administration on her estate was granted 19 March 1518/9 to her son, David Zouche and daughter, Cecily Zouche [Reference: Bowker, Episcopal Court Book for the Diocese of Lincoln, 1514–1520 (Lincoln Rec. Soc. 61) (1967): 84].

Eleanor Saint John was the maternal grandmother of Sir Edmund Sheffield, 1st Lord Sheffield (died 1549), the subject of my original post. Eleanor Saint John was a first cousin to King Henry VII of England.



CE Wood

unread,

Nov 17, 2009, 2:57:41 PM



to

Before it was taken off-line, I noted that CP VII:234 named the wife of John la Zouche as Elizabeth Saint John. What is the reference for calling her Eleanor?

CE Wood

On Nov 15, 5:54 pm, Douglas Richardson <royalances...@msn.com> wrote:
> Dear Newsgroup ~



Douglas Richardson

unread,

Nov 17, 2009, 4:38:58 PM



to

On Nov 17, 12:57 pm, CE Wood <wood...@msn.com> wrote:
< Before it was taken off-line, I noted that CP VII:234 named the wife
< of John la Zouche as Elizabeth Saint John. What is the reference
for
< calling her Eleanor?
<
< CE Wood
Dear Carolyn ~

I've already commented on this error in Complete Peerage. Actually there are several references to Eleanor Saint John, some of which I've previously listed.

But here are three more. The first reference shows her first marriage to John Zouche. The second item shows her 2nd marriage to John Melton. The third item identifies Eleanor as the surviving wife and co-executrix of her 1st husband, John Zouche, Esq.

1. 1613 Vis. of Huntingdon (Camden Soc. 43) (1849): 2 (St. John pedigree: "Eleonora [St. John], uxor Joh'is Zouche de Codnor"). This item may be viewed at the following weblink:

http://books.google.com/books?id=aRQpAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA2&lpg=PA2&dq=Johannes+St.+John+de+Bletsoe,+miles&source=bl&ots=9zcmWL-otH&sig=RTX_fYzAZFyjLuW4oV_v9VtQzug&hl=en&ei=fhQDS6X_ApH2sQPC3OC8Dg&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=oCAGQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=Johannes%20St.%20John%20de%20Bletsoe%2C%20miles&f=false

2. 1563–4 Vis. of Yorkshire (H.S.P. 16) (1881): 202–203 (Melton ped.: "Sir John Melton [1] = Ales daughter of Sir John Stanley of the Pye, [2] = Elenor daughter of St. John that maryed daughter of Bradshaw, [and widow of] Sowche."). This item may be viewed at the following weblink:

<http://books.google.com/books?id=pjMEAAAIAAJ&pg=PA203&dq=Ales+daughter+of+Sir+John+Stanley+of+the+Pype#v=onepage&q=Ales+daughter+of+Sir+John+Stanley+of+the+Pype&f=false>

3. National Archives, C 1/599/55 (abs. of doc. available online at <http://www.catalogue.nationalarchives.gov.uk/search.asp>).

Chancery Proceeding dated 1518–1529: David, son of John Zouche, Esq., of Codnor, sued John Saint John, Knt., and Richard Burton, Esq., feoffees to uses regarding refusal to convey parcel of the manors of Westoning, Bedfordshire, Benefield, Northamptonshire, and Codnor (in Heanor), Heanor, and Loscoe, Derbyshire as devised by complainant's said father, whose executors are the said Richard and Eleanor, late wife of the testator.

Also, there appears to be an inquisition post mortem for Eleanor (Saint John) (Zouche) Melton dated 11 Henry 8 [1519-20], which names her son and heir as being Sir John Zouch, then aged 30 and more. The inquisition is cited by Baker, History & Antiqs. of Northampton, 1 (1822-30): 673 (Melton pedigree).

The confusion over Eleanor Saint John's given name appears to have occurred due to her aunt, Elizabeth Saint John, having been married to William la Zouche, Lord Zouche and Seymour. As such, a Saint John niece and her aunt married a Zouche nephew and uncle respectively. It would appear that Eleanor's given name was carelessly confused with that of her aunt, Elizabeth, both of which ladies married Zouche men.

□



CE Wood

unread,

Nov 17, 2009, 5:41:06 PM

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to

Thanks, Douglas. Rather overwhelming.

CE Wood

On Nov 17, 1:38 pm, Douglas Richardson <royalances...@msn.com> wrote:

> On Nov 17, 12:57 pm, CE Wood <wood...@msn.com> wrote:

> < Before it was taken off-line, I noted that CP VII:234 named the wife

> < of John la Zouche as Elizabeth Saint John. What is the reference

> for

> < calling her Eleanor?

> <

> < CE Wood

>

> Dear Carolyn ~

>

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- > there are several references to Eleanor Saint John, some of which I've
- > previously listed.
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- > <http://books.google.com/books?id=aRQpAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA2&lpg=PA2&dq=Johan...>
- >
- > 2. 1563–4 Vis. of Yorkshire (H.S.P. 16) (1881): 202–203 (Melton ped.:
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- > following weblink:
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- > <http://books.google.com/books?id=pjMEAAAIAAJ&pg=PA203&dq=Ales+dought...>
- >
- > daughter of Sir John Stanley of the Pye&f=false
- >
- > 3. National Archives, C 1/599/55 (abs. of doc. available online
- at<http://www.catalogue.nationalarchives.gov.uk/search.asp>).



Douglas Richardson

unread,

Nov 17, 2009, 7:50:05 PM



☐☐

to

You're quite welcome, Carolyn.

I checked the National Archives just now and found the citations for the inquisition post mortem records for Eleanor (Saint John) (Zouche) Melton which are mentioned by Baker:

C 142/34/81 Melton, Eleanor: Northampton 11 Hen. VIII.

E 150/683/4 Melton, Eleanor: Northampton 11 Hen VIII.

☐

wjhonson

unread,

Nov 17, 2009, 9:50:01 PM

☐☐☐

to

On Nov 17, 1:38 pm, Douglas Richardson <royalances...@msn.com> wrote:

>

> 2. 1563–4 Vis. of Yorkshire (H.S.P. 16) (1881): 202–203 (Melton ped.:

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> <http://books.google.com/books?id=pjMEAAAAIAAJ&pg=PA203&dq=Ales+dought...>

> daughter of Sir John Stanley of the Pye&f=false

>

>

> Best always, Douglas Richardson, Salt Lake City, Utah

The link you gave above is a link to your 100-page search results.

The correct link directly to the page in question is

<http://books.google.com/books?id=pjMEAAAIAAJ&pg=PA203>

That is, Page 203 of the book.

Will



Douglas Richardson

unread,

Nov 18, 2009, 1:48:33 AM

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to

Will ~

Thanks for providing the correct link. Much appreciated.

DR



Douglas Richardson

unread,

Nov 18, 2009, 2:28:17 AM



to

Dear Newsgroup ~

Checking the internet for helpful material on the Zouche family of Codnor, Derbyshire, I have encountered an interesting account of a challenge to the array of jurors dated c.1571 because the then sheriff of the county, Sir John Zouche, of Codnor, who had arrayed the jury in question, happened to be related to the plaintiff, John Manners. This material can be found in the book, Joseph Chitty, A Practical Treatise on the Criminal Law 4 (1819): 299. It may be viewed at the following weblink:

[http://books.google.com/books?](http://books.google.com/books?id=tJQoAAAAIAAJ&pg=PA299&lpg=PA299&dq=Zouche+sheriff+Rutland+quashed&source=bl&ots=3_ZaoqezQA&sig=fujPocOMWXlGaX_VRR-CyiNtAtg&hl=en&ei=HZgDS5SSIpKyswPe8cG4BA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=oCAgQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=&f=false)

[id=tJQoAAAAIAAJ&pg=PA299&lpg=PA299&dq=Zouche+sheriff+Rutland+quashed&source=bl&ots=3_ZaoqezQA&sig=fujPocOMWXlGaX_VRR-CyiNtAtg&hl=en&ei=HZgDS5SSIpKyswPe8cG4BA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=oCAgQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=tJQoAAAAIAAJ&pg=PA299&lpg=PA299&dq=Zouche+sheriff+Rutland+quashed&source=bl&ots=3_ZaoqezQA&sig=fujPocOMWXlGaX_VRR-CyiNtAtg&hl=en&ei=HZgDS5SSIpKyswPe8cG4BA&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=oCAgQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=&f=false)

In the challenge, a pedigree was set forth which alleged that the two parties were related in the 6th and 8th degrees of kindred as follows:

1. William, Lord Roos.
2. Elizabeth de Roos.
3. William, Lord Zouche.
4. Alan, Lord Zouche.
5. William, Lord Zouche.
6. John Zouche, Esq.
7. John Zouche, Knt.
8. George Zouche, Esq.
9. John Zouche, Knt., Sheriff of Derbyshire, 1571-1572.

1. William, Lord Roos.
2. William, Lord Roos.
4. Thomas, Lord Roos.
5. Eleanor Roos.
5. George Manners, Knt.
6. Thomas Manners, Earl of Rutland.
7. John Manners.

The alleged pedigree correctly states that both men descend from William de Roos, 2nd Lord Roos of Helmsley, died 1343. However, the actual descent for Sir John Zouche, the Sheriff, runs as follows:

1. William de Roos, 2nd Lord Roos of Helmsley, died 1343.
2. Elizabeth de Roos, married William la Zouche, 2nd Lord Zouche of Harringworth.
3. William la Zouche, 3rd Lord Zouche of Harringworth, married Agnes Greene.
4. William la Zouche, 4th Lord Zouche of Harringworth, married Elizabeth (?Crosse).
5. John Zouche, Esq., of Bulwick, Northamptonshire, living 1445, married Elizabeth Grey.
6. John Zouche, Esq., of Codnor, Derbyshire, died 1501, married Eleanor Saint John.
7. John Zouche, Knt., of Codnor, Derbyshire, married Margaret Willoughby.
8. George Zouche, Esq., of Codnor, Derbyshire, died 1557, married Anne Gainsford.
9. John Zouche, Knt., Sheriff of Derbyshire, 1571-1572.

I might note that the alleged pedigree for John Manners is missing a generation. Thus the two men were actually related in the 7th and 8th degrees of kindred, not 6th and 8th as alleged.

I find it astonishing that such a remote kinship between the sheriff and the plaintiff would cause a panel of jurors to be quashed, but the published item specifically states that the challenge to the jurors was found to be true and that the panel was "quashed and removed."

Genealogy mattered then and now it seems.



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