

## The History of Moistown: Part 2

by Dr. Sylvia Warham c. February 2010

Very early on in my research I was fortunate enough to find the property deeds for Moistown at the Devon Record Office dating back to the seventeen hundreds, but the most exciting find and first clue to the real history of Moistown did not come until 2007, five years after my search first started. I had been searching the internet for information about the Moys family, and having very little success, when I came upon the following Inquisition Post Mortem, or IPM. Before looking at this document it is important to understand a little about how property ownership worked in medieval times.

In medieval times land and property was not owned by individuals as it is today. All land and property was owned by the monarch, who enfeoffed, or rented it out to feoffs who were usually special favourites of the monarch. Feoffs in turn enfeoffed or rented out their properties to provide themselves with an income. Property was usually enfeoffed to friends and relations and the right to be a feoff was passed down through families as an inheritance. Land and property were given and taken away at the express command of the monarch. Feoffs who offended the king were frequently beheaded for treason and were attainted, that is all of their lands and property were taken from them. These were dangerous times! When a feof died, an Inquisition Post Mortem was held to establish who the heir to the feofdom was, to ascertain that the monarch's property was going to be properly cared for. Occasionally if a feoff particularly pleased a monarch, the feoff or rental was waived and the property was then 'held in free socage',

### An excerpt from the IPM of John Kayleway of Cullompton dated 1531

Chancery Inq. p. m. Ser. II Vol. 52 (29), 23 Hen VIII (1531)

Delivered into Court 23 Oct. by Thomas Sydenham of the Temple.

DEVON

Inquisition taken at Exeter 4 Oct 23 Hen VIII (1531) before John Hext, esq., escheator, after the death of **John Kayleway, esq.**, by the oath of Thomas Fortesque, esq., Charles Faryndon, esq., Thomas Hext, esq., John Pomeroy, esq., Roger Rous, Edward Forde, John Carsswill, John Wolston, John Godwyn, John Bobyche, Richard Langisford, John [Ju]ledon, John Bury & Thomas Goffe WHO SAY that John Kayleway was seised of 2 messuages, 2 gardens & 4 acres of land in Colompton, held by the abbot of Bucklond, in free socage, worth by the year, clear, 30s. 1 messuage, 100 acres of land, 10 of meadow, 20 of furze & heath & 3 of wood in Uplomyn, held of Henry Daubeneye, Lord Daubeneye, in free socage, worth &c 13s. 4d.; 3 messuages, 3 gardens, 200 acres of land, 20 of meadow, 500 of heath & furze in **Woodcrofte, Hoggersland, Moys & Alschedowne in the parish of Brodewodekellye**, held (except Alschedowne) of John Gilbert, esq. in free socage worth &c. L 6.; Alschedowne held of Thomas Speke, esq. in free socage worth &c. 20s.; 1 messuage, 80 acres of land, 10 of meadow & 3 of wood in Nore & Whitford in the parish of Shute, held of Henry Marquis of Exeter in free socage, worth &c. 13s.

As you can see from this record, in 1531 Moistown, or Moys as it was called at this time after the Moys family, along with Woodcroft and Hogsland (now called Piper's Pool) was 'held in free socage' by John Gilbert who had in turn enfeoffed John Kayleway of Cullompton. It is very unusual to find exactly the record you are looking for as early as 1531 because formal records were not kept until the sixteen hundreds, so this really was a lucky find in my search for the history of Moistown. Armed with a name and a date, in collaboration with an international team of researchers from the Callaway Family Association, we were able to locate the will of John Kayleway of Cullompton:

## An excerpt from the will of John Kayleway of Cullompton dated 1529.

### Will of John Kayleway of Cullompton, Devon

*Item* I bequeath to the parish churches of Kentisbere, **Brodwode kelleigh** and Yessleigh euriche [or each] of them vjs. viijd.

*Item* I bequeath to heyre or heyres, that ought to be eight heyres of blood unto **Thomas Moys sometime of Colehouse in the parish of Brodwode Kelleigh** in the county of Devon to helpe his heires to purchase landes or other messuages to hym thereunto x poundes in mony.

### He made a bequest to Broadwoodkelly church . . .



From the will of John Kayleway of Cullompton it is clear that he had very close links with Broadwoodkelly. He left a bequest to Broadwoodkelly church, Kentisbere church and Iddesleigh (Yessleigh) church. The bequest to Iddesleigh church was a stained glass window bearing the family coat of arms, which I shall return to later.

However, I have never discovered what the bequest to Broadwoodkelly church was and would be grateful if anyone familiar with the church's history has any information about this bequest.

John Kayleway also left a bequest to Thomas Moys, then living at Colehouse Farm in Broadwoodkelly, for '*eight heyres of blood*' which tells us that in 1529 the Moys family and the Kayleway family were related by marriage. It may have been that a sister of John Kayleway was married to Thomas Moys, or possibly John Kayleway himself was married to a Moys daughter. Whichever way it happened there can be no doubt that the two families were related by marriage.

Whilst the will of John Kayleway was very interesting, it actually raised more questions than it answered. Who was John Kayleway of Cullompton? What was his connection with Broadwoodkelly? What was the exact relationship between the Moys and the Kayleway family?

In Part Three of this series I shall tell you what I discovered about John Kayleway of Cullompton and the key role his family played in Broadwoodkelly history.