

The History of Moistown: Part 3 by Dr. Sylvia Warham c. February 2010

In Part 2 of the history of Moistown I described how the Moys family of Moistown had intermarried with the family of John Kayleway of Cullompton, who owned Moistown in 1531. In Part 3 I shall tell you generally about the Callaway/KellowayKayleway family and their key role in the history of Broadwoodkelly.

However, first there are one or two things we have to remember when we look at records from these very early times. Firstly, in the fifteen hundreds very few 'ordinary people' could read and write. Literacy was confined to a privileged, wealthy few and the clergy. Very different from present times! Secondly, there were no received spellings of words such as we have today. If you couldn't spell it didn't matter because there were no set ways of spelling a particular word! Finally, there was no received pronunciation of the English language either. That did not come until much later and it meant that regional differences in dialects and speech patterns were far more marked than anything we are likely to hear today.

Consequently, imagine the scenario if someone like John Kayleway of Cullompton wants to make a will. He cannot write so he calls in a clergyman to dictate his will. Clergymen rarely worked in their home town so it is highly likely that the clergyman spoke an entirely different dialect to the soft Devon dialect. There were no received spellings so the clergyman wrote everything down phonetically, exactly as he heard it. Imagine further the complications if, being an elderly man, the clergyman was slightly deaf . . . These are just some of the allowances we have to make when we study old records and I am sure it will not surprise you to learn that the Callaway/Kelloway family researchers have a database of over four hundred different spellings of their name. The spellings range from Cailli, Keilli, Keilliaie to Chaillewaie. Indeed, in a single record it is not uncommon to find three or four different spellings of the same person's name!

My contacts with the Callaway Family researchers showed that John Kayleway came from a wealthy Devon family who came over to England with William the Conqueror in 1066. They are thought to have come from an area called Cailly sur Eure in Normandy. As early as 1145 there are records of them owning large tracts of land in Devon. The earliest records of the family are in Gloucester where Hawisa (nee Beaumont) the widow of Philip Chaillewaie married William Earl of Gloucester and their daughter Isabella was briefly married to King John. One of the 'kinsmen' of Philip and Hawisa was Nicholas Chaillewaie who held the manors of Muxbeare and Sutton near Cullompton. He is also recorded as a witness to the Devon leases in the Cartulary of Cannonsleigh Priory (Burlescombe). By the 1200's there are records of the family owning Stafford Barton in Dolton and to complicate matters they began calling themselves de Stofford, which became Stofford and later Stafford. (It was not uncommon in early times for people to take the name of the area they lived in. It was not uncommon for people to have two or three different names.)

From the Lay Subsidies(Tax records) we have the following records:

1303 - Hundredum of Blaktoriton:

Johannes de Kelli tenet in Broldwodekelly terciam

partem j.f. Heres **Rogeri Cally** tenet in BORDON* decimam partem j.f.

This tells us that in 1303 John de Kelli held a third part of the whole of Broadwoodkelly parish, or Hundred as it was then called, and he was the heir of Roger Cally who held Bordon (now an area of Hatherleigh). This family have been around in Broadwoodkelly parish for a very long time – in fact, since records began.

Many remnants of the Kelloway family in the Broadwoodkelly area of Devon still exist today. One of their properties, Stafford Beare, still bears their name. In the Woodcroft area of Broadwoodkelly, Merryfield used to be called Calleytown – Calley being a corruption of Cailli, Keilli etc. We also have Kelly Downs. In Dolton an area called Calleyford still exists.

The family coat of arms consists of four pears and a pair of glaziers nippers.



Kelloway Coat of arms

It can be seen in the stained glass window at Iddesleigh church and in the carved pew ends at both Dolton and Dowland churches . . .



Dolton church. Photograph by Brian Willpoghy



Pew ends at Dowland church. Photograph by Sylvia Warham

Whilst it is clear is that the name Broadwood**kelly** did derive from the name Cailli, Keilli, this may not have been from the Kelly family of Kelly as historians have supposed, but from the Kelloway/Kaylway family. The evidence is for this is all around us. We do not have the Kelly of Kelly family monuments in our local churches, but we do have the Cailli, keilli, Kaylway, Kelloway family monuments. We do have local fields named after them and we find them in the ancient tax records. It is a sobering thought that if it had not been for the corruption of names which I described at the beginning of this article, Moistown may have been situated in – and we may have all been living in Broadwoodkelloway. . . .

As soon as we begin to scratch the surface of Broadwoodkelly's ancient history we come up against the Kelloway/Kaylway family, some of the wealthiest and most influential people in the country who moved in royal circles and whose daughter was married to King John. In Part Four of this series I shall focus on John Kaylway of Cullompton himself and his family, who we know from existing records actually lived in Broadwoodkelly. What part did he play in the history of our village and, in particular, what part did he play in the history of Moistown?