

Gye Register Report

This family is the portal to many historical and royal figures in British/European history, as well as the current “original person” in the family tree -- a Roman Proconsul named Afranius Syagrius, who was known to be living in 384 C.E.

In Chancery Proceedings which date from before 1515, “John Gye of Kingsbridge” sued one “John Bodley” over lands in St. Sidwell’s, Exeter, Devonshire, England. This indicates that the Gye family of Dodderidge originated in Kingsbridge, Devonshire, England. A review of Devon and Cornwall Notes and Queries (volumes 5,8 and 10) reveals that this Gye family was seated in Kingsbridge as early as 1374.

Surname variations include: Gee, Geeye, Gey, Gie, Guy, Guye and Gye.

First Generation

1. John¹ GYE. This generation of the Gye family is often overlooked. However, proof of the couple stems from an *Inquisition post mortem* of one Nicholas Spencer, Esq. of Devonshire, held on 1 November 1508:

“Edmund Spencer had wife Joan; he died in Jany 1497/8; his relict Joan died Jany. 1499/1500. Their daughter is Elizabeth, now wife of John Guy; she is of age thirty years and more. In 1497 Edmund had three sons at school: Robert, Nicholas, and Richard; and three daughters: Joan, Isabel and Elizabeth. Nicholas, the heir of Edmund, has now died and his heir is Elizabeth Guy, his sister, afsd. The next presentation to the advowson of the church of Crowcomb, and lands in Plympton, Dunston, Dynnesbeare, Northcote, Possebury, Trefelbe, Bradlaugh, Bremeridge, East & West Putford, Bridweldene, and Newton Bushell, are of the inheritance of the said Nicholas.”
(*Cal. of Inq.P.M. ... Henry VIII, vol. 3, p. 343-345, no. 573; vol. 2, p. 103-104, no. 153*)^[1].

In the Chancery Proceedings about 1500 there is a record of John Guy and Elizabeth his wife, and their suit against Edward Prendergast and Thomasyne his wife regarding deeds as to the manors of Possebury, Treselbe, Bridwildene, Bradelaugh, Kyrton (i.e. Crediton) and Putowrth, all located in Devonshire, England. (*G. Brit. Public Record Office. Lists and Indexes, vol. 20, p. 196*)^[1].

John perhaps had a brother named Robert. There is mention of a Robert Gye serving as Portreeve of Kingsbridge, Devonshire, England in 1491^[3] and as Warden of St. Edmund’s Church in Kingsbridge in 1475^[3].

John married **Elizabeth SPENCER**, daughter of **Edmund SPENCER & Joan [surname not known]**.

They had one child:

2 i. John

Generation: G12 Grandparents twice

Person Numbers: 29,864 / 29,865 (via Elias Maverick) and 29,992 / 29,993 (via Moses Maverick)

Second Generation

Family of John GYE (1) & Elizabeth SPENCER

2. John² GYE (*John¹*) was born circa 1490, as based on his 1509 marriage date (from all accounts, it was his first and only marriage). John died circa 1538/9; he was 48^[2]. His death date is determined by the fact that his *Inquisition post mortem* was held in 29-30 Henry VIII (1538/9). He, like most of the Gye family, is buried in St. Edmund’s, Kingsbridge, Devonshire, England^[3], as indicated by his gift of 1528^[3].

John was quite a landholder, though was never styled “gent.” in extant records. In 1516, a fine speaks of the manor (An area of land consisting of the lord’s demesne and of lands from whose holders he may exact certain fees, etc) of Dodderidge as being held by John Gye, Mary his wife and John Prous, clerk. Another source says that he was of Prowse in Sandford, Devonshire, England^[7]. The two -- Higher Dodderidge and Prowse -- were, in fact, adjoining

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manors or farms lying in Sandford (a parish in the Hundred of Crediton)^[6]. They both adjoined the manor of Dowrish, as well^[6]. The High Dodderidge Manor House was still habitable in 1909^[3].

John had extensive holdings in and around the hamlets where the Gye family had roots: Sanford, Ilsington and Poughill -- all in the Exeter, Devonshire, England area. Poughill is just north of Sandford and Ilsington is southwest of Exeter. A lawsuit from the Chancery Proceedings dated prior to 1516 in which "John Gye sued Nicholas Kyrkham, esq., re detention of deeds relating to messuages" list the disputed holdings as "Dodderidge, Crediton, Poughill, Pasford, Speechwick, Ilsington, South Tawton, Cullompton, Winkleigh, Upton Helion, Chawleigh, Sampford Peverell, Witheridge, Exeter, St. Sidwell's and Holy Trinity [suburbs of Exeter], North Bovey and Stoke in Teighead^[6]."

John's wife, Mary Prowse, brought even more holdings to the family. She was heir general of lands called Upcot (Uppecot or Upcott) in Cheriton FitzPaine (near Poughill), Devonshire, England. These lands had belonged to her great-uncle, Nicholas Radford, who had been a "noted judge" and was murdered at the instigation of his godson, Sir Thomas Courtenay, knt., circa 1455. Sir Thomas and his hired hit man were granted pardon in 1457. Regardless, her 1509 marriage settlement brought these lands to her husband John Gye. In 1516, she and John further claimed the lands of her father Thomas Prowse "in Poughill, Dodderidge, Ilsington and elsewhere"^[9].

The *Inquisition post mortem* (*i.p.m. No. E, 150/178/29*) of "one John Gey of Devonshire" was held at Plympton, Devonshire, England on 29/30 Henry VIII (1538-1540). Therein was stated:

- a) *The deceased, with his wife Mary, was seized of the manors of Poughill and Dodderidge, with lands in South Tawton, Crediton, Upton Hylyon, Chawleigh, Cheriton FitzPaine, South Affeton, Ermington, Kingsbridge, and Alyngton, all in co. Devon.*
- b) *In 1520, when the said Mary had attained full age, they enfeoffed one William Golberd with certain of the lands for the use of their heirs.*
- c) *The said John Gey died on 14 August 1536 and that his son and heir was Robert Gey, then aged five years and more^[5].*

In 1509 when John was 19, he married **Mary PROWSE^[8]**, daughter of **Thomas PROWSE & Jane BAYTUN**.

They had one child:

3 **i.** **Robert**

Generation: G11 Grandparents twice

Person Numbers: 14,932 / 14,933 (via Elias Maverick) and 14,996 / 14,997 (via Moses Maverick)

Third Generation

Family of John GYE (2) & Mary PROWSE

3. Robert³ GYE, gent.^[8] (*John²⁻¹*) was born circa 1531/1533 in Dodderidge, Sanford, Devonshire, England^[10]. His birth year is estimated from the fact that he was "aged five years and more" at time of father's *Inquisition post mortem* in 1538/9^[10]. Robert died circa 1604/1608; he was 73^[2,6]. We know that he was dead by Michaelmas 1608, when his heir Thomas was named defendant in his place for an ongoing lawsuit. From that time until Michaelmas, 1615 Thomas was named the defendant in fines concerning the ancestral lands at Prowse, Poughill and Higher Dodderidge^[11].

Robert was of Prowse or Dodderidge in Sandford, Devonshire, England^[7,9]. "Robert Gye, gent." was named a trustee of the will of James Mortymer of Sandford, Devonshire, England which was dated 19 October 1558^[9]. This is the first legal mention which styles Robert as "Gent."

Some say that Robert "paid great sums" after his wife's sudden death (actual date unknown) to the Reverend Radford Maverick to ensure that Radford would bring up his youngest daughter, Mary. However, a manuscript of Charles

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Banks says that Radford, denied “receipt of great sums of money and says he brought her up from childhood and gave her an education”^[7]. Given the extensive time Robert spent in court and constant fines to which he was subject, I believe Banks is correct and Radford received little or no money for his care of Mary Gye.

Robert spent much time in court, usually squabbling over real estate. He invariably lost. He first took on James Courtenay, Esq. over lands which his parents -- John and Mary Gye -- received from the estate of her father, Thomas Prowse. All cases can be found in the Chancery Proceedings, “tempore Elizabeth” (late 1500s - early 1600s). File G-g-11 refers to the opening salvo in which “Robert Gie or Gye sued “James Courtenay, Esq.” claiming right “under settlement and will” to the tenement of Cheriton FitzPaine (otherwise known as “Upcotts”) and land referred to as “Frendlemore”. Robert claimed that this land was his via the fact that it was conveyed to trustees by his grandfather Thomas Prowse in “anno 1 Henry VIII (1509-1510) He must have lost this case, because file G-g-15 states that “Robert Gye sued James Courteney, Esq.” over the same tenement in Cheriton FitzPaine -- the “sometime estate of Thomas Prows”. This time his claim was “...under settlement on marriage... by deed and recovery... settled on John Gye and Mary his wife...” in anno 1 Henry VIII (1509-1510).

This squabble over Ceriton FitzPaine (a.k.a. Upcott) and Frendlemore continued for years and always to the Gye family’s detriment. At the Michaelmas term (late September) of the Court in 1600, “a fine was levied by James Courteney, Esq., agains Robert Gye, gent.” over the properties. Ten years later -- Michaelmas 1610 -- a fine was levied by the same James Courtenay, Esq. against Robert’s son, Thomas Gye, gent., over properties in South Yawe and elsewhere^[3].

Thomas continued to fight the Gye family court battles. At the Michaelmas term of 1608 and the Hilarymas (early January) term of 1610, “Richard Gover, gent. levied fines against Thomas Gye over the Poughill and Barbadon family properties. Further, at the Michaelmas term of 1615, John More, Esq. levied fines against “Thomas Guye and others” over lands in Poughill and elsewhere^[9].

Robert also was involved in an inquisition over his son George Gye, “an Ideot”, which was taken at Exeter Castle on 7 March, 42 Elizabeth (1599-1600). The transcript furnishes some interesting family information. For example, entered into evidence was an indenture of 6 April 1587, filed at Crediton (next to Sandford), Devonshire, England, between “Robert Gye of Prowse, alias Higher Dodderidge, gent.” and “Thomas Dowrish of Dowrish, Esq.” The indenture concerned to manors of Poughill and Prowse. In addition, all twelve of Robert Gye’s children by both wives are named. Finally, the trustees named in the inquisition were Walter Dowrish, Esq., William Bodleigh, Esq., John Northcott, gent. and John Norleigh. The first three are noted as being brothers-in-law of Robert Gye’s wife, Grace Dowrish -- thus providing further evidence of their marriage.

Yet again, at the instigation of these very trustees, Robert was subject to several fines. To whit: at the Easter term (April) in 1579; at the Trinity term (June?) in 1585; at the Michaelmas term of 1590 and at the Michaelmas term of 1597. This last set of court proceedings shows that Robert Gye also held lands in Kingsbridge in south Devonshire, England^[11].

One final case from the Chancery proceedings show that circa 1554, one “Robert Gye of Dodderidge in Sandford” sued over a lease of the rectory of “West Allington” (just north of Kingsbridge, south Devonshire, England) which was made to him and his father, John Gye (long since deceased)^[3].

Robert first married a woman whose name has been lost to time.

They had one child:

4 i. Thomas

Circa 1555 when Robert was 24, he second married **Grace DOWRISH**^[2,12], daughter of **Thomas DOWRISH, Esq. & Anne FARRINGDON**^[5]. Circa 1604, Grace died suddenly before she could make a will^[7].

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They had the following children:

5	i.	Gilbert
6	ii.	Edmund
7	iii.	John
8	iv.	Walter
9	v.	Peter
10	vi.	George
11	vii.	Robert
12	viii.	Johan or Joan
13	ix.	Jane
14	x.	Anne
15	xi.	Mary

Generation: G10 Grandparents twice

Person Numbers: 7466 / 7467 (via Elias Maverick) and 7498 / 7499 (via Moses Maverick)

Fourth Generation

Family of Robert GYE gent. (3) & [not known]

4. Thomas GYE gent.¹³ (*Robert*³, *John*²⁻¹) died between 1615 and 1624^[13]. He was from Poughill, Devonshire, England and carried on the family court battles outlined in his father Robert's entry^[13].

Child:

- i. Jane

Family of Robert GYE gent. (3) & Grace DOWRISH

5. Gilbert GYE. (*Robert*³, *John*²⁻¹) was still alive in 1624. At that time, he and his brother Walter were the only two landlords listed named "Gye" in Poughill, Devonshire, England. Thus, it seems that Thomas and the other brothers may have died by 1624^[6].

6. Edmund GYE. (*Robert*³, *John*²⁻¹) Probably dead by 1624.

7. John GYE. (*Robert*³, *John*²⁻¹) Probably dead by 1624.

8. Walter GYE. (*Robert*³, *John*²⁻¹) was still alive in 1624. At that time, he and his brother Gilbert were the only two landlords listed named "Gye" in Poughill, Devonshire, England. Thus, it seems that Thomas and the other brothers may have died by 1624^[6].

9. Peter GYE. (*Robert*³, *John*²⁻¹) witnessed the will of Edmund Northcott, 29 October 1604^[13] but was probably dead by 1624.

10. George GYE. (*Robert*³, *John*²⁻¹) was named "an Ideot"^[7] and declared *non compos mentis*^[13]. He was probably dead by 1624.

11. Robert GYE. (*Robert*³, *John*²⁻¹) was the Robert Gye mentioned in the will of Jane Mortimer of Poughill, Devonshire, England in 1622^[13]. In this will, dated 27 August 1622, Jane left the residue of her estate to "my cousin, Robert Gye, sole executor" and named Joan Philpe as her mother^[3]. Robert was probably dead by 1624.

12. Johan or Joan GYE. (*Robert*³, *John*²⁻¹) We know nothing more of her.

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13. **Jane GYE.** (*Robert³, John²⁻¹*) We know nothing more of her.

14. **Anne GYE.** (*Robert³, John²⁻¹*) We know nothing more of her.

15. **Mary GYE.**^{14,15,8} (*Robert³, John²⁻¹*) was born circa 1580 and died in Dorchester, Suffolk co., MA sometime after 9 October 1666; she was 86^[16,17,18]. We know that Mary was still living in 1666, when Samuel Maverick (her oldest child) wrote a letter from Rhode Island on 9 October 1666 to Secretary Sir William Morice saying that his mother “presents her humble service”^[19]. Given that Samuel, by his own deposition^[20], was aged about 63 years in 1665, she would have been in her eighties^[21]. Mary probably lived with her son Samuel after John’s death.

Mary, being the youngest of Robert Gye’s twelve children, was given over to the Reverend Radford Maverick to raise after her mother’s Grace’s untimely death in 1604. Radford arranged for her marriage to his nephew Reverend John Maverick when she was 20^[22].

On 28 October 1600 when Mary was 20, she married **Reverend John MAVERICK**, son of **Reverend Peter MAVERICK & Dorothy TUCKE**, in Alsington [now Islington], Devonshire, England^[14,15,17,18,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34] by the Reverend Radford Maverick, vicar of Ilsington, Devonshire, England. Mary, John and five of their children (Elias, Mary, Moses, Abigail, Antipas and John, Jr.) emigrated to New England on the *Mary & John* in 1630, leaving Plymouth, Devonshire, England on 20 March 1630 and arriving in Nantasket, Plymouth co., MA on 3 May 1630^[35,55,56].

They had the following children (*surnamed MAVERICK*):

- i. Samuel
- ii. **Elias**
- iii. Mary1
- iv. Aaron
- v. Mary2
- vi. **Moses**
- vii. Abigail
- viii. Antipas
- ix. John

Generation: G9 Grandparents twice

Person Numbers: 3732 / 3733 (via Elias Maverick) and 3748 / 3749 (via Moses Maverick)

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