

Herrick Family Association

Founded in 2001



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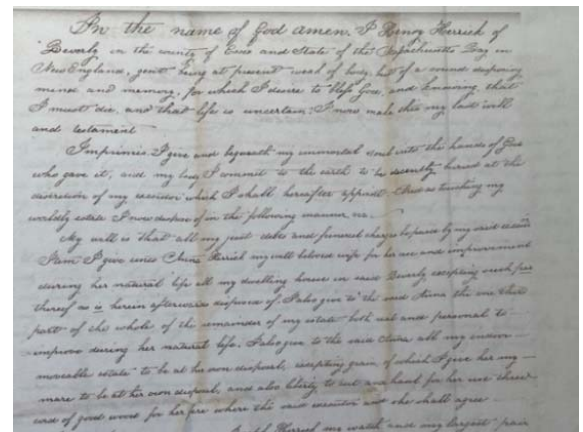
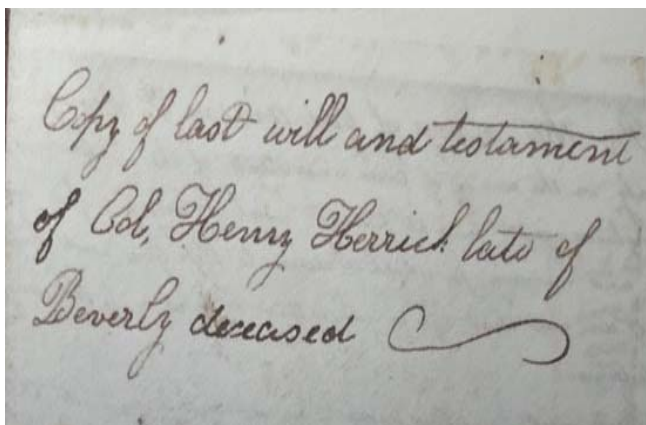
Message from the President:

Dale E. Yoe, HFA #062

September 2021

Well, excitement is building in the Yoe home as we can get out more and start to travel again. Of course, one trip we are looking forward to is to England with many of you in the HFA. It will be good to see the Herrick sites and explore more into our Viking roots. Please contact "Celtic Journey" (e-mail: maria@celtic-journeys.com) if you are interested in going and please let **me** know as well so I can begin sending info about the trip soon to all those attending.

One of my favorite parts of being president is the communication I have with folks about their ancestry. I have helped quite a few, but I also love hearing/getting news from them. The best things often come from going through parents or grandparents' attics or garages. That was the case this past week as a gentleman emailed me—"In the garage I discovered a box with a stack of very old documents. Among these was an original copy of the will of Col. Henry Herrick, who died in 1780." He went on later to say he also had a journals and other papers and asked if we were interested.



Of course! He scanned a copy of the will and inventory and sent them to me- it had many genealogical points of interest. He has visited Beverly, MA, and the historical society there and they will be scanning the journal also. There were also other papers and I hope to learn more about them later. I have also asked him to write something for our newsletter on his experience.

Hope all is well with you and your families. The pandemic hit many very hard- but I'm sure our Viking blood will help us get through this. Hope to see you in April!

* * *

Herrick Family Connection

By Dan Whitcomb

As a boy growing up in Holyoke, Massachusetts, I was aware of having a unique name for that area – Whitcomb. We were the only ones I knew of in that city, and as a family, we valued our identity as Whitcombs. The family crest with the motto “Aquila Non Captat Muscas” hung on the dining room wall, next to a grandfather clock said to have been brought from overseas by a ship’s captain named Ebenezer Meacom. Captain Meacom was a legendary figure to us whose life seemed so different, as a merchant captain who lived in the 1800’s when boats were driven solely by the wind and currents. We heard stories of other family members and the places they lived - another often repeated story was of the Whitcomb-Carter store in Beverly where President Taft would go to be weighed, as there could be found the only scale large enough for the job, or so the story goes. Captain Meacom was always the most prominent figure in our family lore, however. My father even bears the middle name Meacom, a name I always understood came from the Captain. These stories were all part of who we believed ourselves to be as a family and hearing them throughout my upbringing certainly inspired an interest in learning more. Building a tree on Ancestry.com was where I first began to learn some of the many names that make up my family tree; and one of these is Herrick.

Col. Henry Herrick is my 6th great grandfather, and amongst all of the other names, he was just another name that needed further research. It was hard to recall exactly how he connected to the family off hand amongst all of the other names that I didn’t know much about. One day, however, I made a discovery that inspired me to look much further into the history of my ancestors in Beverly.

I was poking around a few years ago in my father’s basement and discovered several old books being threatened by moisture. I had never noticed or looked in these books before, and I would venture that the contents of these books was largely forgotten on those shelves. The first one I took down – a small, thick Bible with an old and worn brown leather cover that was hand sewn – revealed a signature inside the cover: “Ebenezer Meacom – His Bible – 1791”. I had known that our family has some of his ship’s logs but had not heard of this Bible. It was a thrill to see his signature in this seemingly ancient book! I opened more of the books, mostly Bibles, and found unfamiliar names similarly written – Dodges, Lords, Burnhams, Meacoms, and Whitcombs.

One of the books was particularly puzzling. It was a hard bound journal, with a mottled, multicolored cover, hand-written on unlined pages on the inside. It too was signed – Ebenezer Meacom, 1804 – but it contained another, different hand as well. A second person, with handwriting difficult to decipher, was writing in the book from the opposite end. These were the notes of a builder, I found, with entries that spoke of framing and raising houses for people whose names I did not recognize. Most notably, the writer went on for nineteen pages about one particular construction, beginning in 1868 with the line “Commenced raising the Baptist Meeting House”. From working on Ancestry and searching the internet, I was able to identify the writer as Ebenezer’s son, a builder named John Meacom.

Although very difficult to read, the notes have some interesting highlights. They chronicle setbacks due to weather and logistics, the raising of a small spire and a large one, a workman falling from 15-20 feet but “breaking no bones”. A bit more detail than usual was given to the ceremony of the laying of the cornerstone in 1869, presided over by a Rev. J. C. Foster. It was by far the most laborious and interesting undertaking in the journal, which spans 5 decades of Meacom’s work. Last year, with more free time on my hands than usual, I decided to learn more about this church – how amazing it would be if it still existed!

I first found an article from the Beverly Evening Times in 1895. The title did not bode well for the church. “Is the Baptist Spire Safe?” asked the headline. The paper conducted a thorough investigation of reports that the Spire of the First Baptist Church in Beverly was swaying and twisting in high winds, causing townspeople to fear that it would fall and cause harm or damage, as a similar spire had done in Dorchester. The paper speaks of John Meacom as the builder who had died in 1888. His superintendent is interviewed and vouches for the sturdy construction and bracing of the spire; the article concludes that the spire was in no danger of falling.

The next mention I found was of a terrible fire that consumed the First Baptist Church circa 1975 – ironically leaving all but the swaying spire destroyed! It seemed unlikely to me that it would survive to the present day at this rate, but subsequent articles I found showed that the Church had rebuilt onto the old tower. I learned further that the tower was used by the U. S. Coast Guard from the early 20th century as a rear range light. I decided that I would call the church to see about the present condition of the spire and got in touch with the church Treasurer and historian, John Thomson. Mr. Thomson assured me that the Spire was indeed still standing after more than 150 years, and that it still sways and twists in the wind!

Mr. Thomson was incredibly gracious in sharing his considerable knowledge of the history of the church and its spire with me, even sending me a copy of his book “The Church with the Harbor Light” that he wrote in 2001 to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the First Baptist Church. His book included several references to John Meacom, mentioning his reputation for loving craftsmanship, and what turned out to be repeated constructions of FBC structures throughout his lifetime, including chapels, vestries, and meeting houses. The book mirrored the notes in Meacom’s journal as to the dates of construction of the First Baptist Church, the laying of the cornerstone, etc.

When this summer rolled around, my family and I felt safe enough to travel from our home in Roanoke, VA to see my wife’s family in Northampton, MA. It would be the first time in nearly two years. It was also my chance to take a long-awaited trip to Beverly to see John Meacom’s church and other family history in the area. We met with Mr. Thomson early in August and showed him Meacom’s journal. We then climbed the tower together. It is indeed well braced on the inside with beams crisscrossing in every direction; evidently many people have climbed it over the years to leave their initials in those wooden beams. It’s around 160 feet tall if I recall correctly, and we did not climb all of the way up but did reach the original bell inside the tower. Mr. Thomson then helped my 11-year-old twins ring the bell inside their 4th great grandfather’s Spire. A truly amazing experience that came from a discovery of an old forgotten journal on a shelf!

By now you’re wondering what this has to do with Herricks, and I’m getting to that part. Prior to our trip to Beverly, I had made additional discovery of a box full of family photos, scraps, and other documents. Among the papers was a stack of deeds and probate records that showed properties passing through the family from the Meacoms, Dodges and Lords to the Whitcombs, including the house where my father visited as a child to see his Mimi Dodge at the corner of Endicott & Abbot Streets. With these was something truly unexpected – an original, hand-written copy of the last will and testament of Col. Henry Herrick, who died in December of 1780 – and the appraisal of his personal estate, item by item. Another look at my tree revealed that there was a connection between the Herrick and Meacoms: Col. Henry’s daughter Anna Herrick was married to Ebenezer Meacom in 1775. These were the mother and father of our Captain Ebenezer.

We continued our visit after seeing the First Baptist Church in Beverly, with a visit to the Central Cemetery. There we found that John Meacom and his wife & family share a monument with Whitcomb Carter co-founder Austin Whitcomb and his wife Susan Meacom, with a large “M” carved prominently on the Meacom side, and a “W” likewise on the other. The intimate relationship of the two families was striking. We walked on and discovered the graves of Ebenezer and Anna Meacom and made another discovery. Ebenezer had been lost at sea in December of 1779. Close by we found his son the Captain. His date of birth: March of 1780. Anna Herrick had been pregnant when Ebenezer was lost at sea, and her son, whom she named Ebenezer, was born just 3 months later. The history of the Meacoms and Whitcombs had been made possible by a slim margin indeed!

With the help of Dale Yoe I have begun to understand the relationship between the Herricks and Meacoms endured for many years. The Herrick homeplace in Beverly was inherited in part by Anna Meacom according to Col. Henry’s will, and she was still living there in 1845 according to HGR1. In other records, the house that now sits on the property at 454 Cabot St. was still owned by Captain Ebenezer Meacom in the 1850’s. My family was not aware that his house still exists, nor were they aware of his connection to the patriot Col. Henry Herrick, who likely knew his grandson as a baby before passing away in December of 1780.

I would love to know more about how Anna Herrick dealt with the loss of her husband and father a year apart, with baby Ebenezer being born fatherless. Did he grow up with a father figure, as Anna never remarried? His grandfather James Meacham was no longer alive, as he too had died young when Ebenezer Sr. was just three years old. I know there is much to learn about my Herrick ancestry, and I’m excited to continue this journey as I try to learn the answers to this question and others. Thanks for reading!



Ebenezer & Margaret (Curtis) Meacom, portrait from the collection at Historic Beverly

By A.B. (Alice Herrick) Reynolds HFA#003

Erick the Forester – Summary, Continued

Resources and Questions Continued from Our June Newsletter

From Ann Williams in *The English and the Norman Conquest*

After a quick look at Wikipedia's comments about Eric the wild (*silvaticus*, salvage), a list of references was provided that included Ann Williams. She introduces her book, *The English and the Norman Conquest*, by describing her book as "this study (that) differs from many others (about the Norman Conquest) in being concerned with the conquered rather than the conquerors." This is of great help in the search for Eric the forester, or Williams and most resources refer to him, Eadric the wild (*cild wilde*, *silvaticus* (of the forest/woods), salvage (savage). Apparently, Throsby and Nichols translated the Latin "*silvaticus*" to mean 'forester' and allowed 'Eadric' to become 'Eric'. The following are excerpts from her book pertaining to Eric and his heritage.

Page 7: "The royal progress which William undertook in the early months of 1067 was intended to reconcile the English nobles to Norman rule. Only one general submission that at Barking in January 1067, is described in detail. It was attended by the leading thegns of Mercia, who made formal submission, led by their earl, Edwin, and his brother Morcar, earl of Northumbria. Those specifically names are the Shropshire magnates Siwawrd son of Aethelgar and his brother Ealdred, their cousin **Eadric the Wild**, and Thorkell of Limis, who may be the Warwickshire landholder Thorkell of Arden. Another such meeting took place at Pevensey in March when the king was preparing to return to Normandy. No names are mentioned, but those present probably included the Gloucestershire thegn Beorhtic of Leckhampton," (Florence of Worcester, 1067).

Page 14: "... The events in Herefordshire are described briefly in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle and elaborated by John of Worcester. **Eadric cild**, also known as 'the Wild' (*se wilde*, *silvaticus salvage*), in alliance with the Welsh Prince Belldyn of Gwyneed, attacked the garrison at Hereford and laid waste the shire ' up to the bridge over the River Lugg. (Anglo Saxon Chronicle, D, 1067; FIW, 1067. The chronicle's description of Eadric as *cild* has been taken as an error for *se wile* but a man of Eadric's rank might well be called *cild*. See chapter IV below). John of Worcester claims that Eadric had never accepted King William's rule (though Orderic Vitalis (another contemporary historian) says that he submitted in January 1067) and that as a result his lands were frequently ravaged by the castellani of Hereford and by Richard fitzScrob of Richard's Castle, one of the Confessor's Norman settlers. Though Orderic says that Eadric was later involved in the rebellion of 1069, it would be unwise to read back his motives on that occasion to explain his actions in 1067. If he had in fact made formal submission in January 1067, he may simply have been reacting to some local provocation on the part of Richard fitzScrob and the Hereford garrison. No action against him or is recorded after the king's return in December. Indeed, it may have been his opponents who felt the royal displeasure. Not all Richard fitzScrob's pre-Conquest holdings were allowed to pass to his son Osbern, and the family was not treated with noticeable generosity. "(Hooper, "Eagar aetheling, p. 174.)

Page 25: "Orderic presents Edwin's alliance with Bleddyn of Gwyneed as the signal for a general insurrection against Norman rule:" (Orderic's words – "After large numbers of the leading men of England and Wales had met together, a general outcry arose against the injustice and tyranny which the Normans and their allies had inflicted on the English. They went envoys into every corner of Albion to incite men to recover their former liberty and bind themselves by weighty oaths against the Normans.") Williams continues, "He adds the famous comment that 'many men lived in tents, disdaining to sleep in houses lest they should become soft, so that the Normans called them *silvatici* (wildmen men of the woods.' (The Ecclesiastical History of Orderic Vitalis). Further in the paragraph Williams continues, "It makes more sense to see the disturbances of 1068 as King William's first brush with the Northerners and Edwin's pique as incidental. His actions are little different from the sporadic acts of defiance committed by disaffected nobles in the Confessor's reign (notably by his father AElfgar, who also allied with Welsh) none of which amounted to actual rebellion. Orderic's picture of the *silvatici* itself is rendered suspect by the fact that the most famous *silvaticus*, **Eadric the Wild**, took no part in the events of 1068."

Page 37: "More serious was the attack on Shrewbury, launched by **Eadric the Wild** and the men of Chester,

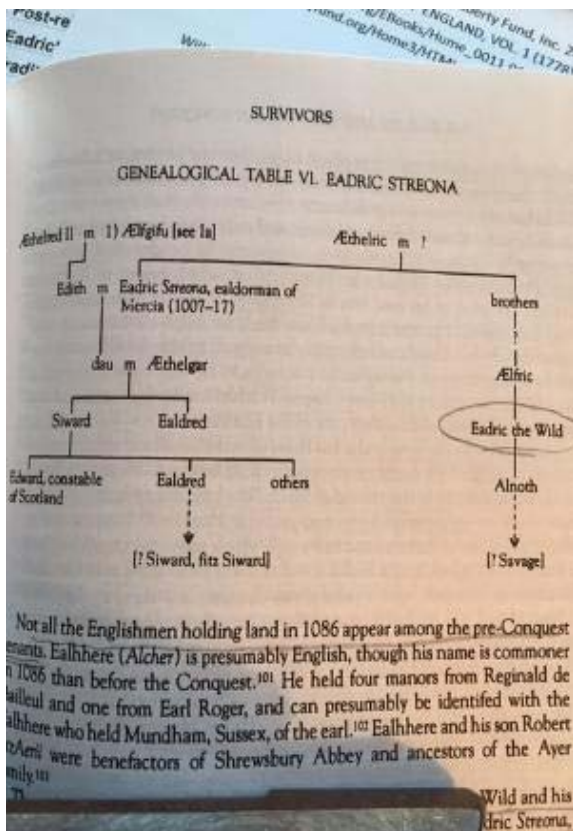
in alliance (once more) with Bleddyn of Gwynned. They succeeded in burning down the town but could not take the castle and moved on to Stafford. (John of Worcester does not mention the participation of Eadric the Wild, but does record Eadric's reconciliation with the king in 1070 and his presence in the royal host that campaigned in Scotland in 1072. (Florence of Worcester – Chronicles of Chronicles, 1070 1072.)

Page 40: “**Eadric the Wild** made his peace with the Conqueror and was among the host that invaded Scotland in 1072 and he and his family may have retained at least some of their Shropshire estates.”

Page 57: “It was perhaps because of this marriage that King William decided to assert English overlordship over Scotland. To this end he led a combined land and sea-force (whose leaders included **Eadric the Wild**) to Scotland in 1072.”

Page 89: “Pre-Conquest Shropshire had been dominated by the king, who retained administrative and judicial control, and by the Mercian earls, who were the major landholders. Next come the richer thegns, the most important of whom were **Eadric (the Wild)** and Siward (son of Aethelgar), with perhaps 100 hides and 80 hides respectively. They in turn are followed by a group of less wealthy by still prominent local thegns: Leofwine *cild*, Almund, Ealdred (Siward's brother), Earnwig, Godwine, Hunning, Swein and Thorth.” (C.P. Lewis, “An introduction to the Shropshire Domesday’ in The Shropshire Domesday, ed. Ann Williams and R.W.H. Erskine (London, 1990).

Page 91: “The richest thegns in pre-Conquest Shropshire were **Eadric the Wild** and his cousin, Siward, son of Aethelgar. They belonged to the family of **Eadric Streona**, ealdorman of Mercia 1007-17). John of Worcester, who took particular interest in Eadric the Wild's career, made him the son of Eadric Streona's brother, Aelfric. John of Worcester is the only source for a brother of Eadric Streona called Aelfric, and although his names for the other five brothers, and their father, Aethelric, appear in the witness-lists of Aethelred II's charters at appropriate dates, no Aelfric attests after 990. Perhaps he is the nephew, rather than the brother of Ealdorman Eadric, which would put Eadric the Wild in the same generation Siward son of Aethelgar, the ealdorman's grandson. (for Eadric Streona, see Williams, ‘Cockles amongst the wheat’ pp. 3-6; for Eadric the Wild, see Susan Reynolds, ‘Eadric silvaticus and the English resistance; Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research 54 (1981), pp. 102-5.)



Page 92: “**Eadric’s name** is one of the commonest and only when he appears with his distinctive by-name *se wilde, ailvaticus, salvage*, can he be identified with certainty. He held about 12 hides in Herefordshire which passed to Ralph de Mortimer but most of his land was in Shropshire. Five of his estates (eight hides) had passed, like the Herefordshire land, to Ralph de Mortimer, and another 28 1/2 hides can be assigned to him; his full estate may have been something in the region of 100 hides. He may have submitted to King William in January 1067 but by the summer of that year he was in revolt, and he took part in the rebellion of 1069-70. In 1070 he was reconciled with the king, and is last heard of in the royal host which invaded Scotland in 1072. He might have expected to hold land in 1086, and an Eadric, son of AElfric appears as the tenant of Much Wenlock Priory, holding land at Bourton and an unidentified tenement, probably Hughley. (Great Domesday Book, fol. 252v: DB Shropshire, nos. 3c,8:14 and notes.) Bourton was assessed at just under three hides and had a mill ‘which serves the court’, implying the presence of a manor-house. Eadric, son of AElfric is presumably to be identified with Eadric of Wenlock who witnessed to charters, on issued by the bishop of Hereford and one by Earl Roger of Shrewsbury, both most contemporary with Domesday.

Though the identify of Eadric, son of AElfric of Wenlock and Eadric the Wild cannot be proven, the latter was almost certainly holding land in 1086. Three of the manors which he held before 1066 (Eudon George (formerly Eudon Savage), Walton (formerly Walton Savage) and Overton) were later held by William le Savage of the Mortimers and the surname suggests that William was a descendant of Eadric the Wild (*salvage*). . . Eadric the Wild, if he has been correctly identified had lost much of his land by 1086, but continued to hold as a tenant of Much Wenlock and (perhaps) of Ralph de Mortimer and the bishop of Hereford. A similar fate had befallen his cousins Siward and Ealdred, son of AElthelgar. . . . Clearly Siward’s family survived in reduced circumstances which may have caused the younger sons to seek their fortunes elsewhere.”

Are Eric the Forester and Eadric the Wild the Same Person?

Throsby and Nichols described briefly the same activities for Eric the Forester as Williams outlined for Eadric the Wild. An underlying question is are these the same person? It makes sense to explore them both to draw some conclusion.

Some Clues from these Records

Although tracing family that is not royalty this far back is extremely difficult, these researchers provide some very important clues:

- Eadric or Edric/Eric/Erick was an established leader – landed and respected.
- His father was identified as AElfrice, earl of Mercia and brother of Eadric Streona, although Ann Williams raised doubt here and suggested he was more likely a nephew or great nephew of Eadric Streona. Perhaps further research can reveal more information here. But either way, his family line in Mercia is revealed.
- Eadric the Wild ‘opposed the landing of William the conqueror’ – this helps us pinpoint the various times when William attacked England and fought with the Welsh against William – 1067 and 1069.
- Eadric the Wild was defeated William’s forces and was ‘reconciled’ with William, which was often the case as various English armies were defeated and then became followers.
- Eadric the Wild ‘was employed in the service of the Conqueror’ in the attacks on Scotland in 1072. This suggests he had some useful, perhaps visible role, that might have been noted in the Domesday Book or other records of the time perhaps as part of the Conqueror’s army. He does not appear in the records after that time except in the comments of Throsby and Nichols, suggesting he had permission from the Conqueror to retire ‘to Leicestershire.’
- However, Eadric the Wild had many possessions in the north of Herefordshire, Shropshire, and Worcestershire prior to the Conquest and retained a few in Shropshire after the Conquest to which he may well have returned after service to the king.

- According to Throsby and Nichols, **Eric the Forester** ‘retired (as a veteran) to Leicestershire in his old age’ – this suggests he had some tie to Leicestershire. Maybe Eadric the Wild also had some land there, or perhaps he received some sort of grant or reward from the Conqueror for his service. No records have been found to substantiate this claim. The Domesday records for Leicestershire and the Leicestershire Survey of 1130 must be explored. Another source, *Domesday People: A Prosopography of Persons Occurring in English Documents 1066-1166* by Katharine Rohan and Stephanie Benedicta Keats in 1957 is worth a review.
- A review of the Shropshire Domesday Book offers 167 references to Eadric the Wild in Shropshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire indicating ownership or control over various manors and land tracts (hides). No land is registered for Eadric the Wild in Leicestershire.

In the Domesday Book

The Domesday Book was actually several books commissioned by King William to survey the population, land holdings and their value as a way to determine his tax scheme and policies to control his new found territories.

Professor Turi King (who led the DNA study that identified Herrick as a single source family with Viking roots) said in a note to Curt Herrick (10-11-06) when we asked about Erick the forester. “OK, got dictionaries next to me. Reaney says Herrick first recorded as Eric, Eric, Erich in 1066 Domesday Book... From Old Norse Eirikr, Old Danish, Old Swedish, Erik.”

After exploring the Eric’s listed in the Domesday Book, none were found in Leicestershire, only Erick, the brother of Tostig (a major Viking leader in Northumbria), in Lincolnshire and Huntingdonshire as well as Eric’s listed in Great Grimsby (Lincolnshire), Thistleton (Rutland), and Catworth (Cambridgeshire).

Key Questions to Research Next

1. **Is this Eadric the Wild the same person as Eric the Forester mentioned by Throsby and Nichols?** Most likely yes, but we should double check their comments. Perhaps Throsby and Nichols simply translated the name ‘silvaticus’ from Latin differently (‘forester’ instead of ‘wild’) and/or had other information that led them to connect Eadric the Wild to Leicestershire. Or, perhaps, they were simply providing some flourish and validation to William Heyricke’s claim of the family ancestor.
2. **Since Eadric the Wild is from western Mercia, and the family line is well documented, can we determine whether his roots are Viking or Anglo-Saxon?** We know his grandfather (or granduncle) was Eadric Streona (earl of Mercia and a very famous person in English history who was executed by King Cnut on 12/25/1017). Eadric Streona’s father was Aethelric (an advisor or clerk in the court of King Ethelred the Redeless/Unready. Eadric Streona married Eadgyth, a daughter of the king, and also had six brothers. No mention is made that the family’s roots were other than Saxon because of their personal names and the properties they held in Shropshire, Herefordshire and Worcester. Eadric the Wild held quite a bit of land in Shropshire, Herefordshire and Worcester. Even after being forced to give up land to the Norman conquerors, he still held 3 holds in Shropshire and 2 in Herefordshire to which he could return after his service to King William after 1072.

It is possible that the family does have Viking roots since Viking raiders began settling in various parts of England as soon as 877 after the Great Army divided with part remaining in Mercia (Midlands). Those with king Guthrum headed north to Gloucestershire for further raiding. Others, following kings Oskytel and Amund, remained in eastern Mercia (the eastern Midlands) to settle down, primarily the boroughs of Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire, and some in Derbyshire and Stamford. A later Archbishop of Dorchester named Oscetel (d. 971) claimed to be a direct descendant of a key Viking warlord along with his cousin Oswald, Bishop of Worcester and Thurcytel, the Abbot of Bedford Abbey.

The areas in the western Midlands – Staffordshire, Shropshire, Warwickshire, Cheshire) were left under

control of the Saxon king (Ceolwulf) often called a puppet to the Viking rulers. These distinct holdings became the border of Danelaw and Saxon England. It is possible that Vikings settled in the western Midlands (becoming the Viking ancestors to Eadric Streona's family line), but I have found no mention of that in my research. There were, however, Viking sounding noblemen in Shropshire and Hereford such as Swein and Thorkell who were contemporaries to Eadric the Wild. More research can be done here to see if Eadric Streona's family had Viking ancestors.

3. **The Weld and the Savage families have named Eadric the Wild as their ancestor. Does their DNA match ours? If their DNA is Viking, does it match the Herrick DNA? Can this family line be traced back to when they arrived in England and under what circumstances?**
4. **What more can be found out about Eadric the Wild in other records to establish a link in Leicestershire?** Some records to search the Domesday books in Leicestershire, the Leicestershire Survey of 1130 and other records, Katherine Rohan's book, etc.
5. **If Eadric the Wild is not of Viking heritage, and did not end up in Leicestershire, where did he end up – on his Shropshire, Herefordshire, or Worcestershire properties?**
6. **If Eadric the Wild is not our ancestor, is there another person who shares a similar story that he might have been confused with?**
7. **What more can be learned about the Eric/Eiric/Erich folks listed in the Leicestershire Domesday book who appear to be the brother of Tostig?**
8. **Is there information about the lives and descendants of the two Viking kings Oskytel (Oscetel) and Amund (Awend) who settled in eastern Mercia (Lincolnshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, etc. in 877)? Can we connect the Archbishop Oscytel and Thurcytel (956) to the early Viking leaders Oskytel and Awend who settled in Leicestershire? Can we follow their descendants?**

Progress, But More to Do

A lot of information has been found... but as usual, it simply leaves us with more questions. My hunch at the moment is that **Eadric the Wild** may well not be a Herrick ancestor. It is possible that he was an ancestor of the Bond family or other family lines connected to the Herrick through marriage. It is possible that there was also a person named Eric the Forester, descendant of the Vikings who settled in the eastern Midlands.

The following resources include a timeline to: a) outline the Viking activity in England, b) connect Eadric Streona (d. 1017) to Eadric the Wild who was alive during William the Conqueror's reign (1066 – 1085) in England and provide more information about Eadric the Wild, c) summarize King William's reign and d) identify possible Viking ancestors who settled in the Leicestershire area. Some references are listed and various books to help with further research.

Interested? Want to help? Let me know at reyno23@aol.com!

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Heyricke Papers (Part 2)

By Irene Turlington



The exchange of gifts will be explored in this edition, using extracts from the family letters written by members of the Heyricke family in the 16th and 17th centuries. Their kind hearted ways and quaint ideas are reflected in their letters exchanged between the close members of their family.

In 1578, Mary Erycke writes from Leicester to her son William:

“Furthermore I have sent you a pair of knit hose, and a pair of knit Jersey gloves. I would have you send me word how they serve you, for if the gloves be too little for you, you should give them to one of your brother Hawes’s children, and would send you another pair”.



In 1582, John Eyrick wrote to his second son Nicholas and his new wife: *“Your mother and I have sent your wife and youe, to make mery withal in Christmas, two sholdir of brawne and two ronds, and one rond for your brother and sister Haws, one rond for your brother Holden and his wife, and one rond to Thomas Chapman agenst the condyth in Chepe. Every body’s pesse hath their names written on them.....My wife hath sent to your sistar Mary three yards of cloth to make hir a smock. Thus I bid you harty farwell. At Leicester on Sunday morning, being the XV day of December, 1582. By your loving father to his power, John Eyrick.”*

Worsted hose were highly valued. Hosiery didn’t become the staple manufacture of the Leicester district until a century later. The cloth manufactured in this area was ‘kersey’- a type of woven woollen cloth.

Books were popular gifts including books of occasional sermons. In a letter sent by Sir William Heyricke to his brother Robert, he thanks his brother for the books sent and he adds *‘I hope the reading of them will do many good’*, from which expression it may be supposed that they were religious tracts. Also pamphlets containing news were often exchanged.

There was always an abundance of good cheer at Christmas time and it was very usual to make presents of provisions and luxuries for the table. From Leicester flicks or fitches of bacon, shields of brawn, cheeses were frequently sent to London. On one occasion a dozen field flares were sent to be distributed among friend in the city.

Gifts sent from London included a good keg of fresh sturgeon, pomegranates, and a box of marmalade and occasionally a sugar loaf. At Christmas Sir William Heyricke was always generous in despatching a large cargo of groceries and spices, always welcomed with hearty and uproarious gratitude. In 1614 Alderman Robert Heyricke wrote to his brother William about his family in respect of St. Stephen’s Day (the morrow of Christmas) to tell him that his last letter had been *‘more welcome than all the music we have had since Christmas, and yet we have had a pretty store both of our own and other, and the same day we were busy with holding hands and spoons to you, out of porridge and pyes, in the remembrance of your great liberality of fruit and spice, which God send you long life to continue for of that day we have not missed any St. Stephen Days this forty seven year to have as many guests as my house would hold, I think God for it’.*

The old custom of holding up hands and spoons at Christmas is mentioned again in 1616 on St. Stephen's Day, *'This day I have had thirty or near at dinner and with wine and sugar, and hands held up so high as we could, we remembered Wood Street, and though we can do no more, yet in our prayers, in our spoons, and in our cups, we do not forget you when time serves.'*

Alderman Robert Heyrick, always writes to his brother Sir William with great affection, combined with the respect he had for him as one who had become a London citizen, a knight and a courtier, but at the same time he discusses every subject as it arises with freedom and familiarity, as though (he writes on one occasion) *'I was walking with you at Beaumanor'* or (at another time) *'as though I was walking with you in Paul's, a turn and a turn'*.

Robert Heyricke's letters provide us with an interesting series of domestic correspondence, hard to find in any print or manuscript. His letters to Sir William continued until within a year his death in 1618, at the age of 78. His monumental stone remains in St. Martin's and can be found in St. Katharine's Chapel. The inscription on this memorial stone has completely worn away and there is a restored memorial just inside the entrance to the chapel dated 1889. Robert Heyricke's portrait can be found in the Mayors Parlour in the Guildhall, as well as a portrait of Sir William Heyrick.

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Message from the Editor:

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I would like to thank our members, Dale E. Yoe, HFA #62, Alice Herrick Reynolds HFA #03, Dan Whitcomb, and Irene Turlington, HFA Honorary Member, for contributing to this newsletter.

I'd like to remind everyone that I'm happy to accept articles and stories for the next newsletter at any time.

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