A HISTORY OF THE TIDWELL FAMILY

By

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Foreword

Part of the fascination involved in writing a family history is common to any research problem or to any detective problem. It is the thrill of testing hunches and deductions against reality and finding that they are right. Many hunches are wrong, but no number of failures can erase the joy of one successful course of investigation. The fact that research into family history involves human beings heightens the fascination. There is a constant urge to find out what kind of people they were, what their problems were, and how they were affected by the great events of history. Added to all of these things is the opportunity that frequently arises in the study of one's own family to discover explanations for things that have happened to us. It gives the scholar an emotional interest in his work that is usually absent even in the most intriguing academic research.

I began to study the Tidwell family with a limited amount of information. I knew my father and grandfather and knew that the latter moved to Texas from Dickson County, Tennessee about 1886. I knew that his father's name was Hansel Tidwell. I also knew that there was a post office in Virginia known as Tidwells. Those were the only facts that I possessed.

In addition, however, I had several family traditions passed on by

my grandparents. According to their stories, the family name had at one time in the distant past been pronounced Tidewell. There were also supposed to have been two branches of the family descended from brothers, one branch known as the red Tidwells and the other as the black Tidwells because of ruddy or sallow complexions inherited by each branch from its respective founder. I was supposed to belong to the red Tidwells and judging from the complexions of my Tidwell relatives I could well believe it. The "black" Tidwells were supposed to live in Georgia and Alabama. My grandfather also said that he had been told that the Tidwells came from Wales. This I found hard to believe, and fairly early in my work I proved that it was not likely true. I was amused to find later, however, that there were Tidwells living in Wales, Tennessee.

I looked up a few references to the Tidwell family in published genealogies and found all of them rather vague as to actual family history, although most of them agreed on Virginia as the point of origin of the family in America. Late in 1945, I drove down from Washington to Westmoreland County, Virginia and visited Tidwells, a small settlement on the Machodoc river just off the Potomac. Nobody there seemed to know anything about the family. I then stopped at the Court House at Montross and made my first real discovery. I found a deed, dated 1663, made out to Richard Tidwell. This put the family in Virginia nearly 40 years earlier than any published reference I had seen and gave me a point of contact on which to work. Above all, however, it showed me the unreliability of the published material and gave me a determination to gather first-hand evidence myself rather than to depend on the questionable work of others

During the next months, I returned several times to Montross and also spent considerably time in the Genealogy and Local History room at the Library of Congress. There I found the US Census of 1790 which listed a number of Tidwells in South Carolina, a few in North Caroline, but none in Virginia.

In 1946 I was mustered out of the Army and went home to Indiana by way of South Carolina and Tennessee. I found that the records of Moore County, North Carolina, where the census had shown a few Tidwells had been burned. At Chester and Winnsboro, South Carolina, I had better luck, finding several wills and a large number of deeds. In Dickson County Tennessee, I also had good luck finding deeds, wills, and marriage records that gave me family references from about 1812 until the period when my Grandfather went to Texas.

I spent a lot of time piecing together all the information I had gathered, but I was still in a quandry because I could find no connection between the Virginia and the South Carolina Tidwells. Finally I discovered a deed in Montross, Virginia, that referred to "Richard Tidwell of Stafford County." At the Stafford County Court House, I found a few references, but most of the Stafford records had been burned during the Civil War, and again I was at a dead end. Finally I began a systematic search of the Court Houses of all the counties of northern Virginia. I found records in Prince William, Orange, and Frederick counties and these made the link for me. They mentioned several names during the period 1740-1756 that turned up in the South Carolina records during 1763-1790. There is still something

of a gap but the records of Prince William County and several others in the vicinity are not complete, and the rest of the story may be lost.

In 1948, my father and I visited Tennessee again and looked up several cousins who put us in touch with a relative in California who owned a family Bible. This gave me dates and relationships for a number of Tidwells all the way back into the South Carolina period.

In 1951 and 1952, I found myself in England on business and found a number of wills among the records of the ecclesiastical court of Canterbury which are on file at Somerset House in London. I also found a number of published Parish records and other published material that was helpful and found references to additional wills filed with the ecclesiastical court of Lichfield. These I commissioned the Genealogical Society in London to have photostated for me. I also visited St. Peter's, the Parish Church at Alton, Staffordshire, and inspected the Parish records which go back to 1681. At Tideswell, Derbyshire, I found a local history which gave a good deal of background material although it had no direct references to the family.

Toward the end of 1952, I made another round of my Virginia sources and turned up several new and interesting records including the original accounting of the merchant's bill for goods bought by one Richard Tidwell in 1738 and 1739. In 1955, I made some similar finds in Columbia, South Carolina. In all I have turned up quite a mass of material. The Virginia State Library at Richmond has been most helpful in making photostats of many of the key records. In a way, however, the quantity of material, covering over several

hundred years, is discouraging, because there are still unanswered questions in my mind, and I have a lingering feeling that the record to answer one of them may be turned up if I try just once more.

In spite of the large amount of work that I have done myself, I am indebted to Miss Lucy Brown Beale of the Hague, Virginia, for one of the key records in the entire history. She referred me to the entry in the records of Northumberland County, Virginia, which gives the earliest date, 1657, for the Tidwell family in America.

I am also indebted to Mr. Leonardo Andrea of Columbia, South Carolina for some most useful information.

INTRODUCTION

People usually have one of two attitudes about ancestors. The first is found in the members of certain patriotic organizations, in the genealogical societies, and in the bosoms of our maiden aunts. They belong to the cult which says in effect; we can trace our ancestry to somebody who had a title, held a commission, fought in a war, or arrived someplace before anybody else, therefore, we are "better" than other people who cannot (or have not bothered to) trace their ancestry to somebody of equal significance.

This cult is frivolous and absurd. It sometimes leads its devotees into silly traps. One such well meaning lady contributed a biographical sketch of her ancestors to a local history in one of our southern states. A large part of her sketch was devoted to the praise of one particular ancestor whom she felt to be particularly patriotic, and since he was one of the earliest settlers in the county he was doubly noble in her eyes. In another section of the same local history one of the original settlers contributed his recollections of the early days. He spent a large part of his contribution talking about the lady's "patriotic" ancestor in his role as the county bully! Both attributes may have been true, but the latter is certainly a more familiar quality than the lady's somewhat artificial "patriotism."

The cult also has other difficulties. For example, the average person today is descended from 64 people who were alive at the time of the American Revolution. Among those 64 there was, in all probability, quite a range in IQ, social status, education, character, and personality. It is hard to believe that anybody could not find one "distinguished" ancestor out of 64

chances. To carry this same line of reasoning a bit farther we find that, in theory at least, anybody with British ancestors is descended from everybody who lived on the island of Briain between 20 and 21 generations ago. In other words, you might trace your ancestry back to William the Conqueror, but there is also an equal chance for you to be descended from everybody else, Saxon, Norman, Welsh, and Scot, who was alive at the time of the Battle of Hastings. This theoretical chance probably doesn't happen very often because it would mean that our intermediate ancestors would have had to move around a lot to avoid crossing lines of inheritance. The chances are actually strongly in favor of considerable intermarriage among people from the same locality, or from the same cultural groups, but the mathematics at least demonstrates the absurdity of the ancestor cult.

As frivolous as the cult may be, however, it at least recognizes in a distorted way that there is a relationship between what we are today and what our parents, grandparents, etc., were before us. This relationship, if properly understood, might be useful to us in understanding our own mores and standards of value. It might also, like any study of history, help us to apply lessons of the past to the decisions we will have to make in the future. This is the point that the people miss who have the anti-ancestor attitude. This second group, smarting against the snobishness of the ancestor cult, says in effect--"everybody has ancestors, but who cares? We are what we are and we are as good as anybody else." Such an attitude is much more useful for ordinary living than that of the cultists. It avoids wasting time and money in non-productive effort, but it has other faults.

The anti-ancestor attitude is, in a sense, an anti-intellectual attitude. It is a deliberate denial of curiosity about the most fascinating subject in the world, the human race. It refuses to recognize that there may be significance to the questions, "Where did we come from?" and "Why are we like we are?" It denies that the present and the future can be judged better if put into context with the entire flow of human growth and development.

In spite of the mathematical absurdity of ancestor hunting, there is a definite point to the study of family history. It provides a microcosm in which to study the events that swept across the broad stage of history. It provides concrete detail and evidence to support the generalizations that historians must sometimes make to reduce the past to comprehensible form. Above all, however, it demonstrates the strength and stability of certain individual and group characteristics in the face of tremendous population growth, change of locality, and technological progress. It demonstrates the continuity of human development in a way that no other method can.

A Family history can accomplish these things in spite of the mathematical odds because the family name, handed down through the male line usually carries with it property, customs and traditions that influence the education, values, and occupation of each succeeding generation.

The family is a useful device through which to study human development because it is the basic unit of society. It is the organization to which a person belongs that usually has the strongest and longest emotional influence upon him. A man may belong to a family, a local club, a church, a military unit, a lodge, a corporation, a county, a state, and a country, but he is born

first into the family, is taught basic attitudes by it, grows up in it, associates with its other members off and on all through life, and judges his own acts and the acts of others in terms of his own experiences and recollections, a large share of which came from within the family. He may deliberately react against the customs and ideals of his family, but usually he is influenced by them in a positive way both consciously and unconsciously.

The family is also probably a far stronger institution than we realize. Most of us usually think of a family in terms of the three or four generations that we know personally. In such a short range view there seems to be little continutiy and strength to the institution. We are far more conscious of the changes in detail that marriage, birth, death, and changing times bring with them. Actually we see only one small part of a cultural continuum that influences equally ourselves and many other people who are unknown to us. We do not know all of our living cousins, but we and they, at some point not too far in the past, had ancestors, born of the same parents, who lived together, shared experiences, and learned the family customs which they in turn passed on to their children.

Population has increased so rapidly throughout the world in recent centuries that we are over-awed by the very mass of humanity. We see the United States with over 160 million people, Britain with over 50 million, Canada with over 10 million and Australia with nearly 10 million. We forget that only a few generations ago, about the year 1500, the Island of Britain held only about 3 million people from whom the great majority of Americans, Canadians, and Australians were descended, at least in part. Among 3 million

people, there would probably havebeen not more than 600,000 single family units. Many of these families would have been closely related--parts of a parent family.

If one pushes the same reasoning a bit further back to 1086, the time of the compilation of the Domesday Book, and only twenty years after the last invasion of Britain, one could reduce the number of families to about 300,000. Since we are limited to written records for our information about families it would be hard to gather the evidence to compile a history for each one of the 300,000 families, but again the mathematics serves to demonstrate that a few family histories would illustrate a great deal about what has happened to a large and influential segment of the human race. We are much closer to the past than we realize and its influence is always with us.

In fact, we are so close to the past that is startling. It suggests that mankind has only recently begun to inherit the earth. It suggests that we have not yet finished a definite phase in our history that began about 6,000 years ago.

We know that man has been present on the earth a much longer period of time. We know that he inhabited caves and fought animals and the elements for several hundred thousand years. We do not know what the human population of the world was during that time, but it must have been relatively constant, numbering not more than a few hundred thousand people at any one time, and scattered into many small family and clan units living relatively isolated from each other, each tied to a small area of the earth's surface because

of the limited mobility of a family travelling on its feet. The rate of natural increase must have been very low. A poor diet might cause a low fertility rate, and the ignorance of sanitation and the dangers of the forest would certainly cause a high death rate.

Perhaps we may never know exactly what caused the change, but suddenly the human race exploded. The explosion has gone on about 6,000 years already and it is not over yet. The word "explosion" may seem strange when applied to this time span, but it is appropriate because what has happened has happened suddenly when compared with the long existence of the human race, and the results have been drastic. In that relatively short time the human race has acquired mobility, learned to read and write, learned to manipulate its environment, and above all has learned how to cut down its death rate. The combination of these things has caused the human race to change from a scattered band of two-legged animals, a minority among animals who fought for survival, into the dominant living organism on the face of the earth. We have now approached the point where we can see an end to the establishment of new human settlements throughout the world.

There is still room for many more people, and we can doubtless learn how to make the world support many more, but at least we can see that within a few decades or a few centuries we will have reached the end of the phase of human conquest of the earth that began 6,000 years ago. What will happen when the new phase begins no one cay say, but we should recognize that it will be a new era with new problems that we must face.

Tideswell

It is hard to put the course of man's history into perspective. We know very little about the course of human life up until the explosion began. Fortunately, however, Man learned to write within two or three thousand years after the explosion began and we have some written records of his history covering the most recent two-thirds of this rapid development.

As time went by more and more people learned to write, more and more records were kept, and through research we can learn more and more about how Man met his problems, developed ideas, and passed them on to be used by successive generations.

Unfortunately, it is hard for people to realize that there is any personal connection between themselves and the past. History involves dead people, and it is difficult to make them come alive in our minds and put them into the context in which they lived. If we only realized how much we were still influenced by the things that our ancestors did and how like them we are, we would be able to see increased significance in their history. It is possible, however, to put history into a more personal perspective by studying in detail the history of one family.

If we were to assume that the average generation is thirty years we would find that we are only about two hundred-odd generations away from the beginning of the great explosion. If we knew what had happened to two hundred men, one after another, we would have a much clearer idea of the history of the entire race.

To show the closeness of the past, and our personal connections with it, I have chosen to tell the story of my own family. It is an American

ily in the sense that the only people who spell their family name in
at particular way seem to live in the United States. Its history must
gin, however, with the English market town of Tideswell in Derbyshire.

Tideswell is located in the "Peak" district of the Pennine range
northern Derbyshire. It is high, rugged country with grey stone
owing on all sides. The town itself is built of this stone and is
owded into a ravine that winds up among hills and high plateaus. There
e many lead mines in the vicinity and there is evidence that some
these mines were worked in pre-Roman times. Stone-age implements
d burial remains have also been found nearby. We know therefore
at the place has been the site of human habitation for over two
ousand years, and because the stone-age implements are difficult to
te, people may have lived there even before the beginning of the
eat human explosion. We do not know whether habitation was continuous
fore the opening of the lead mines, but it is reasonably certain that
has been since that time.

The Romans began their conquest of Britain in 43 AD, but it was
t until after the great uprising of The British Queen Boudicea in the
ar 61 that the Legions pushed north to and past Tideswell. To the
uth of the region lived the Celtic tribe known to the Romans as the
rnovii. To the north lived the Brigantes who held out against the
mans for several years.

A pig of lead, mined under Roman rule and bearing the mark of the
peror Hadrian (117-138 AD) has been found in the region. There is

Roman soldiers and administrators coming to Britain, living in dominance and isolation, and then retiring to Rome when their tour had finished. Instead they came to Britain, intermarried, taught their language and their customs to the people with whom they came in contact and became part of the permanent population to the colony.

We do not know how many people there were in Tideswell at this time. Various scholars have estimated the entire population of Britain in Roman times at someplace between four and five hundred thousand people. When the famous Domesday Book was compiled for the Normans in 1086 Tideswell had about 150 people while Britain held about a million and a half. This suggests that if a settlement actually occupied the site of Tideswell in Roman times, its population might have been about 50. Such a figure in turn suggests that about ten families made up the population. This is a small number of families to provide miners for the lead mines, but we do not know how actively the mines were worked. It is also possible that the mines were worked in part by slaves brought in especially for that purpose, or that some of the Miners lived in the fields where they could be near to the mines and also farm part of the time. It is certain, however, that there was no large settlement to leave archealogical traces.

In 154 AD, the Brigantes rebelled during a period in which troops were withdrawn from their region for a campaign in Scotland. The troops were brought back and the rebellion put down. To protect the area of the lead mines from a recurrence a fort was built about 158 AD about five

miles north of Tideswell at what is now Brough, Derbyshire. The Romans called the fort, Anavio, and it was connected with Buxton by a military road that led within two and one half miles of Tideswell. Traces of this road remain to this day.

In spite of the interest in the area demonstrated by the Romans, Tideswell never became a major commercial center. In fact the Romans do not appear to have followed up their initial interest. Britain was involved in a series of rebellions by ambitious Generals who sought to use it as a base from which to establish themselves as Emperor of the Roman Empire. In addition, about 287, the Saxons* began to raid the coast of Britain. Although some military measures against them were undertaken, the internal troubles of the Empire weakened their effectiveness and in 367 a combined attack by Picts, Scots, and Saxons broke through Hadrian's wall and other organized defenses and flooded the country with raiding bands of barbarians. Only the walled towns s vived this attack. The raiders were eventually driven off, but permanent damage had been done to the most heavily Romanized segment of the Romano-Celtic population. There is no way to judge the effect of this episode on Tideswell, but in all probability it marked the end of any substantial Roman or Romano-Celtic impact on the culture and heritage of the community.

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* The term "Saxon" is used as a general term for the related tribes of Angles, Saxons, and Jutes who attacked and settled England at the end of the Roman period.

The Roman period at Tideswell covered a period of ten generations. It would have carried us from number 63 to number 53 on our generation time-scale. It is discouraging to have to tell the story of ten generations in a few paragraphs, particularly when we have no direct knowledge of the names and personalities of the people concerned. We do not know whether the town was destroyed in the raids of 367 or if there were actually people living there then who continued to live there afterwards and whose descendants escaped the misfortunes of war to mingle with the Saxon invaders who later settled in the region. We can only establish definite continuity of settlement from the Saxon period to the present. We do know, however, that Romano-Celtic elements elsewhere in the northern part of Britain did escape these raids, and we can assume from this that the same thing may have happened at Tideswell.

Roman rule continued for some years after 367 in an ever shrinking area to the south and east, but in all probability contact between the Roman Empire and the Romano-Celts in Britain was definitely broken about the year 410. Also about this time came a change in the tactics of the Saxon invaders. Whereas formerly they came to raid and plunder, they now began to come to settle down.

There was a Christian Church in Roman Britain, but the Saxons were heathen, and as they settled the east and south they pushed the Church north and west. Eventually the Saxons occupied all of Britain except Cornwall, Wales, northern Scotland and a few scattered areas where the

original inhabitants predominated. Many of the British remained in the Saxon area, but the Christian element was destroyed. The Saxons finally reached the Western coast of Britain near the mouth of the Severn in 577 and near the mouth of the Mersey in 613. This gradual move inland from the east coast meant that about 150 years elapsed between the time when the Romano-Celts around Tideswell lost contact with the Roman Empire and the time when they were finally conquered by the Saxons.

Although in our generation time-scale the 53d generation back would have seen the great raid of 367 and the 51st would have seen the beginning of the heathen Saxon era in England the 45th generation would have seen the beginning of the re-establishment of Christianity. In the year 597, St. Augustine landed in Kent to begin the conversion of the Saxons. Caught between the Celtic Christians in the north and west and the new Christian wave from Rome, the Saxons did not offer too much opposition to conversion. Furthermore, they had now become farmers instead of seafaring raiders and had passed nearly two hundred years, or over six generations, subjected to the cultural influences of the Romano-Celts whom they had conquored and with whom they had intermarried.

During medieval times and up into the seventeenth century, Tideswell was known as Tydeswall, Tideswall, or some similar spelling retaining the a as the third vowel. According to a local history of Tideswell, a Saxon chieftan named Tidi lived in the vicinity about 700 AD and built a burial mound, surrounded by a wall, on top of one of the neighboring hills. According to this history, the town derived its name

from "Tidi's-wall" around the burial mound.

I have been unable to find the original source for this story. "Tidi" is an acceptable Saxon name, however. Furthermore, the hill on which the burial mound is located is known as Tideslow Top and one meaning of the work low is derived from the Old English hlaw or hlaew meaning "tumulus" or "burial mound." Tideslow then would mean "Tidi's burial mound."

Derbyshire was a part of the Saxon kingdom of Mercia-originally a "march" between the Saxons and Celts-formed by Saxon bands migrating from the east coast into the interior. King Penda of Mercia (626-655) engaged in a struggle with the Christian King Edwin of Northumberland. A series of battles were fought between 633 and 659 with the Mercians finally victorious.

The King of Mercia accepted christianity in 659 and it is probable that his subjects were converted rapidly thereafter.

Tidi, the Saxon Chieftain, may have been killed in the wars with Northumberland, and since he was probably still a pagan, burial in the pagan tradition would have been in order. The countr. for miles around Tideswell is full of Saxon burial mounds dating from the pagan era and similar in form to that on Tideslow Top.

It is probable that the derivation of "Tideswall" is somewhat more complex than the version given in the local history. The Saxon word "wael" meaning "corpse" or "one slain in battle" was a very common word in such poems as Beowulf, used either by itself or in combination with other words. In the Mercian dialect, ae or æ, pronounced as the a

in "last", began in the 8th or 9th century to change to e as in "bed" although the spelling usually remained unchanged. If the name of the town had originally been "Tidi's wael," meaning Tidi's corpse, or "the place where Tidi was killed in battle," it would have been normal for this pronunciation to shift toward "Tidi's well" even though it might be spelled as "Tidis wall."*

By the seventeenth century, however, the derivation of the word was so well lost and the pronunciation as Tideswell had become as well fixed that the spelling was changed to conform to the sound and the legend arose that the name was derived from a "Tiding" well--that is, a well whose level rose and fell.

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* One additional factor may lend support to this interpretation of the origin of the name of Tideswell. Modern english place names ending in "well" or "wall" tend to be grouped in East Anglia, in Kent and the counties along the Thames, along the line of the Trent and Mersery (which would include Tideswall), and near the mouth of the Severn. These are localities where one would have expected fighting between the Saxon invaders and the inhabitants, or later between the Saxons and the Welsh as the Saxons pushed them Westward. There are few exceptions to this regional grouping of place-names, but at least one of the exceptions, Kings Cerswell, in Devon might well fit the interpretation. It could have been "Kings-Carls-wael" or "The place where the King's Carls* were slain." It lies near the coast of Devon and may represent some forgotten battle between the Saxons and Celts as the former began their push into Devon.

The suffixes "well" and "wall" are quite common among local place names in the region around Tideswell. They may be the result of rivalry over possession of the lead mines or from other clashes between Saxon and Celt or Saxon and Saxon.

* Carl= follower, body guard.

The derivation of the name Tideswell suggests several things about the community. For one thing, it suggests that no matter what Romano-Celtic influence there may have been, the Saxon culture was now predominant. It also suggests that the people of the community were either still heathen or had so recently left that status that they still buried their chieftains in the characteristic burial mounds. It also suggests that this Saxon culture was never completely over-shadowed in the subsequent Danish invasions.

For this early period it is difficult to tell the approximate population of Tideswell. As discussed earlier, the Romano-Celtic population of Tideswell was probably on the order of 50 people or about ten families. By 1086 it had risen to about thirty families. There is no way that we can tell how many of the Romano-Celts survived to intermarry with the Saxons. We can assume from the predominance of the Saxon culture that Saxons moving into the area outnumbered the Romano-Celts. In a community that small, however, a few generations would bring about such intermarriage that it is probable that all the inhabitants of the village had both Romano-Celtic and Saxon blood by the year 700.

By the year 700, or the 42nd generation, the population may have numbered about 100, or about twenty families. Those twenty families probably constituted the basic stock from which all later natives of Tideswell were descended.

Although the Saxons, particularly those in Northumbria, had conducted trade with the Scandinavian and Baltic regions for some time, the Danes in 793 began to repeat the pattern of the Saxon raids against England. At first they were merely raids for booty, and a long period of time elasped between the first series of raids and the later serious invasion. For a short time in the early 800's all of England was united under one of the Saxon Kings of Wessex, but this unity did not hold up when the Danes renewed their attacks. They began to settle the east coast of England, and by the end of the century when Alfred the Great finally made an uneasy peace with them, they owned nearly all of the northern and eastern half of England.

The Danes, as well as the Romans and the Saxons before them were attracted by the lead mines around Tideswell, and although Tideswell lay just at the edge of the Danelaw, the Danes were strongly established at Derby and pushed forward to be sure of access to the mines. They reached the River Trent in 874. As mentioned earlier, however, they apparently did not displace the Saxon culture of Tideswell. This suggests that they did not colonize or intermarry with the inhabitants of Tideswell to any great extent. Possibly they were too near the border of Saxon territory, or their period of predominance was too short.

Although wars between Danes and Saxons continued for some years, the Danes were soon Christianized and England was united. The Danes do not appear to have been sufficiently numerous to displace the Saxon or Old English language in the areas they occupied. They did leave many words

in the language and many place-names, but the main effect seems to have been a dropping of word endings and a simplification of the language; a common result where two similar languages such as Danish and Old English come in close contact.

In 1066, during the 30th generation back, an army of about 12,000 Normans conquored England, a nation of nearly one and a half million people. The proportion of numbers is misleading, however, because the English had never managed to establish a strong central government or an integrated system of administration and defense. They had been united under both Danish and Saxon Kings, but there was little sense of belonging to a single nation. The Normans on the other hand were people of primarily Danish descent who had settled on the Normandy peninsula in France and had absorbed much of France's latin culture, much as the Danes who settled in England had absorbed much of the Christian Saxon culture. Having learned indirectly some of the Roman skill at organization and administration, the Normans were able to take over the country, largely by administrative techniques, once the Saxon army under Harold had been defeated.

It took several years to establish complete Norman control, but there was no serious competition from the native English. William the Conqueror established his Knights in powerful military and administrative centers throughout the country and started the train of events that was to develop both the English Feudal system and the English Common Law. It is indicative of the Norman approach to administration that once he was

firmly in control William ordered the compilation of a record of the lands contained in his new kingdom. This record, known as the Domesday Book, was completed in 1086, the year before his death. It served to indicate the ownership of property and the taxes due from the property. As such it must have served as a basic and indispensable handbook for the new administrators of England.

According to the Domesday Book, the Manor of Hope in Derbyshire, include the villages of Edall, Stoke, Aston, Tideswell, and Offerton. Tideswell contained 36 men, a Priest and a Church, a mill, and thirty acres of meadow. The Manor of Hope was given to William Peverell, an illegitimate son of William the Conqueror. According to the Domesday Book, Peverell was required to pay annual fees of lead, honey, and a specified sum of money. One or more of the 36 men mentioned in the Book may have belonged to the 29th generation back in the Tidwell family. They probably helped to mine the lead or collect the honey, or they may have tended the animals in the meadow. In time of war, they were probably required to render service as men-at-arms.

The Manor of Hope offers a striking comparison between Roman and Norman administration and shows something of the relationship between them. Hope, itself, is located near the site of the old Roman fort of Anavio. Edall, Aston, Offerton, and Stoke lie in a semi-circle, in that order, stretching from north-west to south-east of Hope. They, plus Hope, lie in the Hope and Derwent vallies. To the south, the Wye river runs down from Buxton (the Roman Aquae) to the Derwent. The ground

surrounded on three sides by the Hope, Derwent, and Wye forms a high plateau which drops off steeply to form the river vallies. The walls of this plateau are cut by a number of deep ravines which run from the plateau top down to the rivers. These ravines form natural paths from the high ground to the vallies. Tideswell is located in one of these ravines that runs down into the Wye. It also lies near the center about which the other villages of the Manor form a semi-circle. In addition, the head of the ravine strikes the high ground near the Roman road that ran from Aquae to Anavio.

The Roman Roads were the only paved roads built in England before the eighteenth century. Many traces of them remain and some patches of the stone surfaces are in reasonably good repair even today. At the time of the Norman conquest they were the best means of communication in existence. Although Aquae was never a big town, it was one of the larger Roman communities north of the main area of Roman culture. It was a crossing place for main military roads, one leading from Chester to Doncaster and the other from Manchester to the south. Anavio lay ten miles to the north-east of Aquae. It was one of the southern most forts built to police and protect the wild and unsettled northern half of England. It was located in such a way that it could protect both Aquae and the lead mines which were dotted about on the high ground between the Hope, Derwent, and Wye rivers. The road from Aquae to Anavio would also have served as a route by which the lead could have been shipped out of the area. Because of the road, the river

vallies and the course of the ravines, Anavio must have been a logical administrative center for the lead mining area.

In a sense Tideswell is the back door to this area. It is a logical exit from the high ground to the Wye valley. It rounds out the lead-mining area that had looked to Anavio for protection in Roman times in much the same way that it had to look to Hope for protection in Norman times. This organization of man's habitation dictated by the terrain, appears to have been found practical over a long period of time. The Saxons appear to have called Anavio, "Brough", which meant "wall" or "enclosure". The remains of the Roman Fort may, therefore, have served the Saxons for a time in the same capacity. There does not seem to have been the formal organization of the area under the Saxons, however, such as that created by the Normans.

If there were 36 men in Tideswell in 1086, as noted by the Domesday Book, there must have been something over 150 people in the village counting both adults and children. Although no buildings from that era survive, stone was plentiful, and it is probable that many of the houses were built with it. In spite of its small size and its remoteness from the main centers of power in England, Tideswell assumed an importance during the medieval period out of proportion to its proper position.

William Peverell, grandson of the original Norman owner, poisoned Ranulph, Earl of Chester, and sought refuge in Lenton Priory. On his death he bequethed to the Priory two thirds of his tithe in the Manor of Hope. At the same time, King Henry II reclaimed the estates of the

Peverells for the Crown. Later King John gave the tithe rights to the Dean and Chapter of Litchfield. Litchfield was the location of the main ecclesiastical court in the north of England and carried a great deal of weight in Church affairs. A rivalry developed, therefore between Litchfield and the Lenton Priory with each party trying to establish its right to collect the tithes. Since the tithe was probably paid in large part in lead, the tithe of the Manor of Hope was well worth controlling.

Lead was an extremely important building material in medieval times. It was used in church roofs and in making the lead and glass windows used in the churches and great houses until comparatively recent times.

In 1207, King John gave Tideswell itself which now appears to have been split off from Hope, to a man variously called Thomas Armiger or Thomas Lameley. This is typical of some of the confusion that existed at this time over family names. Although some of the upper classes, such as the Peverells, had firmly established family names at the time of the Domesday Book, the great majority of people, particularly those of Saxon ancestry, followed a much more informal and diverse system of appelation. As long as names were used orally they tended to depend on the personal attributes or life history of the person rather than on his family origin. Only when names were written down in records which were referred to in the conduct of business did the family names finally begin to take on their modern fixed character. Even then there was no

...as we will see later, this lack of uniformity caused further changes in family names.

Since the records of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries were kept in Latin, there was a tendency for the half educated to mis-read the record and further confuse the name situation. In the case of Thomas Lameley, the clerk who wrote the records at some point, probably wrote his name as "Thomas Lameley, Armiger" or simply "Thomas, Armiger", meaning "Thomas, a military man" or gentleman man-at-arms. "Armiger" was frequently used to denote an un-knighted gentleman who carried arms. Lameley may have been Thomas's family name, but his profession seems to have brought a change at this point and he appears to have become Thomas Armiger instead.

King John granted Tideswell to Armiger at the nominal rent of ...ty shillings a year. It is interesting to speculate that King John ... favoring a man who might support him in his struggles with the ...ons; struggles which later culminated in the signing of the Magna ...ta in 1215. At this time Tideswell must have contained between two and ...ee hundred people, or forty to sixty men capable of bearing arms.

Tideswells of Derbyshire

The first record of a family that derived its name from the town Tideswell is found in the Pipe Roll No. 53, for the 9th year of the ...gn of King John (1208). In a long list of fines assessed for some ...ated reason against people of Derbyshire appear the following names;

> "Richard de Benetley ½M., Peter de Briminton ½M., Oliver fil. Nigel, Waremus de Tideswell* 1, Tom Foljambe 1, ..."

* ...should be kept in mind that the name was usually spelled Tiddeswall ... the 17th century. Spelling of the name in Medieval records has been ...ized

Thus it appears that a man named Warren of Tideswell was fined the sum of one Mark in the year 1208.*

This fine, however, does not seem to suggest that Warren of Tideswell was in unusual difficulties, for two years later he and Tom Foljambe were both appointed to a jury who inspected a piece of property involved in a legal dispute. There is also a record that he held two bovates of land in Tideswell and two more from William Ferers, Earl of Derby. A bovate was the amount of land that an ox-gang could plow in a year and varied in size from ten to eighteen acres. Two bovates would therefore be between twenty and thirty-six acres and four bovates between forty and 72 acres. These facts suggest that Warren of Tideswell was a man of some substance in the community. This is confirmed by his association with Foljambe, for the Foljambe family was probably the most prominent family in the community for at least two centuries. It is also confirmed by the fact that he was known by the name of the town. Mr. Yeatman, author of the "Feudal History of the County of Derby" speculates that Warren of Tideswell may have been a member of the Daniel family that held the Manor of Tideswell for some time during the middle ages. In any case he appears to have been a Kinght well placed and well thought of in the community.

The struggle between Crown and Barons continued during the reign

* One mark was equal to 2/3 of a Pound Sterling, or thirteen Shillings and four Pence--a sizeable sum in the Thirteenth Century.

the community. Thomas Armiger's daughter Joan married a man named Paul of Bampton. In 1250, Henry III granted him the right for the village to hold a Market on Wednesdays and a two day's Fair at the Festival of the Decollation of St. John the Baptist. Thus Tideswell became a Market town and something of a regional center in its own right. Also in 1254, the Parish of Tideswell was separated from the Church of Hope and a Vicarage was provided. Perhaps because of the ecclesiastical rivalry for the tithes mentioned earlier, the Tideswell Church rose in importance and in the year 1300 an imposing Church was begun which later became known as "the Peak Cathederal". This building still stands and is one of the main attractions for visitors in the area.

The next record of the family concerns William of Tideswell whose name was mentioned in the Pleas of the Forest in the year 1229. In 1237, he was mentioned as William of Tideswell "who had the Honour to farm by Charter." This meant that he held property by royal Charter and not from an intermediate Lord. This same record indicates that he paid 5 Marks to the Crown and another record for 1242 shows that "Nicol of Cusincton, Wm. Germum, William of Tideswell, Pauline of Banton, Galfr of Mapelton" paid ten marks "for a transgression." There is no indication of the nature of the "transgression." The Pauline of Banton may actually have been the Paul of Bampton who married the daughter of Thomas Armiger.

Since the records of William of Tideswell follow those of Harrer of Tideswell by about a generation we can surmise that he may have been a son. After this point, the record is quite confused because of the existence of a number of different men of the same name that makes it almost impossible to sort out relationships among them. As near as it can be determined, however, on the basis of fragments, William may have had a brother, Hugh or Hugo, who was the ancestor of one branch of the family that moved to Chesterfield. William also appears to have had sons or nephews named Richard and Robert. The descendants of Richard appear to have stayed near Tideswell until late in the fourteenth century, but Robert and his sons appear to have become involved in the struggle between Simon do Montfort and Henry III in a way that caused them to leave the vicinity of Tideswell.

William Ferrers, Earl of Derby until 1254, had been a strong supporter of Henry III. Upon his death his grandson, Robert Ferrers, succeeded to the title, and when he became of age in 1260 he sided with the Barons against the King. He collected a large body of retainers around him at Duffield Castle, a few miles north of Derby and about twenty miles south of Tideswell. Duffield Castle was the largest Norman Keep in England outside of the Tower of London. Its possession gave the enemies of the King one of the strongest military positions in the Midlands. When Henry III was defeated at Lewes in 1264, the young Earl of Derby led his retainers on a great raid into the royal Peak Forest where they killed a large number of deer to feed the Earl's troops.

When the King regained his throne the following year, however, he confiscated the lands of the Earl of Derby, destroyed Duffield Castle, and gave the lands to his son Edmund who later became Earl of Lancaster. Duffield castle was so thoroughly destroyed that its ruins were discovered only by accident in 1886.

In the reign of Edward I, (1272-1307) the sons of Robert of Tideswell appeared in the vicinity of Duffield. It may well be that they moved from Tideswell because of some involvement in this role played by the Earl of Derby. In 1279, Robert's son Henry accused one Roger de Wardinton of having taken ½ Mark from him unjustly. Wardinton had been bailif for Edmund, Duke of Cornwall, brother of Henry III. The same record also indicates that Wardinton was accused of taking money from one Richard Pricket of Ashbourne, Derbyshire. Ashbourne is seven or eight miles to the west of Duffield and the Tideswell family was closely connected with the neighborhood of Ashbourne for generations thereafter. It may well be, therefore, that Henry of Tideswell was also a resident of Ashbourne by 1279. The land records of Ashbourne, compiled during the reign of Edward I refer to other members of the family. Sometime during the reign, Robert, another son of Robert of Tideswell witnessed a Grant of land and Thomas, another son, witnessed a deed. The records for Atlow, a hamlet three miles to the east, toward Duffield, show that on the first of November 1300, John Tiddeswall witnessed a deed. Another record, of uncertain date but probably during the reign of Edward II (1307-1327) refers to Robert

of Tideswell "Kniveton Leiger". This means that he owed allegience for the village of Kniveton which lay near Ashbourne and Atlow. Thus we find all three sons of Robert of Tideswell in a fairly small area between Ashbourne and Duffield in the fifty years following the final victory of Henry III over Simon de Montfort.

According to the surmized relationships, the first Robert of Tideswell would have belonged to the twenty-third generation back in the Tidwell family. Henry, Thomas, and the younger Robert would have belonged to the twenty-second. After these men there is a break in the firm family history. There are records of a number of Tideswells in Derbyshire, including another Henry of Tideswell who was prominent at the town of Tideswell during the fourteenth century. Edward II was a weak king and the country was torn with rebellion. Records during his reign must have suffered accordingly. In 1348, the Black Death struck the country, and as many as a quarter of the people may have died from the plague. A great deal of misery and disorder followed in its wake. The established social order was shaken and in the succeeding decades there was a great deal of migration and unrest. Under the circumstances there is little wonder that we have only cryptic references to most of the Tideswells during the fourteenth century. Only Henry of Tideswell seems to stand out clearly, although he does not seem to be part of the main stream of the family. He held land in the vicinity of Tideswell, and was associated with the Staffords of Eyam who held the Manor of Tideswell during this period. On the 29th

[illegible], a grant of [illegible] was made by Sir Nicholas Stafford, James Foljambe, and others for the purpose of founding a chantry at the altar of the Church of Tideswell for prayers for the souls of a number of prominent people including John Foljambe and Henry Tiddeswell.

Most of the 14th century records of the Tideswells occur early in the cnetury, and it may be that most of the family died out in the Plague and in the disorders of the century. There are no records of Tideswells in the town itself after 1392 which suggests that Henry of Tideswell may have died without leaving sons to carry on his branch of the family. There is only one other trace of the family in the latter half of the fourteenth century. In 1379, during the reign of Richard II, a heavy poll tax was instituted to support the campaign in France. The Issue Rolls of the Exchequer contain the name of Richard Tyddeswell. It is possible that he may have been a grandson of the younger Robert of Tideswell or another of Robert's generation. In any case Richard Tyddeswells may represent the element of the family that stayed in the vicinity of Ashbourne.

The Tideswells of Staffordshire

Richard II was finally deposed in 1399 and his successors prosecuted the war with France once more. Henry V reached the peak of English success at Agincourt, but after his death the French were able to reverse the trend under the inspiration of Joan of Arc. After her death in 1431, the English won no more great victories and the Hundred Years War drew to a close in 1453 with the final defeat of the English. Even

before that date, however, the disorders that were to grow into the Wars of the Roses between the houses of Lancaster and York had already begun.

Henry VI proved to be a weak king and there was great rivalry among the great nobles in their maneuvering for influence and a place in the line of succession. In their wake the lesser nobles and gentry indulged in raids, sieges, murder, and litigation for the advancement of their own schemes. Added to this generally lawless atmosphere was the pressure of population. After the Black Death of a century earlier, the shortage of labor had caused many landlords to take up sheep raising in place of agriculture. By the middle of the fifteenth century, however, the population had replaced its losses and the rural worker now found that there was no place for him to go. He had been replaced by the shepherd. In addition to the population pressure, the soldiers were beginning to return from the unsuccessful war in France, singly or in groups or in "free companies". These men were used to warfare and many were well trained to that and to little else.

Under the influence of the Duke of Suffolk, King Henry had been married to a French Princess, Margeret of Angon. This was an unpopular marriage and involved the surrender of some of the English lands in France. The marriage was opposed by the Duke of Gloucester, one of the strongest and most popular nobles in England. A parliament was assembled at Bury-St Edmunds in Suffolk and the Duke of Gloucester died while attending it in February 1447. There was great suspicion throughout the country

that he had been murdered on orders of the Duke of Suffolk or Queen Margaret.

The Plea Rolls of Henry VI give a good example of the situation in the countryside. On the Wednesday after All Hallows (1 November) in 1448, a group of about a hundred men attacked the Manor of Oker or Okover, about a mile north of Mayfield in Staffordshire and about the same distance to the northwest of Ashbourne, Derby. At least eight of the group were from Staffordshire, including Richard Tiddeswelle, yeoman,* of Mayfield. The remainder were from Ashbourne and its vicinity. They were under the leadership of William Cokeyn, gentleman, of Ashbourne. Dressed in jacks and salettes, and armed with spears, bows and arrows they stormed into the manor house and seizing the benches, trestles, and tables broke down the doors and smashed out the windows. They then piled the furniture into a great bonfire at which they roasted pieces of deer shot in the park adjoining the manor house. Philip Oker, gentleman man-at-arms, and owner of the manor was in London at the time attending Parliament in the service of Edward Grey, Lord Ferrers of Groby. There is no mention of any resistance, which suggests that Oker had left the house injudiciously unguarded or that his retainers had not seen fit to get their heads broken on his behalf.

The following spring a group of approximately the same composition

* That is, free, middle class farmer who may have rented or owned the land that he farmed.

returned to the attack, this time led by William Cokeyn and Thurstan Vernon. On the "day of the Conception of Our Lady" in 1449, they entered the park, tore down the fences and killed approximately 120 deer leaving only five alive in the park.

On the second of July 1449, the Sheriffs of Stafford and Derby were ordered by Writ to proclaim that all known members of these bands should appear in court. Their proclamations seem to have been ignored.

On the Thursday before All Hallows (1 November) 1449, a group of about forty men was assembled at Thorp in Derbyshire under the leadership of John Cokeyn, gentleman man-at-arms, of Ashbourne, and William Cokeyn, his brother. The band included Richard Tiddeswelle and a number of other men who had taken part in the raids on Okover. The reason for the assembly is not given, but for some reason they exchanged insults with a man named Adam Baxtondene from the Manor of Blore and a number of his friends. Blore is in Staffordshire just to the north and west of Okover, but because of a bend in the River Dove, Thorp lay to the north of Blore although it was on the Derby side of the river. The nature of the insults is not known, but it can be surmised that the people of Blore were friends of their neighbors at Okover and somewhat unhappy over the raids on the latter place. Whatever the insults, however, they led to blows, and the blows led to a running fight that seems to have gone heavily in favor of the band under the Cokeynes. They appear to have gone home to Ashbourne from Thorp by

way of Blore where they paused long enough to burn forty cartloads of peas, twenty cartloads of hay, and to steal two armaleses, two bows, and a thousand arrows. (The crops destroyed were valued at £ 10 and the weapons at £ 20, an interesting comentary on the relative value of agricultural produce and manufactured items). No deaths were reported from the fight but Adam Bartonedene appears to have been badly injured.

Ralph Basset, the owner of Blore, brought suit against the Cokaynes and the other members of the group. After some difficulty in assembling a jury, the case was finally tried in 1451 or 1452 and Basset was awarded damages of £ 80 and costs of £ 20. Five of the leaders of the group were convicted and the charges against the others, including Richard Tiddesvelle, were dropped.

In the meantime, Philip Oker also brought suit against the group that had attacked Okover. The defendants failed to appear in court and Oker was awarded damages and costs amounting to 400 marks. The Sheriffs of Stafford and Derby were ordered to arrest the defendants, but there is no record that this was done or that either Basset or Oker ever received the money awarded to them by the court. These court actions, however, seem to have curtailed the actions of the raiders since there is no record of any further operations of the band.

The Gray family, to whose party Philip Oker seems to have belonged, where supporters of the Lancastrian party in the early years of the Wars of the Roses. That is, they probably supported the Queen, Suffolk, and others who used the Lancastrian King Henry VI as a figurehead. On the other hand, a Sir John Cokayne of Ashbourne was killed at the battle of Shrewsbury, in 1403, fighting against the Lancastrian Henry IV grandfather of the present king. The Cokoynes and their followers might well have favored the Duke of York who was in quasi-exile in Ireland at this point, but he returned to England in August of 145_ and began a series of maneuvers that eventually resulted in open warfare between Lancastrians and Yorkists. It may be that the Cokaynes and others were never fully prosecuted because of the preoccupation of the country with York's threats and maneuvers.

Richard Tiddeswelle was probably a young man at the time of the raids. He might have been born sometime about 1415 to 1430. In such a case he might well have been a grandson of the Richard Tyddeswelle mentioned in the Issue Rolls of 1379 and a member of the 16th generation back in the Tidwell family. It is seldom that one finds such interesting background data on a yeoman of thefifteenth century.

There is no way of knowing how the Tideswell family dropped in status from Knight to Yeoman. The Cokeyn family was prominent in Ashbourne for many years before and after the event. Sir John Cokyne of Ashbourne was killed at the battle of Shrewsbury in 1403 while in

rebellion against Henry IV. If the Tideswells were customary followers of the Colyns they may have participated in this rebellion and lost property and status accordingly.

There is no further record of the Tideswell family until 1535. It is possible that Richard Tiddeswelle may have been killed in the War of the Roses and left only a young son to carry on the name. This might account in part for the absence of records. The Battle of Towton alone, in 1461, accounted for 38,000 deaths, about 5 percent or more of all the able bodied men in England at this time.

In 1535, the will of Alexander Tyddyswall, also of Mayfield, Staffordshire, was filed with the ecclesiastical court of Litchfield. This will, written shortly before the dissolution of the monestaries in the reign of Henry VIII, shows the strong influence of those religious institutions.

"In the name of god be it the year of our lord 1534 (1535 new style) the xxiii day of febrary. I Alexander Tyddyswall make this my last wyll and testament. in the manner and forms following first I bequeath my soul to almighty god and hys mother our lady Saynt Marye and all the clestyall company of heyven and my body to be buryed in the parish churchyard of Meifeld. Item I bequeath to my mortuarys as the law Wyll give Item I bequeath to Saynt Marye house of ____ ii d. to Saynt Codd house of Lychferd (Litchfield?) ii d. Item to Burton Lazarus ii d. to Saynt John Friars ii d. Item I wyll that John Gill my son in law shall have all that is his right that he can prove of

courant owed by writing or by good and lawfull record shall be fulfilled Item ____ to Robrt ____ my servant one share Item to Roger Sutton a other share Item I wyll to the said Robrt one heffer It. I wyll that after my issue be paid and my bequeaths fulfilled the residue of my goods shall remain upon Elyn my wife and Elyn my daughter....."

Since Alexander Tyddyswall mentions grown children he must have been well along in years and it is possible that he was born about 1465. He might have been a son of Richard Tiddeswelle, the yeoman raider, but it is more likely that he was a grandson and a member of the 14th generation in the Tidwell family. From the mention of property in the will he too was probably of the yeoman class and reasonably well off.

It is unfortunate that the will does not list Alexander's children by name. It mentions a daughter, Elyn, who seems to have been unmarried and living at home. The Parish records of Kingsley, Staffordshire, show that an Elina Tydswale was buried on 7 March 1594. Kingley was the home of a man who was probably a great-nephew of Elyn Tyddyswall and the burial record may indicate that she lived to an advanced age with her relatives and never married. Alexander must have had another daughter, the wife of John Gill. The will implies that there were other heirs besides the daughters mentioned. He must have had sons since the family continued in the same locality. There are records of three men who were probably sons of Alexander Tyddyswall. One of these was Richard Tidswall of Condover, Shropshire (the next county to the west) whose

will was filed at Shrewsbury on 25 January 1560. Unfortunately the will itself has not been found. The second is John Tydswell of Alton, Staffordshire (three miles to the south of Mayfield) whose will was dated 31 March 1558. This will mentions a brother, Thomas Tydswall, a cooper of Burton.* There is no way of knowing the relative ages of these three men except that since John Tydswall remained in the neighborhood, he may have retained the family property and was therefore the oldest of the three. There is no record of any more Tydswalls at Burton until much later and Thomas probably had no children. Richard seems to have been the ancestor of a small group that settled in London, Cambridge, and Norfolk in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, but this branch of the family seems to have died out by the middle of the latter century.

John Tydswall's will tells a good deal about the nature and status of the family. There follow pertinent parts with slightly modernized spelling:

"In the name of god amen the last day of March in the year of our lord god 1558, I John Tydswall of the parish of Alton sick in body and of good remembrance make to god my last will and testament in manner and form following. First I bequeath my soul to god my judge saviour and redeemer my body to be buried in the churchyard of Alton Then I give to my son John my tack** or fame during the year of my leasing half

* Burton, Derby or Burton, Norfolk?
** Tack means spot or blemish.

of all my crop of all kinds of corn now sown on the ground and all the grass and meadow all husbrandry gear and my two youngest bullocks of al l my six bullocks and the fourth of all my corn in my house and barn. 1 pot and 1 pan. 1 pair sheets 1 coverlet of Windcloth and my blessing. Also I give to William his son 1 calf and 1 sheep also I give to my son James 1 calf and 1 sheep and 1 pair of sheets 1 coverlet of windcloth besides his childs part. And the residue of all my goods not bequeathed after that my death funeral costs be discharged I give to my iii sons Thomas James and Robert equally to be divided amongst them and the other half of all my corn now growing on the ground I give to my iii said sons Thomas James and Robert ..... I order and make my true and faithful executors my son John and my brother Thomas cooper of Paxton ...."

In addition to the will there is available a copy of the inventory of the estate left by John Tydswall. It lists the following property:

Item	Value	
First one mare the pair	6 s	8 d
Item 4 oxen	4	(illegible)
Item 2 kine the pair	6 s	8 d
Item 2 yearling celves the pair	6 s	8d
Item 7 sheep	8 s	
Item 2 young swine	5 s	
Item 4 pots, 4 pans, iv other small pans of brass and viii small _____	40 s	
Item 5 windclothes, 1 blanket, 4 coverlets the pair	20 s	
Item 9 sheets the pair	10 s	
Item 1 quart of corn and more	12 s	
Item wains, plows, harrows, yokes, and beams	12 s	
Item boards, forms, stools, banks, some dishes and trenchers the pair	2 s	
Item 1 saw, 2 coopers, 1 axe, 1 bill	5 s	
Items totals	10 £ 15 s	

In comparing the inventory with the disposition of the property mentioned specifically in the Will it is easy to see that the younger John Tydswall was the chief beneficiary. He not only received his father's "tack or fame" but also a good share of the property clear of funeral costs. The social and economic status indicated by these documents seems fairly typical of the yeoman class of the period. This was the beginning of the Elizabethan era when England was beginning to do great things at home and abroad. The standing of the Yeoman class of the Elizabethan era is well described by Sir Thomas Smith in Republica Anglorum written in 1583, during the lifetime of the younger John Tydswall.

"Those whom we call yeomen next unto the nobility, knights and squires, have the greatest charge and doings in the commonwealth, or rather are more travailed to serve in it than all the rest: as shall appear hereafter. I call him a yeoman whom our laws do call legalem hominem, a word familiar in writs and inquests, which is a freeman born English, and may dispend of his own free land in yearly revenue to the sum of 40 s. sterling: this maketh (if the just value were taken now to the proportion of monies) 6 L of our current money at this present. This sort of people confess themselves to be no gentlemen, but give the honour to all which be or take upon them to be gentlemen, and yet they have a certain pre-eminence and more estimation than labourers and artificers, and commonly live wealthy, keep good houses, and do their business and travail to acquire riches. These be (for the most part) farmers unto gentlemen, which with grazing, frequenting of markets, and keeping servants not idle as the gentleman doth, but such as get both their own living and part of their master's: by these means do come to such wealth, that they are able to daily go buy the lands of unthrifty gentlemen, and after setting their sons to the school at the universities, to the law of the realm, or otherwise leaving them sufficient lands whereon they may live without labour, do make their said sons by those means gentlemen."

At some time before 1563, the younger John Tydwall moved to the vicinity of Kingsley and Ipstones, a few miles to the north-west of Alton. His wife died shortly after the move leaving him with three sons, William, Richard and Thomas to be raised with the assistance of his Aunt Elyn. John himself died in 1588 and his Aunt Elyn lived until 1594 when she must have been well past eighty. William, the eldest son lived in Middlesex for a time and married there in 1575. He apparently returned to Staffordshire soon after, where he had two daughters, Elizabeth (b 1578) and Agnes (b 1582) and a son William (b 1580) who died in infancy. William died in 1596, but his wife Margaret lived on near Kingsley until 1621.

Richard Tidswall, the second son of John Tydwall, moved to Uttoxeter, about ten miles to the south of Alton, but he and his wife Anne were both dead by 1597 and apparently left no children since Anne Tidswall's will still exists and the only Tidswall relative mentioned is Richard's brother Thomas.

There is no record of Thomas Tidswall's marriage or children, but he must have had a son or sons since the family name continued in the locality throughout the 17th century. There is a record of a William Tiddeswalle at Ipstones who would have been the proper age to be a grandson of Thomas Tidswall. William had a son named Thomas which adds to the likelihood of a family connection.

The evidence concerning the fate of the three brothers of John

Tydwall is less plentiful. There is no further record of his brother Thomas and he may well have died in early manhood without children. James Tydwall had a daughter, Elizabeth, who married William Wright of Ashford in 1570. She must have been quite young at the time since she could hardly have been born before 1550. There is no evidence to suggest that James Tydwall had any other children.

Robert Tydwall, the fourth brother, probably stayed on at Alton. Again there is no direct evidence but Ralph Tideswall of Danstone, in Alton Parish (b.c. 1575-80 d 1656) was of the proper age to be a son of Robert Tydwall and Ralph in turn had a son named Robert. According to the records of the neighboring Ellastone Parish, Robert Tideswall was married in 1633 to Marie Marsh who was born in that Parish in 1605. Robert was therefore, probably born about the same time. Unfortunately, the surviving records of Alton Parish do not begin until 1681 so that a great deal of useful information is lost about this period in the family history.

Denstone, Staffordshire.

The most informative document concerning the Tideswell family in Staffordshire in the Seventeenth century is the will of Ralph Tiddeswall which is on file in the collection known as the Canterbury Wills in Somerset House, London. The will was probated in the year 1656, one year before the earliest record of the Tidwell family in Virginia. From it, one learns something of the economic and social status of Ralph Tiddeswall as well as something about his relatives.

According to the Will, Ralph Tiddeswell was a yeoman, living in the village of Denstone.

From the Will and Ellastone Parish records, we can reconstruct the following story. Ralph Tiddeswall had two children, Robert and Joanne. On the 18th of May 1629, Joanne married a man named John Coates, a member of one of the established families of the community. On 1 April 1631, they had a son whom they named Ralph in honor of his grandfather. On the 14th of February 1634, John Coates died and four days later his wife bore a son whom she named John in memory of his father. Two years later, on 19th May 1636 Ralph Coates, the namesake of Ralph Tiddeswall died of smallpox. One can imagine that the widowed mother took her boys home to live with her father and that they meant a great deal to him. It must have been a blow to lose his namesake and oldest grandchild. This close attachment to the Coates children is reflected in the favored

treatment given to John Coates in Ralph Tiddeswall's will. Later Joanne Tiddeswall Coates married a man named Thomas Spooner, and they had a son named Thomas, but he does not appear to have rivaled John Coates for their grandfather's affections.

Robert Tiddeswall married a girl named Marie Marsh on 28th January 1633 but since they probably lived in Alton Parish which has no surviving records from that period, we have no trace of their children. It is certain, however, that they had male children since the Tidswall name appears in the records of Alton Parish after 1681 (and continued until the present time) and there appears to have been no other men of that name in Robert Tiddeswall's generation in the community.

From this point, it is necessary to do some deduction on the basis of scant evidence. From records in Virginia, we know that Richard Tidwell arrived in the colony sometime before late 1657. We know that he came over under indenture and from the length of his service we know that he was between the ages of 1[illegible] and 2[illegible] when he arrived. This would mean that he was probably born between 163[illegible] and 1644. This would make him an appropriate age to have been a son of Robert and Marie Tiddeswall. We also know that Richard named his sons Richard, Robert, Peter and John. Richard, as we have seen, was a common family name. We know of Robert Tiddeswall, John could have been named for John Coates the younger, and the Alton Parish Church is known as St. Peter's.

There is a logical source for each name than in the immediate circumstances of Robert Tiddeswall's family.

If, on the basis of this slim evidence, we are willing to suppose that Richard Tidwell was a son of Robert Tiddeswall, (and I have found no other family in England at this time where such a connection could be made), we have additional support for the theory in Ralph Tiddeswall's will and the story of John Coates. Ralph Tiddeswall divided the bulk of his property between his son Robert and his grandson John Coates. This meant that John's half brother, Thomas Spooner, and the children of Robert Tiddeswall would be less favored. Robert Tiddeswall, when he made his will, would be faced with the alternative of dividing his half among his children or leaving it to one in order to avoid breaking it into non-economic units. Since primo-genitive was frequently practiced in England that is probably the course that he would have elected. Faced with such a situation, the younger children of Robert Tiddeswall might have been inclined to look elsewhere for their fortune. (There is a record of the burial of a William Tidsall at Checkley, four miles to the south-west of Alton on Sept. 24, 1671. This may have been the elder son of Robert Tiddeswall and elder brother of Richard Tidwell)

Based on the above reasoning, we can assume that Richard

Tidwell, being in his latter teens when his grandfather died, saw his older cousin John Coates receive a favored position. The economic situation must have been difficult. The dictatorship of Oliver Cromwell was at its height and the community was strongly divided in its loyalties. One of the local manors had been besieged by Cromwell's troops in 1647 and a number of people were killed in the fighting. In such a situation, it would be only rational for a young man, probably of Royalist sentiments, to seek a change of fortune in Virginia where Royalist leavings predominated. It was customary for people in such circumstances to bind themselves to work for a given period of years in return for their passage and keep during the period of indenture.

Another interesting fact is that young John Coates proved Ralph Tiddeswall's will in the Ecclesiastical Court in London on June 10, 1656, rather than at Litchfield, the closest and customary place for such actions in the Midlands. Why did he made the long trip to London for something that he could have done close by? Did he go up to London with Richard Tidwell to see him safely on the ship to Virginia?

Most of the emigrants of the period left for Virginia from either Bristol or London. The City of Bristol kept a record of all emigrants from 1654 until late in the century and Richard Tidwell's name does not appear among them. The chances are,

therefore, that he left from London. A departure in June 1656, is consistent with the first record of him in Virginia in 1657.

The rolls of the Hearth Tax for 1666 show a Robert Tideswall living in Denstone, Staffordshire. The records seem quite complete and this is the only Tideswell listed in the vicinity of Alton. This man could be the son of Ralph Tiddeswell still living at the age of about sixty. On the other hand, he might actually be a grandson of Ralph Tiddeswall and elder brother of Richard Tidwell. As such he would probably have been about 30 or slightly over in 1666. It is more likely, however, that this was the son of Ralph Tiddeswall and that the William Tidwell buried at Checkley in 1671 was the grandson.

From the Alton Parish records, which begin in 1681, it seems likely that Ralph Tiddeswall had three great grandchildren of the Tiddeswall name living in the Parish. They were Joseph, John, and Margaret Tidswall, all born about 1665-1670. They were the ancestors of members of the same family still living in the Parish.

Some readers may be puzzled by the change in spelling of the family name from Tideswall, or some similar variant, to Tidwell in America. Actually there is nothing surprising about it. The Tidwell spelling appears as early as 1675 when William Tydwall married in Middlesex County. Although spelled Tidwell it would have been pronounced as "Tide-waell," identical to the pronunciation of "Tydwall" and the only difference from Tiddeswall being a dropping

of the s sound. The English members of the family generally changed the spelling of the name in the 18th century to conform to the change in spelling of the name of the town of T deswell which had changed from Tideswall in the 17th Century. The English members of the family now generally spell their name as Tidswell or Tideswell. There are actually records of about twenty various spellings of the name in the fifteenth through the seventeenth centuries, and Richard Tidwell probably used the particular variant that happened to have been used on his indenture papers.