

Thomas Cox als Hayward

The pedigree of the family of Cox als Hayward of Forthampton begins with Thomas Cox, als Hayward of Forthampton who died in 1668 aged 67.

In *Bigland's Collections* (Vol XIX p.246) his father is given as Thomas Cox alias Hayward, Burke's *Landed Gentry* of 1863 (Vol 1 p. 675) adds that the elder Thomas was living in 1620 and the *Visitation of Gloucester* 1682-83 (page 49) gives the name of Thomas the younger's mother as Joan. What more can be learned about the elder Thomas?

In his *Genealogical Collections relative to the County of Gloucester*, Bigland records a two monuments to men named Thomas Cox als Hayward:

- Thomas Cockes alias Hayward, died 15th May 1620; and
- Thomas Hayward of the Lower House, died 18 December 1641.

In addition to these deaths there are two relevant wills:

- Thomas Cox alias Hayward the elder of Forthampton, dated 5 December 1625, probate granted 24 November 1626.
From the contents of this will it is clearly that of the elder Thomas Cox als Hayward
- Thomas Hayward of Forthampton, dated 2 August 1641, probate granted 23 August 1647
From the date this is the will of Thomas Hayward of the Lower House and this Thomas belongs to a different branch of the family.

The 1620 memorial to Thomas Cox alias Hayward is the memorial of the first Thomas. Bigland transcribed this in the 1780s, 160 years after it was carved. It is highly likely that over the years the final 6 in 1626 had become worn and Bigland misread it.

In the will of Thomas Cox alias Hayward the elder, written in 1625 he leaves bequests to:

- my cosen Margaret Brewer Widdow
- Ann my only daughter
- Johane my loveing wife
- Thomas Coxe als Hayward my Sonne

He then names "the said Johane and Thomas my sole and whole Executors." Probate was granted to "Margaretae Relicta et Thomae Coxe als Hayward filii et Executorum." This raises the question of whether, between December 1625 and May 1626, Joan had died and Thomas had remarried a woman named Margaret, or, as I think more likely, the name Margaret is a clerical error picked up from the initial bequest to Margaret Brewer.

Thomas Cox als Hayward the younger was born in about 1601. Unfortunately the original registers of Forthampton are lost and not all Bishop's Transcripts survive. From those that do can be found:

- 1599 - 30 May Anne, dau of Thomas Hayward was baptized
- 1600 is missing
- 1601 is almost completely illegible
- 1602 – no Hayward entries
- 1603 & 1604 – missing
- 1605 – 10 Mar Margaret, dau of Thomas Heyward alias Coxe was baptized
- 1606-1610 missing

From 1611 on there are entries for baptisms of children of Thomas Hayward the younger, who from the names in the 1641 will is clearly Thomas Hayward of the Lower House. It is likely that Margaret, baptised March 1605/06 belongs to this family.

Two earlier wills that relate to Thomas Cox als Hayward are those of William Cox als Hayward (1568) and his widow Joan (1591).

Aside from bequests to the children of Joan by her first husband, there are bequests to:

- Margaret Cocke als Heyward my daughter (W)
Margaret Stratforde ... my Daughter (J)
- Anne Cocke als Heyward ... my daughter (W)
Anne Neaste my Daughter (J)
- Thomas Cocke als Heyward sonne of me the said William (W)
Thomas Coxe als Heywarde my sonne (J)

No baptisms are recorded for these children as the Forthampton registers are missing. However:

- Thomas Heyward & Johane Bradstocke were married at Bushley 24 Dec 1574
- Anthony Stratford & Margrett Heyward were married at Bushley 22 Apr 1577
- William Nest & Ann Cocks als Heyward were married at Chaceley 24 Apr 1581

Can Thomas Heyward & Johane Bradstocke be the parents of Thomas Cox als Hayward, born about 1601? Thomas, son of William and Joan cannot have been born before 1554. His mother was widowed from her first husband at the beginning of 1552. Allowing for a short widowhood she would have remarried in 1553 at the earliest and had her first child by her second husband in 1554. If this child were Thomas, his wife would be the same age or possibly younger.

There are three possibilities:

1. Joan Hayward née Bradstock was a few years younger than her husband and married at the age of 18 in 1574. After a series of miscarriages, and children who died as infants, she had two surviving children born in 1599 and 1601 when she was aged 43 and 45 respectively; or
2. Thomas Cox alias Hayward, born in about 1554, married twice, both wives being named Joan, and only had issue by the second wife; or
3. This same Thomas Cox alias Hayward had a son by his wife Joan Bradstock, born in about 1575, named Thomas, who then married a woman named Joan and had children in the years around 1600.

As all known heads of this family left wills and in the absence of a will for a Thomas Cox alias Hayward between 1625 and 1660 I think it more likely that there is only one Thomas. It is also more likely that he had only one wife named Joan and that his surviving children were by her.