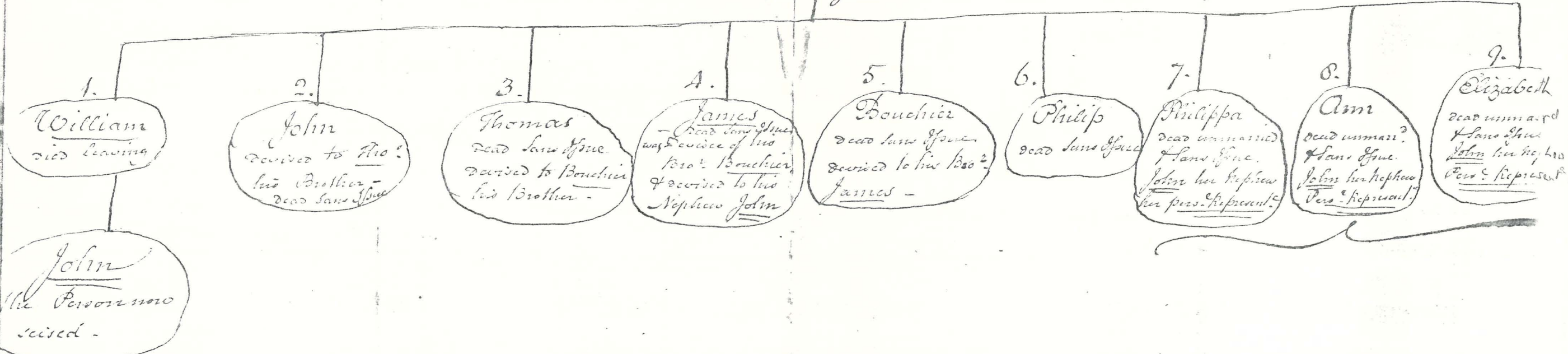


WASC-2384

Phillipa Walton
Family Tree

Ancestor -
Philippa Walton

her Issue.



At the death of Ann the
devison of Philippa
& devise in fee of
James the person last
seised - also personal
representative of Philippa
Ann & Elizabeth his aunts

T 581 Deeds Register
11 36/50

Extract from Oxford Dictionary of National Biography giving a summary of the Walton family and their activities, written by K. R. Fairclough:

Walton [née Bouchier], Philippa (1674/5–1749), gunpowder manufacturer, was the fourth of five daughters and the coheir of John Bouchier of Ipswich, MD. She married William Walton, a London merchant, who in 1702 set up as a gunpowder manufacturer at Waltham Abbey in Essex, and at Balham in Surrey where they lived. Her husband became one of the largest suppliers of gunpowder to the government's Ordnance board, and when William died intestate in 1711 Philippa became the sole administrator of his estate. She was then thirty-six and the mother of ten young children, nine of whom were to survive her.

Philippa Walton took over the management of the gunpowder business, initially on her own; then in 1723 she brought in her second eldest son, John, as a partner with a quarter share. In 1730 they formed an equal partnership, a partnership valued in 1732 at £10,000. The evidence suggests that Philippa Walton retained a close interest in the business thereafter, and that she did not immediately become a sleeping partner.

It was not until the mid-1740s that she retired to Ongar in Essex to live with her sister, Jane Bouchier. The period when she took control was a difficult one for the gunpowder industry. The end of the War of Spanish Succession in 1714 and the long period of peace until the 1740s meant a drop in demand from the largest customer, the Ordnance board.

There was a private market to be exploited, but this could never compensate for the drop in demand. Under such circumstances the industry contracted: some producers reduced their capacity, others withdrew.

Philippa Walton chose the former course. She ceased production at Balham and concentrated on the site at Waltham Abbey, purchasing it outright in 1718 for £1100, her own family acting as trustees.

During the first decade of her management Philippa Walton was one of the few producers to obtain the scarcer ordnance contracts, and she entered into partnership with three other producers to build a gunpowder magazine at Barking in Essex and exploit the private markets. The business continued unchanged after her son became involved, and in the 1740s it was sufficiently robust to emerge as the second largest supplier to the Ordnance during the War of Austrian Succession. Other producers who had continued after 1714 were not so successful in maintaining their businesses intact.

Philippa Walton was not the only widow to produce gunpowder in the early eighteenth century, but she was the most successful and the only one to continue so long. Nothing is known about the problems she faced as a woman in business but it can be noted that the Commons Journals entered her name as Philip not Philippa in 1718 (Commons Journals, 19, 1718, 85). She died on 7 December 1749, probably at Ongar in Essex, and was buried in the churchyard at Mickleham, Surrey, where her son Philip was vicar. Her memorial at Mickleham records that she died 'in calm and Christian serenity' after having improved her property and formed the minds of her children by her instruction and example. In her will she

emphasized that her six sons had already received sufficient assistance to satisfy any claim on their father's estate, and so left her share of the partnership to her three surviving daughters, all of whom remained spinsters. Soon afterwards her son John purchased this share.

Philippa Walton's eldest son, William, was to be one of only two sons not involved in the family business, and he was the only child to have children. After John's death in 1757, the business passed to a succession of three of Philippa's other male children until 1782, when Philippa's grandchild, John Walton, inherited. It was he who sold the Waltham Abbey site to the Ordnance board in 1789, after which it remained in government hands as an important explosives production site until the Second World War.

Ian MacFarlane

From: Les Tucker <les10tucker@btinternet.com>
Sent: 11 September 2017 19:58
To: imacfarlane@royalgunpowdermills.com
Subject: FW: Dr Keith Fairclough; Waltham Abbey Gunpowder Mills; John Walton

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Red Category

Hello Ian

This is the reply from Keith Fairclough and Stephen's information on John Walton and Chitqua.

In case it crops up again could you add the correspondence to the earlier lot which you put in WASC2384 – in case of later search would it be useful to add to title – including DNB entry for Waltons and correspondence on John Walton and Chinese portrait painter Chitqua.

Regards

Les

From: Richard Thomas [<mailto:thrifthouse@ntlworld.com>]
Sent: 10 September 2017 17:25
To: Leslie Tucker
Subject: FW: Dr Keith Fairclough; Waltham Abbey Gunpowder Mills; John Walton

Result!!

Richard

From: Stephen Hallam [<mailto:shhallam@gmail.com>]
Sent: 10 September 2017 09:42
To: Richard Thomas <thrifthouse@ntlworld.com>
Subject: Re: Dr Keith Fairclough; Waltham Abbey Gunpowder Mills; John Walton

Dear Richard,

Just a line to let you know that Keith Fairclough telephoned me a couple of days ago; unfortunately, he was not able to assist as his research into the Waltons of Waltham Abbey only went up to 1740. Many thanks however for putting me in touch with him.

As it happens, I am now certain that the John Walton of Chitqua fame and the Waltham Abbey one are the same person: a study of the wills of Philippa Walton and her sons to whom the Mills passed before ending up in John's hands in 1782, and a comparison of them with Chitqua John's will and that of his wife, highlight so many links that there can be little, if any, room for doubt.

Thank you once again and have a very good holiday.

Best wishes,

Stephen

From: Richard Thomas <thrifthouse@ntlworld.com>
Date: Monday, 4 September 2017 06:59
To: Stephen Hallam <shhallam@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: Dr Keith Fairclough; Waltham Abbey Gunpowder Mills; John Walton

Dear Stephen

Thank you for the copy of the very comprehensive letter. I will forward it to Les Tucker this morning and as soon as the "real thing" arrives, I will send it on.

Let's hope it will have results from at least one or hopefully both recipients.

All the best

Richard

From: Stephen Hallam [<mailto:shhallam@gmail.com>]
Sent: 03 September 2017 18:08
To: thrifthouse@ntlworld.com
Cc: Stephen Hallam <shhallam@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Dr Keith Fairclough; Waltham Abbey Gunpowder Mills; John Walton

Dear Richard,

Thank you very much for your interest and assistance with my enquiries concerning John Walton. I now attach a copy of my letter to Keith Fairclough which I will put in the post to you tomorrow for forwarding; if you have any comments on its contents, please let me know. Please also feel free to circulate the letter to anybody who you think might be able to offer some information.

Thank you once again.

Best wishes,

Stephen

Stephen Hallam

From: Stephen Hallam <shhallam@gmail.com>
Date: Saturday, 2 September 2017 11:39
To: <thriftouse@ntlworld.com>
Cc: Stephen Hallam <shhallam@gmail.com>
Subject: Dr Keith Fairclough; Waltham Abbey Gunpowder Mills

Dear Mr Thomas,

My apologies for troubling you. I am a mature student at the University of London in the first year of an MA course in the History of Art and am researching the life of a little-known Chinese portrait modeller called Chitqua who was brought to London from Canton in August 1769 by one John Walton, a supercargo with the East India Company. I am currently trying to establish whether this John Walton is the same person as the John Walton who inherited the Waltham Abbey Gunpowder Mills in 1782 and sold them to the government some seven years later.

Dr Keith Fairclough has written extensively on the Waltham Abbey mills and is the author of the DNB entry on Philippa Walton, John Walton's grandmother, who owned the mills in the early part of the eighteenth century. I have a number of questions I would like to ask Dr Fairclough but, unfortunately, have not been able to find his contact address; would you be able to provide any details in this regard?

Any assistance you can give would be much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Hallam

Tel: 07725 241439 or 01323 423446