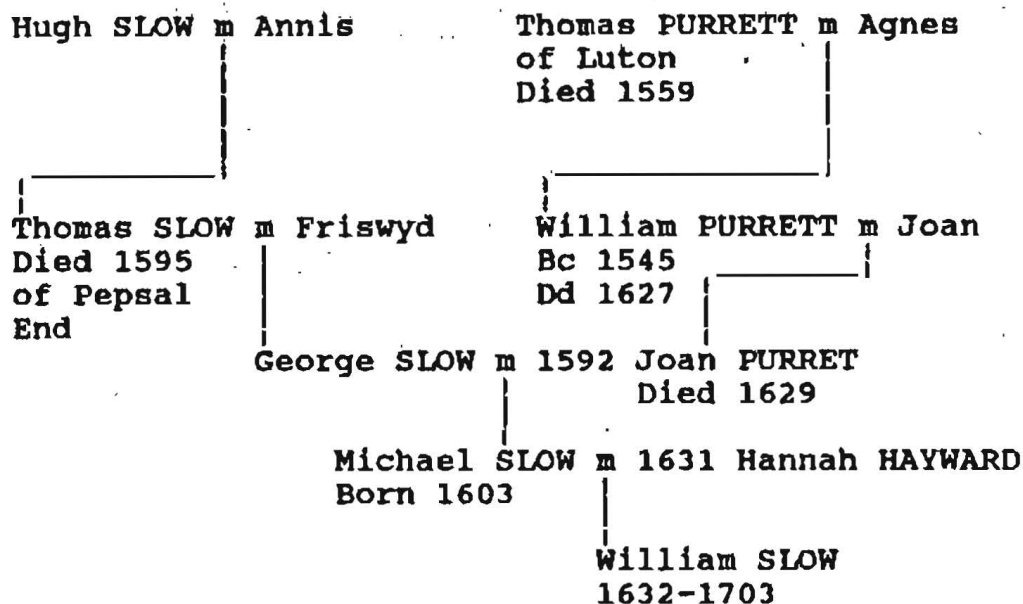


## A BEDFORDSHIRE PARROTT FAMILY

During research into one of my paternal lines (SLOWE) I found an ancestress of the family called JOAN PARROT, daughter of a yeoman, William Parrott. She married George Slowe on 14 Oct 1592. The Slowe family lived on the Herts. & Beds. border at Pepsal End in the parish of Flamstead. This was one of the manors in Flamstead, purchased by George's father Thomas Slowe in 1589.




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**The Ancestors of William Slow, the last holder of the Manor of Pepsal End in Flamstead.**

During the lifetime of William Parrott and Joan only a third of the parish of Caddington was in Bedfordshire. The ancient parish, some 4515 acres, had 2995 acres (including half the hamlet of Market Street, now known as Markyate) in Hertfordshire.

The aforementioned William Parrott is buried inside All Saints church, Caddington and has a lengthy epitaph, naming both his wives, their children, plus the number of grandchildren and great grandchildren at the time of his death. He was born about 1547, son of Thomas Purrett of Luton whose Will is dated 3 Oct. 1558, and was proved in September 1559. This Will names not only his son William, who was under 21, but also his wife Agnes, joint executrix of the Will, and daughters Elizabeth (the eldest), Agnes and Jane and sons Robert (under 24), Thomas and Edward (both under 21.) Thomas also nominated a Robert Preston as joint executor with his wife, and John Preston of Caddington, John Sebroke and John Nicholson as overseers to the Will.

The 2nd son Thomas (II) Parrott, yeoman was buried at Caddington 10 Nov 1580. In his will, dated 4 days before his death he mentions his deceased father and his own son Thomas (III) and daughters Joane, and Jane Kimpton. Bu this time Thomas (III) had 3 daughters, Mary, Jane and Avis.

William Parrett's epitaph reads:

***"Here lyeth the body of William Parrett, yeoman and Jane his wife who had issue one son and daughters: Thomas, Margaret, Joane, Elizabeth, Alice, Annes, Susan, Jane, Mary. He lived to the age of 80 years and dyed September 26 1627, who had 52 grandchildren and great grandchildren, 26. His first wife died April 27 in 1615. He married a second names Annes who departed this life Oct 1627".***

Though his first marriage is not in the Caddington registers, much of the other detail is. We find William Purrett married Agnes (frequently interchanged with Annes) on 3 Aug 1615, only 4 months after his first wife's death. William's daughters are also traceable:

Margaret married Edward Smyth, son of John Smith of 'The Grove' Flamstead, on 6 July 1590. Their eldest child (1) AGNES was baptised at Caddington 16 July 1692. There followed 8 brothers and sisters baptised at Flamstead. They were (2) JOHN Smith, 29 July 1594. In 1631 he lived in Edlesborough, Bucks., with his wife Martha. (3) THOMAS Smith, 6 Feb 1596/7; (4) SUSAN Smith, 17 June 1599; (5) MARY Smith, 11 July 1602, buried 3 Aug 1602. (6) BARTHOLOMEW Smith, 12 Aug 1604. He subsequently married Elizabeth --- and raised a family at Flamstead in the 1630's. (7) MARY Smith, 22 Feb 1606/7. (8) SUSAN Smith, 21 Feb 1609/10; and (9) WILLIAM Smith, 28 Feb 1613/4.

Joan married George Slowe; they had 7 children, all baptised at Flamstead, as follows: (1) JOAN Slowe, baptised 17 Aug 1597. She married John Eeles of Aldenham, and her second son was a locally acclaimed Presbyterian minister Nathaniel Eeles, who preached at Harpenden. (2) EDWARD Slowe, 15 Jan 1597. He held lands at Pepsal End which he later sold to his brother, Michael. (3) THOMAS Slowe, 11 November 1599; (4) GEORGE Slowe, baptised on 18 April 1602 and buried on 24 May 1605; (5) MICHAEL Slowe, baptised 11 March 1603/4. He later held the manor of Pepsal End and married a Hannah Hayward of Harpenden. It is through him that my descent continues. He died about 1672. (6) GEORGE Slowe ('The Younger') was baptised on 10 June 1606. Although he married and held lands at Flamstead, he appears to have had no children. The last child of Joan and George was (7) HUGH Slowe, baptised on 1 Oct 1609.

Elizabeth Purrett married William Robins on 27 January 1594.

Alice Purrett married Harry Honer on 12 June 1598.

Susanna Purrett (who was baptised on 18 October 1585 at Caddington) married Thomas Ley on 20 June 1603.

***So far, only 16 of the 52 supposed grandchildren have been found. However, there were two 'Thomas Parrots' living at this time at Caddington, both of whom had children. Regrettably though, it is not possible to state with certainty which of them was the son of William and Jane Parrott.***