
Using English Manor Records to Document Descent: A Mullis Family of Tregrenwell in Cornwall

By Ronald A. Hill, Ph.D., CG

Researchers tracing English ancestry can use manor records to fill gaps left by missing parish and probate records, reconstruct long lineages of countless yeomen, tenant farmers, and others, and distinguish among ancestors with the same name.

Missing or lost parish registers are the bane of researchers tracing English ancestors. The loss can short-circuit an otherwise straightforward analysis of family structure. Probate records sometimes fill the gaps, but only a small percentage of parishioners left estates for probate. Manor records, however, can solve the problem.

From earliest times, the English used a complex system of land tenure whereby tenants leased parts of an estate called a manor, a unit of English territorial organization, over which a lord had domain. The records that manor tenants and officials created can provide evidence of birth, marriage, death, and family relationships for peasant and yeoman farmers, laborers, and others throughout England from the 1200s through the early 1900s.¹

Researchers unfamiliar with the English manorial system face obstacles in using its abundant records. Often written in Latin and highly abbreviated, they are laden with feudal concepts and archaic terminology. Countless books, court rolls, and papers exist, but many also have been lost. Locating the surviving documents can be challenging. At one time England had about sixty-five thousand manors. Several archives and libraries hold their records and those of one manor are often found in different places.² In spite of the difficulties in locating

© Ronald A. Hill, Ph.D., CG; 5618 North Star Ridge Way; Star, ID 83669. Dr. Hill is a retired physicist, former president of the New Mexico Genealogical Society, and past trustee of the Board for Certification of Genealogists. He is a member of the NGS *Quarterly* editorial board and the author of several articles on British and Cornish genealogical research. His total on-site research experience in England exceeds fourteen months.

1. Mark D. Herber, in *Ancestral Trails*, rev. ed. (London: Sutton Publishing, 2004), 631–45, presents a history of the English manorial system and lists numerous finding aids. Also see P. D. A. Harvey, *Manorial Records* (London: British Records Association, 1999); and *Manorial Records in The National Archives: Legal Records Information 1* (Kew, U.K.: The National Archives, <http://www.catalogue.nationalarchives.gov.uk/RdLeaflet.asp?LeafletID=139>).

2. An important finding aid is the “Manorial Documents Register” (MDR), which was established to record the ownership and location of manor records in England and Wales. The MDR can be consulted at The National Archives and, for some counties, online at <http://www.mdr.nationalarchives.gov.uk/mdr/>. In addition, Victoria County History volumes identify the manors in each parish, the manorial records that exist, and their locations. Some of the latter volumes are searchable online at <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/>.

and using these sources, they can be a gold mine of family history. A Mullis family in Cornwall provides an example.

A PUZZLING MULLIS ANCESTRY

As table 1 shows, the earliest register of Michaelstow Parish in Cornwall documents John Mullis and Alice Pooley's marriage, their children's baptisms, and several of the family's burials. John Mullis, the father, died intestate and was

Table 1
Family of John Mullis and Alice Pooley

DATES	EVENTS AND NAMES
<i>Marriage/Baptisms</i>	
22 November 1680	John Mullis married Alice Pooley of St. Teath ^a
4 June 1681	John, "Henery," and William, sons of John Mullis and Alice ^{a,b}
24 September 1682	John, son of John Mullis and Alice ^a
13 May 1684	Elizabeth, daughter of John Mullis and Alice ^a
2 February 1685/6	William, son of John Mullis and Alice ^a
11 October 1687	Jane, daughter of John Mullis and Alice ^a
1 January 1689/90	Jane, daughter of John Mullis and Alice ^a
5 May 1691	Henry, son of John Mullis and Alice ^a
6 January 1692/3	Grace, daughter of John Mullis and Alice ^a
17 November 1696	Mary, daughter of John Mullis and Alice ^c
31 December 1700	Catherine, daughter of John Mullis and Alice ^c
<i>Burials</i>	
26 June 1681	John and William Mullis ^a
14 July 1681	Henry Mullis ^a
14 May 1690	Jane Mullis ^a
24 August 1708	John Mullis, the elder ^a
18 September 1708	John Mullis, the younger ^a
3 October 1708	Catherine Mullis ^a
29 December 1712	Alice Mullis ^a

^aMichaelstow parish register, DDP151/1/1, Cornwall Record Office (CRO), pp. 1 (baptisms of John, Henry, William, John, Elizabeth, William, and Jane), 2 (baptisms of Jane, Henry, and Grace), 31 (burials of John and William), 32 (burial of Henry), 33 (burial of Jane), 38 (burials of John, John, and Catherine), 39 (burial of Alice), and 60 (Mullis-Pooley marriage); microfilm 1,595,843, item 12, Family History Library (FHL), Salt Lake City, Utah. The baptismal register contains a gap from 1694 through 1718.

^bJohn, Henry, and William, baptized on 4 June 1681, evidently were triplets who died in infancy.

^cMichaelstow Bishop's Transcripts, BT151, CRO; FHL microfilm 0,090,260, item 1.

buried at Michaelstow in 1708.³ Alice administered his estate.⁴ Four years later, she wrote a will mentioning that she was a widow and naming five heirs:

- “My daughters,” Elizabeth Hill, Allise Mullise, Grace Mullise, and Mary Mullise
- “My son,” Henry Mullise, who was to be the executor⁵

Marriage and burial records in Michaelstow’s first parish register commence in 1548 and show thirty-two Mullis marriages and sixty-seven Mullis burials before 1700. Unfortunately, the same volume contains no baptisms before 1680 and, with the exception of seven Bishop’s Transcripts, the parish’s baptismal records before 1680 have not been found.⁶ Consequently, the church registers do not link John Mullis (who was born probably in the 1650s) with his parents; nor do they show how Mullis families named in the 1700s and 1800s were related.

Several early probates in the Archdeaconry Court of Cornwall offer glimpses of the Mullises in Michaelstow but, even when combined with parish records, they do not contain enough information to reconstruct the family’s ancestry before 1680. Thus, tracing the Mullis families who lived in Michaelstow seemed to be impossible.

CLUES POINTING TO MANOR RECORDS

As table 2 illustrates, a copy of a 1613 church tax for Michaelstow names several Mullis tenants who held lands in the parish.⁷ A generation later, during the winter of 1641/2, George Mullis, Josias Mullis, John Mullis (whose signature was an x), Henry Mullis, William Mullis, John Mullis (“constable”), and Christopher Mullis (“churchwarden”), who resided in Michaelstow, signed the protestation return.⁸ Perhaps among these men are one or more ancestors of John Mullis who married Alice Pooley in Michaelstow in 1680.

3. John Mullis burial, 24 August 1708, Michaelstow parish register, DDP151/1/1, p. 38, Cornwall Record Office (CRO), Truro, U.K.

4. John Mullis of Michaelstow, yeoman, administration, 5 April 1709, Archdeaconry Court of Cornwall, AP/M/1719, CRO.

5. Alice Mullis of Michaelstow, widow, probate record, 27 November 1712, proved 16 December 1713, Archdeaconry Court of Cornwall, AP/M/1798, CRO.

6. Michaelstow parish register, DDP151/1/1, CRO. The parish’s baptismal records pre-1680 and for the interval 1692–1718 have been missing for more than 170 years. See *Abstract of the Answers and Returns Made Pursuant to an Act, Passed in the Eleventh Year of the Reign of His Majesty King George IV, Intituled [sic], “An Act for taking an Account of the Population of Great Britain, and of the Increase or Diminution Thereof,”* vol. 3, *Parish Register Abstract* (London: Census Office, 1833), 44. The publication, which erroneously reports that the earliest surviving Michaelstow baptismal record is dated 1682, lists all the parish registers surviving in 1831. Michaelstow’s surviving pre-1680 Bishop’s Transcripts (for 1615, 1626, 1629, 1630, 1665, 1670, and 1673) are housed at the Devon Record Office (DRO), Exeter, U.K.

7. Church Rates for Michaelstow, Diocesan Records—Moger Supplement II, DRO, Exeter.

8. Thomas L. Stoate, ed., *The Cornwall Protestation Returns, 1641* (Bristol, U.K.: privately printed, 1974), 202. In February–March 1641/2, all male parishioners age eighteen and over were asked to sign a document stating that they promised to defend “the true Reformed Protestant Religion, expressed in the Doctrine of the Church of England, against all Popery and Popish Innovations within this Realm, contrary to the same Doctrine . . .” and “His Majesty’s Royal Person, the Power and Privileges of Parliaments, and the lawful rights and liberties of the subjects.” The names of those who signed and refused to sign were forwarded to Parliament. The returns, signed just before the outbreak of the Civil War, function as a census of English adult males.

Table 2
Mullis Tenants Assessed on 1 May 1613

A rate or taxation made by Henery Saunders, Robart Mullis, Steephen Tanken, Phillip Blewet, Stephen Bastard, and Christopher Mullis the six men of the parish of Michelstowe aboute saide wth the consent oof the church wardens Thomas Philp & John Simons and the constables John Mullis & William Mullis for the repairyng & mayntaininge of the sayde church and tower of Michelstowe aforsaide to be charged vppon the parishiners and outhoulders of the sayde parish Accordinge to the quantity and value of the landes w^{ch} they houlde wthin the parishe abovesaide the first daye of maye in the year 1613

Tregrenwell

Robert Mullis for tow [two] tenements & tow quilletes iii s
John Mullis for tow tenements & tow quilletes iii s

Trevegan

William Mullis for one tenement & a haulf quartere ... xvij d
more for a halfe tenement in Fentonadle ix d
Christopher Mullis for one tent xvj d

Churchtown

John Mullis & Johane Prichell Wid for one tent
the herryes & downes ii s
Steephen Mullis for one tenement xvij d

Tregavenaneither *alifals* Tregawne the Lower

Homfery Mullis for haulfe of a tent x d
Alice Mullis wid[ow] for haulf of a tent x d

Source: Church rates for Michaelstow, Diocesan Records—Moger Supplement II, Devon Record Office, Exeter. The assessments are in shillings (s) and pence (d). Modern spellings of the place names are Treveighan, Tregawn, and Tregreenwell. See Ordnance Survey Map sheet 186, Bodmin & Launceston, one-inch per mile (Crown Copyright, 1967). A “tenement” or “tent” is land held by one person that another has a right to occupy or use, a “quillite” is a small plot or strip of land, and Fentonadle is an area in Michaelstow. The author believes that “herryes & downes” also refers to part of Michaelstow.

The existence of probate records and land assessments for the Mullis families of Michaelstow suggests that these families could have become tangled in legal disputes over their assets. Chancery proceedings stored at The National Archives (formerly the Public Record Office), in Kew, include a pertinent case.⁹ In 1714, some of the heirs of John Mullis—who married Alice Pooley and died in

9. Only the calendars to chancery proceedings are available at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. Viewing the chancery proceedings requires either visiting The National Archives or mail ordering a photocopy. For information on locating and using English chancery proceedings, see Ronald A. Hill, “English Genealogical Research: Using Chancery Court Proceedings,” *NGS Quarterly* 91 (June 2003): 111–38.

1708—sued for land that he had held in the village of Tregrenwell in Michaelstow Parish. The plaintiffs—Thomas Hill of Michaelstow (a clothier), Elizabeth his wife, and Mary Mullis of Michaelstow, an infant, by Thomas Hill her “*prochein amy*” (next friend)—filed a bill of complaint, abstracted as follows:

John Mullis, late of Michaelstow, yeoman, died about six years since, seized of messuages, tenements, and closes of land in the village of Tregrenwell in the parish of Michaelstow, parcel of the customary lands of the Manor of Helston-in-Trigg and parcel of the ancient Duchy of Cornwall, to him and his heirs forever according to the custom of the manor. At a court held at Tregrenwell, 6 September 1708, John Mullis surrendered the premises unto William Hocken of Michaelstow, yeoman, and his heirs upon the condition that after the decease of John Mullis, his mother Alice Mullis should quietly and peaceably enjoy the premises during her natural life. After her death, the premises mentioned in the surrender should be sold or surrendered or in some way disposed of by William Hocken, then tenant, in such a way that the premises would be divided among the brothers and sisters of John Mullis, or those still living, in the following manner: that Henry Mullis, brother of John Mullis, should have a double part or portion, each of his sisters a single portion, except that his sister Catherine should have ten pounds more than the other sisters. John Mullis died soon after the surrender. Catherine Mullis died about 3 October 1708. Alice Mullis the mother died about 29 December 1712, leaving Henry Mullis, your oratrix Elizabeth, Alice, Grace, and your oratrix Mary Mullis, all the surviving brother and sisters of the said John Mullis, deceased. Your oratrix Elizabeth is married to your orator Thomas Hill, and Alice Mullis is married to William Heathman. The premises ought to be divided by the said William Hocken according to the trust aforesaid . . . *but now so it is . . .* William Hocken combines with Henry Mullis, William Heathman and Alice his wife, and Grace Mullis to wrong your orator and oratrixes. The defendants deny that John Mullis was seized of the estate or that any surrender or any agreement was signed as described. William Hocken refuses to perform the agreement and discharge his trust, and will not give your orator and oratrixes their share of the said lands and tenements nor any recompense.¹⁰

The defendants—William Hocken, Henry Mullis, William Heathman, his wife Alice, and Grace Mullis—responded:

John Mullis, named in the bill, was not lawfully seized of the premises mentioned. John Mullis, father of the John Mullis named in the bill, was long before seized of the premises and died seized of the premises about 24 August 1708. Immediately after his death, his widow Alice was instituted into the premises for the term of her natural life according to the custom of the manor. Soon after, John Dryden of Michaelstow asked William Hocken to go to the house of Alice Mullis where he found her and her son John Mullis dangerously ill with the smallpox. Alice Mullis requested that William Hocken be taken tenant of the premises in a private court where she surrendered the

10. Bill dated 22 May 1714, Chancery Proceedings, Six Clerks Series, Hamilton Division, C7/156/16, The National Archives (TNA), Kew, Richmond, Surrey. In law, a next friend is someone designated to represent a minor in court. See Joseph R. Nolan and Jacqueline M. Nolan-Haley, *Black's Law Dictionary* (St. Paul: West Publishing, 1990), s.v., “*prochein ami*”—a French term common in English chancery documents.

premises to her son John Mullis, who at the same private court surrendered the premises to the defendant Hocken. William Mullis, recently deceased, the second son of Alice, and brother and next heir to John, had married contrary to his mother's consent with one Margaret Gill, a woman of loose character. Alice suspected that William's wife might be with child, and feared that if her son John Mullis should die, the afterborn child of William would inherit the premises. An agreement was drawn and signed by John Mullis and William Hocken to surrender the premises to John Mullis and to William Hocken to debar such afterborn child of William Mullis from inheriting the premises. It was not the intent of Alice Mullis to disinherit or prejudice her son Henry, one of the defendants, but only to prevent the inheritance of the premises from coming to such afterborn child of her son William. Alice requested the defendant Hocken to preserve the premises for her son Henry, Henry claiming the premises not only as heir-at-law to John Mullis, the father, but likewise as heir according to the custom of the manor. John Mullis, the son, died soon after from the smallpox.¹¹

The above chancery proceeding shows that John Mullis held land in Tregrenwell in 1708; the church tax shows that Robert Mullis and a John Mullis held property in the same village in 1613. See table 2. Together, the two sources imply that at least one Mullis family leased property there continuously between those dates. The Tregrenwell landholdings in the Manor of Helston-in-Trigg, part of the Duchy of Cornwall, suggest that the duchy's manor records might hold clues to the Mullis families of Michaelstow.

MANOR RECORDS OF THE DUCHY OF CORNWALL

The Duchy of Cornwall, created by a charter on 17 March 1336/7, originally contained thirty-five manors in three distinct categories:

- *Antiqua maneria* (ancient manors), all in Cornwall, had been part of the Earldom of Cornwall. These manors had been transferred to the duchy after the last Earl of Cornwall died in 1336.
- *Forinseca maneria* (external manors), all outside Cornwall, were annexed to the duchy by the founding charter.
- *Annexata maneria* (annexed manors), both inside and outside Cornwall, were added to the duchy by an act of Parliament after the duchy's creation.¹²

The duchy's holdings grew over the centuries. By 1640 it consisted of seventy-eight manors.¹³ The Dukedom of Cornwall is vested in the eldest son of the reigning monarch—at this writing, His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, for whom the duchy is a source of income.

11. Answer dated 12 October 1714, Chancery Proceedings, Six Clerks Series, Hamilton Division, C7/156/16, TNA.

12. Mary Coate, "The Duchy of Cornwall: Its History and Administration, 1640–1660," *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society*, ser. 4, 10 (1927): 135–69. In her introduction to the history and administration of the duchy, Coate discusses many terms that appear in duchy records. Latin is traditionally used to describe classes of manors and their tenants.

13. *Ibid.*, 137.

Throughout England the conditions under which tenants leased land varied by custom from manor to manor. In 1338 the Duchy of Cornwall's *antiqua maneria* had four classes of tenants:

- *Liberi tenentes* (free tenants). They were so called because of their freedom to dispose of their land holdings and leave the manor and its lord's service without permission. A free tenant also could bequeath his property without restriction.
- *Liberi conventionarii* (free conventionaries). Also free to dispose of their holdings, these tenants held leases that were renewable every seven years under an express agreement ("convention") with the Duke of Cornwall. At the death of the tenant, his tenement descended first to his widow and then to his eldest son.
- *Nativi conventionarii* (native conventionaries). Their leases also were renewable every seven years but, as a bondman (a tenant in bondage, a serf), the tenant was "bound to the manor" throughout his life. At the tenant's death, his movable property reverted to the lord and his land holdings passed to his youngest son.
- *Nativi de stirpe* (natives of stock). Also bound from birth, they were "tenants at will," who held land *ad voluntatem domini* (at the will of the lord) and could be evicted for no reason at any time.¹⁴

Between 1300 and 1600 most English tenants in bondage had been freed. In the Duchy of Cornwall this liberation evidently transformed its *nativi conventionarii* and *nativi de stirpe* into free conventional tenants. Consequently, by 1600 only two classes of tenants remained in the duchy:

- Free tenants (freeholders), who without restriction could dispose of their land or provide for its disposal after death
- Conventional tenants, who held renewable seven-year leases¹⁵

Tenants of the Duchy of Cornwall had an inheritable interest in the land (like a freehold estate) but had to be "readmitted" to the manor every seven years, when the Duke of Cornwall's commissioners held an assession—a formal court—for the manor. The tenant's estate could not be taken from him for any transgression, but he could lose his tenure if he did not attend the assessions. At each assession every conventional tenant was expected to take or renew his interest in the land he held "that the lord may thereby know who are his present tenants."¹⁶ The Cornish tenant also pled his right of inheritance to his land and its descent to his widow or, upon her death or remarriage, to his eldest son. This right of inheritance was accepted by the duchy and ratified at the next assession. Thus, assession rolls—the record of the assessionary court—continuously document the manor's conventional tenants.

The village of Tregenwell, in Michaelstow Parish, where Robert Mullis and John Mullis were assessed in 1613, was part of the Manor of Helston-in-Trigg in

14. *Ibid.*, 138, 139.

15. *Ibid.*, 138.

16. *Ibid.*, 144.

the Duchy of Cornwall.¹⁷ The National Archives, in Kew, holds records of the manor's assessions in 1490, 1497, 1560, 1574, and 1581. The Duchy of Cornwall Office, in London, has custody of the manor's assession rolls for 1441, 1462, 1469, 1504, 1510, 1518, 1525, 1532, 1539, 1553, 1567, 1595, 1602, 1617, 1624, 1683, and 1687; a parliamentary survey of the manor for 1650; and an assession book containing entries for 1668, 1673, 1683, 1687, 1701, 1708, and 1717.¹⁸ These records provide evidence of five generations of ancestors of John Mullis who married Alice Pooley in 1680.

USING MANOR RECORDS TO TRACE A LINEAGE

The following lineage summary includes extracted entries from the assession rolls and books for the villages of Tregrenwyn *alias* Tregrenwell and Trevegean in Michaelstow Parish. Translated from Latin (unless indicated otherwise) and arranged chronologically under each succeeding generation, they demonstrate how information in manor records provides evidence of ancestry.¹⁹ Details from probate and church records augment data from the assessions.

1. William¹ Mullis, born probably before 1505. As shown below, William began holding land at Trevegean between the 1525 and 1532 assessions. If he was twenty-one years old before the 1532 sitting of the assessionary court—as seems likely—he was born before 1510. In addition, his eldest son married in 1548, which implies that the son was born before 1527 and William was born before 1505.²⁰ William was probably the son of Stephen and Joan (née [—?—]) Moleus (also Moles or Molys), who reported holding land at Nether Tregevenna *alias* Trevyganether in the Manor of Helston-in-Trigg in assessions from 1490 through 1539; however, the assession rolls do not provide direct evidence of William's parentage. Stephen was listed in the Cornwall subsidy of 1524 as Stephen Molys, and Joan Molys and William Molys were listed in the subsidy of 1543.²¹ The marriage and burial records at Michaelstow suggest that William's first wife was buried on 10 December 1548 as "Thamsin, wiffe of Wylliam Muellis" and he then

17. Peter L. Hull, ed., *The Caption of Seisin of the Duchy of Cornwall (1337)* (Torquay, U.K.: Devon and Cornwall Record Society, 1971), 17: x and xi; microfilm 0,973,271, item 3, Family History Library (FHL), Salt Lake City, Utah. This volume lists all the *antiqua maneria* and their locations. It also identifies the original tenants and their holdings in 1337 and 1338. Michaelstow and the other parishes in the Manor of Helston-in-Trigg—Advent, Davidstow, and Lanteglos by Camelford—are shown on a map previously published by the author. See Ronald A. Hill, "Maximizing Probate Research: An Analysis of Potential, Using English Records from Cornwall," *NGS Quarterly* 84 (December 1996): 274.

18. The assession rolls and assession books held by the duchy have been microfilmed and are available for research at the Department of Manuscripts, The British Library; 96 Euston Road; London. Readers are encouraged to apply to the department for permission to view the microfilmed records. The assession rolls are available on microfilms Micro 2455–61; the assession books are available on microfilms Micro 2435–54.

19. Entries in the assession rolls and assession books of the Manor of Helston-in-Trigg for Trevegean and Tregrenwyn *alias* Tregrenwell are printed with permission of the Duchy of Cornwall. In 1997 Michael Gandy, Fellow of the Society of Genealogists, vetted the author's 1985 translations from Latin of the entries in the 1596–1717 assession rolls.

20. Mullis-Hocken marriage, 23 September 1548, Michaelstow parish register, DDP151/1/1, p. 47, CRO.

21. Thomas L. Stoate, ed., *Cornwall Subsidies in the Reign of Henry VIII, 1524, 1543 and the Benevolence of 1545* (Bristol: privately printed, 1985), 140.

married Jane Jorye on 30 January 1549/50.²² Jane was buried on 23 December 1577 as “Johan, wiffe of Willyam Mulles.”²³ Apparently alive when “Johan” was buried, William died before the 1581 assessionary court meeting for the Manor of Helston-in-Trigg.

The records of the 1532 assessionary court show that William held land in Trevegean in Michaelstow:

William Molis took one messuage and 20 acres of land Cornish, formerly of Stephen, son of Stephen Treverlek, and which Henry Robyn took in the last assession.²⁴

William renewed his interest in his Trevegean land at the assessions of 1539, 1553, 1560, and 1567.²⁵ He continued this tenure through 1574, when he surrendered his part of Trevegean to his grandson, John “Mulleys”:

John Mulleys from the surrender of William Mulleys, his grandfather, took one messuage and 20 acres of land English in one-half acre of land Cornish, formerly of Stephen, son of Stephen Treverlek, and which William Mullys took in the last assession.²⁶

In addition to his property in Trevegean in 1553 William held six parcels of land in the village of Tregrenwyn, which also lay in the parish of Michaelstow, the Manor of Helston-in-Trigg, and the Duchy of Cornwall:

The same William Molys took one messuage and 12 acres of land English in one-half acre of land Cornish, formerly of Stephen Rede, and which the said William Mollys took in the last assession.

The said William Molys took nine acres of land English in one parcel of wasteland, formerly of Stephen Rede, which the aforesaid William Mollys took in the last assession.

The same William took one messuage and twelve acres of land English in one-half acre of land Cornish, formerly of John Maister, and which the aforesaid William Mollys took at the last assession.

22. Michaelstow parish register, DDP151/1/1, pp. 7 (Thamsin Muellis burial, 10 December 1548) and 47 (Mulles-Jorye marriage, 30 January 1549/50), CRO.

23. Johan Mulles burial, 23 December 1577, Michaelstow parish register, DDP151/1/1, p. 11, CRO.

24. DCO Assession Roll 497, 24 Henry VIII [1532], Manor of Helston-in-Trigg, Trevegean; microfilm Micro 2457, British Library (BL), London. The entries in the assession rolls on microfilm at the British Library and in the assession books at The National Archives were translated by Simon Neal, an archivist employed by The National Archives. Manor records—like many legal records in Britain and the American colonies—often use cryptic “regnal years,” like “24 Henry VIII” (twenty-fourth year in the reign of Henry VIII). Throughout these notes, the corresponding calendar year will appear in brackets.

25. DCO Assession Roll 499, 31 Henry VIII [1539], Manor of Helston-in-Trigg, Trevegean; BL Micro 2457. Also, DCO Assession Roll 500, 1 Mary [1553], and DCO Assession Roll 502, 9 Eliz I [1567]; BL Micro 2458. Also, Assession Book E306/3/1, 2 Eliz [1560], Manor of Helston-in-Trigg, Trevegean, TNA.

26. Assession Book E306/3/2, 16 Eliz I [1574], Manor of Helston-in-Trigg, Trevegean, TNA. “Acre of land Cornish” is a nominal assessment of the land’s value rather than a physical measurement. See Harold S. A. Fox and Oliver J. Padel, *The Cornish Lands of the Arundells of Lanherne, Fourteenth to Sixteenth Centuries* (Exeter, U.K.: Devon and Cornwall Record Society, 2000), 41: liv and lv. “Close” refers to a small enclosed field; “messuage” refers to a house, its outbuildings, and the ground around it; “parcel of waste” is land not used for any purpose. For these and other unusual terms found in manor records, see John Richardson, *The Local Historian’s Encyclopedia* (1974; reprint, New Barnet, U.K.: Historical Publications, 1977), and the *Oxford English Reference Dictionary* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002).

The same William Molys took nine acres of land in one parcel of wasteland called Trygryn Wyndowne, formerly of John Maister, and which the aforesaid William Molys took at the last assession.

The same William Molys took one messuage and twelve acres of land English in one-half acre of land Cornish, formerly of John Stephyn and lately of John Harvy, and which the aforesaid William Molys took at the last assession.

The same William Molys took 18 acres of land English in Tregrenwyndon, formerly in two parcels and now in two closes, formerly of Stephen Harvy, and which the aforesaid William Molys took in the last assession.²⁷

By immediately following the Trevegean listing, the Tregrenwyn records imply that both listings pertain to the same William "Molys." The 1553 assession explains that William obtained the Tregrenwyn land at the previous assession, in 1546. Those records are lost, and the 1539 records show John Harvy holding the Tregrenwyn land that William reported in 1553.²⁸

William continued to hold the six parcels of land at Tregrenwyn at the 1560 and 1567 assessions.²⁹ At the 1574 court William surrendered two of the parcels to his son John:

John Mulleys from the surrender of William Mulleys, his father, took one messuage and 12 acres of land English, formerly of Stephen Reade, and which William Mullys took in the last assession.

William Mulleys took nine acres of land English in one parcel of waste, formerly of Stephen Reade, which the aforesaid William Mullis took in the last assession.

The said William took one messuage and twelve acres of land English in one-half acre of land Cornish, formerly of John Maister, which the aforesaid William Mullys took at the last assession.

The aforesaid William took nine acres of land in one parcel of waste land called Trygryn Wyndowe, formerly of John Maister, which the aforesaid William Mullys took at the last assession.

The before-said William took one messuage and twelve acres of land English in one-half acre of land Cornish, formerly of John Stephen and lately of John Harvie, and which the above-said William Mullys took at the last assession.

John Mulleys from the surrender of William Mulleys, his father, took 18 acres of land English in Tregrene Wyndowe, formerly in two parcels and now in two closes, formerly of Stephen Harvie, and which the aforesaid William Mullys took in the last assession.³⁰

27. DCO Assession Roll 500, 1 Mary [1553], Manor of Helston-in-Trigg, Tregrenwyn; BL Micro 2458.

28. DCO Assession Roll 499, 31 Henry VIII [1539], Manor of Helston-in-Trigg, Tregrenwyn; BL Micro 2457.

29. Assession Book E306/3/1, 2 Eliz I [1560], Manor of Helston-in-Trigg, Tregrenwyn, TNA. Also, DCO Assession Roll 502, 9 Eliz I [1567], Manor of Helston-in-Trigg, Tregrenwyn; BL Micro 2458. William's surname was rendered as "Molys" in 1560 and "Mollys" in 1567.

30. Assession Book E306/3/2, 16 Eliz I [1574], Manor of Helston-in-Trigg, Tregrenwyne [sic], TNA.

2. **Henry² Mullis** (William¹), born before 1527, judging from his marriage date. As “Harrye Mulles” he married **Thamsyn Hocken** at Michaelstow on 23 September 1548.³¹ She was buried there on 23 November 1595 as “Tamsyn, wiffe of Henry Mulles.”³² Henry, evidently William’s eldest son, was acknowledged as holding the remaining four parcels of land in Tregrenwyn in the 1581 assession, its first sitting after William’s death:

Henry Mulleis by the death of William Mulleis, his father, took nine acres of land English in one parcel of waste, formerly of Stephen Reade, which William Mullys took in the last assession.

The said Henry by the death as above took one messuage and twelve acres of land English in one-half acre of land Cornish, formerly of John Maister, which William Mulleys took at the last assession.

The aforesaid Henry Mulleis by the death, as above, took nine acres of land in one parcel of waste land called Tregryn Wyndowe, formerly of John Maister, which William Mulleys took at the last assession.

The above-said Henry Mulleis, as above, took one messuage and twelve acres of land English in one-half acre of land Cornish, formerly of John Stephen and lately of John Harvie, and which William Mulleys took at the last assession.³³

Henry reported holding four parcels of land in Tregrenwyn at the 1595 and 1602 assessions.³⁴ His 1606 will includes the following heirs and bequests:

- William Mullis, “my sonne, towards . . . his childes portion, 10 pounds”
- Michael Mullis, “my sonne, 14 pounds and a cow or 40 shillings for her”
- Hughe Mullis, “my sonne, 12 pounds”
- John Mullis, “my sonne, the greater Panne, the greater Crocke & table Board & a Cubbord wth in the Halle a wayne a Butte and the higher paire of wheeles wth three yokes and three teeshes, also two acres of wheate in Tregue . . . also 20 bushells of Oates to sowe next yeere . . . he and Stephen my sonne do lyue and keepe howse together till Michaelmas nexte”
- Elizabeth, “my daughter, 5s [five shillings], and to euery one of her children 12d [twelve pence]”
- Josias Mullis, “the sonne of Willm Mullis my sonne, a Redd heifer”
- Stephen Mullis, “my sonne,” the residue, he executor³⁵

31. Mulles-Hocken marriage, 23 September 1548, Michaelstow parish register, DDP151/1/1, p. 47, CRO.

32. Tamsyn Mulles burial, 23 November 1595, Michaelstow parish register, DDP151/1/1, p. 14, CRO.

33. Assession Book E306/3/4, 23 Eliz I [1581], Manor of Helston-in-Trigg, Tregrenwyne, TNA.

34. DCO Assession Roll 511, 37 Eliz I [1595], Manor of Helston-in-Trigg, Tregrenwyn, Duchy of Cornwall Office (DCO), London; and DCO Assession Roll 512, 44 Eliz I [1602], Manor of Helston-in-Trigg, Tregrenwyn, DCO. Both sources render Henry’s surname as “Mulleis.”

35. Henry Mullis of Michaelstow, probate record, 7 December 1606, proved 5 January 1606/7, Archdeaconry Court of Cornwall, AP/M/111, CRO; FHL microfilm 1,471,242. A “butt” is a heavy two-wheeled cart, and “wayne” refers to “wain,” a two-wheeled hay cart. See *Compact Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1971), s.v. “butt” and “wain.” The meaning of “teeshes” is unknown.

The estate was appraised at seventy-eight pounds and four pence. Henry's burial record in the Michaelstow register is mutilated.³⁶ His death occurred between 7 December 1606, the date of his will, and 29 December 1606, the date of the inventory.

3. **John³ Mullis** (Henry², William¹), named in his father's 1606 will. He married **Elizabeth** [—?—].³⁷ In the assession of 1617 (1610 is missing), John was acknowledged as holding the four parcels of land in Tregrenwyn that his father had held:

John Mullis, after the death of Henry Mullis his father, took nine acres of land English in one parcel of waste, formerly held by Stephen Reade, which Henry Mullis took at the last assession.

The said John Mullis, after the death of Henry Mullis, took one messuage and twelve acres of land English in one-half acre of land Cornish, formerly held by John Maister, which Henry Mullis took at the last assession.

The same John Mullis, after the death of Henry Mullis his father, took nine acres in one parcel of waste land called Tregrinwindow, formerly held by John Maister, which Henry Mullis took at the last assession.

The same John Mullis, after the death of Henry Mullis his father, took one messuage and twelve acres of land English in one-half acre of land Cornish, formerly held by John Stephen and the late John Harvie, which the aforesaid Henry Mullis took at the last assession.³⁸

As shown in table 2, John paid church rates on land in Tregrenwell in 1613.³⁹ He died between 12 July 1623, the date of his will, and 16 October 1623, the date of the inventory. His will includes the following heirs and bequests:

- Phillippe Mullyes, "my eldest daughter, 40 pounds three years after my death"
- Grace Mullyes, "my second daughter, 30 pounds five years after my death"
- Henrie Mullyes, "my eldest son, my tableboard and formes in the hall, my cubbert in the hall, and my best greate Brasen Pann"
- William Mullis, "my second son, 20 marks to be paid after the age of 21"
- John Mullis, "my third son, 20 marks to be paid after the age of 21"
- William Mullis, "my brother, a yewe"
- Elizabeth Mullis, "my wife, and Henrie Mullyes, my eldest son," the residue, to be joint executors

36. Henry Mullis burial, date obliterated, Michaelstow parish register, DDP151/1/1, p. 15, CRO.

37. John Mullyes of Greenwill in Michelstow, probate record, 12 July 1623, proved 13 November 1623, Archdeaconry Court of Cornwall, AP/M/395, CRO; FHL microfilm 1,471,243.

38. DCO Assession Roll 516, 15 James I [1617], Manor of Helston-in-Trigg, Tregrenwin, DCO.

39. Church Rates for Michaelstow, Diocesan Records—Moger Supplement II, DRO. Robert Mullis, who also paid church rates on tenements in Tregrenwell in 1613, was acknowledged as the holder of the two tenements in Tregrenwell by the surrender of his father John² Mullis (William¹) in the 1617 assession. Thus, Robert Mullis and John³ Mullis listed at Tregrenwell in the church rates were first cousins.

- “My cousins John and William Hocken and my two brothers Stephen and Hughe Mullis,” to be “overseers”⁴⁰

The estate was valued at one hundred twenty-seven pounds, seventeen shillings, and eight pence. The brothers—William, Hugh, and Stephen—mentioned in John Mullis’s will also were named in their father’s will, extracted above.

No marriage record has been found at Michaelstow or surrounding parishes for John Mullis and Elizabeth, and no burial record has been found at Michaelstow for John. The widow Elizabeth Mullis buried at Michaelstow on 9 February 1644/5 may have been John’s widow.⁴¹

4. **Henry⁴ Mullis** (John³, Henry², William¹), married as Henry “Mullish” **Mary Bartlet *alias* Williams** at St. Ewe in Cornwall in 1627.⁴² Three of their daughters were baptized at St. Ewe:

- 1 February 1628/9 Elizabeth, daughter of Henery Mulles
- 24 July 1631 Mary, daughter of Henry Mullis
- 21 July 1633 Anne, daughter of Henrie Mullis⁴³

Henry’s wife, Mary, was baptized at St. Ewe as Maria, daughter of Thomas Bartlet in 1608.⁴⁴ In his 1644 will Thomas Williams *alias* Bartlet mentioned his daughter Mary Mullis, her six children, and Elizabeth Mullis his grandchild. A witness to this will, Elizabeth Mullis, may have been the widow of John³ Mullis and mother of Henry⁴ Mullis.⁴⁵

In 1624 Henry and his mother reported holding the four tenements in Tregrenwin that John Mullis had held:

Henry Mullys, by the surrender of John Mullys his father, took nine acres of land English in one parcel of waste, formerly held by Stephen Reade, which the said John Mullys, after the death of Henry Mullis his father, took at the last assession.

Elizabeth Mullys, after the death of John Mullys her husband, took one messuage and twelve acres of land English in one-half acre of land Cornish, formerly held by John Maister, which the said John Mullys, after the death of Henry Mullys his father, took at the last assession.

Elizabeth Mullys, after the death of John Mullys her husband, took one messuage and nine acres of land English in one parcel of waste called Tregrinwindowe, formerly held

40. John Mullys of Greenwill in Michelstow, probate record, 12 July 1623, proved 13 November 1623, Archdeaconry Court of Cornwall, AP/M/395, CRO; FHL microfilm 1,471,243.

41. Elizabeth Mullis burial, 9 February 1644/5, Michaelstow parish register, DDP151/1/1, p. 23, CRO.

42. Mullish-Williams marriage, 20 May 1627, St. Ewe parish register, DDP62/1/1, p. 9, CRO; FHL microfilm 1,595,533.

43. St. Ewe parish register, DDP62/1/1, pp. 36 (Elizabeth), 38 (Mary), and 39 (Anne), CRO; FHL microfilm 1,595,533.

44. Mary Bartlet baptism, 28 March 1608, St. Ewe parish register, DDP62/1/1, p. 26, CRO; FHL microfilm 1,595,533.

45. Thomas Williams *alias* Bartlet, of St. Ewe, probate record, 14 December 1644, proved 17 January 1644/5, Archdeaconry Court of Cornwall, AP/B/1113, CRO; FHL microfilm 1,565,722.

by John Master, which the said John Mullys, after the death of Henry Mullis his father, took at the last assession.

Elizabeth Mullys, after the death of John Mullys her husband, took one messuage and twelve acres of land English, formerly held by John Stephen and John Harvey, which the said John Mullys, after the death of Henry Mullys his father, took at the last assession.⁴⁶

Henry Mullis signed the protestation return at Michaelstow in 1641/2.⁴⁷ He died apparently a few years later.⁴⁸ In 1650 a parliamentary survey of the Helston-in-Trigg manor recorded the inheritance of his land by Mary, his widow:

Mary Mullis vid: [widow] by y^e death of Henry Mullis her Husband holdeth in free Conventiary Nine Acres of Land English in one parcel of land in Tregreenwinn aforesaid for which she payeth p^{er} Annum 0-2-10 [no pounds, two shillings, and ten pence].

Mary Mullis vid: by y^e death of Henry Mullis her husband holdeth in free Conventiary from Seven Years to Seven Years according to y^e Custom of y^e Mannor one fourth part of One Tenement in Tregreenwin. Florence Hockin vid: by y^e Surrender of Henry Mullis holdeth the residue of the said Tenement for which they payeth p^{er} Annum 0-6-8.

The said Mary Mullis by y^e death afores^d holdeth in free Conventiary Nine Acres of Land English in one parcel of Land Waste in Tregreenwin afores^d for which she payeth p Annum 0-2-6.

The said Mary Mullis by y^e death afores^d also holdeth in free Conventiary One Tenement with y^e Appurtenances in Tregreenwin aforesaid for which she payth p^{er} Annum 0-7-8.

Mary Mullis holdeth in free Conventiary four Acres of Landwaste in Tregrenwindowne for w^{ch} she payeth p^{er} Annum 0-1-5.⁴⁹

5. John⁵ Mullis (Henry⁴, John³, Henry², William¹), born probably about 1635, after the 1633 birth of his sister Anne.⁵⁰ If he was baptized at Michaelstow, the record is lost. John married at Egloshayle Parish in Cornwall on 16 December 1656, **Wilmot (née Marshall) Anney**, widow of William Anney of St. Breock.⁵¹

46. DCO Assession Roll 519, 22 James I [1624], Manor of Helston-in-Trigg, Tregrenwin, DCO.

47. Stoate, ed., *The Cornwall Protestation Returns, 1641*, 202.

48. Gaps in the Michaelstow burials, DDP151/1/1, CRO, for 1641, 1642, and 1645–51 preclude discovering Henry Mullis's burial record.

49. Edward Hore, George Crompton, George Gentleman, Gabriel Taylor, and George Goodman, Parliamentary Survey of Helston-in-Trigg, manuscript dated 12 July 1650, p. 26, DCO. For a full transcription of the entries in the parliamentary survey see Norman J. G. Pounds, ed., *The Parliamentary Survey of the Duchy of Cornwall* (Exeter, U.K.: Devon and Cornwall Record Society, 1982), vol. 25. The original is in English. In the word "y^e" (the) the original writers used the letter y to represent the Old English letter þ the thorn, representing the voiceless /th/ sound.

50. St. Ewe parish register, DDP62/1/1, pp. 36 (Elizabeth), 38 (Mary), and 39 (Anne), CRO; FHL microfilm 1,595,533.

51. Mullis-Anney marriage, 16 December 1656, Egloshayle parish register, DDP52/1/1, p. 103, CRO; FHL microfilm 1,595,486.

William Anny, in his 1655 will mentioned, among others, his wife Wilmott, Nicholas Marshall Jr., and the sisters (unnamed) of Nicholas Marshall.⁵² Wilmott's origin was discovered in the probate record of Richard Mountsteven of Michaelstow, whose 1681 will names his kinsman Nicholas Marshall and, among the sisters of Nicholas Marshall, Willmote Pearse and her son John Mullis.⁵³ Wilmott Marshall, daughter of Nicholaus and Margery Marshall, was baptized at St. Mabyn on 16 April 1626.⁵⁴

John Mullis's marriage to Wilmott was short-lived, as he was buried at Egloshayle on 15 October 1657.⁵⁵ His and Wilmott's only son, John⁶ Mullis, was baptized at Egloshayle on 8 June 1658, seven months and three weeks after his father's death.⁵⁶

The following assession records show that by 1668, Mary Mullis, widow of Henry⁴ Mullis, married Hugh Pope, who held a part of the inherited Mullis lands in Tregrenwen. At the same time, Wilmott Mullis, widow of John⁵ Mullis, held another part of the inherited Mullis lands in Tregrenwen. Together the records imply that Wilmott's deceased husband, John⁵ Mullis, was son of Henry⁴ Mullis and Mary (née Bartlet *alias* Williams) (Mullis) Pope:

Hugh Pope in the right of Mary his wife (sometime Mary Mullis) after the death of Henry Mullis her husband for one moytie And Wilmoate Mullis after the death of John Mullis her husband for the other moytie

Hugh Pope in the right of Mary his wife (sometime Mary Mullis) after the death of Henry Mullis her husband for an viijth [eighth] part And Wilmoate Mullis widow after the death of John Mullis her husband for another viijth part⁵⁷

Wilmott Mullis married at Egloshayle on 10 January 1671/2, Humphry Pearse, her third husband.⁵⁸ In 1673 as Wilmott Pearse the widow of John Mullis, Wilmott held part of the inherited lands in Tregrenwell:

Hugh Pope in the right of Mary his wife, formerly Mary Mullis, after the death of Henry Mullis her husband, for one moiety and Humphry Pearse in the right of

52. William Anny of St. Breock, yeoman, probate record, 23 September 1655, proved 18 January 1655/6, Prerogative Court of Canterbury registered wills vol. 252 [Berkley], quire 7; FHL microfilm 0,092,216. This will was proved in London during the Commonwealth, when the ecclesiastical courts were defunct.

53. Richard Mountsteven, Michaelstow, yeoman, probate record, 30 April 1681, proved 8 June 1681, Archdeaconry Court of Cornwall, AP/M/1188, CRO; FHL microfilm 1,471,277.

54. Wilmott Marshall baptism, 16 April 1626, St. Mabyn parish register, DDP132/1/1, p. 28, CRO; FHL microfilm 1,595,913.

55. John Mullis burial, 15 October 1657, Egloshayle parish register, DDP52/1/1, p. 148, CRO; FHL microfilm 1,595,486.

56. John Mullis baptism, 8 June 1658, Egloshayle parish register, DDP52/1/1, p. 64, CRO; FHL microfilm 1,595,486.

57. DCO Assession Book (1668–1731), Manor of Helston-in-Trigg, Tregrenwen, 1668, DCO. The original record is in English. The extract in the text omits two entries that are identical to the first one quoted.

58. Pearse-Mullis marriage, 10 January 1671/2, Egloshayle parish register, DDP52/1/2, p. 42, CRO; FHL microfilm 1,595,486.

Wilmoate his wife, formerly Wilmoate Mullis, after the death of John Mullis her husband, for the other moiety⁵⁹

6. John⁶ Mullis (John⁵, Henry⁴, John³, Henry², William¹), the only child of John Mullis and Wilmott (née Marshall) (Anney) (Mullis) Pearse, was baptized at Egloshayle on 8 June 1658.⁶⁰ John⁶ married at Michaelstow on 22 November 1680 **Alice Pooley** of St. Teath.⁶¹ Alice, daughter of John “Poolly,” was baptized at St. Teath on 2 February 1656/7.⁶² John Pooley, a fuller, in his 1681/2 will, named his daughters Katherine and Alice as executrixes; the will was proved by Katherine, wife of Nicholas Hodge, and Alice, wife of John Mullis, daughters of the deceased.⁶³

Humphry Pearse, stepfather of John⁶ Mullis, was buried at Egloshayle on 23 May 1676.⁶⁴ Before the next assessions, in 1683, John reached the age of majority and took possession of parts of the properties in Tregrenwell:

Mary Pope sometye Mary Mullis after the death of Henry Mullis her husband for one viijth [eighth] parte John Mullis by the surrender of Wilmoatt Pearse his mother after the death of John Mullis her husband for the other Moytie Wilmoatt Pearse sometye Wilmoatt Mullis after the death of John Mullis her husband for another viijth part William Hocken in his own proper right for the residue

Mary Pope sometye Mary Mullis after the death of Henry Mullis her husband for one moytie Wilmoatt Pearse sometye Wilmoatt Mullis after the death of John Mullis her husband for an viijth part William Hocken in his own proper right for the residue John Mullis by the surrender of Wilmoatt Pearse his mother sometye Wilmoatt Mullis after the death of John Mullis her husband for the other Moytie

Mary Pope sometye Mary Mullis after the death of Henry Mullis her husband for a moytie Wilmoatt Pearse sometye Wilmoatt Mullis after the death of John Mullis her husband for the other Moytie⁶⁵

The 1687 assession, quoted below, shows that John Mullis held lands in Tregrenwen *alias* Tregrenwell formerly held by his grandmother, Mary Pope, who was buried at Michaelstow on 3 January 1683/4.⁶⁶ This proves that John⁵ Mullis

59. DCO Assession Book (1668–1731), Manor of Helston-in-Trigg, Tregrenwell, 1673, DCO. Three entries similar to the one quoted in the text are omitted.

60. John Mullis baptism, 8 June 1658, Egloshayle parish register, DDP52/1/1, p. 64, CRO; FHL microfilm 1,595,486.

61. Mullis-Pooley marriage, 22 November 1680, Michaelstow parish register, DDP151/1/1, p. 60, CRO.

62. Alice Poolly baptism, 2 February 1656/7, St. Teath parish register, DDP219/1/1, p. 45, CRO.

63. John Pooley of St. Teath, fuller, probate record, 2 January 1681/2, proved 31 January 1681/2, Archdeaonry Court of Cornwall, AP/P/1512, CRO; FHL microfilm 1,471,853. A “fuller” was one who shrinks and beats cloth to increase its weight and bulk.

64. Humphrey Pearse burial, 23 May 1676, Egloshayle parish register, DDP52/1/1, p. 162, CRO; FHL microfilm 1,595,486.

65. DCO Assession Book (1668–1731), Manor of Helston-in-Trigg, Tregrenwell, 1683, DCO. The original is in English.

66. Mary Pope burial, 3 January 1683/4, Michaelstow parish register, DDP151/1/1, p. 32, CRO.

who married Wilmott (née Marshall) Anney was son of Henry⁴ Mullis and Mary (née Bartlet *alias* Williams) (Mullis) Pope.

John Mullis after the death of Mary Pope his Grandmother for one viijth parte. Wilmoat Pearse sometye Wilmoate Mullis after the death of John Mullis her husband for another viijth [eighth] parte William Hocken in his own right for the residue.

John Mullis after the death of Mary Pope his grandmother took one moiety John Mullis in his own proper right took the other moiety.

John Mullis after the death of Mary Pope his Grandmother took one moiety. Wilmoat Pearse sometye Wilmoate Mullis after the death of John Mullis her husband took the other moiety.⁶⁷

The following assession roll, also dated 1687, affirms that the land in Tregrenwell held by John⁶ Mullis is the land originally held by John Master and Stephen Read in the 1553 assession. It documents the inheritance of these lands by descendants of William Mullis, who died before the 1581 assession:

John Mullis, after the death of Mary Pope, took an eighth part; Wilmott Pearse, formerly Willmot Mullis, after the death of John Mullis her husband, took an eighth part; William Hocken Jr. holds residue; one messuage and twelve acres of land English in one-half acre of land Cornish, formerly held by John Master, which Mary Pope, formerly Mary Mullis, after the death of Henry Mullis her husband, took for an eighth part.

John Mullis, after the death of Mary Pope, took one moiety and John Mullis Jr. took the other moiety; nine acres of land English in one parcel of waste held by Stephen Reade . . . and then Mary Pope and John Mullis after the surrender of Wilmot Pearse.⁶⁸

Wilmot "Pierce," mother of John⁶ Mullis, was buried on 11 September 1694.⁶⁹ Subsequently the lands that she held in the right of her deceased husband were settled on John⁶, as recorded at the 1701 assession:

John Mullis in his own proper right for an eighth part; John Mullis, after the death of Wilmoat Pearse, formerly Mullis, his mother, for an eighth part; and Margaret Hocken, after the death of William Hocken, for the residue

John Mullis in his own proper right . . .

67. DCO Assession Book (1668–1731), Manor of Helston-in-Trigg, Tregrenwen *alias* Tregrenwell, 1687, DCO. One entry identical to the last one quoted is omitted. The original is in English.

68. DCO Assession Roll 523, 3 James II [1687], Manor of Helston-in-Trigg, Tregrenwen *alias* Tregrenwell, DCO. In the first line of the second entry, John Mullis and John Mullis Jr. are the same man. The scribe wrote John Mullis Jr. in the second instance as a reminder that the "other moiety" came to John⁶ Mullis through his mother Wilmot, the wife of John⁵ Mullis.

69. Wilmott Pierce burial, 11 September 1694, Egloshayle parish register, DDP52/1/2, p. 11, CRO; FHL microfilm 1,595,486. Wilmott's burial was also recorded in the Michaelstow parish register, DDP151/1/1, p. 34, CRO.

John Mullis in his own proper right for a moiety; John Mullis, after the death of Wilmot Pearse, formerly Mullis, his mother, for the other moiety⁷⁰

John⁶ Mullis was buried at Michaelstow on 24 August 1708.⁷¹ His lands in Tregrenwell then passed to William Hocken as reported in the 1708 assessions:

William Hocken, by the surrender of John Mullis, by the surrender of Alice Mullis, after the death of John Mullis her husband . . .⁷²

These “surrenders” are consistent with the answer of William Hocken and his fellow defendants to the 1714 chancery bill of Thomas Hill and others. Alice Mullis was buried at Michaelstow on 29 December 1712.⁷³ At the next assessions, in 1717, William Hocken surrendered the Mullis lands in Tregrenwell to Alice’s youngest son, Henry⁷ Mullis, as promised in the agreement Alice had drawn up to save the property for Henry:

Henry Mullis, by the surrender of William Hocken . . .⁷⁴

UNRAVELING IDENTITIES

In addition to documenting lineages, information in manor records can help genealogists separate people of the same name. For example, in an early stage of searching for Mullis ancestors, two John Mullises with a wife named Wilmot in Michaelstow Parish caused confusion.

1. As shown above, John⁵ Mullis of Tregrenwell in Michaelstow Parish married Wilmot (née Marshall) Anney in Egloshayle in 1656.⁷⁵
2. In 1631/2 at Michaelstow, John Mullis married Wilmot Northy.⁷⁶

The 1656 will of the latter John Mullis names (among others) his eldest son John and a wife Wilmot.⁷⁷ Proved on 25 June 1657, it implies a death date slightly before that of John⁵ Mullis of Tregrenwell, who was buried at Egloshayle on 15 October 1657.⁷⁸ John⁵ was the son of Mary (née Bartlet *alias* Williams) Mullis, who was named in the 1650 parliamentary survey. The same survey shows

70. DCO Assession Book (1668–1731), Manor of Helston-in-Trigg, Tregrenwill, 1701, DCO. One entry identical to the last one quoted is omitted.

71. John Mullis burial, 24 August 1708, Michaelstow parish register, DDP151/1/1, p. 38, CRO.

72. DCO Assession Book (1668–1731), Manor of Helston-in-Trigg, Tregrenwell, 1708, DCO. Two entries identical to the one quoted are omitted.

73. Alice Mullis burial, 29 December 1712, Michaelstow parish register, DDP151/1/1, p. 39, CRO.

74. DCO Assession Book (1668–1731), Manor of Helston-in-Trigg, Tregrenwell, 1717, DCO. Two entries identical to the one quoted are omitted.

75. Mullis-Anney marriage, 16 December 1656, Egloshayle parish register, DDP52/1/1, p. 103, CRO; FHL microfilm 1,595,486.

76. Mullis-Northy marriage, 14 February 1631/2, Michaelstow parish register, DDP151/1/1, p. 55, CRO.

77. John Mullis of Michaelstow, yeoman, probate record, 1 July 1656, proved 25 June 1657, Prerogative Court of Canterbury registered wills vol. 265 [Ruthen], quire 230; FHL microfilm 0,092,229. This will was proved in London during the Commonwealth, when the ecclesiastical courts were defunct.

78. John Mullis burial, 15 October 1657, Egloshayle parish register, DDP52/1/1, p. 148, CRO; FHL microfilm 1,595,486.

that the mother of the other John Mullis was Grace Bluett and he held land in Trevegean:

John Mullis by the surrender of Grace Bluett his Mother holdeth in Free Conventiounary one Tenement with the Appurtenances in Trevegean for which he Payeth per Annum . . . 0-11-0.⁷⁹

By the 1668 assession, John Mullis—son of Grace Bluett—had died and his wife Wilmot had become the tenant at Trevegean:

Wilmoate Mullis after the death of John Mullis her husband for a moytie and a iiiijth [fourth] parte and the same Wilmoate Mullis in her owne right for a iiiijth parte being the residue⁸⁰

These records identify the John Mullis who married Wilmot Northy in 1631 as the John who held lands in Trevegean. He was of age in 1650. In contrast, John Mullis who married Wilmot (née Marshall) Anney in 1656 was under age. The assession records neatly isolate the two men from each other.

CONCLUSION

English manor records are difficult to locate and use. Nevertheless, as the Mullis lineage in Michaelstow Parish demonstrates, they are valuable for family historians. Researchers can use manor records to fill gaps left by missing parish and probate records, reconstruct long lineages of countless yeomen, tenant farmers, and others, and distinguish among ancestors with the same name. Genealogists pursuing English ancestry cannot afford to bypass them.

79. Hore et al., *Parliamentary Survey of Helston-in-Trigg*, p. 26.

80. DCO Assession Book (1668–1731), Manor of Helston-in-Trigg, Trevegean, 1668, DCO.

Ohio Land Taxes: State-Level Assessment, 1804

Acts of the State of Ohio, Second Session of the General Assembly [begun 5 December 1803] (Chillicothe: N. Willis, 1804), pp. 166–67.

18 February 1804. An Act Levying a State Tax
 Sections 2 & 3. The tax is to be levied on every resident proprietor *owning* land . . . on the *fifteenth day of April*, annually. Each is to give an accurate list [of] all and every tract of land he, she, or they claim within the state, specifying the quality, quantity, range, township and county, if known, and whether holden either by patent, deed, entry, or other evidence of claim. It shall be the duty of the lister of each township, annually, between the *fifteenth day of April and the twenty-fifth day of May*, to demand of every respective proprietor . . . a list as aforesaid. [Emphasis added.]

—Contributed by Elizabeth Shown Mills, CG, CGL, FASG