

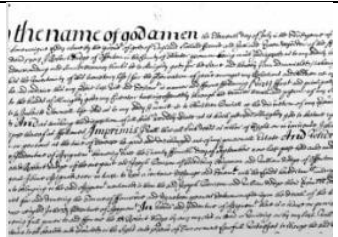





Horton Kirby, Kent, England – Scudder Ancestral Home from before 1504.

The Scudder immigrants to America were from Horton Kirby, Kent, and not from Groton, Suffolk, England as some old sources erroneously reported. A professional search of Suffolk County sources revealed there were no Scudders in Suffolk this early and none in Groton, Suffolk, England. This Scudder family is documented in Kent County at Horton and nearby parishes from the year 1504. With the aid of four wills, the Scudder Association was able to verify that *Henry^A Scudder, yeoman of Horton Kirby*, who made his will 1 September 1594 that was probated 5 November 1595, was the common ancestor of the Scudder immigrants who came in the Puritan migration, 1635–1644. Thomas¹ Scudder (T), immigrant, was son of Henry^A Scudder, the yeoman of Horton Kirby. Immigrants John² Scudder (J) & Elizabeth² Scudder (E) were Thomas¹ (T)'s nephew and niece, children of Thomas¹'s brother John¹ Scudder of Strood. Rev. Henry¹ Scudder was Thomas's brother.

For more about Henry^A Scudder, Yeoman of Horton Kirby, Kent, see these articles:

 <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Typical Home of a Prosperous Kentish Yeoman</p> <p>Straight From The Horse's Mouth</p> <p>Thirty years ago, in an earnest effort to call attention to significant errors to be found in numerous Scudder genealogies circulating the globe, David B. Scudder, the Scudder Association's editor of Scudder Searches, warned:</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small; color: red;">READ MORE »</p> <p>https://scudder.org/straight-from-the-horses-mouth/</p>	 <p>Our Story Begins with Henry Skudder (Scudder), Yeoman</p> <p>The strong ROOT of the American Scudder Family Tree was a yeoman in England named Henry Skudder, who died at Horton Kirby, Kent in 1594/5, but it took more than 100 years of research to prove it.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small; color: red;">READ MORE »</p> <p>https://scudder.org/henry-scudder-yeoman/</p>	 <p>The 400-year-old Will of Henry Skudder, Yeoman of Horton Kirby, Kent</p> <p>The 29th daye of September beinge the Feast of St. Micaell the archangell in the yeere of our Lorde God one thousand fye hundreth fourscore and fowre[teen] and the Sixxe and thirtieth yeere of the Raigne of our Sovereigne Lady Elizabeth, by the grace of God Queene of England etc.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small; color: red;">READ MORE »</p> <p>https://scudder.org/the-will-of-henry-scudder/</p>
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Compare the properties and names in these other wills that prove these relationships

 <p>Will of Rev. Henry Scudder of Collingbourne Ducis 1651</p> <p>For centuries, Rev. Henry Scudder has been the most famous Scudder in England because of his book, <i>The Christian's Daily Walk in Holy Security and Peace</i>. For two hundred years, this book was a staple in many Christian households on both sides of the Atlantic.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small; color: red;">READ MORE »</p> <p>https://scudder.org/will-of-rev-henry/</p>	 <p>Wills of William & Margerie Scudder (Scooder) of Darenth, Kent</p> <p>"My bodie to be buried solely according to the custom of the church of England, within the parish churchyard of Darenthe, as near as may be unto my father's grave.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small; color: red;">READ MORE »</p> <p>https://scudder.org/will-of-william/</p>	 <p>The Three Sons of Henry Scudder, Yeoman of Horton Kirby, Kent: A Season of Political Upheaval with Effects on Life Circumstances of Each Son</p> <p>This is the first in a series of articles to appear in the next few issues of Scudder Family Historical & Biographical Journal about the sons of Henry Scudder, yeoman, of Horton Kirby, Kent. This brief summary of conditions in their homeland gives context to the life choices each son would make.</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small; color: red;">READ MORE »</p> <p>https://scudder.org/the-three-sons/</p>
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First Ancestor at Horton Parish in Kent County, was Henry Skudder. All that is known about him is from his will dated 14 July 1504, & from the will of his second wife Agnes dated 4 Nov 1508.²

Henry Skudder's 1504 Will

In the name of God Amen, the 14th day of the month of July in the year of our lord 1504 I, **Henry Skudder** being of sound mind make this my will in this manner First I leave my soul to Almighty God, to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and to all the Saints. And my body to be buried in the Churchyard of the parish church of St. Mary at Horton. Item I leave to the high altar of the same church at Horton, for tithes forgotten, 3s 4d. Item I leave to the sacristan of St. Andrew at Rochester 2d Item I leave to the parish church of Horton one torch of the value of 6s 8d, and when I am buried, that light to burn during my obsequies, at the month's mind. Item I make constitute and ordain, Agnes my wife my sole executrix, to dispose of all my goods, moveable and unmoveable, for the good of my soul and those of my ancestors. Item I leave to my sons, that is to say, Thomas and Robert, after the death of my wife, all my goods, moveable and unmoveable, as common and undivided property, for the heirs male lawfully begotten of their bodies. And if it should happen that my sons should not have heirs male lawfully begotten of their bodies Then I will and ordain that Richard and John my sons should succeed to all my goods, moveable and unmoveable, as for the heirs male lawfully begotten of goods, their bodies. Item I leave to Richard my son 40s if and when the land and all my goods, moveable and unmoveable, may come and remain to the aforesaid Thomas and Robert, after the death of Agnes my wife. Item I leave to John my son 40s if and when the land and all my goods, moveable and unmoveable, may come and remain to the aforesaid Thomas and Robert, after the death of Agnes my wife. Item I will and ordain that the aforesaid Thomas and Robert may be of service to me and my wife in our lives for the time being. Item I leave to my daughter Joan Baker 20s. Item I leave to Margery my daughter, if by chance it should happen that she should wish to marry with the consent of her mother and brothers 20s, or otherwise nothing to go to my daughter, or otherwise she to receive any of my goods. Item I leave to Alice my daughter on her joining in Marriage 40s. Item I leave to Joan my younger daughter when she should come to her joining in marriage 46s 8d. Item I leave to Elizabeth my daughter on her joining in marriage 40s. These in witness: John Skudder, Thomas Skudder, Robert Skudder, Richard Skudder and John Skudder, and many others.

This will was proved before Richard lawfully constituted official for and in the diocese of 9th day of the month of November AD.... And administration of all and singular

² Henry Skudder, 1504, Kent Wills & Probate Indexes 1328-1890 Horton Kirby, Kent, <https://www.findmypast.com/transcript?id=ORIGINS%2FKENTWILLS%2F61479&tab=this>
Agnes Skudder, 1508, Kent Wills & Probate Indexes 1328-1890 Horton, Kent, <https://www.findmypast.com/transcript?id=ORIGINS%2FKENTWILLS%2F61202&tab=this>

the goods etc. of the said deceased was granted executorsworn in form of law
Signed and sealed on the day and year

**An analysis of transcripts of the will of Henry Skudder of Horton, w.d. 1504
Compared to his widow, Mrs. Agnes Skudder, w.d. 1508.**

Abstract of WILL OF HENRY SKUDDER OF HORTON, 1504:

Henry was to be buried in the Churchyard of the parish church of St. Mary at Horton....

“I make constitute and ordain, **Agnes my wife** my sole executrix....”

Legacies to family:

“I leave *to my sons*, that is to say, **THOMAS** and **ROBERT**, after the death of my wife, all my goods, moveable and unmoveable, as common and undivided property, for the heirs male lawfully begotten of their bodies.

“And if it should happen that my sons should not have heirs male lawfully begotten of their bodies

“Then I will and ordain that **RICHARD** and **JOHN** *my sons* should succeed to all my goods, moveable and unmoveable, as for the heirs male lawfully begotten of their bodies....”

Henry leaves 20s to *daughter* **JOAN BAKER**. [married daughter]

20s to **MARGERY** *my daughter*, (on condition she have the consent of her mother and brothers to marry—otherwise nothing. [Note: there must be a story here, and likely she was close to marrying age.]

To **ALICE** *my daughter* on her joining in Marriage 40s

To **JOAN** *my younger daughter* when she should come to her joining in marriage 46s 8d.

To **ELIZABETH** *my daughter* on her joining in marriage 40s.

WILL OF MRS. AGNES SKUDDER OF HORTON, 1508:

“I, Agnes Scudder of Horton, widow, some time the wife of Henry Scudder of Southe Darent in the parish of Horton, in the County of Kent:

[Body to be buried in the churchyard of Horton, by my husband before said.]

“...I bequeath and will *my two son*, **THOMAS** and **ROBERT**, according to their father’s will.

And I will Robert my son 1 black bullock.

Also to **ISABELL** *my daughter*.... [Not mentioned in Henry’s will. Was she Henry’s posthumous child? No other surname was attached so we cannot assume she was from another marriage.]

Also **JONE** *my daughter*....

Also to Agnes Scudder, the daughter of John Scudder, [step-granddaughter?]

“And I also charge and make *my sons*, that is to say, Thomas and Robert, to fulfil their father’s will and mind.

And I will *my 2 daughters*, each of them....”

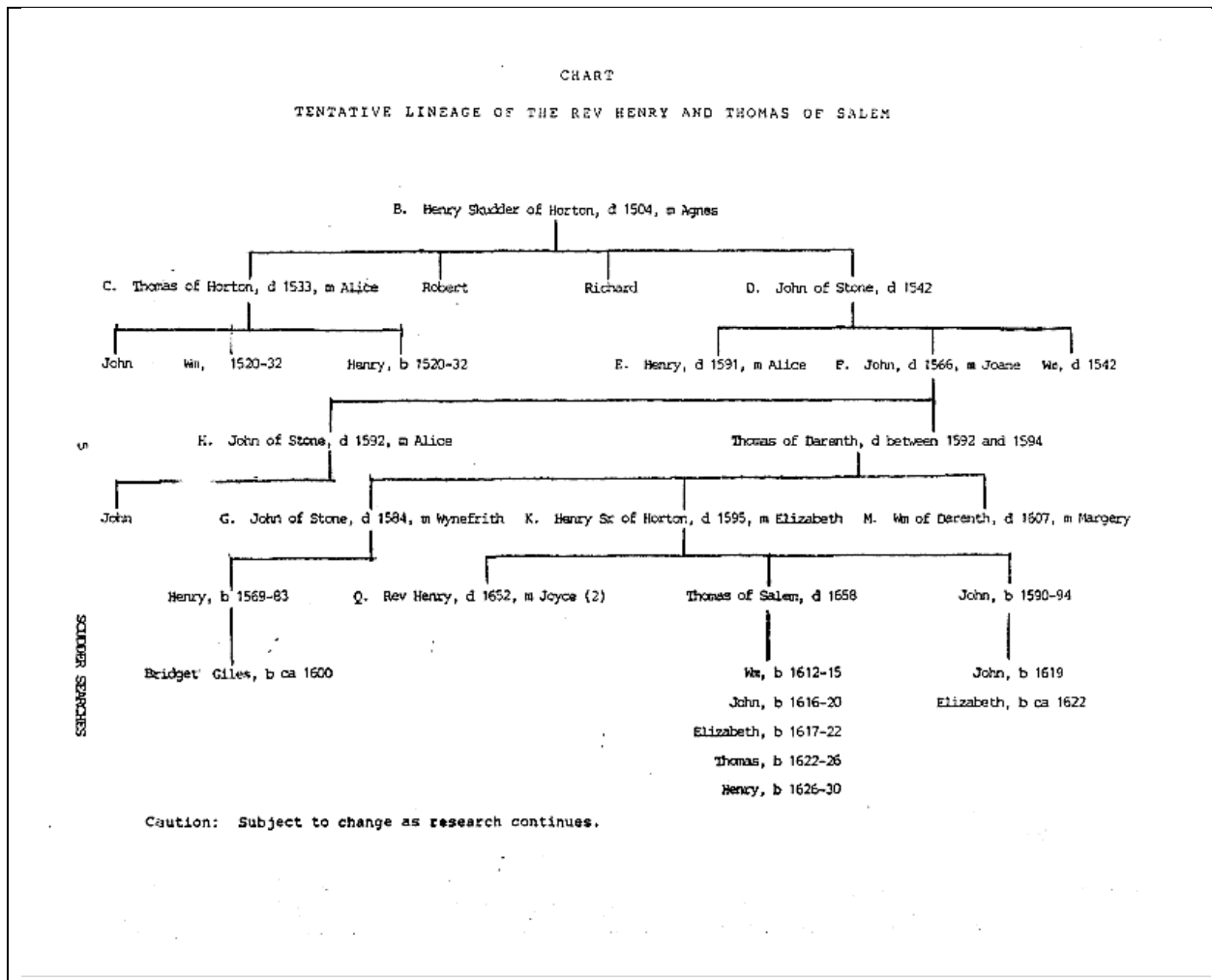
Agnes did not mention *her* daughter Elizabeth who was mentioned in Henry’s will after Joan. Was Elizabeth from the 1st or 2nd marriage?

If Thomas and Robert were sons of Agnes, then they were *younger* than Richard and John. In this case, it appears that Richard and John were sons of the 1st wife and likely had been given their portions before Henry wrote his will.

Simon Skudder, comp., "Pedigree Lineage Chart," *Scudder Searches*, Scudder Association, Inc., vol. 4, no. 4, (Fall 1992), 5.

Simon J. Skudder of England collaborated with the Scudder Association in the 1990s and made a meticulous study of the English wills for Scudders that he was able to find. This chart is based on a careful study of the wills found for this family in Kent published in *Scudder Searches*. The family history committee also published in *Scudder Searches* their summary of brief abstracts of the wills and assigned relationships based on their analysis.

Caveat: In this chart, the placement of Bridget Giles, b.1600 is not proven but assumes she was a granddaughter of Henry^A Skudder of Horton Kirby. Her parents are not proven. The children and the 1st wife of Rev. Henry^I Skudder, Bridget Hunt, and the mother of his children are not mentioned in this tentative lineage chart. See diagram on page 2.



With our Y-DNA expert and tools and other resources now available to us, and with our new DNA Committee and English Research Committee with our English Skudder cousins, we hope to make progress in further defining the Skudder/Scudder family of Kent, England.

Why can't we find more details about our English Scudder ancestors on the Horton Kirby parish register and other nearby English parish registers of Kent?

The surviving parish registers for HORTON KIRBY, KENT begin in 1678. Nearby SUTTON AT HONE did have available registers from 1607, but according to the LDS printouts (transcribed extractions), there was no family of a Thomas Scudder, and other Scudders were too late. STONE BY DARTFORD's available register began 1718. DARENTH began 1673. These are the four nearest parishes after Horton Kirby and wills show that ancestors had land there. Neighboring FARNINGHAM's register began 1589 but the printout showed no Scudders. We had better success with finding Thomas¹ (T) Scudder's nephew and niece.³

St. Mary the Virgin Church, Horton Kirby, Kent, England



³ STROOD, KENT has records for the wife and children of John¹ Scudder, Thomas¹ Scudder (T)'s brother, who was the father of the other two early immigrant ancestors to America of the Scudder (J) and (E) lines. Strood's register began 1565. The only Scudder children listed on the STROOD register were the sons John¹ Scudder (Henry⁴): *Thomas* bap. Mar 1616 and *John* bap. 17 Sep 1620 and two daughters named *Elizabeth*. The first was bur. 13 June 1616 and the second was chr. 31 Jul 1625.

⁴ Paul the Archivist, CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:St_Mary_the_Virgin_Church,_Horton_Kirby_01.jpg.