

“An Industrious Mind” The Worlds of Sir Simonds D’Ewes (1602-1650)

The D’Ewes wall monument (1624) is on the south wall of the chancel of St. George Stowlangtoft, Suffolk. Paul D’Ewes is flanked by his two wives. The children (all borne by his first wife, Sissilia Symonds) are below (sons on the left and daughters on the right).

All photos in this series are by J. Sears McGee unless another source is indicated.



Simonds D'Ewes was twenty-two and a law student at the Middle Temple in London when his father signed the contract for the wall monument in 1624. He could have accompanied his father to a meeting with the sculptor, and it is possible that this image does represent him with some degree of accuracy. Immediately behind is his deceased brother, Paul, followed by his brother, Richard.





Notice that little Paul (on the left) and Sissilia (on the right) carry skulls to indicate that they died before the monument was made.



St. George Stowlangtoft was built between 1370 and 1400. Its fanciful carved pew ends include a unicorn and a boar playing a lute. Simonds was buried on the north side of the chancel, near his parents and his first wife, Anne.





D'ewes's last school before he went to St. John's College Cambridge in 1618 still stands in Bury St. Edmunds, although the building is no longer used as a school.



St. John's College, Cambridge: Entry and Chapel. Simonds studied at St. John's from 1618 to 1620.



Middle Temple Hall (built in the 1560s and early 1570s) – Exterior and Interior. Simonds studied the English Common Law at the Middle Temple from 1620 to 1626.



Middle Temple Hall – stained glass window and “the cupboard”(used for such ceremonies as the “call to the bar” which Simonds enjoyed in 1623.



The Temple Church: the 12th-century round church and the 13th-century nave. It required extensive restoration after World War II due to bomb damage. But Simonds would surely have approved of the prominent pulpit and the restrained altar.



St. Peter and St. Paul, Kedington. Suffolk ("Kediton" in the 17th-century and the home of the Barnardiston family).





The wall monument on the north side commemorating Sir Nathaniel Barnardiston (d. 1653) and his wife Jane (d. 1669). They are looking toward the pulpit.



The Kediton pulpit (c. 1610) from which Abraham Gibson preached a powerful sermon heard by Simonds in 1624 and the hatchment commemorating Dame Ann Barnardiston (Anne Clopton D'Ewes's grandmother and guardian.)



Another view of the pulpit (note the hour-glass stand) and the Barnardiston family pew (c. 1610 but including panels from a parclose screen, c. 1430).



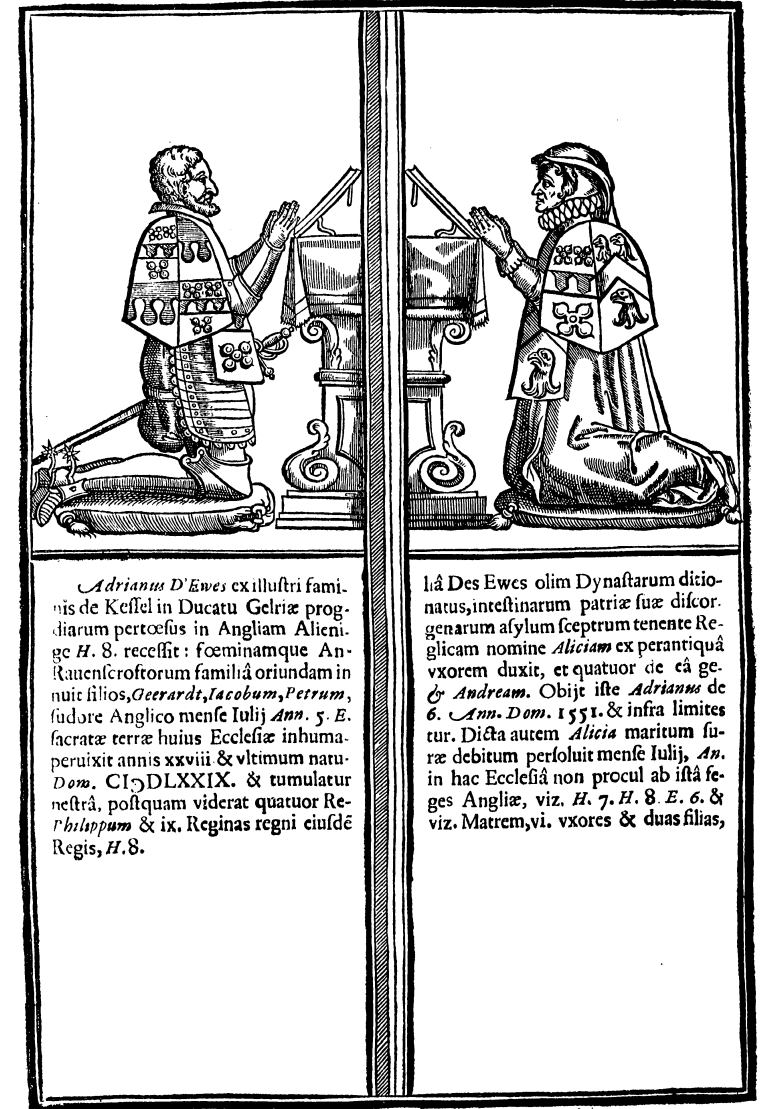
Lutons Hall (aka Kentwell Manor) near Long Melford, the childhood home of Anne Clopton D'Ewes, and a window in the dining room with the D'Ewes quatrefoils (probably a later addition).



More views of Lutons Hall.



Simonds paid to erect a stained-glass monument in the parish church of St. Michael Bassishaw in London honoring his paternal great-grandparents, Adrian D'Ewes and his wife Alice. The church was destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666. Simonds arranged that an engraving of it appeared in John Weevor's book, *Ancient Funeral Monuments* (London, 1631). For his father Geerardt, he had a monument installed in the parish church of St. Laurence in Upminster, Essex. The window is no longer there, but an engraving of it is also in Weevor's book (see next slide).



Note the use of the wolf's head with a collar device on the monument to Geerardt. When Simonds got a coat of arms for his father in 1627, he used this along with the quatrefoils because it had been part of the family's traditional heraldry.

The Epitaph of this about said *Ralph Lathom*, is placed in brasse, set into a faire marble stone, couering his tombe, and is as followeth.

* She was the
daughter of Sir
William Roche
Knight.

Here lieth buried *Rayff Lathom* esquire, late Lord of Vpmistre, and * *Elizabeth* his wife, which *Rayffe* decaied the xix. day of Iuly, *An. M^{ccc}cc. Lvii.* whose soule and all christen soules Iesus haue mercy.

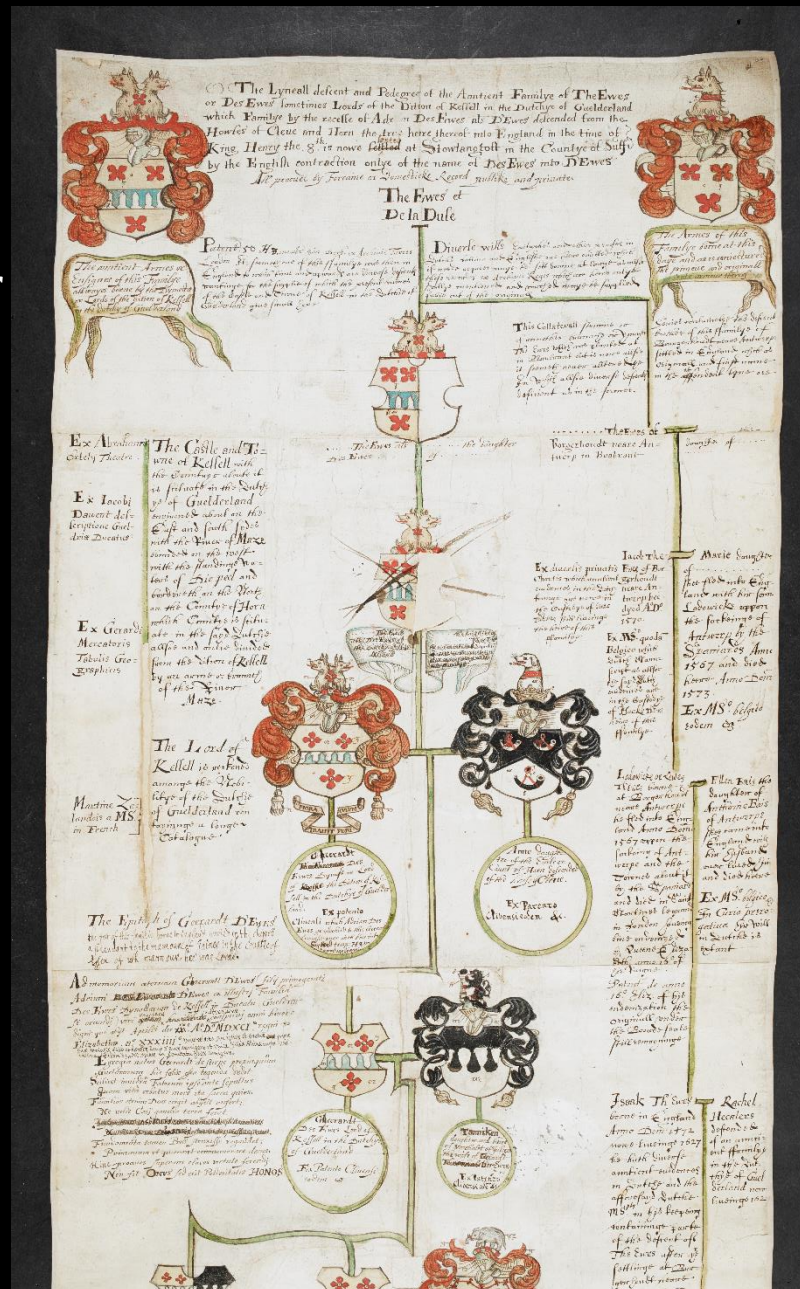
The next familie to whom by the sale of *William Lathom*, sonne and heire of the aforesaid *Ralph Lathom*, the before mentioned Mannor of Gains did appertaine, was the familie of *D'Ewes*, (from whom also it was again at last repurchased by *Lathom*) for *Adrian D'Ewes* being descended of the ancient stem of *Des Ewes*, Dynasts or Lords of the Dition of Kessel in the Dutchie of Gelderland, settling and marrying in England not many yeares after the beginning of the raigne of King *H. 8.* had issue, *Gerard D'Ewes* his sonne and heire, who hauing purchased the said Mannor of Gains as aforesaid, was after his death, according to the former vsage, buried in the said Chappell, appendant to the said Mannor, as other Lords of the same had beene, whose Epitaph, because it is replenished with many particulars touching the antiquity and ensignes of this familie. I haue beene more exact in the full delineation thereof in the figure following.

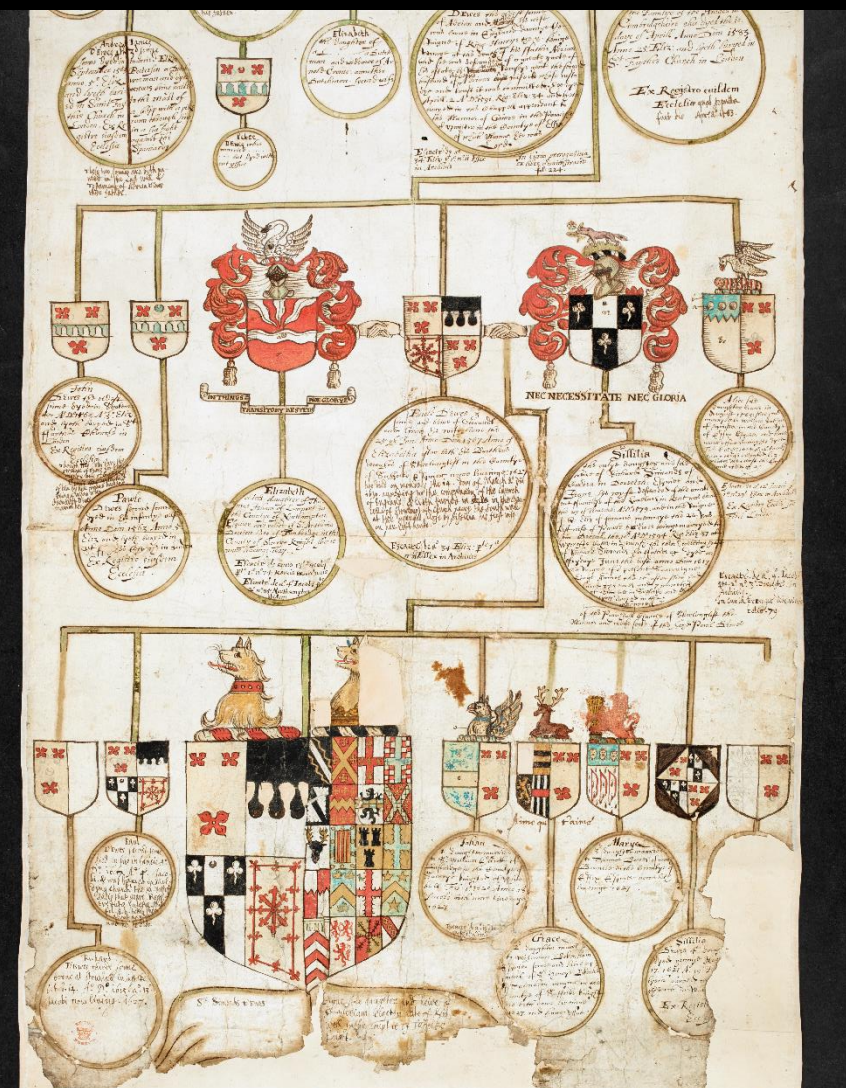
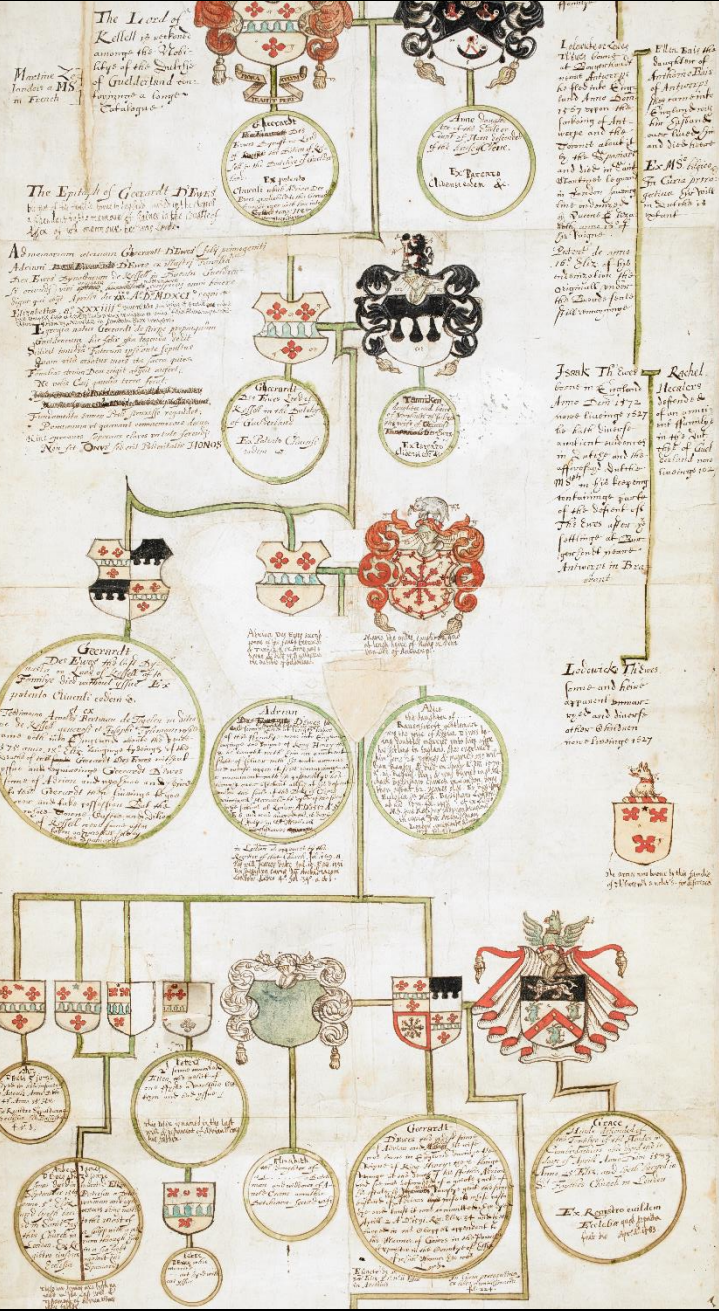
Ad



Ad memoriam æternam *Geerardt D'Ewes* Filij Primogeniti *Adriani D'Ewes* ex Illustri & perantiqua Familia *Des Ewes* Dynastarum ditionis de *Kessel* in ducatu *Gelriæ* oriundi & *Alicie* *Rauencroft* coniugis suæ viri singularis sub hoc marmore tumulati qui obiit die xii. Aprilis, Anno Domini *MDXCI.* Vnico relicto sui ipsius & *Gracie* *Hind* primæ suæ coniugis Filio & hæredæ *Paulo D'Ewes* Armigero (qui duxit in vxorem *Sissiliam* Filiam vnica & hæredem *Richardi Simonds* de *Coxden* in Pago *Dorsetensi* Armigero) & vnica filiâ *Alicia* nupta *Gulielmo Lathom* de *Vpminster* in Comitatu *Essex* Armigero.

British Library Harley Roll O 8 is a “descent” for the D’Ewes family down to Simonds’s time that begins with his great-great-great grandfather Gheerardt Des Ewes, Lord of Kessel. It is reproduced here by permission of the British Library in three parts. Much of the text is in the hand of his assistant, whose letters slope slightly to the right. But the heading and numerous additions are in Simonds’s hand, which is italic with letters that go straight up and down. Note that in the bottom section of the third image Simonds wrote of his brother Richard that he was “still living in 1627,” an indication that this was the year that the roll was completed.





Simonds began working on his treatise entitled "Great Brittaines Strength and Weakenes" on May 5, 1628. All that remains of it in his papers is a 1,500 word introduction, the first page of which appears here by permission of the British Library. It is a good example of how legibly he could write when he was making a "fair copy" of a document. Compare his hand here with his insertions to the "descent" on the preceding images. The citations in the margin demonstrate his insistence on thorough documentation to support his assertions.

Strength & Weaknes

Great Brittaines Strength and Weaknes.

Prolegomena.

The portentous and farre-spreading Conquest of the Austrian house and familie followed with the most unchristian & bloody persecutions² that ever since the primitive times are recorded to have wasted³ Europe, & soe apparantlie in these daies ~~have~~ discover the enraged cruelty of the Romish⁴ Antichrist, and threaten a generall and final destruction not onlie to the small remainder of Gods true though little flocke, but alsoe to the common libertie and flourishing continuance of all other kingdomes⁷ and free states of Christendome, where the divine hand hath not yet suffered their boundles ambition to swallow opp: as that it were now but grosse impietie or¹⁰ secure follie, either not to expect their tyrannous force, or not to prepare and fitt our selves by a timeli¹¹ foresight of the extreamest danger: because this Imperiall¹³ strong, and fruitfull Isle of Great Brittain, although tomerlie inscured by its owne division & dissension, when both nations under the government of severall Kings continuallie marching each upon other, and that especiallie in the times of the last Henrie, yet then proofed¹⁵ & hard in the late Queenes daies of ever blessed memorie beyond all other Christian states continued like the little Remora the onlie undoubted stay & stoppage that the huge vessel of Spaines much

1. La Ligue necessaire imprim. A. D. 1625. p. 3. et 4.
2. Ligabantur. includebantur. caelebantur. torquebantur. urebantur. variebantur. trucebantur &c. salutem continentem pro servatore. Aug. de Civit. Dei l. 22. c. 6.
3. Vique adeo ut videretur repletas humanis corporibus civitates, iacentes mortuos simul parvulis ferens &c. Eu. Mat. l. 2. c. 24.
4. Erit Christi vicarius, qui furoris conatibus christianum persequendo, Antichristum de esopalam proferat. Ioh. de. Instit. l. 4. c. 7. d. 24. f. 406. a.
5. Erit studium de Romas bestia simul et Pseudo prophete felendi funditus omnes cultores purioris religionis. I. Ho. Bright monument in Annot. p. 1609. f. 437.
6. Luk. 12. 32. Matth. 20. 16.
7. S. W. Rawl. Histor. of the worlde l. 5. c. 6. f. 12. p. 669.
8. Spaniards monarchie & League Olygarchie. A. D. 1592. p. 2. Apol. of the E. of Essex imp. A. D. 1603. p. 21.
9. Kai Tas speaking of some Graian altho wh not without imminent danger remained vaine secure.
10. Kai Tas speaking of some Graian altho wh not without imminent danger remained vaine secure.
11. Vna rebus salus est, occurrere ad primos rerum impetus. Sen. de Benef. l. 6. c. 3. p. 46.
12. CHARTÆ AVTIÆ. F. n. 10. in Archivis Turris London. Kennius MS. qui vixit circa A. D. 620. p. 29. f. 27. penes me in biblioth. ppia. Stat. de 24. H. 8. cap. 12.
13. Polyd. Virg. Annot. Angl. Hist. l. 1. p. 15. Henr. Hist. l. 1. f. 171. b. 14. Gualte-
rus Coventriensis MS. in biblioth. Cottoniana. Volum. 444. f. 1. a. Gilbas Badoniensis qui vixit circa A. D. 583. f. 6. b. Pontic. Verum. l. 1. p. 1.
15. vir. England and Scotland as see Robert de Avesbur. MS. in bibl. E. 3. a. cap. 7. ad cap. 15. Godefridus de Malme. MS. in a. 7. William. 2. p. 16. Ant. Britan. p. 236. n. 17. Annot. Angl. Monach. H. 8. pag. 32.
16. Span. Histor. p. 1239. Annal. Robin. l. 1. p. 514 et 515. 19. Hæc tabula (specimen)
17. Remora est salte contra tot impetus obstat in na via. Plin. Equid. Nat. Hist. 30. c. 1.



Portrait of Anne Clopton D'Ewes (c. 1626).
By permission of the West Suffolk Anglo-Saxon
Village Trust.



Window in the Clopton Chantry of Holy
Trinity Church in Long Melford combining
D'Ewes and Clopton devices).



The Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Lavenham, Suffolk, and the Ambrose Copinger family wall monument. Copinger preached the funeral sermon for Paul D'Ewes in 1631.



The “baby brass” under which lie three infant sons of Anne and Simonds is immediately in front of the altar at Lavenham and overlooked from the north by the Copinger wall monument.



Great Thornham Hall (near Eye, Suffolk) was the home of Wiseman Bokenham, Esq., who married Simonds's sister Grace in 1625. This is a 16th-century painting of his home, which was pulled down in the 18th century and replaced with the current hall.





Boxted Hall, Suffolk (four miles northeast of Long Melford) is a moated 14th-century manor house. It was the home of Sir William Poley, who married Simonds's youngest sister, Elizabeth (Betty), in 1636. Their portraits, which hang in the house (still the property of the Weller-Poley family) appear in the next slide.

Marie (or Mary) D'Ewes married
Sir Thomas Bowes of Much
Bromley, Essex, in 1626.
Simonds later made Sir Thomas
the executor of his will.

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Buckingham Palace.





St. Margaret's Church (15th-century) in Parliament Square, just north of Westminster Abbey. It has long been known as "the parish church of the House of Commons," and Simonds heard many parliamentary fast sermons here during the 1640s.



During the 1640s, Simonds had lodgings in what was called “the old palace yard,” quite near the present “dean’s yard” depicted here. He was only a few minutes’ walk from St. Stephen’s Chapel in the Palace of Westminster where the House of Commons met.



Visitors to the Manuscripts Reading Room of the British Library in St. Pancras, London, pass by a bust and a portrait. The bust is of Sir Robert Cotton, Simonds's mentor and friend in matters political and bibliographical. The portrait is of Robert Harley, Earl of Oxford, who bought D'Ewes's huge library in 1705. Harley's collection, purchased in 1753 by Parliament, is a major building block of the BL collection.