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## The early genealogy of Edward Jenner and the Jenner family of Kempsford, Marston Meysey and Meysey Hampton

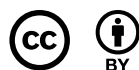
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**Abstract:** Edward Jenner (1749–1823) was one of the most important British historical medical figures and is considered the pioneer of vaccination and father of immunology. He was born and practised in Berkeley, Gloucestershire and his genealogy back to 1612 in Standish, Gloucestershire, is well documented. Many biographies about his life and work exist. A single document in the Gloucestershire Archives establishes the Standish Jenners as a cadet branch of the Jenner family of Kempsford and its surrounding parishes. This study demonstrates the utility of wills as genealogical resources, especially prior to the start of parish registers, and highlights the importance of sources such as deponents in legal cases in providing key locational genealogical information. The remarkably high frequency of early Jenner wills in Gloucestershire and Wiltshire, coupled with standard genealogical research, has enabled a pedigree to be established extending that of Edward Jenner by three generations, to approximately 1500 and collaterally, to important landowners in seventeenth-century Gloucestershire and Wiltshire. This represents the most complete genealogy to date of the Jenner family, and records confirm the existence of the family in the area in the early fifteenth century. The pedigree also illustrates the potential upward social mobility that existed in seventeenth-century Gloucestershire.

### Introduction

Edward Jenner MD, LLD, FRS (Figure 1) was born on 17 May 1749,<sup>1</sup> in Berkeley, Gloucestershire, the son of Stephen Jenner, MA, BD, rector of Rockhampton and the vicar of Berkeley. He was a country doctor and is considered one of the most important medical figures of all time and the father of immunology. He died on 26 January 1823 at his home in Berkeley.<sup>2</sup> In 2002, Jenner was included among the BBC's list of the 100 Greatest Britons.<sup>3</sup> Jenner was schooled in Wotton-under-Edge and Cirencester. At the age of fourteen, he was apprenticed for seven years to Daniel Ludlow, a surgeon of Chipping Sodbury.<sup>4</sup> In 1770, he trained in medicine under John Hunter at St. George's Hospital in London and returned to Berkeley in 1772, where he became the local practitioner and surgeon.<sup>5</sup> Despite establishing medical practices in London and Cheltenham, Jenner remained in Berkeley for the rest of his life. He was elected to the Royal Society in 1788 for his published account of the behaviour of the cuckoo,<sup>6</sup> and obtained his MD from the University of St. Andrews in 1792.<sup>7</sup> He was awarded an honorary MD from Oxford University in 1813<sup>8</sup> and was appointed physician extraordinary to King George IV in 1821.<sup>9</sup> Despite receiving international accolades during his lifetime, and against popular belief, he was never knighted, but did receive the Freedom of the cities of London, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dublin.<sup>10</sup>

In 1788, during a smallpox outbreak in Gloucestershire, Jenner noted that individuals who worked with cattle and contracted cowpox (a milder form of smallpox) never contracted smallpox. This was common knowledge in the countryside. Exposure to smallpox induced immunity for life, and variolation (deliberately inoculating someone with a milder form of smallpox, to avoid subsequent, more serious, natural infection) was commonly practised in Africa, India, China and the Ottoman Empire<sup>11</sup> and had been introduced to Britain in 1721 by Lady Mary Wortley Montagu (1698–1762), wife of Edward Wortley Montagu, British Ambassador in Istanbul.<sup>12</sup> However, variolation still presented a small risk of death (for example, a son of George III died in this way)<sup>13</sup> and could also lead to smallpox outbreaks. In 1796, Jenner famously inoculated eight-year-old James Phipps in the arm with fluid from cowpox vesicles from a milkmaid. When Phipps



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**Figure 1. Portrait of Edward Jenner by an unknown artist. Reproduced with kind permission from the Wellcome Library.**

recovered, Jenner reinoculated him with smallpox, against which Phipps showed no reaction. Phipps was subsequently inoculated with smallpox at least twenty times and Jenner concluded that he had developed protection against smallpox. Presciently, Jenner wrote: "It now becomes too manifest to admit of controversy, that the annihilation of the Small Pox, the most dreadful scourge of the human species, must be the final result of this practice."<sup>14</sup> Although others had treated against smallpox by inoculation with cowpox, Jenner was the first to publish his findings in 1798. Jenner coined the term "vaccination" for what we know of today as the administration of an antigen to produce an immune response by producing an antibody, after the medical name for cowpox (vaccinia), and in 1891, Louis Pasteur extended the terms "vaccine" and "vaccination" to refer to the artificial induction of immunity against any infectious disease.<sup>15</sup> In 1840, the British government banned the use of variolation and provided the cowpox inoculation free of charge, and in 1980 the World Health Organization declared that smallpox had been globally eradicated.<sup>16</sup> Edward Jenner died fêted, successful and wealthy.

### **The genealogy of Edward Jenner**

Edward Jenner's family was extremely respectable. Two of his brothers were clergymen, as was his father. His grandfather's first cousin was a clergyman and president of Magdalen College, Oxford. Edward Jenner's genealogy is cited in several works, such as Fosbroke and Smyth,<sup>17</sup> Fosbroke<sup>18</sup> and Burke and Burke.<sup>19</sup> His grandfather, great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather, however, who were all bakers, had more humble origins.

In addition to Edward Jenner's pedigree, which converges on Standish in Gloucestershire, a Jenner family originates from Kempsford in Gloucestershire and surrounding villages, extending into Wiltshire, for which a fragmentary pedigree exists.<sup>20</sup> The aim of this research was to use standard genealogical methodology and archival material to attempt to link the two families and thereby possibly extend the extant pedigree of Edward Jenner. A pedigree has been constructed that only includes connections for which a high degree of certainty exists, and most relationships have been corroborated by multiple sources. This article focuses in detail on the lineage of the Kempsford and Marston Meysey Jenners, which remains mostly unpublished, and extends that of Edward Jenner to at least 1500. It reveals that his distant cousins were extensive landowners in Gloucestershire and Wiltshire and included the MP and goldsmith Robert Jenner, and also illustrates the potential upward social mobility of the country yeoman in the sixteenth- and seventeenth-century shires.

The pedigree of the Jenners of Berkeley from Edward Jenner's son, Robert-Fitzharding Jenner, Esq., MA, according to Burke and Burke, is:

Lineage. THE REV. STEPHEN JENNER, M.A., b. in 1702, vicar of Berkeley and Rector of Rockhampton, co. Gloucester. (son of STEPHEN JENNER, by Mary, his wife, dau. of Thomas Davies, of Moor End, and grandson of STEPHEN JENNER, of Slimbridge, who was son of STEPHEN JENNER of Standish Court, who d. in 1667) m. Sarah, dau. of the Rev. H. Head, M.A., vicar of Berkeley and Prebendary of Bristol, and d. in 1754, having had issue.<sup>21</sup>

This is summarised in Pedigree 1 (Figure 2), with embellishments from parish records, wills and other sources. The association of Stephen Jenner (1612–1667) with Standish Court is questionable as, according to Morgan and Smith, it “was occupied by the lord of the manor, Sir Henry Winston, in 1590, by his son Henry in 1610, and by Sir Ralph Dutton in 1631 and 1634. In 1672 William Dutton lived there, and the house had 9 hearths. It was apparently let as a farm-house by 1735.”<sup>22</sup>

Although Stephen may have inhabited Standish Court in the intervening years, the association probably represents an attempt by later chroniclers to aggrandise the family. In his modest will of 1667,<sup>23</sup> Stephen makes no mention of an estate. He describes himself as a baker, and divides all his goods between his wife and children equally, with his wife to have the use and control of them for the maintenance of their children as long as she remains a widow. Stephen could not sign his name and appointed his brothers Anselme and William as witnesses, and Anselme and another brother, Robert, as overseers. Stephen Jenner (1612–1667) and his eight siblings were born to Francis Ginner/Gynner and were baptised at Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, a neighbouring parish to Standish.<sup>24</sup>

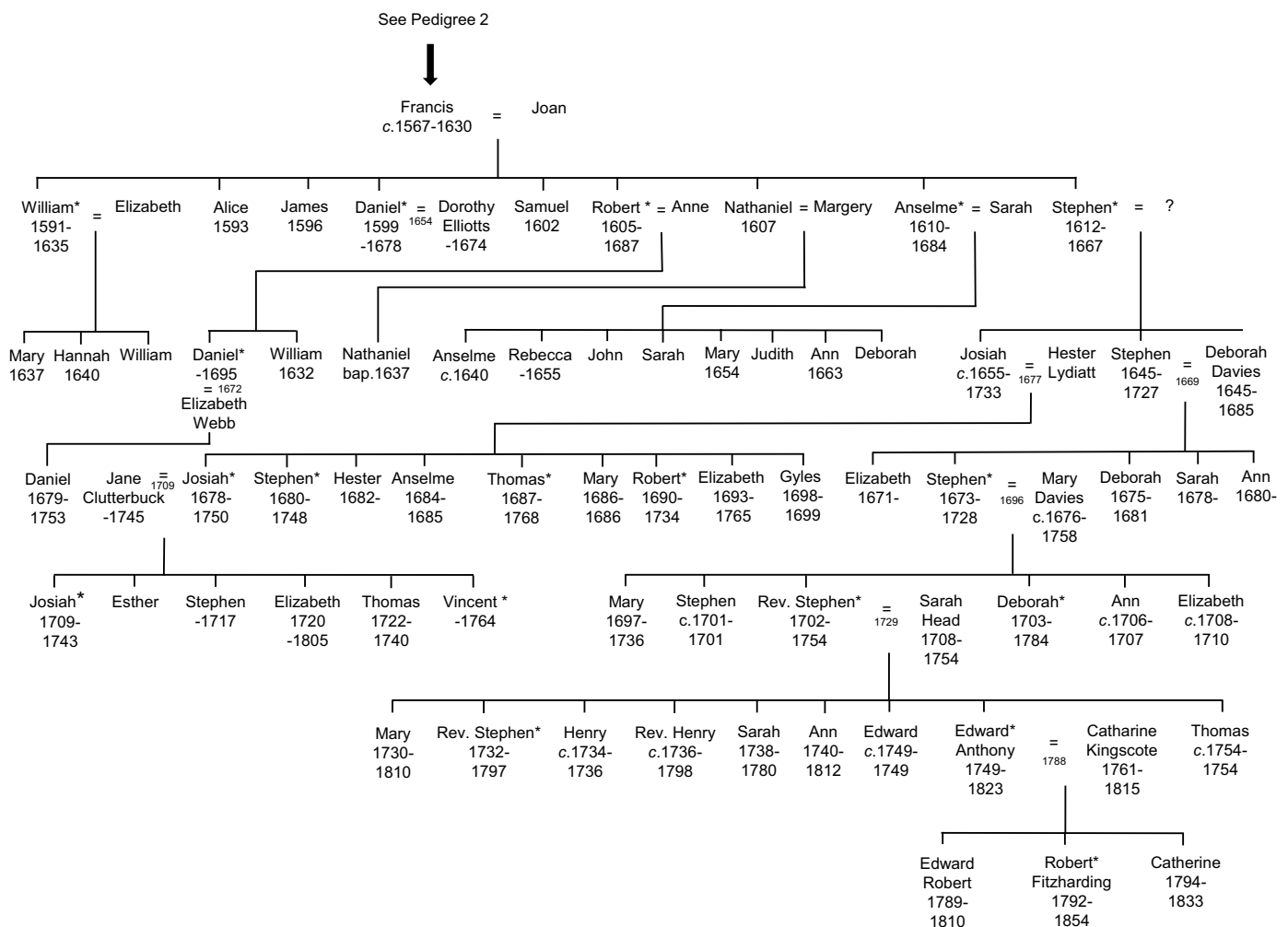


Figure 2. Pedigree 1. The family of Edward Jenner leading to Standish, Gloucestershire.

Francis married Joan (probably Joan Bence<sup>25</sup>) (see Figure 2) and in his brief 1630 will, he only mentions two of his children, Nathaniel and Samuel, to whom he left £10 each.<sup>26</sup> He left his remaining goods to his wife Joan, whom he made his executrix, and he was literate. Knowledge of the subsequent descendants of some of the offspring of Francis and Joan is patchy, due to the incompleteness of seventeenth-century parish records, especially those of Standish during the Commonwealth period. However, four of Stephen's brothers left wills: William in 1635,<sup>27</sup> Daniel in 1678,<sup>28</sup> Anselme in 1684<sup>29</sup> and Robert in 1687.<sup>30</sup> In the resident tax lists for Stonehouse,<sup>31</sup> William is listed as a tucker (a cleaner of cloth) and James as a tailor in 1622, both as temporarily resident sons. In 1632, Stephen is also listed as a tucker; Anselm is listed between 1658 and 1675 as a tailor/yeoman; Daniel is listed as a baker; and William is listed between 1658 and 1666 as a weaver.

Robert Jenner's son Daniel was the clerk in Pitchcombe and was baptised at Stroud St. Lawrence on 14 February 1650<sup>32</sup> and buried in 1695.<sup>33</sup> His son, also Daniel, who was born on 14 February 1679 in Stroud<sup>34</sup> and died in 1753,<sup>35</sup> became a clothier in Pitchcombe and had a flourishing family of nine children. Daniel of Stonehouse who died in 1678 mentions no children in his will and leaves bequests to his brothers and their children.<sup>36</sup>

Stephen's (1612–1688) younger son Josiah, a baker of Standish, married Hester Lydiatt, a widow from Stonehouse, in 1677.<sup>37</sup> One of Josiah's children, Thomas, entered Magdalen College, Oxford, in 1703, aged fifteen, was awarded degrees of BA, MA, BD and DD, and was a fellow between 1715 and 1745.<sup>38</sup> Additionally, he was curate of Horspath in 1721, vicar of Boldre, Hants between 1721 and 1730, prebendary of Worcester in 1728, rector of Wickenford, Worcestershire between 1730 and 1733, and rector of Icomb from 1733 to 1768.<sup>39</sup> He was president of Magdalen College from 1745 until his death in 1768.<sup>40</sup> Stephen Jenner (1645–1727) married Deborah Davies on 2 May 1669 at Standish.<sup>41</sup> His son, Stephen (1673–1728), was a baker of Slimbridge and left an estate in Berkeley to his daughter and son-in-law.<sup>42</sup> He is described as a gentleman in the records of his son Stephen at Pembroke College, Oxford, where he matriculated in 1720, obtaining his BA in 1723 and MA in 1726.<sup>43</sup> He became rector of Rockhampton and vicar of Berkeley.<sup>44</sup>

### The link between the Jenners of Standish and Kempsford

Two lines of evidence connect the Jenner family of Standish to the large Jenner family of Kempsford and environs: one is circumstantial and the other is a primary source. The circumstantial tie is a heraldic one concerning the arms of the Berkeley Jenners, which were: "Arms – Az., two swords, erect, in chev., arg., hilts and pommels, or, between three covered cups, of the last".<sup>45</sup> Although no Jenner family is listed in the Visitations of Gloucestershire, that for Wiltshire in 1623 mentions Edith Jenner under the entry for Vaulx, as "Editha filia Will'mi Jenner de Cainsford [Kempsford] in com. Glouc." the wife of "Jacobus Vaulx de Marston Maisay in com. Wilts".<sup>46</sup> The monument to James Vaulx and Edith in Meysey Hampton church shows her arms above her effigy, as three covered cups (Figure 3). Bigland (1792)<sup>47</sup> acknowledges this as "three covered cups for Jenner" and the similarity between this blazon and that of the Berkeley Jenners potentially links the two families. However, the monument of Stephen Jenner who died in 1754 and his wife in Berkeley church displays the arms "Azure a cross coupée between four fleur de lys or",<sup>48</sup> probably intended to be "Azure a cross flory between four fleur-de-lis or", which are those of Jenner/Jennour of Essex, including the baronetcy of Jenoure/Jennoyre of Much Dunmow, Essex, granted by Cooke in 1628, which become extinct in 1755.<sup>49</sup> Whoever erected the monument probably unwittingly used these unauthorised arms.

The primary source that unambiguously connects Francis Ginner/Gynner to Kempsford is a legal case concerning a church seat, from 27 Nov 1607,<sup>50</sup> which involved Francis as a deponent and provided this information: "Deponent: Francis Ginner, tucker, of Stonehouse, where he has lived for 30 years. Born at Kempsford, aged c.40." Francis was thus born in about 1567 and possibly went to Stonehouse for his apprenticeship as a child.

The Jenner genealogy in Kempsford (Pedigree 2; Figure 4) contains two contemporaneous Francis Gynners who were first cousins, born to William Gynner (who died in 1589)<sup>51</sup> and his brother Robert (who died in 1590).<sup>52</sup> One Francis remained in Kempsford, where his children were baptised: Kathryn (in 1589),<sup>53</sup> Annis (Agnes) (in 1590),<sup>54</sup> Elizabeth (in 1591)<sup>55</sup> and Alice (in 1593).<sup>56</sup> Robert Gynner's will in 1591<sup>57</sup> mentions his granddaughter Kathryn, the daughter of his son Francis. Therefore, the Francis who remained in Kempsford was the son of Robert, whereas the Stonehouse Francis was the son of William. This is confirmed by a bequest in William's will in 1589<sup>58</sup> to his son Francis Gynner of fourteen tods of wool, which Francis already had in his possession (a tod was an English weight for wool, usually weighing 28 pounds but varying around the country). As a tucker in Stonehouse, Francis would have had direct access to sell the wool to merchants and spinners in the Stroud valleys. In the 1608 muster list, Francis is listed for Stonehouse as "Francis Ginner tucker. Aged 40, lower stature."<sup>59</sup>

### The Jenner family of Kempsford

The village of Kempsford lies on the edge of the Cotswolds, between Cricklade and Lechlade and about 14 km east of Cirencester. Marriage and birth entries in the parish records began in 1573 and burials in 1575, with a notable gap in all entries for the years 1604 to 1617, "defective through negligence".<sup>60</sup> The Jenner surname spelling variants encountered in the research, even within individual documents, include Joyner, Junar, Gynor, Gymer, Gyner, Ginner, Gener, Genner and Gynner.



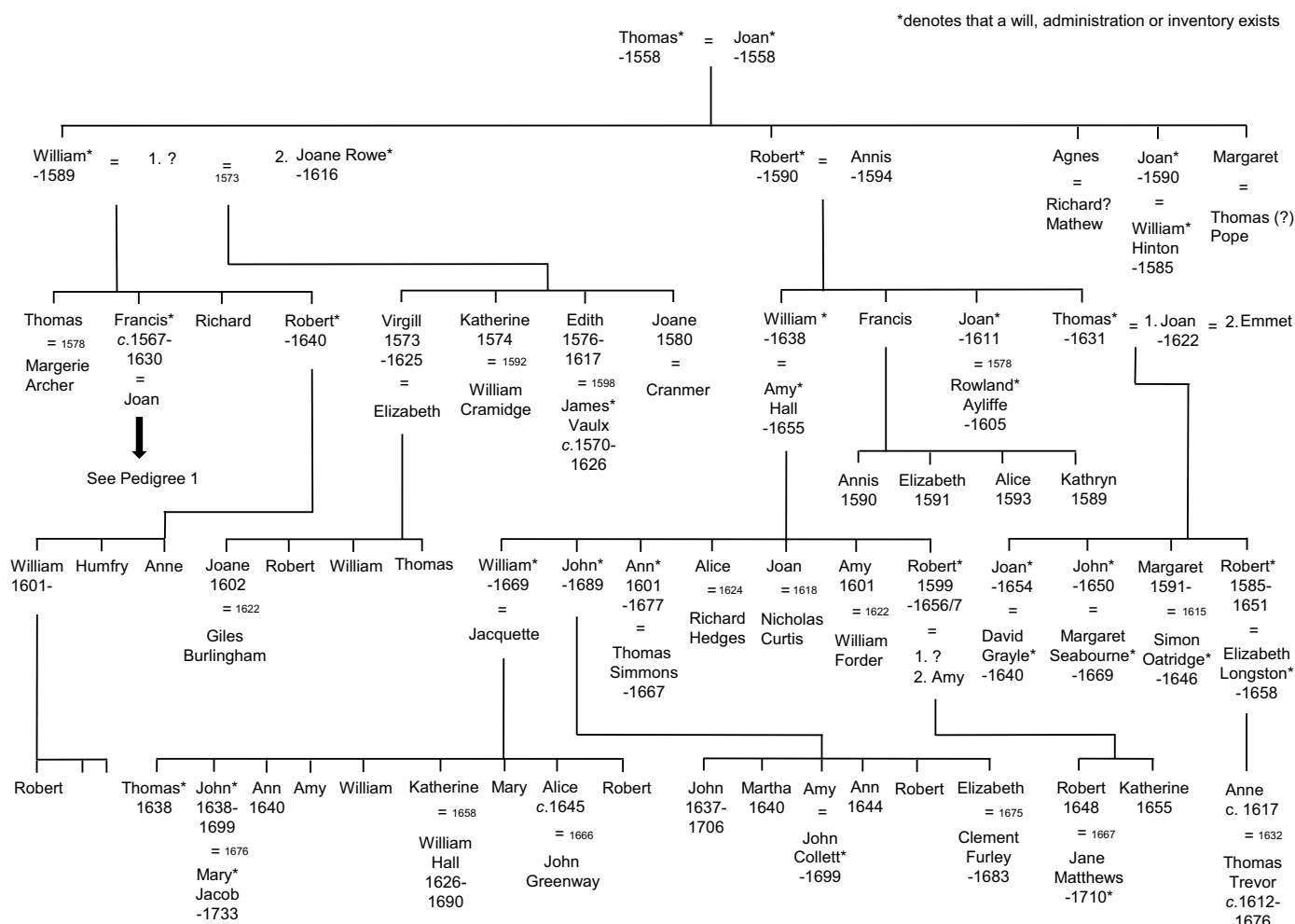


**Figure 3.** The monument in St. Mary's Church, Meysey Hampton, Gloucestershire, to Dr James Vaulx (d.1626) and his two wives: Edith Jenner (1576–1616) to his right, and his second wife, Philipa Horton (d.1631) to his left. Some of the children of James and Edith are depicted beneath Edith. <http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/3421710>. © Copyright Mike Searle and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence.

### Generation 1

Thomas Joyner and his wife Joane are the earliest traceable Kempsford Jenner individuals and they made wills within ten days of each other in 1558. This proximity of dates suggests that both might have succumbed to disease, possibly the severe nationwide influenza epidemic of 1557/8 that killed Mary Tudor.<sup>61</sup> Evidence that Joyner is a spelling variant of Jenner is provided by five other Kempsford wills from the Gloucestershire Consistory Court that were witnessed by Thomas: that of Joan Hintley, made on 20 March 1554, witnessed by Thomas Junar<sup>62</sup>; Agnes Richins, made on 22 April 1557, witnessed by Thomas Gynor<sup>63</sup>; Walter Costerd, made on 14 September 1543, witnessed by Thomas Gynner<sup>64</sup>; Thomas Saverie, made on 10 July 1557, witnessed by Thomas Gynner<sup>65</sup>; and William Richins, made on 15 September 1551, witnessed by Thomas Gynner.<sup>66</sup> Because only one Jenner family appears in the parish within this period, these name variants unquestionably represent the same person.

Thomas Joyner<sup>67</sup> left 8d to the church of Kempsford, 4d to the mother church of Gloucester, 6d to all his godchildren and diverse legacies to other individuals of 12d or 21d. His son Robert is not mentioned, but he left an interest in two-thirds of his estate to his son William and one-third to his wife. Joane Joyner<sup>68</sup> left sundry household goods to her children and friends and relatives. She also left her son Robert six sheep and two silver spoons, her daughter Agnes Mathew 26s 8d and a silver spoon, her daughter Margaret Pope 26s 8d, her daughter Joan Hinton 20s and a silver spoon, 4d to each of her godchildren and a sheep to each of her grandchildren. She made her sons William and Robert executors. Although the amount of money bequeathed was not large, the bequests of several silver spoons signify some status.



**Figure 4. Pedigree 2. The Jenner family of Kempsford, Marston Meysey and Meysey Hampton, Gloucestershire.**

### Generation 2

The two sons of Thomas and Joane, Robert and William, each left wills. Robert Gymer/Gynner, husbandman, was buried in Kempsford on 30 December 1590.<sup>69</sup> His pecuniary legacies totalled approximately £30 and included 20s to the poor of Kempsford, 12d to the church of Kempsford, 40s to his son Thomas (who owed him £14) and 40s to each of Thomas' sons, £10 to his daughter Joan Ayliffe and £3 6s 8d to each of Joan's children, 20s to Katherine (the daughter of his son Francis), Johane Hewghes 2s, 3s to each of the four overseers of his will: Humfrey Costerd, Richard Mathew, Robert Gynner and his son William Gynner.<sup>70</sup> He was also owed 20s by Humfrey Warde. He left twenty of his forty hogs and twenty of his best sheep to his son William and also mentions three servants: Humfrey Pope, William Patrige and Margaret. He appointed Annys (his wife) and Francis (his son) executors, and the will was witnessed by Humfrey Costerd and William Gynner. The earliest Kempsford will witnessed by Robert Gynner was that of William Crippes, on 1 March 1553,<sup>71</sup> suggesting he was then already at least twenty-one years old and placing his birth prior to 1532.

William Gynner/Ginner was buried in Kempsford on 8 August 1589<sup>72</sup> and his pecuniary legacies included 5s to Kempsford church, 20s to the poor of Kempsford, 5s to the poor of Cricklade, £100 to each of his sons Thomas and Richard, £60 to his son Virgil, £50 to each of his daughters Katherine, Edith and Joan, 6d to each godchild and 20s to each of three overseers.<sup>73</sup> He made Robert Gynner, his son, the sole executor. Thus, William bequeathed the huge total for an Elizabethan will of over £400. The date of William's birth is unknown, but the earliest will he witnessed among those in Kempsford was that of William Costard in 1571.<sup>74</sup>

William married his second wife, Joan Rowe, on 2 April 1573.<sup>75</sup> In her will in 1616, Joan's domicile is Whelford, a hamlet within Kempsford parish.<sup>76</sup> In addition to bequests of household goods and livestock to friends and relatives, her pecuniary legacies included 20s to her kinswoman Margarette Rowe, £5 to be divided among the children of her daughter Joane Cranmer, 20s to her daughter Edith Voasse, 10s to

each of Edith's eight surviving children and 10s to her daughter Katherine. Joan Gynner instructs her "cousin" (here, nephew) William Gynner, together with her son-in-law James Voasse, to oversee the estate and yardland where she lives and Virgil to receive the use and benefit of the estate for his lifetime. Virgil was the sole executor, and witnesses were James, Robert and Thomas Hinton.

### Generation 3

Edith Jenner (1576–1617) married James Vaulx (or Voasse) on 18 January 1598<sup>77</sup> and they had twelve children. James belonged to an armigerous family from Cumberland<sup>78</sup> and his memorial in Marston Meysey church erected by Francis, his eldest son, in 1630<sup>79</sup> states that he was: "a famous Practioner in Physick and Chiurgely ... who deceased March 17, 1626, to the generall loss of the whole Countrey, the private Griefe of all his Friends, more particularly of his sorrowful Wife." At least three children of James and Edith were early settlers in Virginia, America.<sup>80</sup> According to Blacker, "Dr. Vaulx's reputation was so great, that it is said King James I sent for him to make him his physician; but asking how he had acquired his knowledge in the healing art, whether from reading, or by observation and practice, and being answered, by practice, his Majesty replied, 'Then by my saul thou has killed mony a mon; thou shlt never practice upon me,' and so dismissed him."<sup>81</sup>

### William Jenner (d.1638)

Robert's son William Jenner married Amy Hall, as confirmed by the will of her mother, also Amy Hall,<sup>82</sup> who left her daughter "Amy Gynner" £13, and also by that of William Jenner's son Robert (in 1658),<sup>83</sup> who appointed his cousin Robert Hall of Arlington one of his executors (he was the grandson of Amy Hall by her son Robert). William "of Dunfield", also a hamlet within Kempsford parish, was buried at Kempsford on 20 November 1638<sup>84</sup> and his will mentions seven children.<sup>85</sup> (They are also mentioned in the will of his wife Amy, who died in 1655.)<sup>86</sup> The children were: Ann, who married Thomas Simmons (Simons)<sup>87</sup>; Alice, who married Richard Hedges in Eisey, Wiltshire in 1624<sup>88</sup>; Amy, who married William Forder in Kempsford in 1622<sup>89</sup>; Joan, who married Nicholas Curtis in 1618<sup>90</sup>; William; John; and Robert. Ann and Thomas Simmons from Southrop had no issue and Ann left her entire estate to her nephew John, the son of her brother William.<sup>91</sup>

At least twelve Kempsford wills witnessed by William Gynner as clerk or vicar exist within a thirteen-year period. The earliest was that of Richard Cook, on 25 July 1580<sup>92</sup> and the latest was that of John Bristow on 4 December 1593.<sup>93</sup> Robert Watte, Clerke, witnessed the will of Robert Hewer of Kempsford, on 27 March 1597.<sup>94</sup> As the earliest William Gynner in Pedigree 2 died in 1589, the William Gynner who was curate until at least 1593 must have been William Gynner who died in 1638. This is supported by the bequest to William in 1590 by his father, Robert Gynner, of his barley lying in the vicarage barn, which suggests that Robert was storing his grain in his son's barn.<sup>95</sup> The advowson of the parish was in the hands of Gloucester Cathedral from 1541,<sup>96</sup> but early ecclesiastical records are patchy. According to Mynors,<sup>97</sup> John Brooke was vicar in 1578 and Henry Blackborne in 1597; thus, signatories to Kempsford wills reveal two previously unknown incumbents between 1580 and 1597: William Gynner and Robert Watte.

The forty-one Kempsford men listed as fit for fighting in 1608 include:

Frauncis Gynner. Aged 40. tallest stature. trained.  
Robert Gyner unable in body has one corslet furnished.  
Frauncis Gyner and William Gyner have between them one caliver furnished.<sup>98</sup>

### Joan Gynner (d.1611)

Robert's daughter Joan Gynner married Rowland Ayliffe in Kempsford on 2 July 1578<sup>99</sup> and they lived in Sherston Magna, Wiltshire. Rowland's will of 1606<sup>100</sup> is in accordance with that of Robert Gynner who died in 1590: he left each of his three children (Robert, John and Margaret) £10 each, money that he says was mostly left to them by the will of "Roberte Gynner", their grandfather, and "Annis Gynner", their grandmother, and also by their uncle, "John Allife". He mentions his son-in-law William Clarke and his two children. His wife is made executrix and his brother Edward Ailife and his wife's brothers, Thomas and William Gynner, are overseers. The administration of Joan's estate in 1611<sup>101</sup> was granted to Robert Ailiffe, the vicar of Sherston Magna, Richard Woodroffe and Thomas Gynner.

### Thomas Gynner (d.1631)

The will of Robert's son Thomas Gynner, yeoman, of Milborne in the parish of Malmesbury, Wiltshire in 1631 was rather modest.<sup>102</sup> His possessions were appraised to be worth £38. His largest bequest was £30 to his daughter Margaret Oatridge and her children, to be divided between them equally. Thomas was illiterate and signed with his mark.

### Generation 4

Thomas Gynner's four children were all remarkably successful, either in business or in marriage. Margaret Jenner was baptised in 1591<sup>103</sup> and married Simon Oatridge of Garsdon, Wiltshire in 1615.<sup>104</sup> He belonged to the armigerous Oatridge family of Butler's Court, Lechlade.<sup>105</sup> A

Herald Visitation pedigree erroneously states that Simon's wife was Jane Jenner, but the genealogical evidence from Thomas's will in 1631 confirms that his wife was Margaret.<sup>106</sup>

John Jenner died in 1650.<sup>107</sup> He had married Margaret Seabourne, the daughter of John Seabourne alias Plummer, yeoman of Sherston Magna, Wiltshire.<sup>108</sup> Both John and Margaret died in Crudwell, Wiltshire (Margaret in 1669).<sup>109</sup> In his will, in the absence of issue, John left the residue of his estate to his brother-in-law Henry Ottrig, and appointed his brother Robert Jenner one of his overseers.<sup>110</sup>

Joan Jenner married David Grayle and died in 1654.<sup>111</sup> Her husband died in 1640.<sup>112</sup> A messuage in Garsdon, Wiltshire was leased in 1616 from Sir Henry Moody to John and Thomas Gymer to be held following the death of David Grayle and his wife Joan.<sup>113</sup> Joan and David had a son Robert, who co-leased a messuage with his father in 1627,<sup>114</sup> and two daughters, Margery and Elizabeth.<sup>115</sup> Joan was buried in Malmesbury Abbey, and her will was proved in 1655.<sup>116</sup>

Robert (1585–1651) was the most successful of Thomas's children. He married Elizabeth Longston, the daughter of Thomas Longston of London, grocer.<sup>117</sup> She died in 1658.<sup>118</sup> Robert and Elizabeth had one daughter, Anne, who at the age of fifteen married Thomas Trevor, Esq. in 1632, the son and heir of Sir Thomas Trevor, knight, Lord Baron of the Exchequer.<sup>119</sup> Anne died without issue and Thomas married Mary, daughter of Samuel Hortrey of Kew.<sup>120</sup> Thomas was created a Knight of the Bath at the coronation of Charles II and baronet of Enfield, Middlesex in 1641. He was MP for Monmouth in 1640 and MP for Tregony, Cornwall in 1647 and died in 1676.<sup>121</sup> Robert's position in the pedigree is confirmed by two sources. According to Sadler:

Robert Jenner being minded to settle his estate so that it should remain in his name and blood ... did by indenture of 20th May, 1643, between himself and John Jenner, of Marston Mesey, in consideration of his natural affection to the said John Jenner the elder, "his cousin German," and to John Jenner, his son, and William Jenner and Robert Jenner, the younger, brothers of John Jenner, the elder.<sup>122</sup>

As Robert was the first cousin of John, William and Robert, then Robert's father Thomas is the Thomas mentioned in the will of Robert (1590).<sup>123</sup> Furthermore, a court case states that Daniel Oatridge (son of Simon) seized part of the manor of Widhill due to the non-payment of a loan of £500 and rented it to Henry Morgan, and also states that Daniel and John Jenner Esq. are second cousins.<sup>124</sup> Robert made his fortune as a goldsmith in London: he became a freeman of the London Goldsmiths' Company in 1613, following an apprenticeship under Edward Greene,<sup>125</sup> and he specialised in refining imported silver bullion used in the wire-drawing trade. Much is known about his career in precious metals, and he purchased a house in Foster Lane, London for £1400.<sup>126</sup> He became MP for Cricklade in 1628 until 1629 and in 1640 in the Short Parliament and again in the Long Parliament until 1648.<sup>127</sup> Robert was a supporter of Parliament, but a moderate one, and he was secluded at Pride's Purge in 1648.<sup>128</sup> Robert bought several estates in Gloucestershire and Wiltshire, including the manor of Eisey, Gloucestershire, which he bought from Sir John Hungerford and his son Anthony in about 1628 together with his brother John of Crudwell and William Gibbs, goldsmith of London. He resold it in 1630.<sup>129</sup> He also bought the manor of Widhill in Wiltshire in 1624<sup>130</sup> and in February 1647/8 purchased the manor of Marston Meysey, Wiltshire, for £1092 12s 9½d from the trustees of Parliament who had confiscated the manor from the Crown during the Civil War.<sup>131</sup> Following petitioning of the inhabitants of Marston Meysey, the *Lords' Journal* for 1648 notes the building of a new church in lieu of an old and ruined chapel of ease.<sup>132</sup> The gift of a silver chalice to the church of St. James, Marston Meysey, inscribed "This Church was built and this Cupp given by Robert Jenner Esq. - 1648", shows that the chapel was built at Robert's expense.<sup>133</sup> It was the only chapel to be built during the Commonwealth and Robert revived a claim to the advowson.<sup>134</sup> Cricklade church contains memorials to Robert and his wife Elizabeth, and that of Robert attests to his munificence and benefaction:

Here lyeth the Body of Robert Jennor, Esq. Citizen and Gouldsmith of London, who, out of his Piety & Charetie, Built the Eight Almeshouses in the Abbie of Malmsburie, And hath Allowed Fourtie Poundes Ayear for Ever for the Maintenance of Them: who Allsoe Built a free schoule in this Parrish & Left Twentie Poundes A year for the Maintenance of it for ever. Hee Lyekwise Built the Parrish Church of Marston Maysie, in the Countie of Wilts: at his owne Proper Cost and Charge: Hee Hath Allsoe given Twentie Poundes Ayeare to St. Bartholemeues Goughlsmiths for fiveteene of the Poorest Men of Theire Companie, and five Poundes A yeare to the poore of St. John Zacharies Parrish, & five poundes Ayeare To the Poore of St. Leonards Parrish, in Foster Lane London: being All for ever. Hee Deseased this Life the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 1651 Aged 67 years.<sup>135</sup>

### **William Jenner (d.1669) and descendants**

William's children are mentioned in his 1670 will<sup>136</sup> and those of his mother (who died in 1655)<sup>137</sup> and mother-in-law, Alice Jaques/Jaquette/Jakett (who died in 1648).<sup>138</sup> His daughter Katherine married William Hall of Arlington (her second cousin)<sup>139</sup> and his daughter Alice married John Greenway of Cirencester.<sup>140</sup> Thomas Jenner (born in 1637) was William's eldest son.<sup>141</sup> Thomas Jenner, gent., widower, married Elizabeth Rance in 1671.<sup>142</sup> His first wife was possibly Marie, who was buried on 19 August 1670 at Meysey Hampton.<sup>143</sup> Thomas and Elizabeth had three children. The first, John, was baptised in 1672<sup>144</sup> and married Beata Stephens in 1706.<sup>145</sup> Robert was baptised in 1675<sup>146</sup> and Elizabeth was baptised in 1679.<sup>147</sup>

William's second oldest son John (1637–1699) married Mary Jacob, the daughter of John Jacob, at Inglesham, Wiltshire on 1675.<sup>148</sup> In his will,<sup>149</sup> William mentions his son John's father-in-law, Mr Jones, suggesting that John was possibly previously married. Confirmation that John who died in 1699 was the son of William is supported by a reference in John's will in 1700 to "my cozen John Jenner Esq.", i.e., John Jenner of Widhill (1637–1706).<sup>150</sup>

No further biographical information is known for William's son William. In 1665, William Jenner gent. of Marston appointed Robert Jenner (1643–1724) rector of Lydiard Millicent in Wiltshire.<sup>151</sup> The advowson belonged to the Richmond family as lords of Lydiard Millicent manor, but they were suspected of recusancy and the presentations between 1603 and 1724 were made by trustees or grantees.<sup>152</sup> Robert matriculated at Magdalen Hall in 1651 and was rector of Churchlench (1663–1670) and rector of Lydiard Millicent until his death in 1724.<sup>153</sup> According to his tombstone in Lydiard Millicent church, Robert was aged eighty-eight at his death, which would place his birth in about 1636.<sup>154</sup> It is unclear whether this Robert Jenner is the son of William who died in 1770, because his estimated birth precedes that of his older brothers, and another William who left a will in 1690 was also resident in Meysey Hampton at the time.<sup>155</sup>

### ***John Jenner (d.c.1689) and descendants***

John Jenner was a yeoman of Fifield, Oxfordshire. He left his son John a shilling in his will of 1690<sup>156</sup> and mentions his daughter Amy Collett and two of her children, John Collett, yeoman of Westcote, Gloucestershire (who died in 1698)<sup>157</sup> and Walter Collet (baptised in 1670).<sup>158</sup> Two other daughters are mentioned: Elizabeth, who was born in about 1651 and married Clement Furley<sup>159</sup> who died in 1683,<sup>160</sup> and Anne.

### ***Robert Jenner (d.c.1658) and descendants***

Robert was probably married more than once, as evidenced by a reference to "Amy my wife that now is" in his will.<sup>161</sup> Robert left freehold land in South Cerney to his son Robert, and the use of £200 until he attained sixteen years. He had already made over his land in Marston to his wife Amy as her jointure. He made his wife Amy executrix and his brother William, his cousin Robert Hall of Arlington, and his two brothers-in-law (Thomas Simons of Southrop and Nicholas Curtis of Kempsford) his overseers. Robert signed with a mark. A Katherine Jenner was baptised at Kempsford on 21 May 1655, daughter of Robert and Amy Jenner.<sup>162</sup> As Robert's will was made on 9 April 1656 and he states that his son Robert is his only son and heir, Amy presumably died in infancy. Robert's son Robert married Jane Mathews of South Cerney in 1667 when aged nineteen, which places his birth in about 1648.<sup>163</sup> He was possibly the Robert Jenner from Dunfield who was buried in 1688,<sup>164</sup> as Jane Jenner died intestate in 1710 and her administration states that she is a widow of Dunfield.<sup>165</sup>

### ***The manor of Widhill***

Robert Jenner who died in 1651 bequeathed Widhill Manor and its rents to his wife Elizabeth for life and its lease to his nephew Henry Oatridge for the annual rent of £450 until 25 March 1660, with the option for renewal.<sup>166</sup> He also gave John Jenner (1637–1706) the right to present a minister to Marston Meysey as often as it should become void. John Jenner (1638–1706), who was stated to be the younger son of John Jenner of Marston Meysey in Robert Jenner's 1651 will, inherited the manor of Widhill whilst a minor. John matriculated at Magdalen Hall, Oxford in 1653 and graduated with a BA in 1655/6 and MA in 1658. However, he subsequently "got into difficulties so great that the property became the subject of many lawsuits, from 1684".<sup>167</sup> Due to his debts, John absconded in 1680 or 1681 and was outlawed for debt in 1682. His estate was forfeited to the Crown and the profits were diverted to his creditors.<sup>168</sup> Bishop Narcissus Marsh, who was a fellow student and friend of John's at Oxford, claims in his biography to have lent John the huge sum of £2000 towards his debts.<sup>169</sup> Deborah Culme of Midghall also lent £100 to John Jenner of Widhill, esq., Ephroditus Marsh of Hammersmith, Middlesex, gent. and Narcissus Marsh (in 1669) and £100 to Robert Jenner, Rector of Lydiard Millicent and John Jenner of Widhill, Esq. (in 1675).<sup>170</sup> Exactly why the estate generated such debts is unclear. John's son Nathaniel who died in 1732<sup>171</sup> was apprenticed to William Whitmay of London for seven years in 1685<sup>172</sup> and recovered the Widhill estate that had been seized by creditors following his father's death in 1707.<sup>173</sup> Nathaniel married Katherine Adey (Adey) in 1707 at Earl-Stoke, Wiltshire.<sup>174</sup> Of their five children, Margaret died young, Robert died in 1730, aged eighteen,<sup>175</sup> and John, who entered Lincoln's Inn in 1725 and is described as an armiger,<sup>176</sup> died in 1731, aged twenty-three.<sup>177</sup> Nathaniel's son, also Nathaniel, married Catherine Parker of Lisshill (1729–1767) in 1748<sup>178</sup> and a daughter Mary was baptised in 1761.<sup>179</sup> Nathaniel died in 1761,<sup>180</sup> and in his will that was proved on 14 April 1764 he left all his property to Edward Pleydell, Esq., and Richard Kinneir, both of Cricklade, in trust to pay all his and his father's debts and the residue to his kinsman, Adye Baldwin, of Slough, Buckinghamshire.<sup>181</sup> The estate was again subjected to lawsuits, which were settled by the Court of Chancery in 1766, and on 9 March 1769 the manor was sold to Jacob, Viscount Folkestone, grandson of Sir Mark Stewart Pleydell, of Coleshill, for £18,600.<sup>182</sup>

### ***The manor of Marston Meysey***

Robert Jenner bequeathed Marston Meysey Manor to Robert Jenner, his godson, the son of William Jenner of Marston Meysey, also known as William Jenner the elder.<sup>183</sup> In 1669, a survey of Marston Meysey Manor by the Bishop of Gloucester showed that members of the Jenner family held a 2-yardland freehold, and five other copyhold properties in Marston Meysey as tenants, totalling a further 8¼ yardlands (in Marston Meysey at this time, a yardland was 25 acres).<sup>184</sup> After the Restoration, Marston Meysey Manor reverted to the bishops of Salisbury,<sup>185</sup> but in 1699, John Jenner, the son of William who died in 1669, left his wife the wood in the orchard that belonged to his manor house of



Marston.<sup>186</sup> This house appears to be Marston Manor Farm, which had been leased by the Jenner family since about 1621 and in 1669 consisted of 183 acres of arable land.<sup>187</sup> For the baptism of two of his children, John is described as “of Marston manor farm”.<sup>188,189</sup> John’s oldest son and heir, also John (1682–1716), inherited the estate. In 1717, in addition to the parsonage, tithes and copyhold estate in Southrop, John left Marston Meysey Farm to his brother Robert.<sup>190</sup> On Robert’s death in 1743, the estate passed to his son John and to John’s spinster daughter and heir Mary (1762–1826).<sup>191</sup> John died in 1788,<sup>192</sup> and Mary sold the Southrop rectory in 1802 to John Tuckwell who died in 1826<sup>193</sup> and left the residue of her Marston Meysey estate to David Archer.<sup>194</sup> In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the Jenners were influential in the community as parish officers, tax collectors and assessors, and some members of the family styled themselves gentlemen and were considered minor gentry.<sup>195</sup>

### John Gynnor, a fifteenth-century Gloucestershire Jenner and connection to Jenners of Suffolk

Sir Francis Fust, Bart. (1705–1769) of Hill Court, Gloucestershire, “always acknowledged Edward Jenner of Berkeley to be a relation”,<sup>196</sup> which seems unlikely, considering that he died when Edward Jenner was only twenty, but Sir Francis descended from the Jenners of Wenvoe Castle, near Cardiff, who bore the same arms as the Berkeley Jenners.<sup>197</sup> The Wenvoe Jenners trace their ancestry back to Sir Thomas Jenner of Petersham, Surrey (1638–1707),<sup>198</sup> who was the son of Thomas Jenner of Mayfield, Sussex and Dorothy (née Glyde).<sup>199</sup> He entered the Inner Temple and was called to the Bar, married Ann Poe in 1661,<sup>200</sup> was knighted in 1683 and became MP for Rye, Sussex for 1685–1686.<sup>201</sup> He was also Baron of the Exchequer, Recorder of London, 1683–1686 and King’s Serjeant, 1684.<sup>202</sup> He was arrested while attempting to escape with James II and was sent to the Tower, but continued to work as a barrister after his release in 1690.<sup>203</sup> Sir Thomas’s arms were augmented in 1684 to become “az. two swords, erect, in chev. ar. hilts and pomels or, betw. three covered cups of the last. – Crest, a covered cup or, standing betw. two swords, in saltier, ar. hilts and pomels of the first”.<sup>204</sup> Thomas belonged to a dispersed Sussex yeoman family. His grandfather was Thomas Jenner of Northam, Sussex, who died in about 1640.<sup>205</sup> The origin of the arms that were augmented is unknown and requires further research at the College of Arms in London, but may show that the Jenners of Kempford and those of Sussex are connected.

Some Joyner individuals were recorded in Cirencester from 1560,\* and a cluster of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Joyners/Jenners at Shrivensham, Oxfordshire, near the Wiltshire border and not far from Kempford, include a baptism in 1575,<sup>206</sup> but there were no other major local concentrations of Jenners or name derivatives in the sixteenth century. However, detailed information for John Gynnor alias Chynnor from the fifteenth century almost certainly implicates him as an antecedent of the Jenners from Kempford and Marston Meysey. According to Winchester College records, John Gynnor was admitted in 1434, as “de Castell Eton [Castle Eaton] in com. Wilts”<sup>207</sup> and then became a fellow of New College, Oxford, in 1441, as “de par. de Heyworth [Highworth], Sar. dioc”.<sup>208</sup> He was then admitted as a Fellow of Winchester College in 1452, as “de parochia de Eton Meysey in com. Wilch”<sup>209</sup> and then became chaplain of Fromond’s Chantry at Winchester between 1461 and 1492, when he died. This establishes a connection between the Jenner family in the Marston Meysey area to the early fifteenth century and also suggests a degree of social standing and education.

### Conclusion

Diverse archival sources have linked the pedigree of Edward Jenner to the Jenner family of Kempford and environs, which contains important Gloucestershire landowners and extends to at least the start of the 1500s. The key importance of court depositions in providing locational data and in linking collateral family branches is highlighted, as well as the importance of wills in establishing early genealogy prior to the start of parish registers. The research integrates two individuals whose exact positions were unknown into the broader Jenner genealogy: the goldsmith Robert Jenner (1585–1651), and Edith Vaulx (née Jenner, 1576–1617), about whose memorial in Meysey Hampton church much has been written. The biographies of several individuals in the Jenner pedigree demonstrate the relative potential ease for social and financial upwards mobility in seventeenth-century England. For example, Robert Jenner the goldsmith (1585–1651), who became a wealthy landowner whose daughter married a presumptive baronet, and the Rev. Thomas Jenner (1687–1768), the president of Magdalen College, Oxford, were both born into yeoman backgrounds. The connection of the Jenner family to the Marston Meysey area in the early fifteenth century via John Gynnor, the chaplain of Fromond’s chantry in Winchester College, confirms that Edward Jenner truly was a child of Gloucestershire.

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\*See Gloucestershire, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538–1813 results for Joyner. <http://www.ancestry.co.uk/>.



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