

**GENEALOGICAL MEMOIRS OF THE FAMILIES  
OF CHESTER OF BRISTOL, BARTON REGIS,  
LONDON, AND ALMONDSBURY, AND ALSO  
OF THE FAMILIES OF ASTRY OF LONDON,  
KENT, BEDS, HUNTS, OXON, AND  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE**

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Genealogical Memoirs of the Families of Chester of Bristol, Barton Regis, London, and Almondsbury, and Also of the Families of Astry of London, Kent, Beds, Hunts, Oxon, and Gloucestershire by Robt. Edmond Chester Waters

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**ROBT. EDMOND CHESTER WATERS**

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GENEALOGICAL MEMOIRS  
OF THE  
FAMILIES OF CHESTER

OF  
BRISTOL, BARTON REGIS, LONDON, AND ALMONDSBURY,  
DESCENDED FROM  
HENRY CHESTER, SHERIFF OF BRISTOL 1470.

AND ALSO OF THE  
FAMILIES OF ASTRY  
OF LONDON, KENT, BEDS, HUNTS, OXON, AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE,  
DESCENDED FROM SIR RALPH ASTRY, KT., LORD MAYOR OF LONDON 1498.

ATTEMPTED BY  
ROBT<sup>T</sup> EDMOND CHESTER WATERS, Esq., B.A.  
A BARRISTER OF THE INNER TEMPLE, ETC.  
AUTHOR OF 'GENEALOGICAL MEMOIRS OF THE EXTINCT FAMILY OF CHESTER OF CHICHELEY,  
THEIR ANCESTORS AND DESCENDANTS.'

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1881.  
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TO

THOMAS WILLIAM CHESTER MASTER, ESQ.

*Of Knole Park in Almondsbury, and of The Abbey, Cirencester.*

MY DEAR SIR,

In collecting materials for the history of the Chesters of Chicheley I accumulated, almost without intention, a mass of notes concerning the other families of Chester; and I have now put together for your acceptance what I have found about your ancestors, the Chesters of Gloucestershire.

It was firmly believed in both our families a hundred and fifty years ago that they sprung from a common ancestor, in the person of Robert Chester, who founded a chantry at Stow-on-the-Wold in 1445; and this tradition had so much weight with your relation and predecessor, Mr. Chester of Knole, who was for nearly thirty years the respected M.P. for Gloucestershire, that when he married in 1736, he went out of his way to have his marriage celebrated at Mercers' Chapel by Mr. Anthony Chester, who was afterwards the ninth Baronet of Chicheley. I am afraid, however, that the story of our common descent is one of those family traditions which will not bear the test of historical criticism; for it is certain that the two families were distinct in the reign of Henry VI., and there is no proof whatever of their common origin.

The genealogy of the Astry family, whose Arms are quartered by the heirs of the Chesters of Knole, has cost more labour and time than I had anticipated; but the descent of your ancestor, Sir Samuel Astry of Henbury, from Sir Ralph Astry, the Lord Mayor of 1493, had still to be proved, and the connexion between the different branches of Sir Ralph's descendants has now for the first time been worked out in detail.

My Memoir would have been less imperfect, if my researches had not been interrupted twelve years ago by my deplorable illness; but an invalid imprisoned to his room must often be contented to indicate fresh sources of information, which he can never hope to explore. You may rely, however, on the accuracy of my Notes, so far as they go; for nothing has been admitted into the text except upon sufficient evidence, and every statement is vouched by reference to my authority. The proofs are collected in an Appendix, and are referred to by numbers in brackets; but I have not thought it necessary to encumber my text by continual references to the printed histories of Bristol and Gloucestershire.

A book of this kind could scarcely be compiled without local assistance; and I gratefully acknowledge my obligations to those who have been good enough to supply me with information.

The early registers of St. John's and St. James's parishes at Bristol were examined for me by Mr. Henry Sidney Wasbrough, who has spared neither time nor trouble in making searches on my behalf in the archives of the Corporation; whilst Mr. F. Grigson transcribed for me from his Collection of Extracts from Bristol registers all the entries in which the name of Chester occurs. Mr. W. D. Sweeting searched the Registry at Peterborough for Wills of the Astrey family from 1615 to 1660; and I am indebted to Mr. Stephen Tucker, Somerset Herald, for copies of the pedigrees of Astrey recorded in the College of Arms, as well as for some valuable hints on the subject of your Arms and Quarterings. Most of the Astrey Wills were transcribed under my direction by Miss Horatia Gatty; and I have to thank her brother, Rouge Dragon, for the Will of Dr. Francis Astrey, which is of too recent a date to be copied in the Public Searchroom. Miss Emily Holt was generous enough to impose on herself the task of examining the inquests *post mortem* at the Record Office, at a great sacrifice of personal comfort; and the Index, which adds so materially to the value of a book of reference, was undertaken as a labour of love by Mr. Thomas Mason, the Senior Assistant-Librarian of the Mitchell Library, Glasgow.



DEDICATORY EPISTLE.

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It will be seen, too, from my frequent references to their genealogical collections, how often my friends Colonel J. L. Chester, the accomplished editor of the *Registers of Westminster Abbey*, and Mr. G. E. Cokayne, *Lancaster Herald*, have permitted me to reap the fruits of their labour and research.

I have the honour to be, my dear Sir,  
Your very faithful Servant,

EDMOND CHESTER WATERS.

6 Howick Place, Westminster,  
December 1880.

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