

**THE BROOKE FAMILY OF WHITCHURCH,  
HAMPSHIRE, ENGLAND: TOGETHER WITH  
AN ACCOUNT OF ACTING-GOVERNOR  
ROBERT BROOKE OF MARYLAND AND  
COLONEL NINIAN BEALL OF MARYLAND  
AND SOME OF THEIR DESCENDANTS**

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The Brooke Family of Whitchurch, Hampshire, England: Together with an Account of Acting-governor Robert Brooke of Maryland and colonel Ninian Beall of Maryland and some of their descendants by Thomas Willing Balch

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**THOMAS WILLING BALCH**

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# THE BROOKE FAMILY

OF

WHITCHURCH, HAMPSHIRE, ENGLAND

TOGETHER WITH AN ACCOUNT OF

ACTING-GOVERNOR ROBERT BROOKE

OF MARYLAND

AND

COLONEL NINIAN BEALL

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THOMAS WILLING BALCH

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## THE BROOKE FAMILY OF WHITCHURCH

AND

SOME OF THEIR DESCENDANTS.

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THE little village of Whitchurch is situated in the northern part of Hampshire, England. Since Saxon times the place has always had a church built of the white stone found in the neighborhood; and thus the name—Whitchurch—originated. In the latter half of the sixteenth century there lived at Whitchurch, Richard Brooke, gentleman, and his wife, Elizabeth Twyne.<sup>1</sup> That they were people of means for those days is shown by the items in the will of Richard Brooke dividing among his children his "leases held by the Blessed Trinity in Winchester," his lease of Knoll, his woods in Chalgrove and Freefolk and the Manor of West Fosbury. To his wife he leaves his "free lands and tenements in Whitchurch and Freefolk"

<sup>1</sup> She was sister and co-heir of John Twyne of Whitchurch, and appears to have descended from Sir Bryan Twyne of Long Parish, County Southampton, who was living before 1500.

Twyne *Arms*: *Ar.* a fesse, embattled, sable, in chief two estoiles of the last. William Berry's *County Genealogies. Hants.* London, 1833, pages 222, 223, 339.

and his "lease of the parsonage of Whitchurch," their homestead.<sup>2</sup>

This house is built of brick in the open country a short distance beyond the church, which is at the western end of the village. In September, 1897, it still stood firm and sound, but with an addition on the side towards the open country away from the church and the village. In the old part there were three rooms on the lower floor. The biggest room, which served probably both as a reception and dining room, contained a large open fireplace. The room back of this, very likely, was the kitchen. In the small remaining room, perhaps the stairs stood. In the largest room on the upper floor, also possessed of a fine open fireplace, Charles the First passed a few days during the Civil War before the battle of Newberry in 1644. The brasses of Richard Brooke and his wife, together with

<sup>2</sup> Will dated January 10th, 1588-9, as of Richard Brooke of Whitchurch, County Southampton, Gentleman. Proved May 6th, 1594, by Elizabeth Brooke, relict and executrix.

Will of Elizabeth Brooke dated May 16th, 1599. Proved by Robert Brooke, son and executor, in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury and recorded in the Principal Registry of Probate at London.

Communicated by Arthur Spnyd Brooke, Esq.

Brooke *Arms*: Chequy or and az. on a bend gu. a lion, passant, of the first. *Crest*—A demi lion, rampant, erased, or. The use of these arms was confirmed by a patent by William Camden, Clarendieux, Visitation of 1634. William Berry's *County Genealogies. Hants.* London, 1833, page 339.

two smaller ones underneath of their three sons and three daughters, respectively, the whole surmounted by the Brooke and the Twyne arms, are affixed on the wall near one corner; all these brasses originally were upon the floor of the church. Under the brasses a brass plate bears the following inscription, which I copied myself:

## "PIETATIS OPUS.

"This grave (of griefe) hath swallowed up with wide  
and open mouth,

The bodie of good Richard Brooke, of Whitchurch,  
Hampton South

And Elizabeth his wedded wife, twice twentie yeares  
and one,

Sweete Jesus hath their soules in heaven, yè ground  
flesh, skin and bone.

In Januarie (worne with age) daie sixteenth died hee,  
From Christ full fiteene hundred yeares and more by  
ninetie three,

But death her twist of life in Maie, daie twentieth did  
untwine

From Christ full fifteen hundred yeares and more by  
ninetie nine.

They left behinde them well to live, and growne to  
goode degree,

First, Richard, Thomas, Robert Brooke, the youngest  
of the three,



4 THE BROOKE FAMILY OF WHITCHURCH.

Elizabeth, and Barbara, then Dorathee the last,  
All six the knot of Natures love, and kindnes keep-  
ing fast,  
This Toome stone with the Plate thereon, thus graven  
fare and large  
Did Robert Brooke, the youngest sonne, make of his  
proper charge.  
A Citizen of London State, by faithful service free,  
Of Marchantes, greate adventurers, a brother sworne  
is hee,  
And of the Indian Companie (come gaine or losse) a  
limb,  
And of the Goldsmiths liverie, All these Godes giftes  
to him :  
This Monument of memorie in love performed hee ;  
December thirtie one, from Christ sixteene hundred  
and three :

"Anno Domini 1603: Laus Deo."

Richard and Elizabeth Brooke, as the inscription  
in the church tells us, were married in 1552 and had  
six children in all :

Thomas Brooke who married Susan Forster,  
Richard who died without issue,  
Dorothy who married Richard Venables,  
Elizabeth,  
Barbara,  
Robert, a citizen of London, who married Mary Duncomb  
and had issue.

Thomas Brooke of Whitchurch, gentleman, the eldest son was born in 1560. He matriculated at New College, Oxford, November 24th, 1581, received the degree of B. A. May 4th, 1584, and was barrister at law in the Inner Temple in 1595; he sat for Whitchurch Borough in the Parliament that was summoned to meet at Westminster March 19th, 1603-4, and was dissolved February 9th, 1610-11, and died in 1612.<sup>3</sup> He married Susan Forster.

Symonds<sup>4</sup> in his diary of the marches of the Royal Army thus describes a monument erected to their memory.

"Whit-church Church."

"Against the north wall chancel, a faire monument, the statue of a man in a barr-gowne, and a woman:

"Thom. Brooke, Ar. etat. 52, ob. 13 Sep. 1612.

"Susanna uxor ejus, filia natu max. Thomae Forster Militis in parochia Hunsdon com. Hertf. [one of the Judges K. B. Mons. Insc. at Hunsdon].

<sup>3</sup>*Alumni Oxonienses*, by Joseph Foster, London, 1891; early series, Vol. I.

<sup>4</sup>*Members of Parliament. Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be printed* 1st March, 1878. Part I., page 445.

<sup>5</sup>*Diary of the Marches of the Royal Army during the great Civil War, kept by Richard Symonds, now first published from the original MS. in the British Museum. Printed for the Camden Society, 1859, page 141.*

"Quarterly, 1 and 4, Checky, or and azure, on a bend gules a lion passant or [Brooke]; 2 and 3, Argent, a fess embattled sable, in chief two estoils of the second [Twyne]; impaling.

"Quarterly, 1, and 4, a chevron vert between three bugle-horns, sable [Forster]; 2 gone; 3 Argent, on a bend sable three martlets or. *Crest*, on a wreath azure and or, a demilion erased or."<sup>3</sup>

The monument is in the belfry, and is made of the stone of the neighborhood. They lie outstretched side by side; their heads, collars, hands, and cuffs are white; the rest of their dress is black, except that the middle of her gown in front from top to bottom is a light red.

Susan Forster's father, Sir Thomas Forster, was born about 1569, and belonged to the Forster family of Northumberland;<sup>4</sup> he was spoken of first in 1587 as

<sup>3</sup> *Diary of the Marches of the Royal Army during the great Civil War, kept by Richard Symonds, now first published from the original MS. in the British Museum. Printed for the Camden Society, 1859, page 142.* The additions in brackets were made by the Editor, Charles Edward Long, M. A.

<sup>4</sup> *The Judges of England*, by Edward Foss, London, 1857; Vol. VI., 157.

Sir Thomas Forster was the son of Thoms Forster of Hunsdon in Co. Hertford, and grandson of Roger Forster of the Forsters of North-