

The Stafford Family

Robert d1613 of Bubnell m Alice d1598	Francis d1610 Robert d1613
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Edmund d1607 of Darley	Elizabeth b1585 Robert b1588	Ellin b1617 Elizabeth b1622 Robert 1625-1702 sub account. Chats 1668-1702 died at Park Gate
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John in Edensor	Margaret b1602
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Note: There must be some connection between these sections - nil obvious dds

Prepared by David Darlymple-Smith

The STAFFORD FAMILY

John m Ann d1708	Godfrey 1666-66 Godfrey 1667-1695 Robert b1670
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John of baslow m Sarah d1707	Thomas b1686 Anna b1689 John 1692-1736 m 1715 ?? Mary Sara b1695 Robert b1698-?1728 Joseph b1701-1728 Elizabeth b1704	Edmund b1716 Elizabeth 1718-22 John 1720-1796 1 m in 1742 Sarah Heward 1717-1752 2 m in 1754 Emma Grant 1714-1790 Aaron b1722 Elijah b1728	Elizabeth 1745-1833 John b1748 Mary 1751-1751 Elijah b1754 m in 1788 Ann Marsden 1760-1835 Anne b1757 Aaron b1759 Robert 1761-1817	John 1788-1789 John 1789-1853 m Margaret 1789- 1885 Esther b1791 Robert 1795-1815 Mary 1797-1798 Sarah 1797-1798 Amy b1799 Sarah b1802
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The records show several Stafford families in the area around 1600 including Robert in Bubnell and John in Edensor. There was also Edmund of Darley whose son Robert was born in Baslow in 1588. Robert's son Robert born in 1625 is described below

John Stafford of Baslow who may or may not be related to the above married Sarah in 1707. His descendants can be traced down to John 1789 -1853 and his widow Margaret 1789-1885.

The Tithe Award of 1848 shows that John and Margaret lived in "The Farm" at Nether End, just west of the Wheatsheaf Inn. This farm could well be the ancestral family home. Initially the bulk of their land was in the present Chatsworth Park. These were taken over by the Duke of Devonshire and incorporated into the Park was extended in 1824. As compensation they got 50 acres of land between Bakewell Road and Wheatlands Lane.

When Margaret died, there were not relatives to take over, so the farm was allocated to William Hearnshaw, who had been farming from Tithe Barn at the top of Eaton Hill.

Robert Stafford 1625 to 1702 (mentioned above) must have been an educated man. He may well have attended the newly endowed Charity School at Stanton Ford and perhaps gone on to a university. He first appears as a Sub Accountant at Chatsworth (Phillip Riden, Derbyshire Archaeological Journal vol 136 (2016) pp92-110). As such he was responsible to the Accountant at Hardwick for all the money received and spent by Chatsworth. During his tenure 1668-1700 he served the 3rd Earl of Devonshire until his death in 1684 then the 4th Earl, who became the 1st Duke of Devonshire in 1694. During the years 1685 to 1692 when the gardens were being reshaped and then the house rebuilt, he was responsible for the spending of about £3400 annually- millions in today's money. He had a very responsible position!

When he died in 1702, the Parish Records describe him as Robert Stafford of Parkgate. Parkgate house or hamlet was and still is isolated on high ground above Chatsworth house on the border of Baslow and Chatsworth parishes. It was then at a road junction, where the road from Chatsworth to Sheffield left the park and another from Baslow to Chesterfield. In 1760 a victuallers licence was granted to Parkgate. By tradition it was known as The Horns Inn, which could have been in situ for years. Robert must have been a man of means, so there must have been at least one reasonable house on site.

His tombstone in Baslow Churchyard is substantial intricately carved and well preserved. Expensive. It is listed by English Heritage as a Grade 2 Scheduled Monument. Its entry reads as follows

Monument 10m South East of St Anne's Church GV II Monument to Robert Stafford in the form of a Coffin. 1702. Gritstone ashlar chest in the form of a coffin with relief carving on the top of an hourglass, a serpent eating its tail, crossbones and wings. At the foot a skull and crossbones in relief and at the ends stone lifting rings carved in relief. The coffin sits on a rectangular chamfered based. Inscription on the top appears to read,

Here lyeth the body of Robert Stafford who was buried here March ye 20th Anno 1702 aged 78. Surgite Mortui.

Note Surgite Mortui translates as "Arise ye dead". It is the only Latin inscription in the churchyard.

A handsome memorial to an educated and wealthy man.

David Dalrymple-Smith