

Notes on Spottiswoode Family ⁱⁿ and the Law in England.

The Rolls of the Law Society only go back to 1775 and at that date Thomas, George and John are shown

George drops out in 1793 and Thomas (of Austin Friars) in 1778

John goes on firstly of Shorters Court but mostly of Sackville Street until 1799

In 1882 Robert appears at Austin Friars and goes on until 1816 mainly at Austin Friars

Again in 1801 John appears at Austin Friars and then continues at various addresses for several years occasionally dropping out but finally settling from 1814 to 1825 at Old City Chambers.

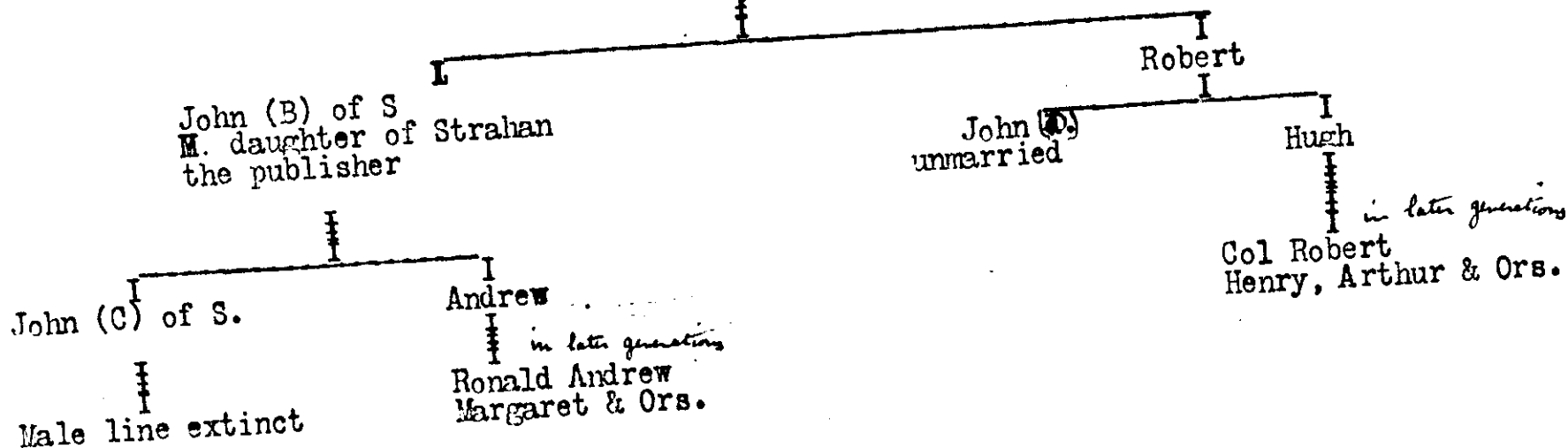
There is then a gap of 50 years and in 1876 Henry appears up to 1917 and then in 1920 Arthur (who has not yet been struck off the Rolls and whom ^{my} heaven ^{long} preserve)

Hereunder short skeleton extract from pedigree and subsequent re-construction of what may have happened which is to a certain extent

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Hereunder short skeleton extract from pedigree and subsequent re-construction of what may have happened which is to a certain extent fact and to a certain extent reasonable deduction;-

John (A) of S M.1740



For some generations previous to John (A) the family had been interested in law in Edinburgh in fact his father must have bought back the property largely from professional earnings there. At the end of the eighteenth century the trek from Scotland to spoil the South was in full swing and probably John (A) thought that his eldest son John (B) would do better in London than in Edinburgh especially as George and Thomas were apparently established in London and could give the young man a start

In the meantime John (B) having ~~settled~~
brother Robert was also sent south and he settled in Austin Friars
at that address and later in St. Swithins Lane and practised from 1882
to his death in 1916.

In due course he sent his younger son Hugh out to India to
make his fortune and took his elder son John into partnership in 1802
but the ~~younger~~ ^(s) son possibly was a little unsatisfactory and left his
father and practised for himself at different addresses each year (which
suggests that he may have 'flitted the moon' a little) until he finally
settled down in 1814 in Old City Chambers where he stayed until his death
in 1825.

There is then an interval of 50 years by which time Hugh's son
Arthur retired Indian General had come back to England and having been
thoroughly rooked by lawyers could not afford to keep all his three sons
in the Army and so with a view to getting something back out of the
profession put his youngest son back into the law.

This son carried on from 1876 to his death in 1917 and again
his son after a hectic period in the years 1914/1918 took on his father's
practice in 1920 so that as this branch managed to make its bread and butter
with occasional jam on Sundays for about 60 years the General's idea
was reasonably justified.

As I say most of this is fact but some is intelligent
guessing.

I do not know who George and Thomas were - possibly cousins who do not appear in the family tree or possibly descendants of the village who had the name and had previously treked south and made good.

Anyhow John (B) became a Solicitor and as the eldest son of a family of birth and some fortune was accepted in the Society of the times including the Johnson's circle where he met Strahan the publisher and married his daughter and then when his father John (A) died at a good old age went back to take up his inheritance and subsequently sent his younger son Andrew to take up the ^{letters patent} inheritance in the publishing firm in which his great great grandson now is.

In the meantime John (B) having settled himself his younger brother Robert was also sent south and he settled in Austin Friars at that address and later in St. Swithins Lane and practised from 1782 to his death in 1816.

In due course he sent his younger son Hugh out to India to make his fortune and took his elder son John ^(D) into partnership in 1802 but the ~~younger~~ son possibly was a little unsatisfactory and left his father and practised for himself at different addresses each year (which suggests that he may have 'flitted the moon' a little) until he finally