

ERRINGTON CHARTS: Notes, Questions, & Alternatives [by Marshall K. Kirk]

I. OBSERVATIONS & UNCERTAINTIES RELATING TO CHART I: FROM EDWARD IV TO ANTHONY ERRINGTON.

II. THE SAME, RELATING TO CHART II: FROM ANTHONY ERRINGTON TO WILLIAM "THE YOUNGER."

1. It is not yet possible to say whether the Robert Cresswell who married Elizabeth Lumley ~ 1495 is the same man who married Joan Conyers probably ~ 1490, and had a single child by her (suggesting that either she -- or he -- died soon after). So far, I have uncovered only two contemporary documents mentioning a Robert Cresswell, in 1510 and 1512 (although a 1540s list of principal gentry of Northumberland featuring a "Cresswell of Cresswell" might refer to him -- or to his son and heir, Oswin). One calls him "of Bedlyngton," which abuts Cresswell; since this dates from before his father's death, he did not yet hold Cresswell. It is impossible to say, at this point, whether we have one Robert or two; hence Charts Ia and Ib, which give my best interpretation, so far, of the two scenarios. Parsimony would favor Ib.

2. There are several unaccounted-for Erringtons at Benwell during the relevant period (1550-1625), who might complicate the interpretation, and should be listed in full for future consideration. The full roster, from all sources so far surveyed, is as follows:

- a. William Errington "the elder," gentleman. Living at Benwell 1594, but not certainly after.
- b. William Errington "the younger," gentleman, who is -- to my mind, anyway -- satisfactorily proven as grandfather of Abraham Errington of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Died testate in 1626/7.
- c. William Errington of Newcastle -- copyholder at Benwell -- who wills, s.p., in 1599.
- d. Stephen Errington, gentleman; d. Benwell 1589.
- e. The two William Erringtons of Benwell, copyholders, in the Crown Survey of 1608. One is son of (d), Stephen, above; the other isn't give an explicit filiation in the record. One or both may or may not correspond to (a) and (b), above.
- f. Nicholas Errington of Benwell, copyholder at Benwell, in the above Survey of 1608. Probably Nicholas of Denton, Chart II?
- g. George Errington "of Benwell," who, per Dodds, married ----- Errington of Denton in 1595.
- h. William Errington of -----, given by Dodds as -----. I think she's clearly wrong in this -- and self-contradictory, at that; and -----, in Northumberland Families, points out that -----.

[POSSIBLE CHART of SOME OF ABOVE.]

3. Who were the following sureties to baptisms of Benwell Erringtons in the 1580s & '90s?

- a. Barbara Errington
- b. Eleanor, wife to Robert Mitford
- c.

4. Catherine Cresswell, first (?) wife of Roger Errington of Denton (one source gives him -- possibly erroneously -- another wife, Catherine Dent), is explicitly shown by at least two Visitation pedigrees as (a) "daughter of Robert Cresswell of Cresswell" and (b) mother of Roger's children. However, no source explicitly states that Catherine's mother was Elizabeth Lumley. Although Catherine cannot have been daughter of Joan Conyers, whose only daughter was Jane, she might conceivably have been daughter of a third, unattested wife of Robert Cresswell. Parsimony would reject this, currently; but a thorough review of land records, etc., for the period 1509-1550 (not yet published, even in abstracted form) would be highly desirable to gather more information on this Robert and his marital history. If the family of Cresswell of Cresswell is still extant (as it was within the century), the head of the family should be written to for any possible family papers, annals, et al.

5. The wives of Oswin Cresswell.

6. The wives of Percival Cresswell.
7. Chronology of the Lumleys, with application to the plausibility of the chronology of the royal line of descent.
8. The two wives of William “the younger” are not certainly his; one or both might belong to “the elder,” or to some other William altogether. The relevant parish registers must really be given a thorough going-over ... by me.
9. The said two wives seem to correspond to the two wives (Isabel Heron & Elizabeth ----) given by Dodds to William Errington of ----, whom she makes “of Benwell.” (See above.) I don’t know where she gets the surnames from; that of the former is certainly plausible, although her filiation impossible; that of the latter contradicts the name in the actual 1609 marriage record, but might nevertheless be a maiden name. Worth looking into.
10. Although the i.d. of William “the younger” and his namesake son as corresponding to William, 4th son (per Visitation pedigree) of Anthony & Elizabeth (Dent) Errington of Denton, and his namesake son is based on the perseveration of the names Anthony, Roger, and Elizabeth among his immediate descendants, a weak piece of counter-evidence is afforded by the appearance of the name Stephen among the grandchildren of William “the younger,” which is that of the father of one of the two copyholding William Erringtons at Benwell in 1608. However, this name doesn’t appear among his children, only the grandchildren; and could be otherwise explained. In any case, the fact that “the elder” and “the younger” stood surety to the baptisms of each other’s children shows that the two men had close and friendly relations, and it would not be surprising to find the name of the father of one eventually appearing among the descendants of the other. The weight of the evidence so far adduced is clearly on the side of the reconstruction shown in Chart II.
11. Raw “seen” data for George, Robert, & Percival Cresswell, & Roger Errington.