

## The Harwood Family in England

*From "Burke's Commoners of Great Britain."*

"The name of Harwood is of Saxon origin and was anciently spelt Herward, Horwode, and Whorwood. According to Domesday, Hereward had lands in the counties of Lincoln and Warwick, previous to the conquest. He was son of Leofric, Earl of Mercia, and Lord of Brune, in Lincolnshire and the marshes adjoining, and was chosen by the prelates and nobility who retired to the Isle of Ely after the Conqueror's invasion, to be the general of their forces. In the Saxon period, he was called 'The Mirror of Knighthood,' and Ingulphus dwells minutely on the incidents of his life. Hereward was the last Earl of Mercia who resided at Bourne, and was buried in the Abbey there. Hume, in speaking of the Conqueror's subjugation of the Isle of Ely, says, 'Hereward alone forced his way, sword in hand, through the enemy, and still continued his hostilities by Sea against the Normans till at last William charmed with his bravery, received him into favor and restored him to his estates.' And Camden states that 'Horland in Lincolnshire, was granted by William I, to Joy Talbois, of Anjou, whose insolence Hereward, a hopeful and spirited Englishman, son of Leofric, Lord of Brune or Bourn, not being able to brook, as his own and his family's safety was now concerned, having obtained knighthood from Brens, abbot of Peterborough, whose aversion to the Normans had already shown itself, made war against him, and after giving him several overthrows, at last took him prisoner, and allowed him to ransom himself, on condition that he himself should be restored to the king's favor, and die in his allegiance and protection; such was the effect of merit even on an enemy.' Camden also states under the title, 'Cambridgeshire. A. D, 1071. Many English unable to bear the Conqueror's oppressions, came hither under the conduct of the Earl Edwin, of Chester, Morchar and Siward, and of Egsider, bishop of Durham, and ravaged the adjacent country under command of Hereward, an English nobleman, and built here in the marshes a woode castle, called Hereward's castle, in Matthew Paris' time. William, hearing this, besieged the island, made roads of great length in the marshes, built many bridges over the bogs, and erected a castle at a place called Wipberum, on which all but Hereward and his followers submitted.' In the time of Edward I, in the 'Nomina Equitumque, &c., de Norfolk,' Sir Robert Herward is mentioned as bearing arms, 'd' azure a une fesse gabonne de goules et de vert iij hewtes d'argent.' This family continued in the county of Lincoln and in the immediate vicinity of Bourne for many centuries. One of the last of this line was George Harwood, a merchant of London, who entered his pedigree in the visitation for Cornhill, in 1634. He was son of William Harwood, of Thurlby, near Bourn, in the county of Lincoln, and was brother of Sir Edward Harwood, Knight, of whom Fuller says, 'His birth was gentle, and from a root fit to engraft his future education and excellency.' Sir Edward was one of the four standing colonels in the long war, in support of the King of Bohemia, and was killed at the siege of Mastricht, in 1632. In the visitation of London in 1634, this George Harwood is recorded as bearing the

same arms as were borne by the above Sir Robert Herward, and in the 'Nomina Nobilium Equitumque, &c.,' temp. Edward I., Sir Robert Herward de Cauntebridgeshire, is mentioned as bearing 'chi' ker de or et d' azure a une bende, de gules iij egles d' argent.'

Families of this line were settled in the counties of Stafford and Oxford, spelling their names Horewode, Whorwood, and Harwood, and bore for their arms 'arg a chevron between three stag's heads cabashed sa,' and were of Compton, Sandwell and Stourton castle, in the former county, and of Holton in the latter. Of the Staffordshire family was Sir William Whorwood, Knight, Attorney-General to King Henry VIII., whose only daughter and co-heiress by his first wife (a daughter of Edward Grey Esq., of Enville,) married Ambrose Dudley Earl of Warwick, and whose only daughter and co-heiress by his second wife (Margaret, daughter of Lord Chief Baron Brooke) married the eldest son of Sir Robert Throgmorton, Knight. The name of Whorwood is extinct in Staffordshire, and the Sandwell estate is now the property and residence of the Earl of Dartmouth, and Stourton Castle passed by purchase to the Foleys.

In the 16th of Elizabeth, William Thomas Harwood, arm., in the 17th of Elizabeth, William Harwood, arm., and in the 16th of James I, Thomas Horwood, arm., were sheriffs of Staffordshire.

Willus de Harwode, another descendant of the Herwards of Lincolnshire, held the manors of Stevenburg, Preston, Candover, Fremantel, and Polhampton, in the county of Hants, and of Bradfield, in the neighboring county of Berks, in the time of King Edward III, and the family of Horwode and Harwood continued in possession of these manors for many generations.

There is a family of Harwood (descended from the Horwodes) living in Hampshire, and at this time possessed of estates in the neighborhood of Preston and Fremantel. And a branch of the Hampshire Herwards (descended from Robertus Hereward) of the counties of Lincoln and Cambridge, who, temp. Edward I bore for their arms 'chi ker d' or et d' azure une bende de gules iij egles d'argent,' resided at Nicholas, Pres, near Whitchurch, county of Salop, temp. Henry VI., and continued there for six generations, when they returned to Odiam, county of Hants, and they bore during the whole of the time they were in Shropshire the ancient coat of Sir Robert Hereward, of Cambridgeshire.

But the branch of this family of which we shall have chiefly to treat settled themselves at a very early period in the county of Berks, bearing the Staffordshire coat, but distinguished by a different colour, the Berkshire branch having the bearings gules, instead of sable.

[The exact year when the Staffordshire and Berkshire Harwoods first used Stags' heads for their armorial bearings, has not been ascertained Previous to Charles I and II, they used indiscriminately eagles and stags' heads, but since that period they have borne the stags' heads.]

The Harwoods just mentioned were of Hagbourne in that shire, and were settled there four or five hundred years from the time of King Edward III, if not from an

earlier period. About 1314, John Hereward was a juror on an inquisition touching some land at Chesterton (justa Goring), which was decided in favour of the Abbot of Oseney.

In 1352, Robert Herward was archdeacon of Taunton, and prebendary of Lincoln; and in 1330, Robert of Ely, and Thomas Harwoode or Whorwode were sheriffs of London.

William Hereward was abbot of Cirencester in 1346, and Robertus Hereward gave by grant, dated in the 19<sup>th</sup> of King Edward III, (1345), certain lands in East Hagbourn, county of Berks, to the abbey of Cirencester, to which abbey the church and rectorial titles of Hagbourne belonged."

Thus far we have copied Burke. His work brings the record on down in certain branches of the family in England to the present century, (see "Burkes Commoners of Great Britain"). There are many other published works on British heraldry and kindred subjects, which contain interesting references to the Harwoods in England. These works may be found in any large public library.

## **The Harwood Family in America**

The earliest record we have of our name in America states that 'William Harwood came to Virginia in 1621. Thomas Harwood was in Virginia in 1622. Paul Harwood, aged 20 years, was in Virginia in 1623. Augustine Harwood, aged 25 years, sailed from London for Virginia in 1634. Ralph Harwood, aged 23, sailed from London for Virginia in 1634. Thomas Harwood, aged 26, sailed from London for Virginia in 1635. Robert Harwood, aged 17, came to Virginia in 1635. Also John Harwood, or Marwood, aged 17, came to Virginia in 1635.

The Harwoods were also early in Maryland, and there are numerous families in this country descended from the Maryland branches.

Turning now our attention to New England, we learn that George Harwood was the first treasurer of the Massachusetts Company, but did not himself come to New England. Henry Harwood and Elizabeth, his wife, came from England with Governor Winthrop in 1630. They were living in Salem in 1638. George Harwood and Jane, his wife, were living in Salem in 1639. Henry and Elizabeth had a son, John, baptized in 1632, and from this John are descended the very respectable families of our name that have lived in Sutton and Oxford and Barre, Mass. Families of this line also settled early in Connecticut, and Clayton E. Harwood, of Rockville, Conn., a descendant of John, has done much work in compiling the records of his ancestry and kindred.

Robert, Thomas, and Nathaniel Harwood, three brothers, came early to Boston, Mass. They had a sister, Hannah, and a brother, John. Nathaniel, just mentioned, was born in 1626, and from him sprung one of the largest branches of New England Harwoods. To this branch belong the Bennington, Vt., Harwoods, whose history Mrs. Sarah (Harwood) Robinson compiled and published in 1837. Myron W. Harwood, of Springfield, Mass., Herbert J. Harwood, of Littleton, Mass., and the

late Dr. E. V. N. Harwood, of Rutland, Vt., are all descendants of Nathaniel, and have done much in compiling the records of their branch. Fred H. Harwood of Chicago, Ill., another descendant of Nathaniel, also takes a great interest in the same work, and is writing a history of the families which have sprung from Nathaniel.

We come now to our own branch of the Harwood family in New England, Notwithstanding I have spent years in patient research, and have followed up every available source of information, my record of the first two or three generations of our branch is very incomplete. But it seems quite certain that our first ancestor in New England was ANDREW HAHWOOD, and that he had at least two sons, James and John, and one daughter, Mrs. Thomas Finson, as will appear in the record following. Probably no fuller records can now be found than what I have obtained of the earlier generations of our branch.

Besides the families recorded in this book, there are at least two other branches of New England Harwoods which appear with reasonable certainty to have descended from our ancestor. ANDREW HARWOOD:

*First*, The Ware, Mass., branch, which traces its origin to John Harwood, born in Connecticut, came to Ware, Mass., in 1700. He is supposed to have been a grandson of James Harwood, No.2, of our branch.

*Second*, The Mount Vernon, N. H., branch, which has sprung from John Harwood, No. 17 of our branch. It was at first my design to publish the records of both these kindred branches along with those of our branch, but I have recently decided to publish them (if I can bring it all about) under separate covers. This will enable those who care only for the record of their own immediate branch to purchase it at less cost, while those who wish to have records of all the branches, so far as I have obtained them, can obtain them as cheaply as though all were bound *up* in one volume.

In closing this brief sketch of "The Harwood Family in America," I should add that there were doubtless other families of Harwoods early in this country besides those referred to in the foregoing pages; but enough has been given to show that our name was well represented in all the early English settlements of America.

## Harwood Arms

This Coat of Arms writes W. H. Harwood has a "crest - a stag's head holding in its mouth an oak branch - surmounting the original coat of arms, is not in keeping with correct heraldic laws. The ancient crest was an eagles head but in the design as we now have it is a combination of the ancient Saxon coat of arms and the crest used in later centuries by certain lines of Harwoods." One should use care here as a full Coat of Arms is provided to individuals and as such we have no proof of an ancestor being granted one.

The motto is translated best as:

"noble and ready"; occasionally "Of Honorable Birth" OR

"Generous and Prepared" OR

do your own:

GENEROSUS - of noble birth, aristocratic, well-bred;

PARATUS - prepared, ready, equipped; (of persons) skilled.

Below are the ones I have found in Harwood genealogies and related documents. It appears likely that they all stem from Dr. Watson Harwood.



And the bogus ones for which you may pay much:

