

Dr William Chamberlain of Shaftesbury

- A man of genius and many talents

Doctor, Poet, Royalist soldier and Mayor

By Mark Wareham, updated 28th February 2014



One of my great x 9 grandfathers on my father's grandmother's line is, I believe, Dr William Chamberlain of Shaftesbury. He was a man of genius and many talents from my home town.

The portrait picture above is from "*Pharonnida, an historic poem... Vol 1, published 1820 by Chapple*"

Introduction - Family connection

The line from my grandfather, Sidney Wareham, to Dr William Chamberlain (or Chamberlayne) is shown on page 12. A family connection can be traced through his maternal great x 2 grandmother, Ann Case. Although a baptism for Ann can't be found in the registers, I believe that she was the daughter of John and Susanna Case of Shaftesbury.

John Case and Susanna Chamberlain married at Holy Trinity Church in Shaftesbury in 1768 and they had nine children up till 1793. Susanna was born in 1750, the daughter of James and Mary Chamberlain of Shaftesbury and through her father she was the great x 2 granddaughter of Dr William Chamberlain. William is shown on the front page in a copy of a print from his republished poetical work 'Pharonnida' by S.W. Singer in 1820. This portrait is said to precede the original publication of the poem in 1659 and so may well be a good representation of his true appearance. Chamberlain was a relatively poor physician (a doctor) and a poet who was largely unappreciated in his own time. He was to become a burgess of Shaftesbury and later Mayor of the town on three occasions and he fought for King Charles I at the second Battle of Newbury in the English Civil War. This is an essay about his life and works written for the benefit of fellow ancestors of William's or other interested persons.

Chamberlain the Poet

In 'The Retrospective Review' published in 1820, a critique of lesser known English poets, there is the following appraisal of Chamberlain's works as a poet -

"Whilst the stream of time carries down so many of the productions of human ingenuity into total oblivion, it deposits a few, which deserve to be kept in remembrance, upon its silent shores, where they remain until some lucky wanderer discovers, and holds them up to the admiration of the world. Long did the flower to which we now draw the attention of the public, 'waste its sweetness on the desert air', before any industrious bee settled upon its leaves, and extracted a portion of its collected sweets. Until very recently indeed, it has obtained no other notice than a passing recognition of its having existed. We claim not however, the merit of having first discovered its value; nor have we any title to be so considered, for our readers are aware, that one living author at least has already given us such a taste of the honey, as to induce us to wish for a more copious supply. ... Notwithstanding [an] inauspicious covering and the obstructions which the involved and unharmonious diction, and the poverty and insignificance of the rhyme, present to the complete enjoyment of the poem, there is a pure and tender strain of feeling and morality, and a richness of imagery, that cannot fail to interest the heart and please the imagination of every lover of poetry."

The main work which is referred to is Chamberlain's 'Pharonnida' which was published in 1659. This 'heroic' romantic poem was probably started before or during the English Civil War and was finished afterwards, when he had returned to his duties as a doctor. New paging and a different typeface later in the work suggests that Chamberlain was interrupted by the war and his activity in it, as we shall come onto this later. It is an epic work in five separate volumes.

Chamberlain also produced 'Love's Victory', which was published in 1659 and which was performed as a play in the Theatre Royal in 1677 under a different name, and 'England's Jubilee' in 1660, which was a celebration of the restoration of the monarchy. In a preface to the publication of 'Love's Victory' in 1914, Charles K Mescher says that –

"England's Jubilee, Chamberlaine's last-printed poem, is his shortest one containing two-hundred and ninety-eight lines. From the original title-page of this poem we learn that it was printed in London "for Robert Clavell at the Stags-head in St. Paul's church yard, 1660." The theme of England's Jubilee is the happy return of Charles the Second. Sainsbury asserts his reprint of this poem in the Minor Poets of the Caroline period is the first. Of it in that volume he says: "It is certainly the best of the poems on the Restoration next to Dryden's."

About William's main work, 'The Retrospective Review' says –

"How far it is entitled to the name of a heroic poem, we leave to others to determine; but we cannot help observing, that the vigorous conception of the story, the unity and symmetry of the design, and the sustained dignity of the personages and sentiments, make out a claim to that title, which we are by no means inclined to dispute. The main story is carried on with deep and varied interest, and developed with great, but unequal, power; and every incident which might, by possibility, be considered as improbable, is accounted for from plausible causes, with scrupulousness and care which is very remarkable, when contrasted with the singular carelessness which distinguishes some other parts of the poem. Upon the whole, the work is somewhat too long, arising perhaps, from the absurd and pedantic determination of the author to extend it to precisely five books, each containing the same number of cantos...

The genius of Chamberlayne, however, is rather tender and pathetic, than strong and lofty; his narrative rather calm and equable, than rapid and overpowering; but it is at the same time diversified with occasional bursts of deep pathos, of glowing and vehement passion. He delights to

wander into unknown regions of space and eternity; contemplates with solemn pleasure the soul of man, disrobed of its earthly covering, and speculates with earnestness upon its ethereal nature and future destiny. But the more grave and serious parts of this delightful poem are enlivened and adorned with all the exuberance of a rich and inexhaustible fancy, pure, sparkling, and luminous, as the earth with the dew of heaven. The characters of the poem are rather general than individual; they are painted with broad shades, rather than with distinct and minute touches. Those of Pharonnida and Argalia, the heroine of the story, and her lover, are of a noble and dignified description; and although a pitch above the tone of the ordinary feelings and actions of humanity, are beings of flesh and blood...”

The critic Thomas Campbell, quoted in a preface to the 1820 publication, says –

“His Pharonnida, an heroic poem, ...which Langbaine says has nothing to recommend it, is one of the most interesting stories that was ever told in verse, and contained so much amusing matter, as to be made into a prose novel in the reign of Charles II [under the title ‘Eromema of the Noble Stranger]. What Dr Johnson said unjustly of Milton’s Comus - that it was like gold hid under a rock, may, unfortunately, be applied with too much propriety to Pharonnida ... Under all the defects of the poem, the reader will feel its unfinished hints affect the heart and dilate the imagination. From the fate of Chamberlayne, a young poet may learn one important lesson, that he who neglects the subsidiary graces of taste, has every chance of being neglected by posterity, and that the pride of genius must not tempt him to disdain the study of harmony and style.”

English poet Robert Southey describes Chamberlain as –

“a poet to whom I am indebted for many hours of delight” and “... who has told an interesting story in uncouth rhymes, and mingles sublimity of thought and beauty of expression with the quaintest conceits and most awkward inversions.”

The poet Edgar Allan Poe was said to have borrowed from Chamberlayne’s work and William may also have influenced the romantic poets John Keats and Byron. In the *Cambridge History of English Literature* on ‘Lesser Caroline Poets’ page 73 it says –

“The group of romantic narratives, or heroic poems, is headed not inadequately by the Pharonnida (1659) of William Chamberlayne.”

Chamberlain the Physician



From medicalhistoryandart.com 'note the dress of this 17th century physician in *The Doctor's Visit* (1657) by Frans van Mieris the Elder, as he decides on the type of therapy based on his assessment of the patient's pulse.'

William Chamberlain was a doctor and physician. A physician is a doctor who is concerned with the promotion, maintenance or restoration of human health through study, diagnosis and treatment of disease, injury and other physical and mental impairments.

William was born in about 1619 to Warder and Mary Chamberlain of Hindon in Wiltshire. Warder may also have been a doctor as he was a witness at three 'inquisitions post mortem' in Hindon in January 1639. William's older sister Bethia married a surgeon / doctor in Hindon in 1635.

Warder, Mary and William moved from Hindon to Shaftesbury in about 1640 and in 1641 William and his father Warder are shown as having signed the Protestation Oath that year living in the Holy Trinity parish.

Details of William's education are unknown so we don't know how or whether he came to be formally qualified as a doctor or to have gained such literary talent. We do know that whilst William held status in his home town and was deemed to be a gentlemen, he was not made wealthy by this occupation or his literary exploits as is testified by comments in his poetry where he shows regret at his poverty.

Chamberlain the Soldier

As far as Chamberlain's role in the war is concerned 'The Retrospective Review' says –

"... he was a physician [doctor] at Shaftesbury in the reign of Charles the First, whose cause during the civil wars he espoused; and, as is to be inferred from the conclusion of the third book, was present at the second battle of Newbury."

Chamberlain was a resolute and unswerving royalist. In a preface to the publication of 'Love's Victory' in 1914, Charles K Mescher says that –

"In this play there is "plenty of loyal sentiment." Indeed, "Oroandes is the very abstraction of loyalty of high and principled loyalty."

In the preface to the 1820 publication it says the following about William's wartime exploits –

"Jacob assures us that he was an old cavalier. Under his character, indeed, he describes himself, preparing to engage under the banners of his royal master. The battle to which he alludes, was fought with doubtful success, before the town of Newbury, on the 27th of October 1644."

By the time of the battle of Newbury William would have been about 24 years old.

In the second book of his work Chamberlain stops his poetic labours to concentrate on the labours of battle and he describes the scene in the poem –

*"... I must
Let my pen rest awhile, and see the rust
Scoured from my own sword; for a fatal day
Draws on those gloomy hours, whose short steps may
In Britain's blushing chronicle write more
Of sanguine guilt than a whole age before-
To tell our too neglected troops that we
In just cause are slow. We ready see
Our rallied foes, nor will't our slothful crime
Expunge, to say-Guilt weakened them betime.
From every quarter the affrightened scout
Brings swift alarms in; hovering about
The clouded tops of the adjacent hills,
Like ominous vapours, lie their troops; noise fills
Our yet unrallied army; and we now
Grown legible, in the contracted brow
Discern whose heart looks pale with fear. If in
This rising storm of blood, which doth begin
To drop already, I'm not washed into
The grave, my next safe quarter shall renew
Acquaintance with Pharonnida. Till then,
I leave the Muses to converse with men."*

This is a quite striking part of his work which reveals the mind of a man at work on his poem whilst in a soldier's camp, facing an enemy and preparing for battle. He talks of his sword, which apparently had not been drawn in anger previously in the war, being so rusty, and of him making it ready to take into battle. He remarks on his own concern for his mortality, as all soldiers do when faced with the prospect of imminent and violent death. He talks of a rising of blood in the prospect of the fight but how that has

already begun to abate, probably as he thinks of the awful stark reality of killing and of dying. When he penned this piece he did not know whether he would return to complete the epic poem or whether he would be 'washed into the grave'. As it came to pass he did return home and he was able to complete the work and it was published some fourteen years later, but this section stands on record as a testament to a point in time when one of my ancestors was active and engaged on one side of the great civil war.

Further on in the poem William testifies to the scene of battle and seeing the banners and flags of the rebels.

In a letter to Sir William Portman in the preface to 'Love's Victory' in 1658 in which he is dedicating the work to his benefactor, Chamberlain says –

“...War first made the present Age unhappy, so may have something to excuse the roughness of its style, its production being whilst I sacrificed to Minerva in the Temple of Mars...”

Mars being the Roman God of war and his statement 'whilst I sacrificed' maybe referring to his having to kill during the wars and maybe at the Battle of Newbury. Chamberlain may have been involved with the Royalist garrison at Shaftesbury, but if he was active he certainly did not seem to need his sword before he was facing the enemy encamped before him at Newbury in 1644. It was rusty and not well prepared, unless it had been led to rust by exposure to blood as does sometimes happen, and it was only then in need of treatment. After Newbury nothing more is told of his exploits in the King's cause until 1659.

After Cromwell's death in 1658 there were some further failed royalist conspiracies before the eventual Restoration. One of these was organised by Captain Hugh Fry of the Angel Inn and involved Dr William Chamberlain (from Goodwin's, Dorset in the Civil War, 1996) –

“ ... The day for the revolt was to be 31st July [1659] but the projected gathering at Stonehenge was called off the day before and the uprising crumbled without ever breaking out. The examinations of some 25 people at Shaftesbury in August reveal a plan that had no chance of success and was if anything more chaotic than that of Penruddock's four years earlier. There were whispered promises that Charles II was about to arrive with an army of twenty or thirty thousand, that Bristol and Windsor were to be handed over, that £2000 would arrive any moment. A few minor gentry and skilled workers around Shaftesbury, Stalbridge and Sherborne promised help and a handful of horses, and Chamberlayne was said to have a commission from King Charles to raise a company, but there seem to have been virtually no weapons available. Chamberlayne accused Luke Cave, a Shaftesbury blacksmith, of having betrayed the plot, but Cave denied it.”

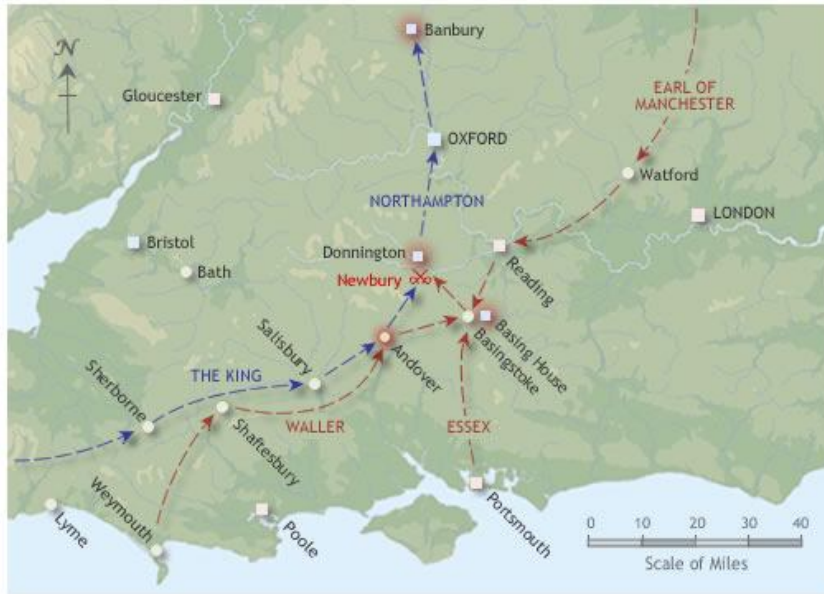
William had taken part in the second Battle of Newbury and he may have drawn blood. In the next chapter I shall describe the battle he was involved in and whilst Chamberlain's role in it is not recorded he is unlikely to have been a pikeman or musketeer as he was a 'gentleman' who owned his own sword and whilst not well off he did have some means and probably more than the common soldiery and may have owned a horse. I would guess that may have been a member of the Royalist cavalry troops under Lord Goring.

The Second Battle of Newbury

27th October 1644

(reproduced in part and maps from <http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/military/1644-second-newbury.htm>)

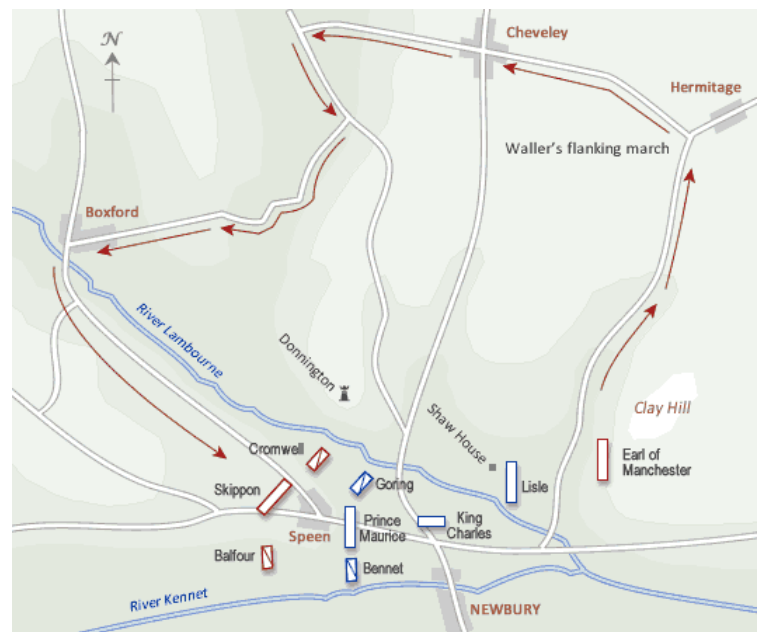
The manoeuvres of the two forces prior to the battle are shown below in a map from the British Civil Wars website by David Plant, 2010. The route of the march of the King's forces is of most interest to the part played by Dr William Chamberlain because it shows that the force coming out of the south west after their victory against the Earl of Essex in the Battle of Lostwithiel in Cornwall, came through Sherborne, where they were at the end of September 1644 and where the King was joined by his nephew Prince Rupert. Rupert was fresh from the more significant defeat at the Battle of Marston Moor and he then returned to Bristol for reinforcements whilst the King went on the course of the current A30 road, through Shaftesbury, onto Salisbury, to Andover and then finally encountering the troops of Parliament at Newbury. My ancestor William would almost certainly have joined the King's forces at Shaftesbury; the recruitment of soldiers en-



March being a frequent pattern of the civil wars for both sides. He may well have been persuaded, maybe by Royalist recruiters in the town that at this crucial time of the war, which had already been taking place for two years, that this was a crucial time for a demonstration of his support and loyalty to the King. Shortly before the King's forces arrived in Shaftesbury Sir William Waller's Parliamentary troops were in possession of the town and in the face of the King's advance they withdrew. On 18th October, Lieutenant General Goring led the King's vanguard, possibly with the newly recruited William Chamberlain under his command, in a surprise attack that further drove Waller's force back out of Andover.

By 22nd October the King's army, with the 25 year old William as part of it, had advanced to Kingslere which is five miles south of Newbury. They then took up defensive positions north of the town with the arrival of the Parliamentary army, having abandoned the siege of Donnington Castle. 9,000 to 10,000 Royalist troops faced 17,500 to 19,000 in the army of Parliament, one of the largest forces mustered by any one side on the war to date and representing a significant imbalance. But the superiority was undermined somewhat by the squabbling of the Roundhead commanders who had a force under them that whilst large in number was unhappy and demoralised.

The Royalist army (in blue on the map of the battle) was deployed in a strong defensive position between Newbury and Donnington Castle. Most of the horse and artillery occupied an area of open fields known as Speenhamland between the rivers Lambourne and Kennet with strong detachments of foot and dragoons guarding the position. The south flank was protected by the river Kennet and the town of Newbury, where a garrison was located; the north flank protected by the River Lambourne and the guns of Donnington Castle.



Parliamentary troops under Sir William Waller set off on a flanking attack but before they were in position the Earl of Manchester on 27th October launched a feint attack on Shaw House, where Colonel Lisle's troops were stationed. Sir Bernard Astley led 400 royalist musketeers in a swift counter-attack that threw back the Parliamentarians and pinned them down in a firefight, from which they withdrew with difficulty several hours later.

Waller on the flanking attack made slow progress and ran off royalists guarding the river at Boxford and at about 2pm they finally approached Prince Maurice's Cornish troop entrenchments. Under heavy fire from the entrenchments and the guns of Donnington about 800 Roundheads stormed the outer fortifications and overwhelmed them, recapturing some of their guns lost in the previous Cornish defeat. The Royalists withdrew to the village of Speen, which also fell to Parliament after hours of fighting.



A picture from Life Magazine of a cavalry engagement in the civil war. The picture shows uniform that is traditionally associated with that of a roundhead and cavalier, whilst in reality there was little difference in the manner of battle dress of both sides.

At this critical point in the battle, Waller sent forward his cavalry and Cromwell advanced to the north of the position but they were charged by troops under Goring and withdrew in confusion. The Earl of Cleveland followed up with a second attack for the Royalists. The Earl was captured but Cromwell's force was put affectively out of this conflict. In the south Sir William Balfour's Roundhead cavalry made better progress against Sir Humphrey Bennett and the King found himself in a position where he could be surrounded by Roundhead troops until his lifeguard led a counter attack which halted Balfour's advance. Bennett rallied his cavalry and rejoined the fight to drive Balfour back. The Royalist reserve then succeeded in containing the Parliamentary advance in the centre and Waller's attack ground to a halt.

A second attack by Manchester was resolutely held by defenders at Shaw House and despite their superior numbers the Roundheads were unwilling to risk their troops in the dark and the fighting subsided.

The battle on 27th October had been fought to a draw but the Royalists found themselves in a precarious between two Roundhead armies and so whilst the King and his lifeguard slipped away. Prince Maurice and Sir Jacob Astley supervised the retreat of the Royalist army to Wallingford. The injured, artillery and baggage were left with the royal garrison at Donnington Castle and whilst Waller attempted a pursuit it was later abandoned.

The King then mustered 15,000 troops, reinforced from Bristol, at Oxford on 6th November and no doubt Chamberlain would have been one of that significant army. On 9th November the King returned to Donnington Castle to retrieve the artillery and they drew up to offer further battle to the Roundheads. Whilst Waller, Cromwell and Heselrige favoured another fight, the Earl of Manchester did not want to risk complete defeat and so whilst the King's army marched away with colours flying and drums beating, the Roundheads withdrew into their winter quarters and major fighting for 1644 was at an end.

The outcome of this engagement led Cromwell to protest, as with the aftermath of Marston Moor, that Newbury was a wasted opportunity and he blamed the hierarchy of the old command and the Earls of Manchester and Essex in particular for not forcing a worse defeat on the King. This led to the 'self-denying ordinance' and the formation of the New Model Army in 1645 and which was to lead to Charles' final and inevitable defeat the following year.

What was Chamberlain's experience of the battle? We will never know for sure because no record was kept that has survived. However, there is a good reason for thinking that he was with Lord Goring's troops on the right of the King and directly facing those of Cromwell. The reason for thinking that is that it was Goring who, previous to Chamberlain joining the King's army, was most active in the area of north Dorset and south Wiltshire and who was based around the Shaftesbury area. By January 1645 Goring was back in the Shaftesbury area and he stayed there, being the King's supreme commander in the west, through the early part of 1645 and until being routed at the Battle of Langport in Somerset in July of that year. Chamberlain may have remained with Goring's force after Newbury and he may have been one of the 7,000 royalists defeated by Fairfax at Langport. Or Chamberlain may well have been, according to A.E. Parsons in 'A Forgotten Poet: William Chamberlain and Pharonnida...', may have been the 'Cornet Chamberlayne then come from Oxford' who was present amongst the royalist garrison at Corfe Castle in Dorset when it surrendered on 3rd March 1645. If this was William, and there is every reason to suppose that it was, then him being a cornet which is a low rank cavalry officer, may well confirm that he fought under the command of Goring. If William was with Goring in October 1644 then his experience of the battle of Newbury was part of a successful charge of cavalry against Cromwell's troops and he is thus one of the few people on the King's side to have experienced a successful operation against the person who was arguably the best field commander on either side and who was certainly a brilliant cavalry leader.

A.E Parsons says that William was at some time badly wounded during his war service since "Gildon [who was from nearby Gillingham in Dorset] tells us that "[William] bore many marks of venturing in those wars".

The Siege of Corfe Castle

1645 / 6

Assuming that William was the 'Cornet Chamberlayne' who joined the royalist garrison at Corfe after leaving the main part of the King's army at Oxford, it is worth looking at the siege of this castle and its ultimate surrender.

The National Trust website explains –

“In the 1640s, England was in the grip of civil war and Corfe Castle found itself on the front line of conflict between Parliament and King Charles I. The castle had recently been acquired by staunch Royalists, the Bankes family. When war broke out in 1642, the formidable Lady Mary Bankes made it her home while her husband Sir John was away serving the King. The last bastion. Within a year, almost all of Dorset came under the control of Parliament but Corfe stood firm. In 1643, Lady Mary and a garrison of just 80 soldiers saw off a six-week siege. When Sir John died in December 1644, Corfe Castle was the last remaining Royalist stronghold between London and Exeter.”

It is here that William probably became involved with Corfe. In the winter of 1644 and into 1645 it is highly probable that he remained with the principle Royalist army in Oxford. The Royalist commander of the west, Lord Goring, was engaged in the west country and was not to become part of the main army again. So if 'Cornet Chamberlayne' was our William then this suggests that he did not serve with Goring's troops but that during 1645 he was part of the main Royal army. If that is the case then it leads to the interesting possibility that in May 1645 William was part of the main army under King Charles who marched North out of Oxford and who on 14th June met the main Roundhead army at Naseby. This was the most important battle of the war because it led to the defeat of Charles' army and the triumph of the Parliamentary New Model Army. Oliver Cromwell was instrumental in this victory as he handled his cavalry troops with tremendous skill and discipline and whilst Royalist troops under Prince Rupert on their right pressed on to sack baggage trains, the Roundheads under Cromwell on their left maintained their formation and attacked the main Cavalier foot troops leading them to break in defeat. If William was there as a cavalryman it is interesting to speculate whether he was on the Royalist right that was victorious but ultimately foolhardy, or on their left which was crushed by Cromwell? We may never know as Chamberlain did not appear to right about conflict at Naseby as he did about his experience at Newbury. But that does not mean he wasn't there and in all probability, unless he stayed with the remaining garrison at Oxford, he would have been. If William was at Naseby then he was one of the lucky ones to survive and not be captured and make he was back to the Royalist capital at Oxford.

After Naseby the New Model Army swiftly engaged in a 'mopping up' exercise to crush the remaining Royalist strongholds and ensure that the King could not raise a new army. The Roundheads moved into the west and defeated Lord Goring at Langport in Somerset in July. In August the garrison at Sherborne in north-west Dorset was forced to surrender after a long siege. The Royalists holding Bristol surrendered in September and Basing House in Hampshire capitulated in October. Corfe was one of the few remaining outposts of Royal resistance and they must have looked on with alarm when in October Cromwell's troops started dismantling the old castle at Sheborne and turning it to ruins.

We don't know when William may have come to Corfe but maybe he was part of this force that slipped into the area as described by Goodwin (see earlier reference) –

“On 29 January ... 120 soldiers, wearing the scarves of Fairfax's [Roundhead] horse, passed by. No one showed any mistrust of these unexpected arrivals, and the cavalry force continued on to Wareham, where one of them told the sentries that his name was Dr Hudson and he had the authority to collect the King's rents and use them for Parliament. The bridge was immediately let down, and they entered the town. The intruders were in fact disguised cavaliers ... who had just ridden all the way from Oxford.”

There followed a brief fight when the Roundheads realised their error but despite being outnumbered, the Royalists made a safe retreat with a captured cannon to Corfe Castle. This was a very daring escapade but a later attempt by the same forces to recapture Wareham for the King failed and Parliament realised that they had to finally deal with the garrison at Corfe which had been increased in strength by these new arrivals and the castle was soon put under siege. But the Roundheads would find, as they had with the first siege in 1643, that the castle would be a tough nut to crack and they did not yet have the forces necessary to assault it. But it was at this point that there was an infamous act of treachery on behalf of one of the Royalists when one of the new arrivals from Oxford, Lieutenant Colonel Pittman, made a secret deal to hand it over. After leaving Corfe on an apparent mission to gather further troops for the defence of the castle Pittman returned on 27th February with Roundheads in disguise. Pittman was welcomed into the castle until the commander Colonel Anketel realised there was something wrong and tried to shut the gates. It was too late and the majority of the troops were inside with only seven Royalists able to mount any form of defence, but they managed to do so for some four hours until the main besieging force outside the walls made an advance. The garrison realised that they were done for, despite only three soldiers on both sides having died, and after a parley they surrendered. It is apparently at this time that Lady Bankes threw all her family plate into one of the wells of the castle where it is apparently still lies today. The castle was 'slighted' and partly destroyed. It was further ruined by an accidental explosion of armaments.

140 of the Royalist garrison were captured, including 'Cornet Chamberlayne' but they avoided reprisal and they were granted quarter and allowed to return to their homes. William probably made his way home to Shaftesbury rather than rejoining the remnant of King Charles' forces in Oxford.

Royalist Uprisings

After the execution of King Charles I in 1648 the new Lord Protector of the country, Oliver Cromwell, took to quashing resistance in Scotland and then in Ireland. His forces also maintained an iron grip of England, as did he on the post-war Parliament. However despite Parliament acting to suppress and impoverish former Royalist soldiers and commanders, men like William would not be swayed from an aim of getting what they believed to be a legitimate King back on the throne of England. There is no evidence that William joined the Royalist forces in the disastrous Penruddock uprising in 1655. But we do have some evidence of William's probable involvement in an aborted rebellion in 1659, in the year after the death of the Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell. However a plot to assist the young future King Charles II with troops to land in England was betrayed and leaders were arrested in many districts. *A.E Parsons in his article "The Forgotten Poet: William Chamberlayne and "Pharonnida" in the The Modern Language Review quotes from a source about William's alleged involvement –*

“John Williams, butcher of Shaftesbury, was informed by Luke Cave, blacksmith of the same place, of the projected rising, and that the King was in England or coming. William Chamberlain had the commission of King Charles II and was raising a company ...

This very night [31 July] Chamberlain and his troop were to go out of the churchyard to the rendezvous at [Stonehenge] Mr John Bennett and his brother Matthew were with Chamberlain last week and all the stables in the town were at their command ... Luke Cave declares that William Chamberlain asked him if he would be a soldier and go with him, and told him the King was to come in with a great army of twenty to thirty thousand; that they would have £2000 brought to them, but did not say from whom, and promised Cave a horse and a pistol.

Afterwards Chamberlain accused Cave of discovering the plot; but he denied it ... William Chamberlain declares that he himself carried a saddle and William Dowland [his companion] led a horse with him and carried four saddles furnished for war to Ashcombe woodside; where Dowland delivered them to one who appeared a Bailiff and received £6, 5 in gold. He denies that he received a commission from Charles Stewart; that he raised a company, that he knew aught of any garrison being surrendered ... Leonard Lush ... says that on Friday last, after he came from Dorchester, William Chamberlain told him that there would be a rising on Sunday night last {31 July}, all over England ... that Chamberlain and Captain Bushe of Handley were to be there [Stonehenge]; that from thence they were to go to Gloucester; and that Windsor Castle was to be delivered up at the same time; they were to march from Gloucester to Bristol and to seize upon it; there were to be two commanders for every county – Captain Bushe being one for Dorset ... On the same Friday night Chamberlain delivered Lush a bridle, saddle, breast-plate and crupper. Next day Chamberlain brought him one pair of pistols, and desired Lush to carry them to William Tucker Junior of Shaftesbury to have them fixed.”

I do not know whether William was convicted or sequestered by Parliament. However later in 1659 the new Protector, Oliver's son Richard, was forced to abdicate and after some manoeuvrings in the army and representatives Parliament invited Charles Stuart junior to return and he did so in May 1660. King Charles II was crowned in April 1661.

Chamberlain the Mayor



The modern Holy Trinity church in Shaftesbury above, the church building was completely rebuilt in 1842. Below is a sketch picture from 1548 suggesting at what the earlier church may have looked like. William and his family are buried in the churchyard but sadly, even if his monument did survive through the years, almost all of the tombstones were removed after the church ceased to be a place of worship in the 1980's.

William's stature in his home town must have risen quickly after the war, probably as a result of his efforts on behalf of the restored King, as well as his poetical labours. Shaftesbury had remained a largely Royalist town throughout the war despite having been at various times held and occupied by different sides. In 1664 William was appointed the town's Mayor in the last charter granted by King Charles II and he was appointed Mayor again in 1674 and 1685. He was still a town burgess by 1687.

In 1665 William still stood resolutely to his royal convictions when as a Burgess of Shaftesbury he and others signed a declaration –

"I declare that there lies no obligation upon me or any other person from the oath commonly called the Solemn League and Covenant; and that the same was in itself an unlawful oath, and imposed upon the subjects of the realm against the known laws and liberties of the kingdom."

The Solemn League and Covenant was the treaty reached in 1643 by the English Parliament and Scots with an agreement for the preservation of the reformed religion in Scotland, the reformation of religion in England and Ireland and the extirpation of popery and prelacy. The treaty had helped Parliament to turn the tide of the civil war and meant that they had Scottish troops to augment their numbers at the battles of 1644 and 1645 such as at the crucial victories of Marston Moor and Naseby. In 1665 the relatively newly restored monarchy

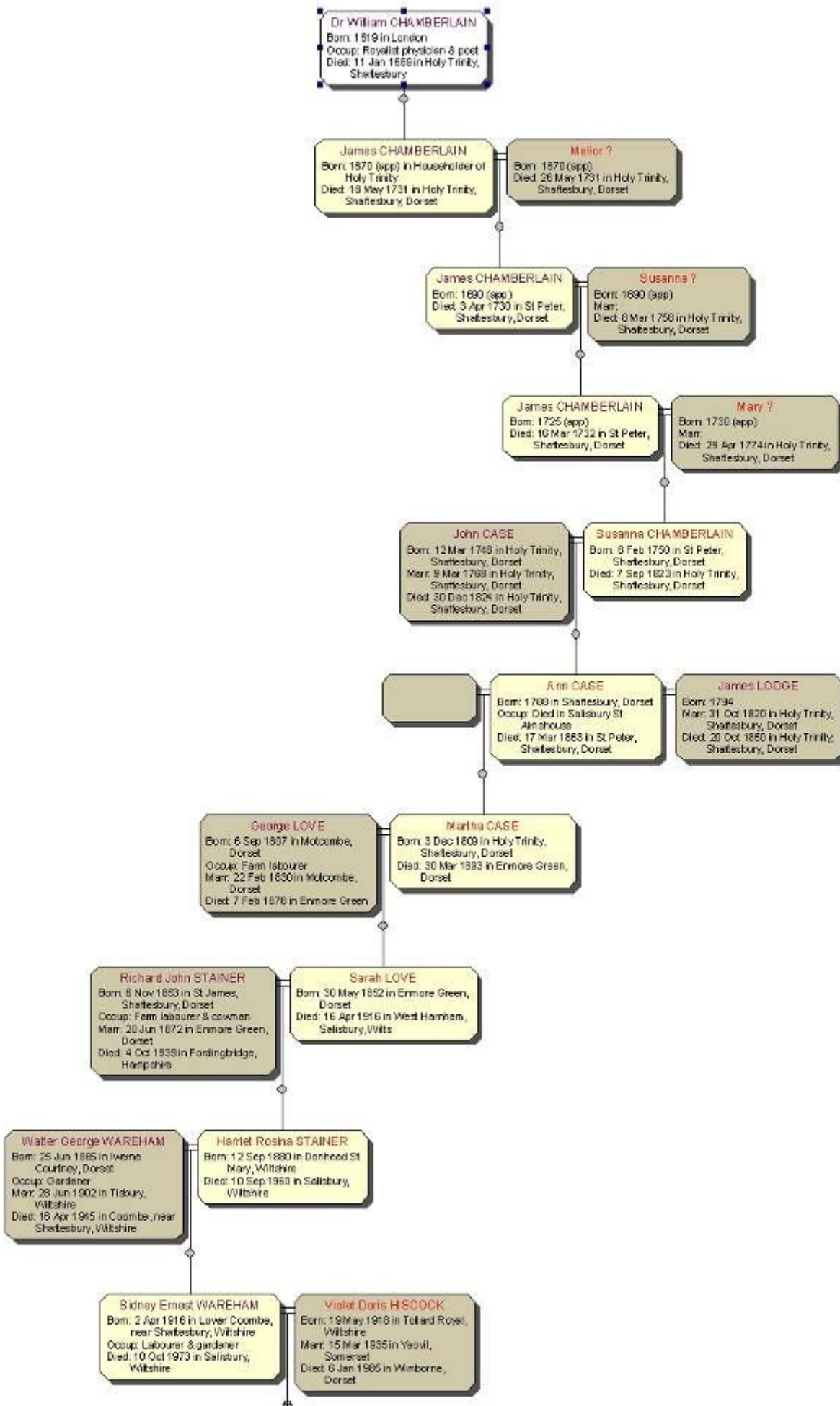
were still hunting for zealous adherents to the cause of rebellion and expose those who still stood by the principles that helped to rid the country of King Charles I. William would not have hesitated in signing this oath, not that anyone could ever have doubted his Royalist credentials.

William died, four years after his last term as Mayor, on 11th January 1689, having lived to be 70, and he was buried in the churchyard of Holy Trinity in Shaftesbury, where his son, Valentine Chamberlain, erected a monument to his memory. Valentine also became Mayor of Shaftesbury in 1693 and lived until 1740. Valentine outlived his younger brother James, my x 8 great grandfather, who he to in his will in 1731 as 'my good brother'. The other son of William's was called Charles, no doubt a reference to William's loyalty to the two Stuart Kings.

Not a lot is known about William's wife Margaret or her family, when they married or when she died.



The assumed line from Dr William Chamberlain to my grandfather is shown on the next page.



Chamberlain's ancestors – the Havilands

William's mother was born Mary Haviland and this is a little about her family - the Havilands. Mary was born in 1597 in Salisbury, most of her siblings being baptised at St Thomas Church (pictured). Mary married Warder Chamberlain at St Thomas on 25th October 1613 and they had three children in Hindon in Wiltshire although one of them, Christopher, died aged one.

Regarding the Havilands and Mary's parents James and Thomassine, this comes from fellow decendent Douglas Potts on Ancestry –

Early in life, James settled at Salisbury, Wiltshire, where his kinsmen, the Webbs (* see below), were merchants of great repute - and probably started his career under their patronage. His name appears in the Church Warden's account of St. Edmunds and St. Thomas' from 1587/8 until 1609. Elected to the Corporation (35 Elizabeth) 1592-93; Alderman (44



Elizabeth) 1601/2; Mayor of Salisbury (last year of Elizabeth) and (first year of James), 1602-03; last mentioned in the Municipal Ledger as being present at a meeting of the Corporation in 1613. He married Thomassine (who might have been his second wife) as all but the eldest child (who might have been by a former wife) were baptized at St. Thomas', Salisbury. Quoted of Alfred Haviland in a letter to Frederick Haviland (of R.B. Haviland & Sons) dated 16 Nov 1893: "Soon after I left Salisbury, I received a Wiltshire paper in which there was a report of the presentation of a new gold Chain to the Mayor, who in his speech returning thanks, alluded to James Haviland, who was Mayor of Salisbury in 1603. At the time of Queen Elizabeth's death, and James I's accession, he also mentioned how when James in the same year paid a visit to Lord Pembroke at Wilton House near Salisbury, James Haviland and the corporation presented the King with 20 Marks in a silver-gilt Goblet, an equal sum in a purse to the Queen, 10 Marks to their son, and a fat Ox worth 8 Marks to their host, Lord Pembroke. This James was son of Christopher Haviland, Mayor of Poole in 1659 and grandson of James de Havilland, who was born in Guernsey and first settled in Guernsey."

With regards to James, probably the great grandfather of the younger James, the following comes from the Borough of Poole website –

Towards the end of the reign of Edward IV, Queen Margaret of Anjou, wife of King Henry VI, crossed over to France in order to obtain the aid of King Louis XI to regain the throne from Edward IV. She was unsuccessful but negotiated with a Norman nobleman Peter de Breze the Comte (Count) de Manlevier, and as a reward for his help against the Yorkists, the Channel Islands were given to him. However the Jersey inhabitants did not want to be ruled by the French Military and revolted, so Edward IV sent Sir Richard Harlistan, Vice Admiral of England, with a squadron of ships to Guernsey, to rally the loyalists of both islands and attack and retake Jersey for the English. As a reward, the King awarded exclusive rights to 16 of the most prominent volunteers who assisted the monarch. He did so by giving them special trading privileges in either Exeter,

Dartmouth or Poole, effective from the 14th March 1469. Thomas de Havilland was one of the 16 and was awarded trading privileges in Poole, and he sent his second son, James, and his Guernsey born wife, Helena, to Poole. James soon became the richest trader in the town, with links to Normandy and Spain. He was Mayor of Poole in 1494, 1498 and 1502. James built the north aisle of old St James Church at his own expense. This was called either Our Lady Aisle or The Havilland Aisle. James' eldest son Richard, was Mayor 3 times, and another son, William, was Mayor twice. In later years, this link to the Channel Islands was to prove invaluable to Poole. The De Havilland family made a long and influential impact upon Poole. The Arms of the family had the motto 'God is our strongest tower'.

- James' great grandfather William Webb was Mayor of Salisbury in 1496, 1512, 1514 and 1523.