

Sir William, Sir Anthony and Elene Kingston

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Elene is thought to be the sister of Sir Anthony Kingston of Painswick, Gloucester, and Mary Courtenay.

Sir Anthony Kingston was Provost Marshall in Cornwall, Knighted by King Henry VIII, 18 October, 1537. He also served in the House of Commons. He died 14 April, 1556. Sir William Kingston, father of Elene, was Knighted in 1513 and was the Keeper of the Tower of London when Ann Bolyn was beheaded there. The title of Keeper of the Tower of London was one of the most powerful positions to hold under King Henry VIII.

The Manor of West Kingston descended to the Ivey family from the Kingstons. The Kingstons, Ivey (Ivrye), De la Mere (Delamare), Scope, Carew, St. John, Mallot, Bohun, Courtenay, and Prater families were all allied families which had intermarried into one another's families for generations.

***The Courtenay family was directly descended from the "Pharamond"; the first king of France (circa the year 480).

***The Kingstons were Irish Barons (Baron King) and the Earls of Kingsborough.

***The De la Meres were Norman and descended from a powerful Baron named Norman whose Castle was on a lake in Normandy (circa the year 940) and are believed to be descended from the King Charlemagne.

***Carew was descended from Sir Otho of Windsor, a younger son of Otho the 7th, Count of Vermandos, who was descended from Pepin III, King of Italy (the younger son of King Charlemagne).

***The Scope family descended from powerful Norman Barons that date back to Edward the Confessor (circa the year 900's). A descendant held the position of Chief Justice under King Edward I.

For many years we thought Elene (Kingston) to be the daughter of Sir Anthony Kingston because Elene mentions Sir Anthony Kingston in her will as owing her money. We have since (1993) found information that leads us to believe that she was the daughter of Sir William Kingston, father of Sir Anthony. Sir William Kingston was made a Knight of the Garter on 24 April, 1538. He died 14 September, 1540.

***The St. John family descended from powerful Norman Barons which came to England at the time of the Conquest (circa 1066) from their Manorial Estates of St. Jeanes in Normandy.

The Prater family is believed to have descended from Welsh Princes and Norman Marcher

Barons who possibly descended from Roman nobility.

One of many recorded accounts states that during King Edward VI's reign (during the uprising in the S.W.) Sir Anthony Kingston, being Provost Marshall, wrote to a certain Mayor declaring that he and others would come to dine with him on such-and-such a day. The Mayor seemed to be very joyous of this and made ready for them. Upon their arrival, they were made very welcomed by the Mayor. Sir Anthony called the Mayor aside and told him there was to be an execution of rebels in the town and for him to have gallows made ready by the end of dinner. The Mayor did so. After dinner Sir Anthony took the Mayor by the hand and asked him to take him to the gallows. When seeing them Sir Anthony asked the Mayor "think you they are strong enough?". "Yes Sir", he said. "That they are!" "Well then", said Sir Anthony, "get you up to them, for they are provided for you." The Mayor replied, "I trust you mean no such thing to me." Sir Anthony replied "Sir, you have been a busy rebel, therefore this is appointed as your reward." So, without further delay the Mayor was hanged.

Another account: The Lord Privay, Lord John Russell-

As our men were retiring, I arrived and as it was growing late I thought it good to lose no time, appointed Sir William Herbert and Sir Anthony Kingston with their footmen and horsemen, to set on one side, my Lord Grey to set opposite them, and I with my company to come on the other side; at this sight the rebels' stomachs so fell from them that they fled without a blow. The horsemen followed and chase, and slew up to 700 and took a far greater number. I have immediately sent Sir George and Sir Peter Carew with a good band to keep the town in check.

There are many such recorded facts about various members of our family.

This was the time of Royal rule where only those who protected the Crown's interests could survive and advance. The Prater/Prather family and other allied families were in such positions as devout Royalists. They gained much of their power and wealth by being "servants of the King". But finally in 1645, like the King of England, they lost everything with the overthrow of the Crown by Cromwell.

Researched by Gary Benton Prather