

WORKMAN FAMILY HISTORY pages 7-15**SURNAME WORKMAN**

On the European continent the equivalent to the surname of Workman would undoubtedly be the French form "Ouvrier," and it is entirely possible that in ancient times this was the name by which the family was known. The word WORKMAN is Anglo-Saxon in origin, stemming from the two words WOERC and MAN, the compounded word being recorded as early as the year 1273, when a Gilbert Le Worcman was mentioned in the records of the county of Oxford. In the poll tax list of the West Riding of Yorkshire in the year 1379, Johannes Werkman is named. The lack of a standard English language in the early era, along with the vagaries of the scribes of the day, gave rise to many forms of spelling for the same name. It appears variously for the same people, as Workman, Warkeman, Workeman, Worcman, Woercman, etc., giving rise to the later forms in Holland of Woertman, Wortman, and Van De Werkin.

Being a trade name, denoting a service of some kind, the name Workman may pop up in most any place and in unrelated families, just as the name Cooper refers to the barrel maker and there could be Coopers in a number of different villages who were so-called because of their trade but not because of relationship. The nature of this particular name, however, is such that seemingly only those who for some reason had cause to be proud of the association maintained the surname for successive generations. Others dropped the appellation or assumed other names within a short while. One family line of the Workman name seems to have originated in London where the men were prominent in the trades world, being drapers there and connected with the royal courts. Another strong family group, and by far the largest and most far-reaching in its influence, is the family of Workmans who contributed to the growth and prosperity of the shire of Gloucester.

It is in Gloucester that the coat of arms makes its first appearance. This is the family that carried and enlarged upon the name, producing scholars, doctors, ministers, scientists, and authors who have made the name Workman a proud one in that land of America's cultural heritage. It is here, too, that the name takes on the meaning of "keeper of the fortress," indicating that those who carried the arms were empowered by the ruler of the land to be the overseers of important property for the crown. In Gloucester and in Ireland, where one part of the family became established during the Cromwellian era, legends maintain that the family actually originated in the low countries of Europe; that they were trusted and close companions of the kings.

These same legends, although unproven as yet, state that the family was affiliated with the Huguenot movement and they came to England about the time of St. Bartholomew's Massacre. If this is so, the purge which culminated in that night of horror had forewarned the Workmans and they sought asylum in the British Isles some time earlier, probably soon after the edict of 29 Jan. 1535, which ordered the extermination of all heretics. Such a leave taking would permit them to bring their wealth with them. The first documented evidence of Workman residence in England appears there in 1543, and at that time they were people of above average means. The first wave of Huguenot refugees from the continent ~commg mainly from La Rochelle, France, where the names Louvrier and de Louvrier (French forms of the name Workman) are still quite common, brought to England many people who were weavers and experts in the textile field. Interestingly enough, it was these weavers who chose to settle in Gloucester where the climate and industry were suitable for the pursuance of their trade. The Workmans, too, were weavers, but they also soon came to be prominent yeomen - the landed and prosperous farmers of early England. They owned and leased considerable property in the shire and contributed greatly to its wealth and stability. These first families also contributed scholars to the University of Oxford at a time when only those of some affluence were permitted such privileges. Their descendants have followed the same practices and traditions and still own valuable property there and contribute to the cultural well-being of the area.

Foremost in the English Workman history, and probably the common ancestor of most who bear the

name, is NICHOLAS WORKMAN whose will, made 13th day of June 1543 was probated 19 July 1543 by his wife. An abstract of this will follows:

"In dei nom' Amen the xiiijth day of June the yere of our lorde god 1543 and in the yere of the XXXVth reigne of o'r soveraigne lorde henry the eight by the grace of god of Englonde, ffrance and Ireland, kinge defendor of the feithe, 1, NICHOLAS WORKEMAN of kings stanley wth in the Dioces of Gloue", husbandman, being sicke of bodye but of good and perfite memory, make my Testament and last will in maner & fourme following.

"I bequethe my sowlle to Almighty god & my bodye to be buryed in the churche yarde of kings stanley.

I geve and bequethe to very of my childers That ys to say to RICHARD, UMFFREY, WILLIAM, JOHN THOMAS a d EDWARDE one kowe to be delyvered to eyther of them ~geynste the tymne of their maryage.

I geve and bequethe to evry of my doughters That ys to saye JONE, ALYCE and KATHERYN one koew to be delyvered as ys abovesayd.

I geve and bequethe to every of my saide doughters one bedd with thappurtenances to be delyvered to eyther of them as ys abovesaid. And yf yt fortune eny of my seyde Childers to Decesse before the tyme of theire mariage That then I wolde that their legacies to them dewe shall come and remayne to my executors.

The residewe of all my goods and Catalls not bequethed I geve and bequethe holy to JULYAN my wiffe and UMPREY my sonne whome I make and ordeyne my Executors to bring my bodie honestly in erthe and paye any detts and funeralls and to performe this my last will. Also I will and ordeyne RICHARD COKE to be over seer of this my last will and testament. To this witnessethe Sr. OLYVER BOSEK, curet there and WILLIAM MYLWARD. Proved by J. Workman, 19th July 1543."

1E. NICHOLAS WORKMAN of Kings Stanley, Gloucestershire, England, died June or July 1543; married JULYANN (Gyllian, or Lillian) who survived him 11 yrs., her will being probated 12 Sept. 1554. Their children:

*2E. HUMFREY (HUMPHREY) WORKMAN of Kings Stanley, died before 1583 in Lasboro, Gloucester, England.

3E. RICHARD WORKMAN, who died and was buried in Frampton Cottrell, Gloucester, made his will 18 Jan. 1591, and it was probated in Oct. 1591, naming his wife, MARY, and a son, Thomas Workman. Richard asked that his brother, William, should be overseer. Neither Richard nor William were mentioned in their mother's will in 1554, although named in their father's will.

4E. WILLIAM WORKMAN lived in Stroud, Gloucester, at the time of his death. His will, made 31 May 1608 and probated in Oct. 1608, indicated that his wife had died previously as she was not named. His brother, Humfrey, was mentioned and bequests are made to his six children: Nathaniel, evidently the eldest son as he became the administrator of the estate (his own will was probated in 1618 naming only his wife, Jane, as survivor and making bequests to his brother, Richard, and his sisters); Richard Workman; Samuel Workman (not mentioned in his brother Nathaniel's will); Rebecca (Deborra) Workman married before 1608 to Mr. Essington; Abigail Workman married before May 1608 to Mr. Lloyd; and Margaret or Margery Workman married before 1608 to Mr. West.

5E. JOHN WORKMAN, probably still unmarried in 1554 as he was his mother's chief legatee and no family is mentioned.

6E. THOMAS WORKMAN died in Bisley, Gloucester. His will, dated 27 July 1579 and proved 24 Oct. 1579, named his wife, JOAN, her cousin, Elizabeth, and children: Thomas Workman, Anne Workman who was married before 1579 to Mr. Hawker, Robert Workman, William Workman, Elizabeth Workman, Joan Workman, and Kathrin Workman.

7E. EDWARD WORKMAN, named in both mother's and father's wills.

- 8E. JANE WORKMAN, named by father but does not appear in mother's will in 1554.
9E. ALYSE WORKMAN married before 1554 a Mr. AYLWARDE or MILWARD.

Nicholas Workman had at least three brothers living in Gloucester. They were:

- 10E. THOMAS WORKMAN, who died in 1546 in Sutton, Gloucester, married Miss EDDEN who preceded him in death. The will requested that his brothers, William, and his father-in-law, Thomas Edden, bring up his orphaned children: Elizabeth Workman, Agnes Workman, Joane Workman, and Kathryn Workman.
11E. WILLIAM WORKMAN, whose will, probated in 159i at Hardwicke, Gloucester, named his wife, ELINOR, and two sons: Henry Workman, who at this time had a son, John Workman; and William Workman.
12E. HENRY WORKMAN, whose will, dated 3 March 1559 and probated 18 Sept. 1563 at Minchinhampton, Gloucester, named his wife, ISABELL, and children: Gulhn (William) Workman, John Workman, Thomas Workman, Humfrey Workman, Mary Workman, and Elizabeth Workman. Henry also named another brother:
13E. JAMES WORKMAN.

2E. HUMFREY (HUMPHREY) WORKMAN, son of Nicholas Workman^{1E} and Julyann, of Kings Stanley, Gloucester, England, died before 1583 in Lasboro, Gloucester. In about 1546, he married JOANE (JOHANE) HATHWAY who died in Lasboro, Gloucester. (Her will, made 20 Jan. 1583 and probated in April, named a brother John Hathway.) Their children:

14E. THOMAS WORKMAN, born before 1554 (he was named in his grandmother's will of that date); died in Alderly, Gloucester; his will, dated 27 March 1585 and proved 10 Sept. 1585, named his brothers and sisters and listed his wife, AGNES HALE, dau of Robert Hale. Their children: (births are recorded in the Alderley Parish Register) Robert Workman, born 16 Oct. 1580, Aldefley, but probably died in infancy as he is not mentioned in his father's will; Nicholas Workman, born 21 May 1583 in Alderley; Elizabeth Workman, born 7 April 1585 in Alderley, and mentioned in the will only as "the child which my wife now goeth with." Thomas also bequeathed a legacy to his "daughter in lawe" (adopted child), Johanne Browne, dau of Edward Browne, deceased, the money to be given her when she reached the age of 21 years.

15E. LYLIAN WORKMAN, born before 1554 (mentioned in her grandmother's will) and married HENRY FORD.

16E. KATHARYN WORKMAN, born before 1554 (mentioned in grandmother's will) and married WILLIAM GOSEMORE, had a dau, Elianor, who married Mr. Thurston of Sherston Magna, Wiltshire.

17E. CHRISTOPHER WORKMAN.

18E. JOHN WORKMAN, probably the John of Charvild, Gloucester, whose will made in Feb. 1605 and probated July 1606 named his children as John Workman, Thomas Workman, and Giles Workman who had a dau., Margaret.

19E. HUMFREY WORKMAN, born about 1563; matriculated in Oxford University, Trinity College, 30 August 1582, aged 19.

20E. EDYTHE WORKMAN who married JOHN ARCHER.

*21E. WILLIAM WORKMAN, born about 1568; died 8 Sept. 1628, Newington Bagpath, Gloucester, England.

21E. WILLIAM WORKMAN, son of Humfrey Workman^{2E} (Nicholas^{1E}) and Joane Hathway, born about 1568; died 8 Sept. 1628 at Newington Bagpath, Gloucester, England; married ELIZABETH COCKS. Their children:

*22E. JOHN WORKMAN, born 1590 probably in Lasborough, Gloucester, England; buried 12 Jan. 1640/1 in Gloucester, England.

23E. SUSANNE WORKMAN, unmarried in 1641.

24E. ANNE WORKMAN married THOMAS BANKS.

25E. EDMUND or EDWARD WORKMAN, baptized March 1600 Newington Bagpath, Gloucester, England; died Nov. 1605.

26E. MARY WORKMAN, baptized April 1600, Newington Bagpath; married JOHN BANASTER of Oxford.

27E. A dau born about 1603 and married THOMAS BROAD. They had at least two sons; John Broad who was mentioned in his grandfather's will, and Thomas Broad mentioned in the will of John Workman^{22E}.

*28E. GILES WORKMAN, born 1605, Newington Bagpath, England; buried 14 Feb. 1655/6, Alderley, Gloucester, England.



St. Nicholas Parish Church, Gloucester, England. John Workman (Puritan Preacher) preached in this church, also buried here

22E. JOHN WORKMAN, son of William Workman^{21E} (Humfrey^{2E} Nicholas^{1E}) and Elizabeth Cocks; born in 1590 probably in Lasborough, Gloucester, England; buried in St. Nicholas churchyard, City of Gloucester, England, 12 Jan. 1640/1; married ESTHER WOOD of BrookThorpe, Cam, Gloucester.

(Note: The date 1640/1 is used here to show the variance in dates of the different calendars in use at that time. The tombstone date is 1640, but in terms of the present calendar the -year is 1641. This is true of other dates written in this manner and occurs only during the months of January, February, and March, the first of the year formerly having been considered to be the first of March.)

At the time of John's birth, the family owned property and were living in Lasborough; and, although they continued to own property there, they eventually expanded their holdings and moved to a larger home in Newington Bagpath where the younger children were born. Although rated as commoners - (not being of the titled gentry), the family position was such that, on 3 June 1608 at the age of 18, John Workman was able to matriculate, in St. Albans Hall, Oxford. There he received his B.A. degree on 27 May 1611 and his M.A. on 8 July 1614. Very soon thereafter he seems to have been ordained to the ministry and was lecturing in and around the city of Gloucester, the Cathedral city of his home diocese.

Either during his school years or during the first part of his ministry, John became affiliated with the Puritan movement which was instituted by members and leaders of the Anglican church to resist the trend of certain leaders towards the tenets and practices of Catholicism. By the year 1619, he had

attained such favor that the city council of Gloucester, looking for a minister to serve the spiritual 'needs of the Puritans of the city, appointed him lecturer for that group, lectures to be given twice a week with one of them to be at 9 a.m. Thursday morning in the parish church of St. Michaels and the other to be held on Sunday afternoon and to alternate between St. Michaels and St. Nicholas parishes. The city of Gloucester had become a stronghold of the Puritans; the city council under the mayorship of John Brewster had Puritan leanings, and even the Bishop of the diocese was lenient.

A powerful preacher and well liked by the people of the community, John was appointed to the ministry of St. Nicholas in the year 1622, which position he held with distinction in addition to the lectureship. The wave of favor was so strong that eventually the council, wishing to extend the sphere of John's influence, endeavored to gain an appointment for him to preach at the Cathedral college on Sunday. But this was not to be. The old Bishop was no longer there and a new one, Bishop Godfrey Goodman, was not so favorable. Moreover, Dean Laud working under Bishop Goodman, had taken a strong dislike to Mr. Workman and led the movement to counteract his influence. Two strong factions developed, one headed by Goodman and Laud and the other by John Workman. John contended that the church was now too "popish" in its leaning and teachings, while Goodman and Laud contended that John was a heretic and a traitor to his country. It was an unequal battle, and by 1627 Bishop Goodman had John Workman suspended from St. Nicholas.

In spite of this action, the city council continued to support John Workman and as late as 26 Sept. 1633 voted to give John his stipend whether "he preach or not." By this time Dean Laud had become the Archbishop of Canterbury and could have forgotten the local dispute; but his hatred was so intense that, aided by Bishop Goodman, the city council was arrested and tried for supporting John and the Puritan movement. A heavy fine was imposed and to avoid further reprimand they were forced to withdraw from the contest. In the meantime, John Workman had been summoned to appear before the Bishop "for the scandalous matter of some of his, sermons." The Bishop complained that Workman had delivered in open pulpit that pictures, Omaments, and images had no place, in a church and they tended too much to, idolatry; that ministers were not chosen properly; and that John had it usually prayed for the States of Holland and the King of Sweden before the King's Majesty." Archbishop Laud contended that the latter was the usual garb of the men of this party (Puritans) and as such they were traitors to the country as well as to the church.

Very soon after Laud became archbishop, John. was summoned to Canterbury to stand trial. John admitted the content of his sermons and never wavered in support of the things which he believed. He was ordered repeatedly to produce notes or copies of his sermons. showing these things. He was imprisoned and eventually excommunicated from the church, being ordered to make public denial of the -things he had taught. This he refused to do saying that to do so would force him to acknowledge something which he had formerly denied on, his oath. He begged them to, study and rephrase the proposition.

Weary, broken in health from the long trial and imprisonment and divested of his priesthood, John Workman was allowed to return to Gloucester. There he opened a school for boys; but the Bishop forced him to close it saying that, if he was not fit to preach neither should he teach. John then attempted to practice medicine, an art in which he was proficient; but that too was denied him. A number of years later, when Archbishop Laud was being tried for heresy to the Protestant faith, he was charged with undue persecution of John Workman. He replied that he had nothing against John practicing his arts in any other place but it was not possible to allow him to do, anything in this town where he was so well known and had such a large, following. In the last months of his life, the city council again voted a sum of money to aid John Workman and an annuity was also voted to care for his widow. He died at age 50.

Historians of the next century, notably Neal in his "History of Puritanism" and Stratford in "Great and Good Men of Gloucester," state that at the age of 43, during his trials, John Workman, was allowed to go home to care for his "large family." No record of children has yet been found, however. He does not mention them in his will, and his nephew in 1681 says that John died "sine prole." Could it be that, out of love and compassion for this valiant minister, Mayor John Brewster and the city council found

asylum for the family with that other Brewster and the Puritans who fled to Holland?

It is interesting to note that in the decade following John Workman's death both Bishop Godfrey Goodman and Archbishop Laud were tried and condemned by the Ecclesiastical courts for the very charges which John Workman had made against them. And it is certainly the story of John Workman that has colored the legends of the American Workmans when they say their people were connected with the Puritan movement in England and they went to Holland for religious freedom. 28E. GILES WORKMAN, son of William Workman^{21E} (Humfrey^{2E} Nicholas^{1E}) and Elizabeth Cocks; born 1605 in Newington (Newton) Bagpath, Gloucester, England; buried 14 Feb. 1655/6 in Alderly, Gloucester, England; married in 1635 to ANNE PETTY (born 1613 of Fauley, Oxford Co., England; died 30 March 1655 Newington Bagpath, Gloucester, England; dau of Leonard Petty). Their children:

29E. JAMES WORKMAN who died Jan. 1677; matriculated in Merton College, Oxford, 12 Dec. 1654; received his B.A. Degree 23 July 1657; was a fellow or teacher at the college from 1658-1677; received his Master's Degree 21 Jan. 1662/3; buried 14 Jan. 1677 in the college chapel. Unmarried.

30E. JOHN WORKMAN born 16 Dec. 1638, at Newington Bagpath or Walford, Hartfordshire; died 24 June 1685, Northamptonshire; married CONSTANCE MAY (of Rawmere, Sussex Co.; died 27 Sept. 1681; dau of John May; Constance died in childbed). No children. John Workman matriculated in Merton College, Oxford, 25 Nov. 1653; fellow of All Soul's College; B.A. 20 Jan. 1658-9; M.A. 11 Nov. 1662; incorporated at Cambridge 1680; canon of Peterborough 1676; Vicar of Hambleton, Rutland, 1676; and Rector at Peakirk, Northampton, 1682 until his death. In his earlier years he was rector of Sutton-under-Brailes, Gloucester.

In 1681 John Workman applied to the heralds for a coat of arms and obtained it - a silver spread-eagle on an azure field.

31E. GILES WORKMAN, born 1643; matriculated in New College, Oxford, 10 May 1662, age 19, subscribing himself as "scholaris;" in 1681 his brother, John, stated that Giles was "now in his travels beyond sea."

32E. WILLIAM WORKMAN who died at age 5, after 1655.

33E. ANNE WORKMAN, eldest dau of Giles; married ROBERT WELMAN of Oxford.

34E. ELIZABETH WORKMAN, died age 1 year.

Following in the footsteps of his elder brother, Giles Workman matriculated in Oxford, Magdalen Hall, 27 June 1623, at age 18; received his B.A. 21 Oct. 1626; his Master's from St. Edmund's Hall 11 June 1629. He became vicar of Wallford, Hertfordshire, but it was not long until he became master (teacher) and minister in the College School in Gloucester. In 1642, under the patronage of Judge Hale, Giles became the rector of Alderley, which post he maintained until his death, living at the nearby family home in Newington Bagpath to which he had been the heir after the death of his parents.

A much milder echo of his elder brother, Giles never antagonized his peers, although he was quick to come to his brother's defense when the occasion arose. While in Wallford, he offered asylum to John when, broken in health by his imprisonment, he needed rest and care. After John's death, when vilifying articles were written concerning him, Giles quickly took the pulpit in his defense; and in 1646, he published a sermon entitled "Private Men No Pulpit Men." A verbal battle between the clergy of Gloucester had been going on since 1641. This dissertation had been in reply and was now being printed as a clincher to the argument. In a foreword to the reader, Giles says: ". . . a reply both for the manifestation of truth, to the undeceiving of the people; and for the Vindication. of a painfull Minister, deceased, near in relation to me, for a foul Aspersion and unchristian slander laid upon him in that writing... I have left out that which pertains to the slander." The issue had become much bigger than the personal affront. In this book, which may be seen at the British Museum, Giles quotes at length from the Puritan minister of Boston, Mr. Cotton. It is significant that Giles should have been so closely associated with the Puritans in America that he would be quoting from their beliefs and writings.

References:

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