

One of Cromwell's Captains

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Mortlock is a relatively rare surname outside East Anglia and London, and so, when Mortlock records occur outside this area one is tempted to investigate. The recent computerised index to the PRO's records recently threw up new ones, in records classes previously unexplored by me - and, if it had not been for that index, they might have stayed that way. A number of stray references relating to the subject matter of this article have subsequently been collated from the internet.

The muster roll for the Civil War regiment of foot raised under Captain Thomas Poulton, Parliamentary governor of Nottingham castle, shows a Richard Mortlock as ensign in what appears to be roughly a company-sized force. He had joined on 27th January '1648' (presumably 1649 New Style). In 1650 the, by now, Captain Richard Mortlock, gent. of "Greeseley, Notts" [now Greasely], bought interests in the sequestered estates of the King (in Derbyshire) [PRO, E320/07], and of the Earl of Newcastle in Radford and Worksop, Nottinghamshire [PRO, SP46/108 f201]. One can infer from these transactions that Richard was in good grace with the Parliamentary authorities for his military achievements. East Anglia, the Mortlocks' heartland, was notorious for its Parliamentary sympathies besides seeing Cromwell as a local boy. Richard Mortlock must have been already a man of means, in order to make these capital investments, more than just a plain russet-coated Captain.

These entries seem to make him the chiefest, indeed only currently visible candidate to be the father of John Mortlock of Nottingham fl. 1655-70 as shown in the tree below [the only Mortlock family in Notts IGI]. This theory is reinforced by John's calling his heir Richard, and by Richard's being sent to University, an indicator of some money in the family - although how, or indeed whether, Richard senior's gains survived the Restoration is not clear. John was certainly a 4-hearth man in 1674 (in "John TWELLS Disuary[?sp] in town of Nottingham"). Certainly the Earl of Newcastle did try to get his land back. John's other son was packed off to Jamaica, but seems to have left no acknowledged progeny - if indeed he survived the climate, or ever actually reached there.

The only professional mention of John that I have been able to find is that he sold, in Nottingham and at his shop in Newark, a work printed by Henry Mortlock of London in 1695. Since they were contemporaries and were thus joined in business across a considerable distance, it seems reasonable to suppose that John and Henry were related if not brothers. The idea of a link is strengthened by Henry's publication in 1677 of Robert Thornton's '*Antiquities of Nottinghamshire*'.

Henry's domicile was the parish of St Faith's Under St Paul's in London. This was the Stationers' Company church, and indeed they kept their records in its crypt, which did for them in the Great Fire of 1666. Henry's main business was conducted at the sign of the "Phoenix" in St Paul's churchyard (perhaps a pun on the Great Fire), but when Parliament was sitting he took a stand under the sign of the "White Hart" in Westminster Hall. Henry was noted as a publisher of religious works, particularly all the prodigious output of Edward Stillingfleet, 1635-99, who came from Cranborne in Dorset (although the Stillingfleets were originally of the village of that name in Yorkshire). Later Bishop of Worcester, Stillingfleet was Dean of St Paul's in 1678, and became the most prominent bishop of his generation, and a familiar of Charles II. A family connection with

the Stillingfleets followed (see chart). Henry also published works by Richard Bentley, who had been Stillingfleet's chaplain at Worcester.

Henry was described by his contemporary John Dunton as "the most indefatigable shopkeeper" and "one of the most prolific publishers of his time". It has to be said that he was operating from a position of considerable privilege, for the number of master-printers was, from 1660, strictly controlled by the Government in the interest of religious and political censorship. It might be supposed that the family's Commonwealth sympathies had been massaged down to invisibility by this time, but one of Henry's titles, *'The Evil and Danger of Stage Plays'* (1706) suggests otherwise. Henry was a publisher and bookseller rather than an actual printer - various books which he sold are marked as printed for him, by a variety of different, presumably jobbing, printers. As a bookseller he seems sometimes to have been in partnership with an Elizabeth Calvert who was in business at the Barbican. Some copies of works published by Henry were, at the time of writing this article, still on sale, commanding prices in the order of £500.

In the 1695 tax 'census' Henry and Elizabeth were the only adult Mortlocks "Within the Walls", i.e. within the City of London. The interest of this is that it suggests that later Mortlock Londoners were incomers, almost certainly from East Anglia, and that the Mortlock name arose there and, although a corruption of 'Mortlake', did not radiate via the Metropolis. Indeed, if they had, they would presumably have become established in other directions as well as north-east.

Henry's son George became his partner and was still in business in 1717. Judging by the title of one of the works that he published - *'The Royal Martyr a True Christian'* (1716) - either times had changed or George, in a shift not untypical of the human condition, did not share his father's political views. George's heir, Roger, took his mother's surname, presumably in order to inherit some money. Roger, who graduated BA at Cambridge in 1735, is recorded as voting in an election of the Junior Proctor of the University in 1740, and voting on another issue in 1742. Roger's probable younger brother, Samuel, seems to have disappeared into soapmaking and the more readily available London records do not disclose what became of him.

The next puzzle relates to Captain Richard's origins. The placing of two sons in stationery and printing suggests that he was in that trade before the Civil War swirled him into another calling, and the hints as to his status suggest that he had a reasonable amount of money at his back, if only to be able to buy into the sequestered property being sold off after the Commonwealth victory. As to East Anglia, the name Richard was never used by the Mortlocks indigenous to Cambridgeshire, and most of the Mortlocks in Norfolk seem to be descended from an incomer from Suffolk, although a Richard Mortlock was living in Castle Rising in the 1720s and 1730s. There were 'Richards' relatively early in Essex and also in Suffolk; there was a Henry who became a printer in Bury St Edmunds at the end of the eighteenth century but that may mean anything or nothing; he was previously a blacksmith, one of a clan of over two dozen Mortlock blacksmiths in Suffolk and Norfolk and later in Cambridgeshire. The names Richard and Samuel are used for Mortlocks in both Suffolk and Essex in the sixteenth century and later. So, on a basis of what is currently visible in terms of Mortlock records, I would place Captain Richard as a Suffolk or Essex man. An additional teaser is that the only other Roger Mortlock visible between 1538 and 1881 is the Roger listed for Clare in the 1638 'Able Men of Suffolk'. He seems to belong to a branch of Mortlocks from Wicken in Cambridgeshire. Was George's Roger named after him? This family had a John and a Henry. Whether anything further, of a more concrete nature, can ever be discovered about Cromwell's Captain Richard Mortlock I rather doubt.

We now come to the Charles Mortlock born 1666 who was sent out to Jamaica in 1683, indentured to Barbara Orgill. Lucy Wyld Mortlock was born in Jamaica in 1819, before the era of the Banking Mortlocks in that island. She married a Bayley, which family had taken over Barbara Orgill's Nonsuch estate. So perhaps Charles left issue? There do not appear to be any records that can take this mystery further.

References and Sources not Identified in the Text:

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Email from Emma Humphrys 2015 re her 3 greats grandmother Lucy Wyld Mortlock

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