The Baldwin family has been in England since the time of the Norman Invasion in 1066. Because of changes in name usage protocols over the centuries, however, it is difficult, if not impossible, to definitively trace genealogical lines within the family back beyond the 15th century before two names regularly began to be used. When you are dealing with names like ‘Baldwin of Aylesbury’ or ‘Baldwin, son of Thomas’ and the lack of a national census to corroborate dates of birth and marriage, it becomes very difficult to determine just who is who. Especially when so many common first names like Robert or William or John are used. Your best chance for obtaining an extended genealogical trace is to tie your family into a noble or royal family line which has historic documentation.

Using the resources of Ancestry.com it is possible to perform a trace of various of our Baldwin family lines back as far as back to 1066 a.d. But specific proofs for these lines are not necessarily going to be available. You have to put your trust in the many families who have done their own work. And these family lines are available to be adopted by other families. But as a result, if an error is made in one line, that error could be compounded over many other families. A discriminating genealogist must be very careful about what material one adopts into his own family tree.
For the purpose of tracing our own particular Baldwin genealogical line, we shall trace six members of our family. We have chosen to begin with William Baldwin (1441-?) who married Jane Aylesbury (1443-?) and who is generally credited as being the father of three sons: Richard (1468-1485), Sir John (1470-1545) and Robert (1475-1536). There is a good deal of documentation for the three sons in the form of histories, wills and deeds to serve as proofs for their relationships, especially due to the notoriety of Sir John Baldwin, who was the Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas during the reign of King Henry VIII. For the parents, William Baldwin & Jane Aylesbury, we have nothing specific at this time save family trees with conflicting dates. The historical summary which you are going to read here will borrow from all of these documents which shall be quoted extensively. You are also directed to the BaldwinHolt Family Tree and the Baldwin/Baker Family both of which were constructed by m baldwin148 on the Ancestry.com web site. All documents quoted in this history are located within the various biographies on the site, as well as this document which shall be placed within, not only the Robert Baldwin (1475-1536) folder, but the other five as well. The seventh member of the line – Richard Baldwin (1622-1665) – was also born in England, but he is the first of the family to set foot in America, and his history shall be treated within the Colonial Generations area of this history.

**DUNDRIDGE MANOR AND THE BALDWIN FAMILY**

There were many Baldwin families in England during the 15th century, but Robert Baldwin (1476-1536) was the first of our line to be definitively identified as being a tenant and later owner of the manor. During the reign of Henry VIII (1509-1547) the estate was owned by the Countess of Salisbury and Robert leased the property from her. Upon his death in 1536, the tenancy was continued by his son, Richard. In 1541, however, the Countess died in what was reported to be a “gruesome death” at the Tower of London because of what was said to be her status as the last of the Plantagenet royal line. She was said to have been a popular landlord to the people and a very gentle and stately person. At her death, it is reported that she refused to lay her head on the chopping block and began running around the execution platform screaming. The headsman eventually had to grab her by the hair to hold her down. The locals tell stories to this day that she can be heard giving “catarrhal sniffs” around the manor rooms of Dundridge which she haunts!
With her death, the property reverted to the King Henry VIII, but he did not disturb the tenancy of Richard Baldwin. In fact, the ownership of the property was apparently sold by the King to Richard’s uncle, Sir John Baldwin (1470-1545), brother of his father Robert Baldwin (1476-1536) and the Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, as a reward for his efforts in dispatching Anne Boleyn, Sir Thomas More and others. With John’s death in 1545, the property passed on to the sons of his two daughters since his only son had predeceased him. The property was then sold to Richard Baldwin and his family owned it for a number of generations after our family, through Silvester, departed for America in 1638, three generations later. A memorial stained glass window was donated to the local St. Michael and All Angels Church in Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire, in the 1960s by American descendants of Silvester Baldwin.

Stained glass window in the North Aisle, St. Michael and All Angels Church, Aston Clinton, Buckinghamshire: "To the Glory of God and in memory of ROBERT BALDWIN and his descendants who lived at Dundridge Manor in this parish c. 1520 - 1638 And of those who emigrated to New England with SILVESTER BALDWIN". The window was donated by American Baldwin descendants in the 1960s.

OTHER PICTURES OF DUNDRIDGE

(left) drawing of the moat area of Dundridge from ‘Hilltop Villages of the Chilterns’ by David and Joan Hay. (right) Older picture of Dundridge from Ancestry.com.
CURRENT PICTURES OF DUNDRIDGE PROVIDED BY MR. JIM MATTHEWS, CURRENT OWNER OF DUNDRIDGE – 2012
(These pictures make you wish Dundridge were a bed & breakfast inn, don’t they?!)
OLDER BALDWIN FAMILIES

The following document was written by A. Vere Woodman, F.S.A., of Wing, Buckinghamshire, and it was located on Ancestry.com.
The Baldwins of England – Post Norman Generations

IX. ROBERT BALDWIN

Robert Baldwin was said to have been the first of the family to settle in Dunsden where he may have had a farm of the manor. In 1253 he took his land in a pightle containing half an acre at Coleby, near Bath, to be held by rent of 5s per annum. In 1213, under Alice Clinton, he was taxed to 3d on an assessment of £3 in goods, and his land being valued at £2 6s 8d. A note, probably to differentiate the assessment and that of the previous year, states that he was “deed by land and property to John de Baldwyne.”

Robert Baldwin was a frequent tenant at Dunsden and at his death was presented at the court held 16 April 1216 when it was found that he had left forty acres of land and tenements at Dunsden and at other lands and tenements at Winchcombe in Gloucester which he had given, by deed done in court, to his younger son Richard Baldwin. At the court held 26 April 1217 it was proved that while he lived, John de Baldwyne, his son and heir, held a knight’s fee by services of ten shillings for one knight’s fee in Coleby, containing half an acre, and that John de Baldwyne was his son and heir and held it by hire.

Robert Baldwin had at least three sons.

1. JOHN BALDWIN OF THE HALL

In his answer to certain inquisition made in 1264 concerning the chapel of St. Leonard, John Baldwin, eldest son, was named. He was, however, buried in 1340. It is probable that the John Baldwin referred to by the inquisition was John Baldwin of Coleby and that his father was the heir of John Baldwin, son of the said John, deceased. There are no records showing how the property in Dunsden and elsewhere passed to the eldest son. He bore the name of John Baldwin and is named as John Baldwin in the manor court records of the manor of Coleby and was held as heir-at-law to the said John. He was also named as John de Baldwyne in the court held 21 Dec. 1211 as the heir of the said John. He was probably the first to bear the name of John Baldwin and is named as John Baldwin in the manor court records of the manor of Coleby and was held as heir-at-law to the said John. He was also named as John de Baldwyne in the court held 21 Dec. 1211 as the heir of the said John.

2. THOMAS BALDWIN OF THE FOURNERS OF WINCHCOMBE

By his will dated 3 May 1222 and proved 15 May 1222, he gave to his son John and his daughter Alice their lands and tenements in the manor of Coleby and in the town of Cheltenham, and the custody of the manor of Coleby and in the town of Cheltenham. He also left his son John a certain messuage and land in the said town of Cheltenham. The will was proved 3 May 1222 and signed by Margaret Baldwin, his third daughter.

3. RICHARD BALDWIN OF DUNSDEN

Richard Baldwin is named in the taxation of 1253 as owner of 4½ acres of land in Coleby. The poor rate assessment may show that he had only recently become a householder and lie on, as the one by whose marriage—probably in 1254—Robert Baldwin’s son had “nuptuals.” In addition to the lands he held of his father’s gift in Cheltenham he seems to have inherited a lease of the manor of Dunsden. The manor itself was purchased by his son Henry in 1258. He was joined in 1231, and he was admitted 16 January and proved 20 February. As the later history of the Baldwin family, which began with Richard Baldwin, father of Thomas Baldwin, has been fully investigated by Sir John Lord Clinton, it has been thought unnecessary to carry the family back any further.

References and Notes
1. James was the son of John and Alice Baldwin.
2. Above, p. 105. It is clear that the number of Baldwin family members is larger than that indicated by a review of the surviving documents.
3. The family is well represented in the surviving documents.
4. The family is well represented in the surviving documents.
5. The family is well represented in the surviving documents.
6. The family is well represented in the surviving documents.
7. The family is well represented in the surviving documents.
8. The family is well represented in the surviving documents.
9. The family is well represented in the surviving documents.
THE BALDWINS OF DUNDRIDGE

The following history of the owners of Dundridge from Robert Baldwin through his grandson, Henry Baldwin, was retrieved from Ancestry.com. The numbered list of children following each biography has been added by Mark Baldwin for family clarity and is entered in English Times type face. You are also directed to an accompanying quote of the ninth chapter of a book entitled: *Hilltop Villages of the Chilterns* by David and Joan Hay, pages 82-99, where there is an extensive description of the St. Leonard’s hamlet in which Dundridge is located. Chapter IX in particular provides much information on the Baldwins of this era as well as pictures of buildings and maps. The rest of the book, published by Phillimore & Company LTD, is a highly recommended read for genealogists interested in the various villages and families of the hilly Chiltern Mountain area of England. This Chapter IX provides a detailed description of the Baldwins mentioned in this history.

WILLIAM (1441- ?) (Uncertain of his ancestry though he is mentioned as being the father of Sir John Baldwin.)
1 – Richard (1468-1485)
2 – Sir John Baldwin (1470-1545)
3 – Robert Baldwin (1475-1536)
“ROBERT (1476-1536) - An astute and purposeful Freeman emerged into the society of the period of Henry VIII's early years on the throne of England, in the person of Robert Baldwin, who had evidently developed into a prosperous Yeoman. With his sons, Robert and Richard, he had been entered into the Muster Roll of 1522 as the owner of the lands in the Chesham district valued at 40 shillings and of property at Dundridge valued at £20. It is evident that he had leased the manor, or farm, from the Countess of Salisbury, who was Lord of the Aston Clinton Manor in her own right. (Dundridge and St. Leonards village adjoining were then part of the parish of Aston Clinton, which had built a Chapel-of-Ease in the village during the De Clinton regime.)

“Robert, who was born around 1476, raised a family of stout sons, of whom John, the eldest, owned land at Bellingdon, and in turn produced a large family, which only indirectly concerns our story; while Robert and Richard, other sons are mentioned with their father in the Muster Roll, the former assessed at £2 in goods, together with sword and armour, which latter might account for his later disappearance from further reference to Dundridge - leaving the succession open to Richard.

“To give ourselves an idea of the economy of those times we must turn to the records for the year 1525, when the Subsidy Roll, a district taxation list, was published. This so-called Subsidy was a form of Income Tax devised by Henry VIII to extract six pence in the pound on assessments. Robert, the father, had been previously assessed at £13, but on this list he was assessed at £8 because ‘he was decad by corne and the marriage of his son.’ That is to say that he had had a poor harvest and Richard had married Ellen Apuke, daughter of a local farmer and was now due for higher wages. His father awarded him a 20% rise on the Bailiff scale and now he had a yearly salary of £2 less one shilling tax, which was then deemed a competence. His clothes would cost him between five and six shilling, about the price of an ox. In his former situation as Bailiff he would have received his livery from his father as well as three shillings and four pence in wages so his pay rise seems to have been somewhat disappointing. Freemen labourers could earn four pence a day, with perhaps certain perquisites thrown in. Lambs were one shilling and six pence each, while a goose could by obtained for two pence.”

1 – John Baldwin (eldest)
2 – Richard Baldwin (1503-1565)
3 – Robert Baldwin
4 – Thomas Baldwin

“RICHARD (1503-1565) - On the death of his father in 1536, Richard took over the lease of Dundridge to develop the land and his fortunes. The times were not of the best to achieve them, for religious strife, with persecutions, was steadily mounting, and the sturdy spirit of liberty that was growing in the Yeoman classes would cause them to resist oppressive laws of the Church, or State even if they only lightly affected their Faith.

“In 1541, the Countess of Salisbury died a gruesome death on Tower Hill because, as the last of the Plantagenet line she was an inconvenience to Henry VIII. It was a blow to the people hereabouts, who had learned to love her gentle ways, to learn how the stately lady of their Manor, having refused to bow down to the block was pulled down by the hair by the headsman, who hacked of her head. The country folk of today will tell one that at times she may be heard giving "catarrhal sniff" around the manor rooms, which she haunts.

“After her death, the property reverted to the King, who did not disturb the tenancy of Richard and his "managing" wife.

“Richard and Ellen produced a lively family of three sons and four daughters. Would these young people ride over the steep and rutty tracks to morning church in a lumbering, spring-less wagon through Aston Chivery's sloping woods to the Vale of Aylesbury making the welkin ring with their merriment and groans of anguish intermixed, as they bumped along, or would they have to proceed in silence under the stern gaze of their mother? We can only assume that they would find the four mile trek somewhat painful in such a conveyance, for even at a later period Queen Elizabeth I travelling in her state carriage along roads in better condition complained that she was unable to sit in comfort for a week after one of her trips.
"The alternative form of conveyance would be more popular when the males of the family could manage a steed and take their sisters on the pillion. They could then stable their
mounts at the Manor House, which was near the Aston Clinton Church.

"The children would at first be somewhat disturbed by the mural paintings. A terrifying Satan would be leering at them from some prominent position, while his myrmidons might be
shown forking sinners down to hell fire. The Church, even then, believed in visual education and the grotesqueness of the illustrations emphasised the sombre teaching.

"During the reign of the young King Edward there was taken an inventory of the Church property and the Commissioners received all the candlesticks, etc., and even the four bells
hanging in the steeple. They returned only the bare minimum of necessities of worship, i.e., the Chalice and Platen, a surplice and some linen cloth, - and the bells as an
afterthought. Richard would have to witness this ceremony in his capacity of an officer of the Church.

"He was becoming ambitious and was growing affluent enough to consider the possibility of purchasing the Manor from the King. At the same time he was educating his boys for a
higher status in society. Indeed, his eldest son Henry, had some training in Law before the death of his father in 1553, the year that saw the accession of Queen Mary.

"Though frugal, both Richard and Ellen, were kindly natured as the peasants around found to their own comfort. In his Will, Richard's bequests to them were to a degree generous,
a shilling then being £10 value in present day economy. To his family, the following bequests were made:

"To Alice my daughter, 20 marks when she marries; (1 mark = 13s 4d)
To Agnes, £12 when 19; - to Cecily and Lettice £10 each
To John, my farm at Dongrove when 23, but if he die before age, the same to Henry, my son;
To Richard, my tenement in Cholesbury when 23;
To Ellyn, my wife and Henry, my son, the rents of my said houses and lands towards bringing up my children."

"There were other numerous sums to be paid as legacies to servants, god-children, etc., and furthermore he desired to rest in Aston Clinton Churchyard, where he was buried in
1553.

"It is noteworthy that 'the managing wife' secured to herself 50% of the estate during her lifetime. Maybe this was to safeguard the affairs of the farm now nominally in the hands of
her young son."

1 – Henry (1530-1602)
2 – John (1532 - ?)
3 – Agnes (born before 1552 - ?)
4 – Alice (born before 1552 – died before 1560
5 – Cecily (born before 1552 - ?)
6 – Richard (born before 1552 - ?)
7 – Lettice (born before 1565 - ?)
“Henry Baldwin (1530 - 1602)

There are no records to show, but it is estimated that he was born about 1531, which means that he was 22 years old when he succeeded his father and was barely of age. This fact had weighed with Richard in making the terms of his Will as he did, for he must have gained a high estimation of his wife's abilities in their married life. She held her half interest in the estate until her death in 1566, when she left a Will which was even more comprehensive than Richard's and characteristically feminine. She also wished to be buried at Aston Clinton, though the wish does seem to have been unfulfilled. She left two daughters about whom she seemed to have anxieties, so she appointed an Uncle to see that they made suitable marriages.

Henry Baldwin seems to have inherited his mother's acumen for business, for he thrived so that in 1579 he became the Lord of Dundridge Manor by purchase form the amendment executor of Sir John Baldwin who died one year after he had been seized of it in 1544.

He was the eldest son of Richard I and must have been born previously to 1532 when John, the second son was born. He married an eminently suitable wife in the person of Alice Kinge of this district in 1560 and raised a family of seven, - four sons and three daughters. The two eldest, Richard and Sylvester, most chiefly concern our story. Richard, the heir apparent married Miss Christian Tokefield at Tring on 18th October 1592 and his brother, Sylvester married Jane Wells. The dangers of invasion were past, the Spanish Armada having crushed in 1588 to the great jubilation of the people of this country, and hearty feelings of thanksgiving for delivery from the threatened domination of the Spanish Inquisition.

Henry lived on till 1602, predeceasing Good Queen Bess by one year. Some interesting side-lights on his generosity are displayed in his Will. First, he remembered the destitute, leaving to Aston and Cholesbury 20 shillings each; to Wendover five shillings and to Missenden three shillings and four pence. Richard, his eldest son, was to succeed him as head of his family, though he could not claim certain articles of furniture till after his mother's death.

Sylvester was left £10, and two of his sons six shillings and eight pence each, while John, another son received four crofts at Wendover, and Robert and Jane's widower were left £40 each.

A brother-in-law was Willed 10 sheep, while all his god-children were to receive six pence each. (worth about £5 today).

There were numerous other bequests.

As Lord of Dundridge he claimed the privilege of burial in the Parish Church.

Alice, the widow lived on till 1626, her Will being proved on the 23rd November of that year.”

1 – Richard (died 1636, childless according to C.C. Baldwin)


3 – Agnes

4 – Jane

5 – John

6 – Mary

7 – Robert
Silvester Baldwin I (1560-1632) – Sylvester was one of four sons and three daughters born to Henry and Alice (King) Baldwin. His elder brother Richard, having died childless, Silvester inherited Dundridge in 1636. He married September 28, 1590, at Cholesbury, Jane Wells, who was born in 1556. Sylvester and Jane had eight children:

1 – Alice
2 – Richard
3 – Silvester – Born 1595; died 1638.
4 – Jane
Silvester Baldwin II (1595-1638) – During the period of 1618 through 1648 the Thirty Years War raged in Europe and England. Though fought for complex reasons it was basically a struggle between Protestant and Catholic religious views. In 1642 Oliver Cromwell rose to power in England with the First Civil War which lasted until 1649 when King Charles I was executed and the monarchy was abolished. From 1653 to 1658 Cromwell ruled England with the Protectorate. Finally, with Cromwell’s death in 1658 the Protectorate ended and the monarchy was restored in 1660 under Charles II.

The family of Silvester Baldwin was Protestant and were apparently practicing Puritans. Oliver Cromwell was a practicing Puritan from the 1630s and in 1657, under the Protectorate, he established Puritanism as the national religion. This religious direction was no doubt instrumental in the decision to leave England for America in 1638. Silvester was a younger Baldwin son, and as such did not inherit the major family lands, which included Dundridge. The town of Milford, Connecticut, in which the family ultimately settled after 1638, was initially a Puritan town.

Silvester was apparently settled at farm near to Dundridge named Chapel Farm while he was in England. The farm may have been part of the lands owned by the Baldwin family at the time.
A primary source for the history of Sylvester Baldwin comes from historian Charles Candee Baldwin in his Baldwin Genealogy of 1881. I shall quote from it.

“By Charles Candee Baldwin – 1881

“Silvester Baldwin was the immigrant to New England who died on board ship Martin, June or July, 1638. He is first mentioned in the will of his nephew Richard in 162/3, as executor and residuary legatee—a high compliment to his nephew from a man of the property and apparent sense of Richard, especially as the next heir of Richard was a prosperous lawyer. He married Sarah, whose surname Hon. John D. Baldwin, of Worcester, informed me long since, on the authority of Hon. Ralph D. Smith, of Guilford, Conn., was Bryant. Mr. Smith, a very high authority in early relationships in Connecticut, could not some years after, on my visiting him in Guilford, give me his authority. The fact, however, will appear very probable, as the English relationship and acquaintance of the Bryants was then unknown, having been afterwards discovered by myself. They were married in England, and the following children were baptized to them in Aston Clinton, Bucks Co., England:

1 – Sarah, 22 April 1621, m. Benjamin Fenn, of Milford, Ct.
2 – Richard, 25 Aug., 1622, here in the 5th generation, but hereafter in this book as Richard, of Milford, in the first generation, ancestor of a numerous family. (His biography continues in the Colonial Generations section of this history – Mark Baldwin)
3 – Mary, 28 Feb’y, 1623/4; buried 3 Nov., 1625.
4 – Mary, 19 Feb’y. 1625/6, m. 1st, Robert Plum, of Milford, Connecticut, and 2nd, William East, of the same place. +
5 – Martha, 20 April, 1628. Neither she nor her children appear her mother’s very full will. I conclude she died unmarried.
6 – Samuel, 1 July, 1632; buried 4 Jan’y, 1632/3.
7 – Elizabeth, 28 Jan’y., 1633/4, and buried three days after.
8 – John, 28 October, 1635, appears hereafter in this volume as John, of Stonington, Connecticut.
9 – Ruth. Baptism not appearing, but her name in Sylvester’s nuncupative will at Boston. She probably died young, as neither she nor representatives appear in her mother’s very full will.

“At a Court of Assistants, held at Boston, the 4th of the 7th month, 1638, (4 Sept., 1638,)”

“‘The will of Silvester Bauldwin was p’sented unto the Court, and his wife Sarah and sonne Rich’d were allowed executors according to the will.’ (Mass. Records, Vol. 1, p. 23, marg. 226.) Mr. Savage gives the following account of this will:
"On the main ocean, bound for N. E., his nuncupative will was made 21 June, and proved 13 July, of that year, before Dept. Gov. Dudley, by oaths of Chad Brown, Francis Bolt, James Weeden and John Baldwin. The estate was good and provision liberal for the six children, as well as the widow, to whom, with son Richard, our general court, 4 Sept. following, committed the administration.

"The six children are named as Richard, Sarah, Mary, Martha, Ruth and son John. Savage supposes the witness, John Baldwin, be his son; but that could not be for want of age, and because his interest therein. The witness likely was either John of Norwich, or old John of Milford.

"I sought for this will or its record as long ago as 1860, but could not find it, nor could Mr. Savage for me, although he kindly left his residence with me and sought in the Probate and Secretary of State's office. I believe it to be in the latter office, or at least to have been there. The widow went with the emigrants to New Haven, and was the widow Baldwin enrolled among the first planters there, five in her family, and £300 in the list, and lots were afterward drawn in her right. She married, 1640, John Astwood, of Milford, Connecticut, when her property was valued at £800, besides several parcels of land. John Astwood came in the spring of 1635, aged 26, a husbandman, from Stanstead Abbey, Herfordshire. He arrived in the Hopewell, Capt. William Bundoch. He settled at Roxbury, Mass., with his brother James. He was Freeman there 3 March, 1636; removed to Milford, 1639.

"Milford joined New Haven colony in 1643, and he was their representative at general court that and the next year, and perhaps after. In 1653 and 1654, he was chosen at general election Magistrate for Milford, and as such was present at several general courts. He was a leading man in Milford, a local Magistrate-Captain — how does not appear. In 1649, he was a Commissioner in the general meeting of New England Colonies, and again, 1653, with the Governor, Eaton. The same year, with the Governor, the Deputy and two other Magistrates, he sat upon the case of Mistress Godman, who complained that divers persons accused her as witch. The Court thought she "hath unjustly called heither the severall persons before named, being she can prove nothing against them, and that her cariage doth justly render her suspitious of wichcraft, w'ch she herself in so many words confesseth, therefore the Court wisheth her to look to her cariage hereafter," and gave her the wholesome "charge not to goo in an offensive way to folke's homes in a rayling manner, as it seems she hath done, but that she keepe her place and meddle with her own business."

"October, 1053, he was appointed the representative for New Haven Colony, in London; and a letter was agreed to be written for the General Court, to Mr. Hopkins, to interest him to assist Captain Astwood. It appears that he had business of his own there, very probably in connection with his brother's estate, who had just died in Roxbury, leaving property in England, and whose wife announced her intention to return to England. He died in London. If his wife accompanied him, she returned, and died in November, 1669, as her will, dated 9th of that month, was proved the 20th. Astwood had a former wife Martha, and likely children by her, but none by his second wife. Mrs. Astwood's will remembers her daughter-in-law Hannah Freeman, wife of Stephen, and likely daughter of Captain Astwood. Her grandchildren, John Baldwin (son of John), Mary Woodruff (dau. of Mary Plumb), Silvanus Baldwin (son of Richard), Sarah Burwell (dau. of Sarah Penn), Mehitable Penn (w. of Benj., son of Sarah Penn), Martha Newton (dau. Sarah Penn), dau. Elizabeth Baldwin, widow (widow of Richard), grandchildren; Sarah Riggs, Temperance and Mary Baldwin (all daughters of Richard); gr. grandchild Sarah Burwell (dau. Sarah Burwell) son John, dau. Mary J'llumb, grandchild Matthew Woodruff (husband of Mary)."
“WILL OF MISTRESS SARAH ASTWOOD.
(New Haven Probate Rec, Vol. 1.)
Milford, 9th of November, 1669. The last will and testament of Mrs. Sarah Astwood, of Milford, widdow:

“I, Sarah Astwood, being in perfect memory, tho weake in body doe now make my last will and testament in manner and form as followeth:
Imprimis, I give unto my daughter-in-law Hannah Freeman, wife of Stephan Freeman, one payre of fine sheets, with seamings, that was formerly Capt. Astwood's. Item: I give unto my grandson, John Baldwin, my cow and half ye calf which is in Panigassett, and one pewter pot marked IB on the handle, and five yellow curtain and ye valance, and there iron rods and two pillow cases. Item: I give unto my grandson, Mary Woodruff, besides ye linnen which she hath already, fifteen pounds. Item: which she shall have liberty to choose of what she pleaseth, which is not in particular given to any other. Item: I give unto ye Reverend pastor, Mr. Roger Newton twenty shillings. Item: I give unto my grandson, Silvanus Baldwin, ye table and chair which is at his mother's home. Item: I give unto my grandson, Sarah Burwell, five shillings. Item: I give unto my grandson, Mehitabell Fenn, five shillings. Item: I give unto my grandson, Martha Newton, five shillings. Item: I give unto my grandson, John Baldwin, twenty shillings. Item: I give unto my grandson, Sarah Riggs, one pewter platter, marked with S. B. Item: I give unto my grandson, Temperance Baldwin, my best hatt. Item: I give unto my grandson, Mary Baldwin, my greenish (illegible) peticoats. Item: I give unto my grandson, Sarah Burwell, one pewter platter, marked with S. Item: I give unto my dearly-beloved daughter, Mary Plumb, one booke, called "The Soule's Conflict," with all the rest of my goods and chattels, whom I make my whole and sole executrix; and I also desire and appoint my beloved brothers, Richard Piatt and Thomas Wheeler, to be the overseers, to see this my will fulfilled.

“In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 9th day of November, 1669. Sarah Astwood (her S marke). [seal.]”

“Sealed, signed and delivered in ye pre'nce of us. Richard Platt, Thomas X Wheeler (his marke), Samuel Eels.

“'The Soul's Conflict', named in the foregoing will, was written by that eminent Puritan divine. Rev. Richard Sibbs, D.D., Master of Catharine Hall, in Oxford, and preacher of Gray's Inn, London. I had a lively curiosity to know what book my ancestress left to her daughter, but got no light until I found that famous Isaak Walton, of angling memory, left by his will to one son 'Sibbs, his 'Soule's Conflict,' and to another 'Sibbs, his 'Bruised Reed.' The first book of Sibbs I bought was entitled 'Bowels Opened, or a Discovery of the Near and Dear Love Union and Communion betwixt Christ and His Church, and consequently betwixt Him and every Believing Soul;' in several Sermons on the 4th, 5th and 6th Chapters of 'Canticles'.

This book shows well the character of the man, whose love of God amounted to a passion. He felt in his soul all those strong eastern expressions of the Canticles which carry little force to most. The next book was an old sermon, which, from the marks upon it, seems to have 'been preached at our house' at various early times in New England. Sibbs became preacher at Gray's Inn Chapel in 1618; inn 1626, Master of Katharine Hall, Oxford; and from then to his death, in 1636, divided is time between the two places.
“The Soule’s Conflict and Victory over Itself by Faith. Psalm CXVI: ‘Return unto thy rest, O my soul, for the Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee,’ is a collection of sermons preached at Gray’s Inn; and it very probable that Richard Baldwin, of Milford, while in the office of his uncle Henry, in London, may have heard some of them. It is full of fervid, intelligent piety, and the selection of this book does credit to Mrs. Astwood. Neal’s ‘Puritans’ says he was ‘one of the most celebrated preachers of his time, well known in the earned world—a burning and a shining light. His works discover him to have been f a heavenly, evangelical spirit, the comforts of which he enjoyed at his death.’ The original edition of the book lies before me, printed 1635, almost as thick as it is wide, with a wide margin, and no doubt a fine book in its day. It has been reprinted several times, the finest reprint being the Pickering, of 1837.”

DEPARTURE FROM DUNDRIDGE

With the departure of Silvester Baldwin and his family in 1638, our particular branch of the family left England and ended any connection thereafter with Dundridge. The estate remained in Baldwin hands until 1768, when the fortunes of the Baldwins waned and the house and manor lands were sold in lots. Dundridge Manor house is recorded to have fallen into disrepair at the time it was disposed of to the Darvill (Darell) family. During the 19th century it passed through marriage to the Jeffrey family. The Rev. John Jeffrey, rector of Barnes, inherited it. After his death, in 1900, the manor house and part of the estate was sold to Robert Green. The Rodwell family lived there, breeding pheasant, until the Second World War when forced by the War Agricultural Executive Committee to relinquish the farm estate. It was purchased by the Matthews family who have occupied it since then.