

ROBERT FOOTE OF SHALFORD (abt. 1560 - abt. 1608)

JOANE BROOKE

In the early years of this century the Foote Family Association of America became active in compiling genealogical data and promoting research on Foote lines of descendants from branches of the family who had emigrated from England to New England. By 1907 Volume 1 of "Foote History and Genealogy" was edited by Abram W. Foote of Middlebury, Vt. The first gathering of the Family Association was held in Wethersfield, Connecticut, on June 5, 1907, and Abram W. Foote was elected Secretary. By 1932 he remained in that office having done a great work in collecting material for the editing of Volume 2 of "Foote History and Genealogy".¹

Judge Nathaniel Foote of Rochester, N. Y., had visited England earlier and spent considerable time and means in the study of documents which gave convincing evidence that Robert Foote of Shalford, England, was the father of Nathaniel Foote (1593-1644), the New England settler, and that Robert of Royston, England, was the father of Robert of Shalford. (Map 1, #28)

Judge Nathaniel Foote was a direct descendant of the immigrant, Nathaniel Foote of Wethersfield, Conn. His interest was manifest in satisfying himself with the truth of his findings. Now we, among the thousands of the immigrant's descendants, benefit from the records put together as a result. Judge Foote had good reasons for accepting the conclusive evidence that he brought back from the home of his ancestors in Essex County, England. The embodied results of his research are recorded in Volume 2 (above) pages 644-650. Documental quotes are extensive and the reprints of portions pertaining to the ancestry of Nathaniel Foote is worthy material for this particular writing.

"Robert Foote of Shalford, Essex, yeoman, 27 Jan. 1608, Will proved 15 Feb. 1608. To the poor in the parish twenty shillings. To the poor in Wethersfield twenty shillings. To my well beloved wife Joane, during her natural life, all such yearly rent as to me is reserved out of my lease of certain tenements which I hold for divers years yet enduring by the grant of Sir Robert Chester, knight, and lying and being in the town of Royston, the yearly rent whereof to me reserved is at this present eight pounds. I give her also one annuity of four pounds to be paid during her natural life to my son Robert. To my son James fifty pounds. To son Daniel forty pounds at four and twenty. The same each to sons Nathaniel, Francis and Joshua at like ages. To daughter Elizabeth Foote forty pounds at day of marriage or at age of thirty. To son Joseph my lease and term of years in a certain hopground called Plomley which I hold by lease from Mr. Josyas Clarke... and appoint my well beloved son Robert Foote to be my sole executor and I do desire my well beloved brother John Foote of London, grocer, and my son-in-law, John Hewes (husband of daughter Mary) of Royston to be supervisors and assistants to my executors."²

Within the wording of Robert Foote's Will, a great deal is revealed. From this Will, research extends to include vital information about the children of Robert and his wife, Joane (Brooke) Foote:

- "1. Robert Foote, lived London, Eng. Will 1646.
2. Mary Foote, md. John Hewes of Royston. They had nine children, including Joshua Hewes, of Roxbury, Mass., ancestor of the Hewes, Huse, Hughes family in America.
3. Elizabeth Foote.

4. Joseph Foote, lived Shalford, Essex, Eng.
5. James Foote, lived London, Eng., ironmonger.
6. Nathaniel Foote, the settler, of Watertown, Mass., 1634; later of Wethersfield, Conn., md. Elizabeth Deming in England in 1615, sister of John Deming of Wethersfield who came to America prior to Nathaniel and Elizabeth Foote.
7. Francis Foote
8. Daniel Foote,
9. Joshua Foote, ironmonger, lived in London, Eng., lived in Roxbury, Mass., 1650; died at Providence, R.I., 1655; md. Elizabeth, had four children who evidently were all of London, Eng., and did not come to America." 3

Mention is made of Robert's brother, John, grocer of London, born at Royston; md. Margaret, dau. of John and Elizabeth (Whetman) Brooke, of London. Their children were: John, Thomas, Samuel, Elizabeth and three others. John's widow, Margaret, died 1634.

With the information given we realize that the brothers John, grocer of London, and Robert of Shalford married sisters, Margaret and Joane Brooke, daughters of John and Elizabeth (Whetman) Brooke. (2-4)

The nine children of Robert and Joane (Brooke) Foote were given in Robert's Will in this order: Robert, James, Daniel, Nathaniel, Francis, Joshua, Elizabeth, Joseph and Mary. No birthdates were recorded, either in the Will or the list prepared for "Foote History and Genealogy, Vol 2", so we cannot be sure of the proper order of the children, according to ages.

Robert, son of Robert, was given his father's "free tenement or mansion house wherein I now inhabit, with the land, etc. and the stock of hop poles upon the ground, he to pay the legacies, etc. The residue of my goods, etc. to all my children..." (Hop poles are used for lattice work in the growing of hop vines whose pistillate cones are used in making medicine and to give a bitter taste to malt liquors) Evidently the grounds of Robert Foote's estate in Royston, England, were cultivated for the growing of hops.

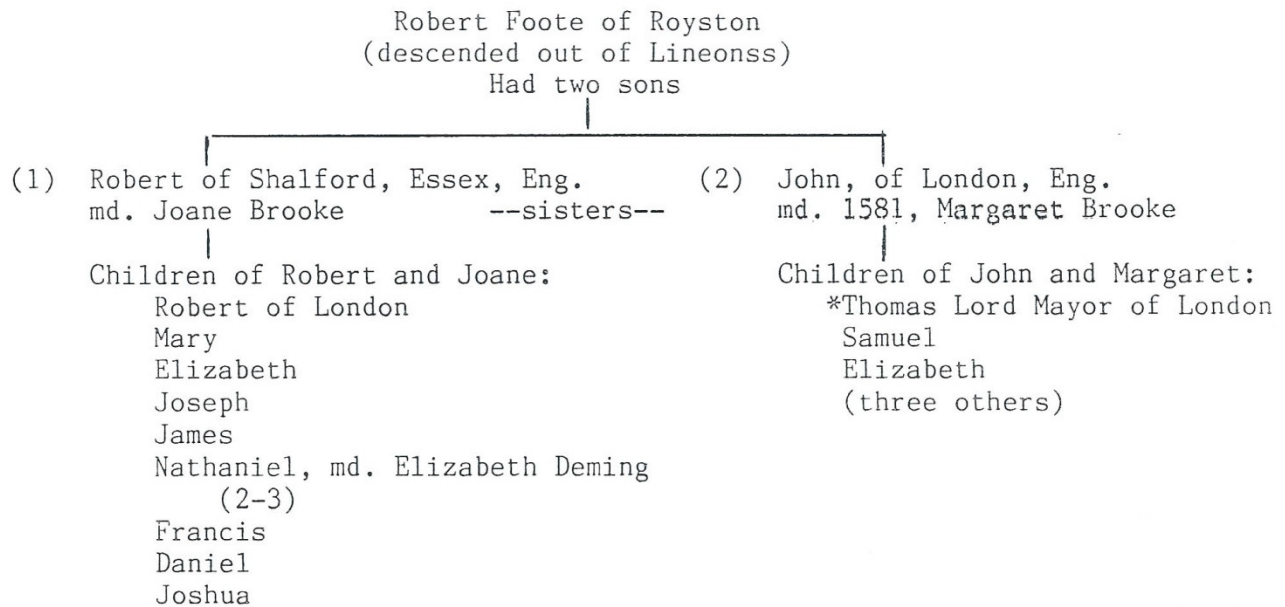
It might be added here that the parents of Robert's wife, Joane Brookes, had three children:

- "1. Margaret Brooke, md. John Foote, of London; son of Robert Foote, of Royston and brother of Robert Foote, of Shalford.
2. Joane Brooke, md. Robert Foote of Shalford, son of Robert Foote of Shalford, son of Robert Foote, of Royston and brother of John Foote, of London.
3. Thomas Brooke, lived in London, Eng., haberdasher, Will 1625". 4

In the British Museum is found at p.183 of Book 5533 "Book of Pedigrees and Arms of London" of which a copy of the following information was taken for Vol. 2 of the above work of Abram W. Foote:

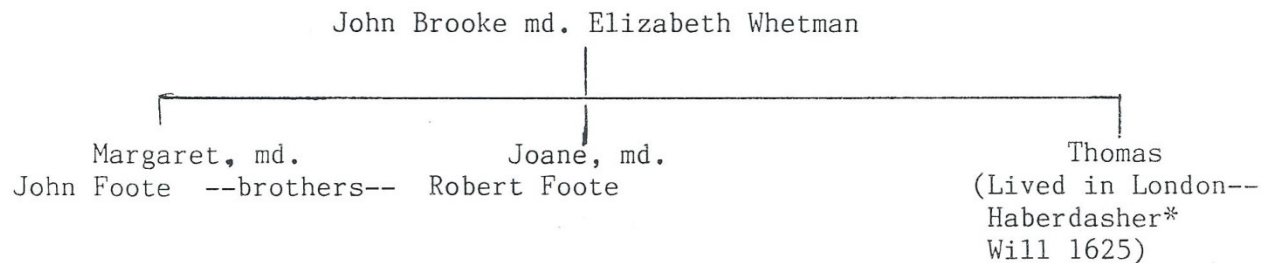
"From this it would appear that Robert Foote, of Royston, 'Descended out of Lineonss" was father of Robert Foote of Shalford. His son, John Foote, the grocer of London, was the brother referred to by Robert Foote of Shalford, in his Will." 5

The following chart clarifies the pedigree line for three generations:



*Sir Thomas was referred to in his Uncle Robert's Will and was a cousin of Nathaniel, the immigrant ancestor

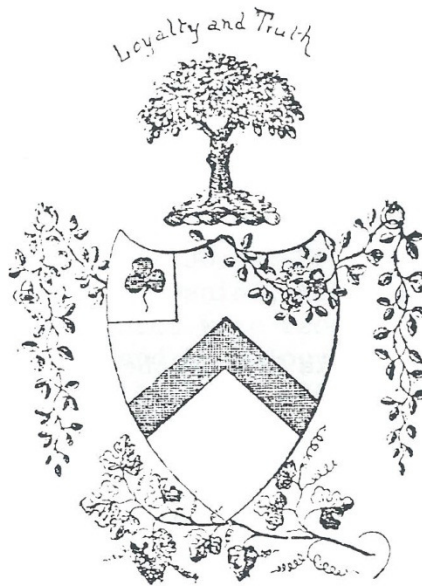
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*A haberdasher is a dealer in small goods, ribbons, needles, thread and clothing.

In this "Book of Pedigrees", another fact was made clear; Sir Thomas Foote, who was Lord Mayor of London in 1649, was a nephew of our Robert Foote of Shalford, and first cousin of Nathaniel Foote, the settler.

"This Sir Thomas Foote, son of John Foote, was buried in the parish church of All Saints at West Ham, now a part of the City of London. He lived to the great age of ninety-six years. In the church is erected a very pretentious monument to his memory...Near the top of the Monument is a copy of the armourial bearings of the family." 6



FOOTE COAT OF ARMS
As Used by Descendants of Nathaniel Foote

"The genuineness of the Foote Coat of Arms has been held by the family from the first, and has come down to the present generation with the endorsement of our ancestors for two hundred and fifty years...(longer now)

"Henry Ward Beecher believed the story of the origin of this Coat of Arms and named his country seat Boscobel, after the name of the town where the incident occurred which led to the bestowal of the honor. Mr. Beecher's family and Judge Foote's family were very closely related. The father of Mr. Beecher's mother was Eli Foote, a brother of Judge Isaac Foote. Henry Ward Beecher's biographers (his son and son-in-law) have introduced the place of the Arms and the story into the biography...

"The story as it has been handed down by our ancestors is that one James Foote, an officer of King Charles the 2nd's army, concealed the King in his flight from Cromwell, after the battle of Worcester, at a place called Boscobel, in an oak tree, which was located in a clover field: for which act of chivalry Foote was knighted, the distinct features of the Arms being an oak tree and a clover leaf. The motto of the Arms was 'Loyalty and Truth'.

"...The histories narrate the story somewhat as follows:

"The battle of Worcester was fought Sept. 3, 1651. Cromwell, with 30,000 men fell upon Worcester and attacked it, meeting with little resistance. The entire Scottish army was either killed or captured. The King, Charles the 2nd, was obliged to fly. He fled some twenty-six miles with fifty of his friends, when it was deemed wise for him to separate from his companions. The Earl of Derby advised him to go to Boscobel where he entrusted himself to the people there. They clothed him in a garb like their own, led him into a neighboring wood and pretended to employ themselves in cutting fagots. For better concealment the King climbed an oak tree, where he sheltered himself among the leaves and branches for twenty-four hours. The tree was afterwards called 'The Royal Oak'.

"While there are slight differences in the two stories, there is no necessary conflict between them. There is nothing in the recorded history to show that one James Foote, an officer of the Army, did not do all the former story claims for him, or that he was not honored by the King for doing it, as the Foote family have always believed." 7

Robert Foote was born at Royston, in Cambridgeshire. He married Joane Brooke, of London and they had eight children, the sixth of whom was Nathaniel, the immigrant ancestor. (See 2-3)

In the temple file of the Genealogical Library of Salt Lake City, Utah, the children of Robert Foote of Royston are listed in the following order:

1. Alice Foote, b. abt. 1549; md., Mr. Sawle.
2. Elizabeth Foote, b. abt. 1551; md. Mr. Smith.
3. Robert Foote, b. abt. 1553; md. Joane Brooke.
4. John Foote, b. abt. 1555; md. May 11, 1581, Margaret Brooke (sister of Joane); Will made, Nov. 17, 1616.

The children of Robert and Joane (Brooke) Foote were found listed on a family group sheet from the archive files of the S. L. Library. The first five were born at Shalford, Essex, England, and the last four were of Colchester, Essex, England:

1. Robert Foote, b. abt. 1582; md. Elizabeth Child; died, 1645-6.
2. Mary Foote, b. abt. 1584; md. Feb. 14, 1602, John Hewes.
3. Elizabeth Foote, b. abt. 1587.
4. Joseph Foote, b. abt. 1589.
5. James Foote, b. abt. 1591, of London.
6. Nathaniel Foote, b. abt. 1593; md. Elizabeth Deming; died 1644 (2-3)
7. Francis Foote, b. abt. 1595.
8. Danirl Foote, b. abt. 1598.
9. Joshua Foote, b. abt. 1600; md. Elizabeth _____; died, 1655. 8

1. #17, Vol. 1 and Vol. 2
2. ibid, Vol. 2, p. 648
3. ibid, p. 649
4. ibid
5. ibid
6. ibid, pp. 649, 650
7. #17, Vol. 1, pp. 9-10
8. #170, p. (2-2)