

**The Lynsted with Kingsdown Society is very grateful to
Family Researcher and Author
Paul Anthony Greenstreet**
for sharing his research into the locally significant
“Greenstreet” Family

The author has also written a novel based on his extensive research:
“Claxfeldestane - A Kentish Insurrection” by Paul Anthony Greenstreet

Visit - www.troubador.co.uk/bookshop/historical/claxfeldestane/

Release Date – 28 February 2022



Greenstreet - Kent

COAT OF ARMS

*In the year 1642 the family Coat of Arms was altered
by Peter Greenstreet of Ospringe, Kent, when he
substituted a double headed eagle for the martlet,*



Greenstreet - Kent

FAMILY CREST

The erased dragon's head was carved by Harry Greenstreet in 1962 — copied from Fairbain's Book of Crest illustrations (1912)

R. Mills 9
129.2
64/48

PEDIGREE
OF
THE ANCIENT KENT FAMILY
OF
Greenstreet.

COMPILED BY
JAMES GREENSTREET.

GREENSTREET OF EASTLING-ELDER LINE.*

REFERENCES TO AUTHORITIES.

A.C.C.	..	Register of Wills in the Arch-Bishop's Court, Canterbury.	
E.R.	..	Parish Register of Eastling	
F.R.	..	" " " Faversham	} Kent.
O.R.	..	" " " Ospringe	
P.R.	..	" " " Preston-next-Faversham	
P.R.O.	..	Records at the Public Record Office.	

JOHN GREENSTREET was of (Claxfield in) Iinsted. Will (A.C.C. vi, 1) dated 8 Oct. 1494: proved 7 Nov. 1494. Mentions in it his wife

* In the pedigrees of this and the succeeding Branches, everything at present known to me is treated exhaustively by means of an arrangement under letters of the Alphabet. The inquirer, therefore has only to run through the descents in the pedigree he is consulting, until he arrives at the same letter as that attached to the name of the person whose descendants are required, and he will then have all the information that is in my possession. After the same manner the pedigree must be worked backwards if it is desired to obtain the ancestors of any person entered. For instance, the ancestors are wanted of Robert Greenstreet, who is entered in alphabetical succession with T, against his name. Working backwards in the pedigree until we come to that letter, we find that he was one of the sons of Thomas Greenstreet, of Eastling, against whose name occurs the letter F. Again working backwards for the previous entry of the name with F, we find that said Thomas was second son of Thomas Greenstreet, who was presumably the son of [A] John Greenstreet, the head of the line.



Elizabeth, and his lands, etc., in the parishes of Linsted, Tenham, Bapchild, and Tong. He had issue:—

[A] JOHN GREENSTREET—by his father's Will to have a tenement and lands called "Greenstreet."

William Greenstreet—by his father's Will to have a tenement and lands called "Palmer's," except a croft called "Cook's."

Lawrence Greenstreet—by his father's Will to have the above croft called "Cook's." He was priest of Burley chantry, in Charing, co. Kent; and his Will (*A.C.C.* xviii, 4), dated 25 June 1528, was proved 18 Feb. 15²⁸/₂₉. In it he speaks of his nephew George Greenstreet, subsequently advanced by Queen Elizabeth to be the first rector of Chillenden, in Kent.

[V] Peter Greenstreet } by their father's Will to have a place
Thomas " } called Claxfield, with 30 acr. land, and a
Stephen " } wood called Cripson Wood, on their at-
taining the age of 24 years.

Marion " } by their father's Will to have ten marks
Margaret " } each for their marriage portion.
Joan " }

Agnes married to Harlow } by their father's Will to have
Mildred " , , Hardylle } 40s. each.

Above [A] JOHN appears to have been the father of:—

THOMAS GREENSTREET, who was of Eastling. Will (*A.C.C.* xliii, 401^b) dated 8 Feb. 15⁷⁹/₈₀; proved 9 Mch. 15⁷⁹/₈₀. Buried 27 Feb. 15⁷⁹/₈₀. "Thomas Greenstret, a man abowt lxxxij yeeres olde"—*E.R.** Therefore born about 1488. Mentions in his Will his children's children. He had issue:—

[B] Peter Greenstreet—by his father's Will to have 21 acr. land in Stalesfield.

[F] THOMAS GREENSTREET—by his father's Will to have 35l.

[K] Robert Greenstreet—by his father's Will to have houses and lands in Linsted, called "Frendes" and "Greenstreet."

* Buried 3 Jan. 1578-79 "Agnes, the wife of Thomas Greenstret"—*E.R.*

[M] Lawrence Greenstreet—by his father's Will to have houses and lands in Tenham.

[O] Richard Greenstreet—by his father's Will to have houses and lands in Newnham.

[P] William Greenstreet—by his father's Will pardoned all the money he owes him.

Alice Greenstreet—by her father's Will to be maintained by her brother Peter. Buried 16 Apr. 1588 "Alice, the daughter of olde Thomas Greenstret"—*E.R.*

Daughter married to Richard Cadman.

[B] Peter Greenstreet was of Eastling. From a Kent Fine of Trinity Term A° 31 Eliz. (1589) we learn that his wife's name was Thomasine. He had issue:—

[C] Lawrence ("the sonne of Peter Greenstret, of Huntingfield") bap. 2 Feb. 15⁷⁹/₈₀.—*E.R.*

Mary "Greenstret" bap. 9 Aug. 1573.—*E.R.* Mentioned in the Will of her brother John.

[D] John ("the sonne of Peter Greenstret") bap. 4 Sept. 1575.—*E.R.*

Elizabeth ("the daughter of Peter Greenstret") bap. 30 Mch. 1578.—*E.R.*

Abdiah ("the sonne of Peter Greenstret") bap. 22 May 1580.—*E.R.*

[E] Anthony ("the sonne of Peter Greenstret") bap. 1 Oct. 1581.—*E.R.*

Abraham ("the sonne of Peter Greenstret") bap. 3 Feb. 15⁸²/₈₃.—*E.R.*

[C] Lawrence Greenstreet had issue a daughter, Mary mentioned in the Will of his brother John.

[D] John Greenstreet was of Mersham. Will (*A.C.C.* lv, 295) dated 26 Sept. 1615; proved 11 Dec., 1615. He mentions in it his brothers, Lawrence, Abdiah, Anthony and Abraham Greenstreet, and his sisters, Mary and Elizabeth Greenstreet; also Mary daughter of Lawrence, and his cousin David Greenstreet.



LYNSTED CHURCH, KENT. Circa 1790

The last Wills & Testaments of **John Greenstreet of Claxfield and Lynstede** dated **1494** - and of two of his sons - **Sir Laurence Greenstreet, Priest 1528**, and **William Greenstreet** of Eastling **1533**, are displayed on the following few pages. If Lawrence of Ospringe (1451) lived for 35 or 40 years, the scene of the Greenstreet dynasty is set in the times of Henry V., famous for his defeat of the French by the long bow at Agincourt. John of Claxfield and his sons descended through the reigns of Henry VI, Edward IV, Edward V, Richard III, Henry VII, and into the reign of Henry VIII. These Wills set the Pedigree of the Ancient Kent family. James Greenstreet's research was made and compiled in the eighteenth century. He endeavoured to trace all the Greenstreet branches from their original source at Claxfield, through the parish registers, Bishop's transcripts and records of marriage, births, deaths and memorials. It is interesting to note that in addition to 'Claxfield' and its thirty acres, together with Cripson Wood left to sons Peter, Thomas and Stephen; John of Claxfield willed a tenement and lands called 'Greenstreet' to his son John, 'Palmer's' to his son William and a croft called Cook's to his son Sir Laurence - the Priest of Burley, Charing. In his Will Laurence mentions his nephew George Greenstreet who was advanced by Queen Elizabeth Ist to be the first rector of Chillenden, Kent. Positive connections to my direct family branch appear to be impossible to make, due to the disruptions of the intervening civil war, but James' investigations confirm the marriage of John Greenstreet to Elizabeth Neame at Wingham on October 26th 1679 and the burial of his son, John - December 25th, 1699.

WILL OF JOHN GREENSTREET OF CLAXFIELD
& LYNSTED - DATED 1494

Registry of Archdeaconry Court, Canterbury

"IN DEI NOMINE AMEN. Octavo die mensis Octobris anno Domini millesimo cccc lxxxiiiij^{to} ego Johannes Greenstrete, de parochia sanctorum Petri et Pauli de Lynstede in Comitatu Kancie, compos mentis sanequo memorie, condo testamentum meum in hunc modum. *In primis*, lego animam meam Deo omnipotenti, beato Marie Virgini, ac omnibus sanctis ejus; corpusque meum ad sepeliendum in cimiterio ecclesie sanctorum Petri et Pauli de Lynstede predicto. *Item* do et lego summo altari ibidem, pro decimis mois oblitis et aliis deuocionibus, duos solidos. *Item* do et lego luminibus vero Sancte Crucis, beate Marie, sancti Petri, sancti Johannis Baptiste, et luminibus de le-herso, cuilibet eorum, vjd. *Item* do et lego ad reparacionem ecclesie predicto vjs. viijd. *Item* do et lego ad sustentacionem campanarum vjs. viijd. *Item* do et lego cuilibet filiolorum et filiarum meorum iijjd. *Item* do et lego Margarete Byx duas oves matricis. *Residuum* vero omnium bonorum meorum, non legatorum, post debita mea et legata fuerint persoluta, do et lego Elisabetho uxori meo et Willelmo Clerko, capellano, quos facio et ordino executores meos, vt ipsi disponant pro salute anime mee. *His presentibus* domino Ricardo florcan, capellano ibidem, Thomas Waltero, Willelmo A Deno et Galfrido Sloreour, etc.

THIS IS THE LAST WILLE of me the foresaid John Greenstrete the elder, made the daye and yere abovesaid. *First* I wille that my feoffeis, immediatly after my decease, shalle suffre Elisabetho my wiffe to occupy and haue the profites of alle my landis, tenementes, rentes and seruices, lying and beyng in the parishes of Lynstede, Tenham, Bakchilde and Tong, for the terme of an hole yere, to pay my dettes and bequethis withalle. *And* after the yere endyd I wille that my foresaid feoffeis shall suffre the foresaid Elisabetho my wiffe to haue and occupye my place callid Claxfelde, w^t xxx acres lande, and a wood callid Cripson Wood, vnto the tyme that Peter, Thomas and Stephyno my sonnes come to the age of xxiiij yere, yefe sho be solo and not muryed. *And* if it happene the foresaid Elisabetho my wiffe to mary wⁱⁿ the foresaid terme, thene I wille my seid feoffeis shalle occupye and let to ferme the foresaid place callid Claxfelde, witho the foresaid landes and woode, and [of] the mony therof receyvid shalle paye to here, for here dury, xiijs. iijjd.; and thus to contynow of payment every yere after othere till the age of the seid sonnys be come too; and the remayne thereof to deliuer to the saide Elisabetho to mary her daughters w^t. *And* whanne the said Petyre, Thomas and Stephyno my sonnes come to the age of xxiiij yeres thane I wille my saide feoffeis delyuer a state vnto the seid Peter, Thomas and Stephyno, and to there heyres and there assigneis for euer, vppone this condicione—that they shalle paye vnto Elisabetho my wiffe yerely xiijs. iijjd. duryng here lyffe, at iij

termys of the yere, by evyn porcions, to be payed. *And* if it happyno any of the foresaid Peter, Thomas or Stephyno decease before the foresaid term of xxiiijth yere, thane I wille that eche be othere heyre; and if they alle decease afore the foresaid terme, thane I wille that John and William my sonnys, or eythere of them levying, haue alle the foresaid place, w^t the foresaid landis & woode; paying to the reparacione of the chirehe of Lynstede, foresaid, x marc., and other x marc. to be payed to ano abille prest to syng for my soule and alle Cristene soules, in the chirehe of Lynsted, foresaid, for the space of a yere. *And* also they shalle paye yerely to Elisabetho my wiffe xiijs. iijjd. duryng here lyffe. *Also*, the yere endid, as it is before rehersed, that thane I wille my feoffeis shalle delyuer a state of and in a tenement callid Greenstrete to John my sonne, w^t the landis yerto porteynyng, and to his assignois for euer; paying to the foresaid Elisabetho my wiffe xs. yerely, at iij termys of the yere, be evyn porcions, to be payed. *Also* I wille, at the same seaso William my sonne shal haue a state of my feoffeis of and in my tenement callid Palmers, w^t alle the landis therto porteynyng, and to his assigneis for euer, except a crofte callid Cookes paying to Elisabetho my wiffe yerely xs., at iij termys of the yere, be evyn porcions, duryng the lyffe of the seid Elisabetho. *Also* I wille that my said feoffeis shall make a state to Sir Laurause my sonne in a croft callid Cookes Croft; to hym and his assigneis for euer. *Also* I wille it shalbe delyuered at the seaso foresaid. *Also* I wille that myno executors shal paye to the maryage of Maryone, Margytt and Jone my daughters, to eche of thome, x marc.; and eche to be othere heyre. *Also* I gove and bequethe to Agnes Harlow, my daughtero, xls. *Also* I gove and bequethe to Mildrede Hardyllo, my daughtero, xls. *Also* I wille that yef ethire Agnes or Mildrede my daughters clayme any othere dewte, that thane this my bequest to stond voyde, and be had for noughto. *Also* I wille my feoffeis selle one acre of lande lying in Woddesfelde to William my sonne, he to paye therfore to myno executors xxxiijs. iijjd.; and w^t the same mony I wille myno executors synde a prest to syng for me in the chirehe of Lynstede, be the space of a quarter of a yere. *Also* I wille that my feoffeis shalle suffyre my executors to selle a wood callid Crypsone Woode, and the money comyng therof to go to the vse of the maryage of my daughters. *Also* I wille that Petyre, Thomas and Stephyno haue a lawfulle waye, to dryue and lede, from Claxfelde gardyno to a lane, before Palmerys gate, ledyng to the chirehe of Lynstede; to thome and there assignois for ouermore.

Probatum fuit presens testamentum, vna cum vltima voluntate ejusdem, coram nobis officiali domini Archiepiscopi Cantuariensis, vij^{mo} die mensis Nouembris anno Domini millesimo cccc lxxxiiiij^{to} etc."

Copied at Canterbury, 30 June, 1876, by me, James Greenstreet; and carefully collated with the Register on 4 July following.

**The Last Will & Testament of Johannes Greenstreet
of Claxfield & Lynsted – dated 1494
Registry of Archdeaconry Court, Canterbury.**

The first section is written in Latin and relates to John making his peace with Almighty God.

* The meaning of the word feoffeis derived from feudal Europe, when a vassal or man taken into service was given food and protection by the Lord of the Manor. Feoffeis with integrity often took control of areas of land for the Lord, and were entrusted to ensure validation of the last Will of their master when he died. They were needed when sons and heirs had not come of age.

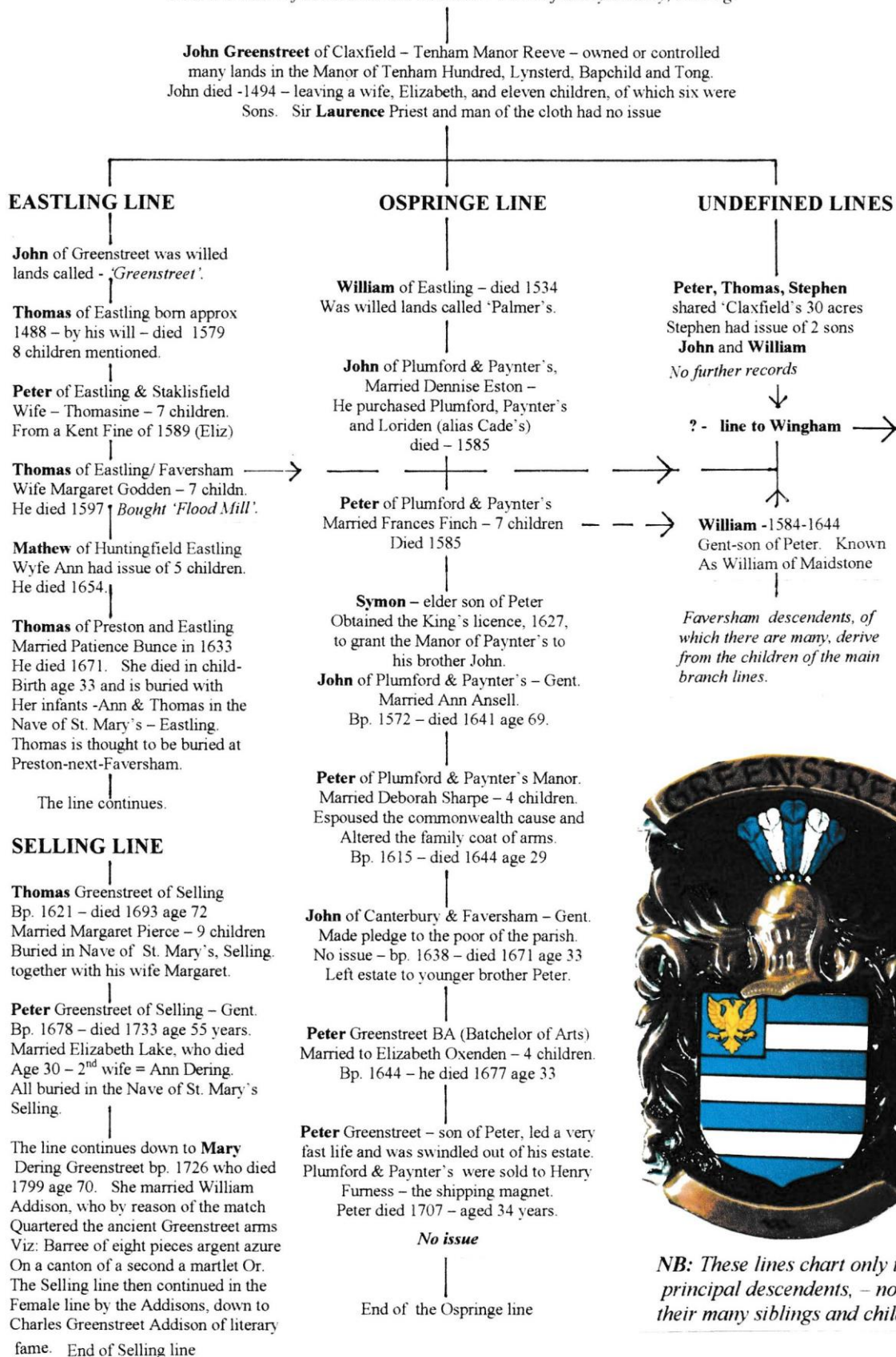
In order to make reading easy I have deciphered the Will as follows:

This is the last will of me the foresaid John Greenstreet the elder, made the day and year above said. First I will that my *feoffeis shall suffer Elisabethe my wife to occupy and have all the profits of my lands, tenements and rentals and services, lying and being in the parishes of Lynsted, Tenham, Bakchilde and Tong, for the term of a whole year, to pay my debts and bequeaths withal. And after the year endeth I Will that my said feoffeis shall suffer Elisabethe my wife to have and occupy my place called Claxfelde, with thirty acres of land and a wood called 'Cripson Wood' until the time that Peter, Thomas and Stepayne, my sons, come to the age of 23 years, if she remain not married. And if Elisabethe marries within the foresaid term, then I Will my said feoffeis shall occupy and let to farm the aforesaid place called Claxfelde, with its lands and wood, and the money received shall pay to her, for her dowry xiijs. iijjd. and this to continue of payment every year after until the age of the said sons comes about; and the remains thereof to deliver to the said Elisabethe to marry her daughters with. And when the said Peter, Thomas, and Stepayne, my sons, come to the age of twenty-three years, then I Will my said feoffeis do deliver a state to Peter, Thomas and Stepayne, and to their heirs and assigns forever, upon the condition that they pay Elisabethe my wife yearly xiijs. iijjd. during her life at three terms of the year by even portion. And should Peter, Thomas or Stepayne decease before they reach the stated term, then I Will that each be the others heir, and if they all decease prior to the stated term, then I Will that my sons John and William, or either of them living, have all the foresaid place with lands and wood; paying reparation to the Church of Lynsted in the sum of ten marc and a further ten marc to be paid to an able priest to sing for my soul and all Christian souls, in the church of Lynsted for the space of one year. And also they shall pay yearly to Elisabethe xiijs. iijjd. during her life. Also, when the year ends, as before said, then my Will is my feoffeis shall deliver a state of and in a tenement called 'Greenstreet' to John my son, with all the lands thereto pertaining and to his assigns forever; paying to Elisabethe my wife ten shillings yearly, at three terms of the year in even portions. Also I Will at the same season William, my son, shall have a state of my executors of and in my tenement called *Palmers'* with all the lands thereto pertaining and to his assigns forever, except a croft called *Cookes'* paying to Elisabethe my wife ten shillings at three terms of the year by equal portion during her life. Also I Will that my feoffeis shall make a state to Sir Laurantse, my son, called *Cookes'* to him and his assigns forever, at the season foresaid. Also I Will that my feoffeis pay to Maryone, Margytt and Jone my daughters, to each of them ten marc; and each to be the others heirs. Also I give and bequeath to Agnes Harlow and Mildred Hardylle my daughters xis. Also I Will that if either Agnes or Mildred claim any other than that due, then my bequest to stand voyd and be for nought. Also I Will my feoffeis sell one acre of land lying in Woddesfelde to William my son, he to pay therefore to my executors thirty shillings and three pence; and with the same money my executors to find a priest to sing for me in the church of Lynsted in the space of a quarter of a year. Also I Will that my feoffeis shall suffer my executors to sell a wood called *Cripson Wood'* and the money coming thereof to go to the use of marriage of my daughters. Also I Will that Peter, Thomas and Stepayne have a lawful way to drive and lead from Claxfelde garden, to a lane before Palmers gate, leading to the church of Lynsted.

MAIN BRANCH LINES OF THE FAMILY GREENSTREET

William Greenstrete (commonly Grensted) son in law to Lord Thomas Gillingham – circa 1250

John de Grenestrete was Prior of Rochester – 1314. He had brothers, mentioned in a deed of 1328, named Richard of Bromley and Robertus de Grenestrete of Tenham. Sir Lawrence Grenestrete of Ospringe's death was recorded in 1451. He bore for a coat of arms – Barry of eight Argent Azure on a canton of the last a martlet Or. Johannes Grenestrete de Claxfeldestanne was of Tenham Manor and Hundred and bore identical arms. In his Will John refers to his son Sir Lauranse – Priest of Burley Chantry, Charing.



At the Folkestone Library I thumbed through the complete works of Edward Hasted, the celebrated Kentish Historian. Hasted's research threw up another older member of the ancient dynasty! When I discovered John de Greenstrete, Prior of Rochester 1301 - 1314, I thought I had got back as far as possible with my ancestral name, but Hasted alluded to a guy, connected with Gillingham, next door to Rochester, who was probably from the lineage of the Prior. East and West Court Manors at Gillingham, existed in the reign of Henry 111, (1216- *Magna Carta*). The manors were under the control of Thomas Gillingham, who died without male issue, leaving two daughters as co-heirs. One of the daughters, named Isabel, married William Greenstrete, commonly called Grensted, and was given the manor of East Court. The manor was in turn willed by William Greenstrete to his sister's son Benedict Webb. A Robert Cook joined in the sale of it to William Payneter, during the reign of Elizabeth 1st. I wondered whether Robert Cook had a connection to Cook's Croft, willed by John de Claxfield to his son Lauranse in 1494. Hasted also referred to the Prior's brother Richard de Greenstreet of Bromley, who in the year 1337 was left part of an estate, which was in the possession of the Bishop of Rochester, in consideration of one mare sterling. Richard of Bromley was also in control of nearby Green Street Green and he and the Prior had another brother named Robertus de Greenstrete of Tenham. John Greenstrete de Claxfield in Tenham purchased the manors of Plumford and Painters, which was sometimes spelled Paynters. Therefore, the aforementioned name of Payneter also seemed to fit. According to Hasted these lands were alienated to John of Claxfield (Grandson of the original Godfather) by Thomas Colepeper in the eighth year of Queen Elizabeth, and purchased of Sir Henry Cheney was the manor of Paynters. Hasted stated that the village of Greenstreet was known for its bad air and arguments, hence the well-known proverb '*He that will not live long, let him dwell at Muston, Tenham or Tong*'. Hasted confirmed that right through to the 1700s the hamlet of Greenstreet was renown for its annual fair for horse and cattle dealings. He went on to say that the next parish, southward of Tenham is Linsted, which lies adjoining the high London road at the 43rd milestone at Greenstreet. It lies in a situation more pleasant than healthy. The Ropers, Lords of Tenham, are buried in the church, and several of the family Greenstreet lie buried in the middle isle. The lands below the village are very fertile, much like those of Tenham, having several hop-grounds of a kindly growth, interspersed throughout them; but southward of the village the land lying yet higher approaches the chalk and becomes stony and much less fertile, till it joins Doddinton, not far from which is Linsted lodge, a fine old mansion of the time of King James 1st. A little below the seat of 'Dadmans' is an estate called 'Bumpit' belonging likewise to Lord Tenham. On the opposite northwest part of the parish, close to the south side of the London road, near Radfield, is an estate called 'Claxfield', which was the residence of a family called Greenstreet, who were possessed of many good estates in this part of the county for several generations. About half a mile from the London road beyond Greenstreet, at the north east corner of the parish, is a house called 'Nowdes', which was part of the possession of the family of Greenstreet likewise, in which it continued till Peter Greenstreet, in 1703, alienated the seat of 'Nowdes' to Mr. John Smith. Hasted goes on to describe how the nearby manor of Norton was passed to Thomas Greenstreet of Norton, whose niece Elizabeth marrying with Mr. Thomas Smith of Gillingham entitled him to the manor. A court baron is held for this manor. 'Cades' is a manor in the parish of Ospringe, situated on the hill, about a mile southward of Ospringe church, which was formerly called Lorenden alias Cades until 1630. In the 10th year of Queen Elizabeth this land was alienated by Thomas Wood to Mr. John Greenstreet.

* I found no connection between Jack Cade (leader of the Kentish rebellion) and Cades manor.

There is no recorded birth date for Johannes Grenestrete of Claxfelde & Lynstede - *John Greenstreet of Claxfield*- only his last Will of 1494. His lifetime might have spanned the reigns of six Kings, if he lived to a ripe old age. Almost certainly he went back as far as Henry VI and saw off Edward IV, Edward V, Richard III and Henry VIII. He only needed to have been thirty years of age to have survived that lot. Following Jack Cade's Kentish Rebellion in 1450, Kent appears to have gone quiet. The fight for the throne of England between the Kings of that time, and all the bloodshed which took place was in Yorkshire and Lancashire and known as the long war of the roses. Winchester cathedral was completed in 1460 and the first book printed in English by William Caxton in Bruges. Caxton established the first printing press in England at Westminster, and printed Geoffrey Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. Three years after John's death, John Cabot landed in North America. I guess that John Greenstreet got on with the job of managing his lands, and acting as Reeve or Manorial Steward for Teynham, as well as worshiping in the church at Lynstede. The Church of St. Peter & St. Paul at Lynsted dates back to the 13th century, but was still being added to in John's lifetime. The diet, even for the well-to-do, was unbalanced and for the poor monotonous. At the rich man's table a great variety of game and fowl was served in season; venison and wild boar were plentiful and swans, peacocks, herons, duck, larks and smaller birds featured on the menu. While the peasant's wife stirred her stewpot, the noble's lady planned intricate pies and pastries for almost every kind of meat and game. Fish, both fresh and salt, was plentiful. There was little in the way of vegetables; cabbage cauliflowers and broccoli were not yet grown, nor the potato yet introduced. There were, however, salads in summer months of lettuce, cucumber, onions and nuts, dressed with herbs and 'salat oil'. With no potatoes or rice, there was an enormous consumption of bread, made of wheat and barley, rye and oats. Oats, peas and beans made up most of the peasants meals. Meat was seldom fresh and there was much smoked bacon and salted beef. The poor gathered nuts, poached rabbits, hares and fish, and with luck, one of his Lord's fallow deer. Most country folk knew the art of netting birds and the ways of the wild fowler. Cheese, eggs and honey were staple foods and apples, pears plums and cherries were grown in profusion. Landowners, great and small, brewed their own ale and cider. There was no tea, coffee or chocolate. Children drank small beer or porter, even before breakfast. The expectation of life was grim, with little medical advice for the poor, and not a lot for the rich! There were many infectious diseases and various plagues to deal with. Plagues, pestilences and sudden deaths were common and measles and sweating sickness often proved fatal. The partnership of marriage seldom endured for more than fifteen years, before one partner or the other died, and often people had more than one marriage due to that fact. John Greenstreet's most valued possessions would most certainly have been his horses. Most folk earned their living from the land. Coroner's inquests show how frequently farm labourers who were kicked by a horse, or had a foot crushed under a cart, never recovered. At the time John lived, sheep farming and wool became England's staple export and the clothing industry commenced, making a variety of cloth with English looms. It is not clear what John produced, although it was probably a good cross section of the needs of the time. His many lands were listed in his Will as Claxfield, Cripstone Wood, Palmer's, Woddesfelde, Cookes, Greenstreet, Lynsted, Tenham, Bapchild and Tong. Fruit trees were synonymous with the Greenstreet family through the ages and in particular orchards and cherry orchards, which of course were famous in Kent. Eventually Greenstreet lands were said to be spread contiguously from Tenham and Lynsted to Canterbury, and even further to the eastern side of Kent.

When John of Claxfield died in 1494, he laid the foundations and fixed the pedigree of the Greenstreet dynasty. James Greenstreet, in his compilations, traced back lines with incredible methodical diligence, but total success can only be achieved by the records which exist, and even James found buffers in the sixteen hundreds. James found eleven children mentioned in John of Claxfield's Will, of which six were sons. John's estates were divided up as follows: The oldest son **John** was willed the lands called **Greenstreet**. He fathered Thomas, who set the **Eastling**, Faversham, Selling, Stalisfield and Preston line. **William**, by his father's will was left an estate called Palmers', and headed up the **Ospringe**, Plumford and Painter's Manor line. **Laurence**, the Priest was willed a croft called 'Cook's' and was wedded to the Church. The other three sons, **Peter**, **Thomas** and **Stephen**, were left Claxfield and its 30 acres of land together with a wood called Cripson Wood, on attaining the age of twenty-four years. There are little further records relating to the younger sons, other than **Stephen**, who had issue of two sons — **John** and **William** Might one of them be the route to my proven line at Wingham, Kent, I wondered? Several intriguing, if not interesting, historical facts were revealed in James' research. The Eastling Elder line revealed that **Thomas Greenstreet** owned Flood Mill, Faversham, in 1571, which was the scene of the celebrated Arden murder. **Thomas Greenstreet** (1671) was of Perry Court, Preston-next Faversham and also resided at Huntingfield Court, Eastling. Thomas's son **Matthew**, Yeoman, married and had a daughter **Ann**, who in turn married a Richard Tassel — gent of Tenham. Matthew died in 1691, and Ann joined with her husband in alienating the property of Eastling to an ancestor of Mr. Hasted, the celebrated Kent Historian. James writes - *'That writer has given in his work on the county a laboured account of the branch of the Greenstreet family; but it is inaccurate in many particulars, as this pedigree will sufficiently demonstrate. Thus the estates of the elder line passed out of the name. The arms quartered by the Tassell family, on account of this match, were those born by the Greenstreets since the days of Henry VI, and before, viz., Barree of eight pieces argent and azure, on a canton of the second a martlet or.'* **John Greenstreet**, Grandson of William, who was left 'Palmer's' was of Plumford and Paynter's in Ospringe according to his Will dated 13 Apr. 1579; proved 13 June 1579. Previous to the suppression of the monastic houses, he appears to have held land in Ospringe, leased from the monastery of Modynden, near Faversham (*P.R.O., Chancery Orders and Decrees, Michaelmas Anno 38 Henry VIII, B.fo. 207 — Greenstreet v Agar*). In Anno 3 *Edward VI* he purchased the Manor of Plumford from Thomas Colepeper, who had bought it of Anthony Aucher, to whom the king granted it two years previously (see Harleian Charters, 76 1,1). And in anno 8 *Elizabeth I*, he acquired the adjoining Manor of Paynter's from Sir Thomas Cheyney, to whose father, Sir Henry Cheyney, *Henry VIII* granted it upon the dissolution of the monasteries. Furthermore in Ao 10 *Elizabeth I*, he bought from Thomas Wood, of Ospringe, the Manor of Lorinden alias Cade's, in that parish. **Peter** the son of John above came about by John's marriage to a co-heiress of Eston. Peter quartered his mother's arms (Eston, of Kent with his own (Barry of eight argent and azure, on a canton of the second a martlet or). He married Frances Finch, daughter of John Finch of Faversham and had issue of seven children. **John** the eldest (bp. 1572) married Ann Ansell and midst three daughters, produced **Peter Greenstreet** of Plumford and Paynter's in Ospringe, the gentleman who married Deborah Sharpe, enthusiastically espoused the cause of the Commonwealth throughout the civil war, and altered the ancient coat of arms from a martlet to a double headed eagle on the canton. Peter and Deborah had three sons, John, James and Peter, and a daughter Ann. **John** the eldest son was of Canterbury.

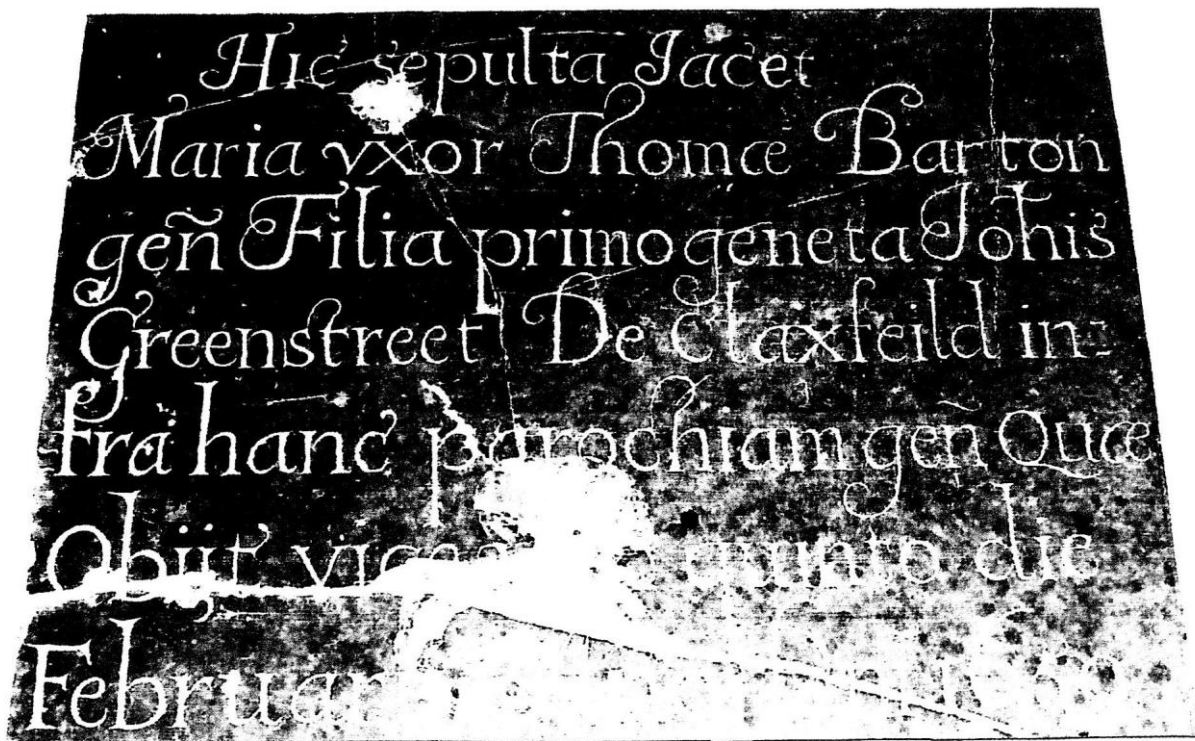
Recorded evidence clearly indicated how branches of my ancestry spread rapidly, reaching out from the Faversham/ Ospringe area of Kent, their rooted stronghold. The family Greenstreet owned, or controlled, contiguous lands from Teynham to Selling, with many pockets of lands beyond those parishes over much of Kent. Some were anciently seated Lords of the Manor, well connected with the Church, and their prime business was that of Farmers and Yeoman land owners of many orchards and cherry gardens. John Greenstreet of Canterbury and Faversham was Lord Mayor of Faversham in 1623. His brother Robert was recorded as Lord Mayor of Faversham in the years 1635, 1645 and 1648, and Michael Greenstreet was Lord Mayor 1666, 1673 and 1684. (*register by Edward Jacob.*) I found an indenture which led to the issue of a fine, dated 26th August 1625, between Thomas Greenstreet of Ospringe, Gentleman, of the one part, and John Macott, citizen and ironmonger of London, of the other part. It stated that whereas Thomas Greenstreet sold John Macott 'all that capital messuage, tenement and dwelling house in Court Street, Faversham', wherein one John Philpot of Faversham Esquire, (one of his Majesty's justices of the Court of Common Pleas did lately dwell and was sometime owner thereof and also of the maltings etc., the parties covenant to levy a fine. Margaret, the wife of Thomas is also mentioned. At the time of the Civil War, Peter Greenstreet of Ospringe and Painters Manor is known to have supported Cromwell, although it is doubtful whether many of his relatives did! The King was largely supported in Kent, and many owners sold or alienated their lands to compound for recusancy in support of the crown. A publication entitled Teynham Manor and Hundreds (798 — 1935) by Elizabeth Selby M.B.E., says much about the movements of the Greenstreet family. Dr. Selby's book illustrates Tenham as an agricultural manor, which, together with its divisions, consisted mainly of orchards, bearing cherries, plums, pears, apples and hops. Kent cherries are reputed to be the best in the world, and adorned the table of Henry V111. Churchwardens listed included Laurence Greenstreet in 1609 and John Greenstreet in 1622 and 1623. In 'Jack Cades Rebellion' 1450, most of the towns and villages of Kent took part and most rebels were pardoned, including one Adam Greenstrete. During the Civil War of Charles 1st's time, the whole of Kent was in total confusion. There is no doubt that the majority of inhabitants were supporters of the King. Simon Greenstreet and Leonard Smith are recorded, mentioned as 'suspects' under the commonwealth in 1656, when, apparently, Commissioners were sent to Lodge Lynsted, to see if Lord Tenham held arms. They found nothing! As far as the village of Greenstreet is concerned, it is difficult to determine whether the family name came first, or the name of the street. However, a John de Grenestrete was Prior of Rochester in 1314, and he had brothers — Richard de Grenestrete of Bromleye and Robertus de Grenestrete of Tenham Hundred, who are mentioned in a deed of 1328. The names of Thomas de Grenestrete and Roberto de Grenestrete appear in a Subsidy Roll of 1339, paying eight pence and three pence respectively. John Grenestrete Senior and Roger Grenestrete appeared before Manor Court about a debt from Robert at Hatche in 1389. A John Grenestrete was Manor Reeve * in 1467. This was probably the John Greenstrete of Claxfield, in the village of Greenstreet, who died in 1494, leaving property in Lynsted and Eastling. His Grandson, also John, bought Plumford and Painters Forstall in Ospringe about 1566, and his son Peter inherited Huntingfield as well as some of the Lynsted property. The family held Claxfield until 1674, when James Greenstreet sold it to Christopher Clarke of Frogal. The fine old half timbered farmhouse standing at "Claxfield", certainly dates back to the late 15th century, although the property appears to be standing on earlier foundations.

*A Reeve represented the King until the 11th century. In medieval England he was a manorial steward.

The early Tenham Manor Rolls encompassed the Parishes or Boroughs of Tenham, Lynsted, Doddington, Iwade, Selling, Headcorn and Eastchurch in Sheppey. Some of these Boroughs are mentioned in the Domesday Book. Tenham probably originated as a Manor of the Archbishop of Canterbury. A Reeves accounts were lengthy parchment rolls, well written in legible script for preservation. In 1467 John Greenstrete, the Reeve of Tenham Manor, submitted his accounts, giving the rents of various fields in the Manor as follows:-

16/8 of rent for five acres in Mill field to John Henclyffe; 32/4 rent for 33 acres in Salynden to John Dene; 8 acres in Mill Field to Laurenas Roger; 42/- rent for 21 acres in the field of Brenithe; 12s rent for six acres in Cotemanfeld; 23s for 12 acres in the Brenithe to William Heathmelle; 12s for 6 acres in Cotemanfeld to John Dolbus; etc - the list continues. Dodman was summoned for arrears for the rent of two fields called Courtfelde and Northlese. John Knight the Woodward for Okenfold made a return of 48 pounds for sale of wood (there is a note by him pannage none' which is thought to refer to oak). 8s.8d. to Richard Newton, Clerk Cook of the Hospice at Bapchild; by the hand of John Sunday 13 Heron's ewes; and a later note giving the value of 12 heron's ewes as 24s., bought by William Durant, late Cook (Bourde's Diety, 1542, states 'a young heron's ewe is lyghter of dygestion than a crane') Other Reeves accounts mention 'cherries sent to the Lord, fisheries, corn, oats and barley and beans under cultivation, horses, cattle, pigs capons and woollen skins. There were charges for making wine, coopering and the growing of vine, hops, cherries, apples and many other fruits.

It seems that folk in those days were taxed to the hilt just as we are today. Taxation came about following the Norman Conquest. The Reeve received the dues from tenants, in money or in kind. A list of Churchwardens commenced in 1584, which clearly indicated that the name of Greenstreet constantly occurred as Churchwarden - eg: Laurence Greenstreet of Claxfield was Churchwarden in 1609 and John Greenstreet in 1622 and 1623. In Tenham Manor, the Churchwarden accounted for the poor of the parish and payments made to feed and clothe them, and he made payments to Bumpit Workhouse in Lynsted, for both rent and functional purposes. The post of Churchwarden and Parish Clerk, it seemed to me, were positions mapped out for the Greenstreet family from above, because they cropped up many times in the research into my direct line of ancestry. Many Kings, Queens and Archbishops, passed through the village of Greenstreet, or stopped off to stay in residence, the Tenham/ Lynsted road being the main route to Canterbury from London and visa versa. The inhabitants became embroiled in the wars, rebellions, crimes and fines of the times. The King's Taxes (sometimes special aids for knighting of the eldest son) were collected by the Borsholder of a particular 'Borough. James Greenstreet, the man who sold "Claxfield" to Christopher Clarke of Frogal in 1674, was a Borsholder. In the 1327 Subsidy Roll various persons known as 'de Claxfield' paid subsidies. The property is mentioned in a 15th century Manor Roll as Claxfeldestane. A roll of Lay Subsidy included, among those listed, Thomas de Grenstrete one shilling, Johannes de Claxfeld senior 3 shillings, Robertus de Grenstrete 1 shilling and five pence and Johannes de Claxfelde Junior one shilling and seven pence. Hasted, the great Kent Historian, stated that several of the family are buried in the middle aisle of Lynsted Church, and there is a tomb in the churchyard to 'Henry Greenstreet who died 1752 aged 18, and another Henry who died 1742. That information prompted me to write to the Lynsted Churchwarden for information contained in parish records.



This grave ledger stone is in the Nave of Lynsted Church, St. Peter & St. Paul, Kent. It relates to the burial of Maria, 1659 AD - wife of Thomas Barton and the first-born daughter of the Reeve - Johis Greenstreet of Claxfield, Gentleman of Teynham Manor. The ledger was damaged in World War 2, when a German bomb hit the Church in 1940.