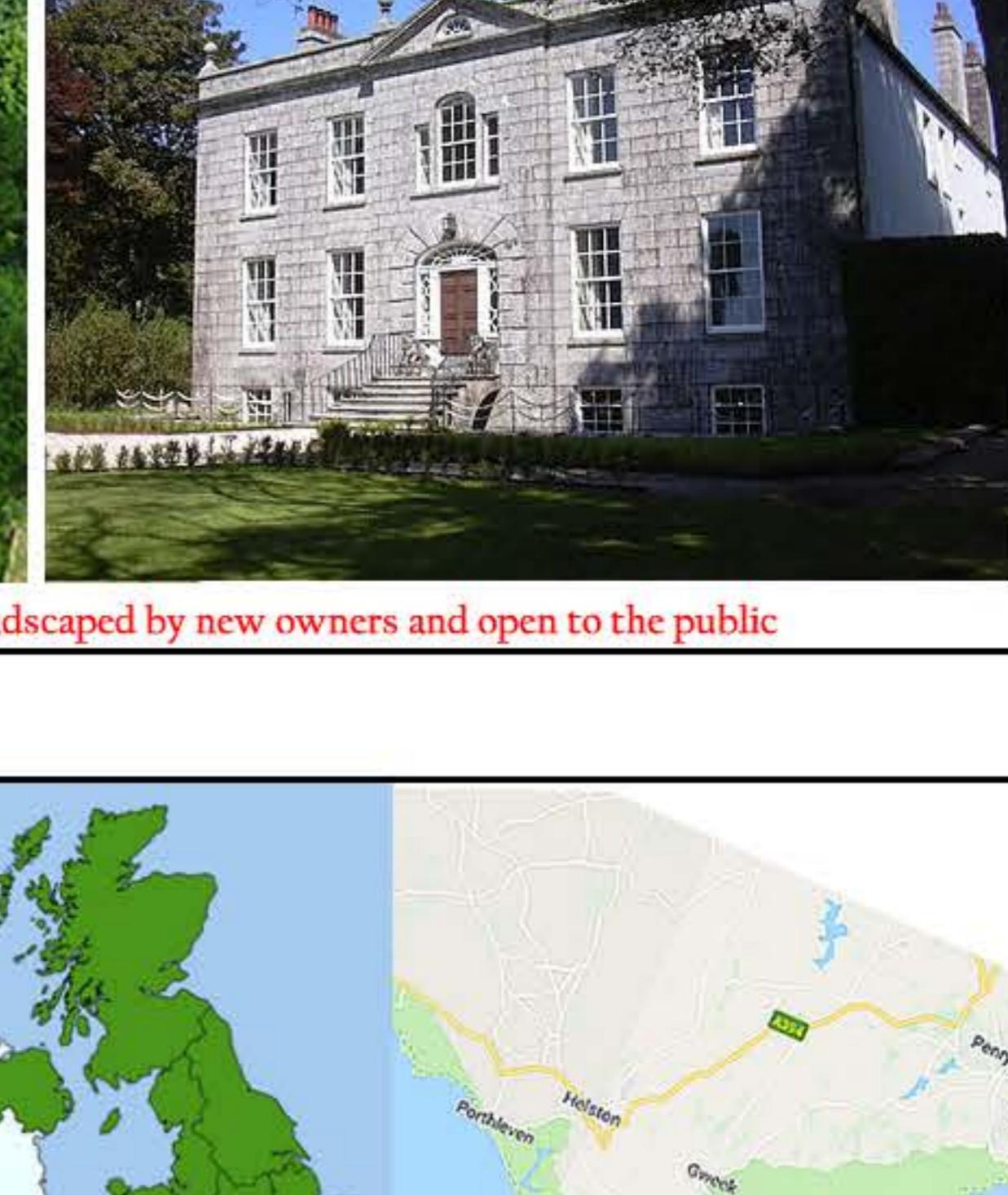
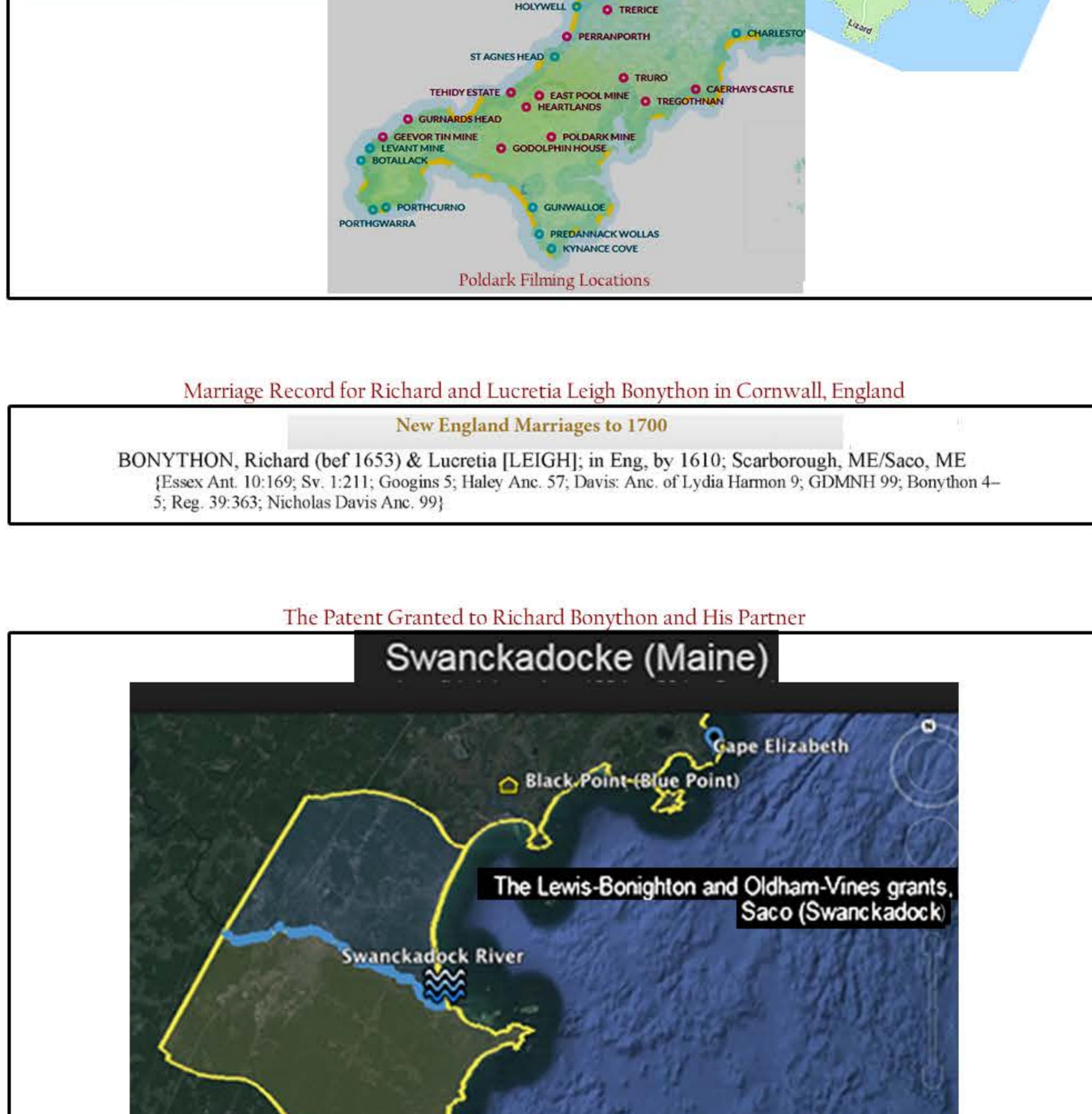


Present-Day Photos of the Bonython Estate in Cornwall, England



Above: The Bonython Estate Gardens, renovated and landscaped by new owners and open to the public

CORNWALL



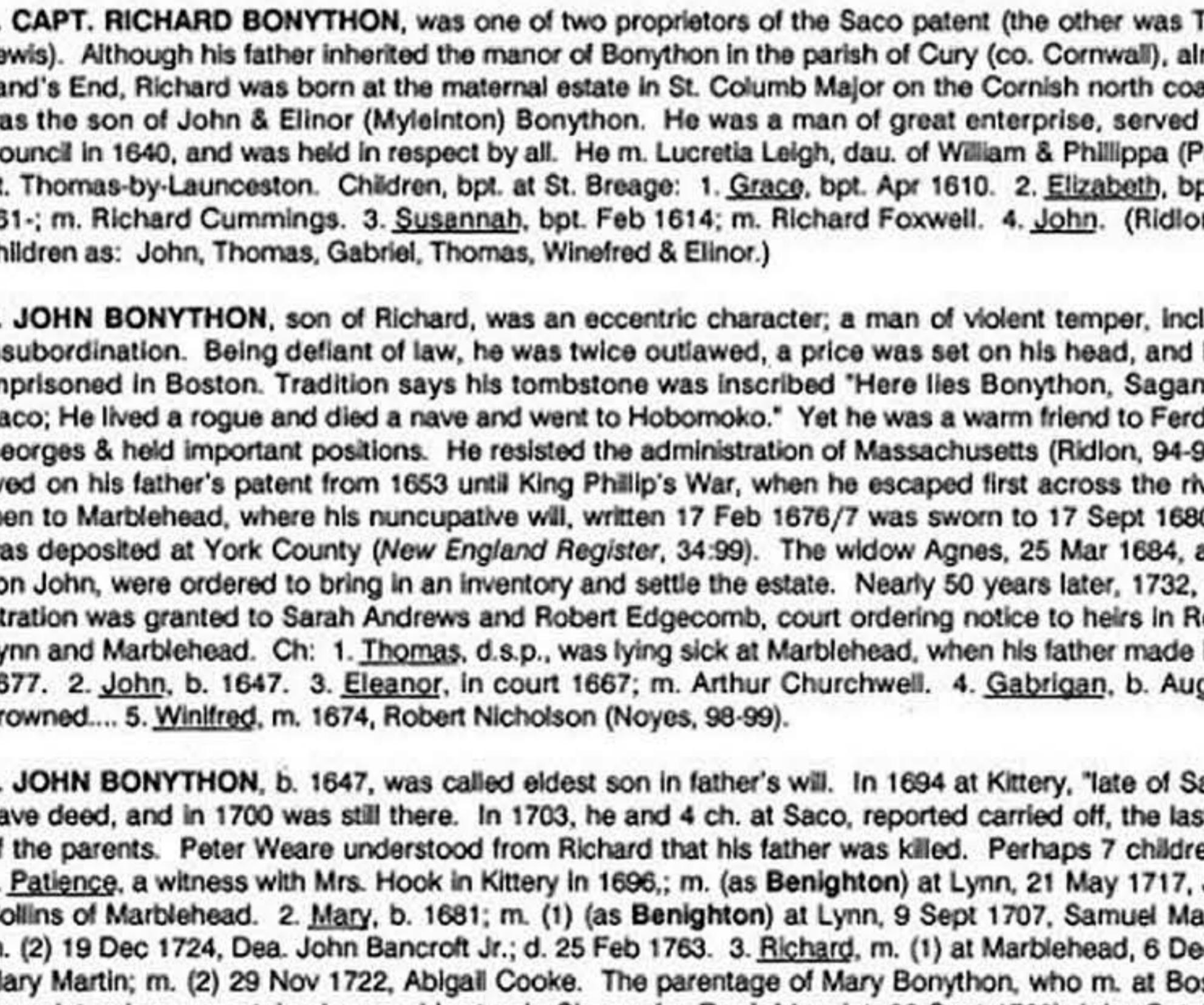
Marriage Record for Richard and Lucretia Leigh Bonython in Cornwall, England

New England Marriages to 1700

BONYTHON, Richard (bef 1653) & Lucretia [LEIGH]; in Eng, by 1610; Scarborough, ME/Saco, ME {Essex Ant. 10:169; Sv. 1:211; Googins 5; Haley Anc. 57; Davis: Anc. of Lydia Harmon 9; GDMNH 99; Bonython 4-5; Reg. 39:363; Nicholas Davis Anc. 99}

The Patent Granted to Richard Bonython and His Partner

Swanckadocke (Maine)



Essex Genealogist, The

Volume: 11 (1991) ▾

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THE BENINGTON - BONYTHON CONNECTION

By Marcia Lindberg

In the last issue of TEG, I placed a Query asking for the parents of two BENINGTON girls who married at Lynn in the early 18th century: Mary BENINGTON married, 9 Sept 1707, Samuel MANSFIELD, and Patience BENINGTON married, 21 May 1717, Joseph COLLINS. I quickly received two responses from Harold Everitt of Saugus, and Eleanor Sprout of Wakefield, both Benington descendants. Harold said that at an ESOG meeting about 5 years ago, there were four members researching BENINGTON at that time! The answer was found in two places: Noyes, Libby and Davis, *Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire*, and G. T. Ridlon's *Saco Valley Settlements and Families*, both of which I have in my personal library! I had checked Noyes (I always check that wonderful book for unknown name connections), but there was no entry under "Benington." One has to look under "Bonython." I thought "Bonython" was pronounced with the accent on the first syllable, in which case it doesn't "sound like" Benington at all. But evidently the accent is on the second syllable - "Bon - eye - ton." At any rate, I was grateful to Harold and Eleanor, and thought it might be useful to others if the connection were published in TEG.

1. CAPT. RICHARD BONYTHON, was one of two proprietors of the Saco patent (the other was Thomas Lewis). Although his father inherited the manor of Bonython in the parish of Cury (co. Cornwall), almost at Land's End, Richard was born at the maternal estate in St. Columb Major on the Cornish north coast. He was the son of John & Elinor (Myleintor) Bonython. He was a man of great enterprise, served on the Council in 1640, and was held in respect by all. He m. Lucretia Leigh, dau. of William & Phillipa (Prest) of St. Thomas-by-Launceston. Children, bpt. at St. Breage: 1. Grace, bpt. Apr 1610. 2. Elizabeth, bpt. Sept 1611; m. Richard Cummings. 3. Susannah, bpt. Feb 1614; m. Richard Foxwell. 4. John. (Ridlon gives children as: John, Thomas, Gabriel, Thomas, Winefred & Elinor.)

2. JOHN BONYTHON, son of Richard, was an eccentric character; a man of violent temper, inclined to insubordination. Being defiant of law, he was twice outlawed, a price was set on his head, and he was imprisoned in Boston. Tradition says his tombstone was inscribed "Here lies Bonython, Sagamore of Saco; He lived a rogue and died a nave and went to Hobomoko." Yet he was a warm friend to Ferdinando Georges & held important positions. He resisted the administration of Massachusetts (Ridlon, 94-95). He lived on his father's patent from 1653 until King Phillip's War, when he escaped first across the river and then to Marblehead, where his nuncupative will, written 17 Feb 1676/7 was sworn to 17 Sept 1680. This was deposited at York County (*New England Register*, 34:99). The widow Agnes, 25 Mar 1684, and her son John, were ordered to bring in an inventory and settle the estate. Nearly 50 years later, 1732, administration was granted to Sarah Andrews and Robert Edgecomb, court ordering notice to heirs in Reading, Lynn and Marblehead. Ch: 1. Thomas, d.s.p., was lying sick at Marblehead, when his father made his will, 1677. 2. John, b. 1647. 3. Eleanor, in court 1667; m. Arthur Churchwell. 4. Gabrian, b. Aug 1652; drowned.... 5. Winifred, m. 1674, Robert Nicholson (Noyes, 98-99).

3. JOHN BONYTHON, b. 1647, was called eldest son in father's will. In 1694 at Kittery, "late of Saco" he gave deed, and in 1700 was still there. In 1703, he and 4 ch. at Saco, reported carried off, the last heard of the parents. Peter Ware understood from Richard that his father was killed. Perhaps 7 children, incl: 1. Patience, a witness with Mrs. Hook in Kittery in 1696; m. (as Benington) at Lynn, 21 May 1717, Joseph Collins of Marblehead. 2. Mary, b. 1681; m. (1) as Benington at Lynn, 9 Sept 1707, Samuel Mansfield; m. (2) 19 Dec 1724, Dea. John Bancroft Jr.; d. 25 Feb 1763. 3. Richard, m. (1) at Marblehead, 6 Dec 1716, Mary Martin; m. (2) 29 Nov 1722, Abigail Cooke. The parentage of Mary Bonython, who m. at Boston 11 years later, is unascertained, poss. his stepd. She m. (as Benington) 26 Sept 1729 John Getchell. 7 ch rec in Boston 1733-1748. 4. Samuel, reported captive in Canada in 1711 (ibid.).

For further details on Captain Richard Bonython and his descendants, see Noyes (98-99) and Ridlon (90-91, 94-95).

Marriages of the Children of Richard and Lucretia Leigh Bonython's Children

U.S., New England Marriages Prior to 1700

BONYTHON, John (-1680) & Agnes [BONYTHON]; b 1647; Saco, ME

CUMMINGS, Richard (-1676) & Elizabeth [BONYTHON]; ca 14 Jul 1647; Saco, ME/York, ME/Isles of Shoals

FOXWELL, Richard (?1606, 1604-1676) & Susannah/Sarah? [BONYTHON]; ca 1636?

New England Marriages to 1700

BONYTHON, John (1647-?) & [Patience CRUCY]; by 1680; Saco, ME {GDMNH 99, 455; Bonython 61}

NICHOLSON, Robert & [Winifred] BONYTHON (-1729+); Jul 1673; Falmouth, ME {GDMNH 99, 368}

has Nichols, 510; Sv; Bonython 6 has Nichols]

CHURCHWELL, Arthur (-1710) & Eleanor [BONYTHON]; ca 1692; Kittery, ME {Kittery 281; GDMNH 99, 142; Bonython 6, Reg. 38:55}

Marriages of John's Children

Marblehead Marriages

BENINGTON

Richard, and Mary Marten, Dec. 6, 1716.

Richard, and Abigail Cooke, 29, 9br, 1722.

Lynn Marriages

BENINGTON

Mary, and Samuel Mansfield, Sept. 9, 1707.*

Patience, and Joseph Collins, May 21, 1717.*

BANCROFT (Bancraft)

John, Jr., and wid. Mary Mansfield, Dec. 19, 1724.*

Marriage Records for Elizabeth's Daughter Elizabeth and Her Husband's Second Marriage after Her Death

U.S., New England Marriages Prior to 1700

HARMON, John & 1/wf Elizabeth [CUMMINGS]; b 1 Jul 1673; York, ME

HARMON, John & 2/wf Deborah (JOHNSON) [FOXWELL], w. John; by 21 Jan 1680?;

ME?/York, ME

Capt. Richard Bonython was probably settled on his grant as early as his associate, Mr. Lewis.† Our first notice of his presence here, however, is in the record of the Commissioners' court 1636, holden at his house. He was appointed by Sir F. Gorges one of the Counsellors for the government of the Province in 1640. The last court under that authority sat at Wells 1646, when Capt. Bonython was present. The latest transaction in which we find him engaged, is the conveyance of a piece of land July 14, 1647. His death probably occurred not long after, certainly before the year 1653; for he is not enumerated among the inhabitants of East Saco, in a list taken at that time, which contains the name of his son.‡ Capt. Bonython was, doubtless, strongly opposed to the claims of Rigby, but we have met with no evidence that he took an active part in the discussions growing out of them. He seems to have sustained a character for gravity.

*Sullivan. 126. †See Appendix D. ‡Mass. Records.

ty of deportment, and was evidently treated with great respect by his associates in office. He was rarely, if ever, a party in any action of whatever kind, but constant in the performance of his duties as a magistrate; we even find him entering a complaint against his own son, for threatening violence to Mr. Vines. At the same term the court ordered "that Jane Shaw, wife of Edw. Shaw, shall be whipped at the next quarter court holden at Saco, for abusing Capt. Bonython in slanderous and unreverend speeches." Edward recognized in the sum of £50 "to bring his wife to abide the censure of the court." The children of Capt. Bonython were a son and two daughters; born in England.

John, the son, bore a character the reverse of that of his father. His litigious disposition has already appeared in our extracts from the court records. In 1645, Capt. Bonython said in open court, "that he knew wherever his son met Mr. Richard Vines he would be revenged on him, for he had not forgotten the old quarrel." He did not appear to answer to the charge, and the court proceeded to pass the following decree; "Whereas J. Bonython of Saco, in the Province of Maine, hath been summoned divers times in his Majesty's name to appear at our courts, and hath refused, threatening to kill and slay any persons that should lay hands on him; whereupon the law hath had its due proceeding to an outlawry, and divers judgments, executions and warrants of good behaviour: We, therefore, at a General Court assembled, adjudge the said John Bonython outlawed and incapable of any of his Majesty's laws, and proclaim him a rebel." It was then ordered "that if Mr. John Bonython be taken, that he be forthwith sent to Boston, to answer such things as shall then be brought against him." His contempt of the authority of the province was referred to the arbitration of that government. His father was a member of the provincial court.

Under the government of Mass., John was still more violent; by whom, we have seen, he was again outlawed, and a price set upon his head. This rigorous proceeding brought him to terms. The town book, in which his name is rarely found, contains the following record: "July 11, 1665. At a townmeeting, the justice of the peace and the freeholders being met together, a warrant is sent to Mr. John Bonython to come and take his oath to be constable, as he was chosen: but he refused, and is fined 4l." R. Booth was then chosen in his place. This was soon after the arrival of the King's commissioners in the province. It appears, therefore, that he attempted to act independently of all authority; hence doubtless he gained the burlesque title of 'Sagamore of Saco,' which has come down to us in the couplet, said to have been inscribed on his grave stone:

"Here lies Bonython, the Sagamore of Saco;
He lived a rogue and died a knave and went to Hobomocko."

His death occurred about 1684; an order of the court in that year continues his wife in the possession of her late husband's property. He was supposed at a subsequent period to have been destroyed by the Indians, as appears from the following record in the Book of Claims to eastern lands, opened by order of government at Boston 1718: "Peter Weare, of Hampton claims a tract of land containing 120 acres on the eastern side of Saco river, part of that granted to Richard Bonython in 1629, and by him granted to his son John, who was killed by the Indian enemy—said Weare bought of his son and heir by deed." In the registry of deeds we find, that "Richard Bonython, formerly apprentice to Jas. Weymouth of Newcastle, N. H. cordwainer, son and heir to John Bonython of Saco, sold in 1713 to Lieut. Peter Weare of Hampton, a tract of six score acres on the north east side of Saco river in the patent granted to his honored grandfather, Mr. R. Bonython and T. Lewis."

This Richard, however, was not a son, but a grandson of John Bonython, senior. At the time of the death of the latter, there was peace with the Indians; and as he was then far advanced in years, it is more probable that he died in the course of nature. In May, 1683, when near the close of his life, John gave to the town '20 acres of upland for the minister,' as if to atone for his past errors. He was buried at his own request near the river on the line separating one division of his estate from that of Gibbins. A man who lives near the spot, informs us that having had frequent occasion to pass it when a boy, the path from a landing place on the river leading in that direction, he was often told that the 'governor of Saco' lay buried there. The children of John Bonython were John, Thomas, Gabriel, William, Winifred, and Eleanor. John, the oldest, was born 1654; chosen one of the selectmen 1685; and four years after, removed to Newcastle, N. H. where he was living 1694. It is probable he afterwards fell by the hands of the Indians. Richard, the cordwainer, who sold to Weare, was unquestionably his son. This Richard had a sister, the wife of John Collins. The other sons of the 'Sagamore' left no heirs, except collateral ones. Winifred, the oldest daughter, married Robert Nicholson, or Nichols: Eleanor married a Churchwell. A son of the former, living at Marblehead, sold his mother's right in her father's estate to Robert and Thomas Edgecomb, 1729. The name of Bonython has long been obsolete in this quarter, and probably in New England.

The daughters of Capt. Bonython became the wives of Richard Foxwell and Richard Cumming. Mr. Foxwell was one of the first and most respectable planters in this vicinity. He settled at Blue-point, on the southwestern side of Scarboro' river in 1636, when thirty two years of age.* George Foxwell, his nephew, who died in Virginia, was from the city of Exeter, in Devonshire, England, and it is quite probable that Richard was from the same place, or its neighborhood. He lived forty years on his estate at Blue-point, without apparently mingling in the political disputes of that period. He was

a member of the General Assembly of Lygonia in 1648, being of the committee to whom was referred Mr. Jordan's petition. But his chief attention was given to his plantation, which became a valuable legacy to his heirs. He died about the close of 1676, or early in the succeeding year. Administration on his estate was granted to his son Philip Foxwell 1677; Joseph Curtis and Richard Rogers afterwards administered.

The children of Mr. Foxwell, were three sons and five daughters. Richard jr., probably the oldest son, was living 1664; we have no further account of him. John married a daughter of Richard Cumming; he died young, leaving one son, Nathaniel, who removed to York. Deborah, daughter of Nathaniel, married William Corbain of Boston, and as the sole heiress of her father and grandfather, conveyed all her right in the estate of Richard Foxwell, to William Pepperell jr., afterwards Sir William, in 1729.

Philip Foxwell, the other son, was one of the selectmen of Scarboro' in 1681. In the subsequent dispersion of the inhabitants of that town by the Indians, Philip removed to Kittery, where he died, apparently without heirs, in 1690.

Of the daughters, Esther married Thomas Rogers of Goose-fair, in 1657. Mr. Rogers was here as early as 1638, when we find him attesting a deed. He was probably quite young at that time, as his name does not occur again until 1653. He lived on the seashore, near the mouth of Goose-fair brook, in the western part of what is now called Old Orchard. A northwest line dividing the patent of Lewis and Bonython into two equal portions, was run 1681; which the commissioners began at "Rogers' garden." The house of Mr. Rogers was destroyed by the Indians 1676, when he removed to Kittery, and soon after died. An inventory of his estate was taken the following year. He had two sons, Richard and John. The former, purchased from Gibbins 1687 a tract of about half a mile square situated between Goose-fair brook and the middle line of the patent. He afterwards removed to Kittery. His son Richard jr. gave this piece of land to Patrick Googins 1737. Patrick came

back left six sons, one of whom is now living at an advanced age. Mr. Rogers Googins, a grandson of Patrick, and some others of this family, now possess and improve a part of the old estate.

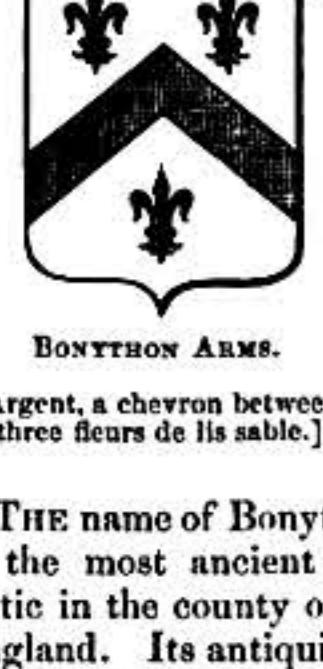
Lucretia Foxwell married James Robinson of Blue-point. On the breaking out of the Indian war, they removed to New Castle, N. H. and there ended their days. They left four children, daughters, three of whom were married.

Susannah Foxwell married an Austin. Mary, another daughter, married George Norton, of York. Sarah Foxwell married Joseph Curtis of Kittery, 1678. Their daughter Eunice was born Dec. 23, 1698. She married Richard Cutts of Kittery, Octo. 20, 1720. Their children were seven sons and three daughters, viz. Sarah, Robert, Joseph, Samuel, Edward, Foxwell Curtis, Richard, Mary, Thomas, and Eunice. Thomas, late Col. Cutts of Saco, the ninth of these children, was born April 5, 1736. Edward, the fifth, late Judge of the C. C. Pleas, was born 1728. The mother, a grand daughter of Richard Foxwell, died March 30, 1795, at the great age of ninety six years.*

The second daughter of Capt. Richard Bonython was married to Richard Cumming before 1647. Mr. Cumming first settled on the western side of the river, but after the death of his father in law, he removed to the eastern part of his patent, near Little river. In 1672, a committee was appointed by the town "to meet the Black-point men at the river next Richard Cumming's, to run the line between them and us." Mr. Cummings Banks, one of his descendants, now lives at the same place. The name of Richard Cumming, or Cummin, occurs very often in the town records until 1674; he died soon after. An inventory of his estate was taken 1676. The administrators were Thomas Cumming and John Harmon. The former did not long survive his father.

Elizabeth the only daughter of R. Cumming married John Foxwell, her cousin, after his death John Harmon, previously to 1680. By this marriage Mr. Harmon became sole heir to that division of the patent which fell to the wife of Cummings. The daughter of Mr. Harmon, an only child, married Joseph Banks of York, to which place Harmon removed before 1690. Banks thus acquired Harmon's right, but, in 1714, conveyed one-half of it to Peter Weare and others. He also sold one quarter to Caleb Preble of York, who afterwards transferred it to Jas. and Joseph Brown of Newbury, 1717. Samuel Banks, a son of Joseph, settled at Old Orchard on a part of the Cummings estate, about 1735, where his descendants now live.

* John Harmon married first Elizabeth Cummings, and together they had daughter Elizabeth Harmon. After Elizabeth's death, he married Deborah Johnson Foxwell, the widow of Elizabeth's cousin John Foxwell (son of Richard and Susannah Bonython Foxwell).



BONYTHON ARMS.

[Argent, a chevron between three fleurs de lis sable.]

THE name of Bonython* is one of the most ancient and aristocratic in the county of Cornwall, England. Its antiquity is shown in the records which tell us that they were possessed of the Bonython Manor continuously from the 14th century to the beginning of the 18th century, and the social position of the family is certified by their intermarriage with the leading families of Cornwall for four centuries.

One Simon de Boniton in the middle of the 13th century was despatched to Ireland as a royal messenger (Pipe, 38 Hen. III., Rot. I. dors.), and in 1397 another Simon Bonython, with his son Grawin, had license for an Oratory within the city of Exeter. [Bp. Sturford Reg. folio 12.]

* The pronunciation of this name is to be made by accenting the second syllable and rhyming it with "python" —Bo-ny-thon. It means a fuzzy abode.

* The pronunciation of this name is to be made by accenting the second syllable and rhyming it with "python" —Bo-ny-thon. It means a fuzzy abode.

† A number of years ago, at the death of a lady who resided near St. Antell, there was discovered among her effects a curious old jug of stoneware which had been preserved in her family as a precious heirloom. A label attached to the flagon contained the following inscription: "Date of this Jug 1598. It was used at the coronation banquet of James I. and VI. of Scotland by one of the Bonython family who officiated at the banquet." The lady's property came into the market, passed into other hands and became the object of a long and interesting search instituted by the present owner about 1879, which readers of the London "Notes and Queries" may remember to have noticed. Success rewarded his efforts, and now it is again in the possession of a member of the historic family, Mr. Langdon Bonython of Adelaide, South Australia, who has kindly loaned the above engraving of his ancestral flagon and the family arms to illustrate this article. It is by his aid and at his suggestion that the writer has prepared this genealogy, and students of our early colonial history will be glad to learn that one of the Bonythons still lives, although at the antipodes, who was a most active interest in helping us to know more of our ancestors. It will be remembered that the poet Whittier uses John Bonython as a character in "Mogg Megone," and Mr. J. L. Bonython has an autograph letter from the poet, acknowledging the error of his verse. The poet Longfellow is also connected with the Bonythons by descent, and thus two of our great literary lights lend an interest to this family name.

THE BONYTHON FLAGON.†

3

a goldsmith of Cheapside, London, who m. Alice, daughter of Humphrey Purfory of Leicestershire.

iii. JANET, m. Tregolles.

iv. CHRISTIAN, m. Nicholas Davy.

v. BERSABA, m. John Davy.

vi. ELIZABETH, m. (1) William Condon; (2) Peter Cooke.

vii. ISABELLE, m. James Pawley.

viii. CHARITY.

3. JOHN³ BONYTHON (Richard,² Ralph¹), paid a subsidy in the parish of

Curry, 1559; he married Eleanor, daughter and co-heir of Job Myllayton of Pengerswick Castle, St. Breock, Kirrier; Governor of St. Michael's Mount. [Lake, Parochial History of Cornwall, i. 134, 137.] The Myllaytons became possessed of Pengerswick Castle, temp. Henry VIII., and Job Myllayton was made governor of St. Michaels in 1547 in place of Humphrey Arundell of Helland, who was executed for treason. Issue:

4. i. RESKYM, son and heir.

5. ii. RICHARD, the emigrant to Maine.

iii. EDMOND.

iv. WILLIAM.

v. JOHN, Captain of Pendennis Castle.

vi. ELIZABETH, m. Henry Pomeroy, Mayor of Tregony, 15 April, 1600.

vii. ANNE, m. Walter Rosecrack, 15 Oct. 1606.

4. RESKYM⁴ BONYTHON (John,³ Richard,² Ralph¹), was High Sheriff of Cornwall, 17 James I. [Tonkin, History of Cornwall, I. 287], and died 6 April, 1627 [Inq. Post Mort. 17 Chas. I. (pt. i.) No. 73]; married Loveday, daughter of William Kendall of Lostwithiel [Carew, Survey of Cornwall (1602), p. 109], by whom he had issue:

6. i. THOMAS, b. 1594, son and heir.

6. THOMAS⁵ BONYTHON (Reskym,⁴ John,³ Richard,² Ralph¹), "was a captain in the Low Countries and much consumed his patrimony." [Tonkin MSS.] He married Francisca, daughter of Erasmus Waller, Esq., of London* [Visitation of Cornwall, 1580, 1575, 1620, ed. Vivian], by whom he had issue:

7. i. JOHN, b. 1618, son and heir.

7. JOHN⁶ BONYTHON (Thomas,⁵ Reskym,⁴ John,³ Richard,² Ralph¹), married Anne, daughter of Hugh Trevanion of Trelegan, by whom he had issue:

8. i. CHARLES, son and heir.

8. CHARLES⁷ BONYTHON (John,⁶ Thomas,⁵ Reskym,⁴ John,³ Richard,² Ralph¹), Steward of the Court of Westminster, 1683; represented the city of Westminster in Parliament, 1685; Sergeant-at-Law at Gray's Inn, 1692. [Wynne, Sergeant-at-Law, p. 90.] He sold the manor of Bonython in 1702 to Humphrey Carpenter, and three years later, 30 April, 1705, "in a fit of madness, shot himself in his own house in London."† By wife Mary Livesay of Livesay, Lincolnshire, he had issue:

9. i. JOHN, son and heir.

ii. —, m. Richard Foxwell. *Susanna*

iii. —, m. Richard Cummings. *Elizabeth*

9. JOHN⁸ BONYTHON (Richard,⁴ John,⁶ Richard,⁵ Ralph¹), born certainly before 1620, was the opposite of his father, for he lived a life of debauchery and outlawry during twenty years of his existence. The

first court held at his father's house in 1636, brings him to view as the father of an illegitimate child, and his excesses developed to such a degree in 1645, that "threatening to kill and slay any person that should lay hands on him," the court, at which his father again sat, adjudged him "outlawed and incapable of any of his Majesty's laws, and proclaim[ed] him a Rebell." [York Court Records.] After

Massachusetts assumed control of the government of Maine in 1652, he refused to submit to her government, and so far carried his guerrilla warfare that the General Court proclaimed him an outlaw and offered a price upon his head to the person who would bring him to Boston alive or dead. This seemed to have the desired effect, and submitting to their authority in 1658, he behaved himself for a few years until the Restoration, when the Gorges party once more came to the front in Maine. Then he unloosed his bonds again, and defied his late political masters in an insulting letter to the Massachusetts magistrates. In 1668 the tables were again turned, and although Bonython remained recalcitrant, he found, after three more years of ineffectual opposition, that submission was the wisest course, and he wrote the magistrates a letter asking them to pardon his past offences, alleging that he "was blinded by a letter from Mr. Gorges." [Mass. Arch. xlvi. 103.] His offences were not always of a political nature, for he quarreled with his brother in law, Richard Foxwell, in 1654, and tore down his house, for which he had to pay roundly when the court reviewed the case. In 1640 he was sued for libel by Rev. Richard Gibson (who had married Mary Lewis, the daughter of his father's partner), in that he had called him "a base priest, a base knave and a base fellow," besides slandering his wife.† The court gave the plaintiff a verdict of

* 4 Mass. Hist. Coll. vii. Winthrop Papers.

† He was probably the instigator of the charges against Gibson's wife, recounted in the letter to Winthrop, 14 Jan. 1678-9, and we may suppose that jealousy was the cause of the

This closes the record of a family of gentle blood who came to the Province of Maine to aid in the perpetuation of the feudal seignories of Old England. With this aristocratic scion of Bonython kinship to the most royal Plantagenets and Courtenays of England, and the Montgomeries of France; the gentle Joscelyn of the knightly house of Kent; the noble Cammock, related to the powerful Earl of Warwick, and Godfrey, who bore the arms of the renowned Godfrey of

Bethune the chivalrous King of Jerusalem. All these men were

name of Bonython, Champernowne, Joscelyn, Cammock or Godfrey in the state which they helped to found. The fate of the Bonython family in America is a striking resemblance to the tragic

end of the elder line in England, for the line of Sagamore of Saco

end grant tapers off miserably in his son's descendants. "Sagamore of Saco,"

however, through the Cummings, the families of Bradgdon, Banks, Longfellow and others, deduce their pedigree, while from

including Thornton and Libby.

Now, — I am indebted to the Western Antiquary, Supplement, Part IV., March, 1882, for the facts connected with the Bonython portion of Adelaid's family. Australia was who

had collected most of the material for that magazine.

The Bonythons of Bonython were seated in the Lizard district of Cornwall in the parish of Cury,* a bleak wild track on the serpentine formation, and notwithstanding their remote situation they became conspicuous figures in the political agitations of that period which culminated in the stormy days of the Stuart dynasty. Several branches issued from the parent stock, the most opulent of which, through a fortunate marriage, became possessed of Carelew, in Mylor, and is designated as the Bonythons of Carelew to distinguish them from the elder house which held the ancient manor.† We shall not have occasion to follow out this junior line, as the Maine family were descended from the elder branch, and it will only be necessary to state that in 1749 the Carelew estate passed out of the family by sale, as in 1702 the Bonython manor had been alienated by the elder branch.

Bonython manor is a plain substantial building with a granite front, facing the sea, which it overlooks at a distance of about two miles by the valleys of Poljew and Gunwalloe. The view from the front of the house is a most extensive one, unusually so, as most of the ancient Cornish houses are built quite on the side of the hill or in the valley. On the lower part of the estate, in a small plantation, is a group of magnificent rocks, the grandeur of which strikes the beholder at the first glance. One of these—the topmost—is named the Fire or Bonfire Rock, and is probably a relic of the Druidic religion. [Western Antiquary (Supplement), pt. iv. 204.]

Pedigree.

1. RALPH¹ BONYTHON, of Bonython, Cornwall, paid a subsidy in the

parish of Cury, 15 Henry VIII. He married twice, probably, (1) Elizabeth Downe, and (2) Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Erissey [Inq. Post Mort. (James Erissey), 35 Hen. VIII. 62; comp. Coles Esch. Harl. MSS., No. 757, p. 38], and had issue:

2. i. RICHARD, son and heir.

ii. EDMOND, had issue two daughters: 1. Katharine,³ who m. Thomas Godolphin;

iii. JOHN, d. s. p.

2. RICHARD² BONYTHON (Ralph¹), also paid subsidy as above at the

same time, but died the next year (1535), as his wife Jane, daughter and heir of John Durant of Penzance, Cornwall, was a widow 16 Henry VIII., at Bodmin, where she was taxed. He had issue:

3. i. JOHN, son and heir.

ii. JAMES, paid subsidy in Mullion, 1 Elizabeth [Lay. Subsidy, 87-218]; m. Margerie, daughter of John Melhuish, of Truro, Merther, by whom he had:

1. John,⁴ of St. Columb Major, who m. Margerie, daughter of John Kerne, alias Tresilian; 2. Robert⁵; 3. Nicholas⁶, a burgess, who m. Anne, daughter of Hugh Monday of Tregony; 4. Thomas,⁷

* Subsidies had been paid on the manor since 15 Hen. VIII.

† "Carelew hath (after the Cornish manner) well-nigh metamorphosed the name of Master Bonython, his owner, unto his own." [Carew, Survey of Cornwall (1602), p. 365.] Another branch of the family was seated at Tresadern in St. Columb Major. [Lake, Parochial Hist. of Cornwall, i. 234.]

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i. RICHARD, eldest son and heir: "an ingenious gentleman," says Tonkin,

"but being tainted likewise with his father's distemper, . . . set fire to his chamber in Lincoln's Inn, burnt all his papers, bonds, &c., and then stabbed himself with his sword, but not effectually; he then threw himself out of the window and died on the spot." [History of Cornwall, i. 287; Comp. Luttrell, Brief Relation, i. 215, and v. 554-5.]

ii. JOHN, the second son, King's College, Cambridge, B.A. 1717; M.A. 1721. While an undergraduate he wrote a Latin poem which was published in 1714 by some Cambridge students. He became an eminent physician in Bristol. He is mentioned in the will of his cousin Jane (Bonython) Kempe of Carelew, 1749. [Records Consistory Court, Exeter.]

iii. [Daughter], m. Thomas Pearce of Helston.

5. RICHARD⁴ BONYTHON (John,³ Richard,² Ralph¹), was baptized at St. Columb Major, 3 April, 1580, the second son of John³ Bonython of Bonython. It is possible that he is the Richard Bonython who was Comptroller of the Stannaries of Cornwall and Devonshire, 1603 and 1604, and keeper of the Gaol at Lostwithiel in 1603 [Calender of State Papers, Domestic]. He came to Saco in 1631, bringing with him, as a copartner of Thomas Lewis, a patent, dated 12 February, 1629-30, for a large tract of land four miles by eight upon the East side of the Saco River, of which livery of seizen was given 28 June, 1631, following. His associate had "already been at the charge to transport himself and others to take a view of New England for the bettering his experience in the advancing a plantation," as is recited in the grant. I suppose that his emigration to this almost unknown land may be explained by recalling that he was not in the line of succession to the family seat and honors, his brother Reskymar having in 1620 a son and grandson to inherit the property. I judge also that he had been a soldier in some of the French wars, perhaps serving with Sir Ferdinand Gorges, from whom he imbibed some of the enthusiasm of "that grave knight" respecting the New England. This seems to be confirmed by his universal title of "Captain Bonython," as well as by a letter from Richard Vines to John Winthrop, 25 January, 1640, in which he says: "It seems the governor [Dudley] makes a question that Sir Ferdinand Gorges was not in the French wars in his tyme. Capt. Bonython intreats me to write a word or two thereof,"* and then he proceeds to detail the facts as stated by him. This martial career secured to him an authoritative position among the early settlers, and he was undoubtedly a local magistrate under the "combination" government of Richard Vines, before the arrival in 1635 of Deputy Governor William Gorges. When this new executive officer arrived, he organized his first court 25 March, 1635-6, at the house of Captain Richard Bonython, who was then appointed one of the Provincial Commissioners, and in 1640, under the first charter, he was appointed one of the Councillors to Deputy Governor Thomas Gorges. We have no means of estimating his character except through negative testimony, and it is a legitimate inference that he must have been a man of ability and honor to have retained the respect and confidence of his fellow citizens for so many years. The court records are free from any charges impugning his moral,

* 4 Mass. Hist. Coll. vii. Winthrop Papers.

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£6. 6. 8. and costs 12s. 6d. This is a record unusually crowded with the events of a disreputable career, and it is not at all certain that the story is complete.* We are relieved, however, to learn that in 1666 he had so far obtained the confidence of his towns people as to be placed on a trial jury, but that is the extent of his public services, as far as can be learned.† At the outbreak of the Indian hostilities in Maine, 1675, his house was burned about September of that year, and with his family he fled to Marblehead for safety. There, 17 February, 1676, "in his last sickness," he made his will, from which we learn the names of his wife and children [ante, xxxiv. 99]. This date may be taken as the time of his decease; but though dead, his fame will not only live in Whittier's "Mogg Megone," but in an epitaph still preserved, which sums up his life in expressive rhyme:

"Here lies Bonython the Sagamore of Saco

He lived a rogue and died a knave and went to Hobboocko."†

Folsom says "He was buried at his own request near the river on the line separating one division of his estate from that of [James] Gibbins. A man who lives near the spot informs us that having had frequent occasion to pass it when a boy, . . . he was often told that the 'governor of Saco' lay buried there." [History Saco and Biddeford, 116.]§ His estate was not administered until 1732, when the property was found to consist of 5000 acres of land valued at 18 shillings per acre, which was divided among his heirs.

By wife Agnes he had issue:

i. JOHN, "the eldest sonne," b. 1654; selectman, 1685; removed to Newcastle, N. H., 1689, where he was living in 1694. He had children: 1. Richard,⁷ of Newcastle, cordwainer, who was living there in 1713, died before 1732; 2. Patience,⁸ m. John Collins. She was the only heir of John Bonython, Jr., living in 1732, to take part in the division of the estate.

ii. ELINOR, m. Churchwell. This daughter inherited her father's moral proclivities. She was examined, 20 Sept. 1667, on a charge of bas- tardy, and being convicted was punished in the usual way by standing in a white sheet