



Ancestry of Rebecca Faulkner of Tattenhall

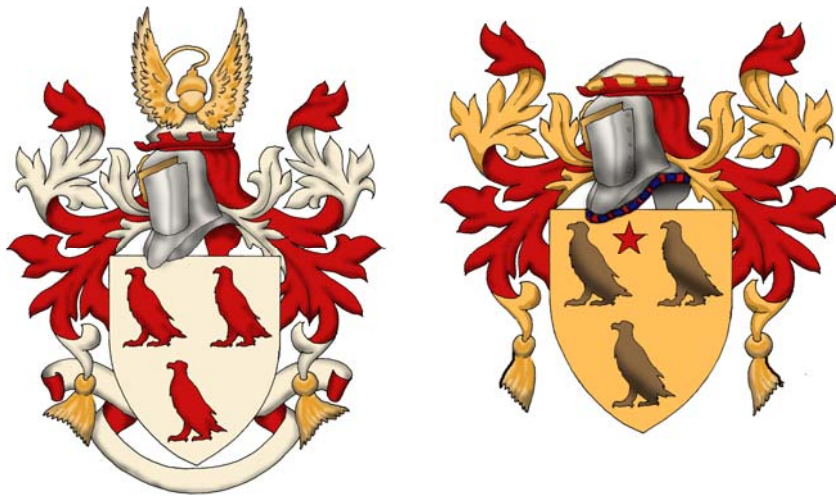
John Willson of Tattenhall married Rebecca Faulkner, daughter of William and Catherine Faulkner, in 1767; she is, therefore, the mother of both the American and the British lines of our family today. Her interesting ancestry has only recently been uncovered.

The surname Faulkner is, in almost all cases, an occupational designation derived from the French/Norman word “*faulconnier*,” referring to one who hunts with falcons or who raises and trains falcons for hunting purposes. Falconry was a popular sport in the Middle Ages. Consequently nearly every Faulkner coat of arms incorporates one or more (usually three) falcons. Although the name probably originated independently in several places and in different countries, the prevalence in England of the three-falcon crest, in various color combinations and with various accessories, suggests that most English Faulknors share a common origin in the distant past. In Ireland the name derives from the O’Fachtna Clan in County Longford, and a line is also said to be descended from someone who had gained distinction in the operation of a medieval siege gun called a *falcon*, but these lines are rare in England. Furthermore, the name was introduced independently into Ireland by English settlers who arrived in the Province of Ulster, especially during the 1600’s, so not even all Irish Faulknors are of clan descent. English and Irish spelling variations include Faulkner, Falkner, Falknor, Falknar, Fawkner, Falconer,

Falcener, Fauknar, Fawlkoner, Faulkoner, Fulkner, Faulknier, Fauconer, Fallconer, Falkiner, Forkner, Fortner, Faughney, Faulkney, and Faughnan, among others.

The earliest Falconers are believed to be descended from the Boernicians, an ancient founding race of the Scottish/English border dating from about the year 400 A.D. The border was also home to Clans such as the Armstrongs, the Grahams, the Scotts, the Kerrs, the Bells, the Nixons, the Dicksons, the Rutherfords and the Somervilles. Among these war-like clans of the border, the surname Falconer was found in the Angus area. “Matheus the falconer” is one of the witnesses to a charter by Earl David in 1202-3, and “William the falconer” had certain lands in the Kirk of Marington in 1200. In vernacular, the Falconers occasionally bore the name Hawker, but retained the name Falconer on the official records, and their estates bore names such as Haukertun or Haukerston. Robert le Faukener of Kincardyn-en-Mierns rendered homage at Aberdeen in 1296. His seal bears a falcon killing a small bird. Heliscus Faucuner, the Burgess of Montrose, had a charter of lands granted to him in 1350 in the area of Monros (Montrose). Andrew Faucounere De Lethinvar is on the records of the inquisition in Baldenock in 1380.

When the Crowns of Scotland and England were united under James VI of Scotland (James I of England) in 1603 the Border Clans were dispersed to northern Scotland, England and Ireland. Some were banished directly to the Colonies. In Ireland they were granted lands previously held by the Catholic Irish. They signed an 'Undertaking' to remain Protestant and faithful to the Crown.



Two typical Faulkner coats of arms featuring three falcons

William Fawkner (ca.1540-1606)

The earliest known member of our Faulkner line in Cheshire is probably of Scottish origin even though he pre-dates the dispersal of the Scottish border clans: William Fawkner, a carpenter during the Renaissance in the ancient township of Cholmondeley (pronounced “Chumly”) in the parish of Malpas, Broxton Hundred, adjacent on the south to the parish of Tattenhall. The township includes the hamlets of Croxton Green and Dowse Green, as well as the Churches of St. Oswald, St. Winifride and St. Nicholas. The latter chapel was established primarily for the convenience of the Cholmondeley family, residents of Cholmondeley Castle

[Transcription:]

In the name of god Amen. The 24th daye of Januarye Anno Rex Jacobi Angld iiii et Scotia etc. [fourth year of the reign of Jacobi =James I, King of England, Scotland etc., i.e. 1606/7]. Willm Fawknr of Cholmeley in the Countye of Chester, Carpenter, did expresse and declare his last will and testamt in forme followinge. Firste he did give to Jane his wife the half of all his goods. Item, to the Children of Jeffrey Brooke his true in lawe 53s 4. To the Children of Thomas Winlocke his true in lawe 50s. To the Children of Thomas Fawknr, 20 s, And to the Children of Henrye Fawknr 50s. & Lether in the lofte to Thomas Leyhe. The reste of all his goods he gave to the said Henrye, And he did ordain and make the said Henrye and the said Thomas Mannyng of the Wood executors of the said last will & testamt.

From this it is apparent that his wife's name was Jane, that he had two daughters who married Jeffrey Brooke and Thomas Winlocke, and that he had two sons named Thomas and Henry. It is also apparent that all four of these children had probably already been blessed with children of their own.

Thomas Fawkner (b. ca.1580-ca.1640)

Little is known about William Fawkner's son, Thomas Fawkner, except that (like his father) he lived his life in the Cholmondeley area. He left no will that has survived, but, following tradition, his grandson (son of his son Simon Faulkener) was named Thomas in his honor.

Simon Faulkener (ca.1599-1677)

Like his father and grandfather, Simon Faulkner was a resident of Cholmondeley ("Cholm'ley"). He was a "yeoman," that is, a farmer who farmed land which he owned himself (as opposed to a "tenant farmer" who farmed rented land). "Simon" is a relatively rare forename in Cheshire, and was perpetuated in Simon Faulkner's memory in almost every generation for many generations of his descendants.

His well, dated 1677, refers to his wife Alice, her brother Edward Lee, and Simon's children William, Mary and Thomas. William married Ellinor Faulkner (perhaps a cousin?) in 1672 in Bunbury parish (adjacent to the northwest), and had a daughter Sarah who died unmarried in 1680. He also had a daughter Martha and a son William, named after himself. Mary first married Richard Parker of nearby Bickley township (adjacent to Cholmondeley on the south), and they had a daughter, Alice (named after her grandmother), who died in 1682. Thomas's marriage record has not been found, but he is thought to be the father of Simon Faulkner (born in the 1660's, and named after his grandfather).

The two cousins William and Simon moved to Tarvin parish (probably to the town of Stapleford in Bruen Stapleford township) a few miles to the north of Cholmondeley, where they married sisters Mary and Rebecka Pembleton, respectively, in 1696 and 1691. The Pembleton sisters were daughters of Thomas Pembleton of Burton township (adjacent to Stapleford township on the east).

Simon Faulkner's 1677 will reads as follows (the attached inventory is dated 18 May 1677). Not being literate, he signed with an "X."

**WILL OF SIMON FAULKNER
of Cholmondeley
1677**

In the name of God, amen. This twentye fourth day of Aprill 1677, according to the computation of the Church of England. I, Simon Ffaulkener of Cholmley in the countye of Chester, yeoman, being of pfect memory and remembrance, prayed be almighty God, do make and ordaine this my last will in manner and forme following. Revoking all other wills and testaments by word and verifying this to be the last.

First I bequeath my soul into the hands of almighty God my maker, hoping that throu the mortal suffering and passion of Jesus Christ my only saviour and redeemer to receive free pardon and forgiveness of all my sins, and ask for my body to be buryed in some Christian buryall at the disposition of my exēcutors hereafter mentioned and nominated.

And as for the temporal state wherewith it hath please God to bestow upon me, I dispose of it as followeth:

I give and bequeath to my wife Allise Ffaulkener the joint bed in the little parlor with all the furniture belonging to it, alsoe the little table in the same roome, the better cheare, with the chest at the foot of the bed.

I give and bequeath to my wife more, one yearling calfe called young Hunt, one bot'l of brass, one little pot, 4 paire of sheetes, one duzon of napkins, one board cloth.

I give my sonn Thomas Ffaulkener the little trutkle bed, and the plow with all the furniture blonging to it.

I give Martha Ffaulkener my grand child the bed in the loft on the parlor with all furniture belonging to it.

I give and bequeath to Edward Lee, my wife's brother, my best shute of cloths.

I leave my sonn Willia[m] Ffaulkener one bed in the roome below the intry, with the furniture belonging to it.

I give and bequeath to my daughter Mary Parker one shilling if demanded.

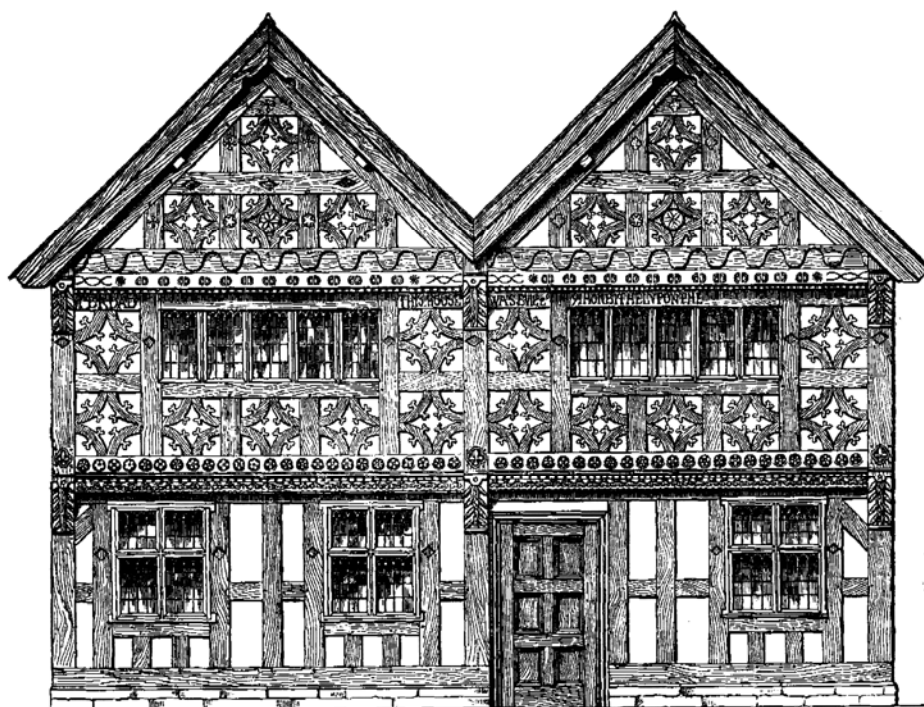
I give and bequeath all the rest of my goods, catteles, chattel & houshold stuff, of brasse, pewter, trinian ware, moneys whatsoever &c. afterr my debts and funeral expenses be discharged, unto William Ffaulkener my sonn in law and my wide Allise Ffaulkener to be equally divided betweixt them.

I make my sonn in law William Ffaulkener and Allise Ffaulkener my wife exēcutor and exēcutrix to see this my last will and testament performed according to the true purport & meaning thereof.

I make Thomas Burroughes clerck my ovseer to see this my last will and testament performed according to the true meaning thereof

The mark of Simon X Ffaulkener

The inventory of his livestock and household belongings included the following items, appraised at a total of £ 35: “Three coves, two year-ould calves, two wayning calves, two calves, one horse, one pig, geese and poultry, all the husbantrye ware, beding with furniture, linens, brass and pewter, three tables, one cubert, three cheares, one cheese presse, one bushell of barley, one chafing dish, one karfing knife, one broth frine pan, earthen ware, Simon Faulkener’s wearing apparel, seventeen yards of cloth, one chest, three boxes, two baskets.”



Typical oak-framed Cheshire house of the kind common in the 16th century

William Faulkener (ca.1620’s-1685)

Simon Faulkner’s son William Faulkener, also lived in Cholmondeley, in the small village of Croxton Green. William was a prosperous farmer, and signed his own name to his will (written in 1680), demonstrating that he was literate. The name of his first wife, by whom he had all five of his children (Sara, Martha, William, Simon, and one whose name is unknown) is not known, but his second wife, whom he married rather late in his life in 1672, was Elleanor Faulkener (Faulkener may not be her maiden name, though). William’s son William moved to the Bruen Stapleford area, where he met and married Mary Pembleton, daughter of Thomas Pembleton of Burton, in 1696. William’s other son, Simon, made the same move and married Mary Pembleton’s sister, Rebecka, in 1691. William’s daughter Sara died unmarried, probably in her 20’s, in Cholmondeley.

William’s will, written in 1680 and proved upon his death on 17 July 1685, reads as follows:

WILL OF WILLIAM FAULKENER
of Cholmondeley
1685

In the name of God, amen, the two and twentieth day of February, one thousand six hundred and eighty, according to the computation of the Church of England; I, William Faulkener of Cholmondeley in the Countye of Chester, yeoman, being of perfect memorye and remembrance, praysed be almighty God, do make this my last will and testament, renouncing all former wills whatsoever, in manner and forme following:

First I bequeath my soul into the hands of almighty God, my maker, hoping that through the meritorious death and passion of Jesus Christe, my only Saviour and redeemer, to recoind free pardon and forgiveness of all my sins, and as for my body, to be buried in Christian buryall, at the discretion of my executors hereafter nominated.

*I give and bequeath unto **my wife Elnor Faulkener** the bed in the little chamber with all the furniture belonging to it, alsoe I give to my wife two trunks and one little cheare.*

*More on I give and bequeath to **my said wife Elnor Faulkener**, after my debts be paid and funeral expenses discharged, the one half and moiety of all my personal estate ab catten and goods whatsoever, for her and her four children toward the bringing of them up.*

*I give and bequeath the other half and moiety of my personll estate unto **my five children** wch it please God I had by my first wife, to be equally divided amongst them eidy on to have their part all alike.*

I make my wife Elnor Faulkener my sole executrix, and to see this my last will and testament, performed according to the true neaning thereof.

I make and ordain John Hinton of Rishton and Thomas Poole of Cholmondeley my asesors, to see this my last will and testament, performed according to the true intent and meaning thereof.

Will^m Faw^kner



His date of death is noted as 17 July 1685. The extensive inventory of personal property “of the late Willia(m) Faulkner at Croxton Greene in the township of Cholmley in the county of Chester, yeoman,” tells a great deal about his level of prosperity and the nature of his life in those days. First of all, being a yeoman meant that he owned his own farmland and was not merely a tenant farmer. His house sounds quite interesting, in that the inventory itemizes possessions found in the parlor, the shop, the little chamber, the loft over the house, the loft of

the little chamber, the salting room, the main part of the house, the loft over the kitchen (which included two beds), and the barn and stable areas containing the “implements of husbandry.”

The inventory prepared by John Hinton, Thomas Steele, Richard Eaton, Thomas Tomlison and William Faulkener, includes several beds and bedsteads, blankets, bolsters, coffers, boxes, trunks, tables, chairs, chests, a warming pan, fine cushions, pillows, curtains, a salting table and salting dresser (for preserving meat), a long dining table with chairs, cupboards, a “smoothing iron,” iron pots, kettles, a brass mortar, pewter ware and dishes, one tankard (presumably for the head of the household), two cheese presses, a butter churn, and, most interestingly, numerous books and portraits. How fascinating it would be today to see those portraits, presumably of family members and ancestors!



Detail from John Speed's 1623 map of Cheshire. Chelmondeley, Ancestral home of the Faulkners, is at lower right. Stapleford, where Simon Faulkner settled, and Burton, the home of his wife Rebecca Pembleton, Are at upper middle. Tattenhall, where William and Catherine Faulkner settled, And where the Wilson family lived for generations, is at the center.

His farm equipment and livestock included “Two cartes, one plow, two harrows, rope, yearet for horses, chain, boardes on the stable, cart and plow, a ladder, two stone troughs, one woden trough, a mare and colt, a year-old bull, and two year-old hephers, sheepe, 5 couples and 4 barren sheep, 4 hoggs, one two-year-old bull, twelve cowes, 4 two-year-old hephers, 4 twelve-months-old hephers, 6 reeings (?), and 17 geese.” This inventory shows that William Faulkner was an educated man and clearly had a large and prosperous farm and household, well furnished and decorated with books and portraits.

Simon Faulkner (b.ca. 1660’s)

Simon Faulkner of Stapleford married Rebecka Pembleton of Burton in 1691. Their marriage record, by banns, was found in the Tarvin Parish records, 3 miles to the northeast of Stapleford: Simon Faulkner of Stapleford and Rebecka Pembleton, married 29 December 1691. They named their first son after the boy’s grandfather, Thomas Faulkner. Ultimately Simon and Rebecka had at least seven children: Thomas (1693), William (1694), May (1696/7), John (1699), Ann (1700), Rebeckah (1702) and, of course, Simon (1704/5).

William Faulkner (1694-1764)

There is no record of the birth of William Faulkner in Tattenhall during the likely time period (the 1690’s). However, the “tenement” (dwelling house) in Stapleford, located just 2 miles northeast Tattenhall, which William Faulkner bequeathed to his wife, suggested that he had come from Stapleford, and indeed his baptismal record was found there, dated 17 June 1694. [Bruen Stapleford is a township in Tarvin Parish; Stapleford is a village in that township.] He was the son of Simon Faulkner of Stapleford and his wife Rebecka.

William Faulkner married a woman named Catherine (perhaps as a second marriage) and named his first son and first daughter Simon and Rebekah after his parents (and the second daughter, Katherine, after his wife). He first appears in the Tattenhall Parish records in 1731-1732, when he served as Churchwarden, and later in 1758-1759 in the same position.

The commemoration of the names “John Sheen” and “Henry Neild” as the first and middle names for two of the sons of John Wilson of Tattenhall and Lincolnville, Maine (another such was “William Faulkner” Wilson, named after his great-grandfather) suggest that William Faulkner’s wife, Catherine, was the daughter of either a John Sheen or a Henry Neild (Nield, Neeld). Their marriage record has unfortunately not been found yet. The Tarvin baptismal records do show a “Henery Nield” (son of William Nield) baptized on 19 Nov 1691. This would allow sufficient time for him father Catherine around 1712, and for Catherine to marry William Faulkner and begin having his children in the middle 1730’s. There is no proof of this connection as yet, but it is a legitimate possibility.

Catherine [Neild or Sheen] Faulkner, widow of “William Faulkner, farmer at Tattenhall,” was buried on 27 July 1767, four years after William Faulkner's death—her age at death is not given, providing no help in establishing her birth year.

William Faulkner died on 9 April 1764. In his will, written in 1760, he mentions his wife [Catherine], his daughters Rebekah [wife of John Willson] and Katherine, his sons John and

Simon, and Simon's son William (who, according to Parish records, was born 10 Nov 1741). William signed his will himself, in a rather distinctive hand, showing that he was literate.

William Faulkner's sons, Simon and John, also farmed in and near Tattenhall. In 1746 a judgement for 20 pounds was levied against "Simon Faulkner of Tattenhall, farmer, Joseph Broster, and John Faulkner of Burwardsley" on behalf of John Bealey of Broxton (Burwardsley is adjacent to Tattenhall on the east). In 1789 a burial is recorded for Sarah Faulkner, "eldest daughter of John Faulkner of Tattenhall." Burial records show that John Faulkner of Hoole, "son of William Faulkner, Farmer at Tattenhall," died 7 December 1802 at the age of 84 (therefore he was born in 1717/1718). (John and Simon may have been the sons of William Faulkner by an earlier wife who predated Catherine.) John's wife Hannah died of "malaise" and was buried almost 40 years earlier, on 27 May 1761. Simon Faulkner married a woman named Mary, with whom he had a son, William, in 1741 and a son Simon Jr., on 28 March 1751. "Catharin Faulkner" married Henry Williams in Tattenhall on 26 December 1754.

**WILL OF WILLIAM FAULKNER
of Tattenhall
1760**

*In the name of God. Amen. The 4 day of April 1760 according to the computation of the church of England, I William Faulkner of Tattenhall, in the county of Chester, Husbandman, being of perfect memory and remembrance, praised be god, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following: First I bequeath my Soul into the hands of Almighty god my Maker, hoping through the meritorious death and passion of Jesus Christ my only Savior and Redeemer, to receive free pardon and forgiveness of all my sins, and as for my body to be buried in Christian Burial at the discretion of my Executors hereafter nominated and as touching such worldly goods and Estate wherewith it hath pleased Almighty God to bless me with in this life, Do hereby divide, give, bequeath and dispose of the same, in manner and form following, First my mind and will is that my Debts funerall expenses be pd and discharged, Then I give and bequeath to **my daughter Rebekah** the sum of forty pounds. Then I give and bequeath to **my well beloved wife** [Catherine] that Tenement lying in Bruin Stapleford, with the remainder of what I am now possessed of during her life provided she keeps herself in my name. But if she Marys again then my will is that **my son Simon** shall have that Tenement in Stapleford aforesaid, yielding and paying to my wife yearly and every year during her natural life, the sum of twenty shillings, and **William Falkner, Simon's son**, if he survives his father, shall have the tenement at his fathers death; and all my goods and chattles, to be then dispos'd of by my executors and divided equally betwixt **my son John Falkner** and **my two Daughters, Katherine, and Rebekah**, but if my wife do not mary again, then my will is that she shall have a Discretinal power with all during her Life, and at her death all to be dispos'd of as aforesaid; and of this my last will and Testament, I do make and ordain Richard Bratherton of Tetton, and Henry Brobin; of Tattenhall, to be my Executors, and I do hereby revoke all former wills by or for me mention'd or made and Order this and no other to be my last will and Testament, in*

witness whereof Shall I herunto set my hand, and Soul, this day and year first above written.

Signed and seal'd in presence of us
John Howel Ralph Brobin William Faulkner

On the back is written:

1st Mar 1764

Richard Bretherton of Honny Brobin the Executors
writtin nam'd were sworn in comon form
before Abel Ward Jur.

William
Faulkner

Dec ^r 22.	Samuel Bromfield
	1767.
Jan: 28 th	Robert Thomason
Mar: 1 st	Ann Dodd, Widow
Mar: 27 th	Mary Crawford, Widow, from Pechforton.
Apr: 4 th	Joseph Ratcliff
April 15 th	Mary Fisher, Widow
June 28 th	Jane Rhodes, Widow
July 27 th	Catharine Falkner, Widow.
Oct: 7 th	Mary Johnson, Widow

Tattenhall Parish burial record for Catherine Faulkner,
Widow of William Faulkner, on 27 July 1767



Western Cheshire County, England, 1836
(Tattenhall to Tarvin = 5 miles)

Rebecca Faulkner (1734-1824)

The Tattenhall Bishop's transcript records show the baptism of John Willson's wife, Rebecca Faulkner, on 11 August 1734. She was the daughter of William and Catherine [Neild or Sheen?] Faulkner, husbandman (farmer), of Tattenhall. Her marriage with John Willson of Tattenhall is recorded in the Tattenhall parish Bishop's Transcripts as having taken place on 13 September 1767; she signed her marriage license with an "X," indicating that she was not literate. Together they had at least four sons (including our ancestor, the John Wilson who emigrated to America); the Tattenhall baptismal records do not speak of any daughters having been born to them.

Rebecca Faulkner Wilson, wife of John Willson and daughter of William and Catherine Faulkner of Tattenhall, outlived her husband by eight years and died at Tattenhall Lane (presumably at Squarehouse Farm) on 19 Oct 1824, at the age of 89 years (confirming she was born in 1734/5). She left no will that has survived.

John Willson's son John Wilson (who came to America) named one of his sons William Faulkner Wilson in honor of Rebecca's father, his maternal grandfather.

