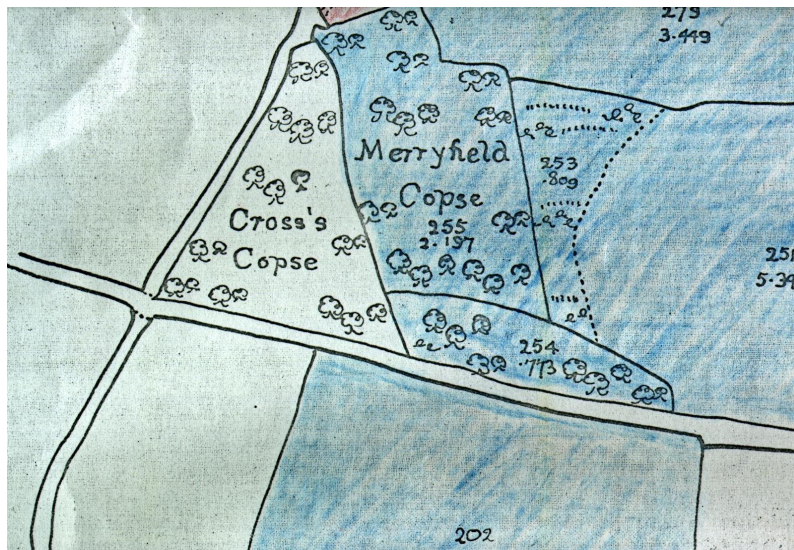


## The History of Moistown: Part 4 by Dr. Sylvia Warham c. February 2010

In Part 3 of the history of Moistown I looked at the wealthy Kelloway/Kayleway family and the evidence of their presence in Broadwoodkelly and the local area. In Part 4 I am going to focus on John Kayleway of Cullompton who owned Moistown in 1531.

John Kayleway was born in Broadwoodkelly around 1470. His parents were Hugh Kayleway and Jane. We know from the will of John Kayleway that amongst other properties in Broadwoodkelly, the family owned Woodcroft, Moistown, Alchedown and Hoggslan (Pipers Pool). It is most likely that the family lived at a property called Merryfield, which no longer exists. Merryfield was a part of Woodcroft (Broadwoodkelly Manor). Mr and Mrs. M Skinner kindly loaned me the ancient deeds of Broadwoodkelly Manor, showing Merryfield on the road to Corstone Cross. The deeds showed that the ancient name of this property was Calleytown. It is quite probable that the whole area of Woodcroft and Merryfield were all called Calleytown in ancient times because the surrounding fields are Kelly (or Calley) Downs.



**Calleytown**

We also know from records of ancient property disputes that the family owned Woodlands and that John Kayleway had a brother Thomas:

John, son and heir of Hugh Kayleway. v. John Colle, of Tawton: Detention of deeds relating to land in Broadwoodkelly.: Devon. . Chancery pleadings addressed to the Archbishop of Canterbury as Lord Chancellor [John Morton 1486-1493 or William Warham 1504- Date range: 1486-1515

Thomas, son and heir of [Hugh] Cayleway. v. John Collis: Detention of deeds relating to lands and tenements in Wodelond in the parish of Broadwood Kelly.: [Devon] . Chancery pleadings addressed to the Cardinal Archbishop of Canterbury as Lord Chancellor. Date range: 1493-1500.

### Records of ancient property disputes.

John Kayleway married Elizabeth. We do not know her second name, but there are speculations that she was called Elizabeth Slade. Sadly she died by 1512, and by 1518 John was married to Jane Tregarthen, a wealthy heiress.

Jane Tregarthyn was the daughter of John Tregarthan and Jane Trederuff (who was daughter of Sir John Trederuff and Elizabeth Courtney). John Tregarthyn pre-deceased his father, Thomas Tregarthyn, whose wife was Margaret Hendour (daughter of Richard Hendour and his wife, Katherine Chamberlayne). Thus, Joan and Margaret became heiresses of both their father, John, and their grandfather, Thomas Tregarthyn.

In 1512, around the date of Elizabeth's death, we know from the Cornwall Military Surveys that John Kayleway of Cullompton was appointed by Katherine Courtenay, Countess of Devon and others, to the office of Receiver & Surveyor of the lands of Edward Courtenay, late Earl of Devon in the counties of Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset and Berks. In the records of Cornwall we find John acting on behalf of Lady Courtenay, sometimes referred to as her "steward."

John was a 'Merchant of Staple' in Calais, that is he was a wool merchant and travelled between Devon and Callais. By 1524 we know from the Lay Subsidies (Tax records) that John was a very wealthy landowner. In fact, he was the third wealthiest landowner in Devon.

The Land Owner's Assessment, 1524/5, Cullompton:

John Kaylway	L 66 2/3
Henry Harward	L 1
Ann Wayulsshe	L 2
Henry Drewe	L 2
Nicholas Helman	L 1

**He was the third wealthiest landowner in Devon.**

John Kayleway died in 1530 and was buried in St. Andrews Church, Cullompton.

### **St. Andrews Church, Cullompton.**

Photograph by Lesley Haigh.



After the death of John Kayleway, his widow Joan, married John Wadham of Ilminster, Somerset and Edge at Branscombe, Devon. By Wadham, she had additional children, one being Nicholas Wadham, the founder of Wadham College, Oxford.

### **The tomb of Jane Tregarthen in Branscombe church.**

Photograph by Brian Willoughby

In Branscombe church there is a large monument to Jane Tregarthen, John Kayleway, John Whaddam and their fourteen children. John Kayleway is depicted on the left with his coat of arms and John Whaddam is on the right. The inscription on the tomb reads:



**Here lieth entombed the body of a virtuous and antient gentlewoman descended of the antient house of the Plantagenets, sometime of Cornwall, namely Joan one of the daughters of and heir unto John Tregarthen, in the County of Cornwall, Esq. She was first married unto John Kellaway, Esq., who had by her much issue. After his death she was married to John Wadham of Mayfied in the County of Somerset, Esq., and by him had several children. She lived a virtuous and godly life and died in an honourable old age September in the year of Christ 1583.**

In his will John Kayleway of Cullompton left Moistown to his son George who was only six at the time of his father's death. Sadly George died before reaching adulthood. In Part 5 I shall return to the story of Moistown and tell you what happened after George, the son of John of Kayleway of Cullompton died.