* *- EXAMPLE - -*

**A POSSIBLE PATHWAY BACK TO COWDEN**

**For**

**THOMAS AARON WICKENDEN**

An Annotated Ancestral Outline

Created by Thomas H. Wickenden II

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This outline proceeds backwards in time to describe a possible genealogical pathway toward an ancestor located in Cowden, Kent, England. From there, since information on individual Wickendens prior to 1600 is sparse, it is simply assumed that all Wickendens living in Cowden descended from the family that established the original Wicken den. Where there is uncertainty about which of several possible directions to follow, the number of possible ancestors at that generation is noted. The analysis and sources are then described in a numbered annotation.

Likelihood of an Ancestor - The analysis in this outline assumes that birth location is so important that it deserves to be weighted by contributing 60% to the total probability of 100%, while evidence of other factors such as identity of parents, structure of families, and migration either to or from the birth place contribute another 40% of the total. The probabilities are split across the possible ancestors, and the one with the highest total probability is selected as the most likely person to focus on at that point in the pathway. While other possibilities are also described here, the resulting line of ancestors is viewed as the pathway of most likely ancestors to Cowden.

Likelihood of a Pathway of Ancestors – The likelihood of a pathway can be defined, technically, as the product of the likelihood of each ancestor in the pathway. Intuitively, however, it seems more useful to provide a pathway consisting of those ancestors who are the most likely alternative at each generation in the genealogical line. This pathway of most likely ancestors may not be the same as the most likely pathway, since lesser likely ancestors may have an overall pathway that is more likely than that of a more likely ancestor. However, we would not choose a less-likely ancestor to follow just because the probability of the overall line is greater than that of the more-likely ancestor. In other words, the logic of a probable pathway proposed here is sequential, with the determination of likelihood taken one step at a time, rather than cumulative, either additive or multiplicative.

Pathway of Most Likely Ancestors - The following line should be understood, therefore, as a pathway of most-likely ancestors. The summary line is provided for convenience, with alternatives, analysis, and source references provided by way of footnotes.

**Summary of Most-Likely Ancestors**

**With Notes on Alternatives, Analysis and Sources**

1. Thomas Aaron Wickenden (b. August 5, 1978, in Ithaca, NY, USA)

+ Jennifer Brandel1

1. Thomas Howard Wickenden II (b: September 14, 1944, in New York City, NY, USA)

+ Beth Helene Wickenden

1. Thomas Clinton Wickenden (b: 1920)

+ Jean Dunn Wickenden

1. Thomas Howard Wickenden (b: 1888, in Toledo, Ohio, USA)

+ Dee Shuman Wickenden

1. Thomas Rogers Wickenden (b: February 7, 1853, in Rochester, Kent, UK)

+ Ida Consaul Wickenden

1. Thomas Wickenden (b: January 21, 1827, in Halling, Kent, UK; d: January 1, 1861 in Great Grimsby, Sussex, UK)

+ Charlotte Quaife Wickenden

1. Samuel Wickenden (b: December 2, 1798 in Rochester, England)

+ Eliza

1. James Wickenden (b: June 8, 1760 in Rochester, Kent, England)

+ Elizabeth

1. James Wickenden (b: February 21, 1727/1728 in Rainham, Kent, England) *80% confidence, with 3 known alternatives****2***
2. Ann Wickenden (b: 23 Dec 1706 in Edenbridge, Kent, England), *45% confidence, with 4 others3*
3. John Wickenden (b: 17 Sept 1689, in Tonbridge, Kent, England), *50% confidence and 2 others4*
4. John Wickenden (b: 20 Apr 1669 in Edenbridge, Kent, England), *55% confidence with 1 other5*
5. John Wickenden (b: 18 May 1645 in Cowden, Kent, England), *90% confidence with 1 other6*
6. John Wickenden (b: 13 Oct 1622 in Cowden, Kent England), *30% confidence with 5 others7*
7. William Wickenden (b: 16 Feb 1605 in Cowden, Kent, England), *51% confidence with 1 other8*
8. Thomas Wickenden (b:24 Apr 1586 in Cowden, Kent), *55% confidence, and 1 alternative.9*
9. Thomas Wickenden (b: 11 Feb 1570 in Cowden, Kent), *51% confidence, no known alternatives10*

Working this pathway backwards from a living Wickenden in 2020, it took 12 preceding generations of ancestors to reach Cowden. There are 4 more Wickendens in this pathway who also lived in Cowden. Even though we have been able to document 17 generations, covering nearly 450 years, this point in the pathway (1570) to Cowden is still an estimated 15 generations removed from the first recorded Wickenden in 1200 and another 24 generations removed from the likely establishment of the Wicken den in 600. There **are nine steps in the pathway at which there is uncertainty** concerning alternative ancestors, with at least **3+4+2+1+1+5+1+1 = 18** possible alternative ancestors. Of course, if all the possible alternatives within the pathways of each ancestor were identified, the number of possible pathways would be very much greater. The lowest probability at any step in the pathway of most-likely ancestors is 30% and the combined product of the probabilities in this line is **approximately 1%.**

**NOTES AND SOURCES**

1. GENERATION S # 1 – 8

SOURCE: The source of this information is the *Memoirs of Thomas Rogers Wickenden Family*, edited by Homer E. Wickenden and published by Arthur C. Wickenden (Cullen Printing Company, Oxford, OH), 1962.

2. GENERATION #9

1) JAMES WICKENTON (b: Bef. 1737 in Reading, Berkshire)

+ Susanna

LOCATION = Reading is 80 miles from Cowden and 60 miles from Rochester. The Thames river and major roads make travel by horseback over several days possible. It is not known what may have attracted the family to move initially to Berkshire and then back to Kent and settle in Strood. LIKELIHOOD = 7/75%

OTHER = Other factors include James’ parents, family and migration.

Parents = This James was baptized by John and Mary Wickenton. It is assumed here that the minor difference in spelling of the last name is not significant.

Families - Another James was baptized in the same church in 1738, the next year, by Robert and Ann Wickenton. They baptized a third James Wickenden in 1741, three years later. This suggests that the James baptized in 1738 must have died and the parents then gave their next boy the same name. Since both families were Wickentons, it is probable that the James born in 1737 may also have died or else there was some other reason why two related families would give their babies the same name at virtually the same time. LIKELIHOOD = 1/25**%.** TOTAL LIKELIHOOD = 8%

2) JAMES WICKENDEN (June 9, 1738 in Reading, Berkshire, England)

OTHER – See above for location and issues related to birth dates. LIKELIHOOD = 0%. TOTAL LIKELIHOOD = 0%

3) JAMES WICKENDEN (January 18, 1740/41 in Reading, Berkshire, England)

+ Susanna

OTHER – See above for location and issues related to birth dates. LIKEHOOD = 5%. TOTAL LIKELIHOOD = 12%

4) Unknown James Wickenden (b: abt 1735)

TOTAL LIKELIHOOD = 0%

***5)* JAMES WICKENDEN (b: February 21, 1727/28 in Rainham, Kent, England) - *NEW***

LOCATION – Rainham is 8 miles from Strood, where James married in 1756. LIKELIHOOD = 60/75%

OTHER – Other factors include James’ parents and family and their migration.

Age – James would have been 29 when he married, which is a bit on the old side, but not so old as to make him an unlikely candidate.

Parents - James is listed in the parish record as “base born son of Ann Wickenden”. She may be the Ann Wickenden who married Francis Taylor in 1730 (three years later) in Rainham and baptized another child in 1732, since there were no other Ann Wickendens in Rainham at that time except, perhaps, her mother, who was already married to Thomas Wickenden. James Wickenden may have kept his name and been raised in the Taylor family.

Family – There appears to have been at least one, extended Wickenden family who settled in Rainham for three generations.

1. *John and Sarah Wickenden* baptized 5 children between 1683 and 1692. Thomas, one of their children, was baptized 25 September 1684. Thomas would have been 30 or younger when his first child was born, a bit old but still feasible, especially if he had moved to Rainham from another village.

*2. Thomas and Ann Wickenden* baptized 4 children between 1714 and 1723. “Ann” is listed in the parish register as one of Thomas and Ann’s children, born in 1723, so James’ mother Ann was probably born to another Wickenden, perhaps before they came to Rainham and before they stopped having children. If she was born around 1712, this would make her 15 when James was born in 1727, perhaps too young to be married.

*3. Ann Wickenden and Francis Taylor* married in 1730. If Ann had been born around 1712, she would have been 18 when she married Francis.

Migration - After Ann and Francis had a child in 1732, there were no further parish records in Rainham of Wickenden marriages or births through the end of the 18th century, indicating that the family may have moved. LIKELIHOOD FACTOR = 20/25%. **TOTAL LIKELIHOOD = 80% This is the most likely Father of James (1760), Descendant #8.**

**SOURCE:** Medway City Council

Medway Archives Center

Parish Records

Archdeaconry of Rochester

* RAINHAM, ST. MARGARET OF ANTIOCH PARISH RECORDS
* **Reference**

P296

* **Date**

1517-1987

* **Level of description**

fonds

**Hierarchy browser**

* [RAINHAM, ST. MARGARET OF ANTIOCH PARISH RECORDS  
  fonds | P296  
  1517-1987](http://cityark.medway.gov.uk/Details/archive/110000468)

**[URL =]**

<https://cityark.medway.gov.uk/Details/archive/110007462>

* Composite register**: baptisms & burials, 1682-1812; marriages,1682-1753**
* **Reference**

P296/1/2

* **Date**

1682-1812

* **Level of description**

file

* **Extent**

1 volume

* **Scope and content**

Includes: • Latin note by vicar Thomas Craddock at front • burials of Cirill Tufton, Esq., June 1682 (See P296/1/1); Richard, Earl of Thanet, March 1683/4; Catherine, wife of Thomas, Earl of Thanet, August 1729; Mary, Countess of Thanet, August 1750; Wilbraham Tufton, brother to Earl of Thanet, November 1753 • burial of "stranger who died at the Cricketers [public house]", April 1809 • baptisms 1805-1812 are preceded by note that entries marked X have been received into the church • inventories of vestments, books and vessels, 1751, 1759 • note at back that £1 8s 0d was paid for this book, December 1682

* **Existence and location of copies**

Microfilm 114

* **Digitized version**

[P296-01-02(1).pdf](http://cityark.medway.gov.uk/wwwopacx/wwwopac.ashx?command=getcontent&server=files&value=P296-01-02(1).pdf)

[P296-01-02(2).pdf](http://cityark.medway.gov.uk/wwwopacx/wwwopac.ashx?command=getcontent&server=files&value=P296-01-02(2).pdf)

**Hierarchy browser**

* [RAINHAM, ST. MARGARET OF ANTIOCH PARISH RECORDS  
  fonds | P296  
  1517-1987](http://cityark.medway.gov.uk/Details/archive/110000468)
  + [INCUMBENT - Registers and services  
    series | P296/1  
    1592-1987](http://cityark.medway.gov.uk/Details/archive/110001789)
    - [Composite register: **baptisms and burials, 1682-1812**; **marriages, 1682-1753**file | P296/1/2  
      1682-1812](http://cityark.medway.gov.uk/Details/archive/110007462)

***TO EXPLORE FURTHER****: Baptisms - Where was Ann baptized and who was her father? When were her parents married and was Ann’s mother also young, perhaps setting a pattern and possibly explaining both why Ann had a child prior to marriage? When was Francis born, and was he also very young when Ann was born? If Ann and Francis Taylor moved with James Wickenden to Strood after 1732, were any additional children baptised there? Burials - Are there any burials documenting the move?*

3. GENERATION #10

1**) Ann Wickenden (b: Dec 23, 1706 in Edenbridge, Ss. Peter and Paul, Kent, England)**

LOCATION = Edenbridge is 36 miles from Rainham, so Francis and Ann may have moved there after James was born.

Family = Her father’s name was John. He may have moved back to Edenbridge, with his father, who was born and buried there.

Age = Ann would have been 21 when James was born.

SOURCE: Findmypast, Kent Baptisms,

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/kent-baptisms>

**LIKELIHOOD = 45% Most likely**

2) Anne Wickenden (b: 31 Oct 1691 in Cowden, Kent, England)

LOCATION = Cowden is 45 miles from Rainham. A bit far.

Age = would have been 36 when James was born and 39 when married. Too old.

Father = John

LIKELIHOOD = 5%

3) Anne Wickenden (b: 29 Aug 1696 in Cowden, Kent, England)

Age = would have been 21.

LOCATION = Cowden is a likely but a bit far.

Family = Father is John, but daughter’s name not spelled “Ann”

LIKELIHOOD = 30%

4) Anne Wickenden (b: 30 July 1696 in Hever, Kent, England)

Age = would have been 21.

LOCATION = 40 miles from Rainham.

Family = Father listed as William, but name not Ann. Generations of Williams in Hever would make pathway easier to find.

LIKELIHOOD = 20%

5) Ann Wickenden (b: abt 1700, location unknown, Kent England)

Age = abt 27 when James was born and 30 when married.

Family = Relative listed as John Brown in baptism record. Parental and locational uncertainty might suggest reasons for Ann to have a child before marriage.

Uncertainty about location and parents reduces likelihood.

LIKELIHOOD = 9%

SOURCES: IGI AND

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Kent History & Library Centre | | |
| **Archive reference** | | | P99/1/A/1 | | |
| **Register type** | | | Baptisms, marriages & burials | |
| **Year range** | | | 1566-1805 | |
| **Record set** | | | Kent Baptisms | |
| **Category** | | | Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records | |
| **Subcategory** | | | Parish Baptisms | |
| **Collections from** | | | England, Great Britain | |

**URL = https;//www.findmypast.co.uk/**

4. GENERATION #11

1) **John Wickenden (b: 17 September 1689, in Tonbridge, Kent, England)**

LOCATION = No John Wickendens in Edenbridge at this time. Tonbridge is 12 miles east from Edenbridge. LIKELIHOOD FACTOR = 40%

Age = This John would have been 17 if Ann was born in 1706.

Family = Father is also named John. LIKELIHOOD FACTOR =10%.

**TOTAL LIKELIHOOD = 50% Most Likely.**

SOURCE: Same as above for father’s name. IGI for birth date and location.

2) John Wickenden (b: 3 Dec 1692 in Cowden, Kent, England)

Age = Would only have been 14. Too young.

TOTAL LIKELIHOOD = 25%

3) John Wickenden (b: 18 Mar 1678 in Chiddingstone, Kent)

Age = would have been 28

LOCATION = Only 6 miles from Edenbridge.

Family = Father is John.

LIKELIHOOD = 25%

5. GENERATION #12

**1) John Wickenden (b: 20 Apr 1669 in Edenbridge, Kent, England)**

LOCATION: Same as above. = 25/75%

Family = Father is also named John.

Age in 1689 = 20

**TOTAL LIKELIHOOD = 55%** (Age ok and father named John, and he named his son John. Move to Edenbridge may explains John’s return with Family and burial**.) Most Likely**

2) John Wickenden (b: 22 May 1659 in Cowden, Kent, England)

Family: Father is named John.

Age = 30.

TOTAL LIKELIHOOD = 45% (Age a bit old.)

6. GENERATION #13

1) **John Wickenden (b: 18 May 1645 in Cowden, Kent, England)**

Age –24 in 1669

**Likelihood = 90%. Most Likely.**

2) John Wickenden (b: 24 May 1653 in Cowden, Kent England)

Age = 16 in 1669 – too young.

Likelihood = 10%

7. GENERATION #14

1) John Wickenden (b: 1609 in Cowden, Kent, England)

Location = most likely & same for all 6 John Wickendens living there at this time

Age in 1645 = 36 years old, a bit old

Father = Edward

Likelihood = 10%

2) **John Wickenden (b: 13 Oct 1622 in Cowden, Kent England)**.

Age = 23, the most likely age among the candidates

Father = William Wickenden.

Likelihood = 30%

**This is the most likely candidate for ancestor #14.**

3) John Wickenden (b:4 Dec 1625 in Cowden, Kent, England)

Age = 20, just a bit young

Father = Edwarde.

Likelihood = 20%

3) John Wickenden (b: 1626 in Cowden, Kent, England)

Age = 19, a bit young

Father = Edward

Likelihood = 11%

4) John Wickenden (b: 1627 in Cowden, Kent, England)

Age = 18, a bit young

Father = William

Likelihood = 10%

5) John Wickenden (b: 1628 in Cowden, Kent, England)

Age = 17, a bit young

Father = John, which would make him a slightly more likely father of John (1645)

Likelihood = 29%

8. GENERATION #15

1) **William Wickenden (b: 16 Feb 1605 in Cowden, Kent, England)**

AGE = William would have been 17 when John was born, a bit young but not disqualifying.

FAMILY = His residence is listed as Beechinwoode. Interestingly, wills and court records of the Lewisham Manor show that there were at least four Thomas Wickendens living in Cowden in the 1570’s: Thomas Wykenden de Cowden Streate (1558), Thomas Wickenden de Ludwells, Thomas Wickenden de Bechinwoode (1571), and Thomas Wickenden de la Hole (1589). The names describe the homes that these persons occupied and the fact clearly with all the Thomas Wickendens, this was one way of differentiating between them. It also suggests the lingering influence of the French language which began to influence the English following the Norman invasion and the Battle of Hastings in 1066.

**TOTAL LIKELIOOD = 51%. This is the most likely candidate for ancestor #15.**

2) William Wickenden (b: 17 Nov 1602 in Cowden, Kent, England)

Age = Would have been 20 when his son was born, perhaps more reasonable. However, without a father’s name, the path would have diverted to William Wickendens born around 1580, etc. This is really a toss-up, but my bias is to move toward the name Thomas, especially since we know that William is living in Beechinwoode farm.

TOTAL LIKELIHOOD = 49%.

9. GENERATION #16

1) **Thomas Wickenden (b: 24 April 1586 in Cowden, Kent, England)**

Families = no parents listed

Age = This Thomas would have been 19 when his son was born. Slightly more likely than **TOTAL LIKELIHOOD = perhaps 55%. This Thomas is the most likely 16th generation ancestor.**

2) Thomas Wickenden (b: 28 Oct 1576 in Cowden, Kent, England)

Age = 29 at birth of son.

Because of greater age of this Thomas Wickenden, his TOTAL LIKELIHOOD = 45%

10. GENERATION #17

1**) Thomas Wickenden (b: 11 Feb 1570 in Cowden, Kent, England)**

Age = Thomas’ age would have been 16 when his son was born. This is a bit young. However, assuming the father’s name was Thomas, no other Thomas Wickendens are recorded in the parish register before this date, although there very likely would have been others in Cowden at the time. If the 16th generation ancestor was born in 1576, this ancestor would have been 6, which is certainly disqualifying.

Family = Thomas parents are unknown. The assumption is that his father would have had the same name. Because of his young age and unknown link to Generation #16 of this Thomas Wickenden, his **TOTAL LIKELIHOOD = 51%. This is the most likely the 17th generation ancestor, given the records that are available.**

2) Unknown Thomas Wickendens

TOTAL LIKELIHOOD = 49%

There are no other Wickendens listed in the IGI as having Parish records before a Marie born in 1556.

No parents are listed for her. John Jesopp married Bridget Wickenden in 1557, and a Dorothy

Wickenden was baptized in 1558 without any parents listed. The next record is the birth of John

Wickenden in 1569 to a father named “Thomas” and then four Wickenden baptisms in addition to that

of Thomas listed as Generation #17. Therefore, at this time, while Wickendens probably moved to

Bechinwoode from Wickenden or a related home such as Clendene or Polefields, it appears like the trail

of recorded ancestors has ended.