

Joint Record Office, the Shakespeare Birthday Trust Records Office, the Coventry City Library and the College of Arms for their kind assistance and for meeting my importunate demands on their time. No less helpful were many individuals, too many in fact to mention by name. If I learned one thing at an early point in my researches it was the absolute necessity of joining one's family history society.

I discovered much more of past members of the family, especially about lines of descent of collateral branches, than it has been possible to include in this little monograph; to make their stories of any real interest to the reader would have entailed much more research into their work, places of abode and background, an almost unending task. Even about those I have written of I am sure more information is available somewhere, given the time and plenty of patience, but at least a start has been made and in the course of time someone else will take up the task.

Finally, in the writing of this story, I have tried to confine myself to the facts, avoiding too much speculation and imagination. And I have not followed the practice advocated by professional historians - and some amateurs - of quoting the documentary sources for every statement made. Footnotes distract the reader's attention from the narrative and a notes section at the end of a book is seldom read. Instead, I have referred in the text to sources only when I felt that this would be helpful to the reader.