

PREFACE

When I began to take an interest in my family's history my father had been dead for nearly thirty years and I wished I had listened more attentively when I was young to what he told me about his father and grandfather. All I knew about them was that they had lived in Coventry and were a clergyman and a silk ribbon manufacturer respectively, and that we had had three mayors of Coventry in our family in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. My initial researches got off to a bad start because of a serious gap in the records of Coventry parish registers due to their loss in the bombing of the city during the Second World War. However, I did have a piece of luck in discovering that my brother had extracted several entries from the registers before their destruction. But the major disadvantage to my researches was the fact I live in Wales whereas most of the records it was necessary to consult were either at the Warwick County Record Office or in the Lichfield Joint Record Office.

In spite of the last handicap I was extremely fortunate in finding, right from the start, a most knowledgeable and helpful record searcher in the person of Dr Christine Hodgetts of Warwick, and I owe her a deep debt of gratitude for all the help and encouragement she gave me. I take this opportunity also of thanking the Birmingham and Midland Society for Genealogy and Heraldry, the Warwickshire County Record Office, the Lichfield