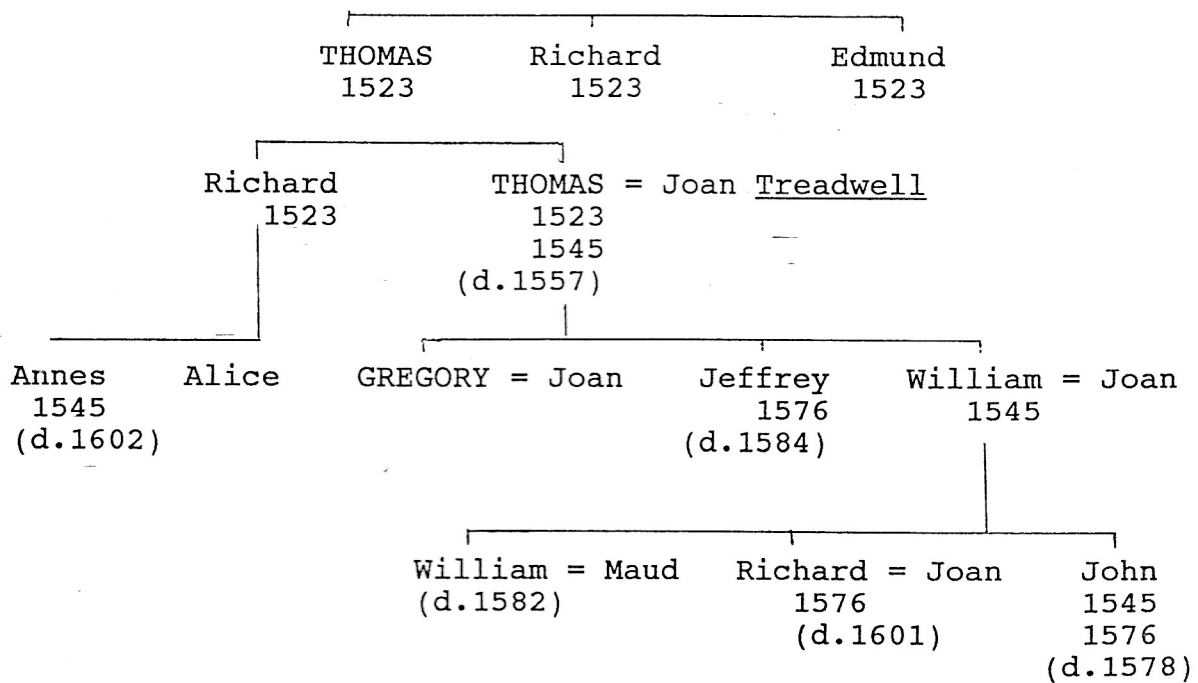


The names of the Sodens referred to as taxpayers make it possible to build up a short but tentative family tree for the period covered. This fits in all the names mentioned and supplements the lengthier one which starts with Thomas the younger who died in 1557, and it adds one further generation to it. The tree constructed, showing the date of the years in which each paid the tax, would therefore seem to be as follows:



It is difficult to ascertain precisely when the Sodens became freeholders owning their own land rather than customary tenants of the manor, Certainly Edmund Soden of Burdrop was a freeholder in the sixteenth century, for he was the plaintiff in a Chancery Court case at the end of the century concerning the inheritance of his land. He was described as a yeoman and holder of the tenements and yardland of The Place, together with the edifices and buildings, orchards, gardens, closes, woods, pastures and