

An unspoken story:

Of all of the legends, the folk lore and the facts, there is one true story that was so sensational, one that documented a most metamorphic event which must have shattered the security of the whole village as well as the Dering family.

It includes: a handsome peer of the realm inheriting his title at the age of 18, the death of his beloved mother in the year of his marriage, the death of a new wife within months of giving birth to his son (Chomeley Jnr), her burial in 3 (or more) coffins to preserve her body (and her ghost) a fight in a tavern, a fatal duel of honour, a 4 year old heir being orphaned, the heartbreak of a cancelled wedding day, an [Old Bailey](#) trial, outrage within the House of Commons, the contesting of a will and the disruption to Surrenden House, Pluckley which was pivotal to the villager's lives.

Yet, the story is untold.....

Surrounding the story is the turbulent political scene where Parliament was sacked no less than 4 times by the Crown, because it did not agree with funding the monarch or to go to war. It was a time of discord where Protestants battled with Catholics and the Crown battled Parliament for supreme power. In the lifetime of the 5 Derings mentioned here, England saw 7 monarchs, a rebellion which led to the beheading of one and the installation of a Lord Protector. Outbreaks of Plague hit London in 1603, 1636, 1665 and the Great Fire of London burned in 1666. The story unearths the [forgery](#) of [documents](#) to 'evidence' pedigree and retain the knighthood and Baronetcy, something that would not be identified for 200 years and long after the Baronetcy was extinct.

The heart of the story starts [here](#):

Family Background:

Anthony Dering 1558-1636

Noted to be a man very sufficient, discreet, of a fair living, trustable and understanding

1598 Became Lieutenant of the Tower of London

1601 He held a seat in Clitheroe

Edward Dering 1st Baron: 1624-1684



An antiquarian who collected old manuscripts. He curried favour with the Duke of Buckingham to access his circle at court. He was spendthrift and used extravagance to improve his image.

He married the sister of one of the duke's servants with the promise of her mother raising his image within Court and £1000 dowry.

1619 He paid for a knighthood: £200 who was now a contender for a seat in Parliament.

1627 Was made Gentleman-extraordinaire to King's Privy Chamber and this led to Baronetcy and access to all and any ancient records. He was tasked with overseeing 'Forced Loans'

1628 Was widowed. His finances were in parlous condition, he approached Elizabeth Bennett with a view to marriage but was refused and went on to marry another with a lesser, £2000 dowry.

1629 He became Lieutenant of Dover Castle where he discovered a copy of the **Magna Carta 1215/16/17/1225**

and a c1270 Roll of lineage dating back to King John's son, Stephen. Taking this roll, Dering fraudulently altered the document by scratching out the name 'Nic[holas] De C[ri]ol and replaced it with Ric[hard] De[ri]ng, thus evidencing a rich pedigree and securing his knighthood and baronetcy. He also forged the brasses within the church, 5 other rolls and 3 seals. The discontent raised by Charles I resulted in a divide between barons who were desperate to secure their position.

1631 He prosecuted his ex-mother-in-law for the unpaid dowry- failed

1640 He was excluded from the 'Long Parliament' for unwelcomed opinions. (Oliver Cromwell was a member). He fought for the King until his death, disgusted by the agreement reached with Catholic rebels in Ireland.

1644 Was pardoned by Parliament and died intestate and of a brain tumour

Edward Dering 2nd Baron 1625-1684



1644 He entered the Middle Temple in London (Law). Was 18 when his father died

1660 Was elected MP for Kent in the 'Convention Parliament' (known as the pensions parliament granted to the adherents of the King) and was one of the 6 commissioners for execution of the Irish 'Act of Settlement' (1662) under Queen Anne.

1670 Elected MP of East Petford in bi-election to 'Cavalier Parliament'

1679 Was appointed 'Commissioner of the Treasury'

1684 Died at 58 leaving 10 surviving (of 17) children

Edward Dering 3rd Baron 1650-1689



is Edward Dering, 2nd Baronet of Surrenden, Kent. He raised the 24th Regiment on 26th May 1689, and died at Dromedary, Ireland in September 1691.

1679-1681 was an MP in the 'Oxford Parliament'

1689 He was defeated as MP for hythe and went to Ireland where he fell ill and died.

Chomeley Dering 4th Baron 1679-1711 (pronounced 'Chumley')

Chomeley Dering 4th



Duel: 1700's



Surrenden House, Pluckley

Chomeley Dering was Master of 'Surrenden House' in the village of Pluckley Kent, owning most of the land in the area and employing many or all of the villagers.

1704 Chomeley's adored mother died in the same year of his marriage

1707 Wife, Mary Fisher dies (October) just months after delivering the heir to the Baronetcy. So saddened by this, he had her buried in 3 (possibly more) coffins to preserve her body. She is reported as haunting the house and churchyard with a rose she was buried with.

1707 The Act of the Union was passed bringing the Catholic Scotland to the union with protestant England. The 'October Club' was formed and Chomeley was a member at this difficult time.

1711 Plans for Chomeley Dering to remarry, Ann Dulaune on Whit Sunday, were in full swing and celebrations were drawing close. Ann, daughter of Gideon, a physician to James I was counting down the days.

1711 Chomeley Dering belonged to the [Board of Brothers](#), a parliamentary 'club' It was at this club meeting at a tavern in Hampton Court where the affray took place. Notably, Richard Thornhill was not a member.

1711 April: Sir Chomeley Dering had an altercation with Richard Thornhill in a tavern at Hampton Court. Thornhill was offensive to Dering's friend and after refusing to apologise a fight ensued where Thornhill was beaten to the ground and suffered loss of teeth. Thornhill laid down a gauntlet, [challenging](#) Dering to a duel of honour and provided Dering with a brace of pistols. The duel took place on [Tuttle Fields](#), London where Sir Chomeley Dering was shot and fatally wounded. He is buried in St Nicholas' Church, Pluckley, leaving his son and heir orphaned at the age of 4 years.

1711 May: Richard Thornhill was subsequently charged with murder and tried at the [Old Bailey](#) but found guilty of manslaughter. He was [branded](#) with the letter 'M' on his thumb as was the punishment of the time and this was administered before leaving the court. He was also sentenced to 'miscellaneous' which would have levied fines or loss of property and in that same year, [Richard Thornhill](#) is documented as having trustees sell his large country seat, [Ollantigh](#) in Wye, Kent.

1711 May: political colleagues who often spoke in the House of Commons presented a bill (12.5.1711) condemning the act of duelling. The last fatal duel was in 1845, some years after this.

1711 June: Ann Delaune argued that she was promised an allowance of £500 pa and that Chomeley had changed his will on the night before the duel. When the will was examined, it showed a previous codicil where Chomeley Dering had long since instructed the house, management and care of his son to be left to a cousin, Jane Tryer until the boy reached the age of 21. No other will or amendment was unearthed.

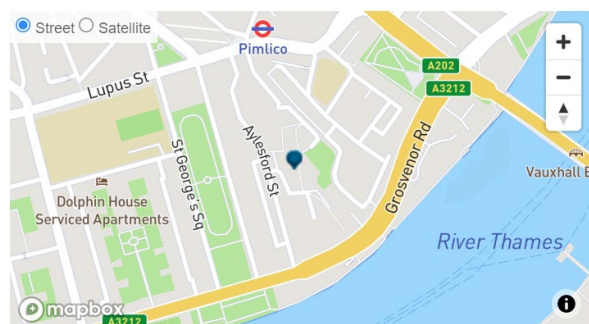
Tuttle Fields

Place

Categories: [Property](#)

The Tuttle Fields extended from Westminster to Chelsea.

[See other memorials in this area](#)



Richard Thornhill.

Killing: murder.

16th May 1711

Reference Number t17110516-39
Verdict [Guilty](#) > [manslaughter](#)
Sentence [Miscellaneous](#) > [branding](#)

Related Material  [Associated Records](#)

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[See original](#)



Richard Thornhill of St. Margaret's Westminster , was Indicted for the Murder of Sir Cholmley Deering , Baronet , by giving him one Mortal Wound under the Right Pan with a leaden Bullet dischar'd from a Pistol on the 9th instant of the Kings being then in Court proceeded to give judgment as follows

Received Sentence of Death 4.

Peter Cartwright , Josia Wilson , John Restow , and

Old Bailey Proceedings supplementary material. Mary Clift.

16th May 1711

Reference Number s17110516-1
Sentence [Death](#)

Actions [Cite this text](#) | [Print-friendly version](#) | [Report an error](#)

Mary Clift , a former Convict .

Burnt in the Hand, 15.

Ralph Walker , Sarah Roberts , Eliz. Stent , Eliz. Nichols , Mary Bordbanks , Anne Ward , Salter Herbert, William Frankling , Jacculina Mountague, Oliver Lemon , Jane Jenkins , Thomas Anderson , Henry Swift , Anne Britton , Richard Thornhill .

Petit Larcinies, 7.

Eliz. Mottishell , Joseph Bayley , John Beer , L - G - , Mary Story , Mary Stotter , Margaret White . Cecillia Gourdon , fined 6 s. 8 d. and to stand once in the Pillory.

Miscellaneous Punishments

- [Fines](#)
- [Forfeiture of Lands and Goods](#)
- [Military/Naval Duty](#)
- [Provide Sureties for Good Behaviour](#)
- [Other Miscellaneous](#)

Flogging at the Old Bailey, 1809,
from Walter Besant, **London in
the Eighteenth Century** (1902).
© University of Sheffield

Fines

In the late seventeenth and first half of the eighteenth century fines were used primarily for the punishment of misdemeanours. However, in 1779 a clause in the Penitentiary Act allowed a fine to be levied in lieu of branding. Thereafter fines were frequently used, often in conjunction with a term of imprisonment, for manslaughter, petty larceny, and simple grand larceny. Judges could vary the amount according to the severity of the offence and the status of both the victim and the convict. The amounts involved varied from less than a shilling to hundreds of pounds. Non-payment of fines led to incarceration in jail until the fine was paid.

Young offenders were sometimes fined and then sentenced to a period of imprisonment in the [London Refuge for the Destitute](#) which was, in effect, a juvenile reformatory. Interestingly, this was a covert procedure and thus was frequently not documented in the **Proceedings**. The short life narratives recorded in the minute books of the Refuge for the Destitute for individuals tried at the Old Bailey and sentenced in this way are reproduced here as a part of the [Associated Records](#).

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Forfeiture of Lands and Goods

Technically all those found guilty of a felony were required to forfeit all their goods to the crown. In practice, juries routinely reported (fictitiously) that the convict had 'no goods' and thus nothing to forfeit. Very occasionally (only in two trials during the entire period), however, judges explicitly sentenced convicted felons to forfeit goods and lands to the King.

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Military/Naval Duty



Ollantigh, Wye. Kent

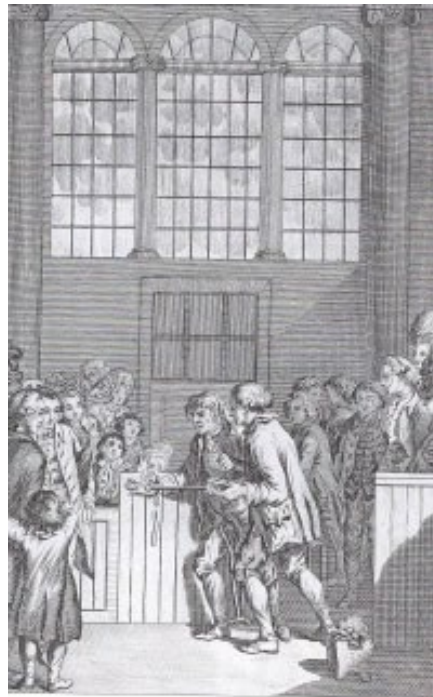
When Sir Thomas Kempe died c.1607 without male issue,^[4] Ollantigh was sold to Sir Timothy Thornhill. In 1679 [John Locke](#) spent some time at Ollantigh acting as doctor for Caleb Banks, then a guest there of Henry Thornhill (Father to Richard). In 1711, **Richard Thornhill, the grandson of Timothy Thornhill became hopelessly involved in drinking and gambling, and obtained Parliamentary permission to pass the estate to trustees, to be sold for payment of his debts.**^[5]

It is difficult to know when Richard Thornton died as there is no available information to support the date, however, there are stories that tell of Richard being attacked and killed shortly after the duel, by perpetrators that mention Dering's name at the point of death.

Richard Thornhill 1635-1734



Branding



Convicts who successfully pleaded benefit of clergy, and those found guilty of manslaughter instead of murder, were branded on the thumb (with a "T" for theft, "F" for felon, or "M" for murder), so that they would be unable to receive this benefit more than once. The branding took place in the courtroom at the end of the sessions in front of spectators. It is alleged that sometimes criminals convicted of petty theft, or who were able to bribe the executioner, had the branding iron applied when it was cold.

For a short time, between 1699 and January 1707, convicted thieves were branded on the cheek in order to increase the deterrent effect of the punishment, but this rendered convicts unemployable and in 1707 the practice reverted to branding on the thumb. It is possible to search separately to find those sentenced to be branded on the cheek.

Branding as a punishment for those receiving benefit of clergy ended in 1779. The last convict sentenced to branding at the Old Bailey received the sentence in 1789.

The Old Bailey Court Transcript

Richard Thornhill of St. Margaret's Westminster, was Indicted for the Murder of Sir Cholmeley Dering, Baronet, by giving him one Mortal Wound under the Right Pap with a leaden Bullet discharg'd from a Pistol, on the 9th instant, of which he soon after died. He was likewise Indicted upon the Coroner's Inquest for the Murder aforesaid. It appeared by the Evidence, that the Prisoner and the Deceased were at the Toy Tavern at Hampton Court with about 15 other Gentlemen, on the 27th of April: That there they dined very friendly together, but towards the Evening some Words happen'd between them. Upon which the Deceased struck the Prisoner in the Face, beat him down, and when he arose, his Lip was observ'd to be swell'd, and several of his Teeth out. A Drawer hearing a Noise, came up, and found the Prisoner and the Deceased against the Wainscoat of the Room, but immediately parted by the Gentlemen. After this they sat down, and seemed to be friendly again, but look'd a little disturb'd. This Evidence further depos'd, that as they sat together, the Prisoner said, Sir Cholmley, you know where to find me. Upon which Sir Cholmley reply'd, I know not where to find you; and then the Prisoner gave him the Lie. This Witness observed the Prisoner's Lip much swell'd before the giving the Lie, but saw not the Blows given. It further appear'd, that the Deceased seemed to beg the Prisoner's Pardon at that time; but the Prisoner told him, asking of Pardon was not Satisfaction for the Loss of his Teeth. As to the Fact: It appear'd that the Prisoner and the Deceased were seen in Tuttle Fields, about 12 Yards distance from one another, with Pistols in their Hands, that they advanced very boldly toward each other till they were within 4 Yards, and then fir'd at one another. That the Deceased dropt, and the Prisoner lifting up his Hands in token of Sorrow, willingly surrender'd himself, and offer'd one a Guinea, and another a Half-Guinea to go for a Surgeon. It further appear'd, that a Surgeon was sent for, who dress'd the Deceased's Wound upon the Spot, and sent him in a Chair to a Gardiner's House. He being ask'd by several of his Friends, as well as others, the Occasion of the Dewel, reply'd to this effect: That the Prisoner was a Man of Honour, and acted like a Gentleman; and desir'd his Friends to be spoke to, least one Misfortune should follow another, and that he heartily forgave him, &c. It further appear'd, that he said he was challeng'd, but gave no Account after what manner, whether by Word of Mouth or by Writing. Neither did it appear from him by whom he was challeng'd, but when his Papers were taken out of his Pocket, a Relation of his had receiv'd one, among the rest, (but from what hand he did not know) which he put into his Pocket, and read after the Deceased was dead, and found it to be a Challenge. It is as follows.

SIR,
May 8th, 1711.

I shall be able to go abroad tomorrow Morning, and desire you will give me a Meeting with your Sword and a Brace of Pistols, which I insist on. The worthy Gentleman who brings this will concert with you for the Time and Place. I think Tuttle Fields may do well. Hyde Park is at this time of Year full of Company. I am Your very Humble Servant, Richard Thornhill .

This Challenge being produced in Court, a Person of Honour, one of the Prisoner intimate Friends, who had seen his Hand frequently, being ask'd whether he believ'd it to be the Prisoner's Hand, reply'd, that according to the best of his Knowledge it was not, for he us'd to write in another sort of Character; but a Foot-boy belonging to the Prisoner having the Letter shewn to him, said he did believe it to be his Master's Writing, upon which it was read.

The Prisoner in his Defence produc'd Evidence, to prove how much he was abus'd by the Deceas'd; how that from the time of his Wounds given, he hath lain in inexpressible Pain and Anguish, so that he could take only Broth and small Beer, for almost a Fortnight, for his Sustenance, was thrown into a Fever, and his Life despair'd of, and his Jaw-bone at this time in great Danger of mortifying, and the Necessity of losing more of his Teeth. He further prov'd, that the Morning the Dewel was fought, the Deceas'd sought after him, came at 6 in the Morning to Kensington, where he formerly lodg'd, to enquire where he then lodg'd; that he came by 7 to his Lodging in a Hackney-Coach, with a Brace of Pistols in his Hands; went in, and run up Stairs, and was let into his Dining-Room. Upon which the Servant acquainted the Prisoner, that Sir Chelmley was there, that the Prisoner then got up, and ask'd him whether he would drink a Dish of Tea, or any small Beer, the Deceas'd chose the latter; and when he had drank, and the Prisoner was dress'd, they both went down and took the same Coach the Deceas'd came in, and went directly to the Place where they fought the Dewel; and as to the written Challenge, the Boy that swore to it, swore likewise, that he never saw him write in all his Life time, and so might possibly be mistaken. The Prisoner likewise produc'd a great Number of Witnesses, Men of Quality, that had been his intimate Friends and Acquaintance from a Boy; all which gave him the Character of a very kind, affable, and courteous Gentleman, never given to Quarrelling in the least: And on the contrary, produced Evidence, who prov'd the Deceas'd was unhappy that way; he likewise produc'd Evidence, who prov'd his Serviceableness to the Deceas'd in his Election for Member of Parliament, of his expending several Hundreds of Pounds in his Service, and procuring about 800 Votes for him; and that there had been an entire Friendship between them, till this sad Accident. After the Trial was over, the Jury went out; but return'd to be inform'd, whether there was two, or four Pistols mentioned by the Witnesses; and the Witness to the Fact being call'd up, depos'd, that there was four Pistols found in the Field: Upon which they

went out again; and in a little time return'd, and found him guilty of *Manslaughter* only.

The Board of Brothers 1709-14

Principally a dining- and drinking-club, founded by the Tory peers Beaufort, Denbigh and Scarsdale, the original title of this club was 'the Uncaptious Brothers'.¹⁰ Beaufort was its first president, and the social constituency from which the members were drawn very much reflects his influence, in terms of kinship, friendship, and locality. Other than a connexion with Beaufort, and the fact that all were Tories, the 'brothers' shared no identifiable common features. Certainly the evidence of the minute-book (Add. 49360) would not enable the historian to impute to this club any particular political motivation (for example, Jacobitism). The identity of the members has been established from the minute-book, and a list written in pencil on the *verso* of a parliamentary case dating from 1714 (Glos. RO, Beaufort, 100.5.2). Those mentioned in the minutes are marked with the symbol ‡, and dates of membership of the club given in brackets.

Sir Edmund Bacon, 6th Bt (1709-10)

James Barry, 4th Earl of Barrymore [I]‡ (1710-11)

Hon. Henry Bertie II‡ (1709-)

Richard Bulkeley, 4th Visct. Bulkeley of Cashell [I]‡ (1709-)

James Buller‡ (1709-)

John Hynde Cotton (1714-)

George Dashwood‡ (1712-)

Sir Cholmley Dering, 4th Bt‡ (1710-)

William Griffith‡ (1709-)

Richard Jones‡ (1709-)

Sir Charles Kemys, 4th Bt. (1714-)

Thomas Legh II‡ (1712-)

Clayton Milborne‡ (1709-10)

Thomas Millington‡ (1713-)

Sir George Parker, 2nd Bt.‡ (1709-)

Alexander Pendarves‡ (1710-)

William Pole‡ (1709-)

Thomas Strangways II‡ (1710-)

Sir John Walter, 3rd Bt.‡ (1709-)

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JOURNAL TO STELLA.

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to-day till three, and I went to dine with lord-treasurer, who dined abroad, so did the secretary, and I was left in the suds. 'Twas almost four, and I got to Sir Matthew Dudley, who had half dined. Thornhill, who killed Sir Cholmley Dering, was murdered by two men on Turnham Green last Monday night : as they stabbed him, they bid him remember Sir Cholmley Dering. They had quarrelled at Hampton Court, and followed and stabbed him on horseback. We have only a Grub-Street paper of it, but I believe it is true. I went myself through Turnham Green the same night, which was yesterday.

22. We have had terrible rains these two or three days. I intended to dine at lord treasurer's, but went

Edward Dering 3rd Baron, Chomeley's grand-father:

Medieval manuscript stays in UK

An 13th Century manuscript, thought to be the earliest surviving English roll of arms, is to stay in the UK.

The British Library paid £194,184 for the Dering Roll, which depicts the coats of arms of medieval knights from Kent and Sussex.

It was auctioned in December 2007 but culture Minister Margaret Hodge placed an export bar on the item.

The British Library said the document was a vital record for the study of knighthood in medieval England.

The painted roll of arms, which is about 2.6m (8.7ft) long, is thought to have been produced in Dover in the last quarter of the 13th Century.



The painted manuscript contains 324 coats-of-arms

It contains 324 coats-of-arms beginning with two of King John's illegitimate children, Richard Fitz Roy and William de Say. Above each shield is written the knight's name.

“ This is the oldest English heraldic manuscript known, and offers a fascinating insight into courtly life in the reign of Edward I ”

David Barrie

The 17th Century politician and Lieutenant of Dover Castle, Sir Edward Dering, erased a coat-of-arms on the roll and replaced it with one that bore the name of a fictional ancestor, Richard fitz Dering, in an attempt to forge his family history.

Claire Breay, of British Library, said: "The Dering Roll was identified as a priority acquisition for the British Library, and we are very pleased that we were able to secure the funding required to purchase the Roll and keep it in the UK.

"The acquisition of the Dering Roll provides an extremely rare chance to add a manuscript of enormous local and national significance which will greatly strengthen and complement its existing collection."

'Appealing work'

The British Library received a £100,000 National Heritage Memorial Fund grant, £40,000 from The Art Fund and £10,000 each from the Friends of the National Libraries and Friends of the British Library to help buy the item.

David Barrie, director of The Art Fund, said: "This is the oldest English

heraldic manuscript known, and offers a fascinating insight into courtly life in the reign of Edward I.

"It is also a very appealing work of art which probably arose from one man's attempt to prove the noble ancestry of his own family."

The manuscript is currently on display in the Sir John Ritblat Gallery: Treasures of the British Library.

Dering Roll c1270



12th Baronetcy extinct with no issue to inherit 1975

1975 [\[edit \]](#)

- [Blake of Langham](#) (cr. 8 October 1772), extinct with the death of the sixth baronet.
- [Charles of The Abbey Grange and Manchester Square](#) (cr. 20 March 1928), extinct with the death of the third baronet.
- [Dering of Surrenden Dering, Kent](#) (cr. 1 February 1626), extinct with the death of the twelfth baronet on 16 March 1975.
- [Hawkey of Woodford](#) (cr. 5 July 1945), extinct with the death of the second baronet.
- [Mappin of Thornbury](#) (cr. 27 August 1886), extinct with the death of the sixth baronet.
- [Verner of Verner's Bridge](#) (cr. 22 July 1846), extinct with the death of the sixth baronet on 27 March 1975.

Surrenden House burned down in 1952