

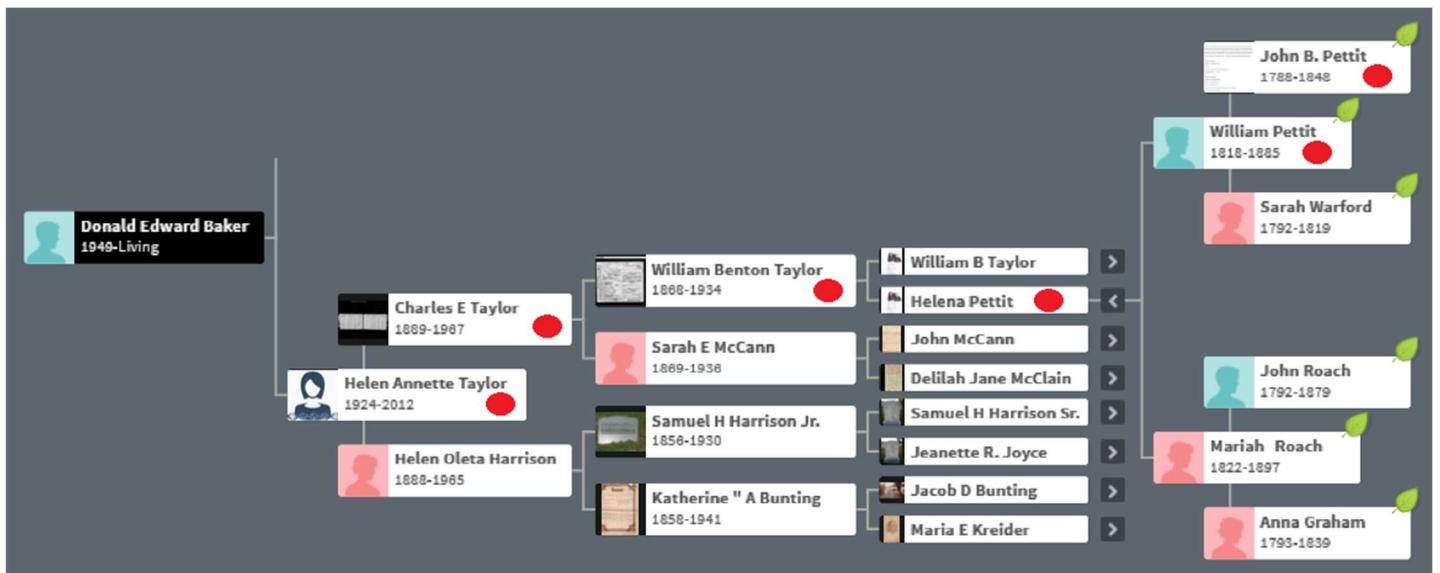
# Going Back on Don Baker's Pettit Line

By Burks Oakley II  
22 June 2020

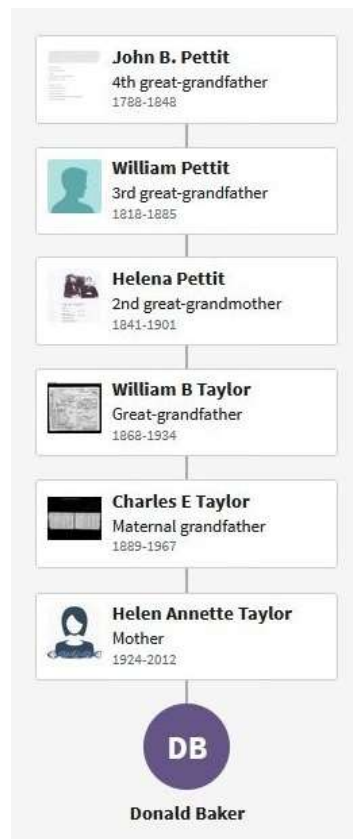
## Introduction

I have been helping my cousin Don Baker with his DNA and family tree on the Ancestry.com website. Recently, I have been looking at Don's ancestors on the Geni.com website, and I have enjoyed learning about his ancestral lines that go way back into the past. For no good reason, I decided to look at Don's Pettit line and see what I could learn.

Here is the part of Don's maternal pedigree that shows his Pettit ancestry:



The red ovals represent the line with Pettit DNA. The Pettit line in this chart goes back to Don's fourth-great grandfather, John B. Pettit (1788-1848). Here is another diagram showing just the Pettit line:



## Going Back on Don's Pettit Line

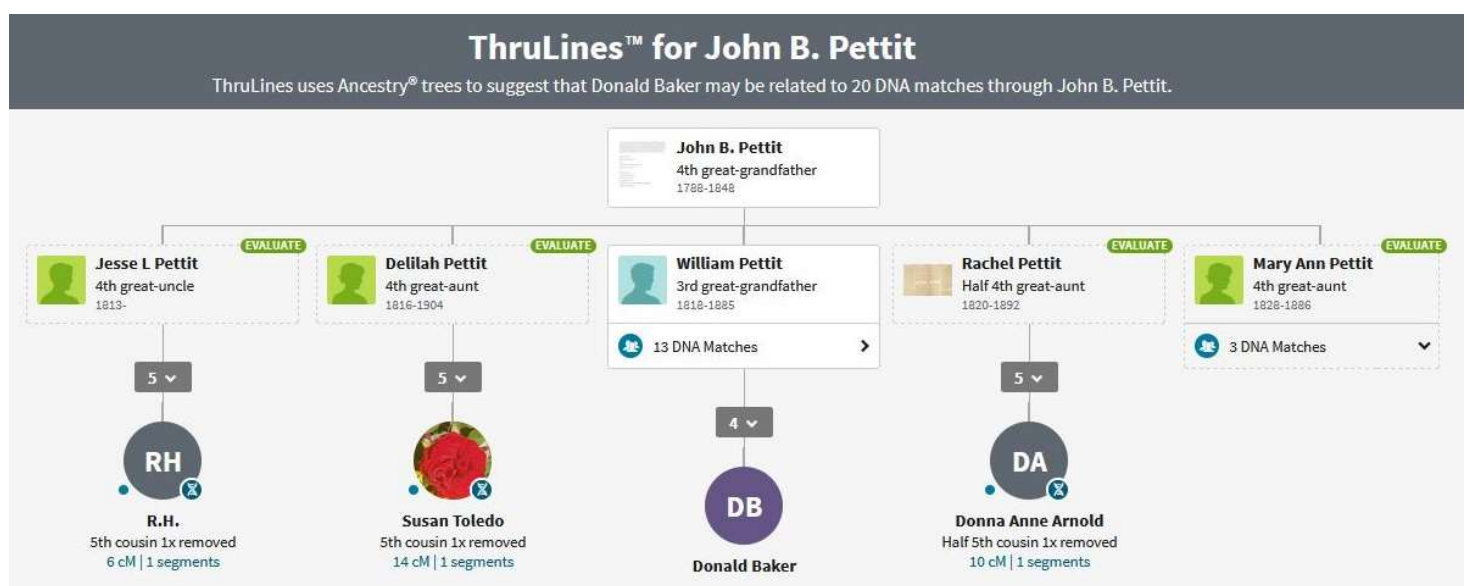
Let me first focus on Don's fourth-great grandfather John B. Pettit (1788-1848). Here is his entry from Don's family tree:



**John B. Pettit**  
BIRTH 02 FEB 1788 • Greene, Greene, Pennsylvania, United States  
DEATH 7 MAR 1848 • Wayne, Greene, Pennsylvania, United States

It appears that he lived his entire life in Greene County, Pennsylvania – which is in the far southwestern corner of Pennsylvania, very close to West Virginia.

Here is Don's ThruLines™ chart for John B. Pettit:



This chart shows that Don has DNA matches with twenty descendants of John B. Pettit. These lines connect back to John B. Pettit through his children Jesse, Delilah, William (Don's line), Rachel, and Mary Ann. These DNA matches provide pretty strong support for Don's ancestral line back to John B. Pettit.

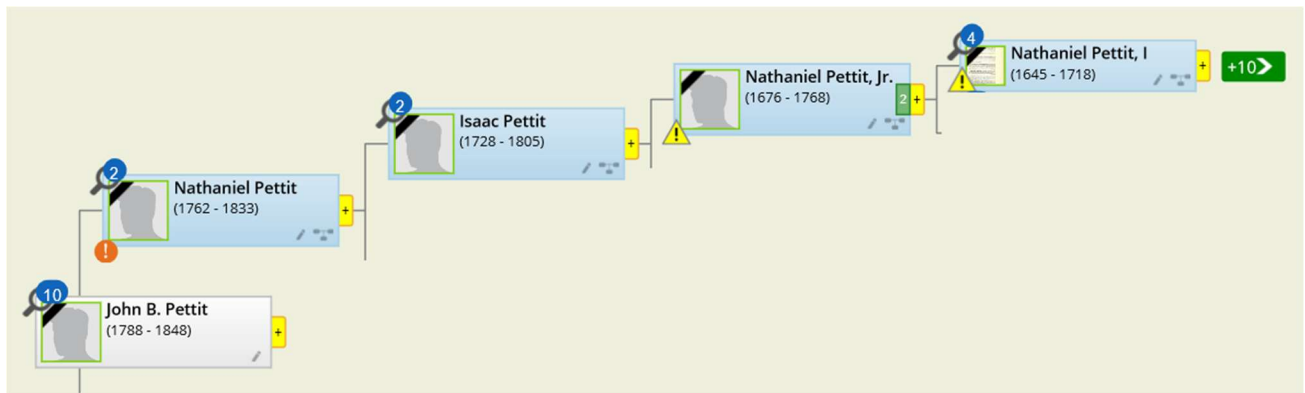
I next looked to see if there was an entry for John B. Pettit on Geni.com – and there was! Here is his listing:



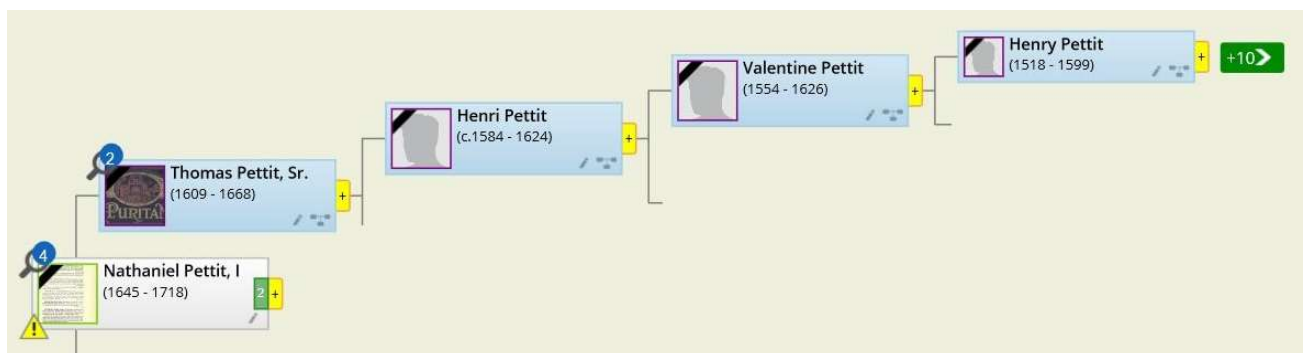
**John B. Pettit** 🌐

Gender: Male  
Birth: February 02, 1788  
Amwell Twp., Washington, PA, United States  
Death: March 02, 1848 (60)  
Wayne Twp., Greene, PA, United States  
Immediate Family: Son of Nathaniel Pettit and Sarah Fonner  
Husband of Helena Stegner and Sarah B. Warford  
Father of Helena Pettit; Mathias Pettit; Silas Pettit; Lydia Pettit; Jesse L. Pettit; Delilah Pettit; Martha Pettit; Rachel Pettit; William Pettit; Mary Ann Pettit; Benjamin D. Pettit and Nancy Pettit « less  
Brother of Sarah Pettit; Nathaniel Pettit; Rebecca Pettit; Elizabeth Pettit; Isaac B. Pettit and 9 others

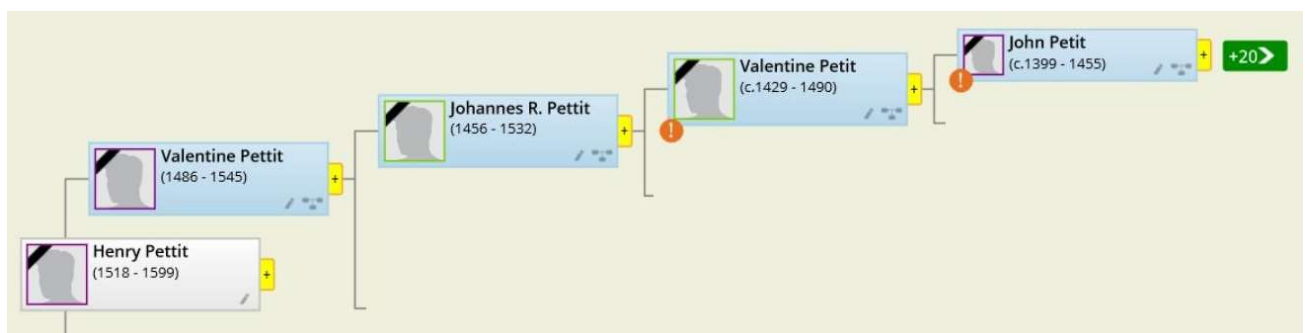
I then went on to look at the Pettit line on Geni.com going back from John B. Pettit. Here are his first four Pettit ancestors:



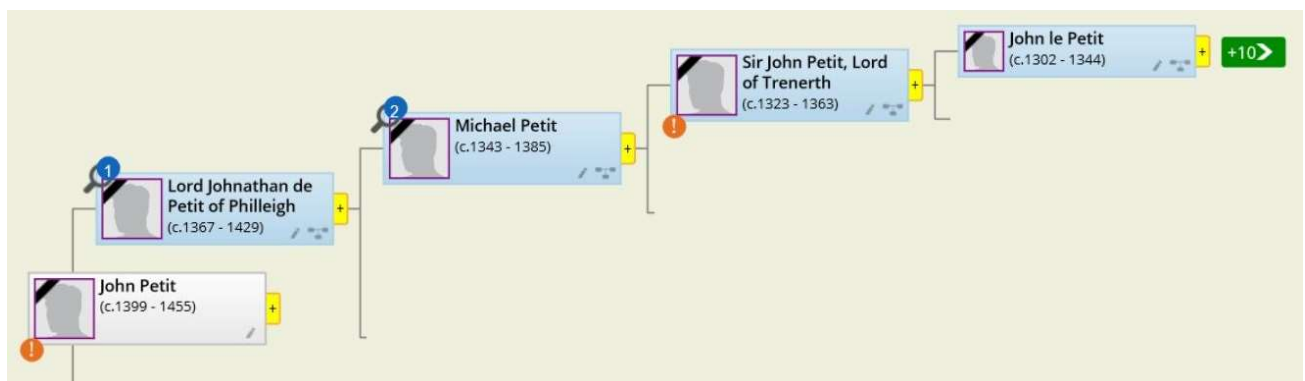
Here are the next four:



Here are the next four:



And here are the last four (although there still are more after that):



Note that "John Pettit" is a very popular name in this family. The last ancestor in the Pettit line shown above is John le Petit (1302-1344). Here is his entry on Geni.com:

**John le Petit** 

Gender: Male

Birth: circa 1302  
Ardevora, Philleigh, Cornwall, England

Death: 1344 (37-47)  
Cornwall, England, United Kingdom

Immediate Family: Son of [John le Petit](#) and [Laure unknown](#)  
Husband of [Isabella Heligan](#)  
Father of [Sir John Petit, Lord of Trenerth](#)

John le Petit lived in Cornwall, which features prominently in the Petit/Pettit family. Read on!

If you weren't keeping track, it turns out that John le Petit was John B. Pettit's fourteenth-great grandfather:



I believe that means John le Petit was Don's twentieth-great grandfather. It's pretty cool to be able to go that far back into the past.

Geni.com has a feature whereby a user can specify which person in the "world family tree" is used for referencing relationships. In the chart above, I had set the reference person to be John B. Pettit, and the software calculated that John le Petit was John B. Pettit's fourteenth-great grandfather.

When I reset the reference person to be myself, I was surprised to find that John le Petit is my twentieth-great grandfather:



I have to admit that this is a line that I hadn't seen previously – although I have the line back to Mary Denis (1587-1640) in my family tree on Ancestry.com.

It is amazing to have yet another direct connection to my cousin Don Baker!

It turns out that my connection to Don's Pettit line is John Pettit (1399-1455), who was my sixteenth-great grandfather:



Since Don and I share this John Petit (1399-1455) as our common ancestor,<sup>1</sup> our pedigrees are identical for John Petit's ancestors.

Let me now go back as far as possible on the Petit line.

**Otes Petit, Knight** MP

Gender: Male

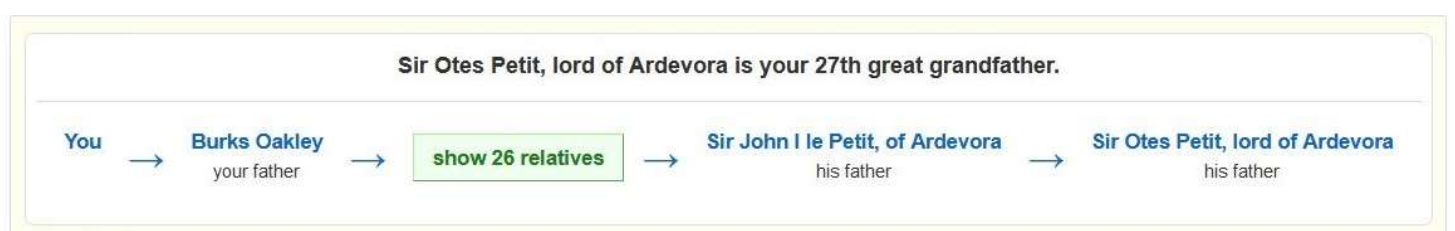
Birth: circa 1130  
Ardevora or Philleigh, Cornwall, England (United Kingdom)

Death: Ardevora, Cornwall, England

Immediate Family: Husband of Elizabeth fitz Ive  
Father of Sir John I le Petit, of Ardevora

<https://www.geni.com/people/Sir-Otes-Petit-lord-of-Ardevora/6000000009440940046>

Otes Petit (born 1130) was John B. Pettit's twenty-first-great grandfather. Of course, he was my twenty-seventh-great grandfather:



Note that Otes Petit was a knight, and he lived in Ardevora/Philleigh, which is an area of Cornwall in far southwestern England. Recall that John le Petit also lived there – and John le Petit was a fifth-great grandson of Sir Otes Petit.

Here is a Google Map showing the location of Philleigh:

<sup>1</sup> I believe that everyone has 262,144 people at the level of a 16<sup>th</sup>-great grandparent, so finding a common ancestor at this level should not come as a complete surprise.



After the Norman Conquest in 1066 and the years following, a Norman family called Pettit acquired extensive lands in Cornwall, including Ardevora. And the Pettit family then lived there for generations. Here is a map showing all of Cornwall County, in the very southwest-most part of England:



Land's End is located at the western-most point of the Cornwall peninsula:



But I digress....

Don's ancestors in the Pettit family in Cornwall include Sir Roger De Prideaux (1230-1297). Sir Roger was John B. Pettit's sixteenth-great grandfather:



<https://www.geni.com/people/Sir-Roger-De-Prideaux/6000000008260576827>

The Prideaux family appear to be quite prominent, first in Cornwall, then in Devon. Sir Roger was a knight and a member of Parliament.

There was a Prideaux Castle, which dates back to the Iron Age.

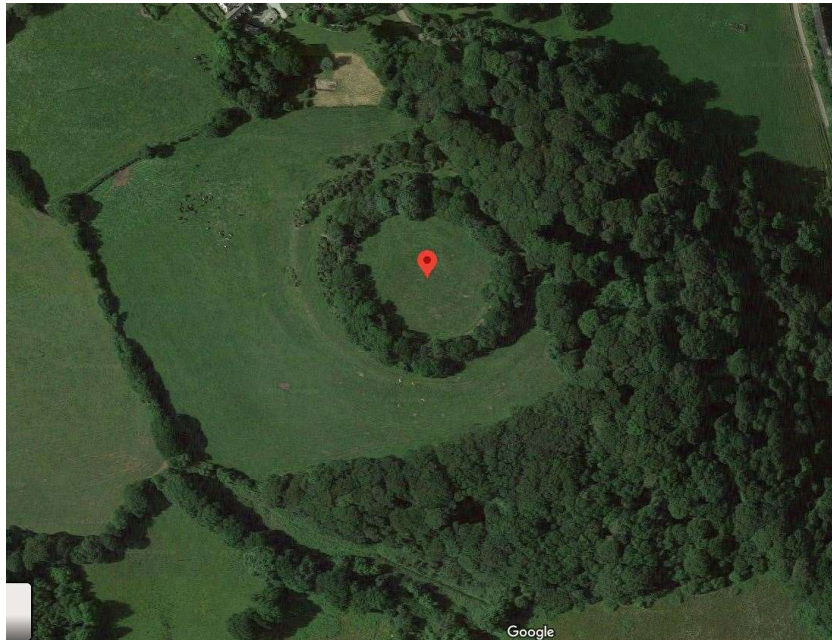
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prideaux\\_Castle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prideaux_Castle)

Prideaux Castle is a multivallate Iron Age hillfort situated atop a 133 m (435 ft) high conical hill near the southern boundary of the parish of Luxulyan, Cornwall, England, United Kingdom. It is also sometimes referred to as Prideaux Warren, Prideaux War-Ring, or Prideaux Hillfort.

In case you are wondering, a hillfort is a type of earthworks used as a fortified refuge or defended settlement, located to exploit a rise in elevation for defensive advantage. They are typically European and of the Bronze and Iron Ages. The fortification usually follows the contours of a hill, consisting of one or more lines of earthworks, with stockades or defensive walls, and external ditches.

Multivallate – Surrounded by two or more ramparts forming multiple lines of defense. In fact, the Prideaux Castle was a quadrivallate Iron Age hillfort.

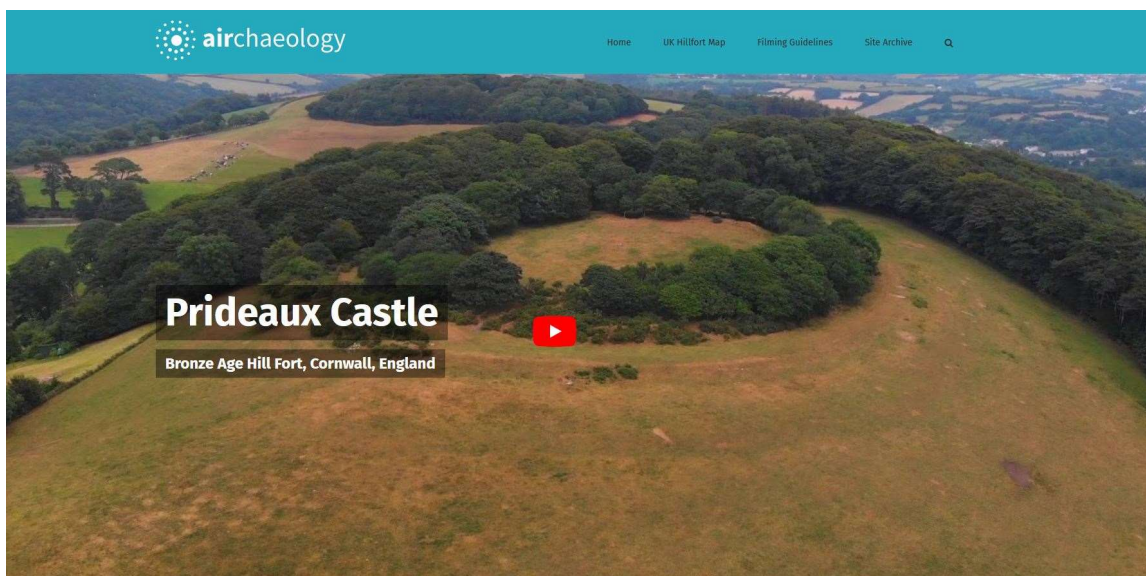
Here is a satellite view of the remnants of Prideaux Castle:



Coordinates: 50.3689°N 4.7305°W

There is a great website with drone videos of Prideaux Castle – see:

<https://www.airchaeology.org/2018/07/31/prideaux-castle/>



There also is a grand country house in Cornwall called Prideaux Place.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prideaux\\_Place](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prideaux_Place)

### Prideaux Place

Prideaux Place is a grade I listed Elizabethan country house in the parish of Padstow, Cornwall, England. It has been the home of the Prideaux family for over 400 years. The house was built in 1592 by Sir Nicholas Prideaux (1550–1627), a distinguished lawyer, and was enlarged and modified by successive generations, most notably by his great-great-grandson Edmund Prideaux (1693–1745) and by the latter's grandson Rev. Charles Prideaux-Brune (1760–1833). The present building, containing 81 rooms, combines the traditional E-shape of Elizabethan architecture with the 18th-century exuberance of Horace Walpole's Strawberry Hill Gothic. [I note that Sir Roger De Prideaux was the sixth-great grandfather of the original builder of the house, Sir Nicholas Prideaux.]




The house contains a fine collection of works of art, including royal and family portraits, fine furniture and the Prideaux Porcelain Collection. The recently uncovered ceiling in the Great Chamber is a masterpiece of the art of the Elizabethan plasterer. In 1968 the estate comprised about 3,500 acres, excluding the St. Breock estate situated about ten miles away, also in the family's ownership, inherited from the Viell family in the 17th century. The deer park is one of the most ancient in England, containing in 1968 about 100 fallow deer, increased from only about six in 1946 following World War II.



Prideaux Place in Cornwall

I could spend hours looking at all of Don's ancient English ancestors on this line (of course, many of them are my ancestors, as well). But let me now change gears and jump forward to the Pettit who immigrated to America. That was a man named Thomas Pettit Sr. (1609-1688).



**Thomas Pettit, Sr.** MP

Gender: Male

Birth: June 1609  
Saffron Walden, Essex, England (United Kingdom)

Death: October 1668 (59)  
Newtown, Long Island, New York

Place of Burial: Newtown, Long Island, NY, USA

Immediate Family: Son of [Henri Pettit](#) and [Ann Byet](#)  
Husband of [Christian Mellowes?](#)  
Father of [Thomas Pettit, II](#); [Joseph Pettit, Sr.](#); [Mary Pettit](#); [Elizabeth Pettit](#); [John Pettit](#) and 4 others  
Half brother of [John Pettit](#) and [Anne Pettit](#)

<https://www.geni.com/people/Thomas-Pettit-Sr/6000000007380235204>

Thomas Pettit Sr. was a Puritan, and he immigrated to America with his pregnant wife in 1630 on the ship *Talbot*; this was part of the first wave of the Puritan Great Migration. The *Talbot* was part of the Winthrop Fleet, a group of eleven ships led by John Winthrop out of a total of sixteen funded by the Massachusetts Bay Company. The Winthrop Fleet carried between 700 and 1,000 Puritans plus

livestock and provisions from England to New England over the summer of 1630. Thomas' wife had their firstborn child, Thomas Pettit II, on 25 June 1630 on the *Talbot* in Salem Harbor, before the ship proceeded to Charlestown.

There is a great history of Thomas Pettit on the Geni.com website. Here is a synopsis:

Thomas Pettit married Christian Mellowes in County Essex, England, in November 1629, five months before they sailed on the ship *Talbot*, which left England in March 1630 and after three months at sea landed at Charlestown (Cambridge), Massachusetts, on 2 July 1630, twenty days after the flagship *Arabella* landed at Salem, Massachusetts.

Consistently a non-conformist, Puritan Thomas Pettit in 1637 sided with Mrs. Anne Hutchinson in her controversy with Massachusetts Bay Colony. During the trial, he was arrested on suspicion of slander, insubordination and inciting to riot. He was convicted and sentenced to jail, but was later released with others upon agreement that they would all leave Massachusetts Bay Colony within ten days. Thomas went with Rev. John Wheelwright to the Falls of Piscataqua in New Hampshire, where a tract was obtained from the natives and they founded the town of Exeter. When the Duke of York granted all of the land surrounding the settlement of Exeter to Massachusetts Bay Colony, it became economically necessary that Exeter be reinstated with the Bay Colony. At that time, Thomas Pettit sold his property and in 1655 moved to Long Island with others where they were given permission to settle. The new settlement was called Newtown. This actually is modern-day Queens, although it was houses and farm fields in the 1600's.

The Massachusetts state Capitol building stands on the house plot of Thomas Pettit on the Boston Commons.



A map of Newtown.

I think I've done enough for now on Don Baker's Pettit line. Quite amazing stories! And I'm sure that I could spend days more looking into this family.

### *Summary*

In this rather lengthy narrative, I discussed my cousin Don Baker's Pettit line. Don's second-great grandmother was Helena Pettit (1841-1901), and her paternal grandfather was John B. Pettit (1788-1848).

Don has DNA matches with twenty descendants of John B. Pettit, and this DNA evidence provides strong support for the genealogical line.

There was an existing entry for John B. Pettit on Geni.com, and I was able to track Don's Pettit line back to Otes Petit (born 1130), who was John B. Pettit's twenty-first-great grandfather.

In examining this Pettit line, I learned that Don and I both are descended from John Petit (1399-1455). This man was my sixteenth-great grandfather. Since we have this man as our common ancestor, our pedigrees are identical for John Petit's ancestors.

I presented details about some interesting people on the Pettit line. This family lived for generations in the same area of Cornwall, England.

Finally, I discussed Thomas Pettit Sr. (1609-1688), who immigrated with his wife to Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1630 as part of the Puritan Great Migration. After some difficulty with the Massachusetts Bay Colony, he and others moved to New Hampshire, where they founded the town of Exeter. In 1655, he moved his family to Long Island and settled in Newtown, which is part of the present-day Queens.

## Appendix A: Sir William Godolphin – My Eleventh-Great Grandfather

On my line back to John Pettit (1399-1455), I saw several interesting ancestors that were completely new to me. One was Sir William Goldophin – my eleventh-great grandfather:



Here is part of the Wikipedia article about him:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Godolphin\\_\(1515–1570\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Godolphin_(1515–1570))

Sir William Godolphin MP (1515–1570) was a 16th-century English soldier, knight, politician, and Member of Parliament (MP), whose career has been so confused with that of his father and namesake Sir William Godolphin that it is sometimes difficult to be sure which of the two held which offices. The father was Member for Cornwall and High Sheriff during the reign of Henry VIII; the son worked closely with Thomas Cromwell as a young man, and with the help of Cromwell’s support was elected MP for Cornwall in 1539.

After Cromwell’s fall, Godolphin acquired a considerable military reputation. He seems to have been drafted into the army command as an engineer, drawing on his knowledge of tin mining (which was the main source of his family’s income in Cornwall). His most important contribution was at the Siege of Boulogne. Richard Carew in his Survey of Cornwall saying of him “He demeaned himself very valiantly beyond seas, as appeared by the scars he brought home, no less to the beautifying of his fame, than the disfiguring of his face”. After the capture of Boulogne, he was made its bailiff in recognition of the part he played in the victory, and also knighted. He was a member of the Council of Regency from 1547 to 1551, High Sheriff of Cornwall in 1549–50 and 1568–9, and its MP once more in 1553. He was also a Vice-Warden of Stannaries,<sup>2</sup> and Custos Rotulorum<sup>3</sup> of Cornwall from 1562 until his death in 1570.

Sir William married Blanch Langdon and had three daughters, but leaving no male issue, his estates passed to his nephew, Sir Francis Godolphin (1540–1608).

<sup>2</sup> The Lord Warden of the Stannaries (from Latin: stannum for Tin, Sn) used to exercise judicial and military functions in Cornwall, England, and is still the official who, upon the commission of the monarch or Duke of Cornwall for the time being, has the function of calling a stannary parliament of tanners. Sir Walter Raleigh was a Lord Warden of the Stannaries in 1585.

<sup>3</sup> The Custos Rotulorum is the keeper of an English, Welsh and Northern Irish county’s records and, by virtue of that office, the highest civil officer in the county.

## Appendix B: Capt. George Lamberton

I wasn't at all familiar with my line back to John Petit (the ancestor that Don and I have in common):



I knew the line back to Mary Denis, but I had never looked into it in detail. Mary's son was Capt. George Lamberton, and he was my eighth-great grandfather. Here is his entry on Geni.com:



**George Lamberton** MP

Gender: Male

Birth: 1604  
St. Mary's Whitechapel, London, Middlesex, England

Death: 1646 (41-42)  
North Atlantic Ocean (Lost at sea aboard the ship "Fellowship", immortalized by Longfellow in his poem "Phantom Ship".)

Immediate Family: Son of [Christopher Lamberton](#) and [Mary Denis](#)  
Husband of [Mercy Lamborten](#) and [Margaret Lewen](#)  
Father of [Patience Lamberton](#); [Elizabeth Lamberton](#); [Hannah Lamberton](#); [Hope Lamberton](#); [Deliverance Lamberton](#) and 3 others

<https://www.geni.com/people/Capt-George-Lamberton/6000000002975671995>

Oh my! This entry states:

Death: 1646 (41-42) North Atlantic Ocean (Lost at sea aboard the ship "Fellowship", immortalized by Longfellow in his poem "Phantom Ship".)

Wow! This is all new to me – having an ancestor who was a ship's captain be lost at sea in 1646.

I Googled him and the Longfellow poem to see what I could find about this. I found this incredibly interesting story at:

<https://www.scrapbookyourfamilytree.com/category/isaacs-story/the-story-of-george-lamberton-the-phantom-ship/>

George Lamberton was probably like many other men in his day and age – born in England around 1604 – a merchant gentleman, a business man, a sea captain, a husband (he married Margaret Lewen on 6 January 1628/29 in St. Mary's Whitechapel, London, England) and father (7 children- Elizabeth, Hannah, Hope, Deliverance, Mercy, Desire and Obedience).

For reasons I can only imagine, he moved his family to a new land – like many thousands during his time. He carved out a new life for himself and

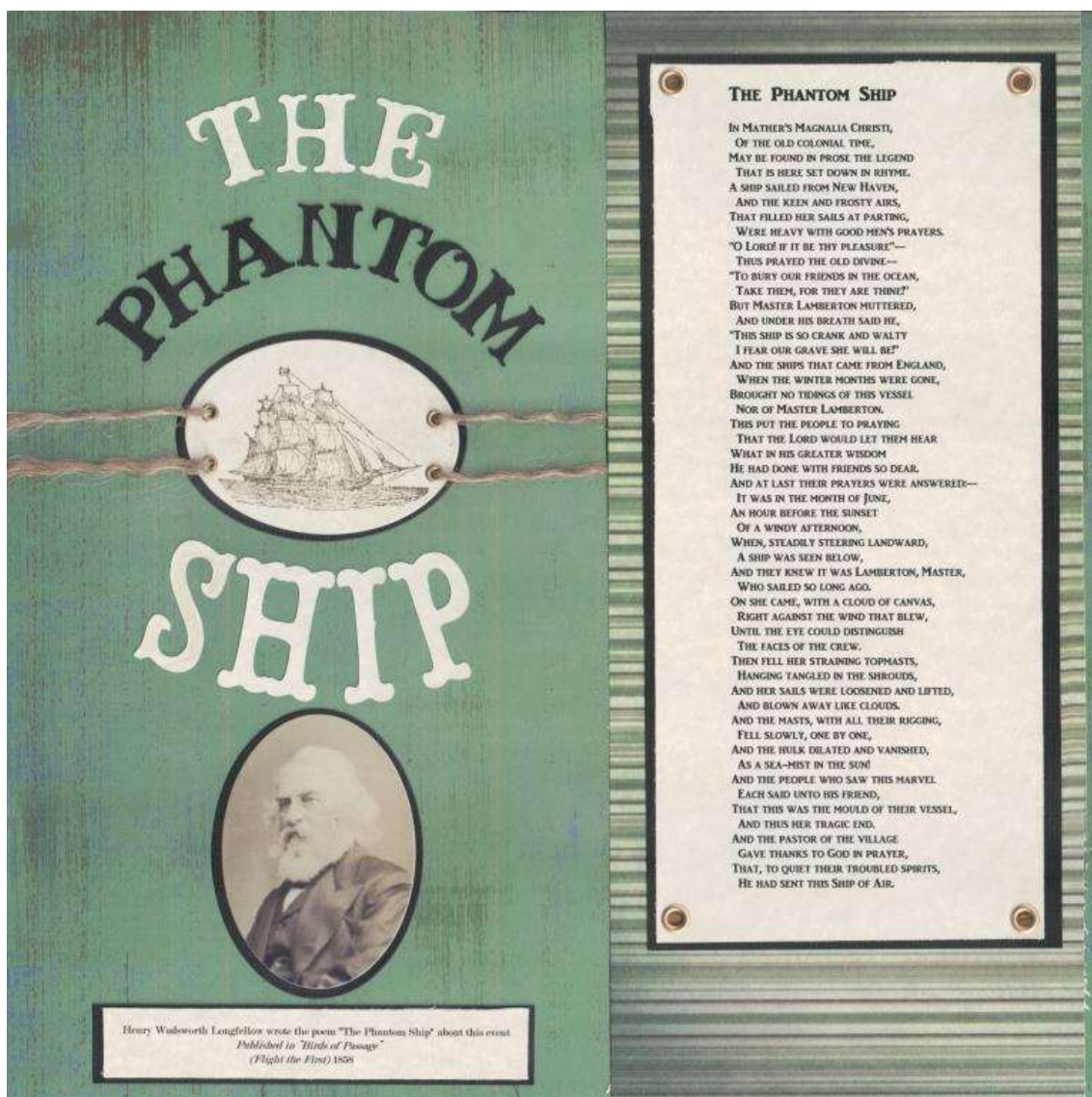
his family – he was one of the original founders of the Colony of New Haven and was allotted land in block 7 and owned over 266 acres.

He made a profitable voyage to Delaware Bay where he traded furs with the Indians. When the Delaware Company was formed they sent Capt. Lamberton and Nathaniel Mason on a second trip to Delaware Bay. On this voyage, in 1640, the permanent settlement of Cape May was established. He attempted more new settlements, but he came into conflicts with the Swedes and the Dutch.

So what makes this man's story different?

Was it through his death? He was the captain of the first ship built in the new world, which left New Haven with a valuable load of cargo to make money for the colony in England. This ship was never seen and never heard of again. No, that was not it!

His claim to fame did not come until more than 200 years later, when in 1858, the poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote about Lamberton in his poem *The Phantom Ship*, as part of a short collection of poetry entitled *Birds of Passage*.



Here is the full text:

In Mather's Magnalia Christi,  
Of the old colonial time,  
May be found in prose the legend

That is here set down in rhyme.  
A ship sailed from New Haven,  
And the keen and frosty airs,  
That filled her sails at parting,  
Were heavy with good men's prayers.  
"O Lord! if it be thy pleasure" –  
Thus prayed the old divine –  
"To bury our friends in the ocean,  
Take them, for they are thine!"  
But Master Lamberton muttered,  
And under his breath said he,  
"This ship is so crank and walty  
I fear our grave she will be!"  
And the ships that came from England,  
When the winter months were gone,  
Brought no tidings of this vessel  
Nor of Master Lamberton.  
This put the people to praying  
That the Lord would let them hear  
What in his greater wisdom  
He had done with friends so dear.  
And at last their prayers were answered: –  
It was in the month of June,  
An hour before the sunset  
Of a windy afternoon,  
When, steadily steering landward,  
A ship was seen below,  
And they knew it was Lamberton, Master,  
Who sailed so long ago.  
On she came, with a cloud of canvas,  
Right against the wind that blew,  
Until the eye could distinguish  
The faces of the crew.  
Then fell her straining topmasts,  
Hanging tangled in the shrouds,  
And her sails were loosened and lifted,  
And blown away like clouds.  
And the masts, with all their rigging,  
Fell slowly, one by one,  
And the hulk dilated and vanished,  
As a sea-mist in the sun!  
And the people who saw this marvel  
Each said unto his friend,  
That this was the mould of their vessel,  
And thus her tragic end.  
And the pastor of the village  
Gave thanks to God in prayer,  
That, to quiet their troubled spirits,  
He had sent this Ship of Air.





## ***Appendix C: Founding of Newtown***

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elmhurst,\\_Queens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elmhurst,_Queens)

The village was established in 1652 by the Dutch as Middenburgh ('Middleburgh') and was a suburb of New Amsterdam (Nieuw Amsterdam) in the colony of New Netherland (Nieuw Nederland). When the British took over New Netherland in 1664, they renamed Middleburgh as New Town (Nieuwe Stad) to maintain a connection to the Dutch heritage. This was eventually simplified to Newtown.

Among the English settlers in the present Elmhurst section of Newtown was Gershom Moore, who lived at what is now the intersection of Broadway, 45th Avenue, and Elmhurst Avenue. A chance seedling on his farm eventually produced the Newtown Pippin, Colonial America's most famous apple. The village of Newtown was established as the town seat for the township in 1683, when Queens County was reorganized as a "one county, five towns" model. The Town of Newtown, which had a town hall, jail, tax office, and town clerk's office, was the center of a municipality that comprised the villages that were located north of present-day Forest Park and west of Flushing Meadows. The St. James Church was founded in 1704, followed by the Reformed Church of Newtown in 1731.