



EDWARD SOUTHWORTH

March 25, 2017

Dear Sue,

I just finished reading Edward Southworth for the third time! As I mentioned to you this Southworth line is a recent discovery for me and as such it has all the shiny and lustrous impact of a newly found treasure. Most of the names and places are uniquely interesting. I am on a quest to discover every fact and detail about everyone and everything,,, I just can not get enough of them.

Your writing style and historical analysis has provided the framework for me to feel like I am beginning to know them as real people. You truly possess a unique ability to marry scholarly research with absolute attention to detail and the story telling of real people. I am always impressed with the way you go the extra mile to uncover some of the most obscure records and document each one to the letter. I laugh to myself and ask, where in the heck did she find that!

And in that regard I think that you made a superlative case about the proximity of Edward's birth-location and the separatist activities. The map on p.12 is a strong visual representation of the physical location of the towns. It was much more realistic than the previous Lancashire location. Finally, you proved your case for me with the Clarborough parish register starting with the marriage of Richard and Emmon Southworth in 1579. The birth records of all of the Southworth children in that register was as strong a case that can be made, especially when the dates for Edward and Thomas are consistent with the marriage record from Leiden. I really liked the family tree on p. 17. I also found your discussion of efforts to find find Edwards death record in London to provide a good understanding why the record does not exist. It helps to complete the documentation cycle, birth, marriage and death. I love the family tree and keep going back to it because it helps me keep them all in line as my learning curve is improving!

Including all of the Southworth Wills was a good idea for descendants to go back to as points of reference for insights into the extended families. I love the photo of the St. John the Baptist, Clarborough. The fact that it stills exists is amazing to me. I hope that I will visit that little church some day!

I am curious about the Carpenter line and what is known about its history, if anything. I was also wondering if Alice Carpenter was born in Leiden or in the Clarborough area? Did her family have any earlier connections with the separatist by marriage or proximity? I thought that the section on the case for Samlesbury dismissed provided a significant discussion of that position and showed how weak the stance was based on shoddy research.

I was also amazed about the lack of documented evidence for the births occurring in Samlesbury from a noted historian such as Gilbert Webber.

I really enjoyed that little piece about the embroidery coat of arms from Antiques magazine and your analysis of it and the Bradford family not having it in a family collection. I wonder how the magazine got the photo and if the embroidery piece still exists in some museum? . I also wonder why the magazine made such an unfounded claim? I will need to read the the discussion about coats of arms several more times.

I really appreciate all of the old historical discussions and the source citations. At some point I want to find some of those old history references to read them firsthand.

Everything you have presented is so solid, historically and personally interesting and such an amazing foundation for further study.

I have really enjoyed reading and reflecting on this little slice of history and remembering the day that you drove us around some of those small towns and talked about the history. Now you have given me another cast of characters to think about and wonder if I was in any of the places that they lived.

Thank you for this wonderful family story and genealogical study. I will make personal use of it as my foundation for learning about my own family line.



Judy