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**Oxenbridges Of Brede  
Place, Sussex, And Boston,  
Massachusetts**

**Durrant Cooper William**

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**Author: Durrant Cooper William**

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THE OXENBRIDGES

OF

BREDE PLACE, SUSSEX,

AND

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

BY

WILLIAM DURRANT COOPER, F.S.A.

CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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## THE OXENBRIDGES

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BY WILLIAM DURRANT COOPER, F.S.A.

WHEN I printed the Notices of the Family of Oxenbridge,<sup>1</sup> I had not been able to trace the connection between the Sussex and the Warwickshire branches, or to give any evidence that the celebrated ejected fellow of Eton, John Oxenbridge, was allied to our county family. A further reference to the wills, however, and the kind searches of the Hon. Judge (C. H.) Warren of Boston, U. S., show that the fellow of Eton and the minister of the first church in Boston, used the arms of the Sussex family and was clearly descended from the Surrey branch. The will with which he has supplied me is so curious, that its publication with a memoir of the maker, has been strongly suggested as a fit supplement to my former Article.

Adam Oxenbridge of Rye, who was one of the barons who bore the canopy at the coronation of Richard III., and was four times mayor of Rye,<sup>2</sup> was third son of Robert of Brede, and brother of Thomas, the serjeant-at-law; of Sir Goddard; and of John Oxenbridge, the canon of Windsor, the founder of the Chantry there, one of the principal tenants of the manor of Bray, holding lands at Cookham, New Windsor, and Wingfield, and who died 1522. Adam Oxenbridge owned the White Horse in Southwark, and property at Newington, Surrey, which he devised to his son Robert and his heirs, with remainder to his son John and his heirs.

The grandfather of the fellow of Eton, was JOHN OXENBRIDGE, a celebrated preacher among the Puritans in the midland counties, who took his degree of B.A. at Oxford,<sup>3</sup> in 1572, and subsequently his degree of B.D. He was a member of the

<sup>1</sup> *Sussex Arch. Coll.*, Vol. VIII. p. 214.

<sup>2</sup> 1497, when he died.

<sup>3</sup> In the years 1481, 1487, 1489, and

<sup>4</sup> *Wood's Fasti*, ed. Bliss, i. p. 189, n.



Surrey branch. John Oeksonbridge of Croydon, who owned the Surrey property left by Adam Oxenbridge, and was probably his grandson, by his will dated 15th Sept., and proved 14th Nov. 1575, appointed his brother John "the preacher," one of the overseers;<sup>1</sup> it being not unusual for brothers by different mothers to bear the same Christian name. At first John Oxenbridge was minister at Southam, Warwickshire. Here he made himself very active with Paget; and in their attempt to bring in their new form of prayer<sup>2</sup> they were a main cause of the disturbances which took place in Warwickshire in June, 1576, for which he was summoned before the High Commission.<sup>3</sup> On 16th October, 1580, he appears to have been one of the prisoners in Wisbeach Castle, in reference to whom inquiry was made whether their servants were to have free access to them, and whether they should have their meals together.<sup>4</sup> Imprisonment did not, however, abate his zeal, for three years afterwards he was again brought before the High Commission:<sup>5</sup> and continuing in his course, he subscribed *temp.* Archbishop Whitgift, the book of discipline. He subsequently removed to Coventry; and in the Corporation Annals under the date of 7th Oct. 1609, it is stated, that "an order was made for a lecture at Bablake every Sunday afternoon during the pleasure of the mayor and his brethren the preacher to be at their discretion and receive 5s. for every sermon. Mr. Oxenbridge then appointed during pleasure." He died in 1617, and on the 22nd September was buried in Trinity Church, Coventry; in the Register of his burial he is called "a grave and reverend preacher." His will, dated 15th

<sup>1</sup> He mentions his wife Clemence (who survived him), his son John (who was probably the London printer and stationer, 1595-1597), and his daughters Agnes, Dyonese, and Clemens; his brother, Robert Oxenbridge, and his cousin Sweeting of Canterbury. The family continued at Croydon, for in June, 1652, Robert Oxenbridge, second son of William of Hu-borne, and who married Diana, daughter of Sir John Tonstall of Edgcombe (see *Pedigree*, Vol. VIII. p. 232), was curator of the younger children of Henry Tonstall of Croydon, and Catharine his wife, and administered to their grandmother, Lady Penelope Tonstall. Possibly Mrs. Catherine Tonstall was the

sister of this Robert Oxenbridge, and re-married a Cutts.

<sup>2</sup> No presentation is mentioned between Barth. Greene, 19 April, 1576, and Fras. Hollis, 22 Feb. 1604, *Dugd. Wars.* p. 339. Probably he was not beneficed.

<sup>3</sup> Strype's *Grindal*, Book ii. c. 7. p. 320.

<sup>4</sup> Brooks' *Lives of the Puritans*, vol. 3. p. 510.

<sup>5</sup> MSS. Domestic, 1580, State Paper Office.

<sup>6</sup> Brooks, iii. p. 510.

<sup>7</sup> Neale's *Puritans*, vol. i. p. 387.

<sup>8</sup> *Ex inf.* Rev. W. Drake, M.A., Vicar of Trinity, Coventry.

