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Was Sir Christopher Hatton related by marriage to both the owner of New Place and the owner of the annotated copy of Hall's Chronicle?

Sir Christopher Hatton (1540-1591), long a favourite of Queen Elizabeth, was the son of William Hatton of Holdenby (d.1546) and Alice, daughter of Leonard Saunders of Harrington. Details of Sir Christopher's family are sketchy; however, he is known to have had a sister Dorothy, married to John, son of Richard Newport (d.1565) of Hunningham in Warwickshire, and a brother Thomas, married to John Newport's sister Ursula (Brooks 26-7; Keen 5; Rylands 114-5).

Sir Christopher Hatton never married, and settled his estates before his death on his nephew, William Newport (d.1597), son of his sister Dorothy and her first husband, John Newport. At some point -- presumably about the time he succeeded to Sir Christopher Hatton's estates -- William Newport assumed the surname of Hatton. Sir William (Newport) Hatton was twice married: first in 1590 to Elizabeth, daughter of Francis Gawdy, Justice of the King's Bench, and secondly to Lord Burghley's granddaughter, Elizabeth Cecil, daughter of Burghley's eldest son, Thomas Cecil, Earl of Exeter (*DNB* 162; Longden 78-80).

After the death of John Newport, Sir Christopher Hatton's sister, Dorothy Newport, remarried. Her new husband was an Inner Temple lawyer, William Underhill (d.1570) of Idlicote in Warwickshire. In 1567, William Underhill purchased New Place, the second-largest dwelling in Stratford. After his death

in 1570, New Place passed by inheritance to his son William Underhill (d.1597), who sold it in 1597 to William Shakespeare (Fetherston 30-1; Nichols, v.1, 130-2; Schoenbaum 234). In other words, William Shakespeare of Stratford purchased New Place from the stepson of Sir Christopher Hatton's sister, Dorothy. The sale took place some six years after Sir Christopher Hatton's death. Nonetheless, Dorothy Hatton's marriages into the Warwickshire families of Newport and Underhill suggest that Sir Christopher Hatton's relationship to William Shakespeare of Stratford was perhaps closer than has been heretofore realized.

In addition, the marriage of Lord Burghley's granddaughter, Elizabeth Cecil, to Sir Christopher Hatton's heir, William (Newport) Hatton, makes it apparent that there was also a close relationship between the Cecils, and the families of Hatton and Newport. Indeed, on the death of Sir William (Newport) Hatton, Rowland Whyte recorded that:

My Lord Treasurer [i.e. William Cecil, Lord Burghley] takes it very heavily, and weeps pitifully, calling to remembrance the many late crosses he hath been afflicted withal by the death of his friends (McKeen 676, 750).

This connection between the Cecils, Hattons and Newports is also intriguing from another perspective. It is entirely likely that Richard Newport of Hunningham (d.1565) was a kinsman of Sir Richard Newport of High Ercall (d.1570), owner of the annotated copy of Hall's Chronicle discussed in issues 32-35 of the *Edward De Vere Newsletter*. Thus, the friendship and intermarriage between the Cecils,

Hattons, Newports and Underhills establishes links between Edward de Vere, 17th Earl of Oxford, on the one hand, and both William Shakespeare of Stratford and the owner of the annotated copy of Hall's Chronicle on the other.

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