

# Chapter Ten

## Made in England

### Paulle of Coleman's

Paulle Tysacke, the first British born Tyzack left evidence in the Kingswinford Parish register. He and Bridget, his wife baptised their son John(2) on 26th April 1612. Paulle would have been at least twenty years old at the time and so he must have been born before 1592, probably in 1586. Paul Tyzack, built the first glasshouse at Stourbridge, in Staffordshire. His father was probably John Tyzack whom we found in Kirdford Sussex. We know this because of a reference to him made by his uncle Isaac Bungar.

On 20th February 1585, John Tyzack married Mary Bungar. The record says she was "*a spinster of the City of London.*" Mary Bungar was the sister of Isaac Bungar, a Norman, who was also making glass at the time.

Isaac appealed against the patent of Sir Robert Mansell. In this patent Sir Robert claimed that he or his servants had been first to use stone coal for the heating of furnaces. Isaac claimed that his sister's son, had invented the process earlier than Sir Robert. Now Paul Tyzack is certainly credited with this invention by D.R.Guttery in his book "*From Broad-glass to Cut Crysta*". When Isaac Bungar was trying to oppose the Mansell patent with some collaborators, they made a deposition. In it they stated, "*a sister's sone of Isaack Bungard, glassmaker, betrayed by faire promises, brought the art of makinge glass with Coale to the patentees, who were never the Inventors of the same.*"<sup>1</sup>

Mary Bungar was Isaac's sister and that makes Paul her son.

The Eccleshall Parish Register, of Staffordshire, records the burial of "Cath. Sysacke". Eccleshall, where Catherine was buried, is only twelve miles from Bishops Wood. Guttery believed that Paulle worked there in his early life. Certainly other members of the family were there. Judith Tysacke, Paulle's sister, married James Leggeeye\*, a Frenchman, in Eccleshall in 1602. That date puts her birth at around 1585. So its all quite consistent.

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1 Harlean MS. 6806, folio 234.

Before the legal prohibition of the use of wood any change to coal would of course threaten the livelihood of the Lorraine glassmakers all over the country. Sir Edward Zouch would not wish to suppress the method and would have publicised it and sought a monopoly with it as soon as possible; he had no love for the Lorrainers, "*these men's feelings should not be considered unduly,*" he said. Paul Tyzack on the other hand would be inhibited from making the method widely known because it would be detrimental to his kinsmen. Sir Robert Mansell had complete access to Zouch's invention since he bought him out. If the invention was a universal success why was it that most of Mansell's glassworks failed until he was able to get Lorraine glassworkers to work in them? Again the Privy Council would not be sympathetic to disruption of any monopoly which brought in revenue. They ordered that the patent should stand. They thought it of dangerous consequence that the patents should be tested by Common Law and ordered that all proceedings be stayed (stopped).

By 1618 Paulle purchased a piece of ground or "leasowe" called Colemans. Leasowe, in the West Midlands, meant any enclosed plot. It was the equivalent of Close or Tynning. Both coal and clay lay at different depths under Colemans grounds. He built his first glasshouse there, at Colemans. It was the first recorded glasshouse in Stourbridge. It cost £8 for the house and £4 for the ovens.

The Lorrainers worked in teams of three called a chair. A team comprised a gaffer, a blower and a gatherer. Guttery suggests that Paulle, his brother Zacharias and James Legre\* who had married Paulle's sister Judith, made up the team.

During Paulle's tenancy of Colemans his Landlord changed. The new man was John Lyddiat. John was a scythesmith. He was also a violent man who was presented at Courts Baron for every kind of offence including wounding, filling his tenants wells, stopping rights of way etc. Paulle's acquiescence on the patent matter shows he was a compromiser. Similarly he avoided conflict with his Landlord by having his son Paul marry Lyddiat's daughter, Joyce.

Paulle retired in 1655 and handed over Colemans to his second son Paul, who agreed to pay him an annuity of £40. This was two thirds of a gaffer's wage at the time.

When Paulle died in 1665 he left a will dated 8th June 1663. In it he left £12 to be equally divided among the seven children of Paull Hensey his son - in - law. This was an impossible division sum even before decimalisation! He left £4 to his daughter Judith, but his daughters Sarah and Bridget poor things, only got £1 each. John Tysacke, our seven x great -grandfather, did a bit better, he got £2. Paulle's sister Judith Leagree\*<sup>1</sup>, perhaps upset him or predeceased him, because he erased her £3 bequest.

He sealed his will with a 1 cm sized seal with the acorns and a martlet for difference.

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<sup>1</sup> \*This name appears spelled various ways

D.R.Guttery's book, "*From Broad-glass to Cut Crystal*" devotes the whole of his first chapter to Paulle. Guttery says that when Paulle closed his glassworks at Bishops Wood, Eccleshall and set out for the Stour Valley it was a journey to end his journeying forever. " *Noble though the Tyzacks were, du Thisacs, gentilshommes verriers, they had been tramps from the early fifteenth century.*" It was fuel that dictated their movements and decided the site of their furnaces. When their hungry fires had blazed their way through one wood they must move to another. "*The Vosges forests had promised an inexhaustible supply of the cleft billets they threw into their furnaces.*" All the broad-glassmakers may have been gentlemen but they were tramps, tramping as nomads through the woods !

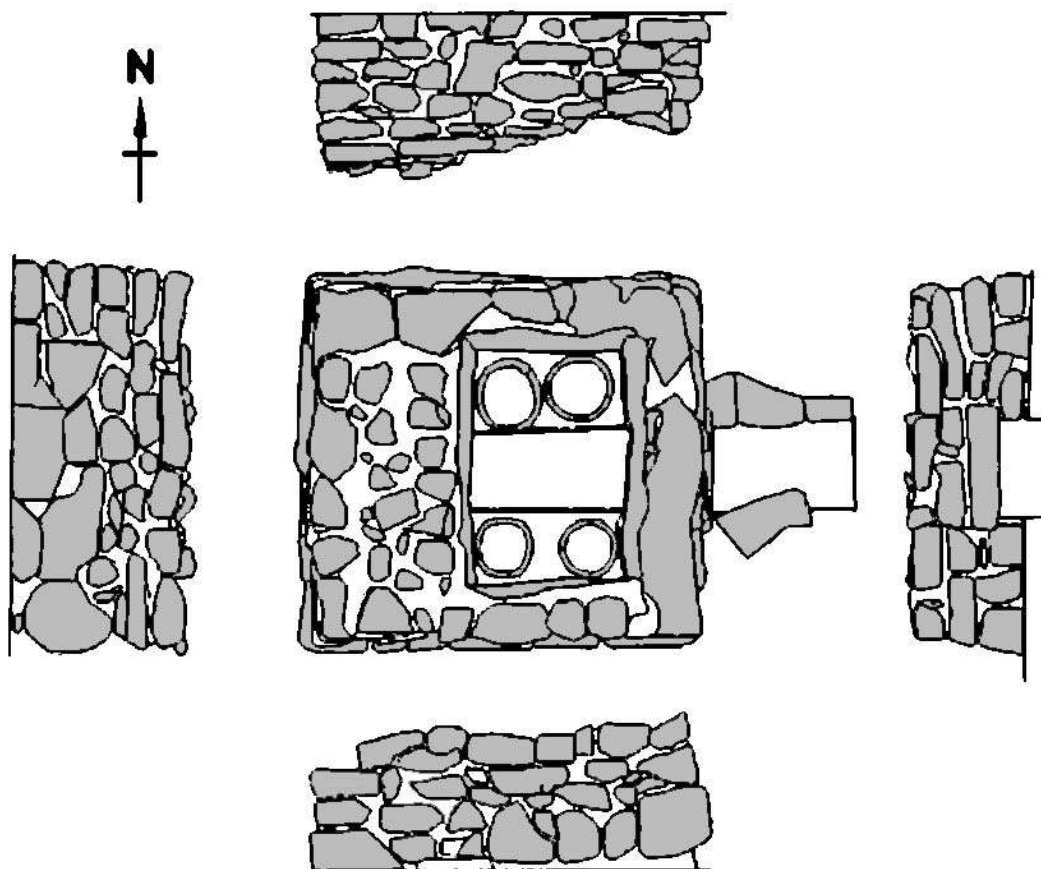
England depended on its forests for its naval defence. Also its developing industries were all consuming more wood. Sooner or later pit-coal had to be the new fuel but its many impurities blighted and spoiled the product. Ingenious gentlemen abounded but the use of pit-coal as a fuel proved intractable. In 1610 Sir William Slingsby was granted a patent for melting a wide range of substances including glass. In 1613 Sir Edward Zouch obtained one for "*drinking glasses, broad-glass and other glasses and glasswork.*" Lord Dudley whose estates were in south-west Staffordshire had already seen his forests denuded by his smiths. His new blast furnace proved even more voracious but when he tried using pit-coal he spoiled his iron. Experiments however with glass proved more successful. Instead of leaving their crucible pots open the glassmakers used lids. The covers prevented the smoke and fumes from contaminating the glass. It appears that experiments to use coal were being conducted on Lord Dudley's land two years before the patent. We do not know exactly when Paul arrived in Kingswinford only that he baptised his son there by 1612. He may well have arrived many years before. Oldswinford Church accounts show that its windows were glazed in 1605 and the supply of glass for these may well have brought the area to the attention of the glassmakers in Bishops Wood. By 1623 Mansell had his monopoly renewed and its renewal depended upon the significant invention of making glass using coal as fuel. Lord Dudley strongly attacked this claim. He said " *two years before this pretence of a new invention, or any Patent granted there was Glasse made with Coale upon my ground by native Glasse-makers*"<sup>1</sup>. It seems quite likely that this may have been the reason for Paul Tyzack to have come down to Stourbridge. He had lived with his family then in Bishop's Wood since about 1590 or so. There must have been some attraction in Stourbridge surely it was not an abundance of cheap forests, because these were under attack locally by the iron furnaces of Lord Dudley. Paul could have come down especially to undertake the experiments with the local coal as fuel. Dr Eleanor Godfrey dismisses Paul on the grounds that he did not himself attend the hearings against the patent to protest his prior claim, but why should he if such an eminent advocate as Lord Dudley was doing so on his behalf? But unbeknown to Paul, Lord Dudley was bought off with his own patent for smelting iron with coal.

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<sup>1</sup> Proc. and Debates, ii. 38-9; Commons Debates, 1621, v. 153.

So members of the Tyzack family were in the parish of Eccleshall in Staffordshire in 1585. Here is a drawing of the glasshouse found by Mr T. Pape and now a listed building. They were making glass in Bishops Wood in 1585 when the glasshouse was the property of the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield.

The bishop was William Overton from 1579 to 1609 and during his period of office he lived at his palace at Eccleshall. From 1567 until he became bishop, he had been the treasurer of Chichester Cathedral and Rector of Balcombe in Sussex and as such would have become



acquainted with the Sussex glassmakers. Certainly the Chichester See had been aware of them because in 1574 the Bishop of Chichester wrote to Lord Burghley. "*Of very late aboute Petworth certayne had conference to rob the Frenchmen that made glass and to burn their houses, but they be apprehended and punished* ." It seems likely therefore that the coming of glassmaking to Eccleshall could have been due to the knowledge and power of Bishop Overton. A copy of a

glowing testimonial survives for Edward Hensey, wherein Edward is given licence to depart from the Bishop's glasshouse in June 1585. By 1585 Ambrose Hensey signed a contract with Richard Baggot to make glass in Baggotts Parke, North Staffordshire.

It seems that they left Eccleshall about 1604 and some of them went to Stourbridge having perhaps used up all the wood. Certainly by 1615 the prohibition of the use of wood dealt a deathblow to North Staffordshire as a glassmaking area.

Paulle came down from Eccleshall to settle in Stourbridge before 1612. The Stour Valley, where he built Colemans Glasshouse, was about twenty -five miles south of Bishops Wood. He heard news of the work done on Lord Dudley's land in the use of pit-coal for heating furnaces. Dudley's land was in Kingswinford. There was an abundance of coal and local clay proved ideal clay for making crucibles.

In a Commons debate in 1614 on the glass patent a speaker said that "*Paulle Tyzack had the like invention*" of using coal for glassmaking in Lord Dudley's woods in Staffordshire. By 1614 he had set himself up as an independent glassmaker, possibly under the protection of Lord Dudley. In that year a complaint was made to the Privy Council that he had built furnaces in Staffordshire:

*ACTS OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL 18 Nov 1614,*

*A warraunt to John Brunte, one of the messingers of his Majestie's Chamber. Whereas complainte is made unto us that one Paule Tisick, a maker and worker of glasse, hath sett up furnasses in the countie of Stafforde, or in the skirtes and confynes of that shier, and the countie of Worcester, and there doeth worke and make glasse contrary to a graunt made by: his Majestie to Sir Edward Zouch; knight, and others, and in contempt of such orders as have ben heretofore given for his restrainte therein; theis shalbe therefore to will and require yow, and in his Majestie's name straitly to charge and commaunde yow, make your speedie and undelayed repayre to the place of aboade of the said Paule Tisick, and havinge found him, to take him into your charge and custodie, requiringe him in his Majestie's name to give order that there bee noe further proceedinge in that glasse worke untill he hath aunsweared his contem pt here before us: And to bringe him forthwith, and in your companie (all delayes and excuses set aparte) before us. And if hee seeke to withdraw himself out of the way, or make resistance, yow shall by virtue hereof require all Mayors, Sheriffes, Justices of Peace, Bayliffes, Constables, Head borroughes, and all other his Majestie's officers and lovinge Subjectes, to bee aydinge and assistinge unto yow in the due execucion of this our warraunt, whereof they may not faile at their peril. For which this etc.*

Lord Treasurer, Earl of Worcester, Lord Knollis, Lord Wotton, Lord Stanhope, Mr Secretary Winwoode:

But the setback was temporary; Tyzack continued to live in Kingswinford and to make window-glass in his glasshouse near Hungary Hill. Later we find Paulle paying £60 per year to Sir Robert Mansell as his licence fee. Paul was clearly able to make glass by the use of coal without outside help. How galling it must have been to have to pay a licence fee to Sir Robert who, although the owner of the monopoly, was unable to prove the invention on which it was based by making good glass with coal until several Lorrainers went to work for him.

Grazebrook, in his book <sup>1</sup> about the Tyzacks and others said, " *A tradition says that the first glasshouse in the Oldswinford area was built at Amblecot or Coleborne brook. A piece of high ground known as 'Glasshouse Hill' in the village of Oldswinford, is evidently the site of an early glassworks. It is not far distant from the parish church. Descendants and successors of the emigrants greatly extended the manufacture started then. For years it has been one staple trade of the district.* "

It seems certain from the documents that Paulle and the Hennezels owned their own glasshouses in Stourbridge. Certainly they paid for the buildings and made contracts for the land. They may have worked under some form of patronage or protection (probably Lord Dudley's). Those that worked after 1616 in Newcastle, notably Edward Hennezy and relatives such as Timothie Tyzack, had become managers under Mansell.

After Jean Carré and others got their licence to make glass they applied to Cecil to cut wood and make charcoal in Windsor forest for their glassworks. No record is available of the answer, but the consumption of wood had by then become a matter of serious concern in England. England's waning forests suffered many demands, not least for the naval defence of the Realm. The shortage of timber became so severe that by 1615 King James issued a proclamation prohibited the making of glass with wood. There were other motives for the prohibition in addition to the timber shortage. Also prohibited was the importation of foreign glass. The Earl of Montgomery, Sir Thomas Howard, Sir Robert Mansell, (treasurer of the Navy), Sir Edward Zouch and others received the benefit of all glassware forfeited for being imported contrary to the prohibition order.

Sir Robert Mansell must have been an astute businessman because by 1618 he had bought out the others and was the sole manufacturer of glass, (by royal patent), in England. He applied to the Privy Council for power to put down all glass makers who evaded his monopoly. He said he could not pay his annual rent of £1000 to the King and £1800 to the patentees who had resigned in his favour. Mansell possessed the exclusive right to make glass in England. Descendants of the Lorrainers either worked under licence or worked in Mansell's glassworks.

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<sup>1</sup> H. S. Grazebrook, Collections for a genealogy of the Noble families of Henzey, Tyttery, and Tyzack (De Hennezel, De Thiétry and Du Thisac), "Gentilshommes Verriers' from Lorraine (1877).

In 1620 Mansell had two persons put in prison who had imported glass into the country to his prejudice. Isaac Bungar tried to continue making glass from wood in Sussex even after 1615 on the grounds that Mansell could not yet supply the market, but he was finally beaten in 1618 by Sir Robert. The appearance of Tyzacks in Kingswinford certainly predates the prohibition of the use of wood. The increasing difficulty of obtaining wood must have been a decisive factor in the choice of the coal rich area of Kingswinford.