

### **Clement Tudway 1 (1649-1688)**

Clement I, the oldest son of Thomas and Anne, came to live in the City of London, possibly just after the Great Fire of London in 1666 when the City was being rebuilt. Perhaps he moved to a new brick built house in the Cheapside area where their children were baptised at the newly rebuilt St Margaret Moses Church, in Little Friday Street. He married Rachel Clowdesley, possibly around 1675, and the couple went on to have four children. Their first child Elizabeth was born in 1676, followed by Rachel in 1678 and then Sarah in 1679. Their only son, Clement 2 was born in 1684 according to Ancestry BMD<sup>i</sup> records, although some sources state this as 1674 which is incorrect according to the baptism records.

Clement 1 was a merchant in this new and rapidly expanding City of London that was growing rich from England's burgeoning colonial exploits. His interests lay in the lucrative sugar trade where his importing of sugar would have brought him into contact with plantation owners from the Caribbean and thence with people who traded in enslaved Africans. Clement would have developed an all-round interest in the business which led him to accumulating the capital and the know-how to invest in a sugar plantation business in 1679 at Parham in Antigua and in the shared lease of land in Barbuda.

Antigua, as with other Leeward Islands, from 1627 it had been under the proprietorship of James Hay, first Earl of Carlisle, which had been granted to him by King Charles 1. It was Edward Warner who began to settle Antigua in 1632 followed by a number of persons taking charge of the island. Francis Willoughby, 5<sup>th</sup> Baron of Parham, sought to escape the ruthless pursuit by Parliamentarians in England, so came to the Caribbean to rebuild his life under the auspices of the exiled King Charles II. After a short while he moved on to Barbados, but the Parliamentarians wanted to exert their rule over the Caribbean and installed Christopher Keynell in 1652. Upon the restoration of the monarchy, Francis Willoughby was appointed Governor-in-chief of Antigua in 1663, which was, at that time, sparsely populated with a few indentured servants from England working the land and being ruthlessly exploited. Willoughby, who was now accountable directly to the King for his governorship of the island, had ideas for the profitable development of the island by encouraging the importation of enslaved Africans to work on plantations. But not for long, as the French seized the island and had control until their defeat in 1668, when Lord William Willoughby became Governor-in-chief upon the death of his brother Francis.

Lord Willoughby invited his son Henry to become Governor and take charge. They inherited a complex situation, but still proceeded to settle the island with wealthy landowning colonists and enslaved Africans. In 1668, Lord Willoughby leased a portion of land, Betty's Hope, to Christopher Codrington, whose family also had a foothold in Barbados. He arrived in 1674 and set up the model for sugar plantations on the island based on the Barbados system known as the Barbados Slave Code.<sup>ii</sup> Lord William Willoughby died in 1679, leaving his plantation, Parham, named after his Suffolk estate, to his wife Ann. Clement 1, who was 30 years old at the time, seized his moment and purchased Parham from Ann, beginning the 240 year Tudway family ownership of this plantation. He purchased the 1,000 acre plantation at Parham Hill, a moiety of Long island and one quarter of Barbuda in partnership with George Turney for '*£600 sterling and £1200 sterling secured*'<sup>iii</sup>, being £330,000 in today's money. They took possession on 12 April 1680; the Schedule included '*45 negro men and women, 36 children, 33 cattle, 2 horses, 20 sheep, 12 hogs, 1 cattle mill, coppers, still, etc.*'<sup>iv</sup> The estate seemed to be set as a small holding, but clearly the idea was to produce sugar. There was also a short 50 year lease on Barbuda shared between Christopher and John Codrington, Clement

Tudway and George Turney who were also granted the power to hold courts of 'Frank-pledge and Piepowder' giving them legal jurisdiction over wrecks and markets, thus being one of the earliest legal systems, based on old English laws, on the island.<sup>v</sup>

Clement 1 would have needed to go to Antigua to set up the plantation as a business and see what needed to be done. It is known that he went there with his wife, Rachel, (see below) and it is more than likely that Clement 1's brother, Richard, was also involved from very early on. As a merchant mariner he may well have worked on the slave ships under the Royal African Company that supplied Antigua with consignments of enslaved Africans to work the sugar plantations. It would be likely that this was an enterprise between brothers, remembering too that Clement 1 not only had his own young family, but that both he and Richard would also have been expected to offer financial help to their mother and sisters.

Records for these early days of Parham are extant and those in existence from the 17<sup>th</sup> Century begin in 1689, a year after Clement 1's death. It appears that Rachel Tudway was very much involved with her husband as a partner in this business. A vital piece of evidence that sheds light on the business between Clement 1 and his wife Rachel is an advertisement placed in the London Gazette on 8<sup>th</sup> December 1688. It read:

*'Lost from behind the Southampton Coach on the 8<sup>th</sup> Instant at Night between Exeter-Change and Ludgate Hill, a black Trunck with Drawers, marked WC with Nails, and in it several wearing Cloths and Linnen, all or most marked C.T. and R.T. with one green Bag, and in it several Writings, Accomps and Letters relating to the Affrican Company of London and belonging to Clement Tudway; also a Bag of Pieces of Eight, in value about Ten Pounds : Whoever brings the Trunck and Writings &c to Mrs Clowdelleys at the Swan on Old Fishstreet, shall have the Pieces of Eight and Ten Pounds Reward.'*<sup>vi</sup>

It seems that the coach journey was from Exeter to Ludgate Hill in London, with a change at Southampton. The couple may have caught the coach from either port town stop on the way back from Antigua. WC may have stood for Cloudesley or Clarke, Rachel's family names. The trunk clearly contained clothing and personal items for them both as well as a considerable sum of money which offered as a reward which, today, would be worth around £4,000. It would seem apparent that it is not the items of clothing that were of such value but the papers pertaining to the Royal African Company, the Governor of which at the time was James, Duke of York, (the King's brother), with Edward Colston about to become sub-Governor. These were not people to displease by losing vital documents hence the generous reward. There is no record of them being found nor of any consequence of them not. Perhaps there were also documents relating to the Parham Estate which is why there are no records remaining before 1689. Also of some interest is that he asked for the trunk to be returned to Rachel Cloudesley at the Swan Tavern in Fish Street. This was his wife Rachel, but sometimes, married women were still referred to by their maiden family names. Thus her mother was referred to as Elizabeth Clarke (her family name) rather than her married name of Cloudesley. Rachel Tudway, herself, has also been referred to as Rachel Clarke.<sup>vii</sup>

Not long after this, Clement 1 died. This generation of Tudways that had direct contact with the Antiguan plantations died relatively young. Considering how poor the hygiene conditions were on the ships and not being used to the hygiene required in a tropical country, perhaps he caught a fever which caused his death. He was buried in St Margaret Moses Church, London. Unlike his father, who died intestate, Clement 1 left a will<sup>viii</sup> to provide for his family. First mentioned was Rachel, his wife, to whom he left 1/3 of the profits of the plantations, including Parham Hill and Long Island, plus his 1/3 share in the 'Swan Taverne in Old Fish Street'. The residue was to be held by his executors for

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the education and maintenance of his children until they were 21 when all residue and profits were to be divided equally between them, making each share up to £1000 (£200,000 in today's money). He made no distinction made regarding the education of his daughters and his son, nor for their inheritance, unusual for the day. However, following tradition of the son inheriting, the plantations themselves were to be made over to Clement 2 on his reaching the age of 21 in 1705. He also left his sisters in law, Elizabeth Clousely and Sara Floyer a part share in Old Fishe Street and left his mother a small annuity. He mentioned brothers Thomas, Richard and Charles as well as sisters, Ann (Turner), Elizabeth (Whitfield) and Susanna (Tudway). In addition there were also bequeathments to his mother-in-law, Elizabeth and sisters-in-law Elizabeth, Sara and husband Peter Floyer. It is interesting that in-laws are just referred to as mother and sister and brother without distinction of not being blood relatives. There are two elements of the will stating how the plantation was to be inherited which played out further down the line, in the provision of what was to happen to the inheritance of his daughters if one died and what was to happen if his son left no heir, (which, as it turned out, he did not). He stipulated that, in the meantime, his younger brother Charles was to manage the plantation at 12% of the profit for a term of 11 years.

In a memorandum dated 27<sup>th</sup> December 1688 he made another complicated provision to Sarah Turney, widow of George Turney, with whom he purchased the estate originally, and their two sons, George and Anthony, being a security of half the estate, mortgaged for 2 years at 6% interest.

After Clement 1's death, his widow Rachel, managed her part of the Parham sugar plantations as an absentee owner in order to support herself and her children. Their eldest daughter Elizabeth married David Denoon in 1702 and she was often referred to as Denoon within the family. She died in 1707 and was buried in St Alban's Church, Wood Street, London. There are bills in her brother, Clement 2's, name for mourning clothes for himself and his mother dated 1707.<sup>ix</sup> It seems there was a dispute over inheritance after her death with Clement 2 challenging David Denoon in the Courts. As noted above, Clement 1 made it clear that on the death of any of his children, their share of inheritance was to pass to the siblings. No doubt Mr Denoon thought it fit as Elizabeth's husband that her inheritance passed to him. The outcome of the case has not yet been researched.

Sarah married John Creswell in 1706. Daughter Rachel remained single and lived in Edmonton. Her will dated 1733 showed she outlived her mother by a year and was of significant independent means.<sup>x</sup> There are no further records for the daughters to be found.

Clement 1 and his wife Rachel were buried in St. Alban's Wood Street, London.

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<sup>i</sup> [Ancestry.co.uk - London, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1538-1812](https://www.ancestry.co.uk)

<sup>ii</sup> [Barbados Slave Code - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbados_Slave_Code)

<sup>iii</sup> Oliver, V.L. (1895) Lease on Parham in History of Antigua Vol 3 Mitchell and Hughes. London p.248

<sup>iv</sup> *ibid* p 248

<sup>v</sup> *ibid* p 303

<sup>vi</sup> [London Gazette 1665-2018 Image | findmypast.co.uk](https://www.findmypast.co.uk) London Gazette issue 2409

<sup>vii</sup> Tudway-Quilter, D. (1985) The Cedars and the Tudways in A History of Wells Cathedral School. Somerset. Clare and Son p.59

<sup>iii</sup> Oliver, V L. (1895) Will of Clement Tudway in History of Antigua Vol 3 Mitchell and Hughes. London pp 146/7

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<sup>ix</sup> Somerset Heritage Centre DD/TD/6 Letters from Clement Tudway 1693-1709 to his mother and assorted bills  
<sup>x</sup> Oliver, VL. op cit P 456