# Mr Duckenfield visits Dukinfield



Thomas Averill Duckenfield III pictured here with the Mayor Leigh Drennan and his ancestor Colonel Robert Dukinfield (1619-1689), Civil War Parliamentary Commander Robert Dukinfield – Jamaican Plantation Owner 1700-1755

This story started 12 years ago when I was teaching classes in family history. I was preparing a class about Manorial records and searching for deposited archives regarding our Tameside manorial lords, easy to find regarding the Egertons, Tollemache, Wilbraham, Staveleigh, Stamford and Assheton families, but nowhere could I find details of any stored Dukinfield archives. Until, I came across a Will of a great grandson of Colonel Robert Duckenfield (statue above) from 1755 in the Cooper family collection in the London Metropolitan Archives (Reference Acc/0775) The most interesting part of this collection relates to the sugar plantation at Dukinfield Hall in Jamaica (1719-1877) which by a set of tortuous deeds came into the Cooper family's possession, shortly after slavery was abolished. The Cooper family may never have derived much profit from it and It was

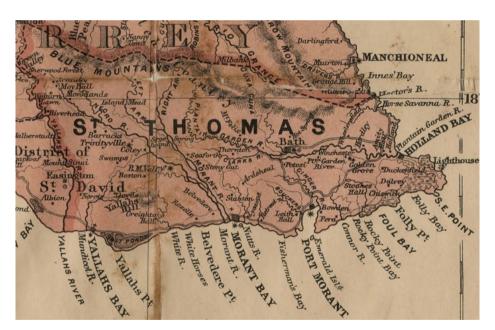
sold in 1877. The deposit contained inventories of land and stock, and various letters to agents, and a total valuation of livestock, cattle and 320 Negro Slaves. Each slave was named, with his occupation and valued to a total of £11,959. Sampson, the bricklayer, being the most valuable at £100, down to half a dozen superannuated slaves worth nothing, and to Blind Joe, Crippled Casar and Mclintoch, a Leper, worth £5 each.

The deposit also contained Robert Dukinfield's will dated 1755 (Acc/0775/803) with this fascinating extract.

"On Jane Engusson, a free negro woman, he settled 101 acres and 14 slaves, two lots of land in East Kingston on Duke Street and the use of his Town House in East Kingston, until his brother, Samuel should arrive from England, and all his furniture and plate, with £300 to have a house built on one of the two fore mentioned lots. Also one of his chaises.

To each of his two sons, William and Estcourt Dukinfield, by Jane Engussen, 400 acres, 4 slaves and a building lot in Kingston(opposite to Thomas Wheeler on Duke Street) To their sister Elizabeth, 417 acres, 7 slaves and a building lot in Kingston adjacent to her brother. Also £500 to William, £500 to Estcourt and £1,000 as a dowry to Elizabeth provided she marry a white man.

Residuary legatee of all his estate(including Dukinfield Hall Estate) his brother Samuel, with the remainder to his sisters Martha Richards and Rebecca Hale, failing them to Sir William Dukinfield Daniel of Dukinfield Hall, Cheshire (his cousin) and failing all these to his children by Jane Engusson"



Dukinfield Hall on the extreme eastern tip of Jamaica

Robert was born in 1700 and went to live on his father's Duckinfield Hall Plantation in Jamaica when he was about 24. By 1728 he was listed as one of the Principal Inhabitants and later became part of the Legislature. He married Isabella Miller daughter of John and Agnes Miller of Jamaica 23 January 1729. They had two Children: Isabella born 3 June 1732 died 1753, and Henry Miller Duckinfield born 31 January 1737 died 26 March 1738.

Robert had a longstanding relationship with Jane Engusson, their first child William was born in 1736 whilst Isabella was still alive. In 1747 Robert petitioned the Assembly to pass a private act to give his mullato children William, Estcourt and Margaret the same rights and privileges enjoyed by English subjects. Jane and his three children by her were all baptised 22nd December 1752, three years before his death when he must have been considering their inheritance.

Christenings Jamaican Church of England Kingston

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William Duckinfield (a Mulatto Boy) the Son of Jane Enguson by Rob! Duckinfield (a mulatto Boy) the Son of Jane Enguson by Robert Duckinfield (a mulatto Boy) the Son of Jane Enguson by Robert Duckinfield Esque was born August 22. 1742 I baptized Door 22. 1752
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John Dukinfield Bristol Slave Strader 1677-1745

Further research revealed that Robert's father John Dukinfield was a member of the Society of Merchant Venturers of Bristol, an elite body of Bristol merchants involved with overseas trade. Dukinfield Hall Plantation was originally owned by him, but his son had decided to live there.

He started in the Atlantic Slave Trade in 1713; his last voyage was in 1731..He co-owned many ships, including: The Little Bristol, The Dukinfield, The Rebecca Snow, The Berkley, The Berkley Gally, The Abington, The Prince Eugene, The Tunbridge Gally, The Peterborough, The Joseph Anna, and The Betty. Dukinfield's slave ships made approximately 23 voyages for the purpose of buying and selling slaves. The survival rate of his slaves reaching the new world was significantly lower than average.

Between 1712-1735 he sent out at least one of his ships on slaving voyages - mostly to Africa.

The slave trade to Madagascar was run under licence from the East India Company. He gained a temporary licence in 1717 and loaded up 540 slaves from Madagascar, mostly boys and girls, but half of them died on the journey. He realised he should have dealt with trade in grown men and applied for another licence, but this was never granted.

His ship's Captain, William Stretton, on the Prince Eugene went on at least one other illegal journey. William had done a deal with the pirate General Collins to exchange goods for money on the way, but he didn't get away with it and his cargo was impounded. £10,000, besides twelve large bags of money he had deposited with Councillor Cole Digges at Williamsburg, Virginia also claimed to have landed four chest and five or six bags of silver on a sandy point at the river's mouth. Dukinfield himself was sent back to England for trial. While trading, his ships would routinely run into trouble with pirates, which was commonplace during this period, and his ships were occasionally robbed, or even seized in their entirety. On one occasion a whole crew and captain were taken hostage.

Born in 1677, the grandson of Colonel Robert Duckenfield. He married Ann Andrews, daughter of fellow Bristol merchant Captain William Andrews. Andrews had apprenticed Dukinfield in the latter's youth. Duckenfield and Anne had 11 children, and he was survived by his sons, Samuel (who became the 4<sup>th</sup> baronet), and his son Robert. The latter inherited the large plantation in St. Thomasin-the-East in Jamaica, called Dukinfield Hall when John died in 1745.

While searching to find out as much as I could about the Dukinfield family's slave plantation I found another member of the family had set out for the New World, a generation earlier, and about 20 years previously.

#### William Duckenfield

The second son of Colonel Robert Duckenfield. He arrived in North Carolina Colony just before June 1683. Passenger lists show that he was accompanied on the journey by his brother John P Duckenfield. William's brother, Sir Robert Duckenfield, was the first Duckenfield Baronet, he was the uncle of John Duckenfield, the Bristol Merchant, and the great uncle of Robert Duckenfield of Jamaica.

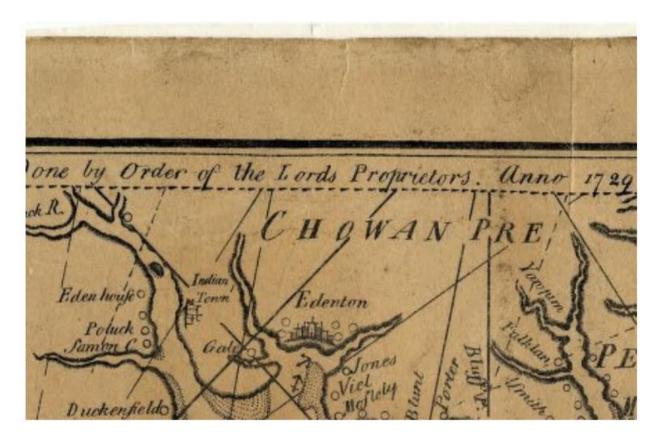
## North Carolina's Early Colonisation

The first settler appears to be a Nathaniel Betts 1620-1679 who came in 1653 from Virginia to set up a fur trading post with the Indians. His two roomed house was built beside Salmon Creek at the tip of the Albermarle Sound. He set up trading posts to deal furs, tar, turpentine and pitch. Most of transport was by boat so these items were in great demand. George Fox, the founder of the Quakers, had visited Betts in 1672 and found him a rude and desperate man, but he did come to some of the Quaker meetings.

The first settlers had to clear vast tracks of forest to grow tobacco. There were no towns in the area until Edenton developed in the 1690s. William first bought a plot of land on the banks of Little River in Penquimans Precinct were Eden House archaeological site now stands. He was probably the first person to live on the site and lived there until 1699, when he then moved to nearby Salmon Creek

For the first 40 years the settlements in the area had to cope with danger of attack by the Tuscarora Indians and later by Blackbeard who was prowling the seas at this time.

William became a member of the Council of the North Carolina Colony and a JP His arrival in North Carolina coincided with that of the hated Governor Seth Sothell who was described as, 'the dirtiest knave who ever held office in America' The people rose against him in 1688. Sothell left his property to Francis Hartley and William married Hartley's daughter Susannah Garraway Hartley and hence came into the 4,000 acres of land at Salmon Creek in 1702 he conveyed the plantation to his kinsman John Arderne. John Ardern's Will conveyed the land back to William Duckenfield. The land and plantation were called Dukinfield, but the name was later changed to Avoca meaning where the two rivers meet. William died without issue and left his land and estate to his nephew Nathaniel (grandson of the Colonel).



The Lost Colony of Roanoke Island

Everyone researching family history can easily get distracted and find themselves interested in unrelated connections, this time to a place and this time to Salmon Creek. Salmon Creek is at the head of the Albermarle Sound (previously called the Roanoke Sound). On the next page is a map created by John White of the Albermarle Sound with a small island shown on the map in pink. Here begins a 400 year old unsolved and enduring mystery. Salmon Creek is just on the promontory head where the two rivers meet to the left of the Island. You can more or less match it to the map of 1729 above.

Fort Raleigh on the island is where an attempt was made to set up the first British colony. In 1584, 1585 Sir Walter Raleigh funded expeditions to Roanoke Island. Raleigh reported the discovery to Queen Elizabeth I, and the new territory was named Virginia in honour of the Virgin Queen. The first two trips were more or less experimental and suffered from dwindling food supplies and Indian attacks, and they came home aboard a ship captained by Sir Francis Drake. At the third attempt 150 people, under John White, landed in 1587 to set up a permanent colony. His daughter, Elizabeth, was amongst them. She married Ananais DARE and their first child, Virginia DARE was the first British child baptised in the New World.

Towards the end of the year supplies again were running low, and John White sailed for England promising to return. Sadly Elizabeth I was involved in fighting the Spanish Armada at the time so it was three years before he could return. When he returned there was absolutely no trace of the community, some of their possessions were still there, but nothing else except for a carving on a

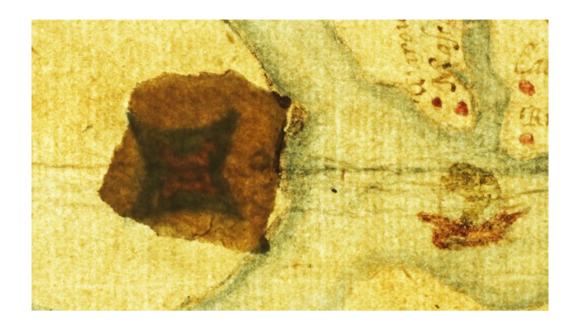
tree saying CRO, to indicate what had happened. There are many theories and most come to nothing and the internet is full of the stories.



But a fairly recent find in the British Library may have solved it. John White's Maps of New England were found and were subject to an academic study, but they noticed a patch added to the map, exactly where William Dukinfield had set up home in 1699



When subjected to ultra violet light an image was revealed of a typical English fort. Could they have travelled inland and later died at the hands of the Indians or simply perished. This is no more fantastical than any of the other theories.



William died without issue and left his land and estate to his nephew Nathaniel (grandson of the Colonel)

The Will of William Duckenfield Of Chowan county North Carolina 1720 online here: <a href="http://bit.ly/31wU71s">http://bit.ly/31wU71s</a>

Nathaniel Duckenfield the son of Sir Robert Duckenfield, the first Baronet. He was the chief beneficiary of his uncle William Duckinfield from Chowan precinct, Bertie County, North Carolina. His Will dated 1746 leaves all his property in Utkinton, Cheshire to his wife Margaret. He left his friend Joseph Collett to dispose of all his plantations, Negroes and estate in North Carolina

His son Nathaniel Duckenfield became the fifth Baronet 15<sup>th</sup> May 1768. He decided to visit his mother, who was living on the North Carolina Estate. with the dual purpose of finding a rich American wife, to help support the financial strain of the Baronetcy. He proposed to Hannah Johnstone, but was refused. She later married his best friend James Iredell. In 1772 he decided that he was not cut out for plantation life (he owned 3,600 acres) and went back to England, purchased a Cornet's Commission in the Queen's Dragoon Guards and married Katherine Warde. When the Revolutionary War started he contrived to be left behind, but it did him no good, his lands were confiscated anyway. Not before he had managed to deed all his slaves to his mother before he left the colony. His land had been valued at £8,762. Later the London Claims Commission awarded him £3,000 for his losses. The money realised from the sale of the lands at Avoca was used to build the University of North Carolina

Avoca then passed into the hands of the Capehart Family for 150 years. The Wikipedia entry for Bertie County barely mentions the DUCKENFIELDS – lost in the mists of time.

New Haven and the First Non-Conformist Chapel in the Country at Dukinfield Old Hall



Samuel Eaton, the son of Richard Eaton, Vicar of Great Budworth, was a prolific pamphleteer and a contentious activist in litigation and the first nonconformist minister in Cheshire. He was educated at Oxford and took orders under the Church of England, but soon dissented about certain ceremonies. He first went as minister to West Kirby on the Wirral, but was suspended by Bishop Bridgeman in 1631, taken prisoner by Bishop Laud and imprisoned at Newgate. He fled to Holland after his release.

Meanwhile in 1624 John Davenport had just been elected to serve as minister at St Stephen's Church, Coleman Street, London. Davenport was born in 1597 and baptized by Richard Eaton at Coventry 9th April 1597. Before he could take up his post he was accused of Puritanism by King James I which he denied at the time. Around 1630, Theophilus Eaton, a wealthy merchant, son of Richard and brother to Samuel took over a house in Swanne Alley, off Coleman Street. He had served as Deputy Governor of the Eastland Company at Elbing. The group received a grant of territory from the Council for New England and as "The Gov. and Co. of the Massachusetts Bay in New England", received a charter from the crown.

In November of 1633, Davenport fled to Amsterdam to escape the increasing disapproval from the Crown, where the group organised their move to the New World. The group included: John and Elizabeth Davenport (who left their infant son in care of a noble lady); Theophilus Eaton, Anne Eaton, daughter of George Lloyd, Bishop of Chester, and widow of Thomas Yale, the second wife of Theophilus Eaton; old Mrs. Eaton, his mother; Samuel and Nathaniel Eaton, his brothers; Mary Eaton, the daughter of his first wife; Samuel, Theophilus and Hannah, the children of his second wife; Anne, David and Thomas Yale, the children of Anne Eaton by her former marriage; Edward

Hopkins, who on Sep. 5, 1631 had married Anne Yale at St. Antholin's in London; and Richard Malbon, a kinsman of Theophilus Eaton. "Also many inhabitants of the parish of St. Stephen and others (probably from the neighbourhood, but not members of St. Stephens)". The group chartered the "Hector" of London and on the 26th June 1637, John Winthrop recorded the arrival of the group from London at Boston.

On arrival in Massachusetts, Davenport was chosen to be a magistrate. The Massachusetts planters made strong efforts to retain the party, who were gentlemen of wealth and character. The general court offered them whatever place they might choose, and the inhabitants of Newbury agreed to give up that town to them, but they determined to found a distinct colony. Accordingly, in the autumn of 1637, Theophilus Eaton, with a few friends, carefully explored the Connecticut coast, and finally selected a place called Quinnipiac where the colony settled in March 1638. In November, he was one of those who contracted with the Indians for the sale of lands, the price being thirteen English coats. On 4 June 1639, he was one of the "seven pillars" selected to form a government for the colony. He was chosen as its first governor, and continued in that office until his death. Apparently he was "a handsome and commanding figure, and although strict and severe in religious matters, he was affable and courteous".

The group made their roots in New Haven just one year after the wars of the English against the Pequot Indians, where Uncas the leader of the Mohegan tribe had helped the English. Uncas was immortalized in literature in, "The Last of the Mohicans" 1826, by the American writer James Fenimore Cooper.

### The Brockett Map of 1641



Within the year, the colonists established a precise nine square town plan; it has since been named among America's earliest and most important urban designs. The one and a half square mile tract was set on a diagonal axis and fitted snugly between West and Mill Creeks at the harbour's mouth. Individual plots, sized according to shareholders' wealth and social standing filled the surrounding squares. The settlers reserved the centre square for common use. The names on this and the original are rather hard to read, but I do have a transcription. Please contact me if you want any further information and a larger version of this map.

Nathaniel Eaton came to New England in 1637 with his brothers and was appointed the first professor of the school, which later became Harvard University. He was, however, the black sheep of the family, he deceived the people who appointed him and was said to have been more fitting to be the Master at Bridewell than at a College. He was an exceptional scholar himself and created many more, but was notorious for his greed and cruelty. His pupils complained of bad food and ill treatment and in September 1639, after beating his usher with a cudgel, he was removed from his post. He fled to Virginia leaving debts amounting to £1,000 and was excommunicated by the Cambridge Churches. He returned to England in 1645, eventually dying in a debtor's prison.

In New England, Samuel Eaton was educated at Harvard and came to live at New Haven next to his brother Theophilus, and acted as assistant to John Davenport. Samuel returned to England in 1640 just in time for the Civil War. Whilst he was preaching a fiery sermon at Chester, he came to the notice of Colonel Robert Duckenfield, himself a puritan and staunch republican, who immediately put at his disposal the small family chapel attached to Dukinfield Hall.

This late sixteenth or early seventeenth century chapel was built on the site of an earlier private chapel of the Dukinfield family, originally licensed by the Bishop of Litchfield in 1398. Here Eaton organized a Congregational Church, 'probably before the end of 1640, or early in 1641, this being the "first Independent Church visible and framed that was set up in England". It was organized with Eaton as teacher and Thomas Taylor, Vicar of Hemel Hempstead, as pastor.

With Robert Dukinfield's help he was also made chaplain to the garrison at Chester, but on his return to Dukinfield, he found that the chapel had fallen into the hands of a group of so-called 'gifted brethren'. Eaton found it impossible to restore order and withdrew to Stockport where he preached at the Grammar School.

After the Restoration, he was again excommunicated in 1662, silenced and forced to move again. He continued to preach in private and was several times imprisoned. Finally he died on the 25th January 1664/5 and was buried at Denton Chapel. The registers at Stockport record the burial of "Samuel Eaton of Bredburie, Minister". His widow died March 30th 1681 "dyed at Stopport, buried at Denton 2nd April 1681".

### George Fox 1624-1691 Founder of the Quakers



Another first in the rise of nonconformity in Dukinfield was when, in 1647, George Fox the founder of the Quaker movement, was travelling in the area, heard about a strange incident at Old Hall Chapel. On the day in question, when Samuel Eaton was preaching, there could be heard the sound of a single drummer beating a march on a drum. This had terrified the congregation and inspired George Fox to preach his first sermon: notwithstanding that most of the few words spoken on this occasion seemed to be very unflattering to Samuel Eaton. Some say that this speech by Fox took place at Hall Green at the village stocks, but this seems to have been a modern invention. It was not Fox's usual method of 'Declaring the Truth', which normally took place by his practice of invading places of worship as an unlicensed intruder.

The Following is from his autobiography:

"Passing on, I went among the professors at Duckingfield [sic] and Manchester, where I stayed awhile, and declared truth among them. There were some convinced who received the Lord's teaching, by which they were confirmed and stood in the truth. But the professors were in a rage, all pleading for sin and imperfection, and could not endure to hear talk of perfection, and of a holy and sinless life. But the Lord's power was over all, though they were chained under darkness and sin, which they pleaded for, and quenched the tender thing in them."



Thomas Averill Duckenfield III, finally arrives for his much anticipated visit to Dukinfield

Thomas and I met online about 10 years ago while we were both researching the Dukinfields and their stories. I was so pleased when he wrote in June this year to say that he could finally visit, on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of July. I had a little less than three weeks to plan his visit, but everything worked out really well.

A little bit about Thomas. He was born in Virginia and was descended from William Duckenfield, the son of Robert and Jane Engusson born, 1732 on the Plantation in Jamaica. William had left Jamaica to travel to Virginia and ended up enslaved there.

The family finally prospered after abolition and Thomas gaines two degrees, with honours, from Princeton and Harvard. He has worked at the Pentagon on Defence Procurement, held several partnerships with Civil Rights law firms in Washington DC and is currently CEO of a company dealing with the recruitment of army veterans.

He came over with his two children, Thomas and Catherine, his wife Lynette and his mother in law Elna. He arrived in Dukinfield from the airport one hour late. This was because his chauffeur had managed to get him into the Old Trafford football stadium for an impromptu tour. We then visited Denton St Lawrence Church, where Joyce Heap and their Curate Sheila Caunte had arranged an exhibition of the life of Colonel Robert Duckinfield. This church was founded in 1531. a timber framed chapel held together by pegs, and one of only 39 of this type of building in England in Wales. Colonel Robert Duckenfield and Samuel Eaton are both buried here.

Next we visited Old Chapel Unitarian Chapel in Dukifield and were met by Janet Ford, Stephen Wilde (the chapel Keeper), Mary Gaskell (Chapel Tour Guide) and Tom Creggan from Tameside Reporter. The Dukinfield family had given the people of Dukinfield the land this church was built on and several members of the Dukifield family worshipped here. At the back of the graveyard, the view stretches over Dukinfield Cemetery which was built in 1866, on land owned by the Dukinfields and

where John Astley had built Dukinfield Lodge as his new hall of residence. Roy Parkes, from the Friends of Old Hall Chapel, came on the visits with us and recounted two very interesting stories about a battle here which gave Dukinfield its name and a suspected murder of one of the Dukinfield family whilst staying with his brother in law.

The next day was devoted to the serious reason for his visit. He was to visit the ruined Old Hall Chapel and to talk to the Friends of Old Hall Chapel about the support he was proposing to give them to agree the transfer of, and access to, the chapel from within the curtilage of the Bardsley Family's Construction's property, and following that a Civic reception for my guests at Dukinfield Town Hall at lunchtime.

The friends had arranged access to the site for the with Bardsley Construction and Thomas and I were joined by Roy Parkes, Catherine Freeman, Jackie Tucker, Jill Nichols and Janet Ford (the Friends of Old Hall Chapel). Our photographer and reporter were allowed to accompany us, but we could not get permission for our BBC reporter at such short notice. Thomas was shown the current state of the Chapel and what the Friends wanted to achieve. There are still bodies of members of the Dukinfield Family buried here and evidence from post holes of a possible earlier wooden chapel.

Thomas was expertly shown around avoiding all the stored building materials and a new set of fencing cutting off direct access to the Chapel. Jackie Tucker explained how they hoped to preserve the ruin and Roy Parkes read out transcripts of the those buried there. These included the first Baron Duckenfield and his wife Susannah Thompson, the daughter of Robert Thompson of Culpho in Suffolk ex Governor of the East India company and niece of Lord Haversham. Together they had 14 children who married into many Cheshire Families. Her father left her 1000 acres of land in. Massachusetts.

We then visited Dukinfield Town Hall to have photos taken with the statue of his ancestor and were met by the Mayor of Tameside Leigh Drennan, local Dukinfield Councillors and the head of Heritage in Tameside, Leanne Feeley. The Mayor was very kind and welcoming to Thomas's family and they had photographs taken in his mayoral robes in the Mayor's Parlour.

The last visit was to Newton Hall in Hyde, at one time owned by the Dukinfield Family, to see what a typical medieval manor hall looked like and were shown around by Christine Clough and Valerie Bowker

This was an extremely successful visit, I was so pleased by the welcome everyone gave my friend. Going forward Thomas has promised some of his own money to kickstart the Friends' objectives and the promise of more later on the basis of matched funding. I am hoping for continued friendship and co-operation over many years. A Golden Moment in Dukinfield's History.

As an aside, two weeks before his visit, I was contacted by a London Lawyer, Monica Whyte. She is descended from Elizabeth Duckenfield by Jane Engusson. She and Thomas Duckenfield had never

met and were unaware of each other's existence. Thomas was delighted with the serendipity of the chance to go and meet her the next day when he travelled to London.

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