
Foreword

In 1701 Richard Gough, then a 66 year-old widower, began his history of the Parish of Myddle in Shropshire. He continued until 1706, and his book offers case histories suggesting that the social and behavioural misdemeanours of one generation have their origins in the social and family pathology of its predecessor. One memorable vignette merits quotation:

William [Bickley] was a faire dealeing person, and well to passe, butt hee was unfortunate in his marriage with Elizabeth, daughter of William Tyler, of Balderton. Shee was more commendable for her beauty than her chastity and was the ruin of the family . . . William Bickley has two sons — Thomas and William, and three daughters — Mary, Elizabeth and Susan. Thomas, practised his father's virtues, William imitated his Grandfather's villanyes, and the three daughters followed the mother's vices.

Man's destiny lies half within himself and half without
Philip Wylie: *Generation of Vipers*, 1942

To our wives: RK and SM