

# Samuel Hartlib to John Worthington (August 3, 1660)

Source

Dear Sir, Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> 1660.  
I sent only a certificate of my daughter's marriage, and a patent  
which I have now specially improved into me, and please a little  
what kind a person I was at that time. I must thank you again for your  
faithfull information of me and mine that I have fought  
his marriage is not false, and my son in law him, can officially  
clear it. If you know what a life he led, and I rest of his friends  
and friends have had to provide my daughter, to give her con-  
sent, their mouths will be opened in this particular matter  
why he kept. If I remember well I have told you already how he  
sent back into him his love letter, telling him he did not love him  
but if he was content in his affection, to her, and confirmed me more  
and more it was a never divine providence, which made him this  
match brought about. It is so, my father was a Merchant, but no  
ordinary one, being a King's officer, and his nephew, who had  
founded a church at Llanrhystud in Ireland, and when he departed  
preached in a Kingdom, he was sent to secure him into prison  
when he came to Llanrhystud, where not any hope of credit was yet built,  
but to with another. Richard of Brisslaw in Shropshire built two stately  
houses, and are you standing at Llanrhystud, being a principal house of  
I know, I having almost lost my father many thousands of his  
dollars in these dear days. Judicially after he ordered that him  
himself, my grandfather, a Deputy of a English company at Thetford  
bringing a English company to Llanrhystud, and set it then by trading  
came to

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came to a splendor and wealth, wherein it had continued many  
years. My father had married before, a Polish gentleman  
of a noble extraction, both of them long lived according to a fortune  
in these countries, in regard of which he obtained a favor. He died with  
an old mother. I had many sons of good and excellent, of which of  
honour both to my grandfather and father were offered both by  
Justice and Obedience, remains yet in a memory of some very old people  
in Russia. My mother had a sister, both which were very  
honourably married to a Major, son of Lord, Mr. Clarke  
and afterwards to a very rich knight Sir Rich. Smith one of the Kings  
privy council, she bringing a portion to him of 10000 to 12000. This  
is my aunt's lady Smith, who marrying afterwards to Sir Edward  
Savage was made one of the Judges of Common Pleas, and my first mother.  
The other sister was married to a younger brother, Mr. Duke, who for  
his own estate of 3000 to 4000 of land of inheritance yearly, and  
who is still alive. Our cousin, who is my aunt's lady Smith's daughter,  
was married to Sir Anthony Colver at bottom a knight of 10000  
to 12000 a year, who is still alive and a Parliament man in this and  
former Parliaments, and you may also imagine of these should be more of  
reasons. But before all this I should have told you if I have  
been upraised from too much negligence of my pedigree, which  
they told me, if my family was of a very ancient extraction, in  
man's empire, there having been the Brethren of the name of  
Hartlib, some of them have been Privy Counsellors to the Kings,  
some to other inferior Princes, some Privy Counsellors to the Kings,

but they passed afterwards not so strictly for nobility in a  
when some would merchants, which you know is derogatory to a  
nobility. In other respects, which I had never seen a passage  
in English works - This is a most flourishing condition -  
But now I blame me, if I never look out of place. And truly I  
may speak it with a safe conscience, if I never all of days of my  
life reflected seriously upon my pedigree, but if I had I believe I should  
have made an other kind of history, preparing my dearer birth above  
all such vanities, and afterwards studying more to this way, to be  
useful to his creature, and serviceable to his church, than to be rich  
or honourable. As for example, I never did my best as they do.  
Just as you know in past, and let it not for a hundred years ago if  
I tell you as long as I have lived in England by wonderful providence  
I have spent yearly out of my own estate for 200 to 300 sterling a year,  
and when I was brought to bed of children I have had from 5  
Parliament and Councils of state a pension of 300 to 400 a year, and  
as freely I have spent for their service and I am of many. If  
they know what kind of counsel I have and then have had, they  
would be ashamed to make this my objection. Some of them have  
been such, if I myself have paid for their entertainment unknown to  
my wife, which are great men in England. Some noblemen, but  
and children of honourable parents which have begged of me to suffer  
them to live with me at my table of 24. I could fill whole sheets  
in what love and veneration I have lived these 30 years in England,  
being familiarly acquainted with a host of Archbishops, Bishops,  
Cardinals, vicars, barons, knights, esquires, Gentlemen, and others.

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Professors of both Universities, Merchants, and all sorts of  
learned or in any kind useful men, etc. etc. and in all of these  
kingdoms under all I danger I have fallen out, recommended before  
now in Parliament, books dedicated unto me, from several places  
and countries, etc. etc. But I grow weary to pursue such vanities.  
Truly 6000 to 12000 in all words be counted in England no great  
riches, but then know I my daughter had had many suitors, some  
Londoners, even to which I would not give my consent. I living well,  
wealth, but not I persist as I have did my son in last manner  
and contentment to this day. If I make this provision a  
convenient necessary to them and myself, it is all in all I shall rejoice  
in, for then all other things whatsoever they be shall be long  
for their and my good Amen Amen.

Source: Samuel Hartlib to John Worthington, August 3, 1660, 26/1/1A-2B,

[https://www.dhi.ac.uk/hartlib/view?docset=main&docname=26A\\_01](https://www.dhi.ac.uk/hartlib/view?docset=main&docname=26A_01), in Greengrass, M., Leslie, M. and Hannon, M. (2013), The Hartlib Papers. Published by The Digital Humanities Institute, University of Sheffield. Available

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