

What to all of these early modern era people have in common?

(Their names, dates, and descriptions all come from *The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*.)

John Sutton (IV) (1400-1487), courtier and diplomat	William Clarke (1695-1711), antiquary	Sir John Parnell (1745-1801), politician
Thomas Thomas (1553-1588), printer and lexicographer	Thomas Drennan (1696-1760), minister of Belfast's First Presbyterian Congregation	Thomas Scott (1745-1842), army officer
Christian Cavendish (1595-1675), countess of Devonshire	John Rutty (1698-1775), physician	Samuel Jackson Pratt (1749-1814), writer and actor
Ambrose Corby (1604-1649), Jesuit	George Augustus Elliot (1717-1790), first Baron Heathfield and army officer	Lilly Wigg (1749-1828), botanist
George Lane (1620-1683), 1 <sup>st</sup> Viscount Lanesborough, political administrator and politician	George Campbell (1719-1796), Church of Scotland minister and college head	John 'Christmas' Beckwith (1750-1809), organist and composer
Sir Isaac Newton (1642-1727), natural philosopher and mathematician	William Collins (1721-1759), poet	William Newton (1750-1830), poet
Archibald Pitcairne (1652-1713), physician	Christopher Hopper (1722-1802), Methodist Preacher	Robert Samuel Marcuard (1756-1788?), engraver
Lady Grisell Baillie (1665-1746), heroine and businesswoman	William Alexander (1726-1783), styled 6 <sup>th</sup> earl of Stirling, army officer in America	Sir Robert Barlow (1757-1843), naval officer
Stephen Weston (1665-1742), Bishop of Exeter	Robert Orme (1728-1801), historian of India and East India Company servant	Richard Brothers (1757-1824), self-styled prophet
(Ehrengard) Melusine von der Schulenburg (1667-1743), mistress of George I	Frederick North (1732-1792), prime minister	Richard Porson (1759-1808), classical scholar
Thomas Halyburton (1674-1712), Church of Scotland minister and theologian	Benjamin McDowell (1739-1824), minister of the Presbyterian General Synod of Ulster	William Gregor (1761-1817), mineralogist and Church of England clergyman
Thomas Allen (1681-1755), Church of England clergyman and writer	Joseph Corte (1740-1820), singer and organist	Michael Kelly (1762-1826), singer and composer
Daniel Bellemy, the Elder (b. 1687), lawyer and writer	John Cleverley the younger (1747-1786) & Robert Cleverley (1747-1809), painters	Joseph Mazzinghi (1765-1844), composer
George Wharton (1688-1739), physician		Christmas Evans (1766-1838), Baptist minister
		Dorothy Wordsworth (1771-1855), writer
		William Barnes Rhodes (1772-1826), writer