

The Family Name

From Boston my mother gets
An envelope marked Hurry
Send by return post your subscription
For a family history of the Harringtons.

Once it was a minor castle
Near the Lake District needing donations
The demesne of a knight and lady
Whose pile threatened to tumble.

In Northants once we found
A knee-high signpost: Harrington
In front of which we posed, two scions
In a ditch, travelling cross-country.

But my favourite Harringtons are
The two mentioned by Jane Austen
In *Pride and Prejudice*, Chapter 39
Who, without any detail, sound pleasant.

ELIZABETH SMITHER