

The Paternal Maternal Family History  
for  
Thomas Kevin, Brendan James and Edward Leopold Dorney  
(suggestions for better titles gratefully accepted)

## Table of Contents

Surname Meanings.....	4
Donald Keith Clapp (Great-grandfather).....	5
John Jarvis Clapp (Great-Great-Grandfather) (1889-1950).....	12
Robert James Jarvis Clapp (3G-Grandfather) (1847-1928).....	15
John Clapp (4G-Grandfather) (1807-1897).....	19
John Clapp (5G-Grandfather) (1778-1842).....	21
Earlier Clapps.....	21
Grace Wills (5G-Grandmother) (1775-1848).....	21
Ann Jarvis (4G-Grandmother) (ca1805-1850).....	21
Elizabeth Mary Hughes (3G-Grandmother) (1851-1920).....	23
Ada Emily Francis Hillier (Great-Great-Grandmother) (1891-1979).....	25
James William Hillier (3G-Grandfather) (1866-1947).....	26
William Hillier (4G-Grandfather) (1834-1905).....	28
William Hillier (5G-Grandfather) (1807-1880).....	30
Sarah Deed (5G-Grandmother) (1806-1891).....	31
Herodias Jordan (4G-Grandmother) (1845-1914).....	32
William Jordan (5G-Grandfather) (1823-1884).....	33
Thomas Jordan (6G-Grandfather) (1801-1880).....	36
William Jordan (7G-Grandfather) (1770-1838).....	37
Earlier Jordans.....	38
Ann Lambourne (6G-Grandmother) (1805-1864).....	40
Hannah Sarah Baker (5G-Grandmother) (1820-1905).....	41
George Baker (6G-Grandfather) (1782-1836).....	43
Annie Mary Hill (3G-Grandmother) (1866-1950).....	44
Michael Hell (4G-Grandfather) (ca1831-1909).....	46
Caspar Hell (5G-Grandfather) (1792-1851).....	49
Wendel Hell (6G-Grandfather) (1748-1827).....	49
Elisabetha Johl (5G-Grandmother) (1791-1858).....	50
Philipp Johl (6G-Grandfather) (1769-1827).....	51
Michael Bieger (8G-Grandfather) (ca1729-1809).....	51
Margaretha Schubert (4G-Grandmother) (ca1840-1921).....	52
Marjorie Ridley (Great-grandmother).....	54
Amed George Ridley (Great-great-grandfather) (1874-1957).....	58
James Ridley (3G-Grandfather) (1834-1896).....	63
Edward Ridley (4G-Grandfather) (1797-1843).....	66
John Ridley and Mary Woodman (5G-Grandparents).....	68
Amelia Collins (4G-Grandmother) (1808-1867).....	69
Henry Collins (5G-Grandfather) (1773-1848).....	72
Abraham Collins and Mary Potter (6G-Grandparents).....	73
Thomas Potter (7G-Grandparent) (1718- ).....	73
Rebecca Jenner (5G-Grandmother) (1774-1829).....	74
Charlotte Cook (3G-Grandmother) (1844-1875).....	75
Benjamin Cook (4G-Grandfather) (1807-1870).....	76
Stephen Cook (5G-Grandfather) (1782-1864).....	79
Mary Sharwood (5G-Grandmother) (1786-1857).....	80
Diana Crampton (4G-Grandmother) (1808-1851).....	81
Job Crampton (5G-Grandfather) (1761-1837).....	82
Elizabeth Emma Kempton (Great-great-grandmother) (1877-1953).....	84
George William Kempton (3G-Grandfather) (1848-1898).....	87
George Kempton (4G-Grandfather) (1822-1893).....	89

Joseph Kempton (5G-Grandfather) (1787-1825).....	92
Mary Teuton (5G-Grandmother) (1790-1868).....	93
Thomas Teuton (6G-Grandfather) (1753- ).....	93
William Teuton (7G-Grandfather) (1730- ).....	94
Thomas Teuton (8G-Grandfather) (ca1700- ).....	94
Emma Freeman (4G-Grandmother) (1827-1878).....	95
Thomas Freeman (5G-Grandfather) (ca1785-1854).....	95
Elizabeth Sarah Chesterton (3G-Grandmother) (1851-1915).....	97
Edward Chesterton (4G-Grandfather)(1806-1878).....	99
Elizabeth Emma Grove (4G-Grandmother) (1823-1893).....	100
Mitochondrial DNA Testing (mtDNA).....	101
Haplogroup U5.....	101
Haplogroup U5b2.....	101
Haplogroups U5b2b.....	101
Haplogroup U5b2b4.....	101
Appendix I – Birthplace locations.....	102

## Surname Meanings

**Baker:** An occupational surname, one of the few of which the meaning is clear in Modern English.

**Chesterton:** A locational surname deriving from any one of the various places called Chesterton, in Cambridgeshire, Gloucestershire, Huntingdonshire, Oxfordshire, Staffordshire and Warwickshire.

**Clapp:** This surname probably comes from the Old English *clop*, a lump or hill, and so could originally have been a nickname for a large person, meaning, depending on which source you read, clumsy, large, coarse or rough. It may also be a toponymic surname based on the same word.

**Collins:** A patronymic surname meaning son of Colin. This is a different etymological origin to the Irish Collins.

**Cook:** A pretty clear-cut occupational surname.

**Crampton:** Yet another locational surname. The -ton on the end is a dead giveaway.

**Deed:** (also Dade, Deeds) From the Old English *daed*, meaning deed, probably a surname of patronymic origin as it was used as a first name in Old English times.

**Jarvis:** This surname is a patronymic surname, from the Norman personal name Gervase, which comes from the words *geri*, spear, and possibly *vaulx*, valley.

**Hill:** A toponymic surname originally applied to someone who lived on or near a hill.

**Hillier:** An occupational name for a tiler, thatcher or slater, from Middle English *hele(n)* 'to cover' or Old English *helian*.

**Hughes:** This is a patronymic surname, from the Welsh personal name *Huw*.

**Jenner:** An occupational name for a designer or engineer, from a Middle English reduced form of Old French *engineor*

**Jordan:** This is a patronymic name, from the personal name Jordan. Crusaders to the Holy Lands would often bring back water from the River Jordan. They believed Jesus Christ had been baptised by John the Baptist in this river and used the water to baptise their own children, giving them the first name Jordan.

**Kempton:** Another locational surname, most likely from Kempton in Shropshire.

**Lambourne:** Lambourne is a locational surname. There is a Lambourne in Essex and a Lambourn in Berkshire. It comes from the Old English words *lamb*, a lamb, and *burna*, a stream, so a watering place for lambs.

**Ridley:** Anglo Saxon in origin, a locational surname. As a locational surname, there are two different origins. From *rydde*, cleared, and *leah*, wood or clearing, making *cleared wood*, or from *hreed*, reed, to make *reedy wood or clearing*.

**Sharwood/Sherwood:** A toponymic surname, from Sherwood Forest.

This history was compiled, written and researched by Mark Dorney, and will continue to be updated, check the bottom left corner for the version date. I would welcome any comments, corrections or additions you may have. My current address is 145 Fairfield Rd, Fairfield, QLD 4103, current phone 0412 871 981 and current e-mail [msdorney@yahoo.com.au](mailto:msdorney@yahoo.com.au). Current web address [http://dorneyfamilyhistory.net/famtree\\_web/index.html](http://dorneyfamilyhistory.net/famtree_web/index.html)

## Donald Keith Clapp (Great-grandfather)

Keith was born on 5 August 1917 in Perth. His parents were John Jarvis Clapp, a fireman, and Ada Emily Frances Hillier. He was baptised at St Paul's Anglican Church on 24 May 1919.

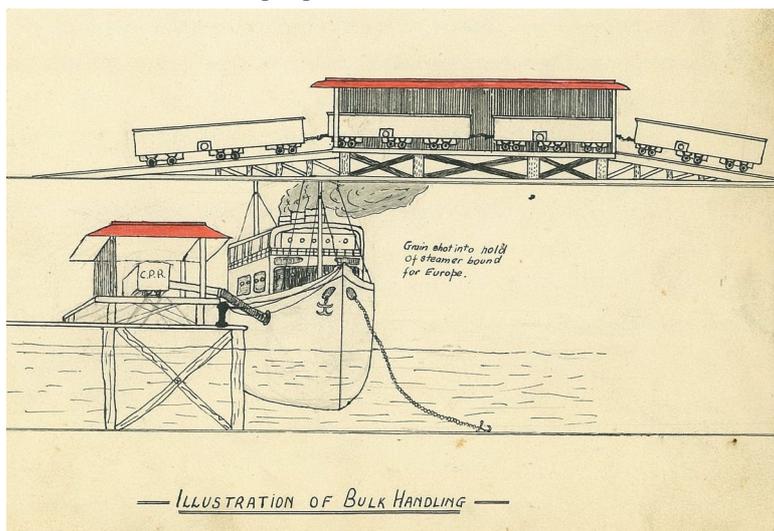
Keith was the youngest of three boys, and grew to be 5' 9.5" (176cm) tall with brown eyes and auburn, or reddish-brown, hair.

When he was born, his family lived at 51 Moore Street, East Perth. In 1926 Keith and his family moved to 28 Irwin Street, in the city centre of Perth, where they lived until 1933, before settling at 4 Leonard Street, Victoria Park.

Keith's character can be partly explained, but not excused, by the influence of his parents. His mother Ada is remembered by her grandchildren as always making them feel that she didn't like them and didn't want them there, and who never made spontaneous displays of affection. We don't know anything about his father John's character, but he was a fireman, and his hobbies were boxing and motorcycle racing. He may or may not have been a good and caring person, but it would still have been within a framework of a very masculine, early twentieth century working class culture. Keith never mentioned his father to his children, which is probably not a good sign.

There's known to be a strong correlation with substance abuse and childhood trauma, with lack of parental affection counting as trauma.

The first reference to Keith in the newspaper record is in April 1929. His name was listed in a team of Novice Fours at a rowing regatta; he was also mentioned in another rowing regatta in October 1931.



Sample from one of Keith's Year 11 notebooks

Keith was a talented artist, musician and entertainer. He worked with pencils and was good with drawing street scenes and caricatures. In the music arena he mostly played the trumpet, an instrument he started playing in his early teens.

Keith liked working with his hands, and was great at building and fixing things. His workshop at home was well ordered, with never a tool out of place and put away on the shadowboard. He would often say to his children, "If a job's worth doing, it's worth doing well".

In his earlier years he was involved with the Young Australia League (YAL). The YAL was a youth organisation aimed mainly at boys that organised many different types of events with the aim of developing Australian nationalism.

In September 1932 he travelled with a YAL group to Busselton to hold a concert party. Keith played the part of a parishioner in the sketch "Our Parochial Gathering". After performing at Busselton the party moved on to Donnybrook.

Other mentions in the newspaper include an April 1933 variety show, where he delivered a comedy piece "The Irish Fire Brigade". This was also a travelling show, and they performed at the Boulder Town Hall and the Bruce Road Board Hall. There was a white minstrel's show in October 1933 in Perth, which later toured the goldfields in April 1934 and reached Geraldton in May of the same year.



Keith was also involved with the Victoria Park Citizen's Band and at a competition in July 1934 he gained 58 points out of a possible 60 for "his brilliant playing of *Zelda*" on the cornet. On Armistice Day, 1936, he played the last post at the corner of Barrack and Murray Streets in the Perth city centre. Buglers were stationed all throughout the city.

He played in a band for many years to make extra money, and he is mentioned in the newspaper a number of times. In July 1944, he performed a musical item at the Reeler's Club. In March 1952, a trumpet performance at a departure party for Mrs. R. Morris; his wife Marjorie was there as well. In July 1954 he and a group of other played at the train station on the arrival of Hal Moschetti's wife. Hal was the musical director from the Folies Bergere, a travelling risqué dance show. It seems likely to me that Keith was performing in the band at their shows in Perth.



*Keith playing the trumpet*

Keith was involved with the orchestra band at His Majesty's Theatre for many years, and then later with the RSL Memorial Band, where he met Sir Charles Court, a future premier of Western Australia, They kept in touch as acquaintances for many years.

Keith's name also comes up occasionally in the social notes. Twice we learn he attended a majority party, for Paul Buddee in March 1934, and for Florence Thomson in May 1936.

On Saturday evening Miss Joyce Buddee gave a bridge party in honour of Miss Betty Scott, a visitor to this State from New Zealand. The hostess received her guests in a frock of white flat crepe and velvet coatee, and the guest of honour wore a smart gold lame blouse with black mousseline skirt. The guests included Misses Betty Scott, Maisie Watkins, Ruby Arnott, Betty Bremner, Joyce Buddee, Messrs. F. Carr, Edric Spurling, Jack Laurent, Paul Buddee, Keith Clapp, T. Buddee, and F. Richards. Prizes were won by Maisie Watkins, Betty Scott and Jack Laurent.

*The West Australian, 31 July 1935*

The article here gives an example of the kind of fluff you find in the social pages. Keith attended another bridge party held by Mrs. T. R. Buddee in May 1937 that was mentioned in the newspaper.

Keith won one pound in January 1933 in the Mirror newspaper's Money Words prize draw. This is interesting, as it appears he was already working, as he listed his work address of Burrige and Warren, 69 King Street. Burrige and Warren sold a small but diverse range of goods, including car tyres, wire netting, car batteries, fly-spray and typewriters. We know that Keith used to be a typewriter salesman later in life, and this must be where it all started.

Keith began his own stationery business in 1951, sharing an office in the basement of Yorkshire House, at 194 St George's Terrace. His entire stock was contained in one humble cupboard, which he later kept in the garage of his house. The business sold stationery and office equipment to other businesses. His company grew over the years, and late 1960 it was incorporated under the creative name of D. K. Clapp Pty Ltd. The business was highly successful, and Keith employed quite a number of people.

In 1975, Keith had an illness requiring surgery. There were complications and he was in intensive care for many weeks. His recovery was long and slow and he eventually decided to sell the business. He was bought out by Roneo Vickers at the end of 1975, a multi-national company, and Keith had enough money that he likely never needed to work again.

It was also after this illness, that his mother Ada got in touch with him. They had had a falling out and hadn't communicated for many years.

We're keeping our clients (fast increasing, incidentally) both satisfied and happy with our service and know-how—because we produce results. TRY US. WE ARE SURE YOU'LL AGREE.

PHONE \*21 2221 NOW!

There is a carbon for every purpose. Avoid waste of money, time and effort—we are specialists in advising the correct carbon for your particular need.

Order with confidence from the most comprehensive range available.

**D. K. CLAPP PTY. LTD.**  
194 ST. GEORGE'S TERRACE, PERTH  
PHONE 21 2221

**MAN FRIDAY . . .**

Looking for a dependable, versatile supplier? No need to track one on the sand. **D. K. CLAPP** can be your "right hand man".

*DL Brochure for Keith's business, outside, artwork by Keith*

Crusoe's Man Friday was dependable but no expert. The services of D. K. Clapp Pty. Ltd. experienced staff are yours for the asking.

OFFICE DESKS and CHAIRS  
 FILING CABINETS  
 STATIONERY CUPBOARDS, ETC.  
 TYPEWRITERS  
 ADDING MACHINES  
 CALCULATORS  
 PHOTO COPYING MACHINES  
 DUPLICATORS  
 DICTATION MACHINES

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

CARBON PAPERS  
 TYPEWRITER RIBBONS  
 TYPING & DUPLICATING PAPERS  
 STENCILS  
 CELLULOSE TAPES  
 ADDING MACHINE ROLLS  
 RUBBER STAMPS

Knowledge of economical and efficient office equipment is at your fingertips.



Section of showroom with some of our comprehensive range of office equipment.

**D. K. CLAPP** Pty Ltd

YORKSHIRE, HOUSE,  
 194 ST. GEORGE'S TERRACE, PERTH  
 OFFICE EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

PHONE \*21 2221 FOR SERVICE

*DL Brochure for Keith's business, inside*

In July 1938 Keith became engaged to Marjorie Ridley. They were married on 15 June 1940 at St Peter's church in Victoria Park, located just down the road at 11 Leonard Street. They had three daughters together, Lesley Maxine (1943), Susan Patricia (1947) and Pamela Ann (1950).

They initially lived with Marjorie's parents, and the 1943 electoral roll shows them living there at 79 Leonard Street, Victoria Park.

Keith's parents had lived at 4 Leonard Street, and his uncle Cecil at number forty-nine. It seems likely they both met because they lived nearby to one another.

Keith and Marjorie had moved to 2 Susan Street, Kensington by 1949. While in a different suburb, this was only a block away from Marjorie's parents.



*Wedding day photo*



*Keith from service records*

Keith signed up for war duty on 13 December 1940, but initially not in the AIF, working or training out of the Karrakatta base in the suburb of Claremont.

He was fully mobilised into the AIF on 15 July 1942, with the rank of Corporal. He was in the Australian Army Service Corps, in the Australian Entertainment Unit. Keith remained in Australia during the war years, being assigned mainly to Perth, with a month in South Australia in April 1943, and the last three months of 1944 in New South Wales. Keith apparently was injured by a bayonet in training. It must have been a very minor wound as it doesn't appear in his casualty record, but he did have problems with a bad back on a number of occasions.



Keith was de-mobilised on 11 December 1945. Marjorie later said that the only fighting he did during the war was in the Battle of the Bars.



*Photo of 2 Susan Street*

Keith could be a charming man, which would be partly why he was so successful in his business and at entertaining, but he could also be not a particularly nice man.

He was an alcoholic, was verbally abusive and quite nasty when drunk and would sometimes humiliate Marjorie in front of others. He was somewhat of a womaniser and when he was part of various bands, although not known for certainty, it's likely he was not a faithful husband.

He could be domineering, bad tempered and unreasonable, but at other times could be generous, thoughtful, funny and kind. He had a good sense of humour (although when drunk it could have a nasty edge), was intelligent and could be witty.

All of his family suffered from his drinking and all that went with it, but Marjorie suffered the most.

Two of his daughters had unplanned teenage pregnancies in the 1960s. It's well established that this is a phenomenon more prevalent amongst children from dysfunctional families. It was very difficult for unwed mothers to keep children in the 1960s unless there was strong parental support, which was often not forthcoming as unwed mothers were considered extremely shameful and that shame reflected on their parents.

His daughter Lesley fell pregnant when she was 16 to her boyfriend Tom Cox, to whom she was allowed to marry. Her son Brad was born when she was 17 (in 1960), but she soon split up with her husband, and Lesley returned to live with her parents. This did not go well, as you might imagine, and Lesley soon moved out. This didn't work out too well either, as Lesley was not really able to care for a child on her own. So, when Brad was aged about four he moved in with Keith and Marjorie, and Lesley moved to Melbourne.

It was around this time they learnt their second daughter, Sue had an unplanned, unwed pregnancy. *Perhaps* things may have gone differently if Lesley hadn't previously fallen pregnant, but any reserves of compassion, if they had been there in the first place, were gone by this point. Sue was forced to give her son up for adoption in early 1965. This was repeated with another pregnancy almost a year later.

When Keith's grandson Brad was about ten years old, he kicked him out of home to go live with his mother again, as Lesley had returned to Perth by that point. I'm not sure how long that lasted, but within a couple of years Brad was back living in Keith's household. Marjorie was happy to have him back, Keith less so, or perhaps not at all. Keith's attitude to Brad suggests that he probably didn't really like children at all, and not just that he disliked girl children.

All of his daughters moved out of home as soon as possible, all at around seventeen years old. This was both culturally and financially difficult for single women in the 1960s, and Pamela escaped by entering into a marriage she was unlikely to have seriously considered under other circumstances.

When Keith contributed information to John Clapp's family history project in the early 1980s, not only did he ignore the unplanned pregnancies (not too unsurprising), but he even lied about other details of his daughter's lives in order to remove multiple marriages. He was either uncaring about the details and wanted to keep it simple, or was incredibly embarrassed by his family.

Keith's life really started to fall apart when he sold his business. He didn't really have close friends, just business associates, and being home all the time put further pressure on an already difficult and unstable marriage, which drove Marjorie crazy. Keith joined the local bowls club, but didn't make any friends there and in fact got into conflict with the other members.

During the 1970's Keith wanted to go to Thailand for a holiday, although Marjorie didn't want him to go. He went alone and on his return cruelly told Marjorie he would be bringing a Thai woman to Australia and she would live with them in the family home.

Piled on top of everything else Marjorie had put up with, this latest news caused Marjorie to have a nervous breakdown. Their daughter Lesley, who until this time had little to do with her parents and dysfunctional marriage, became Marjorie's ally, confronting Keith and demanding he move out.

Eventually a court order was required against Keith to stop him coming around. They separated in 1978.

He was overseas when Marjorie died in 1980, which was a relief to his daughters, and they didn't contact him.

By the mid-1980s Keith had a number of grandchildren, but doesn't appear to have shown much interest in them. He certainly didn't send birthday or Christmas cards or presents or even call on these occasions.

Keith bought a flat at 11/851 Canning Highway, Applecross and spent a large part of his wealth on sex tours to south-east Asia and alcohol. The woman from Thailand came to Australia (probably on a three month visa) and lived with him while he was at Applecross. It is believed that during her stay his savings dwindled considerably. She returned to Thailand, either for family reasons, because she had extracted enough money out of him, or because she couldn't stand him (all depending on whose opinion you ask).

With his wealth dwindling, he sold his flat and moved into a smaller flat in a retirement complex, with one of those titles where you get hardly any of your money back when you sell. He eventually had a stroke and so could no longer stay there. On his release from hospital his daughter Pamela arranged for him to go into Gwentyfred Nursing Home in Kensington. When Keith died twelve months later or so, Lesley arranged his funeral. There was barely enough money left in his estate to cover the funeral costs.

Keith died a lonely man on 7 January 1994. He was 76 years old and had become financially and emotionally broken.

I only remember meeting Keith once, when he came to stay for a few nights when I was still living with my Mum in Melbourne. I thought he was good fun, and we played a lot of games of Yahtzee. I would have been about nine years old, so this would have been in 1982.

I only remember one other interaction with him. I was visiting my Mum in Melbourne, in perhaps 1988, when he rang up to speak to her. I answered the phone and it was clear he had no idea how old I was, what I was doing with my life nor much interest in speaking to me. There may well have been extenuating circumstances, but it was a missed opportunity to leave a favourable impression on me.

*Browse newspaper articles about Keith here <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/result?l-publictag=Donald%20Keith%20Clapp>*

## John Jarvis Clapp (Great-Great-Grandfather) (1889-1950)

John was born on 24 August 1889 in Sydney. His parents were Robert James Jarvis Clapp, a fireman on a steamer ship at the time, and Elizabeth Hughes, who were living at 8 Iredale Street, Newtown. He was the sixth of seven siblings, and the third of four to survive past early childhood.

John and his family moved to the West Australian goldfields, to Coolgardie, in about 1895. It's possible his father had come out a couple of years earlier. They lived on Richardson Street in the "suburb" of Toorak. This street either no longer exists or has been re-named.

Coolgardie was founded in 1892 after alluvial gold was found in the area. By 1898 it had a population of five thousand people and the streets were lit by electric lights. Seven hundred mining companies based in the town were listed on the London Stock Exchange. However the gold began to decrease by the early 1900s and by World War I the population and economy were in steep decline.

John certainly appears to have been a man's man. He was strong and fit, played sports at school, boxed and wrestled as an adult, raced motorbikes, worked as a fireman and rose to a senior position doing it. He was the third in a line of very strong and active men.

The first reference we have to John is when he participated in a boys bicycle race in September 1902, and references to him in cycle races continue until May 1909. He came second in his final race. He was on the school football team, as was his brother Reg, and probably on the cricket team as well, but a lack of initials in the team lists makes this unclear. John continued to play football after leaving school, but while still living in Coolgardie.

John's younger brother Reg, while out rabbiting in February 1906, found a headless corpse by an old mine shaft, which must have been the talk of the family for a while. The inquest found the deceased had killed himself by placing a stick of lit gelignite in his mouth.



Family photo, ca1920

In 1912 he was living in Perth but returned to Coolgardie in November 1912 to marry Ada Hillier. Ada lived in Burbanks, which was a town nine kilometres south of Coolgardie and now no longer exists.

They married on 6 November 1912 in Coolgardie. They were to have three sons together, Arthur John (1914), Jack Reginald (1915) and Donald Keith (1917).

They lived at 196 Wittenoom Street, East Perth in 1914 and 1915, and then over the road at 51 Moore Street until 1925.

John's first foray into boxing appears to have been in March 1908 when he had a set-to with a veteran named Luke Williams. He is referred to as Jack Clapp in boxing reports. His name is mentioned in relation to boxing in a number of articles over the next decade, but mentioned in passing as a sparring partner or as a trainer. Three boxers he was in association with were Frank Graham, Kid George and Ernie Hickling. John is not mentioned in a fight again until September 1919, when he fought in a preliminary fight prior to the main fight which Frank Graham was in. According to the article "*Clapp's seconds threw in the towel in the fifth round, their man then being in a dazed condition from the punishment he had received.*"

In March 1920 he was referred to as a trainer for Barney Thompson. In March 1922 John and Barney fought four exhibition rounds at Laborland. Laborland was a carnival held by the Trades Hall Association. There's then no mention of him in relation to boxing for a decade, but in May 1932, at a fundraiser in the

Victoria Park Town Hall to raise money for “the local unemployed married men’s winter firewood fund”, he fought in a match and won on points. There were at least three other fundraisers that year and two the next that he fought in, although in on event he gave a wrestling demonstration.

In November 1932 he travelled 1,100 kilometres out to Wiluna in the centre of the state, where he boxed four rounds in a supporting bout to the main, fifteen round fight.

John’s first job, as far as I know, was delivering bread in Coolgardie. His mother had been the half-owner of a bakery business, as a silent partner, but he continued delivering bread after the business was sold. I know this because in June 1909 there was a case of a dispute at a local court for non-payment for bread deliveries. John had delivered the bread. He appears to have been a volunteer fire fighter in Coolgardie in 1909.

By 1910 he had joined the fire brigade in Kalgoorlie as a probationary officer, and was appointed to the staff as a first class fireman in May of that year. John took up a position in Perth with the Central Fire Station some time prior to the end of 1912. His obituary states that he served in many country centres, but I think he only had time to fit a few in.

From 1926 to 1933 they lived two doors down from the Central Fire Station, in a property owned by the Fire Brigade board, at 28 Irwin Street. John was probably second in charge of the station at this point. He was described as a foreman when he appeared at the arbitration court in relation to a wrongful dismissal case in 1926.

**Sponsored by the Fire Brigades Board, Father Christmas acted as host to about 150 children and as many adults, who gathered at the central fire station on Saturday night. The chief attraction was a big Christmas tree gaily decorated with coloured lights and bearing a large number of toys. Father Christmas and Chief Officer Lambourne, assisted in stripping the tree of the gifts and distributing them to the children, and the enjoyment of the young guests was further increased by the provision, on a lavish scale, of sweets, fruit, drinks, ice cream, and other delicacies dear to children. Mesdames Clapp and Haynes and Station Officer Clapp (Father Christmas) were responsible for the arrangements.**

*The West Australian, 20 December 1926*

There was a coal mine fire at Collie in January 1928, 200 kilometres south of Perth, and John attended the site.

In August 1931 there was the first of a series of monthly competitions held between the Central Fire Brigade and the Olympic Athletic club. John engaged in an exhibition wrestling match. The December meet in 1931 raised money for the Clontarf Orphanage.

In August 1932 John and some members of his team visited the Clontarf Orphanage and gave a gymnastics demonstration. Then the next month, they arranged for the orphans to visit the Fire Station to see a demonstration of rescue work.

John was placed in charge of the Victoria Park Station by 1934 and he and his family moved to 4 Leonard Street, Victoria Park. Newspaper articles place him in Perth until at least 1940, and then the electoral roll for 1943 shows him assigned to Bunbury, and living at Princep-street. However from at least July 1944 articles place him in Fremantle, and the 1949 electoral roll has his address as “Fire Station”, Fremantle.

As a senior fire brigade official, his name comes up in relation to a number of fires. Some major ones include a hospital ship fire, a bus depot fire and a bacon factory fire, all in 1945. All the articles can be accessed by following the link at the end of this chapter.

For some reason, motor vehicle registrations were published in the newspaper, so we know that in February 1930 John bought a Dodge from the Winterbottom Motor Co.

In September 1936 it was stated that he was now driving a 1936 Ford V8 touring sedan.



*1936 Ford V8, www.favcars.com*

Motorcycle racing was yet another ‘manly’ hobby of John’s. His first motorcycle race I’ve found reference to was in December 1910, where he rode a 2 horsepower motorcycle in a three mile race. There’s then a long gap in the record, until he is mentioned again riding a BSA in January 1919. John is mentioned in relation to motorcycling all through 1919 and 1920, but from motor vehicle registrations information, we know he still owned a BSA in 1937, and motor cycling was mentioned in his obituary.



*Turbit pigeon, image from wikipedia*

It seems unlikely by comparison with everything else we know about him, but John bred pigeons for a hobby.

John first exhibited pigeons, that we know of, at the Coolgardie Dog, Poultry and Horticultural Show. There may not have been any other entrants, but he came first twice in the Turbit category, with a barred cock and barred hen.

He came first in the Royal Show in October 1938 for *Cock or hen, rung*, and in 1939 second for *long face, self colour, male*, first in the Kelmscott Show for *any other variety, cock* and at the Byford show he was an “outstanding exhibitor” in the pigeon section.

John died on 24 March 1950. He was 60 years old.



*Plaque via billiongraves.com*

## DEATH OF FIRE OFFICER

After a brief illness, the death occurred on Friday of Second Officer John Jarvis Clapp, officer in charge of the Fremantle fire brigade district. Before he joined the fire brigade in 1910 Mr. Clapp was a volunteer fireman at Coolgardie. He served in many country centres before being transferred to the metropolitan area.

He was well known in motor cycle racing and boxing circles. He left a widow and three sons.

*27 March 1950, The West Australian*

Browse newspaper articles about John here <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/result?1-publictag=John+Jarvis+Clapp&q=>

## Robert James Jarvis Clapp (3G-Grandfather) (1847-1928)

*A small part of this chapter has come from 'In search of adventure' a family history of Clapps from Devon, by John Clapp (now Clapton), 1984.*

Robert was born on 30 October 1847 in Dartmouth, Devon. His parents were John Clapp, a pit-sawyer and Ann Jarvis. He was the fifth of six children, with four older brothers. His mother died before he turned three years of age.

Official records refer to his birthplace and residence as being in Tunstall or Townstal. This is the part of Dartmouth on the western bank, with the eastern part called Kingswear. The name Townstal came from a manor situated on elevated ground a little to the west of the town.

Dartmouth was of strategic importance as a deep-water port for sailing vessels. The port was used as the sailing point for the Crusades of 1147 and 1190. It had a population of around 4,400 when Robert was born, not much less than today.



*1904 Ordnance Survey map of Dartmouth*

The first mention of Robert in the historical record is in the 1851 Census, when he was living on Silver Street with his father, John, siblings Sarah Ann (13), William Henry (10), Seth (6), and a lodger, George Bulley.



*Bake Hill at the entrance to Silver Street, now Underclif, before 1909, [dartmouthmuseum.org](http://dartmouthmuseum.org)*

Silver street was a narrow alley running between Clarence Street and Mayor's Avenue, from Broadstone to King's Quay, it wasn't wide enough to get more than a handcart down.

Robert was still living on the same street during the 1861 Census, but this time it was only him and his father.

Robert arrived in Australia as a member of the crew of the schooner *Escort*. He was an Ordinary Seaman. The ship had come from Labrador, had put in at Melbourne on 14 February 1866, before arriving in Sydney on 23 February.

The *Escort* was put up for sale on arrival.

The next we hear of Robert, he was working on the collier *Emma Jane*. The crew appeared before court in August 1866 (refer article on next page), having stolen items from another ship, but only the Master was charged.

If he was working on a collier, there's a good chance he was plying a route from Newcastle to Sydney, and the unclaimed letter register of August 1871 connects his name to there.

The list of unclaimed letters in April 1873 shows that he had been living at the town of Gulgong.

Gulgong is a gold rush town situated about 300 kilometres north-west of Sydney. Gold was first found there in 1870.

It seems plausible that Robert was trying his luck on the diggings there for two years.

Next we hear, Robert is arriving in Sydney on the James Paterson as a passenger in steerage, having come from Rockhampton.

This is where he re-starts his shipping career.

We're fortunate that New South Wales recorded the names of the crew of all ships arriving from interstate or overseas, so we have quite a good idea of many of the ships Robert worked on. Of course, when he was working within the state, his name doesn't appear in the records.

The first ship we know he crewed on in this period was the steamship *You Yangs*, which ran between Melbourne, Sydney and Newcastle. He was employed as a trimmer and crewed on the ship from at least March to June 1874.

His final trip on the *You Yangs*, in July 1874, was as a passenger.

#### WATER POLICE COURT.—THURSDAY.

(Before the Water Police Magistrate, Mr. Wrench, and Mr. Pearce.)

John Coffey, absent without leave from the ship *Pampero*, was sent to gaol for fourteen days.

William Lawsey, the master, and Robert Clapp, Peter Thompson, Peter Hawkins, Charles Johnson, Mannix Forster, and William Henderson, the crew of the *Emma Jane*, a collier, were charged with stealing one coil of Manila rope, one coil Europe rope, two fall blocks, one cat fall, and one tin of varnish, the property of the ship *Beatrice*, of Liverpool. It appeared from the evidence of the mate of the *Beatrice* James Edward Summers that the *Emma Jane* was lying alongside the *Beatrice*, discharging coal into her, in Neutral Bay; at 6 this morning he wanted the "fish-fall," but could not find it; then he missed a tin of varnish, which he afterwards found in a locker in the cabin of the *Emma Jane*; the captain of the *Emma Jane*, when asked, said he did not know anything about it, and that it did not belong to the schooner; a coil of Manila rope he found on the quarter-deck, abaft the mainmast, belonged to the *Beatrice*; some other things, as a coil of rattan stuff, and a couple of blocks, were also found in the schooner, all of which were identified as the property of the *Beatrice*. The Bench committed Lowry, the master of the *Emma Jane*, to take his trial at the Quarter Sessions, and discharged all the other prisoners. Bail was allowed Lowry.

*Empire*, 10 August 1866



*Steamship You Yangs, with barque rigging, at wharf in the Yarra River in front of the customs house.*  
[handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/155486](http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/155486)<sup>1</sup>

Trimmers loaded the coal onto the ship, and while underway, worked inside the coal bunkers located on top of and between the boilers. They used shovels and wheelbarrows to move coal around the bunkers in order to keep the coal level, and to shovel the coal down the coal chute to the firemen below, who then shovelled it into the furnaces.

Sometime they also needed to extinguish fires in the coal bunkers. The fires were extinguished with fire hoses or by removing the burning coal by feeding it into the furnace.

Of the engineering crew, the trimmers were paid the least. The working conditions of a trimmer sound awful as the inside of a coal bunker was poorly lighted, full of coal dust, and extremely hot due to residual heat emanating from the boilers.

The next ship he worked on was the steamer *City of Adelaide*, which was operating between Sydney and Melbourne, for the months of August and September 1874.

After this was the *James Paterson*, from November 1874 to April 1875. The *James Paterson* was mostly operating between Maryborough, Brisbane and Sydney, but made a trip out to Levuka, the former capital of Fiji. This is the most exotic location we know Robert travelled to.



*City of Adelaide,*  
<http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/27291>

This stint was followed by the *Wentworth*, from May 1875 to November 1876, with virtually all trips on the Sydney-Melbourne run. His next ship was the *Tambaroora*, on a Maryborough-Brisbane-Sydney run, with one trip all the way to Cooktown. He crewed on this ship for most of 1877, and this is where he is first referred to as a fireman, rather than a trimmer. There's then a big gap in the record before he appears on one trip on the *Egmont* in November 1884.

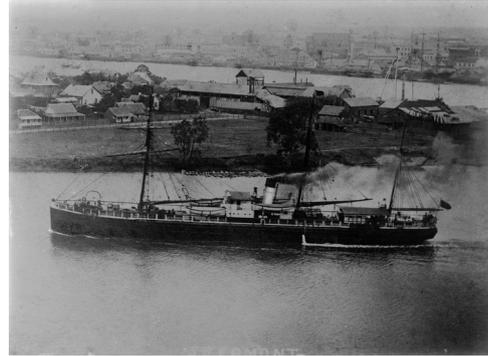
<sup>1</sup> The resolution on the original is mind-blowing, but you have to download it, not view it on-line



This was then followed by a stint on the *Tenderden*, from February to July 1885, travelling between Adelaide and Sydney.

<http://www.flotilla-australia.com/images/tenderden-nlmac.jpg>

Robert then went straight over to the *Egmont*, for August 1885 through to September 1886, all on the Brisbane run.



*Egmont*, <http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/27643>



The last ship Robert served on was the *Eurimbla*, working from March to September 1887 on a Rockhampton to Sydney route.

*Eurimbla*, State Library NSW

Robert married Elizabeth Hughes on 3 April 1876 in a Presbyterian ceremony at 65 Lower Fort Street, Dawes Point, just at the southern end of where the Sydney Harbour Bridge is today. This was the home of Reverend Archibald Gilchrist, the minister at the ceremony.

He was living on Margaret Street and gave his profession as fireman.

Robert and Elizabeth had eight children together, Robert (1878), Walter Norman (1880), Sydney Wentworth (1883), Reginald Stanley (1885), Vera Ruby (1886), an unknown child, John Jarvis (1889) and Cecil Reginald (1892).

Their first son Robert died on the day he was born. Reginald died at the age of only three months from convulsions and Ruby was three and a half years old when she died within 24 hours of contracting scarlet fever. The unknown child also died as an infant.

His nephew Zephaniah, via his brother William, moved nearby to him in 1885. Zephaniah later also moved to the West Australian goldfields, but to Boulder and Kalgoorlie.

Witnesses to the burials of Ruby and Reg, include a W.R. Clapp and James Clapp, but it's not known how they are related.

Robert and his family moved around a lot while in Sydney. He first appears in the Post Office directory in 1882, and they are at Homebush Road, Redmyre until 1884. They're then at Toogood Street, McDonaaltdown (1885) and 133 Union Street, Newtown (1886).

They managed a whole four years at 8 Iredale Street, Newtown. Assuming it's still the same building, it's a very small timber house on a 112 square metre block. This was followed by Terry Street, St Peter's (1891), Mary Street, St Peter's (1892), and Wells Street, Newtown (1893-94). Researcher John Clapp also lists a Grote Street, Camperdown address, but I'm not sure when this was.

Robert's profession was given as miner in the 1889 Post Office directory. Given he was still based in Sydney, it makes me wonder if he was doing the nineteenth century equivalent of fly in-fly out.

Researcher John Clapp stated that Robert moved to Coolgardie in 1892. If true it appears he went over without his family, and they followed two years later.

In Coolgardie they lived at Richardson Street, Toorak, although the 1899 directory lists him in association with the Golden Horseshoe Gold Mining Company at Boulder.

In November 1907 he appeared in front of the Coolgardie Police Court, charged with illegal timber getting in Crown lands. He was described as an elderly man, and lied by saying he had never appeared before a court before. He was only cutting timber for domestic use and claimed the tree was dead, or mostly dead, but was fined five shillings, with two shillings court costs.

Robert left Coolgardie in about 1910 for Perth. From 1912 to 1914 he was resident at 217 James Street, in the centre of Perth, and we know from the rates books that he was a tenant, not an owner.

His wife Elizabeth died in 1920, at the age of 69. They were living at 74 Melville Terrace, South Perth when she died.

Prior to his death, Robert had moved to Berwick Street, Victoria Park, close to the homes of two of his sons.

Robert died on 16 April 1928 in the Perth Hospital. He was 80 years old, and is buried in the Karrakatta cemetery. The *In Memoriam* notice posted a year later by his children described him as "One of nature's noblemen".

Browse newspaper articles about Robert here <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/result?l-publictag=Robert+James+Jarvis+Clapp&q=>

### **John Clapp (4G-Grandfather) (1807-1897)**

*A majority of this chapter has come from 'In search of adventure' a family history of Clapps from Devon, by John Clapp (now Clapton), 1984.*

John was born in the village of Stoke Fleming, Devon and was baptised there on 20 September 1807. His parents were John Clapp, a yeoman farmer, and Grace Wells.

Stoke Fleming is a village situated about two miles South-south-east of Dartmouth. It was first mentioned in the Domesday book simply as *Stoc*, only acquiring the suffix Fleming, after the local lord, a century and a half later. *Stoc* is an Old English word meaning a place or secondary settlement. There were reported to be 686 people living there in 1831.



*St Peter's Stoke Fleming, where John was both baptised and married, <http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/2460552>*

John married Ann Jarvis on 26 December 1830 in Stoke Fleming. The witnesses were Elizabeth Trant and William Trant. Both John and Ann were able to sign their own names.

They had six children together, John Beldman Kingston (1832), Charles Jarvis (1835), Sarah Ann (1837), William Henry Wesley (1840), Seth Jarvis (1844) and Robert James Jarvis (1847).

Their first two children were christened in Stoke Fleming, so John and Ann may well have lived there initially after their marriage. Their other children were born in Dartmouth.

John and his family were living in High Street, Saint Petrox when the 1841 Census was conducted. It's not clear exactly where this was, but it was probably about a mile south of the centre of Dartmouth, near Warfleet Creek. In addition to their children, there was a Grace Boundy, aged in her fifties, living with them.

According to researcher John Clapton (formerly Clapp), *“it seems that when his brother Henry’s wife, Susannah, died in 1846, he and Henry came to an arrangement whereby Henry moved to a house in St. Petrox, near the mouth of the river Dart, and Old John moved into Henry’s old house in Clarence Street. Such an arrangement would have suited Old John, as it was closer to the river landing to which the logs were floated on the high tide.”* (Clarence Street is the street above Silver Street, and properties fronted to both streets.)

Certainly the 1851 Census finds John, his four youngest children and a lodger living at Silver Street, Dartmouth where he was to remain for many decades. His wife Ann had died the previous year.

John’s brother William and his family also lived on Silver Street since at least 1841; William was also a sawyer.

John Clapton states *“John’s wife died quite young leaving six young children to be cared for. To help the situation, Robert and Ann took Old John’s third son, William, to live with them and their daughter Priscilla, while William did his apprenticeship as a shipwright at the R.N. Dockyard in Teignmouth.”*

#### **More from John Clapton below:**

John was a pit-sawyer and must have been something of a character, for his story is still remembered to this day by people in Dartmouth. He lived all his life there and became well known in the district as “Old John Clapp”. The stories that have come down to us give us some insight into this wonderful old ancestor of ours.

Old John was a pit-sawyer, and this involved working with a partner, using an eight foot saw-blade between them, one above and one below, to cut the huge baulks of timber used in the shipbuilding. The saw bed still exists today, although it is used as a basement for a house, in Undercliff Lane.

In those days literacy was very much the privilege of the wealthy. Old John decided that he must learn, so he got a bible and asked passers-by what different parts said. Thus he gradually learnt to read, and then to write.

Old John worked at his trade until he was 82<sup>2</sup> years old, but upon retirement, he took up work towing barges up and down the river Dart, between Dartmouth and Totnes, a distance of about 12 miles. Towing the barges with a rowing boat, was, however, only part of the job. When the sailing boats came into Dartmouth with their cargo, he would tie the barge alongside the ship and load it up with the cargo bound for Totnes. He would then unload the cargo at Totnes and load up with anything that was being backloaded to Dartmouth.

#### **Back to me:**

The 1861 Census tells us that John was now living only with his youngest son, Robert. In the 1871 Census his profession has changed to Waterman, and he’s apparently living with a new wife, Mary, aged 73 and also born in Stoke Fleming. There’s no evidence of this wedding in the registration index, so it could well be an error on the census form.

There is an article in the *Dartmouth and South Hams Chronicle* of 3 October 1873, which was reporting on the proceedings of the Urban Sanitary Authority. The Authority was informed by an agent for Mrs Atkins that *“he was about to demolish a much dilapidated house, in Silver-street, now in the occupation of John Clapp, and he would soon get rid of the tenant”*.

However, whatever happened, at the time of the 1881 Census, John was still living in Silver Street. John’s profession had changed to Labourer, he is stated to be married, and was living with a Mary, aged 70 and born in Dartmouth.

John is still living at Silver Street in 1891, but by this time his daughter Sarah has moved in, along with her husband, John Moses, one of her sons and two of her grandsons. John Moses was a sawyer, and so may have been using his father in law’s saw-pit.

Also in 1891, John’s niece Hannah Elizabeth (via his sister Peggy), who had married Nelson Cathery, was living at Bake Hill, at the end of Silver Street in 1891.

John died of “natural decay” on 22 August 1897 at the Union Workhouse in Totnes. Workhouse sounds bad, but by this period workhouses largely functioned as care homes for the aged or infirm. Totnes is located ten miles north of Dartmouth. John was 89 years old.

John on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Clapp-1359>

---

<sup>2</sup> Not likely. Census records make this more likely to be 62 years. Still impressive.

John descendants <https://www.wikitree.com/genealogy/Clapp-Descendants-1359>

## **John Clapp (5G-Grandfather) (1778-1842)**

*Most of these details come from 'In search of adventure' a family history of Clapps from Devon, by John Clapp (now Clapton), 1984.*

John was born in Stoke Fleming in 1778 and baptised on 30 January of that year. His parents were Edward Clapp and Sarah Lambell.

John was a Yeoman farmer, or farm labourer, probably in the Stoke Fleming area near Dartmouth. He may have had a small farm property of his own, but it is more likely that he lived somewhere in town and worked on the larger farms. His father Edward was described as husbandman on his own marriage certificate.

John married Grace Wills in Stoke Fleming on 22 October 1805. Both were of the parish. Grace was able to sign her name but John only gave his mark. The witness was William Wills.

They had eight children together, John (1807), William (1809), Peggy Wills (1811), Jane (1813), Robert (1814), Henry Robert (1816), Peter (1818) and Ann Kingston (1821).

His sons Robert and Henry became shipwrights.

John was still living in Stoke Fleming at the time of the 1841 Census. He was living alone with his wife.

John probably died in late December 1842, and was buried on 2 January 1843 in Stoke Fleming. He was 66 years old.

John on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Clapp-1383>

## **Earlier Clapps**

*The following information has been taken from 'In search of adventure' a family history of Clapps from Devon, by John Clapp (now Clapton), 1984.*

Our ancestral search to this point in time takes us back to 16<sup>th</sup> June 1734, when Abraham Clapp married Mary Webb at Blackawton, Devon, England. Their son Edward was baptised in the same church on 29<sup>th</sup> November 1737. Edward had three other siblings, John, baptised 1741, William, 1746 and Mary, 1753.

Edward Clapp married Sarah Lambell on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1761 at St. Peter's, Stoke Fleming, Devon, England. They had four children, all born in Stoke Fleming. The eldest William was born 4 May 1763, Elizabeth Lambell was born 13 May 1768, Susannah was born 10 July 1774 and John was born 30 January 1778.

## **Grace Wills (5G-Grandmother) (1775-1848)**

There are two likely baptism records from Stoke Fleming for Grace Wells. The first is a 22 October 1775 baptism of the daughter of Thomas and Grace Wills, the second is a 28 February 1779 baptism of the daughter of John and Grace Wills.

The earlier date is a better fit with the two age estimates from the 1841 Census and her death record.

Grace married John Clapp in Stoke Fleming on 22 October 1805. They had eight children together, John (1807), William (1809), Peggy Wills (1811), Jane (1813), Robert (1814), Henry Robert (1816), Peter (1818) and Ann Kingston (1821).

Grace was still living in Stoke Fleming, with her husband, at the time of the 1841 Census. Her age was given as 65. Grace died in 1848. Her age was given as 74.

Grace on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Wills-2478>

## **Ann Jarvis (4G-Grandmother) (ca1805-1850)**

Ann was born in around 1806. There are three possible baptismal records for her in Devon. In decreasing order of likeliness, they are 25 May 1806 in Dartmouth, 30 June 1805 in Chivelstone and 28 April 1807 in Marlborough.

The banns for Ann's marriage to John Clapp described Ann as "Sojourner in this parish".

Ann married John Clapp on 26 December 1830 in Stoke Fleming. The witnesses were Elizabeth Trant and William Trant. Both John and Ann were able to sign their own names.

They had seven children together, John Beldman Kingston (1832), Charles Jarvis (1835), Sarah Ann (1839), William Henry Wesley (1840), Seth Jarvis (1844), Robert James Jarvis (1847).

They initially lived in Stoke Fleming, before moving to St Petrox and then Dartmouth.

Ann died on 31 May 1850 at her home one Silver Street. She was just 44 years old. The causes of death were given as organic obstruction, phthisis (tuberculosis) and anasarca (edema or fluid retention) from which she had been suffering for several years.

*Ann on wikitree* <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Jarvis-2560>

## Elizabeth Mary Hughes (3G-Grandmother) (1851-1920)

Elizabeth was born in County Donegal, Ireland on, probably, 24 May 1851. Her death certificate (never the most reliable source) gives her father's name as Robert Hughes but not her mother's name. I have not been able to find a record of her birth, nor any births in Donegal with a father of Robert Hughes.

DNA matching suggests Elizabeth was related to Jane Hughes, born in January 1840 to Samuel Hughes and Leddy Steele. Jane and Elizabeth may have had a common Hughes grandparent. Jane married an Edward Miller on 2 September 1858 in Moville, Donegal.

The 24 May figure comes from a figure written by Elizabeth's grandson Keith on her son John's birth certificate. The year was given as 1853, but I believe this is a simple error caused by using what is the incorrect age on her marriage certificate.

Elizabeth came out to Victoria in the 1860s. If we are to believe her death certificate, it was 1865, but other dates from this source are definitely wrong, so I wouldn't put too much stock in this. In any case, I haven't found a matching immigration record for her, although ages can be somewhat out in those records.

Elizabeth later moved to Sydney, where she married Robert Clapp. It's entirely possible she met Robert in Melbourne, as he was crewing on the *Wentworth*, which was travelling the Sydney-Melbourne run in that period, and moved to Sydney to marry him.

In any case, Elizabeth and Robert married on 3 April 1876 in a Presbyterian ceremony at 65 Lower Fort Street, Dawes Point. No parents are given for Elizabeth on the marriage certificate<sup>3</sup>, nor profession stated.

Elizabeth and Robert had eight children together, Robert (1878), Walter Norman (1880), Sydney Wentworth (1883), Reginald Stanley (1885), Vera Ruby (1886), an unknown child, John Jarvis (1889) and Cecil Reginald (1892).

Their first son Robert died on the day he was born. Reginald died at the age of only three months from convulsions and Ruby was three and a half years old when she died within 24 hours of contracting scarlet fever. The unknown child also died as an infant.

They moved around a lot while living in Sydney. I've covered all their known residences in Elizabeth's husband's chapter.



View of Coolgardie from Toorak Heights, 1896, [http://purl.slwa.wa.gov.au/slwa\\_b3804641\\_1](http://purl.slwa.wa.gov.au/slwa_b3804641_1)

Elizabeth moved to Coolgardie in about 1895, possibly following her husband, who may have moved there a couple of years earlier. She is recorded as buying town block 798 in the Toorak area of Coolgardie for £45 in November 1896. Block 798 was between Jobson and Moran Streets, both of which still exist. Land

<sup>3</sup> Her parents may have been named on the original parish register. I contacted the Presbyterian church who told me they no longer have those registers, and to approach the State Archives. The State Archives claim to not have them either, and I believe them.

was set aside for a school on the next city block to the North. It was within two kilometres of the centre of town.

The next we hear of Elizabeth in the newspaper record is in 1900, when three men who had stolen three of her hens were brought before the police court and sentenced to three months imprisonment.

**Mrs. R. Clapp, Richardson street, Toorak, this city, says:—** 'Some months ago I procured a box of Doan's Backache Kidney Pills, intending to use them for backache, a complaint which troubled me on and off. It happened that I did not get an attack just then, but a friend of mine was laid up with those lumbago-like pains in the small of the back at the time, so I sent them over to her. These pills cured her. In a remarkably short space of time after using this medicine she was up and about as well as ever she had been. She says that it is undoubtedly the best medicine for backache and disordered kidneys she has ever used. Indeed, we have had clear proof of what the remedy has done in her case, and in consequence, have great faith in Doan's Backache Kidney Pills, and feel sure that they are just as good as she says they are.'

*Coolgardie Miner, 14 July 1904*

Elizabeth left Coolgardie for good in January 1909. Her husband stayed behind in Coolgardie but later joined her in Perth, maybe about a year later.



*Headstone in Karrakatta cemetery, via billiongraves.com*

In July 1900 Elizabeth was at a meeting of women in the Council Chambers. It was an organising meeting to rally support for a yes vote in the referendum on Federation to be held later that month. All the ladies present also enrolled themselves as voters.

The personal column of 24 November 1902 stated Elizabeth was accompanying a Miss Simon on the afternoon express to Perth. The same column on 28 January 1903 announced her return.

In July 1904 she could be found endorsing Doan's Backache Kidney Pills in the newspaper. Personal endorsement was a regular part of Doan's marketing strategy and Elizabeth is not the first person I've researched who endorsed them. These pills are still available, under a slightly different name.

Elizabeth had a half share in a bakery business in Coolgardie, with the other half held by a Mrs Phillips. Elizabeth also owned a bakehouse, which was leased out. I get the impression she was a silent partner in the business. She sold out of the business in about 1908.

Elizabeth initially stayed with one of her sons, but moved to 217 James Street with her husband, for at least 1912-1914, and then later to 74 Melville Terrace, South Perth.

We learn some small snippets about Elizabeth from social notes in the paper. In September 1914 she attended the wedding of her son Sydney Wentworth in Katanning, a small town about 300 kilometres south-east of Perth. She wore an outfit of "black with mauve trimmings, hat in suit".

Elizabeth died on 21 January 1920 at her home on Melville Terrace.

The cause of death was ataxic paraplegia, which led to respiratory paralysis and cardiac failure.

The ataxic paraplegia means she had poor voluntary motor control and almost certainly couldn't walk.

She was 69 years old. Elizabeth was buried in the Anglican section of the Karrakatta Cemetery. She received an obituary in *The Daily News*, which provided some basic details about her early life and listed wreaths sent, including one from the Australian Postal and Electrician's Union.

The epitaph on Elizabeth's grave reads:

*On life's High Road she was a friend indeed  
To all in sorrow or in need  
Gave of her best with a gentle smile  
And never paused to ask were it worth while*

Browse newspaper articles about Elizabeth at <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/result?l-publictag=Elizabeth+Clapp+nee+Hughes&q=>

### **Ada Emily Francis Hillier (Great-Great-Grandmother) (1891-1979)**

Ada was born on 2 April 1891 in her parents home on Kingsgrove Road in Kogarah, Sydney. Her parents were James William Hillier, a fuel merchant, or firewood seller, at the time, and Annie Mary Hill. She was their second child, and second daughter, and would later have five younger siblings who survived infancy.

Her family lived in Kogarah for no more than three years, for in 1896 her family was living in Redfern where her father was working as a butcher. Ada lived in at least three different addresses in Redfern, then, in around 1897, she moved with her family to the Coolgardie goldfields in Western Australia. They were accompanied by, or at least met up with there, her grandparents on her fathers side and at least three of her father's brothers.

They lived at the locality of Burbanks from at least 1901, where her father worked as a miner. There is no trace of Burbanks today, but it was about eight kilometres south of Coolgardie.

There are very few newspaper references I can positively identify as referring to Ada, and three of them are from when she was living at Burbanks.

In March 1904 a social night was held at the Burbanks Methodist Church. One of the events was a a spelling bee and "*After a keen competition the prize was won by Ada Hillier*".

In October 1906 there was a plain and fancy dress ball at Burbanks, attended by forty couples, where dancing the quadrille was "*indulged in until 3 a.m.*". Ada wore (for the outfits of all the women attending were described) a pale blue muslin with forget-me-nots. A quadrille is a type of dance for four couples, similar to square dancing.

In May 1907 Ada was at the Burbanks Post Office picking up the mail and was asked to sign as a witness on a telegram. However, it turned out the telegram was part of a scam to have five pounds wired to an accomplice in someone else's name, and in October of the same year Ada appeared as witness at the trial.

Ada married Jack Clapp in Coolgardie on 6 November 1912. Jack was a fireman, originally from Coolgardie, but who had moved to Kalgoorlie, and then more recently to Perth. After their marriage, they lived at 196 Wittenoom Street, East Perth in 1914 and 1915, and then over the road at 51 Moore Street until 1925.

They were to have three sons together, Arthur John (1914), Jack Reginald (1915) and Donald Keith (1917).

For more details on places she lived, refer to her husband's chapter.

The final newspaper reference I have found for Ada is from December 1926. There was a community Christmas party at the fire station where Robert worked, and Ada was listed as one of the organisers of the event.

The historical record, as is often the case, gives us no indication of Ada's character. If she had died relatively young, before living memory, we would be free to imagine her as a cheerful and kind girl who later became a generous, fun, and slightly quirky grandmother. Ada, however, lived well into living memory.

Her granddaughter Pamela remembers her as a cold and unfriendly woman who was domineering and unreasonably strict. She treated her daughter-in-law Marjorie badly and as an inferior. Pamela also recalled how she never learnt anything about her grandfather, Ada's husband, but that, "in any case it was all about Ada."

Her granddaughter Susan remembers riding past her home (for Ada lived nearby) one day when she was about ten years old. Ada apparently waved but Sue didn't notice so Ada rang Keith to complain about how rude his daughter was. Sue said Jack was Ada's favourite son and that Arthur was a "great disappointment to Ada" although for no particular reason, but perhaps marrying a Catholic.

Both granddaughters remember Ada as always making them feel that she didn't like them and didn't want them there, and who never made spontaneous displays of affection.

Ada died on 5 August 1979 in Perth. She was 87 years old.

Browse newspaper articles about Ada at <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/result?l-publictag=Ada+Emily+Frances+Clapp+nee+Hillier&q=>

### **James William Hillier (3G-Grandfather) (1866-1947)**

James was born in 1866 at Kayuga, a village about 10 kilometres north-north-east of Muswellbrook. He was the first child of William, a sawyer, and Herodias Jordan.

The population of Kayuga was recorded as 179 in the 1871 Census, with 17 in the village proper and 162 in the "suburbs", or surrounding farms.

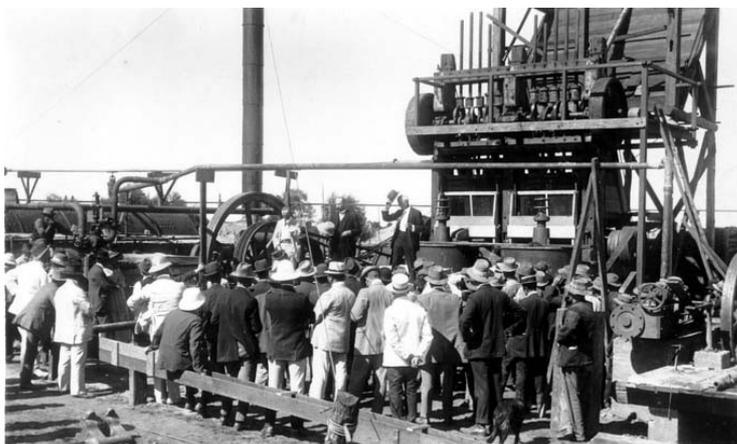
In addition to being a sawyer, James' father operated a farm at Kayuga, but in 1871 his father became insolvent, and the family lived in a number of different locations afterwards. They were living in the Gulgong area in 1873, about 175 kilometres west of Muswellbrook, they were in Wellington in 1878, another 75 kilometres south, and assuming he was still with his family at the time, he was 100 kilometres farther south in Orange in 1884.

In 1889 he was living on Botany Road in the Sydney suburb of North Botany. He was a fuel merchant, selling wood and coal and was listed in the Post Office Directory with this occupation in 1889 and 1890.

James married Annie Hill on 12 February 1889 in North Botany at Tunbridge's Buildings<sup>4</sup>. It was a Congregational ceremony and James' parents were the witnesses. They were to have a total of ten children. They were Elsie Maud (1889), Ada Emily Francis (1891), Arthur James (1893), Ernest Albert (1896), Violet May (1898), Vera Irene (1900), William Michael (1901), Reuben (1903), Stella Margaret (1909) and – finally – Stanley John (1912).

In August 1889 he advertised the sale in the newspaper of two spring vans, a saw bench and two spindles.

James isn't listed in the 1891 Post Office Directory, and the birth certificate for his daughter Ada in April of that year gives his profession as wood cutter, and indicates they had moved to Kingsgrove Road, Kogarah. They may have moved in mid-1890, as the Post Office listed an unclaimed letter for him at his Botany address. By 1894 they had moved to Redfern, where James worked as a butcher, and where they lived at several addresses.



© LISWA 2001 Battye Library All Rights Reserved

*Group of men listening to a speech at the mine head, Burbanks, ca 1912, <http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/images/shapcott/000591d.jpg>*

*Could one of these men be James Hillier?*

There are a number newspaper articles referring to "Hillier" in the Burbanks area. James wasn't the only Hillier in the location over the period, but I'm moderately certain the following two items refer to him.

In April 1901 the Sports committee at Burbanks held a ball and a Mr Hillier officiated as one of the MCs. At least one of his daughters attended, wearing a handsome white silk dress with buttercup trimmings.

<sup>4</sup> I can't find any mention of these buildings in the historical record, but there was a Tunbridge family living in North Botany at the time.

In 1903 at Burbanks, in June, the Cricket Club held a “smoke social”. Mr Hillier, amongst others rendered a song.

James lived in Burbanks until 1916, at which point they moved to King Street in Coolgardie.

It was around this time, in January 1916, that his son Ernest Albert Hillier enlisted in the AIF to serve in World War I. Ernest was later to be killed on 6 May 1917 in the Somme. He posthumously received the Military Medal.

Some time between 1919 and 1922 James and his family moved to 110 Piesse Street, Boulder. His sons William and Stanley lived with him for part or all of this time.

In 1923, James donated 3s. 6d. to the Western Australian deaf and dumb school.

In May 1929, because people buying cars was news, we learnt that James “bought his second Chrysler last week, a Plymouth Tourer”.

In late 1914 James’ application for a mining lease in the Coolgardie area had been granted. I don’t know if it’s the same lease, but in the early 1930s, despite now living in Boulder, James held a lease at Burbanks. His ore was processed at the Coolgardie State Battery, and the tons processed and weight of gold recovered were reported in the newspaper.



1929 Plymouth Tourer, <http://www.rcc.on.net>

The 1934 Electoral Roll finds James, Annie and Stanley at 36 McMillan Street, Victoria Park. From 1936 until his death James lived at 504 Hay Street, East Perth. His son Stanley was also at this address, but possibly not in the same household as there were a number of units at this address.

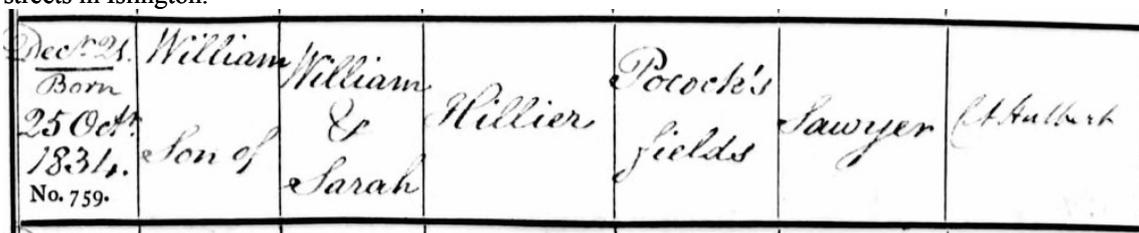
James died on 19 October 1947 in Perth. He was 71 years old.

Browse newspaper articles about James at <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/result?l-publictag=James+William+Hillier&q=>

James on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Hillier-418>

## William Hillier (4G-Grandfather) (1834-1905)

William was born on 25 October 1834 in Islington, London to William Hillier, a sawyer and Sarah Deed. His parents were living at Pocock's Fields at the time of his birth, an area around Bride and Ellington streets in Islington.



Extract from baptismal register

The name Islington derives from the Old English personal name *Gisla*, and the Old English *dūn*, a hill. It is situated about three miles to the north of the centre of London, and its name appears in documents as early as 1005.

William was living in his parent's household at Howard's Green in Finsbury at the time of the 1841 Census. The household included his parents, two younger siblings, and another family – the Petfords. Finsbury is about 1.6 miles to the north-north-west of the centre of London. I can't locate Howard's Green, nor the two streets to either side in the Census records, which were Elbow Place and Pearl Street.

By the time of the 1851 Census he had moved with his parents to 9 Swan Yard. Swan Yard is a dead end laneway about one car width wide, and they were just 60 metres south of what was then the newly built Islington Station. William was already working as a sawyer.

William came to Australia on the ship *Essex*, of 1,000 tons. The *Essex* departed Gravesend, at the mouth of the Thames on 18 April under Master Atwood. There were 130 adults, 29 children and, and 3 infants on board. The *Essex* arrived in Melbourne on 25 July 1857, and he was recorded as William Hillier, 22, Carpenter.

The next we hear of William, he is in New South Wales, where he married Herodias Jordan on 20 June 1865 in Kyunga<sup>5</sup> in the district of Muswellbrook. William was a sawyer and Herodias a domestic servant. It was a Church of Scotland marriage and the witnesses were Herodias' parents, William Jordan and Sarah Ann Jordan.

They had ten children together. The first three, William James (1866), Walter (1868) and George Henry (1870), were all born in the Muswellbrook area. Then Charles Frederick (1873) and Arthur Thomas (1875) were born in Gulgong. In Wellington they had Albert (1878), Ernest Alfred Reuben (1879) and Ada Emily (1882). This was followed by Herbert (1884) in Orange, and Amos Walter (1891) in Liverpool.

Their son Walter died in 1876 aged eight years, and Arthur died in 1878 at only three years of age.

William's brother James migrated to Australia with his family at the end of 1883. James came and joined William in Orange.

In 1866 William's name appeared in the Government Gazette. He had paid two pounds for the right to harvest hardwood on Crown Land in the Muswellbrook area. In 1870 he paid 5 shillings for a similar right.

In September 1869 he was taken to court by H. A. Montgomery for an unpaid bill of £2 15s. for medical supplies. Then in October 1869 William, along with others, including a Thomas Jordan, pleaded guilty to cutting timber without a licence and fined £2.

These fines appear to be symptoms of more general money problems and William was declared insolvent in 1871. This coincides with him leaving Kayuga and Muswellbrook and relocating to Gulgong.

William is listed, misspelt, in the 1872 Greville Post Office Directory as *Hiller, W, farmer, Kyuga*, but this was probably out of date and he likely was no longer resident in the area.

In 1878 his name appeared on a petition for Wellington to be proclaimed a Municipal District. He was described as a householder.

<sup>5</sup> Misspelt as Kyonga on his marriage certificate, this locality is also referred to as Kyunga, Kyuga and the modern name is Kayuga

In 1887 his tender to saw timber in the Royal National Park was accepted. The wood was to be felled by the unemployed and placed onto railway trucks. The project was run under the auspices of the Casual Labour Board.

William later appeared in court as a witness in relation to this project. The chairman of the Casual Labour Board, Hon. John Davies, MLC, was later charged with embezzling money from the Board. In the report of his testimony, William was described as a wood and coal dealer residing in Ashfield.

According to the Australian Dictionary of Biography, "*Davies worked long hours on the board but in 1889 an inquiry found that he had apparently embezzled £112. Although counsel reported that Davies had 'sailed very close to the wind' and no criminal charge could be laid against him, he was charged and acquitted; later, after a convulsive debate, he was voted £1102 for his services.*"

In March 1889 his tender to supply 25 tons of 18-inch billet wood to the Easter Military Encampment was accepted.

It is also around this time that he appears in the 1890 Sands directory as a fuel merchant on Liverpool Rd in Ashfield.

In around 1893 William and Herodias moved to the Coolgardie goldfields in Western Australia with at least four of their sons, James, George, Albert, Ernest and their daughter Ada Emily.

William died of stomach cancer in Burbanks on 8 October 1905 and was buried two days later in the Coolgardie cemetery. He was 71 years old.



*William's headstone in the Coolgardie cemetery. Photo Brian Snell.*

Browse newspaper articles and government gazette items about William at <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/result?l-publictag=William+Hillier+1834-1905&q=>

William on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Hillier-444>

## William Hillier (5G-Grandfather) (1807-1880)

William was born in 1807 and baptised on 2 August 1807 at St Mary's, Lambeth. His parents were George and Mary Ann Hillier. George was a sawyer, which means William was the second in a line of at least four generations of sawyers.

Lambeth is situated on the Thames, about two miles to the south-east of the centre of London, and can be seen on the map below. On the northern edge of the map Islington can be seen, where William was later to live.



*Fairburn's Map of the Country twelve miles round London. Second Edition, 1800*

Lambeth derives from the words *lamb-*, one of the few Old English words still surviving into Modern English, and *hȳð*, which means a landing place or river port (the letter ð is pronounced th).

William married Sarah Deed on 16 May 1830 in the parish of Saint John, Clerkenwell. William signed his name in a strong confident hand. Clerkenwell is not shown on the map above, but is to the south of Islington on the northern outskirts of London.

They had five children together, William (1834), James (1837), Charles (1840), Sarah (1843) and Mary Ann (1845).

William worked as a sawyer throughout his life.

In 1841 William and his family were living at Howard's Green in Finsbury. The household included his family, and another family – the Petfords. Finsbury is about 1.6 miles to the north-north-west of the centre of London. As noted in his son's chapter, I haven't been able to locate Howard's Green.

At the time of his daughter Sarah's baptism in 1843, he was living at Great Bride Street, Islington. I suspect this was near where Bride Street is today, near Pentonville prison.

By the time of the 1851 Census he was living with his family at 9 Swan Yard. Swan Yard is a dead end laneway about one car width wide, and they were just 60 metres south of what was then the newly built Islington Station.

He probably lived at a number of other addresses – it was very common for working class urban residents to move frequently. However, we only know three more.

By the time the 1861 Census came around, on 7 April of that year, William was living with his wife, and youngest daughter on Seven Sister's Road, Islington. This road was a major thoroughfare a good two miles north of their previous residence.

Finally, in the 1871 Census, William and his wife were recorded living at Saint Clement's Street, Islington, a short back street not too far from Islington station.

William died at 21 Wellington Road, Islington on 7 April 1880. He was 73 years old. The cause of death was stated as bronchial catarrh effusion, and the informant was Martha Hillier, his daughter-in-law, also of 21 Wellington Road.

William on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Hillier-460>

### Sarah Deed (5G-Grandmother) (1806-1891)

Sarah was born in about 1806 in Westleton, Suffolk. Westleton is thought to derive from the Old Norse personal name *Vestlithi*, and the Old English *tūn*, a farm or settlement.

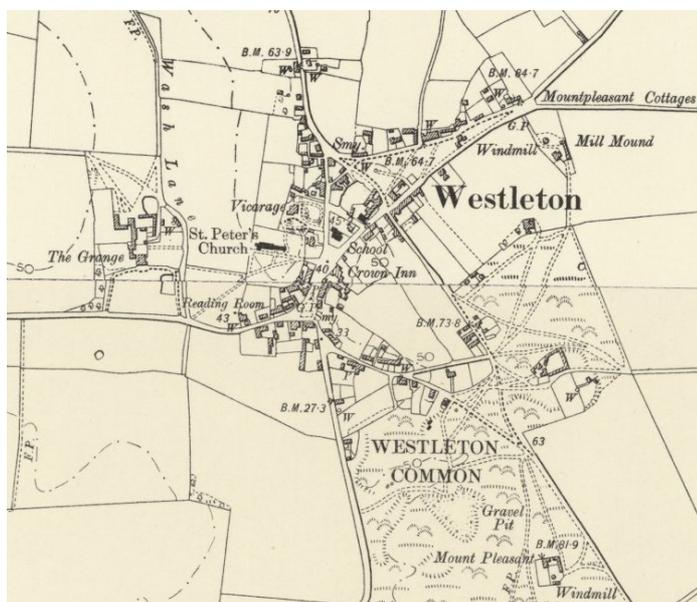
from a separate municipality.  
WESTLETON (*St. PETER*), a parish, in the union and hundred of BLYTHING, E. division of SUFFOLK, 2½ miles (E.) from Yoxford; containing 897 inhabitants. The parish comprises 6011 acres, of which 982 are common or waste. It is bounded on the south by a stream whose mouth, in ancient records, is called the Port of Mismere, from a large sheet of water formerly near it. The living is a discharged vicarage, annexed to the rectory of Middleton, and valued in the king's books at £8: the impropriate tithes have been commuted for £750, and the vicarial for £325. In the chancel of the church are some elegant stone seats.

*A Topographical Dictionary of England, Samuel Lewis, 1849*

They lived at a number of addresses over the years, mostly around Islington. The known places they lived are covered in her husband's chapter.

Sarah's husband died in 1880, and in the 1881 Census she is recorded<sup>6</sup> as a Lodger in the Chapman household at 21 Wellington Road, Islington. I cannot locate this address on modern maps.

Sarah's profession was given as nurse, the first time a profession was recorded for her. In the usage of the time, nurse simply meant a carer of children, the sick or the elderly.



1903 Ordnance Survey map of Westleton

Sarah died at 7 Hides Terrace, Islington on 1 March 1891. She was 85 years old. The cause of death was stated as senile decay and the informant was Elizabeth E Woolley.

Sarah on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Deed-32>

<sup>6</sup> The record has been transcribed as Sarah Luther, but I've verified against the original image.

## Herodias Jordan (4G-Grandmother) (1845-1914)

This chapter draws on the work of Deborah Jorgensen and Alex Coles, which can be accessed at <http://wing-ops.org.uk/explorations/migration/thetis-1848/>

Herodias was born in the village of Wing, Buckinghamshire on 17 November 1845. Named Rhoda on her birth certificate, she was the second of eight children born to William Jordan and Sarah Hannah Baker. She was baptised on 7 December 1845 in a Primitive Methodist ceremony.

Wing is near the town of Leighton Buzzard, situated about 43 miles north-west of London.

The village was recorded as *Witehunge* in the Domesday book of 1086, and *Weowungum* in a reference a century earlier.

The suffix is derived from the Old English *-ingas* meaning "The people of". The first part of the name may come from *wēoh*, holy and *wīg*, a shrine, or from Wiwa, a personal name.

In 1848 Herodias, her parents and sister, her aunt and her family, and others from Wing, totalling 24 in all, came out to Australia as assisted immigrants.

They boarded the *Thetis* in London on 24 January 1848. The *Thetis* first travelled to Plymouth, departing there on 6 February. They arrived in Sydney on 27 May 1848.

The family settled in the Maitland area, but by the time Herodias was an adult they were living near to Muswellbrook, at Kayuga.

She was residing in Kayuga and working as a domestic servant when she married William Hillier, a sawyer, who was working in the timber business with other members of her family.

Herodias and William married 20 June 1865 in Kayuga. William was a sawyer and Herodias a domestic servant. It was a Church of Scotland marriage and the witnesses were Herodias' parents, William Jordan and Sarah Ann Jordan.

They had ten children together. Their first three, William James (1866), Walter (1868) and George Henry (1870), were all born in the Muswellbrook area. Then Charles Frederick (1873) and Arthur Thomas (1875) were born in Gulgong. In Wellington they had Albert (1878), Ernest Alfred Reuben (1879) and Ada Emily (1882). This was followed by Herbert (1884) in Orange, and Amos Walter (1891) in Liverpool.

Their son Walter died in 1876 aged eight years, and Arthur died in 1878 at only three years of age.

In around 1893 they moved to the Coolgardie goldfields in Western Australia with at least four of their sons, James, George, Albert, Ernest and their daughter Ada Emily. Herodias' younger sister Jane and her family (the Bursills) also came out to the goldfields.

Herodias' husband William died in 1905, but she survived for nine more years, dying at Burbanks Road, Coolgardie of intestinal cancer on 2 January 1914 aged 67.

Herodias on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Jordan-8369>

Two items related to her death are available at <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/result?1-publictag=Herodias+Hillier+nee+Jordan&q=>

WING (*ALL SAINTS*), a parish, in the union of LEIGHTON-BUZZARD, hundred of COTTESLOE, county of BUCKINGHAM, 2½ miles (S. W. by W.) from Leighton-Buzzard; containing, with the hamlets of Ascott, Burcott, Crafton, Littleworth, and Wingberry, 1274 inhabitants, of whom 808 are in Wing township. The parish

is situated near a branch of the river Ouse, and comprises 5600 acres, of which 4000 are pasture, 1520 arable, and 80 woodland. The Grand Junction canal, and the London and Birmingham railway, run along the eastern boundary of the parish, and the road from Oxford to Cambridge through the village. The living is a vicarage, valued in the king's books at £18. 16. 3.; net income, £338; patron and improPRIATOR, Samuel Jones Loyd, Esq. The church is a remarkably fine structure, containing about 400 sittings. There is a place of worship for Wesleyans; also an hospital founded in 1596 by Lady Pelham, widow of Sir William Dormer, for eight persons, and endowed by her with property producing, with a bequest from Sir William Stanhope in 1772, an income of £72. A fund of about £20 arising from bequests, with £10. 15. under the charity of Thomas Pratt, of Wingrave, is annually distributed in great-coats and other clothing. A Benedictine priory, a cell to the monastery of St. Nicholas, at Angiers, in France, was founded at Ascott by the Empress Maud, and after the suppression came to Cardinal Wolsey.

*A Topographical Dictionary of England, Samuel Lewis, 1849*

## William Jordan (5G-Grandfather) (1823-1884)

Some of the material in this chapter is taken from the work of Deborah Jorgensen and Alex Coles, which can be accessed at <http://wing-ops.org.uk/explorations/migration/thetis-1848/>

William was born in Littleworth, a locality just outside the village of Wing, Buckinghamshire and was baptised on 25 Jan 1823. His parents were Thomas Jordan, a labourer, and Ann Lambourne.



1898 Ordnance Survey map of Wing

William was the eldest of eight children. He must have received some schooling, as his later immigration record stated that he was able to read but not write.

It's not clear where William was at the time of the 1841 Census, but he was not in his parents' household.

William married Sarah Hannah Baker in Wing on 7 June 1843.

William and Hannah had two children while living in Wing, their first, Ruth, five and a half months after their marriage, and Rhoda (later Herodias) in 1845.

William's profession was recorded as labourer on both the birth certificates.

William took advantage of a financial assistance scheme to come out to Australia with his family.

The *Thetis* left London on 24 January 1848. After a brief stop in Plymouth the wooden barque headed to Australia on 6 February, and almost three months later she arrived at Port Jackson, Sydney, on 27 May 1848. The dispatches from Government House in Sydney back to England noted that the *Thetis* was extremely well adapted for the conveyance of emigrants and was in a very cleanly state on arrival. The report also notes that the newly arrived immigrants were "of a superior description", although the Surgeon on board, Mr Cream, noted that there had been measles and some dental problems on the trip. The "hardy, industrious lot of people" would all find employment within a fortnight either in Sydney or in other NSW settlements.

At least 86 of the migrants on the *Thetis* subsequently travelled by steamer from Sydney to the immigrant depot in Maitland (a twelve-hour trip) upon arrival in Australia, and it seems likely that William and his family were amongst that number. The Maitland region consisted of fertile farmlands. The Hunter River running through it meant produce could be easily transported to market, but also meant the land was prone to flooding, including particularly devastating floods in the late 1850s. Labourer wages obtained in Maitland in 1848 were around £15 to £25 per annum, depending on their skills.

William and Sarah's third child, Thomas George, was born on-board the *Thetis*. They would have another five children while living in the Maitland area. They were Mary Ann (1851), George Thomas (1855), Harry (1856), Jane Elizabeth (1858) and Reuben (1860).

**STREET DISTURBANCE.**—On Saturday, and by postponement on Monday, three men named William Jordon, Thomas Pitchford, and Michael Brennan were brought before the bench, charged with disturbing the peace. It appeared from the evidence that on Friday evening last Mr. Rossiter, of the Maitland Inn, heard a disturbance in his yard, and on going there found Jordon and Brennan fighting, Brennan being very drunk; he separated them and advised them to go home; the parties then appear to have adjourned to the street, and opposite the *Mercury* Office the fighting re-commenced; constable M'Cabe and other constables reached the spot in time to find Jordon and Brennan again fighting, and they apprehended them and Pitchford, who was also fighting, M'Cabe said. The bench convicted Brennan of drunkenness, and fined him 5s. or 24 hours in the cells; the other two they discharged with a caution.

*Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser*, 3 March 1852

In March 1855 William is listed as contributing 10 shillings to the Patriotic Fund. This charitable fund was ostensibly set up to help the widows and orphans of those Englishmen fallen in the Crimean War, however it was made plain that a further aim was to demonstrate support and loyalty to the Sovereign and the English government's actions.

An advert from September 1855 indicates he was working as a groom (horse handler) for A & L Doyle at Mid Lorn. Lorn was on the north side of the Hunter River, across from Maitland. The Doyle family is the same family he was a witness for back in February 1854, so he had been working for them for at least that long. Their horse *Champion*, was available to stud, or in the terminology of the day "to stand".

He may also have had his own property while working for the Doyles, but he certainly owned land by February 1856. In that month he was struck off the electoral roll in West Maitland, but made no formal appeal. He had been on the roll on the basis of being a freeholder. It's not clear why he was struck off, but possible reasons based on other cases include having held the land for less than 12 months or having a mortgage on the property.

**R.** G. YEOMANS is instructed by Mr. WILLIAM JORDAN to sell by auction, at Mid Lorn Farm, adjoining the Bolwarra estate, and near the residence of A. J. Doyle, Esq., on MONDAY, 24th January, 1859, at Twelve o'clock—

- 1 Very SUPERIOR THRESHING MACHINE, made by Cridland, of Maitland, and capable of threshing from 200 to 300 bushels per day, and well-known in the Bolwarra and Wollombi district.
- 2 Large Draught Mares, with plough and harness, complete (which will be seen at work on day of sale); they have foals at foot, and in foal again to Tucker's celebrated entire horse "Farmer."
- 2 Large Plough Mares, with first-rate plough and harness—to be seen at work—one with foal at foot, and both stinted to "Farmer."
- 2 Pairs of splendid WORKING BULLOCKS; each pair to be seen at plough; and a good Plough and Gear will be sold with each pair of Bullocks
- 3 Excellent Milch Cows, which milk without calves, and in fine condition.
- 2 Large Draught Fillies, 3 and 4 years old
- 2 Strong Yearling Colts
- 1 Superior Bullock Dray
- 1 Ditto Horse Dray, nearly new
- 2 Harrows, 2 superior sow pigs, &c., &c.

TERMS LIBERAL, VIZ.:—For the machine,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cash; residue by 3 and 6 months bills bearing interest, and cash for the other property.

*Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser*, 15 January 1859

The first mention of William in the newspaper record is in March 1852. He and his brother-in-law, Thomas Pitchford, appeared in court for fighting with a Michael Brennan, twice in the one night.

In August 1852, he was recorded, amongst others, as donating 5 shillings for the *Relief of the Destitute Sufferers by the Floods on the Murrumbidgee, at Gundagai, and elsewhere, on the 25th June, 1852.*

In February 1853 he appeared as a witness in a trial where a William Bailey was charged with keeping a savage dog. He had been one of the drivers on a dray when its horses were attacked by three dogs at Glenalvon<sup>7</sup>.

In February 1854 he was a witness at another case, this time a dispute between a farmer and his hired help.

**W**ANTED TO PURCHASE, a Light Horse THRASHING MACHINE.  
Apply to  
Wm. JORDON,  
Midlorn,  
West Maitland.  
6734

*A machine for lightly thrashing horses, Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser*, 6 December 1856

William sold up his farm in early 1859, moved to the south side of the river, to Horseshoe Bend, and started working as a butcher.

In December 1859 William was charged under the Towns Police Act for allowing some of his animals to stray.

William took part in what was a yearly ploughing match in March 1862 in Maitland. He was in the bullock team category, and came equal first, ploughing a quarter acre in two hours and 25 minutes.

<sup>7</sup> It's not clear where Glenalvon was, but there is a Glenalvon Road at Murrurundi, quite some distance from Maitland.

William was involved in the Primitive Methodist church, and gave this as his religion when he landed in Australia.

The Primitive Methodist church was an offshoot of Wesleyan Methodism. The church was founded in 1810 in England. It's noted for playing an important role in the development of trade unions in the United Kingdom and for being an early adopter of female ministers and preachers.

William is first noted in the newspaper record in connection with the church in February 1857, when he was one of the organisers of a tea meeting. In September 1858 he is noted as the Society's Steward in the notice for a camp meeting at Horseshoe Bend.

**DISTURBING A CONGREGATION.**—Joseph Ludington was charged by William Jordan with having, on the 8th April, in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, West Maitland, disturbed the congregation when engaged in prayer, by making water inside the chapel, and making a noise so as to compel the services to be brought to a close. William Jordan, farmer, Midtown, is the Steward and Local Preacher of the Primitive Methodist Chapel, and heard and saw the prisoner commit the offence charged against him. Robert Brown was at the Chapel when this disturbance took place. The case was postponed till Monday for further witnesses.

*Northern Times, 16 April 1859*

William was still living in Horseshoe Bend in mid 1862, for in November of that year he brought a complaint against William and Elizabeth Turner for using his horse and growing some of their own crops on his land.

We know he had moved to Lochinvar, 12 kilometres or so west of Maitland, and was working as a sawyer by 1864, as he was listed as a new insolvent with those details in March of that year.

He likely left the area not long after that for the locality of Kayuga, just north of Muswellbrook. The obituary of his son Thomas George later stated that William *was the first selector to take up land in the locality of Kayuga after the passing of the Land Act of 1861.*

While at Kayuga, in 1870, he was twice listed as obtaining a timber licence in the Government Gazette.

He was certainly still in Kayuga in 1872, being listed in the Greville Postal Directory, as “William Jordon, farmer, Kyuga” with his son Thomas George also in Kayuga.

William may have moved to Wellington, as a William Jordan, leaseholder, was listed in a petition to make Wellington a municipality. This is quite plausibly him, as his son-in-law was living there and named on the same petition.

At some time prior to his death William moved to live with his youngest daughter Jane, and her husband Timothy Bursill at the suburb of Woollahra in Sydney.

William died at 152 Queen Street, Woollahra, on 1 December 1884. He was 62 years old. The cause of death was given as bladder disease and his profession was given as miner.

*Browse newspaper items about William here <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/result?l-publictag=William+Jordan+1823-1884&q=&sortby=dateAsc>*

## Thomas Jordan (6G-Grandfather) (1801-1880)

Thomas was born in Wing, Buckinghamshire on 30 September 1801 and was baptised 4 days later. His parents were William Jordan and Eliza Warner. Thomas was one of ten children, only five of whom made it to adulthood.

Thos. Randall and Thos. Jordan were indicted for having entered a barn, belonging to George Hutchins, at Wing, on the 17th of November, and feloniously stolen therefrom seven bundles of drawn straws, value 10s. his property. The prisoner Randall, as it transpired in evidence, had made an agreement to purchase a quantity of straw of Mr. Hutchins, at 8s. a hundred weight, and had been for some time previous to the date of the offence with which he is charged in the practice of going to Mr. Hutchins's barn to draw the straw. On the evening of the 17th of November, Stone Strange and Joseph Willis, labourers, in Mr. Hutchins's service, were placed in his rick-yard to watch that nothing was taken from the barn. About nine o'clock they heard two men come into the yard, who took a ladder which was lying near the barn, and placed it against the barn-window. One of them ascended, drew out a nail with which the window was fastened, and got in. He then put out seven bundles of straw, and both of them walked away. The men employed to watch pursued and overtook them about 40 yards from the barn, each of them having some bundles of straw at his back; they took them into custody, and delivered them to a constable. The prisoners requested them to let them put the straw back and go away, but they refused. George Culverhouse, another person employed by Mr. Hutchins, proved that the straw found upon the prisoners was taken from his master's barn.—Randall alleged in his defence, that he had no intention of stealing the straw, but that a customer called upon him on the night of Wednesday, the 17th of December, and wanted 200 weight of straw early the next morning, which the prisoner promised to deliver to him at the Unicorn, Leighton. On entering Mr. Hutchins's yard he saw a light in the upper window, and thought he was gone to bed; he accordingly took some straw, intending to account to him for it.—Jordan said, that Randall asked him to assist in carrying some straw from the barn to his house, and to take it to Leighton the next morning, telling him that a customer wanted it, and he would satisfy him for his trouble. Several persons gave Randall a good character. The Chairman having detailed the evidence to the Jury, said, it rested with them to decide whether the prisoner Randall went on the urgency of the case, considering the straw his own property, to do what even then was not strictly right; or whether he took the straw without intending to account for it to Hutchins, and thereby to commit a felonious act. The Jury returned a verdict of *Guilty* against both prisoners.—The Chairman having conferred with the gentlemen on the bench, said, that as there was a possibility that the offence of the prisoners had been committed under a false impression, their sentence would be more lenient than it would otherwise have been. At the same time as Jordan had been only the tool of Randall, it would make a distinction in their punishment.—Randall, *Four months' hard labour*; Jordan, *Two months'.*

*Windsor and Eton Express, 15 January 1825*

In 1837 he was living in a brick cottage in Wing. His neighbours included John Bolton, probably the father of Susannah Bolton, who married his son Robert, and of George Bolton, who married his daughter Jane. His brother George Jordan was also nearby.

This is probably the same place they were living at the time of the 1841 Census, when they were recorded at Chapel Lane.

Thomas was living with his wife, all his children except his eldest, William, and a ten year old boy, John Ashpole.

By the time of the 1851 Census, they had shifted to Vicarage Lane. His wife, and all of his children, bar William and Elizabeth were still living with him.

Thomas worked as an agricultural labourer all his life, and spent his entire life, as far as the historical record shows, living in or around the village of Wing.

Thomas married Ann Lambourne on 18 November 1822 at All Saint's church in Wing.

Thomas and Ann had nine children together, William (1823), Robert (1825), Elizabeth (1828), Hannah (1830), Jane (1831), Hannah (1835), Rebecca (1837), Joseph (1840) and George (1842).

Their first daughter Hannah died as an infant, but all their other children survived to adulthood.

They were living in the locality of Littleworth, about 800 metres north of the centre of Wing, when their first son, William was born.

In January 1825, Thomas was charged with larceny and sentenced to two months hard labour for his part in breaking into a barn and stealing seven bundles of straw.

He appears to have been charged with larceny again in 1827, but acquitted, however it's not possible to be certain it wasn't a different Thomas Jordan.

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, BY  
Mr. Hart,  
At the Cock Inn, Wing, on Thursday, the 5th day of  
October, 1837, at 4 o'clock, in 5 Lots.  
By Directions of the Guardians of the Leighton Buzzard  
Union, (pursuant to an order of the Poor Law Com-  
missioners,) subject to such conditions as will be pro-  
duced at the time of sale.

LOT 1.  
COMPRISES all that Valuable Freehold Pro-  
perty, known as the Workhouse, and a Cottage  
adjoining, with a plot of rich garden ground, containing  
about one rood, (more or less), pleasantly situate in the  
VILLAGE OF WING,  
and near to the Church. The house is commodious, and  
substantially built, and would easily be converted into a neat  
residence or respectable tenements.

LOT 2.  
Consists of Ten Freehold Brick-built Cottages or Tene-  
ments, with a piece of excellent garden ground, containing  
about 55 poles, (more or less), occupied by John Bolton,  
Hannah Pollard, Thomas Jordan, Ann Hodgins, George  
Jordan, William Winnill, Thomas Burrows, Thomas Tyrrel,  
Ann Taylor, and Hannah Rickard.

LOT 3.

*Bucks Herald, 30 September 1837*

The 1861 Census finds Thomas, his wife Ann and youngest son Henry in the household of his daughter Jane and her husband George Bolton. They were living in Burcott, nearly two kilometres to the north of the centre of Wing.

Thomas' wife Ann passed away at Burcott in 1864.

By 1871 Thomas' daughter Jane had moved to London, but Thomas was still in Wing and living with his son George and his family.

Thomas died on 17 April 1880 of senile decay. He was nearly 79 years old. His daughter Hannah Carter had been present at his death.

Thomas on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Jordan-7993>

### **William Jordan (7G-Grandfather) (1770-1838)**

William was born in Wing, Buckinghamshire and baptised on 18 April 1770. His parents were George Jordan and Ann Burrow.

William married Elizabeth Warner on 29 April 1790 at the Church of all Saints in Wing. The Church of All Saints is this the same church that many generations of both William's ancestors and descendants were baptised and married in.

The crypt in the church dates back to the eighth century, and it has a ninth century apse (an apse is a semicircular recess covered with a hemispherical vault or semi-dome) which is thought to be the oldest in England. The majority of the structure of the church dates back to the fourteenth century, including a stained glass window featuring the Coronation of the Virgin flanking the arms of the Earls De Warenne.



*Church of All Saints, Wing, Nov 2010, commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:All\_Saints,\_Wing\_Nov\_2010.jpg*

William and Elizabeth had ten children together, only half of whom survived all the way to adulthood. They were Ann (1791-1792), William (1793), George (1795-1797), Fanny (1797-1798), George Warner (1799), Thomas (1801), Robert (1803), Elizabeth (1805-1817), Hannah (1808-1818) and Francis (1811).

William was listed in the 1798 Posse Comitatus for Buckinghamshire. The Posse Comitatus, or force of the county, was a survey of all men between the ages of 15 and 60 capable of acting in a military capacity who were not either Quakers, clergymen or already serving in a military unit.

The survey was conducted against the fear of invasion by French forces. Britain had been at war with France since 1793.

William's profession was given as labourer in the Posse Comitatus.

William's wife Elizabeth died in 1820 and was buried in the Wing cemetery on 8 March. No more is known of her, save that she was living in the parish of Wing at the time of her marriage.

William died on 27 July 1838 at the hamlet of Burcott, just a little to the north of the village of Wing. He was 68 years old.

William was buried in the Wing cemetery on 29 July 1838.

William on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Jordan-8722>

## Earlier Jordans

The Jordans can be traced back a long way in Wing, although it should be noted that with mostly only Wing parish church records available, you can never be completely certain that the Jordan born on such and such a date is the same one that married on another date. People did move between parishes occasionally, although most frequently wives moved to their husbands parish. This is also before the period that relationships can be easily confirmed using DNA.

Bearing all that in mind, here goes...

George Jordan was baptised on 9 April 1747. He married Ann Burrows, also of Wing, on 26 December 1768. They had twelve children together. George was buried on 4 May 1791.

*George was the son of..*

George Jordan, who was baptised on 20 August 1707. He married Elizabeth Rowland, probably not of Wing, on 15 May 1733. They had seven children together. George was buried on 10 April 1788.

*George was the son of..*

George Jordan, who was born around 1669. He married Mary (last name unknown), probably in a different parish. They had five children together. George was buried on 22 January 1735.

This line has been pushed back farther by some researchers, but as yet I have not been able to verify it.

There are some buildings in Wing which were present during the lives of all these men.

One of them is The Cock Inn, situated opposite Vicarage Lane and pictured below. It is older than it looks, having been refaced in relatively recent times, but the main parts of the structure were built in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.



*The Cock Inn, Wing. Photo taken by Jim and Joyce Lowe, 1997*

The other building is The Almshouses, also known as Dormer's Hospital. Originally eight dwellings, now four, the almshouses were built in the sixteenth century to house the poor of the parish. The building was largely remodelled in the nineteenth century.



*Dormer Hospital, almshouses in Wing. Photo: Robert Anson, <http://www.u3a.co/photographs-history-ii-visit-wing/>*

## Ann Lambourne (6G-Grandmother) (1805-1864)

Ann was born in Wing, Buckinghamshire in about 1805. There is an unusual baptism record for an “Ann Woodward or Lambourn” in June of that year that is likely her, but sighting of the full transcription is needed to be sure.

Ann married Thomas Jordan on 18 November 1822 at All Saint’s Church in Wing. They had nine children together, William (1823), Robert (1825), Elizabeth (1828), Hannah (1830), Jane (1831), Hannah (1835), Rebecca (1837), Joseph (1840) and George (1842).

They were living on Chapel Lane in Wing at the time of the 1841 Census. In addition to her family, there was a ten year old boy, John Ashpole. If a relative, John was most likely on Ann’s side of the family.

By the time of the 1851 Census they had shifted a block away to Vicarage Lane. Excepting her eldest, all of her children were still living with Ann and her husband.



*Vicarage Lane, Wing. Photo taken by Jim and Joyce Lowe, 1997*

In February 1857 Ann was charged with stealing firewood, the property of Lord Overstone, but was discharged with a caution and not fined. Ann was almost certainly collecting fallen timber from his property, not raiding his woodpile.

LINSLADE.  
SPECIAL PETTY SESSION.—FEB. 16.  
(Before Col. Hammer, the Rev. A. P. Cust, and R. W. S. Lowndes, Esq.)  
MALICIOUS DAMAGE.—*James Randall*, labourer, of Stewkley, was summoned by the Rev. James Swain, of the same place, for maliciously damaging the lead covering to a bow-window, on the 23rd ult. Fined, including costs, £1 6s. 6d. A fortnight allowed for payment.  
DRUNK AND DISORDERLY.—*William Foulks* and *Thomas Grace*, labourers, of Stewkley, were summoned for being drunk and fighting on the 30th ult. Each were fined 5s. and 13s. costs.  
WOOD-STEALING.—*Ann Jordan*, of Wing, was charged with stealing firewood, value 6d., the property of the Right Hon. Lord Overstone. As Mr. Webster, the steward, did not wish to prosecute, the accused was discharged with a caution.

*Bucks Herald, 21 February 1857*

ASSAULTS.  
Sarah Woolhead charged *Elizabeth Cutler* with assaulting her on the 25th ultimo, in the parish of Wing. Ann Jordan and Catherine Pratt proved the case, and Cutler was fined 1s. and £1 5s. costs. Paid.  
Elizabeth Cutler then charged *Sarah Woolhead* with assaulting her; but having no witnesses, the charge was withdrawn, on the payment of 1s. by Cutler.

*Bucks Herald, 9 September 1859*

In September 1859 Ann appeared as a witness in a case of assault, supporting Sarah Woolhead. Ann’s daughter Rebecca had married an Edwin Woolhead, but I’m not sure how Sarah is related.

By the time of the 1861 Census, Ann, along with her husband and youngest son, Henry were living in her daughter Jane's household in the hamlet of Burcott, just to the north of Wing village. No profession was recorded for Ann in any of the three Censuses.

Ann died on 9 July 1862 at Burcott. The cause of death was given as rheumatism, from which she had been suffering for five years. Eliza Colyer was present at the death. Ann's son Joseph had married a Sarah Ann Collier, so Eliza was probably an in-law caring for Ann.

There was a death notice for Ann in the newspaper, which was quite unusual, considering the era and her class.

Ann Hodges, of Dooney Court, Henley-on-Thames.  
JORDAN.—On the 16th inst., at Burcott, Ann, wife of  
Thomas Jordan, aged 62 years.  
Street.—On the 8th May at Sandridge, Melbourne.  
*Bucks Herald*, 23 July 1864

Ann on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Lambourne-66>

## Hannah Sarah Baker (5G-Grandmother) (1820-1905)

*Some of the material in this chapter is taken from the work of Deborah Jorgensen and Alex Coles, which can be accessed at <http://wing-ops.org.uk/explorations/migration/thetis-1848/>*

Hannah was born on 19 October 1820 in Wing Buckinghamshire. Her parents were George Baker, a labourer, and Mary. Hannah was baptised as an adult (as Sarah Hannah) at All Saints Church in Wing on 25 June 1837.

Her parents were non-conformists who would travel over to Leighton Buzzard's Primitive Baptist Church to worship.

It's not clear where Hannah was at the time of the 1841 Census, but she probably wasn't living in Wing, and wasn't living with her mother.

Hannah is unlikely to have attended school (not at all unusual at this period), as on her later immigration record she was recorded as not able to read.

Hannah married William Jordan in Wing on 7 June 1843. They had two children while living in Wing, their first, Ruth, five and a half months after their marriage, and Rhoda (later Herodias) in 1845.

One of her older brothers, Thomas, witnessed Hannah's marriage to William Jordan, and later travelled with them on the *Thetis*.

They migrated to Australia in 1848 on the *Thetis* and settled in the Maitland area. This trip is covered in more detail in Hannah's husband chapter.



*View of West Maitland from the Hunter, Fleury, 1853, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-135822873/view>*

Hannah's third child, Thomas George, was born on-board the *Thetis*. They would have another five children while living in the Maitland area. They were Mary Ann (1851), George Thomas (1855), Harry (1856), Jane Elizabeth (1858) and Reuben (1860).

Hannah famously gave birth to Mary on a haystack in the Hunter Rover flood of 1851.

In the mid-1860s they took up land at Kayuga, close to Muswellbrook.



*Saint Alban's Church, Muswellbrook, ca 1875, <http://archival.sl.nsw.gov.au/Details/archive/110310131>*

We don't know much about Hannah, but we might have an idea of how she spoke. At the Wing One Place Study website, <http://wing-ops.org.uk/sights/lexicon/>, there are a number of great examples of accent and word usage. Examples include:

*She wore ollus aggling oer summut = She was always annoyed about something*

*He axed arter er = He asked after her*

*He clarred across the road = He hurried across the road*

*There wore scurf on is shelders = There was dandruff on his shoulders*

*They ship went to markut = Those sheep went to market*

Hannah died on 11 November 1905 at her daughter Ruth's home in Glebe. She was 85 years old.

*The two mentions of Hannah in the newspaper record can be found here*

*<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/result?l-publictag=Sarah%20Hannah%20Jordan%20nee%20Baker>*

*Hannah on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Baker-25714>*

### **George Baker (6G-Grandfather) (1782-1836)**

George was born in Wing, Buckinghamshire to John Baker and Maria Williams. He was baptised on 27 October 1782 at All Saints' Church in Wing.

He married his wife, Mary, in around 1803. Mary must have been from a different parish, and the marriage held in that parish, as no record of that marriage has been located on-line.

George and Mary had at least four children together. They may have had more, but as Primitive Methodists, their children were not baptised until they were adults, so we don't know about any that may have died young. The four are Elizabeth (1804), Maria (1806), John (1808), Thomas (1813) and Sarah Hannah (1820).

George worked as a labourer.

George died in January 1836 in the hamlet of Burcott, just to the north of Wing village. He was buried on 3 January in the Wing cemetery. He was 53 years old.

Mary was still alive at the time of the 1841 Census. She was living with her son Thomas on Church Row in Wing.

Mary died on 16 September 1848 in Wing. The cause of death was dropsy and her age was given as 76 years old, but she was likely younger based on the age of her husband and youngest child. A Susanna Mead was present at her death. Mary was buried in the Wing cemetery on 19 September 1848.

*George on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Baker-25715>*

### Annie Mary Hill (3G-Grandmother) (1866-1950)

Annie was born on 18 February 1866 at Breakfast Creek in Brisbane, Queensland, to Michael Hill, a blacksmith, and Margaret Schubert, recent German immigrants to the state. She was baptised a Catholic on 19 August 1866 at Saint Stephen's Cathedral. The baptismal register records her godparent as Kate Sheehan and her parent's address as near Ice House, Breakfast Creek.

Her parents moved around within Brisbane after her birth, with her next siblings being born in Petrie Terrace and Fortitude Valley, but her family moved out to Eagle Farm in about 1870, where they stayed until about 1876. Her family moved to Sydney in 1876, initially to Five Dock, but then out to Robert Street, Saint Peters. This was the outskirts of Sydney at the time and her father had a vineyard there.

Annie was living with her parents and working as a domestic servant when she married James Hillier on 12 February 1889 in North Botany at Tunbridge's Buildings. It was a Congregational ceremony and James' parents were the witnesses. They were to have a total of ten children. They were Elsie Maud (1889), Ada Emily Francis (1891), Arthur James (1893), Ernest Albert (1896), Violet May (1898), Vera Irene (1900), William Michael (1901), Reuben (1903), Stella Margaret (1909) and – finally – Stanley John (1912).

They lived at a number of locations in Sydney, the fine details of which can be found in her husband's chapter.

In around 1897 they moved to the Coolgardie goldfields in Western Australia. From at least 1901, but possibly earlier, they lived in the locality of Burbanks, about eight kilometres south of Coolgardie.

While living in Burbanks Annie appears in the newspaper record a small number of times. She came first in a married ladies race at the School Sports day in June 1910. She also entered recipe competitions a number of times in 1912.

**Mrs. A. Hillier, Burbanks P.O. :-**  
**KIDNEY TOAST FOR INVALIDS.**  
Take several sheep's kidneys and chop up very finely. Season with salt and cayenne, and some fine parsley. Stir over the fire in a small saucepan, with a little butter, till done. Have ready some hot buttered toast to put them on, but before doing so add the well beaten yolk of an egg, and a squeeze of lemon, spread the mixture on the toast, and put in the oven for a minute to get hot.

*The Sun (Kalgoorlie), 27 October 1912*

In September Annie received an honourable mention for her *Gluten Layer Cake* and won second for her *English Plum Pudding* recipe. The prize was a half dozen electroplate afternoon teaspoons with handsomely engraved handles.

In October her *Stuffed Tomatoes* recipe received an honourable mention and in December she received fourth prize and an electroplated ivory handle pickle fork for her *Apple Dessert*.

Annie's most appealing recipe, *Kidney Toast for Invalids*, regrettably only received an honourable mention, but deserves displaying here.

Annie lived in Burbanks until 1916, at which point they moved to King Street in Coolgardie.

Some time between 1919 and 1922 Annie and her family moved to 110 Piesse Street, Boulder. Her sons William and Stanley lived with her for part or all of this time. Anne and James lived here until August 1932, when an auction of the "whole of her handsome household furniture and effects" was advertised. It was noted the house had already been sold.

Some of the items listed included a Rexonola Gramophone and Records, Violin and Case, first-class order, and a Singer Sewing Machine, drophead.

In 1934 the Electoral Roll finds Annie, James and Stanley at 36 McMillan Street, Victoria Park. From 1936 until her death Annie lived at 504 Hay Street, East Perth. Her granddaughter Joyce, from her son Arthur James, apparently lived with her for a while at Hay Street.

Annie's husband James died in 1947.

Her granddaughter Phyllis remembers visiting Annie when she was about ten years old and being unable to understand what she was saying.

Annie's grandson Alan, via her son Reuben remembers visiting her about five times in what would have been the mid 1940s.

He remembers that she was a large breasted woman who always dressed in black, even before her husband passed away. It's thought that she wore black in memory of her son Ernest who was killed in World War One. They lived in a small flat with a small kitchen and a bathroom off to one side. When Alan visited Annie would lift up one of the floorboards to get some pennies for his sister to go buy cakes with.

Her husband James would take Alan aside and give him threepence behind the woodheap. It had to be done on the sly or Annie would give her husband a blasting.

Alan said that they had about five ounces of gold to last out their retirement and that as they were very anti-social it would have lasted.

## **“CAME AFTER ME WITH THE MOP”**

**Doreen Forknall said that she had had previous disagreements with Mrs. Hillier (see story left) and heard “plenty of remarks” passed about herself.**

On the morning of July 1, she said, she was hanging some clothes on the line when Mrs. Hillier came along and said: “You can't wash every day.”

She said Mrs. Hillier started mumbling to herself and she was still mumbling later when she (Mrs. Forknall) returned from up town.

On the balcony later, she said, Mrs. Hillier continued to mumble—“just as she always does”—and passed a remark about soapy water.

Then: “A lot more mumbling went on, and when I told her that I would report her to the Health Dept. if she didn't keep her mops out of the bath, troughs, and lavatory, she got annoyed and went to hit me.

### **Pushed Her**

“She mumbled something about my glasses, and I pushed her backwards.

“I took a few steps backwards and she came after me with the mop. She said: ‘I'll fix you, you beast of a thing,’ and she made to swipe at me with the mop again.

“I tried to pull it away from her, and she tried to pull the mop back.

“In the end I let go and she fell backwards and caught her face on the verandah, skinning her forehead and making her nose bleed.

“I waited to see if she was alright and then she came for me again. I went for my life inside and slammed the door in her face.”

### **Denial**

Never at any time did she hit Mrs. Hillier, she said.

Asked why she had placed her hands on the elderly woman, she replied: “Well, would you stand there and

*Mirror (Perth), 7 August 1948*

Alan remembers her as a good natured woman, but that both Annie and her husband suffered from dementia and malnutrition later in life.

His comment about dementia may place this 1948 newspaper article in a different light, as it doesn't paint her in a positive light.

The events could well be explained by dementia, but we also know what a deeply nasty person her daughter Ada was, so you have to wonder.

It may be relevant that only one of her numerous children was named in her death notice.

Annie died on 4 October 1950 at the Royal Perth Hospital. She was about 85 years old.

woman, she replied: well, would you stand there and let someone hit you with a mop?”

**In dismissing the charge, SM Wallwork ordered the parties to fix up their own costs.**

When he can produce proof of the date his wife allegedly deserted him, Morris Clarke will get his divorce from Elaine Ruth Clarke. Clarke claimed his wife deserted him in May, 1945.

Newspaper item mentioning Annie can be found at <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/result?l=publictag=Annie+Mary+Hillier+nee+Hill&q=>

Annie on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Hill-21390>

## Michael Hell (4G-Grandfather) (ca1831-1909)

Michael was born in Hallgarten in the Duchy of Nassau on 27 July 1831. His parents were Casper Hell, a wine merchant, and Elisabeth Johl. Michael was baptised the following day at Maria Himmelfahrt (Church of the Assumption).

Hallgarten is located about four kilometres north of the Rhine and about twenty kilometres to the west of the town of Wiesbaden. The main industry is grape and wine production.



*Das Rhein-Weinland, Carl Ludwig Hellrung, ca 1837. Hallgarten is underlined in orange.*

Hallgarten had a role in the political history of early Germany. Meetings were held there at the winery of Johann von Itzstein, by a group later dubbed the Hallgarten Circle (Hallgartenkreis). This group is seen as a nucleus of the Frankfurt National Assembly, the first freely elected parliament in all of Germany in 1848.

In 1857, in an attempt to avoid imprisonment he either pretended insanity or suffered an acute mental breakdown. The case notes, patient notes and family background are fascinating reading and portions are reproduced below. First, his family situation:

*Michael Hell of Hallgarten is 26 years old, of Catholic faith, single, born in Hallgarten and residing there, and earns his living as a day labourer and shoemaker. His father, the day labourer Caspar Hell, is deceased, and his mother Elisabetha née Johl, is 67 years old and has been blind for 14 years.*

*He has 5 siblings, two of which are sisters who are married, one [is living] in Oestrich, the other in Hallgarten. One brother is in America and another is a farm hand at Oestrich, and the third is currently serving a prison sentence of several months for insulting the honour of the office and service of Mayor Hombach at Hallgarten.*

*The latter is a shoemaker by trade, and Michael Hell has worked with him as a shoemaker at times without having thoroughly learned the shoemaker trade – or any other occupation. Michael Hell has allegedly received the usual schooling and religious instruction and has learned to read and write; he has been excused from military service because of alleged intermittent hearing difficulties and has been living with his mother in her house up to now.*

Now the case details:

*The municipal council describes Hell's behaviour as unruly and malicious!*

*Some time ago, Michael Hell had been sentenced to 14 days prison for embezzlement. The ducal manorial and appellate court found him guilty of on June 9<sup>th</sup> of this year of insulting the honour of the office and service of Mayor Hombach at Hallgarten on April 5<sup>th</sup> of this year and sentenced him to 3 months prison. When he was told of this judgment on June 18<sup>th</sup> of this year, he was impertinent at the administrative office and was therefore sentenced to serve an immediately executed disciplinary penalty of 5 days in prison for insulting the reputation of the administrative office.*

*The ducal manorial and appellate court found him guilty again of insulting the honour of the office and service on September 8<sup>th</sup>. And when he was going to be arrested to serve the sentence handed down to him on June 9<sup>th</sup>, wanting to avoid the execution of the sentence by fleeing, he committed illegal acts on the evening of September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Concerning these illegal acts, the*

*ducal criminal court led an investigation on the basis of which he was committed to stand trial at the next assizes for attempted killing with a pistol as well as for resisting the authorities and, once more, for insulting the honour of the office and service.*

Despite some concerns that Michael was only simulating a mental illness he was transferred to an asylum at Eichberg where he was treated for just over three weeks. His treatment involved cupping, laxatives and electric therapy. Michael was more or less catatonic at first and soiled himself and his bedding.

*His hearing and his facial recognition were clearly impaired: One had to scream at Hell loudly for him to hear anything. However, several times shiny things caught his attention, like, for example, a piece of glass which lay on the ground in the jail yard. He would bend down in a very clumsy way and then try and grab it with very unsteady hands. The only words that he uttered when he was prodded to go outside and to walk where: "Where should I go?"*

Part of the patient notes involved a detailed physical description

*Michael Hell is of medium height and average strong build. His skull is roundish, measuring around 20 cm from the glabella to the fontanelle, from the top end of the outer ear to the respective area on the other side is 14.5 cm. The circumference of the head measured at that spot is 56 cm. The scalp is covered with short, light brown hair. There are numerous bald spots with scars and [?] at the back of the head. The forehead is short and has some horizontal folds. The eyes are of regular size and form. The iris is light brown. The nose is smooth, small and stubby. The teeth are healthy, the tongue clear. The neck is long, the chest is well developed. The neck has a wide, flat scar from a [?].*

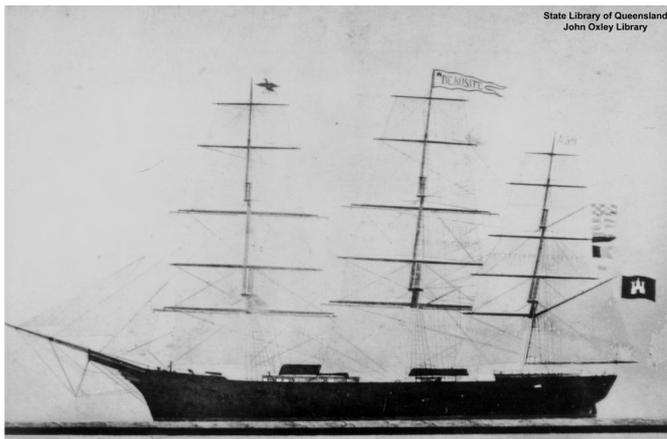
From questions put to Michael we learn a few things about his life. He had worked on a farm called *Neuhof* and his priest was named Abel.

One statement of his was recorded which may be significant. Though rarely speaking Michael did state "*Katherine is a whore, I don't want to marry her.*"

Eventually he was challenged that he was just pretending mental illness and Michael agreed. Michael had expected that if he feigned mental illness he would be sent home, not confined in a mental institution. He was returned to jail in Wiesbaden on 27 November 1857 and charged for 22 days stay in the asylum.

Michael married Margaretha Schubert in Hallgarten on 15 August 1861. This information comes from the birth certificate of one of their children. However, their marriage has not been found in either the Catholic parish records for Hallgarten nor surrounding towns. Marriage in a Lutheran church is a possibility.

They had one child together while still living in Germany, Andrew Jacob (1861).



*Beausite, a ship used to carry immigrants from Germany to Australia, ca. 1866, [www.slq.qld.gov.au](http://www.slq.qld.gov.au)*

Michael, his wife and young son departed Hamburg on the *Beausite* on 23 May 1863 for Moreton Bay, Queensland arriving there on 5 September 1863. Michael's profession was given as *Schmied* (Smith) and his residence as Hallgarten, Nassau. Their ages were stated as 31, 23 and 1 respectively.

Their second child, Anna Maria Christina, was born on the *Beausite*. (Her name, and that of all infants on the ship was recorded as *Beausite* in the immigration register).

Michael and Margaretha had five children while living in Brisbane, Anna Maria (1866), John (1867), Simon Peter (1869), Maurice (1872) and Auguste Margaret Bertha (1875).

They lived in a number of different locations within Brisbane. When their daughters Anna Maria and Anna Maria Christina (different people) were baptised at St Stephens Cathedral in August 1866, their address was given as *near Ice House, Breakfast Creek*. John was born in Petrie Terrace, Simon in Fortitude Valley and they then settled in Eagle Farm until departing Brisbane in about 1876.

Michael worked as a blacksmith all throughout this period.

Despite living on the north side of the river, in around 1865 Michael owned ten acres in Tingalpa, on the south side of the river. He was summoned to court for refusing to pay £15 18s., his share of the cost of a dividing fence with a neighbouring property. The summons was withdrawn, so presumably he had paid up.

During his period living at Eagle Farm, he had a long running feud with his neighbours, the Greens, which resulted in a number of court appearances over several years.

In August 1872 Margaret summoned Margaret Green for abusive language and Michael summoned John Green. Describing Michael, the journalist recorded that he spoke *English with great volubility*. The court found in favour of Michael.

In January 1873 Michael was summoned for setting his dogs on John Green's cow and killing it. Michael lost the case. By December 1874 things had escalated even further, with Michael charged with carrying a knife and threatening serious injury and then beating John Green with a batten. John was then charged with wounding Michael with a tomahawk on the forehead. A bystander who attempted to intervene was also charged with assault. All were ordered to pay fines of varying amounts, with the Bench remarking *that if the parties, who were so frequently before the Court, appeared there again, they would be punished more severely*.

Michael's long running feud with his neighbours was not the only issue that saw him before the courts. In November 1873 he was summoned for assault by a James Sutherland and in April 1874 he was summoned by M Ford for an unpaid debt of £2 8s 8d for goods sold. A November 1875 case was more complex, but it appears Michael may have tried to skip out on debts by transferring ownership of some assets to his son Jacob.

This is the last we see of Michael in the newspaper record in Queensland, not long before his move to Sydney, which could have been driven by poor financial circumstances, the feud with his neighbours, or both.

Michael had arrived in Sydney by 1877, with his son Joseph born there at Five Dock in June of that year. Michael and Margaret would have another three children in Sydney, Phillip (ca1880), Henry (1881) and Johannah (1885).

Michael was recorded in the Sands directory in 1882 as a blacksmith at Bishop Street, St Peters, although when his son Henry was born in December of that year his residence was Robert Street. All later entries in the directory record him as a gardener, and his address interchangeably as either 10 Edith Street or Robert Street. It appears they had a large property with two street frontage.

#### THE BEAUSITE.

The above-named vessel arrived at the anchorage in Brisbane Roadstead at sundown on Saturday evening, from Hamburg. She is a large vessel of 932 tons registered burden, and is commanded by Captain C. I. S. Bruhn. She has a very small cargo, however, consisting of about 70 tons of general merchandise. Her passengers are all Germans, and number in all 508 souls. They are under the medical supervision of Mr. George Steinlein.

There was a considerable amount of sickness amongst the passengers, but none of a contagious nature. We regret to have to record several serious casualties during the passage. On the 10th August, two men were much injured by the violent lurching of the vessel in a heavy gale. One of them was thrown with his back against one of the hatchways, and injured his spine to such an extent that he lost the use of his legs. The other had his shoulder broken, and one of his fingers fractured; but he is now in a fair way of recovery. Another young man named Nicolas Schnieler fell overboard and was drowned while in the act of drawing a bucket of water. Ten deaths from sickness took place during the passage, five of which were caused by various inflammatory affections of the lungs. The remaining five died of other complaints, but chiefly from diarrhoea. This mortality was principally confined to the children. There were nine births, of which six were males. Among the immigrants are a large number of skilled mechanics, and altogether they are, we are informed, a very fine class of people, being quite equal to those which arrived recently by the German ships Alster and La Rochelle. The Beausite was visited by Dr. Hobbs, the health officer, on Monday last, and as on inspection he found the passengers in a satisfactory state as regards health, he passed her.

*The Courier (Brisbane), 12 September 1863*

Michael's grandson Aubrey via his son Joseph stated that his grandparents (Michael and Margaret) had a vineyard on the outskirts of the development of Sydney at St Peter's.

In August 2019 Aubrey's daughters Ann and Pam visited 10 Edith Street. The house is still standing and is a small stand alone cottage constructed from wood with a very small backyard. The owners very kindly let us look around. The vineyard was probably fronted Roberts Street as there were two rather newer houses than the surrounding houses in the street and they were just behind number ten.

The present (2019) owners had purchased a deceased estate. The property had previously belonged to a German family who had rented the house for decades before purchasing it. They had lived there for 75 years in total, so it's possible they knew or were connected in some way to the family.

The property is located within the bounds of the area described within the popular children's book, *My Place*, by Nadia Wheatley and Donna Rawlins.

Michael appeared before the courts at least another two times in Sydney. In September 1880 Mary Ann Brennan summoned him for obscene language, he was fined 20s, and 4s. 10d. Costs. Then in June 1882 both he and his wife Margaret were fined £3 each plus costs of 29s for assaulting a bailiff in the course of his work.

In more mundane matters, Michael is mentioned twice in the minutes of St Peter's Council. In July 1885 he *complained of the action of the inspector with regard to the removal of house rubbish*, while later that same year the newspaper recorded *A complaint from Mr. Michael Hill, respecting sheep being killed near his premises, was received, the the Mayor informing the Council that the inspector had not been able to get the offenders.*

In 1889 Michael had a pair of boots and a gold scarf-pin stolen by a sixteen year old named Thomas Bachell, who was sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labour.

In January 1902 Michael was interviewed in an advertorial for Clements Tonic. While the article is mostly about his health, we do learn that he owned a collection of European songbirds and he had been in a situation (job) for seventeen years nearby.

Michael was visiting his daughter Johanna and her family in Bomaderry on the New South Wales south coast when he died of bronchitis on 16 November 1909. He is buried in the Rookwood cemetery, Sydney.

Browse newspaper articles about Michael at <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/result?1-publictag=Michael+Hell>

Michael on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Hell-167>

### **Caspar Hell (5G-Grandfather) (1792-1851)**

Caspar was born in Hallgarten, Duchy of Nassau on 4 October 1792 to Wendel Hell and Margaretha Soehngen. He was baptised on 9 October 1792.

While described as a vintner (Winzer) in many sources this was probably only on a small scale, as he was referred to as a day labourer (Tagelöhner) when his son Michael's family was described in an 1857 document.

He married Elisabetha Johl, daughter of Philipp Johl and Barbara Bieger, on 21 February 1814 in Hallgarten. They had eleven children together, seven sons and four daughters.

Casper died in Hallgarten on 26 July 1851 at nine in the evening.

Caspar on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Hell-170>

### **Wendel Hell (6G-Grandfather) (1748-1827)**

Wendel was born in Hallgarten, then part of the Bishopric of Mainz within the Holy Roman Empire, he was baptised on 22 June 1748. His parents were Johann Hell and Susanna Hallgast.

He married Elisabeth Soehngen in Hallgarten on 7 February 1780.

Wendel was a vintner.

On December 1823, then aged 75 years, Wendel transferred his assets and farmstead<sup>8</sup> to his children, on condition they provide maintenance for their parents.

They were to continue living in the house and make use of the cellar and attached garden, which the children were to maintain. In addition each child was to supply:

- Ten pounds of butter and Twenty [?], half in the last week of May and the other half at Michaelmas (29 September), and half a “Mass”<sup>9</sup> each week
- One to Two “Malter”<sup>10</sup> of dug-up potatoes, one to two “Ohm”<sup>11</sup> of wine in autumn and cash money, 11 [?] 15 [?]<sup>12</sup>, half at Easter and half at Martinmas (11 November)

His farmstead came to a value of 900 [?] and other land holdings to 1,245 [?]. A sample of the line items in the inventory is as follows:

- A one-storey residential building together with ancillary buildings, stable, shed, [rosegarden?] and the well, altogether 12 Ruthen<sup>13</sup> area
- Meadow, near the mill, above Martin Söhnchen, below Johann Anton Hell Senior
- Meadow, consisting of 31 Ruthen 5 Schuh [grazing land?], below Philipp Krämer
- Vineyard, consisting of 84 Ruthen, [in freehold?] above Herr Graf von Scheubere
- Meadow, consisting of 31 Ruthen 5 Schuh [grazing land?], below Martin Bartl
- Farmland, belonging to the farm, above Karl Engelmann’s widow, below Franz Schreiner
- Vineyard, consisting of 84 Ruthen im Reinert [freehold?]
- Farmland, consisting of 81 ½ Ruth in leasehold, below Frau Schulther’s leasehold, widow
- Meadow, near the Leimersbach creek, above Philipp Schreiner, below Johann Kern
- Vineyard, im Hehlbern, above the Umgraben [ditch], below the road
- Farmland, consisting of 81 1/2 Ruth., leasehold, above Philip Prinz

Wendel died on 3 February 1827 in Hallgarten.

Wendel on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Hell-207>

### **Elisabetha Johl (5G-Grandmother) (1791-1858)**

Elisabetha is the daughter of Philipp Johl, winemaker, and Barbara Bieger and was born in Hallgarten, Duchy of Nassau on 27 December 1791.

She married Casper Hell on 21 February 1814 in Hallgarten. They had eleven children together, seven sons and four daughters.

In 1857, in a document relating to her son Michael, it was noted Elisabeth had been blind for fourteen years.

Elisabetha died in Hallgarten on 19 March 1858.

Documents relating to the administration of her deceased estate are held by the Hessian Archives and a scanned copy is available at familysearch.org. It runs to over 120 pages and is unsurprisingly full of legal language and repetition.

Her living children were identified as:

- Christina Hell, wife of Peter Lutz, of Hallgarten
- Wendelin Jacob Hell, whereabouts unknown
- Andreas Hell, whereabouts unknown

---

<sup>8</sup> Hofreite in German, an enclosed rural property with house, courtyard and farm buildings

<sup>9</sup> A volume measurement, the exact amount of which varied by region, but somewhere from 0.5 to 2 litres

<sup>10</sup> A large unit of dry capacity, again varying by locality

<sup>11</sup> Also Ahm or Aume, again no idea of the volume

<sup>12</sup> Unspecified currency units, which again, varied regionally

<sup>13</sup> I give up.

- Thomas Hell, of Hallgarten
- Margarethe Hell, wife of Stephan Kissel, of Oestrich
- Johann Hell, of Hallgarten
- Michael Hell, of Hallgarten

Johann and Michael were both underage and their interests were represented by Peter Lutz. Wendelin and Andreas' interests were represented by their aunt, Elisabetha's sister Christina Johl. However, Christina stated that she was convinced they could not inherit the property and they received no part of the estate.

In addition Stephan Kissel was representing his daughter Barbara from his first marriage to Margarethe's sister Maria, who was deceased.

The value of Elisabetha's land and buildings was valued at 780 guilders 14 kreuzer and debts at 246 45. The property was described as “the house, two plots and garden”.

Her other assets, mostly furniture and household items but including items like 1,000 roof tiles, came to 24 guilders 57 kreuzer.

Margarethe took over all the property, debts and other items, agreeing to pay five hundred guilders to be distributed amongst the heirs.

*Elisabetha on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Johl-5>*

### **Philipp Johl (6G-Grandfather) (1769-1827)**

Philipp was born in Hallgarten, Bishopric of Mainz on 29 September 1769, the son of Johann Johl and Margaretha Schlosser.

He married Barbara Bieger on 21 February 1791 in Hallgarten. They had at six children together, Elisabeth (1791), Clara (1794), Johann (1796), Ursula (1799), Christina (1802) and Christian (1805).

In 1811 Philipp and his wife Barbara purchased land from Johannes Heimes and his wife Anna Maria, who were probably his sister and brother in law. The value of the transaction was 634 Guilders.

Philipp died in Hallgarten on 4 May 1827.

*Philipp on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Johl-11>*

### **Michael Bieger (8G-Grandfather) (ca1729-1809)**

*(Skipping a biography of Michael's daughter Barbara as only vital dates are known)*

Michael was baptised in Niedergladbach on 26 August 1730 at St. Ägidius Kirche, the son of Heinrich Bieger and Dorothea Heller.

Niedergladbach is located about ten kilometres north of Hallgarten, on the other side of the hills. It is the lower (nieder) village on the Gladbach (Glad Brook), there being also an Obergladbach.



*Kirche St. Ägidius in Niedergladbach, (Archivfoto: Wolfgang Kühner)*

Michael's wife's name was Anna Maria Bach. They had at least seven children together, Johann (1754), Nicolaus (1756), Conrad (1759), Anna Margaretha (1762), Catharina Barbara (1765), Peter (1768) and Sybille (1768).

There is a 1763 document in the Hessian Archives which is entreating for action to be taken against poachers in the Pflingst-Mühl, a number of incidents are mentioned, including one involving Michael.

*[The following] events cannot be hidden from our reigning, highly gracious leader. How our gamekeeper came across Michael Bieger, also known as Mucken-Michel, residing in Hallgarten, in our private hunting grounds near the Pflingst-Mühl this Saturday just past, in the evening between 8 and 9. And when the gamekeeper – in line with his duties – wanted to take his shotgun off him, this poacher did not only resist, but even tried to hit the gamekeeper. However, when he [the gamekeeper] went to strike the poacher across the hand with his hunting knife, the same cried for help. Immediately 2 men came running towards the gamekeeper with cocked guns and the following words:*

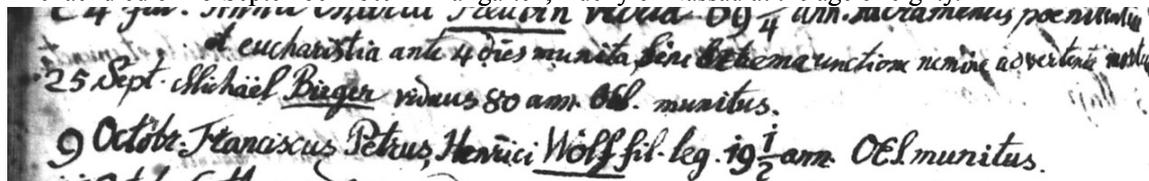
*Hey, we want to have a word with you, we want to show you who can hunt here, you should pay for this shotgun - the one that the gamekeeper Johann had just taken off Michel.*

*The gamekeeper heard more voices as well, but wasn't able to see anyone below the hill. As he saw himself surrounded, he feared for his life, and so he fled, accompanied by the sound of loud voices.*

*Now, this Michael Bieger is well known to have been caught poaching in these grounds several times before. But, up until now, no one has been punished. This illegal behaviour has been going on all over the Rheingau, and if it isn't controlled forcefully, it will get to the stage that no gamekeeper can do his job without fearing for his life.*

*Therefore, I ask you, highly esteemed and gracious leader, to compel this known poacher by appropriate means of coercion to name his accomplices. And to make the same feel the effect of the famous zeal of the law so that others may be deterred. Also, to protect my family's rights from all negative effects from anywhere because of this action.*

Michael died on 25 September 1809 in Hallgarten, Duchy of Nassau at the age of eighty.



Michael on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Bieger-10>

### **Margaretha Schubert (4G-Grandmother) (ca1840-1921)**

Margaretha was apparently born in Hallgarten in the Duchy of Nassau in about 1840, but no baptism record has been located.

For more information on Hallgarten see her husband's chapter.

Margaretha, again apparently, married Michael Hell in Hallgarten on 15 August 1861. This information comes from the birth certificate of one of their children. However, their marriage has not been found in either the Catholic parish records for Hallgarten nor surrounding towns. Marriage in a Lutheran church is a possibility.

They had one child together while still living in Hallgarten, Andrew Jacob (1861).

Margaretha, her husband and young son departed Hamburg on the *Beausite* on 23 May 1863 for Moreton Bay, Queensland arriving there on 5 September 1863. Her residence was given as Hallgarten, Nassau.

Their second child, Anna Maria Christina, was born on the *Beausite*. For more information on their journey see her husband's chapter.

Margaretha and Michael had five children while living in Brisbane, Anna Maria (1866), John (1867), Simon Peter (1869), Maurice (1872) and Auguste Margaret Bertha (1875).

They lived in a number of different locations within Brisbane. When their daughters Anna Maria and Anna Maria Christina (different people) were baptised at St Stephens Cathedral in August 1866, their address

was given as *near Ice House, Breakfast Creek*. John was born in Petrie Terrace, Simon in Fortitude Valley and they then settled in Eagle Farm until departing Brisbane in about 1876.

Margaret does not appear to have been employed outside the home, instead being involved with raising their family and supporting her husband's blacksmithing trade.

In 1865 a notice was placed in the paper asking Margaret to contact the Prussian Consulate. While no details are given, this is presumably in relation to someone from home attempting to contact her. There was a similar advert in 1871, which stated *Important news for you, at the Consulate of the North German Confederation*. (The Confederation was a short lived political entity, in existence for only four years.)

During her period living at Eagle Farm, she, along with her husband, had a long running feud with his neighbours, the Greens, which resulted in a number of court appearances over several years.

In August 1872 Margaret summoned Margaret Green for abusive language while Michael summoned John Green. Margaret's summons was dropped in court.

In December 1872 (her name misrecorded as Mary in one article) Margaret charged Catherine Green as she had *insulted her by making use of filthy and disgusting language towards her when passing her residence*. Catherine had also made threats, one of which was that she would set fire to the house. The Court found in favour of Margaret, Catherine having been before the court on a similar charge recently.

Both Margaret and Catherine were back in court just the next month, Margaret again charging Catherine with using insulting language. The article stated *"The parties, who live at German Station, were litigants at the last Petty Debts Court, and fell out by the way on going home after the settlement of the case."* The case was dismissed.

In November 1874 Margaret summoned a Mary Ann Green for abusive language on two separate occasions. The court found in Margaret's favour both times.

Margaret and her family had moved to Sydney by 1877, with her son Joseph born there at Five Dock in June of that year. They would have another three children in Sydney, Phillip (ca 1880), Henry (1881) and Johannah (1885).

From 1882 Margaret and her family were living on a large property fronting onto both Robert and Edith Streets where they had a vineyard.

Margaret made two appearances at the Newtown Police Court. In August 1881 she summoned Emily Atkins for obscene language. A Selina Newman also separately summoned Emily on the same day. The court found in both Margaret and Selina's favour.

In June 1882 Margaret, along with her husband Michael, was finally on the wrong end of a court judgement (for Margaret that is, not at all in Michael's case). They were fined £3 each plus costs of 29s for assaulting a bailiff in the course of his work.

It's often very hard to get a picture of someone's wealth from the historical record, except in a very broad sense, but we do know that Margaret owned an investment property, a weatherboard cottage three blocks away on Grove Street, for it caught on fire in the middle of the night in June 1892. It was unoccupied at the time. The newspaper article noted it was worth £150.

Margaret was living with her daughter Bertha Schroeder and her family at 12 Edith Street, St Peters, when she passed away on 30 June 1921 of bronchitis and cardiac failure. She was 81 years old. Margaret is buried in the Catholic section of the Rookwood Cemetery with her husband Michael.

Browse newspaper articles about Margaret at <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/result?l-publictag=Margaret+Hill>

Margaret on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Schubert-770>

## Marjorie Ridley (Great-grandmother)

Marjorie was born on 19 February 1918 in Perth, Western Australia to a farmer named Amed Ridley and Elizabeth Emma Kempton. Her eldest sister Dorothy was working at the hospital when she was born.



Marjorie with eldest sister Dorothy, 1918

In August 1928, a Miss Ridley, possibly Marjorie but also possibly an older sister, sent a specimen to the Perth Museum of *Hydromogus Fuliginosus*<sup>14</sup>, a native water rat with partially webbed feet with bodies up to 37cm in length.

In December of the same year the Mundaring State School held a concert. The major portion of the programme consisted in a reproduction of the operetta "Pearl the Fishermaid". Marjorie played one of the dancing mermaids.

Marjorie, like her sisters before her, wrote to "Aunt Mary" in the newspaper. The first letter I've found was in February 1929.

Her parents sold their property a few months later and moved to Perth, to 48 Sussex Street in Victoria Park.

Marjorie had dark brown hair and blue eyes, and was five foot four (163 cm) as an adult.

Her family lived at Coomberdale, near Moora, some 200 kilometres north of Perth. She was the youngest of twelve siblings. She was fond of all her brothers and sisters, but was closest to Dorothy.

Marjorie lived at Coomberdale for the first six years of her life.

By early 1925 her parents had sold their farm and shifted to a smaller property at Mundaring, named Bramcote, 35 kilometres east of Perth, where they operated a poultry farm and guest house.

**A Pet Kangaroo.**  
Bramcote, Mundaring.  
Dear Aunt Mary,—I received the calendar to-day and I thank you very much for it. I think it is the prettiest of the three I have received from you. With this letter I am forwarding a shilling for my subscription for this year. I am not sure whether I sent the last money to you for my subscription, so I will be very pleased if you will let me know how much is owing to you. We have had some very hot weather lately. The heat has been increased by some big bush fires, which have been quite near to our home. We have a young kangaroo for a pet. He is so affectionate. He belongs to my sister Jean. Jean has a little pony, which she calls Bonnie. Each day I ride her to Mundaring to get the mail for mother. Bonnie is very quiet, but she dislikes cars. My brother Fred and I spent a very pleasant holiday in South Perth, and at present Fred is at Claremont. I hope you and all the nurses are well, and that the little patients are improving. Again thanking you, and wishing you a happy New Year,—I remain, your little niece,  
**MARJORY RIDLEY.**

Western Mail, 14 February 1929

<sup>14</sup> Now known as *Hydromys chrysogaster*

Marjory Ridley, 48 Sussex-street, Victoria Park.—“I am just sending you this puzzle, and hope I am successful in getting a prize. We were once living in Mundaring, but are now in Victoria Park, and I think the school is nice, I am in fifth class. I am eleven years old. I would like, if I may, to join the Sunshine League. I would be glad to think that I could help to pay for the cot. I am sorry, but I will have to enclose some stamps next week, as we haven't any in the house this week. Well it is near bed time, so I will close, with best wishes to you and your Sunshiners.”

Dear Marjory: I already have a Marjorie Ridley among my big family circle. I wonder whether you are cousins! But in any case you are very welcome, dear, as a new little Sunshiner. It is very sweet of you to want to help our Cot Fund, and I shall be glad to receive your contribution. Were you very sorry to leave Mundaring, or do you like town better than the country?

*The Daily Mail, 27 July 1929*

Marjorie was not the only Marjorie Ridley writing in to the newspapers, which does make for some confusion.

The Daily News had a Sunshiners Club for children, and a friend that Marjorie had made at Mundaring, who had boarded there for a week with her family, Joyce Anderson, mentioned her in a letter to the Club in July 1929. Joyce was also living in Victoria Park.

Marjorie always had to wear second hand shoes as a child and would later in life blame this as the reason her feet gave her trouble.

She wore long plaits and when she was about twelve years old she wanted short hair. Marjorie cut one of her plaits off, but her mother caught her before she cut the second one off and stopped her.

From 1929 to until her engagement notice in July 1938 Marjorie's name does not appear again in the newspaper record.



*Marjorie with her sisters, ca 1930. Back (L to R) Maude, Dorothy, Jean, Front (L to R) Marjorie, Charlotte (Aunty Pat), Evelyn, Olive, Pearl (Aunty Pete)*

After completing her schooling Marjorie trained as a dressmaker, and worked in that field until her marriage. When she had a family she would make all of her children's clothes, at least until they were twelve or so and no longer wanted home made clothes.

Her niece Maggie (her sister Maud's daughter) was a very good dressmaker and did wedding dresses. When Maggie was especially busy Marjorie would catch the bus to her place and help her with handsewing.

Marjorie married Keith Clapp on 15 June 1940 at St Peter's church in Victoria Park, located nearby to where they both lived. The witnesses were R Ridley and E W Grimey.

They had three daughters together, Lesley Maxine (1943), Susan Patricia (1947) and Pamela Ann (1950).

During the war Marjorie and Keith lived at her parents house at 79 Leonard Street, Victoria Park, but by 1947 they had moved to 2 Susan Street, Kensington. While in a different suburb, this was only a block away from her parents.

Her parents celebrated their golden wedding anniversary at her home in September 1947. Her mother died in 1953 and her daughter Susan remembers her as being extremely upset when her mother died.

In common with many other women at the time Marjorie never learnt to drive a car and would ride her bike to go shopping, hanging the shopping bags from her handlebars. She was very friendly and was popular with the shopkeepers. Every time she went to the hairdressers she would bring a sponge cake she had baked for the girls there.

Marjorie was a good cook who liked gardening, reading light fiction and keeping a welcoming house. She owned two Australian Terrier dogs, Tiny and Gretchen.

Marjorie was not a religious person.



*Marjorie in Perth city centre*



*Filling a hot water bottle at 2 Susan Street*

When the weather was cold she always made sure to have a hot water bottle wrapped in pyjamas placed in each of her daughter's beds.

Sometimes she would short sheet her children's beds and put rice bubbles in there.

One time while having a water fight with her kids in the yard with a hose she put her left arm through the window next to the back door while trying to get away. There was lots of blood but no major damage. Despite all the blood all involved found it hilarious.

During the school holidays she would go with her daughters to visit her sister Evelyn who lived on small farm near Bunbury.

When her children were at Kent Street High School she would volunteer in the canteen.

Marjorie was a kind, thoughtful, helpful and caring person, who did her best under sometimes difficult family circumstances.

As was common practice for the era, the children were bathed and fed before Keith came home. This was of greater importance in their household as Keith would usually go to the pub after work (for both networking and alcoholism reasons) and could often be quite difficult when he came home.

Each Friday the kids would get one cherry ripe and one violet crumble to share.

Her husband Keith began his own stationery business in 1951, sharing an office in the basement of Yorkshire House, at 194 St George's Terrace. The business sold stationery and office equipment to other businesses.

In the early years of the business, probably in the mid-1950s, Marjorie was required to sell many of her dresses to help keep the company afloat. This made a particular impression on her daughter Susan who remembers how upset her mother was at having to do this.

On a family visit to the beach on one occasion, Marjorie was dumped in the waves and broke her collarbone and cracked three days.

She liked cooking and would buy "exotic" vegetables and cook with them, such as red capsicum, eggplant and red cabbage.

During the 1970's Keith wanted to go to Thailand for a holiday, although Marjorie didn't want him to go. He went alone and on his return cruelly told Marjorie he would be bringing a Thai woman to Australia and she would live with them in the family home.

Piled on top of everything else Marjorie had put up with, this latest news caused Marjorie to have a nervous breakdown. Their daughter Lesley, who until this time had little to do with her parents and dysfunctional marriage, became Marjorie's ally, confronting Keith and demanding he move out.

Eventually a court order was required against Keith to stop him coming around. They separated in 1978.

Marjorie was in generally good health throughout her life but fell ill with bladder cancer in her early 60s. She was in and out of hospital for a number of months with treatment and got on well with the hospital staff. There were many people at her funeral, including a number of doctor and nurses from the hospital where she had been treated.

Keith visited one time while Marjorie was dying, but, according to his daughter Susan, just talked about himself. When asked why she put up with him Marjorie said she "felt sorry for the poor old bugger".

I remember visiting Marjorie and I remember living with her. I know I liked her but have few clear memories. I remember my Mum joking with her about going swimming with her plastic bladder bag floating in the water, and I remember making a grocery store (I don't recall all the details but it did involve screwed up newspaper for potatoes) and wanting Marjorie (Granny) to come and shop at the store. It felt like I had to wait a long time but she eventually came and bought some groceries and I was very pleased.

*Browse newspaper articles about Marjorie at <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/result?1-publictag=Marjorie+Clapp+nee+Ridley&q=>*

## Amed George Ridley (Great-great-grandfather) (1874-1957)

Amed was born on 20 Mar 1874 in Wilberforce, Western Australia to James Ridley, and Charlotte Cook. Wilberforce is a locality just to the north of the town of York and situated about 100 kilometres due west of Perth. Amed had two surviving older siblings at the time of his birth.

Amed's mother died in 1875 so he would have had no memories of her. According to one source<sup>15</sup>, following her death "*as was usual in such cases, the children were put in the care of Charlotte's relatives*".

I'm not sure how long this separation was for but I imagine Amed returned to his father's household when he remarried to Isabella Ritchie in 1878.

His family lived in the area of Northampton, a town close to the coast, situated 470 kilometres north of Perth and 50 kilometres north of Geraldton. His father worked as a miner when Amed was young, but also held a wine and beer licence from 1881.

In 1891 Amed left Northampton for Coomberdale, a locality to the north of Moora, and 200 km north-north-east of Perth by road.

Amed married Elizabeth Emma Kempton on 16 September 1897 at Saint George's Cathedral in Perth. His profession was given as Farm Assistant. Amed gave his residence as Victoria Plains, which was the general term for the area, although in the present day Victoria Plains is a shire centred around Calingiri.



*Wedding day photo, Amed seated with Elizabeth holding flowers*

When Amed and Elizabeth first moved to the property at Coomberdale they lived in a small hut, only building a house after their farm was established. The railway line through the area had not been laid and the nearby township of Moora had only just been gazetted. The journey to Perth or Northampton was made on horseback.

There was no doctor for 50 miles, and only by the time their eighth child came along was there a maternity hospital in the district.

Amed and Elizabeth had twelve children together. Most were born in Perth (or registered there at least), but several were born closer to their home, in Dandaragan or Moora, and Ted was born in Coomberdale. Their

---

<sup>15</sup> A "partly fictional" book mostly about Amed's grandmother – Amelia, by Bonnie Milne

children were Alfred George (1898), Dorothy Kathleen (1900), Maude May (1902), Charlotte (1903), Evelyn (1905), Olive (1907), Jean (1908), Pearl (1910), Edmund Oxford (1912), Clifton Francis (1914), George Frederick (1915) and Marjorie (1918).

There was no school available until their eldest, Alfred had turned 11, and even then it was a three mile walk away, although I believe they did move closer in later years.

The earliest reference to Amed in the newspaper record, in February 1908, is mundane. He was advertising that he had found *One Dark Brown Filly branded like JL near side under saddle*. Similar adverts were placed occasionally over the years, with the strangest, to modern ears, being for a lost kangaroo slut, a breed of dog.

His children would often write letters to "Aunt Mary" in the newspaper, which was a children's column in the newspaper which also raised money for sick children. The letters give a great window into life on the farm at Coomberdale, and are a number are shown below. I haven't included Aunt Mary's replies.

**Her First Letter.**

**Coomberdale, September 2.**

My Dear Aunt Mary,—I hope all the little sick children are getting well again. This is the first time I have written to you. I only started to go to school last November. I walk three miles to school, and I like to go to school. I have got six sisters and only one brother. Our baby Pearl is nearly three months old. Our brother has a sheep named Bessie, and she has a little lamb. With love to all the little sick children,—**MAUDE RIDLEY**, age, 8 years.

*Western Mail, 17 September 1910*

**A Letter from Coomberdale.**

**Coomberdale, September 9.**

Dear Aunt Mary,—I hope all the little sick children are getting better again, it is not nice to be sick. We have a little baby named Pearl. I am in the first class at school. I am having a nice holiday. My father has a lot of little lambs. Love from **CHARLOTTE RIDLEY**, age 6½ years.

*Western Mail, also 17 September 1910*

**A New Link For the Silver Chain.**

**Oxford Downs, Coomberdale, Jan. 20.**

Dear Aunt Mary,—How are all the poor little sick children? I have six little sisters and one brother. We are starting school on Tuesday. Alfred has two nice little ponies, four sheep, three cows, and two calves. Father has sixty-one little pigs, and twelve big ones. I would like to join the Silver Chain. I am sending a shilling in stamps. Would you please send me a collecting card? My birthday was on Decem-  
**6.—DOROTHY RIDLEY.**

*Western Mail, 11 March 1911*

**Oxford Downs, Coomberdale, May 14.**

Dear Aunt Mary,—Just a line to let you know I got a new card and button, but there was no badge. Yes, you may keep the other sixpence for the fund. I am enclosing the twenty-four shillings, which I hope you receive safely. I'll try my best to fill the other card also. My Uncle sent me a shilling's worth of stamps right from Norseman; he is Life-Governor of the Hospital there. I have one shilling on my new card now. Alfred, my brother, has another calf now; father brought her in yesterday; she is the best calf in the pen. We broke in two more horses this morning; they did not kick at all, and they are so quiet. Just as we were finishing dinner we saw a turkey settle, and father went out and shot it; we are cooking it for tea. We are going to start our half-yearly examination to-morrow. We all get very nervous when we know its examination. I don't like geography a scrap. I hope all the poor little children are improving. I must close now, with love to you and all the dear little children, I remain,—your loving niece, **DOROTHY RIDLEY.**

*Western Mail, 27 May 1911*

**Oxford Downs, Coomberdale, May 14.**

Dear Aunt Mary,—As my sister was writing I just thought I would write too for the second time. I hope you are well and all the little sick children. How is Sandra and Babs? Jean is on the table while I am writing. Lottie says that she will write next time. My little sister made a little loaf of bread, and she is only five years old. She made her own sponge for the first time. Father shot a turkey on Sunday, and our friend Frank plucked it; we are having it for tea. You will think this is funny writing, but I am only nine, so you must please excuse. I would join the Chain, too, but there is not enough people to collect as well as Dorothy. Pearl is just telling mother to show her the little Ba-bas. She is always talking about the sheeps. I hope the little children are as well as I expected. Wishing the Chain every success, with love, I remain,—your loving niece, **MAUDE RIDLEY.**

*Western Mail, 27 May 1911*

Oxforddale, Coomberdale, Dec. 6.

Dear Aunt Mary,—I hope you are well. Alfred has gone for a holiday. He has gone for three months. Father has got such a lot of hay, he didn't know what to do with it. Father has got three stacks of hay. We are going to get the "Western Mail" next week, so I will be able to write to you more often. Baby has got four teeth now, he is ten months old. He will be one year old on the 3rd of February. Baby's birthday is the day after Olive's. Dorothy's birthday is on Boxing Day. I hope the little children will be well enough to enjoy the Christmas holidays. Dorothy's and my birthday are both in December. Mine is on the 16th of December, and I will be nine years old, and Dorothy's on the 26th. I have two dolls, one's name is Lizzie, and the other is Violet. Lizzie's hair is black and Violet's is white. We have 44 little chickens, and there is another hen sitting on 13 eggs. There is one hen who only has 5 chickens. We have a dog, her name is Bessie. I should have called one of my dolls Bessie. I have not made many things as I should have liked to make, but baby has been so cross with his teeth I have had no time to make anything. Mother says I'm not quite big enough to do work, but I mind baby nicely for her. I remain—Your loving friend, CHARLOTTE RIDLEY, age 8 years.

*Western Mail, 20 December 1912*

A Letter from Coomberdale.

Oxford Downs, Coomberdale, Dec. 6.

My dear Aunt Mary.—No doubt you will be thinking we are never going to return the Father Christmas robe, which we had last year for the Christmas tree, but we've been going to send it down for months past, and kept forgetting it. I am very sorry we will be unable to have a tree this year, but there are to be so many different entertainments, etc., up here that it will be quite impossible. Dad has grown a great number of onions this year, so we will send a bag down to you. He will most likely help you in some little way. Wishing you and all the patients a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year.—I remain, yours sincerely, LOT-TIE RIDLEY.

*Western Mail, 20 January 1921*

Amed added the 3000 acre Oxford Dale property to his farm in 1911. The previous owners, Mr and Mrs Edmund King, had settled in Coomberdale 43 years previously. Edmund King died in November the following year, and Amed attended his funeral in Perth and was listed as one of his nephews. He was also one of the executors of Edmund's will.

Edmund's wife Esther was Amed's aunt on his mother's side.

In April 1912 Amed listed 1,320 acres for sale.

It was common for newspapers of the day to report on the farmers activities, and in Jan 1913 we learn that Amed has 250 acres under wheat, which yielded 30 bushels per acre. In February the following year Amed averaged 26 bushels per acre.

In January 1914 it was reported that he *"has plenty of water on his holding, 500 acres of cleared land, and plenty of scope for his family of 10 children."*

A travelogue in the newspaper of a surveyor, also in January 1914, stated *"...on Monday morning steered for Coomberdale, and camped under Mr Ridley's beautiful fig trees, and had a good sound feed of the luscious fruit, and, also mulberries. During the trip the lowest shade temperature was one hundred and five degrees."*

Amed travelled to Perth in January 1915 in order to interview members of the Grain and Foodstuffs Board regarding next season's production. It was also stated *"He is one of those who his could materially increase his planting if seed were forthcoming. He has the land the strength and the horsefeed, but is short of seed and fertiliser."*

Threats to crops were also reported on. In one instance we hear about rabbit activity found on his property, later, in June 1919 we hear that dingoes had killed a number of his sheep. Six months later it was noted that Amed had *"accounted for one on Saturday night by waiting up all night at the water trough."*

His wheat crop was reported on in October 1920. It was described thus *"At Mr Ridley's farm there is to be seen some magnificent wheat, crops—Ghuyas and Yandilla King. In some of his paddocks the growth is six feet and over; but the pick is a little over four feet with good heads, and the prospects of a record average per acre is looked for."*

Amed's farm was big enough to need to hire employees, which we know from when one of them accidentally set fire to his wheat crop and destroyed eight acres.



*Western Mail, 13 November 1924*

Fire wasn't just a problem out in the fields. In August 1917 it was reported that a fire has been set in the fireplace in the front room, but it was too big and the flames spread out and ignited the wall. A hole was burnt right through the wall before the fire was mastered.

His farm certainly became a major operation. In one stock sale in 1919 he sold 611 wethers (castrated male sheep).

At the Moora Show in October 1921 Amed won first prize in the two year old bull category.

In 1924 a six legged lamb was born at his property. The photo was featured in the newspaper and described as "Born with six legs, this lamb was bred on Mr. Ridley's Property, Coomberdale, and enjoys perfect health."

In May 1915 he was asked to give over part of one of his fields as a playing ground for the Coomberdale Football Club.

Mr Ridley, who has been 24 years in the district, was returning from Coomberdale riding on the top of a wagon laden with chaff, when the accident occurred. He had occasion to turn off from a made road at right angle to get a straight pull for his team through a gate. In the swing that naturally occurs in a high load when turning on an uneven surface, such as the camber of a formed road, the bag upon which Mr Ridley was sitting slipped off the wagon, and he was precipitated to the ground. He was falling head foremost, and to save himself as much as possible, Mr Ridley took the weight of his body upon his left arm. The act broke the full force of the fall, but the member was fractured just above the wrist, and Mr Ridley also sustained a cut and bruise on the side of the head and cheek bone.

First aid was rendered at Coomberdale by Mrs McLeod, Mr Riley and Joyce, and Mr Ridley proceeded to Moora, where Dr. Myles set the limb.

When seen during the same day Mr Ridley complained of pain in the neck, but was otherwise in good spirits.

The accident occurred at a most inconvenient time, as Mr Ridley had just commenced harvesting operations and is anxious to secure the crop before storms or other circumstances have the opportunity to deplete or destroy it.

*Moora Herald and Midland Districts Advocate, 11 December 1914*

Amed is sometimes mentioned in relation to the Moora Road Board. There are applications to close roads, open roads or to complain about gates in poor repair.

Breaking an arm could become a major local news item back in 1914. It was reported in two different newspapers. His satisfactory recovery was noted in a later edition.

In February 1916 there was a large gathering at his house to farewell a local man who had signed up to join the army. Dancing interspersed with songs was indulged in until midnight and a most pleasant evening finished up by singing the National Anthem.

In November 1918 it was advertised that a picnic was to be held at the pool at the back of Amed's property to commemorate the Allied victory.

Another event was held at his property in May 1919. Provision was to be made for dancing and various indoor games and the conduct of sideshows. Money was to be raised for the candidature of a Miss E Kilian for the popular girl contest. Afterwards it was reported to be both socially and financially a success.

In 1922 Amed sold up his property. In March 1922 it was advertised that he was holding a "genuine clearing sale" as he was disposing of his farm. Farm equipment as well as horses, sheep, cattle and pigs were to be sold. The sale definitely went ahead as details of the items sold were noted in a subsequent newspaper.

He still held some or all of his property in March 1923 however, when he applied for a crossing over the railway line.

In fact, Amed was still living in the area in June 1924 when a newspaper item stated he had been taken to Moora Hospital suffering from pneumonia.

Then we find another “genuine clearing sale” held in November 1924. This was the real deal this time, and they left for Perth on the Saturday train, 22 November.

They moved to Mundaring, a picturesque area a little to the west of Perth.

Amed called himself a poultry farmer in the electoral rolls while living at Mundaring, but we would probably in modern parlance call his situation semi-retired. His wife Elizabeth ran a guest house while they lived there. They named their property *Bramcote*.



*Amed and Elizabeth in Victoria Park*

In April 1929 they sold *Bramcote* and bought a property at 48 Sussex Street in Victoria Park, a suburb of Perth. Amed was probably pretty much retired at this point, but described his profession as labourer in the electoral rolls. They still had several children living with them when they moved here. Certainly Evelyn, Jean, Pearl, George and Marjorie, but possibly Ted and Clifton as well.

I'm not sure under why their situation changed, but in 1934 they were renting at 35 Leonard Street, Victoria Park. In 1935, however, they moved to 79 Leonard Street, owned by their daughter Charlotte (but called Pat by her family). Amed was to live here for most of the rest of his life.

There seemed to be always at least two of his children living with them, or a daughter-in-law, his son Clifton's wife.

In February 1937 Amed travelled to Moora for a reunion to mark 100 years of white settlement in the area.

In September 1947 Amed and Elizabeth celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. Nine of their children and nearly all their grandchildren were present. When interviewed they said they did not think raising a family 50 years ago was any harder than it would be today, and “When we sit back now and look at our children and grand-children, we have not done a bad job.”

Amed's wife Elizabeth died in 1953.

In around July 1955, with his health ailing, he went to live with his youngest daughter, Marjorie, but this was only for a period of about a month. He moved from there to the Sunset aged care facility in Nedlands but only stayed five days, being taken out to live with his eldest daughter Dorothy at 49 Lawley Crescent, Mount Lawley.

Amed died on 2 August 1957 at Subiaco Hospital. He was 83 years old.

Amed on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Ridley-885>

Browse newspaper items about Amed here <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/result?l-publictag=Amed+George+Ridley&q=>

## James Ridley (3G-Grandfather) (1834-1896)

James was born in the parish of Slaugham, Sussex to Edward Ridley and Amelia Collins, and was baptised there on 5 October 1834. Slaugham was his mother's home village, and it's not clear if his family were living there at the time of his birth, or if his mother had returned there to give birth at home. Most of his siblings were born in West Hoathly.

SLAUGHAM (*St. Mary*), a parish, in the union of CUCKFIELD, hundred of BUTTINGHILL, rape of LEWES, E. division of SUSSEX, 4½ miles (S. by W.) from Crawley; containing 1286 inhabitants. The parish comprises 3088 acres, of which 1136 are common or waste land. It is situated on the road from London, through Crawley, to Brighton; and the river Ouse has its source here, in the grounds of Ashford, forming in its course a lake of about thirty acres at Slaugham mills. The surface is diversified with hill and dale; the soil is sandy, and generally poor. There are considerable remains of the old manor-house of Slaugham Place, the ancient seat of the Covert family; the grand staircase was given by the late Colonel Sergison to the proprietor of the Star inn, Lewes, and was erected in that house. The living is a rectory, valued in the king's books at £10. 19. 2., and in the patronage of Mrs. A. Sergison; net income, £282. The

*A Topographical Dictionary of England, Samuel Lewis, 1848*

Slaugham is around about 20 miles due north of the coastal town of Brighton. Slaugham is derived from the Old English words *slāh*, sloe, the fruit of the blackthorn and *hām*, a village or homestead.

When the 1841 Census was conducted on 7 June James was living with his family in West Hoathly. There were 15 people in the household, which included the Payne family, the Kimber family, as well as James, his parents, four brothers and an older half-brother.

James left with his family for Western Australia on the *Simon Taylor*, arriving in Perth on 20 August 1842. More information on the ship and the voyage is in his father's chapter.

His father died scarcely a year after arriving, on 27 August 1843. By 1844 at least James was probably living in the household of James Cook in Perth, who his mother was later to marry.

According to *Amelia*<sup>16</sup>, by Bonnie Milne, in around 1847 James was employed, along with his brother Edward at George Green's foundry in Perth. His brother Edward was later to marry George's daughter Dinah.

James moved to the Northampton area with his older brother Edward and worked in the area for many years, in both lead and copper mines in which he and his brother had an interest. In a 1937 article about his son Amed, it was stated that James was the discoverer of the lead mines at Northampton. A 1908 article about Edward claimed he was the discoverer of the Yanganooka copper mine in July 1853, five miles to the north of Northampton<sup>17</sup>. It was worked for five or six years from 1855 until a slump in the price of copper caused it to close down. The same article also credited Edward with discovering the Wanerenooka copper mine, which was worked for eight or nine years. He was also credited with the Wheel of Fortune copper mine, four miles west of Northampton, with a main shaft 300 feet deep, and the Euga lead mine.

The 1908 article also pointed out that expensive cartage and high ocean freights impacted on the viability of the mines.

In reality James and Edward worked in partnership until May 1878, and credit for the finds probably goes to both men.

James married Charlotte Cook on 29 April 1860 at (King's) Table Hill. Charlotte was only sixteen years old and the daughter of some of the very first English settlers to arrive in Western Australia. His residence was given as Lower Bowes, a locality about nine kilometres south of Geraldton. King's Table Hill is about another ten kilometres south. The witnesses to the marriage were Samuel and Rachel Farmer.

James and Charlotte had five children together, Amelia (1862-1863), Frederick James (1865-1868), Mary Jane (1868), Edward Thomas (1870), and Amed George (1874).

James was working at the Gwalla mine at Northampton, or perhaps just living nearby, in May 1863 when he is recorded as donating ten shillings to the Lancashire Relief Fund.

<sup>16</sup> A "partly fictional" book mostly about James' mother, this account does appear in a section that appears to be factual.

<sup>17</sup> The town of Northampton wasn't actually gazetted until 1864, the area being known as The Mines prior to this



James Ridley, unknown date

James was living out at the Wheel of Fortune mine in May 1864. He was renting from and living with the owner, a butcher, in a *two roomed house, the rooms being divided by a rug hung as a curtain* for three weeks, when on 6 May, one of the other two tenants, a man named Theodore Krakouer was accused of stealing £490 (a staggering amount of money) from the owner.

**James Ridley**—I was living at Phillips' on the 6th May. Krakouer and my man, Parker, were also living in the house. They were at dinner there on that day, after which Phillips and I went to kill sheep, leaving Krakouer alone in the house. Krakouer came to us with the key of the house, saying he was going to the Wanerenooka or the Gwalla; we took the sheep to the house as we killed them, unlook-

ing and locking the door each time. When Phillips went to bed, he called out to ask who had been pulling his things about; we took a light and I saw things strewed about; we examined to see if any person had got in by the window, and could find no marks; Phillips pointed out the place in the thatch where he had put his money, the thatch there appeared to have been pulled aside. I knew Phillips had money but not how much. Krakouer came the next day, and asked Phillips to try and recollect what the numbers and amounts were of the orders he had lost. A day or two afterwards he said he was very much hurt that he had been accused of the robbery. The window was covered with a bag nailed at the top.

*The Perth Gazette and West Australia Times, 7 October 1864*

Their first three children were born in the Northampton-Geraldton area, however by Edward's birth in 1870 they had moved to Greenhills, a farming area 25 kilometres west of the town of York, and by 1874 to Wilberforce, a similar distance to the north of York.

It's not clear that James was living with his family all through this period as in December 1873 he was recorded donating ten shillings to the Perth Orphanage while at the Euga mine.

We know James still held land in the Geraldton area in 1874, as he was an elector in the region that year.

James wife Charlotte died on 25 June 1875 of consumption (tuberculosis). James was described as a mine proprietor on her death certificate.



Gwalla Church, [http://purl.slwa.wa.gov.au/slwa\\_b2990182\\_5](http://purl.slwa.wa.gov.au/slwa_b2990182_5)

In August 1875 he applied for a gallon licence, and described himself as a farmer, residing at the Green Hills on the Northampton Road.

James married for the second time on 20 May 1878, to Isabella Ritchie, in a Wesleyan Methodist ceremony. The venue was Gwalla Church in Northampton. Isabella was much younger than James, and they were to have seven children together over the next sixteen years.

They were William James (1879), Matthew (1882-1882), Susannah (1883), Annie Agnes (1886), Francis Charles (1889), Gladys May (1892-1892) and Alfred Clarence (1894). All the children were born in the Northampton area.

In June 1881 James applied for a Wine and Beer Licence. It was objected to on the grounds that *the house was not at all necessary, and, moreover, was not in the townsite*. The application was adjourned to the next day for a decision, but I cannot find any article with the outcome.

James Ridley, miner, sold Geraldton Town Lot 359 to James Stone on 19 June 1883 for 45 pounds.

James attended a public meeting in September 1883 at the Miner's Arms Hotel, where, amongst other things, a commonage of Northampton was discussed. James seconded a motion that the Governor on his arrival be memorialised (petitioned) for a commonage.

He was a co-executor of the estate of a William Read in December 1884.

James was still prospecting through the 1880s. An item in the *The Herald (Fremantle)* in May 1886 indicates that he had found a deposit of tin ore.

In November 1886 he posted notice of his intention to apply for a Gallon Licence at his premises on the Wanerenooka Road, Northampton. I don't know if this application was successful.

As a respectable land-owning member of the community, James was eligible to serve on juries, and he was the foreman of an inquest jury in February 1887, delivering a verdict of "Accidental Death."

In January 1890 he was again on an inquest jury, where this time the verdict was "James Evans came to his death by running into the Linton Salt Lake whilst in a state of unsound mind."

James would take on many kinds of work at different times. He was appointed Assistant Telegraph Messenger and Letter Carrier, Geraldton in February 1879, and was hold the position until 1882. The remuneration was only £12 a year, so certainly not full time work. The accounts of the Northampton Roads Board for 1889 show that he was employed for 73 days repairing roads, at a rate of six shillings a day.

He may have had a falling out with his son Edward, for in July 1888 he placed the following notice in the newspaper: *I will not hold myself responsible for any debts incurred by my son Edward Thomas Ridley of Northampton, as he has left his home of his own accord, and is also under age. Further, take notice that the said Edward Thomas Ridley has no power to sell or dispose of any stock without my consent.*

James died on 2 January 1896 on his property near Northampton. The cause of death was stated to be not known, but it was also stated that he had been ailing for some months. It was likely to be cancer as he had probably inherited his mother's gene mutation that increased the risk of cancer.

He died intestate, with Isabella granted the letters of administration of his estate. The value of his property came to just £109. His cottage and one acre of land were worth £70, his livestock £36 and household furniture £3. From this had to be subtracted £9 of debt to various storekeepers. Funeral and probate expenses came to £11 12, not leaving Isabella with very much at all.

James on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Ridley-887>

Browse newspaper items about James here <http://trove.nla.gov.au/result?l-publictag=James%20Ridley%201834-1896>

Mr. James Ridley, of this town, had a miraculous escape with his life last week. After a hard day's work, he was driving his cart horse out in the bush, carrying his loaded gun in one hand, at the same time, when the old quadrupedal friend of man took it into his head to stop abruptly, and salute Mr. Ridley, who was fortunately brought right up to the horse's hind quarters, with his hind extremities, in such a manner as to send his master some eight or ten yards to the rear. The kick was fair in the chest, and had it not been for the abrupt manner in which the old horse stopped, which caused Ridley to come right up to him, there is every reason to believe that this item of news would have been of a fatal nature. As Mr. Ridley fell, "stunned and knocked silly" from the force of the kick, he had the presence of mind to retain his hold of the loaded gun, the cock of which it appears had touched the ground and was on the "full." But, fortunately, it didn't "go off." No serious injury was sustained, but I am given to understand that Mr. Ridley is suffering more than what he cares about it.

*Victorian Express, 10 May 1882*

## Edward Ridley (4G-Grandfather) (1797-1843)

Edward was born in West Hoathly, Sussex to John and Mary Ridley and was baptised on 10 December 1797. He had at least four siblings, all older, but one died in infancy and two others had both passed away by 1830.

He was able to read and write in later life so possibly attended school, or perhaps simply received instruction at home.

West Hoathly is situated 20 miles from the coastal town of Brighton, and a little to the east of due north.

Hoathly means a heathery clearing, and comes from the Old English words *hādēl*, a heathery place, and *lēah*, a glade, clearing.

He filled out attestation papers at Maidstone to serve in the Royal Marines on 13 January 1818. It's not clear why he never served. From the papers we learn that Edward was 5 foot 5 inches tall, with a fair complexion, blue eyes and brown hair, and was in perfect physical condition. He received two shillings and sixpence on being attested.

Edward appeared at the General Quarter Sessions of the peace in Lewes on 15 January 1820.

He was charged with stealing a bushel of barley (a bushel was a unit of volume, but this was about 48 pounds, or about 21 kilograms of barley). He was found guilty and sentenced to a public whipping and three months imprisonment.

*Sussex Advertiser, 17 January 1820*

They would have six children together, all boys. Their children were Thomas (1828-1829), William (1830-1835), Edward (1832), James (1834), George (1837) and Alfred (1839).

On 22 March 1841 Edward appeared before the Spring Assizes in Lewes.

Given his conviction two decades earlier, it must have been terrifying to appear before court, with a possible penalty of transportation.

I have to imagine that Edward's court appearance was a factor in his decision to emigrate the following year.

*A Topographical Dictionary of England, Samuel Lewis, 1848*

Edward married Amelia Collins on 27 May 1827 in Slaugham, a village ten miles or so west of West Hoathly. Amelia already had a son from an earlier, unmarried union.

They were both recorded as "of this parish" so Edward must have been living there at the time.

The witnesses were Henry Mitchell and Lucy Collins. Lucy was Amelia's sister.

*Sussex Advertiser, 29 March 1841*

Either he'd committed the crime, indicating his circumstances were a little desperate, or he'd been falsely accused, which would not be a good environment to be in.

The 1841 Census was conducted on 7 June and Edward is found living with his family in West Hoathly. There were 15 people in the household, which included his sister-in-law's Payne family, the Kimber family, as well as Edward's family.

Edward and his step-son Charles were both recorded as farm labourers in the Census.

Edward and his family came out to Western Australia as assisted immigrants on the *Simon Taylor*. They appear to have been a late addition to the passengers, their names being recorded in a scrawl on the reverse side of the passenger list. His step-son Charles was indentured to a Mr. Cook for 22d a day, but Edward did not already have a position arranged.

The fare was £4 18s per adult, to be repaid within twelve months of arrival. One pound was to be paid as a surety, a guarantee of intention to embark.

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1842.**

**By the arrival of the *Simon Taylor*, we have English news down to the 30th April last. The *Simon Taylor* brings to this colony 219 emigrants, men, women, and children, being the first lot consigned by the home government upon our labour-fund. The health of the emigrants is reported to be very good; two out of the whole number shipped died on the passage, from what cause we have not as yet heard stated, and two children were born. The new-comers were received on their landing by R. Mc Bride Brown, Esq., the Resident Magistrate at Fremantle, and were apparently well pleased with the premises lately purchased by the local government for their accommodation. They are chiefly agricultural labourers, of the good old English sort, ruddy and smock-frocked, which we take to be the distinguishing marks of the English peasant. Of the whole number, there are not more than 150 adults, with a very large proportion of women and young children. Of the latter there**

*Inquirer, 24 August 1842*

The *Simon Taylor* departed from London on 29 April 1842, and arrived in Fremantle on 20 August 1842. The ship was quarantined for 16 days on arrival. She had been built in 1824 and this was to be its only trip to Australia. It was a vessel of 410 tons displacement, 140 feet (43m) long and 7 feet 6 inches between decks.

There were 242 passengers in all - 5 traveled in the cabins and the rest in steerage. Of the total, 219 were assisted migrants.

They formed a large proportion of the colony. The colonial population of Western Australia is estimated to have only been 3,500 at the end of the 1842.

There was a large shortage of labour in the Colony, and Edward would not have remained in Fremantle for more than a few days before obtaining work.

From Fremantle they would have taken a boat up river to Guildford.

Guildford is now a suburb of Perth, but at the time was a settlement of equal importance with Fremantle and Perth.

Guildford is situated about sixteen kilometres up river from the centre of Perth. It was the limit of navigation on the Swan River, and the surrounding clay loam soils were sufficient to support agriculture.

From Guildford they would then have travelled by land to Edward's place of employment.

Edward died on 27 August 1843 at Central Swan, a locality perhaps four kilometres up river from Guildford. His cause of death was described vaguely as debility, suggesting that he may have been ailing for a period.

Edward on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Ridley-988>

## John Ridley and Mary Woodman (5G-Grandparents)

John was born in about 1755, probably in Worth, Sussex. Mary was born in about 1759.

John and Mary married in Horsham, Sussex on 22 July 1782. John was described in the marriage record as a husbandman from the parish of Worth. Mary was from Horsham parish. Neither could sign their own names.



*Saint Margaret's, West Hoathly, photo taken by Jim Elliott, October 2019*

Horsham is located about 14 miles west of Worth.

John and Mary had ten children together, William (1783), James (1785), Henry (1787), Thomas (1787), Mary (1790), Sophia (1792), Charlotte (1793), George (1795), Benjamin (1796) and Edward (1797).

Their first three children was born in Worth, as was Mary. Thomas and all their other children were born in West Hoathly, located about five miles south of Worth.

Edward died on 23 February 1838 in West Hoathly, and was buried there three days later. He was 83 years old. The cause of death was stated to be debility. The informant was Mary Budgen, whose relationship to Edward is unknown.

Mary was still living in West Hoathly at the time of the 1841 Census with her son Thomas and a Peter Ridley, aged 35, whose relationship is unknown. Where exactly in West Hoathly is no clear. Not only is the address of their household essentially illegible, the neighbouring property is simply described as "Yewtrees" and the next as "Old Horn", neither of which can be located.

Mary died on 18 January 1842 at West Hoathly, and was buried there four days later. She was 83 years old. The informant was her daughter-in-law Amelia, wife of her son Edward.

*Edward on wikitree* <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Ridley-1054>

*Mary on wikitree* <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Woodman-1327>

## Amelia Collins (4G-Grandmother) (1808-1867)

*This section draws on a lot of material from the 2002 book Amelia, by Grace Veronica "Bonnie" Milne (b1928). The book is described the author as partly fictional; I have done my best to only take factual information from the book.*

Amelia was born in the parish of Worth, Sussex and baptised there on 21 August 1808. Her parents were Henry Collins and Rebecca Jenner and she was their seventh child.

Worth parish is situated immediately to the east of the town of Crawley. Gatwick Airport is about five miles away to the north-west. Worth comes from the Old English, *word*, an enclosure.

Amelia wouldn't have attended school, as she was unable to read and write early in life, however she could read later in life.

Amelia moved to Slaugham, Sussex, probably in the mid to late 1820s. Her brother Henry was living in Slaugham and had married there in 1820.

WORTH, a parish in the hundred of BUTTINGHILL, rape of LEWES, county of SUSSEX, 7½ miles (N.) from Cuckfield, containing 1725 inhabitants. The living is a rectory, in the archdeaconry of Lewes, and diocese of Chichester, rated in the king's books at £13. 3. 4., and in the patronage of Mrs. Bethune. The church has lately received an addition of one hundred and twenty free sittings, the Incorporated Society for the enlargement of churches and chapels having granted £50 towards defraying the expense. There is a place of worship for dissenters. Sixteen children are instructed for a rent-charge of £8, the gift of Timothy Shelley, in 1767.

*A Topographical Dictionary of England, Samuel Lewis, 1831*

Slaugham is located about nine miles south-west from Worth.

While living in Slaugham Amelia fell pregnant to a man by the name of Charles Cooper, a broom maker. Unwed mothers were a potential drain on parish resources so Amelia, by dint of her age and/or length of residence was ordered back to her home parish and her parents.

The following appears in the Worth parish records, "1825 Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>. Amelia Collins from Slaugham to this Parish. Given under the hands of Thomas Cecil Grainger and H. Gwillim<sup>18</sup>. Two of her Majesty's Justices for the Peace for the County of Sussex"

Amelia's son was born on 25 November 1825 in Worth. He was baptised nine days later as Charles Joseph Cooper. It was quite unusual for an unwed mother's child to not have her surname, however Charles used the surname Collins later in life.

It appears that Amelia gave her son into the care of the parish at some point, being unable to support both herself and look after her child. I don't think it was compulsory as I have come across numerous instances of unwed mothers living with their children in my research. It's not known if her parents were unwilling or unable to assist in looking after their grandchild. I'm also unaware of the nature of the parish's care.

The following appears in the Worth parish records, "1827 February 23. Amelia Collins Mother of a Male child born the 25<sup>th</sup> day of Novr 1825 sworn to Charles Cooper of Slaugham in the County of Sussex, Broom Maker. The said Charles Cooper is ordered by the magistrates to pay the sum of Eleven pounds Eighteen Shillings for and towards the maintenance of the child &c and a further sum weekly of 2/6d. The said Amelia Collins is also ordered to pay the sum of sixpence weekly"

Amelia had probably returned to Slaugham to work, for she married Edward Ridley in Slaugham on 27 May 1827. Edward was from the village of West Hoathly, some ten miles to the west of Slaugham. Amelia's sister had moved to West Hoathly and it's likely that it is through this connection that Amelia met Edward.

It was probably after her marriage to Edward that she reunited with her son Charles.

Amelia and Edward were to have six children together, Thomas (1828-1829), William (1830-1835), Edward (1832), James (1834), George (1837) and Alfred (1839). Bonnie Milne states that William was killed under the wheels of a passing carriage in Slaugham, but this is likely fiction.

Initially they lived in West Hoathly, then moved to Slaugham where Edward and James were born, before returning to West Hoathly. They were still living in West Hoathly at the time of the 1841 Census. There were fifteen people in the household, consisting of Amelia's family, her sister Phillis Payne's family and the Kimbers.

---

<sup>18</sup> This name looks odd but is as recorded

Amelia and her family immigrated to Australia on the *Simon Taylor*, departing from London on 29 April 1842, and arriving in Fremantle on 20 August 1842. For more information about the voyage and their arrival in Western Australia, refer to Amelia's husband Edward's chapter.

They initially settled at Central Swan, a locality four kilometres upriver from Guildford. It was here, a little more than a year after they arrived, that Amelia's husband Edward died on 27 August 1843.

After Edward's death Amelia moved into the household of James Cook, a bricklayer who owned a block of land with a cottage at the top of Barrack Street in Perth. Amelia worked as a washerwoman to make ends meet.

Amelia and James formed a relationship and they had a daughter together, Mary Ann, who was born in January 1845. Mary Ann was born with a withered arm and as an adult would wear a hook on that arm.

They had another daughter together in June 1846, Elizabeth. Later in life Elizabeth was known to wear a patch over one eye and had a thick streak of white hair across her forehead, it's possible this was due to birth trauma.

Only after these two births did Amelia and James get married. They were married on 6 July 1846 at the Sub Registrar's Office in Perth. They were to have two more daughters together, Fanny Amelia (1847) and Lucy (1851).

In 1847 Amelia's son George, who was only ten years old, was jailed in the Fremantle Gaol, along with his friend George Carson. A fire they lit caused damage to the property of one of the leading citizens.

In about 1850 Amelia and her family moved to the York area, taking up land as tenant farmers on a property named Glenburgh. The town of York is 100 kilometres to the east of Perth and dates from 1836, with the first colonial farmers arriving in the area in 1831. Amelia's son Charles had lived in the area for a number of years.

A Census of Western Australia was conducted on 31 December 1859. Most of the records have been lost, but those for the York area survive.

	Name.	Sex.	Age.	Married or Single.	Religion.	Occupation.	Read & Write.	Read only.	Free, Conditional Pardon, or Ticket-of-Leave.
1	James Cook	Male	53	Married	Protestant	Farmer	can read		Free
2	Melma Cook	Female	51	Do	Do	Do wife	Do		Do
3	Mary Ann Cook	Do	15	Single	Do	Minding Pigs	Do	can read	
4	Elizabeth Cook	Do	13	Do	Do	Do cattle	Do		
5	Frances Cook	Do	12	Do	Do	nothing	Do		
6	Lucy Cook	Do	7	Do	Do	Do	Do		
7	John Mc Lachlan	Male	26	Do	Do	Labour	can read		
8	George Sims	Do	29	Do	Do	Do	can read		
9	Robert Wright	Do	47	Do	Do	Do	Do		Do
10	John Barghar	Do	49	Do	Do	Do	Do		Do
11									
12									

Part of 1859 York Census, page 442

In the Census Amelia was described as a Farmer's wife, her eldest daughter was minding pigs and her second eldest minding cattle. They had four employees, all of them current or former ticket-of-leave convicts. One of them, George Sims, would later marry Amelia's daughter Mary Ann.

The Census also recorded information about the farm. There were five acres under wheat, one each under barley and oats, twelve acres growing hay and a quarter-acre kitchen garden. They also had one horse, five cattle and twelve pigs.

Despite the family not owning the land, the above list still represents a middle class level of wealth and social standing.

Her son Charles' family was recorded on the next Census sheet, so he likely lived on the neighbouring property.

**Last week we experienced a tremendous rain, commencing on Tuesday evening, and did not cease till Thursday at noon. The Avon suddenly rose to an alarming height, but not quite so high as in June. Roads are converted into water-courses, and many of them must ever remain as such. Such havoc and destruction by water was never before experienced in this district.**

**All that we have to deplore is not confined to the loss of stock and crops and rotten roads,—lost children and broken limbs have occupied the time of Dr. McCoy and many of the inhabitants for some days past.**

**A little girl of Mrs B. Cook's, aged 10 years, has been missed more than a week, and it is supposed the child is drowned. Another little child, of the tender age of two years and nine months, has been suddenly missed by its mother, and after**

*The Enquirer and Commercial News, 21 August 1861*

The York district experienced 48 hours of heavy rain in mid-August 1861, swelling the Avon River.

Amelia's youngest daughter Lucy went out afterwards and was swept away by the waters and drowned.

Her body was later found by her sister Mary Ann who stated at the inquest "*I knew it was her by her boots.*"

**The body of the unfortunate child, aged 10 years, has been found in the river Avon about two miles below where it is supposed she met her death. The little girl, it appears, was in the habit of crossing over a portion of the Avon river upon a fallen tree, barefooted; but the day the child was missed by her parents she had on a new pair of boots, which it is supposed caused the poor little girl to slip and fall into the water.**

*The Enquirer and Commercial News, 25 September 1861*

When Amelia's employee George Sims married her daughter Mary Ann in January 1863, consent from her parents was required due to Mary Ann's age. The church register gives us an insight into Amelia's accent; the church warden spelling her surname as he heard it, recording her as Amelia Kirk.

In 1867 Amelia developed breast cancer and passed away on 12 October 1867. She was 59 years old.

Her gene for breast cancer (and other types of cancer) susceptibility has been passed down for up to four generations in some of her descendants. It sometimes has passed through the male line, although it would rarely cause problems in those men.

*Amelia on wikitree* <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Collins-15764>

*Amelia's descendants (oh so many!)* <https://www.wikitree.com/genealogy/Collins-Descendants-15764>

## Henry Collins (5G-Grandfather) (1773-1848)

Henry was born in the parish of Worth, Sussex and baptised at St Nicholas in the village on 9 May 1773. His parents were Abraham Collins and Mary Potter and he was the fifth of nine children.

He married Rebecca Jenner on 25 March 1791 at St Nicholas Church in Worth. Rebecca was also from Worth. The witnesses were Abraham Collins (either Henry's father or brother) and Aney Jenner.

They had eight children together, Thomas (1792-1792), Henry (1795), Mary (1799), Phillis (1801), Sarah (1804), Lucy (1806), Amelia (1808) and Louisa (1812).

They were living in Cuckfield parish, some eight miles to the south of Worth, in February 1829 when Rebecca died. Rebecca is however buried at Saint Nicholas, Worth. It's not clear which parish she died in.

At the time of the 1841 Census, on 6 June, he was living with his daughter Louisa's household on Nash Lane in Slaugham. He was working as a broommaker. Nash Lane was on the northern outskirts of the hamlet of Handcross, and is most likely the road leading down to Nashland Farm at the top of the map below.



Section of 1895 Ordnance survey map

Henry died in Slaugham parish on 27 November 1848 of inflammation of the bowels. He was 75 years old and his occupation was given as broommaker. His daughter Lucy was present at the death. Henry was buried on 3 December at St Mary's, Slaugham.

Henry on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Collins-15990>

Henry's numerous descendants <https://www.wikitree.com/genealogy/Collins-Descendants-15990>

## Abraham Collins and Mary Potter (6G-Grandparents)

Mary was born in Worth and baptised there on 24 April 1741. She was the first child of Thomas Potter and Susannah May.

Abraham was born in about 1738, but not in Worth. There was a settlement certificate for him in 1761 in the parish of Worth, but unfortunately it has been lost and only his name in the index remains.

Abraham and Mary were married at St Nicholas, Worth on 2 February 1761. The witnesses were James Goble and Kennard Potter, Mary's cousin. Neither bride nor groom were literate, marking their marriage registration with an X.

They had nine children together, all who survived into adulthood. They were Mary (1763), twins Elizabeth and Sarah (1768), Abraham (1770), Henry (1773), Susanna (1776), twins Richard and Catherine (1778) and Thomas (1781).

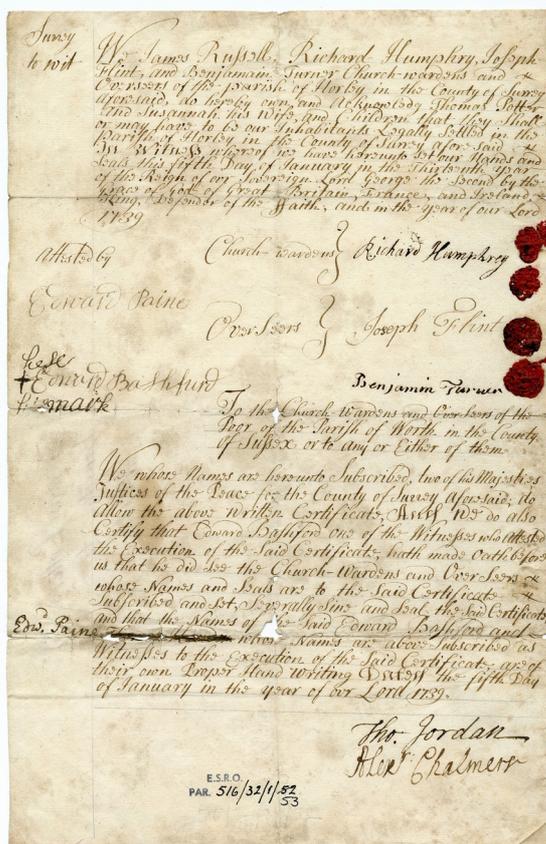
Abraham was buried on 16 June 1803 at St Nicholas, Worth, his age recorded as 65 years.

It's not known when or where Mary died.

Abraham and Mary's descendants <https://www.wikitree.com/genealogy/Collins-Descendants-13548>

## Thomas Potter (7G-Grandparent) (1718- )

Thomas was born in Rusper, Sussex and baptised there on 3 August 1718. He is the son of Thomas Potter and Ann Biggs.



He married Susannah May at St Mary the Virgin, Horne, Surrey on 20 May 1739. No extra information was recorded in the parish register. His brother William would later marry in Horne in January 1742.

Thomas and his brother William both moved to Worth and had children there.

There is a Settlement Certificate dated 5 January 1740 for Thomas and Susannah held by the West Sussex Records Office which notes their previous parish as Horley, Surrey. Part of the document reads ...do hereby own and acknowledge Thomas Potter and Susannah his wife, and children that they shall or may have to be our inhabitants legally settled in the parish of Horley in the County of Surrey.

There are three possible burial records for Thomas in Worth.

Thomas on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Potter-5834>

## Rebecca Jenner (5G-Grandmother) (1774-1829)

Rebecca was born in Burstow, Surrey and baptised on 25 March 1774 at Saint Bartholomew's. Her parents were John Jenner and Olivia. She had at least two siblings, John and James, both older.

Despite her mother's relatively unusual name for the period, nothing more is known of her. Rebecca's father John was born in Worth, Sussex to John and Rebecca Jenner and baptised on 2 April 1736. He had at least four siblings. Apart from their names, nothing is known of Rebecca's paternal grandparents.

Burstow parish borders Worth to the north. The name Burstow means *fortified place* and comes from the Old English *burh*, a fortification and *stōw*, a place of assembly or a holy place.

Rebecca married Henry Collins 25 March 1791 at St Nicholas Church in Worth. Rebecca was also from Worth. The witnesses were Abraham Collins (either Henry's father or brother) and Amey Jenner.

They had eight children together, Thomas (1792-1792), Henry (1795), Mary (1799), Phillis (1801), Sarah (1804), Lucy (1806), Amelia (1808) and Louisa (1812).

They were living in Cuckfield parish, some eight miles to the south of Worth, in February 1829 when Rebecca died. She was 55 years old.

Rebecca is however buried at Saint Nicholas, Worth. It's not clear which parish she died in.



*St Nicholas, Worth, Source:*  
<https://worthparish.org/st-nicholas-a-historic-building/>

*Rebecca on wikitree*  
<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Jenner-884>

## Charlotte Cook (3G-Grandmother) (1844-1875)

Charlotte was born in Perth on 12 December 1844 to Benjamin Cook, a labourer, and Diana Crampton. Charlotte was the ninth of ten children.

Charlotte was living at (King's) Table Hill between Geraldton and Northampton when she married James Ridley there on 29 April 1860. After the marriage she probably moved to his property at Lower Bowes, about nine kilometres south of Northampton.

It's not known why she may have been in the area to begin with, as I've been unable to place any other members of her family in the region at all, let alone at the time.

King's Table Hill was the sight of a skirmish on 11 December 1848 between white colonists and the local inhabitants. The following is taken from *Journals of Australian Explorations* by A. C. Gregory and F. T. Gregory.

*..... when we crossed the south branch of the Bowes, the country improving. Here we saw several natives, who at first hid themselves, but finding that we saw them, came after us. At first they did not exceed eight or ten in number, but, being joined by several other parties, gradually increased till they exceeded fifty, when they altogether changed their friendly manner, and began to bring up their spears.*

*At 6.15 we passed to the west of King's Table Hill, and as the country was covered with dense wattle thickets, the natives took advantage of the ground, and having completely surrounded the party, commenced first to threaten to throw their spears, then to throw stones, and finally one man caught hold of Mr. Bland by the arm, threatening to strike him with a dowak; another native threw a spear at myself, though without effect; but before I could fire at him, the Governor, perceiving that unless some severe example was made the whole party would be cut off, fired at one of the most forward of our assailants, and killed him; two other shots were fired by the soldiers, but the thickness of the bushes prevented our seeing with what effect. A shower of spears, stones, kylies, and dowaks followed, and although we moved to a more open spot, the natives were only kept off by firing at any that exposed themselves.*

*At this moment a spear struck the Governor in the leg just above the knee, with such force as to cause it to protrude two feet on the other side, which was so far fortunate, as it enabled me to break off the barb and withdraw the shaft. The Governor, notwithstanding his wound, continued to direct the party, and although the natives made many attempts to approach close enough to reach us with their spears, we were enabled, by keeping on the most open ground, and checking them by an occasional shot, to avoid their attacks in crossing the gullies.*

*They followed us closely for seven miles, after which they were only seen occasionally, following in our track. Having reached the beach, we were enabled to travel more rapidly, and although one of the ponies knocked up, we reached Champion Bay at 3.30 p.m., and got the party and horses on board the Champion by 5.00, where we were gladly welcomed by Lieutenant Helpman. About sunset the natives came down to the beach, concealing themselves behind the bushes, whilst a single unarmed native stood on the beach, and called to us to come on shore, no doubt in the hope of making a sudden attack on the boat should we venture to do so.*

Charlotte and James had five children together, Amelia (1862-1863), Frederick James (1865-1868), Mary Jane (1868), Edward Thomas (1870), and Amed George (1874).

Their first three children were born in the Northampton/Geraldton area. Edward was born in Green Hills, but this is probably not the locality 25 kilometres west of the town of York, as in 1875 her husband would describe his own property as being at Green Hills, on the Northampton Road. However, her last child, Amed, was born in Wilberforce, a locality 25 kilometres to the north of York. Charlotte was most likely staying at her brother Frederick's property at the time.

Her son Amed takes his name from Charlotte's brother-in-law James Amed Demasson.

Charlotte died in Geraldton on 25 June 1875 of consumption (tuberculosis). She was just 31 years old.

Charlotte on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Cook-19625>

## Benjamin Cook (4G-Grandfather) (1807-1870)

Benjamin was born on 27 August 1807 in Lympne, Kent to Stephen Cook and Mary Sharwood. He was baptised at Saint Stephen's in the village on 20 September. He was the eldest of thirteen siblings.

The name Lympne is derived from the old British word *lemo*, and means elm-wood place.

The village is situated at the top of a gentle escarpment, about eight hundred metres north of what would originally have been a small estuary connected to the ocean.

The area to the south is known as the Romney Marshes, and until the Rhee Wall was constructed in the thirteenth century, it was a supra tidal zone used as salt pans, but now is a rich agricultural area.



In Roman times the village was known as *Portus Lemanis*, and a Roman road, Stone Street, went north from there to Canterbury.

The village is shown (as Lemanus) on the 13<sup>th</sup> century Peutinger map, itself a copy of a 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> century map.

LYMPNE, a parish partly within the liberty of ROMNEY-MARSH, but chiefly in the hundred of STREET, lathe of SHEPWAY, county of KENT, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$  miles (W.) from Hythe, containing 467 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Canterbury, rated in the king's books at £9. 1. 4., endowed with £200 private benefaction, and £200 royal bounty, and in the patronage of the Archdeacon of Canterbury. The church, dedicated to St. Stephen, stands on the edge of a rock near the village, and is principally in the Norman style of architecture, with a tower rising from the centre: near it is Stutfall castle, now the residence of the Archdeacon, but formerly a strong hold or fort of the Romans; the walls are constructed of brick and flint. The parish takes its name from the ancient river Limene, now the Rother, a branch of which ran below it, and formed the ancient Roman haven called *Portus Lemanus*. The place itself it generally considered to have been the *Aimin* of Ptolemy. The great military road called Stane-street, still visibly straight for some miles, ran hither from the station *Durovernum*, or Canterbury. At Shepway Cross, about half a mile from the church, the Leminarca, or Lord Warden of the cinque-ports, was sworn into office. Near the castle several Roman coins have been found. About 633, Ethelburga, a daughter of Ethelbert, built a nunnery here in honour of the Virgin Mary, which subsequently became an abbey, and continued till 964; but after the Danish invasion, it came into the possession of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Here are a small endowed school, and an almshouse comprising two dwellings. A fair for pedlary and toys is held on July 5th. The Shorncliffe and Rye canal passes through the parish.

*A Topographical Dictionary of England, Samuel Lewis, 1831*

There are the remains of a "Saxon Shore" fort at the site, a little downhill from Lympne Castle.

When Benjamin was about five years old his family moved to the village of Sellinge, three miles to the north of Lympne.

Benjamin married Diana Crampton on 27 November 1828 in New Romney. New Romney was Diana's home parish and is located twelve miles to the east-south-east of Sellinge. No witnesses were recorded in the marriage register.

Their first daughter, Mary, was born in Kent. They would eventually have ten children, with all the others born in Western Australia. They were Mary (1829), Eliza (1832), Esther Maria (1833), Elizabeth (1835), Stephen (1837), Thomas (1838), John (1840-41), Frederick (1842), Charlotte (1844) and Ellen Sophia (1847).

In October 1828 the British Colonial Office agreed to establish a colony at Swan River in what is now Western Australia. The first colonists arrived there on 25 April 1829.

Benjamin signed up as an indentured servant to work for George Dunnage, meaning that he agreed to work for him until the cost of his transport to Australia had been earned.

Benjamin and his family sailed aboard the *Gilmore* to Australia. The *Gilmore* sailed from St Katherine Docks, London on 18 July 1829, picked up more emigrants at Gravesend and Plymouth, before arriving at the colony, at a location now known as Woodman Point but called Clarence at the time, on 15 December 1829. They lived on the beach there for the first winter, in which about 30 settlers died. He was recorded in the muster at the end of that year as a labourer.

The early colonisation at Swan River was a debacle, and must have been very stressful to live through. The colonisation was in the large part a debacle because the organisers of the settlement had very little idea of what local conditions would be like. However, there were also rules and regulations in place that would



that £5 a ton was the usual charge for removing goods a short distance up the river or along the coast, whilst the freight from England was only £3 10s. per ton.”, resulting in settlers taking on inferior land simply due to freight costs. There was not enough food, and prices were extremely high, leading to Dunnage stating “I then thought it right to make inquiries as to the real state of the supply, as there were between three and four hundred people within two miles of me who were then rather badly off, and who, I apprehended, would be likely, in the event of extremity, to attack my stores. To my great surprise, instead of finding that the Government stores were well supplied, I ascertained that they were actually exhausted, and that a few tons of flour had been purchased by Government for their own use at a very high rate. The three men-of-war were also without provisions...”

**Benjamin Cook, the first witness, deposed, that he was in the employ of Messrs. Habgood about the beginning of last month. The first day he went there (on a Monday) he was at work outside the house, but close to it, and heard a rustling of paper, as if tearing it up in the shop. Very shortly afterwards he saw Mr. Manning come out of the shop and go into a back-kitchen or store. About two hours after this, he (the witness) went in to assist Mr. Robert Habgood in removing a cask of beer, when they trod on a basket Mr. Manning had brought in the morning. About three hours afterwards he went into the back store again; the basket was missing, but on examining, it was found stowed away on the top of some beer casks. He looked into it, and saw 4 or 6 pairs of white cotton stockings, quite new; and a stone bottle, which he opened and found to contain brandy. He would swear that no one went in during the 3 hours, except the black servant, who was employed washing up dishes, and after him, Mr. Manning. He did not see the basket that afternoon, but the next morning, when Mr. M. came to work, he brought with him, to all appearance, the same. In the afternoon, he saw the basket in the same place that he had seen it the day before, and again looked into it; he found a package containing locks with knobs. Mr. W.**

*The Perth Gazette and Western Australian Journal, 4 October 1834*

Benjamin and his family were recorded in the 1832 Census on 31 July, where his profession was given as labourer.

In May 1834, he was assigned Fremantle town block 352, pending payment of fees for the corner stakes. He lost the property in August 1841 on account of non-performance of the conditions of assignment.

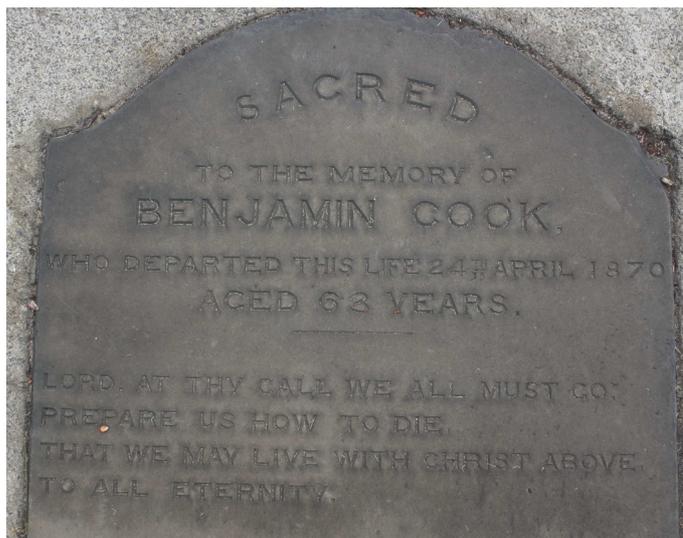
In October 1834 he was working for Messrs Habgood when he was a witness at the trial of a William Manning, also an employee, and accused of stealing linen and ironmongery from their employer.

His testimony is pretty banal, but does give a window into his life nevertheless.

Neither Benjamin nor his family were captured in the 1836 or 1837 Censuses in Western Australia. The 1859 Census has not survived, except for the York District.

He was living in Perth by 1844 and still working as a labourer at the time of his daughter Charlotte's birth.

We know very little about Benjamin's life after this point.



*Headstone, located at Guildford Grammar Chapel*

He appears to have transitioned from being a labourer to a farmer at some stage, being described as such on his daughter Charlotte's 1860 marriage certificate, and earlier as a Yeoman on Eliza's 1855 marriage certificate.

It seems likely his farm was in the Northam area, but this is guesswork based on where some of his children settled.

However, by the time of his death he was again described as a labourer.

Benjamin died on 24 April 1870 at Guildford, probably at his daughter Eliza's household. He was 63 years old. The cause of death was described as diarrhoea, and his daughter Eliza was the informant.

Benjamin was buried in the East Guildford Cemetery. The cemetery no longer exists, but his headstone and others are now in the grounds of the Guildford Grammar chapel.

Browse newspaper articles about Benjamin here <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/result?l-publictag=Benjamin+Cook+1807-1870&q=>

## Stephen Cook (5G-Grandfather) (1782-1864)

Stephen was born in Stanford, Kent to William Cook and Sarah Sharp, and baptised there on 1 December 1782.

His parents had been married on 11 August 1776 in Lyminge at the Saints Mary and Ethelburga church, his father a resident of Stanford parish at the time and his mother of Lympne.

The name of Stanford comes from the Old English words *stān*, a stone, and *ford*, a ford. The Roman Road between Lympne and Canterbury, Stone Street crosses the East Stour River at Stanford.

Stephen married Mary Sharwood on 1 November 1806 at the nearby village of Lympne. They were to have thirteen children together, the first three born in Lympne, and the rest in the village of Sellinge.

Their children were Benjamin (1807), Ann (1810), Mary (1811), Eliza (1813), Maria (1815), Sophia (1818), Louisa (1821), Charlotte (1822), Caroline (1825), Elizabeth (1827), John (1829), Stephen (1831) and Eleanor (1834).

Stephen worked as a farm labourer throughout his life.

At the time of the 1841 Census Stephen was living at Tanyard, Smeeth, Kent with his wife Mary and their five youngest children. I haven't been able to locate Tanyard on a map, but the Vicar of Sellinge owned Tanyard Field and Tanyard Meadow in 1840.

Stephen was living "near Hale House", Sellinge, Kent, with only his wife Mary at the time of the 1851 Census. Hale House still exists, but I can't locate it any more precisely than the main street of Sellinge.



Section of 1885 Ordnance Survey Map, showing Smeeth and Sellinge

Stephen's wife passed away in May 1857 and in the 1861 Census he was a visitor in his daughter Elizabeth's house on Boughton Street in Boughton under Blean, Kent.

Stephen died on 24 January 1864 at Kennington, Kent, and was buried a week later in the cemetery at Sellinge. He was 81 years old. The cause of death was given as senilis (old age), and present at the death was Ellen Holtum (no known relation).

Stephen on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Cook-15643>

## Mary Sharwood (5G-Grandmother) (1786-1857)

Mary was born in Lympne, Kent, probably in 1786, to John and Ann Sharwood, and baptised on 31 August 1788 at St Stephen's church in the village. She had at least two siblings, an older brother, John, and a younger sister Ann.

I really can't say much about her background, but her brother was a parish clerk and sexton at Lympne in his later life.



*St Stephen's, Lympne, <http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/326052>*

Mary married Stephen Cook on 1 November 1806 at St Stephen's in Lympne.

Saint Stephen's church was built by the Normans in the late 11<sup>th</sup> century, but grew over the next 300 years with the addition of north and south aisles, tower, north chapel and porch. The church was restored in 1880.

Mary and Stephen had thirteen children together, the first three born in Lympne, and the rest in the village of Sellinge.

Their children were Benjamin (1807), Ann (1810), Mary (1811), Eliza (1813), Maria (1815), Sophia (1818), Louisa (1821), Charlotte (1822), Caroline (1825), Elizabeth (1827), John (1829), Stephen (1831) and Eleanor (1834).

At the time of the 1841 Census Mary was living at Tanyard, Smeeth, Kent with her husband and their five youngest children. Smeeth and Sellinge are less than three miles apart.

Mary was living with her husband Stephen only in 1851, their address given as "near Hale House", on the main street of Sellinge.

All of Mary's daughters appear to have "married well" (at least those I've been able to trace), which is in no doubt in part at least due to her influence, background and connections, probably most especially through her brother John.

Her daughter Ann married a grocer, Maria a carpenter, Sophia a wheelwright, Elizabeth a grocer with several employees, but her youngest daughter Eleanor married best of all, to a Cambridge graduate and son of a doctor who moved to Sydney to be a foundation master of Sydney Grammar School.

Mary's grandchildren through Eleanor include a lawyer, a schoolteacher, Undersecretary of Justice in New South Wales, children's author J. M. Whitfeld (also published under the name Mary Feld), and vice-chancellor of the University of Western Australia. One grandchild was married to George Arnold Wood, historian and one of the founders of the Australian Anti-War League.

Mary died on 25 May 1857 at Sellinge of liver disease, from which she had been suffering from for twenty months. She was buried six days later. Mary was 71 years old.

*Mary on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Sharwood-17>*

## Diana Crampton (4G-Grandmother) (1808-1851)

Diana was born in New Romney, Kent and baptised on 14 August 1808 at the church of Saint Nicholas. Her parents were Job Crampton, probably a shopkeeper at the time of her birth, and Mary Tyler.

New Romney used to be situated on the coast at the mouth of the River Rother, but is now a mile from the coast and not on the river at all. In February 1287 a major storm partially destroyed New Romney and blocked the river's exit to the sea, such that the mouth is now sixteen kilometres to the south-east of New Romney.

New Romney was the seaward extension of Old Romney. Old Romney was situated on an island in the river, and is thought to be the location of the roman settlement named *Vetus Rumellenum*.



*St Nicholas, New Romney, ca 1875<sup>20</sup>*

Diana married Benjamin Cook on 27 November 1828 in at Saint Nicholas church in New Romney. No witnesses were recorded in the marriage register.

They had one daughter while still living in England, Mary, in 1829, born not long before they boarded the *Gilmore* for Australia.

The *Gilmore* sailed from St Katherine Docks, London on 18 July 1829, picked up more emigrants at Gravesend (this is probably where Diana boarded) and Plymouth, before arriving at Swan River on 15 December 1829.

When Diana was counted in the muster at the end of 1829, there were 1,003 colonists in total, only 234 of whom were women or girls.

The great gender imbalance was a great opportunity for social mobility for the many daughters Diana was to have.

Diana had nine more children in Western Australia. They were Eliza (1832), Esther Maria (1833), Elizabeth (1835), Stephen (1837), Thomas (1838), John (1840-41), Frederick (1842), Charlotte (1844) and Ellen Sophia (1847).

Diana and her family were captured in the 1832 Census on 31 July, but her name was recorded as Mary. Diana and her family were not recorded in the 1836 and 1837 Censuses.

There's no evidence of Diana leaving the area Perth and Fremantle in the first ten years of the colony, so it's not clear how much interaction she would have had with local indigenous people. The land around Perth and Fremantle was probably as bad for hunting as it was for agriculture, although the Swan estuary itself was probably an important source of food. Some Western Australian locals practised what was clearly farming even to European eyes, and were settled in recognisable villages.

An 1839 expedition north of Perth led by George Grey, when in the Hutt River area (north of Geraldton), recorded at least four villages, numerous wells and extensive areas of yam cultivation.

Some quotes from expedition notes include, "This was the first time we had seen this plant on our journey, and now for three and a half consecutive miles traversed a piece of land, literally perforated with holes *the natives made to dig this root; indeed we could with difficulty walk across it on that account whilst the tract extended east and west as far as we could see.*" and "*the huts of which they were composed differed from those in the southern districts, in being built, and very nicely plastered over the outside with clay, and clods of turf, so that although now uninhabited they were evidently intended for fixed places of residence.*"

<sup>20</sup> from *A Quiet Corner of England. Studies of landscape and architecture in Winchelsea, Rye, and the Romney Marsh ... with ... illustrations by Alfred Dawson* by Basil Champneys via <https://theromneymarsh.net/stnicholas>

If Diana engaged in paid work we don't know it, birth certificates for children only noting the occupation of the father.

Diana and her husband may have had a property in the Northam area, but this is somewhat speculative.

Diana died on 10 December 1851. The informant was her daughter Eliza Jane who was described as occupier, so it seems likely she died at Eliza's home in Guildford. The cause of death was uninformatively given as decline. She was buried in East Perth cemetery.

Diana on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Crampton-199>

Diana's descendants <https://www.wikitree.com/genealogy/Crampton-Descendants-199>

## Job Crampton (5G-Grandfather) (1761-1837)

Job was born in Benenden, Kent and baptised there on 8 March 1761. His parents were William Crampton and Mary Bartholomew.

His father William had been baptised on 9 June 1728, also in Benenden, to William and Mary Crampton.

His mother Mary had been baptised on 9 February 1735 at nearby Biddenden, Kent to Joseph and Amy Bartholomew.

Job's parents had married on 6 October 1756 in Benenden. Job was the fourth of six children they had, all boys.

**BENENDEN**, a parish in the hundred of **ROLVENDEN**, lath of **SCRAY**, county of **KENT**,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles (S. E.) from Cranbrooke, containing 1746 inhabitants. The living is a discharged vicarage, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Canterbury, rated in the king's books at £17. 12. 6., endowed with £200 private benefaction, and £1300 parliamentary grant, and in the patronage of T. L. Hodges, Esq. The church, dedicated to St. George, was built in 1672, the former edifice having been damaged by lightning. Fairs for horses and horned cattle are held on May 15th and August 4th. Edward Gibbon, in 1602, founded a school, which has been subsequently endowed with property producing £114 per annum. There is another school with a small endowment, the bequest of Thomas Buckland, in 1786; and there are endowments for the instruction of girls.

*A Topographical Dictionary of England, Samuel Lewis, 1831*

Benenden means Bionna's woodland pasture, the place name was originally built from the elements *Bionna*, an Old English personal name, the Old English connective particle, *-ing-*, and the Kentish dialectal word *denn*, a woodland pasture, especially one used for swine. *Bynning denn* became, variously, *Benindene* (1086), *Binnigdaenne*, *Bennedene* (c1100), *Bynindenne* (1253) then the current spelling from 1610.

Job moved to the town of New Romney, situated twenty miles to the east of Benenden, some time prior to 1788. He was recorded in the 1791 Universal British Directory as a shopkeeper in New Romney.

Job married three times, but very little is known about any of his wives.

His first wife was Mary. No marriage record has found, but they had a son together, John, who was baptised at the church of Saint Nicholas on 16 February 1788. John only lived for a few weeks, and Mary must have died in that year or the next, although no burial record has been found.

Job's second wife was Margaret. They must have married in about 1789, but no marriage record has been found. They had two girls together, Elisabeth Waters (1790) and Mary Bartholomew (1791).

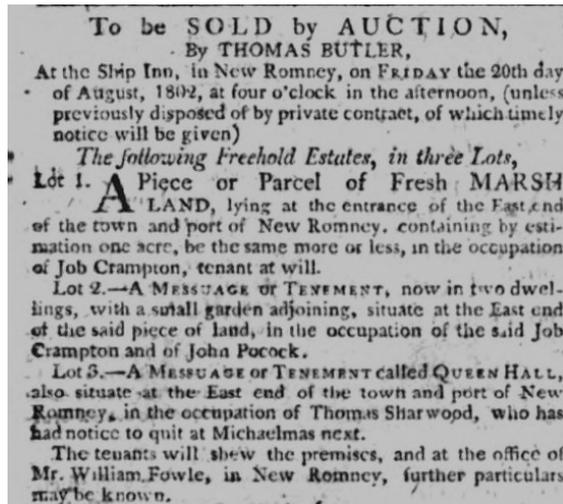
*Kentish Gazette, 6 July 1792*

Neither girl lived for as long as a year, and Margaret died on 30 June 1792, although no burial record has been found.

Job's third wife was Mary Tyler and they were married in New Romney on 4 July 1795. They had eleven children together, at least four of whom didn't survive early childhood.

They were Ann (1795), Hesther (1796), William (1798), John (1800), Samuel (1802), Catherine (1806), Diana (1808), Thomas (1810), Edward Francis (1813), Louisa (1816) and Alfred (1818). Only two daughters and his third son are mentioned in his will, so most of his children likely pre-deceased him.

His wife Mary died in 1819 and was buried on 26 September in New Romney.



*Kentish Weekly Post, 10 August 1802*

In 1802 he was a tenant of one acre of land and an adjoining dwelling at the east end of New Romney, but he did own his own house and land from at least 1832. Electoral laws were changed in this year, and on the basis of being a ratepayer in New Romney he was eligible to vote, and his name appears in both the 1832 and 1837 electoral rolls. Tax assessments from the same period indicate that he owned a freehold dwelling house, tenanted by a Richard Brissenden. Given his age and his widowed status, it would make sense that Job was living elsewhere, possibly with his daughter Hesther.

Although he was a shopkeeper for at least part of his life, he described himself as a labourer as early as 1813, on the baptismal register for his son Edward. He was also described as a labourer in the probate record, and on his son Edward's marriage certificate in 1840. His profession on his death certificate was thatcher.

Job died on 5 August 1837 in New Romney. The cause of death was paralysis, and the informant was his son-in-law Henry Sampson, a shoemaker who lived in Hythe. He was buried in the local cemetery on 10 August.

*This is the last Will and Testament of me Job Crampton of New Romney in the County of Kent subject to and after the payment of all my debts and my funeral and testamentary charges and after expenses of my wife and bequeath unto my son Thomas Crampton my house and garden situated in New Romney his heirs for ever and also give to my two daughters Crampton, Crampton five pounds each and the residue of my personal effects unto my son Thomas Crampton and I do*  
*Will of Job Crampton of New Romney, Kent, <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/D289494>*

In his will, Job left his house and garden to his son Thomas and to his two daughters (neither daughter is specifically named) five pounds each and the residue of his personal effects. He named the executors as his son Thomas and a George Piddlesdon, both of New Romney.

Job on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Crampton-297>

## Elizabeth Emma Kempton (Great-great-grandmother) (1877-1953)

Elizabeth was born on 18 March 1877 at home, 397 Kingsland Road, in the locality of Kingsland, London. Her parents were George William Kempton, a horse collar manufacturer, and Elizabeth Sarah Chesterton.

Elizabeth was the last of only three siblings, with two older brothers. She had so few siblings for the era because her parents separated in 1879. When the 1881 Census was conducted, her father and brothers were living separately to herself and her mother.

Kingsland (now called Dalston after the rail station), was, like many London suburbs originally a village outside of London. It's name comes from being the hunting grounds of a Tudor era royal residence at nearby Newington Green.

At the time of the 1881 Census Elizabeth was boarding with her mother on Ridley Road, Hackney, which is located just off Kingsland Road about three miles north of the centre of London.

Elizabeth's father came out to Victoria with her brothers in 1884. Elizabeth most likely came out to Western Australia with her mother in the mid 1880s. No immigration record has been found, and this date is based on her mother's death certificate. We don't actually know if she came out to Australia before or after her father.

She was probably living with her father on James Street in what is now called Northbridge, adjacent on the north of the centre of Perth, when she married Amed Ridley on 16 December 1897 at Saint George's Cathedral.

The newlywed couple left for Amed's property at Coomberdale. They would have twelve children together, eight girls and four boys. The family story is that the eldest three children were born at home on a dirt floor with Elizabeth assisted in the birth by local aboriginal women.

Their children were Alfred George (1898), Dorothy Kathleen (1900), Maude May (1902), Charlotte (1903), Evelyn (1905), Olive (1907), Jean (1908), Pearl (1910), Edmund Oxford (1912), Clifton Francis (1914), George Frederick (1915) and Marjorie (1918).

The kids weren't allowed to speak at the table and would be sent to bed without dinner if they played up. Elizabeth would come by later and give them something to eat though.

The earliest reference I've found for Elizabeth in the newspaper record is from October 1907. In an article about the wedding of her husband's niece Ethel Ridley, Elizabeth was noted as giving a sauce bottle and water jug.

**SECOND.**

Second prize is awarded to Mrs. Ridley, Coomberdale, for recipe for  
**A NICE INEXPENSIVE JELLY FOR LARGE FAMILY.**

Take three pounds of nice, juicy black grapes (black preferable on account of rich color), pick off stalks, wash and put in enamel saucepan with two quarts water, three-quarters of a pound of sugar, and boil until grapes are quite soft. Strain through enamel strainer, pressing well to get all juice out. Put liquid back in saucepan, and slowly stir in two cups sago, and boil until sago quite cooked. Pour in enamel or china mould or basin to cool. Served with custard or cream it is delicious.

*Sunday Times, 7 May 1911*

◆ ◆ ◆

Pneumonia.—The friends of Mr. and Mrs. Ridley, of Coomberdale, will be pleased to hear that their three children who have been ill with pneumonia are now making favourable progress towards recovery. Olive and Jean are likely to be able to leave the hospital for home shortly, and Alfred who was critically ill last week, is now making good progress.

◆ ◆ ◆

*The Moora Herald and Midland Districts Advocate, 9 June 1916*

Elizabeth and her family might have lived in a remote area but they had an active social life. Events at the Coomberdale Hall were a regular occurrence, although Elizabeth's name is not always mentioned in connection with these.

## COOMBERDALE

Dancing has of late received much attention in Coomberdale, but perhaps the most enjoyable dance of the season took place at Mrs. Ridley's homestead on the evening of the 17th inst. An unusually large crowd for a country dance assembled, the night being an ideal one, and the cause (to raise funds per medium of a Popular Girl for a local Agricultural Hall) a thoroughly deserving one. Two rooms had been cleared to make a dancing space and they were much available of until the early hours of the morning. For non-dancers cards and other indoor past-times whiled the hours away pleasantly. A tasty supper was provided and much appreciated. The music was all that could be desired, and was supplied by the following ladies:— Misses Kilian Ridley, Tredrea, and Butler, and Mr A. Ridley. Enjoyable songs were rendered by Misses Tredrea and McCuish. As a result of the effort Miss E. Kilian benefited to the extent of several thousand votes for the Popular Girl Contest.

*The Moora Herald and Midland Districts Advocate, 23 May 1919*

Some information about Elizabeth comes from letters her children sent to "Aunt Mary" in the children's section of the newspaper.

In May 1911 her daughter Dorothy wrote "...please send a membership and badge, am enclosing stamps. Mother was in Perth and would have called and seen all about it, but was too ill, but we are so glad to be able to say she is better now...."

### A Christmas Tree for the Silver Chain at Coomberdale.

Coomberdale Oct. 8.

Dear Aunt Mary,—We would be very pleased if you could provide toys for Christmas tree again this year. About 100 will be needed, and the same as last year. Of course, we will have refreshments, etc., to make a success of it. Please send reply if toys obtainable, and oblige.—Yours sincerely, MRS. A. G. RIDLEY.

My Dear Mrs. Ridley,—I was delighted to hear that you would have a Silver Chain Christmas tree at Coomberdale. The toys leave Perth this week; I trust you will receive them safely and be pleased. With many thanks for your kind help.—I remain, yours very sincerely, AUNT MARY.

*Western Mail, 19 November 1919*

In May 1914 there was a concert at Coomberdale Hall to raise money for an organ for the Methodist Church. Elizabeth sang *The Song that Reached my Heart* "very sweetly". Her daughter Maud also performed at the event.

There was another event at the hall in June of that year, this time to raise money for the support of the parish priest, where Elizabeth gave a repeat performance.

In April 1915 a social and dance was held to raise money for the Church of England. This event was organised by Elizabeth in her role as Honorary Secretary.

In May 1917 Elizabeth attended yet another event at the Coomberdale Hall, this time to raise money for the Montenegrin Fund.

Football games were another social event. At a Coomberdale vs Moora game in April 1921, Elizabeth and her daughters dispensed a *welcome cup of tea* after the game.

£4 17s. 9d. from the Christmas Effort at Coomberdale.

Coomberdale, Dec. 22.

Dear Aunt Mary,—I am forwarding £4 17s. 9d. I am very sorry the amount is so small, but they are building a new hall at Coomberdale, and of course have been having a great many dances, etc., to raise funds, so expect that is why it was not so successful. Hoping you have a successful year with all country Christmas trees, and wishing one and all a merry Christmas,—I remain, yours respectfully, E. RIDLEY.

Expenses.—Lollies, 8s.; lollies, 5s.; vase, 6s. 6d.; peanuts, 2s. 6d. Total, £1 2s. Receipts.—Donation, £1 2s.; admission to tree, £2 18s. 6d.; sale lollies, 16s. 6d.; sale of vase, 16s. 6d.; sale of peanuts, 6s. 3d. Total, £5 19s. 9d. Balance, £4 17s. 9d.

*Western Mail, 2 February 1920*

Elizabeth would also write directly to "Aunt Mary".

In a February 1922 letter Elizabeth enquired if “Aunt Mary” had received the bag of onions she went, as well as a bag of vegetables.

Another Silver Chain Christmas Tree event was held in 1923, with £4 10s raised.

Elizabeth joined the Coomberdale branch of the Red Cross Society in February 1916 and was elected to the committee in the July annual meeting of the same year. At the annual meeting it was reported that £85 has been raised and that *eight hundred articles made up from material purchased have been forwarded to headquarters for despatch to Egypt.*

The Red Cross branch met monthly, and although it doesn’t always seem to have been reported on, minutes from the meeting were regularly in the newspaper.

Elizabeth and Amed sold their farm in Coomberdale in November 1924, and left for Perth on the Saturday train, 22 November. They then settled in Mundaring, a picturesque area a little to the west of Perth. They named their property of sixteen acres *Bramcote*. Elizabeth ran a guest house at the property and her husband Amed ran a poultry operation.

**H** EALTH Resort in hills, near Mundaring,  
open for guests, children no objection.  
Mrs. Ridley, Bramcote, Mundaring.

*The West Australian, 25 September 1925*

**H** OLLIDAY Resort, in hills, near Mundaring,  
children specially catered for; milk,  
cream, Mrs. Ridley, Mundaring.

*The West Australian, 18 November 1927*

In April 1929 they sold *Bramcote* and bought a property at 48 Sussex Street in Victoria Park, a suburb of Perth. They still had several children living with them when they moved there. Certainly Evelyn, Jean, Pearl, George and Marjorie, but possibly Ted and Clifton as well.

For some reason their situation changed, and in 1934 they were renting at 35 Leonard Street, Victoria Park. In 1935, however, they moved to 79 Leonard Street, a property owned by their daughter Charlotte.

In 1947 Elizabeth and Amed celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. Nine of their children and nearly all their grandchildren were present. When interviewed they said they did not think raising a family 50 years ago was any harder than it would be today, and “When we sit back now and look at our children and grand-children, we have not done a bad job.”



*Back (L to R): Fred, Jean, Cliff, Pearl (Aunty Pete), Olive, Marjorie, Evelyn, Ted.  
Front (L to R): Maude, Dorothy, Amed, Elizabeth, Alf, Charlotte (Aunty Pat).  
Photo taken ca 1950 at 2 Susan Street, Kensington*

Her granddaughter Susan remembers visiting Elizabeth at her house in the early 1950s, where she was in a high wrought iron double bed with lots of quilts, as she was unwell.

Elizabeth died at home on 19 December 1953. She was 76 years old.

Browse newspaper articles about Elizabeth at <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/result?1-publictag=Elizabeth+Emma+Ridley+nee+Kempton>

### **George William Kempton (3G-Grandfather) (1848-1898)**

George was born at his parent's home in Finsbury, an area of inner northern London, on 9 June 1848. His parents were George Kempton, who ran a successful horse collar manufacturing business, and Emma Freeman. He was baptised on 2 December 1849 at Saint Leonard's, Shoreditch.

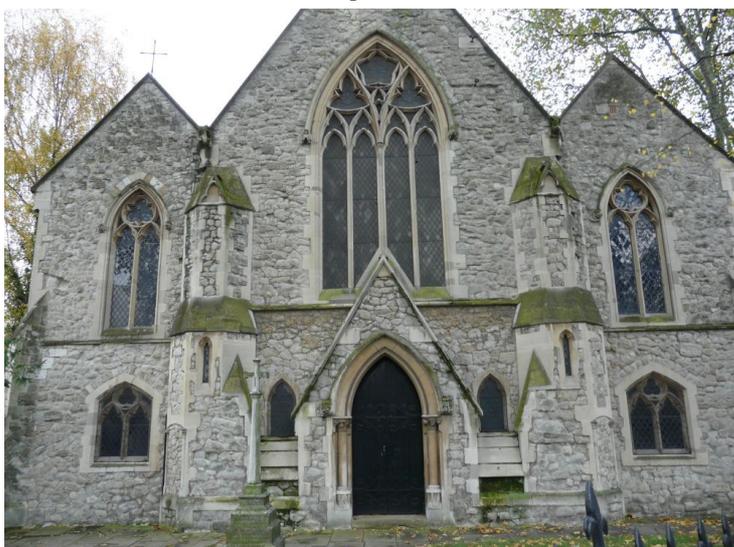
Shoreditch was for long time an extramural suburb of London, part of the London urban area but outside the walls. The first playhouse in England was built here in 1576. Shoreditch was once spelled Soersditch and probably meant sewer ditch.

George was living at 27 White Street at the time of the 1851 Census. In the household with him was his father, his older sister Emma and three others, consisting of an apprentice, an errand boy and a house servant.

By the time of the 1861 Census he and his family were living at 27 Broke Road South in Shoreditch. George now had an additional two younger siblings and there was only one servant living in the house.

He had moved out of home by 1871 and was lodging at 33 Shrubland Road, still in Shoreditch. He was working as a horse collar maker.

None of the three known buildings he lived in at the time of the three censuses still exist.



*All Saints Church, Haggerston,  
<https://londonchurchbuildings.com/2013/11/22/all-saints-haggerston-road-haggerston/>*

George married Elizabeth Sarah Chesterton on 6 July 1872 at All Saints Church, Haggerston.

The witnesses were W P Chesterton, A M Chesterton (his wife's siblings) and Anna E Truss. He was still living at 33 Shrubland Road at the time. Elizabeth was from Staffordshire but had moved to London and was working as a governess.

They had only three children together, being George Frederick William (1873), Frank Ernest (1875) and Elizabeth Emma (1877). The family were living at 397 Kingsland Road when Elizabeth was born.

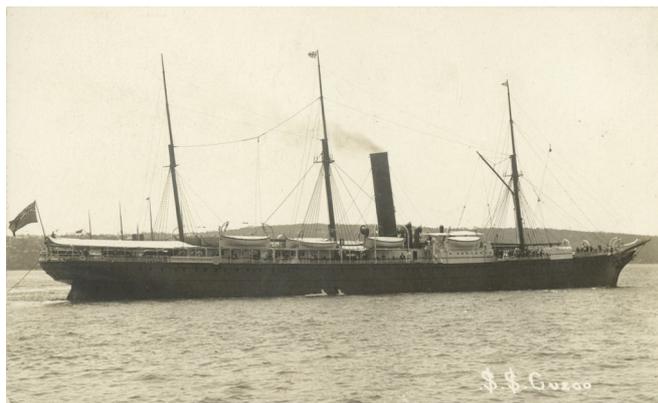
George and Elizabeth separated in 1879. Elizabeth filed for divorce, although the process wasn't completed. More details are available in Elizabeth's chapter.

The 1881 Census recorded the family living apart. George and his two sons were living at 63 Shrubland Grove while his wife and daughter were a mile away at Ridley Road.

George owned property from at least 1881, as he appears in the electoral rolls from 1881 to 1883. He owned a property at 16 Finsbury Market, near Liverpool Station and likely his place of business, in 1881 and 1882. In 1883 he was listed as the owner of a warehouse on South Street.

George and his two sons left London for Melbourne on the *SS Cuzco*. They left London on 21 February 1884. The ship took on more passengers at Plymouth before calling in at Naples on 29 February.

The Suez canal was cleared on 7 March and the ship's first port of call in Australia was Adelaide, depositing passengers there before arriving in Melbourne two days later on 5 April 1884.



*SS Cuzco*, [archival.sl.nsw.gov.au/Details/archive/110329699](http://archival.sl.nsw.gov.au/Details/archive/110329699)

George bought a house in Coburg soon after his arrival in Melbourne. The property was on Bell Street West and was rated as having a net annual value of £15.

He set up shop at 11 Bourke Street West, where he was either working for, or simply co-located with the saddle and harness factory of W H Hunter.

DANIEL TOWERS is charged, on warrant, with larceny as a servant of 2 horse collars, recovered, from George W. Kempton, 11 Bourke street west, on the 15th ultimo. Description:—Yorkshireman, a collar maker, about 39 years of age, 5 feet 6 inches high, stout build, about 11 stone weight, very swarthy complexion, dark hair, dark-brown heavy moustache only; wears dark sac clothes and black hard hat.—O.1850. 7th March 1887.

*Victoria Police Gazette 1887, Page 82*

Sometime between 1887 and 1890 his older sister Emma and her family also migrated from London to Coburg.

In around 1890 George moved to South Australia. The only record we have of his time there is that he exhibited his bull terrier at the Poultry and Dog show in Adelaide, and won a prize.



*Bull terrier (from wikipedia)*

He moved to Perth in 1895 and in that same year exhibited at the sixth annual dog show of the West Australian Horticultural Society. His dog Ferry won first prize in the Bull Terriers, bitches section.

He probably also showed chooks as well. An advert in the weeks after his death list a prize bull terrier and prize fowls for sale.

George first appears in the West Australian Post Office Directory in 1897 on Hardinge Street, and in 1898 as a saddler on James street, but he didn't actually move, the street name just changed between those two years.

He was located close to the Victoria Hotel, on the corner of James and Milligan Streets (although Milligan Street was called Melbourne Street at the time).

The owner of the Victoria Hotel was a John J. Davis and in 1897 George sued his wife for £500 for alleged slander. Details are sketchy as it was only mentioned in passing in a court case twelve months later, and the two separate newspaper reports have slightly different information.

George died at his home, 171 James Street, on 2 January 1898. The causes of death were gastritis and dilatation of the heart, from which he had been suffering from for eight days. He was just 49 years old.

George was buried the following day in the Church of England Cemetery, Perth.

Browse newspaper articles about George at <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/result?1-publictag=George+William+Kempton&q=>

George on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Kempton-270>

## George Kempton (4G-Grandfather) (1822-1893)

George was born on 4 March 1822 to Joseph Kempton and Mary Teuton. His family were living at North Street, and his father was working as a porter at the time. George was baptised on 23 June 1822 at Saint Leonard's, Shoreditch. He only had two siblings that survived childhood, an older brother, Joseph and a younger sister, Sarah.



*Church of St. Leonard, Shoreditch, from corner of Kingsland Road (1827), <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/survey-london/vol8/plate-10>*

His father died a little after George's third birthday. George's whereabouts and activities are a mystery until his marriage in 1848. I haven't been able to locate him, nor any member of his family in the 1841 Census.

George worked as a horse collar maker.

George married Emma Freeman on 31 May 1846 at Christ Church Greyfriars. Emma was the daughter of Thomas Freeman, a coal merchant. George was living at Finsbury market at the time of the marriage. The witnesses to the marriage were Elizabeth Woodley and G Freeman.

George and Emma would have five children together, Emma (1847), George William (1848), Harriet Louisa (1852), Edwin Walter (1861) and Frederick Ernest (1867).

At the time of the 1851 Census George and his family were living at 27 White Street in the parish of Saint Giles Without Cripplegate. There were also three employees living in the household, an apprentice, an errand boy and a house servant. There were also another two families at this address in separate households.

**To the Members of the First**  
Rook Building Society. An Appropriation to be given away,  
to anyone who will transfer shares with J Kempton, who has pur-  
chased property and paid two years off. Property cost £250.—Apply  
to G. Kempton, 6, East-street, Finsbury Market.

*Shoreditch Observer, 8 May 1858*

The next we know of George is in 1858 when he advertises some Building Society shares on behalf of his brother.

He first appears in the electoral roll in 1859 at 57 Phillip Street. Property ownership was the usual way to become eligible to vote at this time, so this is probably the first time he owned property. George both owned and lived at quite a number of properties, but it's not clear how many he might have owned at any one time.

Two years later, at the time of the 1861 Census George and his family were living at 27 Broke Road South in Shoreditch.

**▲ Girl about 15 or 16**  
**WANTED**, as Servant.—Inquire at G. Kempton's, 6, East-  
street, Finsbury-market; or 27, Elizabeth-terrace, Broke-  
road, Dalston.

There was also a servant, Ellen Sheppard, in addition to his family. Ellen had probably replied to his advert of January in the same year.

George's mother moved in with him at some time during the 1860s, for she died at his house at 6 East Street in January 1868.

In 1871 they were again at another address, this time being recorded in the Census at 12 Foskett Terrace, in the Shacklewell district of Hackney. Foskett Terrace is a curving terrace of 16 or so three storey homes situated on Shacklewell Lane close to St Mark's rise. They were built in 1866.

George's name appears quite a number of times in the newspaper record, but rarely in a manner that gives any insight into his character.

There are a number of adverts in relation to his business, for the hiring of errand boys and apprentices.

**E**RRAND Boy wanted, about 14. Inquire at G. Kempton's, 6, East-street, Finsbury-market.

*Clerkenwell News, 4 March 1871*

**WANTED**  
**A**PPRENTICE—An out-door—To the Horse Collar Making. No premium required. G. Kempton, 6, East-street, Finsbury Market

*Hackney and Kingsland Gazette, 8 January 1870.*

There are also a number of adverts listing his various properties, either for sale or for rent.

**H**OUSES (Two) — In Broke-road, Queen's-road, Dalston; being 52—54, two thirds of the purchase money can remain. Geo. Kempton, East-street, Finsbury Market

*Hackney and Kingsland Gazette, 4 February 1871*

**H**OUSE—Double-fronted, 7 large rooms and wash-house all above ground. 6, Wayland-avenue, Dalston—rent £32. Enquire at G. Kempton's, East-street, Finsbury Market

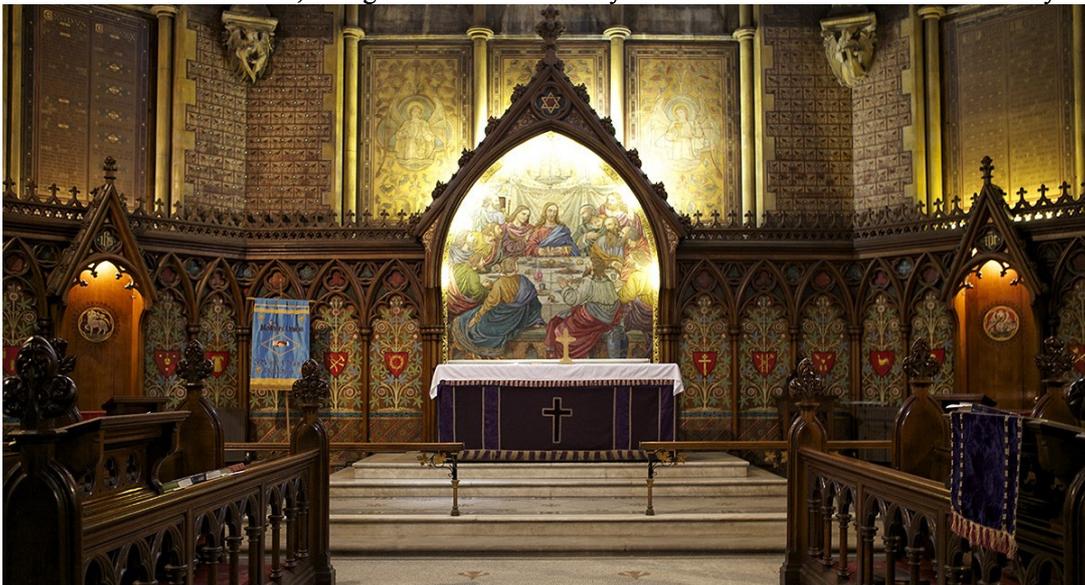
*Hackney and Kingsland Gazette, 24 June 1871*

Various addresses under his name in the electoral register (from earliest to latest) include 57 Phillip Street, 27 Broke Road, 6 East Street, 14 Wayland Avenue, 63 Shrubland Grove, 166 Dalston Lane, 9 Montague Road and 47 Shacklewell Lane. He may not have lived in all this locations, as property ownership, not residence formed the eligibility for voting.

Then there are the for sale adverts. In March 1883 George sold some of his shares in the Tyssen-Amherst Building Society, and in October of the same year he sold his phaeton. A phaeton was the sports carriage of the nineteenth century. They could be drawn by one or two horses, and would be typically open-topped with a minimal and lightly spring body.

George's wife Emma died in 1878 and in 1880 he married Emily Carter, a woman younger than his two eldest children. Emily was living in Hammersmith at the time, and her father was a draughtsman.

George and Emily were married on 18 November 1880 at St Mark's in Dalston. The witnesses were Charles Carter and Emma Silk, George's eldest child who by this time had been married for several years.



*Interior of Saint Mark's Dalston, Source: <http://www.stmarkdalston.org.uk>*

George and Emily would have just two children together, Charles Leslie<sup>21</sup> (1882) and Mabel Emily (1883).

In the 1881 Census we finally find George at an address where he was to stay for some time, 166 Dalston Lane, Dalston. With him in the household was his new wife, sons Edwin and Frederick, and a servant, Louisa Bouquett.

From 1887 to 1892 George was busily involved in breeding and showing pigeons at numerous, and sometimes quite distant, shows. He mostly exhibited carrier pigeons although other breeds occasionally get a mention.

The events that he attended and received a mention at include, but is not limited too, the Suffolk Poultry Club show at Bury St Edmunds, the North London pigeon show, the Pigeon, Rabbit and Cat Show at the Salisbury, the Crawley Poultry Show, the Shaftesbury Poultry, Pigeon and Cage Bird Exhibition, the West Wycombe Annual Horticultural and Poultry Show, the Croydon Fancier's association meet, the Torquay Poultry, Pigeon and Cage Bird Show, the Hayward's Heath Poultry, the Tunbridge Wells Agricultural Show, the Barnstaple Poultry, pigeon and Chrysanthemum Show, and the Leominster Dog and Poultry Show.

The 1891 Census finds him still at 166 Dalston lane, with his second wife and their two children, and a new servant, Julia Bush.

George died at home on 9 December 1893 of chronic hepatic disease. He was 71 years old.

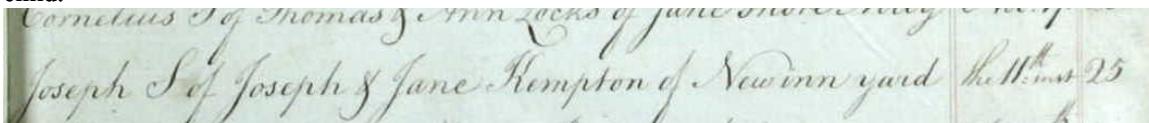
George on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Kempton-278>

---

<sup>21</sup> Charles rose to the rank of Lt-Colonel during the First World War and later received a CBE for his services. After the war he became something of world-travelling corporate high flyer, eventually marrying a Monica Jarvis whose sister had married a baronet, which is the closest anyone in my family has ever come to a royal connection.

## Joseph Kempton (5G-Grandfather) (1787-1825)

Joseph was born on 11 December 1787 to Joseph Kempton and Jane Jones, who were living at New Inn Yard, Shoreditch. He was baptised on Christmas Day at St Leonards, Shoreditch. Joseph was their first child.



*Extract from baptismal register*

Joseph's parents had married just four months earlier, on 9 August 1787, in the adjacent locality of Bethnal Green, where they were both resident at the time. The witnesses to the marriage were Edward Jones and James Nelson. Both his parents could only sign their names with an X.

Joseph lived on New Inn Yard until at least 1794, when his second sister Elisabeth was born.

Joseph married Mary Teuton on 4 May 1809 in Horselydown. The witnesses were John Poulton (?) and William Sard. William was a witness for many of the marriages in the register. Joseph was able to sign his own name.

Horselydown is situated on the south bank of the river Thames, immediately across from the Tower of London.

They had six children together, Mary (1811), Joseph (1813), Sarah (1816-1818), George (1819-1819), George (1822) and Sarah (1824). Their first four children were all baptised at St Botolph-without-Bishopsgate, and the final two at St Leonard's Shoreditch.

When his son Joseph was born in 1813 Joseph was living at 5 Merritt's Building, which was on Sun Street in Bishopsgate, near where Liverpool Street Station now is. He was working as a porter.

When Joseph's first Sarah was born in 1816 he was living at Northumberland Place, which was possibly in Aldgate. He was working as a carman, a carriage operator, who were often self employed. His son Joseph later worked as a carman, and is described as such on his son's marriage certificates.

When Sarah died in 1818, they were living on Bishopsgate Street, and when George died in 1819 they were living on Sun Street again.

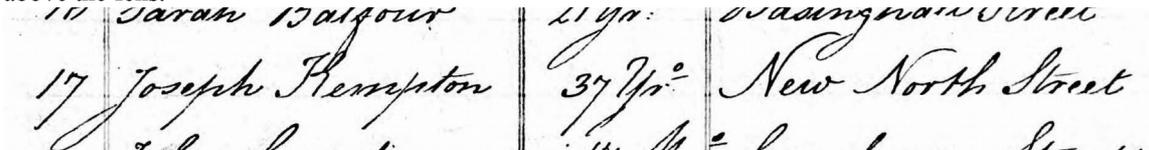
His second son George was born when they were living at North Street. This was off Ropemaker Street, which still exists and is very close to Sun Street, but was in Cripplegate Ward. Joseph's profession was again given as carman. However on his second Sarah's baptismal record it is warehouseman.

His profession was again warehouseman on his son George's second marriage certificate, and as a butcher on his daughter Sarah's marriage certificate.

Apart from this we have very little information about him. There is an item in the London Metropolitan Archives that clearly refers to him. In the records of the Sun Fire Office is an item described as *Insured: Joseph Kempton 1 Northumberland Place Lamb Alley Sun Street Gent.*

His two children that died young were buried at nearby Bunhill Fields burial ground. Bunhill Fields was a non-denominational cemetery, which means many non-conformists were buried there, but Joseph's family appear to have been a Church of England family.

The name Bunhill comes from Bone Hill, and is so named as in 1549 over 1,000 cartloads of human bones from St Paul's charnel house were bought there when that building was demolished, which created a hill above the fens.



*Extract from burial register*

Joseph died in 1825 and was buried on 17 April at Bunhill Fields. He had most recently been living at New North Street and he was 37 years old.

Joseph on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Kempton-305>

## Mary Teuton (5G-Grandmother) (1790-1868)

Mary was born on 1 October 1790 and baptised exactly two weeks later at St Matthew's, Bethnal Green. Her parents were Thomas Teuton, a baker, and Martha Bage.

Handwritten entry from a baptismal register. The text is written in cursive and includes the date '1790 October 15', the name 'Mary D. of Thos. & Martha Teuton', and the date 'Bapt. 1<sup>st</sup> of October'. There is a small number '690' written in the top right corner of the entry area.

*Extract from baptismal register*

The name Bethnal Green comes from the Old English word *blīde*, which meant pleasant and could also be a person's name, and the Anglian word *halh*, meaning a piece of dry ground within a marsh. Green is a later addition, describing its status as a village green. In the earliest records it is referred to as *Blythenhale* or *Blythenhale*.

Mary's parents had married on 17 December 1776 at St Marylebone in London. Both were literate and had signed their names on the marriage record. Thomas had been born in Clerkenwell in 1753 to William and Sarah.

Mary had at least two siblings, two older sisters.

Mary married Joseph Kempton on 4 May 1809 in Horselydown. The witnesses were John Poulton (?) and William Sard. William was a witness for many of the marriages in the register. Mary, despite her parent's literacy, could only sign her own name with an X.

They had six children together, Mary (1811), Joseph (1813), Sarah (1816-1818), George (1819-1819), George (1822) and Sarah (1824). Their first four children were all baptised at St Botolph-without-Bishopsgate, and the final two at St Leonard's Shoreditch.

When her son Joseph was born in 1813 Mary was living at 5 Merritt's Building, which was on Sun Street in Bishopsgate, near where Liverpool Street Station now is. He was working as a porter.

When Mary's first Sarah was born in 1816 she was living at Northumberland Place, which was possibly in Aldgate.

When Sarah died in 1818, they were living on Bishopsgate Street, and when George died in 1819 they were living on Sun Street again.

Nothing more is known of Mary until her death. She has not been located in any of the 1841, 1851 or 1861 censuses.

Mary died on 19 January 1868 at 6 East Street (her son George's property). The cause of death was stated to be natural decay. She was 78 years old.

*Mary on wikitree* <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Teuton-14>

## Thomas Teuton (6G-Grandfather) (1753- )

Thomas was born on 14 August 1753 and baptised on 29 August at Saint James, Clerkenwell. His surname was recorded as *Tuton*.

Thomas' parents were William and Sarah Humber who had married in November of the previous year.

He married Martha Bage on 17 December 1776 at Saint Mary on St Marylebone Road. Both bride and groom could sign their own names.

Thomas and Martha had three children together, Sarah (1778), Elizabeth (1779) and Mary (1790).

Thomas' profession was recorded as a baker at the baptism of his daughter Sarah. His residence at the time was St George Hanover Square. Her baptism was recorded in a non-conformist register.

Thomas was also recorded as a baker on his daughter Elizabeth's second marriage certificate.

No death record has been located for Thomas.

## **William Teuton (7G-Grandfather) (1730- )**

William was baptised at Saint Andrew's, Holborn on 26 February 1730, his surname recorded as *Tuton*. His parents were Thomas Teuton, a tailor, and Catherine Bywaters.

William married Sarah Humber at the May Fair Chapel in Westminster on 5 November 1752. Both bride and groom were residents of Saint Andrew's Holborn parish. William's surname was recorded as *Tuten*.

William and Sarah had two known children, Thomas (1753) and Sarah (1757).

Their marriage at the May Fair Chapel was an *irregular* marriage, one that was legal under common law, but not under church law. Irregular marriages were cheaper than regular weddings, did not require banns to be posted and so could be carried out immediately and did not require witnesses nor parental consent. The May Fair Chapel was actually at the more expensive end of the irregular marriage venues, so was somewhat fashionable. These irregular marriages were finally banned by the Marriage Act enacted on 25 March 1754.

William's own parents had married in an irregular marriage and his first child was not born until August of the following year, so he was likely getting married in an *irregular* fashion simply to save money, rather than the need for speed or to avoid the need for parental consent.

No death record has been located for William.

William on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Teuton-21>

## **Thomas Teuton (8G-Grandfather) (ca1700- )**

Thomas married Catherine Bywaters on 31 October 1722 in the "Rules of the Fleet". Both were residents of Saint Andrew's Holborn parish.

Thomas and Catherine had four known children together, Mary (1724), John (1725), Thomas (1726) and William (1730).

Their marriage was an *irregular* marriage, legal under common law but not under church law. They were very common at the time. Fleet Prison was a debtors prison and for a fee debtors were able to live in the surrounding area, an area that was known as the "Rules of the Fleet". The Rules included private houses, taverns and coffee shops. Many of the prisoners were clergymen and more than happy to take a fee to perform a marriage despite it being against church law. Their fees were cheaper than getting married in the church.

He was residing at Brooks Markitt at the baptism of his daughter Mary on 4 May 1724.

For the baptism of son John on 20 July 1725 and also at the baptism of son Thomas on 30 October 1726 he was a resident of Bell Court.

*Lockie's Topography of London*, published in 1810, describes the locations as follows:

Brook's Market, Holborn, is the N. end of Brook-street, from 140, Holborn, about 1/4 mile on the R. from Fleet-market.

Bell-Court, Gray's-Inn-Lane, at 22, the third on the R. from Holborn, leading to Brook's-market.

Brook's Market still exists, Gray's Inn Lane is now Gray's Inn Road.

No death record has been found for Thomas.

## **Emma Freeman (4G-Grandmother) (1827-1878)**

Emma was born in about 1826 probably at Providence Row, Finsbury. Her father was Thomas Freeman, a coal merchant, her mother, Ann.

Providence Row is one block north of Finsbury Square; the western end of what is now called Worship Street.

Emma was recorded with her family at 4½ Maiden Lane, St Michael Royal College Hill in the 1841 Census.

She married George Kempton on 31 May 1846 at Christ Church Greyfriars. George was a horse collar maker. Emma was living on Providence Row at the time of the marriage. No profession was given for Emma. The witnesses to the marriage were Elizabeth Woodley and G Freeman, probably her brother George. Emma was a witness at George's wedding in 1848.

George and Emma would have five children together, Emma (1847), George William (1848), Harriet Louisa (1852), Edwin Walter (1861) and Frederick Ernest (1867).

At the time of the 1851 Census Emma and her family were living at 27 White Street in the parish of Saint Giles Without Cripplegate. There were also three employees living in the household, an apprentice, an errand boy and a house servant. There were also another two families at this address in separate households.

When the 1861 Census came around, Emma and her family were recorded at 27 Broke Road South in Shoreditch. There was also a servant, Ellen Sheppard, in addition to their children. Ellen had probably replied to his advert of January in the same year.

Emma's mother-in-law moved in at some time during the 1860s, for she died at their house at 6 East Street in January 1868. Her own mother had lived there at an earlier period, also passing away at 6 East Street in 1860. Her father had died at that address in 1854.

In 1871 they were again at another address, this time being recorded in the Census at 12 Foskett Terrace, in the Shacklewell district of Hackney. Foskett Terrace is a curving terrace of 16 or so three storey homes situated on Shacklewell Lane close to St Mark's rise. They were built in 1866.

I haven't located Emma's name in the newspaper record.

Emma died at her home, Manor Cottage, Dalston Lane on 26 September 1878 of bronchitis. She was 51 years old.

Emma on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Freeman-10222>

## **Thomas Freeman (5G-Grandfather) (ca1785-1854)**

Thomas was born in about 1785 in Sevenoaks, Kent. There are two possible baptismal records.

Sevenoaks is one of the few Old English place names that make sense in modern English, being derived from, *seofon*, seven and, *āc*, oak. The town was given market status in the thirteenth century and a weekly cattle market was held there until 1999.

He most likely married his wife Ann, in London, but no clear marriage record has been found.

Thomas' daughter Mary Ann at St Leonard Shoreditch in 1817. His residence was Providence Row, and occupation coal dealer. His son Thomas was also baptised there in 1818, residence and occupation "coal merchant" were the same.

In January 1824 Thomas had a candlestick worth 2 shilling stolen from his shop. His statement in the subsequent trial was as follows *"I live in Providence-row, Finsbury. On the 15th of January, Bridges came and asked if I had lost any thing, I looked round my shop, and missed a candlestick from about five yards from the door - it was safe five minutes before; he desired me to follow him, and we overtook Watson in Long-alley, looking into a chandler's-shop. I saw Bridges take the candlestick and book from him, and in the chandler's-shop we found Smith."* The eighteen year old culprit was sentenced to seven years transportation.

Providence Row is one block north of Finsbury Square; the western end of what is now called Worship Street.

Thomas was recorded at 4½ Maiden Lane, St Michael Royal College Hill in the 1841 Census. He was sharing a house with the Boucher and Hawkins families. He was working as a Groom. With him in the household was his wife Ann, and children Thomas, 24, wine cooper, William, 22, Clerk, George, 18, Clerk, Mary Ann, 20, dress maker, Emma, 15 and Lucy 13.

Maiden Lane runs along the north side of the church of St James Garlickhythe, and appears as Skinners Lane on modern maps.

His profession moves around a bit. He was a coal merchant on his daughter Emma's marriage certificate in 1846 and Thomas' in 1841. He was a groom on his son George's marriage certificate in 1848. Emma was a witness to George's marriage, so we know we have the right family.

When Emma married in 1846 her address was Providence Row, so Thomas may have moved back to that location.

Thomas was recorded in the 1851 Census living with his wife at 37 Finsbury Market. Thomas was working as a messenger and place of birth, Sevenoaks, Kent. All his children bar William were also recorded in the 1851 Census at his home, however at least three of them were actually living elsewhere at the time. His wife Ann was working as a washerwoman.

Thomas died on 19 November 1854 at 6 East Street, Shoreditch of heart disease, from which he had been suffering for nine years. His occupation was recorded as porter. When Ann later passed away at the same address in 1860 she was described as the widow of a greengrocer.

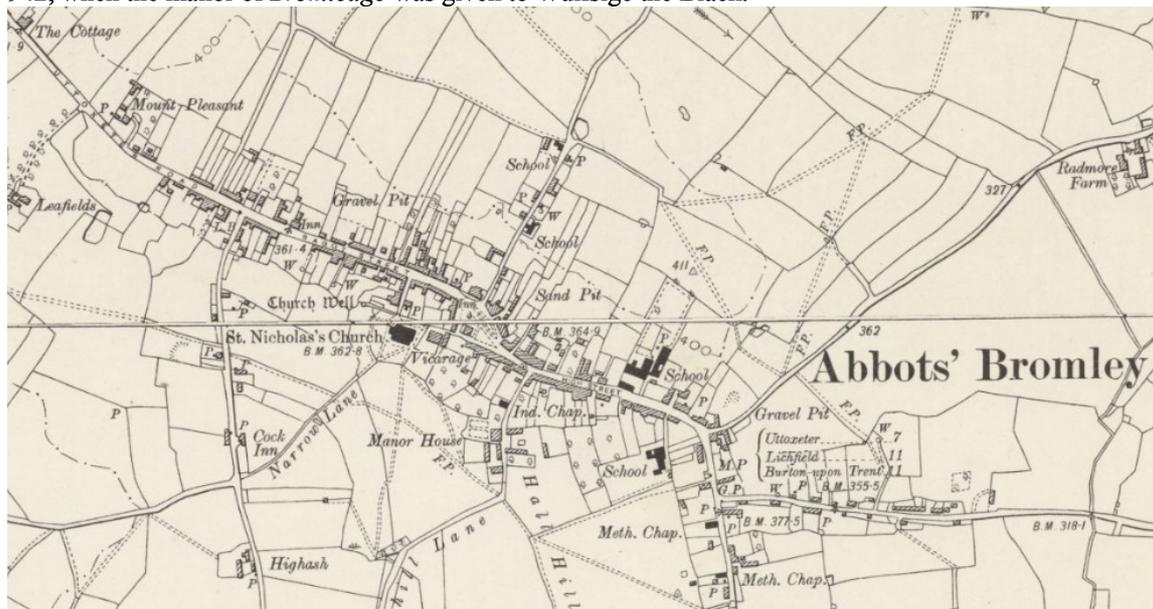
*Thomas on wikitree* <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Freeman-18203>

## Elizabeth Sarah Chesterton (3G-Grandmother) (1851-1915)

Elizabeth was born on 15 May 1851 in Abbots Bromley, Staffordshire. Her parents were Edward Chesterton, a baker, and Elizabeth Emma Grove. She was baptised on 6 July 1851 at St Nicholas Church in the village. Elizabeth was the second of seven siblings to survive infancy.

Bromley comes from the Old English words *brōm*, broom; a thorny bush or shrub, and *lēah*, a glade or clearing. The will, dated 1002, of Wulfic Spot, Earl of Mercia gave the village to the Abbey of Burton upon Trent, hence the composite name, Abbots Bromley.

The village was recorded in the *Domesday Book* in 1086 as *Brunlege*. The earliest reference dates from 942, when the manor of *Bromleage* was given to Wulfsige the Black.



1900 Ordnance Survey map of Abbots Bromley

When the 1861 Census was conducted on 7 April, Elizabeth was to be found living with her parents and siblings on Bagot Street in the western part of the village. Next door on one side was a grocer, on the other the police constable.

By the time of the 1871 Census Elizabeth had moved to Surrey and was working as a governess in the household of the Wass family. The address was 1 Berry Grove, West Dulwich, which was on Hamilton Road, most likely near where Berry Lane is. This is about seven miles to the south of the centre of London.

By the time of her marriage, not much more than a year later, she had moved to 434 Old Kent Road, around three miles to the south-east of central London.

Elizabeth married George Kempton on 6 July 1872 at All Saints Church, Haggerston. The witnesses were her two siblings, William and Anna, and Anna E Truss. George was a horse collar maker.

They had only three children together, being George Frederick William (1873), Frank Ernest (1875) and Elizabeth Emma (1877). They were living at 397 Kingsland Road when Elizabeth was born.

Elizabeth and George separated in about 1879. Elizabeth filed a petition against him in October of that year. The petition states their marriage details, addresses they have lived at and details of their children. It then goes on to state that George *“on or about the fifth day of March deserted your petitioner without cause and from thence hitherto without cause has left your petitioner almost destitute and has kept and continued away for seven month..”*

*“That on or about the nineteenth day of April 1874 and on other occasions the said George William Kempton did.....make an assault upon and bear your petitioner”.*

*“That shortly after the said marriage the said George William Kempton commenced and has up to the fourth March 1879 continued treating your petitioner with great unkindness and cruelty and he frequently endeavoured to extort and did extort various sums of money from your petitioner by violence and threats of violence that he frequently in violent and offensive language abused your petitioner and violently assaulted*

*her and on one occasion in the month of March 1875 struck your petitioner on the head and that by reason of this continued ill treatment on the part of her said husband your petitioners health has been greatly impaired.”*

*“By reason of the ill treatment of the said George William Kempton I was on one occasion compelled to leave my home and seek the protection of my friends but was induced to return to cohabitation with him by his solemn promise that he would treat me kindly for the future but in consequence of his violation of his promises and continued unkindness and cruelty towards me I was again compelled to cease to cohabit with him”*

There are two drafts of Elizabeth’s petition and in the first she sought sole custody of their three children, but custody was not mentioned in the second draft.

Her husband’s response was much shorter, and he simply denied all the accusations. The divorce process ended there, without a legal resolution, however, some arrangement must have been arrived at for in 1881 they were living separately.

At the time of the 1881 Census Elizabeth and their daughter were boarding at Ridley Road, Hackney, which is located just off Kingsland Road about three miles north of the centre of London. Elizabeth’s occupation was described as “income from husband” on the census form.

Elizabeth and her daughter migrated to Western Australia sometime around 1885. Her death certificate in 1915 stated that she had lived in the state for thirty years, but this may have been a rounded figure.

Her estranged husband and two sons had moved to Victoria in 1884, and this surely had an impact on her decision to migrate. Her brother Lorenzo arrived in Queensland in 1885 (he later moved to San Francisco) and it’s even possible she came to Australia on the same boat, but unfortunately no immigration record has been found for her.

Despite living in Western Australia for three decades, there is only one trace of her in the historical record prior to her death. Elizabeth appears twice in the 1906 electoral roll, both at 109 George Street, East Fremantle and at Coomberdale, where her daughter and son-in-law’s family were living. Her profession was give as home duties in both cases.

The inference is that she was in the process of moving from one place to the other in 1906.

Elizabeth died on 20 Feb 1915 in Perth of cirrhosis of the liver and ascites (an accumulation of fluid in the abdominal cavity often caused by cirrhosis). She was 64 years old.

Her only child mentioned on the death certificate was her son George, so he probably organised the funeral arrangements. She was buried on 23 August in the Anglican portion of the Karrakatta Cemetery.

*Elizabeth on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Chesterton-64>*

## **Edward Chesterton (4G-Grandfather)(1806-1878)**

Edward was born in Abbots Bromley in 1806 to John Chesterton, a hatter, and Ellen Lester. He was baptised at Saint Nicholas in the village on 9 September that year. Edward's parents had married in the neighbouring village of Rugeley on 1 September 1800, but about them little is known.

Edward had at least two siblings, an older sister and a younger brother, but could well have more as we only know of his sister because she lived with Edward's brother and was captured in the Census with him.

He was a baker in Abbots Bromley, where he appears to have lived his entire life. Edward's name often appears in Post Office directories over his lifetime with the earliest mention in 1834 in White's History, Gazetteer and Directory.

The 1841 Census finds him on Bagot Street in Abbots Bromley. He was the head of the household, but also in the household was Ann Burgess, a woman six to ten years older than Edward (ages were often rounded in the 1841 Census), James Burgess and Thomas Burgess, both the right age to be her sons, and Charles Laster, who was eleven years old.

Relationships were not recorded in the 1841 Census but it seems unlikely Ann was another sister of Edward's.

In 1848 Edward married Elizabeth Emma Grove House on 4 July at St Nicholas in Abbots Bromley. Elizabeth was a governess who had been born in London. They had nine children together, seven of whom reached adulthood. They were William Peter (1850), Elizabeth Sarah (1851), Anna Maria (1853), Catharine Sophia (1856), John Edward (1858), Emma Mary (1859), Martha Eleanor (1861), Lorenzo Grove (1863) and Ernest Herbert (1864).

It's not certain, but despite having so many children, they may have only had three grandchildren.

Edward was the occupier of four properties in the Tithe Awards Index, which covers the period 1836-1845. He rented a meadow of one acre and 26 perches (ca 4,700m<sup>2</sup>) named Well Croft from the Trustees of Lord Bagot, a garden of one rood and nine perches (ca 1,240m<sup>2</sup>) from Anne Broof, another garden of one rood 32 perches (ca 1,800m<sup>2</sup>) from Rachael Wood, and a house, bakehouse and garden of 28 perches (ca 700m<sup>2</sup>), also from Rachael Wood.

For all these properties he was required to pay a tithe of twenty-one pence annually to the Vicar of Abbots Bromley.

Edward continued living on Bagot Street and was found there in the 1851, 1861 and 1871 Censuses. No servants or apprentices were recorded living with him, although his wife's sister was with them in 1851.

His name appears in numerous poll books from 1848 onwards, so he probably owned property from that point. In 1868 his name was noted for both Abbots Bromley and the neighbouring village of Rugeley, so he probably held land in both villages at that point.

No records of interest have been found of Edward in the newspaper record. He worked as a baker his entire life, although his daughter's marriage certificate recorded him as a farmer, as does his wife's death certificate, it does seem possible this was a secondary activity for him, but nor more, considering the small amount of land he rented.

Edward died on 9 April 1878 in Abbots Bromley of heart disease and dropsy. He was buried three days later in the local cemetery. He was 72 years old.

*Edward on wikitree* <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Chesterton-69>

## Elizabeth Emma Grove (4G-Grandmother) (1823-1893)

Elizabeth was born in about 1823 in greater London, probably in Sussex. She was probably baptised as Elizabeth Emma Grove House, as her parents were not married, but the only record of her, or her sisters, ever using that name is on her marriage certificate. All subsequent documents referring to her maiden name use Grove, as does her entry in the 1841 Census.

Her mother was Mary House and her father's surname was likely Grove.

Illegitimate births are not unusual, but what is unusual about Elizabeth's situation is that she had two sisters that were also born out of wedlock, so far as I can tell, and yet were well educated.

Elizabeth was working as a governess at the time of her marriage, her sister Susan worked as both a governess and teacher, and her sister Martha's occupation was recorded as annuitant in the 1851 Census. Martha's occupation in 1881 was described as 'dependent on friends' it has to be admitted, but even that was something only people from comfortable backgrounds could aspire to in that period.

It seems reasonable to speculate that her mother was a mistress or kept woman, or if not, she was certainly unconventional for her time.

By 1841 Elizabeth and her sisters had moved from London to Bagot Street in Abbots Bromley, but despite her youngest sister Susan only being eleven at the time of the 1841 Census, their mother does not appear to have moved with them. They were boarding in the Till household, next door to Elizabeth's future husband.

Elizabeth married Edward Chesterton in Abbots Bromley on 4 July 1848. Edward was a baker who was nearly twenty years her senior. Instead of her father's name on the marriage certificate was the text "natural daughter of Mary House".

They had nine children together, seven of whom reached adulthood. They were William Peter (1850), Elizabeth Sarah (1851), Anna Maria (1853), Catharine Sophia (1856), John Edward (1858), Emma Mary (1859), Martha Eleanor (1861), Lorenzo Grove (1863) and Ernest Herbert (1864).

It's not certain, but despite having so many children, they may have only had three grandchildren.

Elizabeth was living on Bagot Street with her husband and family for all of the 1851, 1861 and 1871 censuses.

Edward Chesterton	Head	Mar.	48	Baker	Do: Abbots Bromley
Elizabeth Emma Chesterton	Wife	Mar.	46		Do: Do.
Cath. Sophia Chesterton	Daughter	Unm.	14		Do: Do.
Martha Chesterton	Do:		9	Scholar	Do: Do.
Lorenza Chesterton	Son		8	Do:	Do: Do.
Ernest Chesterton	Do:		4	Do:	Do: Do.

Portion of 1871 Census return. Not all are this beautiful or as legible.

Her husband died in April 1878, and by the time of the 1881 Census she was living in her son William's household in Birmingham. William was a chemist and druggist. Also in the household with them were her three youngest children. Elizabeth had lost her sight by this stage, being recorded as blind in the census.

She was still living with her son William in Birmingham in 1891, but by this stage her youngest children had moved elsewhere. In both censuses she was living at the same address (the neighbours were the same), at 46 Hampton Street in 1881. It was recorded as 46 St George's Street in 1891, but this was the name of the ward.

Prior to her she moved to her daughter Anna Maria's house on Mary Street. Elizabeth died on 14 November 1893 at 157 Mary Street, Birmingham. The cause of death was malignant disease of the liver and pylorus, and jaundice.

Elizabeth on wikitree <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Grove-1571>

## **Mitochondrial DNA Testing (mtDNA)**

Mark Dorney has been tested for mtDNA and his haplogroup is U5b2b4a.

Mitochondrial DNA is passed down through the maternal line and only mutates slowly.

All of the matches bar one (as at March 2022) on familytreedna.com are at a genetic distance are two or higher. A genetic distance of two means there is a 50% chance of sharing a common maternal line ancestor within the last fifty-two generations, or about 1,300 years go. All these people I'm matched to have Scandinavian surnames.

One match is at a genetic distance of one, at this distance there is a 50% chance of sharing a common maternal ancestor line ancestor within the last 28 generations, or about 700 years ago. This match is with a person with Swedish parents.

### **Haplogroup U5**

Haplogroup U5 is between 24,900 and 35,600 years old. Researchers believe it was born to a woman living in West Asia. Its presence in both Mesolithic gravesites in Iberia and Iron Age gravesites in the Altai Mountains indicate that it spread early across a wide area in Eurasia.

U5 was the predominant mtDNA of mesolithic Western Hunter Gatherers.

U5 has been found in human remains dating from the Mesolithic in England, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Sweden, France and Spain. Neolithic skeletons (~7,000 years old) that were excavated from the Avellaner cave in Catalonia, northeastern Spain included a specimen carrying haplogroup U5.

Haplogroup U5 and its subclades U5a and U5b today form the highest population concentrations in the far north, among Sami, Finns, and Estonians. However, it is spread widely at lower levels throughout Europe. This distribution, and the age of the haplogroup, indicate individuals belonging to this clade were part of the initial expansion tracking the retreat of ice sheets from Europe around 10,000 years ago.

The most common of these lineages in modern populations are U5a1, U5a2, U5b1, U5b2 and U5b3.

Approximately 11% of Europeans have some variant of haplogroup U5.

### **Haplogroup U5b2**

The origin of U5b2 dates to between 16,832 and 23,249 years ago. Members of the U5b2 lineage were among the first people to repopulate Europe and West Asia. However, Neolithic farmers and herders from West Asia crowded out the U5b2 lineage as they entered Western Eurasia. It is now about 2 percent of the population in Europe. Researchers have found it most often in northern Europe including the United Kingdom, Ireland, Germany, Scandinavia, and Russia.

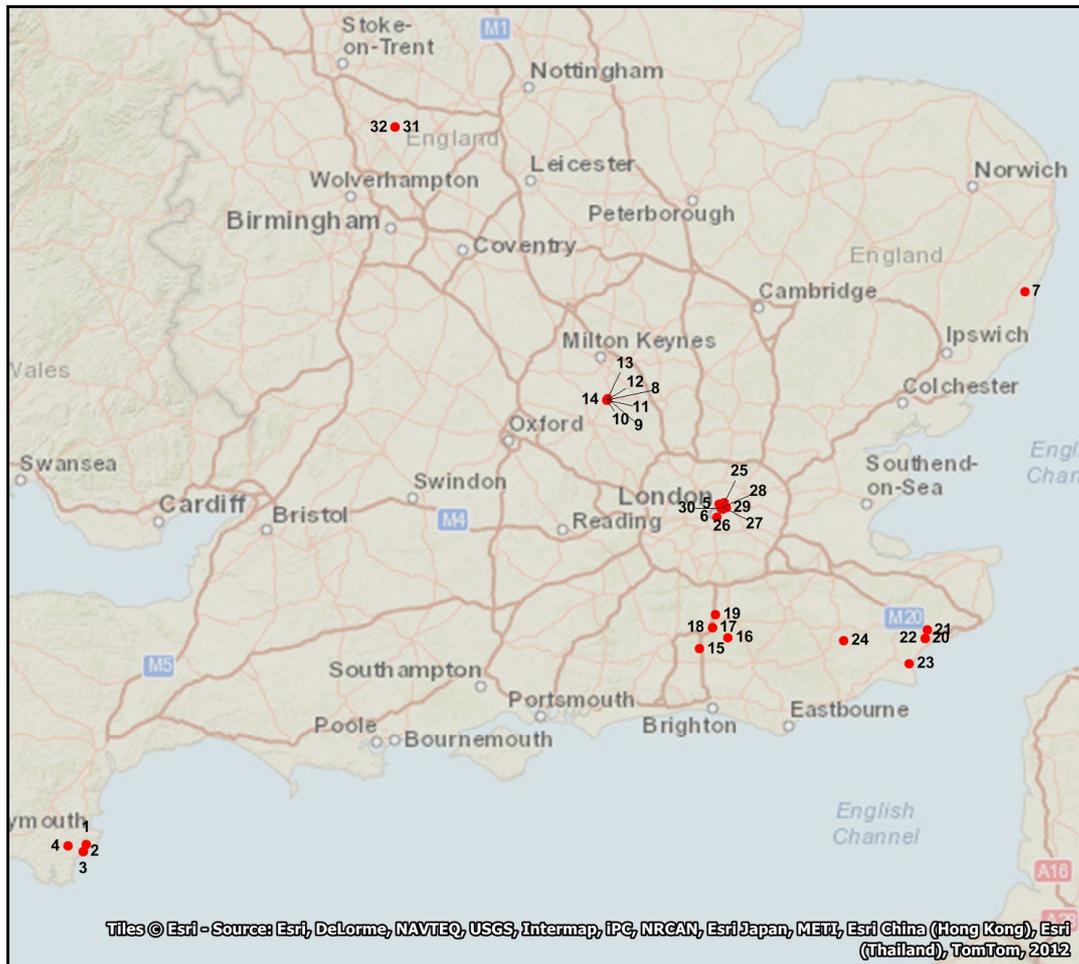
### **Haplogroups U5b2b**

It's age is between 12,000 and 17,400 years.

### **Haplogroup U5b2b4**

The woman who started this branch lived at some point between recent generations and 12,600 years ago. It is found in England, Scandinavia, Germany and Poland.

## Appendix I – Birthplace locations



ID	Ancestor	ID	Ancestor
1	Robert James Jarvis Clapp	19	Rebecca Jenner
2	John Clapp	20	Benjamin Cook
3	John Clapp	21	Stephen Cook
4	Edward Clapp	22	Mary Sharwood
5	William Hillier	23	Diana Crampton
6	William Hillier	24	Job Crampton
7	Sarah Deed	25	Elizabeth Emma Kempton
8	Herodias Jordan	26	George William Kempton
9	William Jordan	27	George Kempton
10	Thomas Jordan	28	Joseph Kempton
11	William Jordan	29	Mary Teuton
12	Ann Lambourne	30	Emma Freeman
13	Hannah Sarah Baker	31	Elizabeth Sarah Chesterton
14	George Baker	32	Edward Chesterton
15	James Ridley		
16	Edward Ridley		
17	Amelia Collins		
18	Henry Collins		

Birthplace location map