

The Genealogy of [redacted] & [redacted]

The Anthony, Ford, Isaac and Wardle families

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The Genealogy of [redacted] & [redacted]

This is a story of four families and of the myriad families to which they have been connected by marriage.

It is a story of perhaps seven hundred years of English and Welsh history.

Like every good story it contains characters who imprint themselves on the memory. Like every good story it contains “might-have-beens” and “if-onlys”. Like every story it recounts triumphs and tragedies. Like every story it tells of aspiration and achievement. Like every story it contains the occasional dark corner.

A good story has a beginning, a narrative and a conclusion. Everything becomes clear in the end.

History in general and family history in particular is not like that. There is no obvious beginning and, self-evidently, no end. Loose threads abound.

For example, one of your ancestors died in Berlin.

What on earth was Mary Isaac doing in Berlin in 1855 and how did she come to die there? I could hazard a guess but there is no evidence. It's a loose end.

This story only begins when the extant records begin and only continues as long as those records are available. One accidental fire in a church rectory might destroy the only evidence of hundreds of families and dozens of generations.

In one case in this story the parish records were stored next to a stock of jam, which leaked and the records are now virtually unreadable. Swathes of history lost because of a leaky crock of jam.

Every person in every generation of this story had siblings and cousins. In some cases I've followed them even though they lead away from the principal thread. Sometimes the road less travelled by is irresistible. Let the narrative go hang.

In the course of this research I came across one of your Ford ancestors at his prep school in 1911. He was one of forty kids between 8 and 14 with nothing much on their minds other than when the next postal order might come from home and when their Latin prep was due. Seven years later a little research showed that at least four of them were dead – killed in the First World War. What does that have to do with your family history? Nothing much, and yet in a sense a great deal. For that generation the loss spewed out by the War stained everything. Your ancestor lived through the War apparently untouched but many of his school friends didn't and if we fail to understand the trauma felt by the survivors then we fail to understand the story.

More than anything else this is a story about people. But, in the case of these four families, behind the people lay the land.

For centuries all four families in this story, like most of the people of Western Europe, were deeply attached to the land: They worked the land and the land fed them. Today, when food comes from Waitrose and property is a commodity to be bought and sold like baked beans, we lose sight of the connection that our ancestors had with the land on which they lived. This wasn't about ownership. Most of your ancestors, indeed most of the people in pre-20th century England, did not own the land they lived on. Ownership wasn't the point. The point was occupancy, indeed a right of occupancy. It was about belonging, not owning.

So this is a story about people but it is also the story of the land, and particularly the counties of Staffordshire, Lincolnshire and Carmarthenshire, while Lancashire and Norfolk also make cameo appearances.

It is a truism to assert that the past is another country. Attitudes and conceptions of morality change. In some cases this makes our ancestors incomprehensible.

We cannot, for example, conceive that a Quaker could also be a slave trader. Quakers were liberal, humane and god-fearing and yet this story contains a liberal, humane and god-fearing Quaker who made his fortune by trading slaves.

And yet, in another sense, the past is not another country. Quite the opposite: It is tangible, present and ubiquitous.

You want to walk under the door frame through which Hugh Ford passed daily in the late 1620s? Go ahead. It's still there. You want to stroll on the fields John Isaac farmed in 1840? Go ahead. No-one has moved them. You want to touch the font in which Daniel Wardle was baptised in 1756? Feel free. It is still in the same church. You want to watch the Welsh rain running down the windows out of which David Anthony would have looked in 1871? The building is still there and rain in Wales continues to be a safe bet.

Some people question the relevance of family history. Let's not get too tangled with genes or with nature / nurture. We are, at least to some extent what we were born to be. If nothing else our past is the foundation on which we are built.

Is it merely a coincidence that [redacted] has ancestors named [redacted] and/or [redacted] or that [redacted] has ancestors named [redacted]?

Is it merely a coincidence that there was a cricket field right next to Ford Green Hall?

... I rest my case.

This story contains kings and counts, pirates and bankers, slave traders and accountants, Quakers and Anglicans, soldiers and sailors, a mayor of Kidwelly and a High Sheriff of Middlesex. It touches the English Civil War, the non-conformist religious movements, the Napoleonic Wars, the Industrial Revolution and the First World War.

Does this sound far-fetched, even melodramatic?

It isn't. Read on.

Introduction

The Ford and Wardle families both came from Staffordshire and specifically from the moorland parishes north and east of Stoke on Trent. Indeed it is hard to imagine that the two families did not know each other in the mid 17th century.

In 1676 Hugh Ford married Ellen Mellor from the parish of Ipstones in north Staffordshire. At the same time that Ellen was growing up in Ipstones the parish was also home to a young man, probably a year older than Helen. His name was Joshua Wardle and some 350 years later he would become [redacted]'s 8th maternal great-grandfather, while Ellen would become [redacted]'s 8th paternal great-grandmother.

The Fords moved to Manchester, contracted a good marriage, made a fortune in the cotton weaving business and eventually moved south to Enfield outside London.

The Wardles prospered more gradually, several generations following each other in the shoe making business in Stafford and eventually Coventry. From about 1800 for five generations the history of the Wardles and the history of the British shoe making industry are synonymous.

Meanwhile generations of the Isaac family worked on the land in Lincolnshire as did generations of the Anthony family in the vicinity of Kidwelly in Carmarthenshire.

The Isaacs were owners of a very early steam threshing machine. A predecessor of the combine harvester, these machines revolutionised farming.

Eventually one Anthony left the land and opened a drapery business. His son left Kidwelly for the greater retail opportunities first of Swansea and then of London and became a director of Harrod's.

In the notes that follow you will find almost no reference to living people or to events within living memory. This is deliberate.

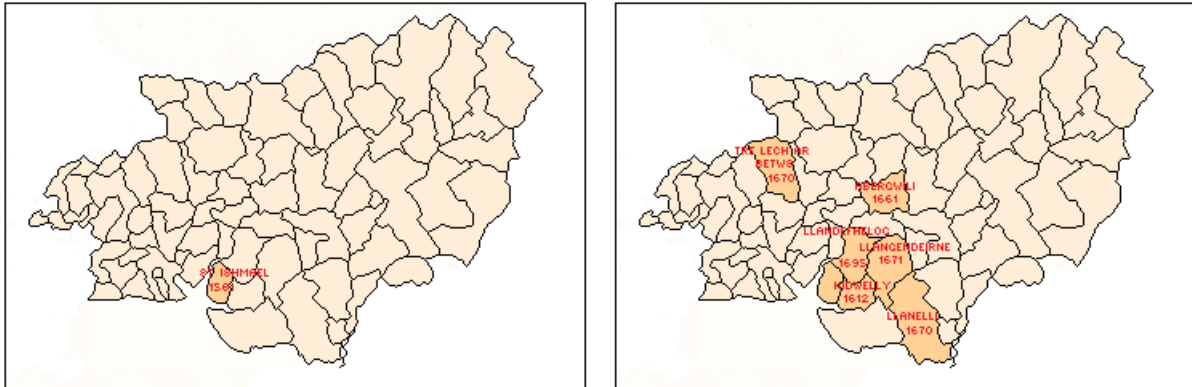
My aim has been to tell and illuminate a story that the present generations might not know. It is decidedly not to trample over or rehash the lives of living people or events within living memory.

These notes are drawn from research that is set out in considerably more detail in family trees that I have built on ancestry.com, to which I can give access to anyone who cares to contact me at [redacted]

The Anthony Family

The mist of Celtic legend was slow to clear in Carmarthenshire, ancestral home of the Anthonys. As a result, it is harder to trace Welsh ancestry before say 1700 than is the case elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

Surviving parish records in Wales start much later than in England. Only a single parish in Carmarthenshire has records relating to the 16th century (St Ishmael 1561), and only 6 more emerged in the 17th century. We are fortunate that three of these were the parishes of Kidwelly, Llangendeirne and Llandefaelog and thus we at least have records from 1700 or before for Kidwelly, home of the Anthony family, and three of the four parishes surrounding that place.



Carmarthenshire parish records: Left before 1600. Right before 1700

We are also hampered by the fact that the use of surnames was slower to catch on in Wales than in England. Well into the 17th century it was common in Wales for individuals to be known by a given name, “ap” or “son of” their father’s given name. Thus for example the Anthony tree contains John ap John ap Evan ap Rhydderch (c1570 – 1617). Tracing successive generations without the benefit of surnames is doubly complex even if records are available.

A further difficulty is that some of the earliest records are in Welsh. I can research records in English, and (with a wet towel over my head) in French, Spanish and Latin, but Welsh is a bridge too far.

One further catch is that the surname Anthony seems to have been adopted by the family as late as about 1730, in order to benefit from the terms of a Will. This possible change of name, discussed in detail below, introduces one extra level of complication.

The Earliest generations

A number of modern researchers refer to Evan ap Rhydderch who had a son John ap Evan (1535-1603). This John is said to have married Agnes ferch (daughter of) Gruffyd Lloyd in 1569 and to have produced a son John ap John ap Evan in 1570. John ap John married Issabel Reed in the parish of St Ishmael in 1584 and produced a son Roland Prytherch (1580-1639). Roland is said to have married Blanche in 1610. They are said to have had a son John William in 1610, who in turn had a son John (1640-1694).

All of the above account may well be accurate however the earliest record that I can find to substantiate any of it is a burial in Llangendeirne on 23 Apr 1694 for John Prytherch.

John Prytherch is said to have married Margaret and to have produced a son William Rhydderch in Llandefaelog in 1667. William

married Sarah Griffiths in 1697 and produced a son Thomas in 1698.



Walter Anthony (1698 – 1783) & Elizabeth Ann Beynon (1705 – 1793)

It is widely accepted that Walter Anthony married Elizabeth Ann Beynon on 10 Jul 1730. The marriage is said by some researchers to have taken place in Llandefeilog but I can find no reference to it in the register for that parish. Let us accept that the marriage did in fact take place.

We then need to find a birth for Walter Anthony: Something no researcher has as yet succeeded in doing.

Instead it is widely speculated, including by a genealogist working for the BBC Wales "Coming Home" program, that Walter was born under another name and changed it to benefit from the terms of the will left by his wife's father. It seems perfectly clear that the BBC genealogist saw the marriage record in question. The program transcript is full of circumstantial detail that would only come from having sight of the record: That it was in latin; that it occurred on a certain day and that the couple had paid a fee of 7 shillings and 4 pence.

Elizabeth Ann was reputedly the daughter of John Beynon, who probably died in 1729 in Llandefeilog.

His widely quoted will, of which I have not located primary evidence, read:

"I give and bequeath unto my daughter Elizabeth one-third of my goods and chattels, provided she marries Thomas William Rhydderch. If not, I name, constitute and appoint my daughters Elizabeth and Anne to be my joint executors to this, my last will and testament."

This is interpreted to mean that, if Elizabeth married Thomas William Rhydderch, she would receive one third of her father's estate, but that, if she did not, she would receive half of it.

The accepted wisdom is that Elizabeth and Thomas William Rhydderch were determined to marry and that Thomas, to take advantage of the provisions of his future wife's father's will, changed his name before he married.

Thus Thomas William Rhydderch became Walter Anthony; duly married Elizabeth, and presumably inherited half of John Beynon's estate. This same man is assumed to be the Thomas son of William Rhydderch whose baptism is recorded above.

This may well be what happened, and for the purposes of the Anthony family tree I have assumed it to be true but we need to look at it critically and we should be aware that there is at least one other alternative.

Essentially, the above story requires us to accept that Thomas William Rhydderch and Elizabeth successfully subverted John Beynon's wishes in order to inherit. I'm not familiar with 18th century Welsh inheritance law, however we ought to assume that John Beynon's Will was in the hands of executors. Would they have accepted the change of name as meeting the terms of the Will? Further, the parishes around Kidwelly were small intimate places. Everyone knew everyone else. Would the clergyman who performed the 1730 marriage have connived in a marriage of a man using the name of Walter Anthony who he knew perfectly well to be Thomas William Rhydderch? A change of name to benefit from the terms of a will was a widely accepted practice, but it usually took place so that a childless testator could perpetuate his or her name. In other words the change of name was undertaken at the request of the testator – not to circumvent their expressed wish. We also need to wonder why Thomas William changed not only his surname but also his given names. Thomas William Rhydderch could have benefited from the will by becoming Thomas William Anthony or any other surname. He didn't need new given names. And why chose "Anthony" as a family name? There was already a local family by that name. That family had already used the name Walter at least once. Why create confusion when there was no need? We also need to wonder what John Beynon's estate was worth. Elizabeth stood to inherit two sixths of it in any event and three sixths if she did not marry Thomas William. How valuable would the estate have needed to be in order for one sixth of it to justify all the nuisance and subterfuge of the name change?

For the purposes of this tree I have assumed that the traditional story is true, that is to say that Thomas William Rhydderch changed his name to Walter Anthony, but we have to recognise that it is also perfectly possible, and one might even say more probable, that Elizabeth abandoned her aim to marry Thomas William Rhydderch and instead married another man altogether.

If that was in fact the case why can we not find a birth record for Walter Anthony? Probably because he was baptised before the start of the surviving records. Walter was said to have married in Llandefeilog. Let's guess that he was born in the same parish. The birth records for Llandefeilog started in 1695. If Walter was older than 35 when he married then his birth would have occurred before the start of the surviving record.

The Llandefeilog records contain a number of references to the family name Anthony prior to the marriage that is said to have occurred in 1730:

1695	Burial	Edward Anthony
1705	Burial	Martha Anthony
1706	Baptism	Margaret daughter of Richard Anthony
1709	Baptism	John son of Richard Anthony
1714	Marriage	David Anthony & Jennett David
1715	Baptism	Mary daughter of Richard Anthony
		Margaret daughter of Walter Anthony
	Marriage	David Anthony & Mary Jenkin
1716	Baptism	John son of David Anthony
1717	Baptism	Choice daughter of David Anthony
		Seth son of Richard Anthony
1719	Marriage	Grif Francis and Anne Anthony
1720	Baptism	Ann daughter of Richard Anthony
	Marriage	Richard Beynon & Cath Anthony
1721	Baptism	Jane daughter of Mary Anthony
1722	Baptism	Ann daughter of Richard Anthony
	Burial	Jane Anthony
1724	Marriage	William Anthony & Mary William
1727	Baptism	Thomas son of William Anthony
	Burial	Thomas William Anthony
1729	Marriage	John Thomas & Elizabeth Anthony

Thus if we were to be inclined to dismiss the idea that Thomas William Rhydderch changed his name to Walter Anthony, and instead were to take the more straightforward view that the man who married Elizabeth Beynon was both born and married under the name Walter Anthony, we would have the additional comfort:

- That there was a local family named Anthony from which he might have come
- That the family in question had used the name Walter before
- And that there was at least one other marriage between the Anthony and Beynon families.

Short of DNA evidence we will never know which story is correct.

What is clear is that Elizabeth Beynon came from an ancient family whose genealogy can be traced back to King Edward I of England.



Right: Arms of King Edward I

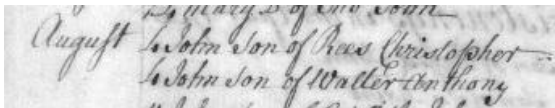
Walter and Elizabeth had the following children:

- John Anthony born 1734, who later married Margaret Mansel
- Daniel Anthony born 1737, who later married Margaret E Richard
- Mary Anthony born 1739
- Samuel Anthony born 1740, who later married Elizabeth Richards
- Elizabeth Anthony born 1743, who later married James Wilkins
- Edward Anthony born 1747, who later married Elizabeth Davies.

John Anthony (1734 – 1814) & Margaret Davies (1739 – 1819)

John was baptised in Llandefaelog on August 4 1734.

Below: Extract from the Llandefaelog parish record.
Right: St Maelog Church, Llandefaelog



In 1768 John married Margaret Davies in the adjoining parish of Kidwelly on November 11. Margaret's maiden name was Mansel and she was probably a relative of John's mother, Elizabeth Beynon. She was a descendent of the family of Henry Morgan, pirate, privateer, naval officer and Governor of Jamaica.

Left: St Mary, Kidwelly

John and Margaret had the following children:

Walter Anthony born 1769 in Llandefaelog
John Anthony born 1770 in Llandefaelog, who died young in 1786
Margaret Anthony born 1772 in Llandefaelog
Edward Anthony born 1773 in Llandefaelog
Samuel Anthony born 1775 in Llandefaelog
Daniel Anthony born 1777 in Kidwelly, who died as an infant in 1779
Mary Anthony born 1782 in Kidwelly
Catherine Anthony born 1783 in Kidwelly

It is clear from the 1806 Will of one of these children, namely Walter Anthony, that his mother Margaret and three siblings namely Samuel, Margaret and Catherine, all survived him. From this we can deduce that Walter's father had died before 1806 as had Walter's siblings John, Edward, Daniel & Mary. There are fairly clear death records for John and Daniel but the fates of Edward and Mary are less clear. We can only guess, based on the 1806 Will, that these two siblings had died before 1806.

Most researchers conclude that John Anthony (born 1734) ie Walter's father, died in 1814. Based on the 1806 Will this date must be in doubt. On the basis that John was alive in 1783 when his youngest child was born, and dead by 1806, there are two other Kidwelly burial records that might apply:

A Feb 1785 burial related to John the son of John and thus presumably relates to John born 1770, that is to say Walter's sibling, not his father.

That leaves us with a burial on May 3 1793 at Kidwelly for a John Anthony, who I suspect was Walter's father.

Walter himself led an interesting life. At the time of his death in 1806 he was serving as Master of HMS Tremendous, flagship of a British squadron in the Indian Ocean. The rank of Master was, at the time, the senior Warrant Officer, responsible for navigation. Broadly, the responsibilities of the senior officers of a Royal Navy vessel involved a Captain, in overall command; a First Lieutenant, making the ship work efficiently so that the Captain's orders could be carried out; and the Master, responsible to place the ship where the Captain wished her to be.

The Captain and First Lieutenant were commissioned officers, whereas the Master was appointed by warrant. There was an implication that the former were gentlemen while the Master was not necessarily such.

In a campaign, on which Patrick O'Brian drew heavily for his novel *The Mauritius Command*, HMS Tremendous was in the Indian Ocean from 1796 to 1806 and fought a series of actions against French ships, culminating in an action against the *Cannonière* in 1806, depicted below.



In this picture the *Tremendous* (at centre), engages the *Cannonière* (close hauled at left) while the East Indiaman *Charlton* (hove to at right) fires a broadside.

Walter died in 1806 and was buried at sea near what is now Indonesia. His Will is worth quoting in full:

In the Name of God Amen

I Walter Anthony Master of his Majesty Ship Tremendous [born] on 8.23.1769 not being in bodily health but of sound and disposing Mind and ... Memory and considering the perils and dangers of the seas and other uncertainties of this transitory Life do for avoiding controversies after my [demise] make publish and declare this my last Will and Testament in manner following that is to say ffirst [sic] I commend my Soul to god that gave it and my body I commit to the Earth or Sea as it shall please God to order and as for and concerning all my worldly Estate I give bequeath and dispose thereof as followeth that is to say all such wages I [own] and Sums of Money Lands Tenements Goods Chattels and Estate whatsoever as shall be owing or belonging unto me at the time of my death I do give devise and bequeath the same unto my Mother Mrs Margaret Anthony, my Brother Mr Samuel Anthony, my sisters Margaret Anthony and Catherine Anthony all residing in Kidwelly C^o of Carmarthen in South Wales to be equally divided among them or their survivors and I do hereby ... and appoint my ... Mr Samuel Anthony of ... Kidwelly aforesaid ffarmer [sic] and Mr Evan Evans of Kidwelly aforesaid Merchant Executors of this my last Will and Testament hereby revoking all former and ... Wills Testaments and deeds of Gift by me at any time heretofore made and I so ordain and ... ratify these presents to stand and be for and as my only last Will and Testament In Witness whereof

to this my said Will I leave out my [hand] and Seal the nineteenth day of March in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Six and in the forty sixth year of the reign of his Majesty King George the Third over Great Britain

W A Anthony

Signed sealed published and declared in the presence of Jn^o Osborn Captain, D Rowland Surgeon

Four palampors¹, and a basket of [necklaces] to be given to Mrs Wilkins and her daughters to be delivered into the care of Mr [Isaac]. 3 Gold ... which I desire to be given to my servant David Smith and ... for 2 new ... which I had made for him at Bombay. Two palampors to be given into the care of John Morris for to take home to my aunt of [Penlan]. I give to John Morris my metal Watch as a Mark of my great ... respect for him.

W A Anthony

Witness present D Rowland Surgeon, R V Hoare ... to Mr S.

Tremendous

This Will was proved at London with a codicil the fifteenth day of November in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Six, before the Right Honourable Sir William doctor of Laws Master Keeper or Commissary of the prerogative Court of Canterbury lawfully constituted by the Oath of Samuel Anthony one of the Executors named in the said Will to ... administration was granted he having been first sworn by Commission duly to administer power reserved of making the like Grant to Evan Evans the other Executor named in the said Will ... he shall apply for the same

Given the prizes taken by the Indian Ocean squadron, we can guess that Walter's Estate was fairly substantial as a result of the prize money due to him.

Samuel Anthony (1775 – 1848) & Elizabeth Griffiths (1779 – 1876)

Samuel was the fifth child of John Anthony and Margaret Davies and had been baptised in June 1775 at Kidwelly. In 1806 he married Elizabeth Griffiths at Llandefaelog. The couple had the following children:

Walter born 1806 at Kidwelly, who later married Mary Gravel

Samuel born 1808 at Kidwelly, who later married Mary Griffiths

John born 1813 at Kidwelly, who later married Mary Rees

Margaret born 1815 at Kidwelly, who later married Walter Williams

David born 1817 at Kidwelly, who later married Hannah Griffiths and then Frances Davies

Daniel born 1820 at Kidwelly, who never married

Elizabeth born 1827 at Kidwelly

Samuel also fathered an illegitimate daughter named Frances in 1803 at Kidwelly.

It is curious that there are two baptism records for Daniel, in 1820 and 1825, both in Kidwelly and both showing Samuel and Elizabeth as the parents.

The later life of all of Samuel's children can be tracked in detail with the exception of Elizabeth. Her 1827 baptism is perfectly clear but by the time of the 1841 census she is missing from the household, which instead includes a 15 year old female named Mary. Were these two references to the same person? There is no clear subsequent record under either name and thus we don't know what became of her (or them if in fact they were two separate people).

At the time of the birth of Walter, Samuel and John (1813, 1815 and 1817 respectively) Samuel was farming at "Arlas". This is presumably "Arles", shown on the outskirts of Kidwelly on the 1888 OS Map, however the difficulty with identifying Samuel's property specifically is that there are two farms in the vicinity: Upper and Lower Arles and we have no means of establishing which was occupied by Samuel.

¹ A palampore was a type of hand painted and dyed bed cover made for export in India in the 18th and early 19th centuries

By 1820 he was living at Bower St, Kidwelly, still occupied as a farmer. Then in 1825 and 1827 he appears as a farmer at Penlan, presumably Pen-lan-isaf on the OS Map.

By the time of the 1841 census he had moved a few miles south to Pembury and was farming at Pwll-y-Coed.



Pen-lan-isaf, Upper and Lower Arles on the 1888 OS Map. Kidwelly at bottom right

David Anthony (1817 – 1907) & Frances Davies (1846 – 1898)

David was born at Arles near Kidwelly in 1817 and was still in his father's household at Pembury near Kidwelly in 1841. In 1849 he married Hannah Griffiths at St Mary's Kidwelly and by 1851 was farming 80 acres of land in the parish of Llangendeirne.

He was still there in 1861 but by 1871 had moved to the parish of Kidwelly and was farming 40 acres at Ty-côch. The building that was the farmhouse at Ty-côch is still standing. Most if not all of the structure is probably much as David knew it.

Hannah died in 1874 and for several years David brought up his younger children on his own before he remarried in 1879 at the age of 61. His second wife, Frances Davies, was considerably younger. Born in 1846, she was 32 when she married David.

David and Frances produced a second family at Bryn Morfa just south of Ty-côch, on the other side of the railway.

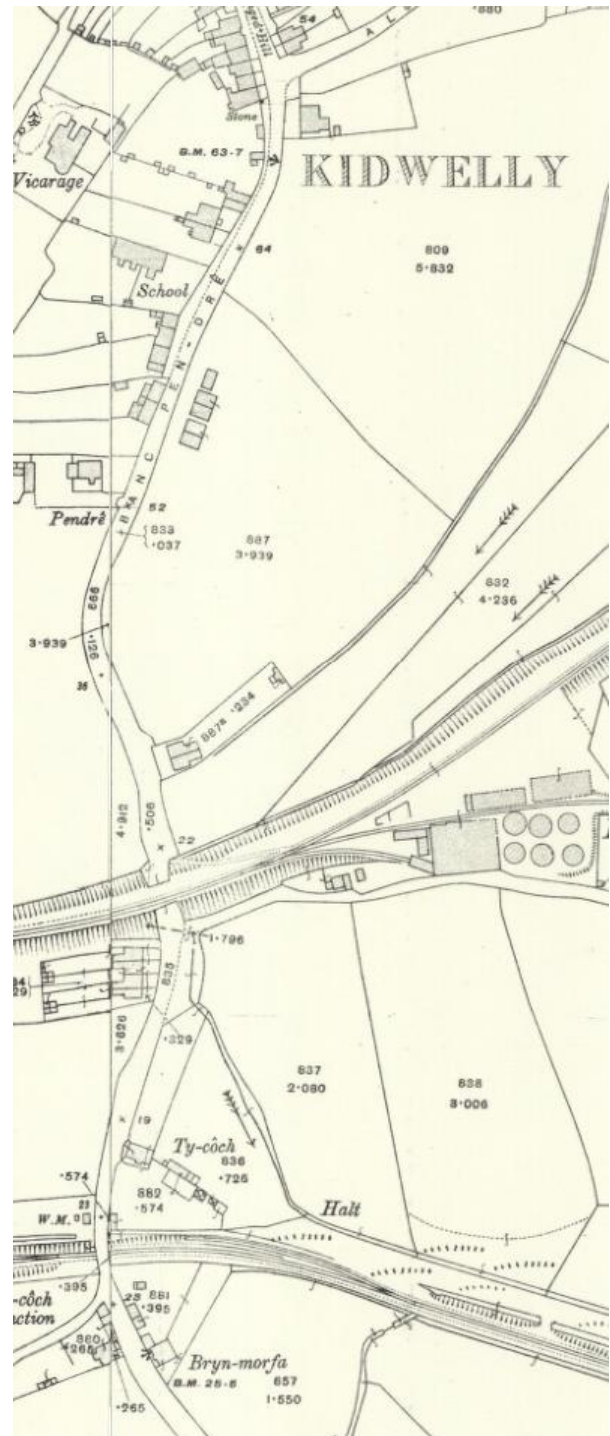
The family was still at Bryn Morfa in 1891 and 1901 and David died in Kidwelly at the age of 89 in 1907.

David and Hannah had six children:

- John Gwendraeth born 1850
- Elizabeth born 1851
- Mary born 1854
- Margaret born 1857
- Charlotte born 1860
- David born 1864

David and Frances then had four more children:

- Hannah born 1880
- Thomas born 1883
- Martha Mary born 1886
- Samuel born 1889





Left: David Anthony as an elderly man
Above: Ty-côch today

David's son John Gwendraeth (born 1850) went into the drapery business in Kidwelly and became prominent in local politics as a Liberal. He was elected several times to the town council and served as mayor of Kidwelly 1900 – 1902. In that capacity he attended the Coronation of King Edward VII in 1902.

FORMER MAYOR OF KIDWELLY
 The death occurred at his residence, Plasbach, Kidwelly, on Tuesday morning of Mr. John Gwendraeth Anthony, at the age of 71 years. He was a native of the town, being the eldest son of the late Mr. and Mrs. David Anthony, Brynmorfa.
 Mr. Anthony was a member of the first town council under the new régime, and sat on that body for the period of a quarter of a century. He was mayor of the town in 1900-1 and 1901-2, and in the latter year attended the Coronation of the late King Edward VII. in Westminster Abbey. During the last twelve years of his municipal life he was an alderman, retiring about fifteen years ago. He was senior deacon and precentor of Morfa Calvinistic Methodist Church. He was also an ex-chairman of the Carmarthenshire Monthly Meeting of the Calvinistic Methodists, a member of the Board of Managers of the Kidwelly Group of Council Schools, and treasurer of the Kidwelly Auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society.
 In his early days Mr. Anthony was a keen elateddofwr, and conducted many victorious choirs, while as "Alaw Gwendraeth" he had composed several anthems and hymn-tunes. At one time he represented the town council on the Court of Governors of Aberystwyth University College. The funeral will take place at St. Mary's Parish Church at three p.m. on Saturday.
 The late Mr. Anthony was the father of Capt. J. B. Anthony, M.C., M.A., registrar of the University of Wales. He is survived also by Mr. W. Ewart Anthony, Holloway, Kidwelly; Dr. B. H. Anthony, London; Mr. J. Curwen Anthony, and Miss Marion Anthony, Plasbach, Kidwelly, sons and daughter.



Above: John Gwendraeth Anthony, mayor of Kidwelly
Left: J G Anthony obituary Western Mail 14 Dec 1921

Thomas Anthony (1883 – 1939) & Gladys Mary Jones (1890 – 1960)

When Thomas left Wales in about 1910 when he was 27, he was taking part in an exodus that was beginning to disperse the Anthony family away from Kidwelly for the first time² in many generations - if not ever.

His oldest half-brother John Gwendraeth was 60 years old and the retired mayor of Kidwelly. He was still in Kidwelly running his grocery and drapers business. Thomas's half-sister Elizabeth, with her husband John Anthony (presumably a cousin), was farming at Llandefeilog, 4 miles out of Kidwelly. Another half-sister, 54 year old Margaret, was farming at Kidwelly with her husband William Jenkins. Charlotte, his 50 year old half-sister, was the widow of a coal merchant and living at Llandaff outside Cardiff. A second half-brother David was the 46 year old station master at the Great Western Railway station at Gowerton near Swansea.

Thomas's sister Hannah (29) was living with their half-brother John Gwendraeth in Kidwelly. His sister Martha Mary was boarding in Swansea and apparently following Thomas's footsteps in the drapery business.

Youngest brother Samuel had made the largest step. By 1911 he was farming on the Great Plains at Moosejaw, Saskatchewan, 4000 miles from Kidwelly.

He had arrived in Canada on the SS Dominion in 1908 and established himself in Moosejaw. In early 1920 he travelled back to Kidwelly to marry Mary Margaret Phillips and returned with her to Saskatchewan where they raised a family, branches of which are extant today.



SS Dominion

In the meantime Thomas married Gladys Mary Jones at Islington in 1912 and found work at Selfridges in London. By about 1922 he was the company's Merchandise Manager and, within a couple of years had moved to Harrod's in Knightsbridge, receiving a seat on the Board there in 1927.

Thomas and Gladys had the following children:

Gwendraeth Hannah in 1913
Beryl in 1915
Frances Megan in 1916
David Gordon in 1919

² Walter Anthony, the RN Warrant officer excepted

Thomas Edward in 1922
Mary C in 1927
John Richard in 1929

Thomas died relatively young, at the age of only 56, in 1939

[redacted] & [redacted]

In this series of notes I am deliberately stopping when I reach living people or people within living memory. However, and while it is not directly relevant to the Anthony story, it is worth inserting a paragraph about the Stuart family from which [redacted] came.

The family from which [redacted] was descended can be traced back to 10th century Brittany. Their family history includes a WW2 MI6 officer; a probable lover of Eva Peron; the Counts of Dol; a Bishop; the founder of the Stuart Royal family; a Saint of the Catholic Church and an abbey in Herefordshire, the upkeep of which was made the responsibility of the descendants of William Fitzallan – which includes [redacted] – by King Henry II in about 1163 ... but that is a story for another day.

The Ford Family

The Early Generations

For the earliest history of the Ford family we are dependent on Burke's Landed Gentry.

First published in 1833, Burke's expressed intention was to create *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland, enjoying Territorial Possessions or High Official Rank, but uninvested with Heritable Honours*. For many families, including the Fords, Burke's is the only extant account of family history before the commencement of surviving parish records.

Since those surviving parish records for the parish of Norton le Moors outside Stoke on Trent do not start until 1575 and since the Ford family is traced in Burke's back to the reign of Richard II (1377-1399), there is something close to 200 years of history in Burke's that we cannot corroborate.

How much credence should we place on this? Burke's is not free from error. It has been suggested that if everyone listed in Burke's as having come over with William the Conqueror did in fact do so then William would have had an army of perhaps 200,000 and not the 12,000 that he had in reality.

That said, in the case of the Fords, wherever corroboration of Burke's account is available, with minor exceptions it tracks very well. It is therefore reasonable to give the Burke's account a good deal of credence, but we should stop short of treating it as proven fact.

Burke's records that the Ford family had been established at Ford Green in Norton le Moors as far back as the 12th century. The earliest generations of the family as listed in Burke's are:

Richard del Forde (living in the time of Richard II) who had a son
William Ford (whose dates are suggested by some researchers – without any attributed source – as 1440 – 1478, both dates seeming somewhat late), who had a son
John Ford (whose dates are suggested by some researchers – without any attributed source – as 1464 – 1513), who had a son
Hugh Ford who, in the time of Henry VII (1485-1509), settled his estates on his grandson. He is said to have died in 1513 and had a son
Richard Ford, said to have died 1508 and certainly before his father, who had a son
Hugh Ford, alive in the time of Henry VII, who had a son
William Ford, said to have been living in 1521, who had a son
Hugh Ford, said to have been living in 1538 and 1564 and who died in the parish of Norton le Moors in May 1571 (this death being the first point for which we have independent corroboration of Burke's account), who had a son
William Ford.

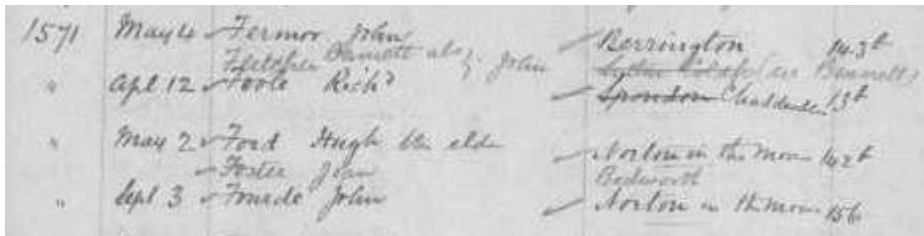


Left: The Arms of Ford of Ford Green, as described in Burke's Landed Gentry: *Per fess, or and ermine, a lion rampant azure*

William Ford (1532 – 1612) & Alice Hurlbutt (1548 – 1609)

It is said that William was born in 1532 or 1544 and that he married Alice Harblutt (or Hurlbutt) in 1569. Their eldest son Hugh was born, presumably before 1571.

We can make this assertion since when William Ford's father Hugh died in 1571, the record of his death in *Staffordshire, dioceses of Lichfield & Coventry wills and probate 1521-1860* lists him as Hugh Ford the elder, implying that the grandson was already alive.



The parish records for Norton le Moors start in 1575 and thereafter the baptism of several children of Gulielmi (William) and Alicia (Alice) is recorded in that parish:

Richardus (Richard) on 21 Jan 1579 (1580 new style), who later probably married Elizabeth Sherrat
Johes (John) on 26 May 1582, who later probably married Margaret Wead
Thomas on 23 Mar 1585 (1586 new style), who later probably married Anne Barlow
Andrew on 30 Nov 1588

Note that in England until 1752 the New Year was counted as starting on Lady Day (March 25) and followed the Julian calendar. After 1752 the New Year started on January 1 and followed the Gregorian calendar. In the 16th century January was the 10th month of the year, not the first. Thus for example Richard's baptism recorded as occurring on 21 Jan 1579, occurred early in what we now count as 1580. The switch from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar produced a shift of 10 days from the old to the new calendar. Thus the day recorded at the time as 21 Jan 1579 under the Julian calendar, is now counted as 1 Feb 1580 under the Gregorian calendar.

Alice is said to have died in 1609 but I can find no record to support this. It seems more probable that she died in 1612 and was buried on 7 Apr 1612. Similarly William is reported by many researchers to have been buried in August 1612 but the only record I can find suggests burial on 15 December.

Hugh Fforde (1572 – 1638) & Margery Dickenson (1589 – 1634)

In 1604 Hugh married Margery Dickenson of "Folker" (now Upper and Lower Foker) just north of Leek. It was some time before they produced an heir, William, baptised in Norton-le-Moors on 18 May 1616.

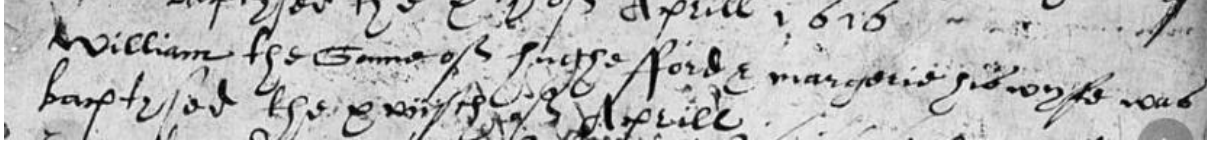
In 1624 Hugh commissioned the building of Ford Green Hall, probably continuing the redevelopment by his father of an existing home already on the site. We are fortunate that Ford Green Hall still stands – now the oldest building in the Stoke-on-Trent area and an award-winning museum.

Hugh is said to have been a wealthy yeoman farmer owning 36 acres of land.



William Fforde (1616 – 1681) & Ellen Rowley (1618 – 1696)

William was baptised in the parish of Norton-le-Moors in 1616.



He married Ellen Rowley, probably about 1637, although I've not been able to find a marriage record.

The couple had seven children:

Margerey born 1638 who may have later married Thomas Allen

Hugh born 1642 who later married Ellen Mellor

William born 1645 who later married Mary Edge and became vicar of Eccleshall

Andrew born 1648 who later married Sarah Meare and founded the Fords of Abbeyfield in Cheshire

Thomas born 1651

Ellen born 1653

James born 1656

William and Ellen were at Ford Green Hall through the English Civil War (1642-51) and may have held Royalist sympathies. The Sneyd family of Keele Hall, another royalist family, are said to have taken refuge at Ford Green Hall when their home was attacked by Parliamentary forces.

Hugh Fforde (1642 – 1713) & Ellen Mellor (1647 – 1723)

Hugh was baptised in the Church of England on 15 Apr 1642 and in 1676 he married Ellen Mellor, daughter of Robert Mellor, a prominent Quaker living in the parish of Ipstones.

There is an interesting coincidence here. The parish of Ipstones was small – about 2 miles by 2 miles – and we can reasonably guess that all of the people who lived there knew each other. At the same time that Ellen was growing up in Ipstones the parish was also home to a young man, probably a year older than Helen. His name was Joshua Wardle and some 350 years later he would become [redacted]'s 8th maternal great-grandfather, while Ellen would become [redacted]'s 8th paternal great-grandmother.

It is safe to conclude from his marriage record that Hugh had become a Quaker prior to 1676 and certainly his children's subsequent births were registered in the Quaker records.

This is not the place for a history of the Quaker movement³ but it is important at least to introduce the subject.

The middle years of the 17th century were extremely unsettled in England, and the times gave rise to a number of sects, some apocalyptic, some millennial, all suspicious of established political and religious authority and all espousing a more direct relationship with God.

George Fox, the founder of Quakerism, came first to Staffordshire in 1651. He had experienced a religious conversion at the age of 19 in 1643 and by 1646 had begun to preach. Many of the puritan sects that emerged in the 17th century were distrustful of established church authority, which they saw as a barrier between man and God, who could, indeed should, be found in the Scriptures without the

³ The best introduction that I have found to Quakerism in Staffordshire is *The Early Quaker Movement in Staffordshire 1651-1743: From Open Fellowship to Closed Sect* by Denis Stuart, a university thesis on line at <https://ira.le.ac.uk/bitstream/2381/31048/1/U144319.pdf> on which these notes lean heavily

intervention of bishops, priests, vestments, liturgies and rituals and certainly without the tithes levied by the established church. For many puritan groups the authority of the Scriptures was absolute: Fox however went further, and believed that men could personally experience a divine light from God. Additionally, for Fox, the road to salvation required not merely profession of a belief but the observation in daily life of its precepts.

Fox's visit to Staffordshire in 1651 was followed by other itinerant Quaker preachers in 1653/4 and the new movement rapidly attracted converts. Its success also attracted the attention of the authorities and Quaker preachers were routinely imprisoned for their beliefs. Their refusal to practice their beliefs in private and their distinctive dress and behaviour made them obvious and easily accessible targets. Their practice of interrupting Church of England services to denounce the established church and to preach their own beliefs placed them in head on conflict with the authorities.

The Quaker insistence on plain dress clearly marked them as distinct from the population as a whole. In Fox's words:

Friends, keep out of the vain fashions of the world; let not your eyes, minds, and spirits run after every fashion (in attire) of the nations; for that will lead you from the solid life into unity with that spirit that leads to follow the fashions of the nations, after every fashion of apparel that gets up: but mind that which is sober and modest, and keep to your plain fashions, that you may judge the world's vanity and spirit, in its vain fashions, and show a constant spirit in the truth and plainness

Right: An early 18th century Quaker meeting in which their plain dress is apparent



A military rising in London in 1661 by the Fifth Monarchy Men, even though Fox was quick to dissociate himself and the Quakers from that movement, nevertheless resulted in many Quakers being imprisoned. A flood of legislation followed aimed at dissenters of all sorts, including Quakers.

By 1663, when Fox again visited Staffordshire, a number of Quaker communities had become well established, including several strongholds in the Staffordshire Moorlands and in the parish of Ipstones in particular. There were perhaps 150 Quaker families in Staffordshire at this time. A 1666 analysis of hearth tax returns reveals 32 Quaker households in Totmonslow Hundred (basically the North East section of the county including the parish of Ipstones) including Robert Mellor (Ellen's father) and Thomas Sherratt, who was probably a relation by marriage of the Fords. By 1669 Quaker meetings were occurring regularly at ten places in the county, including at Robert Mellor's home in Ipstones.

It seems fair to state that, at the local level, Quakers demonstrated themselves to be good, sober and honest neighbours, and that, as a result, their quirks of belief, behaviour, dress and speech were readily tolerated by the community, if not by the authorities.

A practice of "distrain" – essentially confiscation of property to meet unpaid tithes – was routinely used by the Courts against Quakers and Hugh Ford himself fell victim to this twice between 1690 and 1699 and a further seven times in the following decade.

	£	s	d
Four in calve Heifers	14:	0:	0
Eight twinters ⁵	18:	0:	0
Nine Calves	9:	0:	0
Hay & Corn at y ^e Hollowall field Barn	7:	0:	0
Twelve Cows at ye Smallthorn Barn	46:	0:	0
One two year old Coult	4:	5:	0
One weaned foale	2:	5:	0
Hay at Smallthorn Barn	5:	0:	0
Corn at y ^e Smallthorn Barn	7:	10:	0
Corn in y ^e Barn at Forde Green	7:	10:	0
Hay in y ^e Barn at Ford Green & Upon ye Lofts	6:	0:	0
Four Oxen	18:	0:	0
Two twinter Bullocks	6:	0:	0
One Barren heifer	3:	10:	0
Two cows at Ford Green	7:	0:	0
One fat Ox	8:	0:	0
One Gray Mare	6:	10:	0
One Bay Mare	3:	10:	0
One White Mare	3:	0:	0
Two Pigs	1:	10:	0
The Wean & two tumbrils ⁶	5:	10:	0
Three ploughs two old weans bodys five Lathers [sic] & four Harrows	1:	10:	0
One Slead plough timber & Wheel timber & Boards Seen & Unseen	2:	10:	0
All Saddles & horse gears of what sort soever	1:	0:	0
All Yokes & gears belonging to Oxen	1:	5:	0
Three Axes two Shoes two forks two Croes of Iron broom hooks	0:	11:	0
Rakes & ... Syths cutting knives Wean Rope	0:	10:	0
Cheese	22:	10:	0
The Malt Mill Cheese press & y ^e Wooden wair in y ^e Backhouse	2:	10:	0
Cheese press & furnace & four pots w th some other small Goods ith little kitchin	3:	5:	0
The Clock & ye table ith house place	2:	5:	0
Chairs Iron Broaches & y ^e Rest of y ^e Goods in y ^e house place	2:	10:	0
One bed in the parlour & y ^e furniture thereto	3:	10:	0
One table two cubboards & y ^e Chairs in y ^e parlour	3:	10:	0
Two turnils in the Nearer Buttery & ye other goods therein	1:	2:	0
Two Barrels & a ... & y ^e other Goods in y ^e farther Buttery	1:	0:	0
Barrels in y ^e ... & y ^e other Goods therein	0:	15:	0
One Bed in the Buttery Chamber & y ^e furniture thereto	3:	15:	0
One Chest one cupboard & Six Chairs in y ^e Buttery Chamber	3:	0:	0
Three beds in y ^e Chamber over y ^e house	8:	0:	0
One hanging press a Chest & a Side Saddle	2:	0:	0
One Brass pan a Coffe & a box & five Chairs & a Close Stool	1:	0:	0
Three Beds in y ^e Parlour Chamber	9:	0:	0
One press one Coffe & two Brass pans & y ^e other Goods ith parlour Chamber	4:	5:	0
One little Table one trunk one barrel & a looking glass ith Porch Chamber	0:	18:	0
Four Baskets one Sive & a ... a little Desk * some London wair & Glass's	0:	8:	0
Six Silver Spoons	3:	0:	0
Twelve Puter Dishes w th some more small puter	3:	12:	0
One Bed & an Old Ark in ye Chamber over ye Stable	1:	0:	0
One Bed in y ^e Cockloft near to y ^e door & a Cradle & an Old Ark w th out a lid & an Old Ark w ^{ch} hath a lid	1:	6:	6
One pair of Bed Stocks ith further End of y ^e Cockloft & two great wheels & two little wheels & a Counting Reil & ye other goods therein	3:	0:	0
One Ark in y ^e further Cockloft & two Stone of Wool	1:	14:	0
One hamper & a brass pot & a pair of Stockcardes & the other goods In y ^e farther Cockloft	1:	10:	0
Woollen Cloth a little piece of tick & a piece of flannel	2:	10:	0
Three Dozen of ... of hemp, woollen & linen yarn	1:	0:	0
Thirteen pair of Sheets	3:	0:	0
Three Dozen & a half of Napkins ...table clothes One Dozen of pillow bears	3:	0:	0

⁵ A beast that has lived through two winters

⁶ Wean: presumably Wain ie a four wheeled farm wagon. Tumbriil: Typically a two wheeled cart

twenty Corn sacks & two Window Sheets	2:10: 0
two Pillions	0: 6: 0
Books in his Closet & in his keeping	2: 0: 0
Money owing to y ^e said Deceased Upon a Chattel mortgage Lease	100: 0: 0
Debts good & bad owing to the Deceas'd	58:10: 0
The wearing Apparel of y ^e Deceased & y ^e Money in his purse	10: 0: 0
All other goods & things Unprized whether seen or unseen	2: 0: 0
The Total is	471: 6: 4

Josiah Ford (1694 – 1731) & Ann England (b 1704)

In 1713 Josiah's father died and Josiah inherited an equal share with his brother Isaac in the property called Heath House in the parish of Horton. The Will provided that if either Isaac or Josiah should die before the age of twenty one then the share of that deceased brother would go to the remaining children (other than the eldest – William). In fact Isaac died childless in 1722 when Josiah was twenty two. Josiah also inherited a specific bequest of eighty five pounds as well as an equal share in any balance of Hugh's estate after payment of expenses and debts and the provision of the specific bequests.

The will is worth quoting verbatim:

M^d That I Hugh Fforde of Fford greene in the parish of Norton on y^e Moors In this County of Stafforde ... Doe make this my last Will & Testam^t in Manner & forme following Whereas I heretofore purchased a certain Messuage & Certain Copyhold & freehold Lands & Tenements ^{^ called Heath house} lying & being within the Parish or Manour of Horton In the County of Stafforde of & from ^{^ one} John Heath The Copyhold Containing by Estimation fifteen Customary Acres or thereabout And all Tythes Their Upon renewing or Ariseing of all which either I or Some other Person or persons In trust for me now Stand Seized Now I do give & devise the Said Messuage Lands Tenements & Tythes and all my Equitable right & Tythe to The same Unto my two Sons Isaack Fforde & Josiah Fforde their Heirs & Assigns For ever to be equally Divided betwixt them provided always and it is my Will that if My Said Son Isaack Fforde ^{^ shall} dye Without Issue before the Said Josiah Shall or may attain y^e Age of twenty one years that then his Moiety of y^e Said Premises shall go to & be enjoyed by my Sons & Daughter Hugh Fforde John Fforde & Elizabeth Fforde their Heirs & Assigns to be Equally Divided amongst Them and if the Said Josiah Fforde Shall dye without Issue before he Shall Or may attain the Age of twenty one years that then his Moiety of y^e Said p^{re}mis^s Shall go to & be Enjoyed by My Said Sons & Daughter Hugh Forde John Forde & Elizabeth Forde their Heirs & Assigns to be Equally Divided amongst them Also I give the Several Legacies following viz To my Son Josiah Forde Eighty Five pounds to be paid to him when he shall attain y^e Age of twenty One years but Interest in the mean time after five pounds per Cent per Annum to be paid to him for his Maintenance To my Daughter Elizabeth One Hundred & Seventy pounds to be paid within one year after my Decease To my Son Hugh Fforde fifty pounds To my Loveing Wife all my Household Goods & to My Son William ^{^ fforde} all such goods as were given to me by y^e Will Of my Deceased ffather and twenty Shillings in Money Also & Whereas Certain Legacies amounting in the Whole to one Hundred pounds were Respectively given by my ffather William Fforde my Mother and my Sister Ellin Fforde for y^e life of y^e poor of y^e parish of Norton on y^e Moors & y^e Maintenance of a school Master there so herewith I remain Chargeable I do hereby appoint that a certain Sume of one hundred pounds Secured to me by a Mortgage of certain Lands & Tenem^ts in the parish or Manour of Ipstones In the county of Stafforde made by John Taylor y^e ffather & John Taylor the Son and the Interest thei^rof Shall be Applied for y^e Answering & Making good y^e Legacies aforesaid & All y^e Rest of my goods Chattels and personal Estate after my debts Legacies & funeral Expences are paid and Discharged I give to my younger Children to be Equally Divided amongst them Lastly I make & constitute my two Sons Hugh Fforde & John forde Executors of this my Will In Wittness whereof I the said Hugh Fforde The Testator have hereunto put my hand & Seal the twentieth day Of December in ye Eleventh Year of ye Raigne of Our Sovereigne Lady Queen Ann over great Brittain^e ye Anno Dom 1712



There is still a building called Heath House – pictured at left. It is hard to estimate how much, if any, of this building was as Josiah knew it.

In 1725 Josiah married Ann England. The Quaker Birth Marriage and Death Registers 1578-1837 contain the following entry:

1725 *The Certificates [referring] to Josiah Ford's and Ann England's marriage w^{ch} was at Tamworth The 20th of 2^{mo} 1725*

From Ann England's own hand

*These may Certifie whom it may concern, that [I Ann] one wth Fr^{d7} Josiah Fforde in Laying his Intentions of Marriage wth me before y^e ... meeting to wh^{ch} he belongs as witness my hand
Tamworth 27th 11^{mo} 1724-5*

Anne England

From Anne England's Trustees

*Whereas our Fr^d Jn^o England desired when hys daughter Ann marryed it should be wth our Consents whose names are hereunto subscribed, and our Frd Josiah Forde haveing acquainted us wth his Intention of marriage wth her and desired our Consents. Now these may certifie whom it may concern that we freely give our consents that our Fr^d Ann England should marry wth y^e affors^d Josiah Fforde
18th 11^{mo} 1724-5*

*Jn^o Stephenson
Dan^l Sutton
Nath Newton*

To Leek mo. Meeting from our mo. Meeting held at Hampton the 9th 12^{mo} 172⁴/₅

Dear Fr^{ds} These may certifie you that our F^{ds} Josiah Forde & Anne England laid before this meeting their intention of takeing each other in marriage: this being the first [time] of their Publication. We hope to take y^e necessary care belonging to us on y^r behalf being well satisfied wth y^e Certificate Received from you on y^e acc^t. Which wth Endeared love to you we Remain your F^{ds} & Bretheren.

Subscribed on behalf of our mo. Meeting by

*R^d Morris
Charles Osbourn
Jn^o Fowler*

Josiah and Ann had the following children, all the births being registered in the Quaker records:

John born 1726 who died as an infant

Isaac born 1728 who later married Elizabeth Rawlinson

Ann born 1730

Josiah died at the age of only 36 in 1833.

⁷ Presumably abbreviation for "Friend"

Isaac Ford (1728 – 1779) & Elizabeth Rawlinson (1736 – 1767)

When Isaac was born in 1728, the Fords had been in Staffordshire and specifically in the parishes north and north-west of Stoke on Trent for at least 400 years. Isaac was to change that.

On 5th June 1759 he married Elizabeth Rawlinson at Lancaster. This is one of the few occasions where the account in Burke's Landed Gentry is in error. Burke's gives a date of 1757 for the marriage but we have the original record which clearly relates to 1759. The Quaker marriage record names 29 witnesses.

Isaac Ford of Manchester, Son of Josiah Ford of Heathhouse, in the parish of ^{of Horton & County of Stafford} Heathhouse, in the parish of
Elizabeth Rawlinson, daughter of Tho: Hutton Rawlinson of Lancaster
and Mary his Wife, took each other in Marriage in
a public Meeting of Friends and others met together
in the Meeting house at Lancaster the 5th day of Sixth
Month / June / 1759 — in the presence of
Tho: Hutton Rawlinson, Mary Rawlinson, Eliz. Rawlinson
Abram Rawlinson, Sarah Rawlinson, Abigail Rawlinson
Charles Chorley, Lydia Rawlinson, Dorothy Rawlinson
Isaac Rawlinson, Mary Rawlinson, Mary Chorley
John Rawlinson, Lydia Lancaster, Obeah Hough
Tho: Dillworth, Ellin Rawlinson, Jane Routh
Abram Tiley, Sarah Dillworth, Judith Marsden
Tho: Kendall, Esther Dillworth, Sarah Taylor
John Dillworth, Lydia Dillworth, S. Harrison
Roger Hind, Cicely Dillworth, & many others 66

We can conclude that the wedding party was very one-sided. At least 18 of the witnesses were relatives of the bride including Thomas Hutton Rawlinson (the bride's father), Mary Rawlinson (her mother), Elizabeth, Sarah, Lydia and Mary (her sisters), John (her brother), Isaac (her paternal uncle), Abram (who may have been her brother but was more probably a paternal uncle), Ellin (wife of her uncle Abram), Abigail and Dorothy (her cousins, daughters of Abram and Ellin), Thomas & Sarah Dillworth (her maternal uncle and his wife), Cicely Dillworth (possibly her maternal grandmother), Esther, John & Lydia Dillworth (relatives of her mother). Two more were probably relatives of the bride's father's business partner (Charles and Mary Chorley). The remaining nine witnesses were not obviously relatives of either the bride or groom.

It was the Quaker practice to marry only within the Quaker movement: Marriage to a non-Quaker being frowned on. The relatively small Quaker community made it increasingly necessary for brides and grooms to seek each other at greater distances than was necessary for the general population, and it may be this circumstance that took Isaac some 83 miles north from Horton to Lancaster.

The Rawlinsons were a wealthy Lancashire family and the source of their wealth brings us to a subject that we need to approach with care. Isaac Ford's father-in-law Thomas Hutton Rawlinson was in fact the owner of one of Liverpool's largest merchant shipping fleets. The fleet had one principal purpose: Slave trading.

From the vantage point of the twenty first century we can be astonished – even outraged - that a prominent member of a pious, liberal and humane group such as the Quakers also made his fortune by trading slaves. However we have to accept that the early-mid 18th century mind-set saw no inconsistency in this and we fundamentally misunderstand Thomas Hutton Rawlinson and his colleagues in the slave trading business if we seek to superimpose on them attitudes and principles that did not even begin to emerge until decades later.

Isaac and Elizabeth settled in Manchester and had three children all of whose births are shown in the Quaker records:

Mary born in 1761, who died in infancy,
John born in 1762, of which more below
Ann born in 1763 who later married Robert Barclay of Lombard St, Banker.



Right: Robert Barclay

Isaac was in business as a Check (or cheque) manufacturer: Check being an archaic term for a form of woven cloth. Through the late 1760s and most of the 1770s he continued to trade in Manchester and, in 1775 was a signatory to a Whig Petition to King George III "for the restoration of peace between Great Britain and the American colonies". He died in 1779 and his Will makes it clear that he spent the last days of his life in Lancaster. He is buried in the Friends' Burial Ground at Lancaster.

He left a substantial Estate:

I Isaac Ford late of Manchester in the County of Lancaster but at present of Lancaster in the said County, Merchant being of sound and disposing Mind Memory and Understanding do make, publish and declare this my last Will and Testament in manner ^{and form} following that is to say In the first place I do order and direct that all my just debts hereinafter given and my funeral expences shall be paid and discharged and with the Payment thereof both my real and Personal Estate I give and bequeath unto my daughter Ann fford the sum of ffour Thousand Pounds to be paid to her upon her attainment to the age of Twenty one years or the day of her Marriage which shall first happen with Interest in the mean time for her Maintenance and Education I also give and bequeath unto my said daughter my silver coffee pot and stand my silver Waiter and two silver Sauce Boats and a Set of Damask Table Linen which said Plate and Linen belonged to her late Mother deceased And also eight Mahogany Chairs and one ffire Screen the Mottoes whereof were of her said Mothers Work I also give and bequeath unto my Niece Ann Appleby the daughter of my late Sister deceased the sum of one hundred Pounds to be paid to her on the day of her Marriage and in the mean time and until the said Legacy shall become payable I order and direct that my Executors hereinafter named shall pay unto my said Niece one Annuity or yearly Payment of Twelve Pounds by two equal half yearly Payments during the term of her natural life or so long as she shall continue unmarried the first payment thereof to begin and be made at the end of six months next after my decease I also give and bequeath all the Rest Residue and Remainder of my personal Estate and Effects whatsoever unto my Son John fford to be paid and delivered to him upon his attainment to the Age of Twenty one years with Interest in the mean time for his Maintenance and Education

...

I also give and devise unto my said Daughter Ann fford all my ffreehold Messuages Lands Tenements and ... with their and every of their Appurtenances situate in the parish of Horton and County of Stafford now in the Possession of Samuel ... and his undertenants to hold the same unto my said Daughter and her Assigns for and during the Term of her natural life

...

I also give and devise unto my said Son John all my Messuages Lands Tenements and Hereditaments with their and every of their Appurtenances situate in the Parish of Leek in the said County of Stafford now in the several Possessions of William Willott and Richard Inglesent and their undertenants to hold the same unto my said Son John and his Assigns for and during the Term of his natural life

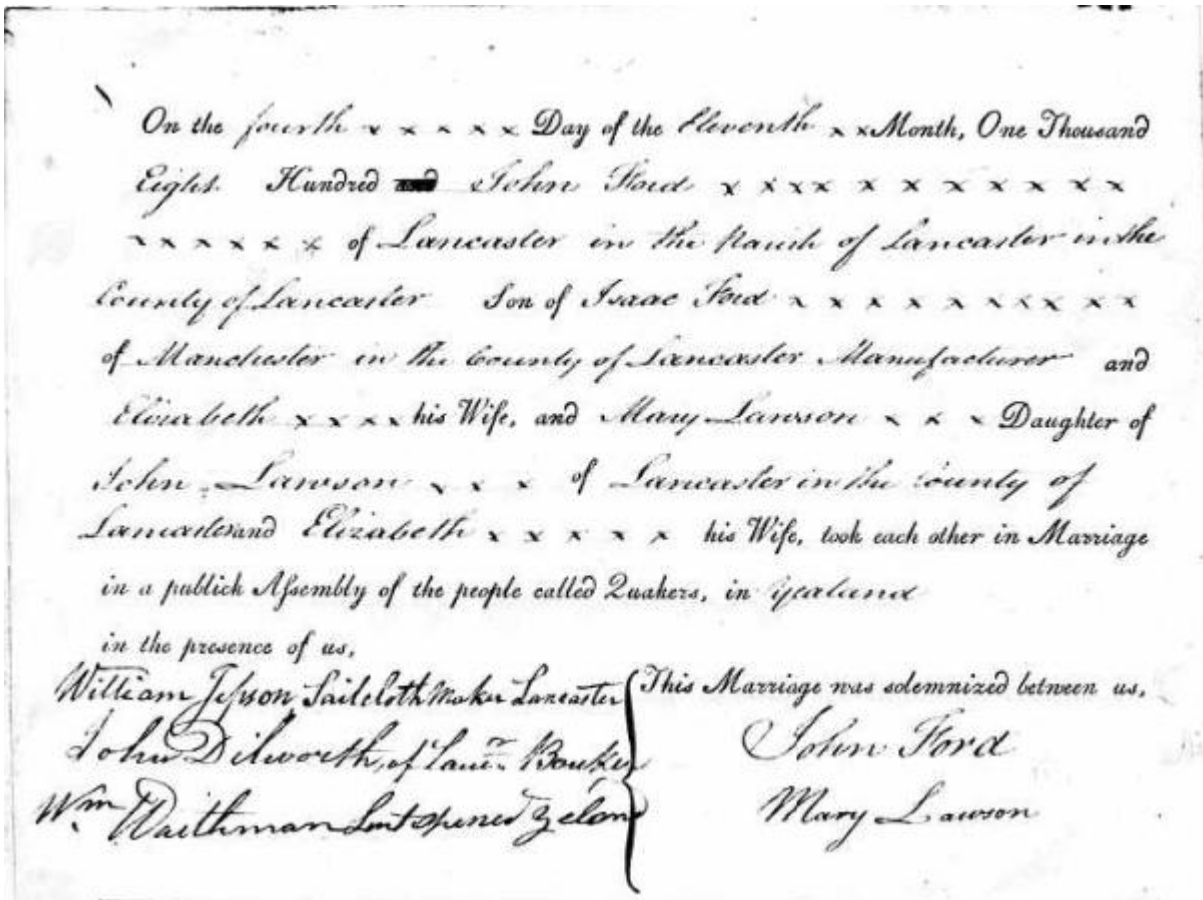
...

John Ford (1762 – 1833) & Mary Lawson (1778 – 1862)

John's mother died when he was only 5 and his father, when he was 16. Then, at the age of 21 he married his cousin Mary Chorley in 1783. A son John soon followed in 1786. Mary died in 1789.

The son John inherited the estates of his great-uncle Abram Rawlinson of Ellel Hall, MP for Lancaster from 1760 to 1790, and thus began the line of Fords of Ellel Hall.

The elder John (born 1762) married for the second time in 1800. His second wife was Mary Lawson.



The marriage took place at Yealand. The manors of Yealand Conyers, Yealand Redmayne and Yealand Storrs, with a history going back to Domesday, had been in the hands of the Rawlinson family since 1791 and in 1816 they were acquired by John Ford who thus became Lord of those manors. At about this time Morecambe Lodge was built in Yealand Conyers. Now known as Yealand Manor, Morecambe Lodge became the family home for the Fords.



Yealand Manor (previously Morecambe Lodge) today

John Ford and Mary Lawson had the following children:

Elizabeth Sarah born 1803 who never married

Hutton Rawlinson born 1804 who never married

Charles Dilworth born 1806 who never married

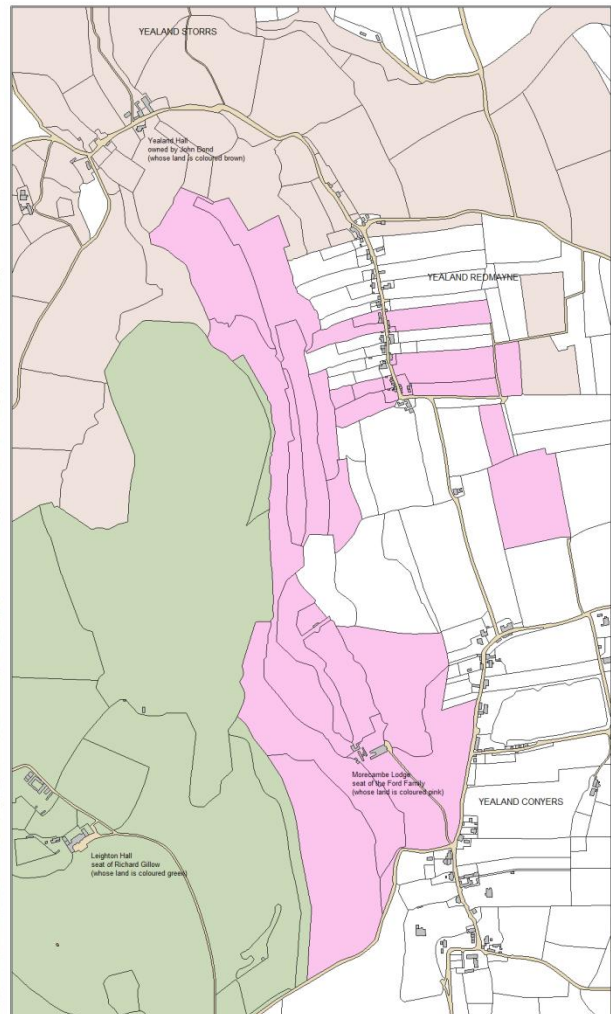
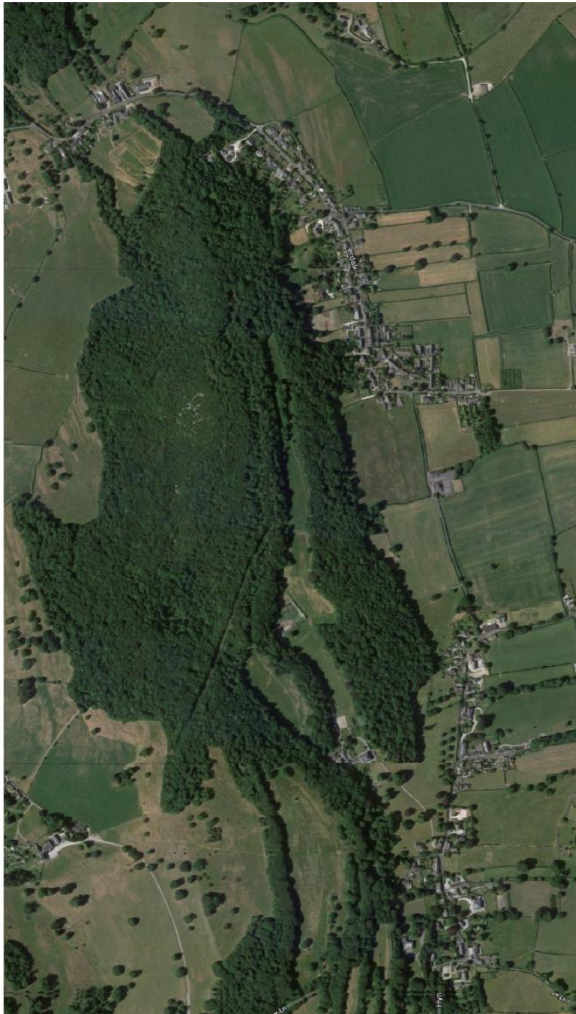
Robert Lawson born 1809 who later married Hannah Pease

Alfred born 1810 who lived for only a few days

Jane Lydia born 1811 who died as a child

William Hugh born 1812 who lived for only a few months

Edward born 1813 who later married Elizabeth Hill Winchester Lewis



Above left: Aerial picture of Yealand Conyers, Yealand Redmayne & Yealand Storrs. Above right: 1840's tithe map. (Ford land coloured pink)

Edward Ford (1813 – 1893) & Elizabeth Hill Lewis (1814 – 1881)

Edward, who was John Ford's youngest son, moved south to Enfield in Middlesex, where he married Elizabeth Hill Winchester Lewis in Nov 1837 and by 1841 he was living in a fine house at Enfield Old Park with his young family. The house is now the home of the Bush Hill Park Golf Club. The house came to Edward from his wife's family. It had originally been a Ranger's Lodge from the days when Enfield Old Park was a Royal hunting park – a favourite of Queen Elizabeth I among others.



A man of independent means, he settled to the life of a Victorian gentleman, serving as a Magistrate on the local bench at Enfield. This involved him in the regular rounds of local legal matters – licensing and so forth – but occasionally he had oversight of graver matters.

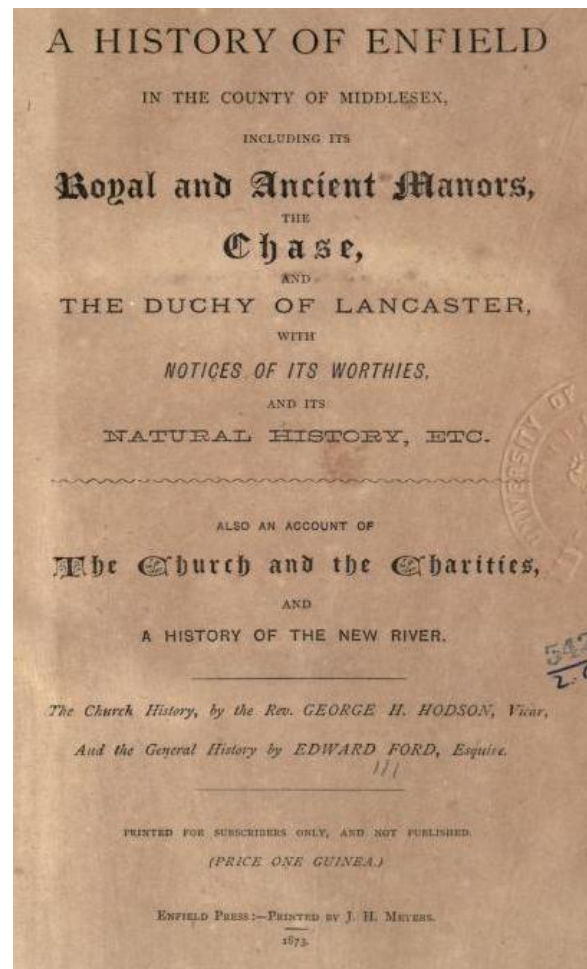
In 1860 there was extensive rioting in Enfield brought on by the introduction by the local Church of England vicar of various “Tractarian” practices. This smacked too much of Popery for many in the local population and violence ensued, with which the local magistrates were required to deal.

In 1873 he co-authored the standard history of Enfield with the Rev George Hodson.

Life was not without set-backs. In 1878 his house was burgled and he suffered considerable loss as a result.

BURGLARY AT A MAGISTRATE'S.

On Saturday the particulars were made known of a daring burglary which was committed on the morning before at Old Park, Enfield, the residence of Edward Ford, Esq., chairman of the Enfield bench of magistrates. The mansion is a fine old brick building, situated in the London Road, about a mile from Enfield Town, and is surrounded by extensive grounds, which, it appears, are nightly patrolled by a police-constable. On passing the billiard room about two on Friday morning, the officer perceived that the door of that room, which he had tried and found safe an hour previously, was open. He at once aroused some of the inmates of the mansion, and on examining the premises it was found that the mansion had been broken into and a considerable amount of property taken away. The thieves had effected an entrance by means of a conservatory. The roof of this is an inclined plane, with large iron spikes at intervals. The footmarks showed that the thieves had ascended this, and then cut ropes from the inside. By means of these ropes they descended to the billiard-room. Here they removed a pane of glass, and then raising a window obtained access to the house. From the appearance of the premises, it is evident they must have been a lengthened time occupied in their work; and it is singular, seeing that the household consisted of Mr. Ford, his wife, and son and daughter, besides numerous domestics, that the burglars attracted no attention. The booty is worth several hundreds of pounds. It chiefly consists of silver candlesticks, silver snuffers, and silver trays, but there is other property, including a gold watch which had been in Mr. Ford's family for generations. The police are actively engaged searching for the robbers, but they possess no clue whatever, and have little hope of capturing them, and as Enfield has been several times visited by burglars, the present affair has caused considerable consternation in the town and vicinity.



Left: Report from the Longford Journal 21 Sep 1878.
Above: Title page of Ford's History of Enfield

Edward and Elizabeth had five children:

John Walker Ford born 1838, who later married Caroline Susan Parker

Mary Elizabeth Ford born 1839, who never married

Charles Winchester Ford born 1840, who never married

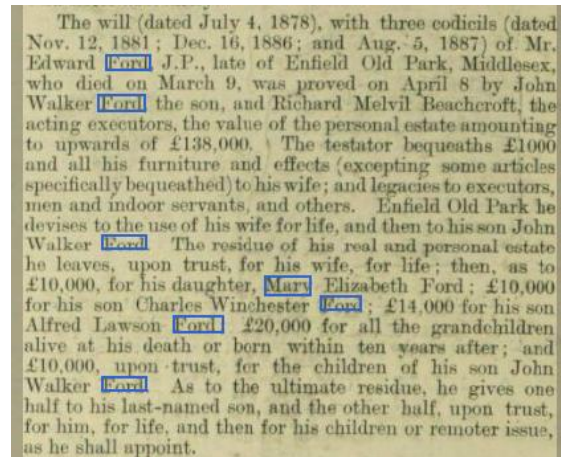
Alfred Lawson Ford born 1843, who never married

Edward Hugh Ford born 1847, who died as an infant

It seems that this generation marked a movement back towards the Church of England and away from the Quaker faith. Edward had been born a Quaker and, while his marriage to Elizabeth was celebrated in the CofE in 1837, his application for the marriage licence specifically refers to him as a Quaker. However his children all seem to have been baptised in the Church of England.

Elizabeth died in 1881 and Edward survived her by twelve years, dying in 1893 and leaving a very substantial estate of some £138,000.

Right: Illustrated London News 22 Apr 1893



The will (dated July 4, 1878), with three codicils (dated Nov. 12, 1881; Dec. 16, 1886; and Aug. 5, 1887) of Mr. Edward Ford, J.P., late of Enfield Old Park, Middlesex, who died on March 9, was proved on April 8 by John Walker Ford, the son, and Richard Melvil Beachcroft, the acting executors, the value of the personal estate amounting to upwards of £138,000. The testator bequeaths £1000 and all his furniture and effects (excepting some articles specifically bequeathed) to his wife; and legacies to executors, men and indoor servants, and others. Enfield Old Park he devises to the use of his wife for life, and then to his son John Walker Ford. The residue of his real and personal estate he leaves, upon trust, for his wife, for life; then, as to £10,000, for his daughter, Mary Elizabeth Ford; £10,000 for his son Charles Winchester Ford; £14,000 for his son Alfred Lawson Ford; £20,000 for all the grandchildren alive at his death or born within ten years after; and £10,000, upon trust, for the children of his son John Walker Ford. As to the ultimate residue, he gives one half to his last-named son, and the other half, upon trust, for him, for life, and then for his children or remoter issue, as he shall appoint.

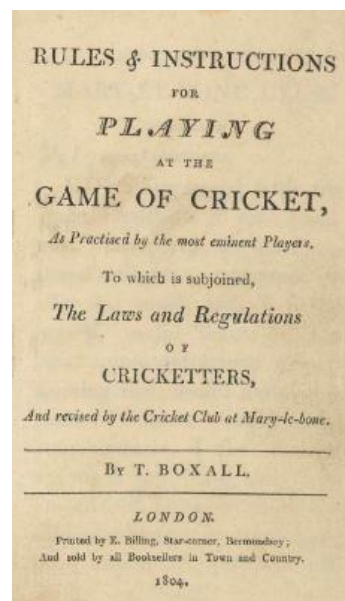
John Walker Ford (1838 – 1921) & Caroline Susan Parker (1839 – 1929)

Only one of Edward Ford's children was to marry, namely John Walker Ford, but it is worth dwelling briefly on John's siblings.

Mary Elizabeth lived with her father until his death. I can't find her in the 1901 census but in 1911 she was in Middlesex, living with a companion and servants.

Charles Winchester may have trained for one of the professions since he appears as a "pupil" in Essex in the 1861 census, but he does not appear to have ever worked for a living.

Alfred Lawson trained and practiced as an accountant. In 1871 he was working and living in Lancashire. By 1881 he was living with his aunt at Morecambe Lodge, Yealand Conyers, but was no longer working. In 1891 he was back in Enfield with his father and by 1901 he had retired to Devon where he died in 1924. He was a devoted cricketer and cricket writer and through his lifetime he assembled a substantial collection of books about cricket which were eventually bequeathed to the MCC and which are now in the library at Lord's. His collection included a very rare copy of the first book on cricket, Thomas Boxall's 1804 book *Rules and Instructions for playing at the Game of Cricket, as practised by the most eminent players*. His house at Lynmouth in Devon is still standing: Called Gwynallt in his day, it is now called Cliffe House.



John himself had been born in 1838.

In 1841 his portrait was sketched by William Henry Leatham. This picture was part of a collection once owned by Elizabeth Hill Winchester Lewis – John's mother.

John attended Mill Hill Grammar School, winning First Prize for Writing at the forty seventh annual Prize Giving in 1854.

By 1861 he was living at Old Park with his father and mother and was employed as an Accountant's Clerk, becoming a partner with Charles F C Kemp in the firm Kemp, Ford & Co in 1863.



Right: John Walker Ford as a child by William Henry Leatham

In 1864 John married Caroline Susan Parker and by 1881 had settled at Chase Park. This building used to stand in the north end of Old Park, Enfield and was demolished in 1908.



His Practice prospered and, through the next thirty years he was in constant demand, whether as Trustee, Executor, Liquidator, Treasurer or accountant. He was also a JP and Magistrate. He retired from Kemp, Ford & Co in 1895 but continued with a life of public service, becoming an Alderman of Middlesex County Council in 1896 and High Sheriff of Middlesex in 1900.

His name appears at various points in the Proceedings of the Hakluyt Society and of the Society of Antiquaries of London.

By the turn of the century John's household was extensive, including, in addition to his wife and children, two sisters-in-law and a visiting friend, all served by a butler, a coachman, a footman, an odd-job man, a groom, a cook, a housemaid, a sewing maid, a kitchen maid, 2 housemaids and a scullery maid. The next door property, Enfield Old Park Lodge, was occupied by a family also probably in John's service, including a gardener and a hall-boy.

John Walker Ford and Caroline Susan Parker had the following children:

Mary Mabel born 1865, who never married
Hugh Rawlinson born 1866, who later married Margaret Caroline Kempe
Henry Arthington born 1868, who later married Dorothy Langworthy
Helen Elizabeth born 1870, who later married Clement Burnett Weir
Lucy Rosamund born 1872, who later married Henry Carter
Edward Vyvyan born 1874, who later married May Wingfield Todd
Mildred Lawson born 1877, who never married
Susan Searle born 1878, who later married Edwin Percy Sugden
Cyril Fairfax born 1881, who later married Mia Christine Gilman
John Curwen born 1884, who later married Audrey Ashley

Henry Arthington Ford (1868 – 1907) & Dorothy Langworthy (1870 – 1940)

Unlike his siblings, Henry was born and raised and lived his life in Middlesex.

His older siblings Mary Mabel and Hugh Rawlinson both moved to Surrey. Helen Elizabeth spent the first years of her married life in Enfield but eventually moved to Devon, as did his brother Cyril Fairfax, after spending several years in Shropshire. Lucy Rosamund married and lived as a vicar's wife in Suffolk for many years before retiring to Shaftesbury in Dorset. Mildred Lawson and Susan Searle spent their widowed years together in Poole Dorset. Edward Vyvyan moved to Yorkshire where he ran a brewery as did John Curwen.

Meanwhile Henry Arthington married Dorothy Langworthy at Holy Trinity, Brompton and went into business as a timber merchant at Cockfosters.

He died at the age of only 39 in 1907 and Dorothy moved to Bexhill in Sussex with their two sons Hugh Lawson (born 1900) and Guy Arthington (born 1902).

Hugh Lawson Ford (1900 – 1979) & Ellen Margaret Mills (1900 – 1983?)

In 1911 Hugh Lawson was boarding at Rottingdean School near Brighton. This was a very small prep school with only 39 boarders in 1911 aged between 8 and 14. The school building is long gone but the 1911 census gives us a snapshot of an English prep school in the golden years just before the First World War.

The roll was a catalogue of Empire. Boys born in the Straits Settlements, Egypt, Natal, New Zealand, Australia, India and Egypt mixed with English born boys, mostly from the Home Counties. At least 12 of them later served in the military in World War I. At least 4 of that 12 did not survive.

While Hugh Lawson was at Rottingdean School in 1911 the Roll included Hugh A Sugden, then aged 9. The two boys were probably cousins.

In 1924 Hugh married Ellen Margaret Mills. The couple settled initially in Suffolk, where their two sons were born: Hugh Anthony in 1925 and Henry Douglas in 1927, but by 1931 they had moved to North Lopham, Diss, Norfolk where they owned Woodstone Poultry Farm.

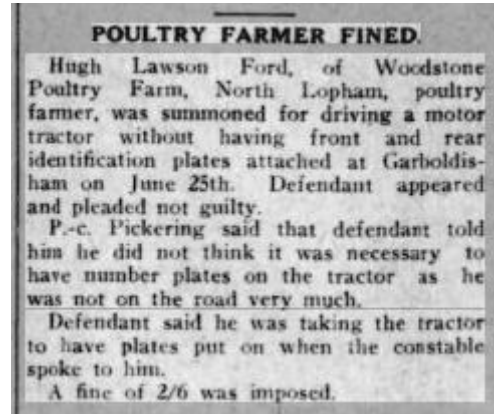


Woodstone Poultry Farm today

Hugh evidently took an independent view of the road traffic regulations. In 1931 he was fined the princely sum of half a crown for driving his tractor without number plates.

Hugh's less than watertight defence was three-fold: He did not think plates were necessary. He was not on the road much and he was on his way to get plates when stopped.

Right: Diss Express 17 July 1931



Then in 1935 he was acquitted of leaving a vehicle on the highway so as to cause an obstruction. We are indebted to the *Diss Express* of 5 Apr 1935 for a verbatim account of the Court proceedings:

The Court: *Did you agree with the Constable at the time that the vehicle was in a dangerous position?*
 Ford: *I don't see any danger whatever.*
 The Court: *You were encroaching on the road?*
 Ford: *A very small part of the road.*
 The Court: *You were standing on the road to a certain amount?*
 Ford: *Yes.*
 The Court: *As other vehicles passed you they had to go on the wrong side of the white line?*
 Ford: *There was 10 feet between my car and the white line.*
 The Court: *Did you say anything to the Constable about that then?*
 Ford: *I did not measure it then.*
 The Court: *There were other places where you could leave your car and not this corner.*
 Ford: *It was not on the corner.*
 The Court: *There is a white line there?*
 Ford: *Yes.*
 The Court: *They are there to make these corners safe and not for you to park your car. You could have left your car in the Public House yard*
 Ford: *I was not there long enough.*

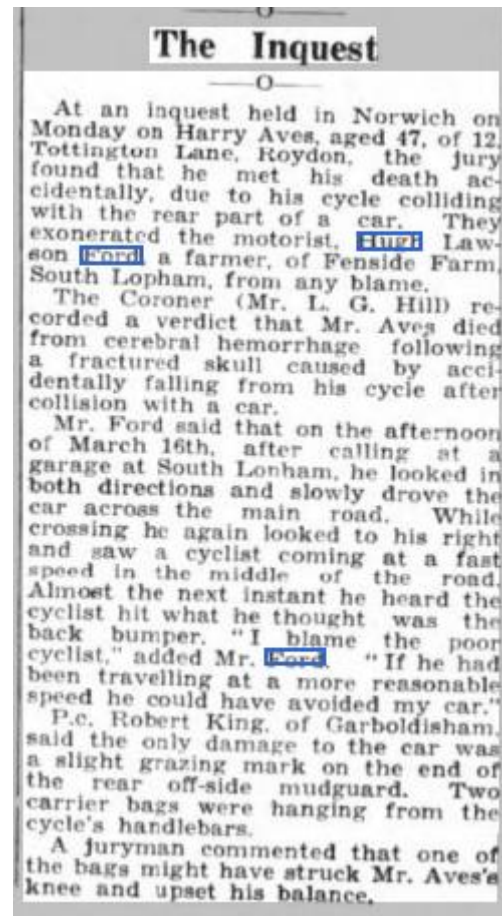
Case dismissed. With that decision the infamous Diss Crime Wave of 1935 was laid to rest.

Right: In 1935 the cream building on the right was the Bell Public House where Hugh was drinking. His car was on the left hand side of the road, probably not far from the gold car in the picture but parked parallel to the road which was probably a little narrower in 1935 than now.



By 1948 Hugh and his family had moved to Fenside Farm in South Lopham and, on Mar 16 that year Hugh was involved in a more serious accident, involving a fatal collision with a bicycle.

Hugh lived at South Lopham for the rest of his life, passing away in 1979.



Diss Express 2 Apr 1948

[redacted] & [redacted]

My purpose in compiling these notes has been to provide an insight into the family history that is perhaps not known to the Ford descendents and not to trespass into living memory or to give an account of people still living.

Hence, while recording the marriage of [redacted] and [redacted] in [redacted], this is otherwise a good place to finish.

The Isaac family

Isaac is an ancient Anglo-Saxon name, drawn obviously from the Old Testament. In England, the name first appears in Devon where it may date to before the Norman Conquest. The first reference in Lincolnshire is to Robert *fillius* Isaac in the *Rotuli Hundredorum* lists of 1273.

There are various modern internet genealogy pages – all totally unsourced – referring to a Richard Ysac born in Foston Lincolnshire in 1485 who married Agnes Tilney (or Bourchier) and had a child William in 1511. William in turn is said to have produced a son Richard in 1543 who married Alice. The product of this marriage was a son Edward born in Foston in 1585. Edward supposedly married Jane Chayney and had a son Richard in Fulbeck in 1606. In the absence of any primary evidence we can have little confidence in this genealogy which, even if true, may not relate to our Isaac family.

Brian Isaac (1557 – 1636) & Agnes Huddleston (b 1550)

The proven history of our Isaac family begins in the parish of Fulbeck in 1583 with the marriage of Brian Isaac to Agnes Huddleston at the church of St Nicholas, Fulbeck on Jun 2 1583.



St Nicholas, Fulbeck

These were anxious times in England. Some 50 miles to the NW Mary Queen of Scots, imprisoned at Sheffield, was weaving the web that would lead to the Throckmorton Plot. English efforts to help Protestant rebels in the Low Countries were consuming vast amounts of treasure and accomplishing very little. Spain, stung by Francis Drake's circumnavigation, was stirring to retaliate. However little of this would have been apparent in the rural parish of Fulbeck.

Agnes gave Brian two children before her death in 1590. He quickly remarried, to Jony Otts in 1591, and this second marriage produced five further children: Rebecca in 1592, Lettice in 1594, John in 1597, Ann early in 1599 and Thomas late in the same year.

Brian lived until 1636 and was buried at Fulbeck.

John Isaac (1597 – 1636) & Anne Schrimshaw (born 1598)

As we have seen, John was born in Fulbeck in 1597 and was married there to Anne Schrimshaw in 1624.

We know nothing of him except for the baptism in Fulbeck of his children Robert in 1624, William in 1625 (who died only 2 days old), Elizabeth in 1628, Anne in 1632 and possibly Frances in 1640. Some researchers suggest that John died in Fulbeck in Sep 1636, only a few months after his father, but I can find no primary evidence for this – which, if true, negates the possibility that he had a

daughter in 1640. There is also a clear later record for a son James but I can find no baptism record for him and hence can assign no date of birth.

Robert Isaac (1624 – 1682) & Marie Hathton (1623 – 1682)

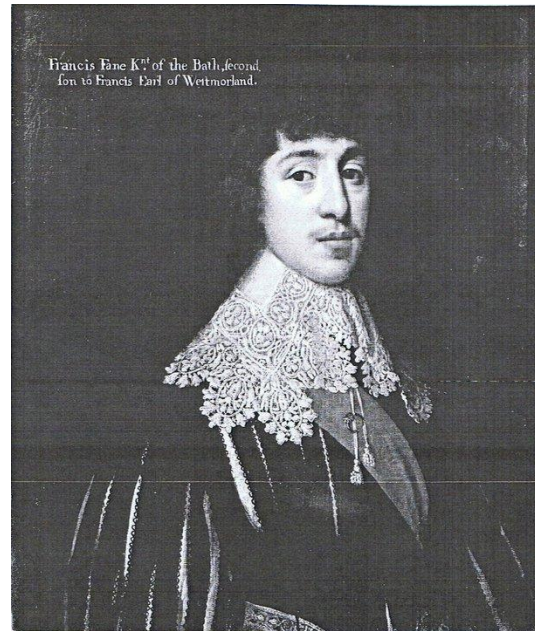
Robert, born in 1624, was destined to live through momentous times. When he was only a few months old Charles I came to the throne. When he was 18 years old the Civil War broke out and raged until 1651, the year of his marriage. He then lived through the Commonwealth and the Restoration and was alive at the time of the Great Plague, the Great Fire of London, the Popish Plot and the Rye House Plot, passing away in 1682, only 3 years before the death of Charles II.

We know nothing of Robert's politics but the principal landowner in Fulbeck was Sir Francis Fane, whose family is memorialised in Fulbeck parish church. He was a prominent Royalist commander and it is hard to imagine that some of his tenants and retainers did not follow him into Royalist service.

During the Civil War Lincolnshire, where the sentiment was perhaps mainly Parliamentary, formed a buffer between Royalist Yorkshire and Parliamentary East Anglia.

The Civil War came closest to Fulbeck in Apr 1643, when the opposing forces met at Ancaster Heath a few miles to the SE.

Right: Sir Francis Fane, probable landlord of Robert Isaac



The Civil War came to an end in 1651, the year of Robert Isaac's marriage to Marie Hathton.



Robert and Marie had the following children, all baptised in Fulbeck:

Faith born 1653, who later married Thomas Vickis

John born 1656, who later married Susanna

Grace, born 1660, who later married Robert Cap William, born 1660, possibly the twin of Grace, who later married Ann Patman

Marie, born 1663, who later married Nicholas Roe

Richard, born 1667, who later married Elizabeth.

Robert Isaac and his son in law Robert Cap were churchwardens at St Nicholas in 1681 and Robert Isaac died in Fulbeck in 1682.

Left: The font at St Nicholas, Fulbeck, where generations of Isaacs were baptised

John Isaac (1656 – 1714) & Susanna (born 1663)

Other than the bare bones of birth, baptism of children and burial, we know very little of John and his wife. There is not even an obvious marriage record for John and Susanna and thus we are dependent for evidence of a marriage on the appearance of their names in subsequent baptism records of their children.

It is at least possible, and in my view probable, that Susanna was John's first cousin, the daughter of his uncle James Isaac and Rose Ball.

Like the previous several generations, John lived and died in Fulbeck, and produced the following children:

Hannah born 1685, who later married John Bugge

Robert born 1687

John born 1688, who later married Rebeckah Woods

Susanna born 1690, who later married James Attersal

John Isaac (born 1688) & Rebeckah Woods (born 1683)

When John Isaac, the son of John and Susanna Isaac, was baptised in Fulbeck in September 1688 he was joining a family that had been in that parish for at least 125 years, but by the time of his marriage to Rebeckah Woods in 1709 he had moved to the parish of Dunstone, 13 miles to the NE.

The direct cause for the move would seem to be that Rebeckah was from Dunstone and thus John was moving so that his family was closer to that of his wife but we can speculate that the movement towards the enclosure of land might also have played a part.



St Peter's, Dunston

To make sense of this it is necessary to make a brief diversion into the evolutionary process that occurred away from the medieval open-field system and towards modern land ownership.

The open-field system was prevalent in much of Europe during the Middle Ages. Under this system, each manor or village had two or three large fields, usually several hundred acres each, which were divided into many narrow strips of land. The strips were cultivated by individual families. Each tenant of the manor held several strips of land scattered around the manor. The scattered nature of holdings ensured that each tenant received a ration of both good and poor land.

As well as arable land, a manor also included woodland and pasture areas for common usage (known as waste land) and fields belonging to the lord of the manor (known as demesne) and the church (known as glebe). The open-field system necessitated considerable co-operation among the inhabitants of the manor and the Lord of a Manor would typically charge a rent and require lessees to provide a certain amount of labour on his own demesne.

While tenants were obligated to pay rent and provide labour, they also had firm user rights to cropland and common land and those rights were passed down from generation to generation. A medieval lord could not evict a tenant nor hire labour to replace him without legal cause.

The residents of a manor did not have equal holdings of land. About one-half of adults living on a manor had no land at all and had to work for larger landholders for their livelihood. A survey of 104 13th-century manors in England found that, among the landholding tenants, 45 percent had less than 3 acres (1 ha). To survive, they also had to work for larger landowners. 31 percent had one-half virgate, that is between 12 acres (5 ha) & 16 acres (6 ha). 22 percent of tenants had a virgate of land,

that is between 24 acres (10 ha) & 32 acres (13 ha). To rely on the land for a livelihood a tenant family needed at least 10 acres (4 ha).

Over time and in the interests of efficiency medieval strip farms were consolidated into the modern system where an entire field was owned by one individual. Gradually also the common land was reassigned in such a way that each individual who had previously enjoyed the use of the common land received instead a specific plot or a cash settlement. The resulting consolidated land holdings were typically hedged or fenced, hence the name “enclosure”.

Whilst theoretically all the parties to the old medieval system were compensated when enclosure took place, in practice enclosure heavily favoured larger landowners. It often occurred that traditional rights to common land, accepted from time immemorial but not necessarily recorded in any legal form, went by the wayside when enclosure took place.

The other factor at work was inflation. It was usual to let agricultural land on a long term, either expressed as a multiple of years or of lifetimes. In the latter case a tenant might take on a lease for his own lifetime and that of his heir and of the heir of his heir ie 3 lifetimes. When these leases finally expired, inflation over the long period of each lease had the effect of often vastly increasing rents, with the result that each lease expiry was in practice an opportunity for more and more land to fall into fewer and wealthier hands.

We simply don't know the extent to which, if at all, either of these factors impacted on the decision of the Isaac family to move away from Fulbeck. However neither would be surprising.

John and Rebeckah had six children, all baptised in Dunston:

- Susanna born 1713, who later married William Rickhill
- John born 1714
- Robert born 1719, who died at the age of 11
- William born 1721, who later married Elizabeth Walker
- Rebecca born 1723, who later married William Bait
- Ann born 1728.

Rebeckah died in the parish of Dunston in 1731 and John survived her for many years, dying in 1768.

William Isaac (born 1721) & Elizabeth Walker

After many generations in the parish of Fulbeck, the Isaacs quickly moved on from Dunston. By 1758 William had moved to West Rasen, where he married Elizabeth Walker on 28 Mar. There would seem to have been some hurry to get the marriage celebrated since their first child, William was baptised at West Rasen on 30 July.

It is unlikely that we can identify Elizabeth fully. Even if we could be sure that she was born in Lincolnshire and if we accept that she was born between 1721 (in which case she gave birth to her youngest child at the age of 40) and 1743 (in which case she married at the age of 15), there are dozens of births of females named Elizabeth Walker from which we have to chose.

The couple had a daughter Mary in 1759 also in West Rasen but by 1761 the family had moved to Spridlington, north of Lincoln, where Ann was born in 1761.

William lived until 1791 and was buried at Market Rasen.



William Isaac (1758 – 1839) & Ann Whitehouse (1769 – 1838)

We need to immediately acknowledge that the connection is unproven (although in my view probable) between the William who was born in 1758 to William and Elizabeth and the William who married Ann Whitehouse in Cold Hanworth in 1789.



Right: All Saints Church, Cold Hanworth, now a private house

The difficulty is that the 1789 marriage record (and I've only seen a transcript, not the original) gives William's age as 21, not 31. Thus, if we are to accept the connection between the 1758 birth and the 1789 marriage we need at least to check whether there is an alternative birth that better fits the age of 21 in the marriage record.

There are only five baptisms of a male named William Isaac in Lincolnshire in 1768 +/- 10 years, namely:

Name	Parish	DoBapt	Father	Mother
William Isaac	West Rasen	30 Jul 1758	William	Elizabeth
William Claton Isaac	Lincoln	23 Oct 1758	-	-
William Isaac	Caythorpe	29 Jun 1766	Bryan	Mary
William Isaac	Fulbeck	8 Dec 1766	William	Faith
William Ireland Isaac	Stallingborough	17 Oct 1773	William	Ann

I have dismissed the Caythorpe baptism as the William to which this refers clearly died in Caythorpe in 1788 and thus could not be "our" William.

Nor am I attracted to William Claton Isaac or William Ireland Isaac since neither of those middle names occur anywhere else in our Isaac family. Also, in the case of the latter, Stallingborough is 25 miles from Cold Hanworth and the date of birth there (1773) is at the outer limit of practicality given a 1789 marriage.

Of the two remaining possibilities the West Rasen birth in 1758 is substantially more probable in geographical terms than that in Fulbeck. West Rasen is 5 miles from Cold Hanworth as against 25 miles for Fulbeck. However the Fulbeck birth is a better (but still not exact) fit with the age of 21 given in the 1789 marriage record. A further circumstantial argument in favour of West Rasen is that William and Ann later used the name Elizabeth for one of their children but did not use the name Faith.

Thus, while there is a 1766 birth in Fulbeck which is a closer fit to the age of 21 given in the marriage record, it still isn't a precise fit with that 21 year old age and I'm more convinced by the closer geographical link between West Rasen and Cold Hanworth and by the subsequent use by William and Ann of the name Elizabeth for one of their children and the fact that they did not use the name Faith.

I therefore think it probable that the William who married Ann Whitehouse was born in West Rasen in 1758 and baptised there on 30 Jul 1758, the son of William Isaac and Elizabeth, even though this selection means that William was around 31 when he married, not 21.

William and Ann had six children:

John born 1791 in Cammeringham, who later married Sarah Marshall

Mary born 1794 in Cammeringham

William born 1796 in Buslingthorpe

Frances born 1797 in Buslingthorpe

George born 1804 in Buslingthorpe

Joseph born 1806 in Buslingthorpe

From these records we can see that, while they never strayed far, William and Ann were somewhat migratory.



1. West Rasen. Probable birthplace 1758
2. Cold Hanworth. Marriage 1789
3. Cammeringham. Children bn 1791-4
4. Buslingthorpe. Children bn 1796-1806

John Isaac (1791 – 1855) & Sarah Marshall (1797 – 1867)

Born in Cammeringham in 1791, John moved with his family to Buslingthorpe, where his four youngest siblings were born between 1796 and 1806. By 1815 he had moved further NE to what is now the outskirts of Grimsby, where he married Sarah Marshall on Jun 5. The banns were read in Scartho and in Waltham, adjoining parishes south of Grimsby, although the marriage performed in Scartho makes it clear that both John and Sarah were residents of that parish.

Right: St Giles, Scartho



They settled initially at Elsham, west of Grimsby, where their eldest child Ann was born in 1815 and then moved to nearby Kirmington, beneath what is now the flightpath into Humberside Airport. Their children Mary and William were born here in 1817 and 1818.

By 1819 they had moved again to Grainsby, south of Grimsby, where the family grew with the birth of John in 1819, Sarah in 1821, Frances in 1823, Thomas in 1825, Andrew in 1826, Marshall Robinson in 1827 (who died only a few days old) and George Marshall in 1832.

The 1841 census shows the family at Grainsby, comprising:

John 45, Sarah 40, Mary 24, John 20, Sarah 20, Thomas 16, Andrew 15 and Marshall 8. John and Sarah's daughters Ann and Frances had already married and were neighbours of their parents at Grainsby. William had also left the family home.

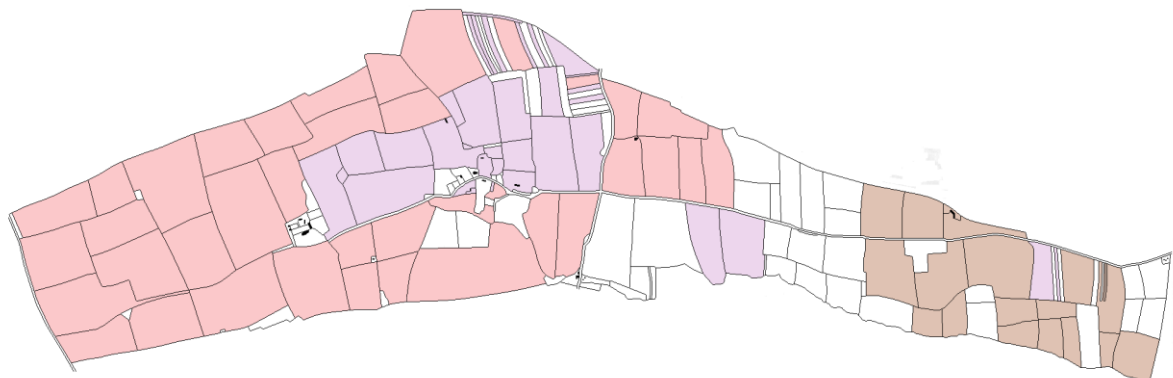
With previous generations of the Isaac family we can reasonably guess that they worked in some capacity on the land but with John, for the first time, we have specific evidence of his occupation. He was a farmer. Not only do we know that, but we can identify precisely where he farmed and, courtesy of the tithe maps, we know the identity of his landlord and of his neighbours – even the use he was making in 1843 of each field.

Drive north today on the A16 towards Grimsby and a mile after the tiny village of North Thoresby an anonymous crossroads allows you to go left to the hamlet of Grainsby or right onto a country road, scarcely more than a farm track, that meanders off easterly to nowhere in particular. Follow that road and you'll reach Holme Farm, John's home in 1841.

He rented 143 acres in a patchwork of 19 fields from William Haigh Esq and in 1840 had about half under grass and half arable farming. The 1841 census is hard to read but seems to suggest that John farmed 209 acres. Presumably he held land in one or more neighbouring parishes and/or sub-let land in Grainsby from someone else. A glance at the tithe map below (where John Isaac's holdings are highlighted in brown) shows that either is a possibility, since John's property adjoined the parishes of Waithe to the North and North Thoresby to the south, and was contiguous with a number of fields owned or rented by others.



There were three farmers with substantial acreage in the parish of Grainsby, Thomas Coates (whose holdings are coloured pink below), William Loft (purple) and John Isaac himself (brown). Interestingly, not one of them owned a single square foot of their land.

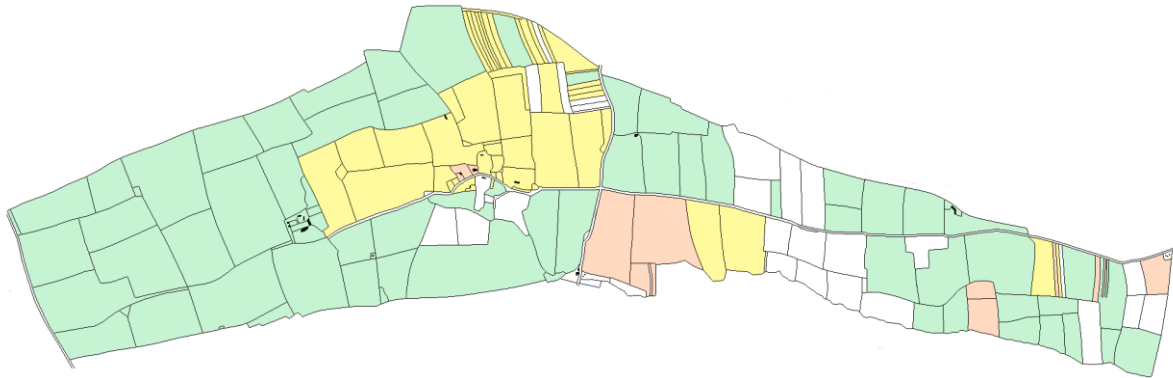


Indeed, the tithe maps show that very little land was occupied by its owner: Some glebe land, a few smallholdings, residences and patches of unproductive land not worth renting out – principally woodland. Owner occupied land is shown below in gray.



The vast majority of land, including all of the acreage farmed by Thomas Coates, William Loft and John Isaac, was owned by only three men: William Haigh (green below, the landlord of Thomas

Coates and John Isaac) and Thomas Sands (yellow below) and glebe land held by the vicar of Grainsby (tan below).



The tithe maps, together with the 1841 census, give us a good snapshot of the social structure in rural England in the mid-19th century. William Haigh, Squire of Grainsby, had inherited Grainsby Hall and its associated land. His family were at the top of the local social tree, with large landholdings and with the patronage of the parish. Next came other substantial landowners such as Thomas Sands, who owned the Manor House at Grainsby and local worthies such as the vicar. The third tier perhaps comprised smaller landowners, some of whom farmed their own land, such as John Isaac's neighbours Allen Smith & Thomas Hewson together with substantial tenant farmers such as Thomas Coates, William Loft and John Isaac himself. The vast majority of the population would have fallen into the fourth class: Landless people working for wages on the land or in associated agricultural trades. We can reasonably speculate that John Isaac would have tipped his hat when he passed the Haigh or Sands family or the vicar, but not anyone else.

John was still in Grainsby at the time of the 1851 census and died four years later. He was buried at the parish church of St Nicholas at Grainsby.



Right: St Nicholas, Grainsby

William Isaac (1818 – 1867) & Barbara Wass (1820 – 1868)

William had left his parents' home before 1841. He married Barbara Wass at Immingham in 1845 and by 1851 was foreman at a farm at Elsham Lincolnshire. His household included his wife Barbara, children Elizabeth 6, William 4 and Sarah 2, four farm labourers in his employ and a house servant. Ten years later he was still at Elsham, now described in the census as an agricultural labourer.

This might seem to suggest that his fortunes had diminished, but that is probably misleading. After his death in 1867, the National Probate Calendar described him as:

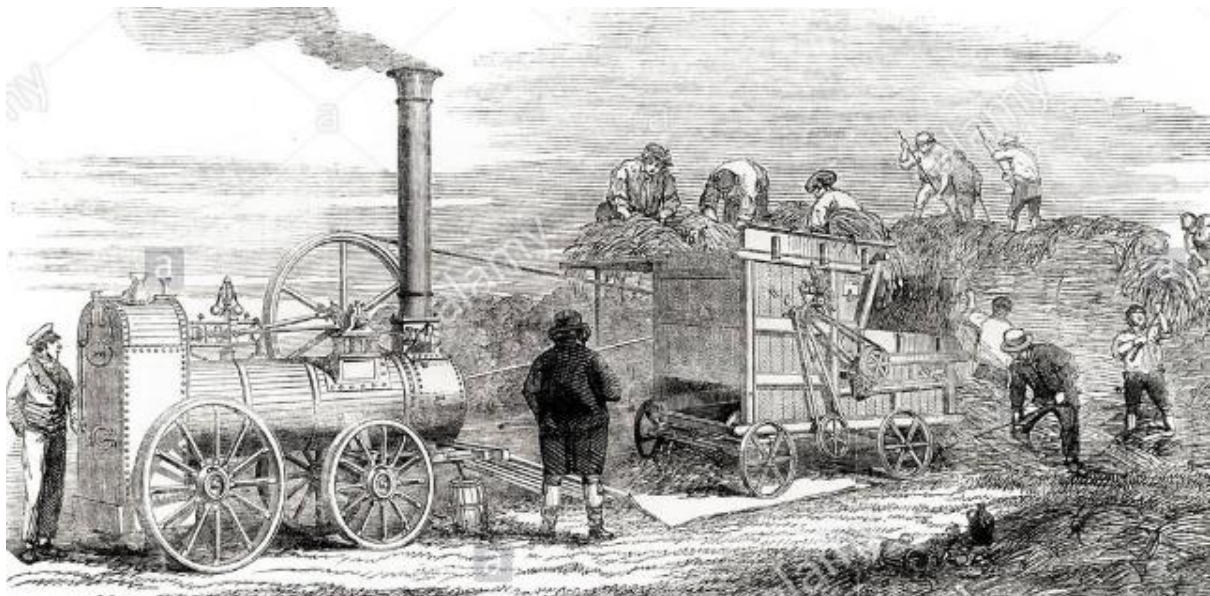
“William Isaac late of Elsham in the County of Lincoln Steam Thrashing Machine Owner deceased who died 30 August 1867 at Great Grimsby in the County aforesaid was proved at Lincoln by the oaths of Thomas Isaac of Grainsby in the County aforesaid Farmer and Andrew Isaac of North Thoresby in the County aforesaid Farmer the Brothers and William Isaac of Elsham aforesaid Yeoman the Son the Executors.”

His ownership of a steam thresher places him a long way from the status of an agricultural labourer and, given the early date, places him at the genesis of the revolution that mechanised farming.

Traditionally threshing – the process of separating grain from straw – was a slow and labour intensive process, which took perhaps one quarter of all agricultural labour in the 18th century. As early as 1732 Michael Menzies created a water powered flail device which speeded the process, or at least would have done had it not been prone to innumerable breakages.

In 1778 Andrew Meikle patented a more sophisticated machine that both threshed and winnowed grain: Winnowing being the process of separating grain from its husk. However the machines remained hand or horse powered (or wind or water powered for larger fixed machines).

This changed from 1859 when Thomas Aveling attached a portable steam engine to the rear axle of a wagon, creating the traction engine in the form that we recognise it today. Aveling and others developed these machines through the early 1860s



These and other agricultural machines revolutionised life in the countryside. From the farmer's viewpoint the steam thresher vastly improved the efficiency and lowered the cost of harvesting, but from the farm worker's viewpoint, an entire way of life was under immediate threat.

It is hard to be precise about the cost of these early steam threshers but it seems clear that the cost would have been beyond the means of most farmers. Hence contractors like William owned these machines and hired them to a circuit of farms in succession.

William and Barbara had six children:

Elizabeth born 1845, who later married Robert Leeson
William born 1847, who later married Kezia Taylor
Sarah born 1849, who later married William Knipe
Andrew born 1855, who later married Harriet Coleman
John born 1858, who later married Julia Harrison
Ann born 1859, who later married John Mackman

William died and was buried at Grainsby in 1867.

William Isaac (1847 – 1926) & Kezia Taylor (1844 – 1907)

In 1851 William (born 1847) was living with his parents but by the time of the 1861 census he was living with his widowed grandmother Sarah who was continuing to farm in Grainsby following the death of her husband John. She was presumably still at Holme Farm.

This 1861 census for the household of Sarah Isaac is perhaps the most fascinating in the entire family history. Her house in 1861 was a veritable Noah's Ark and loaded with mysteries that would not be out of place in an Agatha Christie story. The household comprised:

Sarah Isaac	head	63	farmer
George M Isaac	son	28	works on farm
Sarah Marshal	granddaughter	16	house servant
Sarah E Holmes	granddaughter	20	house servant
Sarah E Dark	granddaughter	9	scholar
Frances C Dark	granddaughter	7	scholar
John T H Isaac	grandson	18	apprentice joiner & cabinet maker
William Isaac	grandson	14	scholar
Matthew Winn	servant	29	shepherd
Robert Hardy	servant	23	carter
William Holmes	servant	14	general servant
Tom Burman	servant	16	general servant

Sarah Marshal was a daughter of Grandmother Sarah's oldest daughter Ann who had married John Marshall. Sarah E Holmes was the daughter of Grandmother Sarah's daughter Frances who had married Richard Holmes in 1839 but it is not at all clear whether Sarah was Richard's daughter. Sarah E and Frances C Dark were the daughters of Grandmother Sarah's daughter Mary who had married William Dark in 1848 and who had died in Berlin, Germany in 1855. Just what Mary was doing in Berlin remains a mystery. John T H Isaac was a grandson of Grandmother Sarah. He had also been in her household at the age of 7 in 1851. William Holmes is listed as a servant but it must be at least possible that he was a relative of the Richard Holmes who married Grandmother Sarah's daughter Frances.

This census entry raises a number of questions:

- While the identity of Sarah Marshal is clear, why was she a servant in her grandmother's house at the age of 16?
- Who was the father of Sarah E Holmes? Why was she not with her mother in 1851? Why was she a servant in her grandmother's house at the age of 20?
- We can identify the parents of Sarah and Frances Dark. Their mother had died a few years earlier but their father was still alive. Why were they not with him? What had taken their mother to Berlin where she died?
- Who were the parents of John T H Isaac?
- The household included a servant William Holmes aged 14. Was he related to the Richard Holmes who had married Grandmother Sarah's daughter Frances?

Let's try to clarify some of those questions.

Sarah Marshal: Her mother Ann Isaac (born 1815) had married John Marshall (born 1807) in 1840. The 1841 census shows them together and childless. By 1851 the couple had moved to Snitterton Lincolnshire and had several children including Sarah aged 6. In 1861 they were still at Snitterton with several children, but, as we have seen, by then their daughter Sarah was with her grandmother in Grainsby. Ten years later Sarah was still single and living with her younger brother John. Was she sent out to work at about 16 years of age and her grandmother's household was needing some help? We simply don't know and can't tell. We are merely left with that uneasy feeling genealogists get when everything does not quite add up.

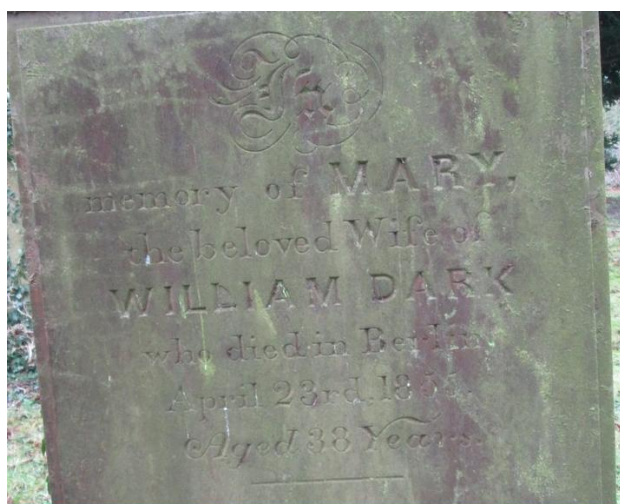
Sarah E Holmes: Sarah first appears aged 9 months in (or immediately next to – the record is unclear) the household of John Isaac (born 1791) in the 1841 census. She is listed immediately after Frances Holmes aged 20. There are no other people named Holmes in the household and we can reasonably assume that Frances aged 20 was the mother of the 9 month old baby. The 20 year old

Frances is not listed as the daughter of John Isaac but we can reasonably conclude that she was in fact his daughter Frances Isaac, who had married Richard Holmes in 1839. However, not only was Richard not with Frances in 1841, he seems to have been at the other end of the County of Lincolnshire, in a household with a young lady and 2 infant children. We can't be absolutely certain, but it seems that Frances next appears in the 1851 census with Richard but without her daughter Sarah. The uncertainty arises from the fact that the family name for this entry appears to read "Hanline" not "Holmes", but many Isaac researchers have accepted that "Holmes" is the correct reading. In 1851 Sarah Holmes, by then aged 10, was in the household of John Isaac (born 1819) who was Frances Isaac's older brother. In 1861, as we have already seen, Sarah Holmes is in her Grandmother Sarah's household in Grainsby.

What on earth are we to make of this?

We can't be certain about Sarah's parentage but we can construct a reasonable hypothesis based on the facts that we have. Clearly Frances Isaac married Richard Holmes in 1839. Clearly Frances was in (or next door to) her parents' home in 1841 with a nine month old daughter Sarah and clearly Richard was not with them. Clearly by 1851 Frances and Richard were together but Sarah was being brought up by Frances' brother John. The entirely reasonable hypothesis is that Sarah was born out of wedlock and was not Richard's daughter.

Sarah & Frances Dark and their mother's death in Berlin: It is clear that Sarah and Frances were the children of William Dark and Mary Isaac and, from Mary's gravestone, it is clear that Mary died in Berlin in 1855. It is not particularly clear what happened to William after his wife died but it is unsurprising that a widowed father might have sought help from his or his wife's female relatives to raise young daughters. The question as to what Mary was doing in Berlin remains entirely opaque. Britain maintained a diplomatic mission in Berlin and it would not be surprising if there were other British residents there, who might well have taken English servants with them, but the record is blank.



John T H Isaac: On Jul 19 1842 a baptism was recorded in Grainsby of a boy named John Isaac. His mother was named as Mary Isaac but his father's name is blank. If we accept the reality that John T H Isaac in the 1861 census was the grandson of Sarah (described above as Grandmother Sarah), then it is reasonable to associate the 1842 baptism with the grandson who was 18 in 1861 and it is reasonable to guess that the Mary listed in the baptism record was Grandmother Sarah's daughter Mary. In 1842 she would have been 25 years old and a few years later she married William Dark. Thus William T H Isaac was the half-brother at least of Sarah E and Frances C Dark. Who was John T H's father? We don't know. It probably wasn't William Dark. Perhaps the clue lies in the initials "T H". Without the least evidence I'm drawn to the possibility that T H might stand for Thomas Hewson – a neighbour of the Isaac family.

Moving on from the 1861 census, we next encounter William Isaac (born 1847) when he married Kezia Taylor at Wrawby in May 1868 and by 1871 both his parents had died and he had taken over the care of his younger siblings John (14 in 1871) and Ann (12 in 1871). At that time he was living at Wrawby and his occupation was "machine proprietor". It is clear from this and subsequent records that William had continued his father's business of contracting threshing services to local farmers using machinery that he owned. This is further confirmed by an 1872 and an 1876 directory of Wrawby.



At the time of the 1881 census William and Kezia were still at Wrawby aged 34 and 36 respectively with children George, Herbert and Annie Barbara (11, 9 & 3) and William's siblings John and Ann. Directories for 1882, 1885 & 1889 show that he remained there but by the time of the 1891 census the family had moved to Elsham where he was farming a property on Back St. He remained at Elsham until at least World War 1 and buried his wife Kezia there in 1907, eventually retiring to a two up and two down at 128 Corporation Road, Grimsby.

Right: 128 Corporation Road today

William's estate was left to "*George William Isaac, butcher and Henry James Shrimpton, clerk*" and amounted to £2,437 3s 4d. Altogether William and Kezia had produced three children, but his second son Herbert John Isaac had predeceased him and thus the estate passed to his surviving son and his son-in-law, husband of his daughter Annie Barbara. Perhaps William had already made provision for Herbert John's children. It is spectacularly difficult to compare the value of money over time but, by one index at least, an average UK house that would have sold for £251,600 in 2010 might have changed hands in 1927 for £320. On that basis William's 1927 estate, measured in terms of the real estate it might have represented, would have been worth close to £2 million in 2010.

Herbert John Isaac (1871 – 1917) & Ada Eleanor Atkinson (1872 – 1935)

Herbert John was with his parents at Wrawby at the time of the 1881 census (aged 9) and at Elsham at the time of the 1891 census (aged 19). In 1892 he married Ada Eleanor Atkinson and by the 1901 census the couple had produced eight children:

Mabel Beatrice born 1892

Reginald William born 1893, who later married Lottie Margaret Fowler

Eleanor Maud born 1895

Arthur Andrew born 1896, who later married Mary Elizabeth Birkett

Dorothy Blanche born 1897, who later married Ernest Wallhead

Cyril George born 1899, who later married Dolly Carr

John Louis born 1899, who later married Muriel E Hoodless

Duncan Edward born 1901, who later married Mabel E Franklin

It is clear from the 1901 census that, like his father, Herbert John was a farmer.

Further children followed:

Herbert Leonard born 1902, who later married Joyce L M Vessey

Kathleen Ethel born 1904

Marjorie Alice F in 1909

Herbert John died at the tragically young age of 46 in 1917, leaving a substantial estate of £2,407 9s 4d to his widow Ada Eleanor.

Arthur Andrew Isaac (1896 – 1980) & Mary Elizabeth Birkett (1890 – 1962)

Growing up in the early years of the 20th century, Arthur Andrew and his brothers, and indeed an entire generation, were drawn inexorably into the catastrophe of the First World War.

Arthur's older brother Reginald William enlisted in the Lincolnshire Regiment and rose to the rank of acting Corporal. Arthur Andrew himself enlisted in the Royal Garrison Artillery. Younger brother Cyril George served in the Royal Navy as, late in the war, did another brother John Louis, who was a mechanic in the Royal Navy Air Service. All of the brothers survived the war.

Arthur Andrew's service began at Lincoln on 30 Oct 1915 when he enlisted in the RGA at the age of 19 years and 68 days. His enlistment papers describe him as a butcher, 5' 10" in height, weighing 151 lb and with both upper and lower dentures. He moved through a series of training units including at Dover and Winchester before being posted as an acting Bombadier to 151 Heavy Battery in France on 24 Oct 1917.

It is tempting to think of artillery service in WWI as being perhaps a softer option than the PBI, the "poor bloody infantry". This is misleading. The major cause of battle casualties in the First World War was shellfire and the primary purpose of artillery was to suppress enemy artillery fire. To be within range of enemy artillery meant, by definition, that they were within range of you and the heavy artillery

pieces with which the RGA was equipped were not particularly mobile. A heavy artilleryman therefore suffered from the double jeopardy of being the particular target of enemy fire and of being unable to move out of the way with any agility.

The standard issue weapon for the RGA was the 60 pounder gun. However the 151st Battery was equipped with the 8" howitzer, an unwieldy monster capable of throwing a 200 lb shell over 10,000 yards.

Right: A 60 pounder on the move on the Somme in 1918



When Arthur joined the 151st, they had been pulled out of the line to rest and refit and then on 18 Dec they went back into the line attached to 36 Heavy Artillery Group which supported Australian units on the Somme in 1918.

Arthur's record suggests that he was injured on 19 Oct 1918 and hospitalised until 1 Nov 1918. This may have related to illness or an accident rather than a wound incurred in battle as Arthur's subsequently awarded decorations did not apparently include a wound stripe. Following the Armistice he was sent of Discharge Furlough on 16 May 1919 and was discharged at Dover on 12 Jun 1919.

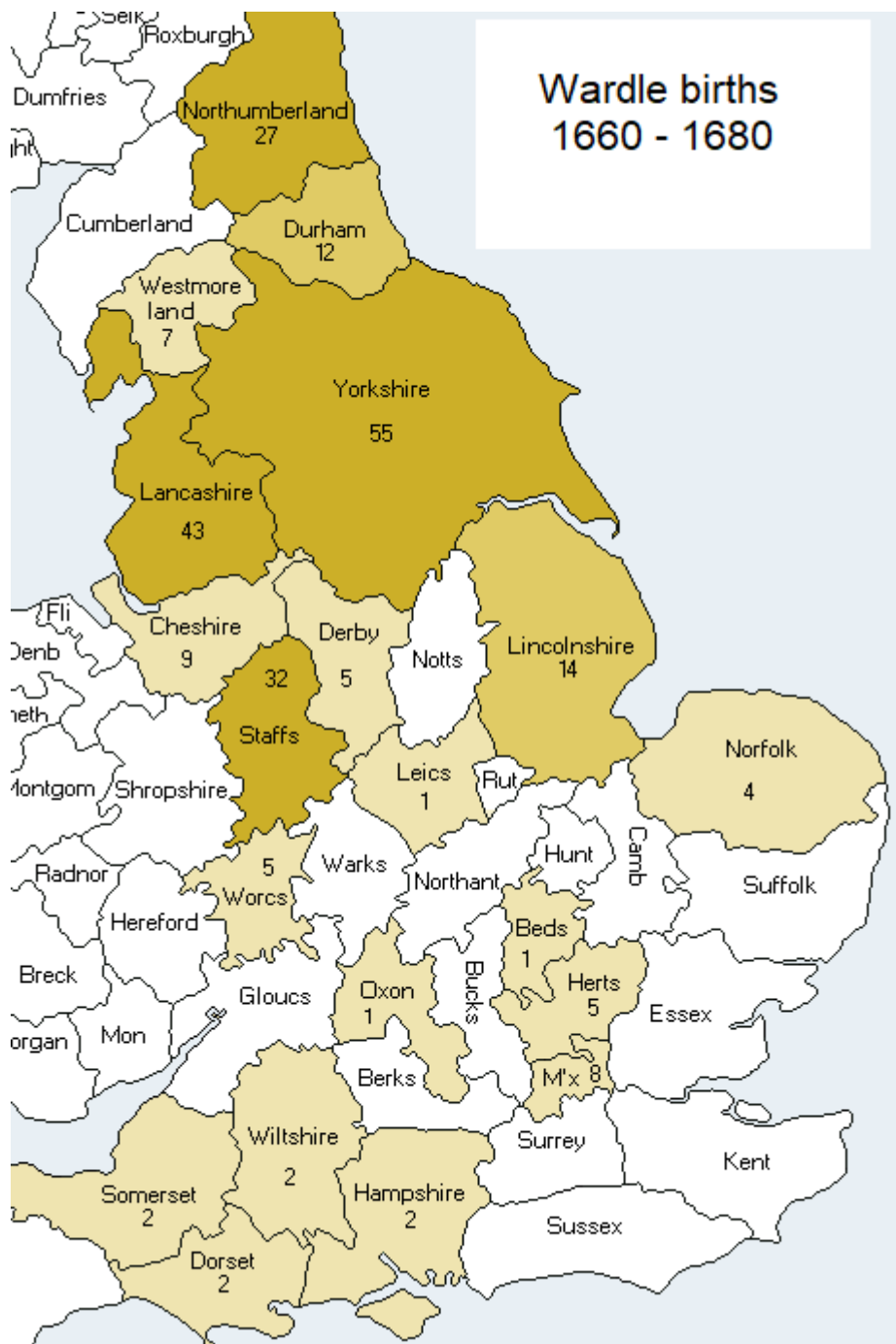
He returned to Lincolnshire and late in 1920 married Mary Elizabeth Birkett. The couple had a son Geoffrey Robert Isaac in 1924, followed by Michael Arthur Isaac in 1926.

By 1935 they were living at Stallingborough Rd Grimsby and by 1939 they were at Caistor, between Grimsby and Market Rasen.

The Wardle family

The Wardle surname is Anglo-Saxon in origin and is geographic in nature, referring to any one of three places: Wardle in Cheshire, near Nantwich; Wardle in Lancashire, near Rochdale; or Weardale in County Durham.

It is evident that a diaspora from those three places began early - probably in Saxon times - but clearly by the 13th century when, for example, the name occurs in Lincolnshire. By the 16th century there were at least traces of the name across much of England, but with a heavy concentration in Yorkshire and Lancashire and with only the slightest presence south of a line between the Wirral and the Wash. Yorkshire and Lancashire account for 98 of the 239 Wardle births recorded between 1660 and 1680. Staffordshire accounts for 32 and Northumberland 27 but the counties south of a line from the Wash to the Severn account for only 27 in total.



Joshua Wardle & Elizabeth Chadwick (b 1653)

Our branch of the Wardle family can be traced to Staffordshire and specifically to the parish of Ipstones where Joshua Wardle married Elizabeth Chadwick on Apr 1 1689.

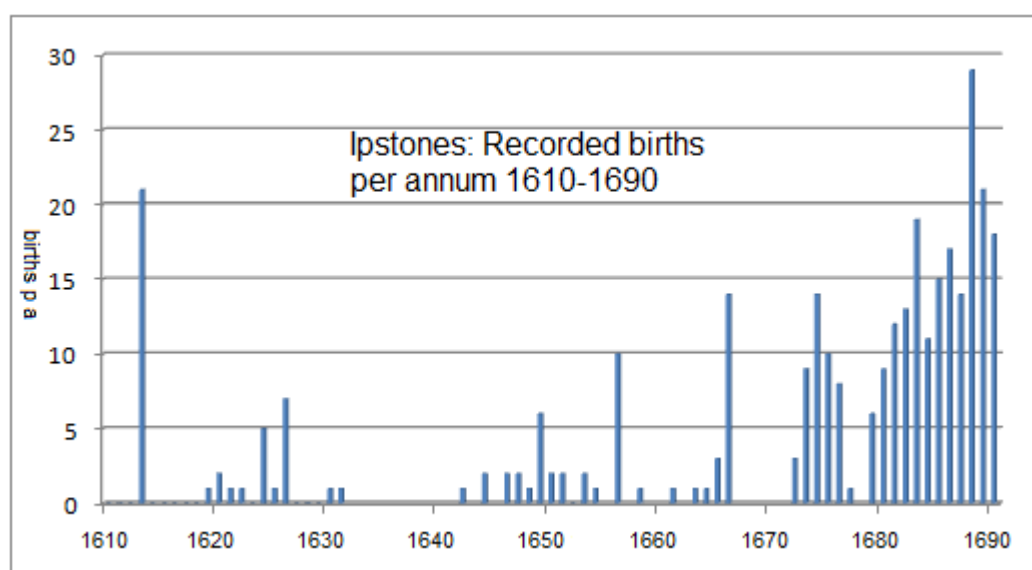
Can we trace or even make an informed guess as to the parents of Joshua?

There is no record of the birth of a Joshua Wardle anywhere in the UK within a reasonable interval of his subsequent marriage, the closest match being the birth of one Joshua Wardley at Garstang in Lancashire in 1673. However this is sufficiently improbable geographically, phonetically and chronologically as to make it desirable to seek an alternative.

Only two Wardle births were reported in Ipstones within a reasonable time of the 1689 marriage, one being a son, possibly named Robert, to Lawrence Wardle and his wife Anna (probably Latin for Ann) in 1646. The other is a son named William (Gulielmus in Latin) to John Wardle and his wife Isabelle in 1673.

My hypothesis is that Joshua was probably the offspring of one of these two couples.

While birth records exist for the parish of Ipstones from 1560, it is clear that the early records are incomplete. There are, for example, 178 births recorded between 1680 and 1690, with a minimum of 9 in any one year. On the other hand, there are only 20 births recorded between 1660 and 1670, 14 of which relate to 1666, with none at all in 1660, 1662, 1667, 1668, 1669 and 1670.



There are a number of possible reasons for this patchy record. It may be that, at certain times, there was no clergyman in place in Ipstones, or that the parish register was not kept current or that the register was complete at the time but is no longer legible. For example, a note at the front of the General Register for Ipstones for 1563 to 1716 states “1667- 69 Wanting”.

If indeed Joshua was the son of Lawrence, then he was about 43 when he married in 1689. If he was the son of John then he was about 16 when he married. On the whole, the former seems more likely.

The parish of Ipstones was small – about 2 miles by 2 miles – and we can reasonably guess that all of the people who lived there knew each other. If Joshua was 43 when he married in 1689, then he would have been about 30 in 1676 and would surely have known 29 year old Ellen Mellor when she married in that year. What has Ellen Mellor to do with this story?

She married Hugh Fforde and thus became [redacted]’s 8th Great-Grandmother, while in turn Joshua himself was [redacted]’s 8th maternal Great-Grandfather.

Whether or not Joshua was the son of Lawrence, we know from another entry that Lawrence was a "husbandman". This term generally indicates the farmer of a rented smallholding. Then as now, Ipstones was a rural area with the population drawing its living entirely from the land.

Lawrence, and the other smallholders in the parish, would have drawn a certain level of subsistence from the land they rented and farmed themselves and probably worked for wages for other larger landholders, particularly at peak times in the farming calendar.

We have seen that Joshua married Elizabeth Chadwick in 1689. The couple had at least two children, Job, born in 1696 and Joshua born in 1700.

Job Wardle (b 1696) & Mary Suffolk (b 1722)

Job was born in the parish of Ipstones and baptised there on 29 Mar 1696.

There is at least a question mark concerning his date of birth. If indeed his mother was Elizabeth Chadwick (born 1653) and if he was born in 1696, then his mother was 43 years old at the time of his birth. Another son, Joshua, was baptised in 1700 at which time Elizabeth would have been 47 years old. Thus both of these births / baptisms took place when Elizabeth was well beyond what would ordinarily be considered to be child-bearing age. There must be at least a possibility that Elizabeth (born 1653) was not the mother of Job and Joshua (baptised 1696 and 1700 respectively) or that both children were baptised some years after their birth.

In 1754 Job married Mary Suffolk in the parish of Stowe by Chartley, 35 miles south of Ipstones. They settled in the parish of Colwich, a few miles further south again, where four children were baptised between 1755 and 1764 at the parish church of St Michael and All Angels, Colwich.



St Michael & All Angels, Colwich

The baptism records describe Job as living at Great Heywood or Haywood, about 2 miles north of Colwich. Then, and today, Great Haywood was a rural hamlet and, while we have no record of Job's occupation, it is hard to imagine anything other than farm work.

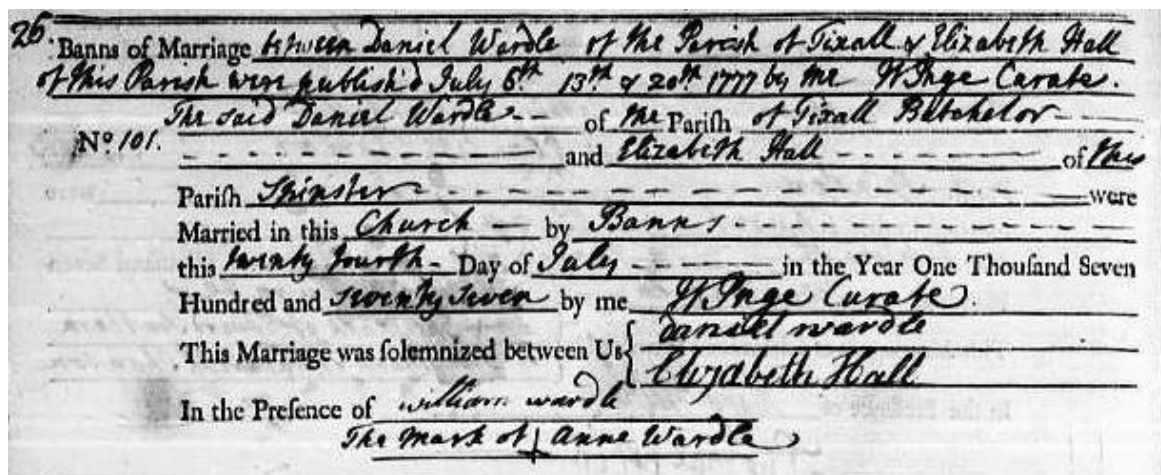
I can find no record of Job's death.

Daniel Wardle (born 1756) & Elizabeth Hall (1757 – 1824)

Job and Mary had at least four children:

Will born 1755
Daniel born 1756
Mary born 1762 and
Phebe born 1764.

By 1777 Daniel had moved to the parish of Tixall and on 24th July he married Elizabeth Hall in the neighbouring parish of Baswich, SE of Stafford. The marriage was witnessed by William Wardle – probably Daniel's older brother – and Anne Wardle – who I can't identify.



Daniel Wardle & Elizabeth Hall. Marriage record: Baswich Parish records

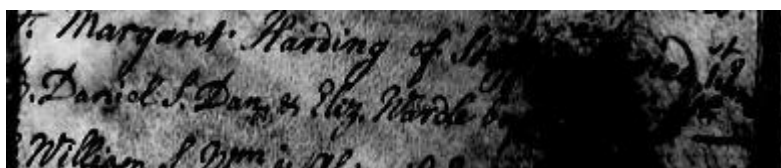
We can't be certain about the identity of Elizabeth since the name Elizabeth Hall was widely used in Staffordshire at the time.

Elizabeth was probably at least 15 years of age when she married in 1777. She had at least two children, in 1784 and 1789 and can hardly have been over 40 when the youngest child was born. We can thus reasonably guess that she was born between 1749 and 1762. However, even if we could be sure that she was born in Staffordshire these criteria still leave 26 possible identities. Only one of these was born in the parish of Baswich and thus we can guess, without being certain, that Elizabeth may have been born there in 1757.

Elizabeth Hall Staffordshire Births 1749-1762

Hall	Elizabeth	1750	Penkridge, St Michael & All Angels,
Hall	Elizabeth	1750	Wednesbury, St Bartholomew,
Hall	Elizabeth	1750	Willenhall, St Giles,
Hall	Eliz.	1750	Sedgley,
Hall	Elizabeth	1751	Fulford,
Hall	Elizabeth	1751	Stone, St Michael,
Hall	Elizabeth	1751	Willenhall, St Giles,
Hall	Elizabeth	1752	Eccleshall, Holy Trinity,
Hall	Elizabeth	1754	Stowe by Chartley, St John the Baptist,
Hall	Elizabeth Shaw	1754	Bilston,
Hall	Elizabeth	1755	Gnosall, St Lawrence,
Hall	Elizabeth	1755	Kingsley, St Werburgh,
Hall	Elizabeth	1755	Stone, St Michael,
Hall	Betty	1755	Hales-Owen,
Hall	Eliz	1755	Kingsley,
Hall	Elizabeth	1756	Walsall,
Hall	Elizabeth	1757	Baswich (Berkswich), Holy Trinity,
Hall	Betty	1758	Staffordshire,
Hall	Betty	1758	Biddulph, St Lawrence,
Hall	Elizabeth	1759	Stafford, St Mary,
Hall	Betty	1759	Biddulph,
Hall	Elizabeth	1760	Checkley, St Mary & All Saints,
Hall	Eliz	1760	West Bromwich,
Hall	Elizabeth	1761	Ellastone, St Peter,
Hall	Elizabeth	1761	Rowley Regis,
Hall	Betty	1762	Ellastone, St Peter,

Daniel and Elizabeth produced at least two sons, both baptised in Baswich, Daniel born 1784 and Thomas born 1789.



Daniel Wardle 1784 baptism. Baswich Parish records

I have not discovered the record of Daniel's death but it is clear that Elizabeth survived him to pass away in 1824.

BURIALS in the Parish of <i>St. Mary - Stafford</i> in the County of <i>Stafford</i> in the Year 18 <i>24</i>				
Name	Abode	When buried	Age	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
<i>Jacob Pratt</i> No. 1297.	<i>Stafford</i>	<i>Jan^y 10th</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>Ed. S. Kitchbone Offic^r. Minst.</i>
<i>Ann Dunt of James Dalt</i> No. 1306.	<i>Forbridge</i>	<i>Jan^y 10th</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Ed. S. Kitchbone North Offic^r. Minst.</i>
<i>John Rhodens</i> No. 1307.	<i>from the Hospital</i>	<i>Jan^y 19th</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>Ed. S. Kitchbone Offic^r. Minst.</i>
<i>Elizabeth Wardle</i> <i>Widow</i> No. 1308.	<i>from the Hospital</i>	<i>Jan^y 19th</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>Ed. S. Kitchbone Offic^r. Minst.</i>
<i>James son of John Puley</i> No. 1309.	<i>Stafford</i>	<i>Jan^y 20th</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>H. Kitchbone North Offic^r.</i>
<i>John Clarke</i> No. 1310.	<i>from the Hospital</i>	<i>Jan^y 25th</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>Ed. S. Kitchbone Offic^r. Minst.</i>
<i>Sarah Dickenson</i> No. 1311.	<i>Stafford</i>	<i>Jan^y 22nd</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>Ed. S. Kitchbone Offic^r. Minst.</i>

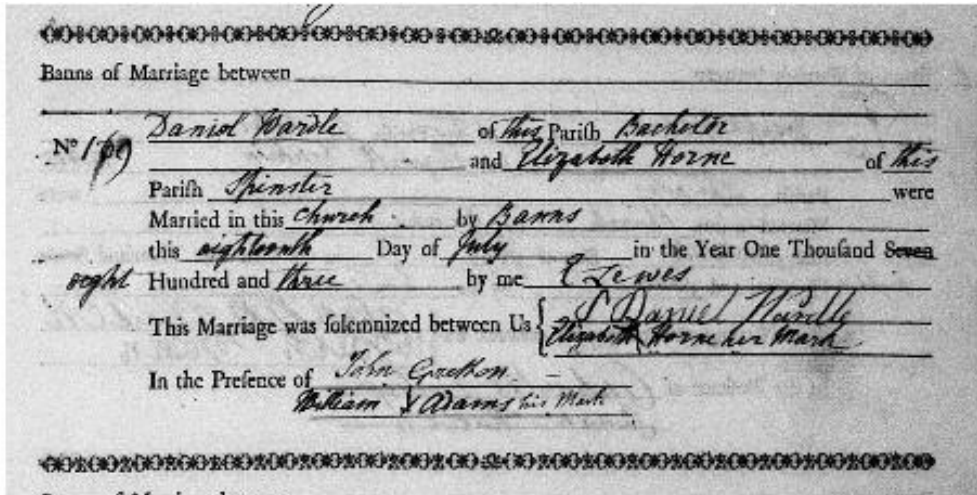
Elizabeth Wardle death record

Daniel Wardle (1784 – 1851) and Elizabeth Horne (1783 – bef 1841)

Daniel and Elizabeth married in the parish of Milwich, a few miles north of his birthplace, on 18th Jul 1803. All Saints Parish Church at Milwich was in the long process of reconstruction at the time, following the collapse of a wall in 1791 and, as a result, the reconstructed building is a curious mixture of medieval stone and late 18th century brick.



It is apparent from the marriage record that Elizabeth was illiterate.



Daniel Wardle 1803 marriage. Milwich Parish records

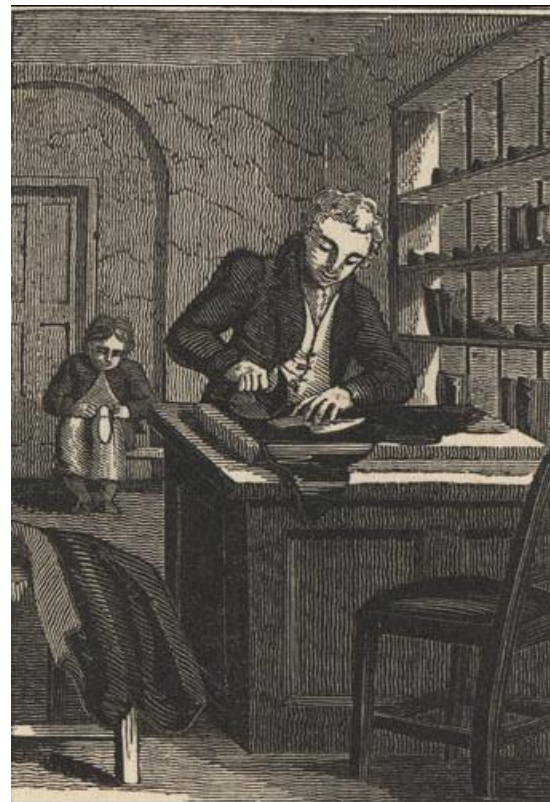
Daniel and Elizabeth Horne settled initially back at Baswich, where their eldest child Susanna was born in 1805, before moving into Stafford, where the rest of their family was born.



St Mary, Stafford, where Daniel and Elizabeth's younger children were baptized

It is probably from this time that the Wardle family's long connection with the shoe and boot making industry can be traced.

Stafford had been a centre for shoe making for at least 300 years: The earliest mention of it was in 1476. When Daniel went into the business it was very much a cottage industry but was growing quickly, prompted principally by the military demand for footwear brought on by the Napoleonic Wars.



Georgian Shoemaker, from *The Book of English Trades*, 1821

Susanna was followed by a son Thomas in 1807, by twins who died within a day or two of birth in 1812 and by a son William in 1820.

By the time of the 1841 census Elizabeth seems to have died and Daniel was living with Susanna (recorded in the census as "Anna") and William. Then, before 1851, William had married and Daniel continued to live with him, on both occasions at Brook St, Stafford.

The 1851 census enumerator recorded that he had dealt with "all that part of the parish of St Mary Stafford which comprises both sides Wright Street, both sides Friar Street, both sides Cottage Street, both sides Cross Street, both sides New Street including Machins Entry and Chapel Court. Plants Square. Both sides Brook Street including Brook Court and both sides of Kinderdine Street and Nursery Lane". We can follow the enumerator as he walked around this area and hence can be fairly precise as to where Daniel lived.

Brook Street (now Eccleshall Road) ran north west from the north end of Grey Friars. Only the first 200 yards or so was within the parish of St Mary. The enumerator must have started at the south end of Brook Street and dealt with 18 addresses in Brook Street before turning left into Nursery Lane and recording the 2 addresses in that lane that were within the parish of St Mary's. He then dealt with the remaining part of Brook St including Brook House, which seems to have corresponded to #24 Brook Street. Daniel Wardle with his son William was living at #16 Brook St and we can thus safely conclude that their house was between the south end of Brook St and Nursery Lane, and probably on the right hand side of the road looking north, that is on the same side of the road as Brook House.



Extract from the 1881 25 inch OS Map of Stafford

The 1851 census was taken on 30 March of that year. Daniel survived the census by only a day or two since he died and was buried at St Mary on 4th Apr.

BURIALS in the Parish of <i>St. Mary in Stafford</i> in the County of <i>Stafford</i> in the Year <i>1851</i>				
Name.	Abode.	When buried.	Age.	By whom the Ceremony was performed.
<i>Daniel Wardle</i>	<i>Stafford</i>	<i>April 4th</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>The Widdow Spistaul Curate</i>

No. 1842

Thomas Wardle (born 1807) and Mary Smith (1812 – 1883)

We have seen that Thomas was born to Daniel Wardle and Elizabeth Horne at St Mary Stafford in 1807 where he was baptised on Nov 2. It would seem that, at some point, probably in early manhood, he moved to the neighbouring parish of Leigh.

We know that Thomas's wife was named Mary and we know also that the couple had a son in 1833. There is only one marriage involving Thomas Wardle and a wife named Mary near Stafford in the

period between Thomas's coming-of-age and 1833: Namely that to Mary Smith on Feb 3 1828 at Uttoxeter in connection with which the groom's residence is given as Leigh.

After their marriage the couple clearly moved back to Stafford where, in the parish of St Mary, the baptisms of their children were recorded: James in 1832, Ellen in 1835, Elizabeth in 1837 and Emma in 1840. In each birth record Thomas's occupation is given as shoemaker.

It may be that Thomas was something less than the perfect husband and father. In the 1841 census Mary and the four children were recorded as "inmates" at North St Stafford presumably in the Bridewell that used to stand there but Thomas himself was absent. He appears nowhere in the 1841 census record and his absence and his family's circumstances only become clearer from the briefest of paragraphs in the *Staffordshire Gazette and County Standard* on May 6 1841, recording:

"Tuesday May 4th. Thomas Wardle was committed to the house of correction as a rogue and vagabond for one month, for running away, and leaving his wife and four children chargeable to the parish."

This appears damning, and it may be that Thomas did in fact abandon his family for a time, but, if so, it was only briefly, since we know that the couple had another daughter baptised in Feb 1843 and sadly buried two months later. It may also be that Thomas did not abandon his family but that he was forced to leave Stafford in search of work. The shoe making industry had suffered something of a slump at the end of the Napoleonic Wars and mechanisation was just beginning to apply pressure to the wages of the craftsmen who had traditionally made shoes.

Thus it is possible that the bare record of the census and the press paragraph conceal more than they reveal.

By 1851 Thomas and his family were living at St Chads Place in the centre of Stafford, Thomas described as a 43 year old cordwainer and Mary as a 39 year old binder of shoes. Their son James had by that time left home and their daughter Elizabeth had died some years earlier but the family had been swelled by the birth of sons William in 1847 and Thomas in 1849.

Mary was still alive at the time of the 1861 census, described as married, but Thomas was not with her. By the time of the 1871 census she was described as widowed. We don't know when or where Thomas died, except that it was clearly after 1851.

William Wardle (1847 – 1925) and Rosa Caroline Bee (1849 – 1924)

William was the second youngest of seven children born to Thomas and Mary. Of his siblings:

James (born 1833) married Harriet Meeson in 1853. The couple moved to Birmingham and had four children. By 1891 James was a patient at the Birmingham City Asylum. He died in 1901. There is probably an extant branch of the Wardle family still in Warwickshire.

Ellen (born 1835) married Thomas Wall (possibly Hall) in 1858. She died in Stafford in 1900. Once again there is probably an extant branch of the family.

Elizabeth (born 1837) died as a child in 1843.

Emma (born 1840) married William Haywood in 1865 and died there in 1917 leaving a large family.

Charlotte (born 1843) died as an infant in the same year.

Thomas (born 1849) married Mary Ann Pointon in 1876. The family moved to Lancashire where Thomas died in 1887. Once again there is probably an extant branch.

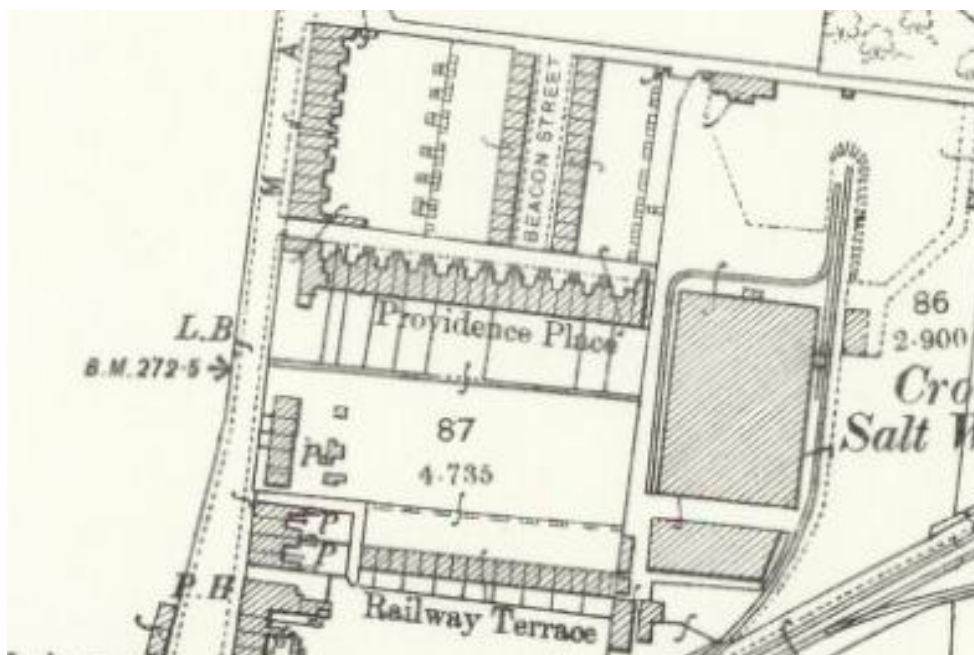
William himself was an infant in his parent's family in Stafford in 1851. His age is shown in that census as 4 months. This is clearly an enumeration error since William was born in 1847 and was thus 4 years old in 1851, not 4 months.

By 1861 William was an apprentice shoemaker living with his brother-in-law Thomas Wall at 5 Providence Place Stafford. Thomas Wall had married William's older sister Ellen.

Providence Place has long since disappeared and the site is now an unlovely industrial estate. It was a terrace of 23 houses running east from Marston Rd, just north of the Stafford to Uttoxeter rail line and immediately west of the Crown Salt Works



1951 aerial photo looking WSW. Providence Place runs bottom left to top centre. Salt Works in the foreground



1901 OS Map showing Providence Place

William married Rosa Caroline Bee at St Leonard, Marston just outside Stafford on Jan 30 1870 and at the time of the census in the following year had set up home at 5 Marsh St Stafford. This only yards from where his grandfather Daniel had lived in the 1840s and 50s.



Right: St Leonard, Marston

Like his father and grandfather, William was a shoe maker. By 1881 his family had grown to include William 10, Henry 8, Edward 6, George 4, Mary 2 and Herbert 8 months and he had moved along the street to number 10 Marsh St. This appears to be a compact 2 Up and 2 Down and must have been a tight fit for husband, wife and 6 children. William's sister Ellen lived next door but one at number 8 with her family. In 1891, 1901 and 1911 the family was at the same address.



10 Marsh st (highlighted pink)

William died at the Stafford General Infirmary in 1925.

Herbert Wardle (1880 – 1963) and Annie Taylor (1879 – 1920)

Herbert became the fourth generation of Wardles to go into the shoe making business. In 1881, 1891 and 1901 he was at home with his parents at 10 Marsh St. On the latter date the household had expanded to include a visitor: Annie Taylor.

Herbert and Annie married in 1903 and by 1911 the couple had set up home next door to his parents at 9 Marsh St. By then his family included a son Reginald aged 7 and a daughter Gerty aged 4.

The family grew with the birth of twins Bernard and Harry in 1911.

The record is far from conclusive, but it may be that Annie died in 1920 and that Herbert remarried in 1924 – his second wife also being known as Annie.

By 1939 Herbert had moved to Coventry and was living with his wife at 114 Hinckley Rd. This area has been redeveloped since WW2. It is not clear whether the area was damaged in the Blitz but central Coventry, 2 - 3 miles from Hinckley Rd, was very heavily damaged.

By 1962 Herbert was retired and living in Brixham at Marlborough, Wall Park Rd. This is a pleasant but unpretentious street with occasional glimpses out across Torbay.

The following year he was admitted to Brixham Hospital, where he died on Oct 3, leaving a substantial estate of £9300. To put this in context, an average house which could today be bought for £216,000 was worth £2,900 in 1963. Thus Herbert's estate was roughly the equivalent of owning three houses today.

Reginald Wardle (1904 – 1996) & Rose Alice Andrews

In 1911 Reginald was a 7 year old boy at home with his parents at 9 Marsh St. He was probably too young to have served in the military in WW1 but it is possible that he enlisted late in the War. The surviving record is inconclusive.

In 1928 he married Rose Alice Andrews in Worcester and evidently settled there since a son [redacted] Wardle was born there in [redacted]. In 1939 he was still in Worcester, living at 6 Lilac Ave and working as a shoe edge trimmer and repairer.

Lilac Avenue was part of a new development built in the 1930s. It must have been brand-new when Reginald lived there.

Right: 6 Lilac Ave, Worcester



Reginald and Rose had at least one child, a son [redacted] born in [redacted].

Rose died in Worcester in 1991, Reginald following her in 1996.