

# *Fullers, Poultens, Dodds and Whitmells*

*London, Warwickshire and Northants*

*Part 2*

## The later Fullers: Holborn, The City and Camberwell

There is still something of a mystery about Henry Fuller (See Tree 6 – page 48). He was baptised at St. Sepulchre's on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1808 - the day of his parents' wedding at St. Andrew Holborn:

Fuller, Henry, son of Richard and Phoebe Fuller, glasscutter, born St. Sepulchre.

Unlike his brothers, he was not apprenticed to his father, and his first occupation was miles away from being a glass cutter. He appears in Kelly's Directory<sup>1</sup> in 1838 as:

Henry Fuller, Chop and Coffee House, 14, Godliman St.



**Godliman Street with St Paul's in the background**

Godliman Street was in the parish of St. Gregory in the City of London, a stone's throw from St. Paul's Cathedral, but he was designated 'of this parish' when he married at Hornsey in 1834. This may, of course, have been expediency to save the cost of two sets of banns in separate parishes. There is no other evidence to suggest that he resided in Hornsey and he paid land tax<sup>2</sup> of £4 6/3 on a property owned by J. P. Ward in Godliman Street in 1836 and 1838.

His bride was Jane Collidge née Dodd, a widow, also 'of this parish'. The ceremony took place on 25<sup>th</sup> February 1834 at St. Mary Hornsey after banns published on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> December and 5<sup>th</sup> January. Both parties signed the

---

<sup>1</sup> *Post Office Directory of London*, Kelly, 1838

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ancestry.co.uk/> Land Tax, Castle Baynard Ward, City of London

register, as did the witnesses. One of these was Richard Fuller - his brother, I suspect; the other name looks like Ann Maria Frankling. Presumably the newly-weds settled either immediately or within a short time after the marriage in Godliman Street, for it was here that their first child, Henry William, was born three years later.

By the time of the 1841 census<sup>3</sup>, the family was living in St. Dunstan, where the birth of their second child, Anne Elizabeth, had been registered in 1840. The address given was 19 Johnson's Court, St. Dunstan West. Johnson's Court runs from Fleet Street, just east of St. Dunstan's Church, to Gough Square, and was named not for the diarist Samuel Johnson whose house butts onto the court, but for Thomas Johnson, Citizen and Merchant Taylor in Elizabeth I's time. Henry was listed as a glass cutter, so presumably his attempt to follow a different career had been abortive. He was 40 years old; Jane was 35, while Henry and Ann were four and one respectively. All have 'N' for 'no' in the 'born in this county' column, which isn't strictly true, as only Jane was born outside Middlesex.



**Entry to Johnsons Court**

It may be at around this time that Henry acquired a copy of *The Psalms of David* by Isaac Watts. This is still in possession of one of his descendants and has two names written on the flyleaf: Jane Fuller, whose signature matches that in the marriage register, and Betty Fuller. The only known 'Betty' at the time would have been her sister-in-law, Elizabeth, born 1827. On the frontispiece it says:

---

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.ancestry.co.uk/1841census/StDunstan>, HO 107/726

Printed and sold by J. Haddon, Castle St. Finsbury, 1825

which would fit with Richard Fuller living in Castle St. between the 1830s and 1850s. On the inside of the front cover, in pencil, but in a hand matching his wedding signature, is written:

*Henry Fuller  
76 Gough Square  
Fleet Street*

whether this suggests a short move, or whether his home on Johnson's Court was a corner property, also fronting onto Gough Square, is not known.

By 1851<sup>4</sup>, though, the family had moved again, not far, just to no. 3 Gunpowder Alley, East Harding Street, beyond the far side of Gough Square:

Henry Fuller	H	m	43	Glasscutter, 1 boy	St Sepulchre, Mddx
Jane Fuller	W	m	44		Braunston, Nth
Henry W Fuller	S		13	Scholar at home	St. Gregory, Mddx
Anne E Fuller	dau		10		St. Dunstan, Mddx

During the rest of his life, Henry advertised himself in the London Directories. He appears in Kelly's<sup>5</sup> between 1852 and 58, describing himself as follows:

Fuller Henry. Chemical Stopperer, 3, Gunpowder Al. Shoe Lane

So presumably he specialised in one key area of glass-cutting, while his brother Richard, also a glass-cutter, but on a grander scale, worked from the property next door from at least 1854 according to the Land Tax records<sup>6</sup>:

1854 City of London, St. Bride					
3 Gunpowder Alley,	Henry Fuller	House		£1	6/10
1855 City of London, Farringdon Without					
2 Gunpowder Alley	Richard Fuller	House		£1	14/6
3 Gunpowder Alley	Henry Fuller	House		£1	6/10
1857 City of London, Farringdon Without					
2 Gunpowder Alley	Richard Fuller	House		£1	16/-
3 Gunpowder Alley	Henry Fuller	House		£1	8/-

By the final year of his life, most of the rest of the family had joined the brothers in Gunpowder Alley, as directories show Richard and Jonathan Fuller as glass cutters at 2 Gunpowder Alley from 1856-70, Jonathan by himself from 1871-79, and his widow Mary Ann from 1880-82. The 1861 census<sup>7</sup> shows Jonathan with his family and his sister Elizabeth – working as a glass froster – living at no. 2, and of

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.ancestry.co.uk/> 1851 census, St. Bride, HO 107/1527

<sup>5</sup> *Post Office London Directory*, Kelly

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.ancestry.co.uk/> Land Tax, City of London

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.ancestry.co.uk/> 1861 census, St. Bride, RG 9/221

course this was the address given on both Richard and Phoebe Fuller's death certificates. Henry didn't die there, however. Like thousands of other Londoners of his generation, he had moved out of the City to the new suburb of Camberwell, maybe to live with his son in his final illness. The directories suggest he was still working in Gunpowder Alley until shortly before his death. However, he had clearly been in poor health for some time as his death certificate shows:

22<sup>nd</sup> December 1857; 345 Albany Rd, Henry Fuller, male, 50 years, Chemical Glass Stopperer (master), Cysterrhoea 10 years diarrhoea 6 days, H Fuller present at the death, 345 Albany Rd Camberwell, 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1857.

It is interesting that his son registered him as a master of his craft, although he seems never to have completed an apprenticeship. He had outlived his parents by less than a year and a half. Maybe they knew he was unlikely to live long when they wrote their own wills. However, Henry himself seems to have been either unaware of his impending death or aware that there was little to leave as he wrote no will of his own, despite both parents and his son doing so. As it was, Jane had to apply for letters of administration<sup>8</sup>:

Probate 9.3.1858. Effects under £100  
Letters of Administration of the personal estate and effects of Henry Fuller, late of 345, Albany Rd, Camberwell, Surrey and of 3, Gunpowder Alley, Shoe Lane in the City of London, chemical stopperer, dec. who died 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1857 at 345, Albany Rd aforesaid, were granted at the Principal Registry to Jane Fuller of 345, Albany Rd aforesaid, widow the relict of the said deceased, she having first been sworn.

So was there a mystery surrounding Henry Fuller? Baptised on the day of his parents' marriage, he was clearly conceived considerably earlier. Were his parents hoping that no live child would come from their liaison? Or had Phoebe's liaison been with someone else? There was at least a five year gap before Richard and Phoebe had another child, assuming even that John was theirs. The other surviving children were born in 1815, '18, '20 and '27, making Elizabeth nearly 20 years younger than her brother Henry. Recently, I came across a reference to the possibility that syphilis could be responsible for a large gap in a family tree. An infected mother can pass congenital syphilis to a child in utero. This can cause miscarriage, or failure to thrive in an infant. However, the effects are self-limiting, and after a period of between 4 and 6 years, the mother ceases to be infectious. This would fit the scenario perfectly, although it must be seen as speculation. A first child, Henry, is born before infection takes place. One or more miscarriages follow, perhaps, and then two children are born who die as infants. Seven years later, the first of four children who survive to adulthood is born. Given the fact that Henry's wife appears to have died as a result of infection with syphilis, I have wondered whether Henry was infected at birth and passed the disease on. However, I have not been able to find out whether this is possible. It is certainly true that syphilis is

---

<sup>8</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> National Probate Calendar



thought to have affected as much as 10% of the population in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with rates higher in urban areas, so, given that this was a city of London family, it is quite possible that two generations caught the disease independently.

Unlike his brothers, Henry was not apprenticed to their father, and I have found no proof of him serving an apprenticeship elsewhere, although he presumably learnt the craft of glass-cutting well enough to be described as a master craftsman on his death certificate. He seems to have broken away from the family for a time in running a chop and coffee house, although he was obviously in contact with his siblings in later life. His father makes no mention of him in his will and leaves the residue of the estate to his 'four children', namely Ebenezer, Richard, Jonathan and Elizabeth. Was Richard not in a position to take an apprentice when Henry was the right age? He doesn't seem to have taken an official apprentice until after he was made a freeman of London in 1830. Did he disapprove of Henry's choice of bride? She had been married before; no record of death for her husband has come to light – which is not to say that it doesn't exist. Or was religion the rub, once Richard had embraced non-conformity? Henry doesn't seem to have baptised his own children. There is one other possible explanation, although it is pure speculation, that maybe Henry was Phoebe's child but not Richard's. However, Phoebe also left the bulk of her estate to her four younger children; Henry only got her writing desk, so maybe I'm making much out of nothing. Maybe he had already received his share in order to set up his business in Godliman Street many years earlier, or maybe as the oldest and officially heir at law some part of his parents estate came to him automatically.

Henry's siblings were all involved in the glass business at some stage of their lives. Richard, having served an apprenticeship with his father, was granted the Freedom of the City in 1843, when he was living at 30, Fetter Lane in Holborn. He married Susanna Plant at St. Mary Islington in 1838 and they had six children: Mary Ann, Susanna, Charles, Frederick, Emma and Henry, before Susanna died in 1858. He was enumerated in 1851<sup>9</sup> at Union Terrace, off Fetter Lane, paid Land Tax in the mid-1850s on property in Gunpowder Alley<sup>10</sup> and was enumerated with second wife Mary Ann Buckland (whom he had married in 1859 in Norwood) at 27, Buckingham Street Finsbury in 1861<sup>11</sup>, which was presumably his home although the directories show him to be running his business in Gunpowder Alley. His death was recorded in Islington registration district<sup>12</sup> in 1870.

Jonathan, who had been still living at home in 1841, had moved to Grays Inn Lane by 1851<sup>13</sup> with wife Mary Ann Stevenson, whom he had married at St. Andrew Holborn in 1846 (witnessed by brother Ebenezer), and son William. In 1861<sup>14</sup> he was

---

<sup>9</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1851 Census Holborn St. Andrew, HO 107/1514

<sup>10</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> Land Tax, St Bride, London

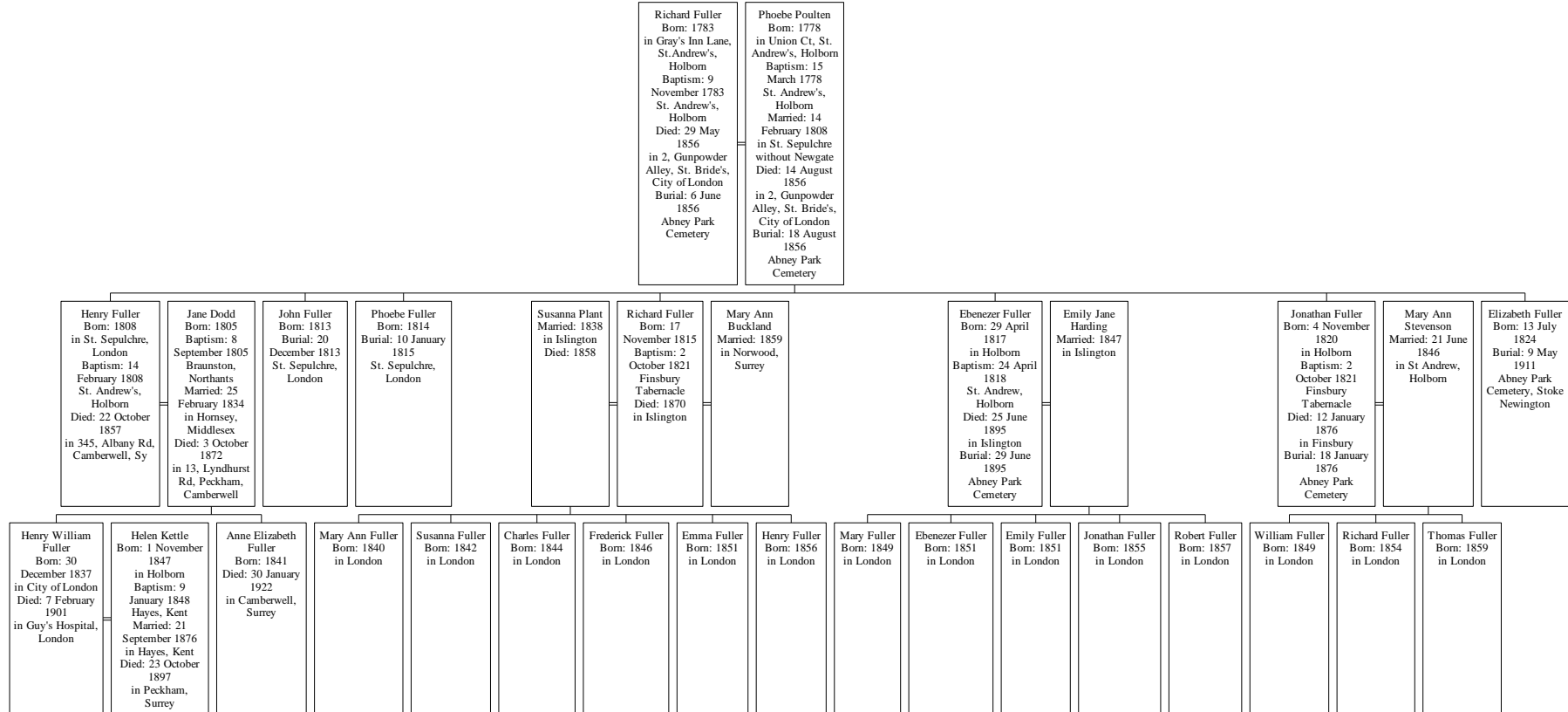
<sup>11</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1861 Census Finsbury, RG 9/133

<sup>12</sup> <http://freebmd.rootsweb.com/>

<sup>13</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1851 Census Holborn St. Andrew, HO 107/1513

<sup>14</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> 1861 Census St. Bride, RG 9/211

*Tree 6 - Descendants of Richard and Phoebe Fuller*



Date and place of birth of the children of Richard, Ebenezer  
and Jonathan are approximate.

enumerated at 2, Gunpowder Alley. His wife had produced two more children Richard and Thomas, but there is no sign of William, so maybe he died young. The family has eluded discovery in the 1871 census, which is a pity, as by 1881 Jonathan was dead, and the widowed Mary Ann was enumerated working as a glass manufacturer in 1881<sup>15</sup> with sons Richard and Thomas both working as glass cutters. Jonathan had died in 1876, aged 56, and was buried near his parents in Abney Park Cemetery<sup>16</sup> on 18<sup>th</sup> January. Probate<sup>17</sup> was granted on 3<sup>rd</sup> March with effects under £300:

The will of Jonathan Fuller, late of 2 Gunpowder-alley East-Harding-street in the City of London Glass Cutter who died 12<sup>th</sup> January 1876 at St. Mark's Hospital City-road ... was proved... by Mary Ann Fuller ...widow the Relict and Ebenezer Fuller of 272 Essex-road ... Silversmith the Brother the Executors



**Abney Park Cemetery chapel**

Ebenezer, who had been living with his family but working as a clerk in 1841, married Emily Jane Harding on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1847 at St. Mary Islington. His brother Jonathan witnessed the ceremony. By 1851<sup>18</sup> he was living in Amwell Street, Clerkenwell with his wife and three children – Mary, Ebenezer and Emily - and a servant. He was working as a clerk in a silversmith's factory, but by 1861<sup>19</sup> he seemed to have been promoted the role of manufacturing silversmith's assistant, and there were two more children – Jonathan and Robert - at the house on Prebend Street. By 1871<sup>20</sup> the family had moved to Essex Street, still in Islington, but

---

<sup>15</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/1881CensusStBride, RG11/375>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.devsys.co.uk/ap/> Abney Park Cemetery Records

<sup>17</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/NationalProbateCalendar>

<sup>18</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/1851CensusClerkenwell, HO107/1519>

<sup>19</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/1861CensusIslington, RG9/147>

<sup>20</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/1871CensusIslington, RG10/267>



Ebenezer was clerk to a manufacturing silversmith again, so maybe the role hadn't really changed. Ten years later<sup>21</sup>, Emily had died, but three of the children were still at home. In 1891<sup>22</sup>, he was recorded as a silversmith. Three of his children were still living at home, and it looks as if his sister Elizabeth was living next door, on her own means. The National Probate Calendar<sup>23</sup> shows that he died at 272 Essex Road, Islington on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1895, and that his son Jonathan, a silversmith, was granted probate of an estate worth £223 19/6. He chose to be buried at Abney Park Cemetery<sup>24</sup>, where he was interred on 29<sup>th</sup> June, (grave 010606, section G04, alongside his brother Jonathan and wife Emily). The gravestone also records Emily's mother and an infant Phoebe who was presumably a daughter of Ebenezer's.



**Family grave of Ebenezer Fuller**

Elizabeth, the youngest sibling and only surviving girl, never married. She was living with her parents until their deaths, then with her brother Jonathan in Gunpowder Alley, still working in the family business. After his death she seems to have gone to live near Ebenezer, and in 1911<sup>25</sup> she was recorded at 185 Philip Lane, Tottenham, living on private means with her spinster nieces Mary and Emily. Her birthplace is given as Holloway, but should read Holborn. She was buried on 9<sup>th</sup>

<sup>21</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/1881CensusIslington>, RG 10/263

<sup>22</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/1891CensusIslington>, RG 10/165

<sup>23</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/NationalProbateCalendar>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.devsys.co.uk/ap/> Abney Park Cemetery Records

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.ancestry.co.uk/> 1911 Census, Tottenham, RG 14/7308,

May 1911 at Abney Park Cemetery<sup>26</sup>, in grave 058558, section N09, alongside her sister-in-law Mary-Ann.

Henry William Fuller, father of Katharine Joan and son of Henry and Jane Fuller, was born on 30<sup>th</sup> December 1837, just into the period of civil registration – which is just as well, as no baptism has come to light for either him or his sister. The other columns on his birth certificate give the following information:

14, Godliman St, St. Gregory by St. Paul's, Henry William Fuller, Male,  
Henry Fuller, Jane Fuller, late Colledge (widow) formerly Dodd,  
Coffee House Keeper, Henry Fuller, father, 14, Godliman St, reg. 4.1.1838.

From Godliman Street, he moved to Johnson's Court, and then to Gunpowder Alley. By the age of 12 he had developed an elegant copperplate hand, as evidenced by a letter dated June 14<sup>th</sup> 1850:

My dear Parents  
I am requested to present Dr Sherry's compliments and inform  
you that the school will close on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> inst., and will reopen on Monday, July  
8<sup>th</sup>.  
With love to all the family,  
I remain, my dear parents,  
Your dutiful Son,  
Henry Fuller

Whether this was purely a handwriting exercise, an easy way of generating a parental letter or he was actually being educated away from home is unclear. I suspect the former, as the census the following year describes him as a 'scholar at home'.

In 1851 he became a student at the City of London School. Family lore has it that he owed his place there to the family's livery company connections, so maybe his father did serve an apprenticeship to one of the guilds, or maybe it was his grandfather Richard's influence which secured his entry to the school founded as a charitable bequest in the reign of Henry V. By the time Henry William became a scholar there, the school was housed in a neo-Gothic building in Milk Street. There were 400 pupils and according to the school website<sup>27</sup>:

Unusually, there was to be no religious test for either boys or masters.

The curriculum laid down by the Committee broke with the customary monopoly of classics, and specified science and a range of modern languages, taught by native speakers, and Hebrew.

---

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.devsys.co.uk/ap/> Abney Park Cemetery Records

<sup>27</sup> <http://www.clsb.org.uk/history/> City of London School

June 14<sup>th</sup> 1850.

My dear Parents,

I am requested to present D<sup>r</sup>  
Sherry's compliments, and inform you that  
the school will close on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> inst.,  
and will reopen on Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup>.

With love to all the family,

I remain, my dear Parents,

Your dutiful Son,

Henry Fuller.

Letter from Henry William Fuller to his parents

The headmaster in Henry's time was Rev. Dr. G.F. Mortimer, known for his liberal views and anti-slavery stance, and his signature appears on the school reports which have come down through the family.

The first of these is dated Christmas 1851, and shows the class to have consisted of 62 boys. Henry came 6<sup>th</sup> in class for: Latin, Greek and Classical Literature in general; English and History; and Geography. The bracketed comment is simply:

Highly creditable.

He received the same comment for Arithmetic, Algebra and Mathematics in general, in which he came 9<sup>th</sup>. French (position 8<sup>th</sup>) was:

Very satisfactory.

Only Writing let him down; he came 20<sup>th</sup>. At the bottom of the sheet is a printed note which shows that some things never change:

The Parents and Guardians of the Pupils are particularly requested to cause them to be punctual in returning to the School at the time appointed, and in their daily attendance.

The following year, Henry was in Class 3, containing 50 boys. He was still studying the Classics (9<sup>th</sup> in class), but seems to have abandoned English, History and Geography for Euclid, which he obviously found more taxing than Arithmetic, as in the latter he was 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the former 17<sup>th</sup>. However, his performance in all these, and in French (5<sup>th</sup> in class), was deemed 'Highly satisfactory'. Writing was still a weak point, but his average performance was considered satisfactory.

He had also taken up Chemistry and Natural Philosophy (the name at the time for what we would call Physics, and probably Biology), and was reported to be 'Very satisfactory'. His conduct, however, was judged to be 'Excellent' and his attendance 'Regular'.

At Christmas 1853, Henry had completed Class 4, which had 28 boys, and was still doing well in Classics; the comment being 'Very praiseworthy' as opposed to a shade of satisfactory. By English, History and Geography, his teacher has written:

A boy of great promise.

The rest of his subjects are judged to be versions of satisfactory, and he seems to have given up Science in favour of German. Either these were all taster courses which complemented the basic curriculum or the standard subjects were not reported on.



# City of London School.

REPORT for the Term ending Christmas, 1853.

Class 4<sup>th</sup>, containing 28 Boys.

Fuller, Henry, William

Subjects.	Average Place in Class.	Proficiency.
GENERAL STUDIES :		
Latin, Greek, and Classical Literature in general .. }	7	Very Praiseworthy
English and History .. }	[boy of great promise J. W. Mortimer]	
Geography .....		
Arithmetic, Algebra, and Mathematics in general }	6	very satisfactory W.P.
French .....	11	Satisfactory. C. D. B.
Writing .....	8	Satisfactory A.M.
SPECIAL STUDIES :		
German ..... 2 .....	2	very satis. L. A. F.
Drawing .....		
Chemistry and Natural Philosophy .....		

CONDUCT ... Highly Satisfactory

ATTENDANCE Regular

W. B. Brownrigg Smith. M.A. Master of the Class.

Rev. J. W. Mortimer M.A. Head Master.

The School will be re-opened on Tuesday, the 17<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1854.

The Parents and Guardians of the Pupils are particularly requested to cause them to be punctual in returning to the School at the time appointed, and in their daily attendance.

School Report - Henry William Fuller



# City of London School.

TERM ACCOUNT, — Easter, 1854,

for

*Henry Fuller* (E210)

## BOOKS:

Bible, Nicholls' Help to Bible, .....					
Barnes's Notes on the Gospels .....					
English Grammar, Selection of Poetry, .....					
History of England, Rome, Greece, .....					
Koch's Modern History .....					
Outlines of Modern Geography .....					
Modern Atlas .....					
Arithmetic, Euclid, .....					
Algebra, Trigonometry, <i>1/6</i> .....					
Bland's Algebraical Problems .....					
Foster's Bookkeeping .....					
French Grammar, Dictionary, ..					
Repertoire Litteraire, French Poetry, ..					
Manuel Etymologique .....					
Latin Grammar, Dictionary, ..					
Robson's Exercises, Cæsar, ..					
Arnold's Latin Composition <i>1/2</i> .....					
Cicero, <i>2</i> Livy, <i>Lucian 2/6</i> ..					
Ovid, <i>6/6</i> Horace, <i>6/6</i> Virgil, ..					
Greek Grammar, Lexicon, ..					
Greek Exercises, <i>6/6</i> Testament, ..					
German Grammar, Dictionary, ..					
German Reader, <i>Tables of Logarithms</i> ..					
Music <i>Chilman's Algebra and Trigonometry</i> ..					
Discount .....					

Slate .....					
Drawing Materials (Book, Paper, Pencils, India-rubber, ) ..					
School-Fee, for the Term ending July 28th, 1854 .....	2	15	0		
Instruction in Drawing, for ditto .....					
Fee for Chemistry Class, for ditto .....					

*Recd Apr 25*  
The School will be re-opened on Tuesday, the 25th of

According to the Regulations of the School the Pupil should be paid  
each Term within Seven days after the commencement of Pupil is entitled to  
continue in attendance whose Account remains unpaid beyond that time. The attention of parents  
is particularly drawn to this regulation.



End of term account - City of London School

His last report is for the half year ending Christmas 1854, when he would have been almost 17. It was a small class, only 12 boys, and clearly the most senior, as the Master of the Class was Dr. Mortimer himself. In the Classics and the Arts, Mortimer has written:

Always does his best.

and while the French teacher considered his progress moderate, the Headmaster believed his conduct still to be excellent. Two term accounts also survive, showing that Henry's parents paid £3 2/- for the term ending July 1852, and £2 15/- for the term ending July 1854. The extra on the first bill was for Chemistry classes.

I don't know where he spent the next five years but by 1861<sup>28</sup> Henry was living at 2, Diamond Place in Camberwell, with his widowed mother, Jane, and sister, Annie. He was enumerated as a Merchant's Clerk, but there is no way of telling whether the merchant in question was Harwood Austwick, formerly married to his mother's sister Ann Dodd and a wine merchant in Walbrook in the City of London, (Austwick and Webb), but given that Henry later went into partnership with him it seems likely. Ten years later<sup>29</sup> he was still living with his mother and sister, but the family had moved to 13, Lyndhurst Road, to an imposing four story (if you include the basement) corner property in what was then an up-and-coming area. His mother was listed as an annuitant; his sister had no given occupation, but Henry had now reached a point where he could call himself a Wine Merchant, and there was a live-in general servant, Ellen Salmon, from nearby Kennington.

The one thing Henry did not yet have was a wife. He may well have met his prospective bride through friends and neighbours, Arthur and Elizabeth Moysey Bott, who lived at 90 Lyndhurst Road, and to whose daughter, Jessie, Henry stood godfather in 1873. Helen Kettle, his future wife and Elizabeth's second cousin, made reference to this fact in her diary, but it is not clear if this was the first time she met him. However, three years later, on 29<sup>th</sup> September 1876, the couple were married at her home church of St. Mary the Virgin, Hayes:

Henry William Fuller, of full age, bachelor, merchant, residing at St. Giles  
Camberwell, son of Henry Fuller, merchant: Helen Kettle, of full age, spinster,  
residing at Hayes, Kent, dau. of Daniel Kettle, merchant

The register gives 'of full age' for both parties. In fact he was 38 and she was 28. The story of Helen's early life, her siblings, and her mother's family has been explored in *The Findlays of Leith and London* as her maternal grandfather was map engraver and founder member of the Royal Geographical Society, Alexander Findlay.

Henry's mother had died four years earlier, and although his sister Annie was a bridesmaid at the wedding, I suspect she vacated the household when her brother

---

<sup>28</sup> [http://ancestry.co.uk/1861Census,Camberwell,RG9/379](http://ancestry.co.uk/1861Census/Camberwell/RG9/379)

<sup>29</sup> [http://ancestry.co.uk/1871Census,Camberwell,RG10/725](http://ancestry.co.uk/1871Census/Camberwell/RG10/725)

married. Certainly she was living independently on later census returns. Within just over a year, their first child, Henry Alexander was born, and Henry was appearing in Kelly's Directory<sup>30</sup> (and continued to do so until 1901) as part of:

Austwick, son and Fuller, Wine Merchants, 1, Walbrook

in the City of London, just off Canon Street, and only a stone's throw away from the church of St. Stephen Walbrook. My guess is that he was either taken into partnership on the occasion of his marriage or the partnership enabled him to marry.



### St. Stephen Walbrook

Helen Jane was born in 1879, Jack in 1881, Margaret in 1885, and with the birth of my grandmother in 1888 the family was complete. The 1881 census<sup>31</sup> shows Henry and Helen and their two elder children, along with servant Caroline Mitchell from Cheshire and 15 year old nursemaid Eliza E. Simpson from Camberwell.

Despite living in Peckham, Henry became churchwarden of St. Stephen's Walbrook, following in the footsteps of his colleague, Harwood Austwick. A printed notice advised interested parties of a forthcoming vestry meeting:

### St. Stephen's Walbrook

-----  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Vestry Meeting of the Parishioners of the above Parish will be holden in the Vestry Room of the Church,

---

<sup>30</sup> *Post Office London Directory*, Kelly

<sup>31</sup> [http://ancestry.co.uk/1881Census,Camberwell, RG11/675](http://ancestry.co.uk/1881Census/Camberwell, RG11/675)

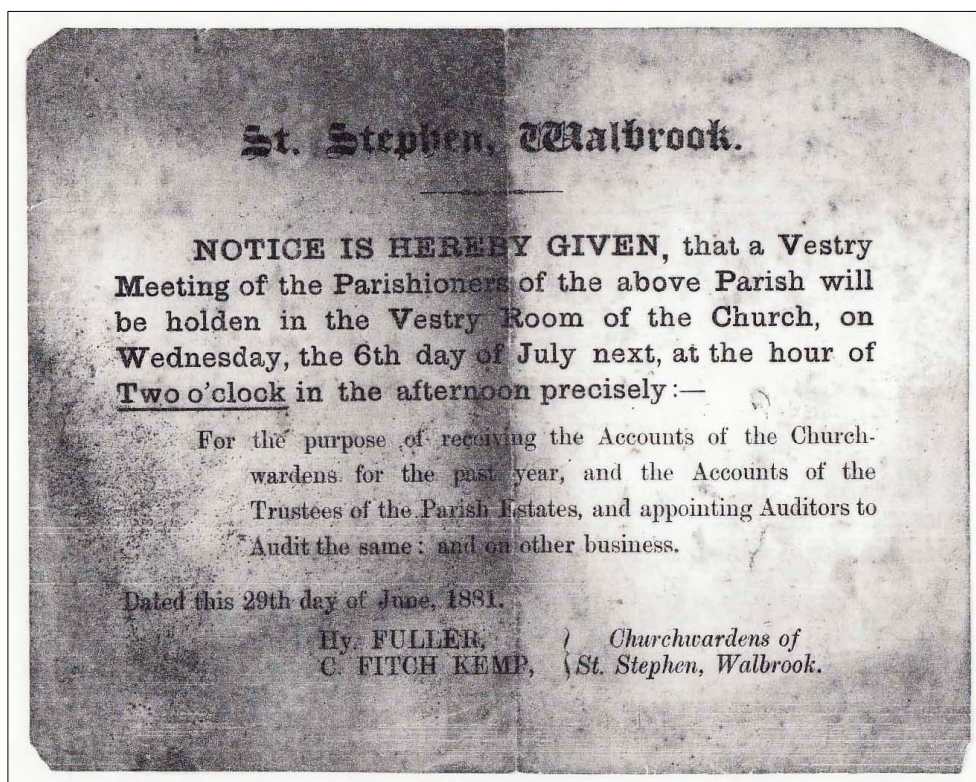


on Wednesday, the 6<sup>th</sup> day of July next, at the hour of Two o'clock in the afternoon precisely:-

For the purpose of receiving the Accounts of the Churchwardens for the past year, and the Accounts of the Trustees of the Parish Estates, and appointing Auditors to Audit the same: and on other business.

Dated this 29<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1881.

Hy. FULLER	}	Churchwardens of
C. FITCH KEMP	}	St. Stephen, Walbrook



### St. Stephen's Walbrook - Vestry Meeting notice

St. Stephen's Walbrook is a beautiful Wren church, nestling in the shadow of the Mansion House, home and office of the Lord Mayor of London, (Harwood Austwick became a City Common Councilman). On one wall in the interior of the church, alongside a list of all the clergymen, is a board listing all the churchwardens, divided into two columns. Half way down the right-hand side is the name:

Henry Fuller

1879-81

followed by that of Charles Fitch Kemp, who was the next to take on the office. The Great Fire of London was responsible for the rebuilding of St. Stephen's, but nearby St. Benet Sherehog was not rebuilt, instead it was united with St. Stephen's, and although there were churchwardens for each church, the vestry meetings were held jointly from at least 1873. Records of these survive until 1876, but there is no reference to Henry Fuller in their pages, although Mr Austwick appears once. There

are, however, records of the Trustees<sup>32</sup> of St. Stephen's, in a volume headed, 'Churchwardens' Cash Book'. During the period of Henry William Fuller's churchwardenship, entries appear quarterly – at Lady Day, Midsummer, Michaelmas and Christmas – headed:

By cash paid churchwardens for ... salaries.

No names are given, and presumably the payment is divided between the churchwardens of St. Stephen's and St. Benet's. The sums general range between £100 and £200 but there is no way of telling who got how much and why. It is the only example of churchwardens receiving a salary that I have found.



1869	C.W. POLLOCK
1870	GEORGE IZARD
1871	JOHN WOODMAN
1872	WILLIAM TAYLOR
1873	A.M. HEPBURN
1874-6	EDWARD UNWIN MURRELL
1876	GEORGE GRAY
1877	ALFRED AUDREY BROAD
1878	HENRY FULLER
1879-81	CHARLES FITCH KEMP
1881 & 1907	R.W. SCOBELL
1882-9	THOMAS STIRLING BEGBIE
1889 & 92-4	CHARLES ALBERT RICHARDS
1890	JAMES SMART
1891	RICHARD WEBSTER
1896	HOWARD CARLILE MORRIS
1897-1906	WILLIAM PORTEOUS KING
1900-7	CUTHBERT LAKE
1908-33	GEORGE ERNEST SENDELL
1910-33	A. CHARLES KNIGHT
1933-49	HUMPHREY W. MORRIS
1942-50	E.F.O. GASCOIGNE
1954-57	

### Board listing churchwardens – St. Stephen Walbrook

During this period, the church underwent a series of repairs, and no doubt Henry, as churchwarden, and therefore probably responsible for the maintenance of the church buildings, would have been closely involved with passing on payments to those carrying out the work<sup>33</sup>:

12 May 1880 By cash p <sup>d</sup> Ch:wardens on a/c ... repairs ... of joint vestry	
of 3 March 1880	£500
16 July 1880 By cash p <sup>d</sup> Churchwardens further on account of church repairs....	£720
28 July 1880 By cash p <sup>d</sup> the Ch:wardens Bal <sup>ce</sup> of church repairs...	£310 10/7
3 Feb 1881 By cash p <sup>d</sup> Churchwardens for repairs to church in pursuance of vote of vestry of 5 Nov 1880 and letter of churchwarden received	

<sup>32</sup> LMA, MS 8139/1 Trustees St. Stephen's Wallbrook

<sup>33</sup> LMA, MS 8139/1 Trustees St. Stephen's Wallbrook



1 Feb <sup>y</sup> 1881	£673
By cash p <sup>d</sup> churchwardens for Mr Milburn architect's fees relating to church repairs	£87 - /6

At around this time, Harwood Austwick appears again in the records:

9 Feb 1881 By cash and cheque to Balance for the purpose of transfer to new account in the names of Harwood Austwick, George Irwin and John Payne (William Dewick having retired as one of the signing trustees)	£111 17/9
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------

Although Henry William did not serve as churchwarden again, he presumably remained part of the Church vestry, as the following year finds him auditing the accounts:

We the undersigned having examined the above account and compared it with the vouchers do find the same correct showing a balance of six hundred and eighty-eight pounds nineteen shillings and nine pence in the hands of the Trustees which sum agrees with the balance at the Trustees Bankers to the Credit of their account up to and inclusive of the 9<sup>th</sup> May 1882.

Dated this 8<sup>th</sup> day of Aug<sup>t</sup> 1882  
Edward White )  
Hy Fuller ) Auditors  
Vestry Room  
Wallbrook

After that, the only reference<sup>34</sup> to him comes in the form of payments for wine:

25 July 1884	Austwick and co.	5/-
28 October 1884	Austwick son and Fuller wine	£2 9/0
16 Dec 1885	Austwick son and Fuller wine	1 1/-
23 March 1886	Austwick and co. wine	12/-

A second Trustees' Book<sup>35</sup> has a couple of further entries:

18.12.1888	Austwick Son and Fuller Tent Wine	12/
Dec 1889	Austwick Fuller and Co. Tent	12/-

I'm not sure what 'tent' means in this context, but the entries in the volume come to a halt a couple of years later, so there is no way of telling how long Henry was involved with this church.

In 1891<sup>36</sup> the Lyndhurst Road house held the whole family: Henry William, aged 53, Wine Merchant, employer, born City of London, his wife Helen, aged 43,

<sup>34</sup> LMA, MS 8139/1 Trustees St. Stephen's Wallbrook

<sup>35</sup> LMA, MS 8139/2 Trustees St. Stephen's Wallbrook

<sup>36</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/1891Census,Camberwell, RG 12/467>



**Henry William Fuller**



**Henry William and Helen Fuller  
with Nellie and Jack and  
William and Daniel Kettle**





Henry William Fuller outside Austwick Son and Fuller

also born in the City; their children – Henry Alexander, aged 13, Helen Jane - 11, Alex Wm – 9, Margaret Emma – 6, and Catheline [sic] Joan – 2, along with the two domestic servants. Life must have seemed good for the Fullers: a big house, servants, five healthy children, a secure business, and a respected role in the community. A photograph probably taken around this time shows Henry standing proudly outside his Wine Merchant business. He stands in the doorway (the brass number 1 on the door-frame behind him), bare-headed, but wearing a frock coat and with watch and chain prominently displayed. Beside him is a smartly dressed, top-hatted gentleman, maybe one of Austwick's sons, and another, probably more junior employee, in a bowler hat. Iron railings front the shop, and in the windows are signs advertising their wares:

A. S. & F.  
Finest old Highland Whiskey  
For 42/- doz.  
Sample bottles may be had.

and:

Grand Canary Wine  
Canary Sack  
...& white price 15/- per dozen.  
Sample bottles may be  
had on payment.

However, before the next census was taken, both Henry William and his wife Helen were dead. Both died as a result of Bright's disease: Helen in October 1887 and Henry in 1901. Henry died in Guy's Hospital, having suffered a cerebral haemorrhage. Whether he was taken ill at work or at home is not known, but given that Guy's was only just over a mile away from Walbrook, the former seems likely. The death certificate gives the following information:

7<sup>th</sup> February 1901 Guy's Hospital, Henry William Fuller, male, 63 years,  
Wine merchant of 13 Lyndhurst Rd Peckham, Bright's disease, cerebral  
haemorrhage, HA Fuller son 13 Lyndhurst Rd Peckham.

Maybe it had been written as a precaution after his wife's death; maybe Henry knew he was unwell; either way, his will was drawn up in 1897 with the welfare of his children in mind. An abstract<sup>37</sup> appears below:

Henry William Fuller of 13, Lyndhurst Road, Peckham, Surrey and  
1, Walbrook, City; died 7.2.1901 at Guy's Hospital, Southwark, Surrey.  
Probate, London, to Daniel Walter and William Richardson Kettle,  
publishers. Effects £5,417. (Wine Merchant)  
Revokes other wills.  
Appoints DW and WR Kettle [Brothers-in-law] of Hayes Common and  
35, Minories, publishers, executors and trustees of infant children.

---

<sup>37</sup> Principal Probate Registry, Will of Henry William Fuller of Peckham, 1897

Gives each a legacy of £25.  
 To son Henry Alexander, gold watch and chain which I usually wear;  
 To son Alex William my second gold watch;  
 To my daughter Helen Jane, my late wife's gold watch and chain.  
 Residue of estate and effects to trustees to manage.  
 Trustees to pay funeral expenses and legacies from above.  
 £50 p.a. to sister Annie Fuller during her life by quarterly payments.  
 Rest of money in trust for children.  
 Trustees to raise up to half on child marrying or reaching 21.  
 Interest to be used for children's maintenance.  
 Trustees to continue wine business with a son or other person  
 employed as manager.  
 Business to be offered for sale to any of sons after they reach 21.  
 If any son wishes to buy, 2 umpires to be appointed to ensure a fair  
 price to everyone.  
 One third of price to be paid at time of sale and rest over 5 years.  
 Money to be invested in stocks and government securities.  
 In witness whereof, I, the said Henry William Fuller ... set my hand  
 this 6<sup>th</sup> day of November 1897.

His brother-in-law Daniel Walter Kettle handled the death duties<sup>38</sup>:

Fuller Henry William	Peckham	7 <sup>th</sup> Feb '01	D.W.Kettle
PR (Registry) 682 (Affid No.)	W	723 (folio)	√

Possibly at the time of his mother's death, Henry had acquired a plot of land in Nunhead Cemetery. Known originally as All Saints, it was one of the London cemeteries laid out in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to solve the problems of overcrowded city churchyards. Although the first burials took place there in 1840, there is no sign of a burial there for Henry's father, Henry. Entries in two volumes (index and register), however, give the following information for Henry William:

Entry number 90898; Henry W Fuller; Guys Hospital; Cons; Grave no: 12033

12 Feb 1901; Fuller Henry W; 63; con; 12033, sq. 113; Reopened; 8'

Cons or con stand for consecrated ground, and the figure at the end is the depth of the burial. Yet another volume traces the history of the grave:

Grave no: 12033, Sq. 113; cons; Depth 10'  
 Name and address of owner: Henry William Fuller, 13 Lyndhurst Rd  
 Peckham.  
 17.4.1 Daniel Walter Kettle, William Richardson Kettle (execs) 41 Great  
 Eastern St. EC  
 31.1.22 Henry Fredenstein and Katherine Joan Brown, 39 Heybridge  
 Avenue, Streatham, execs.

---

<sup>38</sup> TNA, Inland Revenue Death Duties, IR 27/584/158



Names of persons interred:

Jane Fuller  
Helen Fuller 9' 28.10.97  
Henry W Fuller 8' 12.8.1  
Annie Fuller 7' 2.2.22

This is a veritable goldmine of genealogical information, giving the names of both his executors – and their business address in the city, and their executors. As far as I know, Grandma Joan never lived at 39 Heybridge, but her brother Jack did, and presumably at some time also his father-in-law - Henry Fredenstein. It also confirms that his mother Jane, wife Helen and sister Annie are all interred in the same grave.

A large part of Nunhead Cemetery has been left to return to nature. It offers a tranquil green space in the heart of South London, but although there are numerous headstones still standing, it is impossible to get through the undergrowth to search for graves even where the square number is known. However, two things did strike me; first, that Joan's grandparents-in-law are buried in the next square, and second that from a nearby hilltop, a gap in the trees offers a view of St. Paul's, so for Henry and Jane it must have been like coming full circle, having at one time lived in the cathedral's shadow in Godliman Street.



**Anne Elizabeth Fuller**

Henry's sister Annie never married. She lived at home at least until 1871, and I suspect until later. She has not been found on the 1881 census, but in 1891<sup>39</sup> she was living alone, on her own means, at 34, Lyndhurst Grove, Peckham, a road running off Lyndhurst Road, so not far from her old home. Ten years later<sup>40</sup>, still living on her own means, her address is given as 3, Herley Terrace, Denman Road, which butts onto Lyndhurst Grove, and is marginally closer to Lyndhurst Road. After her brother's death, she moved back into the family home in Lyndhurst Road, to help with the younger children.

She had been enumerated there in 1911<sup>41</sup>, as aunt, and appeared in a group photograph taken at my grandparents' wedding in 1914, but when she died on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1922 aged 81, it was at the Constance Road Institution<sup>42</sup> in Camberwell. This was effectively part of the Union Workhouse for St. Giles, Camberwell. However, this branch was in East Dulwich and designed to cater for the elderly and infirm rather than paupers. Annie was admitted on 28<sup>th</sup> January 1920, from 13, Lyndhurst Road. The given cause of death two years later was senile decay, which is presumably why she was no longer living at home. The Constance Road register<sup>43</sup> noted that she was buried at:

Forest Hill      by friends

a comment repeated several times on the page, with only a few abandoned souls being buried 'by Guardians'. Eight years later, the Institution was renamed St. Francis Hospital and eventually became part of Dulwich Hospital.

## **The Dodds: Braunston, Northamptonshire & Brownsover, Warwickshire**

With Henry William Fuller's mother, the story moves out of London to Braunston in Northamptonshire, where Jane Dodd was baptised on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1805, the daughter of George Dodd and Jane Whitmell (**See Tree 7 - page 67**). Braunston was primarily a farming community, surrounded initially by large open fields, until enclosure and the coming of the canals in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. A booklet on the history of the village<sup>44</sup> describes it as:

at the very heart of the English canal system – a pivotal point between North and South

---

<sup>39</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/1891Census/Camberwell/RG12/467>

<sup>40</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/1891Census/Camberwell/RG13/497>

<sup>41</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/1911Census/Camberwell/RG14/2514>

<sup>42</sup> <http://www.workhouses.org.uk/Camberwell/>

<sup>43</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/LMA>, Board of Guardians; Constance Road Workhouse, CABG/189/004

<sup>44</sup> *Discover Braunston – A Brief History of the Village*, The Dick Hearne Braunston History Society

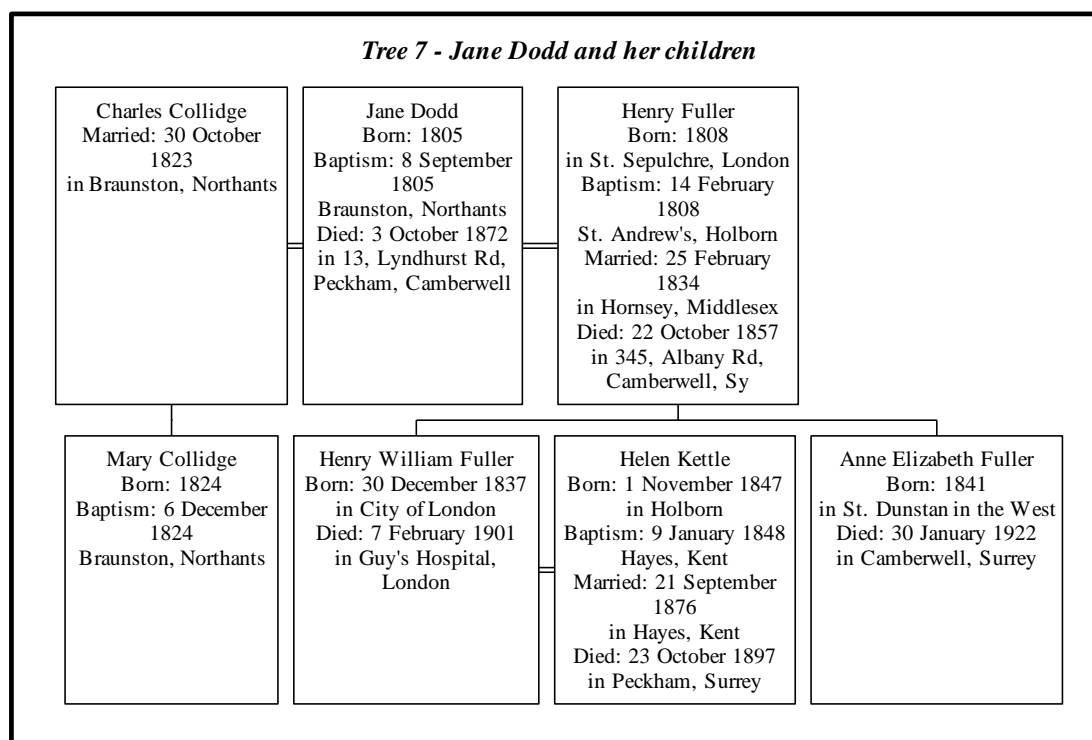
At age 18, Jane married for the first time in the church of All Saints, Braunston:

Charles Collidge bachelor of this parish and Jane Dodd of this parish spinster were married in this church by licence with consent of parents this 30<sup>th</sup> day October 1823.

John Clark Jenkins curate.

Signed: *Charles Collidge, Jane Dodd*

Witnessed: Richard Hobley, Sarah Hobley



The marriage licence<sup>45</sup> gives a little more information:

Know all men by these presents that we, Charles Collidge of Braunston in the county of Northants, clerk to the Oxford Company and bachelor and George Dodd of Braunston aforesaid, baker are ..... bound.... The eighth (sic) of October 1823...

Signed *Charles Collidge*

*John Williams* surr. *George Dodd*

On the twenty eighth day of October 1823 appeared personally Charles Collidge of the parish of Braunston in the co. of Northampton ... clerk to the Oxford Company and bachelor and made oath that he is of the full age of twenty-one years ... and intends to intermarry with Jane Dodd of the parish of Braunston ... spinster and believes that the said Jane Dodd is under the age of twenty-one years .... The usual place of residence of the said Jane Dodd ..... [is] ... Braunston.

Signed *Charles Collidge*

<sup>45</sup> NRO, ML Pet, 28.10.1823

I George Dodd of the parish of Braunston in the county of Northampton, baker, the natural and lawful father of Jane Dodd, spinster, who is under 21 years of age and intends to marry with Charles Collidge of the parish of Braunston in the county of Northampton, a bachelor, do hereby declare my consent to the said marriage.

As witness my hand this 28<sup>th</sup> day of October 1823.

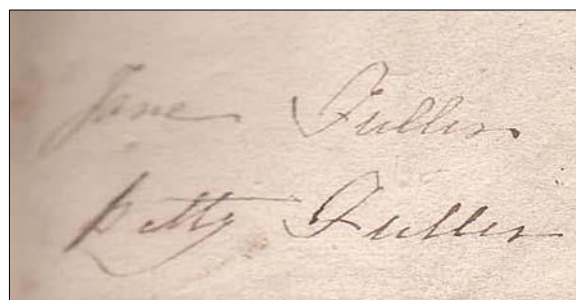
*George Dodd*

The Oxford Company was responsible for much of the canal building which took place in the Braunston area, having been formed in 1768 to link the Coventry Canal at Longford to Banbury, Oxford and London. Twenty years later, the Grand Junction Canal joined the Oxford Canal, and headed south through Brentford, Tring and Hemel Hempstead. Further work resulted in the Braunston Turn, and the whole area contained wharves, a marina, locks and cast-iron bridges. I suspect Charles followed the building of the canal, and that the couple eventually moved on to a new area once the work in Braunston was complete.

A year after their marriage, on 6<sup>th</sup> December 1824, the couple baptised a daughter Mary at Braunston. However, I have managed to find no further trace of either husband or daughter. Whether they died, Jane left them or Charles left her is unknown. The next time she surfaces, it is in the Hornsey St. Mary's banns book on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1833, when she is described as a widow, giving the only clue as to what happened to Charles. What happened to her after she came to London has already been outlined above. She died at 13, Lyndhurst Road on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1872, aged 67. The cause of death given is:

White softening, cerebellum, General Paralysis

The first element can, and the final phrase does, indicate tertiary syphilis; it may be that the certificate does her an injustice, as diagnosis was vague in Victorian times. However, syphilis was very prevalent in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, especially in an urban environment, and I have wondered whether her husband Henry's illness was also a by-product of this disease. Syphilis was known as 'the great pretender' as its symptoms mimic so many other diseases, and it is known to produce excess mucus in one of its phases, usually from the nose. Could it also have been responsible for Henry's Cystorrhoea? Jane was buried in Nunhead Cemetery on October 8<sup>th</sup> 1872.



**Signatures from *Book of Psalms***

The only artefact I have seen which has any connection to Jane is a Book of Psalms. On the flyleaf at the front are two names, those of Jane and her sister-in-law Elizabeth. The hand-writing for both is very similar, but as Jane's name comes first, it is tempting to think it is her handwriting.

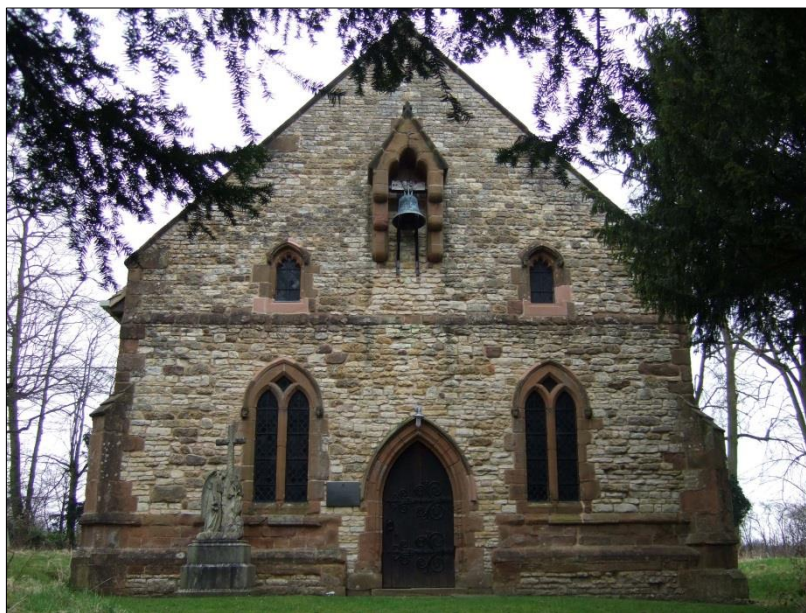
Four generations of Dodds in this line lived for at least part of their lives in Braunston. The first was Richard<sup>1</sup> Dodd, Jane's great-grandfather (See Tree 8 – page 72). He is a fairly shadowy character, about whom the only solidly known fact is that he was died in Braunston. The register gives the bare facts on 10<sup>th</sup> May 1785:

Richard Dodd snr buried

His wife Elizabeth followed on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1789:

Elizabeth Dodd a widow buried.

There is no other documentary evidence for this couple in Northamptonshire, but a Richard and Elizabeth Dodd baptised seven children in the 1740s and 50s at Brownsover, a chapelry in the parish of Clifton upon Dunsmore, in Warwickshire. This township lies eight miles from Braunston and only 6 from Monks Kirby, where Jane Dodd's grandmother was born, so it seems reasonable to assume that this is the right Dodd family. However, concrete proof remains to be found.



**St. Michael and All Angels Brownsover**

The first of Richard<sup>1</sup> and Elizabeth's children was named Alethia and was baptised on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 1740; she died young, and was buried in the same parish on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1742. The next child, Jane's grandfather, was named Richard, and was baptised at Brownsover, on the outskirts of Rugby, on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1743. Another Alethia, baptised 29<sup>th</sup> December 1745, was buried on 9<sup>th</sup> November 1747. Edward



followed, baptised 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1748, and then another son who died young, William – baptised 15<sup>th</sup> February 1750 and buried six days later. Two daughters, Elizabeth, baptised 18<sup>th</sup> February 1753 and Ann, baptised 27<sup>th</sup> December 1756, completed the family. I have found no further information on any of the surviving children apart from Richard<sup>2</sup> and Ann, who married at Rugby in 1774.

Ann Dodd was ‘of this parish’ when she married William Shadgett on 24<sup>th</sup> May, by licence with consent of parents, which she would have needed as she would have only been 18. William was then ‘of Dunmore’ but was probably born at Otham in Kent. The couple moved around a lot, baptising first daughter Maria in Hertford in 1777, and another, Susanna, at Barking in 1779. After that, they disappeared for some time, resurfacing in Norwich to baptise a daughter Sarah and bury her and a son John in 1792. A second John was christened there a year later, and a final daughter (I think), named Susanna Dodd, was baptised at Southampton in 1797. I have found no further trace, but her peripatetic lifestyle, and the disappearance of siblings Edward and Elizabeth, whether through early death or migration, go some way to explaining why, in old age, Richard<sup>1</sup> and Elizabeth followed their son Richard<sup>2</sup> to Braunston.

Of all the ancestors I have traced, Richard<sup>2</sup> Dodd and his wife Mary Farmer are unique in that they married twice. Looking at the evidence, I suspect they eloped together from Warwickshire into Northamptonshire, as their first marriage was recorded at Preston Deanery on 9<sup>th</sup> January 1766. He was 22; she was only 19:

Mr Richard Dodd of Rugby and Mary Farmer were married in this church by licence this 9<sup>th</sup> day of January in the year 1766 by me  
J. Backhouse DD.

Signed: *Richard Dodd, Mary Farmer*

Witnessed: *John Williamson, Joseph Westley*

The inference that there was something slightly underhand about this wedding comes from the fact that the licence<sup>46</sup> is dated the following day, although it is possible that either the officiating vicar or surrogate could have recorded the date wrongly. Even so, there seems to be an element of hurry involved:

Richard Dodd of Rugby in the county of Warwick, miller, and  
John Smith of Hackleton in the co. of Northampton, servant man  
..... £100 ..... dated 10<sup>th</sup> January 1766.  
.... the above-bounden Richard Dodd, bachelor and Mary Farmer  
of the parish of Piddington, spinster.

Signed: *Richard Dodd, John Smith*

---

<sup>46</sup> NRO, ML Pet. 10.1.1766

Richard's place of residence is given as Rugby (then adjoining Brownsover, now incorporating it), while Mary's residence is given as Piddington, adjacent to Preston Deanery. The really surprising thing, though, is that another marriage was recorded for this couple two months later, on 6<sup>th</sup> March, at Copston Chapel in Mary's home parish of Monks Kirby:

Richard Dodd of this parish and Mary Farmer of this parish .....  
Monks Kirby by licence this sixth day of March in the year 1766  
by me .....  
Signed: *Richard Dodd, Mary Farmer*  
Witnessed: John Brown, George Smith

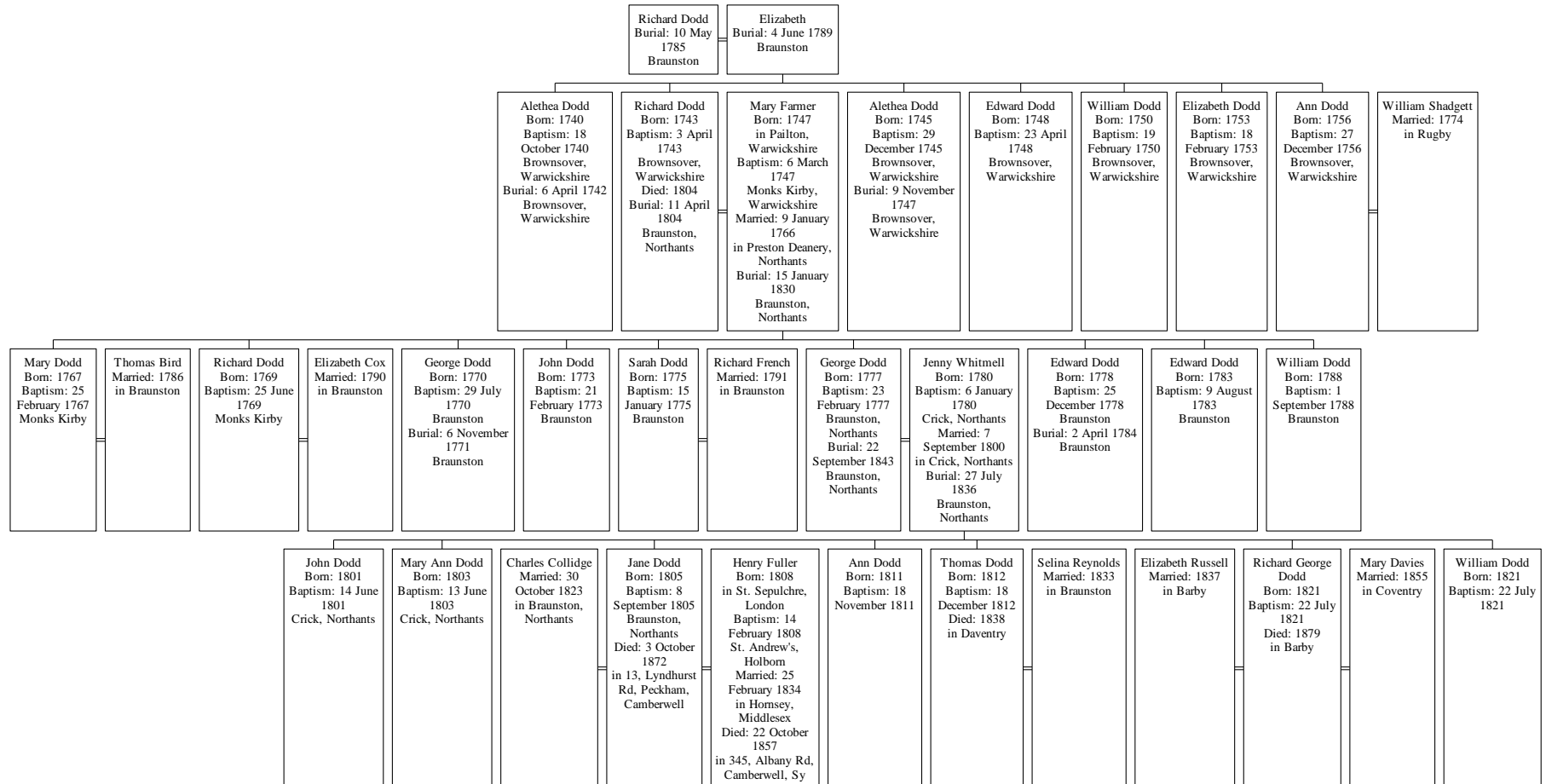
Maybe they discovered that the date of their licence made their wedding void (always assuming that the dates of wedding and licence were recorded accurately in the first place); maybe her parents insisted on a valid marriage closer to home, though neither witness seems to have been a family member. We are left to speculate over the reasons for this runaway marriage and the repeat ceremony.



**St. Edith Monks Kirby**

Presumably the couple were reconciled to Mary's family (assuming they had disapproved in the first place) as they seem to have settled in Monks Kirby initially. Certainly, their first two children were baptised there, although Mary may have just been conforming to the tradition of returning to her home parish to baptise her first (and in this instance second) born. Mary – who married Thomas Bird at Braunston in 1786, was baptised on 25<sup>th</sup> February 1767 and Richard – who married Elizabeth Flecknoe at Braunston in 1790, was baptised on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1769. However, by the birth of their next child – George, baptised 29<sup>th</sup> July 1770, buried 6<sup>th</sup> November 1771 – they were certainly living in Braunston, where both the above ceremonies took

*Tree 8 - Descendants of Richard and Elizabeth Dodd*



place. John was the next child, baptised 21<sup>st</sup> February 1773, followed by Sarah, baptised 15<sup>th</sup> January 1775 - and later married Richard French in Braunston.

After that, it gets a little confusing. The Braunston register records four more children baptised to this couple. The last one, William, was christened on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1788, but before him are recorded: George, baptised 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1777, Edward - 25<sup>th</sup> December 1778, and another Edward - 9<sup>th</sup> August 1883. The obvious conclusion would be that the first Edward died, and the name was used again for his replacement sibling. However, the register also records the burial of a child named George, on 17<sup>th</sup> April 1781. If this is right, then the child I believe to have grown up to father Jane Dodd died aged 4, and his parents had two children with the same name. While this is not unheard of, I think it far more likely that the clerk recorded the wrong name for the burial of the first Edward. The second Edward was no luckier, and was buried on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1784.

Richard<sup>2</sup> Dodd appeared on the Northamptonshire Militia list for Braunston in 1777, but his usual occupation was as a miller and baker. It was not uncommon at this time for journeymen bakers to undertake both roles. He was presumably sufficiently established by 1772 to take on an apprentice, as he appears in *The UK Register of Duties paid for Apprentices' Indentures*<sup>47</sup>. The entry, dated 20<sup>th</sup> May, reads:

No 102   Rich: Dodd   Braunston   Northam   Baker   W<sup>m</sup> Clarke



**Braunston Mill**

---

<sup>47</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/>, *The UK Register of Duties paid for Apprentices' Indentures*, IR 1/58



He paid dues on another apprentice, William Marks, on 11<sup>th</sup> April 1789<sup>48</sup>, still as a baker. A third entry appears dated 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1794<sup>49</sup>; Richard is described as 'miller etc.' and the apprentice is named Samuel Smith.

There is still a mill in the centre of the village, though it is now a holiday let. However, it was not built until the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, so it is unlikely to have been operated by Richard. It must, though, have either replaced or supplemented an earlier mill, but whether on this site or not is a mystery. Braunston was not a large community. Bridges' History<sup>50</sup>, published in 1791 but written in the 1720s, describes it as:

A village of 83 houses, including 3 appointed for the use of the poor.  
Three insnips (?) or odd houses, Berry Bridge House, Allen's house in the grounds and the watermill.

So it is possible that the mill Richard ran operated on water power. He appears in the Land Tax records of Braunston in 1798 (assuming this is not his son), paying 9/7 as both proprietor and occupier. Unfortunately, the address of the property is not given.

Richard<sup>2</sup> died six years later, in 1804, and was buried at Braunston on 11<sup>th</sup> April as:

Richard Dodd baker.

He hadn't written a will, so letters of administration were taken out. The wording suggests that things had not been going well financially:

Letter of Admon for Richard Dodd, miller, of Braunston, dated 22.8.1804.  
Sub £100.

Administrator John Burnham. On 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August 1804, the within bounden John Burnham was then sworn well and faithfully to administer the goods chattels and credits of the deceased, and that the said goods, chattels and credits do not amount in value to the sum of £100.

Bond taken out by John Burnham of Staventon, Nth, yeoman, and John Elliott of Daventry, the former being a principal creditor of Richard Dodd.  
Goods under £100.

Within 20 years of Richard's death, the 1821 census describes Braunston as having 179 houses and 909 people, so presumably in his time, its size was somewhere in between 83 and 179 houses.

Jane's father was Richard<sup>2</sup>'s sixth child, George, baptised at Braunston on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1777. Initially, he presumably followed in his father's footsteps, as the 1821

---

<sup>48</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/>, The UK Register of Duties paid for Apprentices' Indentures, IR 1/65

<sup>49</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/>, The UK Register of Duties paid for Apprentices' Indentures, IR 1/67

<sup>50</sup> *History and Antiquities of Northamptonshire*, John Bridges, 1791

census, which survives for Braunston<sup>51</sup>, records him as ‘George Dodd, baker’. No other names are recorded, but the number of people in each gender and age category is listed, giving the family’s profile:

Male			Female	
U5	5-10	40-50	10-15	40-50
2	1	1	1	1

George had married on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1800 at Crick, a parish a few miles to the north, also bordering Warwickshire. The marriage licence<sup>52</sup> shows that his wife Jenny’s family also had milling connections, with her brother William standing alongside his future brother-in-law on the marriage bond:

George Dodd of the parish of Braunston in the co. of Northants and our diocese of Peterborough, baker, and William Whitmell of the parish of Crick in the said county and diocese miller ..... bound in £100 .....  
 6<sup>th</sup> September.1800..... the above-bounden George Dodd in the parish of Braunston aforesaid and Jenny Whitmell in the parish of Crick ....  
 Spinster.  
 Signed: *J Smith, George Dodd, William Whitmell*

William also witnessed the marriage ceremony, along with a Susanna Dodd, who is presumably a relative, though in what capacity is a mystery:

George Dodd of the parish of Braunston and Jenny Whitmell of this parish with the consent of parents were married in this church by licence this seventh day of September 1800 by me John Wilks curate.  
 Signed: *George Dodd, Jenny Whitmell*  
 Witnessed: William Whitmell, Elizabeth Wedding, Susanna Dodd, John Smith

Along with Jenny and Susanna Dodd, George witnessed the marriage of William Farmer of Pailton to Hannah Howgood at Braunston on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1801. William was George’s uncle, a much younger half-brother of his mother Mary, so the recurrence of Susanna’s signature strengthens the theory that she was related. William and Hannah’s gravestone is still to be found in the churchyard of St. Edith’s church, Monks Kirby.

George and Jenny’s first two children - John and Mary Ann, were baptised at Crick, on 14<sup>th</sup> January 1801 and 13<sup>th</sup> June 1803 respectively. I suspect they were taken back to the Whitmell family’s church for christening, as there is no evidence of the family having lived there rather than Braunston. Next came Jane, baptised at Braunston on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1805. Another girl, Ann, followed – baptised 18<sup>th</sup> November 1811. She married twice; first at Daventry on 19<sup>th</sup> February 1827 to Major

---

<sup>51</sup> NRO, *An Account of the Population of Braunston*, 1821

<sup>52</sup> NRO, ML Pet. 6.9.1800

William Butlin of the East India Company service and then at Kennington on 8<sup>th</sup> September 1839 to Harwood Austwick. She died at Brighton in 1858. The final three boys fit the age profile on the census well. Thomas was baptised 18<sup>th</sup> December 1812; Richard George was born sometime around 1816, but was baptised aged 4 years 11months along with his youngest brother William, on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1821.



**All Saints Braunston**

I have found no further trace of John or Mary Ann; they either died young or moved away. However Thomas married Selina Reynolds in his home parish in 1833. Unfortunately, he died only five years later (his death was registered at Daventry), leaving his wife to return home to her family in Welton to raise baby George on her own. In 1851, she married again, to a man much older than her, Richard Kinch. Richard George married Elizabeth Russell at Barby in 1837, and by the time of the 1851 census<sup>53</sup>, he was working as a baker and occupying 28 acres of land. Seven children were also enumerated: John, Sarah Elizabeth, Ann, Mary Ann, Jane, Emma and Richard. Ten years later<sup>54</sup> Elizabeth was dead, but Richard now had a wife called Mary and a step-son named Thomas Davies, (there was another step-son, or son-in-law as the census put it, called John Davies). He was now farming 68 acres from his home on the High Street, and was obviously on the up. This is confirmed by the 1871 census<sup>55</sup>, at Barby, just north of Braunston, where he was farming 283 acres and employing 4 men and 3 boys. When he died, in 1879, his administration, with will<sup>56</sup> showed an estate valued at under £2,000, a large sum in those days. He was described as:

Richard otherwise Richard George Dodd, late of Barby....Farmer and  
Grazier, who died 9<sup>th</sup> April 1879 at Rugby...

---

<sup>53</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/, 1851 Census, Braunston, HO 107/1741>

<sup>54</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/, 1861 Census, Braunston, RG 9/945>

<sup>55</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/, 1871 Census, Barby, RG 10/3186>

<sup>56</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/, National Probate Calendar>

Administration was granted to his son, Richard Russell Dodd, also a farmer.

To return to George Dodd, although he was a baker, he either always had a dual occupation (a common practice which made good economic sense and maximum use of the seasons of the year) or at some time decided to mix his baking with farming, as, in 1841<sup>57</sup> he was enumerated as a grazier, age 60, living on the High Street. Also in the household were his son Richard and daughter-in-law Elizabeth, aged 25. William, aged 20, a shoemaker - and presumably George's youngest son - was living with them, and there were two children, Samuel - 2, and Sarah - 3 months. I assume these were Richard and Elizabeth's children. This is the last glimpse of William, whose death was registered at Daventry, I think, in 1846. Maybe, and perhaps most probably, George had retired from baking, and was helping his son on the farm.

Jane, George's wife - who had signed the Braunston register at the wedding of Edward Robinson and Mary Ann Bosworth on 18<sup>th</sup> March 1830 - had died in 1836, which would explain why George had moved in with his son. Her burial is recorded in the Braunston register as follows:

Jane Dodd      entry 567      Braunston July 27<sup>th</sup>      56      JC Jenkins curate

George lived on until 17<sup>th</sup> September 1843. His death certificate gives:

17<sup>th</sup> September 1843 at Braunston, George Dodd, male, 70 years, farmer, asthma, Mary Hitchcock present at the death, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1843.

Hitchcock is not a family name as far as I'm aware, so I suspect Mary was a nurse brought in to care for the old man. George was buried in Braunston churchyard on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1843.

Before following the story of Jane or Jenny Whitmell's family, we must cross the county border back into Warwickshire to trace the family of George's mother, Mary Farmer.

### **Farmer and Ashbishaw: Monks Kirby, Pailton, Foleshill**

Mary Farmer was born in 1748 and baptised at Monks Kirby, although her baptism shows her family to have been living in the township of Pailton in that parish:

Mary dau of Geo. and Sarah Farmer of Pailton Mar 6

---

<sup>57</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/>, 1841 Census, Braunston, HO107/798,



Presumably she grew up in Pailton, only leaving it to marry over the county border in Northamptonshire when she was 18. After a brief return to her native county, she and Richard Dodd settled in Braunston where she exchanged the role of miller's daughter for miller's wife, giving birth to nine children, at least three of whom died in infancy. Richard's administration suggests she would have been left poor by his death, and this is confirmed by the 1821 census<sup>58</sup>, which records:

Mary Dodd    Pauper

living next-door to her son George in Braunston. Despite poverty, she lived to a ripe old age, and was buried in the churchyard at Braunston on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1830, recorded as 82 years old (See Tree 9 – page 82).



**Pailton Hall Pailton**

*The Victoria County History for Warwickshire*<sup>59</sup> describes Pailton as an:

extensive parish, which has a length of 6 miles from north to south and a maximum breadth of 4½ miles, [lying] largely between the two Roman roads, the Fosse Way and Watling Street, which intersect at High Cross, the Roman station of Venonae.

George Farmer was a miller – perhaps the master miller who had taught Richard Dodd his craft; after all, marrying the boss's daughter seems to run in this branch of the family, and would fit in with the apparent runaway marriage of Richard and Mary already discussed. *The Victoria County History*<sup>60</sup> mentions a mill at

---

<sup>58</sup> NRO, *An Account of the population of Braunston* 28.5.1821

<sup>59</sup> <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/>, *A History of the County of Warwick: Volume 6: Knightlow hundred* (1951), pp. 173-181

<sup>60</sup> <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/>, *A History of the County of Warwick: Volume 6: Knightlow hundred* (1951), pp. 173-181

Pailton which was probably run by George as the registers record two of his sons as of Pailton Mill, though there were at least two other millers in Pailton at the time:

Pailton corn-mill, with its large mill-pond fed by the Smite Brook is close to Street Ashton, and the watermill at Street Ashton given by John Hubbok, chaplain, to his sister Lucy de Strutarston in 1305 may be identical with the mill in Pailton which John Daysie of Street Ashton gave to Sir John Revel in 1341.

A more modern book about the history of Pailton<sup>61</sup> also places George's mill on Smite Brook:

Water power from the Smite Brook made Pailton a suitable site for a mill... From a dam below the Bell Inn a leet took water to a pond behind the mill, where it drove an overshot wheel from which the tail race returned the water to the stream at Street Ashton. The mill, used for grinding corn, remained water powered until the nineteenth century; steam power being used by 1850.

The next paragraph makes reference to another miller, who operated the nearby windmill situated a short distance up the turnpike road towards the centre of the village, and to George's son, William Farmer, who had evidently stopped milling by 1851. Interestingly, the Google map for the area identifies the road running from the far side of the village to cross Fosse Way as Millers Lane.



**Village Green Monks Kirby**

At the time George Farmer was living in Pailton the village was quite isolated. The village website<sup>62</sup> describes it thus:

---

<sup>61</sup> SoG, WA/L70, *1756 Acres: A History of People of Pailton*, Roy Bourne

<sup>62</sup> <http://www.pailtonparishcouncil.co.uk/history/>

Before the first turnpike road was built in 1754 there were no means of all weather communication by wheeled vehicles to and from the village. This road ran from Market Harborough to Coventry via Lutterworth and so began a long period of commercial development.

The village had been established initially by the monastery at Monks Kirby, but after the Reformation it passed into the control of Trinity College Cambridge. An enclosure act in 1761 authorised:

the enclosure of three of the open fields of Pailton and the ensuing award laid down the pattern of fields allotted to each person together with all public and private rights of way. Over the next century the subject of Enclosure and Tithes was to cause much dissension...

It is not known who George Farmer's parents were, or where he was born. It is tempting to see him as a local man and attach him to the family of John and Ann Farmer of Stretton. The Monks Kirby register records three children for the couple: Zephaniah - baptised 1706/7, Ann - baptised 1709 and Esther - baptised 1716. George would fit neatly into the long gap between Ann and Esther. There may have been another son - John - as an administration was granted to Ann, wife of John Farmer 'junr' of Monks Kirby parish in 1728<sup>63</sup>. This John was a labourer of Stretton under Fosse, and his inventory, valued at £9 15/-, lists a kettle, a grate, two beds and a coffer inside, and a cow, a pig, hay and coals outside, as well as:

...other things and lumber

Given the wife's name, and the burial of an Ann Farmer from Stretton two years later, it is equally likely that the two in this document are the parents of Zephaniah, Ann and Esther, and that John was the son of an earlier John. Stretton under Fosse was another of the hamlets which make up Monks Kirby, and was close to Pailton and Street Aston, on the far side of Smite's Brook from the mill. Almost all the early references to Farmers in the register place them in Stretton. Another burial of a John Farmer, in 1744, has the note 'poor', perhaps matching the status of John the labourer. Later documents show that George was illiterate, which again maybe makes him seem a likely candidate to belong to this family. However, this is all speculation.

On 12<sup>th</sup> October 1742, the Monks Kirby register records the marriage of:

George Farmer and Sarah Ashbishaw, both of this parish

The couple had three sons, in addition to Mary, already mentioned. The first of these was Richard, baptised 27<sup>th</sup> March 1744; next came John, born two years later and baptised on 26<sup>th</sup> December 1746, also at Monks Kirby. Last came George junior, baptised 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1750. All baptisms give Pailton as the family's abode. George

---

<sup>63</sup> LRO, B/C/11, Admon with inventory of John Farmer, Monks Kirby, 1728

junior seems to have followed in his father's footsteps as his burial at Monks Kirby in 1810 records him as a miller, and of Pailton. I have not managed to discover marriages for any of the three sons from George senior's first marriage.

There are numerous tantalising glimpses of George senior over the years, most of them fleeting. He makes two brief appearances in the Monks Kirby Churchwardens' Accounts, over 20 years apart. On 16<sup>th</sup> April 1754<sup>64</sup> he attended a full vestry meeting as the list of signatories at the bottom of the page includes:

the mark of X George Farmer

In a second volume of accounts<sup>65</sup> is a page headed:

The accounts of W<sup>m</sup> Arnold and Thomas Hipwell churchwardens... from  
Easter 1774 to Easter 1775

A number of entries and the balance for the year follow. Underneath are the signatures of Joseph Bosworth, Robert Dand, Samuel Paybody, George Martin and:

the mark of + George Farmer

He makes equally brief appearances in the Overseers' Accounts<sup>66</sup>. On January 5<sup>th</sup> 1768 is the cryptic comment:

Pd to Geo: Farmer for Jos: Barrs      0 - 9 - 0

Joseph Barrs was in regular receipt of help from the overseers but there is nothing to say how George was of service to him. In 1770/71, George received expenses:

on account of Jn<sup>o</sup> Willey's wife's lying in and take of him, keep him in  
custody and marrying.... Geo<sup>e</sup> Farmers Bill   0 : 7 : 9

It would seem that George was perhaps an instigator in persuading a reluctant father to a shotgun wedding.

George Farmer regularly paid Land Tax in Pailton<sup>67</sup>. In 1775 he was assessed at 15/3 on property occupied by himself, and in 1776 and 1778 he is recorded paying 15/3¼ d, as he is in the later records (1781, 1782 & 1783):

Proprietor	Occupier	Sum
George Farmer	Himself	0:15:3 ¼

In 1790, the tax is assessed at 15/3 again.

---

<sup>64</sup> WCRO, DR 155/22, Monks Kirby Churchwardens' Accounts 1673 - 1757

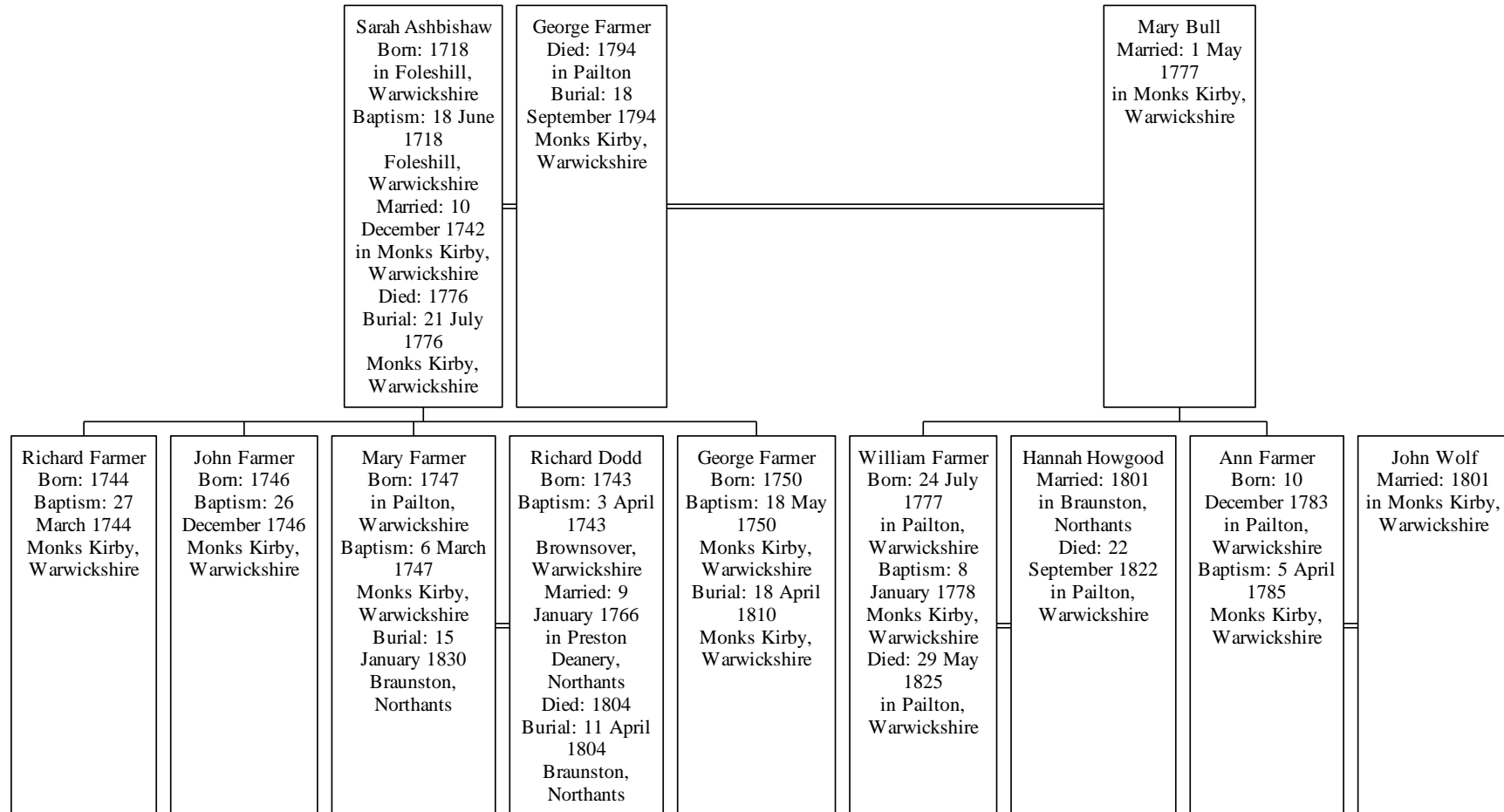
<sup>65</sup> WCRO, DR 155/23, Monks Kirby Churchwardens' Accounts 1758 - 1838

<sup>66</sup> WCRO, DR 155/47, Monks Kirby Overseers' Accounts 1757 - 82

<sup>67</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/, Warwickshire's Land Tax Assessments>



*Tree 9 - Family of George Farmer*



He also appears in an abstract of title regarding an estate in Stockton<sup>68</sup> in Warwickshire, about 15 miles south of Monks Kirby, and dated 29<sup>th</sup> September 1760:

Mortgage by Demise for 2,000 Years whereby William [I] Barnacle (of Stockton, Warwickshire, tailor) charged to George Farmer (of Pailton, Monks Kirby parish, Warwickshire, miller) a messuage with garden at Stockton (occupied by the mortgagor) and use of a draw-well in the yard then lately the tailor Thomas Turrell's but then William Turrell's, all of which William [1] Barnacle had bought (by lease and release dated 9 - 10 July 1739) from Elizabeth, Edward and William Harris for redemption with £4% per annum interest on 29 Mar [1761]

Following William Barnacle's death and the probate of his will in 1765, it was noted:

that George Farmer was owed £104 10/-

a considerable sum. Barnacle's widow then sold a parcel of land to one Leonard Reading for £120 in order to repay George Farmer. The whole document seems very complex, with lots of interested parties. However, it does show George to be in a strong financial position at this time if he has such sums of money available.

Many churches allocated pews to particular families, and Monks Kirby was no exception. An initial list containing a few names was drawn up by the Church Commissioners<sup>69</sup> in 1702, but another list containing far more names, and including George Farmer, was made on 8<sup>th</sup> July 1770.

In 1775, his name was on a Jurors' list for the Kirby division in the Hundreds of Knightlow<sup>70</sup> as:

George Farmer - miller

Two gentlemen, a dancing master and a farmer make up the rest of the voting population of Pailton. He also cast his vote in 1777, 1778, 1784, 1787, 1789 and 1790; all records give Pailton as his abode.

Many of my ancestors seemed to have taken on a civic role in their communities, acting as jurors or officials to the manor courts. George seems to have bucked the trend; indeed the impression is that his relationship with the manor court was probably somewhat frosty. Millers have always had something of a reputation for avarice, certainly since Chaucer depicted his miller as a grasping character who knew how to steal corn and charge three times the toll. The manorial records for Monks Kirby and for Brinklow, a manor which included Pailton, seem to confirm the

---

<sup>68</sup> Coventry Archives, PA/56/9/7

<sup>69</sup> SoG, Wa/M26, Warwickshire Monumental Inscriptions, volume 17

<sup>70</sup> <http://ancestry.co.uk/> Warwickshire Jurors' Lists, 1772 - 78; 1779 - 87; 1788 - 94

stereotype. On 1<sup>st</sup> May 1764, the fines and presentments for the Manor of Monks Kirby<sup>71</sup> state:

We amerce Jn<sup>o</sup> Paybody Sam<sup>l</sup> Fox Jn<sup>o</sup> Manson James Dawes Dan<sup>l</sup> Scott  
and George Farmer for Selling Liquors in unsealed measures 6d Each

Whether this put him off selling liquor or not I don't know but it's the only reference to employment of this kind that I have found. At the same court is recorded:

We amerce Sam<sup>l</sup> Bliss and George Farmer for taking Excessive Toll  
6d Each

While there is no proven connection between these two men it is interesting to note that:

Samuel Bliss the Mills

paid 4/- rent at Kirby at Michaelmas from 1721 - 1723 <sup>72</sup>. A mortgage<sup>73</sup> dated 1756 - 61 makes reference to:

all that water mill or mills thereunto... in Pailton

and states that the mill and adjoining land were:

late in the tenure or occupation of Samuel Bliss his assigns or undertenants

Maybe George was the under-tenant in question.

In 1764, the Court Roll for Pailton in the Manor of Monks Kirby<sup>74</sup> shows George Farmer with a series of capital Es beside his name. This stands for essoined and signifies an excuse for someone who has been summoned to the court. Normally the reason given is sickness and infirmity but other 'just causes' were also accepted. Given the number of times over the years that George was essoined, I assume he found a number of 'just causes' not to attend.

From 1785 through to 1793, with the exception of 1791 (which I either missed or was missing), George Farmer was regularly presented to the Brinklow<sup>75</sup> court for overcharging. However, it is also fair to say that he is usually in the company of a couple of other millers, some bakers, butchers and licensed victuallers, so it may be that the boot is on the other foot and the local worthies of Pailton bore a grudge against the local tradesmen. His first appearance in the records gives the following:

Presentments for Brinklow 31.10.1785

---

<sup>71</sup> WCRO, CR 2017/M25/48 Manor of Monks Kirby Court Roll

<sup>72</sup> WCRO, CR 2017/E6, Rental, 1721-4

<sup>73</sup> WCRO, CR 2017/D38/1, Mortgage, 1756-61

<sup>74</sup> WCRO, CR 2017/M25/47, Court Roll, Monks Kirby

<sup>75</sup> TNA, DL 30/84/1153 & DL 30/84/1154, Court Rolls etc. for Brinklow

The millers for taking excessive tole  
Mr Farmer for the like 0: 0: 4



George Farmer wrote his will on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1793<sup>76</sup>. He describes himself as:

George Farmer the elder of the parish of Monks Kirby in the County of Warwick Miller

and begins by appointing three trustees: Zephaniah Brown, William Walton and Benjamin Yates, all graziers from nearby Stretton under Fosse, to whom he devises:

all my messuage mills the lands and hereditaments and real estate whatsoever... in the parish of Monks Kirby

These are to be sold, either as a whole or in separate parcels, for the best price possible and the money raised, once debts and funeral expenses have been paid, to be divided equally between his children William and Ann Farmer. The wording of the will makes it clear that these two are minors and that the money should be invested until they come of age. The only exceptions to this are the sum of £20:

the same to and for the use and benefit of my son George Farmer in... proportion and manner as they my said trustees or the survivor of them... think proper and meet

and three guineas:

I give and bequeath unto my sons Richard Farmer and John Farmer and my daughter Mary Dodd their executors or administrators the sum of one guinea each to be paid to them by my executors hereinafter named within twelve calendar months next after my decease

It is to be hoped that this apparent parsimony means that his older children had already been set up in life. Mary, for example, at 45 years old, had been married for 27 years and completed her family by this time. Richard would have been nearly 50 and John 46. Given that George junior is later recorded as a miller, and that George senior makes reference to mills in the plural at the beginning of the will, maybe the £20 was to allow his son to buy back a mill at which he was already working.

His younger children also received any artefacts George thought fit to mention:

I give and bequeath unto my said son William Farmer my silver tankard and my silver cup also I give and bequeath unto my said daughter Ann my late wife's wearing apparel and all such other goods and things as belonged to my said late wife and which are now deposited with Mrs Sarah Showell of Strettation [Street Ashton] in the said County of Warwick and also the fire grate which now stands in my dwelling house and also the half-dozen of chairs and chest of drawers with the bed bedstead and furniture belonging to it now standing in the

---

<sup>76</sup> FHC Film no. 96281, Calendar 95284, Will of George Farmer of Monks Kirby, Miller

chamber called the best chamber for and to her own use and benefit

The residue of the estate is also to be shared between William and Ann and their heirs. Only if both die without issue is any of the money from the sale of his property to go to his other children.

Much of George Farmer's will is concerned with ensuring the financial stability of his two youngest children. Ann would have been nearly 10 when he wrote it; William was 16. Their mother was also dead - she had been buried on 9<sup>th</sup> August 1791 - so it is perhaps unsurprising that he concentrates so much on them and so little on his adult children. His three trustees were appointed executors and the will was witnessed by Thomas Chamberlain, William Williams and Martha Bull, who was perhaps a relative of his deceased wife Mary. The will was proved by the executors at Coventry on 10 October 1794 and they swore that his estate was valued at less than £300. Seven years later, in 1801, Ann Farmer married John Wolf of Brinklow. The register notes that the marriage was by licence and with consent of guardians, who were presumably the three trustees named above.



**Grave of William and Hannah Farmer, Monks Kirby**

As has already been said, George's son William eventually took over his father's mill at Pailton, or at least a mill. However, unlike his father he seems to have been involved in the affairs of the manor from time to time. He first appears on the

Court Roll<sup>77</sup>, apparently as a member of the jury on 5 November 1794, not long after his father's death, which seems a little young. Maybe he was keen to be more involved in the community than his father seems to have been. The Court Leet and Baron of the Manor of Brinklow show William Farmer as part of the jury and homage for Pailton and on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 1799 and 3<sup>rd</sup> November 1800. His signature appears on the Orders for Pailton for 1800 under the statement:

We choose Tho<sup>s</sup> Smith Constable and Rich<sup>d</sup> Hall and Tho<sup>s</sup> Walker  
thirdboroughs

‘Thirdborough’ is a local version of the term headborough, or under-constable. Things weren't always entirely rosy at the court though as in the presentments of the same year the following appears:

We present that the cattle of William Farmer were suffered to go on the Public Road in Pailton not tented and they got into peoples grounds since the last court contrary to an order made at the last court and that this offence was repeated four times, once before the 25<sup>th</sup> day of April last a second time on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of April last a 3<sup>rd</sup> time on May the 7<sup>th</sup> a 4<sup>th</sup> time on May the 28<sup>th</sup> for which offence we amerce him in the three several sums of three and sixpence three and sixpence and three and sixpence making together the sum of ten shillings and sixpence  
Affeared to 7/6 and paid

We can almost hear the indignation of the good citizens whose land has been trampled by William's cows. Presumably he was repentant as his fine was lowered quite considerably. Either William changed his occupation from grazier to miller at some point, or, more likely he worked in dual occupations, a common occurrence at the time. At the bottom of the same page of the court roll is noted:

Thomas Gubbins was fined half a crown for getting drunk, and interrupting the court

Thomas Gubbins appears in later documents doing his civic duty, so presumably this was an aberration!

The manor records also give a fascinating glimpse into village life at the time, not to mention the idiosyncratic spelling of those contributing, as the following extract from the ‘Orders and Pains’<sup>78</sup> shows:

Orders and Paines made by the Inhabitants of Pailton the at the Court Leet and Court Baron Holden at the Half Moon and Seven Stars in Brinklow 17th of November 1792

**Item** That if anyone in our town have to or shall have a faulty chimney it shall be sufficiently amended within three days after notice on paine

---

<sup>77</sup> TNA, DL 30/84/1154, Brinklow Court Roll

<sup>78</sup> TNA, DL 30/84/1154, Brinklow Court Roll

of	0:	3:	4
<b>Item</b> That our Constable shall pay for every Dozen of Sparrows that			
are caught in our town and brought to him three pence per dozen			
until May and then but two pence on paine of	0:	3:	4
<b>Item</b> That ye Mounds between Neighbour and Neighbour shall be			
sufficiently made and so kept within three days after notice on paine			
of	0:	3:	4
<b>Item</b> That is any person shall lay anything upon any part of ye townes			
streets or roads that belong to Pailton that shall be deemed a Nuisance			
shall be liable to a paine of	0:	10:	0
<b>Item</b> that no Certificated person shall have any Rite to cut or fetch			
any thorns or Fors [sic] out of Pailton pasture on paine of			
	0:	3:	4
that no person that belongs to ye town shall cut any to sell and if any			
person by any Kid or Kids of any of these people the same penelty			
lyeth against them	0:	3:	4

It also maybe demonstrates a degree of xenophobia against 'certificated' persons, presumably aliens of some kind in the eyes of the community, or perhaps those with no common rights.

No memorial survives for George Farmer or either of his wives. However, there is still a headstone in Monks Kirby Churchyard to William and Hannah Farmer which reads as follows<sup>79</sup>:

Sacred to the memory of Hannah wife of William Farmer of Pailton  
who departed this life Sepr 8<sup>th</sup> 1822 in the 44<sup>th</sup> year of her age. Also  
William husband of the above Hannah Farmer who died May 29<sup>th</sup> 1825  
aged 48 years.

Another stone records this couple's two daughters, Mary and Elizabeth Hall Farmer, who died in 1826 and 1828 respectively<sup>80</sup>.

George's first wife Sarah Ashbishaw predeceased him by some considerable time. There is no burial of a Sarah Farmer in the Monks Kirby register, but there is a burial recorded for Mary, wife of George Farmer of Pailton on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1776, an ironical error given that Mary was the name of George's second wife.

For a long time, I struggled to find any reference to the surname Ashbishaw, which has, I suspect, a fairly limited range. However, on trying several spelling variants, I was able to find a feasible parentage for Sarah (See Tree 10 - page 90). An entry in the parish register of Foleshill, about 11 miles away and now on the outskirts of Coventry, read:

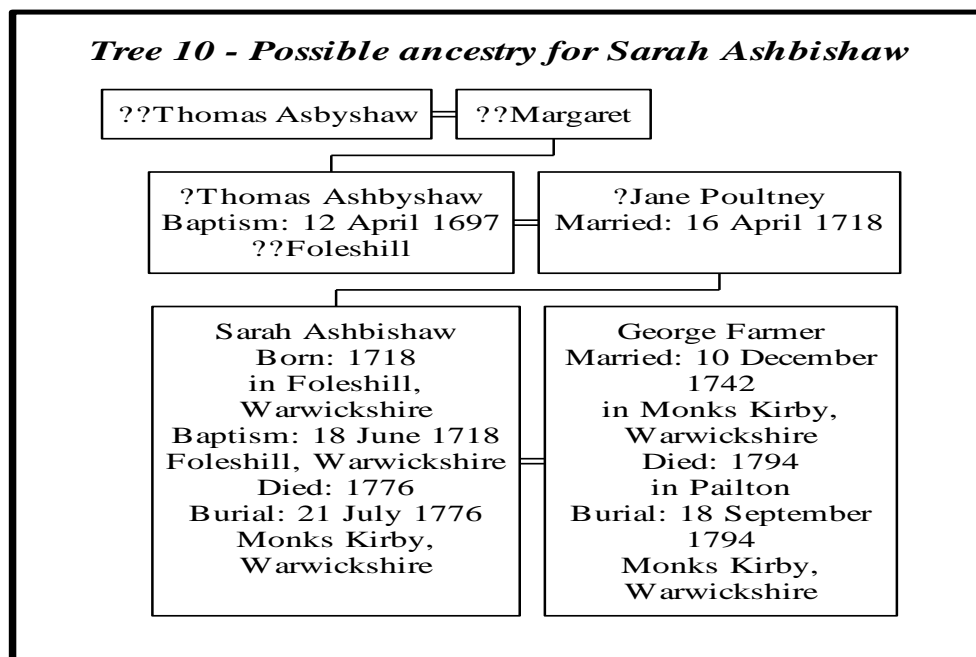
Sarah the daughter of Thomas and	Asbishaw bap June 18 1718
----------------------------------	---------------------------

---

<sup>79</sup> SoG, Wa/M26, Warwickshire Monumental Inscriptions, volume 17  
SoG, Wa/M26, Warwickshire Monumental Inscriptions, volume 17



No wife's name is given. This would be within a reasonable distance of the marriage location and make Sarah a suitable age in 1742, but full proof is still lacking. A Thomas Ashbyshaw married a Jane Poultny at Coventry on 16<sup>th</sup> April 1718, and these may well be Sarah's parents. Another Thomas Asbyshaw appears in the Foleshill register, baptised to Thomas and Margaret on April 12<sup>th</sup> 1697. Again, this may be Sarah's father and her grandparents, but more work is needed to confirm this.

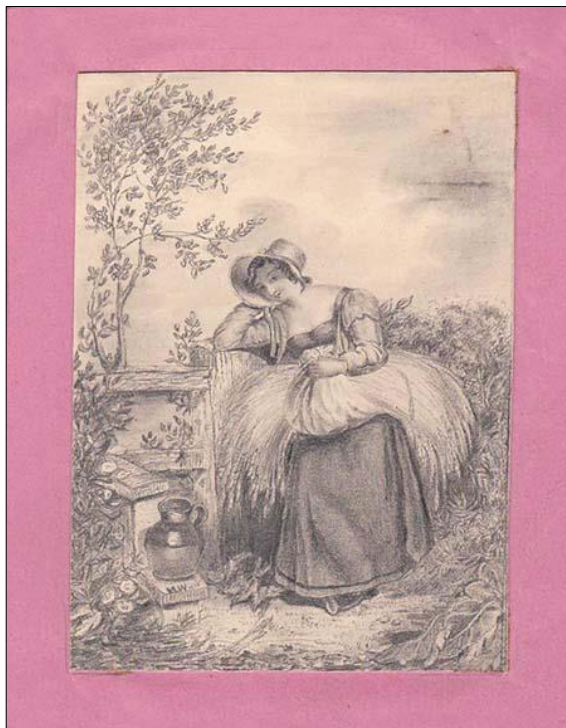


One of my most treasured possessions is an album which belonged to a Miss Mary Farmer. The entry on the first page is dated May 1834, and most entries which have a date are in that year or the one following. The second page has Mary Farmer's signature at the bottom and is headed 'To the Reader':

Readers, or old, or young, or grave, or gay,  
 Belles, Beaux, Blondes, or Brunettes give heed I pray,  
 Plac'd in the foremost page you plainly view  
 The compact that exists 'twixt I and you.  
 'Tis simply this then - "Be it known to all  
 That I expect as a memorial  
 Some trifle from each pen - original\*" -  
 "A lyric or an Anacreontic verse  
 I care not if pathetic, or reverse",  
 "Just what you please" - "an Epigram that's witty" -  
 "That's not your forte?" - "Well then, a lively ditty" -  
 "I don't write verses" - "Indeed tis a sad pity" -  
 "But read the note e'en that excuse won't do.  
 You've not a single loophole to slip through."  
 Kind friends then fill my album quickly pray,  
 I lay this law down - "All who peep must pay!"



Extracts from Mary Farmer's album



To Miss Farmer.

If in my verse you e'er find,  
 Or want of thought of any kind,  
 I pray you'll note that this my mite  
 At your request I write.

Or if to censure you incline,  
 And criticise these lines of mine;  
 You'll recollect what I indite  
 At your request I write.

And now I've written lines for you,  
 (And that to me is somewhat new)  
 I trust that should I you invite  
 At my request you'll write.

19<sup>th</sup> June 1855. C.F.

\*Note

“This cramping clause within my mimic bill  
Is not insisted on against your will  
Although to see originals I’d rather  
Tasteful selections will please.  
Mary Farmer.”

The album’s coloured pages are filled with poems and pictures by Mary’s friends and family, in beautiful if sometimes impenetrable hand-writing. Unfortunately, most pieces are identified only by initials, or an initial and a surname, which makes it impossible to identify the contributors. The only clue to its origin is that one piece has ‘Parade, Portsmouth’ along one edge, but whether this was Mary’s home, a holiday venue or just the home of the writer remains a tantalising mystery. I believe the album was given to Margaret Fuller by the distant relative she lived with during her pregnancy, and I have often wondered if she was sent to stay with descendants of the Farmers of Monks Kirby.

*See Part 3 for continuation*